



# THE GRANITE NEWS

25TH JULY 2021

VOLUME 15

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Fingers crossed...that come 11.59pm on Tuesday night our lives might be a little less restricted. Of course there are various scenarios that could play out between now and then but according to current trend Wednesday is looking good to return to some sort of 'normal' again, albeit normal with masks. However for those TGN readers in NSW, and Sydney in particular, hang in there and stay safe and well.

One thing that has become apparent in this new version of the world is the way that things can change so quickly and flexibility is key. Therein lies a problem with a weekly newsletter in that social events advertised for the following weekend can go the way of the dodo if restrictions are brought in between TGN's publication and the event's designated date. The Highlands Ramblers walk last Sunday is the obvious one that springs to mind here. Whilst some social events advertised in advance might be able to be rescheduled eg: the Ruffy Community Action Group meeting went from July 20th to August 4th due to the first round of restrictions, others with shorter lead times cannot.

Probably common sense is best applied here and an assumption that Government restrictions take priority over any social event, but if in doubt then contact the nominated organiser to confirm the current situation.

Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe, warm and keep smiling, **Pauline** And Kenny... was obliterating Terip Terip Tennis Club's ball.

## Ribbons of Remnant Roadsides Program

Up until last week when a letter landed in my mailbox I must admit that I was unaware that the Old Highlands Rd, Highlands was in fact part of the Ribbons of Remnant Roadsides program undertaken a couple of years ago as a joint project between the Murrindindi Shire Council, Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and Cittaslow—Yea.

Apparently there are 12 such roads around the Murrindindi Shire (Frees Rd, Gobur is another) that have been assessed as having significant biodiversity and conservation value due to the vegetation present or the habitat that is provided for local fauna.



As part of the program weed eradication was conducted, hundreds of understorey plants planted out and signage erected. I'm not too sure if Strathbogie & Mitchell Shires offer similar programs but it might be worth enquiring. Janet Hagen can also assist. [hughescreek2@gmail.com](mailto:hughescreek2@gmail.com)

## Still going up!!

The readership of The Granite News continued to increase again this week with now **705 readers** of this great weekly epistle. I'm still wondering though if we can increase our HCCC Membership to 200? Just email [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) to register, with no obligation or cost involved.



Hughes Creek  
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Feedback? - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

or to subscribe on-line go to

[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

**"A friend is a gift you give yourself."**

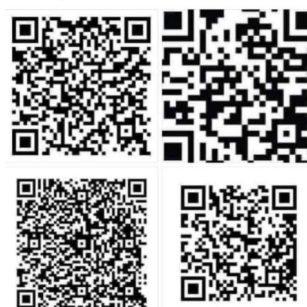
**Robert Louis Stevenson - Author**  
(1850—1894)

**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

my weekend away was  
amazing guys, pictures don't  
do it justice.



## Website of the Week

Did you know that 17% of global emissions come from households? 970,000 women from around the world want to change that-

[www.1millionwomen.com.au](http://www.1millionwomen.com.au)

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

## Community Notices

**WHAT'S ON — July & August**

**NB: All are subject to Covid variations!**

|  |   |  |                                    |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|
|    | <b>Thursday 29th July<br/>@ 5.30pm</b>        | <b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b><br>All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat   | at Caveat Church                   |
|    | <b>Monday 2nd August<br/>@ 7.30pm</b>         | <b>TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB AGM</b><br>All welcome !  | at Terip Tennis Clubhouse          |
|  | <b>Wednesday 4th August<br/>@ 7.30pm</b>      | <b>RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP</b><br>Important meeting to appoint a new leadership team. See article below on this page  | at Tablelands Community Centre     |
|    | <b>Friday 6th August<br/>@ 6pm</b>            | <b>RUFFY FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ</b><br>It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights. See p.3 for your invite or <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a> for more details.  | at Tablelands Community Centre     |
|    | <b>Monday 9th August<br/>@ 11am</b>           | <b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b><br>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 |
|  | <b>Tuesday 10th August<br/>@ 7pm</b>          | <b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL PUBLIC MEETING</b><br>See p. 5 for more information  | at Highlands Hall                  |
|   | <b>Wednesday 11th August<br/>@ 9.30am</b>     | <b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b><br>This enjoyable social event is open to all members of the community, come along and enjoy.   | at Terip Community Centre          |
|  | <b>Friday 13th August<br/>@ 6.30pm</b>        | <b>DRINKS ON THE DECK</b><br>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.   | at Highlands Community Hall        |
|  | <b>Every second<br/>Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b> | <b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b><br>The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in??<br><b>YAY! The Mobile Library will be at Highlands on these dates—July 28th and August 11th &amp; 25th.</b> | at Highlands Community Hall        |
|  | <b>Every Monday<br/>@ 10 am</b>               | <b>ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA</b><br>Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy.<br><b>For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</b>  | at Tablelands Community Centre     |

### DON'T FORGET...

We are holding a meeting to appoint a new leadership team for the Ruffy Community Action Group. If you are interested in taking on one of the roles please come along on **Tuesday 20 July - TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE @ 7.30pm** (opp. Ruffy Store)

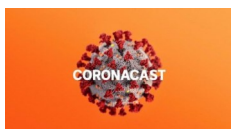
If you would like to discuss any of the positions please call **Rob Jamieson on 0401 993 681** or **Felicity Sloman 0413 483 450** for a chat.

**Please Note—Due to Lockdown #5 this meeting has been postponed until Wednesday 4th August—same place and time.**

### Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

**1800 020 080**

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



Listen for free on  
[ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#)

### Mt Bernard Geology Walk

This walk led by Neil Phillips has been rescheduled to Spring and hopefully we will be out of lock down and vaccinated.

**The walk is restricted to a group of 20 per day, so will be on consecutive Saturdays of 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**Bookings essential** through Kevin Whithear, Avenel Natural Conservation Group [kgwhithear@gmail.com](mailto:kgwhithear@gmail.com)

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

**Tablelands Community Centre Inc 27 Nolans Road Ruffy**

## **First Friday of the Month BBQs**

**It's time to bring back the fun into Friday nights!**

Come along to the Tablelands Community Centre for a catch up  
with friends old and new

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Snags, dim sims, veggie burgers & fresh bread will be provided**

**Please BYO drinks, good times and any salads/desserts you  
want to share within your group**

**FOOD AVAILABLE FROM 6:00 PM**

**See you on the 6th August!**

And then the **first Friday of each month** after

Visit [tccruffy@gmail.com](mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com) for more information

## **Have you seen any koalas lately?**

This little chap was recently spotted at the Highlands end of the plateau, thank you Robyn, and the question was asked -

**Are we seeing less koalas now in the HCCC area than say 5-10 years ago?**

**What do readers think?**



Any citizen science observations would be most appreciated - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
Thanks.

## **Growing regenerative agriculture – pathways and potential for scaling**

**Date:** Friday 30 July 2021

**Time:** 12:30pm - 1:30pm

**Host:** [Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law \(CREEL\)](#)

**Location:** **Webinar**

**Cost:** Free

There is a surge of interest in regenerative agriculture as a way of addressing multiple crises relating to climate change, soil and biodiversity. Adopting regenerative farming approaches has the potential to reduce GHG emissions and generate significant environmental and social co-benefits. But what's the potential for scaling up regenerative agriculture at a national or global scale and how can we achieve it? Our panel of experts and practitioners will explore the potential to scale up regenerative agriculture, the pathways and challenges to scaling up and the policies and government support needed. The discussion will be moderated by **Professor Rod Keenan** from the University of Melbourne.

This event is the second seminar of the Sustainable Food System project funded by Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute and is co-hosted by Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences and the Scaling Regenerative Agriculture project funded by Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute.

**Click on the link below to book and get more information.**

<https://events.unimelb.edu.au/CREEL/event/11045-growing-regenerative-agriculture-pathways-and>



## ENHANCING FARM DAMS

Farm dams are an important asset in many farming systems, providing drinking water for livestock or water storage for irrigation operations. Appropriate management of these waterbodies can lead to improved productivity and profitability, as well as benefits to biodiversity conservation.

In many agricultural landscapes natural wetlands are rare and, if present, highly degraded. Over decades of agricultural activity, many wetlands have been drained either on purpose or inadvertently when gullies and waterways erode. Natural chains-of-ponds along wet gullies and creek lines are now uncommon and few wetland areas are spared from the impact of livestock.

While natural wetlands are now in short supply, thousands of farm dams dot the landscape and, with appropriate management, can help restore biodiversity by providing much needed wetland habitats for native wildlife.

### Benefits to farm profitability

Enhancing farm dams by excluding or reducing stock accesses has many benefits to livestock and the other productivity services.

- Improving the quality of drinking water for your livestock.
- Improving the level of nutrient & mineral absorption by livestock through increased hydration.
- Reducing the risk of exposure to parasites such as liver fluke.
- Reducing erosion and sedimentation of the dam.
- Extending the life of the dam as an asset on your farm.
- Reducing the amount of time and money spent on dredging out sediments from dams.
- Reducing or preventing livestock becoming bogged.
- Increasing natural pest control by encouraging various species of invertebrates such as dragonflies, as well as frogs and birds.

### Benefits to biodiversity

Well managed farm dams can provide habitat for small native fish (including threatened species such as the Southern Pygmy Perch), which are often rare or absent from many landscapes. These populations can be small reserves for fish species and, in wet weather events, become source populations for the wider systems.



Quality farm dams can be critical habitat for a diversity of frog species including threatened species such as Sloane's Froglet and Southern Bell Frog. Farm dams with good areas of fringing vegetation and/or shallow areas can provide quality habitat for wetland birds including the threatened Australasian Bittern and the migratory Latham's Snipe.

Additional habitat, such as trees, shrubs and tall grass around the dam, can also benefit many terrestrial species. One of these is the threatened Diamond Firetail, which prefers to breed near water points.

## What Freedom?

There is a lot of talk these days about freedom of speech, freedom of religion and our human rights. Talk about freedom of speech often ends up to be an excuse to abuse and bully others. Freedom of religion can simply be a cover for discrimination and narrow moralism. When it comes to our human rights we can refuse to be vaccinated against Covid 19, but what are the ethics behind our refusal? Do we have genuine health concerns, or is it just ignorance or good old apathy? As for refusing to wear masks when gazetted by the health advice, is this merely a case of being pig headed, or a refusal to think of anybody else than ourselves?

The word 'freedom' is frequently bandied about as some marvellous ideal, something that should be obvious to all. When it comes to ultimate freedom however, it is instead a form of ultimate selfishness. It is putting 'I' at the centre of everything regardless of how it effects anyone else. This is why extreme capitalism is morally problematic. Freedom and human rights are not in themselves ethical categories; to be genuine they need an ethical underpinning. Freedom by itself, is really a sterile category.

I certainly do not wish to underestimate the importance of freedom in human relations and in society generally; I would not wish to live under the CCP. I certainly want to be part of those who advocate for the human rights of those who are oppressed politically or economically. They are all essential in the search for social justice. There is however, no true freedom until all are free and that can only become a reality when our search for freedom is freedom to be for others.

**Stuart A Reid - Highlands**

## Living with Wombats

As any farmer or resident in rural areas will testify, wombats will ignore fencing! They will either push through or burrow underneath it.

A heavy flap (think of a wombat version of a cat flap) placed in the fence, aligned with the wombat's trail, is the



best option to keep the fence intact.

The wombat will be able to push through the heavy flap while other animals will not have the strength. Good luck.

## A Date for YOUR Diary

**TERIP TERIP Tennis Club AGM**

**Monday August 2 @7.30pm**  
At clubhouse - all welcome



## HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Notice is given of a

### PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at the Highlands Hall on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 7.00pm** to nominate persons as the Committee of Management for the Highlands Community Hall for a term of three years.

**The current committee's term will expire on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021.**

All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting the **Secretary, Judy Cameron on 5796 9247.**

**Please note:** Although all positions will be declared open we will have a definite vacancy for a Chairperson. This should be a very rewarding position to lead and support the Hall Committee.

## What can we do with E-Waste?

Is E-Waste even word?

Yes it is and it covers all those wonderful techy gadgets like iPads, video games, mobile phones as well as TVs, fridges, etc. As many of these items contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury & arsenic putting them in Council collected recycle bins is not an option.

### So what can we do with our E-Waste?

If it is still working and safe then selling, donating or giving it away to someone to reuse is a better option.

If it has definitely reached its use by date then recycling it at special E-Waste disposal points will ensure that all the plastic, glass and special metals that make up E-Waste can be given a new life.



**Good news** all 3 Councils—Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie now have E-Waste drop off points at all their Resource Recovery Centres.

Why not make use of them?



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