

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



20th November 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 39

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As another COP - COP27 comes to an end - there continues to be flickers of hope on the horizon that maybe the nations of the world will be able to reverse the global warming trend and put aside individual economic differences for the benefit of the world as a whole. Whilst some concessions have been made any 'big picture' decisions seem to be moving at glacial speed. Of course, it is not only humans who will benefit when such life-changing policies are made, the natural world will appreciate the reprieve too.

Every two years the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) publishes The Living Planet Report which highlights the state of the environment with a particular focus on human activity. A precis on the 2022 report follows below. If you want to read the full report, click [here](#).

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

And Kenny Koala...was enjoying the walk to Stoney Creek Falls

Nature needs our help

WWF's 2022 Living Planet Report provides a comprehensive health check on the state of our environment and the results are alarming. With a 69% decrease in wildlife populations globally since 1970, drastic action is needed. Thankfully, the report outlines a path forward and highlights the important role of trees in a healthy future for our living planet.



Every two years, WWF publishes The Living Planet Report, a science backed publication highlighting the state of the environment, with a particular focus on the impacts of human activity. As part of this, WWF have created the Living Planet Index (LPI), which over the last 50 years has analysed populations of

mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

This year, the report focused on the loss of wildlife populations in the last 50 years. Devastatingly, the report, which studied almost 32,000 species populations to determine this year's LPI, highlighted a 69% decrease in wildlife globally since 1970. The increased pressures of a growing human population on the environment have taken a huge toll on the wildlife and wild places. The report calls for drastic action to reverse this. Planting new trees and protecting existing forests are two key strategies towards a healthier living planet.

Credit: Sarah Chaplin - Planet Ark Team



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

"We are all visitors to this time and place - we are just passing through."

Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)



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

One with Rank - Officer
Heat on Ice - Melton
Canned Fruit - Ardmona

The Living Planet Report

"The evidence is unequivocal – we are living through the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change driven by the unsustainable use of our planet's resources.

Scientists are clear, unless we stop treating these emergencies as two separate issues neither problem will be addressed effectively"

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November & December 2022	
	Thursday 24th Nov. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.	at Caveat Church
	Sunday 27th Nov. @ 9am	WORKING BEE @ TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE	All welcome
	Sunday 27th Nov. @ 10am	LAST HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS for 2022 Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew Shaw 0437 249038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235	at Highlands Hall
See 6/11 TGN	Tuesday 29th Nov. @ 10am	SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS Enquiries? Craig 0407 800651	in Highlands
See last TGN	Wed. 30th Nov. @ 7.30pm	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AGM Everyone welcome to attend.	at Terip Tennis Club Enquiries? Rob 0401 933681
Details see p.4	Saturday 3rd Dec. 9am - 4pm	WORKING BEE Lots of jobs to do, everyone is welcome as many hands make light work! Lunch provided. Enquiries? 0409 528235	at the Highlands Hall NB: NEW Date!!
Details see p.5	Saturday 3rd Dec. @ 6pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY XMAS PARTY Enquiries? Melissa 0404 833388	 at TCC, Ruffy
Details see p.5	Saturday 3rd Dec. @ 6pm	TERIP CHRISTMAS BBQ - BYO SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE	@ Terip Reserve
See 6/11 TGN	Friday 9th Dec. @ 10.30 am	LONGWOOD EAST ROADSIDE WALK - Meet @ 331 Gap Rd, Longwood RSVPs by Thursday 1st December - 0407 604012	
Details see p.5	Friday 9th Dec. @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS - CAVEAT END-OF-YEAR FAMILY GET TOGETHER	@ Highlands Hall
	Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE 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. 30th and Dec. 14th.	at Highlands Community Hall
It's Back!	Every Monday @ 10am	QI GONG Returning for 2022, everyone is welcome.	at the Tablelands Community Centre Contact Vivien 0405 612 400
	Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid \$20 per class BYO Mat & blanket	at the Tablelands Community Centre Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor

Hello Pauline,

While I agree that grass fires could be a big issue this year with so much growth, a gentle reminder that no roadsides are alike.

Roads with lots of introduced grasses like phalaris, wild oats or annual veldt grass and generally few native species will have the biggest bulk of dry flammable grass.

But there are many roadsides that are rich in a variety of native grasses, wildflowers and understory shrubs, sometimes hidden by the grass, such as the young blackwood and sun orchid (at Cherry Tree Range), everlastings (Seymour Avenel Road) or the more obvious donkey orchids and chocolate lilies (Telegraph Road).

In our landscapes, roadsides are often the only places where native plants can grow to flower and seed, and they need our protection.

Peter Mitchell - Seymour

Ed's Note - it can be a fine line between fire prevention and preserving the native flora on our roadsides - maybe a finessed approach rather than a gung-ho operation is the way to go where smaller native species are present.



While these pictures might just look like 'grass' the LHS one contains 3 everlastings and the RHS one 4 orchids & lilies

It's time to Vote - again!

Don't forget that **NEXT** Saturday 26th November is Election Day for the State Government of Victoria.

If you're not one of the estimated 40% of voters who already have, or are intending to, vote prior to election day then don't forget that the HCCC area has its own local polling booth at



Ruffy Hall from 8am - 6pm on Election Day. People from anywhere in the state ie: weekend residents can vote here as well as the local community. No queues!!

And.... an Election Day employment opportunity exists at Tatura - 1.5 hours work for \$250 + travel.

If interested contact Neil ASAP - 0417 503472

Where did all this sand come from??



This photo shows masses of sand deposited below the bridges at Avenel.

Peter wants to know - Have all the sand slugs in the Strathbogies been washed away?

Can any readers answer this question or have photos showing the other end of the conundrum in Strathbogie? If so...

Email - editor@tgn.org.au

Did you know?

16 Days of Activism begins on **Friday 25th November**, the **International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women** and ends on **Saturday 10 December**, **Human Rights Day**. It is a chance for individuals to stand united in their local communities and call out Gender-based Violence for what it is - **unacceptable!!** Check out your own Shire websites to see what activities are planned.

A DATE FOR YOUR 2023 DIARIES!

Trust that incredibly social community of Treip to be the first cab off the rank with a social event for 2023! **Saturday 11th February 2023 is the great TRIVIA NIGHT** & will be held at the Rec. After a long Covid hiatus, we are hoping a local Terip team can regain the title back from the reigning Trivia champions - Ruffy!

Highlands Community Hall & CFA Volunteer Working Bee

Everyone welcome

Saturday 3rd December @ 9pm – 4pm,

BBQ lunch - provided by the CFA

Sunday 4th December morning only for a final tidy up.

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

lingardglass@ozemail.com.au or 0409 528 235

A big push is needed to get the Hall and grounds ready for the end of year bash on 9th December.

BRING YOUR TOOLS, PPE, ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM & GOOD CHEER

Jobs outside

- Side and front garden needs weeding and cutting back.
- Remove slippery moss and weeds from paths.
- Front and back overgrown hedges need trimming and shaping.
- Removal of a lot of the growth around the toilet block.
- Remove overhanging branches from over the toilet block.
- The big wattle between the tanks and the toilet block could go.

Inside: Painting and general cleaning

Schoolhouse room

1. Primer/white paint to match on new boards under blackboard and small area behind door.
2. Primer/white paint to match doorframe and architraves both sides.
3. Take down the spotlight system that has now been disconnected. Store in box under stage.
4. Clean cobwebs, blowflies and debris out of strip lighting covers.
5. Sand and revive with fresh paint the two long benches.

Kitchen

Prime/white paint to match doorframe and architraves both sides.

Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society



SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are invited for a 12 month scholarship of \$5000 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:

Tuesday, 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



Darren Gilbert's Open Studio

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th Dec.

10 - 4

Butter Factory, Rattray St, Yea
Great Christmas shopping!

Continuing interesting facts about Hughes Creek at the Boathole - Marilyn Threlfall

1970s - The Wettest Decade

Wet year:

1973: The wettest year in 62 years. 21st Feb 1973 was second wettest individual day (87mm) and the second wettest multi-day event, 127 mm 19th -21st Feb. This caused major flooding of the Boathole.

The wettest February and March (in 62 years)!

For the decade: A total of 51 months where the rainfall was 50% or more above average and 21 of those being 80% or more above. A total of 6 days with more than 50mm rain in a single day: These were in Nov 1970, Feb & Sep 1973, Jun 1974, Apr 1977, and Nov 1978 (7th wettest day).

The most days of rain per month (in 62 years) were recorded in: Jan 1970, Feb 1972/73, Mar 1970, April & Jul 1974, Oct & Nov 1971.

4 of the 8 wettest years occurs in this decade.

Dry Years:

1972: The 5th driest year. Sept 1977 was the only month to score the least days of rain per month (in the 62 years) There were only four periods where no rain fell for 20 or more days.



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'

Although this workshop is out of the HCCC area it may be worth attending...

Upper Ovens Valley Landcare invites you to:

"Living with Deer" Farm Visits

Reducing the impacts of feral deer on your property



Come along to a field day to learn more about deer and ways to manage the impacts of feral deer on your property.

Farmers, property owners and deer control experts will discuss damage from feral deer, and controls such as using property planning, professional pest controllers, volunteer hunters, deterrents and disruptive activity along with physical asset protection such as fencing and guards.

What: Living with Deer Field Day, Buckland Valley
Where: Starting in Porepunkah, car pool preferred or drive yourself
When: Saturday November 26, 10.00 – 3.00
Cost: Free including lunch beside the Buckland River
Bookings: Essential via the link below,
<https://events.humanitix.com/living-with-deer-field-day>
scan the QR code or
call Peter 0487 295 198



Hosted by the Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Group and supported by TAFCO and NECMA



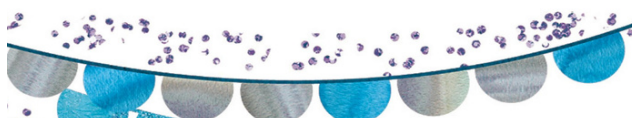
You are invited to the
Highlands/Caveat
End of Year Family Get Together

Friday 9th of December at 6.30pm
The Highlands/Caveat Community Group
Highlands Hall



BBQ provided
BYO drinks, glass, chair, and a salad to share

This is a community break up, so we invite all groups and members to attend



Feral Deer - a protected species of a pest?

Feral deer populations are rapidly growing and spreading across Victoria damaging the natural environment and causing havoc for farmers and motorists; how has it come to this?

Deer were introduced in the mid 1800's for game. For many decades the population remained relatively low but steadily growing and spreading. Later in the 20th century the population started to increase and spread rapidly; there are now over 1 million feral deer that occupy nearly 40% of Victoria.

Why are they called feral? Deer are an introduced species that now exist in the wild in large numbers, and in an uncontrolled and unconstrained state, which means by definition they are appropriately described as feral deer. They have gone well beyond what might have once been thought of as wild game for hunters.

Why are feral deer a problem? The impacts of feral deer on Victoria's environment, economy and community wellbeing are widespread and serious.

Feral deer degrade the natural environment - Victoria's precious biodiversity is impacted significantly and widely by feral deer. They cause substantial damage to native vegetation and ecologically fragile areas by overgrazing and trampling native grasslands and herb fields, and heavily browsing and ring-barking shrubs and trees.

They cause erosion by trampling and creating trails and degrade water quality by wallowing in wetlands and streams.

Sadly, feral deer have now invaded our finest natural areas, including almost all of Victoria's national parks from the coast to the high country, including Victoria's highest peak on Mount Bogong.

The impacts of feral deer can disrupt the overall viability and function of fragile ecosystems such as the alpine wetland, a delicate vegetation community listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) but being trashed by these heavy hard hoofed animals. Feral deer are accordingly listed as a key and potentially threatening process respectively in Australia's *EPBC Act* and *Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Feral deer hinder native vegetation from recovery - As our environment struggles to deal with climate change and recover from serious disturbances such as bushfires, feral deer are hindering natural regeneration by browsing and grazing delicate regrowth and disturbing unstable recovering soils as their weight is distributed to the ground through small hard hooves.

Expensive and unsightly deer proof fences are being built around threatened species and vegetation communities to protect them from feral deer. Landcare groups and landowners are having to invest more in expensive tree guards and fencing to protect their revegetation from feral deer.

Feral deer impact farmers and forestry - The high density of feral deer on and adjacent to farmlands is having a significant economic and psychological impact on farmers as many battle against feral deer. They cause damage to a wide variety of high value produce including vegetables, fruit and nut trees, cereal crops and vineyards, they foul pasture and water sources and compete with livestock for feed.

Feral deer are biologically similar to domesticated hoofed mammals so can carry and spread livestock diseases such as foot and mouth disease that can impact devastatingly on farm productivity and stock loss.

Feral deer are a serious concern to foresters dealing with the impact on young pines in softwood plantations and regenerating native forests after logging.

Feral deer are a public safety concern - As the population grows, feral deer are a high and increasing risk to motorists; the presence of feral deer in Victoria have resulted in a high number of crashes and accidents. People in areas where deer are present are anxious about driving at night.

Why are feral deer protected? -The impacts and challenges of feral deer are clear, so why aren't they treated as pest animals like foxes, rabbits and pigs? That is because they are still a protected species in Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975! This is a hangover from when they were considered to require protection as game for the pleasure of hunters. The outdated protection is before Victoria had more than 1 million feral deer covering nearly half the state. The population growth and spread has occurred under this regime of protection for game and is clearly hindering control and must change.



Credit - Invasive Species Council article www.invasives.org.au

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<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 HELICOPTERS</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></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>
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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.