



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Earlier this week (as part of my 'day job') I attended the Geography Teachers' Association of Victoria's annual conference. The theme, in their 60th year of operation, was **Sustainability**. It was a very interesting and informative event, with some excellent ideas to take away & implement. However, it was quite sobering to hear not one but several millennials say that they were seriously considering not having any children due to the current state of the environment and the lack of any meaningful action being undertaken, by governments, to ensure a viable future for Australia. It certainly lends weight to the upcoming Student Strike on Friday 20th September, with the next generation attempting to have their genuine concerns heard. And it's not only the next gen who can contribute to this important conversation, see below. Until Sunday 6th October, **Pauline And Kenny?** was just floating about with the fish.

Lots of Landcare news

The Goulburn Broken CMA are hosting a workshop or two on Climate predictions with a focus on farming - looking to provide the latest regional climate trend info and projections.

As part of the workshop event, it would be great to have a practical understanding of the active adjustments that farmers are making to business and farm (landscape eg, soil, water, plants) in light of Climate Change or Climate Smart agriculture. We would love a few farmers to present their stories (10 mins max) about what practical applications they are implementing on their farms.

If you know of anyone who is making changes that they or someone they know would be willing to talk about the changes they are making, we would love to speak with them. Please feel free to give out my mobile number if they would like to speak further about it or alternatively I would be happy to give them a call.

Look forward to hearing from a few of you with some wonderful suggestions.

Many thanks

Kersti Lee Contact details 0437 310840 kerstiel@gbcm.vic.gov.au
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

The winners of the **2019 Victorian Landcare Awards** were announced at the Landcare Awards' ceremony on **Friday 30 August 2019** at Government House in Melbourne.

In 2019, 73 nominations were received from across Victoria in the 15 Landcare Award categories. The winners of the nine National Landcare Award categories will go on to represent Victoria at the 2020 National Landcare Awards.

To access the winners booklet use this link <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/victorian-landcare-awards-recipients/2019-victorian-landcare-awards-winners-booklet/>

The Winners' booklet contains stories about the winners of each of the 15 Landcare Award categories.



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

"One of the universal rules of happiness: always be wary of any helpful item that weighs less than its operating manual."
Terry Pratchett (1948-2015)

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

FYI

Terip Community Morning Teas

Last week was the last MT for awhile as next month, building works will begin to install the new bi-fold doors & in November there is Melbourne Cup Day Lunch; more details soon.

Wanted

Cleaner required for cottage in Highlands.

Interested? Contact James on 0409 538173.

WEBSITE of the WEEK

www.strathbogieranges.org.au/category/upcoming-events/

With several events planned for the Strathbogrie area during Spring check out this website.

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — September & October

Tues. 17th & Wed. 18th September @ various locations & times	GOULBURN BROKEN PLATYPUS SEARCH <i>at Flowerdale, Seymour & Yea</i> Like to be part of a major study now being launched to monitor platypus in creeks & rivers in the Goulburn Broken Catchment? See p.3 in last week's TGN for details. RSVPs to Sue 57974400
Friday 20th September 6.30pm	YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE AGM & SPEAKER <i>at Y Water Discovery Centre-</i> Come along to hear Fern Hames, the 'Fish Lady' speak about local fish, their conservation, habitat and the challenges they face. See attachments in previous TGNs. Enquiries? Judy 0448 972563
Friday 20th September 7 pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING <i>at Whiteheads Creek Hall</i> The next meeting will commence at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
Sunday 21st September @ 8.45 am	STRATHBOGIE RANGES CMN - Riparian Walk #1 <i>at the Boathole</i> Everyone is welcome to join in the new series of Riparian Walks organized by the Strathbogrie Ranges Conservation Management Network. See p.3 article and attachment for further details.
Thurs. 26th September from 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS <i>at Caveat Church</i> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
Sat. 28th September noon - 3pm 	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET & PRUNING DEMO <i>at 94 Old Highlands Rd</i> Gardeners extraordinaire, Brian & Jessica, will be holding a pruning, grafting & espalier demonstration as part of September's Black Market. See previous TGNs for details. Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366
Tuesday 1st October @ 1.30pm	FOOD SECURITY in a CHANGING WORLD <i>at Chittick Community Space, Seymour</i> Jen Sheridan will be speaking about food security in a changing world - in particular some of the threats presented by climate change, corporate consolidation, and urban planning. This message is an important one for everyone, given that food production is at the heart of the Goulburn Valley.
Friday 4th October 5pm - 8pm 	ADAPTING NATURE to CLIMATE CHANGE <i>at Y Water Discovery Centre, Yea</i> 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 attachment for details. Enquiries? 57972663
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October 10am - 4pm	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO <i>2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</i> 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.
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE <i>at Highlands Community Hall</i> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Term 3 dates for 2019 - September 25th and October 2nd.
Every Monday @ 10 am	YOGA AT RUFFY <i>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</i> 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.
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! <i>at Euroa Uniting Church Hall</i> Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559



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Strathbogie Ranges Walks are on again

The SRCMN has another series of 6 walks coming up, with the first being on **Saturday 21st September in Ruffy.**

The aim of these walks is to become better acquainted with our local waterways, and record some of their standout features along the way. An all time classic, the Boathole Creek will kick things off with its meandering, grassy banks & dramatic granite gorges. This walk is long (6.5km) and of moderate to hard difficulty, with some potentially slippery rocks and tricky creek crossing. Hiking experience isn't necessary, but an average level of fitness and mobility will be required. Difficulty will increase drastically if wet weather precedes it.

Meet at the Hughes Creek bridge on the Boathole Rd at 8:45am (GPS coordinate -36.992076, 145.500582).

From there, walkers will descend down Hughes Creek to the mineral springs, before being ferried back to the starting point.

Please note: As the walk will be traversing private property, no dogs or other pets will be allowed.



Time & Date: 8:45am, Saturday the 7th of September

Starting Location: Hughes Creek bridge on the Boathole Rd, Ruffy (GPS coordinate -36.992076, 145.500582)

Length: 6.5km

Difficulty: Moderate to Hard (weather dependent)

If you'd like to attend, please **RSVP** to

events@strathbogieranges.org

Join our Monday Yoga Class at Ruffy!



Come out of Hibernation & put a Spring in your Step!
Help us to keep our class alive for Spring, Summer, 2020 and beyond.

Pictured above: Chris, Ann, Jenny (back), Barb, Bron, Jan, Cheryl (front)

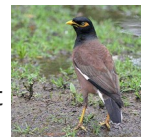
Term 4 will start Monday 7th October. We have a truly amazing and fun teacher, Kylie Penny. Everyone welcome, including beginners. Currently it's an all-women class, but men are very welcome too.

Please call/SMS Kylie 0418 899 966 or email

kyliepenny@gmail.com

See 'calendar of events' for further details including cost.

Controlling the Common Myna



If you have noticed some little brown and yellow birds appearing where they haven't been before, then you aren't alone. Most likely, you've spotted a **Common (or Indian) Myna**, an invasive, intelligent and aggressive species of omnivorous bird introduced from Asia in the mid-1800s. **Don't confuse these birds with Noisy Miners, a light grey native bird of similar appearance.**

Why should you care about Common Mynas? When an increase in Myna populations is observed in a given area, a corresponding decrease in native bird populations often occurs. This is due to the qualities that makes the Myna such a prolific and successful pest species.

Mynas are highly intelligent birds and they will research a given area before approaching it to determine threats, potential food sources and human/animal behaviour. This makes them fast learners, while also rendering them difficult to trap, which is why traps should be laid at night.

Mynas are communal roosters, and this allows Mynas to work together to find potential nest sights and clear them of any inconvenient natives that happen to have gotten there first. This high level of aggression towards other species (even possums), combined with their intelligence, means a group of Mynas will wait until a parent bird has left the target nest, quickly swoop in to break the eggs or kill the young inside, then take over the nest for themselves.

This is obviously detrimental for natives, as not only have their young been killed, but they are now homeless and surrounded by hostile birds. Mynas also prefer hollows which puts them in direct competition with many native species.

Recently, the **Strathbogie Conservation Management Network (SRCMN)**, with funding from the Bogies and Beyond project (an initiative of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority) has created the **Stop Mynas Strathbogie (SMS) project**. The project's main goal is a simple; to effectively map and eradicate the Common Myna from the Strathbogie Ranges. This is being done by supporting local control groups and providing free resources to assist with mapping, community education, trapping and euthanasia. **The project has 20 free Myna traps available for public use at the Euroa Arboretum and will be conducting 2 workshops before the end of the year, the first being on the 13th of October at the Euroa Arboretum.**

We're currently looking for individuals or groups to add to the website (www.stopmynas.com) and to provide support for local Common Myna control efforts. Please email **Alastair Tame** at admin@strathbogieranges.org for more information or to register your interest.

Transfer Station Operators—Various Locations

- Longwood - Permanent – Part Time (Approx. 8 hours per week)
- Ruffy - Permanent – Part Time (Approx. 8 hours per week)
- Violet Town - Permanent – Part Time (Approx. 11 hours per week)

Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking interested persons to operate the Violet Town, Longwood and Ruffy Transfer Stations. These positions are being advertised separately but interested applicants can apply for one or more. Refer to our website for opening hours.

The successful applicant will have sound skills in customer service as well as knowledge and experience in the handling, recording and receipting of cash and electronic financial transactions.

A current Victorian Driver's License is essential for this role and employment is dependent upon successful completion of a National Police Check prior to commencement. Pay will commence at Band 2, \$32.06 per hour.

Applications must include a cover letter, current resume and a statement addressing the key selection criteria as outlined in the position description.

Positions are also available in our casual pool to back fill across all sites. 25% casual loading will apply.

Applications must be submitted by **5pm, Friday, 4 October 2019** and addressed to:

Chris Dube

Executive HR Business Partner

Strathbogie Shire Council

PO Box 177

EUROA VIC 3666.

Alternatively, you may submit your application via email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

A copy of the Position Description can be found on the Council website - www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Mitchell Shire Council Matters

Whiteheads Creek under review

Whiteheads Creek in Seymour has also been undergoing assessment for its flooding risks. However as Richard Telford's photo attests, (see below—blocked culvert on Oak St, Seymour) some Shire maintenance of existing infrastructure may be the best protection against future flooding, and not more infrastructure, or damaging "cleaning up" of Whiteheads Creek (which would damage its habitat and make it into a fast-flowing ditch). The creekline has changed over the past 180 years, what with clearing the catchment, road and rail embankments, housing in the flood zones, and now more extreme events with climate change. Can we return the creek to something like the past – perhaps a chain of ponds -before we came along and changed things? Why not contact BEAM Mitchell Environment Group to find out more about this review and how you can contribute. beam.inc18@gmail.com



Join Yea River Catchment Landcare Group on **Friday 25 October**

for a two-course meal and three speakers:

Graeme Anderson of *The Very Fast Break* fame;

Nick Linden sheep and cattle research scientist from Ag Vic; &

Mark Wootton, principal of carbon-neutral Jigsaw Farms, will talk about how to adapt to or mitigate the effects of a challenging climate.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Judy Brookes: juncball@bigpond.com or 0448 972 563 by 19 Oct. See attachment this week for further details.

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