THE GRANITE NEWS



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



6th October 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 33

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

With the Victorian school holidays rapidly retreating into the rear vision mirror welcome back to the final quarter of TGN for 2024. Which begs the question where is this year going?

Do any readers remember, as I do, how the distance between one's birthday and Christmas (the only 2 occasions each year when one received presents as a child) seemed to be enormous if, like me, you were born about halfway through the year (with a shout out to all May birthday babies). Of course, if you were born within a month of two of Christmas itself then the longer lag time between present unwrapping must have seemed like forever!

Yet now it seems as though time is telescopic and annual events come around with startling speed and another year rapidly disappears. After all daylight saving has just started, spring is officially a third of the way through and there are only 79 more shopping days to Christmas!!

In the meantime, with more pleasant weather a possibility there is a heap of local activities planned for TGN readers so why not get out and about and enjoy!!

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline

And Kenny? Was looking forward to the Yea Garden Expo.



CFA REOUEST

Could anyone wishing to burn off between now and the start of the fire restrictions please register their burn with the CFA on **1800 668 511**



Kind regards Highlands-Caveat fire brigade captain

David Webb

0417 150 113

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

"Age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice-cream fall from the cone."

Jim Fiebig

American journalist, policeman and author



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
Sept.	41.3 mm	25.5 mm
2024 Total	567.7 mm	494 mm
Rainy Days	11 days	8 days

		What's On - October & November 2024	
Details? See p.7	Sat. 12th Oct @ 6pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP Everyone is welcome. @ Highlands Hall	
	Mon. 14th Oct @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNERS @ 450 Caveat- Dropmore Rd Highlands Spinning Club will get together - same place, same time with the same good company. BYO lunch and great te & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361	
	Sun. 27th Oct. @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235	
Details? See p.5	Mon. 28th Oct. @ 1.30pm	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB New members are always welcome @ 66 Maggie's Lane, Ruffy Enquiries? Janet - 0458 904268	
	Thurs. 31st Oct. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat	
	Lots of dates see p.6	OCTOBER & NOVEMBER in RUFFY is ARTBOX & WORKSHOP TIME!! The TCC really know how to bring Art to the Tablelands with both exhibitions AND workshops during October and November. Why not come along to see what is on offer?	
*	Fri. 1st Nov. from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights & celebrate the NEXT Art Box opening! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com	
	W/end 2nd & 3rd Nov. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, 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 9th & 23rd October and 6th & 20th November.	
	Every Monday @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS Not happening in winter - too cold TCC Ruffy 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 1st & 15th October and 5th & 19th November 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	
Carom refer	Mon 8.45-9.45am	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	

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

Invites all community members to another

SPRING EVENT at the EUROA ARBORETUM

19th October, 2024, 12.00 noon (76 Euroa Main Rd, Cnr Hume Freeway, Euroa)

Visit the arboretum in all its spring glory and explore the grassland and woodland plantings.

Bring your fishing gear and try your luck in the lake, conveniently stocked with fish!

"CATCH OF THE DAY" PRIZES

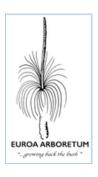
Join a guided walk, including the nursery area, and get propagation tips from arboretum staff and volunteers.

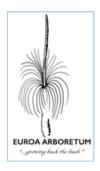
Middle Eastern BBQ and salad provided (kindly sponsored by HCCC and the GBCMA)

BYO picnic plates etc., chair/picnic rug and something to share for dessert.

RSVP by text to Justus: 0427 524 473 or Jenny: 0408 969 236 by 16th October









Ruffy Trivia Night

Sat 23rd Nov. 7:00pm at the Ruffy Hall

\$10 per head includes supper, quiz, games and lots of fun

Bookings essential Darryl 0468 771 024



AGM 2024 BEAM Mitchell Environment Group

Date: Sunday 27 October

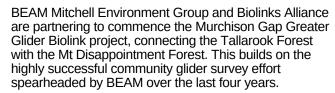
Time: 4.30pm for afternoon tea, AGM to commence at 5.00pm

Venue: Kilmore Library

AGM guest speaker: Chris Pocknee

Biolinks Alliance

Launching the Murchison Gap Greater Glider Biolink Project



Our guest speaker Chris Pocknee will provide an overview of the work that Biolinks Alliance delivers across Central Victoria, empowering communities to help biodiversity thrive in their local area. His talk will outline the collaborative Glideways in Central Victoria initiative, which currently includes 10 projects spread from the Grampians to the Strathbogies.

The Murchison Gap Greater Glider Biolink is an ambitious project which will provide a thorough understanding of where greater gliders, and other arboreal mammals, occur both within and between these two forests. This information will inform strategic action to reconnect the forests, to allow these remnant populations to disperse and safeguard their persistence into the future.



What's new at the Euroa Arboretum...

One hundred endangered grasshoppers have made a homecoming to protected grasslands on Taungurung Country, where they haven't been seen in six decades.

The **Key's Matchstick Grasshoppers** – a species thought to have been extinct until their rediscovery in 2018 – were collected from a population near Tolmie, in east-central Victoria, by researchers from Zoos Victoria and the University of Melbourne.

The grasshoppers have been released to a grassland restoration area at the Euroa Arboretum in the hopes of establishing a haven for the precious invertebrate. This restored landscape includes a crucial mix of the native daisies and tussock grasses that provide food and shelter for the threatened species.

The newly established population will be monitored multiple times each year to track how they establish and spread through the grassland habitat.

The Key's Matchstick Grasshopper was once widespread and abundant in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and north-eastern Victoria; however, populations have drastically reduced due to habitat destruction since European colonisation. The species is clinging on in remnant patches of grasslands as small as 0.15 hectares.

The grasshoppers are flightless and are known to travel mere metres in their short lifespans. Each remaining population appears to be genetically distinct from populations that might only be a few kilometres away, also leaving whole populations vulnerable to fire and flood events.

Adult Key's Matchstick Grasshoppers lay their eggs directly into the soil in spring and early summer. Nymphs hatch in summer and mature in winter for males and spring for females. At the end of the spring and early summer mating period, all adults will die off.

The Key's Matchstick Grasshopper recovery trial is supported by the University of Melbourne, Zoos Victoria, Euroa Arboretum, Vic Roads and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.



Strathbogie Granite Project October 2024

We provide regular updates on this project to supplement our community presentations, informal meetings and publications. This year has included on-going field work, research, international linkages, and local community activities.

The Strathbogie Granite Project is a long-term collaboration between Melbourne and Stellenbosch. The focus is the Strathbogie Ranges—the iconic granite hills and plateaus from Tallarook to Mt Samaria in central Victoria. The project was built around collaboration between Professor John Clemens at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, Professor Neil Phillips of the University of Melbourne, and their colleagues. We do not try to cover every part of the Strathbogie granite at one time but to focus on specific areas to fill gaps and as opportunities and community backing allows.

Professor Alex Kisters from Stellenbosch joined us in the field in March 2024 as we visited some of our favourite field sites, he came on two community granite walks and presented some lectures in Melbourne and Bendigo. The Seven Creeks Gorge walk was one highlight, and another was the Callen Range traverse.

John Clemens has been busy in Stellenbosch writing up his ideas from earlier field work, and visiting Peru with its famous granites and volcanic rocks. He will be in SE Australia in December 2024 for more comparative studies of granite masses around Victoria. Some of the geophysical work by Monash has raised interesting ideas for the upper crust beneath the Strathbogies that we will be considering with him further.

The Avenel Granite Treks have focussed in the northwest of the granite hills and there will be one more in 2024 before we think about 2025 after the fire season. Caitlin Jones from Stellenbosch will join us for a few days in the field in early November 2024 during her trip to Australia as an invited speaker in Perth. In early 2024 I visited research colleagues in Porto, Portugal and we continue to learn from their large granite cutting industry using diamond wires and copious water, and their different and innovative scientific approaches to granite bodies in the north of their country.

Neil Phillips gave a morning presentation in the Strathbogie Hall in April 2024 to a large audience – with special thanks to the Landcare group. Further results of the Strathbogie research continue to be communicated individually on properties, informally during community walks, presentations in district centres, and through scientific publications.

Thank you again to the land holders, both on the granite boundary and right across the plateau, who have generously given access to their land for our field work.

Neil Phillips





RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB

Next group is meeting on Monday 28th October at 1:30pm

At Kym & Stephen's place 66 Maggie's Lane Ruffy

Topic - Garden Diaries recording what worked, what didn't and other interesting seasonal observations.

Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268



Are you interested in adding to the

i Natutaliste's

environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area?

If YES then download the App now, follow the instructions for use in TGN 30/7/23.

and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.



Do you have a cat or feed stray cats, live in the Murrindindi Shire and have a pension card?

Then you can take advantage of the FREE cat desexing, microchipping, worming, vaccination and registration package the Shire is offering.

The local wildlife will benefit too.

For further details - 5772 0333

Tablelands Community Centre 27 Nolans Road Ruffy ARTBOX EXHIBITION VIEWINGS

October 6th to 30th - gubi ngarrak-du/Up on the mountain

Isobel Morphy-Walsh Indigenous Weaving & Mapping

November 2nd to 23rd - Bushwoods Creations

Shlomit Moria Chainsaw Artist & Wood Carver



2nd Exhibition Opening 6pm Friday 1st November

Bushwoods Creations Meet the Artist & BBQ \$5 donation BYO Drinks & Salads Tea/Coffee Dessert Provided

WORKSHOP DATES

October: Indigenous Weaving Workshops

10am till 2pm - Saturday 12th & 19th & Sunday 13th & 27th





November: Whittling Workshop

Saturday 2nd & 23rd 10am till 3pm - Sunday 24th 9am till 2pm Whittling workshops for over 16 years of age or phone contact for under 16's

All Workshops Limited Spaces

\$10 per workshop BYO lunch tea/coffee provided

Openings & Workshop Bookings Essential www.trybooking.com

Further info: tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP

Book recommendations.

NEXT MEETING Saturday October 12th @ 6pm

Title & Author

Description

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

It is the tale, simply told, of one ordinary middle-aged man - Bill Furlong - who in December 1985, in a small Irish town, slowly grasps the enormity of the local convent's heartless treatment of unmarried mothers and their babies (one instance of what will soon be exposed as the scandal of the Magdalene laundries).

Songteller: My Life in Lyrics by Dolly Parton and Robert Oermann

Songteller: My Life in Lyrics explores the remarkable life and lyrics of the one and only Dolly Parton. Songteller explores the songs that have defined Parton's journey. Illustrated throughout with previously unpublished images from her personal and business archives, the Washington Post calls it "a gold mine of little-seen photos and personal anecdotes". Recommended: Audio book

A Feather on the Water by Lindsay Jane Ashford Just weeks after World War II ends, three women from different corners of the world arrive in Germany to run a displacedpersons camp. They long to help rebuild shattered livesincluding their own...

Between Husbands and Wives by Susannah Glenn

A couple moves to Far North Queensland looking for a fresh start, but can they escape their past? A page-turning domestic thriller for fans of Sally Hepworth and Liane Moriarty.

Devotion by Hannah Kent Prussia, 1836. Hanne is nearly fifteen and the domestic world of womanhood is quickly closing in on her. A child of nature, she yearns instead for the rush of the river, the wind dancing around her. Hanne finds little comfort in the local girls and friendship doesn't come easily, until she meets Thea and she finds in her a kindred spirit and finally, acceptance.

Also recommended: Burial Rites by Hannah Kent

Russia: Myths and Realities: The History of a Country with an Unpredictable Past by Rodric Braithwaite

Russia is not an enigma, but its past is violent, tragic, sometimes glorious, and certainly complicated. Like the rest of us, the Russians constantly rewrite their history. They too omit episodes of national disgrace in favour of patriotic anecdotes, sometimes more rooted in myth than reality. Expert and former ambassador Rodric Braithwaite unpicks fact from fiction to discover what lies at the root of the Russian story.

The Value of Everything: The Making and Taking in the Global Economy by Mariana Mazzucato

Modern economies reward activities that extract value rather than create it. This must change to insure a capitalism that works for us all. In this scathing indictment of our current global financial system, The Value of Everything rigorously scrutinizes the way in which economic value has been determined and reveals how the difference between value creation and value extraction has become increasingly blurry.

The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier It is 1486 and Venice is a wealthy, opulent centre for trade. Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, the island revered for the craft. As a woman, she is not meant to work with glass—but she has the hands for it, the heart, and a vision. When her father dies, she teaches herself to make beads in secret, and her work supports the Rosso family fortunes.

The Things That Matter the Most by Gabbie Stroud

The staff of St Margaret's Primary School are hanging by a thread. There's serious litigation pending, the school is due for registration, and a powerful parent named Janet Bellevue has a lot to say about everything. As teachers they're trying to remain professional, as people they're fast unravelling.

The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth

When Rose discovers that she cannot get pregnant, Fern sees her chance to pay her sister back for everything Rose has done for her. Fern can have a baby for Rose. She just needs to find a father. Simple. Fern's mission will shake the foundations of the life she has carefully built for herself and stir up dark secrets from the past, in this guirky, rich and shocking story of what families keep hidden.

What do I do if a magpie swoops? Here's some tips to help protect yourself from a swooping bird

Being swooped by a magpie can be an unpleasant experience, but it's a price Canberra resident Harvey Bell is willing to pay to enjoy spring cycling outings with his friends. Mr Bell heads out each weekend with his riding group and during their after-ride cafe catch-ups, they have plenty of stories to share about their encounters with magpies during nesting season in Canberra.

"For me it's just part of the seasons. It's part of nature, if you find there's a terribly bad one, try and avoid him," Mr Bell said. "Pretty well every spring time there's magpies swooping. Most of them are fairly civilised about it but occasionally there's one that takes it very seriously and may draw blood. "But most of the time they're just looking after their young and you get used to them."

Mr Bell tried attaching cable ties to his helmet to scare off the birds, but has since given up on that approach.

Magpies swoop to protect eggs and chicks in their nest and running away from a magpie can trigger more swooping, so it's best to stay calm, protect your face and walk away quickly.

Swooping season is starting earlier

Evan Croker from ACT Wildlife says warmer winters appear to be bringing forward magpie nesting season.

Magpie breeding and nesting season typically runs from July through to November, with September usually the peak for having young in nests. However recent warmer winters appeared to have prompted some magpies to start nesting, and in turn swooping, earlier.

"Definitely the winters are getting warmer over the last few years and there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that the nesting is starting earlier and earlier," he said, but holding an umbrella or a stick above

your head can help protect you as magpies will swoop at the highest point."



Why do magpies swoop?

Magpies swoop intruders entering their territory — like dogs, cats, pedestrians and cyclists — to defend eggs and chicks in their nest.

The swooping usually occurs within 100 metres of the nest tree and lasts about six weeks, intensifying as the chick grows and usually ending as it leaves the nest.

Mr Croker said only about 10 per cent of male birds engaged in swooping and understanding their behaviour could help people avoid aggressive birds.

"What we need to do is work with them and understand them," he said. "So, if you discover a swooping area, it's just a good idea to walk around that area. And there are various other things you can do with a stick and umbrella and just wearing a hat and sunglasses which make a big difference for protecting yourself from them."

Mr Croker said it was best to avoid acting aggressively if swooped by a magpie. "Don't try and take them on because you may get an enemy for life," he said. "**Magpies are intelligent and they remember the faces, believe it or not.** Whatever you do, don't sort of start running, that sort of triggers them even more."

Tips to protect yourself from swooping magpies

When magpies swoop, they beat their wings, clack their beaks and occasionally peck or scratch. If you have a swooping magpie in your neighbourhood, it is recommended that you

- walk through the bird's territory quickly, don't run and maybe take a different route next time.
- protect your head with an umbrella, hat or helmet and wear glasses to protect your eyes.
- watch the birds while walking away quickly from the area magpies are less likely to swoop if you look at them
- protect your pet and do not leave them alone or off-lead in an area with a swooping bird
- don't let your pet attack birds as this may trigger swooping
- attach a flag or streamers on a stick to your bike or backpack
- walk your bike through the bird's territory, don't ride.
- Do not chase or throw things at a magpie, as the birds can become aggressive towards people if they are harassed.

CREDIT: Monte Bovill (text) & Greg Nelson (image) - ABC News - Sunday 22nd September 2024

KOALA CONSERVATION PRESENTATION YARCK HALL



UGLN is very proud to announce a free Koala presentation.
Join Landcare for a Koala conversation with Lynne WallaceGreenberg. Lynne currently works in Koala Education &
Conservation. Her tertiary qualifications, and her hands-on
skills at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, equip her to answer
any questions about koalas that you may have.

Learn about:

- How & where koalas live.
- Their favourite trees and how you can improve their habitat.
- Threats that koalas face and how we can help.
- How to report koala sightings.



The talk will be followed by the Home Creek-Spring Creek Landcare Group AGM.

When: Saturday 12th October Time: 11AM

Where: Yarck Hall, 6583 Maroondah Hwy, Yarck

Light lunch provided

To register contact Chris Cobern on <u>ugln.projects@ugln.net</u> or 0413 855 490

Important Covidsafe advice:

Do not attend the activity if you are unwell, especially with cold/flu symptoms.

This event has been funded by the Victorian Landcare Grants.









MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS IN OCTOBER

To celebrate the 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival and promote active ageing and social participation, Council is hosting a series of fun, free lunch events for seniors throughout the Shire in October. Hear from guest speakers and enjoy a performance by Steve Paix!

Event details:

- Tuesday 22 October, Kinglake
- · Thursday 24 October, Marysville
- · Wednesday 30 October, Yea
- Thursday 31 October, Alexandra

Last year these events were a hit, so bookings are essential. Registrations close at 12 noon on Monday 14 October. To register, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors2024

CHILDREN'S WEEK LIBRARY PROGRAMS

From 21 – 25 October 2024, Council will be running environment-themed Story Time sessions at Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake Libraries for Children's Week.

- Monday 21 from 10.00 10.30 am, Alexandra
- Tuesday 22 from 10.30 11.15 am, Kinglake
- Tuesday 22 from 10.30 11.30 am, Yea
- Thursday 24 from 10.00 to 10.30 am, Alexandra
- Friday 25 from 10.30 to 11.15 am, Kinglake

For more information, contact Council's Children's Services Unit on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION TRAINING

Council and Prevention United are providing training sessions aimed at promoting mental health in our community. This is an opportunity to learn valuable skills and strategies to support mental well-being. This training is specifically designed for individuals who work or volunteer with community groups, organisations, and services.

For more details and to register, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/unitedtraining

THE MOBILE LIBRARY IS 'ON THE ROAD'

Join us for an evening, real people talking about books, magazines, films and more.

- Taggerty, 16 October, 7.00 pm
- · Toolangi, 23 October, 7.00 pm

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333.

SLEEP AND SETTLING SESSIONS

Join our FREE Sleep and Settling Information Session, facilitated by our dedicated Maternal and Child Health experts on Tuesday 15 October at 15 The Semi Circle, Yea.

Topics include frequent overnight waking, bottle dependency, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition and catnapping. Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch

JOIN OUR TEAM - VACANT POSITIONS

Working for Council provides opportunities for career development, great working conditions, a positive and supportive working environment and the opportunity to contribute to your community.

We are recruiting for the following positions:

- · Parks and Gardens Officer
- Infrastructure Maintenance Officer

To apply for these positions and more, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Council is offering free green waste disposal at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season, during October and November. This is a great way to remove your unwanted green waste and fuel loads on your property without having to burn off.

You can find information to help you prepare at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/prepareyourproperty

PURRFECT CARE PROGRAM

Council is running a program for valid Pensioner Concession Card holders in our community who care for any cat, whether owned or stray. The program includes free desexing, microchipping, worming, vaccination and registration services.

We encourage eligible Pensioner Concession Card holders to apply before 6 December 2024 by calling 5772 0333 or visiting murrindindi.vic.gov.au/catcareprogram

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

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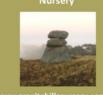
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Echidnas







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The Granite News is widely distributed 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.