

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



29th January 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 3

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

This week's introductory par is to be found on p.3 as Dr John Craven, formerly of Terip, has been awarded an AO in the Australia Day honours' list. **CONGRATULATIONS to John**, please read on...

### **OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA Dr John Alexander CRAVEN, For distinguished service to food biosecurity and environmental safety, to veterinary science research, and to the dairy industry.**

It's not very often that little Terip gets a mention in dispatches, but it now has a very BIG claim to fame. 2023 AO Awardee Dr John Craven grew up on his family's dairy farm, 'Woodlands' and has had a life-long association with both Terip and the local HCCC area. So much so that although he retired to Melbourne about a decade ago, he is still an avid reader of The Granite News.

John's family have farmed in the Terip area since the 1880s and John went to school at Terip State School before heading to Euroa Higher Elementary School to further his education.

Upon completing what is now known as Year 11 he worked on the family farm for a year before deciding to study Veterinary Science and departed for Melbourne to undertake Matriculation at Taylors College.



His successful completion of Matric meant that he was accepted into the Veterinary Science School at Melbourne University for the first year of the course but then had to transfer to Sydney University for the next 4 years to become a qualified vet.

This was just the beginning of his study and qualifications, as after completing a Master's degree he then attended the Ontario Veterinary College, Canada's most prestigious veterinary school, to obtain a doctorate. Upon returning to Australia Dr Craven worked as a microbiologist for many years as well as conducting research in several important areas – diarrheal diseases in young animals, transmission of diseases from animals to humans (zoonoses) and studying the survival of organisms on farmland.

He was also instrumental in establishing a system for accreditation of Veterinary Schools in Australia and New Zealand as well as assisting alignment of accreditation procedures in Australia with those in the UK, USA and Europe. **Continued on p.4**

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

"I tried running this morning, but I just kept spilling my coffee"



### **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 are currently 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](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) to register.

		What's On - February 2023
NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.		
	<b>Friday 3rd Feb. from 6pm</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre</b> It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a>
	<b>Sat. 4th &amp; Sun. 5th Feb. 10-4</b>	<b>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY</b> Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!
	<b>Sat. 4th Feb, 12.30 - 2pm</b>	<b>Yes Picnic</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Seven Creeks Park, Kirkland St, Euroa</b></span> Hear from Jill Gallagher AO, Gundjitmara Elder and discuss the Voice - including the Langton/Calma Report and the From the Heart campaign. Bring a rug and a sandwich, family friendly. <b>Enquiries? Pip 0472 792435</b>
	<b>Thurs. 9th Feb. @ 6pm</b>	<b>"A Renewable Future for Yea"</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>@ Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre</b></span> A community information meeting. Bookings essential for catering: <a href="https://events.humanitix.com/a-renewable-energy-future-for-yea">https://events.humanitix.com/a-renewable-energy-future-for-yea</a>
	<b>Thurs 9th Feb. @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>RUFFY ADULT RIDING AGM</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>@ Ruffy Hall</b></span> or by Zoom <a href="mailto:rrichards@4upskilling.com.au">rrichards@4upskilling.com.au</a> for the meeting link. <b>contact Robyn 0407 358191 or Pam 5790 4240</b>
	<b>Friday 10th Feb. @ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>@ Highlands community Hall</b></span> 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. <b>Contact Paula 0419 551882</b>
<b>Details see p.7</b>	<b>Saturday 11th Feb. 2023</b>	<b>THE TERRIFIC TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT IS ON AGAIN - put the date in your diary NOW!</b>
	<b>Monday 13th Feb. @ 11.30</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361</b>
	<b>Thursday 16th Feb. @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>HCCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>@ TCCC Ruffy</b></span> All welcome - put the date in your diary NOW. <b>Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473</b>
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Highlands Community Hall</b></span> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are Feb. 8th &amp; 22nd and March 8th &amp; 22nd.</b>
	<b>Every Monday @ 10am</b>	<b>RUFFY QI GONG</b> has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.
	<b>Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am</b>	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at the Tablelands Community Centre</b></span> \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket <b>Enquiries? Ingrid <a href="mailto:ingstar.7@gmail.com">ingstar.7@gmail.com</a></b>

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
Each year the Avenel community presents awards in recognition of those who make significant community contributions across a variety of categories, including the **Avenel Event of the Year**.

This year's winner of the Event of the Year was the popular Granite treks in the hills east of Avenel. The walks were organised by Avenel Active Inc with the aim of giving the residents of Avenel and surrounds who don't mind a bit of vigorous exercise an opportunity to explore and learn something about their local environment, particularly the fascinating granitic hills on Avenel's doorstep.

Readers of the Granite News will be aware that the go to person to explain Strathbogie granite is geologist Dr Neil Phillips. We were indeed fortunate that Neil agreed to lead our 3 walks and provide his knowledgeable explanations of what we were observing. Neil's expertise and enthusiastic contributions were greatly appreciated by all our walkers, and he is a very worthy recipient of the 2023 Avenel Event of the Year award.

Kevin Whithear

**CONGRATULATIONS NEIL!! Well done - Ed**

## Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline.  
Not surprised by your comment on your trip and the lack of tree planting down there. After the many years around here of planting we should feel very proud.

**Roger Strong - Dropmore**

## 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](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

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

## Editor's ramblings round KI

One cannot displace news of a well-deserved AO award from the front page of TGN. In fact, it is to be noted that in 50 years of awarding our unique Australian Awards only 3,500 people have been the recipients of this honour - Officer of the Order of Australia. Congratulations to John on this achievement.

And now for something completely different - as the Monty Python gang would have said.

If I thought that trees were missing from the western plains of Victoria, SA provided an even greater comparison with the HCCC area. Aside from the many commercial pine and gum plantations, trees, big trees are few and far between and this isn't a natural landscape, it's a result of land clearing, over decades, for farming.

However, once the saltbush and mallee scrub were taken out with tractor and chain, salinity became a feature of this border country. The paddocks are bare and salt lakes, or salt depressions, abound. It makes the HCCC area, even in its summer coat of dry, yellow grass look lush by comparison and stock have very little natural shade, if any, for shelter.



Across the Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island it's a similar story but with another layer of complexity. Although settlers first arrived on KI in the 1830s most of the settlement was, and still is, confined to the NE coastal areas and the Dudley Peninsula in the east. It wasn't until after WWII when the Soldier Settlement Scheme opened up huge swathes of the middle part of the island to agriculture, that farming really took off.

**Continued p.4**

## Editor's Ramblings continued...

Once again, this clearing was done with tractors and chains dragging out all the mallee scrub with little thought for any long-term environmental consequences. Although the farms here look in better condition than the ones near the border, the firestorm of January 2020 impacted almost half the island and 96% of Flinders Chase National Park.

As a result, just about every road, paddock or patch of bush, on the western half of the island, shows the remnants of wildfire. Whether that be the mallee scrub coppicing at its base, whilst its skeletal branches reach skywards or the grass trees (first responders to a fire regime) with their tall black spires and bright green balls of reed like foliage contrasting with the red soil - the impact on animals and their habitat is obvious.

It is a bit disconcerting to see scrub that has been burnt literally all the way to the clifftops with the only thing that stopped the fires being the beach!

However, the natural growth since we last visited 18 months ago, has been most impressive, as have the efforts by the islanders to provide habitat and shelter for their very special, and endangered, Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (Black Glossies) that are found nowhere else. These birds only eat seed from the casuarina trees which went up like Roman Candles in the conflagration. Not only have the KI residents been out planting hundreds of seedlings of this variety of tree but also building nesting boxes for the birds to call home. A huge effort for all.

I was lucky enough to have one of these beautiful birds perch on my arm and they are truly magnificent creatures. Long may they grace the skies above Kangaroo Island.

Read on for another great issue... Pauline And Kenny - was looking forward to the HCCC's AGM on Thursday 16th February. Hope to see you there too.

## Fundraising \$nags strike again!

The first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Seymour for 2023.

Thank you everyone involved for your fantastic effort on behalf of the Highlands Community Hall.



Photo features Highlanders Margaret-Anne, Rick and Katie BUT there were other helpers who were camera shy. Thanks to them too!



Note the burnt trees on ridge line @ Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island

## CONGRATULATIONS - Dr John Craven AO -

continued from p.1

Upon inheriting the family farm in the mid-1990s John returned to live in Terip for the next 15 years, where he and Lu opted to raise beef cattle rather than dairy cows. During his long and credentialled career some of the positions he has held include –

- Director – Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Director – Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- Chair – Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee
- Regional Manager – Dept of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Officer in Charge - Attwood Veterinary Research Laboratory
- Foundation Member - Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists
- Life Member - Australian Veterinary Association (current)

I'm sure that all TGN's readers are delighted that John has not only accepted this distinguished award for his endeavours but also managed to highlight his much-loved Terip Terip as well. **Ed.**

## 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.7**



# Terip's Tantalizingly Terrific

## TRIVIA night 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  
[terip3719@gmail.com](mailto:terip3719@gmail.com)

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

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March is going to be MUSIC month in  
Ruffy with not one but TWO gigs  
stay tuned for more....

They're BAACCKKK!  
Their only Ruffy gig!  
Legendary local band!

**The Hairy Lassos**

**Where:** Tablelands Community Centre  
27 Nolans Road RUFFY

**When:** Sunday 12th March from 4pm

**Free community event** - BYO Food & Drinks

Put it in your diary!

All welcome!

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### Standing still - a time to think and reflect.

Since I semi-retired, I now have time to reflect on things, one such thought was, I am standing still? instead of working +50 hours a week, then I thought again am I really standing still or is it an illusion of space, time, and size.

In order of speed and time

- **The Milky Way (our galaxy)** is traveling at about 122 Km per second, in about 4 billion years (around the time our sun will dim and expand to be big enough to swallow Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars), it will collide with the Andromeda galaxy our closest galaxy which is currently 2.537 million light years away.

- **Our small and insignificant solar system** rotates around the centre of the milky way at about 720,000 KPH, it takes about 230 million years for a single orbit.

- **The earth** orbits the sun at 107,000 KPH, each orbit takes about 365 days.

- **The earth** rotates at about 1,670 KPH at the equator every 24 hrs.

This has just continued day in day out, for few billion years. Let's hope it doesn't stop any time soon.

The size and speeds are impossible to comprehend, thinking about it makes me what to lie down and rest. Makes me feel insignificant and very, very small on the grand scale of things.

We are indeed Star Dust to quote Jodi Mitchell, and in memory of David Crosby Croz, found memories of my youth, and a recent highlight was at a concert in Rochford wines listening to CSN, it was loving and peaceful.

**Neil van Buuren**

## Soils and Soil Test Interpretation



Dr Cassandra Scheffe will walk through the importance of soil testing and options to address soil health issues your soil tests results indicate.

Each workshop will be very similar.

### Workshop 1

Date: Thursday 2 February 2023

Time: 9.00am – 1.00pm

Where: **Strathbogie Memorial Hall  
29 Main St**

### Workshop 2

Date: Wednesday 15 February  
2023

Time: 9.00 – 1.00pm

Where: **Yea Shire Hall, 27 High St**

### Workshop 3

Date: Thursday 2 March 2023

Time: 10.00 – 2.00pm

Where: **Tatura Research Centre  
255 Ferguson Rd Tatura**

A light lunch will be provided.

To register your interest [click on this link](#) or

contact Karen Brisbane – Bullock  
[karenb@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:karenb@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

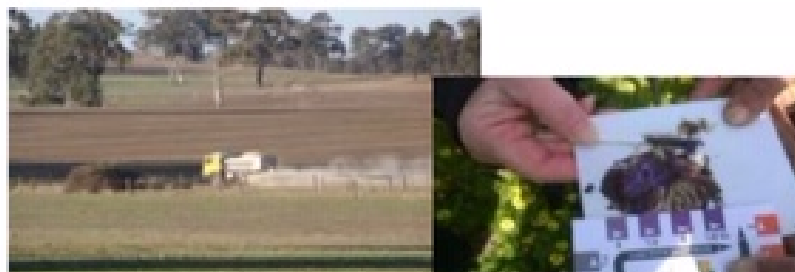
Please mention any dietary requirements when you RSVP.

### Bring your own soil test results to assist discussions on the day.

The workshops will outline the basic components of soils, soil health and soil testing. Information provided will be the background required for producers to get a handle on soil testing, soil function and how to interpret information around soil acidity and soil fertility, understanding of the soil nitrogen cycle and practices that increase and decrease rates of acidification.

Come along and learn how to:

- Understand your soil test results
- Make informed decisions regarding fertilizer and lime use
- The importance of taking soil tests e.g., can save money, soil health, monitor carbon
- Understand acidic soils and methods to improve pasture growth





<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	 <p><b>LAWSON</b></p> <p>General earthworks &amp; hole boring Diesel repairs &amp; servicing Metal fabrication &amp; welding Shed construction &amp; removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b></p> <p>Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>I'm now RESERVED for 2023</b></p> <p>Email Editor if you would like to be too</p> <p><a href="mailto:editor@tgn.org.au">editor@tgn.org.au</a></p>
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 <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></p> <p>0437 835 586</p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings</p> <p>Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a> Ph 0404 833 388</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 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><b>I'm FREE for 2023 SO... YOU can make me yours!</b></p> <p>Contact the Editor</p> <p><a href="mailto:editor@tgn.org.au">editor@tgn.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</b></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> 
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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, residents and landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.