



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Whenever I learn something interesting, that I think may be of use to others, I feel an urge to share the information around, so herewith my latest discovery. In recent years it has become common at official occasions, meetings or special events to commence with either a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgement of Country as a mark of respect to the first nations people who have inhabited this great land for 60,000 years. But what is the difference between these two actions? Undoubtedly the most generous Welcome to Country I have ever experienced was several years ago in Shepparton, when a Yorta Yorta woman and her two daughters made the 50 or so of us at the presentation night, we were attending, feel as though we had just stepped into her own home, such was the warmth in her words. In contrast I have been a part of meetings where an acknowledgement of country is made to open the meeting and the person delivering it could be reading from the cornflakes packet and in a hurry to catch a train, so poor and disinterested is the delivery. It's as though they've ticked that box and can now move onto the rest of the agenda.

This annoys me because if you are going to undertake such a courtesy, at least have the grace to make it sound as though you are actually interested in what you are saying. So, I decided to investigate further and this is what have I learned about these two different but also similar proceedings. After all, "all that's learnt is never wasted".

Logically, only a person of indigenous descent can offer a **Welcome to Country**, because it has been their country for generations and only they are able to extend that welcome greeting. Also the person offering that welcome must be a member of the local Traditional Owner Group, in our neck of the woods that would be a Taungurung clan member. It is disrespectful to ask an indigenous person, not from the Traditional Owner Group, to do a Welcome to Country as it will cause them embarrassment and may also offend.

A non-indigenous person can offer an **Acknowledgement of Country** as a mark of respect, usually at the commencement of a formal function, however subsequent speakers can also offer their acknowledgement too. Like to find out more? Check out this week's Website of the Week - with thanks to Mitchell Shire Council's Indigenous Resource Guide.

Until next week, **Pauline**

**And Kenny?** was hanging out at the Highlands-Caveat CFA meeting.



## Important Request...

Would all those interested in Highlands Ramblers continuing please email Louise at [mlcurrie@bigpond.com](mailto:mlcurrie@bigpond.com) by the end of August at the latest. Thanks.



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



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[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

**"There is no such things as a dumb animal, only dumb humans."**

**George Kennedy (1923-2010)**  
**Interstate truckie & animal lover**  
**(in loving memory of Eleanor)**

**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.

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2019\\_web.pdf](https://cdn.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/general-downloads/Community%20Development/MSA-Acknowledging-our-Traditional-Owners-Guide-2019_web.pdf) **Mitchell Shire  
Council's indigenous Resource  
Guide.**

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## CALENDAR of EVENTS — August & September

 <b>Saturday 24th August</b> 12 - 2pm	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> <span style="float: right;">at 94 Old Highlands Rd</span> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</b>
 <b>Saturday 24th August</b>	<b>MACRAME WORKSHOP</b> <span style="float: right;">at Tablelands Community Centre</span> Macrame, that creative knot craft of the 70s is making a comeback. See p.3 in 4/8/19's TGN for details.
<b>Sat.24th &amp; Sun. 25th August</b> 9.30-4 & 9.30-12	<b>QIGONG WORKSHOP - Restoring Natural Harmony</b> <span style="float: right;">at One to One Wellbeing Centre, Euroa</span> See last week's attachment for details. Bookings are essential. <b>Enquiries? Vivien Watmough 57953349</b>
 <b>Sunday 25th August</b> @ 10.30am	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> <span style="float: right;">departing from Highlands Hall</span> A date for your diary, please let Louise Currie know ASAP if you are attending. <b>0435 990538</b>
<b>Thursday 29th August</b> from 5.30pm	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> <span style="float: right;">at Caveat Church</span> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
<b>Friday 30th August</b> @ 7pm	<b>SOUP &amp; MOVIE NIGHT— Living the Change</b> <span style="float: right;">at Yea Council Chambers</span> Yea River Catchment Landcare Group present inspiring stories for a sustainable future. See attachment for further details. <b>Enquiries? Judy 0448 972563</b>
<b>Saturday 7th &amp; Sunday 8th September</b> 10am - 4pm	<b>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO</b> <span style="float: right;">2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</span> Darren's studio, with his creative works is now open on first weekend each month. An inspirational environment where both art and sculpture come to life in a beautiful scenic countryside of Highlands.
 <b>Monday 9th September</b> @ 11am	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, at the same time and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. <b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
 <b>Wednesday 11th September</b> @ 9.30am	<b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b> <span style="float: right;">at Terip Community Centre</span> 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.
 <b>Friday 13th September</b> @ 6.30pm	<b>DRINKS ON THE DECK</b> <span style="float: right;">at Highlands Community Hall</span> Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. <b>57969247 &amp; Contact Judy</b>
<b>Every second Wednesday</b> 10.30-12.30	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <span style="float: right;">at Highlands Community Hall</span> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? <b>Term 3 dates for 2019 - August 28th, September 11th &amp; 25th and October 2nd.</b>
<b>Every Monday</b> @ 10 am	<b>YOGA AT RUFFY</b> <span style="float: right;">at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</span> 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 <a href="mailto:kyliepenny@gmail.com">kyliepenny@gmail.com</a> Please note bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.
<b>Every Thursday</b> @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<b>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</b> <span style="float: right;">at Euroa Uniting Church Hall</span> Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! <b>Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</b>



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## Reusable bags on offer ahead of plastic bag ban

Member for Euroa, Steph Ryan, is offering residents of the Euroa electorate free re-usable shopping bags before plastic bags are banned in November this year.

Ms Ryan has told Parliament she supports a ban on single use plastic bags.

From November 1 all single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags with a thickness of 35 microns or less will be banned, including bags made from degradable, biodegradable and compostable plastic.

Produce bags used for unpackaged food like fruit, meat and seafood, garbage bags and bin liners and dog waste and nappy bags will still be legal.

"While there were a few grumbles when supermarkets voluntarily took the step of eliminating plastic bags, I think most of us have now adapted and changed our behaviour," Ms Ryan said, "Anyone who wants a free reusable bag ahead of the ban is welcome to pop in or phone my office." In Victoria about 10 per cent of all waste disposed of to landfill is plastic, so eliminating single use plastic where we can is a small but very practical way we can reduce our environmental impact.

Statistics from 2012-13 showed Australians were using 1.5 million tonnes of plastic a year, or 65 kilograms per person. More than a third of that was single-use disposable packaging.

Globally, plastic production has grown rapidly in recent years and is expected to double again over the next 20 years.

All other states and territories in Australia, except Victoria and NSW have already banned lightweight plastic shopping bags.

Anyone wanting a reusable bag ahead of the ban can pick one up from Ms Ryan's office in Bridge St, Benalla, or phone the office on 5762 1600 in order to have one posted.



## Love Literature at the YWDC

On **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**, the Y Water Discovery Centre is delighted to be hosting a book launch by one of the volunteer staff – Hendrik Dierich. Hendrik has written a book of poems and songs, entitled *Dark Spectrum* that showcases his talents and covers a wide range of topics and styles.

He is very pleased and excited to be launching his first professional literary work at the Centre and invites anyone who is interested in poetry or literature to attend the official launch – **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm** – and then to enjoy a reading of some of his work.

Afternoon tea will follow the launch formalities so **RSVPs for catering purposes, by August 21<sup>st</sup>**, are essential.

Ring 57972663 or email [info@ywatercentre.com.au](mailto:info@ywatercentre.com.au) to be a part of this excellent afternoon.

For further information on the Y Water Discovery Centre visit [www.ywatercentre.com.au](http://www.ywatercentre.com.au), follow @ywaterdiscoverycentre or call 5797 2663.

## Water Savings in the Home

Despite the dump of winter rain last weekend we are still under the average for precipitation this year. So an article in an issue of RENEW magazine "**Wise Water Ways**" outlined a number of measures, open to the average householder, for water conservation strategies around the home. The following suggestions might come in handy, particularly as Victoria's water costs have risen around 25% on last year.

**LEAKS** - dripping taps and leaking toilets are the hidden wasters of much household water. A slight leak in your toilet can consume more than 4,000L a year and a more significant leak up to 96,000L. A tap dripping once per second wastes around 7,000L a year. There is an Australian invention called the Aqua Trip Leak Detection System [www.aquatrip.com.au](http://www.aquatrip.com.au) which can detect abnormal water use.

**BATHROOM** - The shower is the biggest water guzzler in the home accounting for an average of around 34% of indoor water use. Fitting a waterwise shower head can reduce shower use by up to 50% [www.showersaver.com.au](http://www.showersaver.com.au). Installing low flow taps in the bathroom can reduce water use from 18L per min to just 2L a minute. Turning the tap off while cleaning your teeth is also a no brainer.

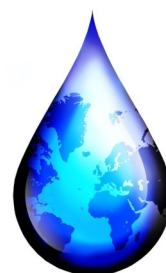
**TOILET** - The toilet is the second biggest user of water inside the home, around 26%. Older single flush toilets use around 12L per flush. Replacing these with water efficient dual flush cisterns can save around 60% of this water use. A simple alternative is to place a brick or a 2L bottle of water in the cistern.

**LAUNDRY** - The laundry is also a high water use area of the home, so wait until you have a full load of washing before turning on the machine. If replacing an old washing machine, front loaders are more efficient than top loaders.

**KITCHEN** - Kitchens account for 10% of water use in the home. Water saving strategies can be as simple as waiting until the dishwasher is full before turning the machine on.

**MONITORING YOUR WATER USE** - The first step in home water conservation is to understand how much water you are using and where. Once you know that you can take steps to implement water saving strategies.

[www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) has a water calculator that gives green, amber and red light results, then an action plan for steps you can take to improve your result.





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