



THE GRANITE NEWS

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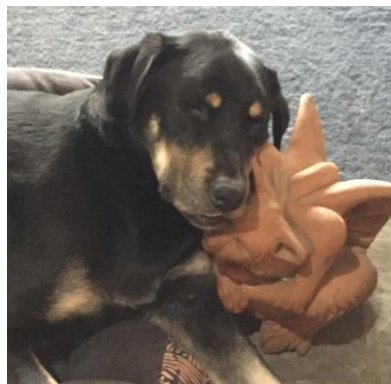
WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another week of interesting times and a light at the end of a very long tunnel for life to return to a new normal. One thing seems to be a feature though, depending on your job, the old regime of 9-5 physically in a workplace may not necessarily be the structured timetable that one returns to.

The flexibility of working from home, even allowing for children to be home schooled and connectivity lapsing from time to time, has shown that there are different ways of looking at employment and the way it can be undertaken. It will be interesting to see what new and innovative changes come out of the Covid-19 experience and if the work-life balance improves as a result.

As I've been working from home for just on 2 months now during the week I participated in a Webinar that discussed this Working From Home experience. Aside from some excellent ideas for breaking up the day's work into manageable chunks and ensuring that you did strive for a work-life balance, even though you weren't leaving home, the following random comments popped up on the screen as well.



As I'm sure that a lot of TGN readers are also working from home at present I thought that I'd share them with you. The last one is a gem.

- My co-worker is a 2 year old Great Dane/Boxer X
- We've never been SO on top of the washing before
- My co-worker is a 7 year old child but she doesn't get much work done
- Cat meows to be fed all day long
- If I drink enough water it will make sure I get regular breaks and
- The dog wants me to go back to work so he can rest more!

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

And Kenny? Was back on p.2 waiting a return to all the social events.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

'It's not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.'

Anne Landers (1918-2002)

American Newspaper columnist

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

Roadmap to Recovery - CFA update



The CFA has received a shipment of an additional 1,000 no-touch thermometers with the aim of making them available at every CFA brigade and work location. A decision re their distribution will be made in consultation with the regions, so stay tuned.

And if you're not OK in these unsettling times please reach out to the CFA's Wellbeing Support Line, sign in via the CFA portal, or ring your Region to find out how to. It's so important not to brush off any change in your mental health and wellbeing with an "it'll be alright" attitude. Seek help and support for you and your family whenever you need it.





Website of the Week

Sustainability Victoria's energy comparison tool for power bills, see p.3 for more

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-Your-Home/Save-energy/Appliances/Calculate-appliance-running-costs

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 chance to catch 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](#).



Why should I save energy?

With winter fast approaching it might be time to think about how you can save energy and money, despite heating being a necessity for the next few months. Here are a few ideas... courtesy of supplier Simply Energy.

The use and production of energy is currently Australia's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and a major contributor to climate change. We can all help to reduce these emissions, simply by becoming more energy efficient in our homes. Also, by reducing your energy usage you'll actually be saving yourself money on your electricity bills at the same time.

You can easily find details of your household's energy usage on the front page of any power bill and you can then use this information to compare your daily average usage with the average daily usage for all Victorian households as follows

Number of people in household Victorian average daily usage in KW (kilowatts)

1	11
2	15
3	17
4	20
5	23



By keeping tabs on your electricity bill, you might also notice that your consumption can vary from time to time. It's important to be aware this variance can be due to several contributing factors. These include heating and air conditioning as well as hot water consumption. Even the number of electrical appliances you have switched on in your home at any given time can influence your overall electricity consumption.

Pretty well all the major suppliers of power have a section on their websites with tips and hints for saving energy and decreasing your power bills. Check out yours

For a more comprehensive understanding of your energy consumption and how it compares with the average Victorian household check out the Victorian Government's online energy calculator...see this week's Website of the Week on p.1.

Did you know?

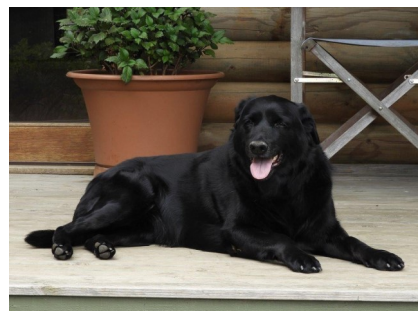
During the flu pandemic of 1918, the New York City health commissioner tried to slow the transmission of the flu by ordering businesses to open and close on staggered shifts to avoid overcrowding on the subways.



Penny - Queen of all she surveys

We would like to introduce our little girl Penny. She is nearly 9 years old and we have had her since she was 8 weeks old.

She came from a friend's dairy farm near Rochester, her mother was a Golden Retriever and her father



was a working dog Border Collie Cross.

Penny enjoys a sleep in at the weekend with her Mum and likes to bark at Norm's heifers next door when we call out to them, "Hello Girls". She also enjoys some ball throwing, although not as much as her half-sister Mitzi (dec.). She loves to go swimming in our small dam on even the coldest days.

In these unusual times she misses contact with our visitors and seeing her favorite canine friend "Tuppence", who mostly everyone knows is Bernard Moss's companion and best mate.



Penny has many positive 'Gemini' traits - Gentle, affectionate, curious, adaptable, ability to learn quickly and sadly some of their negative ones too - Nervous, being alone and being confined.

If we have to leave her at home, we always give her a 'yummy' when we leave. She quickly spits it out to show she doesn't want us to go, once we're out of sight she eats it and then goes for a swim. We always come home to a wet dog!!

She loves to go for short trips in the car with her Dad, down to the tip, into Yea to get petrol, and she sits up in the front seat of the ute like a passenger.

Judy & Lockie Cameron—Highlands

Whales are thriving in oceans without cruise and container ship traffic

While humans are chafing under stay-at-home orders and national lockdowns nearly five months after the COVID-19 pandemic began, wildlife are having a whale of a time – quite literally. A reduction in container and cruise ship traffic has provided a vacation of sorts for vulnerable cetaceans, and an opportunity for scientists to learn more about how marine noise pollution impacts ocean species.

If you've ever tried to hold a conversation at a club or crowded restaurant, you know how hard it can be to get your voice to carry over the din, or to hear your companions over thumping subwoofers. That's essentially what scientists suspect our oceans have been like for whales, dolphins, and other creatures that rely on their songs, squeaks, and calls to navigate and communicate – at least until the novel coronavirus showed up.

There is a generation of humpback whales that have never known a quiet ocean as the last time the seas were this quiet was after another landmark event that put the human world on pause – the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11th, 2001.

Apparently trans-Pacific container exports between China and the United States have dropped by as much as 22% in early 2020 after COVID-19 started to spread. Analysts predict as much as a 10% drop in container volume by the end of the year. Not only that the cruise line industry, has basically halted with all ships returning to their home ports.

The emergence of the Covid-19 virus happened to coincide with major events like the birthing season for humpback whales off the coast of Hawaii and the beginning of grey whales' migration from the Bearing Sea to the Baja Peninsula. Not only have the whales experienced less noise, there have also been fewer whale-watching ships, paddle boards, and other potential nuisances crowding their pods while they try to find mates and move their families to seasonal feeding grounds.

The window in which scientists can collect data on how whales respond to this sudden peace and quiet is very, very narrow and that opportunity to listen will not appear again in our lifetime.

Meanwhile, whales aren't the only wildlife who have enjoyed less interference from their human neighbours. As mentioned last week with fewer people in their habitats, lions have been lounging on roadways in South Africa's Kruger National Park, fish have been splashing more visibly in Venice's famous canals, sea turtles' nests are bursting on beaches around the world, and black bears, lynxes, and coyotes are "having a party" according to Yosemite National Park rangers.

So while humankind is itching for a return to normal post-pandemic, it looks like they might be in the minority – at least, depending on what the animal kingdom has to say about how they spent their spring and summer vacations.

Adapted from Meghan O'Dea's Lonely Planet's email article.



Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

Gawarn in Taungurung

The short-beaked Echidna is very common throughout most states of Australia, including Tasmania, and can be found in the Yea Wetlands. It also lives in a number of other habitats ranging from grasslands to woodlands and from forests to arid environments. In short it is a well-adapted survivor.

Like its 'cousin' the Platypus, it is a monotreme – an egg-laying mammal – and a truly unique little animal. Echidnas lay one egg at a time and the eggs hatch after about 10 days with the young, emerging blind and hairless. Clinging to hairs inside the mother's pouch, the young echidna suckles for two or three months.

Unlike all other mammals an echidna's beak is not built for sucking, so the mother has no teats but secretes milk from her pores and the puggle, as it is known, laps up this food with its long tongue. Once it develops spines and becomes too prickly, the mother removes it from her pouch and builds a burrow for it, however it continues to suckle for the next six months.



Due to its specialised mouth its diet consist of ants and termites and using its pointed snout and sharp claws, the Echidna is able to break into ant and termite nests and catch its prey by flicking its long sticky tongue in and out. It also catches a lot of dirt in the process and this is expelled in the droppings.

An Echidna's spines are not prickly, in the hedgehog sense of the word, although they do have sharp points. They also have incredibly effective claws for digging and anyone who has watched an Echidna

'disappear' where by they dig down vertically and cover themselves with the friable soil they have displaced, will not forget the speed with which they can achieve this protection from would-be predators. They can also curl into a ball-like shape to protect their soft belly from attack.

The Echidna has few natural enemies, but it may be killed by cars, dogs, foxes and occasionally goannas and, sadly, cats may take their young.



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