



THE GRANITE NEWS

3RD MAY 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 14

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Many thanks to a couple of readers this week for supplying some very interesting articles, including our newest correspondent, all the way from the UK.

I'm hoping that my email box will be inundated in the next day with entries from the last issue's competition. 5 really simple questions with a couple of fairly obvious answers and a couple more that require a little bit of research, but nothing too onerous. Don't forget that there's an excellent little prize to be won. And if you've deleted the last TGN issue once again here are the questions. Email answers to editor@tgn.org.au

1. In what year was the HCCC formed?
2. Which original Landcare groups comprised the HCCC?
3. Name 3 feral animals that inhabit the local (HCCC) area?
4. Who is credited with bringing rabbits to Victoria? Hint: Barwon Park
5. For how many years has The Granite News been published?

Until next issue, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Was keeping the plesiosauruses (mongeese) company.

To quote Maxwell Smart... Missed it by THAT much!

If you thought that April was WET you were right. The official rainfall figures for both Highlands and Ruffy, see below, are very impressive and according to Alistair Lade (Highlands weather station monitor) **April 2020 was the third wettest April on record and those records started in 1905!!** So currently in first place is **1939 with 225mm**, second place is held by **1974 with 220mm** but **2020** was only 6.3mm short of topping the charts and now lies in third place with **188.8mm**. The long term average for **April is 62mm!**



My neighbour's dam hasn't been this full for 18 months and most of the capacity has only happened in the last week. Ed.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

'It doesn't matter whether a glass is half full or half empty. Clearly there is room for more wine!'

Anon



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**

WANTED

Border collie or kelpie pup as a companion dog. A good home is assured with lots of walks and cuddles. If you can assist ring **Michael 0429 804235**







Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
April	188.8 mm	250 mm
2019 Total	401 mm	522 mm
April Rain Days	15 Days	13 Days

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 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch & 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 anyone who wants to enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce. Highlands Community Centre
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm 	DRINKS ON THE TABLE Starts at 6.30pm. A great way to meet up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who are new to the area. Highlands Community Hall
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome. at ?????? Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
Last Thursday each month @ 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
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
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 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASS Swing dances featuring 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

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](#).



Covid –19 Half a World Away

by our UK correspondent

Until recently only a few news organisations had the capacity to gather reports on global events and international issues. That was until The Granite News acquired their very own foreign correspondent. Living in the three counties of England, this home-grown Highlander finds her days considerably altered, facing the pandemic head on. Agreeably this is predominantly achieved by sitting on the sofa and keeping up with the latest Netflix documentary, in addition to ensuring the fridge is kept empty.

All jokes aside, life has taken a turn down a very isolated and unexpected road for everyone at the moment; this is very clear in the UK right now. As we approach the seventh week of lockdown the weekly task of shopping moves from battle status to a chess match ensuring you stay two metres from your fellow shopper. Most have interpreted our one form of daily exercise as, **'I must take up running'**, with people who have never walked briskly now envisaging themselves as Usain Bolt! However overall we have all stayed home to keep safe those who cannot. As in many countries we look to our key workers attacking this virus on the front lines to ensure the people in our communities are supported and cared for.

As I write this, England has seen 27,000 people lose their lives to Covid-19; people of all ages and walks of life, people who will be missed. With a close proximity to Europe and a dense population, the pandemic swept this nation at a rampant pace, but has now begun to slow. It has been confirmed that we have passed the peak of the crisis and lockdown measures are set to be reviewed in the upcoming week. Welcome news to us all.

Although these times are testing, it cannot be ignored that the country and its communities are now closer than ever. Thursday night are when the streets come alive with the sound of clapping and cheering, as the whole nation stops to thank our key workers. From the man in the street to major manufacturing companies; PPE is being created and distributed in huge quantities to those who need it. We hear stories of people's fundraising efforts from children sleeping in tree houses to Captain Tom Moore who walked 100 laps of his garden to raise over 30 Million pounds for the NHS whilst approaching his 100th birthday. It is a privilege to see such comradery shine in, what is described as, a time of global crisis.

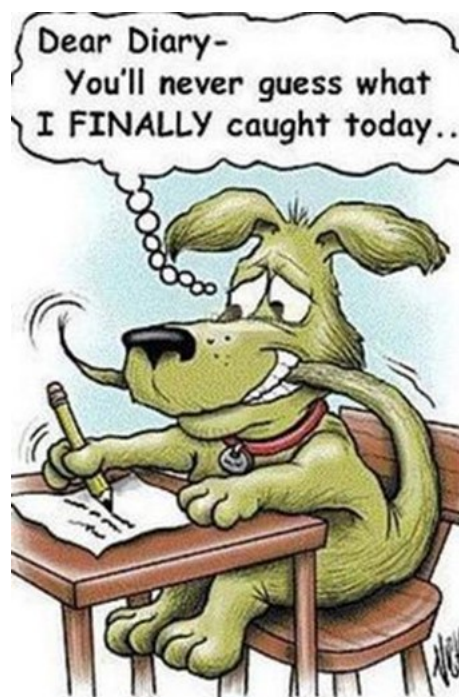
As we wait for a little normality to creep back into our lives; we keep up with loved ones from afar, calling and messaging as often as is deemed not annoying. We have taken up new hobbies, fought with many a DIY project and all experienced the joys of the home haircut. It's clear to see that people are making the most of what is a difficult time. Please keep looking out for those around you and do not be afraid to ask for help. Stay safe.

Laura Bennett – Hertfordshire, England



Laura featured in The Granite News just prior to Christmas last year, as she came home to Caveat to celebrate her 21st birthday with family and friends. Two weeks later saw her back in the UK working at the Tring Performing Arts School but then things changed dramatically as the school closed sending its boarding students home & taking the Covid-19 pandemic extremely seriously. Aside from watching Netflix and raiding the fridge she now runs 15 kms a week! (Yes I was surprised too). Many thanks for this article Laura. Ed.

Let's Laugh



Nostradamus wrote in 1551...

There will be a twin year (**2020**) from which will arise a queen (**corona**) who will come from the east (**China**) and who will spread a plague (**virus**) in the darkness of light, on a country with 7 hills (**Italy**) and will transform the twilight of men into dust (**death**), to destroy and ruin the world. It will be the end of the world economy as you know it.

Sent in by Sandy Mackenzie

As Hamlet opined, 'There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy (science)'. Maybe Nostradamus's predictions fall into this category?



Eastern Barred Bandicoot - seriously cute!

The Name Game - Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Kangaroo, Koala, Pademelon, Quokka, Bandicoot... all indigenous names for indigenous animals? Not quite. The odd one out is Bandicoot, which is a corruption of Pandikokku, the Telugu (Indian) name for a large species of rat. Early settlers apparently found some of the bandicoots (of which three species survive in Victoria) rat-like.

The generic name of the **EBB (Eastern Barred Bandicoot)** is however **Perameles**, from Latin **pera**, pouch, and Latin **meles**, badger. More like a small badger than a large rat, then? Perhaps, but the connection may be that bandicoots, like badgers, are diggers and burrowers.

They feed largely on worms, grubs and other insects: they dig for their dinner. It hardly needs saying, of course, that **bandicoots (marsupials)** are not closely related to either **rats or badgers (placental mammals)**. EBB might be seen as a curiously apt acronym for a declining (or ebbing) species, but a very large amount of effort has been invested in trying to drag it back from the brink of extinction by captive breeding and establishment of new populations in suitable habitats.

One such site is **Churchill Island in Western Port**, on which 20 captive-bred EBBs were released in 2015. With foxes having been eradicated from the island, by 2017 the number of bandicoots had grown to 130 – they're fast breeders with a very short gestation period. This happy circumstance gave the opportunity for a team of inquiring zoo and university biologists to explore a question which might also have occurred to you by now.

It's obvious what the outcome of digging is for the EBB – food! – but what effects might it be having on the environment in general? Careful quantitative study produced the startling result that each bandicoot on the island made about 500 digs every night, turning over some 13 kg of soil per night, or about 4.8 tonnes per year. That's not a bad achievement for an animal weighing less than 1 kg!

Why is this significant?

Simply because some of the incidental consequences of such burrowing activities are reduced soil compaction, incorporation of organic matter, improved soil condition and water penetration, and even reduction of fire risk through burial of plant material. If you remind yourself that the EBB used to be widespread and common right across the western Victorian grasslands, you get some sense of the degradation of habitat quality brought about by its near-demise. If you'd like to read a fuller account of this revealing study, go to:

<https://theconversation.com/one-little-bandicoot-can-dig-up-an-elephants-worth-of-soil-a-year-and-ourecosystem-loves-it-132266>

Angus Martin

With thanks to Angus for approval to republish this excellent article which previously appeared in Tableland Talk and thanks to Justus Hagen for organising this.

Ed.

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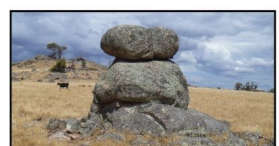
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