

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



12th February 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 5

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Each year TGN gains new readers - we're up to 747 of them at present - and as this is an on-line newsletter I assume that it is word of mouth that inspires people to sign up, which is very gratifying. It is also timely that at the start, or thereabouts, of each year that I reprint the following - In order for TGN to continue to be the excellent local, community newsletter that it is, the following important details need to be noted..

1. Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion of any articles, ads, items in the next issue of TGN
2. Photos and attachments need to be pre-shrunk from MB size to KB size and be in either .jpg or .png format please, not .pdf. Thanks
3. Local contributions are most welcome—who doesn't like reading about Scott's take on local cricket matches or Stuart's ponderings?
4. Small ads run for 3 weeks unless sold or the editor is notified
5. Priority will be given to local news (within the TGN Tablelands' area or involving Tablelanders) Landcare/environmental issues and interesting, informative and/or entertaining articles, as well as regular announcements from our 3 local councils that may well be of interest to, or impact upon, our local communities.

Many thanks in advance for your great support in 2023, I'm looking forward to the year ahead & bringing you a great read every week.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline  
And Kenny? Was hiding in plain sight on the front page.

## 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.



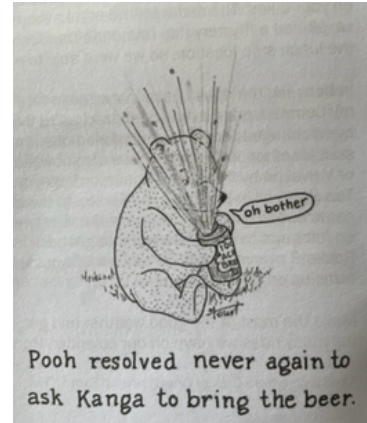
**RSVPs for catering please contact Justus - 0427 524473**

Feedback? [editor@tgn.org.au](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






"When you get into your 90s, if you are any use to anyone, you're a lucky guy."

91 year old Samuel Parker on receiving an OAM for services to wrestling in the 2023 honours' list



## Did you know?

- On long drives you should take a pause from driving at least every 2 hours!
- That the best way to avoid drowsy driving is to pull over and have a 15 minute power nap! and
- Fatigue, including drowsy driving, contributes to 16-20% of road crashes in Victoria! **Pause to live!**

		<b>What's On - February &amp; March 2023</b>	
<b>NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.</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>Details see p.1</b>	<b>Thursday 16th Feb. @7.30pm</b>	<b>HCCC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> <span style="float: right;">@ TCCC Ruffy</span> All welcome - put the date in your diary NOW. <span style="float: right;"><b>Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473</b></span>	
	<b>Saturday 18th Feb. @ 10-12</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> <span style="float: right;">at 94 Old Highlands Rd</span> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366</b>	
<b>Details see p.6</b>	<b>Sunday 19th Feb. @ 10-12</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY MAPPING TRAINING</b> <span style="float: right;">@ TCC Ruffy</span> Want to find out how to map our amazing wildlife? This information session is for YOU!	
	<b>Thursday 23rd Feb. @5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> <span style="float: right;">at Caveat Church</span> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat	
<b>Details see p.5</b>	<b>Saturday 25th Feb. 10-12</b>	<b>CONNECTING KOALA COUNTRY</b> <span style="float: right;">at TCC, Ruffy</span> When Ruffy PS existed its mascot was a koala, come along and find out more about them	
	<b>Friday 3rd March @ 6pm</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ</b> <span style="float: right;">at Tablelands Community Centre</span> It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! <b>Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</b>	
	<b>Sat.4th &amp; Sun. 5th March 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>Friday 10th March @ 6.30</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> <span style="float: right;">@ Highlands Community Hall</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>Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> <span style="float: right;">at Highlands Community Hall</span> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are Feb. 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;">at the Tablelands Community Centre</span> \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket <span style="float: right;"><b>Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com</b></span>	

# Car Fire at Highlands last Friday

With most of the official summer months behind us without any major fire engagements, it was all systems go last Friday in Highlands as a white Toyota dual cab ute, that was stolen in Yea at 2pm and torched at the top of the Seymour-Highlands Rd at 2.20pm set the surrounding grass and bushes alight.

Fortunately, the CFA chopper - Helitak 349, Bell 412 (based at Mangalore) - was first on the scene, closely followed by 5 tankers - Highlands/Caveat, Terip, Whiteheads Creek, Yea, Homewood and 3 slip-ons. A huge thank you to those volunteer crews who attended as thanks to their efficiency and dedication only a couple of hectares were burnt, when it could have been a lot worse.

If anyone saw this ute racing up the Yea-Highlands Rd just after 2pm on Friday and can offer the police any information - ring 131 444.

**By my calculations the thieves would have had to be doing at least 130kph to cover the distance in the time-frame, but I suspect that speeding might be the least of their worries. Ed.**



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

### 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.

## Bird Surveys in Bogie

Chris Tzaros, renowned bird scientist, is currently undertaking bird surveys in the Strathbogie Ranges. He visits 70 sites, completes 12 surveys per day and camps out overnight in the bush.

Each survey takes 20mins and covers 2ha. This will be the 5th round of bird counts he has done in our area and it will be interesting to compare his results after such a wet year.

Chris reported that our farmlands and woodlands were looking very healthy.

Chris aims to contact all relevant landholders before he visits but sometimes this is not possible due to poor phone reception or changes of ownership.



If you spot this friendly chap doing his surveys, don't be alarmed, say hello. **Janet Hagen**

### 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.





**Longwood East Landcare invites you to attend a free event.**

Come and hear about our local koalas from wildlife ecologist and koala guru from the University of Melbourne, Dr Kath Handasyde. Kath has studied koalas for many years and is an expert on their ecology and habitat needs as well as the impacts of habitat fragmentation on their survival.

- Hear where we might find koalas in Longwood East, the Strathbogie Ranges and across the Tarcombe and granite hills, what they eat, the trees they live in, and how long they live.
- Learn about the biggest threats to koalas, and what we can do to help restore healthy populations.
- Join in discussions on how we can create local koala habitat, planting corridors of trees and shrubs that will help link patches of remnant vegetation in our area.
- Map your koala sightings through iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/home> and/or send details to Lisa at Longwood East Landcare: [lreynoldson03@gmail.com](mailto:lreynoldson03@gmail.com) to help build understanding of populations.
- Bring along your photos or samples of trees (leaves and buds/capsules) that you've seen local koalas use to get help with identification.
- If weather permits, we may take a walk to identify some of the local eucalypts and shrubs used by koalas.

*Presented by Longwood East Landcare and the  
Strathbogie Ranges Group of the Australian Plant Society*



**Australian Plants Society (Victoria)**  
Promoting the Appreciation and Preservation of Australian Plants

## When

**Saturday, 25 February 2023**  
10 am - morning tea  
10.30am - 12noon - presentation

## Where

**Tablelands Community Centre**  
27 Nolans Road, Ruffy

*Bring a picnic and stay for lunch*

*Enquiries 0402 251577*

# 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](http://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 agstment (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-46825992147>

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@mtchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@mtchellshire.vic.gov.au)



March is going to be MUSIC month in Ruffy with not one but TWO gigs see below for both events

SAVE THE DATE!

PHIL PARA BAND

presented by RUFFARTZ

Saturday 25th March commencing @ 4.00 Twilight Concert Ruffy Recreation Reserve Noye Lane Ruffy

BYO picnic, chairs, table, etc. (Outdoor event)

Cost: \$20 per person, \$10 concess.

**PHIL PARA BAND:** Blues, Rock Legend Phil Para is one of Melbourne's hardest working and best-known musicians playing sold out shows every week. Kiwi expat, Phil and his powerhouse trio, perform a range of his original rock/ blues/ latin fusion songs alongside classic guitar-oriented covers such as Hendrix, Santana, Clapton, Muddy Waters, Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Phil's multi-instrumentalist son Denzil Para joins him on drums, guitar, and some vocals and Chris Rourke drives the bottom end. Phil's powerful presence, passionate renditions and guitar showmanship make for a thrilling performance that mesmerises his audiences and keeps them coming back time and again.

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 event - BYO Food & Drinks

Put it in your diary!

All welcome!

# Rabbit Control Information Session

**When: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Time: 10AM to 2PM.**

**Where: Homewood Hall  
25 Homewood Road Homewood.**



**Are you having problems with rabbits on your property? You are not alone.**

**Join Landcare and the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) presenter, Neil Devanney for an information session on how to manage rabbits on your property.**

Did you know that it only takes one year for a pair of rabbits to produce up to 184 rabbits in a good year?

The feral rabbit has had a devastating effect on our native biodiversity and agricultural productivity.

Rabbits are invasive pests and cause damage to gardens, bushland and agricultural areas.

In this session, we will:

Create awareness about how to eradicate rabbits with integrated pest management control methods.

Look at the various control techniques that can be applied on your property.

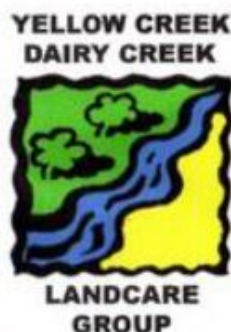
The technical side of effective rabbit control including:

- 'how big is the problem?' importance of monitoring
- how to knock down numbers effectively
- warren and harbour destruction
- the importance of follow up control
- and the strategic application of these components of control

RSVP to UGLN Landcare Facilitator Chris Cobern on 0413 855 490 or [ugln.projects@ugln.net](mailto:ugln.projects@ugln.net)

Light lunch provided.

*COVID Safe Rules: Please do not attend this event if you have cold or flu symptoms, you are unwell, or if you have been in contact with anyone in the last seven days where there is a risk you may have been exposed to COVID-19.*





**SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE THE  
MURRINDINDI SHIRE FLOOD RECOVERY  
E-NEWSLETTER**

If you want to stay up to date on the latest flood recovery information, subscribe to receive our monthly e-newsletter.

The e-newsletter will provide you with key updates on flood recovery activities, including infrastructure assessments and repairs, flood waste removal, road re-opening, available financial and wellbeing support and more.

To subscribe, visit our website and search 'flood recovery' or give us a call on 5772 0333.



**FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE  
1800 560 760**

**FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE  
1800 560 780**

The Flood Recovery Hotline is a dedicated state-wide hotline to support you with:

- a range of clean-up services
- finding somewhere to stay
- mental health and wellbeing support.

The hotline is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm  
Call 1800 560 760 and press 9 for an interpreter.

You can also visit Council's online Floods Hub for flood recovery information and support at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022)



**FREE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS**

All Victorians can now collect free rapid antigen tests (RATs) from participating local councils to help with early detection and treatment of COVID.

Everyone can collect up to 2 packs of 5 RATs per person, and 2 packs per household member. If you run out of RATs, you are welcome to collect more to make sure you are prepared.

RATs are available at the following locations:

- Alexandra Council Offices - 28 Perkins Street
- Alexandra Library - 49 Grant Street
- Kinglake Library and Customer Service Centre - 19 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd
- Yea Library and Customer Service Centre - 15 The Semi Circle
- Mobile Library – Locations and operational hours can be found at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries)

If you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please do not collect RATs until you are well. If you can't get to a location, a guardian or carer can collect your free RATs for you.

For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RATProgram](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RATProgram)

**STAY INFORMED**

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

**GET IN TOUCH**

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Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen

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**Cr John Walsh**  
Koriella Ward  
Murrindindi Shire Council  
[jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

0437 835 586

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Donated by supporters of our local koala population



Donation from supporters of the Eastern Small-eyed Snake



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Contact Paula Lade  
0419 551 882

Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees



**Echidnas**  
take care of their habitat



**I'm now RESERVED for 2023**

Email the Editor if you would like to be too

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

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**Strathbogrie Granite Project**

[neil.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto: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, residents and landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.