THE GRANITE NEWS



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



14th January 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 1

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Welcome back to all Granite News' readers for another year of informative, entertaining and, possibly, compulsive weekly reading.

It continues to amaze me that this, only available on-line, newsletter consistently adds new bodies to its readership and another 3 have signed up over the holiday break, bringing TGN's total to 720! I can only assume that word-of-mouth is the overriding factor in this growth and that TGN is regarded as a valuable and useful form of communication for all the HCCC communities.

Thanks for your active support of this great little newsletter and I hope to continue supplying YOU, our wonderful readers with more of the same in 2024.

Thanks are also due to those readers who send in articles, notices and interesting titbits to make TGN so readable, as well as those businesses and altruistic readers who financially support TGN by investing in an ad on the back page. Without these contributions TGN would be the poorer, so well done to all of you too. Bring on 2024!

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was overseeing the Seymour College students make nesting boxes for the Biolinks Corridors for Gliders in Seymour.



HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP

Our fifth Thursday night BookGROUP in the meeting room is: scheduled for the 1st February 2024, from 6 – 8pm

ALL WELCOME

We are discussing Prophet Song by Paul Lynch and
The In-Between by Christos Tsiolkas
Suggestions & other books read are also up for discussion...

BYO refreshments, a plate to share & gold coin donation.

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

"Isn't it funny how nothing changes, but when you look back, everything is different."

> C.S.Lewis (1898 - 1963) Author from Prince Caspian (Book #4 - Narnia series)

Got my tickets for the New Year's event



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Dec.	69.9	79.5	27.8
	mm	mm	mm
2023	850.6	813	865.2
Total	mm	mm	mm
Rainy Days	10 days	10 days	13 days

NB: Highlands was right on the yearly average in 2023

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - January & February 2024
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative	Thurs. 17th Jan. @ 7.30	HCCC Monthly Meeting @ Terip Rec Reserve Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Thurs. 25th Jan. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
Mount scorecaums	Thurs. 1st Feb. 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. Prophet Song (Booker winner) and The In-between are up for discussion. Robyn 0409 528235
×	Fri. 2nd Feb. from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Sat 3rd & Sun 4th Feb. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open first weekend each month - discover some stunning artwork.
	Mon. 5th Feb @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS - COMMENCING!! @TCC Ruffy . Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Mon. 12th Feb. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2024 at the same place and the same time and with the same good company. BYO lunch ad great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
-	Friday 9th Feb. @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Community Hall Starts @ 6.30pm, bring food to share and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. Contact Paula 0419 551882
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are 10th & 24th January and 7th & 21st February.
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10-12 and 1-3	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - 16th Jan, 6th & 20th Feb. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 16th Jan, 6th & 20th Feb. Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
	2nd & 4th Sundays	ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
	Every Tues. & Fri. 8.45-9.45	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Water, water 'everywhere'...again

Whilst last Monday's deluge probably didn't have quite the same, extensive, detrimental effect across the HCCC area that the floods in October 2022 did, it was tagged as yet another 'once in a lifetime' flood - but only 15 months after the first 'once in a lifetime flood'.

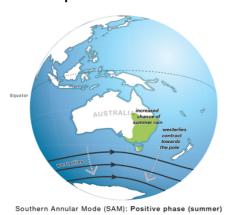
That's one very short lifetime!

So, why has this summer been so wet all down the east coast of Australia, particularly as the BOM indicated that we would be experiencing an El Nino weather pattern, which is totally the opposite with a long, hot, dry summer?

Well SAM - the Southern Annular Mode is to blame for this as it is currently in a positive phase, and this is projected to continue due to increased greenhouse gas emissions.

A positive phase of the Southern Annular Mode will continue to drive changes in the Southern Westerly Winds which, when coupled with the Southern Ocean, are an important coupled climate system that controls climate in the southern third of the world.

Basically SAM is a climate driver that **can influence** rainfall and temperature in Australia.



This climate phenomenon is best explained by typing in **Climate Dogs Australia** and then enjoying the animated video of all the 'Climate Dogs' - Enzo,

Eastie, Ridgy and Indy, as well as Sam, that influence our weather patterns.

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climateandweather/



TGN's Back Page Ads

Every year 20+ TGN readers decide to either advertise their businesses or altruistically feature one of the HCCC's local fauna or flora.

This financial support is very much appreciated and assists with the production of TGN.

From time to time some of these ad spaces become vacant and other TGN readers/supporters get the chance to highlight their wares, their services or just a favourite creature.

The very reasonable sum of \$250 per year results in very cost effective message getting out to a wide readership for approximately \$5.95 per issue x 42 issues a year.

If any readers would be interested in taking up this advertising opportunity, when it becomes available, please email editor@tgn.org.au Thanks.



Individuals, including Landcare facilitators/coordinators, are encouraged to nominate for the Individual Landcarer Award at the 2023/2024 Victorian Landcare Awards.

Award nominations close: Friday 1 March 2024

Awards ceremony: date TBC June 2024

Landcare Plan for Victoria 2023-2033 Empowering Landcare Communities:

Partners in Climate Action, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture

Landcare in Victoria

Emerging in Victoria more than three decades ago, landcare mobilises and supports communities and land managers to undertake action, to support landscape restoration and agricultural production.

Landcare in Victoria has more than 600 active landcare groups supporting up to 60,000 volunteers, working across public and private land to care for waterways, coastlines, forests, grasslands and urban green spaces. Landcare recognises that progress in large scale landscape restoration and ongoing sustainable management depends on supported volunteer land managers.



600+
Member Groups

17,000+
Households

60,000

Individuals

The Plan outlines the collective goals and priorities of the Landcare community and highlights the key actions and areas where support is needed to deliver on its vision.

Landcare Plan for Victoria

VISION: 'Local people working together for resilient, biodiverse and productive Victorian landscapes'

Identify common landcare challenges and aspirations

Document common priorities and actions in Landcare Plan for Victoria

Together achieve resillient, biodiverse and productive Victorian landcscapes

NB: Page 2 of the Landcare Plan will feature in next week's Granite News

In these days of carbon awareness and importance one can never plant enough trees

so it is fortunate that another opportunity exists to do just that...

The Seedling Bank grant applications are now open to schools and community groups around Australia, closing **Friday 1st March**, **2024**.

We support projects big and small. There is no upper limit to the amount of funding you can request – we'd love to support some large regeneration projects!

Furthermore, we believe every day is Tree Day and are happy to fund plantings happening throughout the year. Learn more about the environmental projects of past beneficiaries in this year's edition of **Tree Talk**.

To keep up to date on all the Seedling Bank stories and all things Tree Day, follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Please email seedlingbank@planetark.org with any questions.

Why not check out their website now to find out more?

https://planetark.org/programs/national-treeday

2024 important dates for your diary!

- Schools Tree Day Friday 26 July
- National Tree Day Sunday 28 July
- Tropical Tree Day Sunday 1 December



OLD HIGHLANDS RD & GRANITE HILLS RD COMMUNITY FIRE GUARD REFRESHER MEETING

HIGHLANDS HALL SATURDAY JAN 20TH 10:15 am for a 10:30am start



MOST IMPORTANT

This meeting is for those who have completed the Community Fireguard Program in the past, either face to face or online during Covid.

If any other TGN readers in this area would like to complete the full program of 6 sessions and learn more about fire behaviour - how to prepare and stay safe, and develop your fire plan, please contact Andrea to obtain more information and let her know that you would like to attend a future program.

Phone: 0417 369 225 or

email: andreabauer183@gmail.com

Recognising community champions

The annual Mitchell Shire Community Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on Australia Day, Friday 26 January.

The 2024 celebrations are being hosted by Wallan Neighbourhood House and will be held at 42 Bentinck Street, Wallan. The day begins at 9.30am with Mitchell Shire Council's Community Awards beginning at 10am. Seven categories will be awarded and special commendations presented:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Access and Inclusion Champion.
- Sports Person of the Year
- Arts and/or Culture Person of the Year

The Citizenship Ceremony will be conducted after the awards for people who have chosen to officially become Australians. The day will end with a sausage sizzle lunch and performance by local band Tangent.

Towns across Mitchell Shire will also be holding their own Australia Day events. Visit www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/events for details.



TO: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

LEARN ESSENTIAL FIRST AID SKILLS



BE PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION.

Through a Community Strengthening grant the Tablelands Community Centre have 16 free places available with

StJohn Ambulance to run their HLTAID11 Provide first aid - Full Program
Normal cost over \$200 per person

Register your interest now!

Call us at 0427 690 970 for inquiries.

This course will run at a date to be set when course numbers are full

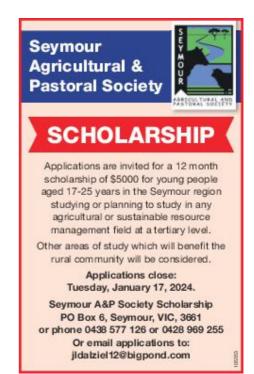
Tablelands Community Centre 27 Nolans Road Ruffy

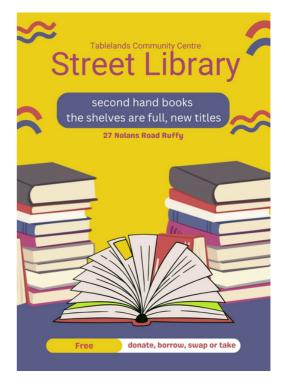
Given FERA's plans for a local windfarm the following may be of interest to HCCC area readers...

VicGrid are asking for input to the Victorian Transmission Plan via an online survey and an interactive mapping tool. Have your say about the development of Renewable Energy Zones and the Victorian Transmission Plan by completing the survey and then mark on the map the places in your local area that you feel are important.

https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

See p.9 for further information.





Are you interested in adding to the iNatutaliste's environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area?

If YES then download the App now, follow the instructions for use in TGN 30/7/23, and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.



Australia Day 26th January - Change the Date Campaign

Australia Day commemorates the date of the landing of the First Fleet in 1788 when Captain Arthur Phillip raised the British Flag and New South Wales became a British crown colony. This date is termed by some as invasion day or more extremely, extinction or genocide day.

On the same date, the 26th January, but 161 years later in 1949, the Australian Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1948 was proclaimed and came into force under Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley. Prior to this date anyone born in Australia was a British subject and travelled under a British Passport.

From the 26th January 1949 any person born in Australia, irrespective of their ethnicity and therefore including, Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders became a citizen of Australia and carried and Australian passport.

However, citizenship did not entitle all citizens to vote, as Aborigines were excluded until 1962 when the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended, under Liberal Prime Minister Robert Menzies, to allow Aborigines to register on the electoral roll and to vote if they wished to do so.

The 1967 referendum is widely and wrongly considered to be when Aboriginals were given the right to vote as that right was granted in 1962. That referendum, which was overwhelmingly, carried by 91% of the voting population, allowed for Aboriginal people to be included in the census and for the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws for Aboriginal people.

It was not compulsory for them to register or to vote until 1984 when Bob Hawke was Prime Minister.

So why not keep the date and the name, Australia Day, but change the commemorative purpose of the day to reflect the day that all those born in Australia became citizens of Australia.

What do the National Days celebrate in some other countries?

India for example has two national days - Independence Day on 15th August to mark the end of the 190 year old British rule and Republic Day, also on the 26th January, to honour the enactment of the Indian Constitution in 1950. I was in Delhi on the 26th January 1962 - amazing and memorable parade of elephants, camels, military parades with equipment, street performers and numerous magnificent state floats.

USA The 4th July, Independence Day, is the national day for all US citizens. It was when the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and announced their Independence from Great Britain.

Canada Day on 1st July celebrates the constitution of Canada and becoming a fully independent country instead of a dominion of Great Britain.

The Australian Constitution was enacted on 1st January 1901 and so January 1st could be our "Independence Day" as in Canada, but we already have a national holiday being New Year's Day.

The change the date advocates will disagree, but 26th January was the date, in 1949, when Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and, all Australians, became Australian citizens.

And the historical reality of Arthur Phillip's landing in 1788, with convicts on board to establish a penal outpost and its near collapse from isolation, disease, drunkenness and starvation was hardly an auspicious start to our Nationhood.

Sandy MacKenzie AM Avenel



Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan Help us plan Victoria's future reliable, affordable and renewable energy grid.

OPEN FOR FEEDBACK - CLOSES 31 JANUARY 2024

Overview

Victoria is undergoing a transition to renewable energy.



As our ageing and increasingly unreliable coal-fired power stations retire and are replaced by renewables, our electricity grid needs to evolve. New transmission infrastructure will be critical to moving high volumes of energy from the new areas where it is generated, to homes and businesses where it will be used.

The Victorian Government has established VicGrid to plan future major electricity transmission infrastructure and coordinate the state's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs), the areas with the greatest potential for renewable energy development.

VicGrid is leading reforms to how we plan future transmission and Renewable Energy Zones to ensure that cheaper, more reliable renewable energy can be delivered to homes and businesses across the state.

As part of the reforms, VicGrid will develop the first statewide Victorian Transmission Plan by mid-2025.

An important step in building the Victorian Transmission Plan is to identify 'Renewable Energy Zone Priority Areas'. These are geographical areas that could be appropriate for energy generation, storage and transmission. Once we know the Priority Areas for renewable energy generation we will work with communities to investigate where possible transmission could go.

Community needs to be at the heart of our planning process.

As we start, VicGrid is asking Victorians, and particularly those living in regional communities, to share your views towards renewable energy and transmission development, as well as your local knowledge about your region and values important to you.

How to participate

Learn more in the helpful documents section (on Website) or RSVP to attend a webinar on 30 November

Complete the Renewable Energy Planning Survey (on website) so we can understand more about your views towards renewable energy and transmission development.

Use the interactive map to show us important land uses in your area. https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/victransmissionplan/survey/4576#sub-nav

Join us in March 2024 at a workshop or drop-in near you to discuss what we have heard. Register your interest to attend - see Website.

The survey and interactive map will close at 12.01am on Wednesday 31 January 2024. You will still be able to engage with us and provide input at workshops and drop-ins in March 2024.

Note: Consultation is already underway in some parts of Victoria for some critical near-term transmission projects. This Land Assessment is statewide and will be an input to the first Victorian Transmission Plan. Where possible, information recently gathered by VicGrid from community, landholders and Traditional Owners for Offshore Wind transmission in Gippsland and Portland will be reflected in this assessment.

WEBSITE - https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan





Australian, family owned

local producers of premium cold pressed

extra virgin olive oil, made for your goodness and enjoyment.

0417 018 070 enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au highlandsgrove.com.au

Donated by supporters of the

endangered Hairy Hop bush

SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL

Supplying everything you need

PH: (03) 5792 1088

HELPING YOU GROW





Chris Sharman

Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy

Specialist

Acme - Air Conditioning

Electrical | Solar

M: 0418 551 301

T: Office - 9785 7339

E: chris@acmeair.com.au

Little Antechinus living in a

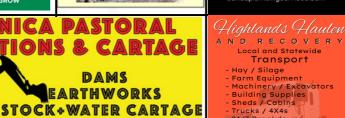
hollow near you

DAMS EARTHWORKS

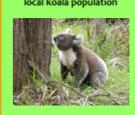
& MORE

















0437 835 586

Donation from

supporters of our local

Gang Gangs









We thank the Taungurung ancestors and elders who, for millennia, have cared for this country on which we now live, work, play

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