



THE GRANITE NEWS

14TH JUNE 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 20

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

With various aspects of our lives BC, Before Covid, now starting to return to something like normal, for those readers who are self-employed and trying to either kick-start businesses again or generate more jobs, have you ever considered advertising in The Granite News?

For an incredibly reasonable \$250 annual fee, or as the end of the financial year approaches \$125 pro rata, this is a very cost effective way to advertise your business to a wider audience. Currently there are over 700 readers of this great little newsletter so that's a rather impressive captive audience to advertise your talents, wares, or services to. At present there is one space available for a new business, with the possibility of more to come so if you are at all interested please email me at editor@tgn.org.au for more details.

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

And Kenny? Was keeping an eye on all things HCCC including foxes, weeds & rabbits!

>>>My regular early morning visitor outside the bedroom window. One seriously chilled little chappy.



HCCC News

How do you manage weeds & pests?

The Weeds and Rabbits Project at Agriculture Victoria is seeking support from private and public land managers to help combat pests and weeds which cost Victoria more than \$1 billion a year.

Landowner and land managers are being invited to take part in a [state-wide survey](#) about how they manage weeds and rabbits on their property.

The results will provide a better understanding of the barriers people face with implementing weed and rabbit management practices.

Agriculture Victoria is the lead agency in the delivery of programs to combat established invasive species, which is underpinned by the Commonwealth Government-funded Weeds and Rabbits Project.

Complete the survey at weedsandrabbits.com/survey/

The survey opens Tuesday 26 May and closes Wednesday 24 June.

E: pestanimalsandweeds@ecodev.vic.gov.au

W: www.weedsandrabbits.com

Neil van Buuren - HCCC Facilitator



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"I can't wait to walk down the aisle someday ... and hear those magical words ... "This is your pilot speaking."

One of the many Covid-19 quotes that looks forward to the future.

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

**Try to remember,
the greener grass
across the fence
may be due to a
septic tank issue.**

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Website of the Week

Echidnas have been around for millennia and they swim too!
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/viral/echidna-enjoys-rolling-in-waves-at-australias-kingscliff-beach/vp-BB14oF7H>

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 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 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

Consider Reverse Cycle Air-Conditioners - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips

Replace inefficient heating and cooling units with reverse-cycle air conditioning. Heating and cooling of space in our homes accounts for around 40 per cent of all household energy use in Australia.

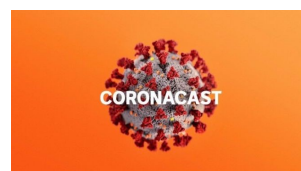
In Victoria, where heating needs are higher, heating and cooling requirements rise to almost 60 percent of our energy requirements. While upgrading our heating and cooling appliances is a big job, the benefits in terms of reducing energy use and saving on your bills are substantial.

In general, reverse cycle air conditioners (RCACs) are one of the most effective and efficient ways of heating or cooling spaces in a home. RCACs use heat pump technology, which involves circulating air between the outside and inside of the home. The benefit of this is that the unit is using the temperature of the existing air to produce heating/cooling, which is an efficient way of using energy. RCACs can use up to 90 per cent less energy than a ducted heating system. In many cases, replacing an older heating or cooling system with a new, highly-efficient RCAC can be one of the most significant improvements you can to your home in terms of energy savings.

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.

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Murrindindi Shire Council
dindidirectory.com.au #supportlocal

Too much TV whilst homeschooling?

Feeling guilty about your kids watching too much TV? Just mute it and put the subtitles on.

BOOM

Now they're reading!



TENDER - PANEL OF SUPPLIERS

Are you a painter, plumber, electrician, glazier, flooring installer or window cleaner? Council is establishing a panel of suppliers to provide maintenance, programmed works, emergency works and capital works within Murrindindi Shire. The current panel contract expires in November 2020. We are committed to supporting local suppliers and encourage suitably-qualified contractors to submit a tender bid.

The specification and tender documents can be downloaded from our e-tender portal at www.tendersearch.com.au/murrindindi. Tender responses must be lodged through the e-tendering portal by 3.00 pm on Monday 13 July.

murrindindi.vic.gov.au
Phone: 5772 0333

Another one of nature's survivors

Following on from the photo of the inspirational arched tree a couple of issues back here's another tree that is not only surviving, but flourishing. About 2 years ago this tree blew over (see root system at bottom corner) but instead of dying it sent up many vertical shoots and is now a mini copse of its own making, adapting to its environment.



A Date for your Diary

Thursday 18th June

10am-noon

Tablelands Community Centre

Longwood Ruffy Rd Upgrade

If you are interested in discussing the delay of the Longwood-Ruffy Rd upgrade come along to this meeting.

In order to meet social distancing restrictions RSVPs are essential ring **0438 670762** or email communications@strathbogie.vic.gov.au



JOIN US FOR AN ONLINE WEBINAR WITH PROF. DAVID LINDENMAYER

The Murrindindi Library Service is hosting a webinar with internationally-recognised ecologist, conservation biologist and author, Professor David Lindenmayer. The webinar will be held from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Tuesday 23 June.

David is a Research Professor at The Australian National University and he is an expert in landscape ecology, conservation and biodiversity. During the webinar, David will discuss what we need to know and what we need to do, to have an impact on the future of our forests and natural landscape. The session summarises David's 37 years of insights into the ecology and management of wet forests in the Yarra Valley, including research on the effects of wildfires on forests and biodiversity.

If you would like to attend the webinar, please register your details at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/webinar and we will email you some further details.



www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au
Phone: 5772 0333

It's on again!

HCCC News

Fox on the Run

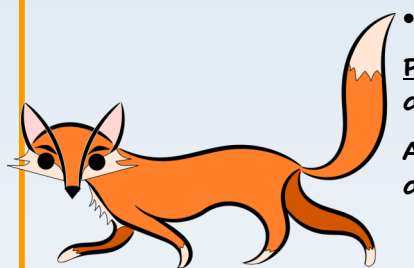
Advice from members indicates that fox numbers in the catchment are increasing, and the committee has decided to bring back the Fox on the Run initiative.

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



Working together to keep the fruit flies at bay

As the days grow shorter and colder the threat of fruit flies infesting our fruiting produce feels like it should have passed, but 2020 is the year for throwing us curveballs in every incarnation. Evidence of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) across Victoria is still being picked up in quinces, apples and now moving into citrus.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) and Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) organised a collaborative chat with representatives from many different regions on how to best manage the arrival of this destructive pest to our Shire, via a Zoom meeting on June 4th.

The current measures being taken in Murrindindi Shire are in the form of the UGLN's Monitoring Program with over 200 traps distributed on private land across the Shire. The collaborative chat was the first step in joining forces with other areas to increase the chances of securing funding for more effective control measures.



Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Resources, has stated, **“That 80 regional jobs, benefitting the agricultural industry, would be created. Funded projects include fruit fly control measures in the Goulburn Broken CMA which will target the removal of wild fruit trees from public land”**.

This has proved to be a successful population control measure taken by the Goulburn Murray Valley.

Regional Fruit Fly Coordinator Ross Abberfield said, “We have removed in excess of 90,000 unmanaged host trees and plants and that extends across urban, residential and public land including nature strips, reserves, roadsides and unmanaged orchards. That’s a huge habitat reduction of where QFF can breed”.

Another common stumbling-block faced by the representatives was creating awareness across their respective regions. “We’ve had a reluctance to accept the risk by some people, that’s been a really taxing and time-consuming part of our journey, to convince our residents and our growers that QFF is a risk, it could be here, and you need to do something about it.” Bronwyn Koll, Yarra Valley Fruit Fly Coordinator said.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Facilitator, Cat Thomas said “We need to raise the awareness throughout our community, get our local nurseries, hardware stores and community gardens on board to advocate the importance of this threat. The backyard effort needs to be community driven, with traps, netting and good garden hygiene, but we also need bigger, shire-wide wide approach, removing the thousands of prunus trees that enable the pest to breed and move freely”.

Residents of Murrindindi Shire are encouraged to contact **UGLN on 5797 4405** if they find evidence of fruit fly infestation on their property or if they would like further information regarding Queensland Fruit Fly.

Unfortunately the visible presence of the fly decreases over winter as they protect themselves from the cold, so you can check your traps fortnightly, but come Springtime the baits need to be replaced and the traps checked at least weekly, if not every couple of days.

UGLN has free monitoring traps available to willing participants as well as replacement baits for the current monitoring participants.

Cat Thomas - Facilitator UGLN

For more information on QFF control, collect an information pack from your Council's Customer Service Centre.

Funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program

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 www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au

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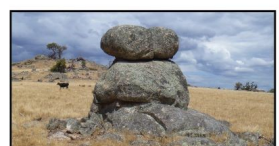
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