



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Sadly Australia has a pretty poor attrition rate when it comes to extinction of species, first in the world over the last 230 years, is not a blue ribbon to be proud of. So many animals have been hunted to the brink and beyond during that time, Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) topping the list, along with another 26 mammals who have lost habitat or been killed by introduced species to the point of extinction. Then there's the birds, reptiles and insects that no longer call Australia home as well so the list goes on.

As a direct result of the disastrous bushfires this summer it is estimated that 1 billion of our unique wildlife creatures have been killed. With the latest fires heading for Canberra's southern suburbs the staff at the 54.5 sq km Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve succeeded in catching 90% of the native wildlife that live in the reserve.

These animals have been temporarily relocated to places like Canberra and Taronga Zoos in an effort to stem the carnage that has affected so many of their friends elsewhere. An amazing undertaking and one that the rangers should be applauded for. Let's hope that this precaution is just that and that the animals can be returned to the reserve with their homes and food supplies still intact.

As a nation it's heartening to see how we respond when extenuating circumstances call for care and compassion. Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was supporting the CFA fires & flags on the Ghin Ghin cutting



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

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm."
Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)
American philosopher & poet

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**

Do you have a marvellous mutt, a fantastic fido or a delightful dog?

In 2020 I would like to run a monthly feature highlighting everyone's Best Friend - dogs! If you have a dog that you think is worthy of 100-150 words, along with a photo, please send both to editor@tgn.org.au for possible inclusion. It doesn't matter what breed, how big or small, working dog or lap cuddler they all have their own stories, so why not share them around. Ed.

Important Message from Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

It's summer and it's time to think about Blackberries.

Please help us to get rid of this noxious weed !

HCCC is again subsidising the costs for chemicals for Blackberry spraying. Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, and wetting agent.

Please contact Neil van Buuren with your requirements ASAP, once we have final quantities HCCC will negotiate a price for the chemicals from a local supplier.

This subsidy is for all properties in the Hughes Creek Catchment which covers Whiteheads Creek, Highlands, Caveat, Terip, Ruffy and Tarcombe

HCCC also have a range for sprayers and can be hired for a small donation to Landcare. (This helps pay for the maintenance of the units)

Contact Neil van Buuren for information **0417 503 472** or **03 5796 9111**

Email hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com **NB: Note NEW email address!**







Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia due to its invasiveness, potential for spread, & economic and environmental impacts. **Blackberry is a designated noxious weed and landowners are required to control it!**



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
January	68.4 mm	44.95 mm
2020 Total	68.4 mm	44.95 mm
January Rain Days	8 Days	9 Days

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — February & March

 Friday 7th February @ 6pm	<i>WETLANDS the Story behind the Trillion \$ Price Tag</i> @ Y Water Discovery Centre, Yea This is the third evening in the YWDC's Speaker Series and keynote speaker Pam Beattie will be talking about the importance of wetlands and why, in 1997, the United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment valued the importance of Wetlands worldwide as worth US\$15 trillion. Enquiries? 57972663
 Monday 10th February @ 11am	<i>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</i> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am & with the same good company! BYO lunch & great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
 Friday 13th February @ 6.30pm	<i>DRINKS ON THE DECK</i> at Highlands Community Hall Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. 57969247 & Contact Judy
 Saturday 22nd February @ 8pm	<i>RUFFARTZ is back in 2020 with ROYAL HI JINX</i> at Ruffy Public Hall Season tickets are now available from the ticket secretary Kelly Molloy on 0407 017090 or at ruffartztickets@gmail.com For further details see next week's TGN.
Thursday 27th February @ 5.30pm	<i>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</i> at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March 10-4	<i>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO</i> 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands 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.
Saturday 7th March 10.30 for 11am start	<i>WILDERNESS .v. RICHMOND UNION over 60s Cricket Match</i> at Ruffy Rec Reserve It's BACK!! The cricket game to end all cricket games is on again. See p.4 for all the details & be there!
 Friday 13th March @ 6.30pm	<i>DRINKS ON THE DECK</i> at Highlands Community Hall Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
 Saturday 14th March @ 6pm	<i>CASSEROLE DINNER Fundraising for Gobur Grave Restorations</i> at Ruffy Hall Come along and support this great cause. \$25 per head with kids under 12 Free! BYO Drinks. Enquiries? Geoff 57904282 or Millie 57734287
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March 10-4	<i>UGLN FARM CHEMICAL USERS COURSE</i> at Taggerty Hub Subsidised course for safe use of farm chemicals for the eradication of pest plants & animals. See p.4.
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	<i>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</i> at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? Term 1 dates for 2020 - Feb. 12th & 26th, March 11th & 25th and April 8th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	<i>QIGONG AT RUFFY</i> at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 57953349 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<i>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</i> at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

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66 High Street, Yea VIC 3717 | 5797 2188 | Find us on Facebook

Euroa Little Theatre - Skills Workshop

Do you want to learn some new skills and meet other local theatre folk? Come along to our workshops. Each workshop will focus on a different topic eg: Character, Story, Sound & Props and look at skills relevant to both on stage and backstage.

Where? Strathbogie Council Meeting Rooms, Euroa

When? Sunday 23rd Feb
Sunday 1st March
Sunday 8th March
Sunday 15th March



What time? All sessions are from 2-4pm

What ages? 8 - 100!

Whatz it cost? FREE!!

Want to know more? Ally 0414 377398 or Mary 5795 2545 or euroalittletheatre@gmail.com or

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Some interesting Summer 2019/2020 facts

>> 17th Dec. 2019 = 40.9 degrees = set the NEW National Average Temperature Record.



>> 18th Dec. 2019 = 41.9 degrees breaks the previous day's record!!

>> 20th Dec. 2019 the hottest day on record in Victoria!

>> 2019 the driest start to the monsoon in the Northern Territory since 1977.

>> March 2019 was the hottest since weather records began in 1910. So summer still has a long way to go.

Stop Press...

Hi Pauline,
Keryn and I live in Hewletts Road, and like all in the district our grid power went out when the storm hit on Saturday afternoon at about 5pm.
It was very squally and very wet for 10 minutes.
We were amazed when we left this evening to see the amount of damage at the western end of Hewletts Road and Dropmore Road near Caveat Church.
The only thing that could do that amount of damage would be a tornado in my view.
Did anyone see it?
Regards
John R. Wise



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2020 Speaker Series

CONNECTING, ENGAGING
AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
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Session #3 Wetlands – the story behind the trillion-dollar price tag

Friday 7 February 2020, 6pm - 8pm
Y Water Discovery Centre, 2 Hood Street, Yea

In 1997, the United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment valued the economic importance of wetlands worldwide at up to US\$15 trillion. Pam Beattie is a natural resource manager currently with the environmental water team at Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. In this session she'll uncover some of the reasons why wetlands are so valuable, with a focus on biodiversity and current examples of the efforts of wetland managers in Victoria to keep these precious systems healthy.



Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BEPDN
or call 03 5797 2663

Light refreshments served. \$5 donation appreciated



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www.ywatercentre.com.au
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Pioneer Grave Restorations

Gobur Cemetery

BYO DRINKS

Casserole Dinner

GREAT CAUSE

Saturday, 14 March 2020

Ruffy Hall 6 pm

Under 12 Free! *It's On Again!* \$25.00 pp

Geoff Penny
57904282
M. IRE CUMMINGS
57734287

Fire awareness for all



Weekend project #1 - Remove some garden beds next to the older house. This is particularly true for garden beds near timber-framed windows and doors. For timber and fibro homes, garden beds adjacent to the house should be avoided entirely. At the very least prune dense bushes, close to timber framed windows, back hard.



* Reprinted from *The Conversation*, by Douglas Brown from Western Sydney Uni.

FARM CHEMICAL USERS & 1080 ENDORSEMENT COURSE

The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) is running a subsidised, three day course for landowners who wish to learn about the safe use of pest plant and animal control chemicals on their land.

The course will qualify attendees for the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) (2 day component) and/or the 1080 endorsement (1 day component)

ACUP course

DATE: Saturday 14th March & Sunday 15th March 2020 **NB: NEW Date!!**

TIME: 9am- 4pm

WHERE: Taggerty Community Hub (formerly Taggerty Primary School)

19 Taggerty- Thornton Rd, Taggerty

Refreshments and light lunch provided

1080 endorsement

DATE: Sunday 29th March 2020

TIME: 9am- 3pm

WHERE: Yea CMA Meeting Room (opposite Yea Foodworks)

Tea, coffee and light refreshments provided, please bring your own lunch

\$30 for Landcare Members

\$75 for non- Landcare Members (combined course cost usually \$600+)

Contact: Cat Thomas- Landcare Facilitator 0418 655 474

or email uglandcare@ugln.net



New Times for Maternal Child Health Open Sessions

From January 2020 the regular open sessions will be primarily for short consults (15mins) to undertake general weighing, feeding and growth reviews. For all other visits a booked appointment should be made to ensure adequate time is allocated for the consult. The new times are as follows:



Euroa M&CH Centre

2 Bury Street, Euroa 3666

Mondays

Appointments Available: am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

Nagambie M&CH Centre

Nagambie Preschool, 16 Vale Street, Nagambie 3608

Tuesdays

Appointments Available : am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

Avenel M&CH Centre

Avenel Preschool, 31 Watson Street, Avenel

Wednesdays

Appointments Available: am/pm Open session: 9.30 – 11.00am

Violet Town M&CH Centre

Violet Town Preschool, Hyacinth Street, Violet Town

Thursdays

Appointments Available: am/pm Open Session: 9.30am – 11.00am

For any queries please contact Deb Ellis Manager Community Wellbeing via 5795 0000

Don't forget... Friday 20th March @ Highlands Hall the acclaimed film **2040** will be shown. **Sponsored by DELWP.**

IT'S BACK!! Cricket that is....

The Wilderness .V. Richmond Union Over 60s.

(NB: The Wilderness is a combined Ruffy Highlands Caveat Tarcombe Terrip side)

Where? Ruffy Recreation Reserve

When? Saturday 7th March 2020

What time? 10.30 am for a 11.00 start

What format? 40 over game of 2 * 20 over innings.

What's to eat? Lunch will be provided.

BYO refreshments and possibly a BBQ at Ruffy following.

If you are interested in playing, please contact me on **0427 969259**

Scott McKay



This is it!! The cricket game of the season, forget the 20/20 Big Bash or even the Ashes this will be **THE game** to talk about for years to come, be there or be a part of it Ed

Qigong at Ruffy

Commencing Monday 3 February at 10.00am at the Community Centre Ruffy.

Working the energy is the literal translation of Qigong and is suitable for anyone who would like to participate.

I propose to commence this Qigong journey by sharing two practices over the next few weeks.

The **Ba Duan Jin—Eight Method Essence** is an ancient form and widely practised throughout China. Also known as Taoist Yoga the stretching movements stimulate the flow of Qi through the meridians and help to increase strength and flexibility.

The **Wudang Longevity Qigong** is a Daoist practice. It is very simple and stimulates the Qi through the body. The class will last for an hour followed by a cuppa

Cost: \$15 per class as a casual or \$108 for the 10 week term.

Please call me on

0405 612400 for

further information.

Looking forward to Monday.

Vivien Watmough



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