

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



21st August 22 | Volume 16 Issue 28

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another week closer to spring, warmth and daylight-saving, Bring it on!

The month of August is known for a few things - gusty winds, wattle, Daffodil Day and echidna trains. An echidna train is something to behold as echidnas are usually solitary animals except for the month of August when the mating instinct kicks in and the females are followed by a train of hopeful males all trying to impress. I'm not too sure how one impresses a female echidna but as I understand it, the most persistent one, the last one standing, is the one who 'gets the girl' and a puggle is the result.

As echidnas are my most favourite animal in 2021 I was absolutely stoked to see my very first echidna train consisting of 3 echidnas. However Randal went one better last week and has a photo to prove it, see below. I am in awe and once again realise how lucky we are to live where we do.

Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala...was very interested in the fencing expo at Mansfield

Letter to the Editor

Hello Pauline

Having only ever once seen three echidnas together many years ago, I had to look twice when I saw this lot on the Creightons Creek Road this week.

Four echidnas do not fit behind one fence post, although they were trying.

Regards

Randal Threlfall



The Highlands Hall Committee is **STILL 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

"Forget about following your dream...Grab it by the scruff of the neck and drag it with you."

Jackie French
Prolific Australian author -
from her book 'Facing the Flame'

How to write "I changed a lightbulb" on your resume:
"Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of a new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and no safety incidents."

And the answers to 3 more Victorian towns or suburbs are -

Sloping ocean = **Anglesea**
Famous duck = **Donald**
Un-born flower = **Rosebud**

Website of the Week

An excellent source of information about anything to do with waterways in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management area is the Authority's website -

www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - August & September 2022
	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
	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
	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
	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
See p.3 for more	Sunday 28th August @ 11-3	NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOP at Ruffy Community Centre Vanessa Malandrin will introduce participants to the joys of Nature Art Workshops
	Friday 2nd Sept. @ 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! tccruffy@gmail.com Enquiries: 0427 690970 or
	Sat. 3rd & Sun. 4th from 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO at Yea Butter Factory 13 Rattray St, Yea A unique studio experience at the Yea Butter Factory Enquiries: 0421 378451
	Friday 9th Sept @ 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
	Monday 12th Sept @ 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 with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
	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.

NATURE JOURNALLING WORKSHOP with Vanessa Malandrin

This workshop is an introduction to Nature Journaling suitable for all skill levels. It's an immersive hands-on workshop that will help you find your own style and purpose in this practice. Starting with a walk and using simple warm up exercises, selected prompts will guide you all the way to including more advanced elements in your nature journal.

Vanessa grew up in Italy, where she's been immersed in visual arts since her birth in Venice and has followed her family's love for both nature and art. After completing studies in Agriculture, Vanessa rounded this off in Spain with postgrad studies in Agroecology. Nature journaling is a great way to combine her interests and to share her passions with new people.



**Sunday 28th
August**

**Ruffy
Community
Centre (Old
School House)**

11am - 3pm

Cost \$28

**Materials
supplied &
includes
afternoon tea**

Awe and Wonder in Nature Art workshops

The Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network offers this workshop with Vanessa Malandrin as part of their series of art workshops aiming to bring new insights and connections into the natural world. This Awe and Wonder project is funded by Landcare.

Further information email admin@strathbogieranges.org

Bookings on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nature-journaling-workshop-tickets-390771236287>



Expression of interest: Potential funding

To enhance & protect biodiversity on private land



Significant areas of the Goulburn Broken catchment's native vegetation is located on private land. This vegetation provides multiple benefits to landholders and the environment such as:

- Improved property values and aesthetics
- Wind and shade protection for stock and crops
- Food, shelter and 'stepping-stones' across the landscape for native animals
- Habitat for pollinating insects

The GB CMA regularly advocates for funding that could assist landholders to implement conservation activities on private land including:

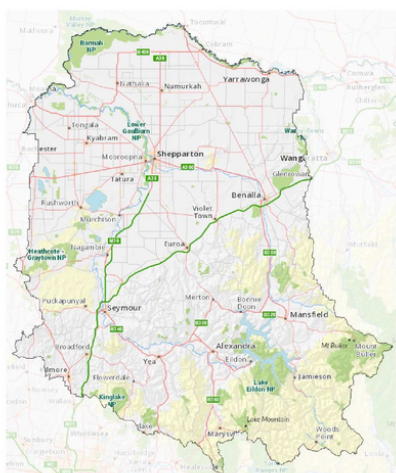
- Revegetation (direct seeding or planting)
- Pest plant and animal control
- Fencing of remnants and plantings

To be eligible for potential future funding, sites need to:

- Be in the Goulburn Broken catchment
- Preferably contain existing remnant vegetation (trees, shrubs, and/or grasses)
- Be of significant natural value or have the potential to be of value if connected to other vegetation
- Be larger than 2 hectares
- If a corridor, be 40 metres or wider
- Be signed up to a 10-year management agreement through the Goulburn Broken CMA and agree to implement works.

To express your interest (for when, and if funding becomes available), please complete the form on the reverse of this flyer and return to reception@gbcm.vic.gov.au

Landholders will be contacted once funding becomes available (please note this may take time).



The Goulburn Broken Catchment



Fencing Expo Mansfield

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

- Presentations from Waratah & Gallagher
- Explore fencing options for your property
- Fencing for pest and domestic animals
- Maintenance and repairs
- Demonstrations
- BBQ lunch provided

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.



https://www.gbcm.vic.gov.au/downloads/Funding_Opportunities/Register%20for%20Potential%20Funding.pdf

Great Vic Nature Walk - Mt Tenneriffe, Locksley

Time & Date: 9:30am – 1:00pm, Sunday 18th of Sept. 2022

Start Location: Jefferies Rd, Locksley VIC 3665

Difficulty: Moderate

Length: 4.5km

Cost: Free as always

Bring: Water, a hat, sturdy shoes, snacks



The Great Vic Nature walk is happening statewide on Sunday 18th September. Strathbogie Ranges Conservation has jumped on the bandwagon and is doing a walk that they've been excited about doing for months now.

Mt Tenneriffe is a place that everyone has seen as they're driving down the Hume, but few have visited. With its huge granite boulders and steep, bush-covered slopes, it can look imposing to those who haven't walked it before. But looks can be deceiving. The walk is surprisingly accessible with car access right to the edge of the Tenneriffe Nature Conservation Reserve.

From there's it's a relatively quick (but steep) scramble to the top. The effort is well worth it for the stunning views that greet you once you reach the peak.

So pack your hat and hiking boots, bring plenty of water and food, and join thousands of other Victorians in exploring the sights on your back doorstep.

Please note that no pets are allowed on the walks. As always, if the weather is looking unappealing on the day, the date may be moved.

RSVPs are essential, so please email - admin@strathbogieranges.org

Webinar on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Presentation by Dr. Graeme Cooke and Dr. Jeff Cave, veterinarians - PART 2

Overview as reported by Corinne Border - Landcare member

Practical measures on own property if FMD enters the country

Measures need to be practical, feasible and sustainable. Some factors can be controlled on individual farms, others, such as spread of disease by feral animals, need global measures. There exist several possible templates for your farm. All of these and practical tips, can be found at farmbiosecurity.com.au

Most animal diseases are introduced by an infected animal. So:

Step 1: know your source/ request health declaration of all new animals on the property

Step 2: inspection on arrival/ drench, foot bath, vaccination (?)/ minimum 14 days in isolation. Keep in mind that foot rot will only express in certain seasons (in other words, animals can be asymptomatic).

These measures should also be applied to animals returning from agistment on another property.

Step 3: control fence line with neighbouring properties. If it is not feasible to have a double fence line, create an exclusion one with neighbouring farms.

Restrict access to property. Monitor and keep a record of all visitors. Some kind of contact-tracing will be needed.

Step 4: Do NOT permit visitors if they have visited FMD-infected countries.

Record visitors and vehicle movements. Everyone should arrive with clean footwear and clothing. Remember: FMD is spread on the wind by aerosols. With our experience of Covid, we should all know about aerosol spread!

The importance of personal clean footwear and clothing is essential.

Use a foot bath with citric acid (concentration 3%= 30g/L). Immerse for 15 minutes. Boots should be scrubbed before entering the bath, or the acid will not be very effective. Provide brushes and a foot pick for visitors as well. (Detailed info available on the Dept. of Ag website).

Vaccination: this is a tricky subject. Vaccination is not currently recommended here. Apparently, we don't know the strain of the current SE virus. Besides, RNA viruses mutate quickly (don't we know about it!) and vaccines are not 100% effective for long.

Further, routine blood testing rely on antibodies detection, and cannot distinguish between infected and vaccinated animals (both have elevated antibodies).

So we couldn't trade livestock on the basis of vaccination anyway.

Farmers should find all necessary information on agriculture.vic.gov.au

A LITTLE BIT SCI-FIbut quite practical really.

What do you think of when you think about plastic pollution? Chip packets? Drink bottles? Coffee cups? Face masks? Sure, they're all problems, but **the #1 most abundant plastic litter item is the cigarette butt!** It's estimated that 8.9 billion butts are dropped here each year. And although it might seem like something from a science-fiction film, mushrooms have been trained to eat discarded cigarette filters, right here in Australia!

READ MORE



The Connecting Community Small Grant aims to support the foundation's vision by enabling local groups and organisations to undertake community led projects and initiatives that help communities stay connected during this pandemic and beyond. **The current round is open, and closes on 31 August.** This grant supports our vision for thriving, vibrant and connected communities within the Shire of Murrindindi.

A reminder that a discussion with Foundation Murrindindi is required before you start your application.

More information is available on our website www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au



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www.yeagardenexpo.com.au

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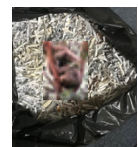
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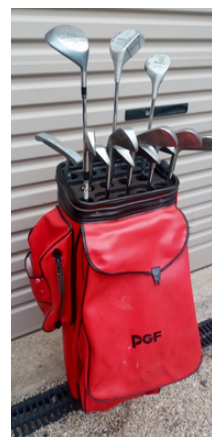
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Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr John Walsh
Koriella Ward
Murrindindi Shire Council
jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
0437 835 586

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Strathbogie 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, play and grow.

May the current generations of Taungurung, landowners and residents continue this important custodianship into the future.