

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



5th February 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 4

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

After a bumper issue last week this week's TGN is even bigger! Sadly, I have finished touring around some great places in South Australia, but the weather back home is a big improvement on the last 2 weeks.

Speaking of weather, rainfall specifically, we will now have 3 monthly rainfall results featured as Nicholas Jones from Terip has offered to send in the rainfall from his neck of the woods and boy was it wet there over the last 31 days. January's rainfall at Terip was more than twice as much as Highlands and Ruffy combined! Thanks so much to Nick for undertaking this community service.

Thanks also to those TGN readers who are supporting this great weekly newsletter by sponsoring an ad on the back page - so far 4 readers have indicated their interest with a waiting list now operating.

With a new year well under way it is probably timely to remind readers who have recently started enjoying The Granite News who and what Kenny actually is. Kenny is a koala, that looks like he's coming up from a long night on the eucalyptus, who gets hidden each week in TGN for readers to see if they can find him. Here he is this week.



Read on for another great issue, Pauline
And Kenny? He was helping out at the Highlands Sausage fundraiser.

An IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

THURSDAY 16th February @ 7.30pm

HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE

Annual General Meeting

Come and vote for your HCCC office bearers.
Enjoy a light supper after the meeting.

Meet other HCCC members and staff.

RSVPs for catering please contact Justus - 0427 524473



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

"Home is where dog hair is a condiment."

Anon.



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Jan.	9.2 mm	17.5 mm	67.6 mm
2023 Total	9.2 mm	17.5 mm	67.6 mm
Rainy Days	2 days	3 days	6 days

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.

What's On - February & March 2023

<p>Details see p.7</p>	<p>Thurs. 9th Feb. @ 6pm</p>	<p>"A Renewable Future for Yea" @ Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre A community information meeting. Bookings essential for catering: https://events.humanitix.com/a-renewable-energy-future-for-yea</p>
	<p>Thurs 9th Feb. @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>RUFFY ADULT RIDING AGM @ Ruffy Hall or by Zoom r-richards@4upskilling.com.au for the meeting link. contact Robyn 0407 358191 or Pam 5790 4240</p>
	<p>Friday 10th Feb. @ 6.30pm</p>	<p>DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands community Hall Starts at 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</p>
<p>Details see p.3</p>	<p>Saturday 11th Feb. 2023</p>	<p>THE TERRIFIC TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT IS ON AGAIN - put the date in your diary NOW!</p>
	<p>Monday 13th Feb. @ 11.30</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2023 at the same place—450 Caveat Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361</p>
<p>Details see p.1</p>	<p>Thursday 16th Feb. @ 7.30pm</p>	<p>HCCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING @ TCCC Ruffy All welcome - put the date in your diary NOW. Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473</p>
	<p>Saturday 18th Feb. @ 10-12</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</p>
<p>Details see p.4</p>	<p>Sunday 19th Feb. @ 10-12</p>	<p>BIODIVERSITY MAPPING TRAINING @ TCC Ruffy Want to find out how to map our amazing wildlife? This information session is for YOU!</p>
	<p>Thursday 23rd Feb. @ 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat</p>
	<p>Friday 3rd March @ 6pm</p>	<p>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</p>	<p>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 Feb. 8th & 22nd and March 8th & 22nd.</p>
	<p>Every Monday @ 10am</p>	<p>RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.</p>
	<p>Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am</p>	<p>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com</p>

HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE

APRIL FOOLS' PICNIC (no joke!)

Ruffy Recreation Reserve
@ noon 1st April, 2023

HCCC will host an afternoon of food, fun
and frivolity at Ruffy.

There will be activities for all ages and
newcomers to the area are especially
welcome.

Save the date and join us for a great
family day.

Food and refreshments provided.



THANK YOU for 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.

Many thanks to those 2022 supporters who
are continuing their advertising in 2023 - it is
most appreciated.

Spaces can become available so please
register your interest now.

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

DON'T FORGET!

Now that The Granite News is back for 2023 if
you have any events to advertise or anything to
buy, swap, sell or give away for free - copy will
need to be sent to the editor -
editor@tgn.org.au

by the Thursday evening prior to the Sunday
publication/distribution.

Terip's Tantalizingly Terrific



FUNDRAISER

at the Terip Community Centre
Saturday, 11 February 2023, 7:00 for
7:30 pm Trivia kick-off

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$5
Supper provided
BYO Drinks and Nibbles

Teams of 6-8 can be entered or come long and
join a team on the night!

RSVP by Friday 3rd February for catering to
teripterip3719@gmail.com

Or message our Terip Community FB page or
Frances 0427 904 262 or Jenny 0448 833 875

FREE to a good home !

Free to a good home at cost of removal only. It
has a 6'x12' (full size) bed, above ground but
could be installed at ground level.

Interested? Phone Lauris 5790 4351



Biodiversity mapping training



Learn how to map the plants and animals around you


Many areas in SE Australia have been impacted by bushfires, expanding developments and changing climate. Our local environment is an important refuge for a range of iconic species. One migrating species that is dependant on our area is the Gang Gang cockatoo. They are currently feasting on a range of seeds, ranging from Hawthorn berries, Wattles and Eucalypts. Sadly, this species is now classified as Endangered on the national threatened species list following the Black Summer fires impacting much of their habitat in NSW.

Recording what we find on private land is invaluable for scientists to understand where species are. These records are important for planning processes. Join us to learn how to use online mapping tools to help us understand more about the amazing wildlife in our area.



The quirky Gang Gang Cockatoo

 Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre

 Sunday 19th February 10am-12 noon.

 BYO iPad, laptop or smartphone

Supported by Strathbogie
Ranges Conservation
Management Network

Contact Us

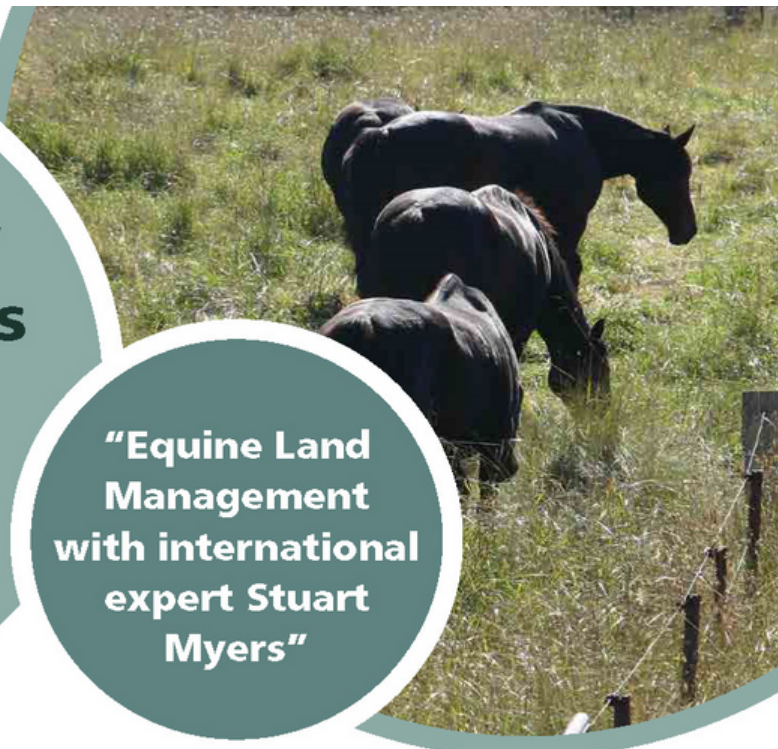
Sam: 0417 576 306 or Janet: 0458 904 268

Healthy Land, Healthy Horses

Workshop Saturday 4th March

www.equiculture.net

“Equine Land
Management
with international
expert Stuart
Myers”



Presented by Stuart Myers, co designer and author of the acclaimed Equiculture system, plus other guest speakers.

The workshop is aimed at horse owners that either own land, lease land, or keep their horse/s on agistment (so that's everyone who owns or manages a horse!).

Learn how to make small or large changes in horse and land management that improve the 'lifestyle' of horses and people and at the same time benefit the environment. A true win-win-win situation.

Young horse owners (16+) encouraged to attend.

You must register via Eventbrite before 3rd March. Tickets cannot be purchased at the venue.



<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-land-healthy-horses-workshop-tickets-468925959167>

TIME

Start: 9.00am arrival for 9.15am start
Finish: 3.30pm

PROPERTY VISIT (optional): 3.30pm-5.30pm

VENUE

[Greater Beveridge Community Centre](#)
cnr of Lithgow Street & Mandalay Circuit
Beveridge

Lunch included

COST

\$25 per person (heavily subsidised). Includes workshop, lunch and optional field trip.

This workshop is for landholders in the Hume, Whittlesea and Mitchell Council areas. There are also a number of workshops being held around Victoria in March/April 2023. For further information visit <https://www.equiculture.net/events>

If you are from outside these Council areas and cannot find another event to attend, please contact the organising team for information environment@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



Delivery Partners





A Renewable Future for Yea

Thursday February 9th at 6pm
Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre

2030Yea Community Energy and the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre are hosting a **FREE** community information meeting to discuss local energy generation and storage.

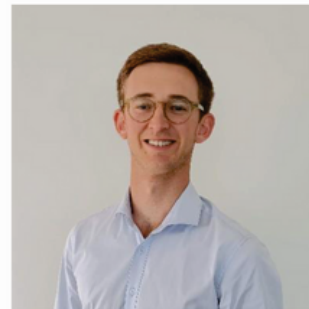
You can participate **in-person** or **online**.

SPEAKERS



Dr Lasantha Meegahapola
RMIT Microgrid team

RMIT Associate Professor Lasantha Meegahapola has more than 15 years' research experience in power system dynamics & stability with renewable power generation, and microgrid dynamics, stability & control. 2030Yea Community Energy and Murrindindi Shire Council have been working with RMIT on the possibilities of a microgrid and battery system for Yea.



William Ertler
Renewable Energy Engineer

William Ertler is a graduate of the Australian National University now working as a renewable energy engineer. He and a fellow student produced a report for 2030Yea Community Energy, exploring the feasibility of a community battery for Yea and has recently presented a conference paper at the Asia Pacific Solar Research Conference.

Bookings essential for catering:

<https://events.humanitix.com/a-renewable-energy-future-for-yea>

At the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre
2 Hood St, Yea

Enquiries 0428969366

Or via this QR code



HCCC Landcare and the community need YOUR help!



Thanks to three La Ninas and a very wet spring and a wet early summer the Blackberry menace is out of control this year in the Hughes Creek Catchment – OUR local area.

This problem is not confined to the creeks and the roadside, it is growing on private land and spreading fast.

These plants are now in flower and fruit and the problem will be spread by birds and animals; **action MUST be taken now to avoid even bigger growth in years to come.**

Blackberry is a declared noxious weed.

Blackberry is considered a serious environmental threat and is highly invasive.

Blackberry seedlings are not very vigorous in their first year but after a woody crown is formed, they become firmly established. New canes are produced from the crown each spring and frequently project horizontally for over 3m from the crown after just one growing season.

Blackberry control is NOT A ONE OFF, it needs to be done every year.

The timing depends on your control method.

•Physical removal can be done 12 months of the year.

•Chemical and spraying - Spring to Autumn before the frost and cold weather sends the plants into dormancy.

It is vital that as landowners that we get on top of this problem ASAP.

We have about 3 months to act!

Management of Blackberry

Prescribed measures for the control of noxious weeds:

- Application of a registered herbicide
- Physical removal
- Mulching

How YOU can help

If the problem is on your property, please start a program to eradicate the plants, this can be done by physical means, suitable for small areas, or start a spraying program. Spraying can be done until the first frost, normally in early May.

If you see the infestation on neighbouring properties, speak to them in a polite and friendly way and suggest that they should help the community and act to eradicate the plants on their property. Please don't be aggressive.

Also, please inform HCCC with an address or contact your local shire environment officer, or the bio security officer at the Department of Agriculture in Seymour or Benalla.

How the HCCC can help

- HCCC will subsidise the costs of chemicals by 50%, please contact the HCCC before purchasing chemicals to get approval for this subsidy.
- HCCC have spraying equipment to assist.
- The HCCC can put you in touch with a company that can spray the blackberry mounds from a helicopter, only suitable for large problems over 15 Ha.
- HCCC also have information on a new company that sprays from a Drone, the drone can target small areas in locations that are difficult to reach with a vehicle or tractor.
- Provide a list of commercial spraying companies.

Continued on p.9

Impact on ecosystems and waterways

- Blackberry is considered a serious environmental threat and is highly invasive. It can provide harbour and a food source for pest species, as well as serve to outcompete and eliminate other vegetation by excluding light from the soil surface.
- In its early stages of infestation, blackberry will grow over, or occupy gaps in, native vegetation and, in later stages, can severely restrict regeneration in native forests.

Agricultural and economic impacts

- Blackberry is an extremely serious agricultural threat, owing to its rapid growth and ability to reproduce through various methods. It is a highly invasive species that will readily establish on disturbed sites and infest large areas. Once established it is expensive to manage and can even be a fire hazard due to the large amounts of dead canes it produces.
- The plant's strong prickles make it hazardous and unpalatable to grazing animals (except browsing animals, such as goats and deer) and impenetrable thickets provide harbour and food for pest animals such as rabbits and foxes, starlings and blackbirds. It may also restrict access to watercourses in forestry operations and for grazing animals.
- Blackberry may affect the establishment and growth of both softwood and hardwood seedlings in plantation forestry.

Social value and health impacts

- Blackberry can restrict both access to and along watercourses which may affect recreational activities. It also produces strong prickles which make it objectionable to humans and in large infestations, may be a fire hazard due to large amounts of dead canes.

Contact information

email neil@hccclandcare.net.au
info@hccclandcare.net.au

Your local Shire can help with advice OR

Victorian Dept of Agriculture – local Bio Security Officer

<https://www.hccclandcare.net.au/>

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/search?query=weeds>

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/prescribed-measures-for-the-control-of-noxious-weeds>

Or just type “blackberry control” in your search engine

Management calendar: for early blackberry (*Rubus laudatus*)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Search												
Dormant												
Germination												
Actively growing												
Flowering												
Fruiting												
Treatment: while actively growing												
Manual removal												

FREE to good homes...

I'm hoping that there are some local residents who would like to parent a few Dropmore gold fish in their fishponds!!

The first 10 have done very well and we now have over 40!!

They come to a call for lunch wagging their tails! Why not give Roger a call on **5796 9213**

and call around one lunchtime with a bucket (he has a net) if you would like to give some fish a new home.

<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	 <p>LAWSON</p> <p>General earthworks & hole boring Diesel repairs & servicing Metal fabrication & welding Shed construction & removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chris Sharman</p> <p>Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning Electrical Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: chris@acmeair.com.au</p>	<p>I'm now RESERVED for 2023</p> <p>Email Editor if you would like to be too</p> <p>editor@tgn.org.au</p>
<p>The Pond Professor Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond cleaning • Filtration systems • Fountains and waterfalls • Native fish and plants • Algae control • Water testing • Design and construction • Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com.au http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</p>	 <p>SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL</p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products & Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Production - Pasture/Crop Protection - Fencing & Livestock Handling <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Brought to you by a Yellow Footed Antechinus, living on a roadside near you.</p>  <p>Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen</p>	<p>BenCo</p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
 <p>Online & by appointment</p> <p>Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au</p> <p>Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p>JARRAD</p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</p> <p>0437 835 586</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground</p> <p>Ideal for Private or Community gatherings</p> <p>Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1st Friday BBQs Contact tccruffy@gmail.com Ph 0404 833 388</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 Maidample 3723</p> 	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from supporters of the Eastern Small-eyed Snake</p> 	<p>I'm now RESERVED for 2023</p> <p>Email the Editor if you would like to be too</p> <p>editor@tgn.org.au</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>Echidnas take care of their habitat</p> 	<p>I'm now RESERVED for 2023</p> <p>Email the Editor if you would like to be too</p> <p>editor@tgn.org.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au</p> <p>Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management.</p> <p>Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</p>	 <p>Strathbogrie Granite Project</p> <p>neil.phillips@bigpond.com</p>

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, residents and landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.