

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



11th December 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 42

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another year is coming to an end and another year of The Granite News is winding up too. Who would have thought this weekly epistle would be heading for its 17th year in 2023 and that this would be its 690th issue!! Amazingly over the last 6 months it has grown to a regular 6 or 7 pages, with this, a bumper Christmas issue of 8 pages!

As it's almost Christmas it's timely to give away a few presents, donated earlier in the year by John and Lisa - thank you - to those readers who would like to send in their responses to the following questions.

1. What was the best thing about The Granite News in 2022? and
2. What suggestions do you have to make TGN an even better read in 2023?

Entries to be received by 18th December.

Send your ideas to editor@tgn.org.au to be eligible for an early Christmas present. Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into, but you've got to be in it, to win it, so reply now.

Finally, after the last couple of years with disease and now floods, not to mention the bigger international picture, impacting on our lives it's probably time to reflect on the parts of our lives that we do have some control over and enjoy them to the fullest over the festive season. Whether it is catching up with family and friends, or just spending time in a favourite place and/or relaxing at home, be in the moment and enjoy the company, the activity or just the ambience of our local area.



Until 2023 read on for another great issue ... **Pauline**
And Kenny Koala...was looking forward to the second regen. session

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 to register.

Correction - with a date for your Diary!

- There will be **NO Black Market in December** (too close to Christmas) and upon **recommencing in January** summer times of 10-noon will apply. Apologies to Clare and Vitto for last week's incorrect dates.

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

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Anonymous



Best offer

13 treated pine poles, minimum length 2m - interested? Pauline 0408 246308

TGN will be back on Sunday 15th January!!

TGN will be taking its usual 4 week break over the Christmas / New Year and returning to an email box near you on Sunday 15th January.

Any ads, community notices and/or contributions need to be sent to editor@tgn.org.au by Thursday 12th January

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - December 2022 and into 2023
	Tuesday 13th Dec. @ 11.30	The Highlands Spinning Group is not meeting at the usual time and place in Dec. BUT 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. Jan Sporry 5790 4361
Details last TGN	Tuesday 13th December	REGENERATING RURAL LANDSCAPES FREE BOOTCAMPS 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. Enquiries? vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au
	Sat. 7th & Sun. 8th Jan. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!
	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	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? Forthcoming dates are Dec. 14th and Jan. 11th & 25th.
	Every Monday @ 10am	RUFFY QI GONG will stop for Christmas this coming Monday 5th December and recommence Monday 16th January at 10.00am.
	Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Declaration



FIRE DANGER PERIOD

The Fire Danger Period for residents living in the Mitchell Shire Council and Murrindindi Shire Council areas will commence at 1am on Monday 19th December 2022 and will end at 1am on 1st May 2023, unless revoked prior.

The declaration of the Fire Danger Period means that certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force. During the Fire Danger Period you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a written permit from CFA or a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

Lighting a fire in the open air without a permit is an offence, and can bring a penalty of over \$19,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

Permits will only be considered for specific purposes (*i.e. carrying out necessary work*). Applications that don't fit a specific purpose will **not** be granted.

If you are issued a permit, you are still required to register your burn with the Burn-Off Notification Line on 1800 668 511.

The CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au provides information on what people can and can't do during the Declared Fire Danger Period and days of Total Fire Ban.

Further information about fire restrictions within Victoria can be found at the CFA website, through your local CFA District office, or via your Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

USEFUL INFORMATION

VicEmergency
Hotline:
1800 226 226

CFA District 12:
(03) 5735 3100

Mitchell Shire Council:
(03) 5734 6200

Murrindindi Shire Council:
(03) 5772 0333

CFA Website:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Can I or Can't I?
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can

cfa.vic.gov.au

Ruffy Rocks Christmas!

The large crowd at the Tablelands Community Xmas Party at Ruffy enjoyed genuine summer weather (phew!) and a superb feast of spit-roasted lamb, barbecue and delicious salads and desserts. The undeniable highlight was Santa's arrival on Ruffy 2 Tanker, laden with gifts and assisted by his helpful elf. In addition to Santa, the children were totally absorbed with table tennis, the swings and playground and the fully supervised Jumping Castle*.

Special thanks to the Strathbogie Shire Council for subsidising our party and assisting us to achieve an accredited waste wise event. Sincere thank you too to Brendan Leigh and David Sleigh for donating and cooking the lamb; to Don Cook for being our BBQ chef all night(!) and to the Ruffy CFA for assisting with set-up and providing the BBQ facilities. Our DJ, Lyn Burleigh, kept the music flowing and a wonderful time was had by all.

*Special mention to our wonderful Jumping Castle suppliers: It's Party Time (from Mooroopna) who met all revised safety standards and provided delivery, qualified supervision, set-up and pack-up services on the night.

Melissa McDowall

Loss

Our news is full of devastation, Pakistan floods, war in Ukraine, the earthquake in Indonesia and floods in NSW and Victoria. The common element in all these situations is that people are losing everything, in some cases loved ones as well. I find it difficult to imagine what it must be like to lose everything. I know people are resilient and do come back from such tragedies. Nevertheless, comebacks can take an incredible toll. I feel incredibly sad, witnessing what is happening. My optimism about the future is being severely challenged.

It does make me consider, if I was in the same situation, what things would I grieve over most. For me it would be special photographs and books, special gifts, cherished art works, my laptop and some of my tools. The other question that arises is, do we in fact accumulate too many things? Are we actually cluttering ourselves with unnecessary things?

There is an old saying, 'Live simply so all may simply live'. The more we buy and accumulate things the less is available for others. This is certainly a message for the obscenely rich, but it is something for us all. The question we need to ask ourselves when surveying the consumer world, 'Do I really need this new item?' It is not just a question of 'can I afford it, but is it simply unnecessary?'

In the end, it is a sustainability issue, and a matter of justice. It is all very well to clutter our own homes, but we are on notice if we want to continue to use up the earth's resources. Living simply is not easy for most of us, and definitely not for those who are forced to live simply. How do you resist the urge to buy?

Stuart Reid - Highlands



Strathbogie

SHIRE COUNCIL



Highlands celebrated too!

Last Friday night between 50-60 local Highlanders gathered at the newly spiffed up Highlands Hall.

It was a happy collection of friends, who are neighbours, eating, drinking and socialising together who celebrated the festive season and are no doubt looking forward to 2023.



Take some time in 2023 to discover your local area....

The Highland Ramblers squeezed in an extra trek this year as Summer is so late.

More hidden treasures were revealed, unwalked tracks and fascinating historic stories told.

Thank you Andrew for taking us on such great treks and we look forward to March 2023 when we start up again. For details of future rambles - **Robyn 0409 528235 or Andrew 0437 249038**



**First ramble in 2023
Sunday 26th March @
10am
Be there!**

Strathbogrie Ranges leaf litter transplants boost rewilding projects

Researchers have been crawling around on hands and knees in regional Victoria's Strathbogrie Ranges for the past four years in search of a microscopic solution to a significant problem.

- A La Trobe University indicates leaf litter transplants containing invertebrates could improve revegetation projects
- Rewilding projects involve re-introducing plants and species to degenerated habitats
- Invertebrates are overlooked in favour of small marsupials when it comes to rewilding studies, a researcher says

Landcare facilitator Janet Hagen said she had seen a trend where farmers who started reintroducing habitat on cleared land decades ago had hit a stumbling block. Mature trees in revegetation projects were dropping seed, but young plants weren't appearing in their wake.

"There seems to be something missing in that link. They produce a lot of seed but they aren't germinating," Ms Hagen said. "The farmers who planted those trees 20 years ago didn't expect to be re-planting them to keep the vegetation happening. They thought, 'once we've planted them it'll just take off, it'll be self-sustaining and it'll keep growing like normal bush'."

That was where La Trobe University PhD candidate Peter Contos and his colleagues came in.

They have been conducting leaf litter transplants on livestock farms round Ruffey, where land-owners have "really patchy and quite isolated" revegetation. The transplants involved taking leaf litter from biologically rich sites such as national parks and spreading it on revegetation sites near Ruffey. Hidden amongst the leaves were invertebrates — diverse insect communities that researchers said were the missing ingredient when it came to the long-term success of tree planting projects.

"They're the backbone of a really healthy, functioning ecosystem," Mr Contos said.

"[The term invertebrates] covers a really broad spectrum of groups, some things people probably have never even seen in their life and never will unless they actually get a microscope out."

Leaf litter critters break down organic matter and return it back to the earth, improving soil quality.

"Invertebrates are paramount to human existence," Mr Contos said.

"Without them crop pollination would suffer and soils would degrade, which is why there needs to be a lot more effort focussing on improving invertebrate populations, making sure in the future they won't go extinct."

But Mr Contos said the importance of invertebrates such as worms, spiders, beetles, cockroaches and mites was often overlooked.

"Invertebrates make up 97 per cent of all animal life but they're only the focus of three per cent of reintroduction projects," he said. "There's a really big bias towards the things that we might naturally find appealing — something like a mammal, something that's cute and cuddly."

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Some of the insects find it easy to transition to a new habitat and some don't survive the truck ride.

Mr Contos said beetles were the most successful at adapting to a new environment.

"We know for a fact we were able to increase beetle diversity," he said.

Mr Contos said he hoped to see leaf litter transplants used more widely, as a cheap, straightforward way to boost habitat renewal.

"It's intuitive and easy to do which, we think, is one of the main benefits of invertebrate re-wilding," he said.

Article by Rosa Ritchie - ABC Shepparton
Posted Wed 7 Dec 2022



This article comes from The Sunshine Recorder and was sent to the Editor who thought that TGN readers would enjoy it too, as a fitting final comment on the reign of Queen Elizabeth II

Vale Queen Elizabeth II

The Society notes with sadness the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022.

During her lifetime of devoted service, Her Majesty saw many triumphs and disasters and always seemed to have a poignant message for her followers including:

"Grief is the price we pay for love" [after 9/11]; and

"We will meet again as friends" [during the COVID lockdowns]

The Queen was an exemplary person who devoted her life to service. She was compassionate, dedicated and selfless. The following story was found on Sharing is Caring. News and media website. [Facebook http://www.facebook.com/SharingisCaringNewsner/](https://www.facebook.com/SharingisCaringNewsner/)

Our Queen and the Funny Stories She Leaves With Us

Around 2005, the Queen and her Personal Protection Officer, Dick Griffin, were walking alone one afternoon in the hills near the Scottish royal castle, Balmoral. Two tourists approached them and engaged in conversation. Griffin recalls: "There were two hikers coming towards us, and the Queen would always stop and say hello.

They were two Americans on a walking holiday.

It was clear from the moment we stopped that they hadn't recognised the Queen, which was fine. The American gentleman was telling the Queen where they came from, where they were going next, and where they'd been in Britain.



"I could see it coming, and sure enough, he said to Her Majesty; 'And where do you live?'

She replied: 'Well I live in London, but I've got a holiday home just the other side of the hills.'

"He said: 'How long have you been coming up here?'

She replied: 'I've been coming up here ever since I was a little girl, so over 80 years.'

You could see the cogs whirring, so he said: 'Well, if you've been coming up here for over 80 years, you must have met the Queen.'

"Quick as a flash, she said: 'I haven't, but Dick here meets her regularly.'"

The hiker then asked Griffin what the monarch was like in person.

"Because I was with her a long time, and I knew I could pull her leg, I said: 'Oh, she can be very cantankerous at times, but she's got a lovely sense of humour.'

The next thing I knew, this guy comes round, puts his arm around my shoulder, and before I could see what was happening, he gets his camera, GIVES IT TO THE QUEEN, and says: 'Can you take a picture of the two of us?'

"Then we swapped places, and I TOOK A PICTURE OF THEM WITH THE QUEEN. "And we never let on, and we waved goodbye.

Afterwards, Her Majesty said to me: "I'd love to be a fly on the wall, when he shows those photographs to his friends in America, and hopefully someone tells him who I am."

COUNCIL SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR PERIOD 2022-23



Murrindindi Shire Council advises all residents that our Christmas and New Year operating hours will be as follows:

ALEXANDRA, KINGLAKE AND YEA LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Friday 23 December 2022: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Saturday 24 December 2022 – Monday 2 January 2023: CLOSED

Tuesday 3 January 2023: Usual hours resume

MOBILE LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Friday 23 December 2022 - Monday 2 January 2023: CLOSED

Tuesday 3 January 2023: Usual timetable resumes

SWIMMING POOLS

Sunday 25 December 2022: CLOSED

Visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pools for opening times

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

Friday 23 December 2022: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Monday 26 December 2022 – Monday 2 January 2023: CLOSED

Tuesday 3 January 2023: Usual hours resume

KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

There are no changes to kerbside waste and recycling collection services during the Christmas and New Year period. All collections will occur on the usual scheduled week-days.

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES AND ALEXANDRA LANDFILL

All Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. In addition to these closures, all RRCs are closed on days of Total Fire Ban.

The Alexandra Landfill will be closed to the public, including account holders, on Boxing Day, the Christmas Day public holiday (Tuesday 27 December 2022) and the New Year's Day public holiday (Monday 2 January 2023).

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

- Maternal and Child Health Advice Line: 13 22 29
- Poisons Information Line (24 hours): 13 11 26
- Community Safety - after hours emergency (stock on roads, dog attacks etc): 5772 0333
- Infrastructure Services - after hours emergency (dangerous road conditions): 5772 0333

GET IN TOUCH WITH COUNCIL

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

murrindindi.vic.gov.au

5772 0333

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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 tccruddy@gmail.com Ph 0404 833 388</p>	<p></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.