



THE GRANITE NEWS

24TH OCTOBER

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 35

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

It's been an eventful week with so many restrictions being lifted as Victorians reach the 70% double vaccinated stage and this week's TGN is jam-packed with all sorts of good reads ranging from a rather lost seagull to another effective wasp trap to weed identification and part 1 of the CFA's understanding of the impact of climate change on its operations. If you're thinking of taking advantage of the wet spring for some new plantings this spring then check out the website below for local species. Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline** And Kenny...was looking forward to the CFA's online fire preparation.

HCCC News

Watch out for these Weeds

South African weed orchid- *Disa bracteata*

Disa bracteata is classified as invasive in Australia. In sites where *D. bracteata* has invaded, there have been up to 80 individuals found per square meter of the area. Similarities in the environmental conditions of Australia and South Africa have allowed for *D. bracteata* and other species native to South Africa to become naturalized in regions of Australia. This highly invasive environmental weed produces millions of dust-like seeds allowing it to spread easily and form dense colonies.

South African Weed Orchid self-pollinates, producing millions of dust-like seeds. Seeds continue to mature if the flower head has been picked and remain viable for about 7 years. Seeds disperse easily on the wind and also on vehicles, equipment, clothing and shoes. Once established, South African Weed Orchid can form dense colonies and spread rapidly.



And then there's **Chilean Needle Grass**. It's a perennial tussock-forming grass and is one of 32 declared Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) in Australia. It's commonly mistaken for native spear grass, but has potentially disastrous economic and environmental impacts.



Murrindindi Shire Council recently commenced its Rural Roadside Weed Control Program to treat many of our roadsides for noxious weeds, including Chilean Needle Grass. They're asking everyone to keep their eyes peeled for this weed. If you find Chilean Needle Grass on public land or on your own property, please get in touch with Council.

Now is the time to identify Chilean Needle Grass while it is in flower and there is a small window of opportunity to treat between flowering and seed set. Given the weed's ability to create persistent seed, it is important to act quickly and collectively to remove any known sites as well as newly-established infestations.

If you suspect you have this weed on your property but are unsure and would like help with identification of this pest, please also contact your local Council to discuss before treating to avoid the inadvertent removal of Australian native spear grass.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

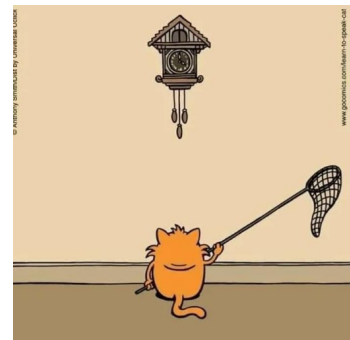
Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

First Lady, Diplomat & Activist

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

When revegetating, indigenous species are an excellent idea as they are more suited to our local areas.

Revegetation - GB CMA - Goulburn Broken CMA

HCCC Membership so far

171 ... 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.	
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
Friday 5th November @ 6pm ADVANCE NOTICE	RUFFY FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ	at Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
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.
Monday 8th November @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB	450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2021 at the same place with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
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 - Nov. 3rd & 17th and Dec 1st & 15th
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA	at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

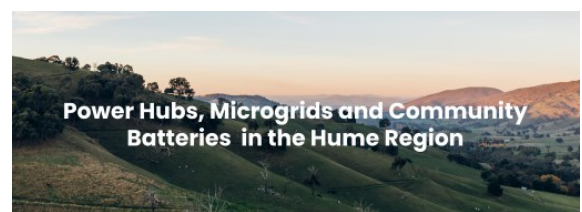
Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING

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.**



Power Hubs, Microgrids and Community Batteries in the Hume Region

Ever wondered about microgrids or how renewable energy can benefit our communities?

Join us online on Monday 25th October, 8pm as we discuss the latest renewable energy programs in our region. You'll also hear about a recent funding boost for north east Victoria that's uncovering the potential for micro-grids and community batteries.

Speakers from Indigo Power, GV Community Energy and more.

RSVP Essential. Book online at: www.indigopower.com.au/powerhub/
Cost: FREE

This project is delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Indigo Power

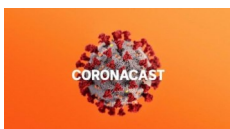
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Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about Covid 19. Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#)

Letter to the Editor

In response to last week's letter from Stuart Reid...

Again, you're right Stuart. My issue with the submarines, are the submarines themselves, not the engines that drive them. Why is Australia agreeing to buy an unknown quantity of subs, yet to be designed, for an unknown price?

If \$90B got you 12 diesel subs, and common wisdom is that nuclear are about 50% more expensive, we get 6 subs or pay about \$180B for 12 delivered in about 20 - 40 years if we are lucky. (Remember all the problems with the Collins class subs, it took years to sought them out). The cost doesn't consider the spend on infrastructure required for ports and maintenance facilities. And are we investing in technology from the last century, will these submarines be even relevant in 2050 to 2100?

However, as none of these subs will be in service in my lifetime it's a problem for the next generation to deal with, as if climate change isn't big enough.

By the time these subs are in service China, US, Australia, UK, and Europe will all have new leaders (let's hope they are smarter and women) and who knows China might even have a democracy, the world will look different in relation to power and economic strengths, and all the fear and war mongering might have gone away and we will end up with very expensive stranded assets.

Just imagine what \$90B - \$180B plus will do if spent in Australia on health, schools, public infrastructure, as well as the fact that it's going to take 40 years to repay the estimated \$310B the governments have borrowed due to Covid.

What is the return on Investment? China is one of our biggest trading partners, we import nearly ~\$60B and export ~\$200B. China is also the biggest manufacturing country in the world, over the last 50 years, we (the developed countries) have shifted nearly all our manufacturing to China and other parts of Asia to take advantage of buying cheaper "things". Who is going to make the new iPhone or TV?

The world has gone mad, as it looks like every time we have any disagreement we just spend more money on weapons, and more time on sabre rattling rather than talking to each other, or learning to compromise to achieve a peaceful agreement beneficial to everyone.

I am not taking any sides, all the sides have gone crazy there appears to be no sanity now, just giant egos. China has issues in relation to human rights that need attention, so do other countries. Let's not be the first to cast stones.

Are we really going to declare war against China? It will be a short and damaging war, China has one of the biggest naval fleets in the world and a standing military force of over one million. China have over two hundred surveillance satellites, these submarines will be an easy target & they are not going to be a deterrent. Just imagine the human tragedy, the economic consequences, the human suffering, it is unthinkable, we only need to look at Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan - the list is long. Is this the future we want to leave to our children?

A peaceful solution will be much more beneficial to all sides, even if there are damaged egos. Like it or not. we all share the same planet we must live and trade together in peace, there is no planet B, so why destroy it?

"War happens when politicians don't have the intellectual ability to solve complex problems.."

Neil

Another way to kill more Wasps

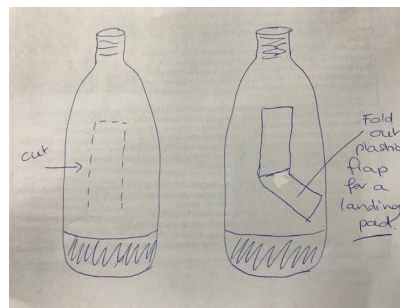
After last week's suggestions for options that kill wasps in situ, this offering from Ray actually ensures that the wasps can escape and then kill off their fellow hive dwellers. It works like this—

1. Get a plastic drink bottle (1.25 - 3litres in volume)
2. Make 3 cuts into the bottle - see diagram below and fold this piece of plastic out to create a 'landing pad' for the wasps
3. Put half a can of cat food and an entire bottle of Ant-rid into the bottom of the bottle.
4. Suspend bottle from a tree or fence and let the wasps enjoy their feed, it will be their last!

The theory behind this wasp 'trap' is that the wasps eat both cat food and Ant-rid before flying back to their nests where they die and their fellow wasps feed on their dead bodies, then also die and

so the food chain continues.

Bon appetit!



Beggars Can't Be Choosers

Having been a birdo for over 50 years, and having travelled to wonderful parts of the world and Australia, in search of the rare and exotic, I am now reduced to watching blackbirds in my small garden in Yea. At the moment they're building a nest in the Hardenbergia which covers a particularly ugly wooden fence. One of my sisters, who lived in suburban Melbourne, was determined to give the blackbirds a run for their money. When she found a blackbird nest, she would carefully remove the eggs, hard boil them and replace them in the nest! Vandalism, but the blackbirds were happy & so was she.



On a more cheerful note, my son has photographed a Silver Gull on one of his dams at Highlands. Perhaps the gull is getting a bit ahead of climate change and rising sea levels and is determined to pick the best bit of real estate early. Or maybe it's escaping lockdown in Melbourne. Many years ago, I saw a seagull on our house dam at Highlands, and as far as I know, these are the only two records for the area.

Peg Lade - Yea

How Climate Change will impact CFA operations

Scientific evidence for human-induced climate change is now regarded as unequivocal by the peak international body overseeing climate research. The Bureau of Meteorology's State of the Climate Report shows the local facts and figures around these changes. This includes that Australia has warmed on average 1.44 degrees Celsius since national records began in 1910.



This is leading to an increase in the number of hot days and the occurrence of extreme heatwaves. More recently, records for Victoria show that winter rainfall has fallen by about 12% in less than 30 years. These climate changes are likely to cause more extreme weather and alter the frequency and intensity of storms, floods, heatwaves and fires.

Scientists in the CFA's Research & Development team have been working to better understand how fire weather has changed over the past 40 years and how it might change in the future. This work is important for CFA because it will help us adapt the ways we operate and improve the services we offer to members and communities in response to climate change. The team has found that climate change is increasing the frequency, severity and timing of dangerous bushfire weather conditions in SE Australia, especially during spring and summer.

Also, on average, the fire season nowadays starts a month earlier than it did in the 1990s. Back then there were only 2/3 the number of days that had 'Very High' fire danger (those with an FFDI—Forest Fire Danger Index—greater than 25) compared with today. In short, fire seasons are now longer and more extreme than they were a few decades ago.

Models of future climate show that this pattern is likely to continue—conditions will be hotter, drier and with more extreme weather events. This is expected to lead to worse fire seasons, including more frequent large fires like the 2019-20 season and more extreme fire behaviour (including an increase in fire-generated thunderstorms). This will have flow-on effects on the safety of community members and firefighters.



According to the worse-case climate change scenario, average summer fire danger will increase across Victoria between 10% and 20% in FFDI by 2100. This means the current highest average FFDI of approximately 75 in the west and north-west of the state will become 100 and in the south-east the current highest average FFDI will increase from mid to high 30s to above 50. Along with this, the CFA expects to see a doubling of the number of days with 'Very High' fire danger in the north-west and central areas of the state, and a tripling in the number of days in the east of the state.

Extract taken from the CFA's magazine Brigade Spring 2021

Yea Open Gardens – November 6 and 7, 2021

The Rotary Club of Yea Board members voted recently to go ahead with the Yea Open Gardens weekend with strict Covid restrictions in place so we can keep our garden owners and visitors safe. Only double vaccinated people will be admitted and, at this stage, only 10 persons will be in a garden at any one time.

Ten beautiful gardens are open for you to enjoy, five in Yea township and five country gardens, all close to town. In Yea, the historic "Belvoir" is opening for the first time and the other four delightful gardens have vastly different styles, planting and features for you to enjoy. The five large country gardens will give keen gardeners bountiful ideas, all are very different and each has a stunning feature such as large lakes and bush walks or amazing views.



Entry is \$5 per garden or \$35 for a composite weekend ticket for all gardens and tickets are available at each garden gate. **Opening times are from 10am to 5pm each day.** Full details are on the website www.yearotary.org.au The Yea Garden Club will hold their annual plant sale in conjunction with the open gardens and have hundreds of plants at bargain prices.

Letter to the Editor

On **Tuesday 26 October**, Mitchell Shire Council will be hosting an online Webinar with Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy.

If you would like to attend this event please [register here](#).

This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn all about platypus, straight from the expert! We are hoping to have Geoff present for us in person in the new year.

Clare Watson
Project Coordinator
Whiteheads Creek Bioblitz - Seymour Urban Landcare

T: 0409 142 110
E: seymoururbanlandcare@gmail.com



Sandice McAulay
Mayor



John Curtis
Kobyboyn resident



Jenny Webb
HCCC President



Neville Ford
HCCC Treasurer



Philip Smith
Whiteheads Creek resident

We've done our bit, have you?

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best way to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe.

That's why Council, community representatives and The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative have teamed up to encourage everyone in Murrindindi Shire to get the jab. If you haven't already been vaccinated, speak to your GP or contact your nearest vaccination clinic today.

The following GP clinics and hospitals are providing vaccinations to our community - Marysville Medical Centre, Alexandra Medical Centre, Alexandra Family Medical Centre, Kinglake Ranges Medical, Yea Medical Centre, Alexandra District Health and Yea and District Memorial Hospital. Vaccinations are also being provided at selected pharmacies, including the Alexandra Community Pharmacy and the Yea Pharmacy.



Pauline Roberts
Editor - The Granite News



Sue van Buuren
Highlands resident



Shannon Roach
Terip Terip resident



John Walsh
Koriella Ward Councillor



Livia Bonazzi
CEO, Council



Rob Hayes
Ruffy-Tarcombe resident



Scott McKay
Habbies Howe Beef

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

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