



THE GRANITE NEWS

28TH MARCH 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 11

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

As we're on the downhill run to Easter and the end of Term 1 for schools The Granite News will be taking its usual holiday break for the next couple of weeks, with the next issue due out on 18th April. If you have any events or articles for inclusion please submit them earlier rather than later as TGN issues are filling up quite quickly. Until April 18th, stay safe, **Pauline**

And Kenny... was looking forward to hearing Maryann Slattery speak.

HCCC News

We Rekindled, Reunited & Reconnected!!



After a year of unprecedented and unusual times yesterday was the day to celebrate and reconnect with our neighbours in what is, as close to pre-Covid normal, as it is currently possible. But what a celebration it was! The HCCC executive and other helpers' great organisation ensured that a fantastic day was had by all.

Thanks to Sue van Buuren for the excellent article on p.3 and all the photos. As everyone enjoyed themselves so much it might be that this community lunch becomes an annual event! Stay tuned...

And now for the next community event...

the Tablelands Community Centre Fun Day on Easter Saturday
Loads of activities and fun for everyone - see p.4 for more - and
don't forget to RSVP NOW for catering and Covid purposes!

HCCC Membership

Don't forget that membership of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative is ongoing and free! Just email editor@tgn.org.au to join.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

**"The road to a friend's house is
never long."**

Danish proverb

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



A sign used in Australia to advise that slow drivers are about to temporarily increase their speed

Post Covid - Post Carbon





2020 - World population 7.8 billion
Carbon in atmosphere: 415 parts
per million

Remaining wilderness: 35 per cent
Source: A Life on our Planet -
Sir David Attenborough

HCCC Membership so far
164 ... and counting

Community Notices & Classifieds

WHAT'S ON — April

Friday 2nd to Monday 5th April 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.
Saturday 3rd April (Easter Saturday) 2pm start	THE TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN DAY at Tablelands Community Centre 2pm start BBQ 5:30 BYO nibbles, drinks and salad. Lots of activities for all. Please advise if you're coming for COVID and catering purposes. Email: tccruffy@gmail.com or call 0427 960 970
 Friday 9th April @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK 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 10th April 8.45am - 1.30pm	RIPARIAN WALK #1 - WALLABY GULLY, UPTON HILL commencing at 2130 Upton Rd Strathbogie RangesCMN walks are back. This one is 5kms long and limited to 20, so bookings essential! To enquire and/or book - admin@strathbogie_ranges.org
Sunday 11th April @ 3pm	OFFICIAL OPENING OF DENNIS SPITERI's 2021 EXHIBITION at Hillcrest Studio Dennis's annual exhibition of his paintings will be open daily 10-4 from 11/4 to 9/5. Enquiries? 57969373
 Monday 12th April @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2021 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
Thursday 15th April @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Terip Rec Reserve The next meeting will be held in terrific Terip. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 0427 524473
 Saturday 17th April 10-noon	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Thursday 29th April @ 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.
Sunday 25th April @ 11am	ANZAC DAY SERVICE @ TERIP at Terip Rec Reserve The annual ANZAC Day Service, followed by lunch, is happening again. More details to come...
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?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be at Highlands on these dates— April 14th & 28th and May 5th & 26th.
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 on 5790 4361 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances feature the best band and music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

Indian Myna Traps - If you'd like to join the fight against Common Mynas, we have 20 traps available for use by residents within the Strathbogie Ranges or Strathbogie Shire. You are eligible to borrow a free Common Myna trap to help you control the Common Myna population in your area. **To ensure that everyone is able to access these traps, there is a limit of one trap per household, for a maximum time of one month per borrow.** **Please note a \$20 deposit is required per trap borrowed.**

Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about coronavirus or COVID19. Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080



HCCC Landcare Community lunch

A great turnout of about 70 locals attended the HCCC Landcare lunch at Ruffy hall on Saturday 27th March.

The day commenced with a short speech from Jenny Webb (HCCC Landcare President) welcoming everyone and telling us about some of Landcare's history, achievements, and activities.

Welcome to country was then performed by respected Taungurung man, Shane Monk. Shane also performed a smoking ceremony, and



everyone had the opportunity to be cleansed in the white smoke.

Thanks to Steph Ryan (Member for Euroa) who came along and acknowledged the valuable work of HCCC Landcare & addressed the concerns & challenges landholders are facing with the impending legislation allowing camping access to riverside Crown land.

Steph advised that the Victorian Government has set up a website to encourage community consultation on the issue, so all concerned can provide feedback.

Found here: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/regulated-watercourse-land-regulations>

Everyone settled in for an enjoyable day, sitting at tables in the dappled shade in the

gardens, until the skies opened and rain forced everyone inside the hall. Spirits were not dampened however, and everyone continued to enjoy the food and drink, and the conviviality.

Shane gave an engaging cultural talk in the afternoon, showing artefacts including stone axes and other cutting tools and detailed some of the history and practices of the Taungurung people of this area. Shane explained how the Hughes Creek is of great importance to the Taungurung people and the area has many valuable culturally significant sites.



The day was a great opportunity for local people to catch up with their neighbours after a year of Covid restrictions and limitations on gatherings.

Many people made new acquaintances on the day, helping to build new connections in the community.

Community events in rural areas like ours are essential to creating and maintaining relationships; so important in fostering community connection and resilience. Thanks to the State Government for funding this event as part of its work on recovery from Covid impacts. Thanks to the following businesses:

The Brewer's Table Seymour for the wonderful grazing plates and salads

Avenel Butcher Scotty for the hamburgers and koftas

Habbies Howe for the sausages

Moondog Brewing for the beer and Dropmore vineyards for the wine



Sue van Buuren

GET YOUR BOOKINGS IN NOW!

Tablelands Community Centre Fun Day

Easter Saturday 3 April, 2021

- * Plenty of **family activities** for everybody
- * Taungurung **Welcome to Country** and **Smoking Ceremony**
- * The **Great Tomato Challenge** prize presentations
- * Bring your best **chutney** or **sauce** for judging
- * Buy yourself some **Ruffy History** with the auction of school play equipment
- * Marvel at the new **Tablelands Timeline** history installation, to be officially opened by Cr Laura Binks
- * Remember the **Great Roscoe Circus**? He's back to dazzle you with tricks, laughter and music too!
- * Lamb on the spit roast & BBQ supplied, **BYO** **salads**, **nibbles** and **drinks**
- * Piñata, sack races, and egg and spoon races
- * **PLUS Geoff Achison from the Souldiggers (playing solo)**

Tablelands Community Centre, Nolans Road, Ruffy

Activities start at 2pm

BBQ at 5.30pm

Please advise if you're attending for COVID-safe and catering requirements

Email: tcruddy@gmail.com or call: 0427 690 970

Special thanks to Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare, Splitrock Water & RuffArtz

Hill slope erosion farm walk @ Strath Creek

This workshop will provide general hillslope erosion processes & management information to landholders. Kerrie Goschnick - Agriculture Victoria is the erosion specialist on the day.

Date: Thursday 29 April 2021

Venue: Strath Creek

Details of venue will be sent via email prior to the event.

Time: 9.00am for a coffee, start at 9.30am to 12.00pm

Please bring sturdy walking shoes, drinking water, rain gear and hat. Registration is compulsory (due to COVID) Contact Rhiannon onrhiannons@gbcma.vic.gov.au or 5822 7700

Maximum number able to attend this workshop will be 15 people.

If you are unwell, waiting for a Covid test result or been in a hotspot, please don't attend.

CRICKET - Over 60s .V. the Wilderness at Ruffy Rec - Saturday 13th March

Final game of the season as we headed up to Ruffy to play the Wilderness for the 2nd Coronavirus Cup. Hard to believe where those 366 days went.

A late withdrawal reduced The O60's to 9, so we borrowed Hamish McAlpine and his young sons Max and Louie, and bowled first. The rule which said you can't go out until you have made a run was well used by both sides, but although we bowled 10 bowlers in the first 20 overs we didn't take a wicket being 0/101 at halfway. Harry Sleigh, Wilderness Captain, led the way with 30 followed by Carts 17 and an Achilles, Debutante Charlie Cameron 32.

The O60's got a steady start but kept losing wickets and finished at 4/104. A lead, but not enough in the shed to accelerate. Keven got 20, Andy 13, Con and Kim came and went, so it was back into the field.

Despite some good bowling the Wilderness boys accelerated to 1/222, the only wicket falling to young Max McAlpine. Scott Longley with 0/8 from 5 overs was clearly O60's best.

Comeback King Duncan Ferguson 14 no injuries (Lingy will be pleased), Ollie Ford 27, Jono Rumbold personal best of 22 and Greg Pritchard, who was auditioning for a game with the over 60's, got bowled by a 12 year old for 11.

As the forecast rain arrived at the start of our innings wickets continued to fall as Shane 24, Scott McKay 8, Hamish 25 ret., Scott Longley 30 ret and Eane Whitton run out for 18 with a brilliant direct hit from young Ned! Louie McAlpine remained not out on 7. In the end the O60's fell short on 8/187.

However, during the after match speeches, Eane Whitton said that because of the weather he was invoking the Duckworth-Whitton method, which combines the ages of the players with runs scored and Richmond Union finished on 837 whilst the Wilderness boys came up short on 662!

A great BBQ dinner, "Best ever at any cricket match I've been to", a few ales and a bit of banter was just reward for a fantastic day. Thanks to all those for organising and no doubt there will be a tiebreaker next year!

Scott McKay



Easter - A Mother's Agony

A common element in the gospel narratives of the crucifixion of Jesus is the presence of his female followers. With one exception, his male disciples are not even mentioned. John's Gospel is different. It is the only one that tells us that the women observed not from a distance but actually stood at the foot of the cross. It is the only account that refers to the presence of Mary, the mother of Jesus and his disciple John. (*Matthew 27, Mark.15, Luke. 23. John.19*)

The poignancy of these accounts is obvious. The agony of Mary stands out, something Jesus recognized as he died, asking John to look after Mary as if she was his mother.

It is also possible that there may have been another unnamed woman observing from a distance. She would have been around the same age as Mary and may also have come from Bethlehem. As she watched the crucifixion she would have recognized Mary at the foot of the cross and would be heavy with sadness, not only for Mary, but for the loss of her own one year old son, who had been snatched by the soldiers of King Herod and put to death at the time of Jesus' birth (*Matthew 2:16-18*).

The scar still visible on her face was the physical reminder of her own attempt to protect her son from the soldiers.

The agony of the two mothers are strangely connected. One lost her infant son in horrifying circumstances, because a cruel king feared his power was under threat. The other lost her son in his maturity in a similarly cruel way, because the religious establishment feared the loss of their influence and control. Masculine insecurity is still unfortunately oppressively alive.

Stuart Reid - Highlands

Letter to the Editor

As a mushroom lover I was delighted when my wife told me we had a good crop of field mushrooms. I picked the ones shown.

I knew about the death cap and was suspicious of the white gills, small skirt on the stem and a lump at the bottom of the stalk.

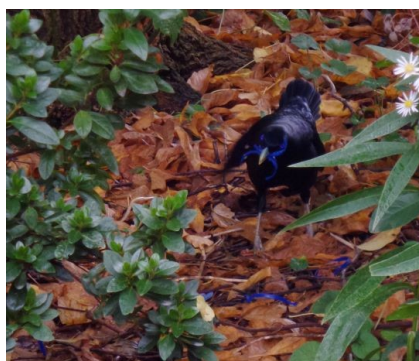
Never seen these before in the 29 years we have been here.

Are they or aren't they? I am not going to risk them. Perhaps a warning to the district?

John Wise



Sammy's hard work is paying off...



He's attracted a girlfriend

Thanks to Jan Sporry for the pictorial update on Sammy's love life.



Another letter to the Editor

In order to clarify the current situation regarding the extra document (included in last week's TGN email) it is necessary to understand legislative structure. Acts are made to describe requirements for certain activities and identify the means of obtaining a desirable outcome. They are the overarching document for control and regulation.

They allow for the establishment of various tools to be used to implement the initial intention of the legislators. One of these tools is the provision of authority to establish regulations. Prior to regulations gaining any legal status they must be open to public scrutiny and comment.

NOW:

The Land Act 1958 has recently been amended so that is not now open to change without further amendments being introduced. The Land Act 1958 gives the power to make regulations to implement the new provisions.

Such Regulations have now been drafted under the title of PROPOSED REGULATED WATERCOURSE LAND REGULATIONS. These were opened for consultation on 3rd March 2021 with a proposed close date 19th April 2021 after which time any submissions will be considered.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available on this site <https://engage.vic.gov.au/regulated-watercourse-land-regulations> and also a live form capable of accepting any written submission or comment.

Sorry for boring you with this but it is necessary to get the full explanation before considering actions.

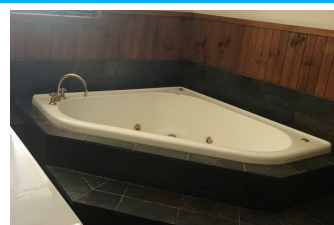
Regards,
Cookie

Spa and spa pump

available for a small donation to the Highlands Hall.

Contact Judy 0418 513 340

Ideal for stock and/or ducks!





DISCOVER YOUR BACKYARD IN AUTUMN

While Bali, Boston and Barcelona might be off the list of places to explore for a while, why not invite your friends and family to visit over the coming months and discover Murrindindi Shire's spectacular show of autumn colour. Crisp morning walks, scenic country drives, leafy parks and gardens ... and all right on your doorstep! Discover the many great things to see and do in Murrindindi Shire this autumn.

discoverdindi.com.au/yourbackyard



[@discoverdindi](https://www.instagram.com/discoverdindi)



COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME

Do you want to make a difference and help people feel connected within your local community? Or maybe you're an older resident who is interested in having someone visit you regularly for a cuppa and a chat?

Council is encouraging community members to get involved in the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS). The CVS is a free service, funded by the Australian Government, which provides friendship and companionship to older members of our community by connecting them with local volunteers who arrange regular visits.

For more information and assistance to become part of the scheme, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindilink or call our DindiLink team on 5772 0333.



A sense of community makes Strathbogie Shire special



The environment, lifestyle and sense of community are just some of the reasons people love living in Strathbogie Shire. Waterways, natural wildlife and atmosphere are some more.

Strathbogie Shire Council has taken to the streets this month as part of a community engagement program that will shape the region's future. So far face-to-face sessions – known as **Share Strathbogie** – have been held in Strathbogie, Nagambie, Avenel, Euroa and Longwood.

The next session will be in Violet Town, Friday 26th 1pm to 5pm and we finish the series in Ruffey on Wednesday, March 31 from 4pm to 6pm.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor, Cr Chris Raeburn, said during the next nine months Council will be calling for the community to share its thoughts and feedback to develop a Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan. The **Share Strathbogie** sessions are just the first stage of the engagement program, which is designed to understand what the community values.

Council is asking three broad questions about what people love about living here, what would make it better & if there is anything people could live without.

Strathbogie Council always tries to balance service levels with liveability but as cost is always a challenge before talking about costs, they need to ensure what's important to ratepayers and residents.

Mount Wombat Ward Cr Laura Binks said the question **'is there something you can live without?'** would help Council understand the services it provides that our community values least.

"We're not looking to take services away. We are looking for direction to provide our community with the services that are important to them," Cr Binks said.

Another important part of the **Share Strathbogie** sessions is a priority budgeting exercise. This activity gives people 200 points to use to prioritise infrastructure and services that matter to them. It is one of the ways the Council is ensuring the community's priorities are represented in the Budget & Council Plan.

Cr Binks emphasises, "Our goal is to create a shared vision, a common direction, a united community. With people power we can ensure our Shire - the place we already know is unbelievably special - is even better."

For more information go to - www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Share Strathbogie

Help shape our region's future

Share your thoughts, feedback and advice to help Council develop a Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan.

Tell us why you love living in Strathbogie Shire? What would make it an even better place to live in the future?

Topics also include: Streetscapes, service and infrastructure priorities and community engagement.

**Tablelands Community Centre
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Drop in between 4pm to 6pm**

For more information www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Remember...TGN needs YOUR Support!

If you would you like to support, or continue to support, The Granite News in 2021 why not take out an ad on the back page - at the incredibly reasonable price of **\$250 per annum, that's a mere \$6.25 per issue!**

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