



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

March 8th is International Women's Day and grew out of the efforts of the early 20thC to promote women's rights, especially suffrage (the right to vote). The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975 in the International Women's Year and in 1977 the UN General Assembly invited its member states to proclaim **March 8th as the UN Day for Women's Rights and World Peace.**

Although not perhaps quite as well known or patronised as say the AFL Grand Final parade or Melbourne Cup Day, both of which are both public holidays, it definitely deserves a higher profile, given that it's now been officially celebrated for 44 years and more than half the world's population are women.

In recent weeks I have been listening to an audio book, "A History of the World in 21 Women" by Jenni Murray. Aside from the more familiar names like Boadicea, Hillary Rodham-Clinton and Catherine the Great I found myself listening to the story of one Professor Wangari Maathai of Kenya and being appalled and amazed in equal measure by her formidable determination to rise above the discrimination she faced throughout her entire life for being a passionate woman dedicated to the environment and democratic ideals.

It wasn't until 2004 when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that her environmental efforts were finally acknowledged and rewarded. I have précised her story on p.5. It makes for interesting reading.

Until the next issue of TGN stay safe and keep smiling, **Pauline**

And Kenny... was on the fire truck heading for the Highlands RFB AGM.



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

"Feminism is really men and women enjoying equal rights and opportunities."

Margaret Attwood (1939 ...)

Canadian Author & Poet

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



Don't Forget - TGN needs YOUR Support!

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 a mere \$6.25 per issue!**

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HCCC Membership

Don't forget that membership of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative is ongoing and free! Just email editor@tgn.org.au to join.





Month	Highlands	Ruffy
February	31.9 mm	40 mm
2021 Total	162.5 mm	138 mm
February	4 Days	2 Days

HCCC Membership so far
163 ... and counting

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

Community Notices & Classifieds

WHAT'S ON — March & April

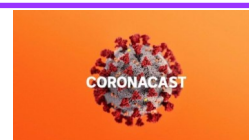
Monday 8th March  @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Friday 12th March @ 6.30pm 	DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall 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.
Saturday 13th March 10.30 for 11am start	WILDERNESS .v. RICHMOND over 60 CRICKET MATCH at Ruffy Recreation Ground Cricket on the Tablelands is back!! Anyone wishing to play please contact Scott McKay 0427 969259 or David Sleigh 0429 904301 Come along and enjoy 40 overs of entertaining cricketing expertise.
Thursday 18th March @ 7.30pm	FORESTRY IN MURRINDINDI – PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE at Fawcett Hall The Home Creek/Spring Creek Landcare is hosting this discussion. See p. 4 for more details.
Friday 19th March @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Highlands Hall The next meeting includes the AGM. All welcome. Enquiries? - contact Justus 0427 524473
Saturday 20th March 10am - noon 	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Thursday 25th March @ 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 26th March @ 6 - 8pm 	WATER—OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE at Y Water Discovery Centre, 2 Hood St, Yea As part of the 2021 Speaker Series the YWDC is delighted to welcome Maryann Slattery and Bill Johnson as keynote speakers to discuss water management and local outcomes within a Murray-Darling Basin-wide perspective. Bookings are essential www.trybooking.com/BOVLG and a \$5 donation at the door includes a light supper. Enquiries? 5797 3394
Friday 26th March @ 7.30	TERIP TERIP RFB BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING at Terip Recreation Ground
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th April 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.
Saturday 3rd April (Easter Saturday)	THE GREAT TABLELANDS TOMATO CHALLENGE - Judging & Winners! All details to be advised closer to the date. Get your entries in tcccruffy@gmail.com & be there!!
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— March 10th & 24th & April 14th & 28th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT RUFFY at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASS at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

Postponed until further notice

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](#).

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FARM SAFETY REBATE SCHEME GUIDELINES

The Victorian Government is assisting farmers to invest in infrastructure and equipment to improve safety on farms.



ABOUT THE SCHEME The Victorian Government (through Agriculture Victoria, an agency of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions) (Agriculture Victoria) has established the Farm Safety Rebate Scheme (the Scheme) to assist eligible farm businesses to invest in eligible infrastructure and equipment projects (Eligible Projects) to improve safety for farming families, workers and visitors to Victorian farms. The Scheme is a key component of Smarter, Safer Farms, a \$20 million Victorian Government commitment to improve safety and skills outcomes for Victorian farmers. Funding for the Scheme is provided from the Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund. One of the aims of this fund is to strengthen the resilience of the agriculture sector. Rebates of up to \$5,000 excluding GST are available to eligible farm businesses for Eligible Projects. Only one rebate per farm business is permitted for the life of the Scheme. Rebates will require at least 50 per cent cash co-contribution by the applicant. The Scheme is available for farm businesses located in the State of Victoria. The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. No rebates will be offered beyond the allocated total Victorian Government funding of \$3 million (ex GST). The Scheme is available for farm businesses located in Victoria.

SCHEME OBJECTIVE Farms are homes as well as businesses. The Scheme will assist eligible Victorian farm businesses to invest in infrastructure and equipment to help farm businesses improve safety outcomes for their families, workers and visitors. Applications must address risks to health and safety that relate to the farm as a workplace. It can include risks associated with the intersection of the farm with family life. This rebate will assist in making these workplaces safer for family members, workers and visitors.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE A Rebate of up to \$5,000 excluding GST in matched funding is available for Eligible Projects, which are listed in Section 15 (see link below). The rebates will be available from the date the **Scheme opens until the Scheme funds are fully allocated or the closing date of 31 December 2021, whichever is sooner**. Applicants can apply for only one rebate. A combination of projects is permitted in one application for a combined total of no more than \$5,000 in matched rebate funding.



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Safety infrastructure and equipment (dollar for dollar co-contribution required)

Eligible Projects are those that improve safety outcomes for farmers, farm workers, farm families, and visitors and that fall within the categories listed in Section 15: List of Eligible Projects and Section 16: List of Eligible Projects by Category. Eligible Projects are those that aim for permanent safety improvements and can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Child safety fencing and installation costs to create safe on-farm play areas
- Safety and warning signs; e.g. children at play, traffic management, speed limits, overhead powerlines, chemical hazard, deep water, water not for drinking, steep descent, hearing protection must be worn etc.
- Animal handling equipment; sheep handling systems, cattle crush etc.
- Animal management; loading ramps, man-gates, access platforms, roofed sheep races (note: New Australian standard expected in late 2020)
- Chemical hazards; dedicated chemical storage sheds (AS2507), spill washdown and shower facilities, eye wash station etc.
- Upgrade of shearing, dairy or machinery shed electrics to install safety switches or improve power systems and lighting
- Emergency shut off switches for existing machinery and equipment
- Retrofit back brace hanging points in shearing sheds
- Reversing camera on farm tractors and vehicles
- Retrofit of seatbelts, seatbelt warning lights, deadman switches etc.
- Retrofit of guarding on machinery and plant where guards did not previously exist.

All funded projects must comply with Australian Standards (including installation) where required by regulation. Installations must comply with the manufacturer's instructions and use licensed tradesmen when required by legislation, council regulation or the manufacturer's instructions. This is the responsibility of the farm business and the Department is not liable in any way in relation to or in connection with the Eligible Project, other than as expressed in these Guidelines.

NB: This is just the tip of 11 pages of information about this Scheme which can be perused at leisure at

[Farm-Safety-Rebate-Guidelines.pdf](#)



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare presents a discussion on:

FORESTRY IN MURRINDINDI: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Featuring speakers Ken Deacon from the Rubicon Forest Protection Group and John Woodley from Taggerty Farm Forestry.

Ken Deacon has lived by the Rubicon Forest for over 35 years, providing a wealth of experience and knowledge of the forest and the logging industry. Ken will address the logging history of the Rubicon area and the implications of Victoria's logging industry demise. He will also outline a range of landcare issues such as weed control, soil erosion, water quality, conservation for threatened species, fire risks and revegetation practices in our Murrindindi forests.

John Woodley is a leading practitioner of silviculture with over 25 years experience in growing trees for timber. As we transition from logging our native forests in Victoria, what better time to plan plantation based timber supplies on the farm? John provides guidance on a variety of techniques for successful forest establishment and will provide some insights into the successes and pitfalls of growing trees for pleasure and profit.

Thursday 13th March, 2021 at 7:30pm

FAWCETT HALL 655 Spring Creek Rd, Fawcett

Entry is a gold coin donation

Supper provided by Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare

Please RSVP to Allison Spratt by March 16th

allison.spratt8@gmail.com 0466 038 779

Hanging Green Tomatoes Upside Down to Ripen

The whole plant, and nothing but the plant – a great way to ripen green tomatoes for future eatery – hang 'em up!

There comes a time in every Autumn when the tomato plants need to come out, & with them, all the tomatoes that aren't yet ripe. Maybe it's because the first frost is about to hit and melt your plants – that's never fun. Or maybe it's because (like us, this season) your growing space is limited and you're keen to get your Autumn/Winter vegetables in the ground so they can benefit from a warm soil temperature before everything cools down.

Either way, if your tomato plants need to come out, your options for your remaining tomatoes at this point are:

Pick them green and rock the Salsa Verde + pickle sessions for potentially quite some time

Pick them green and ripen them in a box / on a windowsill

Hang the whole plant up, and ripen them that way

When I first saw the 'hang the whole plant up' version of tomato ripening, I was a bit confused. But now...

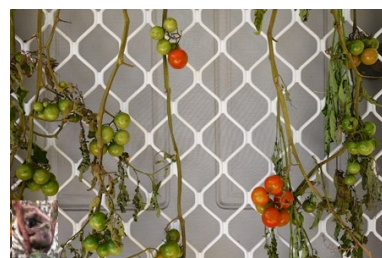
The theory with this technique is that a tomato plant, while alive, sends all its available energy to its fruit. And a pulled-out plant will continue to do that, for quite a while.

Which means more goodness in your green tomatoes, which will (I promise) ripen in due course with this technique.

The second reason for ripening green tomatoes this way is a practical one – to ripen, the tomatoes need good airflow to avoid going mouldy. And hanging them by their plant, somewhere outside but undercover, is actually a very convenient way to do that.

At our place, this tomato ripening business also allows me to address the ugliness of an un-needed extra back door. I've been trying to figure out what I can hang on this door that's useful. Thanks tomatoes!

by Kirsten Bradley (Milkwood)



You are invited to a viewing of

Recent Paintings

by

Dennis Spiteri

Exhibition runs from Sunday 11 April to Sunday 9 May.

Opening preview: Sunday 11 April from 2 – 5pm.

(Official opening at 3pm)

Please RSVP if attending the preview.

Telephone (03) 5796 9373

Email: dennispsiteri@activ8.net.au

Hillcrest Gallery 33 Old Highlands Road, Highlands, Victoria.

Opening times: 10am – 4pm daily for the duration of the exhibition.

A heads up for this annual treat in the HCCC area. Dennis Spiteri will once again be opening his impressive gallery, with its stunning view outside and even more amazing artwork inside, for 4 weeks this year.

RSVPs for the Opening Preview on Sunday 11th April are essential, see details above, attendance will assure you of a visual feast. Book in NOW!

Professor Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) - Nobel Laureate

Wangari Muta was born into an ordinary family in Nyeri, rural Kenya, in 1940. By the norms of the time she should have grown up to become an uneducated woman concerned only with the daily domestic duties that come with raising a family in African society. By a combination of good luck and hard work, on her behalf, she was able to rise above what society had intended for her and to be the catalyst responsible for the 51 million trees planted in Kenya since 1977.

Her life was a series of firsts - First woman to gain a PhD in East and Central Africa

First female chair of a department at the University of Nairobi

First African woman and first environmentalist to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (2004)

And it all started with a simple question. Her older brothers attended a rural school in the village where the family lived, when one day her eldest brother asked their mother why Wangari didn't go to school with them. To the eternal credit of her mother she decided then and there to send Wangari to school with her brothers, which was a highly unusual move to make in the 1940s, in Africa, for a girl. She applied herself to her studies and as a result was offered a place at the only Catholic High School in all of Kenya, where she boarded and continued to work hard at her studies, graduating top of her class. As a result of her diligence she was one of only 300 Kenyans selected to study at university in America, courtesy of the Joseph P. Kennedy Airlift Program in the early 1960s. After graduating with both Bachelor and Masters' Degrees she returned home to Kenya.



Having been in America when the Civil Rights Movement was just starting to emerge she discovered on her return to her native country that discrimination and sexism was alive and well when the job at the University of Nairobi that she had applied, and been accepted for, was suddenly no longer available when she presented herself on arrival. Not to be deterred she went on to gain a PhD in Veterinary Anatomy and commenced a life in academia.

It was while she was researching in the rural areas of Kenya that she noticed a major difference between the landscapes of her childhood and the ones she was seeing 20 years later. Her childhood memories were of a verdant green country side and forests with clear water in the rivers that was safe to drink, due to there being no cultivation along the waterways. The shock of rivers flowing brown with silt, as a result of deforestation and the ensuing environmental degradation made her realise that this was topsoil disappearing into the seas and lakes and that this erosion had to stop.

Her simple suggestion - "Maybe we could plant trees" was the start, in 1977, of not only the Green Belt Movement but also the empowering of poor rural women who were tasked with the job of planting these trees in a network of women across the country. For every tree that was planted and survived a financial incentive was given to the woman who planted it. The philosophy behind this Movement was - 'to promote environmental conservation to build climate resilience and empower communities, especially women and girls, to foster democratic space and sustainable livelihoods.'

"When we plant trees we plant the seeds of peace and hope." - Wangari Maathai

Whilst this movement gained a momentum of its own and assisted in lifting many women out of poverty in her own life, both professionally and personally, Wangari found herself subjected to the most appalling discrimination, either due to the fact she was a woman or the tribe that she belonged to. Married in 1969, after giving birth to her third child, her husband instigated divorce proceedings and complained that his wife was, "too strong minded for a woman and that he was unable to control her." In court he called her cruel and accused her of infidelity. The judge ruled in his favour. Wangari commenting that the judge was either incompetent and corrupt, was charged with contempt of court and found guilty. Originally sentenced to 6 months in prison, she served only a few days before being released.

This pattern of continually negotiating the roadblocks put in her way over the next 3 decades and being told she must conform to the African perception of womanhood must have been galling. Particularly when the President of Kenya, Daniel arap Moi told her, "...to be a proper African woman and respect men and be quiet." It is fortunate that her passion, motivation and actions have not only allowed rural women a chance to alleviate the poverty they live in, but also by the planting of 51 million trees topsoil has been retained, environmental degradation improved and rural communities empowered throughout her homeland.

The Nobel Committee was obviously impressed with her efforts as they awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize to Wangari Maathai with the words— "For her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."

'The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now.' - Chinese Proverb

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