



THE GRANITE NEWS

21ST NOV. 2021

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 39

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

For those readers who couldn't make it to Ruffy last Friday evening the HCCC was very pleased to be able to host an excellent & very informative talk on Soil Carbon by Dr Cassie Schefe and David Hawkey. For someone like myself who is very firmly anchored in the Humanities, not Science, side of the academic spectrum it was a most illuminating session. Suffice to say that there is a lot more to the element C - Carbon than one would imagine. Once I have deciphered my notes from the evening there will be a little article in TGN for those who are interested in discovering more about this essential environmental tool, as well as an indication of how the HCCC Carbon Project is progressing and what it is aiming to achieve. Stay tuned...

HCCC News

With the end of the publication year for The Granite News fast approaching—the last issue for 2021 will be on December 12th (only 3 more issues to go) a couple of things spring to mind.

Firstly if you want to publicise anything between now and then please send copy sooner rather than later and also if you want to give a heads up to readers about anything happening in the first few weeks of the new year, be aware that **the first issue of TGN will appear on January 16th** and plan accordingly, thanks.

Secondly for all current TGN advertisers my thanks for your valuable support in 2021 and if you would like to continue doing so for 2022, at the same very reasonable cost of **\$250 for an annual fee** please email me at editor@tgn.org.au Also if any other readers would like to commence advertising & by doing so support this great little community newsletter, then please advise me of your interest at the same email address. Until the next issue of TGN, take care and stay safe, **Pauline** And Kenny...was thoroughly enjoying Andrea & Alex's wedding and the signing of the register.

Grey Shrike Thrush

Does anyone else have one, or several, of these songbirds calling throughout the day at their place? In the 23 years that we have lived at Highlands this is the first spring that this bird has really made its presence felt—from a tap on the window, then a pause and then its song—repeated over and over at various times throughout the day from sunrise



to sunset. While we're enjoying its musical calls and its cheekiness we're intrigued that it hasn't been a feature of the last two decades. We certainly would have noticed its song before now if that was the case.

Do any readers have any ideas as to why this year is different? Please let the Editor know.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"We believe that each student is the creator of their own future, given the right education."

Educational vision of the Vera Thomson English School, Lintha village, Myanmar

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

Following on from last week's recycling suggestions, if you have a phone that takes apps then put the **Good Sort App** onto your phone, locate your local government & discover more.

HCCC Membership so far
176 ... and counting

Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — November & December NB: COVID restrictions eg: double vaccinated will apply

Thursday 25th Nov. @ 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.
Monday 29th November @ 11am 	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2021 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! Please bring a plate of food to share and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th December 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.
Friday 3rd December @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END-of-YEAR GET TOGETHER See p.4 for more details
 Saturday 4th December	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE / CFA COMMUNITY XMAS PARTY Further info to come or contact tccruffy@gmail.com
Sunday 5th December	TERIP TERIP XMAS BBQ at Terip Rec Reserve More details to come next week.
 Saturday 11th December from 4pm til late	KELVIN VIEW CHRISTMAS TREE at Kelvin View Come along for a festive family night, more details on p.3
Sunday 12th December	FINAL GRANITE NEWS FOR 2021 - First TGN for 2022 is 16th January
Friday 7th January 2022 @ 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre Attendees must be fully vaccinated. Bookings / further info contact tccruffy@gmail.com or Alex 0430 530 319
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 - 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



FREE TO GOOD HOME

Single bed Futon with legs that fold down. Free to anyone who wants a spare bed that is handy as you can store it under an existing bed.

Call Jono 0408 969399

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](#)

KELVIN VIEW CHRISTMAS TREE

Please come along for a festive family night

**SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER
4PM TIL LATE**

Special Santa appearance on the fire truck
(Please bring along a small gift to be placed under the Christmas tree)

Sausage sizzle for the children to start the night

The night will continue with traditional
Christmas meats served cold with a
range of salads to choose from
Dessert to follow
BYO Drinks and chair

Bottled water will be supplied

Adults \$15 each Children FREE



**LIVE BAND
(JIMMY DAVIDSON)
JUMPING CASTLE
THERE WILL BE RAFFLES
AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS
THROUGHOUT
THE EVENING**

at the Kelvin Hall,
40 Kelvin View School Road

For any enquiries
Betty 0429 177 809 or Neville 0427 905 273

Please RSVP by
Saturday 4th December
Bookings are essential due to Covid Restrictions

**Due to covid rules there will be a covid sign in
and proof double vaccination**

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE NOTICES

Tablelands Community Centre Open at FULL CAPACITY

The Tablelands Community Centre is finally pleased to say we are now open at full capacity to the fully vaccinated.

We look forward to taking your bookings and sharing with you our up graded facility at very reasonable rates.

For bookings or if you would like to be added to our mailing list for info on coming events.

Contact tccruffy@gmail.com

Phone: **Melissa 0404 833 388 or Fiona 0427 690 970**

Tablelands Community Centre pre Xmas Working Bee

It's time again for our big clean up before the Xmas party.

With the growth this year mowing and whipper snipping is high on the agenda.

If anyone has a pressure washer this tool has been helpful in the past for cleaning outside walls and windows.

Three days have been set for working bees.

Sunday 28th Nov. 10am onwards

Wednesday 1st Dec. 5pm for a couple of hours

Thursday 2nd Dec. 5pm for a couple of hours



Come with tools if you can or just show up

Further info contact Fiona 0427 690 970

Conspiracy Theories...

No Joking Matter

History tells us that humans have always been susceptible to conspiracy theories. They range from relatively harmless superstitions to full blown fanatical beliefs that cause untold destruction and sufferings. Voltaire said, *People who believe in absurdities eventually commit atrocities.*

We tend to turn to conspiracy theories particularly in uncertain times when we feel anxious and helpless and seek a simple explanation to what is happening. The intensity and fanaticism of our belief will often reflect the depth of our anxiety and sense of helplessness. The conspiracy theory actually becomes our certainty however absurd.

Currently we seem to be surrounded by more and more 'absurdity'. We live in very uncertain times. We are living in a climate and biodiversity crisis; we are living through a pandemic with maybe more to come; the world faces a refugee emergency and tensions among nations are at a new high. In Australia, we are anxious about the future of work, housing, inequality, racial tensions and domestic abuse.

Now we see the truth of Voltaire's prediction on the streets of our cities; in violence towards politicians, medical and hospital staff, para medics, school teachers and school principals. Even shop keepers and retail workers get abused over face masks and vaccine rights.

You will no doubt realize I have little tolerance for climate and vaccine deniers. What I find difficult to deal with is watching how people seem so ready to believe absurdities, not only in the form of bizarre conspiracies, but also the false information on social media and the spin of politicians.

I acknowledge people, including me, are not always reasonable in our treatment of information and in the developing of our opinion. I do long for political, social and religious discussions that are reasonable. How about you?

Stuart Reid - Highlands

Terip Tennis Club

Social memberships available

For more information please

contact **Cindy 0429 772 011**

Or use this link to sign up

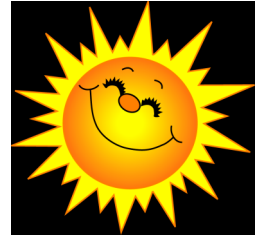
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What's in a name?

Aside from Shakespeare who pontificated about a rose smelling as sweet as it does no matter what it was called, in the following article it is interesting to note how swapping from one well-used name to another can generate a whole new way of looking at exactly the same issue.

“In the USA the term ‘climate change’ was used as a piece of spin itself. Frank Luntz, a former Republican Party spin doctor and the winner of Politifact’s less-than-prestigious ‘Lie of the Year Award’ in 2010, argued that the term should be used to downplay the concerns about our warming atmosphere.



Luntz is famous for writing key strategic memos in the George W. Bush years. The memos sought to solve the problem that ‘the environment is probably the single biggest issue on which Republicans in general - and President Bush in particular - are most vulnerable’.

As part of this, Luntz argued, “It’s time for us to start talking about ‘climate change’ instead of ‘global warming’.” His focus groups had suggested that people found climate change a less scary term, with one participant proclaiming that climate change “sounds like you’re going from Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania –cold north east USA) to Fort Lauderdale (Florida –south and warmer)”, while people found that global warming had ‘catastrophic connotations’.”

Extract taken from - **Fight for Planet A** by **Craig Reucassel**



You are invited to the Highlands/Caveat End of Year Get Together

**Friday 3rd of December at 6.30pm
The Highlands/Caveat Community Group
Highlands Hall**



BBQ provided
BYO drinks, glass, chair, and a salad to share

This is a community break up, so we invite all
groups and members to attend

Please remember to check in and have your
vaccination record available.



Spring is sprung as have the ‘weeds’

As spring rains fall and we get the occasional warm day the local vegetation is starting to burst forth and grow, Grow, GROW!

Sadly a plethora of unwanted and invasive plants, are also having growth spurts and now is definitely the time to consider doing something about these (ob)noxious weeds.

Blackberries! Enough said about this noxious weed. Don’t forget that subsidies are available for weedicide and wetting agent providing you contact the HCCC Facilitator in advance of your purchase - hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com



Watsonia - More than just a Melbourne suburb, this plant is also a highly invasive species found in a variety of habitats and is a significant environmental weed. It needs to be dug out, although spraying will help, but the corms need to be eradicated.



Kunzea Ericoides or Burgan - is that annoying tea-tree like plant that is starting to spread particularly in the southern part of the HCCC. It is a rampant grower and will coppice. Slashing will retard its growth.



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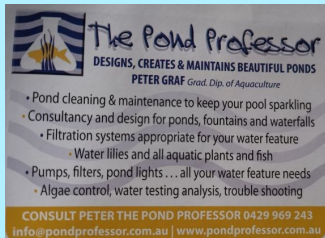
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