



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

After all the recent fire action at Ruffy it was timely to reflect last Thursday, the 10th anniversary of Black Saturday, on the catastrophic firestorms and the tragic consequences that resulted in the loss of 173 lives. Let's hope that day truly was a once in a lifetime event & as a result that we have learnt much about the nature of fire and how to better protect ourselves, our animals & our property. Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was checking out the Ruffy Mini Enduro

HCCC News

Soil Carbon Project

The focus of this project is working with local farmers to develop best practice methodology using the latest research, tailored to local conditions and soil types, to increase the level of carbon in soil at the top soil and sub soil level.

HCCC has received a grant to conduct a pilot study into measuring and helping farmers to improve their soil carbon levels. It has been shown in previous work on farms that an increase in soil carbon can increase profitability on farms by up to \$200 per Ha per year.

The project team is now looking for EOI from 3 farmers to volunteer a paddock and some of their time to conduct this work.

Time is short & EOIs must be sent to Neil van Buuren by Friday 15 Feb

Methodology

Take soil sampling from **3 different farms / paddocks**
Conduct Workshops and field days on farms
Advise farmers on change practises.

Outcomes and benefits

The primary long-term outcome is to help farmers increase the levels of soil carbon and improve farm productivity.

Increase the level of soil carbon to improve soil fertility and increase soil productivity

Increase pasture growth

Develop farming best practice guidelines that are specific to the catchment

Improve the productivity of cattle and sheep farmers in the region

Help farmers develop resilience and adapt to a world that is warmer

Make sure that the region's strong farming background continues and is sustainable in the future

Interested?? Contact Neill hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com /0417 503 472

Blackberry Spraying

Due to hot and dry conditions in the region the subsidy for chemicals has been suspended until we get rain. We will announce any changes when growing conditions improve for spraying.

Please contact Neil van Buuren with any question or concerns.

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
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."

Anon.

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**

Cash only.

No early callers please.

Follow the balloons!!

For Sale

John Deere Mower Blades

Sabre 38"cut

1 pair = brand new

1 pair = 2 hours use

\$75 cash the lot

Contact Phil 57904218

WEBSITE of the WEEK

https://www.gbcbma.vic.gov.au/news_events/help-spot-platypus-in-rivers-across-the-goulburn-broken-catchment.html

Self-explanatory really - see p.3

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — February & March

 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. <i>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</i>
 Wed. 13th February @ 9.30	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA <i>at Terip Community Centre</i> 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 <i>around Ruffy, Terip & Caveat</i> An excellent opportunity to see Carriage Horse Driving happening in our own backyard. Refer to article on p.3 and previous attachments. <i>Enquiries? - Kerrie 0488 240408</i>
 Saturday 23rd February 10 - 12	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET <i>at 94 Old Highlands Rd</i> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <i>Enquiries? - Candi 57969366</i>
Thursday 28th February @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS <i>at Caveat Church</i> 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 <i>2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</i> 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.
 Friday 8th March @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK <i>at Highlands Community Hall</i> 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. <i>Enquiries? 57969247 Judy</i>
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Thursday 14th March @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING <i>at Whiteheads Creek</i> All welcome. <i>Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268</i>
Sunday 17th March from 10 - 2	CAR BOOT SALE <i>at Terip Community Centre</i> Another great new initiative is being planned by our Committee! Thanks to the CFA and the Tennis Club for providing the BBQ and morning tea. We hope it will be a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours even if you haven't caught onto the current decluttering craze. <i>Enquiries? Kerry 57904191</i>
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 - Term 1 dates for 2019 - Feb. 13th & 27th, March 13th & 27th and April 10th.
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 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.



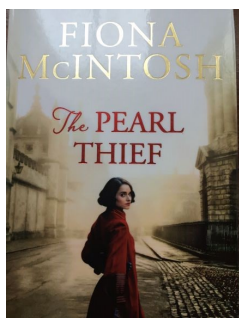
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The Pearl Thief - Fiona McIntosh

It's probably time for a fiction recommendation and Fiona McIntosh doesn't disappoint with her latest novel *The Pearl Thief*. McIntosh not only writes page turners but involves the reader with the historical background of her books and this one is no exception. Severine Kassel is on loan to the British Museum from the Louvre to curate her speciality, antique jewellery, when she recognises one of the pieces and her whole life is turned upside down. Her own history, that she has tried so hard to suppress, leaps out of its Pandora's Box and she is forced to confront her family's tragic past, her own lifelong deceptions and her Nazi tormentor - Ruda Mayek. A totally engrossing read.



Coming to a road near YOU!!

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 - **"Best fun you can have sitting down"**!



GARDENER

Full-time live-in position available in the Seymour/Tarcombe area with an excellent 3 bedroom house.

- Large garden to maintain.
- Successful applicant will be a keen reliable self-starter.
- Gardening skills necessary.
- Could suit a job-sharing couple

Please forward reference with application to email:

positionvacant17@gmail.com

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

Platypus Citizen Science Project

Platypus numbers have declined over recent years due to environmental degradation and altered flows. Monitoring platypus numbers is a key part of future planning. Like to get involved in this excellent research project? See this week's attachments for further details.



DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A great turn out on Saturday morning with more than 40 people attending for the defibrillator training at the Highlands Hall. Kristy from St John's Ambulance performed a detailed demonstration of how the new Highlands-Caveat Rural Fire Brigade's defibrillator operates. This was followed by a 'scrumptious' breakfast of egg & bacon rolls and fruit platters.

The CFA unit will be housed on the Highlands-Caveat tanker and the Highlands Hall will be purchasing a unit in March which will be housed in the 'bus shelter' of the hall allowing it to be accessible to the whole community if ever needed.

When the hall purchases their unit, we will run another demonstration which will include a First Aid course. Details to follow.



Have a plan for horses and livestock. A large well-grazed area where they can move freely, with a supply of water is the safest. Remove all gear from horses and always keep them contained on your property. Open internal gates to allow horses room to move. Do not allow them to roam as they are at serious risk on roads where visibility will be poor.

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