



THE GRANITE NEWS

15TH AUGUST 2021

VOLUME 15

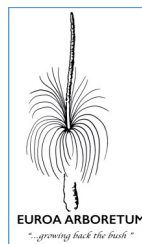
ISSUE 27

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Okay...so we're now back to the Greater Melbourne and rest of Victoria divide. Good for those of us who live in the HCCC area and other regional areas, not so good for those readers who live in Melbourne and like to 'escape to the country' from time to time. However, by comparison to Sydney, we are currently much better placed to return to what passes for normality in 2021, sooner rather than later.

In the meantime though, the dull, dark and damp days of winter appear to be behind us and we are rapidly heading for spring. The perfect time to start planting out, be it garden, paddock or pots.



Why not contact the **Euroa Arboretum** - 0429 127399 and see what locally sourced, native plants are available to enhance your place?



Until the next issue of TGN, stay safe, warm and keep smiling, **Pauline** And Kenny... was getting a few pointers from Darren Gilbert on sketching.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"I don't know what the future brings. The crystal ball hasn't fired up lately."

Martin Foley - Victorian Minister for Health, earlier this past week.

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



Website of the Week

Science Week 2021 is happening NOW - 14-22 August 2021—Food: Different by Design
<https://www.scienceweek.net.au>

HCCC Membership so far
167 ... and counting

Storage Needed

The Tablelands Community Centre has for quite some time now, for both the Centre and other hirers, been able to call upon the Longwood Community Centre to borrow a portable stage to use for local functions. We are very grateful to the Longwood Community Centre for the use.

As we call on the stage more than their use, it is now proposed that the stage be stored in the tablelands for all including Longwood (Australia Day) **If you feel you can help us out please contact tccruffy@gmail.com or phone 0427690970** NB: Qigong has returned on Mondays too.

Still going up ...

The readership of The Granite News continues to increase, up to **718 readers** this week but I'm still hoping we can increase HCCC Membership to 200? With only **33 more** to go, why not email editor@tgn.org.au to register? And with no obligation or cost involved, there's no impost on readers just important support of the HCCC and the work it undertakes.

Please note: Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion in the following week's TGN although this will depend on space and time constraints—thanks

Community Notices

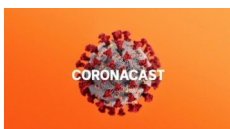
WHAT'S ON — August & September NB: All are subject to Covid variations!

 <p>Thursday 19th August @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Highlands Hall</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th August at 7.30pm.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid pink; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;"> <p>Sorry—HCCC Committee only due to Covid</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268</p>
 <p>Saturday 21st August 12 - 2</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> <p>Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
 <p>Sunday 22nd August @ 10am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235</p>
<p>Tuesday 24th August @ 7pm</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL PUBLIC MEETING at Highlands Hall</p> <p>See previous TGNs for more information.</p>
<p>Thursday 26th August @ 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church</p> <p>All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat</p>
 <p>Friday 3rd September @ 6pm</p>	<p>RUFFY FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</p>
<p>Friday 3rd September @ 7pm</p>	<p>JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC - Myths about Refugees at Alexandra Town Hall</p> <p>A free, Covid-safe event so bookings are essential trybooking.com/BSMVX or 0467 413767 for more.</p>
<p>Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September 10 - 4</p>	<p>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</p> <p>Darren's studio, with his creative works is now open on first weekend each month. An inspirational environment where both art and sculpture come to life in a beautiful scenic countryside of Highlands.</p>
 <p>Wednesday 8th Sept. @ 9.30am</p>	<p>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA at Terip Community Centre</p> <p>This enjoyable social event is open to all members of the community, come along, enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce and enjoy meeting others.</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th Sept. 7.30 for 8pm</p>	<p>GEOLOGY of SWANPOOL & STRATHBOGIE RANGES at Swanpool Memorial Hall</p> <p>A public lecture and discussion about the Strathbogie Granite Project led by Neil Phillips. Attendance is free and supper follows. See p. 3 for more details. RSVPs essential to Ian - limaeaster@bigpond.com</p>
 <p>Friday 10th September @ 6.30pm</p>	<p>DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>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. Enquiries? Judy 5796 9247</p>
<p>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p>	<p>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>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. 25th and Sept. 8th & 22nd.</p>
<p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p>	<p>ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA at Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</p>

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](#)

Okay - the last word on Wombats!

Whilst wombats have featured in the last few issues of TGN have you ever wondered why they have square poo? Well researchers at the University of Tasmania investigating wombat mange have unexpectedly discovered the quite incredible reason the animal's scat is cubed. Open the link to discover more...


<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-14/wombat-faeces-cube-shaped-because-of-intestines-scientists-learn/11510952>

rar The Alexandra Branch of Rural Australians for Refugees



Guest Speaker

JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC



Australian barrister, human rights and refugee advocate

Myths about Refugees

Alexandra Town Hall

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2021

7pm

• Free Entry • Bookings Essential • Light Supper
This is a Covid Safe Event so
please book Online via [Trybooking.com/BSMVX](https://trybooking.com/BSMVX) or ring 0467 413 767

How Full is Your Cellar?

There is a marvellous image described by Meister Eckhart, a 13th century mystic, who says that we all possess a cellar of quality wine locked away inside us. It is only when we are faced with extraordinary challenges or crises that we ever go down into that cellar & taste it.

It reinforces for me that human quality that so often manifests itself in people I know, or hear about. I think of those who face tragedy in their families, who struggle with painful illness or disability, who seem to survive and even triumph despite extraordinary odds. I recall people in our own community who have met acute crises and sadness and are still able to smile. Who can ignore the tragedies across the world, the victims of terrorism, the plight of refugees and those hit by fires and floods, not forgetting the challenge the COVID crisis poses for so many.

All of us in one form or another have or will face times when we must go deep within ourselves and find the door to that source of nourishment and strength.

There are of course those who for various reasons and for no fault of their own cannot find their cellar door and if they do find it, discover the cellar empty. At such times, to ask, 'are you OK?' is a crucial first step.

In these situations, some may seek strength in God, but in the end, it will be the divine in the human that will provide the refurbishment, in the shape of human love and care. When our cellar is empty, let us not hesitate to seek refurbishment. We all need the quality wine, we also need to share it. How full is your cellar?

Stuart A Reid - Highlands

Geology of the Swanpool district and Strathbogie Ranges

• A public lecture and discussion led by Neil Phillips •

Universities of Melbourne and Stellenbosch RSA



The Strathbogie granite fills the large area between the Hume freeway, Goulburn Valley highway and Midland highway. This triangle between Benalla, Seymour and Mansfield is an iconic landscape of boulders, slabs, cliffs, gorges and numerous waterfalls carved into the granite. The same granite extends east to the Samaria plateau placing Swanpool and Lima in more fertile gaps where the granite has been eroded by the ancestral Goulburn River and now the Broken River.

THE STRATHBOGIE GRANITE PROJECT is a long-term collaboration amongst researchers led by John Clemens and Neil Phillips involving particularly the University of Melbourne, and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. John has a global granite perspective and leads the laboratory work; Neil leads the field work covering much of the ground from Tallarook to Mt Samaria. This field work has been supported through the generous co-operation of many hundred landowners who have provided land access, and many others who have shared their knowledge during the community walks on the Tallarook, Highlands and Seven Creeks plateaus. Community presentations such as this one at Swanpool are opportunities to provide feedback on the research findings. An aim of the project has been to develop the geological platform to assist in understanding the whole natural environment including groundwaters, soils, vegetation, agriculture and geomorphic landforms. The Strathbogie Granite is recognised globally amongst granite experts for its widespread mineral

(condritic) and for the exceptional period of violence when it formed 370 million years ago. The research continues to pose challenging questions, and we might be able to answer some of these such as why the Broken River valley is so broad, and what role the granite has played in the quarry at Lima South adjacent to the granite. There are also puzzles such as why gold is found adjacent to the granite but not in it, and how quartz crystals form. The evening will include a small display of some typical rocks, and a presentation by Neil Phillips followed by general discussions.

For details on the field work, contact neil.phillips@bigpond.com



WHERE: Swanpool Memorial Hall, Swanpool. TIME: 7.30pm for 8pm
If you are attending please advise Ian Herbert - limaeaster@bigpond.com

No Charge. Supper follows.

THIS PRESENTATION COULD BE PROVIDED AT A FURTHER LOCATION IN THE FUTURE

WEDNESDAY
8th
September
2021

Yea Garden Expo - it's on again!

The Rotary Club of Yea is hosting a Garden Expo on **Sat/Sun 18-19 September, 9am – 3pm**. The Expo is an opportunity to view a host of garden related products in a relaxed atmosphere at the Yea Saleyards (Flat Lead Road), just off the Yea Whittlesea Rd on a flat sealed and easily accessible site for everyone.

Entry fee is just \$10 with free parking (children under 16 free) and there will be a plentiful supply of food and drink vendors on site. Over 70 vendors will be present with all things to do with gardening present with exhibits ranging from bulbs, seeds, seedlings, flowering plants and trees, garden tools, equipment, art and ornaments, compost, fertilisers and more. A daily speaker program will cover a range of topics from bee keeping, to looking after specialist plants such as orchids.



Details at website

www.yeagardenexpo.com.au or

www.yearotary.org.au or keep up to date via

Facebook.

Pay at the gate or book online at

www.trybooking.com/BQVDP

THE ROAD TO RUFFY - A 1950'S EXERCISE IN SELF HELP

The Longwood-Ruffy Road recently received some upgrade works. An injection of funding is always welcomed, but money for roadmaking does seem hard to find, whether Commonwealth, State or Municipality. The search for funds is usually a long and protracted process.

But back in the 1950s some locals took matters into their own hands. The landowners along the dirt track that ran from the Hume Highway at (old) Longford to Ruffy, agitated long and hard for an upgrade to allow all-year wet weather access for both cars and trucks. They lobbied both Councils as Euroa Shire was responsible for the Ruffy end of the road, while the Goulburn Shire looked after the Longwood end. After much time and effort was spent fundraising, the locals raised a total of £2,500 (pounds) - a fortune in those times. The work was finally underway. **By themselves!**



Although the engineering work was designed by Council and carried out under their supervision, the actual work was largely performed by the local landowners.



First in went the culverts! Then a mosquito fleet of farm tractors dug and moved the clay and gravel road-base material into position, before the work of levelling and flattening it out was conducted. Images in this article were taken from an old Victorian Country Roads Board film, which shows in good detail some of the road works in progress. That film is now publicly available.

When the fully formed and graveled road-base was ready, the Country Roads Board (now an arm of VicRoads called Regional Roads Victoria) kept up their end of the bargain by laying a bitumen and stone surface. It was just a single lane, but this was typical of many country roads of the era. It was a vast improvement!

The screenshots taken from the video give just a hint of the story. The full video (running for around nine minutes of which five minutes are about the Ruffy Road) can be found on YouTube.

Note that the video starts with some shots of road-making near Narre Warren. Then it shows some interesting footage of a 'walking' dragline digging a major irrigation channel near Murchison. It also shows the removal of old 'corduroy' logs from a section of Gold Rush era road through the Black Forest on the way to Ballarat.

The actual section relating to the Ruffy Road commences at about the four minute mark. But from purely an historical perspective, I recommend viewing the full video (link below).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR_5Fc1LswY

© Allan Layton June 2021



Editor's Note - This article was first brought to my attention a couple of weeks ago by Cookie (Ron Cook) and thanks to him and the permission of its author, Allan Layton, TGN readers can now enjoy it too. It certainly emphasises the old adage - "If you want anything done, do it yourself."





YEA



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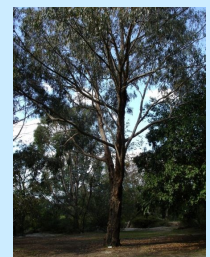
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Strathbogie Granite Project

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