

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



4th December 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 41

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As the weather hots up and reminds us that summer might actually be a possibility it's timely to remind all TGN's readers that this little publication takes a summer break too. Next week's issue will be the last one for 2022 with TGN bouncing back into your email inboxes on Sunday 15th January 2023.

With this in mind if any readers have any events to publicise for the final issue of 2022 or the beginning of 2023, please send any copy to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) by this coming Thursday 8/12.

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

And Kenny Koala...apologises for his absence in last week's TGN as he was visiting some furry friends at Moonlit Sanctuary in Tyabb.

## Many hands make light work



On Saturday about 20 Highlanders descended on the Highlands Community Hall armed with rakes, whipper-snippers, ride on mowers and a variety of other tools and implements on a mission to transform the hall and its surrounds into a beautifully presented landscape.

After a solid morning's work, it is now ready to welcome the masses for the End-of-Year Family party next Friday night. See some locals at work on p.4

## Some important dates & changes for your diaries

- There will be NO Black Market in January and upon recommencing in February summer times of 10-noon will apply
- The happy Highlands spinning group will be meeting at Marmalades in December - see What's On Calendar for details
- Ruffy CFA have an important pre-season meeting **THIS Monday** - also see the What's On Calendar for details

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

"They spend an awful lot of time in each other's company and I think that my mother could probably survive without my father, but my father couldn't survive without her."

**Tony Whitlam on his parents Gough & Margaret's marriage**



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
Nov.	98.7 mm	80 mm
2022 Total	1099.3 mm	1056 mm
Rainy Days	17 days	12 days

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - December 2022 and into 2023
	Mon. 5th & Thurs. 8th Dec.	EUROA ARBORETUM END of YEAR SALE - 50% OFF @ Euroa Arboretum
	Mon 5th Dec. @ 7.30pm	<b>The Ruffy Brigade Pre-Season Meeting</b> at the Ruffy Fire Shed Come along and be updated about the new fire danger ratings, the latest on training, grants, brigade equipment and the predicted fire season ahead of us. This is also the time to drag out your kit bags and assess if anything needs replacing before the coming fire season. Even if your uniforms have just shrunk over Covid, they can be replaced. <b>(I can relate to that problem- Ed.)</b>
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
	Tuesday 13th Dec. @ 11.30	<b>The Highlands Spinning Group is not meeting at the usual time and place in Dec. BUT</b> instead they are having a Christmas get-together at Marmalades on Tuesday. A table has been booked for 11:30am and we look forward to our end-of-year gathering. <b>Jan Sporry 5790 4361</b>
Details see p.5	Tuesday 13th December	<b>REGENERATING RURAL LANDSCAPES FREE BOOTCAMPS</b> in the Highlands Do you want to rehydrate your farm landscape, implement regenerative grazing, improve farm biodiversity and create a healthy productive landscape? Sign up now for the second workshop. <b>Enquiries? <a href="mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au">vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au</a></b>
	Saturday 11th Feb. 2023	THE TERRIFIC TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT IS ON AGAIN - put the date in your diary NOW!
	Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	<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>Forthcoming dates are Dec. 14th and Jan. 11th &amp; 25th.</b>
<b>It's Back!</b>	Every Monday @ 10am	<b>RUFFY QI GONG</b> will stop for Christmas this coming Monday 5th December and recommence Monday 16th January at 10.00am.
	Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK</b> with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket <b>Enquiries? Ingrid <a href="mailto:ingstar.7@gmail.com">ingstar.7@gmail.com</a></b>

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

Jam - Monbulk  
Ice-cream Brand - Bulla  
Canned Fruit - Ardmona

Are you interested in supporting The Granite News?

Each year 24 ad spaces are available on the back page of TGN for the very reasonable cost of \$250 per for 42 issues.

Ads can be for local businesses or for altruistic options such as the Friends of...spaces. Interested? Email [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) to register.

## Regenerating rural landscapes

Following David Hardwick's training day on soil health in June this year, there was much interest in the ways to look after the land, so Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) have recently supported him to continue the conversation through two days of workshops on Regenerating Rural Landscapes.

HCCC are grateful to Stephanie and Cam Stewart, owners of 'Looking Glass' who hosted 30 participants on their farm in the Highlands. Vanessa Malandrin, project coordinator from HCCC, was surprised at the mixture of service providers and farmers who attended the event. She stated, "I didn't expect that this event would bring the variety of people it did from lifestyle farmers, commercial farmers and viticulturalists to extension officers".

We kicked off with some playful (but meaningful) activities involving tricky puzzles, which helped participants to loosen up and connect with each other easier.

"I was really pleased at the way David Hardwick could engage the audience in a way that assisted people to connect with each other", continued Vanessa. The learning that followed included fundamental ecological units of landscape, called patches, and how different cycles interact in landscape dynamics. David, who is an educator from Soil, Land and Food emphasised to everyone, "When you are regenerating rural landscapes, you're acting on these patches, which is different from focusing on only paddocks."

For the landscape observation exercise, a printout workbook was used to observe the landscape from a vantage point, higher up on the hill. Divided into smaller groups, we took notes on all we could see, from 5 square metres up to 100 square metres around us, and then to a broader landscape level. People were surprised to discover how many details and new aspects could be observed even in a familiar landscape. Looking at the same place with a new set of lenses does produce different results.

A couple of farmers who were at the workshop later commented, "After we went home, we discovered that this workbook is a very valuable tool, we've used it to observe our farm's landscape from a different point of view and we wish we could have spent more time on it on that day!".

As a result of this suggestion some follow-up field days and farm visits will be organised in the new year and **the workbook has been attached to this week's TGN email.**

Farmers in the past would have used this way of looking at the landscape and reading the land, but, with the introduction of new technologies, some of this old knowledge has been lost and forgotten along the way.

**Continued on p.4.**





## Regenerating rural landscapes from p.3

Bringing back traditional knowledge to adapt it to our modern needs is known as retro-innovation.

David Hardwick spent some time explaining hydrology and the movement of water across our landscape by discussing different types of water flow from drainage lines to gullies and to named waterways, referring to them as "1st, 2nd and 3rd order streams".

As the practical identification of waterways is difficult, always seek advice from either GM Water, the Rural Authority, or the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for any proposed works. There are maps on the Goulburn Broken CMA website that can assist you to identify the likelihood of a waterway being designated on your property.

Using the knowledge of your landscape can help you further understand how to manage the water flow across your paddocks, identifying where you believe the soil is most at risk of erosion. This was highlighted after observing first-hand the impact of the major rain event we have recently experienced.

The workshop ended with some recommendations about what steps to follow to start regenerating your rural landscapes.

"Before you start, spend some time to define your vision and some clear goals, otherwise you'll end up doing random acts of regenerative agriculture", concluded David.

Without a broad picture, you cannot achieve much, as we learnt with the tricky puzzle games we had to solve at the beginning of the day.

"I really enjoyed how David was able to focus our attention on the detail and at the same time think about the bigger perspective and vision for our properties", said Vanessa when reflecting on the day.

Learning the basics of landscape ecology made some of us feel like we were back at Uni, but it was a good way to bring us all to a common level of understanding, which is a great starting point for day 2 of the workshop, scheduled for **Tuesday 13th of December 2022**.

You can still book your spot [at this link](#). See you there!

Click on this link to find out more from Day 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watchv=KoROzAYunCU&t=89s>

*With many thanks to Kerstie Lee and Rhiannon Sanford (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority), for their critical revision of the article.*

*This project was supported through the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, with funding from the Victorian Government Landcare Grants.*



## Highlands Community Hall has its own 'Backyard Blitz'

Many thanks to all those enthusiastic locals who turned up on Saturday to ensure that the Highlands Hall and its surrounds is going to look fantastic for next Friday night's party.

It's amazing what can be achieved in a few hours by so many!



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

\$20

Tablelands Community Centre 27 Nolans Rd Ruffy

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

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



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**

**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](mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au)

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

**VICTORIA**  
State Government

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

Hughes Creek  
Catchment  
Collaborative  
Landcare



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





## PLAN AND PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING FIRE SEASON



Many communities across Murrindindi Shire have been impacted by the recent floods, and while many people are still in the process of cleaning up or waiting for water to recede, Council is urging all residents to start planning for this coming fire season.

With more rain on the way and with many parts of the Shire still saturated with water, now is a good time to service your equipment and ensure it is ready to safely operate to prepare your property. In recent years, several grass fires have been started by mowers and slashers that hadn't been maintained.



**Understand your bushfire and grass fire risk, and make a plan.**



**Service all equipment and machinery, like mowers, slashers, chainsaws and hay balers.**



**Attend a local CFA community fire preparedness meeting.**



**Plan for how you'll prepare your property ahead of the fire season. Council will be requesting 10 metre fire breaks around your property's perimeter, where possible.**



**Check your electric fences.**

**BE LIKE  
AUDREY!**

For more information about getting your property ready for fire season, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au) and search 'bushfire' or give us a call on 5772 0333. You can also find a wealth of information on the CFA website at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)



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<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></p>	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</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.