



THE GRANITE NEWS

27TH SEPT. 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 34

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Thank you so very much to all those TGN readers who have completed the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative's short survey, featured in last week's issue. Your responses have provided valuable information and priorities that will enable the HCCC to plan ahead and your involvement in this process is most appreciated. If you have been meaning to reply and haven't quite got around to it please just click on this link now & complete by 4th October, thanks - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCCCsurvey>

Due to these extraordinary times this issue was designated to feature any candidates standing for local council elections, across all three councils - Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie.

So far only one candidate has taken up that option, Laura Binks who is standing for the Mt Wombat Ward in Strathbogie Shire.

Perhaps some wards have only a single candidate standing and therefore do not need to reach out to ratepayers, however if any readers are standing, or know of someone else who is, please be aware that next week's issue of TGN is the last chance for candidates to put forward their ideas and biographic details. Any copy needs to be in an editable format and fully authorised or it will be not be accepted.

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

And Kenny? Was up close and personal with Terip's morning coffee mugs.



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

"As the world warms, intolerance grows and war blights the lives of so many. We need to look after each other more than ever."

Chris Riddell

UK Illustrator & Cartoonist

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**

Thanks

Thanks, Stuart, for a great letter, it reminded me of the words of late and great Leonard Cohen *"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in"*. Its always good to focus on the positives, in these times when the media only seems to focus on the minority views of the negativity, hate, and bad news.

I don't in anyway want to downplay the current Corvid crisis, I do feel great sorrow for the people in Melbourne, who are suffering due to economic hardship, health issues and have lost family and friends, the pain must be unbearable at times.

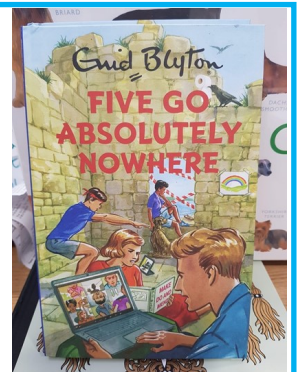
I do miss my trips to Melbourne, but mostly I miss our kids and not been able to see them, share a meal and give them a hug.

Looking forward to Christmas when things might be Corvid normal and human interaction might happen again.

Neil van Buuren

This week has been a prolific week for Letters to the Editor, with 2 more >

Let's
laugh



HCCC Membership so far
144... and counting

Website of the Week

With thanks to Sue McNair, Murrindindi Shire's Environmental Officer, for this link about Indian Mynas and DIY traps.

www.indianmynaaction.org.au

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

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — or something to look forward to...

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October from 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 relaxed evening of drinks and chat with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who enjoy a good power. 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 951559 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

Some of these activities could be reinstated soon so ... stay tuned!
Darren's Back, see above

Postponed until further notice

A Date
for your
Diary...
at last!



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Letter to the Editor

Hello Pauline,

I have an observation to pass on and I would be interested to know if others have seen the same.

In all the years we have been at Caveat we have enjoyed watching the birdlife. As my garden shrubs have grown so too has the population of the little wrens and finches amongst the many other birds who visit.

Disturbingly, last week end, I observed a small flock of Indian Myna birds busy in the orchard!

I have never noticed them before and I do keep an eye out as they are prolific in some areas of the Yarra Valley and I dreaded the day that they would invade our lovely Highlands. It seems that the day has now arrived.

So my question is if anyone else in the district has seen them and if so how are they managing this pest? If at all?

I have put an 'order' in for a trap with a business in Yea but they have told me the Men's Shed is out of action at the moment due to Covid.

If I can't find one to buy I will have to have a go at making my own unless there is a better solution to eradicate them.

I look forward to the Granite News so much, thank you for your work.

Kind regards

Jacqueline Fairley - Caveat

NB: This week's Website of the Week features information for making Indian Myna traps. If anyone else has noticed this unwelcome invasion on their property please contact the editor editor@tgn.org.au so we can monitor this very aggressive and introduced species. Thanks. Ed.

Letter to the Editor

As I enter my final week with the Murrindindi Shire Council, I write to convey my sincere thanks to our amazing community.

During my time with the Shire I have been honoured to work on behalf of, and with so many amazing people.

Our communities are strong, resilient and supportive, and it is this that makes Murrindindi Shire a fantastic place to live and work. I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from so many people right across the Shire, and for that I will be forever grateful.

As Council heads towards the forthcoming election, I wish all Candidates well, and for those who are successful, I trust that you will continue the tradition of working hard for your community.

The Shire staff are absolutely committed to doing their very best for the community they serve, and in most cases, the community they live in. I thank them all for their dedication, support and friendship.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to my family for their ongoing love and support.

Stay safe,

Craig Lloyd
Chief Executive Officer
Murrindindi Shire Council



Taungurung Sovereign Flag

(Taungurung Land & Waters Council)

It was recently announced that proud Taungurung woman, Loraine Padgham's wonderful design will now become the Taungurung flag that will fly from flagpoles right across traditional Taungurung country for many years to come, representing sovereignty and the shared identity of a First Nation people.

There was an excellent response from the Taungurung community – both in terms of the number and quality of design entries for this competition and in the number of votes cast in determining the winning entry.

36 designs were received and from these a shortlist of four (4) outstanding designs was unanimously selected by a special sub-Committee of the Board and put to the members for a vote to be taken. The level of commitment to the project was evident in the unprecedented response from the community and Loraine's design was a clear winner.

The Taungurung community is to be thanked for embracing the vision of having our own Taungurung Sovereign Flag. This is an historic development.

The flag will convey meaning related to our Country and culture – a flag that is striking and powerful, creative and uncomplicated, and that instils a sense of pride and identity. Copyright of the winning design will be acquired by TLWC in full and in perpetuity.

Mathew Burns CEO - TLWC



Nesting Boxes - a rewarding ISO project!

We moved to a rural property in Whiteheads Creek two years ago from the city, to enjoy country living in our retirement. Our property has a large number of eucalypts and wattles and we are thrilled to be hosts to a range of birds and wildlife including echidnas & the occasional koala.

After seeing a show on the TV about how more nesting boxes are needed to provide more homes for many forms of birds, bats and animals, due to the loss of old large trees and the hollows they provide, we decided to get involved. Not to mention being unable to go anywhere for weeks on end is a good time to get stuff done around your own place!

Hubby is a carpenter so we figured knocking up a few nesting boxes couldn't be too hard.

We learned that sugar gliders need holes no larger than 10cm and a baffle near the hole is useful to prevent larger unwanted birds from using the boxes. I think, more importantly though than getting hung up on the scientific details of the box, is just to provide some small creature an extra home or two to choose from.

We approached our neighbours for advice as they have been involved in local conservation projects for many years and turns out they had some nesting boxes ready to go stored in their shed which they generously gave to us.

With our neighbour's advice and after a bit of research, we chose some large gum trees that were close to acacias and other trees and faced the boxes roughly to receive morning sun but protected from the hot afternoon sun, a bit above head height which was as high as our ladder would allow.

We found ironbark trees were extremely hard to drill in to, and busted a screw or two so we stuck to other types of eucalypts after that first attempt.

We hope a few sugar gliders or native birds will find them eventually and we will continue to put up more as we learn what and where is successful.



Heather Taylor
Whiteheads Creek

Did you know?

Whilst Antarctica is a continent the Arctic is just ice, & rapidly melting ice at that. In 1958 the submarine Nautilus sailed under the ice cap and proved that it was ice and not land.

The Victorian Climate-Smart Agriculture Fellowship

The Victorian Climate-Smart Agriculture Fellowship is aimed at current and emerging industry leaders who are committed to the sustainability of the agricultural sector. It is designed to build capacity to manage climate risk, while supporting business and industry resilience.

Applications are now open for the Victorian Climate-Smart Agriculture Fellowship.

We're looking for people with the potential to change the game, shape opinion and policy, and help agriculture and rural communities manage climate risks and prosper in a low-carbon world. Supported by the William Buckland Foundation, the fellowship is in its third year, having already trained 40 producers across Victoria.

This year the fellowship will take place via a mix of online and offline meetings between October 2020 and March 2021, including a mentoring program to support the adoption of climate smart practices and a two-day conference in March 2021.

The fellowship is a unique opportunity for you to learn from experts in climate and agriculture, as well as other Victorian farmers who are leading the way on climate resilience. You'll join a strong and supportive network of leading farmers across Australia, receive extensive training in key skills (including media and advocacy), and develop a platform to create lasting resilience in Victorian agriculture. The fellowship is free of charge to successful applicants.

<https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/portfolio/victorian-climate-smart-fellowship/>

BreastScreen Victoria van returning to Seymour

BreastScreen Victoria's hot pink van is returning to Seymour to provide free breast screens for the community. Those aged between 50 & 74 should have a free breast screen every two years. They are the best way to find breast cancer early, before there are symptoms & when treatment is most successful.

All breast screens are with a female radiographer, in a friendly and safe environment. You don't need a doctor's referral or Medicare card, and screens only take 10 minutes.

The van is operating with COVID-19 safety measures in place to protect both the community and staff. All clients who screen on the van in Seymour must wear a face mask. Appointments are being spaced out to ensure physical distancing and to reduce the number of people in the waiting area. It also provides more time for staff to clean in-between appointments.

The van will be in the Woolworths carpark, corner William and Wallis Street, from 21 October – 18 December 2020.
Appointments for the Seymour van can be made online at www.breastscreen.org.au or by calling 13 20 50.

VOTE 1 LAURA BINKS - MT. WOMBAT WARD - OCTOBER 2020

I am Laura Binks, born and raised on a family farm in the Strathbogie Ranges foothills and I hope to be your councillor for the Mt. Wombat Ward of the Strathbogie Shire.

I understand the crucial role the local volunteers play in our rural community. Without the enormous effort of the many volunteers who perform all sorts of roles within our community, we wouldn't be able to live as we do in this beautiful region of Victoria.

I am a member of the Warrenbayne Boho and the Balmattum Sheens Creek Landcare groups, the latter of which is predominantly in the Mt. Wombat Ward. I've had an involvement on varying levels with Landcare most of my life, starting with numerous tree planting days to combat salinity and soil erosion in primary school. I am still planting trees! On the family farm and other properties. My involvement with the Strathbogie Forest has deepened my love for the natural environment in the area and I am keen to work with landholders as we all adjust to farming in a continually drying and warming environment. I know the importance of evidence based best practice when managing our rural environment to reduce the impact of bushfires and I will work with all CFA brigades to ensure all are educated, prepared and ready for the bushfire season.

If elected, I will engage broadly with the community and be a strong, fair voice for you, your needs and concerns. I know we need better communication between ratepayers and council, including councillors. I am committed to transparency and accountability. I will vote to best represent the views of the ward and to achieve the best outcomes for the shire.

I was awarded the Ken Sampson Memorial Scholarship through the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for voluntary work in my local community with land management and the environment. It is a privilege to learn the qualities and skills of community leadership in the Fairley Leadership Program this year. I am certain what I learn through this will be valuable to the council.

I have studied and work in architecture and building construction, and I am working to maintain a sustainable small scale farming business. Having worked in various settings, I am confident I can represent your needs professionally and roll up my sleeves to get great outcomes for the whole shire.

I pride myself on my listening skills, my clear communication and my ability to solve problems.

Please feel free to call or email me, like my Facebook page or follow me on Instagram.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Laura Binks

Mt. Wombat Ward - Have Your Say



043850983 [@LauraBinks.MtWombat](https://www.facebook.com/LauraBinks.MtWombat)



laurajpbinks@gmail.com [vote1LauraBinks](https://www.facebook.com/vote1LauraBinks) Authorised by A. Townsend 137 Spring Creek Road, Strathbogie, 3666



Photo Credit - Serana Hunt-Hughes

Another Diary Date - Wednesday 30th September 2020 from noon to 1.30pm

Hosted by **Trust for Nature, Living Links** and **Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TFNVictoria>



We look forward to you joining us

Come and join this great webinar to hear first hand about cultural burning in urban areas from Fire Knowledge Holder & Wurundjeri Elder Uncle David Wandin, as well as Rhys Collins, Melbourne Waters Traditional Owner Relationship Manager and Dr Graeme Lorimer, an Environmental Scientist who will talk about practical examples of how fire changes vegetation.

Join us on Zoom or YouTube Live

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/join>

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Passcode: 026383

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TFNVictoria>

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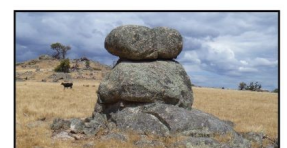
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