



THE GRANITE NEWS

6TH JUNE 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 19

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

I think the phrase is that “a week is a long time in politics” and a week is definitely a long time when dealing with Covid. Fortunately those of us who live outside the Greater Melbourne area have had a little more freedom reinstated into our lives for this current week despite becoming familiar with a few more letters of the Greek alphabet.

As a result of the latest developments there have been quite a few cancellations and/or postponements of local activities with the **Rover Scouts' Mudbash at Caveat**, next weekend, top of the list. This has now been **postponed until 23-26 September**, so a BIG thank you to those wonderful community members who volunteered their services and a raincheck for that same offer in September would be most appreciated.

The recommencement of **Qigong, shiatsu massage**, etc conducted by Vivien Watmough will now start on **Monday 21st June**, at the Tablelands Community Centre, see TGN Issue 17 for further details. And as indicated in last week's calendar the **Highlands Community Hall meeting** had already been moved to **Thursday 17th June**—see calendar.

We continue to live in interesting times and I am quietly stoked that my first Covid vaccination, slotted in for 8th July, has now come forward a month to this Wednesday, proving it pays to shop around.



Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe and warm, **Pauline**
And Kenny... was checking out a new business—Rural Fencing Services.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Lawyer, politician & 16th President of the United States of America

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**

HCCC News

An exciting opportunity to get involved in professional landcare.

Part Time Landcare Project Co-ordinator

For Whiteheads Creek community “Bio- Blitz” in Seymour.

Skills required:

- A knowledge of local ecosystems including native plants and animals.
- Some training in Natural Resource Management would be an advantage.
- Good communication and organisational skills will be needed
- A current Victorian working with children check.

This job offers:

- Flexible working hours.
- 8 hours per week for six months at \$40 per hour.
- Community steering committee support.
- Working from home office.
- Starting July 2021.



For further details please contact Janet Hagen, Landcare Facilitator
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative hughescreek2@gmail.com or message
0458 904268

Let's
laugh



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
May	78.1 mm	89 mm
2021 Total	304.3 mm	318 mm
May Rain Days	13 Days	11 Days

HCCC Membership so far
164 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — June

 Friday 11th June @ 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. 57969247 & Contact Judy
Friday 11th June - Sunday 13th June 	HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT RFB FUNDRAISING @ MUDRASH at Mafeking Park Volunteers for bucket rattling are required at the following times: Friday 11/6 3 - 7pm (includes setting up) Also 7 - 11ish pm - donations only Saturday 12/6 9-11am Sunday 13/6 9-11am 11am-1pm (includes dismantling) Offers of assistance 0427 529551 <div style="background-color: pink; border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;">Postponed until 23-26 September</div>
Monday 14th June @ 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 17th 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. Enquiries? - Judy 57969247 <div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">NB New Date!</div>
Thursday 17th June @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING Whiteheads Creek Hall All are welcome to attend this monthly meeting. Enquiries? - contact Justus 0427 524473
Saturday 19th June 12-2pm 	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Sunday 20th June @ 12.30 for 1pm	WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION at Ruffy Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate the winter solstice with food and games, friends and family. See p.3 for more details. Enquiries? - Sharron 5790 4329
Thursday 24th June @ 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 27th June departing @ 10am 	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS departing from Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to join in these monthly rambles around our local area. Come and discover your own backyard - the wildlife, the history and the views! Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038
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—June 9th & 23rd and July 7th & 21st.
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

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for further details/sales



Ruffy Community Action Group (RCAG)

Important Notice

RCAG has continued to function and support the community albeit on a reduced capacity during 2020 and the early months of 2021. At the most recent Annual General Meeting (18th May 2021) there was an opportunity to reflect on the Action Group's achievements over the past three years.

The fundamental aim of the Action Group is to enhance the quality of life of the Ruffy Community through a range of community led initiatives and projects.

RCAG comprises representatives from the existing community groups in Ruffy. Meetings are open to any interested persons from the community. Direct community involvement in individual project development and implementation are seen as an important prerequisite for success.

RCAG receives funding under the Strathbogie Shire Grants Program and can also apply for additional grants. A very large contribution to RCAG is the volunteer effort required to bring projects to fruition.

Over the past three years, RCAG have completed 29 projects, contributing \$20,439 to enhance village infrastructure, record history, provide community first aid courses, support the installation of medical equipment for community use and development of an equipment strategy for the defence of our village during major bush fire events.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, the leadership team stood down, and RCAG is now functioning in caretaker mode for the next three months. We are encouraging renewed leadership, enthusiasm and a visionary team to lead the community in this important function through the years ahead.

Positions vacant are President and Secretary.

Members of the Ruffy Community, please consider taking on a leadership role to maintain and strengthen RCAG for the benefit of your community.

Please do not hesitate to contact:

Rob Jamieson (Mob: 0401 993 681) or

Felicity Sloman (Mob: 0413 483 450)

if you would like to chat about RCAG in general or the role of vacant positions.



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.



Doing God's Work?

Our Prime Minister recently got himself into hot water suggesting that as PM, he is on a mission from God, maybe even Indicating that his 'miracle election victory' was a sign of God's favour. I have no problems if the PM wants to talk of his faith, my question is his idea of God.

I certainly don't believe in a God that takes sides in elections, or one who causes rain to fall on some and not others. I am suspicious of those who, in legitimising their actions, claim it is God's will. Such pretensions ignore the undoubted mystery surrounding God.

For me, God needs to be understood as a verb not a noun. Maybe that may sound confusing. God is not an item, a being, but an action. In the Bible 'God is love'. Real love is not a noun but an action, a process. Being anything else than an action, love simply becomes an abstraction. The proof of true love is in the action of relationships between people, between communities, it is in the way we respect all living things and the earth itself. It is in the tenderness of our treatment of children, it is in the care we offer to those in need, it is in the welcome we give to strangers and people who are different. It is in the beauty of making love. It is in the way we build communities and create just structures. This kind of loving is not ordinary or superficial but a profound seeking for what is truly good and beautiful.

So, we don't speak of God as an abstract entity, a being that intervenes in human activities, but rather in terms of Godly actions, Godly relationships, a godly journey.

Stuart Reid - Highlands

HCCC News

HCCC will be running a field at 2 sites on Tuesday 22nd June - 9:30 am Tarcombe & 1.30 at Bluetop Rd Highlands
A light lunch is included

The aim of the field day is to demonstrate how to build carbon and improve soil health. It is also important to address any underlying constraints such as soil acidity, compaction, or other chemical, physical, or biological barriers.

Join us for a soil pit workshop in June to highlight that building soil carbon is dependent on overall good soil health.

The workshop will be presented by

Dr Cassandra Scheffe, AgriSci Pty Ltd, who is a soil scientist with over 20 years' experience in

- identifying and addressing soil constraints in agriculture and
- with expertise and experience spanning the R, D & E spectrum; from nanoscale reaction work to hands-on soil pits.

Cassie works with farmers, industry, academia and government to improve the delivery of quality knowledge, products and processes to farmers to support profitable, sustainable food production.

Cassie has authored 20 scientific journal papers and numerous conference proceedings and holds Adjunct positions with The University of Melbourne and Charles Sturt University, and is accredited as both a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) by Soil Science Australia, and a FertCare accredited advisor.

In 2019 Cassie was awarded the Recognising and Rewarding Excellence Award from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Southern Region.

Neil van Buuren
Facilitator Weeds and Pest animals
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

For further information please open the attachment with this week's Granite New and/or contact Neil at neil.hccc@gmail.com or 0417 503472 to RSVP



This project is supported by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's 'From the Ground Up' program through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Healthy, resilient and increasingly productive landscapes supporting vibrant communities.



HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS ARE BACK!

Unfortunately Covid intervened last weekend and the proposed re-commencement of Highlands Ramblers had to be cancelled. However Andrew Shaw was very pleased with the level of interest shown by locals who intended to ramble and has re-scheduled the first walk for the last Sunday in June the 27th. See Calendar for further details and dust those boots off!



Healthy Soils to grow food... from p.5

- manage livestock movement and paddock rotations to distribute animal deposited dung and urine evenly and reduce compaction from hoof traffic.
- Keep an eye on policy changes relating to potential incentive payments for carbon stored in soil. Always seek legal and financial advice first.

Further information:

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/carbon-emissions

Originally published in "Making cent\$ of carbon and emissions on-farm" by Agriculture Victoria

Winter Solstice Gathering

A get together to celebrate the shortest day of the year with friends and family.

Sunday 20 June 12.30 for 1pm @ Ruffy Community Hall

You are invited to join us for a lunch of soup, crusty bread and snags by the fire with good conversation and children's activities. Everyone is welcome.

Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

Restoration Project Raffle will be drawn on the day

Contact Sharron 57904329 or Henry 57904246 or Bill 57904264

Gold coin donation to help with costs appreciated.

* Ruffy Hall is accepting donations

Many thanks to those wonderful TGN readers who have contributed to the Ruffy Hall Fundraising effort. **One very important request if you are EFTing a donation PLEASE make sure that you put your name in the reference section! If you have already donated anonymously please let Sharron know - sharronbatt@gmail.com** 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**

Healthy soils: to grow food and store carbon

A healthy soil is productive, sustainable and resilient to withstand the impacts of farm management practices & changing climatic conditions. Healthy soils undertake many functions for healthy plant growth, including storing and providing water and nutrients, maintaining biological activity, maintaining good soil structure and the ability to resist erosion.

Soils can store carbon and soil carbon is strongly linked to soil quality and productivity.

How much and for how long varies depending on factors such as soil texture (the clay and fine silt fraction), climate - temperature and annual rainfall (amount and distribution over the year), soil moisture & importantly farm management practices. Soil organic matter makes up a small component of the soil mass, yet it has an important role in the functioning of the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil.

Soil organic carbon is a measure of the carbon contained within soil organic matter. Soil carbon provides a source of nutrients through mineralisation, helps to aggregate soil particles (structure) to provide resilience to physical degradation, increases microbial activity, increases water storage and availability to plants, and protects soil from erosion. Ultimately, increasing soil carbon levels can lead to better plant establishment and growth. While increasing soil carbon is highly desirable, it is also easily lost, so maintaining what you have is important. Climate is a strong driver, affecting accumulations & decomposition of soil organic matter in soils.

The following management options aim to improve soil condition by improving soil structure, reducing losses of carbon and nitrogen from the soil and building soil organic matter. Improving soil condition will enhance a plant's ability to access the nutrients it needs, capture and retain soil moisture for longer & reduce losses of nitrogen to the atmosphere, groundwater and waterways.

Management options

There are ways to increase soil carbon while also increasing productivity, water holding capacity and nutrient cycling. This will reduce input costs and produce wider natural resource management benefits.

Monitor soil nutrient levels:

- test your soil to check the nutrient status and structure of your soil and develop a plan to improve constraints to nutrient and water access e.g. physical (structure, compaction, drainage), chemical (pH, salinity, toxicities/ deficiencies), biological (micro-organisms).
- monitor soil organic matter/soil organic carbon over time via testing.
- complete a nutrient balance/budget to match fertiliser requirements to crop/pasture demand.
- manage soil structure to maximise water infiltration and retention for plant uptake and aeration

Consider application of soil amendments:

- addition of organic amendments (manure, crop residues) where practical and economically viable. Know the quality of any products, have them tested and ensure any claimed benefits are supported by sound evidence and research.
- manage application of gypsum on sodic soils to maintain/improve soil structure.
- manage livestock manure (dung and urine) to minimise nitrous oxide emissions

Manage the soil resource:

- use direct drill, minimum/ conservation tillage and controlled traffic techniques in cropping operations to avoid compacting soils and losing carbon and nutrients through soil cultivation and erosion.
- avoid burning crop residues and retain where possible.
- cultivate soils at an appropriate moisture content – not too moist for soils to smear, or too dry that the soil is pulverised.
- avoid bare fallows, and have continuous plant cover where possible e.g. green/brown manure crops between seasons and crops can maintain groundcover, provide active root material and organic matter as well as use available nitrogen and avoid losses by leaching.
- manage irrigation and soil drainage to avoid waterlogging. Use irrigation scheduling and monitoring.
- rotate crops and include perennial pastures and legumes phases in rotations. In general, perennial pastures will improve or stabilise soil carbon more than annuals can.
- do not overgraze pastures. Ensure there is sufficient groundcover throughout the year (>50 percent cover). Consider stock containment areas to ensure improved pasture and groundcover management options.

Continued on p.4

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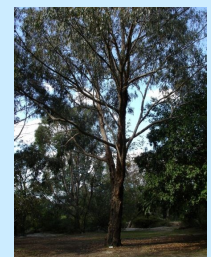
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