



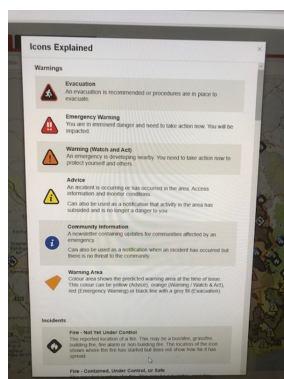
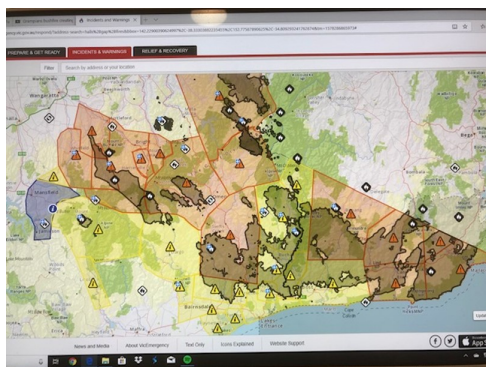
## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

A Happy New Year to all for 2020! Let's hope the rest of the year is better than the first few weeks have been. As everyone is no doubt aware we have started 2020 with all sorts of records being broken across the country as a result of the worst bushfires Australia has ever seen.

Disconcertingly our 'summer' season of bushfires actually commenced in in Queensland in August and September in NSW with Victoria only really being impacted from late December, but what an impact for the North-East and East Gippsland! Many local CFA fires have headed to Corryong to assist with the fight and a huge thank-you to those who have done this.

As summer is less than halfway through, March 2019 being the hottest March on record, we still have a couple of months to go. If you haven't as yet added the **Vic Emergency App** to your phone I can heartily recommend doing so as it's regularly updated, easy to read and accurate. Stay safe & stay cool this summer, **Pauline**

**And Kenny?** Was back in party mode, celebrating with the Highlanders.



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 love of all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man." Charles Darwin  
English Naturalist (1809-1872)**

**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**

**Do you have a marvellous mutt, a fantastic fido or a delightful dog?**

In 2020 I would like to run a monthly feature highlighting everyone's Best Friend - dogs! If you have a dog that you think is worthy of 100-150 words, along with a photo, please send both to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) for possible inclusion. It doesn't matter what breed, how big or small, working dog or lap cuddler they all have their own stories, so why not share them around. Ed.

## Important Message from Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

**It's summer and it's time to think about Blackberries.**

**Please help us to get rid of this noxious weed !**

HCCC is again subsidising the costs for chemical for Blackberry spraying. Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, and wetting agent.

Please contact Neil van Buuren with your requirements ASAP, once we have final quantities HCCC will negotiate a price for the chemicals from a local supplier.

This subsidy is for all properties in the Hughes Creek Catchment which covers Whiteheads Creek, Highlands, Caveat, Terip, Ruffy and Tarcombe

HCCC also have a range of sprayers and can be hired for a small donation to Landcare. (This helps pay for the maintenance of the units)

Contact Neil van Buuren for information **0417 503 472** or **03 5796 9111**

Email [hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au](mailto:hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au)

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia due to its invasiveness, potential for spread, & economic and environmental impacts. **Blackberry is a designated noxious weed and landowners are required to control it.**

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
December	10.4 mm	6.4 mm
2019 Total	527.5 mm	?? mm
March Rain Days	3 Days	2 Days

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## CALENDAR of EVENTS — January & February

<b>Sunday 19th January</b>	<b><i>THE GRANITE NEWS returns—1st issue for 2020!!</i></b>
<b>Wednesday 22nd January 10 –11.30am</b>	<b><i>SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES @ the Y Water Discovery Centre</i></b> 2 Hood St, Yea Bring along any primary school age children or grand-children to the YWDC for some excellent holiday fun. With a focus on the environment there's heaps of good fun to be had with either science or art activities. At \$4 per child it's a bargain, however bookings are essential. <b>Ring to register 5797 2663</b>
<b>Saturday 25th January 10-12</b>	<b><i>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</i></b> at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</b>
<b>Thursday 30th January @ 5.30pm</b>	<b><i>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</i></b> at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.
<b>Friday 31st January</b>	<b><i>CLOSING DATE for....</i></b> Strathbogie Shire Council to become a member of the Environmental Sustainable Development Advisory Committee.
<b>Saturday 1st &amp; Sunday 2nd February 10-4</b>	<b><i>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO</i></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.
<b>Sunday 2nd February 7.30 –9am</b>	<b><i>BREAKFAST with the BIRDS &amp; celebrate World Wetlands Day</i></b> YWDC, 2 Hood St, Yea Celebrate World Wetlands Day by enjoying an early morning discovery of feathered friends followed by a hearty breakfast. Reservations are essential for catering purposes. See p.3 for more details.
<b>Friday 7th February @ 6pm</b>	<b><i>WETLANDS the Story behind the Trillion \$ Price Tag</i></b> @ Y Water Discovery Centre, Yea This is the third evening in the YWDC's Speaker Series and keynote speaker Pam Beattie will be talking about the importance of wetlands and why, in 1997, the United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment valued the importance of Wetlands worldwide as worth US\$15 trillion. <b>Enquiries? 57972663</b>
<b>Monday 10th February @ 11am</b>	<b><i>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</i></b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 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>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
<b>Friday 13th February @ 6.30pm</b>	<b><i>DRINKS ON THE DECK</i></b> at Highlands Community Hall 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. <b>57969247 &amp; Contact Judy</b>
<b>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<b><i>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</i></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 1 dates for 2020 - Jan. 29th, Feb. 12th &amp; 26th, March 11th &amp; 25th and April 8th.</b>
<b>Every Monday @ 10 am</b>	<b><i>QIGONG AT RUFFY</i></b> at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 57953349 or email: <a href="mailto:vivienwatmough@gmail.com">vivienwatmough@gmail.com</a>
<b>Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</b>	<b><i>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</i></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??**



# BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

## World Wetlands Day

### Sunday 2 February 2020

Y Water Discovery Centre



Guided walk with the Murrindindi  
Birdwatchers 7:30 – 9:00am (bring binoculars)

Light Breakfast from 9.00am

Cost = \$5pp, kids free



RSVP is essential to [wetlands.yea@gmail.com](mailto:wetlands.yea@gmail.com)  
or at the Y Water Discovery Centre desk  
2 Hood Street, Yea

## Advance Notice - Dates for your Diary

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network is running an **Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) course with 1080 endorsement**. This valuable 2 day course allows participants knowledge and access to appropriate chemicals for effective pest plant and animal control.

It is being held on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Taggerty Community Hub**.

The course usually costs around \$280, but UGLN, with funding from GBCMA, is offering the course for \$30 for Landcare members and \$75 for non-Landcare members.

For more information or to register your interest, ring **Cat Thomas** on 0418 655 474 or [uglandcare@ugln.net](mailto:uglandcare@ugln.net)



## Don't forget...

### QIGONG IN THE TABLELANDS!

We are pleased to announce that Qigong is coming to the Tablelands. Respected practitioner, Vivien Watmough, will run weekly Qigong classes at the Tablelands Community Centre in Ruffy in 2020.

**Qigong** (pronounced *chee-goong*) is an ancient and coordinated system of movements, body posture, breathing and meditation. The gentle movements taught in the classes are accessible to everyone and belie the beneficial impact on students' health and wellbeing. Come along and experience this enjoyable and restorative practice.

More information in the New Year... but for now

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Monday 3rd February @ 10am**

Weekly Qigong classes will commence at the Tablelands Community Centre in Ruffy.

Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient wellbeing practice. For bookings and enquires please call

**Vivien** on 5795-3349 or email [vivienwatmough@gmail.com](mailto:vivienwatmough@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE - by Tender

### 2008 Toyota Landcruiser 4 wheel drive Slip-on

**Terip Terip Fire Brigade** is offering its Toyota Landcruiser slip on for sale by tender closing **January 31 2020 at 5pm**.

This vehicle cannot be purchased by another brigade as part of the VESEP funding for its replacement.

It has been serviced by the CFA district mechanical service since purchase and is in excellent condition with approximately 22,000 kilometres, new batteries fitted May 2019.

### Description

Toyota Landcruiser Workmate single cab

4.5 litre turbocharged V8 diesel engine

16 x 7 wheels with BFG mud terrain tyres

Aluminum tray with sides

Aluminum Bullbar

Dual battery system

Tow bar

Air conditioning

22,000 Kilometres

Toyota floor mats

Slip-on unit

400 litre baffled tank to DEWLP specifications.

Davey twin impeller pump with Honda motor.

Live hose reel

Foam injection system.

Aluminum rear tray toolbox for chainsaw tools etc.

Vehicle can be inspected, contact Geoff.

Tenders & enquiries can be addressed to:-

**Geoff Penny (Captain)**

Email : [gwjmpenny@gmail.com](mailto:gwjmpenny@gmail.com)

**Mobile: 0428 324431**

## A New Year & a NEW animal—Thank you

Each year some generous supporters choose to sponsor a unique Australian animal on the back page. Their choice for 2020 is inspired and I look forward to showcasing Rakalis in future issues. Ed

## Fire awareness for all ....



Do not drive through high risk areas on hot, dry, windy days. Plan an alternative route or delay your travel if possible. If travelling to a different part of the state for holiday or work check the fire danger ratings for all districts along your route and at your destination. Create a temporary Watch Zone on the Vic Emergency App for the location you're visiting.





## FIRE SAFETY for 2020

As fire resources this summer are likely to be extremely stretched, air support may not be readily available. The following ideas are from Mansfield CFA and may be useful in the event of evacuation.

Let someone know (including your fire tree contacts) of your plans for any Total Fire Ban day. Will you be staying at your home?

**\* Enact your fire plan. \* Load your car. \* Prepare your pets.**

**When you leave you should take the following items with you:**

- Cash
- Clothing for 3 days
- Medicine for 3 days
- Phone and chargers
- Toiletries
- Important documents
- Mementos and photos
- Pets essentials, including leash and carriers
- Make sure you have enough fuel in your car



If you have left ensure you register at [www.register.find.reunite](http://www.register.find.reunite) online: [www.register.redcross.org.au](http://www.register.redcross.org.au) and indicate the fire that is impacting your local area.

This service lets people know you are safe, that you have relocated away from the area, and is used by emergency services if evacuations are required. People leaving early, or who relocate from the fire area, are asked to register as soon as possible.

Don't forget to monitor the **Vic Emergency App**, your local radio stations, ABC news, etc for updates.

## New Times for Maternal Child Health Open Sessions



**Strathbogie**  
shire

From January 2020 the regular open sessions will be primarily for short consults (15mins) to undertake general weighing, feeding and growth reviews. For all other visits a booked appointment should be made to ensure adequate time is allocated for the consult. The new times are as follows:

### Euroa M&CH Centre

2 Bury Street, Euroa 3666

#### **Mondays**

Appointments Available: am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

### Nagambie M&CH Centre

Nagambie Preschool, 16 Vale Street, Nagambie 3608

#### **Tuesdays**

Appointments Available : am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

### Avenel M&CH Centre

Avenel Preschool, 31 Watson Street, Avenel

#### **Wednesdays**

Appointments Available: am/pm Open session: 9.30 – 11.00am

### Violet Town M&CH Centre

Violet Town Preschool, Hyacinth Street, Violet Town

#### **Thursdays**

Appointments Available: am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

For any queries please contact Deb Ellis Manager Community Wellbeing via 5795 0000

## NOTICE OF VACANCY

### Environmental Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (ESDAC)

ESDAC is an Advisory Committee of Strathbogie Shire Council advising on matters affecting the long-term stability of the community of Strathbogie Shire as they relate to climate change, environmental sustainability, the natural environment, & sustainable development.

Strathbogie Shire Council would like to invite applications to fill two vacancies that have arisen on ESDAC due to current member terms finishing. You are invited to make application to become an Advisory Group member if you:

- Are a resident of Strathbogie Shire
- Have experience in environment & sustainability issues & the integration of this into decision-making process, projects and policy;
- Are able to attend meetings every second month, & potentially volunteer for sub-committees;
- Bring new thinking, a 'can-do' attitude, & plenty of enthusiasm to the table;
- Are keen to contribute to the strong & resilient future of your local area in Strathbogie Shire.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a one page **Expression of Interest** including a current Resume, contact details, and a Statement to ESDAC on how you fit the ESDAC criteria above, and why you feel you are the ideal Committee member to complete our team.

**Applications & enquiries can be made to Carole Hammond, Coordinator Climate Change and Environment, or Jeff Saker, Group Manager at [info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au) or 1800 065 993 Applications close on Friday 31 January 2020.**



**Murrindindi**  
Shire Council

### CALL FOR FEEDBACK ON DRAFT LOCAL LAW

We are seeking your feedback on our new draft Community Local Law 2019. The draft Local Law sets out how we maintain peace, order and safety in our Shire, including enforcement actions and penalties.

You can view the draft Local Law at any Council office or download a copy from our website. If you'd like to learn more about the draft Local Law and how it might affect you, why not come along to one of our community consultation sessions which are running in December 2019 and January 2020. You can get the details for these sessions from our website or by giving us a call.

If you'd like to provide feedback about the new draft Local Law, you can make submissions by **emailing us at [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or writing to us at PO Box 138 Alexandra, 3714 before 28 February 2020. NB: new closing date!!**

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