



THE GRANITE NEWS

1ST AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 25

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Many thanks to those readers who responded to the request for any citizen science observations of our local koala populations. Read on...

I would concur that I have not seen as many Koalas in the last few years but more importantly, as it is easy not to see them, I have not heard as many. - Jonathan



We spotted this koala at our place in Longwood East a few days ago. We have seen a few around our place in the past year. Beautiful animals! - Lisa

There are still koalas around our area, especially in our neighbours' trees. We quite often hear them. - Lynn

Yes, we have seen a koala lately, but only one. We have had a painful experience with koalas on our 10 acre property in Highlands. During the last 10 years we have seen 5 koalas around but during 2018/ 2019 we experienced the death of 3 koalas - 2 culled by local Vet and 1 killed by car on road. Recently we learned where to seek help and how to help koalas.

In case of emergency call WIRES Wildlife Rescue Emergency Service 0427301401 OR Raptor Rescue & Koala help - 1800 701 522
- Henryka

If any other readers have koala observations or stories to tell please just send them to - editor@tgn.org.au They are our delightful furry friends.



Finally a BIG thank you to another 3 TGN readers who have advised me that they would like to become HCCC members, that makes 167 now, only 33 more to go to reach the second ton. Can we do it? Yes we can!

Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe, warm and keep smiling, **Pauline**
And Kenny... was gazing out over my neighbours' dam.

Still going up ...

The readership of The Granite News continues to increase with another 3 readers this week, up to **708 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 to register, with no obligation or cost involved.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"I hate being on a tourist boat. I don't want to be woken up by some laughing person with enforced gaiety. I'll be in charge of what mood I'm in at the start of each day, thank you very much!"

Billy Connolly

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

Just picked up my social distance support animal.










Month	Highlands	Ruffy
July	111.4 mm	171 mm
2021 Total	521.6 mm	629 mm
July Rain Days	22 Days NB: 18 days	21 Days in a row!

HCCC Membership so far
167 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — August

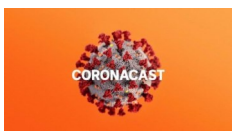
NB: All are subject to Covid variations!

 Monday 2nd August @ 7.30pm	TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB AGM All welcome ! at Terip Tennis Clubhouse
Wednesday 4th August @ 7.30pm	RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP Important meeting to appoint a new leadership team. See article in previous TGNs. at Tablelands Community Centre
 Friday 6th August @ 6pm	RUFFY FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights. See article in previous TGNs. Email tccruffy@gmail.com for more details. at Tablelands Community Centre
 Monday 9th August @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING The Highlands Spinning Club will be back 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 Postponed until Sept.
Tuesday 10th August @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL PUBLIC MEETING See page 5 for more information. at Highlands Hall
 Wednesday 11th August @ 9.30am	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA This enjoyable social event is open to all members of the community, come along and enjoy. at Terip Community Centre
 Friday 13th August @ 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. at Highlands Community Hall
Thursday 19th August @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be held in Highlands commencing at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268 at Highlands Hall
 Saturday 21st August 12 - 2	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366 at 94 Old Highlands Rd
 Sunday 22nd August @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235 meeting at Highlands Hall
Thursday 26th August @ 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
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—Aug. 11th & 25th and Sept. 8th & 22nd. at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400 at Tablelands Community Centre

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 11th and 18th September 2021.
Bookings essential through Kevin Whithear, Avenel Natural Conservation Group kgwhithear@gmail.com

DATE CHANGE to 3rd September

Tablelands Community Centre

27 Nolans Road Ruffy

**First FRIDAY of the Month BBQs Come along for
a catch up with friends old and new**

Everyone welcome

Snags, dim sims, veggie burgers and fresh bread will be
provided

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

Bookings helpful for catering

FOOD AVAILABLE FROM 6:00 PM

See you on the first Friday of each month

Contact: tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970
for more information

Letter to the Editor

Hey Pauline,

Please pass on a sincere thanks to Stuart Reid for his excellent article, *What Freedom?* I hope everyone read it and considered his message.

COVID has brought out the best in many, but more and more it's also bringing out the worst in people and this was a great reflection for people to step back and look at the bigger picture.

We are never going to get to the other side of this pandemic as 7 billion individuals doing whatever suits us and to hell with everyone else, we HAVE to work through this together. Otherwise it will drag out for many years to come.

Cheers,
Cass.

MURRINDINDI SHIRE 10-YEAR COMMUNITY VISION

**Through our combined efforts, our community is
vibrant and resilient. We**

- are inclusive, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all
- welcome new residents and visitors to enjoy and contribute to our Shire
- respect and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations People and those who have come before us
- actively support the current and future needs and aspirations of people of all ages and abilities
- enjoy, participate in and promote culture and the arts, sport and recreation
- are leaders in waste reduction and combating climate change
- preserve our natural environment and biodiversity and preserve our rural landscapes
- grow through managed land development, business entrepreneurship and enhanced learning opportunities

The Murrindindi Shire 10-Year Community Vision was adopted by Council on Wednesday 28 July.

This Vision reflects the community's long-term aspirations for the Shire and provides important guidance and direction for Council in its work. The Vision gives Council and the community a shared understanding of our preferred future.

HOW TO ENHANCE FARM DAMS (Part 2)

Exclude livestock

The single most important step to enhance farm dams for farm production (and biodiversity) is to control or exclude livestock. This helps in two ways:

- It allows fringing wetland vegetation to grow, which will stabilise dam banks and act as a filter for nutrients in the water
- It will reduce or remove the direct effects of livestock on water quality, such as defecating in the water along with disturbing the soil and sediments on banks and in the dam itself

Provide drinking water via water troughs

Total exclusion of livestock from the dam area can be achieved if drinking water is available to livestock in water troughs. Some landowners are reluctant to rely on water troughs because of concern about potential malfunctioning. This concern can be overcome by providing hardened access points on dams that are open at all times or are opened periodically at times when personnel are unavailable to conduct regular checks of troughs.

Create a grassed buffer zone in the inflow area

Having a well grassed buffer zone in the inflow area of your dam will help to improve water quality by catching paddock run-off such as sediment, animal dung and other pollutants. The larger the grassed inflow area, the more efficient it will be.

Create shallow areas in the dam

A healthy dam will attract a wide range of birds. Create shallow areas and perching sites in the dam to add to the diversity of the habitat and make it more attractive to wetland birds.

Add logs, rocks, trees and shrubs to the dam area

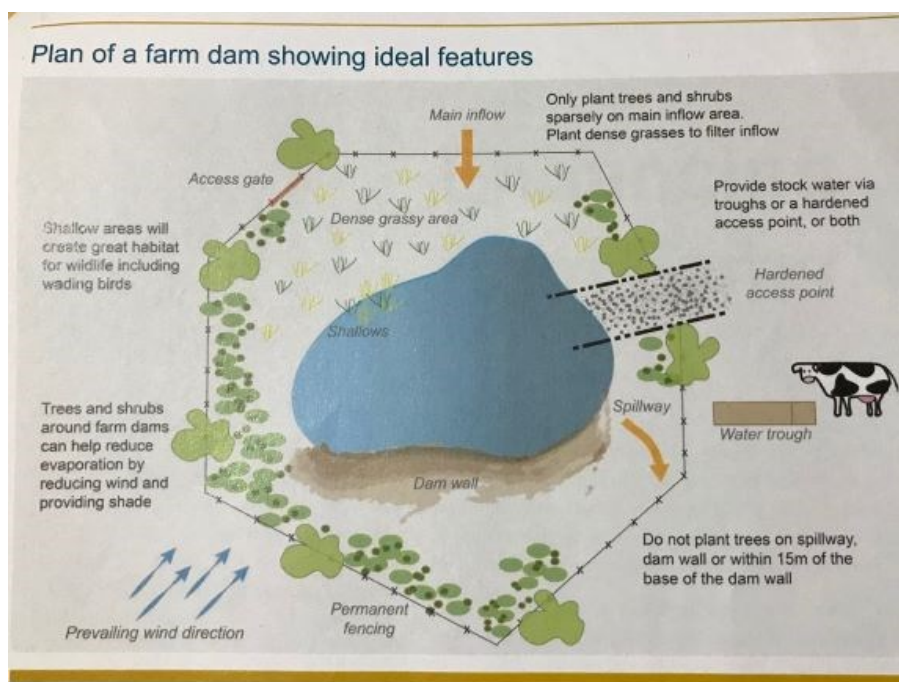
Enhance the habitat and encourage native wildlife to colonise the dam by adding rocks, logs, trees and shrubs to the area. Trees and shrubs can also help reduce evaporation by reducing wind and shading the water. Avoid planting trees and shrubs in the main inflow areas, spillway or on the dam wall as this will reduce the functionality of the dam. Many wetland plant species will naturally colonise the dam, but planting locally native wetland plants may help hasten this process.

Tips for installing hardened access points

- * The best time to install a hardened access point is when the dam is being constructed
- Retrofitting hardened access to existing dams can still be done, but will be a more complex undertaking
- Avoid installing access points on the spillway, dam wall or main inflow areas
- Harden access points with gravel or stone to stop them from becoming boggy

Originally published by
Sustainable Farms—ANU

www.sustainablefarms.org.au



Firescaping - Landscaping with native flora to minimise fire risk

Wildfires were virtually unknown before European settlement and the ensuing changes in land management. Careful planning & maintenance can help to minimise risk.

Here are some factors to consider when planning, or rejuvenating your garden.



- Research the prevailing wind conditions for your site and plan windbreaks accordingly. Rows of trees can trap embers and slow the wind without blocking it. Blocking creates turbulence and thus leads to erratic fire behaviour
- Firebreaks can be roads, driveways, green lawns, fire retardant ground covers, bodies of water, established deciduous trees, vegetable gardens and orchards
- Remember that fire accelerates uphill
- Dense shade & soft mulch keep the ground cooler. Pebbles or gravel are a safer mulch in high fire risk areas
- Do not allow vegetation to create a continuous path to the house. Plant or clear into clumps and islands rather than rows
- Remove noxious and environmental weeds
- Prune low branches 2 metres from the ground
- Locate flammable flora away from buildings
- Create non-flammable pathways around buildings
- Avoid brush fencing and flammable plants
- Remove dead and dying plants
- Research the fire retardant capabilities of your plants - Contact Euroa Arboretum for suggestions
- Replace flammable trees and shrubs with less flammable varieties

NB: Any plant may burn under the right conditions, this is a guide to reducing that risk. Also the suggestions made here will not guarantee safety in wildfire conditions.

Credit: Normanville Natural Resource Centre

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Notice is given of a

PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at the Highlands Hall on **Tuesday 10th 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 23rd 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.

Living with Wombats

- * Wombats are marsupial mammals with short legs, small ears and a teddy bear-like structure
- * They feed on herbivorous plants and roots and will also eat bark from native trees
- * Adults are generally around a metre long and weigh between 20 and 40 kilos (dozers on legs)
- * Wombats are nocturnal animals, so you are unlikely to come across a healthy one during the day. However, in the cooler months, they do take advantage of the low light to come out and graze
- * Wombats use their faeces to advertise their territory—they will often leave distinctive cube shaped poo in prominent places like rocks or tree stumps as markings
- * A single joey will generally stay with its mother for 18 months and a female will give birth once every 3 years



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