



THE GRANITE NEWS

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ISSUE 5

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

What a pleasant change from a month ago with the cooler weather, low cloud and most welcome rain. It really doesn't seem like February at all.

However the month of February sees the annual Platypus and Rakali count happen around the countryside and the numbers logged give an idea of the health of the rivers and creeks where these delightful creatures inhabit.

Both need clean water, free from toxins and excessive nutrients, as well as banks that are not too steep, but soft enough to excavate a burrow in.

The amount of cover provided by vegetation along the banks, eucalypts and acacias in particular, along with shrubs and low-growing plants overhanging the water, also enhance a platypus/rakali's environment.

An ideal depth of 1-3 metres is preferred although 1-6 metres is fine and the bottom of the watercourse needs to be composed of relatively coarse inorganic materials such as gravel, pebbles and large rocks. This assists the platypus in its foraging for aquatic insects and other invertebrates.

These wonderful and unique creatures are a joy and we are very lucky that they inhabit waterways throughout the HCCC region. Maybe you've seen some nearby? Hope so.

Until next week, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was still enjoying another part of the Wetlands



HCCC News

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative NEXT Meeting

The first HCCC Landcare meeting is on this Friday, 21st February, at 7.30pm



It will be held in conjunction with the **Grand Opening event of the new Tarcombe Shearing Shed aka NEW Sheep Wellness Centre.**

A guided tour will be the highlight of the evening. Please bring your own chair and check out this wonder of modern engineering.

Enquiries?

Contact Justus jjmhagen@yahoo.com.au

NB: 'Tarcombe' on Tarcombe-Ruffy Rd.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"Nature gives you the face you have at 20, but it's up to you to merit the face you have at 50."

Coco Chanel (1883-1971)

French fashion designer

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

For Sale

Vintage timber oval dining table, seats 6, chairs not included, table on castors. \$100 to take away.



Ring 0408 246308 for more info.





Website of the Week

<http://www.firesticks.org.au/cultural-burning-benefits-the-totemic-echidna-at-wattleridge-indigenous-protected-area/>

An interesting article about firestick farming, thanks to John

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — February & March

 Saturday 22nd February @ 8pm	<i>RUFFARTZ is back in 2020 with "The ROYAL HI JINX"</i> at Ruffy Public Hall Season tickets are now available from the ticket secretary Kelly Molloy on 0407 017090 or at ruffartztickets@gmail.com For further details about this amazing musical evening see last week's TGN
Thursday 27th February @ 5.30pm	<i>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</i> at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
Friday 28th February 7 - 8.30pm	<i>PLATYPUS & RAKALI COUNT</i> at Yea Wetlands Join in the annual count of these unique Australian creatures. See p.3 for more details
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th March 10-4	<i>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO</i> 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.
Saturday 7th March 10.30 for 11am start	<i>WILDERNESS .v. RICHMOND UNION over 60s Cricket Match</i> at Ruffy Rec Reserve It's BACK!! The cricket game to end all cricket games is on again. See p.4 for all the details & be there!
 Monday 9th March @ 11am	<i>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</i> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
 Friday 13th March @ 6.30pm	<i>DRINKS ON THE DECK</i> at Highlands Community Hall Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
 Saturday 14th March @ 6pm	<i>CASSEROLE DINNER Fundraising for Gobur Grave Restorations</i> at Ruffy Hall Come along and support this great cause. \$25 per head with kids under 12 Free! BYO Drinks. Enquiries? Geoff 57904282 or Millie 57734287
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March 10-4	<i>UGLN FARM CHEMICAL USERS COURSE</i> at Taggerty Hub Subsidised farm chemicals course for the eradication of pest plants & animals. See previous TGNs.
Friday 20th March @ 7pm	<i>A FILM NIGHT to remember - 2040 - details to follow</i> at Highlands Community Hall An entertaining & uplifting film directed by Damon Gameau, a 'conversation' with his 4 yr old daughter
Sunday 29th March 9am - 3pm	<i>UGLN FARM CHEMICAL COURSE - 1080 Endorsement</i> at Yea CMA meeting room Tea, coffee & light refreshments provided BYO lunch. Enquiries? - contact Cat Thomas 0418 655474
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	<i>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</i> at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Term 1 dates for 2020 - Feb. 26th, March 11th & 25th and April 8th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	<i>QIGONG AT RUFFY</i> 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 on 57953349 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<i>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</i> at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

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The Royal Hi-Jinx @ Ruffy - 22/2/20



See you there **THIS Saturday night!**

Confronting Nonsense

I often find myself lost for words when someone makes a racist or sexist remark or espouses some dangerous opinion or conspiracy theory. When I get over the shock that a person could hold such views, I never seem to have the appropriate reply, until it is too late. Sometimes I have been confronting, but I tend to suspect I would just end up in a pointless argument.

While social media has some benefits, it does seem to facilitate the circulation of prejudice, ignorance and false information. With it, we seem to be losing the art of creative discussion. Can you really have a proper dialogue on Twitter? Hardly, it simply trivialises thinking.

Whether we are doing it on line or face to face how do we deal constructively with prejudice and 'bullsh*t' and still respect the other person? I believe we all have a responsibility to call out prejudice and ignorance, and feel disappointed with myself when I fail to do so. Consequently, I have been working on some strategies. It would be good to hear of other options.

For instance, when someone makes a prejudicial, sexist, or racist remark, we could simply ask, 'What were you thinking when you said that?' In this way, there is at least the possibility of some further discussion.

When someone makes comments that are clearly false and full of bias, one way of replying could be, 'How did you come to that position? Where did you get your information from?' I sometimes wish reporters would ask similar questions when interviewing politicians.

Facing up to the climate denier or sceptic, perhaps it is now time to ask them to give evidence for their opinion that there is no climate crisis. What do you think?

Stuart Reid

Highlands

PLATYPUS & RAKALI COUNT

Friday 28 February 2020

Cummins Reserve Carpark, Yea Wetlands
Goulburn Valley Highway



Join us in the Yea Wetlands for
an hour of quiet observation
7:00pm for a 7:30pm start
7:30-8:30 pm Fauna Count
FREE

RSVP ASAP to be a part of this special night - 57972663

Important DATE for your DIARY ARTRIDGE Stan & Dawn

Memorial gathering **4 April 2020**, 1.30pm (after lunch), Ruffy. Ph [03 57904205](tel:0357904205)

Fire awareness for all

Weekend project #3 - Enclose the sub-floor with a metal mesh. Flammable items are often stored underneath the house. If this area is not enclosed these items will catch, often due to ember attack, and pose a threat to every room in the house. The exposed underside of timber floors can be protected with a lightweight, non-combustible layer.



* Reprinted from The Conversation, by Douglas Brown, Western Sydney Uni.



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Black Marketeers!

The first Black Market for 2020 was February 22nd 10am-12pm (note the earlier Summer time).

We have discovered that we might not hear you knocking on the door, so please just come on up ... or we'll see you outside.

If you have any produce to swap or sell ... that would be great. If you don't, you are more than welcome just come for a chat and a cuppa.

March 28th Black Market - Bee-Keeping :-)

A few people have expressed interest in learning more about bee-keeping.

Brian Bowring, who ran the pruning / grafting / espalier demonstration, has offered to come to the March Black Market with his "bee mentor", Andrew Janiak, to run a free 2 hour information and session for us. There will be honey to buy and they will be able to tell you more about courses that are available if you would like to take it further. For more information about the permaculture/apiculture group that Andrew belongs to and writes for ... <http://www.naturalbeekeeping.org.au>

Please reply or give me a call on 0428969366 by the 29th of February if this is of interest, so I can give Brian and Andrew an idea of numbers and for me to cater for morning tea.

Regards
Clare (and Vitto)
0428969366



IT'S BACK!! Cricket that is....

The Wilderness .V. Richmond Union Over 60s.

(NB: The Wilderness is a combined Ruffy Highlands Caveat Tarcombe Terrip side)

Where? Ruffy Recreation Reserve

When? Saturday 7th March 2020

What time? 10.30 am for a 11.00 start

What format? 40 over game of 2 * 20 over innings.

What's to eat? Lunch will be provided.

BYO refreshments and possibly a BBQ at Ruffy following.

If you are interested in playing, please contact me on **0427 969259**

Scott McKay



This is it!! The cricket game of the season, forget the 20/20 Big Bash or even the Ashes this will be **THE game** to talk about for years to come, be there or be a part of it Ed

Pioneer Grave Restorations

Gobur Cemetery

BYO
DRINKS

Casserole Dinner

GREAT
CAUSE

Saturday, 14 March 2020

Ruffy Hall 6 pm

Under 12 Free!

It's On Again!
Geoff Penny
57904282
M. the CUMING
57734237

\$25.00 pp

Some interesting Summer 2019/20 facts

The casualties and destruction so far from the eastern states and ACT are sobering statistics—
33 lives lost

3,000 homes destroyed

1 billion animals killed (at least)

and 12 billion hectares burnt

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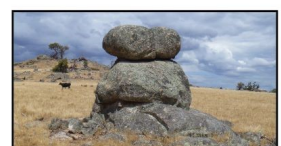
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