

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



22nd January 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 2

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another week and another state - this week's TGN is coming to you from the beautiful and resilient Kangaroo Island in sunny South Australia. In the Summer of Armageddon - 2019-2020 - just over half the island and 96% of Flinders Chase National Park was burnt by uncontrollable wildfire. As isolated islanders the locals are obviously used to the DIY concept as in the 18 months or so since we previously visited an amazing amount of infrastructure has been built and the after-fire regrowth is flourishing, but more about that next week.

What was noticeable getting here, in particular between Hamilton and the border, via Coleraine and Casterton (home of the Kelpie) across the wide broad lands labelled Australia Felix by explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell, (Felix = happy, fortunate and fertile) was the fact that any Landcare groups this far west aren't necessarily great tree planters.

When Major Mitchell first explored the Western District in 1836, he called it "A nobleman's park on a gigantic scale." Perhaps there were more trees in evidence then but in the 21stC what was most obvious to this explorer was the lack of recent tree plantings.

To be sure old River Red Gums meandered along the waterways and appeared as solitary 'hero' trees in paddocks where flocks of sheep tried to shelter in their limited shade.

Stands of pine and cypress planted decades ago were also in evidence too BUT the trees that were missing from the acres



of grassland, as far as the eye could see, were recently planted shelter belts along fence lines or even as small, stand-alone plantations.

I must admit that I couldn't help thinking about, not only all the free trees given out by the HCCC during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, but also all the amazing tree-planting work that has been done over the last 40 years of the HCCC's (and its predecessors) existence to make our little part of the country an environmental haven, not only for wildlife and farming stock but also for carbon retention and visual amenity.

Many thanks HCCC for the visionary planning and long may it continue.

Read on for another great issue ... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala...was keeping the Wood Duck ducklings company.

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

"Travelling leaves you speechless and then turns you into a storyteller."







**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 - January & February 2023
	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	
	<b>Thursday 26th Jan. @ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church</b> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat
	<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! <b>Enquires: 0427 690970 or <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a></b>
	<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>Friday 10th Feb. @ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall</b> Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together 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>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 Jan. 25th and Feb. 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>

## 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.

## From the Ground Up Project

Over the past 4.5 years we have worked with other organisations including Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to run our From the Ground Up project.

Goulburn Broken CMA are running a survey to understand the impact of our project and others in the catchment and would like your help as a project participant. The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and should take around 15 minutes, click [here](#) to access.

There's a random prize draw of 3 x \$500 vouchers for local resellers, prizes drawn late Feb.

**Survey closes 10th Feb, 2023.**

NB: If you have been involved with any of the recent projects, over the last few years, that either Neil or Vanessa have run, please contribute your feedback to ensure the viability of such programmes into the future.

Just in case the click here above doesn't work, try this link instead.

[From the Ground Up project survey \(office.com\)](#)

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thanks for your dedication and enthusiasm in producing the GRANITE NEWS. What an excellent track record it has had with three excellent editors over 17 years.

Miranda Yorston, Don Cook and Pauline Roberts have provided a great community service which is the envy of many other small communities. We are very lucky to have had such talented people working for us.

Also, thanks to the Local Landcare Network Committee for making it all possible.

**Janet Hagen - Ruffy**

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## Letter to the Editor

### Time

Years ago, I remember an ambitious young solicitor rushing away from a community meeting, saying he had to rush back to the office, because 'time is money'. I took from his comments that he was so busy that stopping with the others for a cup of tea would cost him money.

I recently read of a journalist who confessed that she found her 'last holiday exhausting because 'I felt nervous without tasks.' The author Olivia Sudjic, related that during 2020 she had reviewed a perfectly delightful novel, but confessed that despite the entrancing descriptions, 'I could barely turn two pages before my hand moved reflexively towards my phone'.

Do you check your phone messages while cleaning your teeth? Do you get panicky when you have to wait in line at the supermarket?

Do you eat while still working? Are you an impatient driver who drives too fast?

The Jesuit priest James Schall in his book 'The Unseriousness of Human Affairs' says that, 'the savouring of life requires being willing to waste time, so as not to be fixated on whether we are using it well. Time's too precious to treat it as too precious.'

Perhaps the fundamental question is not only our fault as individuals, but the kind of society that has turned time into a commodity, something that must earn us something.

Consider the kind of words we associate with time: 'waste', 'kill', 'save', 'lose', 'make', 'miss', 'flies' etc. Consider also the frequency we reply to a common enquiry, 'how are things going?' with 'busy!'. I suspect that preoccupation with productivity, wealth creation, ambition and self-image, has a corrupting effect on our use of time. I know as I get older time seems to pass more quickly.

Am I missing something?

**Stuart Reid - Highlands**

## And this year's Back Page animal is - the Eastern Small-eyed Snake

Each year two TGN readers choose a new animal for their back page ad & in 2023 reptiles rule.

**Scientific name:** *Rhinoplocephalus nigrescens*

**Similar species:** May be confused with the Red-bellied Black Snake which overlaps the Eastern Small-eyed Snake's southern distribution.

The Eastern Small-eyed Snake may grow to over a metre; however the average size is around 50cm (total length). Size seems to be greater in northern populations compared to southern populations, and also in males vs females. Though common throughout its range, you'd be unlikely to encounter this beautiful and secretive night-dweller.

### Identification

A small to moderately-sized species. The head is slightly flattened and barely distinct from the solid body. The back, sides and top of the head and body are steely blue-black. The ventral colour ranges from cream (in the south) to bright coral pink (in the north) and is often flecked or blotched with black. Scales are smooth and glossy. The eyes are small and darkly coloured.

### Habitat

Eastern Small-eyed Snakes are found in mesic (high moisture level) habitats including rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest, as well as woodlands, heaths and rock outcrops. They shelter beneath stones, exfoliated rock, loose bark and fallen timber, and also within rock crevices.

### Distribution

Occurs along the coast and mesic hinterland of eastern Australia between northern Cape York Peninsula in Queensland and eastern Victoria.

### Feeding and diet

In the wild, Eastern Small-eyed Snakes eat a wide variety of ectothermic (cold blooded) prey including lizard eggs, dragons, legless lizards, skinks, blind snakes, and other small snakes. However, skinks are the predominant prey.

This snake is an active forager at night, searching for diurnal lizards in their nocturnal sleeping places. However, they may also be considered an ambush predator of diurnal lizards temporarily seeking shelter under surface cover during the day, and then moving to a new ambush position by night. It's possible Eastern Small-eyed Snakes are both an active searcher & an ambush predator.

### Other behaviours and adaptations

In the wild, the Eastern Small-eyed Snake is usually only found on the surface at night, and under cover during the day. The same daily pattern of activity is also evident in snakes in captivity. This species may form winter aggregations, with up to 29 individuals being found sheltering together.

### Breeding behaviours

Breeding maturity is attained at approx. 2-3 years of age. The species bears live young with up to 8 young being born (av. 4). It seems that females reproduce yearly.

### Conservation status

Not listed as threatened.

### Predators

The Eastern Small-eyed Snake is occasionally cannibalistic.

### Danger to humans

The Eastern Small-eyed Snake is very secretive and unlikely to be encountered in the open during the day. When disturbed it may thrash about aggressively, but it is usually disinclined to bite. Toxicity of the venom seems to vary geographically, and the effect on humans can range from no symptoms to renal failure and possibly death (one recorded fatality). The venom contains a long-acting myotoxin that continues to attack muscle tissue (including heart muscle) for days after envenomation. A bite should always be treated as serious and medical attention sought as soon as possible.



**Text - Australian Museum website**



Rotary Club of Yea 

# 2023 Art Show

Daily: 26th – 28th Jan, 10am – 5pm  
 Final Day: Sun 29th Jan, 10am – 3pm

Opening night Jan 25th

\$5.00 entry  
 children FREE

OPENING NIGHT: Wed 25th Jan 7.30 – 9.30pm \$25.00  
 Dress theme – CANADA – wear something red and white!

Yea Town Hall  
 High Street, Yea

You can book for opening night online using this code or pay at the door.  
 RC of Yea Annual Art Show 2023  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CDSGB>

 [www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)

## Have you thought about TOILET PAPER lately?

Probably not is possibly the correct answer so maybe have a think about this fact when next purchasing that essential item...

**18,000 - 28,000 trees are felled EACH day to create commercial toilet paper!**

If the budget allows it, maybe consider changing your usual brand to one that uses recycled paper and/or bamboo and wraps the rolls in paper, not soft plastic, because since RedCycle collapsed all soft plastics now go to land fill, are not recycled and only create more waste!

Just a thought....

## Have you seen this #1 'Public Enemy' in your area?



**In next week's TGN you can find out how to kill it off - successfully and with a subsidy to assist!**

**UPDATE YOUR DETAILS ON COUNCIL'S  
ONLINE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY**

Calling all community groups! Are your details up to date on Council's online Community Directory?

Our Community Directory allows groups to create and maintain their own listing, by logging in and updating details, including address and contact details.

To check your details, visit our website and search 'community directory'.

If you can't update your details yourself, get in touch by calling 5772 0333.

**DINDI BUSINESS ADVISORY SESSIONS**

To help Murrindindi Shire businesses address a current issue or challenge they are facing, Council is offering access to free business advisory sessions, focused on continuity planning, and tailored to your individual business' needs.

Businesses will receive a voucher for a one-hour face-to-face session with a business advisor with local knowledge of Murrindindi Shire and a 15-minute follow-up via phone.

Make the most of these free sessions. There are limited sessions available so get in quick.

For more information, and to register visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindi-business-hub](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindi-business-hub)

**RATES REMINDER**

Are you paying your Council rates in full? A friendly reminder that the due date for payment is 15 February 2023.

For those who are paying by instalment, the third instalment is due by 28 February 2023.

Council understands the impact rates can have on individuals, families, and businesses. If you are experiencing financial difficulties that might prevent you from paying your rates on time, please get in touch with our Rates Team as soon as possible on 5772 0333 to discuss payment options to suit your situation.

For more information on rates, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates)



**GNARLY NEIGHBOURS SKATE SESSIONS**

After the success of the Gnarly Neighbours Skate Sessions last year, we are excited to announce that we are partnering with Gnarly Neighbours again in 2023.

We will be running a FREE Back to School skate event for young people at Yea Skate Park on Friday 17 February from 4.00 - 7.00 pm, with a range of different sessions to suit your skill level.

The sessions are as followings:

- First Push Beginner Class 4.00 - 4.50 pm
- Beginner Class 5.00 - 5.50 pm
- Intermediate Class 6.00 - 6.50 pm

Registrations are essential. Visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/youth/gnarly](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/youth/gnarly) for more information and to register.

**2023 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Council meetings are a good way for the community to see how local decision-making takes place and to observe Council's democratic processes.

Council Meetings are streamed to the public via Facebook Live and made available on our website.

For a list of Council meeting dates for 2023 and for more information about Council meetings, visit our website.

**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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[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333



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 <p><b>Murrindindi Shire Council</b></p> <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><b>0437 835 586</b></p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs 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><b>Donation from supporters of the Eastern Small-eyed Snake</b></p> 	<p><b>I'm FREE for 2023</b> SO... <b>YOU can make me yours!</b></p> <p><b>Contact the Editor</b></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><b>MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS</b></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.