THE GRANITE NEWS



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



23rd October 22 | Volume 16 Issue 35

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Over the last week we have seen an amazing amount of community spirit and involvement as one town after another succumbs to the ravages of either flash flooding or an excruciating wait for the waters to arrive.

Whether it be in the HCCC area or beyond Shire council workers, emergency services - Police, SES and CFA members, along with the local communities have all rallied to fill sandbags, move stock, assess damaged roads and infrastructure as well as rescue any residents unfortunate enough to get trapped by rising flood waters.

Andrew Crisp, Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner, has indicated that these intense rains and floods could last another 6-8 weeks so take care out there. As Victorians we are more familiar with bushfire disasters rather than floods as our garden state is the most bushfire prone region in the world, followed by California and Greece. However, with La Nina impacting our weather for a third year, we're in for a wet summer.

Thanks to Justus Hagen for the amazing photos of Ruffy being inundated last week - one is of the Ruffy township and the other of the Weibye River!

Read on for another great issue... **Pauline** And Kenny Koala...was going for a ride on the Soilkee tractor





For those readers who are affected...

The Victorian Government is supporting primary producers across Victoria affected by the devastating floods to get back in business, with an initial package of support to help kickstart their relief effort.

The following links will take you to relevant information for flood funding assistance

Agriculture Victoria and Rural Finance: <u>https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-floods-october-2022-primary-producer-support</u>

Agriculture Victoria Recovery After Flood - <u>Farm recovery after</u> <u>flood resources | Floods | Emergency management | Farm</u> <u>management | Agriculture Victoria</u>

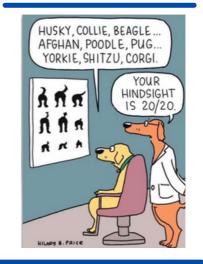
or contact Kirstie - kirstiel@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Feedback? <u>editor@tgn.org.au</u> or to subscribe on-line go to <u>www.highlands.org.au</u>

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 what you can't do and focus on what you can do: forget about yesterday and focus on tomorrow."

Henri Bader a 91 year old Australian macadamian farmer



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

Lady's name + TOWN Bonnie's boyfriend A bird that talks

Yea Wetlands flood damage



| | NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events. | What's On - October & November 2022 | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | Thursday 27th Oct. @ 5.30pm | SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat | | |
| Details see p.6 | Friday 28th October @ 10.30am | LONGWOOD EAST ROADSIDE WALKmeet at 331 Gap Rd Longwood EastBringing the community and agencies together to reflect on past bushfires and discoverthe unique ecology of the area.RSVPs by Tuesday 25th Oct 0407 604012 | | |
| | Sunday 30th Oct. @ 10am | HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district Enquiries: Andrew Shaw 0437 249038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235 | | |
| Details see p.3 | Tuesday 1st Nov. 8.30- 9.30am | CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingridat the Tablelands Community Centre\$20 per class BYO mat & blanketEnquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com | | |
| Ř | Friday 4th Nov. @ 6pm | FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQat the Tablelands Community CentreIt's time to out the FUN back into Friday nights!Enquiries: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com | | |
| | Sat. 5th & Sun 6th Nov. 10-4 | DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork! | | |
| - | Friday 11th Nov. @ 6.30pm | DRINKS on the DECKat Highlands Community HallStarts 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.Enquiries? - contact Paula 0419 551882 | | |
| See p.5 | Saturday 12th Nov. @ 7.30pm | RUFFY HALL RESTORATION - TRIVIA NIGHTat Ruffy HallCome along and support the Ruffy Hall Restoration Project, as well as having great fun!Enquiries? Bill Eddy on 5790 4264 or j.eddy29@bigpond.com | | |
| | Monday 14th Nov. @ 11am | HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUBThe 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 greattea & coffee will be provided.Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361 | | |
| | Friday 18th Nov. @ 7.30pm | HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Terip Rec Reserve All welcome. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473 | | |
| | Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30 | MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICEat Highlands Community HallThe 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 - Nov. 2nd, 16th & 30th | | |
| lt's Back! | Every Monday @ 10am | QI GONGat the Tablelands Community CentreReturning for 2022, everyone is welcome.Contact Vivien 0405 612 400 | | |

THANK YOU HCCC from Sacred Heart PS Yea

Last Monday at the HCCC meeting held at the Highlands Hall, 3 local children - Blake, Chloe and Millie popped in to say Thank You for all the lovely free trees that the HCCC gave their school - Sacred Heart in Yea. It was an unexpected and very pleasant surprise for all concerned.

The message inside the card reads -

Dear Landcare,

We would like to thank you for the generous donation of plants and trees.

They have been carefully planted, mulched and have their own watering system.

We are super excited on how they are going to grow and make a beautiful place for us and the animals.

From all of us at Sacred Heart Primary School





IMPORTANT DATES FOR DIARIES

Christmas is only 63 days away and as the HCCC area likes to celebrate this festive occasion the first two of several celebrations are planned.

So put these dates in your diaries now!

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END OF YEAR BBQ

FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

and

TERIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

from 6.30pm

Merry Christmas everyone!

YOGA - coming back to Ruffy

YOGA Tuesdays NEW weekly class 1st November 2022 8.30am -9.30am

\$20 Tablelands Community Centre Nolans Rd Ruffy

Classes will be tailored to suit students' level of practice and will be a fun easy class for all ages.

BYO - Mat and warm blanket, pillow and props if you have any that you like to use.



YOGA WORKSHOI

Tablelands Community Centre September 2022 27 Nolans Road Ruffy

Wednesday 14th @ 8am -9am Back to the breath and listening to the body

Saturday 24th @ 3pm - 4pm Building strength, flexibility and balance \$20.00



Letter to the Editor - Just for the record

The Hughes Creek at the Boathole peaked at 2.0 to 2.1m on Thursday 13th October 2022. This level flood was very common in the 1970s, with the biggest flood being in 1973 (I think from memory) and this totally covered our pump shed. A flood level of more than 1.6m higher than last weeks. The shed was totally submerged again in 1981 and resurfaced some days later completely undamaged and is still in use today. It is difficult to know the exact height as flood water is not clear and we could not see the shed roof on either occasion. In today's type climate, I would summarise last week's flood as a once in a decade type flood. Unfortunately for many other areas, this event was much more severe.

The current bridge has never had much water flow over it, although it came very close in 2010, flood height of approx. 2.4m. The previous wooden bridge was washed off the bearers in 1973 and a crane was used some months later to refit it. I cannot recall exactly when the old wooden bridge was replaced, but when the new bridge was built, concrete pylons were driven in and excess length was cut off and offcuts dropped in the creek, which are still visible today in low water levels. The steel beams came from the temporary San Remo steel bridge used when the current concrete bridge was being constructed.

Photo: A couple of hours before peak flood level last week. Note the tree on the left, which is hard against the bridge foundations and will probably at some time in the future do significant damage.

This is a shire boundary bridge and neither Shire is interested in doing anything.



Randal Threlfall



Free biosecurity learning modules for farmers

Farmers across Victoria will benefit from a series of free online learning modules, helping them protect their animals from diseases and biosecurity threats.

Agriculture Victoria Animal Disease Program Coordinator, Scott McDonald, said this high-value training will better equip farmers, livestock producers, small landholders, industry workers and farm visitors with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure a safe and disease-free environment for livestock.

"These in-demand online modules explore the impacts that emergency animal diseases would have on our farming industry and how the risks can be reduced," he said.

"Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility and implementing good practices on your property and ensuring visitors follow those practices is key to preventing serious consequences for our animals, trade and economy.

"We hope to give farmers confidence and assurance that they are doing everything necessary and required to protect their animals, our state and country from serious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease."

Continued on p. 5...

RUFFY HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

FUNDRAISER - FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

You are invited to put together a team and join us at the **Ruffy Hall on**

Saturday 12th of November for a fun night of trivia challenges and friendly competition. There will be great prizes and the famous hot Ruffy Supper to conclude the evening.

Arrive at 7.30 pm to relax, settle your team in and get ready for the quiz questions to start at 8pm sharp. BYO drinks and snacks for your table

Please bring cash for the entry fee of \$10 and coins for the fabulous wine raffle, drawn on the night.

Thanks again for your support for this valuable community asset. **Sharron Batt**

Paterson's Curse be gone!

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. There is still time to spray so contact Neil ASAP.

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



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WASTE AND RECYCLING

In 2025, in line with the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Policy, Council will be introducing a new four-stream waste and recycling system. The four-stream system is separated into

- Food and Garden Organics
- Glass Recycling
- General Rubbish
 Mixed Recycling

To help us understand what will work best for our community, Council is seeking input from residents, businesses and ratepayers on a range of factors that will shape the way these services are provided.

Scan the QR code or go to theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/circulareconomy to have your say. Alternatively, give our Waste team a coll on 5772 0333.



Biosecurity Learning Modules for Farmers (continued from p.4)

Available through Agriculture Victoria's website, the three learning modules have been released: foot and mouth disease awareness, lumpy skin disease awareness and Come clean, stay clean, go clean – when visiting farms. Each module should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease are not currently present in Australia, however there are emerging threats with outbreaks in neighbouring countries.

Modelling by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) in 2013 reported a large multi-state outbreak of FMD could cost Australia \$80 billion over 10 years.

"Foot-and-mouth disease is considered one of Australia's greatest biosecurity risks, so it is vital livestock owners or people working with livestock take the appropriate biosecurity actions now," Mr McDonald said.

"Our agricultural sector is stronger than ever and we would like to keep it that way, so we encourage everyone to jump online and complete the series of useful learning modules."

For further information about the online learning modules, please visit <u>agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/elearning/biosecurity-courses</u> **OR**

Contact Vanessa vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au







Open Gardens on again

The Rotary Club of Yea is again hosting an Open Garden weekend on Sat & Sun 5 & 6 November, 10am – 5pm.

This is an opportunity to view five rural gardens (\$8 each) and three town gardens (\$5 each) or \$40 weekend pass (a saving of \$15). Tickets at Trybooking

https://www.trybooking.com/CAKFD or pay at each garden gate (cash only).

Details and maps at www.yearotary.org.au or Facebook or contact 0408 935 733.

Rotary BBQ will be at the rural property Kingsmere Park at 389 Murrindindi Rd and there will also be toilets at this location.

Also on the same weekend, Open Gardens Victoria has Candlebark garden open for the separate cost of \$10.

Visit Try booking or the Victorian Open Gardens website www.opengardensvictoria.org.au/coming -open-gardens for further details.



Microchipped and Vaccinated

Debbie - 0490763030



Beautiful Pure bred Border Collie pups

Longwood East Community SAFER Based Bushfire Management 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

Landčare, Safer Together personnel.

- DEWLP Discover the changing ecology of the area

(please advise of any dietary requirements)

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

DRAFT HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

To plan for the changing needs of residents and to help facilitate sustainable housing growth, Council has developed a draft Housing and Settlement Strategy (H&SS) and is seeking community feedback on this important strategic document.

The Strategy will assist Council in identifying future housing needs across Murrindindi Shire over the next 20 years, with a focus on both short-term and longterm opportunities for housing growth.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/housingstrategy for more information or come along and chat with Council officers at one of our community pop-up events being held across the Shire in early-November. You can also give us a call.

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN FLOWERDALE

Would you like the speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community? Council is hosting an Open Community Meeting on Wednesday 30 November from 5.00 – 7.00 pm at the Flowerdale Community House (36 Silver Creek Road) for residents to talk directly to Murrindindi Shire Councillors.

During the meeting, you will have five minutes allocated to present to Council. As this meeting is an open meeting, you may be speaking in front of members of the public as well as Council officers.

Prior registration is not required. We'll collect your details on the evening. For more information, email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au You can also give Council a call.

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET INVOLVED

Visit our online community engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au and have your say on key projects and initiatives. You can also sign-up to receive email updates on projects of interest to you.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

To see current vacancies, and for information about working at Council, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request 5772 0333

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2023

Save the date! We're excited to be running the Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year Awards again next year! This time around, the Awards will be presented during National Volunteer Week in May (15-21 May 2023) – providing the perfect opportunity for everyone to celebrate the contributions of people in our communities.

Usually at this time of year we put a call out for nominations for outstanding individuals for the Awards, with recipients presented at community-led Australia Day events across the Shire. The nominations we receive for the Awards are overwhelmingly for significant voluntary contributions that community members have made, so we believe aligning the awards with National Volunteer Week will provide a chance for everyone to celebrate and recognise the wonderful work our volunteers do.

We believe this change will also create greater flexibility for local community groups who usually run events for Australia Day, allowing them to determine the future direction of their events. We will continue to support these groups, including by providing funding assistance and promotional support for Australia Day events.

Information on the new awards program and the nomination process will be available in the new year – stay tuned!

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY ADOPTED

On 28 September 2022, Council adopted its Climate Change Policy, demonstrating our commitment to taking significant action that will contribute to restoring a safe climate.

The Policy applies to all Council staff, contractors, volunteers and elected representatives and helps guide our transition to net zero emissions by 2035.

We'll soon release our draft Climate Action Plan for community consultation, which will support the implementation of the Policy and outline the support we'll provide to the community to take action.

To view the Climate Change Policy, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE - FLOODS

For information on community assistance and support related to extreme weather events and flooding, visit Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au and click on the banner at the top of the page or give us a call on 5772 0333.



| HABBIES HOWE BEEF MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET LAL MEATS, BENTLEIGH SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA | EARWSON Diesel repairs & hole boring Diesel repairs & hole boring Metal fabrication & welding Shed construction & removal Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 Jawsonbluetop@gmail.com | Chris Sharman Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy Specialist Acme – Air Conditioning Electrical Solar M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: chris@acme.air.com.au | CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS Established 1978 NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS, RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. Registered Building Practitioner Call Colin for a quote Telephone: 0419 502 782 |
|---|---|--|--|
| The Pond Professor Peter Graf DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS DEAUTIFUL PONDS • Pond cleaning • Pond cleaning • Pond cleaning • Pond cleaning • Pond cleaning • Pond cleaning • Algee control • Vater testing • Design and construction • Native fish and planis • Consulting services Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com.au http://www.pondprofessor.com.au | SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL Supplying everything you need Products & Expertise in - Animal Production - Pasture/Crop Protection - Fencing & Livestock Handling PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW | Brought to you by a Yellow Footed Antechinus, living on a roadside near you. | Benco PLUMBING SERVICES Ben Laycock 0438 512299 Licence no. 105134 ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com.au |
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| Murrindindi Shire Council Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council walsh@murrindindi vic.gov.au 0437 835 586 | Tablelands Community Centre Upgraded facilities & playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1 st Friday BBQs Contact tccruffy@gmail.com Ph 0404 833 388 | For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer & More Call 0484108854 48 Magills Lane Maindample 3723 | Donated by supporters of our local koala population |
| Donation from Supporters of the SPOTTED PARDALOTE | 2022 - Greater Glider Vulnerable to Endangered | HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS Reasonable rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882 | Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees |
| Echidnas take care of their habitat | Advertising space available If interested contact Editor editor@tgn.org.au | Need a website? bluetopbizcomau Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472 Email: sue@bluetopbizcomau | 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.