



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Still not much rain to speak of, except at the Yarck end of the world, and thin columns of smoke, courtesy of dry lightning strikes, creating havoc in several parts of the plateau and on its slopes, have been a feature of the last week. With dried out paddock grasses almost snow white in colour and as slippery as ice - bring on the autumn rains!!

Opportunities will shortly exist for anyone who would like to advertise their wares on the back page of TGN. There is already a short waiting list, in anticipation of this, so if anyone would like to join it please let me know at editor@tgn.org.au. Also a timely reminder for anyone intending to put any notices or articles or diary dates into TGN that **NEXT week's issue #11 31/3/19 will be the last one for 3 weeks** so please plan your submissions accordingly. **Issue #12** will be published on **Easter Sunday 21/4/19**.

Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was sussing out Earth Hour 2019.

Calling all clones....we wish.

It has come to the notice of the Editor and some other sharp-eyed readers who love to go a wandering along a mountain track, that there is a need for cloning next weekend due to the fact the **Highlands Ramblers usual monthly walk is on Sunday 31st March and so is the Strathbogie Ranges Network's Riparian Walk #3**. How seriously inconvenient if one wants to do both! As I suspect that as none of TGN's readers' names are Dolly, the possibility of being in two locations at once is not an option. So just for this month the Highlands Ramblers' walk will be combined with the SRCMN's walk along Hughes Creek to Tarcombe. For those who missed the details last week read on

This walk is long (**5.5km/3.5hours**) and of moderate difficulty with several creek crossings and a lot of rock hopping. Walkers will meet down at the **Ruffy CFA shed** before driving out to the starting point at Donovan Rd. From there, walkers will descend down the Hughes Creek, following it to Ponkeen Creek Rd. Walkers will then be driven back to their cars at the starting point.

Please note, as we'll be traversing private property on these walks, no dogs or other pets are allowed.

Time/Date: 8:45am to 12:30pm, **Sunday the 31st of March, 2019**

Meeting Location: Strathbogie CFA Shed - 1 Nolans Rd, Ruffy VIC 3666

Finishing Location: Ponkeen Creek Rd

Length: 5.5km

Difficulty: Moderate

RSVPs are essential, so please email us at

strathbogieangescmn@gmail.com to register your interest.



Please note: Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion in the following week's TGN although this will depend on space and time constraints—thanks



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"If Plan A doesn't work there are 25 more letters in the alphabet to choose from." Anon

"There is no Planet B".

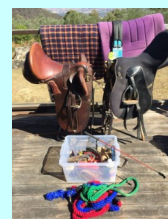
A sign at last week's Student Rally for Climate Change in Berlin.

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**

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Keen job seeker

Our Italian cousin (30 YO, female) seeks short-term outdoor work (fruit/veg/garden or light farm work) in the local area. She is available until June 2019 & has a valid drivers licence, work visa and TFN). Contact Debbie Mauro on 5796 9363, palmanovaolives@outlook.com if you can help.

WEBSITE of the WEEK

www.earthhour.org.au

Information about Earth Hour

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — March & April

Wednesday 27th March Doors open @ 6.30pm	MERTON MUSIC FESTIVAL Come along to the Festival of Small Halls, see last week's attachment for more details & Contact Marg	at Merton Memorial Hall
Thursday 28th March @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat	at Caveat Church
Fri. 29th—Sun 31st March @ 8am	SEYMOUR WORKING DOG SHEEP TRIALS The annual Working Dog Trials in Seymour are on again for 3 days with catering on site. Details? contact Di 57921089 or schrapeli@activ8.net.au	at Kings Park, Seymour
Saturday 30th March Preview 2 - 5pm	A MASS of LIFE - Dennis Spiteri's 2019 Exhibition Dennis Spiteri's annual exhibition commences with a preview on March 30th and runs until April 28th. Bookings for the preview are essential contact Dennis on 57969373 or dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au	at 94 Old Highlands Rd
Saturday 30th March 6.30pm picnic then 8 - 9pm for stargazing	STARGAZING in YEA & celebrate EARTH HOUR Cittaslow in Yea is holding an Earth Hour and Stargazing evening. BYO picnic dinner & binoculars & gold coin donation, chairs & telescopes provided. RSVP Facebook page - Cittaslow Yea in Murrindindi	at Yea Railway Reserve
Saturday 30th March 7 - 8.30pm	GREATER GLIDERS - Captured on Camera Although this is a little bit of a drive if these nocturnal, arboreal furry creatures appeal why not attend this FREE presentation and go spotlighting in the forest after. See attachment for further details.	at Kinglake Community Centre Hall
Saturday 31st March	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS first walk for 2019!	See Riparian Walk # 3 below !
Sunday 31st March 8.45am - 12.30pm	RIPARIAN WALK #3 - Hughes Creek / Tarcombe Back by popular demand the Strathbogie Conservation Management Network will help you explore the local waterways while studying their unique qualities. See p.1 for further details of this walk and to RSVP or for further details email - strathbogierangescmn@gmail.com	
Friday 5th April @ 9.30	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA This enjoyable social event is open to all members of the community, come along, enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce and enjoy meeting others. NOTE: Day change for April !!	at Terip Community Centre
Saturday & Sunday 6th & 7th April 10 - 4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO Darren's studio, with his stunning, creative works is now open to the public on the first weekend each month. Quality art in the local community and not too far to travel to enjoy it.	2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? Term 1 dates for 2019 - March 27th and April 10th & 24th.	at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	YOGA AT RUFFY Yoga with Kylie Penny is about to start. All welcome! Equipment provided, \$20 per class or \$153 per term paid upfront. (BYO water bottle) Any enquiries please call/SMS Kylie 0418 899966 or email kyliepenny@gmail.com Please note bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Wednesday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!	at Ruffy Hall Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

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WOW!! What a feast of culture, sport & entertainment ~ why would we want to live anywhere else??

For fire risk reduction & to meet climate targets, 300 scientists want stronger land clearing laws - Part 2

Removing forest vegetation depletes soil moisture. Large, intact areas of forest typically have cooler, wetter microclimates buffered from extreme temperatures. Over time, some forest types can even become fire-resistant, but smaller patches of trees are typically drier and more flammable.

Trees also form a natural windbreak that can slow the spread of bushfires. An analysis of the 2005 Wangary fire in South Australia found that fires spread most rapidly through paddocks, rather than through areas lined with native trees. Finally, Australia's increasing risk of bushfire and worsening drought are driven by global climate change, to which land clearing is a major contributor.

Farmers on the frontline of environmental risk

Extensive tree clearing also leads to problems for farmers, including rising salinity, reduced water quality, and soil erosion. Governments and rural communities spend significant money and labour redressing the aftermath of excessive clearing.

Sensible regulation of native vegetation removal does not restrict existing agriculture, but rather seeks to support sustainable production. Retained trees can help deal with many environmental risks that hamper agricultural productivity, including animal health, long-term pasture productivity, risks to the water cycle, pest control, and human well-being. Rampant tree clearing is undoing climate policy too. Much of the federal government's A\$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund has gone towards tree planting. But it would take almost this entire sum just to replace the trees cleared in Queensland since 2012.

In 2019, Australians might reasonably expect that our relatively wealthy and well-educated country has moved beyond a frontier-style reliance on continued deforestation, and we would do well to better acknowledge and learn lessons from Indigenous Australians with respect to their land management practices.

Yet the periodic weakening of land clearing laws in many parts of Australia has accelerated the problem.

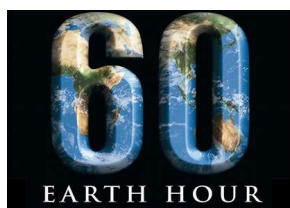
The negative impacts on industry, society and wildlife are numerous and well established. They should not be ignored.

This article, taken from "Conversation", was submitted by Lesley Dalziel.

Celebrate Earth Hour & Stargaze in Yea

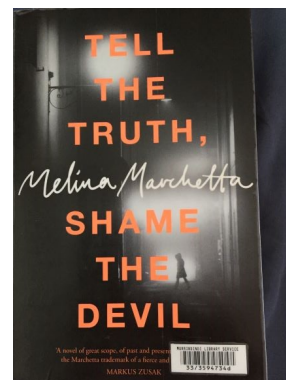
Feel like a spot of energy conservation and checking out the stars above?

Cittaslow in Yea is holding an evening to do just that at the Yea Railway Reserve. If you can't make it 8.30pm is switch off time!!



Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil by Melina Marchetta

Melina Marchetta burst onto the Australian publishing scene in 1992 with her award winning debut novel "Looking for Alibrandi". Since then her novels have appeared at lengthy intervals, but all of them are well-crafted and worth reading. Her most recent novel "Tell the Truth, Shame the Devil" is a compulsive read about a group of students, tragically involved in a bus bombing, with Chief Inspector Bish Ortleigh of the London Met trying to make sense of why and who. There are also tenuous links between this bombing and one that happened 13 years before. As the threads start to weave themselves together the story gains momentum and the reader is drawn into a compulsive read.



Koalas in NSW on track to be extinct by 2050!

Last year I quoted from a Canadian National Park sign that if we didn't look after our common birds, animals and plants that they might just become uncommon. A few weeks ago there was an environmental show on the ABC, narrated by Barry Humphries, called "The Wonderful World of Oz". The fact that leapt off the screen for me was the above heading - **Koalas in NSW to be extinct by 2050!** Really? Why? Aren't they absolutely everywhere? Turns out that as our land dries out and becomes warmer the moisture content of eucalyptus leaves becomes less and the leaves themselves become more toxic as a result. NSW's koalas are therefore dying due to dehydration as the leaves no longer give them sufficient moisture to survive. Australia has an appalling record of species' extinction, native mammals in particular. In fact we are #1 in the world for the extent of biodiversity loss in just 2 centuries. Definitely not a record to be proud of.



Seymour Working Dog Sheep Trials

The annual Working Dog Trials in Seymour are on again. Starting at 8am on 29-31 March with catering on site. For more details

Contact Di 57921089 or schrapel@activ8.net.au



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