



THE GRANITE NEWS

21ST JUNE 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 21

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Sadly no responses to John's question in the last TGN about how such a small and delicate fungi can force itself through dense, dry clay let alone what variety of fungi was featured. If you know the answer to either question please feel free to email me & I can share the knowledge around.

Don't forget that for an incredibly reasonable \$250 annual fee, or as the end of the financial year approaches \$125 pro rata, you can advertise your business to a wider audience via The Granite News. 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 getting up close and personal with that small red fungi.

RETIREMENT NOTICE

Jan and John are announcing our retirement from being caretakers of the Caveat Church, as of 20th June, after happily doing it for 33 years. We are no longer able to perform our 'duties'. Our "old bodies" are complaining too much.

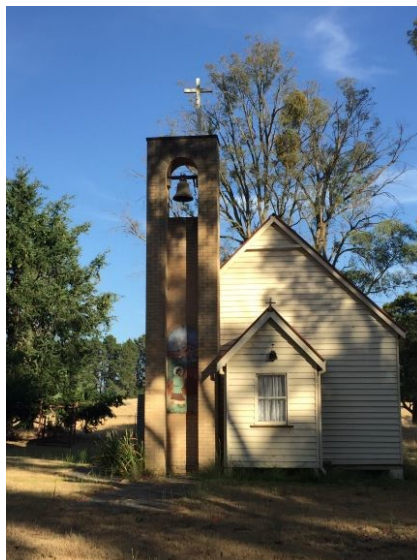
We have seen a lot of changes over the years, mostly good, and have made many friends. The spinning group is still here, and a great time to get-together for a chat and a cuppa or two. It's a very enjoyable day and will start up again as soon as possible.

We have lovely neighbours, 'new' and 'old', who have been wonderful during this time of 'detention'. (Shopping, dropping off cut and split firewood.) We are still hoping to enjoy our lives up here in this beautiful part of Victoria for many years to come. As my 91 year old Uncle says, "He is not ready to drop off the perch". Neither are we.....

We clearly remember the 'old Ghin Ghin' road, and our unmade dusty road. At least we did not see a lot of traffic. That changed when it was sealed. At least the dust has abated. The bird-life here live a charmed life – they enjoy their tucker and some of them eat out of our hand. The only problem is that they like to chew my roses, and take their share of our fruit. Oh, well, life is meant to be shared around.

We wish the incoming caretakers all the best.

Thanking you all,
Jan and John Sporry



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

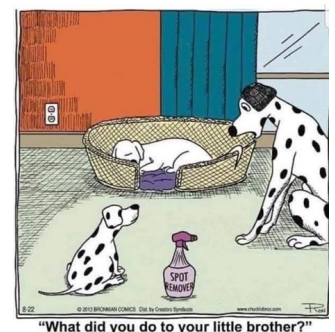
"We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us. What befalls the earth, befalls the children of the earth."

Chief Seattle 1852.

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

Take a spare 20 minutes to record any birds in your backyard for the **Winter Backyard Birdcount**. It's easy to do, details on p.3 or hop onto the website below for more information.

www.birdsinbackyards.net

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 enjoy a 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 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

Hot water options - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips

Install a heat pump hot water unit

According to the Australian Government, "heating water accounts for 21% of the energy used in the average Australian home."

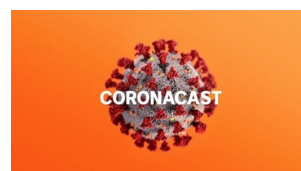
Heat pumps are a highly efficient way to heat water, as they use similar reverse cycle technology discussed under 'heating/cooling'. While solar hot water units are also a good option, if your solar hot water heat pump is powered by solar panels on your roof, the latter is the superior option.



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](#).





Murrindindi
Shire Council

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.

YEE HA! Just what we've been waiting for...

Subject to the Covid-19 restrictions in place on the proposed date, the **Highlands Hall Committee** has decided to resume **"Drinks-on-the-Deck"** commencing on the evening of **Friday 10th July at 6.30pm.**

Put the date in your diary now and stay tuned for further details.



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Winter Backyard Bird Count...time to twitch.

Take a few spare minutes to record the birds you see at home. Not too sure what sort of birds they are? Go to 'Bird Finder' on the website, see p.1 & download the 'Bird Data' app. & the FREE 'Aussie Bird Count' app. to assist you with twitching.

FOR SALE

BERNINA 820



On behalf of one of our most loved members, Yea Yakkers would like to offer For Sale, our Annie's favourite machine "Big Bertha", a Bernina 820. She comes complete with all accessories, including an encyclopaedic selection of feet, a SewEzi collapsible table and fold-away trolley. Tim from Chandler's Cottage has just completed a full service of this machine and Annie created several award-winning quilts with it.

AT JUST \$2,500
THIS OUTFIT IS EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Please contact Pauline if you are interested
0427 529 551

Thinking about fencing...?

Fences serve many functions for land managers, They are used as a barrier to the movement of animals. They can be an effective barrier to livestock and may also be a barrier to the movement of other animals including vermin and wildlife. Fences are a basic tool in the effective management of a property. Fences help to prevent erosion, allow controlled use of different land systems, protect vegetation used to shelter livestock, reduce the risk of livestock death in dangerous areas and reduce the time spent on transfer of stock around a property.

Reprinted from Land for Wildlife Dec. 2019



HELP US UNDERSTAND HOW COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSION

Council wants to understand how the community has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and is calling on community members and community groups to be involved in an online discussion at 7pm on Thursday 25 June.

The purpose of the online meeting is for community members to tell us about the impacts of COVID-19 and how Council can best support community recovery.

Your input will help us shape a COVID-19 Community Transition Plan, which will guide us in the delivery of a number of initiatives to support relief and recovery activities.

Registration is essential. To register, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityconsultation or give us a call on 5772 0333.



Platypus – (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) or Budja in Taungurung

The Platypus is unique and along with echidnas, are grouped in a separate order of mammals known as monotremes, because they lay eggs, but suckle their young. When first discovered many European naturalists & scientists believed that the animal was a fake.

A platypus is well adapted for a semi-aquatic lifestyle. Its streamline body and a broad, flat tail are covered with dense waterproof fur, which provides excellent thermal insulation. The Platypus propels itself through the water by using its front, short, webbed limbs, and the partially-webbed hind feet act as rudders. Behind its distinctive bill are the grooves that house the ear openings and the eyes which close when the animal dives. The Platypus uses its tail for storage of fat reserves and the strong claws on its feet for burrowing and moving on land. In addition, males possess a horny spur on their ankles, which is connected to a venom gland in the upper leg, making the Platypus one of the few venomous mammals.

They occur in freshwater systems from tropical rainforest lowlands and plateaus of far northern Queensland to cold, high altitudes of Tasmania and the Australian Alps. When not foraging for food, the Platypus spends most of the time in its burrow in the bank of the river, creek or a pond.

Platypuses are active all year round and when foraging the animal closes their eyes, ears and nostrils as its primary sense organ is the bill, which is equipped with receptors sensitive to pressure, and with electro-receptors. The Platypus stays underwater for between 30-140 seconds, collecting the invertebrates from the river bottom and storing them in its cheek-pouches. It then chews the food using its horny, grinding plates, while it floats and rests on the water surface.

When swimming, the Platypus presents a low profile, with three small humps (the head, back and tail) visible above the water surface. The swimming action is smooth, & when the Platypus dives the back is arched as the animal plunges underwater, creating a spreading ring. These characteristics coupled with the absence of visible ears distinguish the Platypus from the Rakali with its dog-paddling style.

Many females do not breed until they are at least 4 years old. After mating, a female will lay 1-3 eggs (usually 2) following a 21-day gestation period. The eggs are incubated for possibly 10 days, and during this time the female uses her tail to hold the eggs pressed to her belly while curled up. After hatching the young suckle for 3-4 months. Platypuses are long-lived animals both in captivity and in the wild, living up to approximately 20 years.

The Platypus is protected by legislation in all of the states that it occurs in (all states but SA and WA). Individuals cannot be captured or killed, except for scientific research.

Text courtesy of the Australian Museum



It's on again!

HCCC News

Fox on the Run

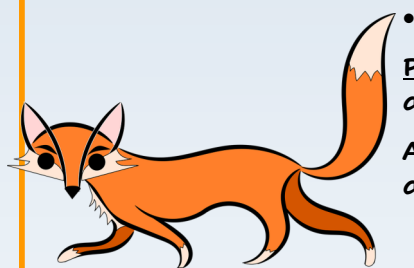
Advice from members indicates that fox numbers in the catchment are increasing, and the committee has decided to bring back the Fox on the Run initiative.

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



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