



THE GRANITE NEWS

10TH OCTOBER

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 33

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Many years ago on my first trip overseas I discovered a sticker in Denmark that said - Children are our greatest natural resource. As I was a primary teacher at the time I thoroughly agreed with its sentiment and I still do.

So here is something to consider, as Victoria heads towards the 'Open Sesame' of an 80% doubly vaccinated over 16 population. There are 2.25 million children (33% of the population) in Victoria under the age of 16yrs who are depending on their parents, as well as the rest of us, getting vaccinated to protect them from the spread of the COVID Delta variant.

Opening up at 80% of the 16+yrs population in Victoria could expose over 3 million people in the state to the virus. If you are still deciding about vaccination maybe consider doing it for our children's sake. Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**
And Kenny... was still slumming it on holidays, he's back this week though.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"Anyone who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog."

Franklin P. Jones (1908-1980)

Philadelphian reporter & humourist

DON'T FORGET Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) needs YOU!

We need community support to control the spread of Blackberries.
Summer is approaching and it is time to think about Blackberries.
Please help us to get rid of this noxious weed.

HCCC is again subsidising the costs for chemicals for Blackberry spraying. **Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, and wetting agent.** Contact Neil van Buuren, in advance of any purchases, with your requirements ASAP.

This subsidy is for all properties in the Hughes Creek Catchment which covers Whiteheads Creek, Highlands, Caveat, Terip, Ruffy and Tarcombe.

HCCC also have a range for sprayers that can be hired for a small donation to Landcare. (This helps pay for the maintenance of the units) **Contact Neil van Buuren for further information Phone: 0417 503 472**

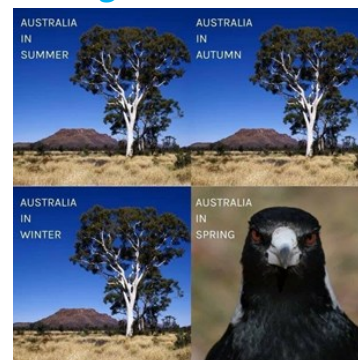
Email: hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au
Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is a Weed of National Significance.

It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic & environmental impacts. Blackberry is declared noxious in all states and territories except the Northern Territory.

Landowners are required to control it. Check with your local council or state government agency about the requirements for blackberry control.



Let's laugh



Website of the Week

Earth Ed is an Earth Sciences Centre based in Ballarat that offers a wealth of information and it's not just for students
<https://earthed.vic.edu.au>

HCCC Membership so far
169 ... and counting

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 — October NB: All are subject to Covid variations!

IMPORTANT NOTE >>>	ALTHOUGH THESE EVENTS ARE LISTED AS HAPPENING ALL ARE SUBJECT TO GOVT. RESTRICTIONS, CHECK WITH THE NOMINATED ORGANISER PRIOR TO THE DATE FOR VIABILITY AND ANY LIMITS.
 Monday 11th October @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in a place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the... lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. <div style="background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;">Postponed - Date TBA</div> Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Thursday 21st October @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Terip Rec Reserve Next meeting will be at Terip commencing at 7.30pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
 Saturday 16th October 10 – noon	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
 Sunday 23rd October @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235
Thursday 28th October @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat
Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th November 10 - 4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands 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.
Wednesday 10th November @ 7pm RuffArtz	RUFFARTZ AGM at Ruffy Hall, Nolans Rd, Ruffy New committee members are most welcome. The meeting will be held in a COVID-safe environment. For more info email: ruffartzsecretary@gmail.com
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 - Oct. 20th and Nov. 3rd & 17th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling... <div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;">Not at present</div> for further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

Can YOU help out?

Hi Pauline,

Question for you or your readers please. I read recently of a recipe to make up and put in clear bottles to attract and contain European wasps but now can't find it or remember the ingredients. Can anyone help please?

Robyn Sheehan

If you can assist please send the details to editor@tgn.org.au so it can be shared. Thanks

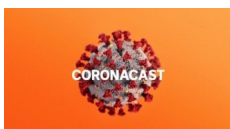
WANTED

A small to medium size second-hand washing machine. Would prefer a top loader but a front loader is fine.

Contact Angela—0438 969250 if you can assist.

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](#)

Important changes for CFA volunteers

On 7th October the Victorian Chief Health Officer (CHO) issued the new [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions](#). Now that CFA has the detail, we're currently reviewing how it applies to our organisation and our operations, for both volunteers and staff. However, it is important to note that the new CHO Directions, although broad, are in line with the Premier's announcements last week in relation to authorised workers being required to be fully vaccinated by 26 November 2021.

What does this mean for CFA

CFA staff and volunteers are defined as authorised workers and, as such, CFA now has a requirement to collect, record and hold the vaccination status of all members to comply with the CHO Directions.

CFA is currently in the process of modifying the member detail section within Members Online to allow each member to input their vaccination status. We will advise when this system is operating.

The CHO Directions require CFA to ensure that workers are not permitted to work outside of their ordinary place of residence:

- **from 15 October 2021**, if they are unvaccinated unless they have a booking to receive their first vaccination by 22 October 2021, or an exception applies.
- **from 22 October 2021**, unless they have been vaccinated with at least a first dose, or an exception applies; and
- **from 26 November 2021**, all workers must be fully vaccinated, or have an exception.

This effectively means that members will not be able to participate in CFA activities outside of their primary place of residence if they are not fully vaccinated by 26 November 2021, unless an exception applies.

If CFA and individuals do not adhere to the requirements, significant penalties apply as outlined in the CHO Directions.

Transitional Arrangements

- To ensure the effective operation of emergency service agencies during this period, the CHO has allowed those not fully vaccinated to be able to respond to an emergency in exceptional circumstances
- Exceptions for vaccination also apply where a member holds a certificate from a medical practitioner that states they are unable to receive a dose or further dose of a COVID-19 vaccine due to a medical contraindication or an acute medical illness.

Koala habitat trees coming along nicely

Strong tree guard construction is paying off for Rob & Bronwyn. Their koala habitat trees have already outgrown the original tree guards and robust extensions have been added to fully protect the fast growing manna gums from grazing sheep, wallabies and cattle.



Wildflowers are looking good this spring

Large-leaf Bush-peas (*pultenaea daphnoides*) flowering along roadsides like the Weibye Track at Ruffy, near Rocky Passes on the Highlands to Seymour Road and the south end of Looking Glass Hill. An erect shrub 1 to 3 m high. Flowering from September to November. Looking very happy after recent rains.



Got any silage wrap lying around?

Plastic Forests is an award winning Australian manufacturer of recycled plastic products, made from soft plastic 'waste'.

Our range of quality upcycled products provides a solution for used plastic by creating a regenerative, circular economy for soft plastics (such as plastic bags, silage wrap and packaging). Now, all Australians can be part of the solution by reducing the amount of plastic used, recycling and repurchasing recycled products. After all, recycling doesn't work until someone buys a recycled product!

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Like to find out more? Contact

02 60480532 or

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Time to Start Composting!

It's back! Mitchell Shire Council's popular Compost Bin and Worm Farm subsidy is on again this October.

Residents can purchase a Compost Bin or Worm Farm through a participating local retailer, and we'll cover up to half the cost (capped at \$30 per compost bin and \$50 per worm farm). While we're in lockdown, participants need to give the local supplier a call beforehand so they can have it ready for pick up.

To find out more visit: <https://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/worm-compost>

We are also inviting our residents to join us for an **interactive online Composting workshop**. The workshop has been designed to give those new to composting, or looking to give it a second try, all the information you need to get started. As well as some tips and tricks for easier composting.

When: Tuesday October 19th

Time: 1-2.30PM

Recommended age: All ages

Bookings essential: <https://startcompostinginmitchell.eventbrite.com.au>



If you have any questions about this event contact Council's Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education officer @Grace.Davis-Williams@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Letter to the Editor

G'day Pauline,

I have just been reading an interesting article relating to times past.

Contemplating the public push to get the jab and instigate herd immunity my mind goes back to when I was a kid, around the 1950s. Mine is a message to those who forgot and more-so those who reckon they have 'rights'. For today's and tomorrow's generation we, the mature generation, need to take some responsibility for their behaviour. This current virus will be around for a long time like the polio epidemics of the 20th Century and it will have its victims.

I remember very clearly the "Summers of Polio." Through the concern of our parents, it was somewhat daunting. In those days we had something called discipline and respect. We had respect for our parent's wisdom and were disciplined enough not to question it. The results prove how correct that was.

Back then, as now, the health providers were under stress too! They did not have the sophisticated tools available to treat and save lives. They were also not exposed to the thankless abuse as occurs now.

In the first half of the 20th century summer was known as 'polio season'. During the 1950's polio epidemic state borders, schools, places of entertainment and pools were CLOSED. Travel restrictions and quarantine restrictions were introduced. In 1956 the Australian government launched mass immunisation. Children were dying, placed in iron lungs or were fitted with callipers. There was no debate, it was just done!

Then, as now, a vaccine became available, called the SALK Vaccine. As kids we called it monkey blood. Over the next few years polio disappeared from Australia. Jonas Edward Salk had developed the first successful polio vaccine. In 1955 it was publicly released, then, like now there was a rush to vaccinate around the world.

In 1963 Albert Sabin introduced an oral vaccine. In the first two years of worldwide use the Salk and Sabin vaccines nearly eradicated polio from the world preventing more than 500,000 deaths and 5 million cases of polio. In 2020 the World Health Organisation certified the African continent polio-free and declared 90% of the world's population polio free. Not a bad effort!

Sometimes I wish these people who claim they 'have rights' could be transported back in time to when I was a kid. The only choice we had was a jab, or oral, as will be here soon, with the advent of the 'little red pill'. The alternative was unthinkable. I would just like to remind our budding future politicians, entrepreneurs, etc of what was and what could have been.

Sabin and Salk did not register their discoveries by patent. They both claimed it was for the people. Sabin was pressured to register a patent, but he refused and claimed it was his gift to all the children of the world. He did not get a cracker out of it, deciding to live only on his professor's salary.

Do you think that could happen now?

John Sporry - Caveat

With some information sourced from Royce Thompson (Club Chaplin of CMCA)

Only 21 more sleeps to go...

Around the world storms, floods and wildfires are intensifying. Air pollution sadly affects the health of tens of millions of people and unpredictable weather causes untold damage to homes and livelihoods too. But while the impacts of climate change are devastating, advances in tackling it are leading to cleaner air, creating good jobs, restoring nature and at the same time unleashing economic growth. Despite the opportunities we are not acting fast enough.

To avert this crisis, countries need to join forces urgently. In November, the UK, together with their partner Italy, will host an event many believe to be the world's last best chance to get runaway climate change under control. For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits - called COPs - which stands for '**Conference of the Parties**'. 'In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority.

This year will be the 26th annual summit – giving it the name COP26. With the UK as President, COP26 takes place in Glasgow. In the run up to COP26 the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. More than 190 world leaders are expected to arrive in Scotland. Together with tens of thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks.

Most experts believe COP26 has a particular urgency.

To understand why, it's necessary to look back to another COP.



COP21 took place in Paris in 2015. For the first time ever, something momentous happened: every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to deliver on these aims. The Paris Agreement was born. **The commitment to aim for 1.5 degrees is important because every fraction of a degree of warming results in the tragedy of many more lives lost and livelihoods damaged.**

Under the Paris Agreement, countries committed to bring forward national plans setting out how much they would reduce their emissions - known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or 'NDCs'. They agreed that every five years they would come back with an updated plan that would reflect their highest possible ambition at that time. The run up to this year's summit in Glasgow is the moment when countries update their plans for reducing emissions. **But, the commitments laid out in Paris did not come close to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, and the window for achieving this is closing.**

The decade out to 2030 will be crucial. So as momentous as Paris was, countries must go much further to keep the hope of holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees alive. Like to find out more? <https://ukcop26.org>

Use of fruit netting – harvesting without harm - Part 2

Protecting wildlife

- Remove old netting that is not protecting fruit and dispose of safely. If the chosen method is disposal to landfill it is recommended that you place it into a strong biodegradable bag first.
- Check netted trees every day to ensure the nets are not loose and no animals are caught

Wildlife in Victoria are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, which makes it illegal to wilfully disturb or destroy wildlife.

Helping injured wildlife

Getting help quickly is critical for wildlife that has been caught in netting. If wildlife is entangled in netting, do not try to handle or rescue the animal. Call a wildlife rescue group to come and safely remove the animal.

Some wildlife, especially flying foxes or snakes, carry diseases or may be dangerous. If someone is bitten or scratched by a flying fox, contact a doctor immediately. Flying foxes can carry Lyssavirus which can be fatal if contracted by humans.

Visit [Wildlife Victoria](#) to find contact details of wildlife rehabilitation organisations.

Wildlife Victoria **03 8400 7300**

AWARE (24hrs) **0412 433 727**

Photo Credit: Denise Wade



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