



THE GRANITE NEWS

24TH JUNE 2020

VOLUME 14

COVID-19 #17

WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well it is definitely fungi weather and they are popping up all over the place. This little gem was photographed by Vanda while she was walking at Ruffy, but she has no idea what variety it is. Can anyone assist here? Please email me at editor@tgn.org.au if you do.

Until next issue stay warm and safe, **Pauline**

And Kenny? Was publicising the ad space available on the back page. Any takers? Please let me know.



Feedback? - editor@tgn.org.au

or to subscribe on-line go to

www.highlands.org.au

As the snow starts to fall and the ski season commences

"If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country."

Anon.



Important message to the local community

As members of the local community will know, the Ruffy Artfest had to be cancelled this year due to the impact of COVID19 on everyone.

At a recent meeting of the Ruffy Artfest committee, it was reluctantly agreed that although we loved being part of the effort to offer our community a professional and highly popular artshow, it is time to hand over the concept to another group. A group that has fresh ideas and is able to think broadly and creatively while continuing to give local artists a respected and highly valued opportunity to show their artwork. The committee believe that the concept of the Artfest must, if at all possible, continue well into the future.

To this end the Ruffy Artfest committee would like to hear from innovative members of the local community in and around Ruffy, who would be committed to the Ruffy Artfest concept of displaying a high quality art show for this wonderful area in which we live. The committee is looking for members of the local community who are enthusiastic about our area thriving and benefiting from tourism and who understand how to market a quality product in the modern world. There is no doubt that due to the limitations of overseas travel in the near future, Australians will choose domestic travel – giving the organisers of the Ruffy Artfest a great opportunity to encourage visitors to the local area to view what has become known as a highly successful and professionally produced art show.

Robyn Sheehan
President of the Ruffy Artfest committee
5790 3275 or robynasheehan46@gmail.com

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**

Let's laugh

It helps if you think of auto correct as a tiny elf in your phone who's trying very hard to be helpful but is in fact quite drunk.

Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080





Website of the Week

Most energy companies have their own energy calculators to work out your consumption. Here's one to get you started.

<https://www.ergon.com.au/network/manage-your-energy/home-energy-tips/calculators>

Community Notices & Classifieds

CALENDAR of EVENTS — or something to look forward to...

1st weekend of the month (not winter) 10-4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO Darren's studio, with his creative works is now open on first weekend each month. An inspirational environment where both art and sculpture come to life in a beautiful scenic countryside of Highlands. 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
2nd Monday each month @ 11am 	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch & coffee will be provided. contact Jan 5790 4361
2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am 	TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA This enjoyable social event is open to anyone who wants to enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce. Highlands Community Centre
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm 	DRINKS ON THE TABLE Starts at 6.30pm. A chance to catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who are new to the area. Highlands Community Hall
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome. at ?????? Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat at Caveat Church
4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2 	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. at 94 Old Highlands Rd Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
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?? Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!! at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	QIGONG AT RUFFY Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien 0428 969366 or email: vivienwatmough@gmail.com at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	SWING DANCE CLASS Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!! at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

All these monthly events will be returning to a place near YOU, hopefully soon, but not until it is safe. Stay tuned



Postponed until further notice

Electricity Bills and how to pay less....

Have you ever noticed that your energy bill has a graph that show's each household's energy consumption? You can then use this information to compare your daily average.

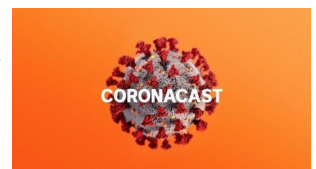
By keeping tabs on your electricity bill, you might also notice that your consumption can vary from time to time. It's important to be aware of that this variance can be due to several contributing factors. These include heating and air conditioner usage, as well as hot water consumption. Even the number of electrical appliances you have switched on in your home, or at any given time, will influence your overall energy consumption.

So why not aim to lower that regular bill and turn off a few of those appliances at the wall until they are actually needed or put on an extra jumper?

Coronacast - all yours for free!

In these times of instant social media and 'fake news' Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about coronavirus or COVID19. The latest news and research is broken down to help you understand how the world is living through an epidemic.

Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).



My Favourite Pet

Most people have a favourite pet. Mine is a very shy little fellow that lives quietly in our paddock and helps out with the jobs around the farm.

His living quarters are certainly not to my taste but he is definitely a willing worker, doing jobs that even backpackers would probably reject. He cleans up the paddocks by burying the cow poo for me thus enriching the soil, and the little tunnels he makes aerates the soil and improves water filtration. But his work not only improves our soil, it also means that the creek and dam are cleaner without all that cow poo washing in to them. And you know, I don't think it's just a coincidence that we have had less flies around the place since my little introverted pet arrived on the scene.

Bertram Lobert introduced me to the extended family of my little loner a long time ago and I've enjoyed my favourite pet's somewhat reserved company ever since.



Yes, my little dung beetle is a great help around the Thompson's spread. Who needs a dog when you can have a dung beetle?

John Thompson

NB: I did mention his accommodation is not 5 * standard.

YEE HA! Just what we've been waiting for...

Subject to the Covid-19 restrictions in place on the proposed date, the **Highlands Hall Committee** has decided to resume **"Drinks-on-the-Deck"** commencing on the evening of **Friday 10th July at 6.30pm.**

Put the date in your diary now and stay tuned for further details.



LOST - have you seen these cattle?

2 Black Angus steers are missing from **2848 Highlands Rd Highlands** near Highlands Hall. They have green tags labelled "Habbies Howe".

If you've seen them or have any information, please contact

Ernesto: 0404 557 354



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SAVE the DATE (to be confirmed)

Terip Tennis Club AGM
Monday August 3, 2020
@ 7.30pm
@ the Terip Rec Reserve



MURRINDINDI SHIRE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
JULY - DECEMBER 2020

ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON LIVING IN THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE THAT IS SEEKING A PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY? DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH OTHERS TO HELP OUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

THIS SIX MONTH PROGRAM COULD BE FOR YOU
STEP ONE - LAUNCH DAY IN JULY
A DAY OF TEAMWORK AND PERSONAL CHALLENGES

INTERESTED?
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AND TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

[YOUTH@MURRINDINDI.VIC.GOV.AU](https://www.facebook.com/youthmurrindindi)

THIS PROGRAM WILL BE DELIVERED IN LINE WITH COVID-19 SAFETY RESTRICTIONS



New CEO appointed to Landcare Victoria

Landcare Victoria has announced the appointment of Andrew Maclean as its new CEO to guide an exciting period of growth for the organisation.

The role of the CEO will be to build stronger partnerships, attract new funding sources and shore up ongoing employment and support for Victorian Landcare Facilitators.

Mr Maclean said he wants Landcare to be recognised as having a key role in sustainable land management in Victoria.

“Over the past 30 years, Landcare has earned its place at the frontline of biodiversity protection, sustainable agriculture and recovery from bushfire and drought. Landcare’s unique strength is its deep roots in regional communities. My role as CEO will be to unlock the knowledge and passion of grassroots volunteers by bringing new methods to the table that ensure Landcare remains relevant and strong.”

Mr Maclean said he joins Landcare Victoria at a pivotal time, given that groups and networks must reapply for state funding for Facilitators via a competitive process later this year.

“Facilitators and project officers are the lifeblood of our Landcare groups. They underpin successful projects and we will support our members every step of the way to ensure they secure the funding they so desperately deserve.”

He has identified other priority areas for Landcare Victoria, including stronger ties with the agriculture sector and broadening Landcare’s reach beyond taxpayer-funded activities into market-based approaches.

Mr Maclean sees opportunities for Landcare to be better recognised for its contribution to sustainable agricultural production and he is particularly excited by the prospect of carbon farming and biodiversity stewardship funding.

He will commence in his new role on July 22 and joins Landcare Victoria from Southern Gulf NRM in Queensland.

Landcare Victoria Chair, Terry Hubbard said he was delighted to welcome Andrew as CEO and his appointment coincides with several other key initiatives that will strengthen Landcare in the state.

“Andrew brings over 20 years’ experience in the natural resource management field from Victoria and North Queensland. His previous roles within the Victorian Government and as CEO of Southern Gulf NRM mean that he is ideally positioned to guide Landcare Victoria in this exciting new phase.”

“Landcare Victoria is working with consultants RPS to complete a study that will determine the economic value, or return on investment, that every single dollar of Landcare spending provides, in addition to launching the Victorian Landcare Fund to attract new investors in sustainable land management.”

Funding for the CEO position was made possible via the support of two philanthropic trusts: Jim and Heather Phillipson (Rendere Trust) and Joanne and William Crothers (Upotipotpon Foundation).

For further enquiries or information

**Terry Hubbard - Landcare Victoria Chair 0428 560833 or
Andrew McLean - incoming Landcare Victoria CEO 04177 052495**



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR NEW DRAFT POLICIES



Council is preparing a range of new and revised policies and documents in response to the approval of a new piece of legislation that governs all that we do, the Local Government Act 2020.

We would like your input into the following draft policies:

Draft Public Transparency Policy 2020 – which seeks to implement the Act's public transparency principles and ensure our decision making is transparent and as much of the information we hold as possible is accessible to our community.

Updated Council Expenses Policy 2020 – minor changes have been made to our existing policy, which ensures expenditure on and by Councillors is clearly linked to them undertaking their public duties and that there is public transparency around the reimbursement of expenses through quarterly reporting.

Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2020 – this new policy reflects changes to the State 'whistleblower' legislation and aims to encourage people to raise concerns about the conduct of our staff and Councillors in a confidential way that protects the privacy and welfare of all concerned in the issue.

Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2020 – the current Audit Committee must be disbanded and a new Committee created under a new Charter. This Charter clearly identifies the extended role of the Committee as a corporate 'watchdog' and the composition of its members.

Copies of all these documents are available by either clicking on the 'Have Your Say' button on the home page of our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au or phoning our Customer Service team to request either a hard or email copy to be sent to you on 1800 065 993.

Please submit any written comments by the close of business Tuesday 14 July 2020 for the attention of Dawn Bray, Executive Manager Governance & Customer Service by:

Email to info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Letter to PO Box 177, Euroa, 3666

If you have any questions relating to the draft documents, please ask for Dawn Bray when calling 1800 065 993.



WHEN I WAS A CHILD
This is what
"NOTHING ON T.V."
looked like

Letter to the Editor

Dear Pauline,

Well done on the issues of Granite News!!!

You must be kept very busy.

Not long before my wife Christine died of cancer in 2008 she made a list of 40 birds she had observed at Brigadoon. See list attached. I have kept the list in her original handwriting.

I noticed you mentioned local birds in the last issue of Granite News so thought this might be of interest.

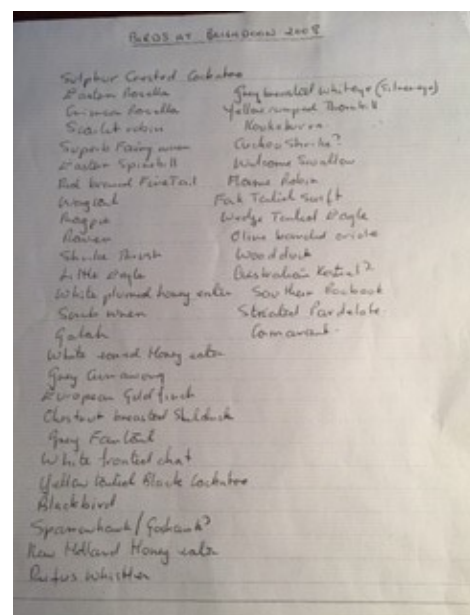
It would be interesting to know how much the bird types have changed since 2008.

Warm regards,

Colin Dowzer

BIRDS at BRIGADOON 2008

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo	Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella	Scarlet Robin
Superb Fairy Wren	Eastern Spinebill
Red Browed Firetail	Wagtail
Magpie	Raven
White Plumed Honeyeater	Little Eagle
Scrub Wren	Galah
White Eared Honeyeater	Grey Currawong
European Goldfinch	Grey Fantail
Chestnut Crested Shelduck	White-fronted Chat
Grey Fantail	Blackbird
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Wood-duck
Sparrowhawk/Goshawk?	Rufus Whistler
New Holland Honeyeater	Kookaburra
Grey Breasted White-eye (Silver-eye)	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Cuckoo Shrike?
Welcome Swallow	Flame Robin
Fork-tailed Swift	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Olive Banded Oriole	Australian Kestrel?
Southern Boobook	Striated Pardalote
Cormorant	Shiralee Parrot? Ed.



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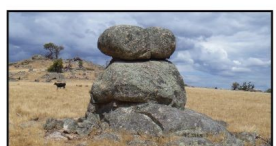
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