



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

I was doing a spot of research during the week when I discovered the following article from Alpha Environmental that illustrates why being environmentally responsible is so important in a country like Australia.

“Often, Australia is held up as having one of the last pristine and truly ‘wild’ landscapes on earth. But in reality, most of Australia’s ecosystems are either compromised or have become incredibly vulnerable as a result of human activities. Here are ten sobering facts about Australia’s fragile ecosystems and the devastating impact that European settlement and industry has had on the sunburnt country.

1. Since European settlement 13% of Australia’s original vegetation and, in temperate areas overgrazing, means that less than 2% of the original grasslands remain. Australia’s land clearing activities made up 12% of the country’s greenhouse emissions in 1998.
2. Land clearance has caused soil salinity problems in 50,000 square kilometres of Australia.
3. The CSIRO estimates that land degradation as a result of deforestation costs Australia around \$1 billion in lost revenue every year.
4. As a result of intensive agricultural activities, around 19,000 tonnes of phosphorus and 141,000 tonnes of nitrogen are released into Australia’s freshwater systems each year, ultimately ending up in the sea.
5. 20 new pests or diseases are introduced into Australia every year. This includes between 250 and 500 new species of aquatic life transported via ballast water, and 2,500 species of introduced plants.
6. Nearly a hundred species of Australian animals face extinction and 1,500 land based species are considered to be threatened. Since European settlement 23 birds, 4 frogs and 27 mammal species have become extinct.
7. Between 2001 and 2007, the volume of waste sent to landfill in Australia increased 12% from 19 million tonnes to 21.3 million tonnes.
8. Australia has the highest rate of greenhouse gas production per person of any affluent country in the world.
9. Despite renewable energy use in Australia having a 100% technical viability according to three different studies, most Australians rely on brown coal for their energy needs and Australia remains the world’s largest coal exporter.
10. In Australia, over 80 different pesticides which have been banned around the world are still legal.



These include chemicals classified as ‘highly hazardous’ and ‘extremely dangerous’ by the World Health Organization such as hormone disruptors and carcinogens.”

Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny? was getting ready to go rambling with the Highlands boots.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

“We now stand at a unique part in our planet’s history, one where we must all share responsibility, both for our present well-being and for the future of life on Earth.”
Sir David Attenborough

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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WEBSITE of the WEEK

<https://wintonwetlands.org.au>

Winton Wetlands is the largest wetlands restoration project in the Southern Hemisphere. Why not check out their website and then visit the real thing.

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — August & September

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Thursday 29th August 9.30am - noon | GOULBURN BROKEN WATERWATCH Everyone is invited to attend this informative session. For further details see attachment. | at Euroa Library |
| Thursday 29th August from 5.30pm | SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat | at Caveat Church |
| Friday 30th August @ 7pm | SOUP & MOVIE NIGHT— Living the Change Yea River Catchment Landcare Group present inspiring stories for a sustainable future. See previous attachments for further details. | at Yea Council Chambers Enquiries? Judy 0448 972563 |
| Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th September 10am - 4pm | DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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. | 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands |
| Monday 9th September @ 11am  | HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB 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. | Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361 |
| Wednesday 11th September @ 9.30am  | 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. | at Terip Community Centre |
| Friday 13th September @ 6.30pm  | DRINKS ON THE DECK 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. | at Highlands Community Hall 57969247 & Contact Judy |
| Sunday 15th September NB: NEW date  | MACRAME WORKSHOP Macrame, that creative knot craft of the 70s is making a comeback. See p.3 in this TGN for details. | at Tablelands Community Centre |
| Friday 20th September 6.30pm | YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE AGM & SPEAKER Come along to hear Fern Hames, the 'Fish Lady' speak about local fish, their conservation, habitat and the challenges they face. See attachment for further details. | at Y Water Discovery Centre- Enquiries? Judy 0448 972563 |
| Sat. 28th September noon - 3pm  | HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET & PRUNING DEMO Gardeners extraordinaire, Brian and Jessica, will be holding a pruning and grafting demonstration as part of September's Black Market. See p.3 and attachment for details. | at 94 Old Highlands Rd Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366 |
| 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 3 dates for 2019 - August 28th, September 11th & 25th and October 2nd. | 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 Thursday @ 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 Euroa Uniting Church Hall Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559 |



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MACRAME WORKSHOP

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE
RUFFY

Sunday 15th September 2019

note **NEW DATE!!**

Workshop limited to 8 persons

\$95 per person

You will be making 2 plant hangers all materials supplied for both hangers

BYO lunch or The Ruffy Store, Tea/Coffee supplied.

If you are interested in being a part of this workshop please call or text your email address - **Knots For You** 0429 452 592



Thinking of planting now spring is here...

Maybe consider some native vegetation because -

- Native vegetation provides eco-system services such as soil formation, sediment filtration, water & air quality, pollination of crops and insect control by birds and mammals.
- Increases biodiversity
- Is visually important in the landscape
- Minimises land and water degradation
- Supplies food, shelter, refuge, nesting sites and habitat for native fauna
- Offers carbon sequestration



Darren has some dates for your diary too!

Darren Gilbert's Open Studio provides an inspirational environment where both art and sculpture come to life in a beautiful scenic countryside of Highlands.

Opening weekend is
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th September 2019.
Then....

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October 2019.

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November 2019.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December 2019.

10.00 am to 4.00 pm each day.

2742 Highlands Road, Highlands.

Why not drop in and enjoy the art and views?



Black Market snips into spring!

It's Black Market time again - **the 4th Saturday each month.** Come and spend a couple of hours eating and talking about food and gardening. We'll do soup; bring something to share if you feel like it.

If you have any homegrown or home-made produce to sell, swap or share, that would be lovely. If not, come anyway and join in the conversation. Carolyn might join us this time with eggs for sale, so bring some cash if you'd like to buy some delicious local eggs.

Our deck wicking bed had slowed down, but the perennial spinach is going strong. We have just planted a whole lot of lettuce ... thanks to Brian (Seymour's gardening guru), and we are in the process of spreading composted horse manure in the vineyard. Brian suggests planting bulbs in the manure, so that in Summer, when they die back, we'll have the vineyard mulched without any effort. Mulching will be essential this Summer to conserve water.

Then in September, we have something very special on offer for the Black Market - a pruning, espalier, grafting demonstration with Brian Bowring and Jessica Bateman. **\$25** (for Brian and Jessica) **including lunch.**

Logically this Black Market will be a little longer than usual, from 12-3pm, as there is so much to do. Please let Clare or Vitto know if you would like to participate-call (for catering purposes) 0428 969366 or email claredaly19@gmail.com if you would like to join us in September. See attachment for further details.



Saturday September 28th

12-3pm

Pruning, Espalier & Grafting Demonstration & Lunch

\$25 pp

94 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands

To book - call **0428 969366** or email claredaly19@gmail.com

Anyone for some tax returns?

With tax return time in full swing the **Basalt to Bay Landcare Network** (Warrnambool & Koroit area) are keen to ensure that Primary Producers claim income tax deductions that reflect their expenditure accurately.

Check out their website <https://www.basalttobay.org.au> to discover what you might be entitled to claim, that you may be unaware of. From the home page click on **Interest Areas** and then **Tax Rebates.** Good Luck!

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