



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another week of changes and curves and although there is a glimmer of light at the end of a very long tunnel we still need to ensure that common sense and consideration prevails no matter how inconvenient. However it might be useful to put the statistics of this current pandemic into perspective.

“Throughout history nothing has killed more human beings than infectious diseases. Malaria kills nearly 1/2 million people per year and the Justinian Plague in the 6thC killed 50 million people. The Black Death in the 14thC killed up to 20 million people and Smallpox may have killed up to 300 million in the 20thC, despite a vaccine being available since 1976.

Between 50 million and 100 million people died during the influenza pandemic in 1919-20, more than World War One’s entire death toll! HIV, which also lacks a vaccine, has killed an estimated 32 million and infected upwards of 75 million.” Fatalities for SARS are over 8,000, for MERS 858 and for Ebola 11,310. So far Covid-19 has resulted in 160,717 deaths worldwide, in Australian 69 and for Victoria just 15. So whilst Stage 3 restrictions might be a bit of a pain, they certainly appear to be working. Until next issue, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Was checking out the garden with the rusty kangaroo.



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

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

Marie Curie (1867-1934)

Twice winner of the Nobel Prize

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*

Royal Children’s Hospital Fundraiser

Congratulations to the Ruffy CFA who, despite Covid-19’s best efforts to thwart their dedicated fundraising efforts, have managed to raise the princely sum of



\$2817.61 for the Royal Children’s Hospital this year prior to the virtual tin shake closing last Friday.

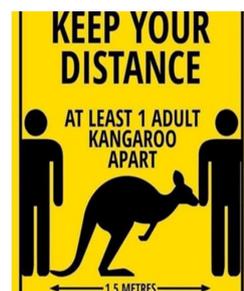
Chrissie and Jamie Ford of Ruffy won last week’s wood \$410 plus RCH Hamper winner was Donna Johnson from Terip \$120 and finally Linda Geddes from Barjarg won the second week’s wood contributing \$394.

It was an incredibly generous community effort and on behalf of the Ruffy CFA I would like to thank EVERYONE who contributed including those who supplied wood as well as the bidders.

Felicity Sloman - Ruffy CFA



Let’s Laugh!



Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Website of the Week

If this extended period of self-isolation and uncertainty is beginning to pall
www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/online-forums may be of assistance.

Community Notices & Classifieds

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

<p>1st weekend of the month (not winter) 10-4</p> 	<p>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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.</p>
<p>2nd Monday each month @ 11am</p> 	<p>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</p>
<p>2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am</p> 	<p>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 at the Terip Community Centre</p>
<p>2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm</p> 	<p>DRINKS ON THE DECK Starts at 6.30pm bring your drinks and enjoy the view from the deck of the Highlands Community Hall. All welcome, especially the young and old and new. All</p>
<p>3rd Thursday or Friday each month</p>	<p>HUGHES CRIP COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING at ?????? The next meeting is on Thursday commencing at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268</p>
<p>Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S LUNCHEON at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat</p>
<p>4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
<p>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p>	<p>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?? Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!!</p>
<p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p>	<p>QIGONG AT RUFFY 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 5790 4361 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com</p>
<p>Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</p>	<p>SWING DANCE CLASS at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</p>

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

Job Opportunities - Working for Victoria

Murrindindi Shire is encouraging any of its residents, whose employment is affected by the Coronavirus, to register their details on the 'Working for Victoria' website to access new work opportunities. Those eligible to apply can use their skills in new roles or take up training opportunities for specific roles instead. Go to www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria for details. Quite possibly Mitchell and Strathbogie Shires are offering something similar, why not give them a call to find out more?

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](#).



Rate Relief Initiatives

Strathbogrie Shire Council has announced measures designed to assist ratepayers who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The initiatives announced on April 5th include:

An extension of the due date of the fourth instalment of Council rates to 30 June 2020 (instead of 31 May 2020).

No overdue/outstanding interest to be added to accounts for the period from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.

The refund of any previously paid fees for this financial year to become a registered premise, which includes food business, hairdressers, etc. This same fee will not be charged in the 2020-21 financial year.

Any ratepayer who is having difficulty with paying their rates is urged to contact the Council early as possible to discuss assistance which can be provided through payment plans and Council's Hardship Policy. This includes all Residential, Farming and Commercial/Business properties.

Strathbogrie Shire Council is also strongly advocating for rate relief at Federal and State government level as part of the Hume Region Local Government Network, a group of 12 councils which represent more than 300,000 people, urgently requesting that both levels of Government consider a funding package to help Councils support their communities at this time of crisis.

On Going Forward & Adapting...

All my email boxes seem to be full to overflowing at present with special offers and more information than I would ever want to know about Covid-19, but a letter by Paul Guerra from the Victorian Chamber of Commerce has a few thoughts worthy of a wider audience. Ed.

"Over the weekend (11&12 April) the Premier announced an extension to the Executive powers in a clear sign that restrictions are unlikely to be lifted soon. We may not like it, but I have to say the results are far easier to read than what we are seeing unfold in other parts of the world...

While it's frustrating, and in many cases debilitating, the quicker we can contain the virus spread, the quicker we can get on with business and life until the ultimate period when the vaccine will be ready...

Changing to operate in the new normal, rather than waiting for a recovery that is a while away, has been (a key factor in some businesses success) Four Pillars Gin in Healesville (is) a great example of a business adapting and innovating during the Covid-19 crisis by using their distilling process to make hand sanitiser and keep their business operating in very difficult times...

The self-isolation we are all abiding by now will pave the way for a speedier recovery. It's going to test my patience, it's going to test yours as well, and we naturally want to get going again. But I balance this by wanting to have my parents around for a bit longer too."



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...

- Here's something a little different, the Melbourne Zoo is live streaming their animals so you can get up close and personal with the lions at the Werribee Zoo, giraffe cam or check out the baby snow leopards. www.zoo.org.au/animal-house
- Prefer some arts and culture instead? Why not explore www.artsandculture.google.com for virtual tours of famous museums and artwork. Or go directly to the websites of specific galleries eg: The Louvre and see what is on offer.



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.

Copperhead Snake (*Austrelaps superbus*)

There are 3 types of Copperhead snake to be found in Australia – the Pygmy (found only in SA) the Highland species (found above 600m) and the Lowland variety, which would be the one that enjoys life in the Yea Wetlands.

Lowland Copperhead - inhabits grassland, heathland, woodlands and open scrub. It is often found in habitats next to water, such as marshes, lagoons, swamps, lakes, creeks, streams and rivers. This species is able to live in areas heavily disturbed, even those that have been under agriculture for over 100 years. Here they occur around dams, soaks, canals and drainage ditches, and along the verges of roads. The snakes shelter under boulders, logs, stumps and sheets of roofing iron, in clumps of dense vegetation such as buttongrass, in yabby burrows, & disused rabbit & rodent burrows.

Lowland Copperheads have been recorded overwintering in shallow shelters such as under large rocks, logs, roofing iron and tractor tires and in piles of hay bales. Overwintering sites are usually near water and a comparable study in Victoria, between Highland and Lowland Copperheads discovered that the Lowland snakes emerged earlier & stayed active longer than their Highland cousins – from Aug to May.

Copperheads are restricted to relatively cool and cold environments in southeastern parts of Australia, including Kangaroo Island, Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands.

Their diet includes insects, frogs, lizards (and their eggs) snakes and occasionally small birds and mammals, with skinks being their most common food. They are also thought to be cannibalistic!

Although ground-dwelling and diurnal, they do occasionally climb trees to bask and can also hunt in the early evening on warm summer nights.

There is evidence to suggest that wild females do not breed every year, but when they do they give birth to between 9-45 live young (average 15) between January & March.

Although Copperheads can range in colour from black to grey brown, with paler bellies, their name derives from the coppery brown colour of their heads and unlike Tiger and Brown snakes they have a distinctive neck band.

Like other snakes found in the Wetlands a Copperhead's venom is toxic however they tend to be secretive and try to avoid humans. They will only attack when provoked.

With thanks to Phil Glowaki for the photo and the Australian Museum for the text.



Something to ponder...



How privileged are so many of us that during a global pandemic we can just stay (warm) at home reading, working, still being educated, creating, talking to our loved ones and friends, with little worries and a fridge stocked with food.

Do remind yourself to be grateful today.

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