

# THE GRANITE NEWS



The Granite News - serving the communities of Caveat, Highlands, Hughes Creek, Ruffy, Tarcombe, Terip Terip & Whiteheads Creek.



17th July 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 23

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

WOW if possible there was even more email traffic after last week's new look Granite News than during its two week hiatus earlier in the month. Many thanks to those readers who commented favourably on the new style and who also contributed articles for this week's issue. From 1930s rainfall to 21st C windfarms and the sharing of cultures in both Shepparton and Sri Lanka, it's an interesting compilation of news.

So, once again read on for another great issue... **Pauline**  
And Kenny Koala...decided to have a week off, but he's back this week  
**NB: There is no HCCC Meeting in July, the next one is on - Friday 19th August @ 7pm @ TCC in Ruffy**

## HCCC NEWS

### Refugee Week and Sharing Cultures

The Shepparton Interfaith Network and the Ethnic Council of Shepparton recently organised a Cultural Tour for interested individuals and organisations, to coincide with Refugee Week. Jenny Webb and Vanessa Malandrin attended the day on behalf of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative.

The tour began with a "welcome to country" at the Rumbalara Community Centre in Mooroopna. The group of almost 60 was greeted with a smoking ceremony and given an overview of the indigenous history of the Shepparton area. The many services provided by the centre were outlined and its importance for local indigenous families was emphasised.

Shepparton is now home to a large migrant population, from very diverse backgrounds, with differing cultures and faiths. Some of the migrant groups have developed community centres in which to practice their faith and to keep their culture alive. These centres are open to the wider community and cross-cultural activities are organised and encouraged.

The tour visited the Turkish mosque in Mooroopna, and then in Shepparton, the Imam Kadhim mosque for the Iraqi Shia community and the Afghan mosque. In each one of these locations, the participants were given the chance to ask lots of questions, and all of them were exhaustively answered by our hosts, providing insights into the Muslim faith and into particular areas of interest or concern, specific to each of the (mostly refugee) communities. A delicious Iraqi lunch was provided and, as always, the food was a highlight and a great way to initiate conversation.

**Continued on p. 3**

Feedback? - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://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







"The Philharmonic Orchestra last night played Sibelius. Sibelius lost."

**Unknown concert critic**



## Did you know?

Mauna Kea is a volcano in the Pacific Ocean (one of 5 volcanoes that form the islands of Hawaii). Mauna Kea stands at 4,250m tall - Everest is 8,848m - **BUT** as Mauna Kea is a volcano rising from the ocean floor, if it was measured from the ocean floor it would be more than 10,000m tall and therefore taller than Mt Everest!

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	<b>What's On - July &amp; August 2022</b>
	<b>Monday 18th July 12 - 4pm</b>	<b>EUROA ARBORETUM MID-YEAR SALE</b> excess supplies of some Eucalyptus & Wattle species - <b>only \$2 each!</b> Species include: Red Gum, Manna Gum, Blakely's Red Gum, Blue Gum, Blackwood & Varnish Wattle.
See p. 5 for more	<b>Wednesday 20th July 6-9pm</b>	<b>STOCK SENSE SHEEP &amp; GOAT SHOW at All Seasons Resort Hotel - Bendigo</b> Stock Sense has teamed up with several guest speakers to bring you a <b>FREE</b> workshop on issues relating to the sheep and goat industries. VFF members and non-members all welcome. <b>To register go to:</b> <a href="https://www.vff.org.au/events/">https://www.vff.org.au/events/</a>
See last TGN	<b>Wednesday 20th July @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>GET BUSHFIRE RESILIENT - FREE WEBINAR SERIES IN 2022</b> Bushfire Resilience Inc is offering a series of 5 free webinars in the next few months to get residents of bushfire prone areas thinking. <b>To register your interest</b> <a href="http://br.org.au/webinar">br.org.au/webinar</a>
	<b>Saturday 23rd July @ 11am</b>	<b>BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE - Learn about Effective Control Techniques</b> Yea River Landcare Group is hosting a FREE information day @ Murrindindi Community Hub, 815 Murrindindi Rd to discuss ways of eradicating this noxious weed. A light lunch will be provided. <b>RSVP (for catering) by 15 July:</b> <a href="mailto:dindihub@gmail.com">dindihub@gmail.com</a>
	<b>Saturday 23rd July 7.30-10.30</b>	<b>GREATER GLIDER SPOTLIGHT WALK IS ON AGAIN - in the Tallarook State Forest</b> In just the last week the Greater Glider's chance of survival has been downgraded from vulnerable to endangered! These animals need to have their habitat protected from logging and mapping their range is vital. Go to <a href="http://beam.org.au/events">beam.org.au/events</a> for a great night out
See p.4 for more	<b>Sunday 24th July 1-3pm</b>	<b>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY WINDFARM DISCUSSION at Ruffy Hall</b> A facilitated meeting to discuss the proposed wind farm has been organised for the local community to attend. If you would like to be more involved, put forward your views, or simply want to be kept up to date on what is happening, please come along.
	<b>Thursday 28th July @ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church</b> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat
See p. 5	<b>Saturday 30th July 10-12.30</b>	<b>WHITEHEADS CFREEK BIOBLITZ for NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY</b>
See last TGN	<b>Saturday 30th July</b>	<b>RUFFY CHRISTMAS DINNER IN JULY</b> \$45 for a 3 course, home-cooked traditional Christmas dinner. BYO drinks. Art Auction too
	<b>Sunday 31st July @ 10am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> meeting at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. <b>Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235</b>
See past TGNs	<b>Monday 1st Aug @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB AGM @ Terip Rec Reserve</b> It only happens once a year, so be there! <b>Cindy Hayes</b> <a href="mailto:temagong@bigpond.com">temagong@bigpond.com</a>
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <b>at Highlands Community Hall</b> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? <b>YAY! The Mobile Library will be in Highlands on July 27th &amp; Aug 10th.</b>

## Refugee Week

Continued from p.1

The tour concluded at the Sikh Temple (Gurduara) with another interesting overview of the history of the Sikh community in the Shepparton region. Volunteers from the Sikh community produce hundreds of meals each week, that are served for free or for a donation, not only for members of their own community, but also for anyone from the wider Shepparton community.

It was evident from listening to the community leaders who addressed the tour, that integration is an ongoing process and a huge challenge for migrants of all backgrounds. For each migrant family, retaining their own culture, whilst establishing a connection to a new country and its culture, is incredibly important. Many of the migrant families have come from rural backgrounds and are now adapting to an urban lifestyle. Connecting to a new place, to the land and the landscape, is vital for them to thrive. Having worked in developing countries with individuals and communities whose life is a constant struggle and lived in fear, I have a personal urge to facilitate this connection to country.

This week I met with an inspiring young man, an Afghan refugee. He is now an orchardist, growing thousands of apples and pears outside Mooroopna. He is passionate about his community and the well-being of its younger members, in particular. We discussed the possibility of the HCCC engaging with families from the Afghan community in Shepparton to exchange knowledge, share food and experiences and build a permanent connection with this region. Activities would mutually be beneficial and develop an understanding of our local environment and Landcare issues.

**The HCCC would welcome feedback from its members and the wider community with regard to pursuing this relationship - email the Editor.**

**Jenny Webb - President HCCC**

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**Tea Leaf Trust continued from >>>**

live, and the Trust has set up a fund to help the students and their families through this crisis. If you wish to help with a donation of any amount, you can do so via this link.

<https://tealeaftrust.com/support-a-student-strengthen-a-community/>

You can view more information in this video.

[Tea Leaf Trust Sri Lanka](#)

**Sue van Buuren**

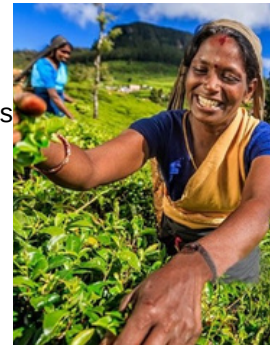
## One way you can help people in Sri Lanka



Some time back, Neil and I decided that on our next visit to Sri Lanka we wanted to do something to give back to the community. We investigated some charities and found one that resonated with us and that is keen for visiting volunteers.

The **Tea Leaf Trust** is doing great work in educating young people who come from the most disadvantaged group in Sri Lanka, the tea pickers. These people have been deliberately kept as an uneducated and dependent workforce on the tea estates, with high rates of extreme poverty, domestic violence, alcoholism, and suicide. Their children often follow their parents into the tea plantations and intergenerational disadvantage is perpetuated. Whilst we often see the romanticised view of smiling sari-clad ladies working in the tea estates, this image belies the dreadful conditions that they endure with back breaking work, for long hours in the heat for a pittance, which barely puts food on the table.

The **Tea Leaf Trust** was set up to educate the children of tea estate workers for free. It focuses on young people who have finished their standard schooling, generally teenagers. The school offers a free Diploma course teaching English, IT, Business Studies and personal development, giving them useful skills, improved confidence and assistance finding meaningful work to help their community.



Neil and I have decided to volunteer at the school on our next trip to Sri Lanka, because they need people with business and life skills to mentor the students. We have investigated the validity of the **Tea Leaf Trust**, spoken with the CEO and co-founder, Tim Pare and reviewed their financial and governance credentials. The trust is registered in the UK and won The UK Charities Award for International Aid and Development, 2022. They operate with very low overheads and all non-local personnel are volunteers.

The current situation in Sri Lanka has only exacerbated the poverty under which these people

**Continued <<<**

## Tablelands Community Wind Farm Discussion

A meeting to discuss the proposed wind farm has been organised for **Sunday 24th July, 1pm to 3pm, to be held at the Ruffy Hall.**

### Proposed Agenda:

To provide the community with factual, unbiased information relating to the wind farm project in the Tablelands, including:

- Information from FERA, the wind farm developer, on the project
- Potential impacts and benefits of wind farms
- The planning process
- Considerations for land owners, neighbours, the community and other stakeholders
- Community engagement processes

There will be a facilitated group discussion to obtain input from all those attending the meeting. We have invited other stakeholders eg Taungurung representatives, local councillors and politicians.

Hopefully the information presented will answer many of the questions raised at our last meeting and will position the community to influence the project to minimise the impact and maximise the benefit should it go ahead.

It is expected that a more formal committee to further drive research, discussion and action will be organised at this meeting. A number of people have already put forward their names to be more involved in this group. If you would like to be more involved, put forward your views, or simply want to be kept up to date on what is happening, please come along.

COMMONWEALTH METEOROLOGICAL BUREAU  
Register of Rain at Fort William during the year 1930

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1													
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30													
31													
Total	15.8	21.5	35.8	12.0	55.5	6.4	29.2	4.30	2.44	5.1	3.4	8.0	201.1

### Rainfall at Fort William in 1930!

Following on from last week's dive into the archives Marg McAlpin has sent in the rainfall recorded for the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau for Fort William, at Caveat, in 1930! Remember the numbers are in inches not millimetres.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

### Re. Wind Turbines Southern Strathbogies: Planning and Policy Guidelines.

To understand the implications for the Southern Strathbogie Ranges I have reviewed the planning process and planning and policy guidelines. I have also met with the local representative of the Italian company FERA.

Tilt Renewables, an Australian/New Zealand company, have successfully completed several wind farm projects and have withdrawn from the area.

In reviewing the document I have attempted to highlight issues which may impact on the Southern Strathbogie area approximately bounded by Avenel, Tarcombe, Ruffy, Terip Terip, Caveat and Highlands. Readers are referred to the document [Development of Wind Energy Facilities in Victoria. Policy and Planning Guidelines](#) Department of Land, Water and Planning.

### SUITABLE LOCATIONS FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN VICTORIA

The above policy states that wind energy facilities are excluded from high quality environmental and landscape locations in Victoria including most coastal areas as well as all land west of the Hume Freeway/Goulburn Valley Highway. This begs the question as to why the landscape quality of land west of the Strathbogies is more highly valued than the Southern Strathbogies? I have heard locals and weekenders say when commenting on the natural beauty of our area: 'Our landscape is 'Victoria's best secret and let's keep it that way.'

Some years ago I undertook a landscape character assessment of the Southern Otways and the Great Ocean Road Environs with Planisphere Pty Ltd for the then Dept of Planning (DELWP). This character assessment formed the basis for a plan which defined 'go' and 'no go' areas for wind farms. Perhaps this is a model which could be applied to our area if we have to have wind energy facilities. This would be a landscape and community driven approach rather than an engineering based model driven by the proponent.

Currently I am researching more detailed considerations in the policy for another fact based letter including:

- Nearby dwelling setbacks in respect to 200 to 250 metre turbines
- Noise both construction and operational
- Shadow flicker described as like someone turning the lights 'off and on' in nearby residences
- Impacts on flora and fauna particularly Bundjil/wedgetail eagles
- Erosion hazard.

John Curtis



## Whiteheads Creek Bioblitz

On **Saturday July 30th** a tree planting will take place along Whiteheads Creek in Seymour, as part of National Tree Day weekend. The meeting point will be at 10 am along Whiteheads Creek in front of Abdallah Rd and from 12 pm onwards a light lunch will be offered to all the volunteers. If you wish to participate to this event, please RSVP to [vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au)

This event is part of the Whiteheads Creek Bioblitz Project, coordinated by HCCC and the informal Seymour Urban Landcare group. This project aims at engaging and educating Seymour residents, and landholders with creek frontage access, about the ecological values of the Creek and encourages them to discover the wildlife which inhabits their 'backyard'. The urban reaches of Whiteheads Creek, go from Delatite Road to the Goulburn Valley Highway (Emily Street) in Seymour. The project encourages the local community to engage through citizen science opportunities, like those offered by the **iNaturalist smartphone app**.

As part of the Whiteheads Creek Bioblitz Project, two very successful talks on Platypus and Fungi were organised in June, and both were booked out. So don't miss out on this excellent activity.

More events are planned for September as part of the Whiteheads Creek Bioblitz Project, so watch this space for more information.

**Vanessa Malandrin**  
**HCCC - project coordinator**



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### Answers to last issue's quiz

A Place of many colours - Rainbow  
Tired insect - Werribee  
Mythical Australian animal - Bunyip

### Can you work out 3 more Victorian Towns or Suburbs?

Champagne  
Chill a kanga  
Noisy Scotsman

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## Stock Sense Project

Calling all Victorian livestock farmers The Victorian Farmers Federation's (VFF) Stock Sense Project is seeking expressions of interest from Victorian livestock producers to join the Stock Sense Network Group to help increase engagement in animal health, welfare and biosecurity.

VFF Livestock President Steve Harrison said it remains vitally important that livestock producers themselves have a say on these important issues for the livestock industry. "Victoria is a leader in animal health, welfare and biosecurity and we need to ensure it stays that way." "We're calling all interested livestock farmers to register their interest to help provide the important feedback needed to shape the future of our industry," Mr Harrison said. A total of ten Stock Sense Network Groups throughout Victoria will be established and will provide feedback on animal health and welfare and biosecurity issues specific to each region as well as the broader Victorian livestock industry.

**The opportunity is open to all Victorian livestock farmers and anyone interested can register online or email the VFF's Stock Sense team at [stocksense.vff.org.au](mailto:stocksense.vff.org.au)** Stock Sense is funded by the Cattle Compensation Fund & Sheep & Goat Compensation Fund & is proudly delivered by the VFF.

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**Cr John Walsh**  
Koriella Ward  
Murrindindi Shire Council  
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**Strathbogie Granite Project**

[neil.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com)

The Granite News is usually created on the lands of the Taungurung clans - First people of the Rivers and Mountains.



We thank the Taungurung ancestors and elders who, for millennia, have cared for this country on which we now live, work and play.  
May the current generations of Taungurung, landowners and residents continue this important custodianship into the future.