



THE GRANITE NEWS

13TH DEC. 2020

VOLUME 14

ISSUE 45

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day



With only 18 more days to go until 2020 is consigned to the history books, for so many reasons, it's time to pick an adjective to describe it - Unprecedented, inconvenient, tragic, apocalyptic and devastating all spring to mind, but so do caring, resilient, grateful, family and appreciation.

The year commenced with the eastern states of this wide, brown land ablaze with uncontrollable wildfire, a carry over legacy dating back to August 2019 when the first of the season's fires started in a Queensland rainforest! The fires worked their way south and by New Year's Eve Mallacoota was being evacuated with Corryong and Cudgewa residents fighting off firestorms that had jumped the border from NSW and were now obliterating towns and livelihoods in two states.

We awoke to that news on New Year's Day and probably hoped that the HCCC area would be spared such destruction over the remaining summer months, and fortuitously we were. But then just as the wider Australian community was gearing up to assist, financially, practically or both, those areas impacted by a summer of Armageddon, an even more devastating and unpredictable challenge was beginning to encompass the world.

Suddenly Covid-19 became part of our daily vocabulary and as we adapted to a 'new normal' we came to appreciate the value of social distancing, mask wearing and the necessary inconvenience of being in lockdown or restricted in our ability to travel not only interstate and overseas, but also within our own state.

As the number of deaths around the world escalated exponentially we could take heart from the fact that, after a major overhaul of the welfare safety net, we lived in a country where health was valued above all other considerations.

For those of us still with a job we learnt, despite glitches in technology, to successfully work from home. We might have missed the grandson's 4th birthday but we could read bedtime stories to him via the i-Pad & master our sourdough breadmaking skills. Op shops around the country must have been inundated with 'stuff' as we cleaned, sorted and discarded. We adapted and lived more simply.

But most importantly, as the reality of just how lethal this virus is began to sink in, and we found ourselves restricted to our local communities, we began to appreciate what we had even more. Of course living in the 'bush' rather than a city did have certain advantages but assisting elderly neighbours with their shopping, and looking out for others, now appears to have become universal.

I am definitely a glass half full sort of person so I tend to focus on the positives and three things that stand out for me in this unprecedented year are - the decision by the HCCC committee to publish 23 extra issues of the Granite News in the hope of keeping our communities connected and accurately informed about this unexpected experience. I just hope it did the job it was intended to do!

Secondly, as most of the wider world shut down and humans curtailed their daily environmental impact on the planet we saw animals, fish & birds return to habitats they had long since deserted, an encouraging omen for a better future.

Lastly, as hoarding became an unwelcome feature in March, & the first lockdown was about to take effect, I made an overnight dash to our cottage at Apollo Bay to pick up the stash of toilet paper stored there for any holiday guests. For the entire trip from Anglesea to Apollo Bay I had that magnificent stretch of coastline and the GREAT Ocean Road all to myself. Not another car anywhere, in both directions, including the entire main street of Lorne! Definitely a once in a lifetime experience and it was absolutely brilliant! Something to appreciate & remember.

Until January 17th and the next issue of TGN, Mazeltov, **Pauline**



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

**"Turn on your Christmas lights,
work out where your fuse box is and
then turn on your Christmas lights
again!"**

**Adam Hills - Australian Comedian
and media personality.**

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
161 ... and counting**

Looking to the future...

**"A very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

**Let's hope it's a good one
without any fear."**

John Lennon (1940 - 1980)

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 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 great way to meet up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who enjoy a drink. 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?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be back on the following dates— Dec. 16th and Jan. 13th & 27th. 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 0429 772 011 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

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 listed above and also available on Murrindindi Shire's website. It will also 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.

Listen for free on

[ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).



Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW COUNCIL

As the newly-elected Council for Murrindindi Shire, we look forward to working with the community over the next four years.

It has been a tough year for many of us, but we want to work together with you to help our Shire emerge from the pandemic in better shape than ever.

We are proud to be able to represent you and look forward to a positive and productive 2021. Best wishes for a happy (and COVID-safe) Christmas and New Year from your Council.

Get in touch with Council

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au
5772 0333

Kelvin View Christmas Tree 2020

Where – Kelvin View Public Hall and Recreation Reserve, Kelvin View School Road, Kelvin View 3666.

When – 19 December 2020, starting at 4pm until late.

Everyone welcome

Cold Meats buffet, salads and sweets provided for \$15 per adult (Children free). BYO Drinks.

Santa will be attending on the Kelvin View fire truck at approximately 7.30pm.

Mums, Dads, carers – Welcome to bring a wrapped gift for your kids from Santa. Please provide to Betty Broughton before 7pm please.

RSVP and further information via Betty (0429 177809) & Neville (0427 905273)



Highlands had a GREAT time!

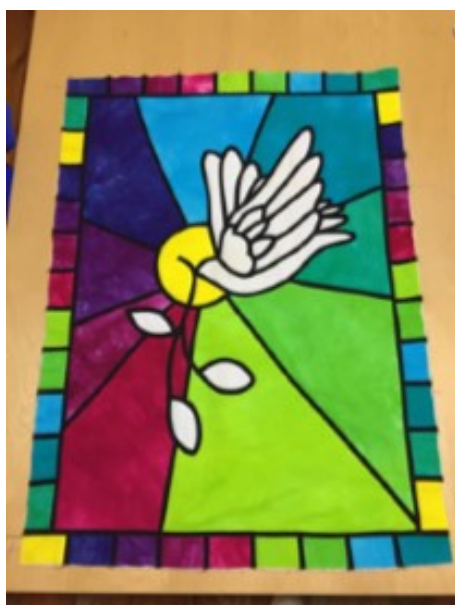
Last week's End of Year Get-Together at the Highlands Hall was a great success with perfect weather and many locals having fun!

Drinks on the Deck will return on Friday 8th January - a welcome date for your diary!



PEACE ON EARTH & GOODWILL TO ALL

With best wishes for the festive season and a happy, healthy and hassle-free 2021!



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HCCC News

HCCC Next meeting date:

February 12th Friday 7.30 pm at Whiteheads Creek

Keep this date free because it's time to ...

**Rekindle
Reunite
Reconnect
Our Community**

February 20th 2021 - 12 noon onwards

****Free Lunch** (Everything supplied!)**

**Meet your neighbours & Landcare Members
all family members are welcome!**

Venue - Ruffy Hall



DISCOVER YOUR BACKYARD

While Bali, Boston and Barcelona might be off the list of places to explore for a while, why not invite your friends and family along to swim in pristine waters, meditate atop a mountain range and indulge in fine food and wine... and all this is right on your doorstep!

discoverdindi.com.au/yourbackyard



[@discoverdindi](#)

MURRINDINDI COUNCIL SERVICES - CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR PERIOD 2020-21

Murrindindi Shire Council advises all residents and ratepayers that our Christmas and New Year operating hours will be as follows:

ALEXANDRA, KINGLAKE AND YEA LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Thursday 24 December 2020: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 25 December 2020 – Saturday 2 January 2021: CLOSED

Monday 4 January 2021: Normal hours resume

MOBILE LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

Thursday 24 December 2020:

10.00am - 12 noon (Toolangi)

1.00pm - 3.00pm (Flowerdale)

Friday 25 December 2020 – Saturday 2 January 2021: CLOSED

Tuesday 5 January 2021: Normal hours resume

KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Services due to be collected on Friday 25 December 2020 will be collected a day later than normal, on Saturday 26 December 2020. Services due to be collected on Friday 1 January 2021 will be collected a day later than normal, on Saturday 2 January 2021.

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES

All Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. In addition to these closures, all RRCs are closed on days of Total Fire Ban.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Maternal and Child Health Advice Line: 13 22 29

Poisons Information Line (24 hours): 13 11 26

Community Safety – after hours emergency (stock on roads, dog attacks etc): 5772 0333

Infrastructure Services - after hours emergency (dangerous road conditions): 5772 0333

FOR ANYTHING COVID-19 RELATED

For advice and guidance, please contact the DHHS Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

To report breaches of restrictions, please contact Victoria Police on 131 444.

GET IN TOUCH WITH COUNCIL customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au | 5772 0333 | murrindindi.vic.gov.au



SWIMMING POOLS

Friday 25 December 2020: CLOSED

Visit our website for opening times

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

Thursday 24 December 2020: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 15 Dec. 2020 - Friday 1 Jan. 2021: CLOSED

Saturday 2 January 2021: Normal hours resume

DISCOVERING YOUR BACKYARD



Steavenson Falls – Marysville

Probably the most popular waterfall nearest Melbourne with over 150,000 visitors each year. The falls drop over three tiers and are 85m in height. Access is an easy 400m walk and the falls are floodlit at night.

Wilhelmina Falls – Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

These falls flow all year round and have a spectacular drop of 75m down a steep granite rock face. The viewing platform also provides impressive views of the surrounding mountain range. Access to the falls is possible from both top and bottom but whilst the top access is shorter and flatter the bottom route is more scenic.

Murrindindi Cascades – Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

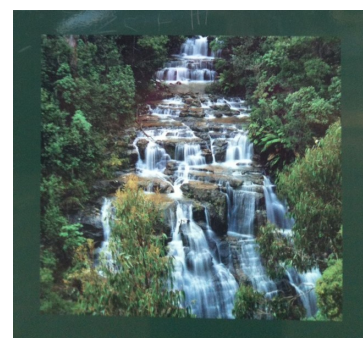
The Murrindindi Cascades are easier to access than Wilhelmina Falls and a short walk will lead you to their attractive location with the refreshing sound of water cascading over rock.

Wombelano Falls – Kinglake National Park

This is a lovely waterfall with a good walking track and viewing platform to enhance the experience. A single drop of 24.5m makes for an impressive flow of water, particularly in spring. Wombelano is an indigenous name and means 'lovely'.

Masons Falls – Kinglake National Park

The most visited waterfall in Kinglake National Park and the most substantial set of waterfalls closest to Melbourne. Easily accessed from the picnic grounds along a wide walking track Masons Falls are a series of tiers with the third drop an impressive 22.5m. Viewing platforms allow for this picturesque falls to be seen from several vantage points.



Strath Creek Falls – Strath Creek

The Strath Creek Falls were introduced to a wider audience courtesy of a painting by Eugene von Gerrard in 1862. At a very impressive 56m in a single drop they are not only scenic but have a couple of excellent viewing platforms for visitors to admire the view.



Snobs Creek Falls – Thornton

At 67m high Snobs Creek Falls is one of the most magnificent waterfalls near Melbourne. Unfortunately, the viewing platforms only afford views of the top 14m and the remaining 53m is not visible. An easy walk of 100m from Snobs Creek Wildlife Reserve.

Rubicon Falls – Rubicon Valley Historic Area

Rubicon Falls supplied the water for the first state-owned hydroelectric scheme to generate electricity on mainland Australia, originally supplying 20% of Victoria's power needs. Since Black Saturday the scheme is turned off over summer which means, surprisingly, this is now the best season to see these falls.

Over the last 6 months or so, as restrictions have limited any travel plans, it's been interesting to go 'exploring' in my local area, initially via a desktop search and then, when permitted, to attractions and features that I've never actually taken the time to discover, because they are 'just down the road'.

As the summer holidays approach and visitation from Melbourne based family and friends is definitely likely to increase I will be introducing these gems to a wider audience. Maybe some TGN readers would like to investigate these outstanding natural features for themselves, as they are certainly worth any drive and help us to appreciate what's in the 'backyard'. Ed.

NB: Do any readers have 'backyard' suggestions of their own? Polly McQuinn's & Trawool Reservoir seem obvious, but if you have a favourite attraction/destination you would like to share in 2021 please email - editor@tgn.org.au

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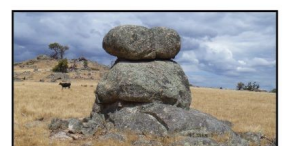
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