



THE GRANITE NEWS

5TH SEPT. 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 30

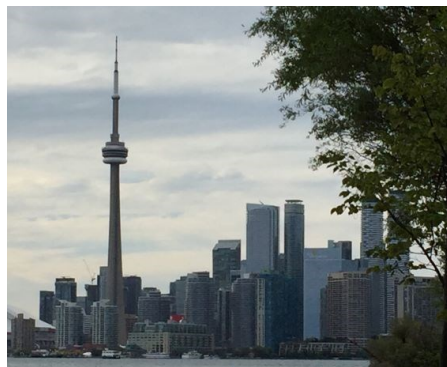
WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

And the happy number for me, this week, is # 2 !

I am now fully vaccinated with AstraZeneca and looking forward to using my passport again sometime between now and 2026, when it expires. I must admit it's just a nice feeling to know that aside from the ubiquitous face mask and social distancing I now have an invisible form of defence assisting too.

As there is an aspirational goal of Victoria loosening its restrictions once 70% of the state's population has had jab #1 you too can make a difference (if you haven't already done so).



Over the last 18-19 months we have all done an amazing job of living with some new and, at times, inconvenient boundaries but I think that overwhelmingly the majority of the population have very little aversion to following through to the logical conclusion of vaccination.

True...supply has been a major issue, as have been the age limitations, but these have now been removed. As Australia is all set to do a trade with Poland, Singapore and the UK for an increased supply of Pfizer now, with a reimbursement later in the year, this should assist greatly with supply and demand for the younger age groups. Whilst there might be an initial wait for an appointment, being in the queue is a step in the right direction.

With pharmacists, and now dentists and podiatrists able to administer the vaccines, along with a decrease in the timeframe between jabs from 12 weeks to 6 weeks for AZ, there's a plethora of locations in the HCCC Shires, as well as other areas, either taking bookings of walk-ins. As a bonus, getting vaccinated is one of the 5 legitimate reasons for leaving home. As Molly Meldrum would say, "Do yourself a favour!" and in doing so you'll be doing Victoria one too.



Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**
And Kenny... was catching up with his friend the Stubble Quail.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear."

Buddha

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



Thank you!

Many thanks to Prue and Greg who have registered as members of the HCCC. Your support is most appreciated, **only 31 more to go!**

Why not register your interest at editor@tgn.org.au and support of the HCCC in its Landcare work. There is no obligation or cost involved and no impost on readers to attend any activities. The HCCC financially supports this great little weekly newsletter, so if you enjoy reading TGN why not support the HCCC by registering as a member? 3 new subscribers too!

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

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
August	45.6 mm	46 mm
2021 Total	567.2 mm	675 mm
August Rain Days	16 Days	8 Days

HCCC Membership so far
169 ... and counting

Community Notices

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

 Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September 10 - 4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands Darren's studio, with its inspirational environment where Depends on restrictions - but possibly 11th & 12th Sept of Highlands.
Saturday 4th Sept.	TERIP STAR GAZING @ TERIP, maybe? With information to come....
 Wednesday 8th Sept. @ 9.30am	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA Both Postponed at Terip Community Centre 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.
Wednesday 8th Sept. 7.30 for 8pm	GEOLOGY of SWANPOOL & STRATHBOGIE BAYS at Swanpool Memorial Hall A public lecture and discussion about the Strathbogie Ranges project led by Neil Phillips. Attendance is free and supper follows. See p. 3 for more details. RSVPs essential to Ian - limaeaster@bigpond.com Postponed
 Friday 10th September @ 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. Enquiries? Judy 5796 9247
 Monday 13th September @ 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
Friday 16th September @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC Ruffy Next meeting will be at Ruffy commencing at 7.30pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
 Saturday 17th Sept. 12-2	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
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, hopefully Sept. 8th & 22nd.
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling Not at present For further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

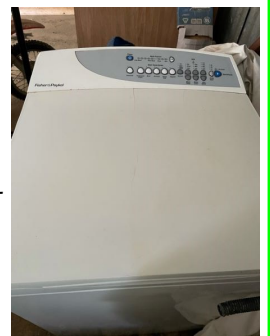
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1. HiArts Beginnings

The origins of HiArts goes back to 1998. In that year, a group of Highlands people began meeting regularly as part of the Purple Sage Project. This was a Victorian wide project involving around 5000 people. The Project arose out of wide spread disenchantment with what was happening in Victoria under the Kennett government. Small groups met across the state to discuss issues such as the reduction in the power of the Auditor General, the sale of community assets and the inadequate funding for education and health.



It had been sponsored by the Brotherhood of St Lawrence; the Victorian Women's Trust; the Stegley Foundation; the People Together Project; the YWCA and the Victorian Local Governance Association. Out of the many discussion groups came recommendations for change & action, which were presented to the Victorian Government in 1999.

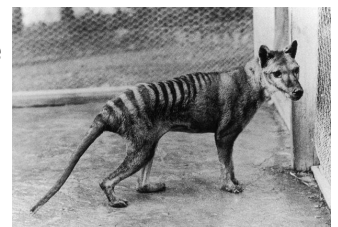
The members of the Highlands Purple Sage Group decided to continue meeting together even though their original task had been completed and their report submitted. The Group chose to work on building a greater sense of community among those who live in the Highlands area. Over the subsequent years, the Group was largely responsible in initiating the following actions:

- * Initiated working bees to improve the area around the Community Hall and Highlands junction.
- * Arranged for the naming of *Old Saleyard Lane*, *Taungurong Creek*, & the *Taungurong Creek Reserve*, in recognition of the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the area.
- * In co-operation with the Hall Committee, gained funding from the Shire to renovate the Hall and set up the historic photographs to celebrate Highlands history and its people.
- * Called a public meeting (March 2000) on the state of the roads in the area, this resulted in the election of the Highlands/Caveat Road Committee. This resulted in vastly improved roads & the complete sealing of the main roads.
- * Set up and produced the "Welcome to Highlands Kit" which was given to each new resident.
This was later discontinued when Highlands got its own web site.
- * **Inspired the setting up the Highlands Arts Experience (HiArts) in 2003, which held its first exhibition in March 2004.**
- * Set up a food co-op for people in Highlands. After 12 months operation, the co-op proved un viable and was dissolved.
- * Arranged contact with asylum seeker families through the Asylum Seeker Project and provided hospitality over several weekends in 2004.
- * Began to set up a local Skills Register for people in the Highlands area. This project never went ahead, for privacy and other reasons.
- * Took action to encourage more recycling in the area. This entailed arranging for the disposal of junk metal and old car bodies from residents' property.
- * Joined in with the Victorian study groups, "Watermark" (2005/06) to examine issues surrounding water.

The Highlands Purple Sage Group was awarded the Certificate of Achievement in the Murrindindi Shire Volunteers' Recognition Scheme, for its work in environment, conservation and heritage in 2000. The motto of the original Purple Sage project was; 'From the Wisdom of the People - Action for our Times'.

Threatened Species Day - 7th September

Threatened Species Day was declared in 1996 to **commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of the last remaining Tasmanian Tiger** (also known as the Thylacine) in Hobart in 1936. Threatened Species Day is a time to reflect on what happened in the past and how similar fates to the thylacine could await other native plants and animals unless appropriate action is taken.



On 7 September 1936 only two months after the species was granted protected status, 'Benjamin', the last known thylacine, died from exposure at the Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart. While it is estimated there were around 5000 thylacines in Tasmania at the time of European settlement, excessive hunting, combined with factors such as habitat destruction and introduced disease, led to the rapid extinction of the species, along with a bounty introduced in the 1830s. **The name thylacine roughly translates (from the Greek via Latin) as 'dog-headed pouched one'.**

The world's largest marsupial carnivore, the thylacine was commonly known as the Tasmanian Tiger, due to the distinctive stripes on its back. Despite its fierce reputation, the tiger was semi-nocturnal and was described as quite shy, usually avoiding contact with humans. The fossilised remains of thylacines have been found in Papua New Guinea, throughout the Australian mainland and Tasmania. Indigenous drawings in Kakadu have been dated to 6,000 years ago.

Living with Labradors - Emma & Tess

Last year TGN featured some much loved canines from the HCCC area. Here are 2 more who have a very firm bond. Ed. Following the demise of our beloved Wolf Hound cross rescue dog Bridget, we decided to give ourselves a break. We have looked after rescue dogs all of our married lives and dealt with the traumas and trials of damaged dogs from mystery backgrounds with sometimes, unpredictable traits. Much joy, but heartache as well. We have never lived without a dog as part of our family, so that our resolve did not last long at all.



However, we decided this time it would be a dog with a known background and a stable personality. The search was on via the Canine oracle - Dogzonline - we found Emma, a two year old golden Labrador complete with breeder's information and documentation. It appeared that Emma had been purchased by a family that had insufficient time and interest to train and love her. Long story short, Emma was fostered by a carer nominated by the original breeder and advertised on line in search of a "forever home". We fell in love at first sight. Emma fitted into our life style from the moment she arrived and is an absolute joy. The bond between our last granddaughter and Emma is remarkable and has been since she was able to first crawl and snuggle up to Emma. The pleasure that Emma brought us was such that we decided to contact her breeder to see if could get a companion for Emma and us.



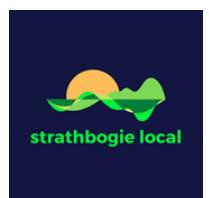
Then came Tessa Tessa is a full sister to Emma, but four litters later - same mum and dad. From the outset the bond between the girls was quite remarkable. We are convinced that they know that they are family. The girls are virtually inseparable and play, sleep and eat together. Even bones are shared without conflict. They have also helped us to bring up our orphan lambs acting as surrogate mothers. We have a five year old ewe that was fostered by our girls as an orphaned lamb and there is still a bond between them. If Tessa plays too roughly in their paddock, as senior girl, Emma is happy to bring her back into line and restore order and respect. Emma is now eleven and Tessa is seven. The joy and love we have received from the girls is immeasurable and long may it last. Go, Em and Tess.



Delphine & Bruce - Terip

Strathbogie Local

Some TGN Readers will already be familiar with the Strathbogie Local Open Food Network on-line food store that commenced operating last year. Some may even be purchasers of the excellent local wares that it offers each week. [Strathbogie Local - Open Food Network](#) However you may not be aware that they have also been involved with food supplies for Shepparton & beyond, so read on...



A massive big thank you to all in the Strathbogie Local community who have chipped in to the fundraising drive we are running to help out the community in the Goulburn Valley who are in home isolation. Last week we transferred \$500 to Azem and Jeihan's social enterprise [People Supporting People](#). We are still collecting, so if you can spare \$10, please consider contributing. (NB: Click on the Strathbogie Local website link above)

Kate, Sim, Finn and Molly of Milkwood Sourdough baked a mountain of organic white loaves on Monday which were then delivered to Azem and Jeihan to distribute to those in need. Donations of shelf stable food, which had been gifted to Strathbogie Local last week, were delivered to [GV Cares](#) to distribute in the community.

In these unprecedented times it is most gratifying to see how our communities come together to assist those in need. Ed.

Taungurung – Healing Country Environmental Talk

Speakers – Shane Monk – Proud Taungurung Clan Member

Matt Shanks - Proud Taungurung Clan Member

Francisco Almeida – Archeologist

Alejandro Voysest – Anthropologist



Contemporary Taungurung Knowledge & Practice – Caring for Country (Shane Monk)

Shane has been working for 10 years on Country and through his work with the GBCMA has worked with individual property owners to manage weed control and then revegetate the land with locally sourced native plants. It is essential that any revegetation is done with LOCAL seed to enable the best success rate.

The Taungurung approach to weed suppression and eradication is by fire and water rather than chemicals, as this cares for Country and has excellent results if undertaken at the 'right time'.

Taungurung are in the process of developing a fire strategy that could be used in conjunction with the Land and Fire Management agencies including DELWP, PV and the CFA, rather than relying on the use of Roundup for weed suppression, as the chemical residue that it leaves in the soil is a cause for concern.

With just 2 matches V. \$200-400 chemicals this situation can be rectified with a 'nice, easy fire'.

Although practices of their ancestors can be used to control weeds Country has changed a lot over the last two hundred or so years & Taungurung now need to adapt these ancient practices to contemporary environmental land and water management. For example – currently what is known as a 'traditional burn' should more correctly be known as a 'clean up burn' as the bush is no longer 'traditional'. It might be, after 2 or 3 years of clean-up burns that a traditional cool burn may be possible and balance restored.

When it comes to culture and cool burns the whole mob, several generations, go out to assist with, and learn from, this practice.

Scientific research needs to be done both before and after these burns to prove that the burns are actually working and doing what is expected of them – Healing Country. Such documented evidence is essential for these practices to be embraced by the wider community and relevant authorities as an accepted means of weed control and indigenous food regeneration. The timing of these burns is imperative for success.

Presently it is easier to do such burns on private, rather than public lands.

Currently fires that are lit for fuel reduction purposes through the various Govt agencies tend to burn too hot. As a result of this the leaves all die en masse and fall to the ground. This means that any potential fire regeneration is limited due to the density of the fallen leaves. Any seedlings need to push their way through this leaf litter to germinate. When a traditional burn is undertaken both the white smoke and the resulting black ash getting washed into the soil assist with germination.

Locally it is over 10 years since the last big flood headed down the Goulburn River and as a result the billabongs and lagoons are now choked with introduced weeds.

NB: If you would like to discuss cool burning on your property why not contact Taungurung Land & Waters Council at Broadford on 5784 1433 for further information/assistance. Ed.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline,

Thanks for the article on grazing management. About 50+% of local pastures are native pastures. A useful source of information is the Evergraze Project. It waned for a few years but seems to have been revised recently. It includes information on native pastures at <http://www.evergraze.com.au/library-content/grazing-management/index.html>

Worth exploring.

Regards,

Peter Mitchell

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