



# THE GRANITE NEWS

12TH SEPT. 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 31

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

## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

WOW! We have a bumper issue this week for TGN, I hope everyone enjoys the very informative and entertaining read. Don't forget that this is the last TGN for a couple of weeks, due to the school holidays. It's a bit hard to remember just when school holidays happen these days, but Term 3 officially ends on 17th September so the next issue of TGN will be **Sunday 3rd October**. Please send in any articles or ads earlier rather than later.

Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**  
And Kenny... was highlighting Darren Gilbert's open studio weekend.



Hughes Creek  
Catchment  
Collaborative  
Landcare

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)

**"People wished to be led, and they were willing to trust anonymous companies to take them places they had previously managed to find by themselves."**

**Simon Garfield author - 'On the Map' commenting on GPS devices**

## HCCC Soil Carbon Project Update

A soil pit demonstration day was held in June on two farms; one at Tarcombe Herefords and the other at Lawson's farm in Highlands. Soil testing was conducted on these farms in early May to measure the amount of carbon, nutrients, and pH of the soil to a depth of 30 cm. The results of these tests were presented at the field day and discussions were held over lunch at the Hayes' shearing shed.

The focus of the field day was to explain the results of the soil sampling in terms of management practices and how carbon levels and soil productivity can be improved through refinement of these management practices.

To build soil carbon and improve soil health and productivity it is important to address any underlying constraints such as soil acidity, compaction, or other chemical, physical, or biological barriers. Building soil carbon is dependent on overall good soil health.



Soil testing—Dr Cassandra Schefe



Looking at the soil profile

Soil pits allow participants to view soils from a different perspective and to visually see some of the limitations of their soils and how these limitations impact on factors such as root growth, water movement and biological activity. The pits provide real life learning scenarios to help explain the often-complex relationships that exist between chemical, physical & biological factors.

The field day was led by Dr Cassandra Schefe, CPSS Soil Scientist / Co-owner - AgriSci Pty Ltd Honorary Fellow - The University of Melbourne Adjunct Senior Research Fellow – Charles Sturt University

With special thanks to the Hayes and Lawsons for allowing the HCCC to dig these pits on their farms and participating in this project.



Soil testing—Measuring pH

For information on this project contact Neil van Buuren [neil.hccc@gmail.com](mailto:neil.hccc@gmail.com)

**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

Sister Felicity Immaculata, Mother Superior of the Order of Eternal Indifference; sends you blessings from quarantine.






## Website of the Week

**Farmers for Climate Action commenced in 2015 when a group of frustrated farmers decided to take action <https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au>**

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

## Community Notices

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

<b>Monday 13th September</b> <b>@ 11am</b> 	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same aim. Lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. <span style="color: red;">Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</span>
<b>Friday 17th September</b> <b>@ 7.30pm</b>	<b>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> <span style="float: right;">at TCC Ruffy</span> Next meeting will be at Ruffy commencing at 7.30pm. All welcome. <span style="color: red;">Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473</span>
<b>Saturday 17th Sept.</b> <b>12-2</b> 	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> <span style="float: right;">at 94 Old Highlands Rd</span> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <span style="color: red;">Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</span>
<b>Sunday 26th September</b> <b>@ 10am</b> 	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> <span style="float: right;">meeting at Highlands Hall</span> Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. <span style="color: red;">Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235</span>
<b>Thursday 30th Sept.</b> <b>@ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> <span style="float: right;">at Caveat Church</span> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
<b>Every second</b> <b>Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <span style="float: right;">at Highlands Community Hall</span> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? <span style="color: red;">YAY! The Mobile Library will be at Highlands on these dates, hopefully Sept. 22nd, Oct. 13th &amp; 27th</span>
<b>Every Monday</b> <b>@ 10 am</b>	<b>ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROPEAN</b> <span style="float: right;">at Tablelands Community Centre</span> Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling <span style="color: red;">Further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</span>

WARNING!

### Stock attacks are continuing to happen!

. Hi Pauline,  
 I have been having a lot of trouble over the last 6 weeks with dog attacks on sheep at Granite Hills. I have lost around 40 sheep and have been unable to find the dogs responsible. Unsure if they are domestic or wild at this stage.

I am trying to track the dogs down and wondered if you would be able to put a notice in The Granite News warning everyone that this is happening and if they could please contact me if they know of any dogs who are roaming the area.

Kind Regards  
 Jack Eastman  
 0428 823 633

\* TGN Readers might recall a couple of weeks ago there were similar reports about dog and poultry attacks in the same area, so this appears to be ongoing. This locality is in Murrindindi Shire and if readers see any roaming dogs contact Council's Community Safety team on 5772 0333 BH or 0419 572425 AH

### FOR SALE

**New Sydney Blue Gum timber flooring ,**  
 Feature grade.  
 180mm wide boards x 21mm thick end matched.  
 650 LM  
 Bought for our house , but not needed.  
 \$5,500  
 Call Tim 0408539676



### WANTED

Ruffy Recreation Reserve would like an old tank to store fire wood in at the Reserve.

Do YOU have one?

Contact Pam Sprunt 03 5790 4240 if you can assist, thanks.



### 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](#)

## 2. HiArts Exhibitions and Activities 2004-2013.

HiArts had a very modest beginning. It began in 2003 with a small group from the Highlands Purple Sage Group\*. The initial plan was to provide an opportunity for local people to display their arts and crafts. There were already a number of recognized artists in the district, but there were also a number of 'closet' artists who had never displayed their work in public and who probably had never thought it was a possibility. The result was exciting.



The first Exhibition was held over one day in March 2004. It drew together an eclectic range of skills, visual art, fine furniture, sculpture, photography, knitting, needlework, lead lighting and pottery. Most of the works came from the Highlands/Caveat area. As it happened very few items were available for sale. Many of the items were too well loved to be released for sale. The Exhibition was greatly enhanced by renovations to the Highlands Community Hall and the landscaping of its surrounds. At the time, there was no efficient hanging system, but the presentation of the arts and crafts was nevertheless a source of pride for all involved. Even without formal sponsorship, the Exhibition managed to break even with the help of profits from food and wine sales. So enthusiastic was the reception that before the day was over, people were asking 'when will the next one be held'.

The planning Committee, riding on the back of this initial success, decided to formalize and incorporate the 'Highlands Arts Experience' which soon became more popularly known as 'HiArts'. It was decided to hold an art exhibition each year on the first weekend in March. With the exception of 2011, when a Film Festival was held, an art exhibition was held every year until 2013.

The viability of the early exhibitions was made possible through the generosity of members of the Planning Committee and some other local people. A grant was also received from the Murrindindi Shire to set up a permanent gallery hanging system in the Hall. This has proved to be a boon to those organizing the exhibits. Over the years, the display structures were gradually improved and are still available for use.

The exhibitions attracted a growing number of artists from widening geographic area. Over the years more than a hundred different artists exhibited their work, many became regulars. HiArts gained a reputation for the quality of its presentation and took pride in providing a reflective atmosphere for viewing works of art. Like a small winery, the HiArts exhibitions have the character of a bouquet exhibition. This was helped by using a professional curator. While the exhibitions are of a general nature, there have been occasions when particular artists have been featured in the role of an 'artist in residence'.

In addition to having art for viewing and for sale, the weekends saw gatherings of poets, live music, story telling and activities for children. Visitors usually had the opportunity to try their hand at pottery and sometimes painting, sketching and basket weaving. On a few occasions the Enigma Man turned up to entertain. HiArts was renowned for its food, coffee and wine as well as other local produce that was for sale. Visitors also had the chance to visit the Hillcrest Studio & Gallery.

The motto for HiArts was 'exploring art and ideas'. From time to time 'Art and Ideas Conversations' were held usually over a day, sometimes featuring particular artists or a discussion related to the role of art in society.

For some years HiArts have provided a cash prize for the best senior art pupil at Yea High School and Seymour College. Each student was then invited to exhibit their work at the annual exhibition. Several of these artists went on to win exhibition space at the annual Top Arts exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. (The best art work of VCE students for the year).

HiArts has been largely self sufficient, except for several small government grants and some local sponsorship, but like many groups it became more difficult to operate without some sponsorship. This became necessary so as to effectively reimburse artists, poets, musicians & others who contributed their time and skills to events as well as the art exhibitions.

In 2006 HiArts took part in the creation of the memorial garden for those asylum seekers who drowned in the 2001 SIEV X disaster, when 353 people were drowned in the Indian Ocean trying to reach refuge in Australia. HiArts donated a pole, decorated by a local artist, representing one of the men who were drowned. This pole stands with hundreds of others on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin. The memorial can be visited at Weston Park, Canberra.

There was some sadness when the Committee decided to discontinue the annual exhibitions after 10 years. However, there was a general feeling that people were feeling a little worn out, not forgetting getting older. There was also the feeling that perhaps the exhibition format needed a radical change. Our appreciation goes out to all those who over the years contributed to the undoubted success of the HiArts endeavor. Most would agree that over all, it was a very rewarding experience.

**The future is open to something different.**

**Stuart Reid - Highlands**



## Ruffy Hall Restoration Project Update

Thanks to our many supporters, well wishers and hard workers the fundraising for the hall restoration is going very well. To date we have raised almost \$10,000, this is an amazing effort for a small community in such a short time. The fundraising continues as we strive to reach our goal of \$20,000. Our fundraising progress will be displayed in the front window of the hall on a Fund-raising Thermometer so drop by and check out the progress.

### RUFFY 2022 CALENDAR local photos wanted.

The 2022 calendar project is underway and the call is out to all local photographers to send us a photo of the local area. High quality landscape format images can be sent to Bex at [rebekahsjs@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahsjs@gmail.com)

### FELT MAKING WORKSHOP coming up on Sunday 10th of October at the Ruffy Hall

Experienced local Felt maker Pam Bannister has offered to teach a felt making workshop as a fundraiser for the Hall. Felt-making is the process of making cloth from wool fibres by laying out the fibre in interlocking layers on a table, spraying them with soapy water and then gently massaging them until they bind together into cloth. It is a very soothing and satisfying process and provides a wonderful opportunity to explore your creativity & make something truly unique.

All materials will be provided and you will take home a beautiful handmade woollen scarf of your own creation. It will be an all day event and a delicious lunch will be provided by the ladies of the Hall Committee as well as morning and afternoon tea.

**The workshop will run from 10am - 4pm.**

**Please arrive at 9.30 so we can start on time.**

**Due to space considerations numbers are strictly limited so contact Pam now to reserve your place or make further enquiries**

mobile: 0411217476 or

email: [paymac992@hotmail.com](mailto:paymac992@hotmail.com)

The all inclusive cost for tuition, materials and lunch is \$50.

All proceeds to the Ruffy Hall Restoration Project.  
Once you have confirmed your place with Pam direct debits can be made to

Name: Ruffy Public Hall

BSB: 06 3682

Account: 10025391

Please write your name as a reference with the transfer, thanks



NB: Some more great photos on p.5

## 2021 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND NOW OPEN

Cherry Tree Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (CBF) for 2021 is now open. There is \$25,000 available to the local community each year, for the first 25 years of the operation of the wind farm. This is the second year the Community Benefit Fund is being offered to the local community since the completion of the wind farm. Applications will be accepted from townships and localities in the immediate region of the Cherry Tree Wind Farm (CTWF) which is located approximately 15km south-east of Seymour. The annual electrical output from the 57.6MW Cherry Tree wind farm powers 37,000 average Victorian households and avoids the emission of 200,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually.

If your organisation meets the following criteria then you are strongly urged to apply -

- \* delivers social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to local communities.
- \* addresses an identified community priority.
- \* strengthen CTWF's presence in the community.
- \* are run by groups/organisations with suitable governance structures in place.
- \* does not have a detrimental or negative impact on other community facilities and services.
- \* applications that have a dollar-for-dollar contribution will be favorably considered, as will those that show in-kind support/contribution
- \* demonstrate that any ongoing or recurrent costs of the project can be met by the group once grant funding has been spent
- \* capacity to manage funds and deliver the project.

Intending applicants should read and ensure all applications comply with the CBF Guidelines. Applicants who have previously applied are welcome to apply again. Application forms and guidelines can be accessed at the following website:

<https://www.iberdrola.com.au/for-communities/community-funds-and-sponsorships/> then go to Cherry Tree Wind Farm section.

Applications should be emailed directly to [david.mozuras@infigenenergy.com](mailto:david.mozuras@infigenenergy.com) by **no later than 5:00pm on 31 October 2021**

**Note that applications received after this date will not be registered and accepted.**

## Taungurung – Healing Country Environmental Talk

**Speakers – Shane Monk – Proud Taungurung Clan Member**

**Matt Shanks - Proud Taungurung Clan Member**

**Francisco Almeida – Archeologist**

**Alejandro Voysest – Anthropologist**



### **Taungurung Knowledge informing Contemporary Land Management & Policy (Alejandro Voysest)**

As part of land and waterways assessments culturally appropriate tools are used to assess and identify cultural sites for Taungurung.

An environment management plan is put in place with an assessment of how sick the Country is and what can be done to make it better.

For instance – a semi-permanent wetland is dry probably 1 year out of 10, however with less water in the waterways in the 21stC, invasive plant species take over. By putting water back into such an environment, just like fire, Country can be healed.

Horseshoe Lagoon at Trawool is an excellent example of this type of management - a cool burn was conducted, followed by a refilling of the drained, empty lagoon with water from the Goulburn. On the third day of pumping a successful result was achieved with water inhabitants such as long-necked turtles, relocating from the Goulburn River itself, and birdlife returning.

NB: There is a GBCMA clip on YouTube capturing this transformation – type in Horseshoe Lagoon.

Govt agencies are now starting to value Taungurung's knowledge and connectivity to Country and are devising joint strategies, plans and projects for water management with community and private owner collaborations.

It is interesting to note that Wetlands now appear to be working in reverse with wetter summers and drier winters, this reversal is allowing weeds, like blackberries, to thrive so caring for Country to manage this is now even more important.

As the Goulburn River is a working river we need to pay greater attention to not only the connection of water, rivers, wetlands and floodplains, but also to the long term affects impacting these vital aspects of our environment.

**\*\* For interested private property owners wanting to connect with Taungurung cultural land management that cares for Country contacting the TLaWC directly is the best option**

**Phone: 5784 1433**

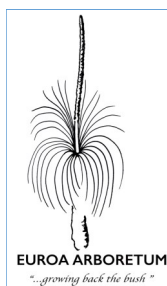
**Email: available on the TLaWC website – [www.taungurung.com.au](http://www.taungurung.com.au)**

**Postal: TLaWC, P.O. Box 505, Broadford, 3658**

### **Euroa Arboretum needs YOU!**

Euroa Arboretum is updating its 5 year strategic plan and wants feedback from the community.

Go to their website  
[www.euroaarboretum.com.au](http://www.euroaarboretum.com.au)  
to complete their survey.



**Anyone for felting?**

**Learn how to at**

**Ruffy Hall on  
Sunday 10th  
October**



**See p.4 for more details**



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