

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



13th November 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 38

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

And so the rain continues, perhaps not as intensely as in October but it is encouraging a mega spring growth of anything with roots.

To that end I have included 2 photos below that remind me of those cartoons that were in the Australasian Post magazine of decades ago - the two black and white cartoons that looked identical, but one had 10 differences compared to the other one. Well, these 2 photos are a bit like that except that there is only one difference. Can you spot it?



If you think that the photo on the left represents the most likely cause of bushfires this summer, even though it features long green grass rather than bush, you would be correct!

All this rain in the last month has considerably increased the risk and likelihood of grassfires in February and March, although the forested areas are likely to stay damp in the understory, which should restrict that type of fire. Yet another summer of swings and roundabouts.

However, unlike the understory, there is a simple way to mitigate the potential for grass fires in the district this summer and the photo on the right shows how - whether you slash, mow, whipper-snip or put your stock into the long paddock, we can all assist our local CFA brigades by reducing the grassy fuel-load along our roads and lanes.

Once upon a time the I seem to recall the local shires tended to do that job, but with the amount of flood damage that all 3 Shires - Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie - are currently dealing with, I wouldn't be waiting for the cavalry to come over the hill as they have so much more to contend with this at this time.

Instead, why not work on the old adage - if you want anything done, do it yourself - and consider making this beautiful part of the world, that most TGN readers call home, as firesafe as possible for all of us.

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

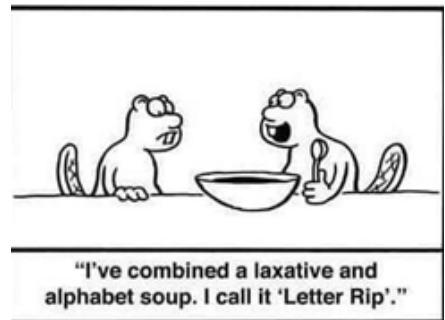
And Kenny Koala...was getting ready to party with the other Xmas koalas

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

"Map out your future but do it in pencil."

Jon Bon Jovi - Musician



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

One with Rank
Heat on Ice
Canned Fruit

Time to Explore - Virtually

If you haven't dusted off your passport quite yet, then you might like to explore the wider world from the comfort of home and the British Museum website is a great place to start. It offers the ability to scroll across a timeline going back centuries. Choose a continent, then a subject of interest and visit britishmuseum.withgoogle.com for an interactive experience.

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November & December 2022
	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? - Jan 5790 4361
Details see p.3	Tuesday 15th Nov.	RUFFARTZ AGM All welcome. at Ruffy Hall Enquiries? Rob 0401 993681
See last TGN	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
	Thursday 24th Nov. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Sunday 27th Nov. @ 10am	LAST HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS for 2022 at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. See p.3 for more. Enquiries? Andrew Shaw 0437 249038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235
See last TGN	Tuesday 29th Nov. @ 10am	SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS in Highlands Enquiries? Craig 0407 800651
Details see p.3	Wed. 30th Nov. @ 7.30pm	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AGM at Terip Tennis Club Everyone welcome to attend. Enquiries? Rob 0401 933681
	Friday 2nd Dec. @ 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at the Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights Enquiries? 0427 690970
	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
	Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per class BYO Mat & blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Highlands Ramblers

On Sunday 30th October, Andrew Shaw led a group of keen walkers down to the Stoney Creek Waterfall. A little slippery after the rains, it was amazing to walk and climb off the track, through this ironstone country.

Andrew shared some good stories about its isolated location and the difficulties to access during a fire years ago. An unclaimable fire helmet that rolled down into the valley. The waterfall was magnificent! Andrew would like to guide one more ramble on Sunday 27th November, weather permitting. Hope to see you there.

Need information? Ring Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235.



It's all happening....

RuffArtz AGM

Tuesday 15th November, Ruffy Public Hall, 7.30 pm.

All are most welcome to attend and join an enthusiastic and dedicated group who enjoy providing a variety of shows/entertainment to our community.

Rob Jamieson
Ruffartz Committee Member
Mob: 0401 993 681

Neighbourhood Watch AGM

(Creighton's Creek, Ruffy, Longwood East, Terip)

Wednesday 30th November, Terip Tennis Club, @ 7.30 pm.

All community members are welcome to attend.

Rob Jamieson
NHW Chairperson
Mob: 0401 993 681

Highlands Hall – Working Bee

Sunday 4th December @ 9am

Lots of jobs to do, everyone is welcome as many hands make light work.
Enquiries? Contact Robyn 0409 528235

Highlands Ramblers

Sunday 27th November @ 10am
Weather permitting

Come join the Highland Ramblers, led by Andrew Shaw, for the last time in 2022.
Meet outside the Highlands Hall at 10am with your picnic lunch, water and sturdy shoes.
Need confirmation about the weather?
Ring Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235

Roadside Vegetation Event - Survey presentation and bus trip

On Sunday 25th November from 10am-3.30pm, the Strathbogie Conservation Management Network are hosting a bus trip to highlight some of the most valuable and overlooked microcosms of flora and fauna the Strathbogie Shire has to offer.

Registration essential: RSVP to stratbogierangescmn@gmail.com to register.



Highlands Hall Working Bee

As Highlanders we all enjoy our Hall and have an interest in its welfare.

This (wet) year we have completed many repairs both inside and outside of the Hall. Our roof is about to enjoy major maintenance, including the addition of a new gutter and downpipes. New improved lighting has been added to the back deck and side walkway.

Lots of research shows that giving back to your community will make you feel happier, so why not test the theory. A community working bee is an opportunity to say thank-you and see friends.

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2022

9AM START

LUNCH PROVIDED

BRING YOUR TOOLS AND ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM

Jobs for Working Bee at Hall & CFA shed

Weeding

Pruning

Whipper Snipping

Mowing

Cleaning outside toilets

Cleaning windows

Sweeping & washing floors

Washing down tables & chairs

Spring clean of kitchen

Painting


If you can't come on that day that's OK. Just let me know which job you are happy to do, and we'll put your name next to the job.

RSVP to let Robyn know so she can make sure there is plenty to eat and drink.

lingardglass@ozemail.com.au

Mob. 0409528235

**Seymour
Agricultural &
Pastoral Society**



SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for a 12 month scholarship of \$3000 for young people aged 17-25 years in the Seymour region studying or planning to study in any agricultural or sustainable resource management field at a tertiary level.

Other areas of study which will benefit the rural community will be considered.

**Applications close:
Monday, January 31, 2023**

Seymour A&P Society Scholarship
PO Box 6, Seymour, VIC, 3661
or phone 0438 577 126 or 0428 969 255
Or email applications to:
jldalziel12@bigpond.com



Don't forget to minimise your fire risk!

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

1960s - Dry years:

1965: 73 days with no rain Jan- Mar (driest period in the last 62 years), 0 mm in both Jan & Feb.

A total of only 26mm (over 5 days) from 24th Dec '64 to 4th April '65.

1967: Third driest year (in 62 years).

For the decade: 11 periods of no rain for 20 or more days.

A total of 26 months where the rainfall was 50% or more below average. The minimum number of days of rain per month (in the 62 years): zero days in Jan (1965) and Feb (1965/68).

March (1968), April (1963) and Sept (1961) also recorded the least days of rain for that month in 62 years.

1960s Wetter years:

1963 May 16th the only day in this decade with over 50mm.

1968 May: 20 days of rain (maximum for May in 62 years).



Terip Christmas BBQ



Saturday 3rd December
6pm onwards
Bring a salad/dessert to share
\$15 For BBQ Dinner

RSVP by 27 November to
Jenny 0448 833 875 or
Jonathan 0448 128 298 or
Terip Facebook page
'Terip Terip Community'



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Landcare and interested farm folks,

Drones are becoming more common-place in agriculture and conservation, and provide significant benefits to projects and productivity when deployed correctly within a project.

Firetail Environments offers specialised workshops for groups and members to better understand and utilise drone operations and programs in projects including understanding what role drones can play in land management, conservation and farming, how drones can be applied to assist in data and information collection, and how they can be used for greater decision making, design and tasks within project based or farming applications.

When used correctly, drones can be vital tools in data collection, mapping, documentation, GIS, and on ground works including spraying, spreading and seeding.

Having worked in the Landcare industry in a Network role, Danny brings an intimate understanding of Landcare and its broad group dynamics. With this experience, Danny is able to understand workshop and group requirements and creates custom designed sessions for Landcare, Conservation and Farm interest groups, delivered with a focus on educating groups on how drones can be used within a project and on achieving on ground outcomes - I have nothing to sell you.

Sessions are designed according to group knowledge, interests and project application. Currently, Firetail Environments is organising bookings for the following workshops for December 2022 through to March 2023:

- Introduction to drones in conservation and agriculture
- Intermediate 2 day workshop and demonstration in utilising drones and mapping assessments for conservation and agriculture
- Demonstration days in mapping and spraying/spreading

Please find the attached workshop flyer for your consideration, I look forward to seeing some of you in a shed or a paddock somewhere!

Kind regards,
Danny Pettingill
0421 326 980
Monday - Thursday

NB: For more information see ad above Ed.

POOL SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Murrindindi Shire's swimming pool season commences on Saturday 19 November! With entry free-of-charge again this season, we hope you take the chance to cool off at one of our swimming pools at Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville or Yea.

Pools will open when the temperature forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology is 23 degrees or above in that location. Pools will open for morning lap swimming and school/swim club bookings regardless of the forecast.

We're pleased to have recruited a brilliant team of lifeguards to help keep our communities safe at our pools this season. Our lifeguards are central to the successful operation of our swimming pools, so make sure you show your appreciation to them this season.

For the latest information, including opening hours and updates to services, please visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'pools'. You can also keep an eye out on Council's Facebook page for the latest information on activities and pool closures throughout the season.

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN FLOWERDALE

Come along to a community meeting on Wednesday 30 November from 5.00 - 7.00 pm and speak to Murrindindi Shire Councillors about topics or issues that affect you and your community.

The meeting will be held at the Flowerdale Community House, 36 Silver Creek Road, Flowerdale.

There is no need to register to attend. You can register your details on the day.

For more information, visit our website and search 'community meeting' or give us 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.

TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

To see current tenders and business opportunities, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/tenders

GET IN TOUCH

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

MURRINDINDI SHIRE 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!

DRAFT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY - HAVE YOUR SAY

Did you know that property owners and developers wishing to subdivide land in Murrindindi Shire, are required to make an important contribution toward creating and enhancing public open spaces, either by allocating monies, land or a combination of both?

Council recently formalised its draft Public Open Space Contributions Policy to provide guidance on how these contributions are received and managed.

The Policy outlines the percentage contribution required for land subdivision and Council's responsibility for reporting and monitoring contributions.

Community members are invited to provide feedback on Council's draft Public Open Space Contributions Policy, by visiting theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/POS



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Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr John Walsh
Koriella Ward
Murrindindi Shire Council
jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
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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, play and grow.

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