



THE GRANITE NEWS

15TH NOV. 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 41

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

In last week's TGN there was an invitation to join in a webinar or 5 to rethink about recycling, so I did. Although the invite had the Murrindindi Shire Council logo attached it appeared that all 3 shires covering the HCCC area were involved in this initiative and Don, the presenter, was a very energetic and enlightening MC.

Whilst it covered, in quite interesting detail, exactly what is involved once our recycled materials arrive at a MRF—Material Recovering Facility there were a few points raised that deserve a wider audience & here are some -

- Rather than recycle, rethink! For instance do you really need to use paper towel to mop up a spill or will a reusable sponge & tea towel suffice?
- When shopping aim to buy items with the least packaging - fruit and veges are a good example. Does a bunch of spring onions really need a plastic sleeve. No, of course not. Why not extract the spring onions and leave the plastic sleeve behind as a rethink statement?
- Readers in the 3 HCCC Shires—Mitchell, Murrindindi & Strathbogie will be pleased to know that any recyclables collected in these 3 shires really **will** be recycled and not dumped as landfill.
- There are 5 different types recyclable items—paper, glass, rigid plastic, steel and aluminium and of these aluminium is the most valuable recyclable material.
- Shredded paper is not recyclable, it just goes to mush, use it on the vegie beds instead.
- Soft plastics (plastics you can scrunch) don't go into your recycle bin but are being collected by Redcycle through return bins in supermarkets. Both Coles and Woolworths in Seymour have these bins and whilst Coles is collecting them at present Woolies is not, which is unacceptable. If you encounter this issue feel free to email info@redgroup.net.au to advise them of this situation.

Finally, depending on which year one references, Australians are either the #1 or #2 consumers in the world!! For a population our size, 25 million, this is huge.

Maybe it's time to reassess our needs .v. our wants and that we try to stop producing excess waste by purchasing less processed, and minimally packaged, products?

Until next issue, stay safe and enjoy our new reinstated freedoms, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Observing the interaction between the real Queen and Donald Trump.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au
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www.highlands.org.au

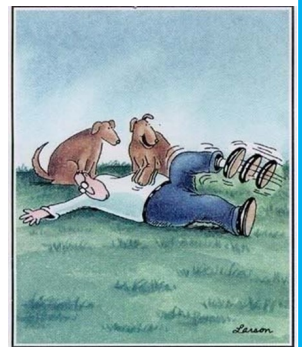
"Democracies always look weaker than they really are: they are all confusion on the surface but have lots of hidden strengths."

Alex de Tocqueville (1805-1859)
19thC French historian & writer

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

Ultimate
dog
revenge!



HCCC Membership so far
155 ... and counting

Website of the Week

www.energymadeeasy.gov.au

A free Australian Government energy price comparison service for non-Victorian TGN readers. For Victorians try

<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.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 5th & Sun 6th December from 10-4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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.
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 all. Bring along any books or home-grown produce. Highlands Community Centre enjoy a cuppa, swap
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE Starts at 6.30pm. All welcome, especially those with power. Highlands Community Hall up with friends old and new. All
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING at ?????? The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall 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!!
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT RUFFY 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 5790 4361 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASS at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

Exciting news! - The Mobile Library is BACK!

We are pleased to announce that Council's Mobile Library and Customer Service has resumed operations with revised hours and a full COVID-safe plan in place. There are strict limits on the number of customers allowed inside the van at any one time, given space limitations. A maximum of one customer or up to three customers from the same household are allowed inside the van at any one time.

The revised schedule is attached and also available on our website. It will be displayed at each Mobile stop location.

For more information, please give us a call on 5772 0333 or check our [website](#).

Terip Tennis Club

Our courts are available for social use
(following Covid rules).

Social memberships are now available.

Please contact Cindy Hayes
for details



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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Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

The GREAT Tablelands Tomato Growing Challenge

Tomato plants have been delivered. 52 households across the Tablelands have taken up the challenge.

The first challenge is who is wearing the best hat while planting their tomatoes so get your photos in.

We have enough plants left for another 8 households to be involved in the fun.

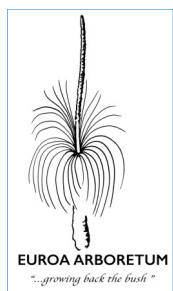


Last orders for your free tomato plants in the next week can be made by emailing tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

Are you going to be the one to break the ripe tomato record? It's been standing for 31 years—5th December 1989!



The **RuffArtz Committee** wish to advise that the **2020 AGM will be held at 7pm at the Ruffy Hall, Nolan's Rd Ruffy on Tuesday 17 November 2020**. New committee members most welcome. Meeting will be held in a COVID-safe environment. More info: ruffartztickets@gmail.com



Euroa Arboretum 2020 AGM and walk

Saturday 29th November

9.30 - 12.30 @ Euroa Arboretum

See out spring and join us at the beautiful Euroa Arboretum for our AGM. The AGM will be preceded by a walk and talk led by the Project Manager of the Euroa Arboretum, Cath Olive. The Native Grassland Restoration and Wetlands are looking magnificent after the excellent spring rain. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

RSVPs are essential, so please let us know you're coming by emailing us at events@strathbogieranges.org

Meeting documents can be downloaded from our website www.euroaarboretum.com.au

Important Message from the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC)

We need community support to control the spread of Blackberries

Its summer and it is time to think about Blackberries.

Please help us to get rid of this noxious weed

With the wet spring and warmer months, the blackberries are growing in profusion. The problem can be worse along creeks and riverbanks. Large Blackberry infestation can harbour rabbit warrens with rabbits also being pest animals.

The problem is awfully bad on Highlands Road up to Fernside Road next to the Buckland Creek.

If you identify a problem area, please contact HCCC or the local shire for further action.

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.

Contact Neil van Buuren with your requirements ASAP

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 that can be hired for a small donation to Landcare. (This helps pay for the maintenance of the units)

Contact Neil van Buuren for further information

Phone: 0417 503 472

Email: hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic & environmental impacts.



Legislation

Blackberry is declared noxious in all states and territories except the Northern Territory. Landowners are required to control it. Check with your local council or state/territory government agency about its requirements for blackberry control.

Stop Press: Working Bee @ Highlands Hall

What a wonderful turnout we had today, 30+ people came and tirelessly whippersnipped, weeded, trimmed hedges and repaired fences. They worked so hard that we had an early BBQ lunch before they all went home. A big thank you to all who were able to help and the CFA for providing the lunch.

Judy Cameron



BEFORE



AFTER

WOW! What a difference many hands can make.

Environmental champions wanted for Mitchell Shire advisory committee

Are you passionate about the environment in your local community? Do you want to contribute to Mitchell Shire Council's decision making on matters involving environmental sustainability & management with like-minded people? If so, there is an opportunity for 12 people to join the Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee for the next two years.

Council is looking for representation from rural and urban areas and a mix of people who have experiences and interests including:

- biodiversity
- natural resource management
- waste management
- sustainable agriculture
- Landcare
- environmental sustainability
- climate change
- water
- energy conservation and/or
- environmental education.

The committee's work will include reviewing Council's Environment Strategy and Sustainable Resource Management Strategy as well as providing input on biodiversity projects and key strategic planning matters. Meetings are held once every two months. Extra meetings and working groups are also held when needed.

For more information or to apply, please visit www.engagingmitchellshire.com or call Council's Environment Team on 5734 6200. Applications need to be received by 9am, Monday 23 November

Terip Tennis Club

Thanks to the generous support of Gordon and Barb Wheaton, the Terip courts were recently professionally swept and treated for moss and weeds by a Thornbury based company, Court Restore.

The courts are once again looking a treat in time for the summer competition.

Gordon and Barb have kindly donated this maintenance to the club on numerous occasions and we appreciate it very much.



Brown Snake - (Pseudonaja Textilis)

The Eastern Brown Snake is highly venomous and extremely dangerous to humans and pets. However, they're an important part of our natural environment that needs to be respected and conserved, as they tend to hunt feral species like mice and rats for food.

The Eastern Brown Snake is a long and slender snake; its upper surface is usually pale brown to dark brown and uniform in colour. The underbelly ranges from cream, yellow or grey with orange blotches, and often with darker markings towards the tail. Juveniles usually have a black mark on their head, a black band across the neck and sometimes prominent narrow black bands on their body. Lower surfaces are marked with scattered orange to brown blotches. The average length of a Brown Snake is about 1.5 m, but they can grow up to 2.4 m long. Males generally grow larger than females.

Brown Snakes detect their prey by sensing movement and smell. They flick their tongue in and out to 'taste' the air through a special organ in the roof of their mouth called the 'Jacobson's Organ'. This helps them to find prey. Brown Snake venom has evolved enabling them to kill fast moving prey quickly, reducing the chance of injury to the snake. Brown Snakes can dislocate their jaw to swallow their prey. Their skin can also stretch to allow food to pass into their stomach. Brown Snakes eat mostly mice and rats but also feed on small vertebrates, other reptiles and frogs. They have lean muscular bodies enabling them to strike fast moving prey, coiling around it until it dies. Once their prey has died, Brown Snakes will consume it whole. Powerful chemicals in their venom help break down prey in their stomach. Warmth from the sun also aids in digestion of food.

Brown Snakes are widespread throughout the dry areas of Australia and can be found in a variety of habitats, from Queensland down to Victoria. They are a ground dwelling snake that's active mainly in the daytime. In hot weather, they can move around at night, but usually retreat to shelter. Brown Snakes shelter in hollow logs, rock crevices, unused animal burrows and under rubbish around buildings. They have adapted well to farmed, grazed and semi-urban environments but cannot maintain a constant body temperature without help from the environment. This means that they use the sun's warmth to raise their body temperature. During the winter months snakes will hibernate – or at least go into a torpor, which means that we are now seeing them out and about earlier, in the winter months, as the climate warms.

Brown Snakes mate in spring, after males aggressively compete for a chance with a female. Females lay between 20-40 eggs in a clutch. Their eggs are oval in shape and have a leathery shell. Female Brown Snakes stay in the nest site for up to five weeks after laying their eggs, defending them against predators. The nest site is usually close to their overwinter site. The juvenile snakes hatch about 11 weeks after laying. They are about the size of a human hand when they hatch.

Snakes normally avoid people, but if they feel threatened, disturbed or surprised, they are more likely to attack. If provoked or cornered, Brown Snakes can be extremely aggressive. All Brown Snakes should be regarded as highly venomous and dangerous to humans. If you want to reduce the chance of encountering a snake around your home, you can modify the area to make it less desirable for snakes. For example, keep grass very short and remove piles of rubbish and wood.

Never attempt to move a snake yourself. If there are unwanted snakes near your home, call DELWP's Customer Service Centre on 136 186 and ask for a list of snake controllers in your area. These people are licensed to safely remove the reptile from the area. Snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. Do not attempt to kill a snake; it is illegal and you are more likely to get hurt.

Text: wildlife.vic.gov.au

Photo: The Editor's hallway January 2019 - 1.2m of brown snake, a little too close for comfort!

Apparently snakes like the weather to be warm but not too hot. Australia Day 2019 was HOT and this brown snake climbed up a 2m mudbrick wall, squeezed through a gap of about 15mm and then took up residence in the bottom of the linen cupboard, in the 'wine cellar'! Nice and cool and just the right temperature.

The \$64 question was - how long had it been there? But let's not dwell on that—the snake-catcher from Wandong, put it in the bag and relocated it a long way away from the chardonnay and shiraz. Definitely a well-spent \$70 for his service.



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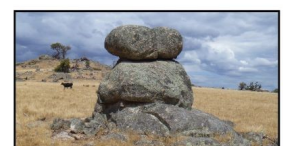
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