



# THE GRANITE NEWS

31ST MAY 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 18

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Each time The Granite News is emailed out the program automatically tells me how many TGN readers it is being dispatched to and every issue or so there are always new readers, which means currently the readership is just shy of 700. This is really gratifying and very pleasing to see such a level of interest in a local community newsletter.

It also makes me wonder if there are so many readers "out there" why no-one, that's nobody, zip, zero, zilch responded to the little quiz that was on the front page a month ago and has an excellent prize still unawarded.

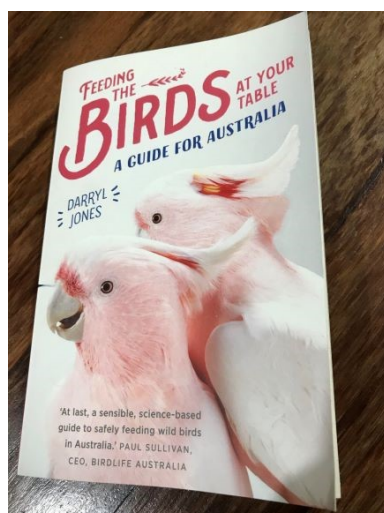
Allowing for the fact that about 10 or so of those readers fall into the HCCC committee category and probably shouldn't enter, from an ethical point of view, that still leaves several hundred people as possible entrants. So...what happened? Were the questions too hard, uninteresting, in need of doctorate research techniques? I'm not too sure, so I'll try again as you can see the delightful prize on offer pictured above. Let's just try 3 questions instead

1. For how many years has The Granite News been published?
2. How many editors has TGN had?
3. Name 3 feral animals that inhabit the local (HCCC) area?

Definitely not rocket science so good luck and please send your answers to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

Until next issue stay warm and safe, **Pauline**

**And Kenny?** Didn't deign to grace TGN last issue he ducked out to explore.



Hughes Creek  
Catchment  
Collaborative  
Landcare

Feedback? - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

or to subscribe on-line go to

[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

**'When you talk you are only repeating what you already know, but when you listen you may learn something new.'**

14th Dalai Lama (1935...)

**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

Quarantine day 58:  
I built myself a Doberman



## Nature is an inspiration to us all

The photographer, Judith, loves this tree and finds it inspirational, as although it was blown over some time previously but the tree has enough ground contact to continue to grow perpendicular branches!

Judith wonders if nature can possibly triumph over climate change, if climate change is causing the drought that has put the tree's stability at risk, with extreme wind & weather testing its foundations.

Go tree! **Ed.**



## Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
May	72 mm	70 mm
2020 Total	473 mm	592 mm
May 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	<b>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO</b> 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 	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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 	<b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b> 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 	<b>DRINKS ON THE TABLE</b> 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	<b>HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome. at ?????? Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> 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 	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> 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	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> 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	<b>QIGONG AT RUFFY</b> 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: <a href="mailto:vivienwatmough@gmail.com">vivienwatmough@gmail.com</a> at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<b>SWING DANCE CLASS</b> 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

### This week it's WINDOWS - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips

Windows are one of the most vulnerable points in our homes for heat loss and gain. In fact, a wall with zero insulation is far better in terms of retaining heat/cool air than a window. That's why it's important we treat windows properly.

#### Hang makeshift, heavy curtains in front of your window, such as an old blanket

Heavy curtains can significantly reduce the heat the loss/gain of windows. Makeshift curtains from hanging a blanket over the window can make a difference.

#### Double glaze your windows for free using bubble wrap and water, or ClearFilm

Have you got spare bubble wrap lying around? Spray a small amount of water and stick the bubble side to the glass. It's the same outcome as double glazing at no cost! Alternatively, install a clear, plastic film, called Clear Film, which has the same effect as double glazing for about \$30.

### 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](#).







## HCCC post isolation Meeting

The Queen's Birthday long weekend is almost here (6-8 June) and HCCC is aiming to have the first get together, post isolation, at Neil van Buuren's place. Actual meeting date is weather dependent, there is a bonfire, and as there are limits still in place for gatherings contact **Neil 0417 503472** in advance to let him know of your interest. **BYO chair too!**

## Also happening this weekend....

### Ruffy Store First Friday

Dining at Home with Takeaways and other essentials -

Local Wines, Higgins Bread, Avenel Sausages, Bacon and Avenel Mushrooms, etc., as well as Ruffy Pickles & Relish.

**Open from 4.30 – 7.30  
Friday 5th June**



## Professor David Lindenmayer AO

in YOUR lounge room

**Tuesday 23rd June @ 7pm**

For over 30 years Alexandra Library has been offering a monthly talk - the Tuesday Show. For readers unfamiliar with this community treat audiences have been informed and entertained by the most amazing selection of speakers down the years.

With the library closed for the last 2 months and with restrictions still in place for gatherings the Tuesday Show for June is going on-line via ZOOM and their first speaker is **Prof. David Lindenmayer** a world renowned academic and scientist who is an expert in landscape ecology, conservation and biodiversity.

**He will be presenting a session on forest ecology and management and protection.**

If you want to hear this excellent presentation you will need to **register via the Murrindindi Library Service's Facebook page** and put the date in your diary now.



Hayley helping her mum plant out some Landcare Trees.

Let's hear it for the next generation.

## Did you know ....?

As our power bills increase in size with monotonous regularity, there is a quiet power revolution happening in our country at present. There are over 100 micro-grid communities throughout Australia with 13 in the electorate of Indi alone, including Yackandandah (they hope to be totally renewable by 2022) and Euroa. Mooroopna has a solar farm with battery and Benalla has installed solar power in their kindergarten. The article below highlights the proposal for Yea introducing a Community Energy distribution scheme. Don't be put off by the Yea tag as it is possible that the scheme can incorporate the northern extremity of the Murrindindi Shire (Highlands, Caveat & Terip) too. If you are at all interested in connecting with the organisers of this project start with their FB page and stay tuned for further information.

## 2030 Yea Inc: Community Energy

2030 Yea Inc is now an incorporated association seeking grants and funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Yea. We want to work together with like-minded people/groups in Yea. Is this you?

### Our goals

#### 1. Ensure Yea has totally renewable energy sources by 2030

We will encourage the purchase of solar PV and bulk buy opportunities for buying heat pumps and other energy efficient devices. We will plan for a community-scale solar battery. The Australian Photovoltaic Institute shows incidence of solar in each postcode in Victoria. For 3717, (Flowerdale, Ghin Ghin, Glenburn, Homewood, Killingworth, Limestone, Murrindindi, Yea), 32.6 % of dwellings already have Solar PV installations. We are well on the way!

#### 2. Build a Yea microgrid, a form of distributed energy (DER)

Microgrids are formed by sharing energy generated by solar panels between neighbours, even those without their own panels. Electricity use (solar system and battery), is monitored by a common microgrid operator : sending fast, accurate information to watch energy flow in real time. The microgrid operator shares (buys and sells) the available power between the consumers and only purchases from the grid when required.

[https:// www.energy.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0031/464728/Roadmap-Hume.pdf](https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/464728/Roadmap-Hume.pdf).

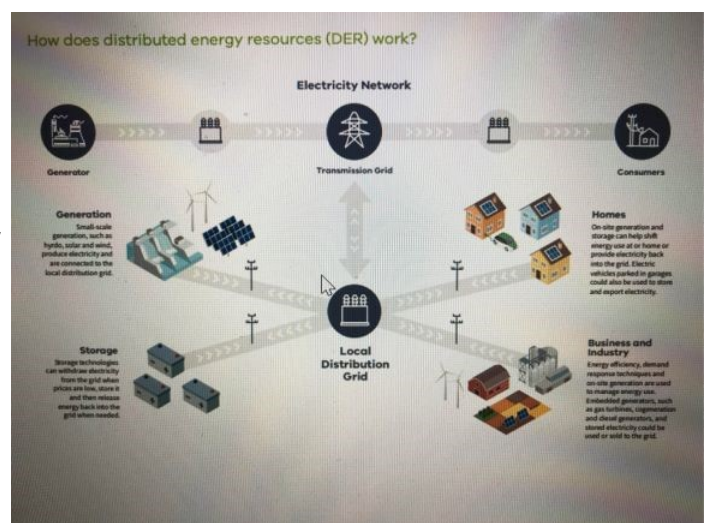
#### 3. Increase energy efficiency in Yea

This may involve retrofitting energy efficiency measures in older buildings (lights, insulation, gap stopping, new appliances), along with home energy assessments.

#### 4. Community Engagement for energy efficiency in Yea

Visit 2030Yea FB site to see us at work. We will use short Vox Pop grabs with locals who have existing residential or commercial buildings with solar PV; provide Virtual Sustainability tours in local residential and commercial buildings, and tips on retrofitting for & by Yea locals. We also want to work beside Yea community groups, including arts, sports & environment groups in community engagement about energy efficiency in Yea.

### Will you join us in this new venture?





## Tiger Snake – (*Notechis Scutatus*)

Tiger Snakes are named after their tiger like stripes. However, some Tiger Snakes do not have any stripes at all. Tiger Snakes are one of the most venomous snakes in the world. Their fangs are usually 3.5 – 5 mm in length. They can move through water with ease. When they feel threatened, they raise themselves off the ground and flatten their heads and neck, almost like a cobra.

Tiger Snakes are thick-bodied solid snakes; they are usually around 1 m long but may grow up to 1.5 m. Their head is slightly wider and distinct from their neck. Tiger Snakes main body colour ranges from grey-brown to black. However, their body colouration cannot be used as a sole method of identification, as there are many variations. Tiger Snakes are often marked by a series of dark brown and yellow-brown bands, but they may or may not be present. Their underbelly is generally lighter than the main body and un-banded.

A Tiger Snake's diet comprises of a wide range of food sources. They primarily eat frogs, but they also consume other reptiles, birds, small mammals and fish. Powerful chemicals in their venom help break down prey in their stomach. Warmth from the sun also aids in digestion of food.

Tiger Snakes can be found in a range of habitats. They are most often seen near creeks, rivers or swamps. Tiger Snakes are normally a ground-dwelling snake, but they have been recorded climbing small trees and shrubs. Tiger Snakes cannot maintain a constant body temperature without help from their environment. This means that they use the sun's warmth to raise their body temperature. Tiger Snakes are active during the day and also during the night in warmer weather. Tiger Snakes spend the cooler months sheltering in hollow logs, rodent burrows or other suitable sites.

Tiger Snake mating occurs throughout the summer and reaches a peak in late January and February. Females give birth to live young, usually to a litter of between 15-20 snakes, in late summer or early autumn. Tiger Snakes are around 10 cm long when born & female Tiger Snakes provide no maternal care to their young once they are born. In ideal conditions, females reproduce every second year.

Snakes are an important part of the ecosystem; they act as predators, reducing populations of overabundant pest species such as rats and mice. Snakes normally avoid people, but if they feel threatened, disturbed or surprised, they may attack. If provoked or cornered, Tiger Snakes may bite. All Tiger Snakes should be regarded as highly venomous and dangerous to humans.

**Do not attempt to kill a snake; it is illegal and you are more likely to get hurt.**



With thanks to [www.wildlife.vic.gov.au](http://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au) for the text and Philip Glowacki for the photo.

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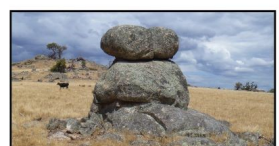
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