



# THE GRANITE NEWS

30TH AUGUST 2020

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Over the last few months so many things have changed to accommodate the current limits on our normal lifestyle. One of the aspects of life that has multiplied exponentially is how much can now be undertaken via the internet. Whether it is meetings via Zoom, Teams, Messenger or Skype or the plethora of webinars on offer, it is truly amazing how much technology has now become an integral, as well as interesting, part of our everyday lives. This week's TGN offers several options to choose from.

**Land For Wildlife is offering a series of 3 FREE bio-diversity seminars** covering the following topics -

**Tuesday 1st of September 7:30pm - David de Angelis**

**The value of community groups and citizen scientists contributing records to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.**

David will introduce the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) and explain its importance for informing habitat protection and planning decisions, its broader uses and accessibility, and how it interacts with other online databases such as the Atlas of Living Australia and iNaturalist. Learn how to register to contribute records to the VBA, where to go to enter and search for records, and where you can find detailed guidance to using the atlas' various features. David has been contributing records to the VBA since it came online in 2012 in his roles as an ecological consultant and citizen scientist.

Tickets are free but booking is required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117480853395>

**Tuesday 8th of September 7:30pm - David de Angelis**

**Title: Rethinking habitat management for some of Victoria's threatened reptiles and frogs: sunny swamps and lizard lawns.**

Our understanding of the types of habitats used by threatened frogs and reptiles is increasingly evolving. In some cases, assumptions about the best way to manage revegetation, weed control and fire can result in poorer outcomes for local populations. David will explain why habitat structure and the history of land disturbance are often more important for the survival of threatened reptiles and frogs than whether the plants they live among are native or introduced. (see p.3 for more details)

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

**And Kenny?** Was sitting, quite comfortably, in the U for the Ruffy Store ad.

## A Larger Tank has arrived for Summer Firefighting

Murrindindi Shire Council has replaced the second concrete tank on the Ghin Ghin cutting with a shiny, brand new metal one that has a much larger capacity of 100,000 litres. At present it just has 25,000 litres in it with more to be added prior to summer. The smaller concrete tank will remain in situ.



Please note: Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion in the following week's TGN although this will depend on space and time constraints—thanks



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)

I am record at my old school saying

"Why should I learn Algebra, I've no intention of every going there."

Sir Billy Connolly

Musician, comedian, actor & author

**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



**HCCC Membership so far**

**129 ... and counting**

## Website of the Week

In addition to the AgVic podcasts (see p.3) more fire recovery and general pasture information can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website -

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires).

## 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. 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. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366 at 94 Old Highlands Rd
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 0429 772 011 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!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559 at Euroa Uniting Church Hall

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

### TERIP TERIP TENNIS COURTS STAGE 3 RESTRICTIONS

In line with Tennis Victoria directives, outdoor tennis is permitted for two people.

Doubles is only permitted with people from the same household.

Only two courts can be used at the same time, leaving the middle court free.

We ask that you please adhere to these guidelines, along with sanitising the gate and lock box before and after use.

#### COURT HIRE

NON MEMBER court hire is \$10 per court per hour, and money can be placed in the safe box on the verandah of the club house.

Social 12 month memberships are available, please contact Cindy on 0429 772 011

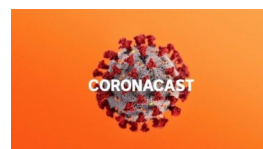


### Coronacast - all yours for free!

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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ABC listen app, Apple Podcasts or Google Podcasts.



### Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

## Land for Wildlife Seminars...continued

He will also discuss some of the difficulties managing populations that are increasingly being recognised as living in habitats that might otherwise be perceived as being too highly disturbed, polluted or weedy.

David is a zoologist and ecological consultant with a background in land management, and is particularly interested in the conservation and ecology of reptiles and frogs, having surveyed and written management plans for several species in southern Victoria including the Swamp Skink, Glossy Grass Skink, Striped Legless Lizard, Tussock Skink, Southern Toadlet and Growling Grass Frog.

Tickets free but booking required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117481908551>



**Tuesday 15th Sept 7pm - Dr Dave Sharley**

**Title: Stormwater: Australia's great environmental dilemma.**

The webinar will focus on the impact of stormwater pollution on the health of our urban waterways. It will discuss industry solutions and provide guidance on simple things we can all implement to reduce stormwater pollution.

Topic will include (subject to change):

- What is stormwater?
- Urban sprawl pressures impacting our local waterways
- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Assessing storm-water pollution
- Finding major sources of pollution
- Linking scientific data to community education and awareness programs

Dr David Sharley is an environmental scientist with over twenty years of experience working in water and environmental services. Dave worked at the University of Melbourne for over 10 years researching how pollutants can stress and change aquatic population structures and decrease the resilience of aquatic ecosystems.

Building upon his twenty years of research experience, Dave founded Bio2Lab in 2017 with Steve Marshall to develop and offer novel water quality monitoring tools to the water industry. Dave enjoys developing new ways to communicate scientific outcomes to governments, industry and the community, and has published many articles on the ecological impact of urban development and land management.

Dave's main areas of interest include aquatic pollution, real-time monitoring, pollution tracking, environmental assessment, urban wetland ecology, integrated catchment management and linking environmental research outcomes to policy.

Tickets are free but booking required at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/117482119181>

NB: Definitely worth booking in advance tickets are limited. Ed.



## Ag Victoria - Talk Podcasts

This pilot podcast series delivers knowledge and information in a format that suits the way farmers and agricultural professionals work and live today.

Each episode covers contemporary problems and solutions including bushfire recovery, drought and dry seasonal conditions, weather and climate, as well as some fantastic inspiring stories from young farmers.

*All information included in these episodes is accurate at the time of release. Contact Agriculture Victoria or your consultant before making any changes on-farm.*

You can subscribe and listen to AgVic Talk wherever you get your podcasts:

**[Subscribe to AgVic Talk on Spotify](#)**

**[Subscribe to the AgVic Talk RSS feed](#)**

**[Subscribe to Apple Podcasts](#)**

Your feedback is important to AgVic so please rate and review these episodes and share them with your friends and family.

**Turn a Dream to Farm into Reality—Sarah McLean**

Sarah McLean a young beef farmer from Purnim, near Warrnambool. Sarah tells us how the Agriculture Victoria's Upskill and Invest Young Farmer Scholarship has helped to make her dream of running a farm a reality. Sarah used the scholarship to complete the Resource Consulting Services (RCS) Grazing and Farming for Profit course and invest in farm safety by installing a new cattle crush.

**Managing a Dairy Farm in Variable Climate—Kevin Fitzsimons**

Kevin Fitzsimmons is a dairy farmer at Merrigum in the Northern Irrigation region. His family has farmed there for three generations, but he says since the millennium drought running profitably has never been more difficult. In this podcast, Kevin discusses how he manages climate variability on his farm.

**Spring Pasture Management of Fire Affected Pastures—Fiona Baker**

Fiona Baker, extension officer with Agriculture Victoria provides spring management tips for pastures affected by bushfires. Fiona discusses key strategies to assist recovering pastures including assessing pastures, when to think about re-sowing, fodder conservation, summer fodder cropping, grazing management and the importance of maintaining soil fertility.

## Book Butler at your Service

As these unprecedented times continue Murrindindi Library Service is still offering its **Book Butler Service** to patrons. A **FREE** non-contact delivery of items personally selected to your taste/loan history can be delivered to your door. If you haven't yet made use of this excellent service ring **57720349** to enquire now.

**NB: the Mobile Library Service remains suspended until further notice.**





## Shop Local Support Local Connect Local

It may be 'business as unusual' for many in Murrindindi Shire, but there are still plenty of ways our community can help support our local businesses, community groups, food and wine producers, artists and performers.



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### DINDI DIRECTORY

*It's Business as Unusual*

Your one-stop-shop with information about local businesses in Murrindindi Shire, including hospitality and retail, trades and services, health and fitness and library and learning services.

[dindidirectory.com.au](http://dindidirectory.com.au)



### DINDI LIVE

Dindi Live brings the best local talent direct to your lounge room. Tune in each Friday at 6.30 pm via our Facebook page or on our website. The events are also streamed on local radio UGFM.

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Murrindindi  
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**NB: Whilst this initiative is directed at communities in the Murrindindi Shire the 3 Dindi offers can be accessed by all TGN readers - either by on-line shopping, trade/business enquiries or just chilling out with some excellent artists each Friday evening.**

# Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus Striatus*)

The Striated Pardalote can be found throughout much of Australia, and despite being tiny birds, some populations undertake remarkable migratory movements, while others remain in the same area throughout the year. In some populations, some of the birds migrate while others remain behind. Clearly, the movements of the Striated Pardalote are complex. The best-known migratory population breeds in Tasmania and makes regular seasonal movements across Bass Strait, where they mix with various mainland-breeding populations.

The Striated Pardalote is more common than people usually think, with its call the first indication of the presence of this brightly coloured little bird. There is considerable variation in plumage characteristics across the range of this species. All birds have white eyebrows with a yellow spot in front of the eye, olive-grey backs and a white stripe in the wing. In different parts of the country, the wing stripe may be narrow or wide, the coloured spot at the front end of this stripe may be red or yellow, and the black crown may have or lack fine white stripes. Both male and female are similar in plumage. Young birds also resemble the adults, but are notably paler, particularly on the crown and face.

The Striated Pardalote is found throughout most of Australia, being absent only from the most arid areas. Like other species of pardalotes, it is found only in Australia.

Striated Pardalotes feed in the foliage in the tops of trees, although occasionally coming close to the ground in low shrubs. They eat a wide variety of insects and their larvae, which are usually captured by picking them from the surfaces of leaves. Feeding is done in small groups with the birds maintaining contact with short trills.

During breeding season, Striated Pardalotes form pairs or small groups of up to six birds. The nest is constructed close to the ground, usually in a tree hollow or tunnel, excavated in an earthen bank; small openings in human-made objects are frequently used. The birds display regularly at the entrance to the nesting chamber, and vigorously guard the vicinity against other pardalotes. Both sexes incubate and care for the young birds. Other members of the group may also help with the feeding of the young.

Like its close relation, the Spotted Pardalote, numbers are secure for both species.

**Text – Birdlife Australia**

**Photo – Phil Glowacki**





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