



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Some things come into our lives for a reason or a season, or for several reasons and many seasons and the Highlands Ramblers happy walking group falls into the latter categories. After more than 20 years of exploring the heights and valleys of the magnificent Highlands area, with its specky granite tors and outcrops, it seems the time has come for this activity to cease. Over the years many local residents and their families and friends have enjoyed a day out in the fresh air of this beautiful part of our world. On behalf of the local community I would like to thank Peg Lade who took the initiative to commence this excellent social, most informative and very pleasant monthly gathering. Her reflections follow below. Time has certainly flown as the littlest munchkin in the front of the photo, with the stripes, is now in his first year of tertiary studies! Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** was very impressed by Dárren Gilbert's artwork.

Highlands Ramblers c.1990s - 2019

As this has been such a successful group, and is now dying a lingering death, I feel it should not go without some fanfare.

In the 1990s, I thought a local walking group would be fun, so it was duly advertised in Granite News. TWO people turned up - Scott McKay and Brian Beecham. We walked the track on the north side of the Switzerland Ranges and to the top of Mt Broughton.

Then I thought, "Give it another go," and only Brian turned up! A walk along Sprunts Rd through bush to 'Glentanner'. Not deterred - give it one more go, the temperature was 2 degrees C and about 20 people turned up to walk the Old Coach Road. There were babies who were breast-fed among the rocks while we had our lunch.

This gave me inspiration to continue, and we must have climbed every hill in the district. We needed a name - one suggestion was "Ice Cubes", but we settled on "Ramblers", suggested by Doug Gray of Ghin Ghin.

Old age, a move to Yea and more sedentary occupation eventually caught up with me and the group continued with Andrew Shaw (who knows every rock and log in the district) Louise Currie, who has many other commitments and of course, Judy and Stuart Reid.

The biggest group we ever had was one of over 40 - from Granite Hills to Phillip and Natalie Wischer's at the bottom of the Ghin Ghin cutting.

So retirement comes to everyone and everything, but what wonderful memories we have.

And I still love visitors - 4/3 Anne St, Yea.

by Peg Lade



Happy Ramblers who have just visited Stony Creek Falls



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

" Books are the most quietest and most constant of friends. They are the most accessible and wisest of councillors and the most patient of teachers."
Charles William Eliot (1834-1926)
President of Harvard University

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**

WANTED

Two **HARDWORKING** people to hand rake small paddocks in Terip Terip.

Need to have strong back, arms & shoulders.

Multiple days work.

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info@ameliarisedonkeys.com



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
August	58 mm	40.9 mm
2019Total	394.6 mm	mm
August Rain Days	17 Days	Days

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — September & October

 <p>Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th September 10am - 4pm</p>	<p>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</p> <p>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.</p>
 <p>Monday 9th September @ 11am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</p>
 <p>Wednesday 11th September @ 9.30am</p>	<p>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA at Terip Community Centre</p> <p>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.</p>
 <p>Friday 13th September @ 6.30pm</p>	<p>DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>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.</p> <p>57969247 & Contact Judy</p>
 <p>Sunday 15th September</p> <p>NB: NEW date</p>	<p>MACRAME WORKSHOP at Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Macrame, that creative knot craft of the 70s is making a comeback. See p.3 in last week's TGN.</p>
<p>Friday 20th September 6.30pm</p>	<p>YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE AGM & SPEAKER at Y Water Discovery Centre-</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Enquiries? Judy 0448 972563</p>
<p>Thurs. 26th September from 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church</p> <p>All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat</p>
 <p>Sat. 28th September noon - 3pm</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET & PRUNING DEMO at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> <p>Gardeners extraordinaire, Brian and Jessica, will be holding a pruning and grafting demonstration as part of September's Black Market. See p.3 in last week's TGN for details.</p> <p>Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366</p>
 <p>Friday 4th October 5pm - 8pm</p>	<p>ADAPTING NATURE to CLIMATE CHANGE at Y Water Discovery Centre, Yea</p> <p>The YWDC is offering a series of 6 speakers in 2019/20 that will hopefully "connect, engage & empower communities to be more environmentally aware." Prof. Ary Hoffmann kicks this off. See p.3 for details and an attachment in next week's TGN.</p> <p>Enquiries? 57972663</p>
<p>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p>	<p>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?</p> <p>Term 3 dates for 2019 - September 11th & 25th and October 2nd.</p>
<p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p>	<p>YOGA AT RUFFY at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</p>	<p>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! at Euroa Uniting Church Hall</p> <p>Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!</p> <p>Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</p>



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WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Connections in the Landscape

Wildlife corridors are vital links in the landscape connecting larger blocks of vegetated land, and are important in maintaining biodiversity and the health of our landscape. They can be a roadside strip or creek with trees passing through farmland, a railway reserve crossing the landscape, stone fences lining the edge of a farm paddock, or some other linear strip.

Wildlife corridors are key components for conservation of our biodiversity (flora & fauna) and landscape health. There is much discussion on the effectiveness of corridors for nature conservation. Thin corridors wandering aimlessly over the landscape are not as effective as those which are much wider and which have direct links to large areas of bush. Wildlife corridors that connect large patches of bush are the most valuable for biodiversity, while longer and thinner conduits are still valuable but are not as effective for maintaining biodiversity.

Our landscape can be compared with a living organism. Its blood vessels and nerves are the corridors of vegetation, connecting the vital organs of the remaining bush, such as vegetated hills and slopes in recharge areas, wetlands, public forests and other vegetated areas of farmland. Wildlife moving through these corridor arteries is equivalent to trace elements needed for the efficient operation of the vital organs. Break an artery and life sustaining blood is lost.

When gaps occur in a corridor weeds, soil erosion or insect infestations may develop. If not repaired, native species are prevented from moving between populations as the connections are no longer available.

Wildlife corridors may originate in a number of ways. Natural corridors, such as streams and their associated riparian vegetation, usually follow topographic or environmental contours and are the result of natural environmental processes.

Remnant corridors, such as strips of eucalyptus trees in pine plantations or along roadsides, result from clearing, alteration or disturbance to the surrounding environment. Regenerated corridors occur as a result of regrowth of a strip of vegetation that was formerly cleared or disturbed.



Adapting Nature to Climate Change

The Y Water Discovery Centre is proud to host the first in the **2019/20 Speaker Series** that aims to - connect, engage & empower communities to be more environmentally aware. The natural world is currently facing unprecedented challenges due to a combination of climate change, invasive species and habitat destruction. To help minimise the impact of these processes on populations, species and communities, it is critical that natural systems can adapt and evolve. Professor Ary Hoffmann, from Melbourne University will explore this important topic and discuss options for the future.

Date - Friday 4th October from 5 - 8pm

Venue - Y Water Discovery Centre, 2 Hood St, Yea

RSVPs for catering are required, either ring 57972663 or book on-line at www.trybooking.com/BEDPN



Grow ME instead!

The 'Grow Me Instead' project was first initiated by the Nursery & Garden Industry of NSW & ACT as a voluntary partnership with its member nurseries to encourage the removal from production and sale of plants known to be invasive to the natural environment. A Victorian booklet now offers advice – **X plant**—**Cootamundra Wattle** is very invasive outside its natural region and can hybridise with other wattle species. It spreads by being carried by ants, small mammals & humans and has a high germination rate especially after bushfire or soil disturbance.

✓ plant instead—**Golden Honey-myrtle** OR **Willow Leaf Wattle** OR **White Sallee Wattle** OR Why not visit Euroa Arboretum for local wattle types?

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS ...continued

Protection of wildlife corridors is beneficial for maintaining biodiversity and farm productivity. This is of long term benefit to land managers, particularly farmers, who are interested in maximising their returns from the land. By planting woodlots for self-managed firewood production, landholders can reduce the impacts caused by firewood collection in adjoining corridor remnants. Wildlife populations next to farmland can help reduce insect pests which may otherwise build into plague proportions.

by Peter Johnson - Land for Wildlife 2010

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