

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



26th March 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 11

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another elderberry recipe arrived during the week, it's on page 6 for your edification and maybe even for your own attempt at creation and then consumption. Thanks Erwin.

Don't forget that, with Easter fast approaching, The Granite News will be taking its usual 2 week break over the school holidays so **NEXT** week's issue is the last one until Sunday 23rd April.

If readers have anything that needs to be advertised, articulated or advance noticed then make sure the copy arrives by next Thursday evening (30/3) to enable inclusion. A reminder that .pdfs aren't acceptable as a format. Thanks for your assistance with this.

Finally, there is still one ad space available on TGN's back page if anyone is interested in supporting this great little newsletter at a very reasonable price. Email editor@tgn.org.au to find out more & EOI.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was at the Bradman Oval waiting for the local boys to arrive and play on the hallowed turf. For that story.... stay tuned!

Know Your Weeds

Ragwort - *Senecio jacobaea*

Ragwort, also known as St James Wort & Tansy Ragwort is a regionally prohibited weed that, although short-lived, can flower twice a year with a mature plant producing 250,000 seeds!



Bright yellow flowers are found in large clusters at the end of the branches with each flower head being surrounded by 12-15 petals.

Leaves can range from dark green with few hairs to pale green with a down appearance and rosette leaves can grow up to 35cm long.

Stems can grow either singularly or coppice from the crown and can be purple or reddish in colour at the base near the crown.

It is unlikely to be confused with any native species and **most importantly it causes death in stock due to liver damage, with seeds remaining viable for 8-16 years,**

The optimum time for treatment is from September to March by hand weeding, spot spraying foliage with an appropriate herbicide or by cultivation prior to flowering. Its seeds can be spread by water, animals & birds, equipment and vehicles and by being eaten by stock.

For further information re eradication email - info@hccclandcare.net.au

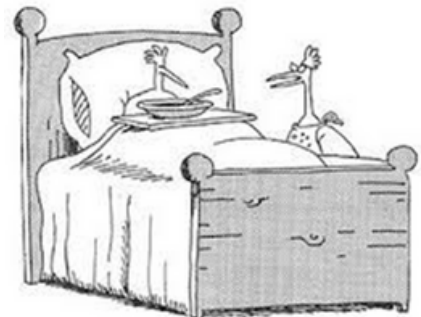
Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

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

"You can't shake a hand with a clenched fist."

**Indira Gandhi
(1917 - 1984)**

**India's first & only female
Prime Minister**



"Quit complaining and eat it! ...
Number one, chicken soup is good for the flu,
and number two, it's nobody we know."

Did you know?

That the average human body contains enough iron to make a 3" (8cm) nail !

Did you know #2?

About 40 years ago in south Gippsland there was a bush band called "Ragwort Thistle and other Obnoxious Weeds" - don't know how many gigs they got with a moniker like that, but it was certainly a name to remember - **Ed.**

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.

What's On - March - April 2023

	<p>Thursday 30th March 5.30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat</p>
	<p>Saturday 1st April @ noon</p>	<p>HCCC APRIL FOOL'S PICNIC @ Ruffy Recreation Reserve Everyone is invited to a day of fun, food and frivolity. RSVP by 27th March for catering</p>
<p>Details? See p.5</p>	<p>Friday 7th April @ 12.30</p>	<p>RUFFY CFA - ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL Seafood luncheon and community fundraising event is on again! All welcome.</p>
	<p>Fri 7th - Mon. 10th April 10-4</p>	<p>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open in April especially for Easter - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!</p>
	<p>Friday 14th April @ 6.30</p>	<p>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</p>
	<p>Friday 15h April 12-2pm</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET @ 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local & learn from each other. Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366</p>
	<p>NB Date changed</p> <p>Monday 17th April @ 11am</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>Monday 24th April 3-4.30pm</p>	<p>VEGGIE PATCH CLUB @ 196 Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy Sharing garden knowledge and produce. Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268</p>
	<p>Thursday 27th April @ 5.30</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.</p>
	<p>Sunday 30th April @ 10am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235</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 April 5th & 19th.</p>
	<p>Every Monday @ 10am</p>	<p>RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.</p>
	<p>Every Tuesday 8.45 - 9.45 am</p>	<p>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</p>



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare



April fool's picnic

**Come along and enjoy a day of
fun, food and frivolity**

@Ruffy Recreation reserve

Saturday April 1st at noon.

All welcome

including well behaved pets.

**HCCC will provide a lamb spit roast, bread and salads,
with vegetarian, vegan & gluten free options available.**

Limited drinks will be supplied, welcome to BYO.

**Please bring a cake, fruit or dessert to share and
chairs or picnic rug.**

We are planning the following free activities for all :

- Drone spraying demo & training with Drone Spraying Australia
- Uncommon marsupial identification
- Uncommon weeds identification
- Species Recovery - Bank Swallow
- Bush art activity (all ages)
- Beekeeping

**IT'S FREE!
RSVP
NOW**

**0417 503 472
0408 969 236**



RSVP by 27th March for catering purposes
phone:
Jenny Webb 0408 969 236
Janet Hagen 0458 904 268
Sue van Buuren 0411 010 379
or email neil@hccclandcare.net.au



Why is Soil Organic Matter important?

From a farmer's perspective, Soil Organic Matter is now being recognised as one of the foundation blocks for soil health, and therefore also for productive agriculture. While we read this let's keep in mind that Soil Carbon is a direct measure of SOM (SOC = 58% of SOM). Now let's see why SOM is so important.

Improves soil structure

When SOM decays, it is slowly converted to humus, which is the most complex organic molecule found in soil, and as a result, also the most stable. By binding with particles of sand, silt, clay and organic matter itself, humus molecules create more stable aggregates which won't easily break down in water. This binding effect, together with the weaving effect of roots and fungal strands, contributes to improved soil structure, provides resilience to physical degradation, and ultimately protects soil from erosion.

Improves drainage

These larger, stable aggregates have spaces between them (macro and micro-pores), which allow air and water to pass through more easily, contributing to lower compaction and waterlogging in soils.

Holds moisture

Humus molecules can absorb and retain large quantities of water, making them available for plant root systems, and helping to reduce the severity of natural phenomena like drought, but also floods. This is why Soil Carbon can help us in building resilience in the face of climate change, including reduced or less reliable rainfall events.

Provides nutrients

Organic matter is an important source of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur, amongst others. These nutrients slowly become available to plants as the SOM is decomposed by micro and macro-organisms living in the soil, through a process called mineralization. As this process takes time, it provides a slow release of nutrients.

Improves cation exchange capacity

Humus molecules are colloids, which are negatively charged structures with an enormous surface area. This means they can attract and hold huge quantities of positively charged nutrients such as calcium, magnesium and potassium, until the plant needs them. Clays also have this capacity, but humus colloids have a much greater CEC than clays.

To find more about how to increase Organic Matter levels in our soils, and problems arising with incorporation, please [follow this link](#) from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (the previous points have been also taken from this page and then elaborated).

Funding Partners

This project is Funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA, From the Ground up program through funding from Australian Landcare and the Australian Government.

Science partners

AgriSci Pty Ltd
Dr. Cassandra Scheffe, Soil Scientist
David Hawkey, Agronomist

Farm Partners

Callum & Les Lawson, Lawson's Farm – Highlands.
Cameron Stewart and Stephanie Reeves, Looking Glass – Highlands.
Rob and Tim Hayes, Tarcombe Herefords - Tarcombe



CCC Project Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin



**Ruffy CFA
Seafood Luncheon
& Royal Children's Hospital
Good Friday Appeal**

Good Friday April 7th..From 12:30pm

At the Ruffy Fire Shed

Fish & Chips, Salads & Desserts

Adults \$20 Kids \$5 (under 16)

**Everyone is Welcome..bring family & friends,
there'll be something for everyone**

*** Jumping Castle * Easter Egg Hunt**

*** Royal Children's Hospital Raffle**

*** Ruffy Fire Brigade Silent Auction including
Hay, Drone Video Package, Firewood, local B&B voucher**

For more information contact

Felicity 0413 483 450

George 0432 928 301



FOR SALE - Seriously cute puppies

Whippet pups. Both parents very loyal family dogs. Born 30.11.2023 they are vaccinated, microchipped and vet checked ready to go. One solid male black, two tan and white males.

Baby Hector, named this as he looks exactly like his father, solid black body with white tips on the back of his paws and his chest. He LOVES his food, and is the fattest of the pups, and also enjoys some zoomies, albeit a little slower than his siblings because of his chub!

Sable is the gentlest of the bunch and the biggest. He prefers to quietly play by himself and hang back from the pack. Such a sweet boy who loves a cuddle! Sable is as his name suggests a Sable and White colour. Stanley, is a bit of an old soul, Stanley is very polite and not to mention handsome! He is one of the smaller puppies. His colour is brown and white with dark patches on his cheeks.

Microchip numbers: 95600001586496,
956000015865654, 956000015866553

Breeder source number: MB108987 **Ring or text Kendall 0497 983 982 OR Robyn 0407 358 191**

Next Veggie Club meeting

Sharing garden knowledge and produce.

Monday 24th April at Barbara & David's
196 Buntings Hill Road Ruffly
3pm - 4.30pm.



For further details contact **Janet 0458 904268**

FOR SALE

A very large Dutch Dresser located in Highlands.
Size: Base 2.75 metres long & .508 metre deep.

Top 2.85 metres long approx.

Total Height 2.4 metres approx.



Very solid in perfect condition. \$675
Phone Gavin 0419 309431

Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline

Here comes Verena's recipe for Elderflower Cordial.

Cheers,
Erwin

ELDER FLOWER CORDIAL (Verena's recipe)

Ingredients

1 cup elder flowers on short stems
2 litres of water
2 kg sugar
20 g citric acid



Method

Shake the flowers well to drop any insects. Cut off longer stalks.

Wash, drain and leave them in a pot of at least 3 litres.

Bring water to boil, pour over flowers.

Add sugar and citric acid to the pot, stir well and leave for one or two days.

Stir from time to time to make sure the sugar and citric acid are well dissolved.

Strain well, bring to the boil and fill hot into bottles until overflowing.

Store bottles in a cool and dark place. Once opened leave in fridge.



Rabbit Control Information Morning

Join the Burnt Creek Landcare Group for a morning of rabbit control information and demonstration

Saturday 1st April | 9.30am - 1pm

Locksley, VIC | Address will be provided upon RSVP
Morning tea & lunch provided

Learn about:

- Warren ripping and site management
- Fumigation of warrens
- Baiting and K5 release
- Compliance programs for rabbits

To RSVP please contact Susie Bate
Email: benacre49@gmail.com or Phone: 0409 174 041

ALL WELCOME | RSVP ESSENTIAL



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 0419 551 882

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Echidnas
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Strathbogrie Granite Project
neil.phillips@bigpond.com

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, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.