



THE GRANITE NEWS

7TH NOV. 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 37

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Back in April when the Duke of Edinburgh died at the grand old age of 99, I mentioned that he was an environmentalist ahead of his time. Well it appears that his partner of almost 74 years is one too, although in a more diplomatic, understated and less direct manner than the Duke. Despite the fact that we are literally half a world away from Britain, history dictates that our ultimate Head of State is the reigning British monarch. In all her 68 years on the throne, when it comes to involving herself in the affairs of state of her extended Commonwealth 'family', Queen Elizabeth II has been the epitome of restraint and diplomacy, as befits a titular monarch.



Not so this past week.

Maybe it was because the Glasgow COP26 delegates came from all around the world, not just the Commonwealth countries, that she took the opportunity as the head of the host country to speak frankly and directly to so many world leaders about their responsibility to achieve realistic and practical solutions to the global issue of climate change / global warming. Her acute and succinct observations left attendees with no doubt that the world's fate was definitely in their hands -

"In the coming days the world has the chance to join in the shared objective of creating a safer, stabler future for our people and for the planet on which we depend... Working side-by-side we have the ability to solve the most insurmountable problems & to triumph over the greatest of adversities...I for one hope that this conference will be one of those rare occasions where everyone will have the chance to rise above the politics of the moment and achieve true statesmanship... That you leave this conference as a community of nations with the determination, a desire and a plan to address the impact of climate change and to recognise that the time for words has now moved to the time for action... (that) we are doing this not for ourselves but for our children and our children's children and those who will follow in their footsteps."

Whatever it was that prompted her, at 95, to depart from a lifetime of subtle, restrained diplomacy to utter such memorable words, one can't help thinking that if Prince Philip was still alive he would be cheering her on from the sidelines and echoing her sentiments wholeheartedly.

Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline**
And Kenny...was hanging out with his feathered friends - the chooks!

Did you know? The Great Australian Platypus Search is on until the end of November, see p.5 for details BUT you can be a citizen scientist at any time by being observant along your favourite waterway for this magical creature and then, if sighted, entering your data at <https://platypus.asn.au/report-a-sighting>



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"Above all...countries must accept the responsibility to ensure that their activities do not cause damage to the environment of others."
Swedish PM Olaf Palme in 1972 at the first dedicated international conference on the environment.

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



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
October	68.9 mm	76 mm
2021Total	750.5 mm	865 mm
October Rain Days	13 Days	9 Days

HCCC Membership so far
174 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — November NB: All may be subject to Covid variations until late Nov.

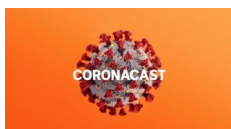
IMPORTANT NOTE >>>

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.

 <p>Monday 8th November @ 11am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th November @ 7pm</p> <p>RuffArtz</p>	<p>RUFFARTZ AGM at Ruffy Hall, Nolans Rd, Ruffy</p> <p>New committee members are most welcome. The meeting will be held in a COVID-safe environment. For more info email: ruffartzsecretary@gmail.com</p>
 <p>Friday 12th November @ 6.30pm</p>	<p>DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Thursday 18th Nov. @ 6pm</p>	<p>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC, Ruffy</p> <p>A special meeting all about soil carbon, with Cassie & David. More details on p.3. Everyone is welcome to attend, but you must be doubly vaccinated! Enquiries? - contact Justus 0427 524473</p>
 <p>Saturday 20th Nov. @ 10-12.30</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> <p>Come for the Black Market & stay for a great workshop & lunch. For more details see p.5. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
 <p>Sunday 21st November @ 9am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS HALL - WORKING BEE at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>Lots of jobs to do, everyone is welcome as many hands make light work. See updated article on p.3. Enquiries? - contact Miranda 0408 969261</p>
<p>Thursday 25th Nov. @ 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church</p> <p>All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.</p>
<p>Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th December 10-4</p>	<p>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Saturday 4th December</p>	<p>RUFFY CHRISTMAS PARTY - SAVE THE DATE!! More information to come...</p>
<p>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p>	<p>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>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. 17th and Dec 1st & 15th</p>
<p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p>	<p>ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA at Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</p>

****Very IMPORTANT Notice for ALL Community Members****

PLEASE NOTE: Any persons attending events held at the Highlands Community Hall - meetings, concerts, functions, including Drinks on the Deck, must be double vaccinated in accordance with government regulations.



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](#)

Highlands Hall Working Bee

A huge thank you to all the people who have contacted me and offered to do a job, either on November 21st or at a more convenient time. There are still lots of jobs that need an owner!! If you have ever attended an event at the Highlands Hall, here's an opportunity to say thank you. Feeling guilty yet? :-)
Lots of research shows that giving back to your community will make you feel happier, so why not test the theory...

SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2021

9AM START

LUNCH PROVIDED

BRING YOUR TOOLS AND ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM

Jobs for Working Bee at Hall & CFA shed

Weeding
Pruning
Whipper Snipping
Mowing
Guttering needs cleaning
Cleaning outside toilets
Cleaning inside hall
Sweeping & washing floors
Cleaning out cupboards
Cleaning windows



If you can't come on that day that's OK. Just let me know which job you are happy to do and we'll put your name next to that job. Let me know if you are coming so we can make sure there's plenty to eat and drink.

miranda.yorston@gmail.com

Ph: 0408969261

Mobile Library visits Highlands

Come and meet Sarah when she parks her *Murrindindi Mobile Library* outside our Highlands Hall.

See calendar of events for fortnightly dates. 10.30am -12.30pm.

A full library range which includes children's reading hutch, talking books, current magazines and more.

Heard by a fellow borrower **"I cannot believe you have so many current good reads in such a small space"**.



Don't actually live in Murrindindi Shire, don't worry. Whether you live in Mitchell or Strathbogie Shires you can still sign up as a borrower with this mobile service as Victoria's Libraries offer reciprocal borrowing no matter where you live. Just bring along some photo ID and proof of your current address. Easy as....

HCCC News

Soil Carbon Workshop

The next meeting of the HCCC will be a meeting and information session / workshop on the Carbon Project. Soil carbon is now becoming more important as the federal government has agreed to zero emissions by 2050 and farmers will have an important part to play in reaching this target. As this is funded by the state government the workshop will follow Covid rules as set out in the Victorian Covid Road Map. (see below)

Thursday 18th November @ 6pm at TCCC at Ruffy
a presentation by -

Dr Cassandra Scheffe, CPSS

Soil Scientist

Honorary Fellow - The University of Melbourne
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow - Charles Sturt University

Cassie will talk about the work planned for the three farms in the Carbon Project and all things carbon as it relates to farming and pasture.

There will be time for questions and general discussion.



After the Carbon presentation there will be a short break followed by the regular meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend this excellent presentation provide they are fully vaccinated.

The State's Roadmap stipulates -

"Community facilities such as public libraries, community centres and community halls, can open if everyone present is fully vaccinated, is under 16, or has a valid medical exemption (indoors at one person per 4 sqm)" **Thanks for your understanding**

WANTED

Cherry pickers on a casual basis from mid November. Cherries also available for sale in December.

Adrian Martin 03 57 904201

**** WANTED ****

Gardener with experience needed one or two days a week.

Caveat area.

Please call : 0414 602 820



How Climate Change will impact CFA operations - Part 3.



The CFA recognises that the changing climate is a major risk to Victorian communities and the organisation. It needs to understand the possible impacts on operations, services, infrastructure and our members. In response CFA is conducting a risk assessment to identify challenges and ways to solve them through adaptation and mitigation. This process will also help decisions about CFA climate change policies and associated business rules.

Additionally the Research and Development team is leading two main projects -

1. How will bushfire management need to adapt to climate change in terms of resourcing?

This project will combine historic Victorian fire response data with weather information to determine likely resource requirements for different levels of fire danger. It will then use projections of fire weather under climate change to understand future requirements. The outcomes of this research will help determine the future operational capacity and capability required to continue to deliver CFA services.



2. How will Victorian fire regimes change as a result of climate change?

This project will combine current knowledge, dynamic vegetation modelling and climate change projections specific to Victoria to understand the relationships between fire, climate and vegetation. It will look at how forests and grasslands are expected to change under hotter and drier conditions and then couple this with models of fire. This will help us to understand what frequency, size and severity of fires to expect in the future. The project's findings and outputs will be used to make longer-term strategic decisions around:

- fuel reduction practices due to a better understanding of how fuel, fire risk and weather are linked
- identification and management of ecosystems and threatened species that are at risk of extinction
- planning for resources and infrastructure to be prepared for the fire danger of the future

If you have any questions about climate change and the research presented here (and in the last 2 issues of TGN) contact bushfire-research@cfa.vic.gov.au Extract taken from the CFA's magazine Brigade - Spring 2021

Mt Bernard Trek - Strathbogie Ranges (rescheduled and duplicated)

This walk is scheduled for both Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th November. To register you will need to make a booking via the TryBooking event booking system. <https://www.trybooking.com/BVBTG>

Each trek group will be limited to 20 people and places will be allocated on a first in basis.

If demand exceeds supply don't be too dismayed because we will re-run the treks in 2022 for any who miss out. The **registration fee of \$10.00 (plus \$0.75 booking fee)** can be paid when you register on the TryBooking portal. All registration fees will be donated towards repair and refurbishment of Avenel Jubilee Park historical buildings.

Each group will **meet at 9.30am at the Avenel Maze Visitor Centre** (471 Upton Rd, Avenel) for a presentation on Strathbogie granite. After this introductory talk, participants will undertake a guided walk led by prominent geologist Neil Phillips, highlighting the granite structures of the Strathbogie Ranges.

Neil will lead the group on a walk up to the summit of Mt Bernard (489m), explaining notable features of the geology.

This is unsuitable for children under 12 years, graded as Category 3. (6 Km return, short steep hills, formed track, some obstacles, many steps; some bushwalking experience recommended.)

We are required to abide by current COVID-Safe rules including checking in on your arrival on the Avenel Maze QR Code using your Service Vic App.

Organised by the Avenel Nature Conservation Group

The Black Market is back!

At last! The Highlands Black Market is reopening on **Saturday November 20th** ... it will be outside.

Timing will be a little different this month:

10am-11am - Food swap, buy, sell - bring change if you are buying or selling please. Yes, it's okay just to come for the food swap.

11-12pm - Barefoot Brian is back to run a workshop for us on Seed-saving, treating seeds and growing from cuttings.

Cost by donation for Brian.

12pm-12:30pm - Lunch and Q&A - We will provide a light complimentary lunch - feel free to bring something to share if you feel like it.

Please only come if you have had your **second Covid vaccination**; masks are optional.

Brian and Jessica will be bringing some plants for sale also ... not too many. You can also visit their nursery in Seymour.

Hippeastrum - 3 colours

Jacobian Lily - red flowering now

Tuber rose - not flowering yet

Assorted flowering succulents

Some grafted fruit trees

Prices range from \$25 - \$60.



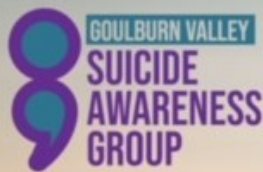
Please RSVP by November 13th for catering by email or text.

Clare and Vitto

claredaly19@gmail.com

0428 969366

5796 9366



*A pause in time
to reflect and
remember.*

First Annual GOULBURN VALLEY Suicide Awareness Walk Sunday 21 November 2021

COVID regulations apply.

Rail Trail Loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges

Walking to remember those lost, raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support families and friends in our Goulburn Valley community.

For more information, to volunteer, & to register:



www.gvsag.org.au



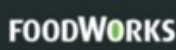
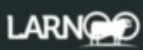
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0417 907 278

If after reading this you need support, please ring:
LIFELINE 13 11 14 **OR** BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 46 36

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The Great Australian Platypus Search

With just a few weeks to go until the 30th Nov. sampling deadline, The Great Australian Platypus Search is looking for citizen scientists who will help gather eDNA samples at the final 160 sampling sites.



Click [here](#) to view the map of available sampling sites. And if you are able to access any of these remaining 160 sites, please sign up today to reserve your sampling sites and help gather never before seen data on the wildlife living in Victorian waterways.

Run by conservation not-for-profit, the Odonata Foundation, the 2021 Great Australian Platypus Search involves a state-wide investigation into platypus populations, which is using an innovative wildlife detection technique known as environmental DNA (eDNA) to analyse samples from 2000 sites across Victoria. The data being produced in this project will help scientists to develop a comprehensive map of platypus populations across the state.

This is a great opportunity to play an important role in protecting the platypus, aquatic vertebrates and Australian waterways while also being part of one of the biggest citizen science projects in the world. For further information please visit: <https://www.thegreataustralianplatypussearch.org/> or email hello@odonata.org.au

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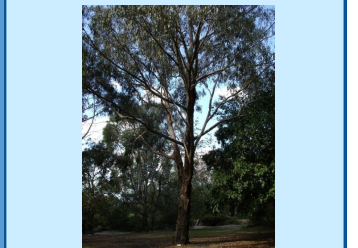
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