



THE GRANITE NEWS

25TH OCT. 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 38

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Last week's local weather has reminded me of an excellent poem, written in 1906 by Thomas E. Spencer - 'The Day McDougall Topped the Score' with its first two very descriptive stanzas

A peaceful spot is Piper's Flat. The folk that live around,
They keep themselves by keeping sheep and turning up the ground.
But the climate is erratic; and the consequences are
The struggle with the elements is everlasting war.

We plough, we sow, and harrow—then sit down and pray for rain;
And then we all get flooded out, and have to start again.
But the folk are now rejoicing as they ne'er done before,
For we've played Molongo cricket, and McDougall topped the score!

The poem is an absolute joy and if you're unfamiliar with it click & enjoy!
<https://www.bushverse.com/bush-poets/old-masters/thomas-e-spencer>

Until next issue continue to stay warm and safe, **Pauline**
And Kenny? Was catching up with his cousin—Katie Koala .

Looking for a Summer Community Activity?

The Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy with generous support from HCCC Landcare is running a community activity growing tomatoes.

Can you grow the biggest or first red tomato maybe the craziest shape? John McLean holds the Ruffy record for having a ripe tomato by the 5th December in 1989.

The Tablelands Community Centre is offering free tomato seedlings to the first 50 households to call 0427 690 970 or email tccruffy@gmail.com

Seedlings will be delivered to your mailbox or pick up can be arranged from the Tablelands Community Centre.

The tomato seedlings are available to those living on the tablelands. **1 seedling per household or 3 per household with children.**

Get in first and be ready for the traditional tomato planting on Melbourne Cup day.

Who will be wearing the best hat while planting their tomatoes? That's the first challenge so send in your photos.



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

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"No-one will protect what they don't care about and no-one will care about what they have never experienced."

Sir David Attenborough (1926...)
Writer & Naturalist

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

I used to wonder what it'd be like to read other people's minds. Then I got a Facebook account, and now I'm over it.

HCCC Membership so far
155 ... and counting

Website of the Week

How green is your household? Like to find out? See article on p.3 and then check out this website for more details.

www.greenpower.gov.au

Community Notices & Classifieds

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

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>@ 11am</p> | <p>The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place as last year. The same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and drink. A Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Glasgow. Contact Jan 5790 4361</p> |
| <p>2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am</p>  | <p>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA This enjoyable social event is open to all. Bring along any books or home-grown produce. Highlands Community Centre enjoy a cuppa, swap stories and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those on low power.</p> |
| <p>2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm</p>  | <p>DRINKS ON THE TOWN Starts at 6.30pm. All welcome, especially those on low power.</p> |
| <p>3rd Thursday or Friday each month</p> | <p>HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be on 11th June in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268</p> |
| <p>Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm</p> | <p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat at Caveat Church</p> |
| <p>4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2</p>  | <p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366 at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> |
| <p>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p> | <p>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 on 01463 719999 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</p> |
| <p>Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</p> | <p>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</p> |

Seymour Rotary Club wants YOUR batteries



The Rotary Club in Seymour collects batteries as a fund source.

If anyone has any batteries laying around on their farm and wants to get rid of them, Ron Halicki would be happy to collect them. Why not give him a call on 0428 674006?


**Subsidies are now
available through
HCCC Landcare group for Rabbit
Ripping.**
(Conditions Apply)

Please email Janet Hagan
hughes.creek1@gmail.com

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Coronavirus 24hr Hotline
1800 020 080

How GREEN is your household?

From time to time it's a good idea to take stock of your home and its impact on the environment. Do a quick audit of your own house and think about whether you could be doing more to keep the planet healthy. Whilst quite a lot of these ideas are probably part of our lives already, why not incorporate one or two more and reduce your carbon footprint and bills.

Do you turn electrical equipment (such as computers and televisions) off at the wall to avoid standby power? Have you ever chosen green power, even if it costs you slightly more? Check out the website of the week www.greenpower.gov.au for further details. Have you thought about installing your own solar hot water system? Have you already installed solar panels for electricity, with the prospect of feeding any excess power produced back into the grid? Or, even more radically have you ever considered going off the grid totally and being self-sufficient for your power needs?

Have you insulated your house? It will enable you to save energy on heating and cooling. Does your house have a rainwater tank? Start saving and using rainwater rather than allowing it to run off in stormwater drains. It's a great way to water your garden but tank water can also be plumbed into your house. Have you exchanged your normal light bulbs for low-energy options? Do you have a bicycle? Get fit while you save money and energy.

Have you thought about having your house replumbed to recycle grey waste water? Why use pure drinking water to flush the toilet? Have you installed a AAA shower head to save water? Do you have a timer in the bathroom so you can keep showers to a minimum? How far away is your food grown? Do you have a vegetable garden? Or have you checked out growers' markets to find produce that is grown close to home? Every kilometre your food travels adds to greenhouse emissions.



ITEMS STILL FOR SALE – Property sold

Cash & Collect from Trawool 0417 353425 (Di Schrapel)

Lots of other items for sale, furniture (2 x corner TV units, large pine TV unit, chest of drawers, extension laminated table, vintage vinyl couch & chairs), china, glasses, office chair, box of leather, cream separator, used pine posts, electric fencing materials (ceramic insulators, pigtailed, stand off wires), futon base, new & second hand timber, and lots more. Enquiries welcome **Tel: 0417 353 425 or 0407 921 082**

ALSO

Mini Bike/BMX/ Mountain Bike Ramp Steel kicker ramp frame just needs a new sheet of ply wood put on it. 2670 long x 780 wide x 1300 high. Located at Trawool **\$150 ono. Cash only**



But wait, there's more....

Pit Bike Parts

Numerous pit bike and motor bike parts ranging from 90cc to 250cc. Looking to sell as package not separate. Atomic 250 frame, Atomic 125 frame Bunch of engine parts. Some plastics from different bikes

Other odds and ends. Different tyres 1 x 4.60-17 4PR, 1 x 4.60-17 6PR, 1 x 3.00-21 51P, 1 x 5.10-17 6PR

On bike rear wheel 110/100-18 Small bike rolling frame wheels Front Wheel 2.50-14, Back Wheel 80/100-12 Other smaller tyres 1 x 60/100-14 30M (2.50-14), 1 x 80/100-12 **\$300 ono for the lot. Cash only**



**Seymour
Agricultural &
Pastoral Society**



SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for a 12 month scholarship of \$3000 for young people aged 17-25 years in the Seymour region studying or planning to study in any agricultural or sustainable resource management field at a tertiary level.

Other areas of study which will benefit the rural community will be considered.

Applications close:

Friday January 15, 2021.

Seymour A&P Society Scholarship
PO Box 6, Seymour, VIC, 3661

or phone 0438 577 126 or 0428 969 255

Or email applications to:

jjdlatz12@bigpond.com

Did you Know?

The majority of tornadoes in the northern hemisphere rotate anti-clockwise whilst the majority in the southern hemisphere rotate clockwise.

There are approximately 1,000 tornadoes a year in the USA, most of them happen in 'Tornado Alley', which includes the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Although they reach speeds of up to 500km per hour, each one lasts just minutes and any residents unlucky enough to be in the path of a tornado have about 11 minutes warning of their approach!

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco Peregrinus*)

Peregrine Falcons are large, powerfully built raptors (birds of prey), with a black hood, blue-black upperparts and creamy white chin, throat, and underparts, which are finely barred from the breast to the tail. The long tapered wings have a straight trailing edge in flight and the tail is relatively short. The eye-ring is yellow, with the heavy bill also yellow, tipped black. Although widespread throughout the world, it is not a common species.

The Peregrine Falcon is often mistaken for the related Australian Hobby Falcon. However, this species has a different flight silhouette, with a curved trailing wing-edge, and lacks the full black hood.

The Peregrine Falcon is found across Australia but is not particularly common anywhere. It is also found in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

The Peregrine Falcon is found in most habitats, from rainforests to the arid zone, and at most altitudes, from the coast to alpine areas. It requires abundant prey and secure nest sites, and prefers coastal and inland cliffs or open woodlands near water, and may even be found nesting on high city buildings.

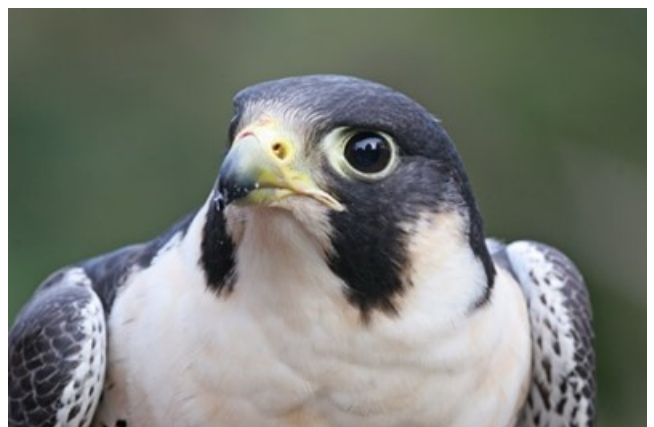
The Peregrine Falcon feeds on small and medium-sized birds, as well as rabbits and other day-active mammals. It swoops down on its prey from above, catching or stunning it with its powerfully hooked talons, before grasping and carrying it off to a perch to pluck and eat it. It will pursue flying birds, being able to fly at speeds of up to 300 km/h, and it soars to a great height in search of prey. Pairs may hunt co-operatively, with one member, usually the male, scattering a flock of birds while the other swoops down to attack a particular individual. This co-operative behaviour is most often observed during the breeding season.

The Peregrine Falcon mates for life and pairs maintain a home range of about 20 to 30 square kms throughout the year. Rather than building a nest, it lays its eggs in recesses of cliff faces, tree hollows or in the large abandoned nests of other birds. The female incubates the eggs and is fed by the male on the nest. When the young have hatched, both parents hunt to provide food. Young Peregrine Falcons disperse widely but often return to their original home area to breed when mature.

NB: Peregrine Falcons live in several of our major cities, nesting on ledges of skyscrapers. They can often be seen soaring above busy city streets, and their harsh chattering calls may be heard by passers-by a hundred metres below. Their food for is usually the scavenging Rock Doves or Silver Gulls which abound. Peregrines swoop onto their prey at speeds of up to 300 km/h, which has inherent dangers, as they occasionally collide with overhead wires, usually fatal at such speeds. 367 Collins St Melbourne has been hosting an extended family of peregrines since 1991 and a new clutch of raptors have recently hatched - www.367collinsfalcons.com.au

Text: Birdlife Australia

Portrait photo: Dean Ingwersen



Protecting rivers, creeks and waterways - a Case Study

Paul and Rachel Graham run a 1,580 hectare farm, Bongongo, producing beef, lamb and wool north east of Gundagai NSW. In collaboration with the local Landcare group and with the support of government incentives, they have taken on larger and more challenging rehabilitation projects over the years, focussing on riparian and wetland restoration to improve water quality and infiltration, and limit erosion on their farms. Here are some of their observations and processes—

“We take the stock out and then it’s the grasses that hold the soil together because they’re not grazed, otherwise the bank washes away. You can see the amount of grassing-up, or re-vegetation, along the banks without the stock. The water quality in the creek is beautiful now because it has been locked off from stock. We plant native trees and other vegetation along the creeks and fence them off to revegetate the banks. The vegetation also acts as a shelterbelt and a filtration system.

The idea when we’re doing these riparian restoration projects is to put the fencing further out and plant the native trees well off the bank. You want to fence 15 metres from where the bank starts with a corridor of three rows of trees. We plant the first tree about five metres off the bank; then its roots can touch the water but it’s not going to be close enough to the bank to fall over and take the bank out.

Not only are the projects good for the environment’s health, they are also good for mental health. It’s very rewarding to see these areas establish, grow and develop, to stand back and look at the whole picture of the result from your efforts out there in front of you. Without the government funding I wouldn’t be able to do such large projects. To me it’s a no-brainer. It makes my farm more efficient and the environment more sustainable for the long term.” **Paul Graham**

In coming years, the Grahams are planning to increase connectivity between vegetation corridors to create more shelter for livestock & extended habitat for birds.



* ANU Study - 10 ways to improve natural assets on a farm.

Making Cent\$ of Carbon & Emissions on Farms - Part 3

Energy: increasing efficiency, renewable Energy efficiency both on-farm and along the supply chain will help minimise impacts of rising energy costs for heat, electricity, gas and liquid fuels. Additionally, there is a range of cost-effective alternatives to fossil fuels for energy generation either currently available or in development. Greenhouse gas calculators often show that farm energy use is a small portion of overall farm emissions. However, for many farmers (such as those involved in more intensive agriculture such as dairy and horticulture) energy is a significant and growing cost, so finding alternative energy sources and improving energy efficiency can save money and reduce emissions.

Management options:

Farmers who increase their energy efficiency and find alternative, low cost sources of fuel, heat and electricity may become more resilient, energy efficient and profitable.

- * Understand your energy use: get an energy assessment or audit to the national standard (AS/NZS 3598.2:2014) to measure your current energy use and highlight areas for improvement.
- * Compare your energy bills to other offers available in your area by visiting the independent Victorian Government energy price comparison website.
- * Check your tariff and your off-peak rates to make sure you are getting the best deal.
- * Explore ways to reduce energy by focussing on high energy input areas, investigate opportunities to reduce energy inputs by changing practices or doing the same operation more efficiently.
- * Take time to understand how to interpret your energy bills, usage and costs. The way you are charged for electricity use depends on a number of factors including your electricity distributor, the type of meter you have and the size of your business which is determined by your network demand (kVA) and consumption (kWh).
- * Energy meters may assist in working out where and when you are using the most power as well as how much energy different appliances use.



To stay updated go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/carbon-emissions

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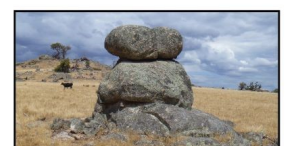
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