



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well summer officially ended 10 days ago but thanks to the multiple dry lightning strike incidents around the Caveat, Highlands and Tarcombe areas our dedicated and hard-working CFA crews have been kept incredibly busy dealing with these fire outbreaks and then ensuring they don't flare up again in the days that follow on. Many thanks to everyone who has either spent some time on the multiple firegrounds or has been busy organising the crews and/or food for these same people. Your efforts are very much appreciated by the rest of the neighbourhood, be they absentee landholders or residents. Even more so as this fire prevention and fire-fighting, that protects both property and people, is willingly undertaken by volunteers in our communities. Thank you to one and all for your commitment and dedication.

Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was checking out the Fire Danger Period restrictions.



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 secret of creativity is knowing how to hide your sources."**

Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

**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**

## Local Artist Leone Gabrielle showcases painting & poetry

Talented visual artist Leone Gabrielle is having a busy autumn this year between exhibiting a selection of her delightful Andamooka paintings at the Ruffy Produce Store (all for sale) and organising a poetry project to celebrate **World Poetry Day 2019 - Thursday 21st March**. If you would like to be a part of the **Call for POETRY** please feel free to join in to help make a floating poem walk to be displayed at Kings Park, Seymour. Poems need to be on **A4 paper** single sided with **Large font 15+** for easy reading. You can submit your own original work, or much loved classics, poems that are special, and that move you, but please ensure the original author/poet is acknowledged.

Rhyming - Ballard - Sonnet -  
Limerick - Haiku - Narrative - Couplet  
- Free Verse - Pros Poems - Field  
Poems...whatever floats your boat.

The poems will be glued onto recycled cardboard from supermarket boxes and hung on trees with origami creatures. To join in send Leone your poems on A4 paper, (long poem = two sheets) by the **16th March** either by text **0490 467 178** or email [2leoneg@gmail.com](mailto:2leoneg@gmail.com)



## 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

## Keen job seeker

Our Italian cousin (30 YO, female) seeks short-term outdoor work (fruit/veg/garden or light farm work) in the local area. She is available until June 2019 & has a valid drivers licence, work visa and TFN). Contact Debbie Mauro on 5796 9363, [palmanovaolives@outlook.com](mailto:palmanovaolives@outlook.com) if you can help.

## Healthy Hectares #2 - Water on Your Farm - Friday 22/3

The second in the HH series of field days. See attachment for further details.

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

<https://smallpdf.com>

An excellent tool for converting  
overlarge pdfs to smaller sizes.  
Can also convert formats too.

## Community Notices & Classifieds

### CALENDAR of EVENTS — March

 <b>Monday 11th March</b> <b>@ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>&amp; TUPPAWARE PARTY FROM 12—2 ring Judy 57904256 Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
 <b>Wed. 13th March</b> <b>@ 9.30</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b> <b>at Terip Community Centre</b> 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.
 <b>Friday 15th March</b> <b>9.30 - 11.30</b>	<b>The IMPORTANCE of PADDOCK TREES</b> <b>at 141 Monkey Creek Rd, Limestone</b> Come along and discover the importance of just one tree in your paddocks at this workshop being held by GBCMA. <b>Enquiries and bookings to Judy Watts 57360105 or uglandcare@ugln.net</b>
 <b>Saturday 16th March</b> <b>@ 9.30am</b>	<b>FRUIT FLY FIELD DAY</b> <b>at 20 Myles Bend Dve Murrindindi</b> Cathy Mansfield, Statewide Fruit Fly Co-ordinator will be conducting in-orchard demonstrations on all aspects of fruit flies. See attachment 3/3 <b>RSVPs—Stephanie 0409550958 or sjcmurph@bigpond.com</b>
<b>Saturday 16th March</b> <b>@ 2.30 &amp; 6-8pm</b>	<b>THE THIN WHITE UKES</b> <b>at Illalangi &amp; Ruffy Store</b> A day of ukuleles in Ruffy commencing with an afternoon workshop followed by dinner and a performance at the Ruffy Store. See attachment for further details. <b>Bookings—Cass 0412934183</b>
<b>Friday 22nd March</b> <b>1 - 5pm</b>	<b>HEALTHY HECTARES #2 - Water on you Farm</b> <b>at Euroa Council Chambers</b> Did you know farm dams can be wetlands and wildlife habitats as well as water storage? Come along to discover more. Bookings— <a href="http://www.healthyhectares.com.au">www.healthyhectares.com.au</a> \$25 per session or \$75 the series.
 <b>Saturday 23rd March</b> <b>10 - 12</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> <b>at 94 Old Highlands Rd</b> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Clare 57969366</b>
<b>Sunday 24th March</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS first walk for 2019!</b> Another date for you diary, more details to follow soon!
<b>Thursday 28th March</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> <b>at Caveat Church</b> All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
<b>Fri. 29th—Sun 31st</b> <b>March @ 8am</b>	<b>SEYMOUR WORKING DOG SHEEP TRIALS</b> <b>at Kings Park, Seymour</b> The annual Working Dog Trials in Seymour are on again for 3 days with catering on site. <b>Details? contact Di 57921089 or schrapeli@activ8.net.au</b>
<b>Saturday 30th March</b> <b>Preview 2 - 5pm</b>	<b>A MASS of LIFE - Dennis Spiteri's 2019 Exhibition</b> <b>at 94 Old Highlands Rd</b> Dennis Spiteri's annual exhibition commences with a preview on March 30th and runs until April 28th. Bookings for the preview are essential contact Dennis on <b>57969373 or dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au</b>
<b>Every second</b> <b>Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <b>at Highlands Community Hall</b> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Term 1 dates for 2019 - March 13th &amp; 27th and April 10th &amp; 24th.</b>
<b>Every Monday</b> <b>@ 10 am</b>	<b>YOGA AT RUFFY</b> <b>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</b> 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 <a href="mailto:kyliepenny@gmail.com">kyliepenny@gmail.com</a> Please note bookings are essential via SMS, phone or email.
<b>Every Wednesday</b> <b>@ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</b>	<b>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</b> <b>at Ruffy Hall</b> 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>



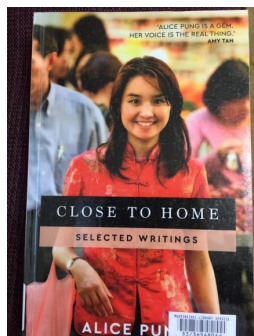
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## Close to Home - Alice Pung

If you haven't read one of Alice Pung's previous books then you are in for a treat. Alice was born to Chinese Cambodian parents a month after they arrived in Australia as refugees fleeing the murderous Pol Pot regime. Her background therefore influences her story writing but it also opens up a whole new world for thoughtful discovery. This latest offering "Close to Home – Selected Writings" is a skilfully edited book spanning a decade and a half of Alice's writing. It is lively, witty, thought-provoking, confronting and poignant. It is also a damn good read.



## Think!

'I don't want you to think like me

I just want you to **think**.'

In this election year, this quote is timely advice. Politicians are already in election mode and the lines are firmly drawn, with very little attempt to seriously discuss issues or policy. It seems that fear has become the currency and winning the absolute aim. Honesty and morality have ceased to be relevant.

People seem to no longer trust politicians and when we reflect on the current situation it is easy to agree with this assumption. Yet do we not also 'get the politicians we deserve'. When I look at some of the people in our parliaments, I would be ashamed to have voted for them. I would have been ashamed to have voted for Donald Trump. He has few redeeming features, and that goes for some in our parliaments.

Who do we blame for the situation we are in, the politicians or we the voters? We can't exactly control what politicians say and do, but we can vote them in or out. One eyed loyalty to a party does not contribute to intelligent voting. It is really a cop out. The rise of independent candidates is a challenge for us to take greater responsibility for how we vote. A challenge to **think** for ourselves. It means being discerning in how we get our information, how we choose our media and being alert to the distortions of propaganda.

I am sure we will not agree on everything. We will have different priorities and different assessment of policies, but we can at least **think** and discuss in a mature manner. I only hope we all do that over the next few months. In the end, we have only ourselves to blame. **Think!**

Stuart Reid, Highlands

## Don't forget the Tuppaware Party! Monday

11th March 12-2 Ring Judy 57904256 for more details

## Dennis Spiteri - A Mass of Life

Anyone who has ever visited an exhibition of Dennis Spiteri's artwork, at his very impressive Hillcrest Gallery in Highlands, will have come away in awe at not only the size of the majority of his paintings, but also the musical inspiration that imbues all his work. Luckily for our local community Dennis is about to open his annual exhibition, this year entitled - **A Mass of Life**. The opening preview will be **Saturday 30th March from 2-5**, however if you can't make this date the exhibition will run from **March 30th - April 28th from 10-4 daily**. For anyone who wishes to attend the opening preview **RSVPs are essential** please ring **57969373** or email [dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au](mailto:dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au) See attachment and calendar for further details.



## The Importance of Paddock Trees

The importance of a single paddock tree is often underestimated. A paddock tree can reduce the evaporation of soil moisture and protects pastures: if you have a 20m tall tree in your paddock that tree can divert wind off the paddock for a distance up to 15 times the height of the tree. An individual paddock tree can also: create shade and shelter for stock during extreme heat, wind and cold and provide



homes and food for birds and insects that help pollinate and remove pests. Like to find out more? See calendar and attachment for further details.

## Seymour Working Dog Sheep Trials

The annual Working Dog Trials in Seymour are on again. Starting at 8am on 29-31 March with catering on site. For more details

Contact Di 57921089 or [schrapeli@activ8.net.au](mailto:schrapeli@activ8.net.au)



For any permitted burns ensure that you comply with municipal local laws & always register your burn **1800 668511**. If you light a fire without a permit, you could be charged with breaking the law & maybe prosecuted. Penalties may include a **fine up to \$19,342 &/or up to 12 months imprisonment**.

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