



THE GRANITE NEWS

13TH JUNE 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 20

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another week has resulted in some lessening of restrictions but two local activities this month have put themselves on hold due to the current situation and the limitations still in place. So, the Highlands Spinners will not be meeting tomorrow and there will be no Black Market this month.

This month - June - is for me, always the most dismal, damp, dark, cold and depressing month of the year. It is usually wet with low cloud keeping the sun at bay. Limp clothes hanging, almost daily, on drying racks above the heater and a couple of dogs ensconced in front of the fire 24/7, are features of its 30 days. It also contains the shortest day of the year.

I often wonder how those communities, in the northern hemisphere in particular, deal with the concept of total winter darkness for several months on end and unbelievably low minus temperatures. Whilst the trade off might be experiencing the majestic spectacle of an Aurora Borealis I think that, personally, I'm looking forward to June 22nd and the downhill run to daylight saving! Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe and warm, **Pauline** And Kenny... was chuckling over cats in masks trying to clean themselves.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"What the world needs is more geniuses with humility. There are so few of us left."

Oscar Levante (1906-1972)

U.S. musician & polymath

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



Website of the Week

With NAIDOC Week (4-12 July) coming up for another year www.ulurustatement.org makes for interesting and reflective reading.

HCCC Membership so far
164 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — June

 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 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
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, 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. Please note BYO, thanks. Enquiries? - Sharron 5790 4329
Monday 21st June @ 10am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. First Class for 2021 For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400
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 23rd and July 7th & 21st.
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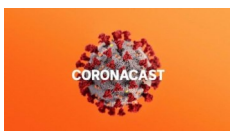
DON'T FORGET...

Historically **The Granite News** always takes a break between school terms which means that next week's issue - **June 20th** - will be the last one before a 2 week hiatus, back on deck on **July 11th!** Plan ahead for any articles for publication now!

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about Covid 19.



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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.

HCCC News

DON'T FORGET!!!

**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

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 Schefe**, AgriSci Pty Ltd, who is a soil scientist with over 20 years' experience.

If you are interested in attending please contact Neil, see below.

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!



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 and BYO !

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.

Trees: for farm health

Trees on farms have benefits of improving productivity and land health, as well as capturing and storing carbon. Trees store carbon in their branches, stems, leaves, bark and roots. As trees grow, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and convert this into carbon to make wood. When wood rots or is destroyed (e.g. by fire) the carbon is returned to the air.

When carefully integrated into farms, trees can improve soil, water and biodiversity conservation, provide shade and shelter to livestock, rehabilitate unproductive land and improve the look and feel of a property. Farm productivity will increase as a result, with improved farms often having a percentage of land planted to trees which complements agricultural production.

Trees on farms can store carbon, which could offer an offset against a farm business's greenhouse gas emissions and may be combined with other benefits such as shelter, timber production, environmental protection, added biodiversity and improved aesthetic value on-farms.

Good planning for strategic planting of trees ensures they become an asset not a liability. Well managed trees may provide extra income if harvested following appropriate approval processes.

Management options

Many farmers have revegetated degraded or unproductive sections of their farms or waterways. Farmers have shown that they can revegetate from 5 percent to 20 percent of their farm without loss of food or fibre production.

- Identify on your farm plan areas that might be suited for shelterbelts, woodlots or wildlife areas, or for managing problem areas (unproductive or erosion prone areas) - most farms have some parcels of land that are less productive and make sensible locations for plantings.
- Ensure tree species match the site conditions (e.g. soils and climate) and the farm objectives.
- Establish new tree plantations and ensure species selection and site preparation are geared towards optimal survival and growth – find out from a local expert suitable tree species, establishment techniques for your site, suitable nurseries and revegetation contractors.
- Consider growing some woodlots with tree species that can be used on-farm (e.g. for fodder, fence posts, poles or firewood), ensuring not to use species classified as weeds.
- Encourage regeneration of native trees and shrubs (e.g. by fencing out established native vegetation), according to a well thought-out farm plan.
- Protect and manage existing native trees and shrubs from loss or damage by fire, land clearing or animals.
- Use an appropriate carbon calculator to estimate how much carbon is being stored in your farm woodlot (go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/carbon-emissions for links to appropriate tools).
- You could also consider participating in carbon credit or incentive schemes, noting that:

- ⇒ the rate of carbon sequestration of farm trees is directly related to the type of trees, their age and how fast they grow.
- ⇒ carbon credit schemes are subject to ongoing conditions and contracts, which should be thoroughly investigated before proceeding.
- ⇒ or maybe you might just want to measure and record your farm carbon to balance against your own farm emissions for use in trade, market or low emissions food-fibre verification schemes (such as carbon neutral wine, milk or meat).

Further information:

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

Originally published in “Making cent\$ of carbon emissions on farm” by Agriculture Vic.



In the Fifties and the Sixties...

- * Pasta was not eaten in Australia or New Zealand
- * Curry was a surname
- * A take-away was a mathematical problem
- * A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower
- * All potato crisps were plain; the only choice was whether to put salt on or not
- * Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding
- * Brown bread was something only poor people ate
- * Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking
- * Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green
- * Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh
- * Fish didn't have fingers in those days
- * Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sashimi
- * No-one had ever heard of yoghurt
- * Healthy food consisted of anything edible
- * People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy
- * Indian restaurants were only found in India
- * Cooking outside was called camping
- * Seaweed was not a recognised food
- * 'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food
- * Prunes were medicinal
- * Surprisingly muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed
- * Water came out of a tap... and ... if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!

Did you know?

A healthy diet is more important than genetics: Studies show that the majority of heart disease, stroke, cancer and type 2 diabetes cases are attributed to a diet high in processed meats, saturated fats and processed sugars.



Did you know?

"The largest projects in Australia used to be coal mines and gas fields but, now, in the north of Western Australia a private company is building a solar and wind farm that is **8 times the size of Canberra**. This is our future."

Richie Merzian

Climate and Energy Director - The Australia Institute

RAINWATER

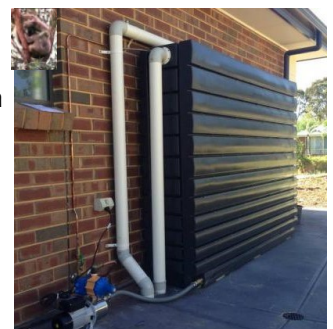
Although there has been an absolute deluge of rain across the state in the last week Australia doesn't really have a lot of water. Almost 2/3 of our continent receives less than half a metre of rain each year, and, of that 2/3s half is so dry that it's pretty much desert. Despite the lack of rain in many areas, rainwater is the most accessible source of water in Australia.

- In Australia's rural areas 63% of the water used in homes is rainwater
- More than 1/4 of Australian homes have a rain-water tank
- Every year the average Australian family uses more than 250,000 litres of water. 60% of that is flushed down the toilet or used for showering



Most TGN readers would be familiar with the fresh, clean taste of rainwater as the source of supply for their households. However for those readers, who are on reticulated water systems, in the HCCC's townships and beyond, you might like to consider the following -

- Although people in towns & cities tend to take their water supply for granted it's just as important to collect rainwater in cities as it is in rural areas - not just to support water usage, but also to reduce the IMPACT an urban area has on the environment.
- When rain falls on hard surfaces, like concrete, it can't sink into the ground. Instead it runs into drains, carrying litter and debris into the waterways—increasing the chance of flash flooding.
- Starting small can make a big impact—small water tanks can be easily plumbed into a house's guttering to collect rainwater. Even if this collected rain is simply used for watering the garden or vege patch it will make a HUGE difference to everyone's water footprint.



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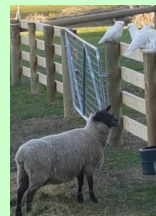
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Enquiries? Felicity 0413 483 450

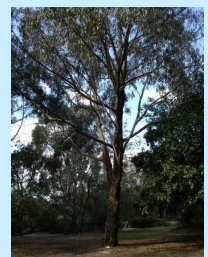
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

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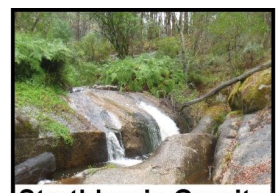


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