

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



14th August 22 | Volume 16 Issue 27

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

A little over 4 years ago I used this Editor's blurb to highlight one of the travesties of environmental destruction in the 20th century - the flooding of the pristine and beautiful Lake Pedder in Tasmania's South-West. It elicited letters from a couple of readers who had not only been lucky enough to see it for themselves, but had also undertaken some extended hiking in that magnificent part of the world.

Fast forward to last week's plane trip and I devoured a book entitled **Tasmania's Wilderness Battles - A History by Greg Buckman**. What an enlightening and simultaneously depressing little read. I cannot recommend it highly enough for any readers who are interested in Tasmania's unique wilderness areas and what has been done to try and destroy them as rapidly as possible in the name of progress and \$\$\$.

Sections encompass - Hydro, Forestry, Mining and National Parks - and raise the question of "When is a National Park, not a National Park?" When it has minerals or trees or water that need to be converted into cold hard cash, and in the case of forestry and mining, usually for an off-shore company. In that case the government of the day (of both political persuasions) just shifted the NP boundaries! Absolutely gobsmacking.

Although published in 2008 copies should still be available through local libraries or on order from good book stores. Easy to read and very informative it's a must read so that in the future we don't repeat the mistakes of the past and inflict the irreparable destruction on future generations.



Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**
And Kenny Koala...was discovering the mineshaft on the Ramblers' walk

The Highlands Hall Committee is looking for a new member to undertake the position of Secretary.

Word processing skills and a desire for community involvement is all that is required. We hold a meeting every 6 weeks - never longer than 2 hours ☺

Our goal is to maintain the Highlands Hall as a centre for the locals and revitalise the Highlands community after the years of Covid isolation. It's a great way to be involved with the local community. We all know that volunteering is good for your sense of wellbeing so come and join us.

For more details, please contact Gayle:

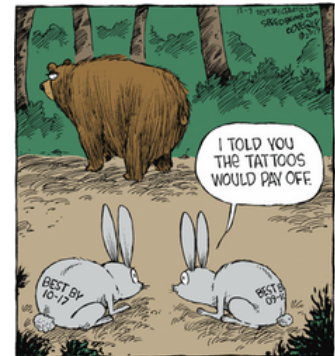
Mobile: 0418 889 017 (If I don't answer please leave a message so I can phone back) Email: gaylearnold5@gmail.com

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

"Why not be oneself? That is the whole secret of a successful appearance. If one is a greyhound, why try to look like a Pekingese?"

Dame Edith Sitwell (1887-1964)
British poet



Can you work out 3 more Victorian towns or suburbs?

Sloping ocean
Famous duck
Un-born flower

Letter to the Editor

Dear Pauline

I read with interest the account of your impressions of the negative visual impact of the enormous new solar farm near Melbourne airport, and also the lack of tree plantings in the new closely settled satellite suburbs just north of Melbourne. In addition I am mindful of the fact ... **Continued p.2**

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - August & September 2022
	Friday 19th August @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC Ruffy All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
	Saturday 20th August 12-2pm	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
See p.4 for more	Sunday 21st August @ 2pm	CANOPIES FOR KOALAS at TCC Ruffy Planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee - come along and join in the fun. Enquiries? - tccruffy@gmail.com or 0426 690970
	Monday 22nd August 9 - 2	FENCING EXPO MANSFIELD (Merrijig) hosted by Delatite Landcare BYO chair & water bottle & wear appropriate clothing/footwear. Further details next TGN Enquiries? - Up2Us at projects@up2us.org.au or 5779 1593
	Thursday 25th Aug. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat
	Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th August	NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE - in Sydney If you can't make it to Sydney why not register as a virtual conference delegate? It's FREE!! Require more information - https://nationallandcareconference.org.au
	Sunday 28th August @ 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
	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 August 24th and Sept. 7th & 21st.

Letter to the Editor

Continued from p.1 ... that they are encroaching more and more on fertile farmland, the latter appearing to be shrinking before our eyes.

Your account also reminded me that I have been concerned for some time about the possible fate of the beautiful – and to me incredibly precious – stunted and twisted old (ancient?) red gum trees scattered here and there on the remaining open plains just north of the city, particularly in the vicinity of Craigieburn but also just north of the airport. They are surely irreplaceable and to my mind need to be preserved at all costs. If they were to be cut down for new residential development I believe it would be an absolute tragedy.

I am just a little unsure of what would be the correct body to approach about the issue. I have a feeling that the City of Hume local government jurisdiction encompasses some of the area, but I am not sure if it's the totality. From memory I did once approach this body but did not receive a lot of interest in the matter or support for my concern, so I am unaware if there is any heritage policy in place. It could well be that the relevant local government bodies may favour development at all costs, due to seeing this as a lucrative source of income from rates.

Perhaps some of your other readers may have noticed this phenomenon and would have some ideas of how to approach the issue of helping to ensure their preservation for posterity.

Regards, Lisa If anyone can assist with this query please email the editor@tgn.org.au Thanks

Provide your feedback on Council's draft Climate Change Policy



Council has prepared a draft Climate Change Policy and is inviting you to share your feedback, to help us understand if the principles and objectives within the Policy reflect the expectations you have of Council in responding to climate change.

In January this year, Council made a formal pledge under the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2035, adapt our operations to climate change, and support our community to act too.

Our Climate Change Policy will help guide us to achieve these goals and lay the foundation for the development of our Climate Change Action Plan.

The Policy applies to all Council staff, contractors, volunteers and elected representatives. It aims to guide our transition to net zero emissions by 2035 and clarify our roles and responsibilities in climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also explains our role in supporting our community and businesses to transition towards net zero emissions by 2035 and enables the management of climate change risks and opportunities.

To read the draft Policy and provide your feedback, you can visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction or give Council a call on 5772 0333 to speak with someone in our Environment team. You can also register your interest to be part of our Climate Action Plan focus group. Feedback must be received by Wednesday 24 August 2022.

Get Bushfire Resilient

Information for households in rural areas and on the urban fringe. Recommended viewing for family and friends. Viewers can ask questions before or during the webinar, and when you register we'll also send you a link to videos.

Your last resort options

7.30pm Wednesday 24 August - Justin Leonard, CSIRO Jim McLennan, La Trobe University Rob Gordon OAM, Clinical Psychologist

Why get kids involved in the family bushfire plan

7.30pm Wednesday 7 September - Michelle Roberts, Australian National University Rob Gordon OAM, Clinical Psychologist Briony Towers, Co-director, LEADRRR Jane Hayward, Principal Strathewen Primary School

Understand your bushfire risk

7.30pm 21 September - Kevin Tolhurst AM - University of Melbourne Justin Leonard, CSIRO Ian Bennetts, Bushfire Building Council of Australia

BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE - A not-for-profit incorporated association: <https://br.org.au/BR/> You may be interested in Bushfire Resilience Inc's 2022 free webinar series above. Presented by a team of eminent speakers you can read actual feedback from previous seminars, view the webinar recordings and the 45 Bitesize topic specific videos on our website <https://bushfireresilience.org.au/resource-hub>

The Cherry Tree Wind Farm Community Fund

opens for applications on the **15th August 2022**.

The Fund is available to locally run initiatives such as Incorporated or Not for Profit community groups, funds, projects/programs or facilities that are located within, or provide a direct benefit to, the community within a 15km radius of Cherry Tree Wind Farm.

Preference will be given to programs that support the following priority focus areas:

Education and Training, Community Development, Health/Wellbeing and Environment.

The value of each application should not exceed \$10,000 but in general preference will be given to applications of less than \$5,000 to encourage a greater diversity of funding. To download an application form, visit our website

<https://atmosrenewables.com.au/asset/cherry-tree/> or email ctwf.enquiries@res-group.com for a form to be sent to you.

Applications close on Sept. 15, 2022.

PLANTING TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE



CANOPIES FOR KOALAS

COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLANTING

ADVANCED TREE PLANTING

DEMONSTRATION

SEEDLING TREES

AFTERNOON TEA

SAMPLE THE JUBILEE WINNING TRIFLE
Children's Activities – Koala Hunt – Crown Decorating

2pm Sunday 21st August 2022

at the

Tablelands Community Centre

27 Nolans Rd Ruffy

Contact tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

Over the next few weeks, our region will have several **FREE Waste Education events** that you're invited to!

Face to Face - Waste Wise Workshops (No Booking Needed)

Drop-in to a free session to learn how to better manage your waste at home. These events are open to all community members.

- **Violet Town Library** **August 16** **10 am**
- **Euroa Library** **August 16** **12.30 pm**
- **Nagambie Library** **August 18** **11.30 am**

If you know a community group, school or social meeting that would like to host a Waste Wise Workshop in the region please contact -

Grace.Davis-Williams@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Online - Rethink Recycling: Sorting at Home (1hr)

Join Grace from her kitchen in this is a brand-new online workshop investigating recycling at home.

Learn the best ways to sort your waste at home, make more space in your bins, make the most of recycling services near you and become a 5 star home recycler!

Take the chance to ask our experts any burning questions and we are sure you'll never see your recycling bin the same way again.

Saturday August 20, 11AM
Thursday November 10, 7PM
Bookings via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

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Rotary Club of Yea

YEAGARDEN EXPO

17 & 18 SEP 2022
9AM - 3PM

Location: Yea Saleyards
Flat Lead Road, Yea (see website for directions)

Only an hour from Melbourne!

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- Plant Creche
- Speakers Program
- And much more.....

Entry \$10 for adults - Kids FREE!
Pay at the gate or book online via www.trybooking.com:
www.trybooking.com/BZOYD (Bookings open July 1st)

FREE PARKING

Contact: yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au
www.yeagardenexpo.com.au

Green thumbs take note

The Rotary Club of Yea is hosting a **Garden Expo on Sat & Sun 17-18 September, 9am – 3pm**. The Expo is an opportunity to view a host of garden related products in a relaxed atmosphere at the Yea Saleyards (Flat Lead Road), just off the Yea Whittlesea Rd on a flat, sealed, dog friendly and easily accessible site for everyone.

Entry fee is just \$10 with free parking (children under 16 free) and there will be a plentiful supply of food and drink vendors on site. Over 70 vendors will be present with all things to do with gardening present with exhibits ranging from bulbs, seeds, seedlings, flowering plants and trees, garden tools, equipment, art and ornaments, compost, fertilisers and more. A daily speaker program will cover a range of topics from bee keeping, to looking after specialist plants such as orchids.

Details at website www.yeagardenexpo.com.au or www.yearotary.org.au or keep up to date via Facebook. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BZOYD or pay at the gate.

Arthur Rylah Institute presents...

The ARI Seminar is part of National Science Week. National Science Week celebrates the many ways in which science enriches our lives and helps us make informed decisions.

In this seminar, you will hear from two of our ARI senior scientists, Dr Dave Ramsey and Dr Matt Bruce.

Dave will share an example of how we use science to inform deer management and Matt will speak about a new tool for guiding research investment to the areas environment managers need it most.

This seminar is open to everyone.

Monday 15th August, 1-2pm - TOMORROW!

Dr Dave Ramsey (ARI)

Estimating the efficacy of aerial shooting operations to reduce deer abundance

Dr Matt Bruce (ARI)

Prioritising knowledge gaps for better research investment

Register at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Fencing Expo Mansfield

Come and join us for a day on all things fencing.

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- Demonstrations
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For further information please contact Up2Us at projects@up2us.org.au or phone 03 5779 1593.

When: Monday August 22nd

Time: 9am for a 9:30 start - 2pm

Where: Merrijig. Address to be released upon registration.

To Register: Scan QR code

BYO: Chair and water bottle. Bring weather appropriate clothes/footwear.



Webinar on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

Presentation by Dr. Graeme Cooke and Dr. Jeff Cave, veterinarians

Overview as reported by Corinne Border - Landcare member

Neither FMD nor LSD are currently present in Australia. But they are currently affecting SE Asia, notably Indonesia, including Bali, which creates a potential biosecurity risk for Australia.

FMD is caused by a coxsackievirus RNA virus, which, as all RNA viruses is highly mutable, and vaccines provide only temporary protection. The virus affects ungulates (cloven-footed animals)—cows, sheep, pigs, etc.. It is generally not transmitted to humans. It has a very high morbidity and a low mortality. It causes ulceration of the mouth & feet of infected animals. Ulcers are very painful and get easily infected.

The FMD virus is highly contagious. Transmission occurs by animal-to-animal contact, by aerosol, and by contact with inanimate objects, such as the clothing and footwear of animal handlers, vehicles, pools of standing water, uncooked food scraps.

Cows have been infected by the semen of bulls with FMD. Dogs can carry bones of infected dead animals. And feral animals, although not necessarily affected themselves, can carry the virus to farm animals. There is one known case of airborne transmission from one farm to the next.

LSD is caused by a capripox virus. It is spread by insect vectors, such as mosquitos, ticks and flies and affects cattle and water buffalo. It causes hard nodules over the entire animal skin. LSD arrived recently in SE Asia from Africa, and less is known about it than FMD. Since 2019 it has spread throughout China and SE Asia. It is also extremely contagious. there is no known vaccine.

Both cause a huge amount of suffering to animals.

Both are endemic to our north. The probability of a major emergency here is estimated at 11% for FMD and 28% for LSD.

The last case of FMD in Australia was in 1872. It only affected 2 farms and was contained because movement of animals and people was very limited. We remember the devastating outbreak of FMD in the UK. It affected 2000 farms there, leading to the destruction of 10% of UK cattle.

Victoria is the largest agricultural producer in Australia, with a high density livestock population due to close proximity of farm businesses. If FMD enters Victoria, it will be very hard to contain, FMD will spread very quickly because of the intense interstate movement of farm animals, and it will be a national emergency.

It is estimated that, should the virus enter Australia now, the loss would be in the order of \$80 billion. Our entire export market would stop immediately.

Biosecurity measures

Diseases can enter via animal imports, from passengers arriving by air or sea. Microorganisms can also arrive by mail. What are the measures currently taken by Australia to prevent entry into the country?

Pre-border measures: the commonwealth is assisting Indonesia by providing vaccines, as well as financial support and advice.

Border measures: profiling of passengers, biosecurity officers and sniffer dogs.

International mail has a 100% inspection rate. See DEFAT website for details if you intend to travel to SE Asia or if you expect visitors from these countries.

In Australia: measures are communicated by social media. Farmers should find all necessary information on agriculture.vic.gov.au

What can farmers do? Find out next issue...

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Strathbogrie Granite Project

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.