



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

This week's TGN is being sent through the ether to all its readers from the smoky, humid and incredibly busy city of Sydney where the harbour is such a central feature of life. Despite the large numbers of tourists, from many different countries, and the sardine-like crowds in the city centre, it is unbelievably easy to escape the hustle and bustle and discover beautiful pockets of bushland and some of the local wildlife. And the reason this is possible is because there are several headlands and coastlines around the harbour that have been designated the Sydney National Park. To walk through one of these is to find yourself in another world and here's a little chap I met today—the Eastern Water Dragon. About 70cm long, including a tail that is the same length as its body, living in a National Park means that they don't appear to mind people power-walking past or stopping to take happy snaps. Whilst not exactly cute they blend in well into their environment.



Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was overseeing the social whirl of the Nov & Dec calendar.



Feedback? - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

**"The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog."**

**Ambrose Bierce - (1842-1914)**  
with thanks to reader **Andrew Summons** for this contribution

**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**

## Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy

### The Shelter Shed Shop

### Bric a Brac

### Summer Season Now Open

### Weekends and Public Holidays

Contact: Fiona 0427 690 970

Sellers and volunteers welcomed



## 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.



## 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@euroaarboretum.com.au](mailto:carolena.helderman@euroaarboretum.com.au)



## Fire Awareness for all.



Just **two weeks** of hot, dry & windy weather creates potentially disastrous bushfire conditions that normal Victorian homes are not equipped to survive.



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






## Website of the Week

[www.newcastle.edu.au/research-stories](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-stories)

Newcastle Uni is finding natural solutions to toxic problems like PFAS substances in soils.

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## CALENDAR of EVENTS — November & December

Thursday 28th Nov. @ 5.30pm	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> 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	<b>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO</b> 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	<b>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY</b> at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy See p. 4 for further details for this community event & SAVE the DATE! <b>Enquiries? Melissa 0404 833388</b>
Sunday 8th December 10 - noon	 <b>RUFFY CFA OPEN DAY</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? George 0432 928301 or Felicity 0413 483450</b>
Monday 9th December @ 11am	 <b>The HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361</b>
Friday 13th December @ 6.30pm	 <b>HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT COMMUNITY End of Year BREAK-UP</b> 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.
	<b>** Best Wishes for a peaceful, happy &amp; relaxing Festive Season celebrating the joys &amp; milestones of 2019 with family &amp; friends. Peace on Earth &amp; goodwill to all in 2020*</b>
Saturday 28th December	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> Please note there will be NO Black Market in December, it will return in February 2020, Stay tuned...
January 2020 	<b>TERIP TERIP'S TERRIFIC TENNIS TOURNAMENT</b> at Terip Tennis Courts The annual tennis tournament will no doubt be happening again in 2020...stay tuned for details.
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? <b>Term 4 dates for 2019 - December 4th &amp; 18th. The service will recommence in 2020 on January 8th!</b>
Every Monday @ 10 am	<b>YOGA AT RUFFY</b> 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 <a href="mailto:kyliepenny@gmail.com">kyliepenny@gmail.com</a> Please note bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<b>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</b> 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!! <b>Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</b>

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WOW!! What a feast of culture, sport & entertainment ~ why would we want to live anywhere else??

## Further Fruit Fly Information

### Take action now to protect against fruit fly

Home gardeners are encouraged to act now so future crops in their garden or yard, and commercial crops are safe from fruit flies. Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) populations are currently being trapped and recorded in urban areas. Home gardeners should take some simple steps to help protect against the spread of the pest.

### Reoccurring trouble spots

If you or your neighbours had fruit fly problems in your garden last year that were not controlled, you are likely to have them again this season.

### Monitor for fruit fly

You can monitor for the presence of QFF using traps and eyesight. Most traps catch male QFF, however some will catch females. You can also monitor by checking ripening fruit for fruit fly sting marks. Don't forget to check and monitor your front yard too if it contains fruiting plants. Keep an eye out for fruiting plants near your house, on roadsides, channel banks, Council and Crown land, untended properties and business sites. You may have to talk with your Council or your local Fruit Fly Coordinator to let them know about host plants.

### Remove ripening fruit

Simply put - if fruit flies do not have fruit to lay into, they will die out eventually. After removal, fruit must be handled and destroyed properly so that fly larvae can't escape into the soil. Compost heaps are not a good place to destroy fruit as conditions on and around them are suitable for QFF survival.

### Tree removal

If you have a fruit tree you are unable to manage or no longer want, contact your participating Council for more information about the free Fruit Tree Removal Program.

### Baiting

Baits attract and kill fruit flies with food-based attractants and toxicants. There are several commercial products available for this strategy. Baiting works best in the home garden if it is practiced by all neighbours and is most effective when applied weekly (and more often if it rains).

### Netting

Netting is a highly effective fruit fly control strategy for the home garden if you want to keep your fruit and fruit fly susceptible vegetables (such as tomatoes, chillies, eggplants, capsicum, rockmelons, honeydews). Because many fruiting plants need bees, moths or wind to pollinate them to allow fruit to set, netting should be applied after fruit set. There are different types and sizes of fruit fly netting.

### Restricted use of pesticides


There are very few pesticides with Federal Government approval for use in home gardens and those that are approved are difficult to obtain. Your garden produce or hardware store can provide further advice about the various products to help control and manage fruit fly.

### For more information

For more information on QFF control, collect an information pack from your Council's Customer Service Centre or visit [www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au](http://www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au)



The GMV Regional Fruit Fly Project is funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program



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](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communitytransport)** 



## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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