



THE GRANITE NEWS

1ST MAY 2022

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 14

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Today, Sunday, the start of another month - the delightful month of May as we enjoy the last odd day or two of warmth, before winter sets in, and the last of the autumn leaves add vibrant warm colours to the increasingly grey and overcast days. With daylight saving a dim memory of a month ago it's time to break out the glühwein, borrow some excellent library books, stock up on wood for the fire (or turn up the temperature on the reverse-cycle) and settle in for those long winter nights. Bliss!

Of course there's still quite a few activities on offer, in our local communities, to get out and about and enjoy. So why not do that as well? Until the next issue of TGN ... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala ... was full size and applauding the BushBank initiative

HCCC News

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), conceived by the Right Honourable Frank Field MP, was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, in 2015.

The QCC is a unique network of forest conservation initiatives, which involves all 54 countries of the Commonwealth. The QCC presents a rare opportunity to unite the whole Commonwealth family and save one of the world's most important natural habitats – forests. By creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects, the QCC will mark Her Majesty The Queen's service to the Commonwealth while conserving indigenous forests for future generations.

And now.... The HCCC has been successful with its submission to this program and plans are afoot to plant an established tree at both Ruffy and Terip sometime this year. Future trees for the wider community will be ordered for next year.

Did anyone see this amazing piece of hardware cruising through the Kobyboyn area at the end of last week?

For those readers who have absolutely no idea what this behemoth does, turn to p.3 to find out more.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

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

“Dreams don't work unless you do.”

Owners sentiment on restoring the Methodist Church in Pinaroo

Let's laugh



Post Covid - Post Carbon

Did you know?

Since 2015 Australia has become the 3rd largest exporter of natural gas (Methane) after Qatar and that Methane is much more effective at trapping heat than CO₂? 84 x more.

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
April	107.8 mm	114 mm
2022 Total	229.7 mm	274 mm
April Rain Days	12 Days	12 Days

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

WHAT'S ON — May 2022 NB: COVID—double vaccinated will apply to all events

	Wednesday 4th May 7.30 for 8pm	STRATHBOGIE GRANITE PROJECT Geology of the Swanpool District & Strathbogies Ranges talk Enquires: Ian limeaster@bigpond.com	at Swanpool Memorial Hall, Swanpool
	Friday 6th May @ 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com	at Tablelands Community Centre
	Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th May 10-4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO A very unorganised Open Studio of artwork and sculptures each month. www.monkeytaildesign.com	Yea Butter Factory 13 Rattray St, Yea
	Monday 9th May @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2022 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 13th May @ 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. Contact Paula 0419 551882	at Highlands Community Hall
	Friday 20th May @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will commence at 7.00pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473	at Highlands Hall
	Sunday 22nd May @ 10am	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn something new. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366	at 94 Old Highlands Rd
	Sunday 22nd May 1-3.30pm	PEST & ANIMAL PLANT FORUM A number of experienced speakers on the control of deer, fox, rabbits, blackberries, cats & European wasps. See p.5 for more details.	at Yarck Hall
	Sunday 29th May @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235	meeting at Highlands Hall
	Every Thursday 6—7.30pm	YOUR SURYA YOGA CLASSES in 2022 Come along to Sandra's yoga classes in Highlands. Bookings essential via website www.yoursurya.com	at Highlands Community Hall
	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 in Highlands on May 4th & 18th and June 1st, 15th & 29th.	at Highlands Community Hall
	Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROA Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling and Psychotherapy. For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400	at Tablelands Community Centre

NB New Date!

THANK YOU !

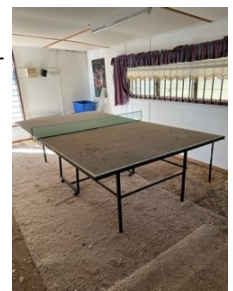
A big thanks to all that attended the escaped fire at Tarcombe on Easter Sunday. **Rob Hayes and family.**

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Reo has a full size table tennis table he would like to give away to anyone who would like it

Contact him on **0414 811916**

Don't forget you can buy and sell or give away for free via The Granite News. Thursday evening is the deadline for any ads to go in the following week's TGN.



Soilkee Renovator lands in Highlands

As part of the HCCC Soil Carbon Project, there was a demonstration of how the Soilkee Renovator works on Cam and Stephanie Stewart's property, Looking Glass, last week.

The Soilkee Renovator was used to plant seasonal crop and pasture seeds into an existing pasture, eliminating paddock downtime associated with pasture renovation. If you haven't heard about the Soilkee Renovator before, you can find more information at the following links and reading further below:

<https://soilkee.com.au/Videos/>

<https://www.nevinfarm.com.au/blank-page-2>

How does the Soilkee Renovator work?

- Minimum till disturbance in spaced apart rows by means of rotating blades create a competition free seed bed for successful germination, leaving around 80% of the pasture undisturbed.
- A diverse mix of seeds from clover seed to faba bean size can be applied from the seed box during operation with seeds dropping in the kee's.
- The undisturbed portion acts as a cover crop protecting the soil from the elements, reducing erosion and keeping around 80% of soil life habitat intact.
- Creating the seed bed the Soilkee Renovator provides additional benefits of aeration and a green manure crop within the worked up portion, providing aerobic conditions and a food source that activates the soil fungi, bacteria and earthworm populations and the natural soil processes they perform.

An addition to the Soilkee System is the Soilkee Mulcher that effectively utilises 'after grazing' stubble, an on farm resource intensifying the Soilkee Renovator effects.

The Soilkee Renovator-Mulcher Combo:

The Mulching action captures and incorporates the remaining plant saps present in the after grazing green stubble, before it evaporates into the atmosphere.

The plant sap, a valuable resource, would be lost if the remaining stubble was left standing, the plant sap can instead be fed to the soil biota and assist in the breaking down of the plant matter by being incorporated into the soil contributing to the topsoil building process.

The Mulching action is followed by the Soilkee Renovator where the pasture standing in the trench lines too are fed to the soil, mixed in with the mulched stubble into the freshly prepared seed beds nested in between rows of remaining pasture that acts as a cover crop. Creating the ideal environment for fungi, worms proliferate and begin depositing their worm castings, rich in beneficial soil biota and plant available minerals triggering the soil carbon building process for a fertile topsoil.

And some observations from Sandy McKenzie about this amazing machine...

I have seen this in operation with the inventors in Gippsland some years ago and also this ANZAC day at Terry Hubbard's, Strath Creek - a very interesting initiative.

It is a huge machine requiring a huge tractor and hence is an expensive operation and for good results may need a follow up in 6-12mths as some seed mixes include annuals

It works well on gentle slopes with only **very small underlying rocks** and it's best to have a good soil pH before starting and of course rain arriving afterwards!

So I do encourage those interested to 'go look see' and take your calculator!

Sandy McKenzie



Highlands Ramblers enjoy the views

Andrew Shaw led the Ramblers from the Highlands Community Hall last Sunday for the second of this year's walks. With picnic lunches and clear blue skies stunning views were seen from 'Looking Glass', then



walkers descended into Jenny & Rick Webb's property and the site of the old Homestead. Enjoyment and local history abound.

Next Ramble is 29th May @ 10am from Highlands Hall. Why not join this enthusiastic little group and discover more about the local neighbourhood?

Tablelands Community Centre Inc

COVID changes – we are finally open to all, no QR code/ check in or vaccination checks needed.

We are still required to run our COVID Safe plan so our cleaning schedule will still be taking place.

We just ask anyone that has colds, flu or any COVID symptoms to please stay at home until well.

New at the TCC – We now have a permanent outdoor Table Tennis Table for community use Table Tennis is a sport accessible to all. The health benefits include improving reflexes, easy on the joints, improves coordination, burns calories, improves balance, social outlet, stimulates various different parts of the brain as scientific evidence now shows the aerobic exercise from the physical activity of the game stimulates the part of the brain that is responsible for allowing us to form and retain long-term facts and events this is why it is used as a preventative treatment for dementia.

BYO bats and balls or if you would like to use ours contact by email tccruffy@gmail.com or call Fiona 0427 690 970.

First Friday BBQ – 6th May from 6pm

Join us for the first Friday community BBQ.

Sausages, bread and 'Ruffy Oysters' (BBQ dim sims) will be provided and we can cater for vegetarians with bookings.

A \$5 donation is now requested to cover costs of catering

BYO drinks, nibbles or salad Please RSVP for catering purposes by email to tccruffy@gmail.com or calling or texting Alex on 0430 530 319.

2022 Federal Election – Saturday 21st May

The Tablelands Community Centre is your polling place for the 2022 Federal Election. More information to come.

From the Twittersphere...

goulburnbrokencma @RecoveryAust and @RotaryAustralia Community Outreach Events are coming to Euroa on Monday 2 May.

These events bring together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional communities.

It is an excellent opportunity for farmers, families and rural communities to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available.

Come down to the Memorial Oval Function Room, Dunn Street on Monday 2 May between 2pm - 6pm and say hello.

#recovery #resilience #supportingcommunities #Ausgov #Euroa #Victoria #regionalaustalia #regionalcommunities

Did you know?

Celebration of mothers can be traced back to the Ancient Greeks and Romans.

Traditionally known as Mothering Sunday in the United Kingdom, over time the celebration has evolved into a more secular holiday with children showing their appreciation with flowers & gifts.

Don't Forget MOTHERS' DAY 8th May



Pest Plants & Animals Forum



Join the Home Creek – Spring Creek Landcare Group for a forum where experts will speak about their experience with effectively controlling pest plants and animals.

Presenters include:

- **Barry Pearce:** Pest animal controller- Member of SSAA and conservation pest management volunteer to Parks Victoria and local councils
- **Cameron Paterson:** Blackberry Action Group Project Officer and private weed control contractor
- **Chris Cobern:** Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Facilitator and Project Officer for the King Parrot Catchment Fox Control Project
- **Murrindindi Shire Council officer:** Weeds, pest animals and animal control

When: Sunday 22nd May

Time: 1.00PM - 3.30PM

Where: Yarck Hall Supper Room

6583 Maroondah Hwy, Yarck

Gold coin donation please

To register contact Grant Scale on Mobile: 0438 399 972 or Email: warrawee@virtual.net.au



Property Security -

Continued from last week....

Smart Door Bells.

Allows you to see who is at your door and can record video whether you are at home or away. Some units allow you to talk to the person. These generally work with an app on your mobile phone. These websites are just two, to give you some ideas, there are many others: www.arlo.com www.ring.com

GPS Trackers.

These are very good to install (in a concealed location) on important or major equipment. They can have an internal replaceable or rechargeable battery or be connected to the equipment's battery. They need a SIM card and there is an app for your mobile phone or computer. There is a range of brands & prices available.

Security Cameras:

There is a huge range of cameras and systems with a wide range of features and prices. Anything from \$100 to \$5000. Most of cheaper cameras have good functionality but limited distance in focus. The more expensive cameras have some pretty fancy features which are probably not required in most situations. But before we start talking about cameras and their features, there are some things to think about to help you determine what you need.

Things to think about before looking at Cameras/ Systems.

What do you want to protect with a camera?

- Property entrance, gates, driveway.
- House, the approach to the house, the exterior, interior rooms, Garage/ workshop/ sheds close to your house.
- Shearing- Machinery- Hay Sheds, Stock yards, Silo, etc. These are often further away from the house and possibly without power.

Question: If you have covered the property entrance with a Camera do you need/want to also cover the sheds, etc?

Where to position a camera(s) so it covers the area to be captured?

Walk around, may be look through a camera to see what is in view. Our eyes have a very wide field of view and distance range. It can be deceiving as our eyes see more than a camera might.

To be continued...

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



Seeking expressions of interest from Community or Not for Profit Groups

Theatre Chairs (vintage) - Seats are in banks of six. Must collect and transfer chairs from Euroa Community Cinema

Expressions close on 13 May 2022

* email procurement.strathbogie@eprocure.com.au

Don't Forget...

Neil Phillips will be speaking at

Swanpool Memorial Hall

Wednesday 4th May 2022

Time 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.

Neil says, "Compared to other presentations, this one will feature a little less of granite, and more on the Violet Town volcanics and geomorphic features of the broader Broken River valley, and a little on local gold." The evening is being sponsored by Swanpool Landcare and includes supper afterwards. To ensure you are well catered for, please contact me by email limeaster@bigpond.com if you will be attending.

Ian Herbert

on behalf of Swanpool Landcare



An EXCELLENT opportunity to advertise

TGN has 2 free advertising spaces on the back page now available at a pro-rata rate for the rest of 2022. For just \$187 you can either advertise your business or altruistically support this wonderful local news sheet. Contact editor@tgn.org.au for more details.

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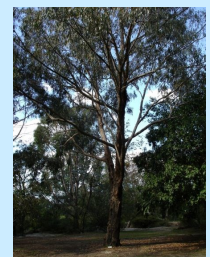
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