



THE GRANITE NEWS

23RD MARCH 2020

VOLUME 14

COVID-19 SPECIAL 1

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Exceptional times call for extraordinary measures, who would have thought 2 TGNs in 2 days, but here is the first Covid-19 issue. Stay in touch with your neighbours and stay safe. Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Was looking forward to Merton's Small Halls Festival in 2021



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

Panic Buying, two words - please don't!

Let's talk about hoarding... we are NOT squirrels and therefore we do not need to store nuts for the winter. So why are people doing it? Certainly the prospect of 14 days self-isolated quarantine is probably a consideration for some people raiding supermarket shelves, like there is no tomorrow, but there is really no need to do this.

The supermarket chains, both big and small, continue to reassure the population that the overwhelming majority of our food is sourced locally and will not run out. However the supply chains just can't keep pace with the intense demand currently being experienced.

As the HCCC area consists of small localities, that have been independent communities for over 100 years, we have the ability to look out for our friends and neighbours almost intuitively. (see p.2 for the action that a section of the **Highlands Community is undertaking**) It is not hard to organize this, our phones and emails still work and are an essential form of communication.

If you are concerned about being isolated take the initiative, contact your neighbours and organize something similar. Humans are social animals and this reassurance that someone is there for us in this unprecedented time is good, not only for our self-confidence, but for our mental health as well.

As an exercise in self-reliance I went through my food cupboard, fridge & freezer yesterday - none of which are industrial size - to see just what I had stored and was quite amazed by the result.

Not only do I appear to have enough food for almost 3 weeks worth of meals stashed away, but my 2 dogs aren't going to miss out either. Peter and I may be well and truly over pasta, if we need to isolate and use up the food we have, but we are definitely not going to starve.

Like most things it is all a matter of commonsense, but as Oscar Wilde once said, "Common sense is not so common." Unfortunately the basic tenant of fair play for all also seems to have been lost in the last few weeks amidst the growing concerns of Coronavirus.

Coming from small communities we have the ability to ensure that no-one is left out or isolated in the weeks ahead. The same applies for those readers who live outside the immediate HCCC area, please reach out to your friends and neighbours if you need assistance or think that they do. As that annoying TV ad jingle says, "We're all in this together."



**Very small LPGas fridge with freezer
& lots of magnets!**

"In that village nobody stops to talk with anybody else."

**Sherpa Dawa Tenzing
when asked what he thought of
London**

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**

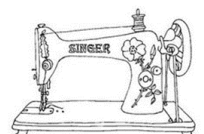
For Sale

Rare and beautiful 50th anniversary Statesman for sale. (Photo to come)
Stunning blue with grey interior. Immaculate body.
Drives like a dream Plenty of get up & go. Cruise control, air bags, grey carpet in good condition.
New radio and CD player (original available). Great family car.
Tow a caravan, a motorboat, a jet ski or a bike trailer with style.
Ideal for show & shine circuit and perfect for a club collector. Only 270,000 kms.
\$5000. Ring Marj 57904298/0408342633

For all your sewing needs

Mending, buttons, zips, hems. Soft furnishings (cushions) personalised painting smocks.
Bags—library, shopping, craft.

Marj Leigh



Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — April

Friday 3rd April @ 7.30pm	WASPS of the Upper Goulburn Yea River Catchment Landcare Group presentation by Ron Litjens. See p.4 for more info. at Yea Butter Factory
Saturday 4th April @ 1.30pm	MEMORIAL GATHERING for ... Phone 03 57904205 for more details. at Ruffy
Friday 10th April @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for ... and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin ... at Highlands Community Hall
Friday 17th April @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS HALL BLUES NIGHT Come along for an excellent evening of jazz ... support the hall. at Highlands Community Hall Enquiries? Judy 57969247
Monday 20th April @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and ... great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
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? Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!! 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 on 57953349 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free! Swing dances feature the jazzy 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

COVID-19 Highlands Community Connections

Hello. If you are self-isolating due to the COVID-19 virus, we can help with:

- Picking up shopping
- Posting mail
- Urgent supplies or medicines
- A friendly phone call.

Just call (insert name here) on ***** or text ***** , and someone from our small group will do their best to help you (for free).

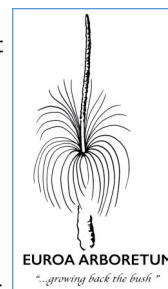
Even if you are just feeling anxious about the virus and what you need to do, please give us a call or text.

Please take every precaution and spread only kindness.

Avoid physical contact (1.5m distance) and wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday twice).

This has been sent out to residents on social media & fire trees

Although the **Retail Shop at the Euroa Arboretum** has been closed it still is a popular public recreation space. We want it to remain a place of calm and welcome. While we have closed the retail nursery to the public until further notice - we imagine some of you will want to continue to walk, fish and wander the Arboretum site - and unless self-isolation is required - we encourage you to do so. We ask you to adhere to physical distancing as stated by all health experts. So please visit this sanctuary, respect others' space and needs, and exercise common sense at all times. We will get through this together.



We are still open for nursery order pick ups. Please call 0429 127 399 in advance so we can have your order ready and waiting for you. If you would like advice, please email info@euroaarboretum.com.au with details of your location and your return phone number. We will endeavour to help with advice.

Thank you for your patience - Cathy & Shirley.

WOW!! What a feast of culture, sport & entertainment ~ why would we want to live anywhere else??

Expressions of Interest - Tracks & Trails Upgrades

Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced contractors to assist with upgrading works on various multi-use tracks & trails throughout the municipality.



These works relate to Council's drought recovery initiatives funded through the Australian Government's Drought Communities Programme.

The funding is targeted to stimulate local community spending, use local resources, businesses and suppliers and provide long-lasting benefit to communities.

The works generally involve the upgrading of tracks and trails surfaces, clearing, minor works to improve accessibility and the installation of supplied interpretive and directional signage.

It is important to note that this work involves the supply and use of hand tools, power tools, manual and mechanical materials placement capacity (such as gravel, stone rock, timber) and specialised machinery able to access and work on narrow and remote tracks and trails with minimal track and vegetation impact.

Demonstrated knowledge and experience of previous works on tracks and trails would be highly advantageous.

Responses to Expressions of Interest must include, as a minimum:

- A detailed list of relevant tools and machinery with hour and day rates where applicable

Hour and day labour rates

Responses could also include:

- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of previous works on tracks and trails
- Any training/certificates undertaken relevant to tracks and trails type works

Any partnering propositions with other contractors to deliver works as Council may engage one or more contractors to work on various sites. The lowest or any Expression of Interest may not necessarily be accepted. **Expressions of Interest will be received until 4.00pm on Thursday 16 April 2020 endorsed with Contract No. 19/20-41 Water Infrastructure Project - Tracks & Trails Upgrades.**

Submissions must be made via TenderSearch

www.tendersearch.com.au/strathbogie.

Julie Salomon - Chief Executive Officer

The Highlands Mobile Library Service has been temporarily suspended due to Covid—19. Resumption dates will be advised. Thanks for your understanding.



Strathbogie Shire Community Grants Program 2020-2021 Now Open



We are excited to announce the opening of the 2020-2021 Community Grants Program. **Grants will open Monday 16th March at 9.00am and will close at 5pm April 24th 2020.**

Information sessions will be held at the following locations:

Euroa Conference Centre Enter from Bury Street
Wednesday 25th March 2020, 6-8pm

Nagambie Youth Hub 26 Filson Street,
Thursday 26th March 2020, 2-4pm

Avenel Preschool 31 Watson Street
Thursday 26th March 2020, 6-8pm

Violet Town Community Complex (Supper Room)
35 Cowslip Street
Friday 27th March 2020, 2-4pm

It is strongly recommended that if you are applying for a Community Grant, that at least two representatives from your group attend one of the scheduled Information sessions to support the application process. Particularly if you have never applied for a Community Grant before.

Additionally, individual appointments will be available from **Monday 6th April and Thursday 9th April**. To arrange an appointment please call **Melanie Likos or Deb Ellis on 5795 0000 or 1800 065 993**. Alternatively, you can email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

For more information regarding the Community Grants program please visit our website at the following link: <https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/community/community-funding/community-grants-program>



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](#).

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Janet Hagen submitted
this poem written by
Brother Richard, of the
Capuchin Franciscans



It is with regret that the Ruffy Artfest 2020 committee has reluctantly decided to cancel the art show and artisan stalls weekend which was scheduled to be held the last week of May this year.

We appreciate that this decision will frustrate those of you who are already preparing for our weekend - we sincerely apologise to you and to all who will be adversely affected by this decision.

As you will know this cancellation is as a result of the growing Coronavirus crisis which is now being forecast to last around the world for at least another six months. The Artfest committee wants to err on the side of caution.

Thank you to those of you who have already paid to enter the art show or hold a stall, you will be sent a refund shortly.

If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to ring or email me.

Kind regards
Robyn Sheehan
President
Ruffy Artfest 2020

Victorian Department of Health & Human Services

If you have been asked to self-isolate, it means staying at home with **adequate** supplies, not hoarding.

Practice good hygiene and keep your home clean. When in isolation, monitor yourself for symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath.

If symptoms develop, please call the hotline on 1800 675 398.

For more download the [Australian Government Department of Health's](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) self-isolation guide from our website: <http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

RUFFY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Royal Children's Hospital FUNDRAISING AUCTIONS

The 2020 Good Friday Ruffy CFA Seafood Lunch is cancelled !

**We are not even permitted to 'door-knock' or 'tin rattle'
to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital.**

BUT, we have a target to beat !

**So, we are auctioning a tandem-trailer load of split firewood
each month for April, May, June & July.**

Bidding opens 1st day of each month & closes midnight last day of month

You can place your bids by phone, SMS message, email or in person to

Ruffy Rural Fire Brigade Treasurer—Don Cook

Mobile: 0408 929 818—Email: mavdon50@gmail.com

**Progressive Auction totals will be notified to current bidders,
posted on the Ruffy Facebook page and at the Ruffy fire-shed
Or just call Cookie for a bidding update!**

**ALL funds raised from these Auctions will go to the
Royal Children's Hospital
Good Friday Appeal**



*Delivery is included to the
Ruffy /Highlands/Tablelands*

A message from the RuffArtz Committee:

RuffArtZ

We regret to inform you that the upcoming RuffArt presentation of 'Canyon Callers' has been cancelled. The **RuffArtz Committee** advises that in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic & new Government regulation, **we have regretfully cancelled the 'Canyon Callers' show, originally scheduled for 23 May at the Ruffy Hall.** Season pass holders will be advised by email over the coming weeks about possible rescheduling. Meanwhile, the **Ruzzartz Committee** encourage you to support electronic formats of the Arts & we hope that live entertainment will return soon.

HABBIES HOWE BEEF

MATURE, WELL HUNG &
AVAILABLE
IGA SEYMOUR
GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN
MARKET
L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH

SCOTCH AND FILLET
ST HELENA, MENTONE &
MERENDA



General earthworks & hole boring
Shed design, construction & removal
Metal fabrication & welding
Crane truck hire

Callum - 0437 182 223
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com

bluetopbiz.com.au

efficiency, sustainability, innovation
presentations, reports,
marketing, training,
risk management,
web design & maintenance.
energy management, grant apps,
solar modelling

Sue 0411 010 379
Neil 0417 503 472



CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS

Established 1978
NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS,
RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL
ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.
Registered Building Practitioner
Call Colin for a quote
Telephone: 0419 502 782

ruffy

produce store

special events | venue hire

first friday night bbqs | 'Tour de Ruff'
monthly long table lunches
and more

bookings a must

03 5790 4387 0429 904 209
or store@ruffy.com.au



Supplying everything you need

Products & Expertise in

- Animal Production
- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling



PH: (03) 5792 1088

HELPING YOU GROW

FRANZ KLOFT MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Repairs & service of vehicles

Tyres, Windscreens, Exhausts,
Batteries, Wheel alignment,
Brakes, Automatic transmission
& we do New car servicing

Phone 5795 2910 FREE
38 Railway Street, Euroa QUOTES

BenCo

PLUMBING SERVICES

Ben Laycock
License no. 105134

0438512299

bencoplumbingservices.com
ben@bencoplumbingservices.com

AG Fencing & Contracting Services

Grant Wheatley

All fence constructions,
Equipment maintenance & Pump
repairs, Blasting Service
"Not sure if we do it?"

Give us a call
0407 028 122

KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE



DAMS
EARTHWORKS
STOCK+WATER CARTAGE
& MORE

0429 804 235
MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM

IT Professional in the Highlands

Can help with all problems with
your mobile phone, I Pad, box
computer or any
email issues



Happy to travel

John Rogers 0478 221311

EDUCATION SPACE For Hire

The Tablelands Community
Centre at Ruffy
Ideal for Meetings, Lectures or Arts
& Crafts

Very Reasonable Rates
Contact Melissa Macdowall
0404 833388

0425 794 838
7 The Semi Circle Yea.
www.reikiinsight.com

Thompson Sound

PtyLtd



Sound PA Systems for
Special Events

Stephen 0409 672 602

www.thompsonsound.com.au

de Castella
Design & Construction

"DESIGNING & BUILDING WITH YOU"

Pre-purchase Inspection & Owner Builder Assistance Available

- Homes
- Renovations
- Extensions



Will de Castella

- Decks
- Verandahs
- Carports

YEA & DISTRICTS

0432 991 992

Donation from Supporters of the RAKALI



Chris Sharman

Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy
Specialist

Acme - Air Conditioning |

Electrical | Solar

M: 0418 551 301

T: Office - 9785 7339

E: chris@acmeair.com.au



HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Meeting Room and/or Hall
available for hire

MEETINGS
FUNCTIONS
WORKSHOPS
PARTIES
WEDDINGS

Reasonable rates
Contact Judy Cameron
5796 9247



SEYMOUR & DISTRICT

- ROADS
- DAMS
- LAND CLEARING
- TREE REMOVAL



All aspects of earthmoving



Mark Kelly 0428 547 798 | Andrew Shaw 0427 969 297
kellbell25@bigpond.com

[DKO] CONSTRUCTIONS

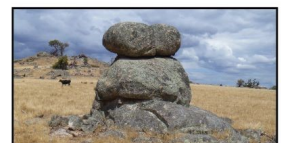
Building • Carpentry • Construction

0477 640 590



A GRADE
POWER & SOLAR
Solar Design & Installation
Experts in Off Grid Battery
Systems, Solar Grid Tied
and back up Generators.
Craig Andrew 0419889555

Kelly's Hut



Strathbogie Granite
Project

neil.phillips@bigpond.com