



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Every year the wonderful supporters of The Granite News who advertise on p.4 have the opportunity to renew ads for the forthcoming year. For various reasons not all of them will take up this option in 2019 which means there is the possibility, for other businesses or individuals, to secure one of these spaces and support The Granite News. At a cost of \$250 p.a. or \$5.95 a week it is a very cost effective way to advertise your wares. If anyone is interested in taking up this great PR opportunity, over 620 readers each week enjoy reading TGN, then please let me know of your interest via editor@tgn.org.au. And whilst on the back page over the last few years a variety of animals and birds have been supported by the Friends of... and these have included the Powerful Owl, Brush Tailed Phascogale, Platypus, Macquarie Perch, Wedge-tailed Eagle and in 2018 the Lace Monitor. This most appreciated support will continue this year so which creature do you think will be featured in 2019? Why not send me an email with your suggestion and stay tuned to find out.

Until next week, **Pauline**
And **Kenny?** - was seeing how good Macshay's round hay bales are.

Fire at the Boathole

Last Thursday evening the pagers went off all across the Tablelands as several fires started up in the Ruffy vicinity. From the CFA reports there were two incidents, due to a lightning strike, along the Boathole Road and a second fire on the Weibye Track. The fire at the Boathole escalated to 30 tankers and 5 choppers as there was a stiff southerly fanning the flames. Thanks to the concerted efforts by all the fire was limited to 100 hectares and eventually brought under control, although it is still a watching brief. A terrific job was done by the Ruffy CFA, under Capt. George Noye, and the catering crew's efforts were most appreciated by crews from the surrounding area and the visiting strike team. With 25 more days in February and no doubt more hot weather predicted stay safe and ensure your fire plan is up to date.



Photo courtesy of Buxton CFA

HCCC News

THIS Thursday 7th February @ 7pm is the next meeting of the HCCC at the Terip Community Hall. Everyone is welcome, see you there.

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
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Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

"One of the great things about books is that sometimes there are some fantastic pictures."

George W. Bush
43rd President of the USA

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**

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 23rd February 10 - 3 @
245 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands
No early callers please. Follow the balloons!!

Wanted

BEE HIVES & SWARMS

Unloved Bee hives & unwelcome swarms given a new home. Please call Norm (Yorston Rd Highlands)
0418 379 401



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
January	16.2 mm	?? mm
2019Total	16.2 mm	?? mm
January Rain Days	5 Days	?? Days

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — February & March

Wednesday 6th February @ 7.30pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES at Ruffy Hall The swinging dancers are at it - for a series of classes, come along and join in the fun bopping away to the tunes of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Everyone welcome! <i>Stay Tuned - dates TBC</i> Enquiries? - Ray 0467 951559
Thursday 7th February @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE MEETING at Terip Community Hall The next meeting will be held in Terip commencing at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 57904268
Friday 8th February @ 6.30pm 	DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall 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. Enquiries? Judy 57969247
Saturday 9th February @ 9am	DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING - Highlands at Highlands Community Hall Highlands CFA has a training session for its new defib. See article for details RSVPs to Judy 57969247
Saturday 9th February @ 11.00am	SPECIAL MASS @ St Mary's Church Caveat at Caveat Church The whole community is invited to a special celebration mass followed by lunch, see article on p.3 Please note new starting time is now 11am with a Rosary at the Grotto, followed by the Mass.
Monday 11th February @ 11am 	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am & with the same good company! BYO lunch & great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Wed. 13th February @ 9.30 	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA at Terip Community Centre 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.
Saturday 16th - Monday 18th February 	CARRIAGE HORSE DRIVING TRIALS - Mini Enduro around Ruffy, Terip & Caveat An excellent opportunity to see Carriage Horse Driving happening in our own backyard. Refer to article on p.3 and attachment for further details and program. Enquiries? - Kerrie 0488 240408
Saturday 23rd February 10 - 12	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Candi 57969366
Thursday 28th February @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd March 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands 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.
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight - Term 1 dates for 2019 - Feb. 13th & 27th, March 13th & 27th and April 10th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	YOGA AT RUFFY at Tablelands Community Centre 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 0418899966 or email kyliepenny@gmail.com Please note Term 1 2019 will begin on Monday 4th Feb and bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.



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Caveat Church Community Celebrates

Have you put **Saturday 9th February** in your diary for the Special Celebration Mass? A few facts for you to consider...this little Catholic Church was built by a small community of 32 souls, mostly Slovak and Polish, with a few Australians in 1955. The money was raised by raffles and donations, from Catholics and non-Catholics alike, from all over Australia and even the USA and Canada. It was officially opened and blessed in 1956 by Bishop Fox. Text - Anne Hlinka
NB: the starting time is now 11am with a rosary at The Grotto followed by the Special Mass in the church.



February—Ovarian Cancer Awareness

Every year 1,600 women are diagnosed with this disease and 1,070 women die from OC. Unlike breast & cervical cancers there is NO early detection test, so the best way of detecting the disease is to know the signs -

- * Abdominal bloating or increased abdominal size
- * Urinary changes such as frequency or urgency
- * Appetite loss, feeling full quickly or indigestion

Having a family history of breast or ovarian cancer may mean that you are at a higher risk of developing OC. Like to know more?

www.ovariancancer.net.au



Cleaning & Gardening work available

We are looking for a reliable cleaner to help with our property **Yabby Cottage** in **Highlands**. The cottage is rented to guests a few times a month so we need someone to clean before guests arrive and after they depart - approx. 6-10 hours per month. We are also looking for regular assistance with mowing and garden maintenance. Please contact Jenny Hunter 0409 353339 or email info@yabbycottage.com

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The Highlands/Caveat CFA have purchased a defibrillator to be housed on the CFA truck. The Highlands Hall are also going to purchase a defibrillator when funding comes through in March, which will be housed in the 'bus shelter' entrance at the hall. This will enable access to anyone in need of it. We will be holding training for this important device on **Saturday 9th February**, at the Highlands Hall at **9.00am**. This will be followed by breakfast - eggs, bacon, cornflakes, etc. The whole community is encouraged to attend so you can become familiar with this vital piece of equipment.

Don't forget - Ruffy Mini Enduro

The Ruffy Mini Enduro will be the first Distance Carriage Driving Event in Victoria on **16, 17 and 18 February 2019**. Based at Maygar Park (Ruffy Recreation Reserve). Enduro Drivers are a friendly bunch and would appreciate your cheers and support. We will be following Victorian road rules and would appreciate your courtesy as you pass us on the roads. Spectators most welcome to visit at Maygar Park where all your questions and queries will be answered. And remember Carriage Driving is the **"Best fun you can have sitting down!"**



Moderation or Enlightenment

I am not young any longer, in fact as someone said recently, I have achieved the status of being 'vintage'. As I look back, I can honestly say I have never experienced the kind of political turbulence we have been experiencing over the few years. In comparison, the removal of Gough Whitlam was nothing, though at the time I took that badly. Mind you it is not confined to Australia, no matter where I look I come away depressed, angry and appalled. One of the things that really bothers me is the continual conversation about the right and left wing, about who is moderate, or centrist, and who is ultra-right or radical left. In many ways, such descriptions are not only out of date but often misleading. It reminds me of childhood name calling. It is an easy categorisation that avoids constructive dialogue and discussion. Now if your opponent makes a suggestion, regardless of its merit, it is dismissed because it comes from the wrong faction. Facts or morality are rarely considered. I have always had the attitude that we need all sides. Those in the centre need the creativity, renewal and stimulation of those on the margins or periphery, while those on the periphery need the centre to achieve constructive solutions. What is really needed is not more left or right, moderate or radical, but more enlightenment across the board from both politicians and us the voters. At the moment, it is a scarce commodity. Social media may contribute to ignorance and prejudice, but it is its superficiality and dampening of constructive debate that is the real enemy. Social media is hardly the harbinger of true enlightenment. Where do you seek your enlightenment?

Stuart Reid—Highlands



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