



THE GRANITE NEWS

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another Queen's Birthday weekend is almost over and for the first time since 1972 the Scout Association's **Mudbash** gathering has been a non-event. Held at Mafeking Park at Caveat for over 20 years the immediate neighbours will have been without the sounds and traffic that are a feature of this iconic Rover Scout weekend.

However, Covid-19 restrictions notwithstanding, the event has been re-scheduled for **24th—27th September** so it should now be happening in spring. That will make it a bit warmer for the Highlands-Caveat CFA to do a spot of fundraising. Until next issue stay warm and safe, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was looking forward to a cuppa with the Terip coffee crowd.

Good friends come in all sizes - Kozmo & Pixi

Our dogs can only be described as the complete opposites of one another.

Andrea inherited **Pixi (Jack Russell X)** from her mum and she has gone from an overweight city dog to a trim adventurous Highlander. She has acclimatised really well to a completely new lifestyle and proudly raids the neighbours for extra pats and treats. Pixi weighs in at a petite 4.5kg.

Alex's dog Kozmo (AKA Stilts) is a 65kg Macedonian Mountain Dog X. Like many of the mastiff breeds he looks and sounds intimidating but is really a gentle giant. Unless of course he sits on you. Yes - he thinks all too often that he is a lap dog.

During a recent holiday at Apollo Bay, people laughed out loud at seeing such a mixed pair of dogs out and about. The dogs did become local celebrities for a few days which led to a lot of amused banter and many overseas visitors

taking nervous video footage patting Koz for their home audience. The question most people asked was, "Is the little one the appetizer or the dessert?" Interestingly, his feet are webbed. This makes him a good swimmer and, despite his weight, he easily ran along the beaches instead of sinking down into the sand. Pixi did put in a good swimming effort, but she felt the cold and stayed high and dry most of the time. It is a dog's life and both of them enjoyed their beach break.

So, out of these dogs, who do you think is the boss? Many will have already guessed it's Pixi. Most of the time...

Andrea Whitaker & Alex Bauer



Hughes Creek
Catchment
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Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

'In the race of life, always back self-interest - at least you know it's trying.'

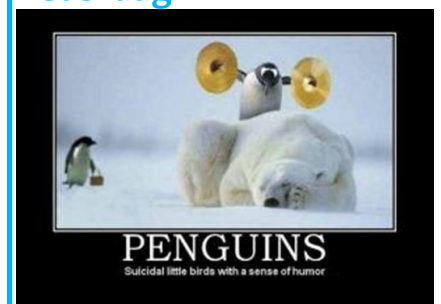
Paul Keating

24th Prime Minister of Australia

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



Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Website of the Week

See p. 3 for further information about the importance of the **Bogong Moth Tracker** and why your interest/assistance is needed

<https://www.swifft.net.au/mothtracker>

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 catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who enjoy a good drink. 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 0428 969366 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

Install LED Lights - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips

Lighting accounts for approximately 8-15% of total energy use in the Australian home, depending on the lighting technology and household behaviour. Traditional incandescent lighting (the old, glass-cased ones with the squiggly wire inside), including halogen lights, use 98% of their energy in producing heat. They are very inefficient.

LED lights are considered a revolution in the lighting industry and are generally a superior lighting option. Since they produce little heat and convert almost all of their energy into light, they don't pose the same safety and inefficiency problems associated with halogen lights.

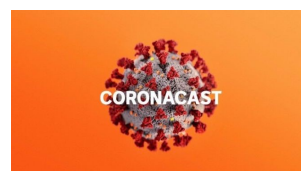
The other benefits of LED lights include that they: * last much longer * can look more appealing * eliminate start-up delay and flicker * are often able to be dimmed * keep mercury out of landfill * don't emit UV radiation.

Light replacements must be done by a qualified electrician. Try to find one who also understands the importance of insulation. You don't want your sparky ruining your ceiling insulation inadvertently while adjusting wires.

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**KINGLAKE MEMORIAL RESERVE
HAVE YOUR SAY**

Council has been working with current user groups and masterplan consultants to create some preliminary ideas for the future of the Kinglake Memorial Reserve.

These initial ideas are now available for feedback on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects

Feedback can be submitted via an online survey on our website until 17 June. Your input will help us create a draft masterplan.

murrindindi.vic.gov.au
 Phone: 5772 0333

Did you know?

The **Australian Citizen Science Project Finder** is the place to find and connect with all sorts of Citizen Science Projects around Australia. Interested? Use this URL to discover more.

<https://citizenscience.org.au/ala-project-finder/>

Bogong Moth Tracker

The Bogong Moth is known as a significant food source for ancient aboriginal tribes traveling to alpine areas during summer. The Bogong Moth is also the primary food source for the endangered Mountain Pygmy-Possum during its breeding season. But in the spring of 2017, moth numbers crashed from around 8.8 billion in alpine areas to just a few individuals. This was observed again the following year.

The failure of these moths to arrive in the highlands is very likely the cause of the poor survival rate of pouch young for the Victorian populations of Mountain Pygmy-Possum over those two summers. The likely cause of this decline in Bogong Moth numbers is a lack of rainfall due to winter drought and the effects of climate change impacting breeding grounds.

Released in mid-September 2019, Moth Tracker allows anyone, anywhere to geo-locate, photograph and log their moth sighting on any internet enabled device. The information gathered will provide open source data to the scientific community about Bogong Moth numbers, locations and migration timing. This will assist with bridging knowledge gaps and alerting the Mountain Pygmy-Possum Recovery Team to early warning of possible failed migration in 2019-20 & in future years.

To be part of the Moth Tracker project, see p.1 for TGN's Website of the Week.

One key difference between Bogong Moths (*Agrotis infusa*) and many other moths is a distinctive tripe that runs down each wing. You will also see a spot at the top of the stripe that is shaped like a circle. The spot at the bottom of the stripe is shaped like a kidney. Both dots are the same colour.



Bogong Moths have been migrating to alpine Australia for over 7,000 years.

About 4.4 billion moths participate in this migration but in the last 2 years the insects have all but disappeared.

The moths provide a vital food source for the Mountain Pygmy-Possum, which have dropped in numbers to about 2,000 since the Bogong Moth decline.

From 'Land for Wildlife' Dec. 2019 Newsletter.

It's on again!

HCCC News

Fox on the Run

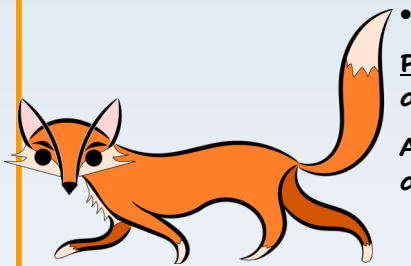
Advice from members indicates that fox numbers in the catchment are increasing, and the committee has decided to bring back the Fox on the Run initiative.

As in past years, the bounty will be \$3.00 per tail and \$250.00 to the winning team or individual.

Only registered participants can claim the bounty and prize.

How to enter:

- Your can enter as an individual or a team
- Send an email with your contact details to Neil van Buuren at hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.
- Competition runs from June until the end of July 2020.



Please note: All participants must be licenced shooters under the rules and regulation set out by the Victorian Government.

All shooters are reminded that care should be taken to avoid the accidental harming of farm stock, native animals and domestic pets.

By registering, participants agree that the members and committee of HCCC cannot be held responsible for the actions of the participants.

Fox on the run

Time to think about Paterson's Curse

With the very dry summer and wet winter its anticipated that we could have a large increase in weed infestation from Paterson's Curse

HCCC is now looking for expressions of interest from all landowners to join in with the Landcare group in its annual helicopter spraying for Paterson's Curse.

The spraying will take place in August - September.

Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, to a maximum of 3 loads.

This year we will be using a larger Helicopter the Load price is \$1450.00 plus GST. Covers 26 Ha per load as opposed to 16 Ha last year.

Contact Neil van Buuren to book your property for this very important community event and help us to control the spread of this noxious weed.

Please contact me ASAP so that we can pre-order the chemicals, last year all local suppliers rang out of chemicals early.

Phone: 0417 503 472 or 03 5796 9111

Email hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au



Rabbit ripping

Subsidies are now available through HCCC Landcare group for Rabbit Ripping.
(Conditions Apply)

Please email Neil van Buuren

hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au



Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*)

Swamp wallabies are fairly common throughout Eastern Australia and like all other varieties of wallaby are built for comfort, not for speed. Compared to kangaroos wallabies are dumpier and do not have the turn of speed that kangaroos do which is why you will never find a wallaby lying horizontal on the ground! Instead their preferred resting position is leaning back onto their thickset, longer tail and then falling forward into the take-off position whenever danger threatens.

Swamp wallabies are small and stocky with dark brown fur, often with lighter rusty patches on the belly, chest and base of ears. They are also known as a Black Wallaby.

A swamp wallaby's gait is different to other wallabies, holding its head low with its tail straight out behind and it is this difference, amongst others – teeth, reproductive behaviour and chromosome numbers - that means the Swamp Wallaby is classified as the only living member of the genus *Wallabia*.

Their preferred habitat is thick forest undergrowth, sandstone heath or swampy areas but they can adapt to living in other conditions. They are strictly herbivores and feed on a variety of plants including introduced and native shrubs, grasses and ferns. They will also eat bracken fern, which can be poisonous to other species eg: cattle.

Like many marsupials female swamp wallabies can suckle two joeys of different ages. The pouch life of each joey is 8-9 months although they can continue to suckle until 15 months of age. Breeding occurs throughout the year.

Although they are active during the day they are usually shy and solitary.



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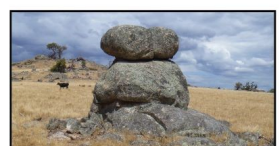
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