



THE GRANITE NEWS

16TH MAY 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 16

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

As I've said on more than one occasion, I love feedback, and Dave's query last week about the possible Parrot's Feather he discovered in Hughes Creek has generated some informed replies. Thanks to both Merrill and Peter for sharing the following observations and suggestions.

*** When reading the story about 'What plant is that?' I photographed the plant and it came up as Parrot's Feather on a wonderful app which is called 'Picture this – plant identifier' which identifies plants/trees etc – you might like to tell your wonderful readers. It is called 'Picture This' and is free and is so instant that you can be standing looking at the plant and identifying it instantly.



*** I'm not an expert but what I can see is that the picture in TGN does look very similar to parrot weed. I looked up a few pictures and some information and of course Wikipedia. I'd like to suggest that Dave regard this as a potentially serious weed invasion and contact the Victorian Government Weedsotters' department. The fragments being washed down can become lodged in sediment and create further invasions and it has the ability to clog waterways and crowd out native flora and fauna.

<https://www.weeds.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parrots-Feather-c-Forest-and-Kim-Starr-scaled.jpg>
<https://www.weeds.asn.au/tasmanian-weeds/view-by-common-name/parrots-feather/>

Two more readers have taken up the opportunity to advertise on the back page. Echidnas now feature as well as a brand new business. Thank you.

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

And Kenny... was looking forward to the Terip Terip Bonfire night.

Ruffy Hall - all donations gratefully accepted !

After last week's excellent article about the Ruffy Hall and its fundraising efforts some readers have asked how they could contribute. There are two options for non-Ruffy residents either by direct credit...

A/C Name –Ruffy Public Hall **BSB** –06 3682 **A/C Number** –1002 5391 OR
cheques can be sent to **Melissa Eddy, (Treasurer) 2 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 3666**

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

" In Australia, water needs to be seen as the most precious resource we have."

**Phillip Johnson-Landscape designer
Winner - Best in Show
2013 Chelsea Flower Show**

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



Did you know?

Farming now accounts for 55% of land use in Australia and 25% of water extractions.

Dept of Agriculture

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

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — May & June

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 - robjamo54@gmail.com
Wednesday 19th May @ 10am	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA at Terip Rec Reserve Come along for a lovely social morning, see p.4 for more details. Gold coin donation.
Wednesday 19th May from 6.30pm	EUROA CHAMBER of BUSINESS & COMMERCE EXPO at Third Age Club, Euroa ECBC Members' Business Expo - all welcome. See p.4.
Friday 21st May 6-9pm	FREE Event - BIOLUMINESCENCE at Binney St & Kirkland Ave, Euroa This multi-sensory experience will celebrate the importance of fungi, see p.4 for more details.
Friday 21st May @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC Ruffy The next meeting will be held in Ruffy, everyone is welcome to attend. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
Thursday 27th May @ 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
Saturday 29th May 9-5 & Sunday 30th May 10-4	16th UFO (UnFinished Objects) CRAFT WEEKEND at Highlands Community Hall 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! Enquiries Pauline 0408 246308
Saturday 29th May 9.30am - 2.30pm	Mt BERNARD TREK departing from Avenel Maze, Upton Rd A guided walk highlighting the granite structures of the Strathbogie Ranges. Cost \$10. Everyone is welcome, see p.4 for more details. Enquiries? - Kevin 0400 667138
Saturday 29th May @ 6.30pm	TERIP COMMUNITY DINNER & BONFIRE at Terip Recreation Reserve Everyone is welcome, cost—FREE! RSVP by 21st May see p.4 for details. Enquiries? - Jenny 0417 518020
Sunday 30th May commencing @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS departing from Highlands Community Hall All ramblers are welcome to join Andrew Shaw on a local discovery walk and hopefully on future walks in the surrounding area. Interested attendees, see p.3 and contact Andrew to RSVP 0437 249038
Thursday 3rd June @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL MEETING at Highlands Community Hall All community members are invited to attend this Hall meeting and maybe consider becoming more involved with the Hall Committee. See p.3 for more details. Enquiries? - Judy 57969247
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— May 26th and June 9th & 23rd.
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. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 57953349 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASSES at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances feature the best of big band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

Nitrogen use efficiency and fertilisers (continued from p.5)

- Incorporate fertiliser at the top of raised beds or ridges to avoid concentration and losses in furrows and wet areas.
- Estimate the methane and nitrous oxide emissions on your farm using a greenhouse gas accounting tool (go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/carbon-emissions for links to appropriate tools for your type of enterprise).

From—Making cent\$ of carbon & emissions on-farm .

A new fencing business in Highlands

Jarrad Gilbert has worked for fencing contractors both locally and in the Yarra Valley for the past few years, and is now starting out on his own.

Looking for work both local and also willing to travel a reasonable distance.

For all your rural fencing needs call Jarrad for a quote on 0409 082 257



NB: Jarrad is one of the new sponsors on TGN's back page

RUFFY HALL

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 & 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.

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.

Has anyone seen Stuart Reid?

Regular correspondent to The Granite News, Stuart Reid, was last seen installing a new water tank, but he disappeared part way through the job!



Strathbogie Local



is now delivering orders to the Ruffy Store! Strathbogie Local began during Covid-19 to support local producers in a year when regular markets were paused.

This volunteer supported, not-for-profit enterprise, offers a click and collect service at the Brady & Kibble depot in Euroa (Friday afternoons 3-5pm) or now delivers to both Ruffy and Strathbogie.

Strathbogie Local is all about linking local food growers to local customers. Produce available includes wonderful wood-fired oven bread, local vegetables, nuts and fruit, as well as beer and wine, meat and other local treats.

Order on-line Wednesday and collect your goods on Friday afternoon.

<https://openfoodnetwork.org.au/strathbogie-local/shop>

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

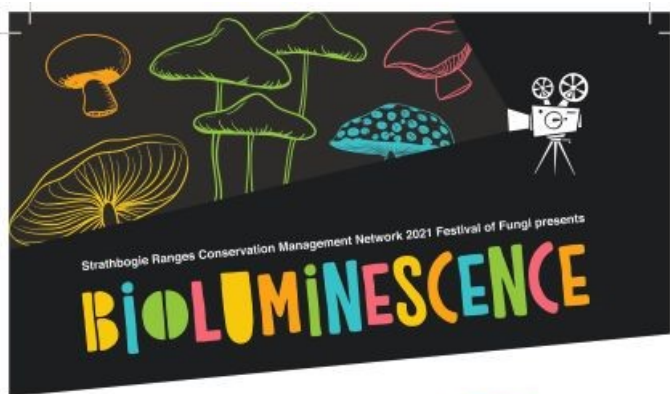
Cost: Gold coin, optional to bring a small plate to share

EUROA CHAMBER OF
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

MEMBERS BUSINESS EXPO

Wednesday 19th May
from 630pm
Third Age Club, Euroa

SAVE THE DATE



You are invited to immerse yourself
in this **FREE** outdoor multi-sensory
digital projection event streaming
across buildings in Binney Street
and ancient Red Gum trees in
Kirkland Avenue, Euroa.

This is an all ages event created by
local school children in collaboration
The Little Projector Company.

BIOLUMINESCENCE celebrates the importance
of Fungi in healthy ecosystems.

FRIDAY
21 MAY 2021
6PM – 9PM

**FREE
EVENT**

The SRGM acknowledges the generous support of the Strathbogie Council and GBCMA. Thanks also to Euroa Secondary College, Pezandon Primary Strathbogie Campus, Longwood Primary, and the Euroa Business Chamber. Little Projector Company acknowledges the book "The Atlas of Fungi" by mycologist and photographer Alison Procter as inspiration for Bioluminescence. Also on display at the (booked out) Festival of Fungi events on May 20 in Strathbogie and May 21 in Euroa.



This is a COVID-safe event.
www.strathbogie-ranges.org.au

Mt BERNARD TREK

A guided walk highlighting the granite structures of the Strathbogie Ranges. It is interesting to consider how the granite boulders form on hilltops like Mt Bernard.

Our walk takes us across private property with sheep and wildlife. The walk is unsuitable for children under 12 years and is graded as per the Australian Walking Track Grading System as Category 3 (6 Km return, short steep hills, formed track, some obstacles, some bushwalking experience recommended, many steps.)

Our guide will be Neil Phillips, a prominent geologist with expert knowledge of the granites of the Strathbogie Ranges. After an introductory talk at the Neil will lead the group on a walk up to the summit of Mt Bernard (489m), explaining notable features of the geology as we go.

The walk to the summit is about 3 km, not too steep and at a leisurely pace will take about 1.5hr. We will then take a walk across the plateau and explore the extraordinary granite formations in the gullies of Mt Bernard. We will have other people available with local knowledge who can explain other features of interest.

You will need to be reasonably fit to do the walk and will need to have good walking shoes or boots, loose fitting clothes, warm jumper, hat, sunscreen and a waterproof jacket. Bring some sandwiches or snacks and water.

Please register your interest in the walk by emailing a request for a registration form to -

Kevin Whithear kgwhithear@gmail.com no later than 24 May 2021.

Nitrogen use efficiency and fertilisers: improving efficiency & saving money

Nitrogen is critical to plant growth and reproduction. Pasture and crop growth will often respond to an increased availability of soil nitrogen. This situation is often managed through the addition of nitrogen fertilisers .

Nitrous oxide is a powerful greenhouse gas and accounts for 5 percent to 7 percent of global greenhouse emissions with 90 percent of these derived from agricultural practices. Nitrogen based fertilisers and livestock manure (urine and dung) are the key sources of nitrous oxide emissions on farms.

Follow the 4 Rs - Right product Right rate Right time and Right place

[www.fertilizer.org.au/Fertcare/ Nutrients-And-Fertilizer-Information](http://www.fertilizer.org.au/Fertcare/Nutrients-And-Fertilizer-Information)

Greater efficiency in the capture of nitrogen in products has the greatest impact on reducing nitrous oxide losses, as well as reducing ammonia volatilisation to the atmosphere and nitrate leaching and runoff to groundwater and waterways. Improved nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) has both productivity and profitability benefits.

NUE indicates the ratio between the amounts of fertiliser nitrogen (N) applied to a crop and the amount of N removed from the paddock by the crop or product.

Nitrous oxide is most likely released from warm, waterlogged soils where there is excess nitrogen in the form of nitrate. Volatilisation of nitrogen as ammonia can also lead to indirect nitrous oxide emissions through redeposition contributing to excess nitrate elsewhere in the landscape. Farmers can save money, boost pasture and crop production and reduce nitrous oxide losses by carefully planning and implementing best management practices with regards to the 4 Rs - the 'right' rate, source, timing and placement of nitrogen fertilisers to match plant needs.

Management options

Research has estimated that usually 40 percent to 60 percent of nitrogen inputs into cropping and grazing systems, respectively, is lost to the environment. By improving agricultural practices we can reduce these losses, improve productivity and save money.

Match nitrogen supply to crop/pasture demand by:

- using soil or plant testing to assess plant available nitrogen supply. Apply nitrogen fertiliser rate based on target yield and crop or pasture nitrogen requirement over the growing season.
- account for soil moisture availability & seasonal forecasts for more timely & calibrated fertiliser decisions support.
- use industry-relevant decision support tools (e.g. Yield Prophet in Grains; Dairy nitrogen fertiliser Advisor; GrazFert for beef and sheep).
- avoid high application rates of nitrogen in any single application (i.e. never exceed recommended rates, split applications may be more effective and adjust rates according to rainfall and temperature).

Time fertiliser application to minimise nitrogen loss:

- where possible, align nitrogen fertiliser applications with crop and pasture demand. Crop/pasture demand is highest when growth rates are highest.
- avoid applying nitrogen fertiliser to warm (>10°C) waterlogged soils.
- avoid tillage under wet conditions.
- consult a 7-day weather forecast to identify risks of soil saturation and if likely delay nitrogen fertiliser application.
- in summer, avoid applying urea fertiliser after irrigation as this is likely to increase volatilisation losses.
- minimise the length of fallow when converting long-term pasture to crops, especially in high rainfall zones and irrigated crops.

Determine and improve plant access to nitrogen by improving soil health and nutrient status. Adding nitrogen to soils that have inherent limitations to plant growth is unlikely to result in higher productivity and financial gain.

Choose the best type of nitrogen:

- avoid Nitrate based fertilisers which are more prone to losses.
- Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers e.g. coated for slow release, or with nitrification inhibitors may better match the fertiliser supply and plant demand for soil nitrogen.
- chemicals can be added to fertiliser (inhibitors) which can reduce nitrate leaching and ammonium volatilisation. However, it is recommended to seek expert advice when choosing inhibitors.

Continued on p.2...

From—Making cent\$ of carbon & emissions on-farm Further information: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/carbon-emissions

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Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen

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Strathbogie Granite Project

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