



THE GRANITE NEWS

8TH MAY 2022

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 15

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

An EXCELLENT opportunity to advertise...

TGN has 2 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.

Until the next issue of TGN ... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala ... was nestling in the bunch of Mothers' Day flowers

HCCC News

Exciting News!

The HCCC not only has a brand new website waiting to be explored

<https://www.hccclandcare.net.au>

BUT you can now also subscribe to the HCCC's new **YouTube** feed! The link can be found on the home page of the website.

While both these 21st Century technological tools are still a work in progress, as they will be added to as workshops happen, new techniques and information is shared, or events planned, they are an excellent source of up-to-date Landcare and environmental information, literally at one's fingertips.

The Granite News will be shortly created in a new format which means that it will also be available on the HCCC website, as well as continue to be sent out as a weekly email to all readers. Stay tuned.

In the meantime this handful of variegated little gems is the seed mix that was sown with the Soilkee last Friday.

The seed mix is the **Winter Super Mix** and includes triticale, forage oats, cereal rye, forage barley, annual ryegrass, arrow leaf clover, Persian clover, crimson clover, forage radish, purple top turnip, peas, vetch, lentils, beans and safflower.



It can be found at this link

www.Downundercovers.com/seeds-winter/

And is indicative of a new way of looking at restoring soil and its natural attributes. For further information about the Soilkee demonstration last week, see p.3.

Photo: Cam Stewart



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

<https://www.hccclandcare.net.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.

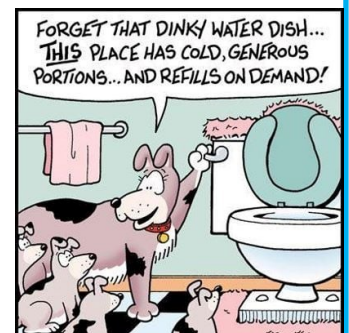
We certainly welcome feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in

The Granite News

"Soil is the base layer of our ecosystem...living soil is the most important habitat on the farm...the basis of the food chain."

James Rebanks—UK Fell farmer & author. See p.4 for more

Let's laugh



Post Covid - Post Carbon

Did you know?


Carbon is the sixth atom in the periodic table of the elements.

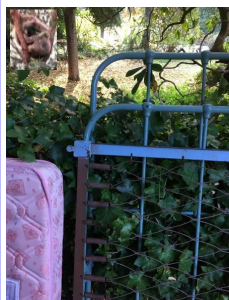
About 330 million years ago plants sucked out most of the CO₂ from the Earth's atmosphere (photosynthesis) and converted it to more plants. When these plants died this carbon was buried in the ground for millions of years until we discovered that it was the cheapest source of energy on the planet and started using it!

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

 <p>Monday 9th May @ 11am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</p>
 <p>Friday 13th May @ 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 style="text-align: right;">Contact Paula 0419 551882</p>
<p>Friday 20th May @ 6.45pm</p>	<p>MURRINDINDI FILM SOCIETY at Yea Council Chambers</p> <p>The award winning Australian film Shine will commence this year's film season. Enquiries? Jill 57972480</p>
<p>Friday 20th May @ 7pm</p>	<p>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Highlands Hall</p> <p>The next meeting will commence at 7.00pm. All welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473</p>
 <p>Sunday 22nd May @ 10am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> <p>Bring along your excess produce, buy local and lead.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd May 1-3.30pm</p>	<p>PEST & ANIMAL PLANT FORUM at Yarck Hall</p> <p>A number of experienced speakers on the control of deer, fox, rabbits, blackberries, cats & European wasps. See p.5 for more details.</p>
<p>Thursday 26th May @ 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>Sunday 29th May @ 10am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235</p>
 <p>Every Thursday 6—7.30pm</p>	<p>YOUR SURYA YOGA CLASSES in 2022 at Highlands Community Hall</p> <p>Come along to Sandra's yoga classes in Highlands. Bookings essential via website www.yoursurya.com</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??</p> <p style="color: red;">YAY! The Mobile Library will be in Highlands on May 18th and June 1st, 15th & 29th.</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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">For bookings or further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</p>



FOR SALE

Two single cast iron beds for sale with wooden slat bases.

Firm, clean mattresses included. \$50.00 each.

Call Margaret **0499 478884**
Highlands.



VALE - Colin Dowzer 29-11-35 ~ 7-5-22

Colin passed away peacefully while asleep in the early hours of last Saturday morning. Over the last six months he fought really hard to retain a life worth living. But in the end, he decided, in his own words that, he 'needed to rock and roll'. Celia, Jeremy and myself would like to thank everybody who kept Dad entertained during his long stays in hospital with phone calls, emails, video chats and visits, you 'fed' him and made his days joy-filled. Warmest, Virginia

Details for a celebration of Colin's life are to come.

Some data observations from the Soilkee Demo at Looking Glass by Sandy MacKenzie

- 3.5m wide, under good conditions 1.5-1.8 ha per hour
- If heavy mulching back to less eg: 1.0 ha per hour
- Channels about 750mm apart and shallow eg: 25-50mm deep
- Channels clear any vegetation and so allow competitor free area for seedlings
- Also create a water flow trap across the slope
- Doesn't create a "hard pan" as usually above the clay
- Doesn't like embedded rocks eg: above 150-200mm
- Machine costs \$80,000 and mulcher \$20,000 plus GST and tractor front end drive fitted for mulcher to allow one past operation. Tractor 180hp.
- Mulcher not used if grazed or mown down
- **Cost** if both Soilkee and mulcher used \$250 per ha plus seed mix eg legumes (inoculated clovers, beans), cereals, annuals and perennials and natives eg microlaena (weeping grass)
Didn't ask re travel costs from Huon between Wodonga and Tallangatta nor minimum job area required
- Response very much determined by soil pH and follow up rain for germination
- Some people do both a winter and summer mix - twice per year
- Conclusion - a very interesting initiative for pretty specialised conditions eg soil fertility and structure, rainfall reliability and requires good grazing management eg rest and recovery periods and budget!



The rotary hoed channel about 100mm wide



Operating on a good clean paddock at Looking Glass



The alternative of a disc seeder leaves a closed slice but allows for more competition

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



To celebrate National Volunteer Week (16 - 22 May), say 'thank you' to hard-working volunteers in your local area by writing a personalised message on Council's online 'Thank You Wall' on The Loop at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/thankyou

Messages, stories, images and videos can be posted on our online wall. Messages can also be written with pen and paper and dropped-in at one of Council's Library and Customer Service Centres, where it will be added to the online wall.

And if you're interested in volunteering, check out our list of local groups and organisations who are looking for volunteers on The Loop. Council is also hosting pop-ups in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea, where you can learn more about becoming a volunteer.

Drop in for a chat on the following dates and grab a free 'Thank you Volunteers' calico bag.

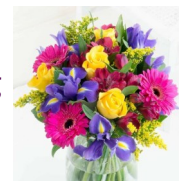
- Yea Foodworks – Tuesday 17 May from 3.00 - 5.00 pm
- Kinglake Foodworks - Thursday 19 May from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
- Alexandra Foodworks - Saturday 21 May from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

For more information, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/thankyou or give us a call on 5772 0333.

**For all those amazing
volunteers in all our
communities**

Thank you!

Volunteers are the hidden strength of our local communities no matter which jobs they undertake. Without them our lives would be the poorer & our communities less vibrant. Why not consider volunteering in YOUR local area?



How Do You Vote?

We are about to face an important election. Important because of the climate emergency and the serious issues of government integrity and competence. We also face crises in health, education, aged care, the NDIS and broader equality issues. Neither can we shut our eyes to what is happening on the world stage.

So how do we go about voting? What matters do we take into consideration? How critically do we listen to politicians and the media?

There is much talk about the rise of independents and the so called 'problem' of hung parliaments. I am suspicious of those who raise such concerns. For most of the last 50 years we have had hung parliaments. It was only the Labor governments of Whitlam, Hawke and Keating that governed in their own right and even they had problems with Senate. The Liberal governments have only governed with help of the National Party. What's the fuss? It sounds like a scare campaign against the independents.

This election demands a deeper examination not only of policies, but also of the visions that are (or not being) presented. Do we vote the way we have always voted or do we recalibrate how we vote? To habitually vote for the same party we have always voted for regardless of policies, is hardly rational. To vote simply because we personally will gain financially is not only problematic, but rather narrow minded and ignores the overall national interest.

We have the best electoral system in the world, something to be proud of. The cynicism behind those who choose not to vote or vote informally helps no one. Voting is a privilege and a responsibility. Let's challenge our old prejudices and habits and carefully think before we tick those boxes.

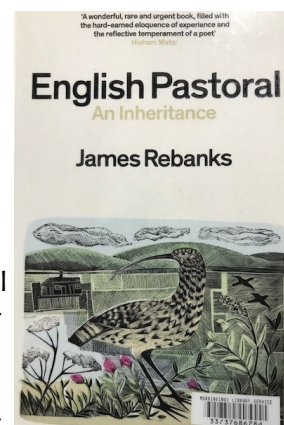
Stuart A Reid - Highlands

BOOK REVIEW

English Pastoral—James Rebanks

Although this book is set in the beautiful fell area of Matterdale in the Lake District, UK the observations of past, present and future ways of farming are deftly described and provide plenty of food for thought about directions for the next generation of land stewards. The book is divided into 3 sections Nostalgia, Progress, Utopia and won the 2021 Wainwright Prize for nature writing. A brief taste of this excellent book - "We have not used artificial fertiliser on our farm for more than 5 years and rely solely on healthy soils and sunlight. We are changing our farm in lots of little ways, creating new habitats by our becks, restoring bogs and grazing pastures in ways that will encourage a wider array of flowers, restoring meadows by bringing back seeds and plants of species we lost in the past century, and planting more woodland and hedgerows. I have come to care about half-invisible but vital things that we never thought about in my childhood like moths, worms, dung beetles, bats, flies and the wriggling life beneath the rocks in our streams."

This book has universal applications and can be sourced at your local library or bookshop.



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



Wildlife Spotting in Tallarook Sate Forest

Our wildlife spotting night walks in Tallarook Forest continue in May, and we'd love you to come along. On the last two survey outings we saw another nine Greater Gliders, one of whom actually glided as we watched - a rare and magical sight!

Together we're making a huge difference, documenting the precious wildlife in our local forest and protecting it from logging. And it's such a unique and wonderful experience being in the forest, up close to natural wonders right here in our backyard.

Here are the upcoming dates - RSVP now to register:

Saturday 14 May, 7.30pm

Saturday 21 May, 7.30pm

RSVP now

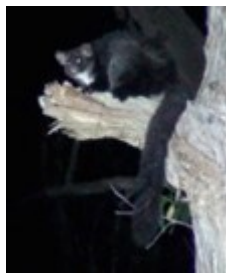
We will again be looking for endangered Greater Gliders in the Tallarook State Forest, meeting at 7.30pm on the corner of Main Rd and Landscape Rd (Main Rd is the extension of Ennis Rd).

After dusk we will spotlight for the Gliders in unlogged areas. Finding Gliders there will help prevent the logging.

Please bring a torch, snacks for yourself and a water bottle, and a comfortable set of walking shoes.

Please RSVP so that we are able to keep you up to date with any last minute changes. See you there!

Any questions? Contact Paul at tallarookforest@gmail.com



Property Security—some thoughts

Things to consider when looking at Cameras/ Systems

* **What distance from the camera(s) do you need to captured and be in focus?**

The distance covered varies greatly between cameras. Camera with ZOOM can cover much longer distances, but too great a distance may pick up unwanted movement like road traffic.

* **What sort of images do you need the camera to capture?**

Some types of cameras just capture a series of still photos as something moves past the camera and may be a short video. Other types will capture a longer video.

* **When do you want the camera to capture images?**

Most commonly only when movement is detected. Other considerations are: Scheduled time recording (may be if you work away from home), Continuous 24hr/7days a week, or may be you want to manually turn on and off the recording.

* **Storage of Images.**

When the camera is triggered to capture images we normally want to record it, so we can look at the photos/ video either live in real-time or later on. This recording can be to:

- a memory card in the camera,
- to a separate video drive in a shed or your house, (normally hard wired or via WIFI (Independent WIFI built in to the camera unit or your house WIFI)
- to your computer (via internet or independent WIFI),
- to your mobile phone (via mobile SIM card connection, 3G or 4G. Check if this is limited to certain providers)
- to "the cloud" (via Internet connection).

* **When do you want to be notified of activity?**

Many cameras can send a notification to you that the camera has detected movement. So, when movement is detected by the camera do you want to be notified? and if so by which means. This is normally to an app on your mobile phone or computer, OR via email or both. This notification can be to one or multiple phones or email addresses.

* **What do you want to be able to do in case of a notification?**

The options available are to: Watch live video from the camera, listen to live audio, talk back live, have lights and/or sirens come on. You can also watch the recorded video later and possible provide it to police.

* **Power Source for Cameras.** This can be internal batteries (replace or recharge when required). Solar Panel & internal battery or Solar Panel and external battery or hard wired to 240V if available. Remember if the 240v power is off, then hard wired cameras, video storage devices and home internet connections do not work.

HABBIES HOWE BEEF

MATURE, WELL HUNG &
AVAILABLE
IGA SEYMOUR
GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN
MARKET
L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH

SCOTCH AND FILLET
ST HELENA, MENTONE &
MERNDA



General earthworks & hole boring
Shed design, construction & removal
Metal fabrication & welding
Crane truck hire

Callum - 0437 182 223
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com

Chris Sharman

Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy
Specialist

Acme – Air Conditioning |

Electrical | Solar

M: 0418 551 301

T: Office - 9785 7339

E: chris@acmeair.com.au



CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS

Established 1978

NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS,
RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL
ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.
Registered Building Practitioner

Call Colin for a quote
Telephone: 0419 502 782

The Pond Professor



Peter Graf

DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS

- Pond Cleaning
- Filtration Systems
- Fountains and Waterfalls
- Aquatic plants and fish
- Algae control
- Water testing
- Design and construction
- Consulting services

Phone: 0429 969 243

Email: info@pondprofessor.com

<http://www.pondprofessor.com.au>



SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL

Supplying everything you need

Products & Expertise in

- Animal Production
- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling



PH: (03) 5792 1088

HELPING YOU GROW

Brought to you by a
Yellow Footed Antechinus,
living on a roadside near you.



Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen

BenCo PLUMBING SERVICES

Ben Laycock
License no. 105134

0438512299

bencoplumbingservices.com
ben@bencoplumbingservices.com

Advertising space
available

If interested

contact Editor

editor@tgn.org.au

KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE



DAMS
EARTHWORKS
STOCK+WATER CARTAGE
& MORE

0429 804 235
MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM

RURAL FENCING SERVICES JARRAD

0409 082 257



Murrindindi
Shire Council

Cr John Walsh

Koriella Ward

Murrindindi Shire Council

walsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

0437 835 586

Tablelands Community Centre

Upgraded facilities &
playground

Ideal for Private or Community
gatherings

Meetings, Workshops

Very reasonable rates

Hosts 1st Friday BBQs

Contact tccruffy@gmail.com

Ph 0404 833 388



For All your Aerial Spraying or
Spreading Needs. Specialising in
Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles,
Spreading lime/fertilizer & More

Call 0484108854

48 Magills Lane

Maindample 3723



Donated by supporters of our
local koala population



Donation from Supporters of the SPOTTED PARDALOTE



www.yoursurya.com

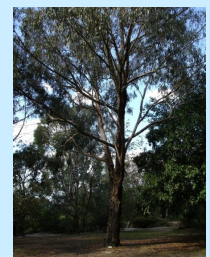
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Meeting Room and/or Hall
available for hire

MEETINGS
FUNCTIONS
WORKSHOPS
PARTIES
WEDDINGS

Reasonable rates
Contact Paula Lade
0419 551 882

Donated by friends of the
Long Leafed Box Trees



Echidnas

take care of their habitat



Advertising space
available

If interested

contact Editor

editor@tgn.org.au

Need a website?
bluetopbiz.com.au
Affordable web design &
maintenance. Presentations,
marketing copy.
Grant applications,
project management.
Call

Sue 0411 010 379
Neil 0417 503 472

Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au



Strathbogie Granite
Project

neil.phillips@bigpond.com