

THE GRANITE NEWS



The Granite News - serving the communities of Caveat, Highlands, Hughes Creek, Ruffy, Tarcombe, Terip Terip & Whiteheads Creek.



18th August 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 28

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Over halfway through August and we are on the downhill run to the official start of spring with the brilliant, bright yellow of blooming wattle scattered throughout the district. A pleasant reminder that warmer weather is on the way.

This issue features several articles about the ongoing Wind Farm proposal that is attracting attention further afield than just the HCCC area. A reminder to all readers about the content and focus of any submissions on this topic (as per TGN 4/6/2023)

"In an attempt to promote awareness and dissemination of accurate and appropriate information, The Granite News will run articles and meeting notifications from both sides of the discussion under the following guidelines.

- Dates and locations of information meetings being held by both FERA and the SRRCG (Strathbogie's Responsible Renewables Community Group) will be published.
- Balanced and factual reports from any of these meetings will also be published.
- Articles and/or Letters to the Editor that contain factual and verified information (with reference notes included as to the source of the information) will be published.
- Articles or Letters to the Editor that offer observations, thoughts and 'facts' without verification of any claims, will not be published.

As this development does have the potential to impact the farming land use of our local areas, I hope that readers can appreciate the reasons for the above parameters, as well as the inclusion of such articles in the first place. Although this publication seeks to inform and educate its readership on matters associated with this issue, it has no wish to divide or disrupt our valued local communities.

Thank you for your understanding."

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was trying to sell 2 leather couches. Any takers?



Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

The Granite News is an open but moderated community forum. Readers are encouraged to contribute articles and we also encourage you to air your views on things that interest or concern you within our community. We certainly welcome feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in The Granite News

"I'm not lazy, I'm on energy saving mode."

Anon













FUN FACTS ABOUT VEGETABLES

Did you know - Watermelons are berries!

To choose the best one, find the ones with a yellow spot (not white or green as they may have been picked while unripe) and pick the heaviest.

King Tutankhamun had watermelon seeds in his tomb. It's understood that this was for the water content of the fruit, rather than the taste, on King Tut's trip to eternity.

While modern day watermelons last about 3 weeks, in ancient Egyptian times, it has been suggested that they would have stayed fresh for months. **Source: Yea Chronicle**

What's On - August & September 2024		
	Sat. 24th Aug. @ 1pm	HCCC MEETING @ Northern Republic, Euroa This meeting will incorporate the usual monthly meeting as well as a bit of a farewell to Pauline who is leaving the local area. All welcome. RSVPs to Justus 0427 524273
	Sun. 25th Aug. @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Louise will lead this Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235
	Mon. 26th Aug. @ 1.30	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB @ Hagen's 214 Wiebye Track, Ruffy New members are always welcome Enquiries: Janet 0458 904268
Details? See p.6	Wed. 28th Aug. @ 5.30	MONTHLY MASTERMINDS CARD NIGHTS @ Highlands Hall Challenging enough to keep you interested, but not so hard you want to go home!
	Thurs. 29th Aug. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
Details? See p.6	Sat. 31st Aug. @ 6pm	HIGHLANDS BOOKCLUB @ Highlands Hall 
	Fri. 6th Sept from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Sat.7th & Sun. 8th Sept 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford Sy, Yea Open the first weekend each month - discover some stunning artwork
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are 21st August and 4th & 18th September.
	Every Monday @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS @ TCC Ruffy Not happening in winter - too cold! Come along & have some fun! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Every Tuesday - 6pm	MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 20th August and 3rd & 17th September Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
	2nd & 4th Sundays	ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
	Mon 8.45-9.45am Wed. 6.15-7.15pm	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

HCCC Landcare Farewell for Pauline and Peter Roberts

By now readers might be aware that the Robertses are leaving the district to reside in Apollo Bay.

However, we also know that, through the marvels of technology, our valued TGN Editor will continue at her post, maintaining a virtual presence in our district. Already, Pauline has proved that it is possible to produce the Granite News from all corners of the world over the past six years.

Peter and Pauline have been in the district for many years - Peter as a teacher in local schools, (he was Head Teacher at Ruffy P.S. for many years) and Pauline has been a Mobile Librarian, and Librarian in both Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires, a teacher and a Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre staff member since its opening in 2014.

She took over from Don Cook as The Granite News Editor and produced extra issues, (twice weekly) during the dark Covid Times helping to keep our spirits up and providing that sense of community that we couldn't access otherwise.

Peter and Pauline have always been keen Landcare volunteers from the very beginning of their arrival in the district, and it would be impossible to let them leave without at least a small farewell.

We've organised a **HCCC Landcare lunch and Farewell at the Northern Republic at Euroa on Saturday 24th August, (next week) at 1 pm.**

If you can come please call or text me (0427 524 473) so that we can phone through numbers. (no big speeches!)

See you there!

Justus Hagen, HCCC President



Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline,

I am trying to organise a Snake Avoidance class for my 2 dogs, and I was wanting to find out if any other Granite News readers would be interesting in attending.

I have not finalised any dates or prices as it will depend on how many participants are doing the class

I hope to have the class conducted at our farm in Caveat

If anyone is interested in attending, they can call me on **0406 860807**

Thank you so much

Gaylene McCooey



Afghan Feast & Film in support of Refugees

When? Saturday 31st August

Where? Violet Town Community Hall

What time? Noon

Who to contact? Ruth Fluhr 0427 979231
or <https://trybooking.com/CTTOM>

Why come? All proceeds will be directed to Afghan Girls' education via Women for Change

Where to for more information?

This week's TGN email has a second attachment highlighting the appalling situation in Afghanistan for women and girls unable to receive a formal education - open and read it for more information.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At a recent meeting in Alexandra FERA presented their latest wind turbine layout plan including underground conduit links between towers.

Some links follow road reservations such as Dropmore Road and Highlands Road with resulting impact on roadside vegetation while others run through adjoining properties.

The alignment of the overhead transmission line link to Molesworth and then through to the main interstate transmission lines between Alexandra and Glenburn remains a mystery.

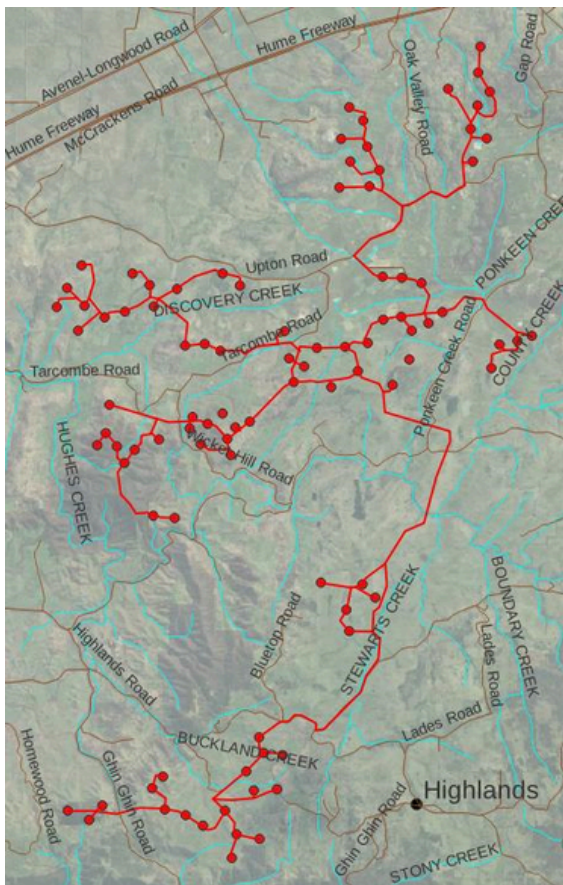
The FERA Alexandra presentation can be found on the SRRCG website or the FERA website.

Readers should also be aware that VicGrid are consulting with the Victorian Community as part of the review of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and the developers FERA are keen for the Strathbogies Ranges to be included within a REZ. At present the Strathbogies Ranges are not in a REZ.

**John Curtis
Highlands.**

Map below is...

The latest FERA wind turbine and underground link layout presented to the Alexandra meeting



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Victorian State Government, through VicGrid, has opened a consultation process on the Victorian Transmission Plan which includes the areas that they will investigate to be the new Renewable Energy Zones.

Our region is shown as a high priority for further investigation to become a REZ. See the map at the [link here](#).

If our region is included as a REZ in the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan and if the Fera project goes ahead with new Transmission lines installed, it could quite possibly be the first of many renewable projects across our unique region.

So, please, if you value the amenity of this region, take some affirmative action.

URGENT CALL TO ACTION:

- Read SRRCG's submissions and develop your own using these as a guide. [click here](#)
- Visit the VicGrid website: [click here](#)
 1. Complete the guiding principles feedback form: [click here](#)
 2. Upload a submission with any feedback about the VTP Guidelines document and its Appendices: [click here](#)

Submissions close at 11:59 pm on Sunday 25 August 2024

Note that there is a third submission, due September 30th, which is an opportunity for us to provide detailed feedback and evidence about why we believe this region is not suitable to become a REZ.

SRRCG is currently working on this submission which will provide evidence on the region's biodiversity, significant landscape, proportion of "lifestyle" property owners and land use and socioeconomic factors.

We will also question the assumption that the region has a high wind resource. We will make this submission available once completed to assist our community with their own submissions.

**Darryl Otzen
Secretary srrcg.com**

**Strathbogies Responsible Renewables
Community Group**



Majority of attendees walk out of wind farm meeting

“An information session about the FERA Seymour Wind Farm was held at the Alexandra Secondary College on the morning of Saturday 27th July.

Project lead Andrew Lawson presented a Powerpoint presentation outlining the current state of the project and was seeking to answer “every question” before the session ended.

He spoke about the processes being undertaken and the reports being compiled, as well as the planned timeline for the project. They are aiming 80-100 wind turbines, and when the project ends, the base will be removed to a depth of half a metre. The turbines are expected to have hub heights of between 120 and 160 metres and rotor diameters of 160 to 170 metres.

There were also discussions around fire safety, noise impacts and bird impacts. The audience were keen to engage in a Q&A session following the presentation.

One audience member asked why no towns were marked on the map of turbine locations, and Mr Lawson responded that they would be included on the website, when added.

There were also concerns from landholders within the planned turbine or transmission line paths that they had had no contact from FERA. The person was told that they were trying to get in contact with everyone, and that they can make contact directly.

When asked about the financials around the project, Mr Lawson said the cost is expected to be \$1.2 to 1.5 billion, paid for eventually through energy sales of \$180 to 200 million per year. It will take 10 to 12 years to pay off.

Another question was about the Transmission Plan review currently being undertaken via the Engage Victoria website. Mr Lawson said he believed it likely that the area of their planned wind farm would be included due to its proximity to pre-existing transmission lines. He added later that the project is not required to be in a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

There were also questions around the recycling of the towers and bases, with an audience member concerned that the depth of removal of the base would not be far enough to enable ploughing and the re-use of land afterwards, as well as the chemicals in the concrete.

He was also asked why the transmission lines are not being put underground, and he responded that there would be loss in the lines and that it wouldn't be economically viable.

Asked whether the opposition in the meeting would be included in the reporting about the project, Mr Lawson said that it wouldn't as it was an information session. Around 95% of the people in the room lifted their hands when asked whether they opposed the project.

Other concerns included land sale prices, the lack of wind in the area, whether there would be compulsory acquisitions, bushfire plans, compensation levels for small landholders, sub-station locations, why the survey was conducted at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo where most people wouldn't be impacted by the wind farm, how people suffering negative visual impacts would be compensated, and whether easements would be leased by FERA.

By the end of the meeting, most attendees had walked out.”

This article was reprinted from the Yea Chronicle - Wednesday 31st July 2024

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

BREAKING NEWS

ART BOX EXHIBITION AND WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2024



Exhibitions and Workshops with the Artists

OCTOBER: WEAVING WORKSHOPS

gubi ngarrak-du / Up on the mountain
by *Taungurung artist Isobel Morphy/Walsh*

A multidisciplinary artist spanning both visual art and performance art, a weaver, a curator, a producer, an activist and an educator. Isobel has spent her life working with her community and our cultures with a particular emphasis on history, culture, country and its importance today. This special exhibition will be Isobel's first solo exhibition on Country, her work will cover mapping country and weaving.

NOVEMBER: WHITTLED WORKSHOPS

Bushwoods Creations

by *wood sculptor and chainsaw artist Shlomit Moria*

A former graphic artist, Shlomit decided to follow her lifelong passion for the three-dimensional medium of wood sculpture carving herself a unique niche as a female wood sculptor capturing Australia's favorite animals. She draws on her travels in India where she has learnt at the side of stonemasons and Tibetan wood carvers. Her work tells stories for all to enjoy.

IT'S OFFICIAL

Strathbogie Shire Council: "The ART BOX is a mobile art exhibition and performance space utilising the portability and sustainability of a converted 20ft high shipping container. Strathbogie Shire Council's ART BOX is an accessible micro gallery that travels to townships across the Strathbogie Shire and provides communities with a fully self-contained, professional arts space. Ruffy provides a wonderful opportunity for Strathbogie Shire Council's ART BOX to be managed by the community in which it is placed; through the Tablelands Community Centre. Whilst, in our larger regional towns, the programming is managed by council, we see many benefits of a community run schedule in our smaller, more isolated communities. The planned project details have exceeded our expectations and will absolutely make the most of this communities' access to the ART BOX."

The Tablelands Community Centre is excited to welcome these artists to our community bringing this project to life through a Community Strengthening Grant from Strathbogie Shire Council.

JOIN US!



Stay Tuned: Art Box Opening Saturday 5th October 2024



Contract Number 24/25-14

Design and Construction of Longwood Recreation Reserve On- Site Wastewater Treatment System (Septic)

Request for Tender

LUMP SUM CONTRACT

Strathbogie Shire Council seeks tender submission from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the design, and installation of a septic solution for the Longwood Recreation Reserve.

Tenders received until 4pm (AEST) Wednesday 11 September 2024.

For the full project scope and to lodge a submission please go to the Tendersearch portal on our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/tenders.

Strathbogie Shire cannot accept hardcopy, email or fax tender submissions.

Local Emergency Action Plans Nearing Completion

Strathbogie Shire wishes to announce that it has not one but TWO LEAPs (Local Emergency Action Plans) requiring residents' input - one for Nagambie and one for Strathbogie Tablelands.

TGN readers are advised that both plans can be viewed online at the Strathbogie Shire's engagement hub -

www.Share.Strathbogie.vic.gov.au

All feedback is valuable and can be submitted **no later than 5:00pm on Friday, 13 September 2024.**

Any suggestions will then be reviewed by the respective LEAP Steering Groups (Nagambie or Strathbogie Tablelands) before the plan is finalised for publication.

Draft documents for both areas were developed following community meetings in April (Strathbogie Tablelands) and June (Nagambie) and both steering groups are encouraging locals to provide comments online to assist in the finalisation of these documents.

When a local emergency occurs, it's often local knowledge that assists first responders. Local Emergency Action Plans play a key role in identifying risks within local communities and helping them be prepared for and recover from emergency events.

Copies of the draft plan can also be viewed at the Customer Contact Centre during working hours, Monday to Friday, at 293 High Street, Nagambie, or for further information, please call our Customer Contact team at 1800 065 993.

Major Road Patching Underway in Strathbogie Shire

Strathbogie Shire is also set to undertake major road patching on several local roads throughout August and September in preparation for resealing next year.

The patching works will take place on Creightons Creek Road, Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Spring Creek Road, and Merton-Strathbogie Road.

The works, which total nearly \$718,000 (including GST), are part of Council's 2023-24 Capital Works budget.

The works are expected to be completed by the end of September, weather permitting, with resealing scheduled for early next year.

FOR SALE

Nick Scali - Red leather couches x 2

2 seater and 3 seater quality red leather couches - 10 years old but in good condition.

Some cat scratches on the back but otherwise comfortable and well appointed.

Would prefer to sell as a pair, but will split. Cost \$5,000 so \$1,200 for both is a bargain.

Interested? Ring 0427 529551 for more details.



Avenel Active's new community website!



Avenel Active recently launched its Avenel community website to share information about Avenel and its community organisations, clubs, local businesses and attractions.

Visit us at <https://www.avenelactive.au>

Of course The Granite News features on our community news page!

Avenel Active would love to hear from more Avenel and local organisations, clubs and businesses who would like to be on the website.

Let us know at www.avenelactive.au/contact-us

SNOOP needs a new home - is it yours?

4 yr old German Wire-haired Pointer.

Just wants to be a lap dog, great on a lead and with other dogs. He has separation anxiety so best suited to someone who can work with him training wise or works from home. Currently at Animal Aid in Coldstream and will be put up for adoption in a few days if medical and behavioural checks are passed.

Thinks he's a lap dog and will happily get cuddles all day.

Interested? Contact Stephanie 0466 211 951



HABBIES HOWE BEEF
 MATURE, WELL HUNG &
 AVAILABLE
 IGA SEYMOUR
 GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN
 MARKET
 L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH
 SCOTCH AND FILLET
 ST HELENA, MENTONE &
 MERNDA

Donated by supporters of the
 endangered Hairy Hop bush



**Advertising
 space available**

for details
editor@tgn.org.au



**Darren
 Gilbert
 open studio**
 @ 5 Giffard Street Yea
 Open every first weekend of the month
 Up to date Open Studio days & times on
www.monkeytaildesign.com

**Advertising
 space available**

for details
editor@tgn.org.au




SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL
 Supplying everything you need
 Products & Expertise in

- Animal Production
- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling

PH: (03) 5792 1088
 HELPING YOU GROW

Little Antechinus living in a
 hollow near you



BenCo
PLUMBING SERVICES
Ben Laycock
0438 512299
 Licence no. 105134
ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au
bencoplumbingservices.com

**Advertising
 space available**

for details
editor@tgn.org.au

**KOPANICA PASTORAL
 EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE**



**DAMS
 EARTHWORKS
 STOCK+WATER CARTAGE
 & MORE**
0429 804 235
MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM

Highlands Haulen
 AND RECOVERY
 Local and Statewide
 Transport

- Hay / Silage
- Farm Equipment
- Machinery / Excavators
- Building Supplies
- Sheds / Cabins
- Trucks / 4X4s
- 24/7 Breakdowns

Steve
0419 860 484
haulen.com.au



**Murrindindi
 Shire Council**
Cr John Walsh
 Koriella Ward
 Murrindindi Shire Council
jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
0437 835 586

Tablelands Community Centre
 Upgraded facilities &
 playground
 Ideal for Private or Community
 gatherings
 Meetings, Workshops
 Very reasonable rates
 Hosts 1st Friday BBQs
 Contact tccruffly@gmail.com
 Ph 0404 833 388



For All your Aerial Spraying or
 Spreading Needs. Specialising in
 Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles,
 Spreading lime/fertilizer & More

Call 0484108854
 48 Magills Lane
 Mairdample 3723

Donated by supporters of our
 local koala population



Donation from
 supporters of our local
 Gang Gangs



HIGHLANDS GROVE
 Australian, locally produced
 premium extra virgin olive oil.
 Farm gate pick up or delivery
 available.
0417 018 070
enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au
highlandsgrove.com.au



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL
 Meeting Room and/or Hall
 available for hire

MEETINGS
 FUNCTIONS
 WORKSHOPS
 PARTIES
 WEDDINGS

Reasonable Rates
 Contact Paula Lade
 0419 551 882

Donated by friends of the
 Long Leafed Box Trees



**Echidnas
 take care of their habitat**



**Granite Hills Community
 Nursery**



www.granitehillsnursery.com.au

Need a website?
bluetopbiz.com.au
 Affordable web design &
 maintenance. Presentations,
 marketing copy,
 Grant applications,
 project management.
 Call

Sue 0411 010 379
 Neil 0417 503 472

Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au



**Strathbogie Granite
 Project**
neil.phillips@bigpond.com



The Granite News is usually created on the lands of the Taungurung clans - First People of the Rivers and Mountains.

We thank the Taungurung ancestors and elders who, for millennia, have cared for this country on which we now live, work, play and grow.

May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.