

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



6th October 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 37

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Sunshine at last with some welcome warmth to accompany it and as we are in the last month of spring, it's about time too.

Although the HCCC area appears to be out of the woods the flow-on effect, literally, of all the recent rain means that towns downstream along the Murray River like Swan Hill and Mildura are destined for some major flooding. Although it's been a while since I visited Mildura my memory is of a broad brown river with the town and its surrounding vineyards and orchards perched atop rather high cliffs. The mind boggles with just how big the wall of water coming their way must be for it to scale such heights.

A good thing that it's stopped raining then.

Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**
And Kenny Koala...was wallowing in the Winter Super Mix seed.



Photo - Vic Emergency - Seymour submerged by the Goulburn River- for orientation Seymour Police Station is the white-roofed complex on left-hand side

Further October rainfall details for Highlands

Wettest October since 1910

October 2022 was the wettest of all months since 1910

3.7 times the average October rainfall (80.2mm)

Over 1/3 of the average annual rainfall in 1 month!!

Comparisons with 2022

Oct 1975 - 222.2mm

Oct 1949 - 186.3mm

Oct 1992 - 172.9mm

Thanks Alistair - Ed.

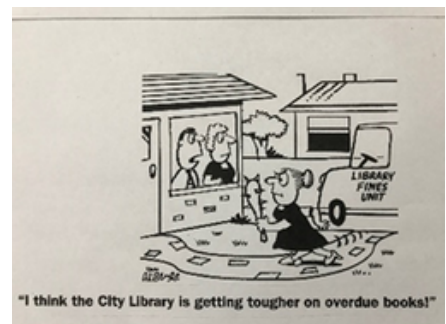


Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

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

Recording his thoughts on penguins...
"They are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world."

Apsley Cherry- Garrard
(1886 - 1959)
author of *The Worst Journey in the World* his account of Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova voyage of exploration 1911-1913



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
Oct.	294.4 mm	286 mm
2022 Total	1000.6 mm	976 mm
Rainy Days	17 days	17 days

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November 2022	
	Thursday 10th Nov. @ 7pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM at 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy All welcome Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com	
Details See p.6	Thursday 11th Nov. 3 - 8.30pm	CONNECTING RURAL WOMEN at Euroa Arboretum Be inspired with stories from the land. \$30 including a meal and bus.	
	Friday 11th Nov. @ 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 to cover power. Enquiries? - contact Paula 0419 551882	
	Saturday 12th Nov. @ 7.30pm	RUFFY HALL RESTORATION - TRIVIA NIGHT at Ruffy Hall Come 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	
See last TGN	Sunday 13th Nov. 9-3	CAPTURE ANCIENT TREES IN PHOTOGRAPHS at Strathbogie Hall Strathbogie Ranges Conservation group offer this workshop with Alison Pouliot on how to capture the story of a tree in a photo. Cost \$38 MT & lunch included. Numbers are limited. Tickets - Janet 0458 904268 or https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/438785417997	
	Monday 14th Nov. @ 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	
Details See p.3	Tuesday 15th Nov. 9.30 - 3	REGENERATING RURAL LANDSCAPES FREE BOOTCAMP IN THE HIGHLANDS Do you want to rehydrate your farm landscape, implement regenerative grazing, improve farm biodiversity and create a healthy and productive landscape? Sign up now! A second workshop will be held on Tuesday 13th Dec. Enquiries? vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au	
	Friday 18th Nov. @ 7.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at Terip Rec Reserve All welcome. Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473	
	Saturday 19th Nov. 10-noon	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366	
	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 - Nov. 16th & 30th and Dec. 14th.	
It's Back!	Every Monday @ 10am	QI GONG at the Tablelands Community Centre Returning for 2022, everyone is welcome. Contact Vivien 0405 612 400	

REGENERATING RURAL LANDSCAPES

Upcoming workshops on 'Regenerating Rural Landscapes' with renowned agroecologist David Hardwick from SoilLandFood, organised by the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare Group and sponsored by the Victorian Government.

Date: Tuesday 15th November 2022 and Tuesday 13th December; it's possible to register for either one or both days.

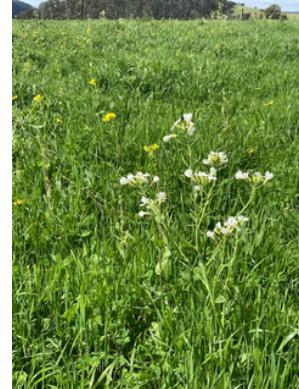
Where: Highlands - 3660 VIC. The exact address will be provided in the registration process.

Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

How to register: click on [this link for 15/11](#) and/or [this link for 13/12](#). Live links and QR codes are also provided on flyers.

In this workshop you'll learn about:

- how to "see" your landscape using landscape thinking
- about landscape patches: the building blocks of your farm's landscape
- the water and nutrient cycles in rural landscapes
- how energy flows and biodiversity functions in rural landscapes
- the role of soil health for landscape function
- the basics of Landscape Rehydration
- the range of strategies for regenerating your farm's landscape
- the key steps to Rural Landscape Regeneration



Please find PDF attached to email with detailed program for the two days.

Please wear appropriate gear (work boots, gloves and wet weather gear). Biosecurity measures will be in place for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Feel free to email Vanessa for more information.

Vanessa Malandrin
Project Coordinator,
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative
Email vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au



Due to unprecedented demand a second session on

SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS

will be held on **Tuesday 29th November commencing at 10am in Highlands**

Please contact **Craig 0407 800651** if you are interested in attending a snake avoidance training course for your dog.

Accredited dog trainer

Highly recommended

For more information: <https://www.vdta.com.au/services/snake-avoidance-dog-training/>

\$350 per dog

More interesting facts about Hughes Creek at the Boathole from Marilyn Threlfall

Hello Pauline

After Randal's note to you a couple of weeks ago, I decided to have a look at the history of rainfall here on the Hughes Creek at the Boathole Reserve. Randal and his father before him have kept daily rainfall records since January 1961.

Over the years I have put them in a spreadsheet so I decided to run a few stats over them and they do contain some interesting facts.

As these stats are very comprehensive, they will be run as space permits in TGN - Ed. Thanks Marilyn

RAIN, RAIN and more RAIN!! – How wet was October 2022 historically speaking?

October 2022 felt fairly wet, but was it our wettest October? Yes, well in our rain gauge it was 220.5mm, the wettest October in the 62 years we have been keeping daily records, and with 2 days above 50mm, it surpassed the two previous wettest Octobers in 1975 at 184mm and 1973 at 162.5mm by a good amount.

Flooding of the Boathole Reserve was fairly common in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Normally when 100mm or more of rain fell over 2-4 days but generally the water recedes within 24 hours. From memory, our records and photos, major floods occurred in 1973, 1979, 1981, and moderate & minor floods in 1974, 1983, 1984, 1989, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2020, and 2022.

While I was checking this, I thought I would put together a few other numbers on rainfall over the last 62 years.

Hughes Creek Boathole Rainfall 1961 – Oct 2022. The 62 year Summary. Average rainfall by decade:

1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s	62-year average
694.1	853.4	803.8	806.4	659.0	703.6	814.0	752.7mm

Wettest and Driest Years and % above / below 62 year average

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wettest	1973	2010	1993	1996	1974	1981	1975	1970
mm	1,127	1,170	1,126	1,061	1,057	1,012	990	989
+ %	62	55	50	41	41	35	31	31
Driest	1982	2006	1967	2019	2002	1972	1994	2007
mm	375	379	449	472	484	496	516	522
- %	50	50	40	37	36	34	32	31



The Boathole Bridge

Photo is of the old wooden bridge over the Boathole in the major floods of 1979.

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



Letter to the Editor

Truth Telling

I left school in 1952, and at no time in my school years was I taught the history of our First Nations People, apart from an occasional reference. There was certainly no mention of colonial violence and wars. The impression I was left with was a benign story of white settlement.

Aboriginal people occasionally appeared as curiosities. The message was that the 'real history' began in 1788. When I went to university and studied Australian history, the story was still about 'white' history. When I did a segment on archaeology Aboriginal culture did get a mention.

It was only in the early 1970's when I started reading the histories of C D Rowley (eg. The Destruction of Aboriginal Society 1970) and Henry Reynolds (eg. Aborigines and Settlers 1972) that I started to get in touch with the 'ignored' history of Australia.

Since that time, I have read widely in Australian history, but even so, it was not until more recently that the colonial wars have been taken seriously by historians and commentators. Of course, some commentators like Keith Windschuttle and politicians like John Howard and Scott Morrison have tried to downplay the dark aspects of our history, but our integrity as a nation demands the truth be told regardless.

If Australia takes up the Indigenous peoples' invitation of the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart', and moves towards a Constitutional Voice to Parliament, it will mean truly facing up to our history in all its colours.

I do recommend Henry Reynolds's latest book, 'Truth-Telling; History, Sovereignty and the Uluru Statement', as an excellent primer for our future discussions. His clarity and intellectual integrity is fresh air in the face of much confusion in the public discourse and an excellent antidote to those who try to spread misinformation.

Stuart Reid - Highlands

Did you know?



Goulburn Broken CMA is gathering information from landowners about issues that they have as a result of the recent and ongoing wet weather/floods.

Send the following information to Karen Brisbane at the GBCMA

- Name
- Address
- What is the issue?
- What you need to fix it?
- A general estimate of the cost – not compulsory.

karenb@ghcma.vic.gov.au
or ring her on 0409 955 396.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline,

We were sorry to see the Tea Rooms of Yarck close its doors, having a "2 hat" restaurant close by was really appreciated.

Now the Yarck Hotel has been taken over by Geoff Lindsay who used to have the up market Pearl Restaurant in Melbourne.

Last night we had our first meal there and it was very very good. Geoff is keen to include local produce and the menu invites locals to tell him what they can provide.

Regards

John Wise

If anyone can assist with produce for the Yarck Pub, contact them directly - 5773 4226

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DIARIES

Christmas is only 49 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!

DID YOU KNOW? - November 12th - 20th is Australian Pollinator Week!

Why not check out the following websites to discover more? www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au and www.wildpollinatorcount.com



CONNECTING RURAL WOMEN:

be inspired with stories from the land

- Bus tour to Susie Bates property - walk to the creek and hear her farming journey
- Local winemaker Sarah Gough from Box Grove Vineyard will have tastings and talk about her journey in the wine industry (purchase of wines available)
- Smoking and welcome to Country with Cassie Leatham at Euroa Arboretum
- Wine (BYO), dine and walking tour at Euroa Arboretum with Cathy Olive.

FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
3.00-8.30PM
@ Euroa Arboretum

Cost: \$30pp including meal and bus. BYO alcohol
Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/CDEOP>
or QR code



BYO your boots for walking!

This project is delivered by Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program










IMPORTANT - NEW DATES!!
Event is now on **Friday 9th December**
and RSVPs by **Thursday 1st December**

Longwood East Community 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 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 or text/phone 0407 604 012



Regenerative Agriculture days

with David Hardwick

Restore and rehydrate your farm landscape



REGENERATING

rural

LANDSCAPES

15th November, 13th December 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Rehydrate your farm landscape
Implement regenerative grazing
Improve farm biodiversity
Create a healthy and productive landscape

FREE 2 DAY BOOTCAMP
in the Highlands




Book for one or both dates

15 November

13 December

Lunch provided

Enquiries at vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au

Biosecurity measures will be in place.
Please wear appropriate shoes & clothing, and follow biosecurity protocols at your arrival.



This event is sponsored by Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative and the Victorian State Government.



<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	<p></p> <p>LAWSON</p> <p>General earthworks & hole boring Diesel repairs & servicing Metal fabrication & welding Shed construction & removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chris Sharman</p> <p>Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme - Air Conditioning Electrical Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: chris@acmeair.com.au</p>	<p></p> <p>CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS</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>The Pond Professor</p> <p> Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pond cleaning• Filtration systems• Fountains and waterfalls• Native fish and plants• Algae control• Water testing• Design and construction• Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com.au http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</p>	<p></p> <p>SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL</p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products & Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Animal Production- Pasture/Crop Protection- Fencing & Livestock Handling <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>BenCo</p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
<p></p> <p>nomad art</p> <p>Online & by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p> <p></p> <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p>JARRAD</p> <p> 0409 082 257</p> <p></p>	
<p></p> <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0437 835 586</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1st Friday BBQs Contact tccruffy@gmail.com Ph 0404 833 388</p>	<p></p> <p>PATON</p> <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer & 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 SPOTTED PARDALOTE</p> <p></p>	<p>2022 - Greater Glider Vulnerable to Endangered</p> <p></p> <p>STOP logging old growth forests</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</p> <p>Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire</p> <p>MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS</p> <p>Reasonable rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882</p>	<p>Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees</p> <p></p>
<p>Echidnas take care of their habitat</p> <p></p>	<p>Advertising space available</p> <p>If interested contact Editor editor@tgn.org.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</p>	<p></p> <p>Strathbogie Granite Project</p> <p>neil.phillips@bigpond.com</p>

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.