



THE GRANITE NEWS

17TH OCTOBER

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 34

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Last week's TGN elicited correspondence with regard to three items - the statistics for 80% vaccination rate in Victoria, the request for a recipe to attract and kill wasps and the article about COP26 in Glasgow.

Sue queried the percentage rates listed and sent a link to the 2016 Census data for Victoria as well as the Services Australia Covid data from Oct 7th. See the link in the Website of the Week box at the bottom of this page, if you would like to read and digest these more recent statistics further.

Angus and Gaelyn provided some excellent wasp kill suggestions, see p.3 and Christine's Letter to the Editor re the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Report, complete with links and further ideas to explore is also on p.3. I do enjoy feedback. Thanks to all. And regular contributor Stuart Reid has also put his fingers to keyboard.

Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**
And Kenny... was catching up with an old friend on the back page.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long.

We must start today.

We have no more excuses."

Greta Thunberg

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**

Regen Farmers Mutual

Is a farmer-owned business, and represents the interests of farmers in engaging with environmental markets. Its role is to assist farmers through the delivery of Environmental, Goods & Services (EG&S) outcomes.

The mutual assists farmers across all five phases of an EG&S transaction:

1. **Engagement** – Farmers can leverage the mutual's resources, and those of its partners, to better understand and explore the types of opportunities that may be available to them in environment markets, and then to gather around prospective candidate transactions.
2. **Definition** – Once a potential transaction is identified, farmers can draw on the mutual to help them define its terms – including the types of technology, legal and regulatory factors that may influence the way an EG&S is created and delivers the desired outcomes.
3. **Marketing** – With a clear understanding of a prospective transaction's parameters, the mutual can assist farmers by finding and negotiating with prospective buyers – whether delivering a public good for government, or meeting specific EG&S outcomes for private capital.
4. **Execution** – Given that the terms of a transaction are agreed with buyers, the mutual can then enable efficient and effective execution via its legal and digital infrastructure. In this way, farmers can ensure that EG&S transactions and their data are being managed for their benefit.
5. **Delivery** – Importantly, the mutual can then support farmers with the ongoing management of their activities under an EG&S transaction – and as a member organisation can provide peer-based mechanisms to promote compliance with their management plans.

What is an Environmental Farm Assessment?

An Environmental Farm Assessment enables farmers to obtain an indicative assessment of the value of their land's environmental assets. It is a tool where farmers and their assessors collect farm data (with respect to soil, ground cover, farm practices etc.) that is then evaluated through a range of different metrics – including carbon, biodiversity, food certification, and whole-of-farm measures. The Environmental Farm Assessment is the entry product for farmers into the **Regen Farmers Mutual and is being launched in 2022**. If you would like to know more please register your interest at www.regenfarmersmutual.com

Let's laugh

Bed and Breakfast



Website of the Week

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/10/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-update-7-october-2021.pdf>

HCCC Membership so far
169 ... and counting

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.	
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, b Postponed - Next date TBC 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
Tuesday 26th October @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL - PUBLIC MEETING	at Highlands Hall Calling all community members - nominations are now open for the Hall Committee. See details below
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 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, Not at present Bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Notice is given of a

PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at the **Highlands Hall on Tuesday 26th October 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 expired on 23rd August 2021.

All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Due to covid restrictions, we will also be conducting this Public Meeting with a zoom link for people that can't attend.

Further information, nomination forms, nominee declaration forms and Zoom link details may be obtained by contacting the **Secretary, Judy Cameron on 5796 9247.**



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](#)

Successful ways to deal with Wasps

Hi Pauline,

Reading in the latest Granite News a request for European wasp control.

I have had great success and it involves drinking beer. Here are the instructions:

1. Go and buy a 6 pack of Corona beer - in clear glass bottles.
2. Drink one of the beers, but leave 1 inch of beer in the bottom of the bottle.
3. Place the bottle in a sunny spot near where wasps are spotted.
4. Drink more beer and repeat with as many bottles as you like.
5. Crucially, do not empty the beer bottle of beer or dead wasps - the stink attracts further wasps.

I have used this process for the last 3 summers and catch dozens of European wasps. I've tried other bottles but nothing seems to work as effectively as the Corona.

And I have tried baits including cat food but this doesn't seem to work as well as plain beer.

Cheers,
Angus



Hi Pauline,

<file:///C:/Users/user/AppData/Local/Temp/European-Wasps-QPRC-brochure-A4-July-2019.pdf>

Re: European wasp traps, I actually made this solution last year during summer and I was able to trap 100s of wasps. I was impressed.

I had 7 bottles in our yard hooked onto our fence in full sun and each day I would swish the bottles to help attract the wasps.

Make the solution, sit it in the sun as it will ferment a lot quicker, keep the lid on, the vanilla essence must be the one with the alcohol in it.

After fermented then distribute into the bottle traps. When wasps get trapped in the bottle they fly around a lot, make the holes down low enough about **10cm from the bottom** so they can not get out easily, and they get exhausted and end up in the solution.

I found it easier to replace the bottles and solution rather than try to drain out the wasps.

Regards,
Gaelyn

Letters to the Editor

The Dignity of Peacemaking

I have no hesitation in situating myself as a pacifist and with it being a strong advocate for non violence as a way of solving problems, personally and politically. It is for this reason I find myself disturbed by our Government's recent submarine contract with the USA. I do not wish to enter into the technicalities of submarine capabilities, though I have always disliked the nuclear option in any guise. My major unhappiness is that the policy is more about war than peace. The old saying that to keep the peace we need to prepare for war does not sit well with me. I also carry a suspicion (maybe prejudice) that the USA, with the highest defence budget in the world, seems to favour revenge and military action as its first resort. Therefore, being in bed with the USA will leave us vulnerable rather than truly safe. To even think of war in today's world of frightening armaments is madness that only arm manufacturers and power hungry politicians ignore.

I would much prefer that we in Australia would give more thought and action to peacemaking, by understanding and building relationships with all our neighbours. What seems to be lacking is imagination on the part of politicians, that there is only one way to solve problems and that is by force. I am sure that all sensible people want peace, but peace loving is not really going far enough, we need to practise the art of **peacemaking**. Perhaps the place to begin is in our personal relationships, instead of hitting out, either physically or verbally, we could stop and ask, 'what is the reconciling thing I can do that will lead to respecting the other person?' We do not have to agree, but we can treat the other with dignity, even if they chose not to.

What do you think?

Stuart Reid - Highlands

Hi Pauline,

I hope this finds you well.

I liked the article on COP26 and thought you might also like to share this [presentation](#) on the IPCC report by Prof. Hughes (the presentation starts after 10min intro). Was very insightful and well conveyed.

One Million Women and Australian Parents for Climate Action are both good groups to join, among many others - and recommended actions we can all take to strengthen voices we want heard in the climate fight.

You can also subscribe to Countdown TED for weekly instalments of climate related articles and presentations.

Kind regards,
Christine

Superb fairy-wren crowned winner of Australia's favourite bird poll

The final 5 birds in contention in the Guardian/BirdLife Australia poll were the Australian magpie, gang-gang cockatoo, regent honeyeater, Australian brush turkey and the Superb fairywren. The voting breakdown ended up like this

1. **Superb fairy-wren - *Malurus cyaneus*** Not only is the male fairywren one of Australia's showiest birds, it is also one of the most promiscuous in the world, with infidelity rates that would put Hollywood to shame. **13,999 votes**
2. **Tawny frogmouth - *Podargus strigoides*** Since being the runner-up in the 2019 bird of the year poll, the star of this night bird has only risen further, with it being nominated the world's most Instagrammable bird by researchers back in April. **13,335 votes**
3. **Gang-gang cockatoo - *Callocephalon fimbriatum*** The smallest of our black cockatoos, with a distinctive call that sounds like a creaky door being opened, these much-loved birds are the bird emblem of Canberra. Already declining in areas like the Blue Mountains, bushfires have had a huge impact, driving these birds towards a listing on the endangered list. **12,838 votes**
4. **Galah - *Eolophus roseicapilla*** Clearly the favourite bird of Alf from Home and Away, and of plenty of others. With its beautiful pink and grey colours and playful nature, there's a lot of love out there for these cheeky characters. **10,571 votes**
5. **Australian brush turkey (bush turkey) *Alectura lathami*** The Big Foot of the bird world, the male uses those massive claws to rake up an enormous nesting mound of leaf litter that, as it decomposes, incubates the eggs laid by his harem of females. Upon hatching chicks climb out of the mound & start fending for themselves. **9,791 votes**



Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/live/2021/oct/08/bird-of-the-year-2021-winneraustralian-poll-result-vote-deadline-latest-updatesreaction-guardian-australia-live-news>

BUSHFIRE PLANNING WORKSHOP Ruffy, Upton Hill, Creightons Creek



Work through your plan with guidance from a CFA facilitator

CFA is offering a FREE Bushfire Planning Workshop for the Communities of
Ruffy, Upton Hill and Creightons Creek

The session includes information on:

Preparation - Fire Behaviour - Personal Safety

WHEN: Saturday 20th November at 10:00am

WHERE: Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy

RSVP is essential so that we can monitor attendance numbers and notify you of any changes/cancellations in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

To RSVP please send your name/s, phone, town and email address to cfaconnmed22@cfa.vic.gov.au by 17/11/2021. For further information please call Emily Guthrie on 0447 415 849

Please wear your mask along to the meeting.

It's Aussie Backyard Bird Count - again!

My how the months roll around and before you know it the annual backyard bird count is with us again.

Monday 18th - Sunday 24th October is the week where we can all get out and about and record our observations of birdlife in our own backyards within 20 minute timeframes.

You don't have to be a bird expert to participate, it's all about citizen scientists gathering valuable data on the birds in our environment.

You can use the bird finder on the Aussie Backyard Bird Count app and register at

www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

14 x *Acacia Melanoxlyn* (Blackwood) seedlings - for free!

Ring Peter 0422 217904 to claim them and arrange for pick-up.

Countdown to Glasgow COP26 - where the decisions made will affect us all

Some TGN readers may be familiar with the TV Series 'Fight for Planet A' presented by Craig Reucassell only last year. The research, challenges and possible solutions to the worldwide issue that affects us all—Global Warming—have now been collated into a book with some interesting information to ponder. Ed.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) is a United Nations organisation that has been providing objective, scientific information about climate change/global warming for many years but, in the current climate, it is interesting to read what the fossil fuel industry has also been discovering over a much longer time.

"In 1962 the oil company Humble advertised in Life magazine with a picture of a glacier captioned, 'Each day Humble supplies enough energy to melt 7 million tons of glacier.' This was not a knowing nod to climate change. It was just a strange brag that the energy from the oil, if converted to heat, could melt a hell of a lot of ice.

But if the Humble advertisers had spoken to the Humble scientists, they may have given their campaign a second thought. In 1957, the scientists at the company had published a paper tracing 'the enormous quantity of carbon dioxide' contributed to the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution, 'from the combustion of fossil fuels'. That burning fossil fuels increased CO₂ was not controversial at the time even to those guilty of it.



In 1968, the American Petroleum Institute released a research paper by Stanford Research Institute that not only recognised the increasing levels of CO₂ but acknowledged that this would lead to an increase in temperature, which could lead to melting icecaps and rising seas, concluding 'there seems to be no doubt that the potential damage to our environment could be severe'.

By 1973 Humble Oil had merged with Exxon... Exploration of the effects of CO₂ had been continuing and in 1977 scientific advisor James Black made a presentation to the Exxon management committee. His conclusion 'The Earth's atmosphere presently contain 330ppm of CO₂. This gas does not absorb an appreciable amount of the incoming solar energy but can absorb and return part of the infrared radiation which the earth radiates towards space. CO₂, therefore, contributes to warming the lower atmosphere by what has been called the Greenhouse Effect'...

In fact Exxon invested substantial amounts of money in climate research, including rigging a ship the Esso Atlantic to take readings of CO₂ released from the oceans.. This was not some tiny cruiser, it was an oil tanker... Sadly Exxon has moved away from scientific research into scientific denial but the conclusions it reached decades ago have not been challenged."

Extract taken from Fight for Planet A –Craig Reucassell



Free Online Session- Preparing your property for the fire season

Sunday 24 October 10 am - 11 am

Do you live in, or near, bushland or grassland?
Register for this webinar for tips to help prepare your
property, including your house and garden, for the fire
season.

Presented by the District 22 Community Engagement Team



Are you an absentee landholder, stuck in Melbourne?

Are you wanting to clean up
around your property in the HCCC
area in advance of summer?

Did you know that you can apply
through your local council for a
special permit to do just that?

There are some essential rules
and regs (given the current Covid
situation) but why not contact
you local council to find out more.

Or visit
www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au for
more information on the permit
scheme.

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