



# THE GRANITE NEWS

9TH APRIL 2020

VOLUME 14

COVID-19 SPECIAL 6

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another few days into this stranger than strange year and in the wider world it appears that the Covid-19 curve for Australia is maybe starting to flatten out rather than spike. That's a very cautious maybe, but perhaps we can be hopeful that self-isolating and the range of restrictions put into place are beginning to take effect.

However with Easter upon us this might all be blown out of the water if people start to think, in our usual laconic, Australian way that she'll be right mate! Wrong! As this message from DELWP so succinctly puts it

Over Easter we'll be conducting patrols across Victoria's forests and campgrounds this weekend, ensuring everyone understands that all recreational activities beyond exercise are not allowed.

That means no recreational fishing, no hunting, no boating, no camping.

**The message is clear – stay home. Save lives.**

For more information about the restrictions and penalties, visit:

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



Until next issue, **Pauline**

**And Kenny?** Still chilling out self-isolating, he'll be back again soon....

## HCCC News

### Easter is a new beginning...

Looking for an Easter Activity to entertain the family while staying at home? Save the Planet and get some exercise while self-isolating.

We've all got time now to get out into the paddocks and plant some trees. Especially since this lovely rain.

HCCC Landcare is offering 50 free plants to the first 50 people who contact **Janet Hagen 0458 904268 [hughescreek2@gmail.com](mailto:hughescreek2@gmail.com)**. These trees come with tree guards and stakes. **All you need to do is send us a photo of you planting them.** We have a selection of trees and shrubs suitable for planting in the Strathbogie Ranges on offer. Plants delivered to your gate or picked up from Tablelands Community Centre. No direct human contract involved. (NB: this deal only applies to those living in the Hughes Creek Catchment, Longwood East Landcare Group or Creightons Creek Catchment)

- Plant a wind break for stock shelter
- Add understorey around existing paddock trees.
- Replace old paddock trees.
- Create Wildlife habitat.
- Build a corridor to connect remnant patches.



This initiative has been funded by the Bogies & Beyond project through GBCMA  
Plants lovingly grown by Euroa Arboretum.



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)

**As you travel through life dear  
brother**

**No matter where you stroll**

**Keep your eye upon the donut**

**And not upon the hole!**

**Spotted in a donut shop c.1969**

**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!



## Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

**1800 020 080**

## Website of the Week

If you're a Facebook user you might be interested in the topic [view from my window](#) as people from all around the world share just one photo of what they can see from their windows. Joyful!

## Community Notices & Classifieds

### CALENDAR of EVENTS — April

 <b>Friday 10th April</b> <b>@ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS ON THE DECK</b> Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. <div>Cancelled</div>	<b>at Highlands Community Hall</b>
<b>Friday 10th April -</b> <b>Monday 13th April</b>	<b>EASTER - Celebrate at home with your immediate, at home, family</b> 2021 will be the time to celebrate further afield, in the overall scheme of things it's not that long to wait. 	
<b>Friday 17th April</b> <b>@ 6.30pm</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS HALL BLUES NIGHT</b> Come along for an excellent evening of music and support the hall. <div>Postponed</div>	<b>at Highlands Community Hall</b>
 <b>Monday 20th April</b> <b>@ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2020 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and a great tea & coffee will be provided. <div>Postponed until further notice</div>	<b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
<b>Every second</b> <b>Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<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>	<b>at Highlands Community Hall</b>
<b>Every Monday</b> <b>@ 10 am</b>	<b>QIGONG AT RUFFY</b> Vivien Watmough looks for this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 57953349 or email: <a href="mailto:vivienwatmough@gmail.com">vivienwatmough@gmail.com</a> <div>Postponed until further notice</div>	<b>at Highlands Community Centre Ruffy</b>
<b>Every Thursday</b> <b>@ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</b>	<b>SWING DANCE CLASSES - Free!</b> Swing dances feature the jazzy Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!	<b>at Euroa Uniting Church Hall</b> <b>Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</b>

### Going Crazy from being in Lockdown?

Actually I've just been talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking coffee and all of us agreed that it was getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she always puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic... just told me to suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to...yes, you guessed it...pull myself together.

Anon



### AMNESTY BURN PERIOD

Since the CFA declared an end to the fire danger period, an amnesty burn period has been in place and will remain in place until

**Monday 4 May 2020.**

Residents in farming areas can burn off vegetation material without a permit. Residents in township zones and built up areas can burn-off vegetation material without a permit until **Monday 4 May 2020.**

Residents can also deposit green waste **free of charge** and all year round at any of Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

There are a number of conditions that still apply. Before burning off, please register your burn by calling **1800 668 511.**

For more information about burning off and the amnesty period, please visit our website and search 'amnesty', or give us a call.

## Letter to the Editor

When I asked the question of a friend, why is it that we now believe in the science of epidemiology and the models that predict the spread of the virus and not the scientists and models that predict climate change, his answer was, ***“It can be and continues to be deferred because of lack of consensus and lack of votes. So, the current batch can leave it to the next batch. Virus is here and now and needs to be dealt with accordingly.”***

Well, in this instance we are the next batch, and now the next two or three batches will be paying for our folly.

I sometimes feel ashamed of my generation:

We (me included) cheered and celebrated the cutting of income taxes.

We ignored the destruction of the Australian manufacturing sector so that we can buy our “things” cheaper.

We didn't flinch when governments cut funding on research, spending on the CSIRO and Universities were cut to the bear minimum or less over the last 20 years.

We watched as scientists got paid a tenth of what is considered normal for a sports star.

We didn't think twice about sending our children to private schools when funding to government schools was cut and the state service was seen as inferior.

We didn't react to cuts in the Public health system so that our hospitals were running at full capacity with no ability to meet a public emergency, we just bought more subsidised health insurance in the belief we now bullet proof.

We looked on as Governments continuously opposed any pay increases to health workers and cut their numbers.

We allowed the Government to cut funds or make it more expensive for tertiary education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. So, the numbers of graduates reduced. (The answer was simply to just import them when they are needed and we created a visa system to achieve this.)

Now we are paying the price for the past. Over the last 20 or so years we have made cursory planning for a pandemic.

Stories have been written, play books written and reports can be found in dusty files on shelves in government offices or archived in a database somewhere out of harm's way, on how to plan and manage for a pandemic.

I now hear politicians say we have a have a Black Swan or unprecedented event. “Who would have thought this would happen?” I hear them say. Even when all the warning signs were there, we did nothing, it was downplayed. This can never happen to us. I think now we can call it by a different bird, it's an Ostrich event, not a Black Swan.

Now for the next surprise, we can't build simple equipment locally, most is manufactured somewhere else, or parts are difficult to get to assemble locally. Now we have no gloves, face masks, protective clothing and ventilators, nor any easy way to source them.

The problems we now face are broad and global but, unfortunately, the responses are increasingly narrow and parochial.

I hope we can recover and learn from this, and on the other side we can reprioritise what's important, work together without the destructive and divisiveness of the past to develop better plans and become a more compassionate and empathic global society.

Neil van Buuren

## Terip takes some Timeout

Dear Everyone, Please note that we have been required to close the Terip Community Centre, tennis courts and public toilets at the Terip Recreation Reserve due to Covid-19 restrictions. As soon as these restrictions are lifted we look forward to seeing everyone again at our regular events. The committee wishes everyone a Happy Easter and hopes that our community stays safe. We are lucky to be isolated in such a beautiful place like Terip!





## Taking Time to Listen

Several years ago, I wrote a short piece about the old Highlands tradition of drivers waving to each other. At the time, there was a positive response and I do think the gesture is still very much alive. Reflecting on the extraordinary time we are living in because of Covid 19, it seems the gesture is now even more important than ever. It is a good way of saying, 'we're in this together.'

As we reflect on the implications of the growing restrictions on face to face socialising, it is clear that we are all having to move into quite a foreign world. It is true that most of us can still use a phone or the internet to connect with people, but I suspect that this will not be enough in the long run for everyone. In time, our need for face to face physical contact will become even more urgent. It clearly raises all kinds of mental health questions, maybe even for those who have never experienced anxieties of this kind. Thankfully people are finding ingenious ways, including using technology to check on friends, family and those who are most vulnerable.

However, it is important not to forget our immediate family and those we actually live with. With people now working from home and children home from school the dynamics of the household will change. While new possibilities for family life may arise, there will also be new tensions. For one thing, being cut off from other friends and family will put pressure on any household. It becomes therefore, even more important to listen to each other and carefully monitor how each person is coping. Let's not take each other for granted, we really do need each other.

Stuart Reid—Highlands

## One more day....

The musical Les Misérables is one of my all time favourite theatrical experiences. (ed.) The final song prior to interval is most dramatic as all the cast sing about just having one more day, one day more, in which to do things or see things change.

The Marsh family from Kent, UK - father Ben, mum Danielle and off-spring Alfie, Thomas, Ella and Tess have posted a YouTube video of this classic song, with lyrics specially adapted to the current climate. It's 4 mins & 16 seconds of enjoyable entertainment and can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdcS0Nbo7Ng>



## Together in the new normal

In the world of COVID-19, daily life as we've known it has been flipped on its head. Things feel uncertain, and for many of us this contributes to a spike in stress and anxiety. We are all impacted.



The annual Movember event focuses on men's mental health and they are now suggesting that it is time for communities to reach out to share some practical tools and advice to help us look after our own mental health and provide some guidance on how to support others around us.

No doubt many in our community are impacted by things like unemployment, social isolation and financial distress. Now, more than ever, we need to stay connected.

As everyone navigates this new normal together, there are some steps we can take every day to look after ourselves and others. Sometimes it's hard to know what advice to listen to or what information is credible – and so providing trusted and reliable information is our focus.

We know we can't go to a gig or catch up at the gym, but we can still talk to each other and maintain our social connections. This is especially important if we're not feeling OK or we're worried about someone else. We can call, text, group chat, FaceTime – use whatever works and get creative.

Everyone's situation is different and we're all learning as we go into these uncharted waters. So if you have any suggestions as to how you're staying connected to friends and family, please email them to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) so that we can share these ideas within our own community.

## More Sanity Saver Suggestions

How do you keep a sense of normality when all around us is not normal? Here are a few suggestions, courtesy of the internet, and with thanks to the Seymour Performers Workshop e-newsletter -

**The Show Must Go On** - Get your musical theatre fix here. Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber is releasing a full-length, smash-hit musical once a week for you to watch for free!

New York City Center presents the **Encores! Archives Project**. Each week's selections will center around a different theme; a composer or writing team, a particular era, or a performer.

The National Theatre in the UK are presenting **National Theatre at Home**. Every Thursday they'll release a new National Theatre play – free to watch for one week.

Just insert the **bold text** above into your browser and enjoy!

# **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**

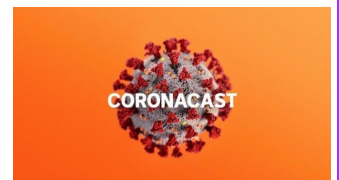


*Delivery is included to the  
Ruffy /Highlands/Tablelands*

### **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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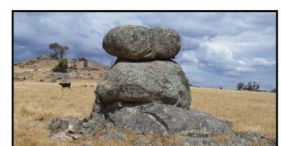
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