



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

It's gratifying to see, with so many cancellations and restrictions being announced in the last week, that The Granite News assures its readers of some normality, as it now wings its way to you for your enjoyment.

Normally, TGN would be taking its traditional school holiday break of a couple of weeks but, given the wider extenuating circumstances we are currently faced with, the HCCC Executive has decided to continue publishing this weekly epistle as an effective means of communication.

As some of TGN's readership may find themselves self-isolated for a variety of reasons, or a little concerned about the rapidly changing health issues over the next few weeks, hopefully it's reassuring to have some familiar continuity in our lives.

And **THE** word of 2020 must surely be **Unprecedented**, but for this week's issue it could well be

Postponed

as the monthly Calendar of Events starts to resemble Swiss Cheese. Little jokes aside though, be prudent and employ sensible precautions, as advised by medical experts, over the coming weeks to stay safe and well. Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Was getting up close and personal with a wasp!

Vale - Stan Artridge (1931-2020)

An only child, Stan was born in Euroa in 1931 and grew up on a versatile and productive farm on the banks of the Creightons Creek. He describes his early life as "poor", not realizing until recently that he was copying many of the practices of his father - a particularly good farmer. From the age of five, Stan played with an imaginary farm; using fruit to represent different animals. His favourite was the sheep (quinces).

In 1957 Stan and wife, Dawn (dec) bought 'Dawnstan Park' (previously known as Art's Hill), Ruffy. Together they invested long hours with the goal of making the property into a more productive farm. They cleared wattles and worked on the bracken fern (never completely eradicated), eliminating the rabbits (they're back...), outsmarting foxes (still trying) and reviving newborn lambs in Ruffy's freezing winds. As Stan went around the countryside shearing, he observed how the graziers of the better properties improved the grass growing ability of the soils. He made a diversion every fortnight to observe the progress and outcomes of the 1964-1969 Strathearn stocking-rate/fertilizer trial and followed many of the better strategies. Together the couple thought through their problems and created their own trials.

Stan fenced the farm into smaller paddocks - now numbering 67 - to move the fertility of sheep camp sites further down from the higher spots in a paddock. He loved to see the growing depth of his topsoil, the number of worms, dung beetles and even the variety of grasses including some "weeds". As well he generously spread super or lime each year. He joined several soil

continued p.5



Stan shearing at Euroa Show 1950



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"In a time of plague, we learn that there are far more things to admire in people than to despise."

Albert Camus (1913-1960)

Philosopher & Nobel Laureate

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

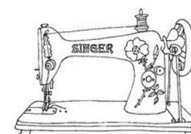
For Sale

Rare and beautiful 50th anniversary Statesman for sale. (Photo to come)
Stunning blue with grey interior. Immaculate body.
Drives like a dream Plenty of get up & go. Cruise control, air bags, grey carpet in good condition.
New radio and CD player (original available). Great family car.
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\$5000. Ring Marj 57904298/0408342633

For all your sewing needs

Mending, buttons, zips, hems. Soft furnishings (cushions) personalised painting smocks.
Bags—library, shopping, craft.

Marj Leigh



Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — March & April

Thursday 26th March @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.	at Caveat Church
Friday 27th March @ 7.30pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING Please note this HCCC meeting is restricted to Executive & Facilitators.	at Highlands Community Hall Enquiries? Justus 5790 4268
Saturday 28th March 9am - 2pm	LEARNING with LANDCARE Morning tea & lunch provided, see previous T...	at Yea Council Chambers Enquiries? Cat Thomas 0418 655474
Saturday 28th March 10am—noon	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and meet each other. Featuring Bee-Keeping with Brian B... and Andrew Janiak & it's FREE!	at 94 Old Highlands Rd Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Friday 3rd April @ 7.30pm	WASPS of the Upper Goulburn Yea River Catchment Landcare Group pres...	at Yea Butter Factory by Ron Litjens. See p.4 for more info.
Saturday 4th April @ 1.30pm	MEMORIAL GATHERING for ... Phone 03 57904205 for more details.	at Ruffy
Friday 10th April @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for ... and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin ... to cover power.	at Highlands Community Hall
Sunday 12th April	The GRANITE NEWS Returns for issue #11 in 2020.	😊
Friday 17th April @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS HALL BLUES NIGHT Come along for an excellent evening of jazz and ... Enquiries? Judy 57969247	at Highlands Community Hall
Monday 20th April @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided.	Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!!	at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT 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: vivienwatmough@gmail.com	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!	at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

Fire awareness for all



Six easy afternoon projects #2 - Replace timber benches on timber decks with synthetic ones. A timber bench on a timber deck is an unnecessary risk and similar to having a wood pile on a timber deck.



* Reprinted from The Conversation, by Douglas Brown, Western Sydney Uni.

N.B. Although the fire season has ended in Murrindindi Shire, Strathbogie Shire experienced a Total Fire Ban last Thursday—we live in trying times, stay safe.

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

Expressions of Interest - Tracks & Trails Upgrades

Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced contractors to assist with upgrading works on various multi-use tracks & trails throughout the municipality.



These works relate to Council's drought recovery initiatives funded through the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme.

The funding is targeted to stimulate local community spending, use local resources, businesses and suppliers and provide long-lasting benefit to communities.

The works generally involve the upgrading of tracks and trails surfaces, clearing, minor works to improve accessibility and the installation of supplied interpretive and directional signage.

It is important to note that this work involves the supply and use of hand tools, power tools, manual and mechanical materials placement capacity (such as gravel, stone rock, timber) and specialised machinery able to access and work on narrow and remote tracks and trails with minimal track and vegetation impact.

Demonstrated knowledge and experience of previous works on tracks and trails would be highly advantageous.

Responses to Expressions of Interest must include, as a minimum:

- A detailed list of relevant tools and machinery with hour and day rates where applicable

Hour and day labour rates

Responses could also include:

- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of previous works on tracks and trails
- Any training/certificates undertaken relevant to tracks and trails type works

Any partnering propositions with other contractors to deliver works as Council may engage one or more contractors to work on various sites. The lowest or any Expression of Interest may not necessarily be accepted. **Expressions of Interest will be received until 4.00pm on Thursday 16 April 2020 endorsed with Contract No. 19/20-41 Water Infrastructure Project - Tracks & Trails Upgrades.**

Submissions must be made via TenderSearch

www.tendersearch.com.au/strathbogie.

Julie Salomon - Chief Executive Officer

Strathbogie Shire

Community Grants Program

2020-2021

Now Open



We are excited to announce the opening of the 2020-2021 Community Grants Program. **Grants will open Monday 16th March at 9.00am and will close at 5pm April 24th 2020.**

Information sessions will be held at the following locations:

Euroa Conference Centre Enter from Bury Street

Wednesday 25th March 2020, 6-8pm

Nagambie Youth Hub 26 Filson Street,
Thursday 26th March 2020, 2-4pm

Avenel Preschool 31 Watson Street
Thursday 26th March 2020, 6-8pm

Violet Town Community Complex (Supper Room)

35 Cowslip Street

Friday 27th March 2020, 2-4pm

It is strongly recommended that if you are applying for a Community Grant, that at least two representatives from your group attend one of the scheduled Information sessions to support the application process. Particularly if you have never applied for a Community Grant before.

Additionally, individual appointments will be available from **Monday 6th April and Thursday 9th April**. To arrange an appointment please call **Melanie Likos or Deb Ellis on 5795 0000 or 1800 065 993**. Alternatively, you can email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

For more information regarding the Community Grants program please visit our website at the following link: <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/community/community-funding/community-grants-program>

Dogpro SEYMOUR WORKING SHEEPDOG TRIALS

27-30 March 2020 at Kings Park, Seymour (free entry)

Comencing 8 am

Com-

daily

Catering available
Hall Pavilion

daily in Ken
Provided by the



Postponed

Yea River Catchment Landcare Group presents
More gruesome than Alice...
More terrifying than The Thing...
But more fascinating than you can imagine...

Wasps

of the Upper Goulburn
(I have seen)
by Ken Litjens

Postponed

7:30pm - 9:30pm April 2020
Yea Butter Factory
13 Rattray Street, Yea

Adults \$10 Kids FREE
Light supper provided

RSVP Judy e: juncball@bigpond.com
m: 0448 922 563



SOLAR SYSTEM GIVEAWAY

You may remember the launch of Council's 'Dindi Bulk Buy Program' back in April 2018.

Since then, 65 solar systems – totalling a whopping 318kW of solar capacity – have been installed on the rooftops of homes and businesses across Murrindindi Shire.

Thanks to the success of the program, Council together with Yarra Energy Foundation and Eko Energy, will donate a 5kW solar system to one lucky community group.

For more information, including how to apply, go to www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants

Applications close 31 March 2020.



END OF FIRE RESTRICTIONS AND AMNESTY BURN PERIOD

The CFA officially declared an end to the fire danger period on **Monday 16 March**. From this time, residents in farming areas can burn off vegetation material without a permit. Residents in township zones and built up areas can burn-off vegetation material without a permit from **Monday 16 March 2020 to Monday 4 May 2020**.

Residents can also deposit green waste free of charge and all year round at any of Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

There are a number of conditions that still apply. **Before burning off, please register your burn by calling 1800 668 511.**

For more information about burning off and the amnesty period, please visit our website and search 'amnesty', or give us a call.

Men's Tears

During the East Gippsland fires, I watched a local man talking to the media just after the fires had devastate his community. I don't recall his exact words, so I will paraphrase what he said, "I thought I was a strong person, but since this has happened I can't stop crying." I gathered his own house was saved, but he seemed embarrassed by his tears. Maybe his tears were tears of relief, but his later conversation indicated he was simply overwhelmed by sadness for his community. His tears were not a reflection of weakness but rather of strength. While he could express his sadness in words, the tears added a depth and solidarity. They were genuine.

The old message that 'men don't cry' still seems persuasive in our culture, and this despite witnessing a Prime Minister unafraid to share the depth of his feelings on TV. Our willingness to be vulnerable is a key to healthy relationships and the freedom to shed tears is an intrinsic ingredient. There is a misconception among men that owning up to our vulnerabilities is a sign of weakness. On the contrary it is a sign of real strength. Perhaps that is why women tend to be more honest and courageous in relationships.

True there are situations when it is unhelpful to shed tears, even though we may want to, such as on occasions when there is a life and death emergency. It would be inappropriate for a paramedic to burst into tears while attending a horrifying road accident. That is something they can deal with later with their colleagues.

Tears are beautiful, whether they are shed in joy or sorrow, in relief or pain. To shed tears with another can be a precious healing moment.

Stuart Reid - Highlands

Festival of Small Halls @ Merton

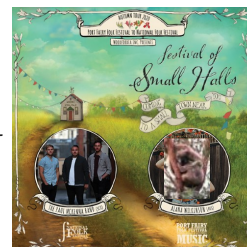
We're excited to be staging our **Festival of Small Halls** cert on Thurs-26th

second Con-day

March After
cess of
year's

last event we're
thrilled to be on the concert tour
again this year.

A Scottish group the Paul McKenna Band will be on stage with Melbourne's own Alana, with a format similar to last year with food and drinks on sale before



this year.
the amazing suc-

The Highlands Mobile Library Service has been temporarily suspended due to Covid—19.

Resumption dates will be advised.



Please note that the 2020 Ruffy Artfest has been CANCELLED - Further information will follow in the next issue of TGN.

The committee appreciates your understanding.

Vale - Stan Artridge (1931-2020) continued

improvement groups, travelling to see what other farmers were trying and in turn hosted many farm tours on 'Dawnstan Park'. The wool sold from one year at 'Dawnstan Park' paid for his cherished Leyland P76.

Golf was the link to Stan learning to shear. At the age of 15, he met fellow golfer, Bill Hartley, and asked for shearing lessons. He wasn't immediately a gun shearer, but that set him up to be a compassionate and patient instructor. He became an observant student of shearing, an early adopter of many improvements and his ability was recognized around the district. In October 1954 Euroa hosted a shearing competition that attracted competitors from around the state, including state title holders from the recent Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show. Stan proudly walked away wearing the sash for first place.

Wool and shearing got into his system in a big way. He became a professional wool classer in 1971, developed a passion for judging and was awarded the coveted and prestigious status of judge in New Zealand.

He was always a willing mentor to any shearer interested in learning tips to make the job better or easier as well as how to better prepare their gear. Around 1977, Wangaratta TAFE contacted Stan asking if he could teach shearing in their farming course. That led to more than ten years of teaching local teenagers how to shear; from time to time he would meet up with some of these kids, who recognized and thanked him.

The Artridge shearing dynasty continues with Peter's sons Kaleb and Nathan. Not to go unnoticed, in 2012, three daughters (Ruth, Heather and Cathy) with handpieces and wide gear whirring showed how they could crutch his sheep for free - see photo at right.

During 2019, Stan's stamina gradually deteriorated after falling off his ATV in January. In late December, at 88 years of age, Stan suffered a stroke (a complication of recently diagnosed lung cancer), passing away at the Northern Hospital five days later.

The Artridge Dynasty

L-R Heather Drysdale (Yarck), Stan, Cathy Artridge (Creightons Creek), Ruth Hannigan (Barrakee). Photo taken at Dawnstan Park, Ruffy, 2012, by Shellie Drysdale.

Stan is smiling for three reasons

- 1 he loves competition and was stirring each sister on
 - 2 he's getting his shitty lambs crutched
 - 3 he had no intention of paying for the job.
- Three great reasons to be grinning!

by Judith Artridge - Stan's daughter



Something to ponder....

Justus Hagen has submitted the following thoughts from C.S.Lewis (author of the Narnia series of books) on the Atomic Age written 72 years ago. For Atomic Age substitute Coronavirus—the comments equally apply to our current situation.

In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anaesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.

From "On Living in the Atomic Age" - 1948

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