



THE GRANITE NEWS

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Anyone for a feeling of déjà vu? Almost 12 months on and here we are back in lockdown again, but only for 5 days, which is so much better than the 111 days that Melburnians experienced in 2020. So, it will probably be all over before we know it.



As one of the TGN readers remarked to me just yesterday, there is a definite upside to these lockdowns - with less cars on the roads the carnage of our local wildlife drops considerably. Another TGN reader has commented on exactly the same thing, read his letter to the editor on p.3.

Thank you to all those TGN readers who have RSVPed for our local community's **FREE lunch on February 20th at noon!** At present it is still going ahead, **BUT** if there are any future changes that impact this event then all TGN readers will be notified on Thursday. If the lockdown continues then the lunch will be postponed, but NOT cancelled. Until the next issue of TGN stay safe and keep smiling, **Pauline** And Kenny... was keeping Enola's chooks, that are still for sale, company.

Does anyone know what this curious thing is?

Once again, John and Lisa have generously offered a fantastic prize to the lucky TGN reader who is the first to reply to editor@tgn.org.au with the correct answer to this question - What is this?



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



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

"The term 'domestic housewife' implies that there must be feral housewives and now I have a new goal!"

Anon.

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






<https://window-swap.com>
Tired of the view outside your own windows? Why not check out other people's views from all around the world.

HCCC Membership so far

163 ... and counting

Community Notices & Classifieds

WHAT'S ON — February / March

 Saturday 20th February 10am to noon	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366 at 94 Old Highlands Rd
 Saturday 20th February @ Noon	HCCC - FREE LUNCH for ALL! Everyone is invited to celebrate and Rekindle, Reunite and Reconnect with our community. Everything is supplied, so come along and enjoy! Enquiries? Contact Justus 0458 524473 at Ruffy Hall
Monday 22nd February @ 7.30pm	RUFFY FIRE BRIGADE AGM & GENERAL MEETING All CFA members and interested locals are welcome. Contact Justus 0427 524473 at Ruffy Fire Station
Thursday 25th February @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat. at Caveat Church
 Saturday 27th February 2 - 8pm	LONGWOOD BEER, WINE & CIDER FESTIVAL For the love of ale!! Tickets - Presale \$25, At the Gate \$30 (U18s=FREE) www.longwoodforthe love of ale.com.au at Longwood Recreation Reserve
March 3rd (Yea) & 4th (Shepparton) 9.30-3	INCREASING SOIL WATER HOLDING CAPACITY These workshops are being supported by Landcare and GBCMA and presented by Walter Jehne from Regenerate Earth. Due to Covid, numbers are limited. Venues @ Yea & Shepparton TBA For further details - Kirstie 0437 310840
Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th March 10 - 4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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. 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
 Monday 8th March @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
 Friday 12th March @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK 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. at Highlands Community Hall
Saturday 13th March 10.30 for 11am start	WILDERNESS .v. RICHMOND over 60 CRICKET MATCH Cricket on the Tablelands is back!! Anyone wishing to play please contact Scott McKay 0427 969259 or David Sleight 0429 904301 Come along and enjoy 40 overs of entertaining cricketing expertise. at Ruffy Recreation Ground
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be back on the following dates— Feb . 24th, March 10th & 24th. at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT RUFFY Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien 0427 969259 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASS Swing dances feature Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559 at Euroa Uniting Church Hall

Postponed until further notice

For those readers in Victoria - here we go again...

A reminder there are only **4 reasons** for leaving home from now until Thursday

1. To go shopping for food and/or essential items eg: prescriptions
2. To exercise for up to two hours daily
3. For care (medical) and care-giving
4. For essential work

NB: For #1 it is 1 person per household per day

Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about coronavirus or COVID19. Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline 1800 020 080

Rekindle
Reunite
Reconnect
Our Community



February 20th 2021 - 12 noon onwards

****Free Lunch** (All food & drink supplied!)**

Meet your neighbours & Landcare Members all family members are welcome!

Venue - Ruffy Hall

All systems are still go, subject to any new restrictions coming into play and if circumstances change the lunch will be postponed NOT cancelled



Letter to the Editor

Driving to work this morning, I was devastated to pass a dead Tawny Frogmouth on the road. A few kilometres further I then passed a dead juvenile koala in the middle of the road.



We all love where we live, and a significant part of the magic in this part of the world includes our beautiful and important wildlife. Given the increasing number of Australian species becoming endangered and at risk of extinction, we all have a responsibility to do what we can.

Please, take your time when driving. As humans, we have the capacity to understand the risks associated with road use. Our fauna do not. Let's give them a better chance so our kids and grandkids can enjoy them into the future.

Tim, Terip Terip

This is not an isolated incident and it is heartbreaking to see our beautiful fauna lying dead on the side of the road. Tim is correct, it is up to us to break the cycle. Ed

Even **MORE** HCCC News

HCCC meetings occur each month, everyone is welcome to attend. They are held in each of the different HCCC communities commencing 7.30pm. Here are some dates for your diaries if you would like to come along and participate in the Landcare directions for our local area and its environment. **The March meeting is at Highlands.**

Friday 19th March = AGM

Thursday 15th April

Friday 21st May

Thursday 17th June

Friday 16th July

Thursday 19th August

Venues will be advised closer to the dates the alternating nature of the roster should offer weekend residents the opportunity to attend. **Enquires? Justus 0427 524473**

NB: in order for weekend residents to attend the AGM the alternative order has been reversed from last TGN.

Chooks for SALE

Isa browns \$27

Bond blacks \$30

Hylines \$25

Contact Enola

0427 969274

Kobyboyn Rd

Whiteheads Creek



HOWZAT?! Cricket is Back!



What: Cricket

Where: Ruffy Recreation Ground

When: Saturday 13th March 2021

Time: 10.30 am for 11.00 Start - Lunch and BBQ after the game provided.

Overs: 40

Trophy: The Corona Cup

Cost: Your dignity and maybe a hamstring or two (the rest we'll work out as we go)

Anyone who wishes to play please contact

Scott McKay 0427969259

or **David Sleight 0429904301.**

PS Ruby is very excited to be returning to Ruffy.

MISSING!!

Any one who has information regarding the missing keys to the Highlands Hall and also the missing fire fighting pump and pressure pump missing from the Highlands Hall shed **please contact Judy Cameron 0418 513 340.**

Susan Bennett enjoying a cuddle from a local Caveatian at Highlands Spinners' Group



If you would like to join this friendly group of creatives see p.2 What's On for more information.

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 7th March

Did you know? Every year each Australian sends approximately 2.5 tonnes of rubbish to landfill. **That's 2.5 tonnes per person!**

Of course not all of our rubbish actually makes it to landfill as can be seen by the litter that lines our roadsides, waterways and other communal places. Not only is it an eyesore, but it is incredibly dangerous for wildlife that try to eat it, or worse, become trapped by it.



In 1986/87 Ian Kiernan AO, a keen yachtsman, sailed solo around the world in the BOC Challenge Yacht Race and was appalled at the amount of rubbish drifting around the world's oceans. In 1989 he organised the first Clean Up Australia Day and it has been a part of our national calendar ever since.

Sunday 7th March sees it all happening again and whilst individual efforts can certainly make a mark community groups, in the Shire of Murrindindi, are encouraged to register at cleanup.org.au Council will be assisting such groups by either collecting the rubbish from a pre-designated point or providing FREE tickets for disposal at the Resource Recovery Centres (tips). Registered community groups will also be reimbursed to the value of \$100 for provision of drinks and snacks to volunteers. Ring **5772 0333** for details.

Don't Forget!

If you would you like to support, or continue to support, The Granite News in 2021 why not take out an ad on the back page - at the incredibly reasonable price of **\$250 per annum that's just \$6.25 per issue**, please just email editor@tgn.org.au to find out more. Thanks!

The Great Tablelands Tomato Challenge 2021

Well as the ripe tomatoes start coming in fast let's hope that you're looking out for which tomato is going to enter the challenge.

Have you got the heaviest? The best looking? The weirdest shape?

The last set of challenges are as follows -

Who has the smallest tomato? Who didn't get a ripe tomato? and lastly... Who killed their tomato plant?

Get your photos into tccruffy@gmail.com

We will also have judging of the best Tomato Chutney, Green Tomato Chutney and Green Tomato Pickles, so keep Saturday 3rd April (Easter Saturday) free for the big day. Get your photos in and bring along a jar of your best to enter.

Great **prizes** for winners and runners up!



It's back - Bon appetit!

The **Highlands Black Market is back - on the 3rd Saturday of each month 10pm and 12pm** (during the warmer months)



94 Old Highlands Rd,
Highlands.

February 20th, March 20th and April 17th.

Bring along excess home-grown veggies, fruit, eggs and any other produce you've made yourself such as preserves, bread, jam, pickles to swap or sell. If you don't grow or make your own, you can come to the Highlands Black Market and buy from those who do.

The Black Market is also open to local farmers who grow commercial produce on a small scale.

Local food swaps are a great way to be better connected to your food, get to know your local community, learn from each other and to reduce food miles, consumerism, packaging, waste and environmental impacts from industrial-scale agriculture and food production.

Contact: Clare or Vitto at claredaly19@gmail.com or call 57969366 for more information ... or just rock up!

Former Australian chief scientist has Seymour roots by David Rak

Bumping into the Federal Government's chief scientist is not something you expect to do in Seymour.

But that's what you might have done in the late '90s when Brave Goose Vineyard was established by Dr John Stocker and wife Joanne, after purchasing land near the Tallarook Ranges. Dr Stocker was Australia's chief scientist from December 1996 to April 1999 and started the winery to explore a passion and take a break from a hectic schedule.

After completing a PhD in immunology, Dr Stocker was a member of the Basel Institute for Immunology in Switzerland from 1976 to 1978. He joined the Swiss pharmaceutical company Hoffmann-La Roche and Co in its Basel headquarters in 1979. It was there Dr Stocker and his wife began exploring their passion for wine with weekend trips to northern Italy. The variety of wines captured their imagination and inspired them to try their hand at producing a vintage. After returning to Australia, Dr Stocker completed a course in winemaking and began a trial and error process at Brave Goose Vineyard.

"It was quite a steep learning curve and planting in a hilly area like the Tallarook Ranges was a bit of a first," Dr Stocker said, "We were influenced by the types of soil European grapes thrive in. The area we picked looked right to me and we decided to give it a go. Thankfully it worked out. We always enjoyed coming to the Seymour and district area and having the winery gave us another excuse to visit."

While he managed his fledgling winery, Dr Stocker worked in numerous roles, including as chief executive of the CSIRO from 1990 to 1995. He later returned to CSIRO as chairman from 2007 to 2010. He was a foundation member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council and has been a member of the Australian Research Council and the Australia China Council. He was chairman of the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation from 1996 to 2003 and a director of Wine Victoria from 2013 to 2015. But Dr Stocker said the role most people asked him about was working with former Prime Minister John Howard as Australia's chief scientist.

"The role of chief scientist is interesting because it means you have the opportunity to influence the government's attitude and action towards science," John said, "I was very lucky to serve under John Howard because he took an interest in science. I enjoyed our meetings and I always felt he took what I had to say seriously. It was an interesting time and at a stage where Australia was working out what it was good at. A country our size can't do everything so has to focus resources on a few things. It was an honour to be tasked with helping make some of those decisions."

After two decades running Brave Goose Vineyard, Dr Stocker handed the reins to his daughter and winemaker Nina Stocker and her husband John Day. Together they work on the family's property managing the home vineyard, growing shiraz, cabernet sauvignon, merlot, viognier and gamay. Dr Stocker is now retired and living on the



Sunshine Coast, but he said he was pleased knowing his hobby had become a thriving business for Nina and John. "Winemaking was a hobby for me, and I never considered Nina taking it on," he said. "However, she developed a keen interest and showed an amazing talent, completing the University of Adelaide Roseworthy postgraduate winemaking degree, which was great to see. It got to a point where I realised there was nothing more I could teach her, so I happily left her to it. She developed a talent way

beyond my skill level and she's made a real go of it, producing some stunning wines."

With thanks to past TGN Editor, Miranda Yorston, for suggesting this article would be of interest to TGN readers and to the Riverine Herald, including the Seymour Telegraph, for permission to reprint it.

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