



THE GRANITE NEWS

22ND MAY 2022

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 17

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well the latest Federal election, that seems to have been with us forever, is almost all over bar the swearing in - except for the minor detail of something like 15 seats still in doubt, some of which might not be decided until the final count of the postal votes is completed. What is a little more certain is that Australia will have a new Prime Minister - Anthony Albanese and a very interesting cross bench in both houses of parliament.

The electorates that cover the HCCC area have returned the following Members of Parliament - **Indi** - Helen Haines (Independent) currently on 58.7% with a 7.3% swing in her favour and **Nicholls** - Sam Birrell (Nationals) currently on 54.6% with a swing against his party of 15.5%. We live in interesting times.

TGN now has just one last advertising space on the back page 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.

Nomad Art in Avenel has become the latest local business to advertise in TGN and further information about this newest TGN Supporter is on p.4. Until the next issue of TGN ... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala ... was keeping the feral dead rabbits company on p.5



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**

"No-one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others."

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)
British Prime Minister

HCCC News

FUNGI WORKSHOP



Fungi expert, Alison Pouliot is coming to Seymour to present a workshop on **11 June 2022**. It includes a 1 hour interactive session around specimen display where participants will learn the basics of fungus identification, fungal ecology & the cultural history of fungi. Fungi specimens from the local area will be

displayed, discussed and examined. The edibility and toxicity of fungi will also be discussed along with the characteristics used to identify fungi in the field & to understand their ecological significance in local ecosystems. Following the indoor session will be an outdoor foray through local habitat types to search for specimens of interest. Participants will also learn to recognise the various diagnostic attributes.

Venue: Mitchell Shire Meeting Room at Chittick Park Seymour

Date: Saturday 11th June at 10.30 am

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Numbers limited to 20 places TEXT 0458 904268 or email hughescreek2@gmail.com

Contacts Janet Hagen or Lesley Dalziel - Whiteheads Creek Landcare

Alison recently published a book called "Wild Mushrooming" & featured in a segment on Gardening Australia a few months ago. We are really lucky to have this engaging presenter visiting us in Seymour. This 3.5 hour workshop with both theoretical & practical components will introduce participants to the diversity, ecology and curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi

specific to the fungi found around Seymour & surrounds but also within the wider Australian context.



Let's
laugh

Are you sure you know how to upload the files to the cloud?








Website of the Week

www.smithsonianmag.com

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC is a cornucopia of anything and everything from the natural world. Click on the link & search for some 'jaw-dropping photos' from the collection.

Community Notices

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

Thursday 26th May @ 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
Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th May 9-5 & 10-4	THE UFO (UnFinished Objects) CRAFT WEEKEND IS BACK at Highlands Hall Anyone who has a craft project they would like to create, continue or complete is welcome to attend this fun and productive weekend. Cost—\$45 per day. Enquires: Pauline 0408 246308
 Sunday 29th May @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235
Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO Yea Butter Factory 13 Rattray St, Yea A unique studio experience at the historic Yea Butter Factory. www.monkeytaildesign.com
Sunday 5th June @ 1.30pm	WHITEHEADS CREEK BIOBLITZ at Chittick Place, Pollard St, Seymour Geoff Williams of the Australian Platypus Conservancy will share his knowledge of this amazing monotreme. For bookings 0428 339 989 or janethhagen@gmail.com
 Friday 10th June @ 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. Contact Paula 0419 551882
Friday 10th—Monday 13th June	ANNUAL ROVER SCOUT MUDBASH 2022 at Mafeking Rover Park, Caveat After a 2 year hiatus, Mudbash returns to Caveat. If you haven't experienced this Scout extravaganza, why not swing past and check it out. Sunday is Open Day for the public.
 Saturday 11th June @ 10am	WHITEHEADS CREEK BIOBLITZ at Chittick Place, Pollard St, Seymour Alison Pouliot is an expert on fungi and will enthuse all who attend this fascinating presentation. For bookings 0428 339 989 or janethhagen@gmail.com
 Monday 13th June @ 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
 Every Thursday 6—7.30pm	YOUR SURYA YOGA CLASSES in 2022 at Highlands Community Hall Come along to Sandra's yoga classes in Highlands. Bookings essential via website www.yoursurya.com
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 in Highlands on June 1st, 15th & 29th and July 13th & 27th.
Every Monday @ 10 am	ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE at Tablelands Community Centre Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, Counselling & more. For further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400

In recess till August

After an hiatus of 2 years... it's back - MUDBASH @ Mafeking Park!!

The Queen's Birthday weekend will be here before we know it and volunteers are sought to assist with the Highlands-Caveat RFB's fundraising efforts on that weekend. Community members are most welcome to help out rattling a bucket at the following times, many thanks

Friday 10th June	3 - 6pm OR 6 - 8.30pm OR 8.30 - 11pm
Saturday 11th June	from 9am - noon
Sunday 12th June	from 9am - noon

For further information ring Pauline - 0408 246308.



Hughes creek biosecurity Project – Focus on pest animals

Although rabbits are reported to be low, after 2 wet years, breeding conditions are right for a rapid population growth.

Next spring could see rabbits becoming a problem and in anticipation the HCCC are looking to start a new project to control rabbits before they become a major problem. The Landcare group cannot do this without community and landowner support, so we are looking for volunteer landowners to be part of this work.

The project will run for about 12 months

Phase 1 Planning – June to August

Phase 2 Monitoring - September to November

Observations

Spotlight counts supported by Camera monitoring

Mapping warrens and condition

Phase 3 Evaluation of the problem – December to February

Development of an action plan

Ripping warrens

Fumigation

Imploding warrens

Phase 4 Nonbreeding season late summer early autumn

Activate agreed action.

Phase 5 Review of the project and report



Phase 1

Volunteer landowners will be asked to monitor the rabbit population (and other pest animals). To ensure that outcome is valid, volunteers will be given information on how to conduct the evaluation, this ensures that everyone is conducting the monitoring in the same way and the information gained is consistent with best practice guidelines. An information session will also be organised to help with this.

The monitoring techniques that will be used

Observations – sighting and signs of rabbits

Dung counts

Spot lighting

Warren monitoring

Cameras

Details on these techniques can be found on the VRAN web site <https://vran.com.au/>, there will be links on the HCCC web site <https://www.hccclandcare.net.au/>

A Date for your Diaries...

Ruffy Xmas Dinner in July

Saturday 30th July

Join us in the Ruffy Hall for a magnificent home cooked Xmas dinner.

All proceeds to the Ruffy Hall Restoration Project.

Bookings essential

Bill 5790 4264,

Henry 5790 4246



If you are unable to get to St Kilda and would like to attend Colin's Memorial Service via live streaming please contact

Virginia

virginia@virginiadowzer.com

COLIN JAMES DOWZER

29.11.35 – 07.05.22

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE A LIFE WELL LIVED

THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022

2:00PM

THE GEORGE BALLROOM

LEVEL ONE

127-129 FITZROY ST

ST. KILDA

RSVP – virginia@virginiadowzer.com

Nomad Art Gallery - now in Avenel

After 15 years as an innovative art gallery in Darwin - Nomad Art Collections has now opened its doors in Avenel. Nomad Art specialise in limited edition prints and textiles from remote Australian art centres.

The gallery represents First Nations artists from around 30 Aboriginal Art Centres from regional and remote Australia, including the Kimberly Ranges, central and western deserts, Tiwi Islands, Top End & Arnhem Land.

Nomad Art operates as an online gallery, and is also open by appointment in Avenel for individuals or small groups who wish to view the collection or purchase high quality limited edition Australian art.

A recent innovation for Nomad Art is the establishment of a studio workshop in Avenel, where Directors, Angus and Rose Cameron, host visiting artists and facilitate art workshops.

Through Nomad Art Angus and Rose hope to raise awareness of cross-cultural conversations and promote appreciation and reconciliation. In doing so, they also acknowledge the Taungurung people and members of the Kulin Nation and have great respect for their continuing culture, country and heritage. They plan to present small exhibitions at their Avenel studio while continuing to operate online and by appointment.



Nomad Art will present an Art Seminar on Aboriginal Art featuring two 40-minute presentations on Tiwi Art and The Art of Western Arnhem Land. The event will be held at **1 Kibble Lane Avenel on Saturday 28 May, cost \$25 including refreshments.** Bookings are essential 0428 308 793, or gallery@nomadart.com.au

Prominent Australian artist John Wolseley will present a painting demonstration at Nomad Art 2 July. For bookings and enquiries: gallery@nomadart.com.au Info: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au
Nomad Art is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Community talks about Climate Change

2030 Yea Community Energy & Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre won a Victorian Government DELWP Community Mini grant to offer three community presentations at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre promoting community awareness and adaptation to climate change.

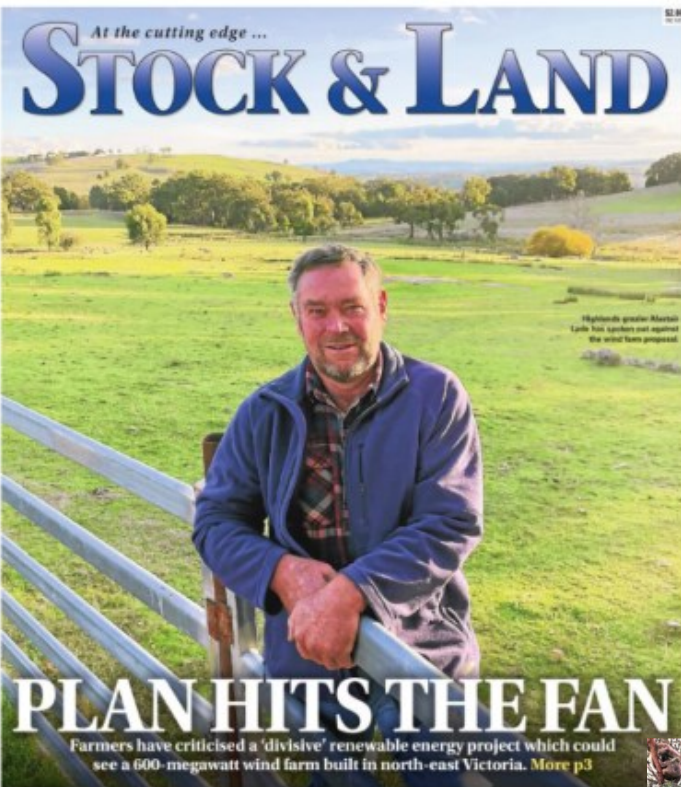


On **Friday May 27** Glen Morris and Lucinda Flynn will present the third and final talk –

Energy Efficient and Sustainable Communities.

Glen Morris is the General Director of Smart Energy Lab, Solarquip, and Solaris and road tests much of Australia's renewable hardware. Glen told us this week that he won his first electric car in 1970 in Wellington NZ where he tried convincing his parents he could drive it to school! He will be joined by Lucinda Flynn who runs *Going Green Solutions*. Lucinda has worked in the sustainability and energy efficiency industry for more than 10 years. She will talk about all the things people anywhere can do to make their homes more energy efficient and sustainable, no matter their budget. Both Lucinda and Glen are keen to have us consider: "What's the easiest behaviour change that will reduce the cost of electricity and tackle the challenge of climate change?" (Glen) and "What are some of the ways we can rethink the way we do things in our everyday lives to reduce our contribution to climate change?" (Lucinda)

Join in at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre as well as online, 6pm for drinks and nibbles with the talks from 6.30 - 8pm. Bookings are now open for the third and last presentation by Glen Morris and Lucinda Flynn at www.trybooking.com/BXPOT. For more information call 5797 2663.



NEWS: RIVERSIDE BATTLEGROUND: P5

Wind farm controversy

Details revealed over a renewables project

BYCE EISHOLD
Lead & Land

CONFIDENTIAL discussions about a plan to construct Victoria's largest wind farm with turbines greater than 200 metres tall are infuriating some farmers who have labelled the project "divisive" and "sectarian".

Stock & Land can reveal a 600-megawatt wind farm could be built in the region between Septimus, Bully and Eramba, with construction to start as soon as 2025.

Leaked documents show that the controversial project could include the construction of up to 88 eight-MW, 300-metre turbines throughout the Strathbogie Shire Council.

In comparison, the height of the light towers at the MCG are 75 metres.

Farmers who oppose the project, who have spoken on the condition of anonymity, say the broader community has been kept in the dark about the plan as the company leading the project attempts to secure support from certain landowners.

Highlands' woodgrower and beef farmer Alan Laidlaw, whose 3000-hectare property is 650 metres above sea level, said he was frustrated by the lack of information about the project.

"I know they're very posh, they won't give any information out to the general public or community and they're really trying to get some of the landholders who have shown interest signed up in the next three weeks," Mr Laidlaw said.

"They're saying they're going to be the tallest wind towers in Victoria at something like 250 metres high."

This week the Australian Electricity Market Operator confirmed a plan to construct a 600MW wind farm near Septimus had been publicly announced.

Indian-based Fabbrica Energy Renewable Alternatives (FERA) are behind the project and have recently approached landowners in the area to host wind turbines.

A second company, Tilt Renewables, also has plans to establish a similar wind farm in the region.

Mr Laidlaw said he had not been approached to host turbines, but should the project go ahead, several turbines would be located on neighbouring properties.

"The company behind this project is not very transparent," he said.

"The general community cannot get any information from the company about it."

"The people that are getting wind towers on their farms get substantial rates from each of the towers but essentially also, such as adjoining landowners, get none."

Stock & Land understands landowners who host a single turbine are being offered more than \$3500/MW a year.

The leaked documents, which detail a timeline for the project, reveal the FERA aims to finalize landowner contracts by the end of 2022.



UP IN ARMS: Fourth-generation Merino woodgrower and beef farmer Alan Laidlaw, Highlands, says there is limited information about the controversial wind farm project.

before it determines a grid connection route in 2023, which is currently unknown.

Construction would take place in 2025-26.

FERA Australia is also the proponent of Tarnant-based 20-MW Trilobite Wind Farm, 40 kilometres north-east of Hobart.

Highlands Creek woodgrower and beef farmer Gail Jenkins said she was first approached by the proponents of the wind farm about three years ago about the prospect of hosting a number of turbines.

Mrs Jenkins is one of the owners of the prominent property, Purple River, a 2000-hectare property, which has been in her family for 90 years.

"We were approached by both companies whether we would consider having them and we've said no we won't," she said.

"I think it would be a destruction of a very beautiful area."

She owns the property with her two sisters and their niece and nephew and said she opposed the plan from an aesthetic point of view.

She also voiced concerns about the effects the turbines would have on firefighting.

"I am very much afraid that it will become very much divisive," she said.

"I also have a feeling the community does not know a lot about this project at this stage."

"Each span of these turbines is about 47 metres so if you had a helicopter come in to try and water bomb, I think those wind turbines would be a hazard."

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning oversees the planning stage of renewable energy projects and said it had not yet received an application for a wind farm at the locality.

Gustine Institute energy program director Tony Wood said the project in north-east

Victoria would be among the largest in the state should it get the go-ahead.

"Eight megawatts is shown is probably about as big as they are so far and that's probably the biggest I've heard of them," Mr Wood said.

"People are talking about building off-shore wind farms which are up to 100MW or more but they're in a very different situation so I don't think there would be any other turbines in Victoria at the moment that would be as big as these."

"That's a pretty big piece of infrastructure, and it's a pretty substantial change to the environment."

He said robust community engagement from the early stages of a renewable energy project was essential for its eventual success.

"I don't think divide and conquer is a very good strategy. I'm not suggesting this company is doing that. But I think a better approach is to

address the overall community," he said.

"There's been times where these sorts of projects have split communities because some people are getting a significant amount of money and don't mind having a wind turbine on their property and other people are not getting money and do mind, or some combination of both."

He said a major hurdle for the project would be how to tap into the electricity grid.

"The wind farms will have to be connected to the transmission system at some point and that will require a transmission line and an easement which will be part of the planning process," he said.

"Depending on where that is, it will obviously involve community or environmental issues to be resolved."

FERA and Tilt Renewables were both contacted for comment but failed to respond by deadline.

EUROA ARBORETUM

Have you placed an order for plant stock with the Euroa Arboretum? If so now is the time to pick them up. Or contact the Arboretum for any availability at retail prices.

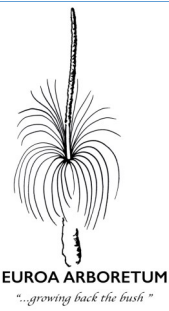
The nursery has had a good growing season and this makes it even more important to get your ordered plants into the ground to establish a good, deep root system before Spring.

If you intended to pick up in the months ahead, it's fine to call and pickup now. Call Vikki to organise so that the nursery staff can pull out your order for collection. With the rain we're having - there's no better time!

Organise your order collection - Call Vikki on 0429 127 399

Nursery Hours
Monday 12pm - 4pm
Thursday 12pm-4pm
EFTPOS available

Retail Plant Prices
Tube = \$4-00
75 mm = \$5.00
100mm = \$7.00
180mm = \$15.00



Petition anyone?

The Strathbogie Forest is at a turning point. In 2019 the Victorian government recognized the significant natural values of the forest, ceased all native forest logging, created an Immediate Protection Area and committed to creating a 'conservation reserve' across the entire 24,000 ha IPA.

Whilst nature conservation is a priority for the forest, and we must make sure it remains as such, empowering Traditional Owners (Taungurung) to heal country pursue self determination is no less important.

Click on this link for the Change page - <https://chnng.it/QjffzKZWTq>

The above article from Stock and Land 19th May was sent in by a TGN reader so that other readers can acquaint themselves with the windfarm proposal that is mooted for a part of the HCCC area. Unfortunately the clarity/legibility of the article might vary for some readers so maybe source a hard copy from your local newsagent.

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