



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well it's a sorry day when you don't learn something new even if it does challenge what one was taught many years ago in primary school. So... hands up all those readers who thought, like me, that the plural of platypus was platypi? Apparently not. Platypi would apply if the original word came from Latin, however as the word platypus comes from the Greek, meaning "flat-footed", the correct form for more than one of these delightful creatures is platypuses or even more amazingly, and strictly speaking, platypodes. Now there's a new word to file away, along with this one - Budja, which is the Taungurung term for these incredible and seemingly ancient creatures. Personally if I ever get to see one of these beautiful animals in its own habitat I'll be ecstatic & if I ever get to see multiples of them I'll be so overcome I'll be lost for any words! Now there's a challenge. Many thanks to Suzie for alerting me to this anomaly, now we have all learnt something. Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was welcoming our new "friend" of TGN the Sugar Glider.

HCCC News

Impressive Summer Dung Beetle Activity!

Many cattle farmers around Highlands, Ruffy and Caveat are reporting good numbers of summer active dung beetles this season even though conditions are dry. Our light loamy soils are relatively infertile and benefit greatly from having beetles bury the dung of domestic stock.

The benefits of dung beetles in pasture soils include:

- Reduced pasture fouling, providing more grazing land.
- Reduced need to harrow unburied dung, saving time and fuel.
- Improved nutrient status of soil, increasing pasture production.
- Improved permeability of soil to water, increasing water retention in pastures and prolonging the growing season.
- Reduction in Bush Fly numbers.

Go and turn over a few cow pats to check if you have summer active dung beetles. If you cannot find any, your choice of veterinary chemicals used to treat stock parasites may be the issue. Stock owners now face a perplexing array of alternatives when considering how to maximize production and minimise costs and sustain the land for future generations. Some chemicals are very toxic for dung beetles while others are less so. Check with your vet or stock agent.

Each species of dung beetle has its own seasonal activity pattern. The ultimate aim would be to have spread of species working across all seasons. In our area Landcare are looking to import more winter and spring active species.

Fortunately dung beetles know no boundaries, if neighbours establish new colonies eventually we all benefit as they spread across the landscape.

Please contact **Janet Hagen** hughescreek2@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about dung beetles.



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

**"It's easier to rule a kingdom
than a family."
Japanese Proverb**

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**

AGISTMENT AVAILABLE

60 acres for sheep agistment in Ghin Ghin. Happy to have them free of charge in exchange for maintenance of fences as required. We really only want someone who lives locally and really cares well for their stock. If you are interested please contact Teresa on 0409 055 007

For Sale

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1 pair = brand new
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\$75 cash the lot
Contact Phil 57904218

WEBSITE of the WEEK

www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au

**Australians throw away 14% or
\$10 billion of food each year.
Why not aim to reverse that?**

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — February & March

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
Friday 1st March 6.30pm for 7.15 	PLATYPUS & RAKALI COUNT at Yea Wetlands A very pleasant way to commence the weekend - a BYO picnic at the Flat Plat followed by a quiet hour in the Yea Wetlands counting any platypuses & rakali that surface in the annual Platypus and Rakali Count. Assemble in the John Cummins Reserve Car Park, see attachment this week for more
Saturday 2nd March @ 9am 	TALLAROOK FIELD DAY - Walk the Wilbel Traverse meet along Landscape Rd This walk is expected to take 2-4 hours and will be an interesting walk through a variety of geological landforms, led by an expert guide. See last week's attachment for details. RSVPs bjupp@srk.com.au
Saturday 2nd March 9 - 1	HEALTHY HECTARES - Day 1 at Euroa Council Chambers Euroa Arboretum presents an introduction to Healthy Hectares including farm planning & preparation bushfire preparedness & safe animal handling. See last week's attachment for further details.
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.
Friday 8th March @ 6.00pm 	DRINKS ON THE DECK & ON THE ROAD at Highlands Community Hall This special evening starts at 6.00pm! Enjoy a lively evening and nibbles with friends new and old while Murrindindi Library Staff preview great books, award winners, DVDs and eBooks. Everyone is welcome but bookings are essential - 57720351 Enquiries? 57969247 Judy
Saturday 9th March 9 - 2.30	RIPARIAN WALK # 2 - Wombat Creek commencing from Mt Wombat The Strathbogie Ranges CMN are off walking again in 2019. Become more acquainted with the local waterways and enjoy a day in the bush. See this week's attachment for further details.
Monday 11th March @ 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 March @ 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.
Sunday 17th March from 10 - 2	CAR BOOT SALE at Terip Community Centre 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. Enquiries? Kerry 57904191
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 1 dates for 2019 - Feb 27th, March 13th & 27th and April 10th & 24th.
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 0418 899966 or email kyliepenny@gmail.com Please note bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.
Every Wednesday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! at Ruffy Hall Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Classes re-commence on THIS Wednesday 27/2/19 Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559



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HCCC News

The Granite News is funded by HCCC Landcare and supported by our permanent advertisers. If you would like to make a donation to support The Granite News please contact the editor for HCCC Landcare's bank details. Many thanks to all those readers who have previously made a donation as your support is very much appreciated.

GARDENER

Full-time live-in position available in the Seyrnour/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

FRUIT FLY WORKSHOP

Yea River Catchment Landcare Group is holding another fruit fly workshop in the Murphy's orchard and gardens in Murrindindi. Save the date **Saturday, 16 March**, when the large orchard will be in full fruit. The orchard is in four sections spread over about 5 acres of gardens: nuts and unusual fruits, citrus, berries and other soft fruits, stone and pomme fruits under a caged cover—in total, almost 200 fruit trees and shrubs of different varieties. There is also a large parterre of vegetables. Seventh heaven for a fruit fly. Whether you lovingly tend one lemon tree or a large orchard or vegie patch, and enjoy exchanging your produce with friends and neighbours, it could all be threatened by the **QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY**. This incredibly destructive pest has been anecdotally sighted in our district. Learn how to control it in the midst of this spectacular garden.

WHEN: Saturday, 16 March

WHERE: 20 Myles Bend Drive, Murrindindi

TIME: 9.30 am (morning tea provided) for 10.00 am start to midday



Healthy Hectares - Workshops for small landholders to create productive and environmentally sustainable properties

This is a call out to anyone who may like to book one or all of our **Healthy Hectares** workshops in Euroa. There are four topics and they run from March-June. The workshops include lunch and several workshops, include a farm visit.

The workshops cover the following topics:

- How do you create better links for wildlife on your property?
- Bushfire preparedness
- Farm Planning
- Operational farm design for water
- Pest plants and animals
- Safe handling, animal health, biosecurity
- Revegetation tips and techniques.
- Healthy soils

[Download all dates and topics](#)

You can purchase one ticket \$75 for all sessions, or \$25 per workshop.

[Introduction](#)

[Water on your Farm](#)

[Biodiversity, Pest Plants and Animals](#)

[Healthy Soils and Pastures](#)

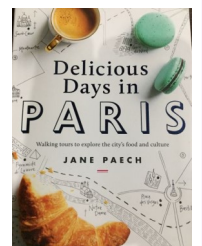
Visit our [Healthy Hectares website](#) to download a guide for your property or to find out more about the upcoming workshops in Euroa.



See last week's attachment for further details.

Delicious Days in Paris

The title of this book says it all really. Spend delicious days walking around Paris & discovering the delights of this beautiful city with its food, history & fantastic sights to see. Bon appetit.



Well those incredibly social butterflies for Terip Terip have done it again, they have a Facebook page! So why not sign up? <https://www.facebook.com/Terip-Terip-Community-199801837287378/>



Have a plan, make sure your family knows it, stick to it, don't hesitate when it's time to leave. You could get trapped by fire if you leave too late. When planning with kids ensure you know your local schools policy for high fire risk days as some schools will close.

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