



# THE GRANITE NEWS

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

As the days lengthen and spring really starts to impress, a sense of normality is returning to our lives, albeit slowly and tentatively. In just 7 more days any Melbourne based landholders will be able to legitimately return to their properties along the Tablelands, without requiring a permit or a fire prevention notice in order to do so.



The size of gatherings, be they indoors or outside, have been allowed to increase slightly and we can even have the odd visitor to our homes. Of course social distancing and masks remain in place for the time being, but we are becoming familiar with term "Donut Day", which indicates, not only a hard fought battle, but our willingness to accommodate any inconvenience for the greater benefit of all. Although delayed, the AFL Grand Final has been and gone for another year, Richmond achieving back-to-back flags, the Cox Plate has been run and the Melbourne Cup looms. Yes, things are getting back to 'normal' or a variation of that, so let's enjoy the freedom and savour those special moments to come, as we now know just how precious they are.

Until next issue, safely enjoy the newest life boundaries, **Pauline And Kenny?** Overlooking new trees that have been planted during iso.

## Are you a naturalist? Become an iNaturalist!

Do you like observing nature in your area? Do you want to know what that plant, animal, bird or insect is?

iNaturalist is an app for your phone that can help you identify, map and share what you're observing. It's easy to use – simply take a photo, upload it to the app and wait.

Experts and enthusiasts will help to identify your observations, and observations are added to the global iNaturalist database and shared with the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) & the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) to help scientists find and use your data.

On our property in Whitehead's Creek we're identifying wildflowers. We now know where they are located, when they flower, and can find out about their habits, habitat and other details. On **page 3** you will find one of our observations of a Waxlip Orchid, also known as a Parson-in-the-Pulpit or Purple Cockatoo Orchid.

**Bridget Tehan - Whiteheads Creek**

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)

**"The insects who pollinate flowers  
are acting as marriage priests."**

**Charles Darwin (1809 - 1892)**

**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 for Halloween



## HCCC Membership so far

**155 ... and counting**

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
October	120.2 mm	121 mm
2020Total	872.4 mm	1,025 mm
October Rain Days	11 Days	11 Days

NB: Highlands' rainfall is already above the yearly average with 2 more months to go! Let's hear it for La Nina.

## Community Notices & Classifieds

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

Sat 7th & Sun 8th November from 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 TERRACE</b> Starts at 6.30pm. A relaxed evening with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who enjoy a drink and a chat.	Highlands Community Hall
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	<b>HUGHES CREEK COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome.	at ??????
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.	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?? <b>Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!!</b>	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 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!!	at Euroa Uniting Church Hall

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

### 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](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com)

### Coronacast - all yours for free!

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**Coronavirus 24hr Hotline**

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## The Tablelands Tomato Challenge

**You're not too late, get your order in now and deliveries can happen on Cup Day**

The Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy with generous support from HCCC Landcare is running a community activity growing tomatoes. If you haven't already planted your seedlings we can supply you with tomato seedlings FREE. It would be great if everyone joined in the fun. Many prize categories.

Can you grow the first ripe, tastiest, ugliest, largest, smallest, most colourful, youngest grower, kids section.

Or maybe top the current Ruffy record a ripe tomato by the 5<sup>th</sup> December in 1989.

The Tablelands Community Centre have tomato seedlings now and growing at a rate in this weather so make a **call 0427 690 970 or email [tccruffy@gmail.com](mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com)**



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

The tomato seedlings are available to those living on the tablelands. 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 to the above email and to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

## Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

In my previous life I exhibited some characteristics of being a 'workaholic'. I don't think I was too extreme, but I was aware that at times my work interfered with family times and relaxation. Like many vocations my work was never nine to five, a bit like the farmer who knows there is always something else to do. Now officially retired I have definitely changed my outlook but sometimes the list of jobs to do sometimes gets me down. What's more, when I strike one job of the list, another one is often added.

When Covid 19 came along travelling and taking holidays with family and friends (many interstate), meant that I had a chance to break into that list of jobs, some of which had been on the list for some time. I have managed to complete many of those longstanding jobs, as well as catching up with reading and some writing. (I have appreciated the Murrindindi 'Book Butler' service.)

Nevertheless, I can't quite shake off the pressure to get on with reducing that infinite list of jobs. In my rational moments, I do wonder whether some of those jobs are really necessary. Where does the pressure come from? There is no doubt it is self inflicted. Some jobs stand out as absolutely necessary but there are some that could be dispensed with or modified. I do have the added advantage, if you call it that, of getting on in years and lacking the physical energy I once had.

For me there is a work in progress. What is the criteria I use to separate jobs that are necessary and jobs my pride says would be nice to have done, but in fact are unnecessary? What advice can you give?

**Stuart A Reid - Highlands**

*P.S. In my last article to TGN, I mentioned the Yellow Wattlebirds in my garden. Peg Lade as rightly reminded me that they are in fact Red Wattlebirds. The Yellow Wattlebird is endemic to Tasmania. Thanks Peg.*

**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 677 126 or 0428 969 266  
Or email applications to:  
[jldatzle128@bigpond.com](mailto:jldatzle128@bigpond.com)

If any readers know of any younger residents who fit the above criteria advise them of this opportunity

## The iNaturalist from p.1

Waxlip Orchid, also known as a

Parson-in-the-Pulpit or

Purple Cockatoo Orchid.





## A little bit of Ruffy history for everyone to enjoy

The Ruffy Community Action Group has erected two history signs along the Ruffy main street. After consultation with the community and anecdotes from local identities we have gathered together history about the Ruffy Primary School (now the Tablelands Community Centre) and the old Ruffy Hotel site. Thanks to all who contributed their memories and photos.

Felicity Sloman



## Grants available for landholders to protect and improve grey box grassy woodlands

Landholders in the northern half of the Goulburn Broken Catchment are encouraged to apply for funding through the Linking Landscapes project to improve the condition of threatened grey box grassy woodlands on their properties.

Goulburn Broken CMA's Janice Mentiplay-Smith said grey box grassy woodlands were an important natural environment. "The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of species including the nationally threatened swift parrot, regent honeyeater, turnip copper burr and small purple-pea," she said.

"The greatest loss of this vegetation type and biodiversity has occurred on agricultural land, however, we recognise that landholders cannot reverse this decline alone. Through our Linking Landscapes project we're providing funding to landholders to help carry out this important recovery work."

Funding is available for revegetation, pest plant and animal control and fencing to manage stock access. **To check eligibility criteria and submit an EOI please check the 'Funding Opportunities' tab at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)** For more information contact Jenny Wilson on 58227700 or [jennyw@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jennyw@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

**EOI applications close 5pm Friday November 6.**

The Linking Landscapes project is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

**NB: Apologies for the lack of lead time for an EOI, article was only received on 27/10. Ed.**

### Linking Landscapes and Communities Enhancing Grey Box Grassy Woodlands

The Linking Landscapes and Communities project works with landowners, community groups, Traditional Owners and scientists to improve the condition of the threatened Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands vegetation communities.

Grey Box Grassy Woodlands are an important natural environment. They provide habitat for a variety of species including the nationally threatened swift parrot, regent honeyeater, turnip copperburr and small purple-pea. Derived Native Grasslands are areas where the Grey Box trees and associated shrubs have been removed, but the native grasses remain.

The greatest loss of biodiversity occurs on agricultural land, however, it is recognised that landholders cannot reverse this decline alone. Linking Landscapes provides incentives so landholders can receive payments to help carry out this important work.

The project will deliver:

- Revegetation.
- Pest plant and animal control.
- Fencing to manage stock access.
- Community education.

To be eligible for funding through Linking Landscapes, sites need to:

- Be in the project zone (see white area on map).
- Preferably contain existing remnant vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses).
- Be of significant natural value, or have the potential to be of value through the ability to link patches of vegetation.
- Be larger than 2 hectares.
- Be 40 metres or wider if a corridor.
- Be signed up to a 10-year management agreement through the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Linking Landscapes will provide incentives to eligible landholders to carry out this important work. To express your interest, please complete the form on the reverse of this flyer or contact Jenny Wilson on 58227700 [jennyw@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:jennyw@gbcma.vic.gov.au) by November 6, 2020. All sites will be assessed by the Grey Box Implementation Team. Landholders will be contacted to discuss the site and/or arrange for a property visit.



Project area - white area north of the green line



This project is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

# Superb Fairy Wren – (Malurus Cyaneus)

As we have just celebrated Australian Bird Count Week, thought this wee beauty might need to be featured - the Superb Fairy Wren, who proves that you don't have to be big to have chutzpah!



With its gleaming, velvety blue-and-black plumage, the male Superb Fairy-wren is easily distinguished. These 'coloured' males are often accompanied by a band of brown 'jenny wrens', which are usually assumed to be a harem of females, but a proportion of them are actually males which have not yet attained their breeding plumage.

Adult male Superb Fairy-wrens are among the most brightly coloured of the species, especially during the breeding season. They have rich blue and black plumage above and on the throat. The belly is grey-white and the bill is black. Females and young birds are mostly brown above with a dull red-orange area around the eye and a brown bill. Females have a pale greenish gloss, absent in young birds, on the otherwise brown tail. The legs are brown in both sexes.

Superb Fairy-wrens are found south of the Tropic of Capricorn through eastern Australia and Tasmania to the south-eastern corner of South Australia and their conservation status throughout all these areas is secure.

They are seen in most habitat types where suitable dense cover and low shrubs occur and are common in urban parks and gardens, where they can be seen in small social groups, that normally consist of one male and several females and young birds.

Superb Fairy-wrens feed on insects and other small arthropods. These are caught mostly on the ground, but may also be taken from low bushes. Feeding takes place in small social groups.

The nest is a dome-shaped structure of grasses and other fine material. It is usually placed in a low bush and is constructed by the female. The female incubates the eggs alone, but both sexes feed the young. Other members of the group will also help with the feeding of the young. The contents of these birds' untidy nests — a clutch of three or four eggs — are not necessarily the progeny of the 'coloured' male, as there is much infidelity among female fairy-wrens, with many eggs resulting from extra-pair liaisons!

**Text: Birdlife Australia**

**Photo: Philip Glowacki**



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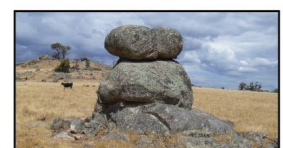
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