



THE GRANITE NEWS

2ND MAY 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 14

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

After last week's request for more support of the ads on the back page I am delighted to say that two of the available positions have been filled. Many thanks to those generous readers who value this weekly community epistle. There are still vacancies if any other readers are interested, with these spaces having been adjusted for pro rata sponsorship they now cost only \$160 for the remainder of the year. If you are interested in financially supporting TGN please email editor@tgn.org.au, thanks.

Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe, **Pauline**

And Kenny... was advertising the mobile library's 'On The Road' event.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

**"Animals are my friends, I don't eat
my friends."**

George Bernard Shaw

(1856 - 1950)

Irish playwright & political activist

Telstra comes to the party!

I am pleased to let you know that as part of the Regional Connectivity Program, Telstra will deliver 30 transformative communications projects worth almost \$55 million to improve connectivity across seven states and territories.

Telstra has invested almost \$16 million and, together with \$26 million from the Australian Government and \$13 million from state and local governments, will help deliver connectivity improvements to some of the most remote communities in the country.

Nationally, key Telstra project locations will include East Arnhem in the Northern Territory, Mornington Island in Queensland, King Island in Tasmania, Gippsland and Victoria's High Country, Western Victoria and South Australia's Far North. Locally in Western and Northern Victoria Telstra have been successful in receiving support for the following projects.

Halls Gap East – 4GX Mobile Greenfield Macro
Kobyboyn– 4GX Mobile Greenfield Macro
Gazette – 4GX Mobile Greenfield Macro
Broughton – 4GX Mobile Greenfield Macro
Lascelles– 4GX Mobile Greenfield Macro



A big thanks to the local communities, councils and other groups that supported the application.

Regards

Steve Tinker

Regional General Manager

Northern & Western Victoria

Telstra Regional Australia

With thanks to Stephanie Reeves for forwarding this letter to TGN. Let's hope that this project happens as soon as possible for all impacted readers. Ed.

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.

Let's
laugh



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
April	21.2 mm	24 mm
2021 Total	225.7 mm	229 mm
April Rain Days	7 Days	5 Days

**HCCC Membership so far
164 ... and counting**

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — May

April 11th - May 9th 10-4 daily	DENNIS SPITERI's 2021 EXHIBITION Dennis's annual exhibition of his most excellent paintings will be open daily . Enquiries? 57969373	at Hillcrest Studio
Tuesday 4th May 6-7.30pm	COMPOST Q & A Do you have any questions about compost? Well now is the time to find out the answers, see p.3 for more information or Contact Grace - grace.davis-williams@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au with your Qs.	for all Mitchell, Murrindindi & Strathbogie residents
Thursday 6th May 5.30—6.30pm	YEA 2030 CLIMATE ADAPTATION 'POD' Launching the 2030 Yea Climate Adaptation online information "pod" which includes three locally made videos that will be shown for the first time (see p.3 for more info.) Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366	at Yea Library
Monday 10th May @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2021 at the same place, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - Jan 5790 4361	450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd
Wednesday 12th May 6.00 - 7.30pm	ON THE ROAD Come along to the Murrindindi Library Service's annual 'On the Road' event for a feast of excellent literary, audio and visual delights that are available to enjoy via the library service. To RSVP 5772 0333	at Highlands Community Hall
Friday 14th May @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK 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. Contact Judy 57969247	at Highlands Community Hall
Saturday 15th May 12 - 2pm	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366	at 94 Old Highlands Rd
Tuesday 18th May @ 7.30pm	RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP AGM & GM All community members WELCOME . Please come along with suggestions and ideas of projects and activities which would benefit our community during the next financial year. We encourage wider community participation with all current Committee roles declared vacant. If there are any associated costs, please invoice RCAG, c/- Rob Jamieson via email - robjam054@gmail.com	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Friday 21st May @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be held in Ruffy, everyone is welcome to attend. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473	at TCC Ruffy
Thursday 27th May @ 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
Saturday 29th May 9-5 & Sunday 30th May 10-4	16th UFO (UnFinished Objects) CRAFT WEEKEND All crafty (that's arty, not sneaky) people are invited to attend this excellent event for a day or the whole weekend. Come along & finish or start your masterpiece! See p.4. Enquiries Pauline 0408 246308	at Highlands Community Hall
Saturday 29th May @ 6.30pm	TERIP COMMUNITY DINNER & BONFIRE Everyone is welcome, cost—FREE! RSVP by 21st May see p.4 for details. Enquiries? - Jenny 0417 518020	at Terip Recreation Reserve
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 at Highlands on these dates— May 5th & 26th and June 9th & 23rd.	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 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

Postponed until further notice

Composting Q & A - On-line Webinar

Do you have some questions about composting? Well we have all the answers.

Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire residents are all invited to join our panel of experts to answer all your composting questions. We have organised a free online compost Q&A style webinar for International Compost Awareness Week Australia (ICAWA) which is May 3-9.

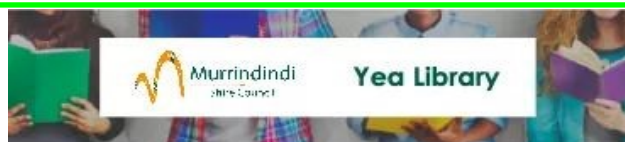
Join us online on Tuesday, May 4, and ask us your tricky, curly and strange composting questions – Our panel of experts will answer your questions live and give tips for troubleshooting home compost systems.

To ensure your question gets answered, you can submit composting questions before the event by emailing text, photos or even a short video to grace.davis-williams@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Recommended age: All ages

When: Tuesday May 4th

Time: from 6.00-7.30PM **Bookings are essential register -** <https://compostqa.eventbrite.com.au>



RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOPS

2030Yea is a group of volunteers from Yea and surrounds dedicated to the goal of Yea operating solely on renewable energy by 2030.



Council is pleased to support 2030Yea to host a series of workshops at the Yea Library, which will be presented by experts in the renewable energy space. During the workshop you will learn ways you can reduce your energy costs and move to renewable energy.

The following workshops will be held from 5.30 to 6.30 pm.

- **Thursday, 8 April - Understanding Your Energy Use**
- **Thursday, 15 April - Renewables**
- **Thursday, 22 April - Community Energy**
- **Thursday, 29 April - Home Efficiency**
- **Thursday, 6 May - DELWP's Climate Adaptation in Yea project**
- **Thursday, 13 May - Regenerative Agriculture**

Numbers are limited for these workshops so get in quick. For more information and to register for any of these workshops, please call 5772 0333, drop in at the Yea Library or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraryevents

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries
Phone: 5772 0333

Anyone for FREE Feijoas?

Jan has a feijoa tree, which has dropped a LOT of fruit (either by itself and /or combined with some help from the parrots).

They are free to anybody who can make use of them.

Just ring on **5790 4361** to arrange collection from Caveat.

Letter to the Editor

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Highlands and Terip Terip fire crews who attended the scene of a fire at Caveat on Friday 23rd April.

Their promptness is to be admired. It should be remembered that people being called upon to attend fires are volunteers (unpaid).

Sometimes they are sitting in a tractor, having lunch or at other many and varied activities. When called upon they drop everything to respond.

Warning to people clearing properties by means of "burning off" etc. NEVER do it on your own!

The fire at Caveat had the potential of becoming quite nasty.

Jan & John.

Letter to the Editor

Letting Down the Victims!!

Reflecting on the current sexual abuse scandals, it is clear that victims are being let down not only by our legal system but society generally.

A young man attends a large music party in a suburban hall. In addition to the music there is considerable alcohol being drunk. Later, as he is leaving, he discovers one of the other guests lying in one of the side rooms. It is clear that the man has drunk too much and has passed out. With no one else around the young man relieves the guest of his wallet and expensive Rolex watch. The next day he uses the stolen card to purchase a few things at the supermarket and JB HiFi. Later when he uses it to buy petrol, he finds the account frozen.

A large firm is holding its Christmas party. In the course of the evening two of the workers, who had not met before, become better acquainted and appeared to enjoy each other's company. Later the man offers to drive his companion home and she invites him in for a coffee. The night ends with him raping her and departing, leaving her in a very distressed state.

Under our current system, it is likely that the robber will be arrested and convicted, but it is highly unlikely the rapist will ever be brought to trial. For a start the woman would require considerable courage to even report the rape, given the negativity and discouragement she would face engaging with the police and legal system. Victims of sexual abuse are second class citizens when it comes to our justice system.

To be robbed of your watch can hardly be compared to the long-term suffering associated with sexual abuse.

Stuart Reid

Highlands

Terip Terip CFA invite the local community to:

Terip Community Dinner and Bonfire


29th May 6:30PM

At the Terip Recreation Centre

RSVP by Friday 21st May

BYO Alcohol

Cost: Free – all welcome

RSVP to Jenny: 0417 518 020 or message us on facebook  Terip Terip community



nbn™ is strengthening its commitment to regional Victoria.

Meet your nbn™ local team across Strathbogie Shire from 3-5 May.

3/5 - 9.30-11.30am - Strathbogie Memorial Hall
3/5 - 1.30-3.30pm - Violet Town Community Complex
4/5 - 9-10.30am - Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre
4/5 - 12-2pm - Longwood Pub Paddock
4/5 - 3.30-5pm - Avenel Memorial Hall
5/5 - 9am-12pm - Euroa Saleyards
5/5 - 1.30pm-3pm - Nagambie Visitor Information Centre
5/5 - 4.30pm-5.30pm - Graytown Community Centre

nbn.com.au

Time to think about Paterson's Curse

HCCC is now looking for expressions of interest from all landowners to join in with the Landcare group in its annual helicopter spraying for Paterson's Curse.

The spraying will take place in May - June.

Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, to a maximum of 3 loads.

This year we will be using a larger Helicopter and the Load price is \$1450.00 plus GST. This covers 26 Ha's

Contact Neil van Buuren to book your property for this particularly important community event and help us to control the spread of this noxious weed.

This year due to chemical shortages, Paton Air have secured all the chemicals we need.

Phone: 0417 503 472

Email

hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au



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ARE YOU CRAFTY?

WANT TO CREATE OR COMPLETE SOME UFOs?
INTERESTED IN A WEEKEND (or day) OF FUN,
FOOD & FRIENDSHIP?

Then the 2021 UFO weekend is for YOU!

When? - Saturday 29th May 9-5 and/or Sunday 30th May 10-4

Where? - Highlands Community Hall

What to bring? - Any craft that you would like to create, continue or complete

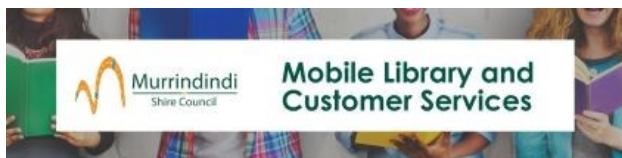
What's the cost? - \$43 per day - includes lunch, morning & afternoon teas, door prizes and more

What do I have to do? - Contact Pauline 0408 246308 to find out all the details

When's the RSVP? - Friday 14th May

Hope to see you there!





On the Road



Join us at the Highlands Community Hall for an evening of 'On the Road'. Real people talking about real books, eBooks, magazines, DVDs and other great works.

6.00 - 7.30 pm | Wednesday 12 May
Highlands Community Hall
1603 Ghin-Ghin Road, Highlands

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333



@murrindindilibrarianservice
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries
5772 0333



DON'T FORGET!! For those HCCC readers who attended the excellent lunch on March 27th, it would be really appreciated if you could complete this short survey, thanks.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GL2TYWB>

Did you know?

In 2020, a total of 13,000 individual birds were observed in Murrindindi Shire during one week in October, with 134 different bird species identified.

The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo was the most commonly-listed species within the Shire, this was followed closely by the Australian Magpie and the Crimson Rosella. Other common species included the Red Wattle Bird, Australia Wood Duck, Galah and the Superb Fairy-wren. A total of twenty-eight different species of native birds were also recorded, with four of these species classified as endangered in Victoria.

If you want to attract birdlife to your property, try planting indigenous plants that produce flowers, fruits or seeds that encourage birds to feed naturally, while also providing quality sources of water that are cleaned regularly.

To view the full results of last year's Count visit Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'Bird Count Findings'. And to be part of the Aussie Backyard Bird Count this year from 18 - 24 October 2021 visit aussiebirdcount.org.au

Platypus in the Goulburn River

The Goulburn River arises on the slopes of the Victorian Alps and travels west and north for nearly 600 kilometres to join the Murray River near the town of Echuca. On average, it contributes around 3 million megalitres of water annually to the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Goulburn's flow regime is now largely controlled by the rate at which water is released from Eildon Dam and Goulburn Weir to satisfy the needs of irrigators and other water users. Irrigation demand is greatest in summer – the season when natural flow normally drops to its lowest level in Victorian rivers – thereby fundamentally changing the Goulburn's annual flow pattern. For example, before major dams were built its channel typically carried about 52% of annual flow from July to September and just 5% from January to March. These values have since been altered to around 33% from July to September and 23% from January to March.

Fortunately, platypus have been able to adapt to these changes and remain widespread and locally abundant, particularly in the reaches upstream of Goulburn Weir. For example, at least one (and up to three) platypus were seen by an APC researcher within five minutes of arriving at ten of 11 sites (sampling 110 km of the Goulburn between Seymour & Thornton) that he surveyed visually in 2019. Around the same time, a very experienced and reliable local platypus observer recorded at least 33 different individuals in a 30-minute census of a 2-kms segment of the Goulburn above Alexandra.

The introduction of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan along with new water-trading rules and severe drought conditions in New South Wales created a perfect storm for the Goulburn River in the summers of 2017/18 and 2018/19, driving massive sales of its water to irrigators located far downstream along the Murray. The only feasible way to deliver the water was to increase flow substantially, for weeks on end, above the level expected during a normal irrigation season. From the platypus's perspective, this meant that additional energy had to be used to swim upstream against the current or dive to find food. Platypus habitat quality also suffered due to widespread loss of bank vegetation and associated bank erosion and channel sedimentation, particularly in the Goulburn's lower reaches.

The drought in New South Wales has since ended and a review is now underway to help ensure that future delivery of water from the Goulburn occurs in an environmentally sustainable manner. Meanwhile, these events help to highlight yet once again how much the platypus relies on humans to manage rivers with appropriate care on its behalf.

From the APC (Australian Platypus Conservancy) Newsletter #83 - Feb. 2021



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