



THE GRANITE NEWS

29TH MAY 2022

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 18

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

As was to be expected the article in last week's TGN that featured the Stock and Land story about a proposed wind farm generated some email traffic. For those of you who were unable to read the actual content avid TGN reader Cookie has supplied me with the article's content in a more legible format - see p.4 &5.

Another reader, Tim, was so intrigued by the article that he contacted both the Strathbogie and Murrindindi Shires and the Strathbogie Mayor's reply to the issues he raised can be read on p.5. Apparently the comments from Murrindindi's mayor were similar.

And on p.3 retired architect, John, has offered up well-known Melbourne buildings and local landmarks for comparison with the height of the proposed wind turbine towers. All in all a rather comprehensive response. Until the next issue of TGN ... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala ... was on p.1 of the Stock and Land article



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

"If people are genuine refugees there is no deterrent we can create which is going to be severe enough, cruel enough, nasty enough to stop them fleeing from the terror from which they flee in their own lands."

Malcolm Fraser (1930-2015)

Let's laugh



Did you know?

Archimedes (287BC -212BC)

was a Greek mathematician, physicist, astronomer, engineer & inventor who was so involved with his own problem solving that he foolishly asked an invading Roman soldier to get out of the light and got himself killed!

Thank-you Cherry Tree Wind Farm

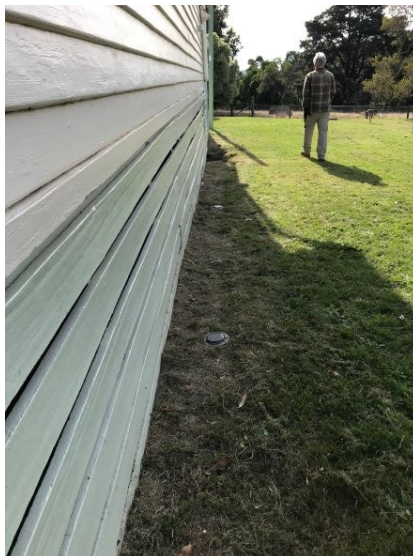
The Highlands Community and Hall Committee would like to thank the **Cherry Tree Wind Farm**, Community Benefit Fund, for their contribution of \$5,000.

The Committee has arranged to install a long term 'Peace of Mind' termite management plan. This will boost and guarantee the longevity of our Heritage School House and Community Hub.

Our Hall is a treasured focal point for communications & fun for us Highlanders.

We thank again the owners of **Cherry Tree Wind Farm**, Atmos Renewables and managers, RES Group.

Robyn Lingard (Hall Committee)



Community Notices

WHAT'S ON — June 2022

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events

 <p>Monday 6th June @ 11am</p> <p>NB New Date!</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 10th June @ 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 10th—Monday 13th June</p>	<p>ANNUAL ROVER SCOUT MUDBASH 2022 at Mafeking Rover Park, Caveat</p> <p>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.</p>
 <p>Saturday 11th June @ 10am</p>	<p>WHITEHEADS CREEK BIOBLITZ at Chittick Place, Pollard St, Seymour</p> <p>Alison Pouliot is an expert on fungi and will enthuse all who attend this fascinating presentation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">For bookings 0428 339 989 or janethhagen@gmail.com</p>
<p>Thursday 16th June @ 7pm</p>	<p>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Venue TBA</p> <p>The next meeting will commence at 7pm. All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473</p>
 <p>Saturday 18th June @ 12 -2pm</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd</p> <p>Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
 <p>Sunday 26th June @ 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>Thursday 30th June @ 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>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?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be in Highlands on June 1st, 15th & 29th and July 13th & 27th.</p>
<p>Every Monday @ 10 am</p>	<p>ONE TO ONE WELL-BEING CENTRE EUROPE at Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Qigong classes, Shiatsu Massage, C...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">In recess till August</p> <p style="text-align: right;">For further info contact Vivien 5795 3349 or 0405 612400</p>

Regenerative Farming anyone?

Are you interested in regenerating your farm or 50 acre bush block? Next week's TGN will assist you with this.

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.



Letter to the Editor—Southern Strathbogies proposed wind turbines

Dear Editor

In discussing the recent article in Stock and Land, and republished in the Granite News, with some members of the local community, I realised there's a misunderstanding of the proposed wind turbine heights. For example, figures such as 5 to 10 storeys high were cited for the height of the proposed 200 to 250 metre towers.

As an architect and urban designer, I spent much of my career defining building heights for parts of inner Melbourne and the visual impact of numerous major developments. I have also undertaken landscape character assessments of the Murrindindi Shire for the Department of Planning.

To help me comprehend the scale of these proposals, and to aid the discussion within the community, I have documented the heights of several well-known Melbourne and local landmarks.

Arts Centre Tower - height 162 metres. Source Wikipedia

Eureka tower, 297.3 metres, 91 floors, highest building in Melbourne till 2019. (47 metres or approximately 11 floors higher than proposed turbines). Source Wikipedia.

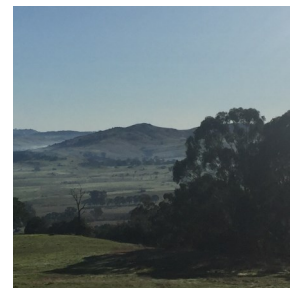
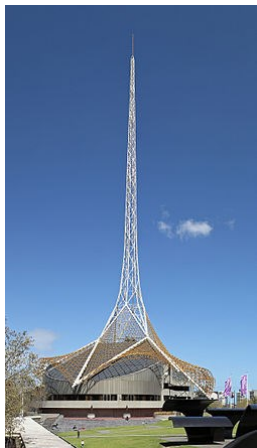
Cherry Range wind turbines 91 metres. Source Renew Economy, Wikipedia.

Mount Helen - Stewart's Creek valley floor to peak 168 metres. Source Geoview.info, Vicmap Dropmore 7923 1:25000 series.

The Peak - 160 metres above Hughes Creek valley floor source autopographic.map.com, CFA Region 12 MAPS 1992

I hope this helps the community understand the scale of this development.

John Curtis



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



What did you do on the weekend?

32 enthusiastic ladies worked on UFO (UnFinished Objects) craft projects at the Highlands Hall over both days.

This was the 16th year for this event, and after Covid postponed the last 2 years it was a weekend of fun and friendship for all!



Details revealed over a renewables project

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 "secretive". Stock & Land can reveal a 600-megawatt wind farm could be built in the region between Seymour, Ruffy and Euroa, with construction to start as soon as 2025. Leaked documents show that the controversial project could include the construction of up to 80 eight-MW, 200-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 sure up support from certain landowners. Highlands woolgrower and beef farmer Alistair Lade, whose 1000-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 pushy, 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 Lade 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 Seymour had been publicly announced. Italian-based Fabbrica Energie Rinnovabili Alternative (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 Lade 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 farm get substantial rent from each of the towers, but everybody else, such as adjoining landowners, get zero."

Stock & Land understands landowners who host a single turbine are being offered more than \$3500/MW installed, or 2 per cent of the project's revenue a year as remuneration, with some single-turbine agreements worth more than \$35,000 a year. The leaked documents, which detail a timeline for the project, reveal the FERA aims to finalise landowner contracts by the end of 2022 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 Tasmanian-based 30-MW Triabunna Wind Farm, 90 kilometres north-east of Hobart.

Hughes Creek woolgrower 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 Bungle Boori, a 2430-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 desecration 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 raised 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 87 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. Grattan 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 green light. "Eight megawatts on-shore 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 10MW 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."

Continued on p.5

After seeing the Stock and Land article in last week's TGN, Tim was prompted to write a letter to the Shire of Strathbogie seeking clarification of the proposal. This is the reply he received from the Strathbogie Mayor.

Hello Tim,

Thank you for your email.

Strathbogie Shire Council has not received any formal or informal notification from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in relation to any application for Wind Energy Facilities in our municipality.

The Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for new planning permit applications for all energy generation facilities that are 1 megawatt or greater. The Department of Land, Water and Planning manage this process on behalf of the Minister. This includes both renewable energy facilities and non-renewable energy facilities such as:

- Wind
- Solar
- Pumped hydro
- Gas
- Waste-to-energy.

This weblink provides a summary of operating wind energy projects, approved (but not operational) projects, projects under construction and planning permit application lodged/process underway

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-permit-applications/specific-permit-topics/wind-energy-facilities>

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning will advise the respective local government area if an application has been made.

Should Strathbogie Shire Council be formally made aware of an application we will encourage the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to host a community information session to ensure that the community is fully informed regarding the application.

Kind regards,

Laura Binks (She/Her)

Councillor | Mayor

Did you know that you can now promote a tourism or community event on Council's website for free?

Are you part of a community group, sporting club or association?
You can now list your events on Council's website via a simple online form.

Community event listings can include things like meetings, workshops, training sessions, sporting or fundraising events. As well as displaying community events, Council's online calendar will continue to promote tourism events listed via the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW).

To step you through the process of listing a community event, Council will be holding a drop-in session at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre on Monday 6 June from 12 noon - 2.00 pm.

Council officers will also be on hand at the drop-in session to provide refresher training to event organisers wanting to list a tourism event via ATDW and community groups wanting to create a new listing or update an existing listing on our Community Directory. If you would like to create a listing at one of the drop-in sessions, please come along prepared with the information you would like to include in the listing and a USB with some photos.

For more information, please visit Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events or give us a call on 5772 0333.



Stock & Land Article - Continued from p.4

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 farm will have to be connected to the transmission system at some point & 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/environmental issues to be resolved."

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

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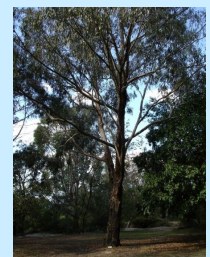
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