



THE GRANITE NEWS

9TH MAY 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 15

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

In 1963 a very slender children's book was published. In the last 58 years it has never been out of print, most TGN readers would be familiar with it, 2 films have been made from its story and it has long been regarded as an Australian children's literature classic - it is Storm Boy by Colin Thiele.

Last week Peter and I were lucky enough to not only be in another state, but also to be in The Coorong, with its windswept, tussocky sandhills and flat shallow water, that is a registered Ramsar Wetlands of international significance. This is the world of Storm Boy and home to not only the iconic pelican but also a plethora of other waterbirds, seals and fish. It is an important breeding ground for many species of birds and is recognised for its conservation value and is vital for the biodiversity of the region.

It is also the mouth of the mighty Murray River.

Due to the reduction in flow across the Murray-Darling watershed (of which HCCC is a part) the amount of water reaching this final destination has been dramatically reduced in recent decades and as a result the Murray's Mouth silted up for several months in 1981. Since the early 2000s dredging has been operating 24/7 in order to prevent this happening again and to maintain the health of the Coorong lagoons.



Currently only 1 of the 121 sluices of the Goolwa Barrage is open for water to pass through to the Coorong for environmental flow purposes. With such a small flow this dredging is going to be a permanent feature of the landscape for many decades to come.



In 2003 the SA Government passed the River Murray Act which states, "The Murray Mouth should be kept open in order to maintain navigation and the passage of fish in the area and to enhance the health of the River Murray system and the estuarine conditions in the Coorong." Or to quote the local indigenous clans, "To fully respect the river and all adjoining systems, the mouth of the River Murray should be open. This can only occur if the needs of the river are respected..."

That final line could well apply to any of the waterways in our catchment.

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

And Kenny...was discovering the UFO event at Highlands.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"BOOKS - Helping introverts avoid conversation since 1455."

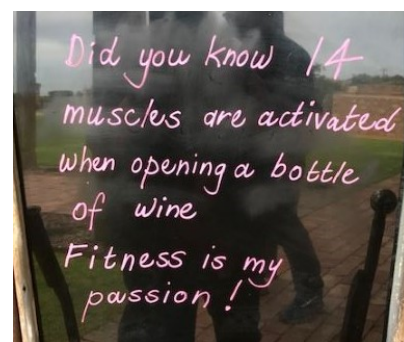
Anon

Spotted outside a bookshop in Geelong

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



Post Covid - Post Carbon

Paper hand towels & hand dryers have a huge environmental toll - generating 70% more carbon emissions. Paper towels create more landfill & waste water when manufactured—shake your hands!


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.

HCCC Membership so far
164 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — May

 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
Friday 14th 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 at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy 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	
Wednesday 19th May @ 10am	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA Come along for a lovely social morning, see p.5 for more details. Gold coin donation.	at Terip Rec Reserve
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 26th and June 9th & 23rd.	at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. Bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 57953349 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com	
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE Free! Swing dances featuring 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

Postponed until further notice

Thank you, thank you, thank you !!

to three more readers who, this week, have generously supported The Granite News by sponsoring an ad space apiece on the back page. This is most appreciated and will ensure the longevity of this great, little community newsletter. There are still vacancies if 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.

RUFFY HALL

In December 1893 the tender of a Mr. Sinclair was accepted for the erection of the Ruffy Mechanics Institute Hall. The hall was subsequently built and still stands to this day, the oldest surviving public building in Ruffy. In December this year it will be 127 years old.

Having undergone many renovations and improvements over the years it is now more commonly known as the Ruffy Hall and is still the hub of the Ruffy community. It is a valuable community asset and as in the past, a centre for celebrating family milestones, entertainment, community connection and communication in times of emergency. Situated on Crown Land the hall is managed by a Committee of Management on behalf of the Department of Land Water and Planning. The Committee consists of a band of dedicated local volunteers and is responsible for the maintenance and day to day running of the hall.

Two of the current committee members are Bill Eddy and Henry Noye both noted for their dedication, commitment and longevity of service to the Hall. Henry is the current president and Bill is the vice president.

What you may not know is that they both joined the committee when they were 17 years of age, which is remarkable in itself, however, even more remarkable is the fact that they are both **STILL ON THE COMMITTEE!** Taking into consideration the fact that Bill is now 77 and Henry is 83 between them they have given over 125 years of continuous service to the Ruffy Hall and Community and continue to do so.

Bill grew up in his family home opposite the hall. Bill remembers that in 1951 his father provided power to the hall by running a lead across the road from his 240 volt generator. This arrangement continued until the S.E.C was connected. Bill and Henry were both part of the committee in 1967 when the Ruffy Hall Committee hosted the "Switch On Ball". This was the night when mains power was finally connected to Ruffy and the switch was flicked for the first time.

Since those early days of very basic facilities Henry, Bill and their respective committees have guided the hall through a number of major redevelopments septic toilets instead of the "outhouses" down the back, a registered kitchen, a theatre style stage with red velvet curtains and professional lighting, an outdoor entertainment area complete with stone fireplace and a landscaped rear garden with memorial trees. Over the years the Ruffy Hall has become an excellent community facility used for a wide range public and private events.

It is an ongoing job to keep a building of this age in good order. Currently the Hall is in urgent need of external maintenance and needs to raise \$10,000. This was put on hold when the committee lost all its income and fundraising opportunities in 2020 due to the Covid 19 lockdown. Now in 2021 the committee is embarking on a major fundraising drive and invites you to support their efforts:



Door Knocking In the age old tradition of hall fundraising those two champions of the hall committee, Bill and Henry, will be door knocking the district to raise funds for this work, please welcome them.

Contact Bill 57904264 or Henry 57904246

Sheep Sales Bill has also organised donations for a pen of sheep to be auctioned and proceeds to go to the hall. We thank Landmark for donating their services.

Raffle Pam will be selling tickets in the Ruffy Hall Painting Project raffle outside Burton's in Euroa on Friday May 14 and Friday May 28. The prizes are: Hamper of Local Produce & Wine, A Dindi Naturals Hamper and a Homemade Fruit Cake. Tickets are also available from committee members. **Donations towards the hamper of local produce would be most welcome** contact Sharron 57904329 sharronbatt@gmail.com

Ruffy Calendar 2022 Later in the year local photographers will be invited to submit photos of the area for inclusion in a calendar to be sold as a Hall fundraiser. Might help with your Xmas shopping.

The Committee is open to fundraising ideas and invites you to support them in their endeavours to keep the Ruffy Hall in good order and at the heart of the Ruffy Community for many generations to come.

**** WELCOME ****

Tom and Bex welcome with joy the newest Ruffy resident Ezra Batt, a bonny 10lb 8oz and a beautiful grandson for Sharron and John. Everyone doing well.



Keep an eye out for cyclists

As of 26th April motorists are required to keep a defined distance between their vehicles and any cyclist.

If travelling in a zone where the speed is less than 60kph then the distance must be 1 metre.

If travelling in a zone where the speed is more than 60kph then the distance must be 1.5 metres.

Keep an eye out for cyclists on our rural roads and ensure the correct space is maintained.



Highlands Ramblers walks are back!



Well... they could be if the support is there for reinstating these monthly walks of discovery. Andrew Shaw is offering to lead the first one on **Sunday 30th May departing from the Highlands Hall at 10am.**

If you are interested in attending please let him know - **0437 249038.**

ATTENTION HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY

The Highlands **Community** Hall needs **Community** Members to become involved in making the **Community** Hall a viable function / meeting place for all. The Highlands **Community** Hall Committee would welcome any volunteers with a willingness to participate in the committee with fresh ideas to promote our wonderful premises. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd June 7.00pm and we would welcome any **Community** Members as guests to see what is involved in being part of our committee.

Feel free to contact Judy Cameron on 5796 9247 with any questions or attend our meeting on 3rd June.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline,

We were enjoying a picnic at Hoppy Rocks (Hughes Creek, downstream of Bungle Boori) on the weekend and I noticed little fragments of an aquatic plant had been coming down the creek.

I'm not an expert but it looked like Parrots Feather. I was wondering if the local vegetation experts could—

- confirm whether it is actually parrots feather
- understand if it's a significant threat to the waterway values we enjoy in our beautiful creek
- confirm whether it's a known population and whether the local community or GBCMA have undertaken any works to mitigate its spread.

Dave

If any readers can assist with Dave's query please email the Editor, thanks.

editor@tgn.org.au



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 | Friday 14 May
Highlands Community Hall
1603 Ghin-Ghin Road, Highlands

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333

Date Change



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



Highlands Black Market this Saturday 15th of May from 12-2pm. Please note later time as we move towards Winter.

There's still a bit in the garden to share with Winter veg coming along nicely.

Come and have a chat, share a cup of home made soup ... and any excess produce you have.

Hope to see you there - 94 Old Highlands Rd

Clare and Vitto.



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



Terip Terip Morning Tea Wednesday 19th May



At the Terip Terip Community Hall

Come and enjoy a cuppa, (try a cappuccino from our new coffee machine),
swap any books, home grown produce etc
with other members & enjoy meeting others.

Time: from 10:00 am

Cost: Gold coin, optional to bring a small plate to share

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



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



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!



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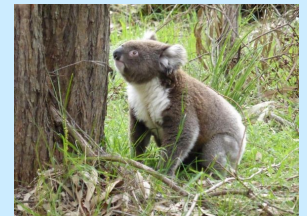
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