



THE GRANITE NEWS

12TH APRIL 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 11

WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

For the observant reader you may have noticed that this TGN is Issue 11, not a Covid-19 Special edition. That is because, to a certain extent, we are back on track as this issue would be the resumption of TGN under normal circumstances. Of course currently our circumstances are anything but normal, so The Granite News will continue to be published twice a week until further notice. Sunday night's newsletters will be tagged Issues (as normal) and the mid-week offering will remain the Covid-19 Specials.

And the mysterious exterior decorator on the Ghin Ghin cutting has struck again, for Easter this time. Rock decorating to lift our spirits is definitely an essential service! I'd like to think that this wonderful person reads TGN, because if they do then they will get to read this BIG thank you that's coming their way for their much appreciated efforts.



Until next issue, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Has decided to shake a leg and insert himself into this issue.

NB: for those of you who have signed up to The Granite News in the last 2 years and have absolutely no idea who, or what, Kenny is he is a very relaxed koala who finds his way into each TGN and you need to play Spotto to find him. He looks like this, only smaller.



HCCC News

Easter is a new beginning...

Looking for an Easter Activity to entertain the family while staying at home? Save the Planet and get some exercise while self-isolating.

We've all got time now to get out into the paddocks and plant some trees. Especially since this lovely rain.

HCCC Landcare is offering 50 free plants to the first 50 people who contact **Janet Hagen 0458 904268 hughescreek2@gmail.com**. These trees come with tree guards and stakes. **All you need to do is send us a photo of you planting them.** We have a selection of trees and shrubs suitable for planting in the Strathbogie Ranges on offer. Plants delivered to your gate or picked up from Tablelands Community Centre. No direct human contract involved. (NB: this deal only applies to those living in the Hughes Creek Catchment, Longwood East Landcare Group or Creightons Creek Catchment)

- Plant a wind break for stock shelter
- Add understorey around existing paddock trees.
- Replace old paddock trees.
- Create Wildlife habitat.
- Build a corridor to connect remnant patches.



This initiative has been funded by the Bogies & Beyond project through GBCMA
Plants lovingly grown by Euroa Arboretum.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

On Antarctica...

"Glittering white, shining blue,
raven black, in the light of the
sun the land looks like a
fairytale."

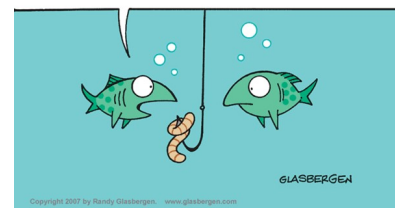
Roald Amundsen (1872-1928)

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**

Let's Laugh!

I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Website of the Week

This social enterprise has been operating since 2001 and reuses, recycles or upcycles office equipment. It has 2 shops in Melbourne and an on-line store
www.greencollect.org

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — or something to look forward to...

1st weekend of the month (not winter) 10-4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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.	2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
2nd Monday each month @ 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 and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided.	- contact Jan 5790 4361
2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am 	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA This enjoyable social event is open to all members. Enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce and enjoy the company of friends.	Terip Community Centre
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm 	DRINKS ON THE DECK Starts at 6.30pm bring your own drinks. All welcome, especially new members.	Highlands Community Hall
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	HUGHES CRUISE MEETING The next meeting is on Friday 11th October commencing at 7pm. All welcome.	at ??????
Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S LUNCH All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat	at Caveat Church
4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2 	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other.	at 94 Old Highlands Rd Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
DON'T FORGET to BID!! 	RUFFY CFA WOOD RAFFLES The fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital continues and you've got to be in it to win it!! A tandem trailer load of wood is up for auction each month—April, May, June & July. Bidding opens the first day of each month and closes midnight last day of each month. Winners notified and published in TGN. Delivery is included to Ruffy, Highlands and the Tablelands. Bids can be placed by phone, SMS, email or in person to Don Cook - 0408 929818 or mavdon50@gmail.com	
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 health benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 0408 929818 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES Swing dances feature the 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

All these monthly events will be returning to a place near YOU, hopefully soon, but not until it is safe. Stay tuned

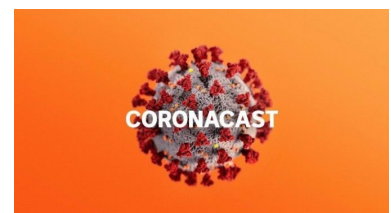


Postponed until further notice

Coronacast - all yours for free!

In these times of instant social media and 'fake news' Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about coronavirus or COVID19. The latest news and research is broken down to help you understand how the world is living through an epidemic.

Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).



Welcome home Larry!

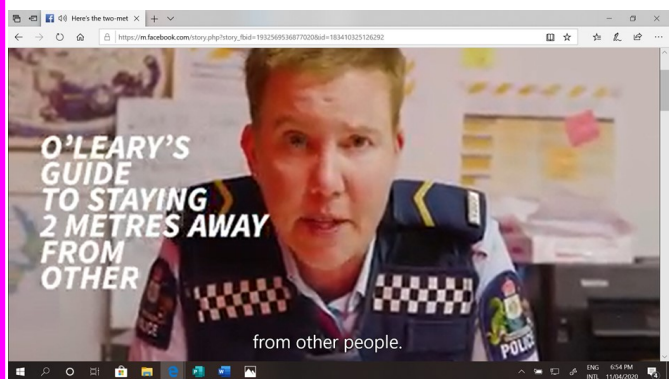


If you think this year hasn't quite gone according to plan Larry Taylor of Highlands might just agree with you. On January 2nd he unexpectedly found himself in hospital contemplating his left leg being amputated mid-thigh. Fortunately for him, with 15 minutes to go before surgery, the surgeon decided that a below the knee op was feasible and Larry has spent the last 10 weeks rehabilitating at Royal Talbot in Kew. Although pictured with his Range Rover, Larry is known for his very impressive, and immaculately maintained, bright yellow ute so if you see him out and about give him a wave to welcome him home.

Self-distancing Kiwi style

As Australians we have a pretty good sense of humour. We "get" satire and irony, which other nationalities sometimes have difficulty with, and we do quirky too. But New Zealanders seem to have refined quirky to the nth degree and this official Wellington police video emphasising the importance of 2m of distancing (we have 1.5m, the kiwis are adding an extra 1/2m to 2m) is just brilliant. Once again, enjoy! 2 metres please!!

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1932569536877020&id=183410325126292



Terip takes some Timeout

Dear Everyone,

Please note that we have been required to close the Terip Community Centre, tennis courts and public toilets at the Terip Recreation Reserve due to Covid-19 restrictions. As soon as these restrictions are lifted we look forward to seeing everyone again at our regular events. The committee wishes everyone a Happy Easter and hopes that our community stays safe. We are lucky to be isolated in such a beautiful place like Terip!

More Sanity Saver Suggestions

How do you keep a sense of normality when all around us is not normal? Here are a few more suggestions...

- * If you can't get to the library then the library will come to you. Murrindindi Library Service is offering a "Book Butler" delivery to your door. **Ring 5772 0333 to place your order** now and like all good things in life this service is FREE!
- * Whilst talking books, don't forget those wonderful items called Audio or Talking books. You can set up an on-line account for audio books at www.yprl.vic.gov.au/audiobooks-eaudiobooks/
- * Storytime by Skype. If you're missing reading bedtime stories to the grandkids, face to face, try Skyping a story instead.



AMNESTY BURN PERIOD

Since the CFA declared an end to the fire danger period, an amnesty burn period has been in place and will remain in place until

Monday 4 May 2020.

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 until **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.

#weremember

<https://www.prolificnorth.co.uk/features/2020/04/weremember-hopeful-video-thats-viral-sensation-coronavirus-crisis>

Leila Stead is an Instagramma who shared these words on her account a couple of weeks ago as the full force of Covid-19 started to impact on Britain and a 3 week lockdown was imposed. Cut and paste the link above to get the visuals that compliment these words, but the words themselves are pretty powerful in their own right.

The Coronavirus is changing life as we know it dramatically tonight

I can't wait for a year's time
When all this is a distant memory
And there's been a Corona baby boom
As all the lovers were loving
And there's a rise in small businesses
Because all the entrepreneurs had a moment
Of stillness and creativity
And all the children remember nothing
But a time when all the mums and dads
Were at home drawing and playing ball games
And they remember it as the time we all got to stop
And be present
We will remember it for the time our health
Was our first priority
And people learnt new ways to use fresh produce
To feed their families
We'll remember the laughter and fun on Tik Tok
Face timing with our friends and family each day
Date nights in the house
And home PE workouts
A time when our real heroes in the NHS
Urged us to stay home for the greater good
And our country showing their support
By turning Wembley and the Angel of the North
Blue
And we were all forced to think outside the box
And dream of new things
And reinvent old ways
And for once, even amongst the chaos,
There was community
There was a global rise in togetherness >>>

And as the streets were quiet
Homes we bustling with love and laughter
That time is coming soon
Just like any other crisis before
All this will be a distant memory
Things we'll soon listen to our children
Discuss in class
A once was, that we share with our grandchildren
So to you
I know it's unsettling
But focus on the silver lining
We're all in this together
And there is so much beauty to see.



Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus Sanctus*)

Sacred Kingfishers are a summer visitor to the wetlands in our area and arrive from the north of Australia in September or October each year. They are a rather attractive bird with their iridescent turquoise colouring and distinctive call - a strident and repetitive ek ek ek ek ek. However when excited this is replaced by a kee kee kee kee call instead.

Although very similar in plumage the male is slightly brighter in colour than the female with buff – white coloured underparts and a broad cream collar. However sometimes pairs can be very difficult to tell apart just on their colouring.

Their unlined nests can be found in either a hollow branch or riverbank and both males and females help to excavate the space. Likewise both parents incubate and share the raising of any young. Incubation takes 17 days and eggs are about 25mm or 1” long, glossy white and laid in clutches of 3-6. The fledglings leave the nest after 28 days.

Unlike other kingfishers that eat fish, Sacreds prefer grasshoppers, lizards, beetles and frogs and the wetland areas of the HCCC have an abundance of all these potential meals.

They usually hunt by perching on a low exposed branch and once they spot their quarry swoop down to grasp it in their bill before returning to their perch to eat it.

There are probably 3-4 pairs of Sacred Kingfishers that call the Yea Wetlands, specifically, home for 6 months of each year leaving in early autumn to return north for the winter.



Many thanks to Ron Litjens for the stunning photograph of this kingfisher and its meal.

Home... it's not as bad as you think

If nothing else the last few weeks have probably caused all of us to slow down, think and alter the way we do things. Whilst it might be inconvenient, frustrating or, in some cases concerning, it does give us time to appreciate our immediate surroundings and those around us. This is the 60kms view from my lounge/front deck and I don't look at it often enough. We live in an incredibly beautiful & fortunate country. Ed.



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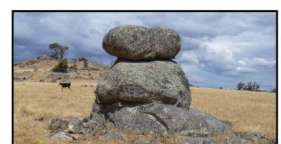
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