



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

With summer officially 13 days away the interstate bushfires continue - in many localities they are still out of control, and in some cases they were deliberately lit! To have so many appliances and personnel fully engaged this early in the season does not auger well for those of us south of the mighty Murray. And with calls for Victorian fires to head north to assist with the effort, we cannot be complacent with our own individual fire preparations now, or the awareness that if Victoria is impacted with many bushfires this summer, that CFA equipment and volunteers may not be available for every home, every farm or every situation. If such a scenario happened in our local area - Are you prepared? or Do you have a fire plan? Of course it's not only humans who are impacted by fire, our native animals have taken a beating too this week—koalas in particular. If you are interested in making a donation to assist with their care check out the website below... Koalas in Care. Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was totally relaxing with Karli and her Reiki practice.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

**Josh Billings - (1818-1885)
American writer & humourist**

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**

HCCC News

Grass Identification Field Day

At Ruffy - TCC (old school)

Friday 6th December 2019 starting 10am - 2pm

Presented by Native Grass Expert Paul Foreman from Blue Devil Consulting.

Visiting local sites - numbers limited to 20 participants - practical sessions in paddocks and bushland. Learn how to sort true native grasses from weedy exotic grasses and desirable pasture grasses.

Understand the difference between annual grasses, perennial grasses, herbs and forbes. Discover the range of native grasses we have growing in our landscape and why they are valuable.

Please contact Janet Hagen to book a place : hughescreek2@gmail.com or 0458 904268

This is a **FREE event** supported by Goulburn Broken CMA "From the Soil Up" Project, delivered by Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare Network.



Last Friday evening the HCCC held its **AGM** and the following people were elected to the 2020 committee.

President - Jenny Webb

Vice-President - Rob Hayes

Secretary - Justus Hagen

Treasurer - Neville Ford

Next meeting Fri. 10th January @ 7.30

FOR SALE Beautiful Plants

Assorted succulents & cactus for sale at **Terip Terip**. Most are in flower now, great everlasting Christmas present. **Open most weekends or by appointment call Kerri on 5790 4191.** Prices vary depending on item size.

Save the Date - Friday 13th December

End Of Year Get

Together

Highlands Hall

Friday 13th December

Details? See attachment.



Website of the Week








<https://www.facebook.com/koalasincareinc/>

Koalas in Care, based near Taree have now treated & admitted 20 koalas from the fire affected areas. Donations most welcome

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

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS November & December

 Saturday 23rd Nov. @ 11am	STRATHBOGIE RANGES CONSERVATION - AGM at Tablelands Community Centre Come along and have your say at the SRCMN's AGM. RSVPs events@strathbogieranges.org
 Saturday 23rd Nov. 12-2pm	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Saturday 23rd Nov. @ 5pm	WHITEHEADS CREEK/TARCOMBE RFB CHRISTMAS PARTY at Whiteheads Ck Fireshed Come & celebrate, BBQ meat supplied, bring along a salad or dessert. See last week's TGN for details.
 Sunday 24th November 8.45am - 2pm	STRATHBOGIE RANGES - RIPARIAN WALK #3 at 100 Kelvin View School Road A challenging walk in the wonderful ranges. See previous TGNs for details & don't forget your RSVP!
Thursday 28th Nov. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December 10 - 4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands 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.
Saturday 7th December from 6.30pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy See p. 4 for further details for this community event & SAVE the DATE! Enquiries? Melissa 0404 833388
 Sunday 8th December 10 - noon	RUFFY CFA OPEN DAY at Ruffy Fire Shed An excellent opportunity to find out more about your local brigade and pre-season preparations. See p.4 for further details. Enquiries? George 0432 928301 or Felicity 0413 483450
 Monday 9th December @ 11am	The HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB will celebrate the Christmas Season with a party. Same place – 450 Caveat-Dropmore Road. Please bring some yummy food to share. Tea and coffee provided. Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361
 Friday 13th December @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT COMMUNITY End of Year BREAK-UP at Highlands Hall All local community groups are invited to join in this evening's food, fun & friendship. For further details see this week's attachment.
	** Best Wishes for a peaceful, happy & relaxing Festive Season celebrating the joys & milestones of 2019 with family & friends. Peace on Earth & goodwill to all in 2020*
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. Why not pop in?? Term 4 dates for 2019 - November 20th and December 4th & 18th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	YOGA AT RUFFY at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Yoga with Kylie Penny continues into spring. 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! at Euroa Uniting Church Hall 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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WOW!! What a feast of culture, sport & entertainment ~ why would we want to live anywhere else??

Thank you !

As I was leaving the café, I was aware of someone behind me who was also about to leave. It was convenient for me to simply hold the door open for the young woman to exit before me (I'm a gentleman from way back!). As she left, there was no 'thankyou', no acknowledging eye contact or nod. She did have a mobile firmly attached to her ear.

It's not the first time I have experienced such discourtesy. I am sure you, the reader could provide similar examples. I don't want to start suggesting it is a generation thing, because to do so would be pure speculation. We may however, ponder why people don't express gratitude when something is done for them or given a gift. Is it that they are distracted or simply lack an awareness of other people? Or is it a sense of entitlement that eschews the need to acknowledge what people do for us.

I came across some research findings (**New Scientist 22/29.12.2018**) that indicated, not only does expressing gratitude make people feel acknowledged and accepted, but that the person who says thank-you also benefits. Apparently, the area of the brain active during feelings of gratitude is associated with our ability to put ourselves in the shoes of the other. The same area of the brain is also involved in making value judgements and making decisions that are fair. Expressing gratitude therefore plays an important role in establishing social bonds.

Expressing gratitude is our way of valuing another person's contribution to our lives and an affirmation of them as a person. It goes without saying that the person who receives the expression of gratitude is warmed by the acknowledgement. A 'thankyou' never goes amiss. Is there someone you need to thank?

Stuart A Reid

Highlands

P.S. Pauline, I am sure there are many who will join with me in saying 'thankyou' for all your work in putting 'The Granite News' together each week. It is a great medium of connection.

Euroa Arboretum is taking orders for 2020

Plant order forms can be downloaded at <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/> Please specify pick up month on order carolena.helderman@euorarboretum.com.au

Further Fruit Fly Information

The **Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Project** takes in the Councils of Campaspe, **Strathbogie**, Moira, Berrigan and Greater Shepparton and works with industry, the community and government to get the Queensland Fruit Fly control and prevention message out there into the community.

The Community Column provides information for home gardeners and the broader community about how they can help stop the spread of Queensland Fruit Fly and will be published in NEXT week's TGN. Should you have any questions in regard to the column or Queensland Fruit Fly management more generally, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Coordinator Ross Abberfield on 0499 161 101

Kind regards,

Kathryn Maddox

p: 0438 548 758

e: kat@platformconsulting.com.au



Biodiversity—Contribution of Native Fauna to Pest Control. Did you know??

- Magpies will consume up to 40 scarab larvae per day
- 100 straw-necked ibis consume up to 25,000 insects per day (notably grasshoppers & locusts)
- Sugar gliders have been estimated to eat 3.25 kilograms of insects per year
- Insectivorous bats can consume up to half their body weight in a single night. In the northern plains their diet consists mainly of moths, beetles & bugs, with some species also consuming spiders, mosquitoes, grasshoppers and crickets
- Ibis provide natural pest control on 100,000 hectares of adjacent crop land to (Barmah & Gunbower forest) worth an estimated \$675,000 a year
- Sugar gliders consume up to 18,000 scarab beetle per hectare per season

Facts courtesy of DSE Living Systems Project

As Fire Season has now been declared TGN will include a fire snippet each week.



Conditions in Victoria make it one of the most bush-fire prone regions in the world, along with California and Spain. Even though California is only 13 days away from winter they have been battling out-of-control bushfires as recently as 2 weeks ago!



Ruffy CFA OPEN DAY

Community service announcement

When: 10am – 12noon on Sunday 8 December 2019

CFA Open Day is a great opportunity for members of the Ruffy Community to find out more about pre-season property preparation & how to stay safe from fire this summer.

Many CFA brigades across the state will be participating in CFA Open Day.

Ruffy Fire Brigade will be welcoming all members of the Ruffy community from:

Free Breakfast of Egg and Bacon Rolls

Fire Ready Victoria presentation 10.30am (sharp)

Farm Fire Equipment and Pump servicing will

commence immediately following the presentation.

Brigade will supply engine oil and owners to supply, spark plugs, air cleaner, pull cord if required.

& JUMPING CASTLE for the kids!!

Enquiries: George Noye 0432 928 301 Felicity Sloman 0413 483 450



Ruffy Tablelands Community Family Christmas Party

Saturday 7th December from 6:30 PM

At Tablelands Community Centre - Ruffy

Giant Christmas Tree & Kids' Jumping Castle

Santa will arrive at 7:30 PM

Complimentary Spit Roast & BBQ Dinner

Everybody Welcome - NO Entry Fee

BYO Drinks & Salad or Sweet to Share

Hey, Mums & Dads - Please bring a wrapped gift for your kids for Santa's sack!
Kids gifts to Melissa before 7pm please.

Further Details: Melissa 0404 833388

Tourism, Arts and Culture Advisory Group – Expressions of Interest

An opportunity has become available for a community representative to fill a vacant position on the Strathbogie Shire Council - Tourism, Arts and Culture Advisory Group.

This group was formed in August 2017 to support Council in their commitment to public participation, and utilizing the general community to assist in the achievement of future Council Plans and strategies that govern the future of the Shire.

The roles and objectives of the TACAG are:

- To provide a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation in the development & implementation of the Arts & Culture Strategy.
- Act as advocates and champions for Tourism, Arts and Culture programs and projects within the Shire that are of community benefit.
- Provide a forum for discussion of Tourism, Arts and Culture industry trends & best practice in the Local Government sector.
- Assist Council to work strategically to encourage, foster, value and promote Tourism, Arts and Culture.

The TACAG is made up of Councillors, Council Officers, business and community representatives. The group currently meets once a month for one hour at various locations throughout the Shire (additional meetings may be convened at the discretion of Council).

If you have an interest in joining the Tourism, Arts and Culture Advisory Group and feel like you have the appropriate skills and knowledge to assist in achieving the objectives of the TACAG, please contact us via email at info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au, including a brief description of your experience and reasons for wanting to join.

Should you require any further information, please phone on 5795 0000 – submissions close 22 Nov. 2019 @ 5pm.

Community Pool Kiosks

Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from community groups and other interested parties to operate the kiosk at the Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town pools during the 2019-2020 pool season. Key duties for this role will include the procurement and sale of agreed kiosk goods and other opportunities that may be agreed.

Pool season runs from 1 December 2019 to 9 March 2020. Please submit details of your interest and relevant experience by 5pm Wednesday, 20 November 2019.

Any questions? contact Council Offices on 1800 065 993



Moving Murrindindi is making tracks with almost 60 trips taken since the Program hit the road in September 2019.

With three community vehicles – one stationed in each Kinglake, Yea and Alexandra – and a fleet of wonderful volunteer drivers, the Moving Murrindindi Program aims to help fill the gaps in public transport.

The Program connects volunteer drivers with senior citizens, people with a disability or financially-disadvantaged members of our community who might be in need of a low-cost transport option to get to medical appointments, social outings or other transport hubs.

Volunteer drivers work on a rotating basis to transport clients, and their carers, to and from local, regional and metropolitan areas.

Users of the service pay a contribution toward transport costs. In some cases, eligible users can claim this contribution through their support packages or seek a concession through the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme for trips over 100km.

Moving Murrindindi is a partnership program between Council and Community Accessibility Inc, and was made possible thanks to support from Transport for Victoria.



**To book a ride or become a volunteer driver call Community Accessibility Inc. on 5721 3045.
For more information, see www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communitytransport**



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