

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



9th October 22 | Volume 16 Issue 33

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Yet another wet and soggy week with minor flooding in various locations up and down the east coast of the country. As this situation looks as though it is going to be with us for all of spring - no matter how shallow - please don't drive through any flooded roads impeding your progress.

Not only is the creek at my place flowing with about 5 times its normal volume, but the driveway also has its own waterway carving a channel!

Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**  
And Kenny Koala...was keeping the turkeys for sale, company.



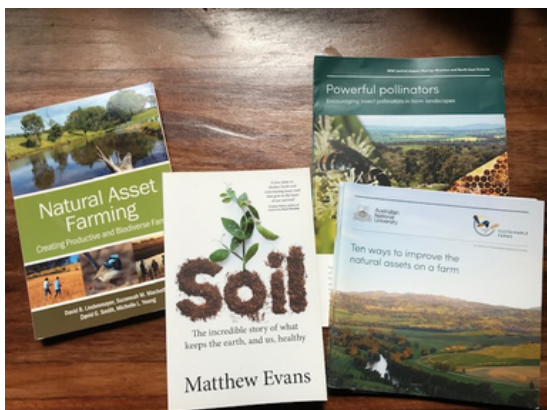
## Thanks to John & Lisa we have prizes....

Two of The Granite News' long-time readers and supporters, John and Lisa, have generously made several prizes available to any lucky readers who would like to enter the latest TGN competition.

Commencing with this issue and running for three weeks, there will be 2 questions posed each week, that will require correct answers, to be in the running to win one of the following excellent prizes - see pic. below.

Please send your entries each week - for all 3 weeks to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
You must get all 6 answers correct to have a chance of winning one of these fabulous and very informative books.

Many thanks to John and Lisa for making this possible. **Why not be in it?**



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

"Pandemics and plagues have a way of shifting the course of history"

Wade Davis (Rolling Stone - September 2022)



Can you work out the names of 3 more Victorian towns or suburbs?

An early model Holden  
Bill's Place  
Beach Bacon

Forget gold, diamonds and iron-ore  
**WATER**  
is Earth's greatest natural resource

Do you know how much of our wonderful blue planet is made up of water?

More importantly just how much of that water is FRESH water, as opposed to salt water?

Think you know the answers and would like to win a prize? Send the editor an email to be "in it, to win it!"

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - October 2022
	<b>Monday 10th Oct. @ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
<b>Details see p.5</b>	<b>Thursday 13th Oct. 9.30am-2</b>	<b>CARBON on FARMS SEMINAR - What does it mean to you and your farm?</b> in Yea GBCMA and Agriculture Victoria are presenting a valuable seminar on the importance of carbon on farms - be there! <b>Enquiries? - Rhiannon 0429 964209</b>
<b>NB: D/S time!</b>	<b>Thursday 13th Oct. @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> at Highlands Hall All welcome. <b>Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473</b>
	<b>Friday 14th Oct. @ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> 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 to cover power. <b>Enquiries? - contact Paula 0419 551882</b>
	<b>Saturday 15th Oct. 10-4</b>	<b>EUROA ARBORETUM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS</b> at Euroa Arboretum Come along and celebrate 30 years of environmental achievement, see previous TGNs for details.
	<b>Sunday 16th Oct. 12 - 2pm</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> at 94 Old Highlands Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366</b> <b>NOTE: Date Change just for this month!</b>
<b>Details see p.5</b>	<b>Sunday 16th Oct. 10.30-2</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY MAPPING</b> at Tablelands community Centre, Ruffy Like to find out how to map or endangered and/or unique wildlife and plants? Then this workshop is for YOU! BYO phone, tablet, laptop to download the essential tools required
<b>Details see p.3</b>	<b>Saturday 22nd Oct. @ noon</b>	<b>SPRING FLING!!</b> at Ruffy Recreation Reserve Come along and be a part of this community gathering with an international flavour - both food and friends. <b>RSVPs by 12/10 to Jenny - 0408 969236 or Justus - 0427 524473</b>
	<b>Thursday 27th Oct. @ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> at Highlands Community Hall 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 - Oct. 12th &amp; 26th and Nov. 9th &amp; 23rd.</b>
<b>It's Back!</b>	<b>Every Monday @ 10am</b>	<b>QI GONG</b> at the Tablelands Community Centre Returning for 2022, everyone is welcome. <b>Contact Vivien 0405 612 400</b>

**DON'T FORGET to SPRING FLING - Saturday 22d October @ noon**

**Reminder: HCCC Spring Fling at Ruffy Recreation Reserve**



**22nd October @ 12.00**

**BBQ lunch and activities provided**



**with members of the Afghan community from Shepparton.**

**RSVPs needed by Wed. 12th Oct.**

**Please phone or text Jenny, 0408 969 236 or Justus, 0427 524 473.**

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**HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT CFA TRAINING AND PRE-SEASON MEETING**

An excellent pre-season training session was held yesterday at the Highlands CFA shed & included a timely reminder for **ALL local residents and landholders** of the following tasks for Bushfire Season preparation.

1. Spray and mow regularly
2. Create mineral earth fire breaks (Bare earth, don't just plough the fuel in)
3. Clean up rubbish, remove dead wood (any fuel). Lift the canopy off the ground
4. Re-visit or make your Fire Action Plan
5. Check safety bag contents - appropriate clothing, batteries, gloves, water
6. Ensure emergency contacts are visible and accurate
7. Check and service fire-fighting equipment
8. Ensure water supplies are as good as possible - Gravity supply if possible or have an alternative pump
9. Buy extra batteries, mops, etc
10. If power goes off, can you operate pumps, landline, remote controlled doors or gates?
11. Property access, you may be able to drive under a tree in a car VUT can a fire truck turn around?
12. If your plan is to leave early, what are you taking with you?



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**SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS**

Please contact **Melissa on 0404-833-388** if you are interested in attending a snake avoidance training course for your dog.

- Accredited dog trainer
- Tablelands venue (Caveat or Ruffy, TBC)
- Highly recommended
- For more information: <https://www.vdta.com.au/services/snake-avoidance-dog-training/>
- **\$350 per dog**
- **From 10am on Tuesday 25th October**

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**FOR SALE**

2 Male turkeys  
(8 months old)  
\$50 each.  
Ph: 5790 4298



**FOUND**

Car trim on Nolan's Rd  
(Donovan's Hill)  
No damage.  
Ph: 5790 4298



## Freedom of Religion and Football?

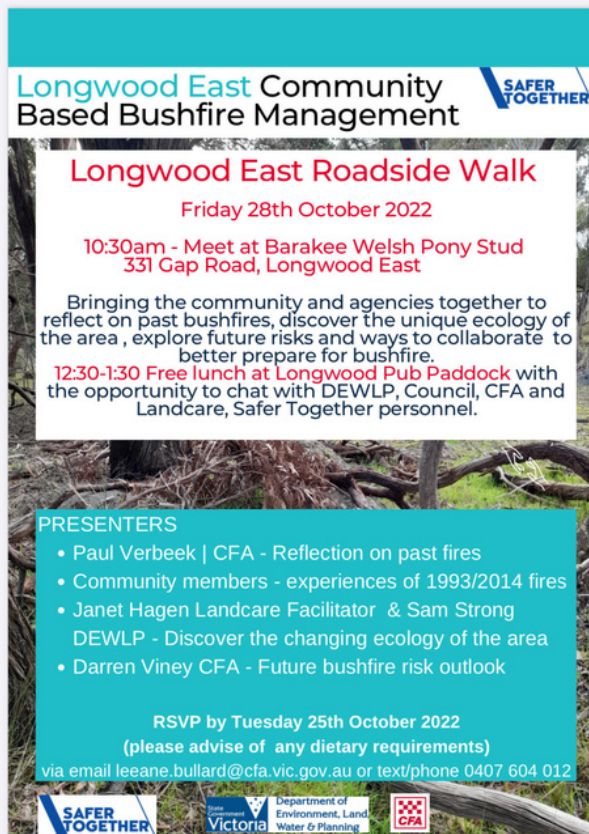
Following the Essendon Football Club controversy, there were no surprises when religious leaders come out and played the 'religious freedom' card. When that happens, nothing really changes. I favour freedom of religion, but I do wonder whether churches and religious groups ever seriously reflect on why some of their doctrines and restrictions give offence to so many. When will they critically and theologically examine their doctrines in the light of the current human condition? Some churches have courageously done just that and retained their integrity. Many, including some mainstream churches are simply stuck in concrete. Their response will inevitably be that the Bible is their source of authority.

It is true that if you are selective of verses, you can get the Bible to say almost anything. For instance, there are those who use the Bible to validate their racism, homophobia and patriarchy. Others rationalise serious exploitation of the environment, the accumulation of wealth, and some even use it to develop conspiracy theories about the end of the world.

I believe this is a misuse of the Bible, which needs to be read holistically. Selecting texts out of context and without wider reference narrows meaning and ignores the profound spirituality of the Bible.

When we are faced with the freedom of religion argument, it does seem that many of us are being asked to be tolerant of the views of religious groups even though we regard them as offensive to human dignity, while on the other hand the religious establishment can remain quite intolerant. One of the major themes of the Hebrew Scriptures is 'justice', in the New Testament the overwhelming theme is 'profound love'. When the religious freedom card is played love and justice seem to be absent.

Stuart A. Reid - Highlands



**Longwood East Community Based Bushfire Management** SAFER TOGETHER

**Longwood East Roadside Walk**  
Friday 28th October 2022

10:30am - Meet at Barakee Welsh Pony Stud  
331 Gap Road, Longwood East

Bringing the community and agencies together to reflect on past bushfires, discover the unique ecology of the area, explore future risks and ways to collaborate to better prepare for bushfire.

12:30-1:30 Free lunch at Longwood Pub Paddock with the opportunity to chat with DEWLP, Council, CFA and Landcare, Safer Together personnel.

**PRESENTERS**

- Paul Verbeek | CFA - Reflection on past fires
- Community members - experiences of 1993/2014 fires
- Janet Hagen Landcare Facilitator & Sam Strong DEWLP - Discover the changing ecology of the area
- Darren Viney CFA - Future bushfire risk outlook

RSVP by Tuesday 25th October 2022  
(please advise of any dietary requirements)  
via email [leeane.bullard@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:leeane.bullard@cfa.vic.gov.au) or text/phone 0407 604 012

SAFER TOGETHER Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning CFA

### DID YOU KNOW?

**No Black Market** on Saturday October 15th because we're going to celebrate 30 years of the Euroa Arboretum.

See previos TGNs for details  
Just for this month, we'll have the Black Market the next day on **Sunday 16th October 12-2pm.**

The Victorian Government will provide over \$30 million in funding to plant millions of native trees and plants and complete land restoration and protection work on private land across Victoria.

Expression of Interest form here:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/bushbank/habitat-restoration-on-private-land>

Interested in establishing some shelterbelts on your land? Click on this [https://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Shelterbelts-Management-Guide\\_online.pdf](https://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Shelterbelts-Management-Guide_online.pdf)

## Did you know that we share our home with some very special animals?

*Learn more about why your contributions are important to help understand what is living around us.*

At a time where many areas in south eastern Australia have been impacted by bushfires, expanding developments and changing climate, our local environment is an important refuge for a range of iconic species such as the quirky Gang Gang cockatoo. This wonderful bird visits us each summer and autumn to feast on a range of seeds, ranging from Hawthorn berries, Wattles and Eucalypts. Sadly, this species is now classified as Endangered on the national threatened species list following the Black Summer fires impacting much of their habitat in NSW. Check out their story [here](#).

*Join us to learn how to map our local native biodiversity sightings to monitor and record their presence.*

There's a number of mapping tools that record species distribution to help a range of organisations and environmental managers to better understand which native plants and animals live where. Our contributions are particularly important to understand the role of habitat on private property, where formal surveys are rarely undertaken.

This session will help you head out and record the many cool plants and animals that visit your home.

**Where:** Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre

**When:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 10:30- 2:00pm.

**What to bring:** Your favourite device (phone, tablet, laptop) to upload apps and practice recording your sightings.



## It's time to think about Paterson's Curse

HCCC is now looking for expressions of interest from all landowners to join in with the Landcare group in its annual helicopter spraying for Paterson's Curse. The spraying will take place in May - June.


Each landowner will be subsidised 50% for the cost of the weedicide, to a maximum of 3 loads. This year we will be using a larger Helicopter and the Load price is \$1450.00 plus GST. This covers 26 Hectares

Contact Neil van Buuren to book your property for this particularly important community event and help us to control the spread of this noxious weed.

**Phone:** 0417 503 472

**Email** [hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au](mailto:hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com.au)





## Carbon on Farms

*What does it mean to you and your farm*


We'll touch on these topics:

- How carbon benefits farms
- Calculators – what they calculate and how this information can be used on farm
- Options to reduce emissions
- Options to increase sequestration
- Carbon trading

And spend time working through your questions

**9.30 for 10am to 2pm, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, Yea**  
Lunch provided, please advise dietary requirements  
RSVP [here](#) or [rhianons@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhianons@ghcma.vic.gov.au) 0429 964 609  
With COVID-19 still circulating if you feel unwell please do not attend.

This event is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA and Agriculture Victoria through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





# Thinking of putting in a multi-species Covercrop? **Think SOILKEE**

**Multi-species cover crops are a great way to build your organic matter whilst also providing feed for your livestock. Why is organic matter important?**

- Organic matter in soil often makes up less than 5% of the soil by weight, but controls 90% of the soil functions essential for plant growth.
- As organic matter increases from 1% to 3% by weight, the water holding capacity doubles!

**NOW TAKING BOOKINGS**

## **How does the Soilkee Renovator work?**

- A diverse mix of seeds from clover seed to faba bean size can be applied from the seed box during operation with seeds dropping in kee's. The Kee's are mechanically made by rotating blades, leaving around 80% of the pasture undisturbed
- The undisturbed portion acts as a cover crop protecting the soil from the elements, reducing erosion and keeping around 80% of soil life habitat intact.
- Creating the seed bed the Soilkee Renovator provides additional benefits of aeration and a green manure crop within the worked up portion, providing aerobic conditions and a food source that activates the soil fungi, bacteria and earthworm populations and the natural soil processes they perform.



Learn more today and contact Nevin Farm-  
Your Soilkee contracting specialists at:  
[admin@nevinfarm.com.au](mailto:admin@nevinfarm.com.au) or  
**0474 243 299**  
[www.nevinfarm.com.au](http://www.nevinfarm.com.au)





<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	<p></p> <p><b>LAWSON</b></p> <p>General earthworks &amp; hole boring Diesel repairs &amp; servicing Metal fabrication &amp; welding Shed construction &amp; removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b></p> <p>Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	<p></p> <p><b>CF &amp; HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS</b></p> <p>Established 1978 NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS, RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. Registered Building Practitioner Call Colin for a quote Telephone: 0419 502 782</p>
<p><b>The Pond Professor</b> Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES &amp; MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pond cleaning</li><li>• Filtration systems</li><li>• Fountains and waterfalls</li><li>• Native fish and plants</li><li>• Algae control</li><li>• Water testing</li><li>• Design and construction</li><li>• Consulting services</li></ul> <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: <a href="mailto:info@pondprofessor.com.au">info@pondprofessor.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.pondprofessor.com.au">http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</a></p>	<p></p> <p><b>SEYMOUR EQUINE &amp; RURAL</b></p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products &amp; Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Animal Production</li><li>- Pasture/Crop Protection</li><li>- Fencing &amp; Livestock Handling</li></ul> <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Brought to you by a Yellow Footed Antechinus, living on a roadside near you.</p> <p></p> <p>Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen</p>	<p><b>BenCo</b></p> <p><b>PLUMBING SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>Ben Laycock</b></p> <p><b>0438 512299</b> Licence no. 105134</p> <p><a href="mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au">ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au</a> <a href="http://bencoplumbingservices.com">bencoplumbingservices.com</a></p>
<p></p> <p><b>nomad art</b></p> <p>Online &amp; by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 <a href="http://www.nomadart.com.au">www.nomadart.com.au</a> Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p><b>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS &amp; CARTAGE</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE &amp; MORE</b></p> <p><b>0429 804 235</b> <a href="mailto:MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM">MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</a></p>	<p><b>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>JARRAD</b></p> <p><b>0409 082 257</b></p> <p></p>	
<p></p> <p><b>Murrindindi Shire Council</b></p> <p><b>Cr John Walsh</b> Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council <a href="mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au">jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</a> <b>0437 835 586</b></p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs Contact <a href="mailto:tccruddy@gmail.com">tccruddy@gmail.com</a> Ph 0404 833 388</p>	<p></p> <p><b>PATON HELICOPTERS</b></p> <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer &amp; More</p> <p>Call 0484108854 48 Magills Lane Maindample 3723</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> <p></p>
<p>Donation from Supporters of the <b>SPOTTED PARDALOTE</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>2022 - Greater Glider Vulnerable to Endangered</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>STOP logging old growth forests</b></p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</b></p> <p>Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire</p> <p><b>MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS</b></p> <p>Reasonable rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882</p>	<p>Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees</p> <p></p>
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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.