

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



4th June 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 19

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

During the last few months a new topic of conversation has become common in the Hughes Creek Catchment Area - that of FERA's Windfarm proposal and its associated transmission lines to be sited somewhere in the Southern Strathbogie Ranges.

This proposed large-scale development will no doubt affect a swathe of local TGN readers in various ways, so in an attempt to promote awareness and dissemination of accurate and appropriate information, The Granite News will run articles and meeting notifications from both sides of the discussion under the following guidelines.

- Dates and locations of information meetings being held by both FERA and the SRRCG (Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group) will be published.
- Balanced and factual reports from any of these meetings will also be published.
- Articles and/or Letters to the Editor that contain factual and verified information (with reference notes included as to the source of the information) will be published.
- Articles or Letters to the Editor that offer observations, thoughts and 'facts' without verification of any claims, will not be published.

As this development does have the potential to impact the farming land use of our local areas, I hope that readers can appreciate the reasons for the above parameters, as well as the inclusion of such articles in the first place. Although this publication seeks to inform and educate its readership on matters associated with this issue, it has no wish to divide or disrupt our valued local communities. Thank you for your understanding.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was keeping Peg's merino sheep company.

** MOST IMPORTANT! **

Over the last 5&1/2 years The Granite News has been dispatched to your email inboxes from a variety of locations around our wide brown land including - Sydney, Cradle Mountain, The Grampians, Port Stephens, Kangaroo Island and Apollo Bay to name a few - which just goes to show that interconnectivity is everywhere!

Well...almost...as it appears that Kakadu might just defeat me in 2 weeks' time SO **the TGN issue for 18th June** will be emailed on **Friday 16th June** instead. If you have any articles / diary dates to go in that week, please note that **Tuesday 13th June** will be the deadline. **Ed.**

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

"More than 7.7 million hectares of habitat for threatened species (an area larger than Tasmania) were cleared or substantially degraded between 2000 & 2017"

Emma Johnston - Chief author of the 2021 Australian State of the Environment Report

Did you know?
June 5th = World Environment Day



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
May	75.5 mm	46 mm	68.4 mm
2023 Total	238.8 mm	183 mm	286.8 mm
Rainy Days	19 days	8 days	15 days

		<p>NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">What's On - June 2023</h2>	
<p>Details? last TGN</p>	<p>Thurs. 8th June 5-7pm</p>	<p>HCCC - MEET, SNACK & CHAT @ Highlands Hall First in a series of informal farming chats. All welcome. vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au</p>	
	<p>Friday 9th June 6.30pm</p>	<p>DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands 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>Fri 9th - Mon 12th June</p>	<p>ROVER SCOUT SECTION MUDBASH @ MAFEKING PARK CAVEAT Open Day for the public - Sunday 11th June</p>	
<p>Details? See p.4</p>	<p>Monday 12th June @ 11am</p>	<p>FESTIVAL of FUNGI with ALISON POULIOT in Avenel Another excellent fungi presentation - if you've missed previous ones be there for this one!</p>	
<p>NB NEW day/date</p> 	<p>Tuesday 13th June @ 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 and coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361</p>	
<p>Details? See p.7</p>	<p>Saturday 17th June @ 10am</p>	<p>KONG MENG HILL TREK commencing from 1323 Tarcombe Rd, Avenel Interested in the geology, botany and geography of this local area? This walk is for YOU!</p>	
	<p>Thurs. 22nd June @ 7pm</p>	<p>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Whiteheads Creek Hall Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473</p>	
<p>Details? See p.4</p>	<p>Saturday 24th June 2-3pm</p>	<p>TERIP TERIP CFA - HOME FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION @ Terip Rec Like to find out about smoke alarms and causes of house fires, come along to this event!</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 14th & 28th June and 12th & 26th July.</p>	
	<p>2nd Tuesdays 10-noon</p>	<p>TABLELANDS KIDS PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - June 6th & 20th</p>	
	<p>Every Monday @ 10am</p>	<p>RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am. Qi Gong is in recess until Monday 10th July</p>	
	<p>2nd & 4th Sundays</p>	<p>ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group</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>	

Farmers gathering 'Meet, Snack and Chat' Soil Carbon, Deer Control and Farming

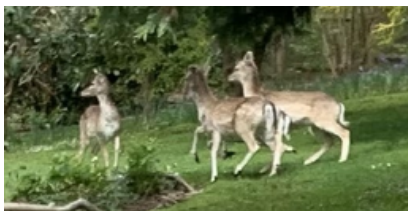
From your HCCC Landcare Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin

All farmers, landowners and land managers are invited for a gathering on Thursday 8th of June at the Highlands Hall, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

See you all there on Thursday the 8th of June at the Highlands Hall, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Please RSVP ASAP to vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au for catering purposes.

This event is brought to you as part of our Soil Carbon project, and is funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA, From the Ground Up program through funding from Australian Landcare and the Australian Government.



Know Your Weeds

Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) State Prohibited Weed

The Parthenium weed is a perennial plant, a prolific seeder and an aggressive coloniser producing 15,000 seeds per plant per year! It can also cause dermatitis and asthma in some people.

It is unlikely to be confused with any native species as it stands 1.5m tall with an erect stem and has deeply divided leaves, coloured pale green and covered in soft white hairs. The smaller leaves alternate up the stem while the base leaves can be 20cm in length.

Flower clusters appear between January and June at the top of the branches and are creamy white in colour and 4-10mm in diameter.

It can be spread in many ways - by water, by farm produce (grain or fodder) seed eaten by stock or via equipment and vehicles.

As a State Prohibited Weed DEECA is responsible for its control

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



Can you help?

Volunteers are still needed to help out at Mudbash

If you can help with the wood sales contact

David - 0417 150115
david_webb1@bigpond.com

Volunteers for tin rattlers are also required over the King's Birthday weekend to help raise much needed funds for the CFA.

If you can help contact
Pauline - 0408 246308

Thanks in advance for any offers of assistance.



RUFFARTZ is BACK!

The RuffArtz Committee are pleased to present The Merindas, Ruffy Hall, 1st July 2023.

Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. Free coffee and cake will be available on the night.

Tickets (\$25.00) available at the door or via email:
ruffartztickets@gmail.com



The Merindas are an Indigenous Australian pop duo comprising Candice Lorrae and Kristel Kickett.

They began their career singing Mowtown hits for the premiere of The Sapphires movie.

These soul sisters are trail-blazing with their innovative style of music, which they describe as electric pop with a dance-hall feel, alongside hip hop and R & B influences.

Terip Terip Home Fire Safety information session



Gather around the open fire while we will cover topics like;

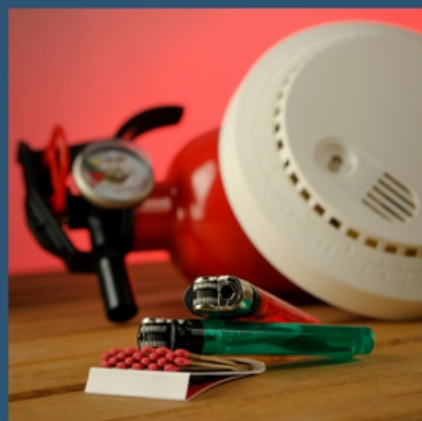
- Common causes of fire in the home
- Escape plans
- Smoke alarms
- Free Smoke alarm program for vulnerable members of our community
- Practical sessions with fire blankets

Where - Terip Terip Recreation Reserve

When - Saturday 24th June 2023

Time : 2pm - 3pm

Every home represented
gets a free fire blanket



For more information, Contact
North East Region - District 12 - Community Safety Team
39 McIntyre Street, Seymour Vic 3660
T: 03 5735 3114 M: 0419 472 579 E: d12commed@cfa.vic.gov.au

PART TIME POSITION VACANT

Experienced person to assist run a beef cattle operation 1-2 days per week.

Would suit retired or part time farmer who is able to work autonomously across all aspects of farm work.

An interest in regenerative farming would be advantageous but not essential. Highlands area.

For more information contact Cam 0417357149.

FERA - Seymour Windfarm

For TGN readers who are interested in FERA's windfarm proposal they have a website detailing their plans for perusal.

<https://feraaustralia.com.au/>

One last chance to join a Festival of Fungi event by Avenel Active

The amazing Alison Pouliot will be running a fungi Ecology and ID workshop and Kings Birthday Mushroom Hunt in Avenel on

**12th June 2023 11am start.
\$5 per person**

Copies of her latest book 'underground Lovers' will be on sale as well as her 2 other publications.

Bookings are essential and numbers are limited.

**Please text Helen Gwillian 0403 158 410
or Janet Hagen 0458904268 for further details.**

Dear Editor
Our SHARED significant landscape

Like many readers of The Granite News we have chosen to live at Highlands in the Southern Strathbogies because of the landscape we all love and enjoy.

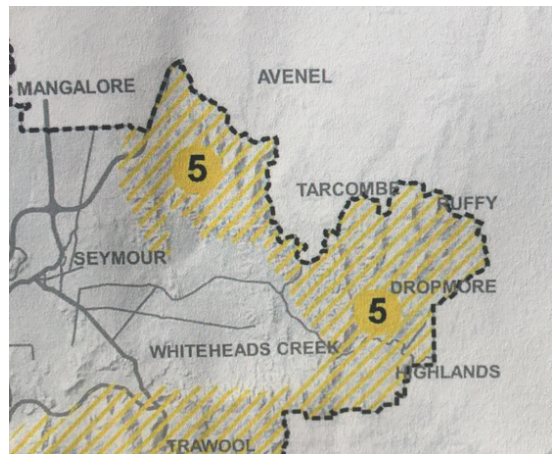
The Shire of Mitchell has recognised the significance of our beautiful landscape and recently released a Landscape Assessment Study. It designated both the Stewart's Creek Valley and the Hughes Creek Valley as significant landscapes shown as area 5 on the accompanying plan. This same landscape character extends over both Strathbogie and Murrundindi Shires and covers most of the investigation area for the proposed FERA windfarm.

The significant landscape controls proposed by the Shire of Mitchell are to ensure that new structures are not located on prominent ridges and hill tops to protect this landscape character. Both the Shires of Strathbogie and Murrundindi need to undertake equivalent landscape assessments like the Shire of Mitchell.

Permits for wind energy facility developments are issued by the State Minister for Planning. The present State Policy for wind turbines has no recognition of the significance of the Strathbogies Landscape while recognising other places, including the Macedon Ranges and the Otway Coast, as unsuitable for wind energy facilities.

The question our community needs to ask is - Why all of our significant landscape is not worthy of protection?

John Curtis & Susan Ackroyd
Caveat - Dropmore Road
Highlands



Sustainable farming brochure



The Yellow Creek-Dairy Creek Landcare Group released the **CARING FOR THE LAND** – Sustainable Agriculture brochure recently. The brochure gives an overview of what can be achieved with both agriculture and environmental issues such as rectifying erosion and salt encroachment, so that high productive land can be reclaimed.

The brochure was written and designed by YCDC Landcare Group members Rod Cavanagh and his daughter Annette.

For a copy of the brochure contact Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Coordinator **Chris Cobern** on 0413 855 490, email ugln.projects@ugln.net or visit the [website](#)

STRATHBOGIES
RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLES
COMMUNITY GROUP

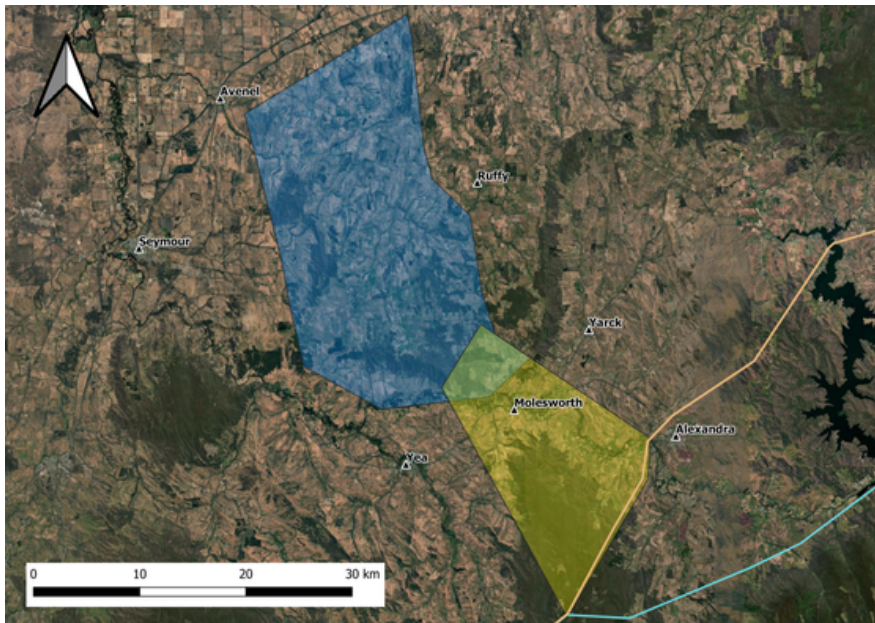
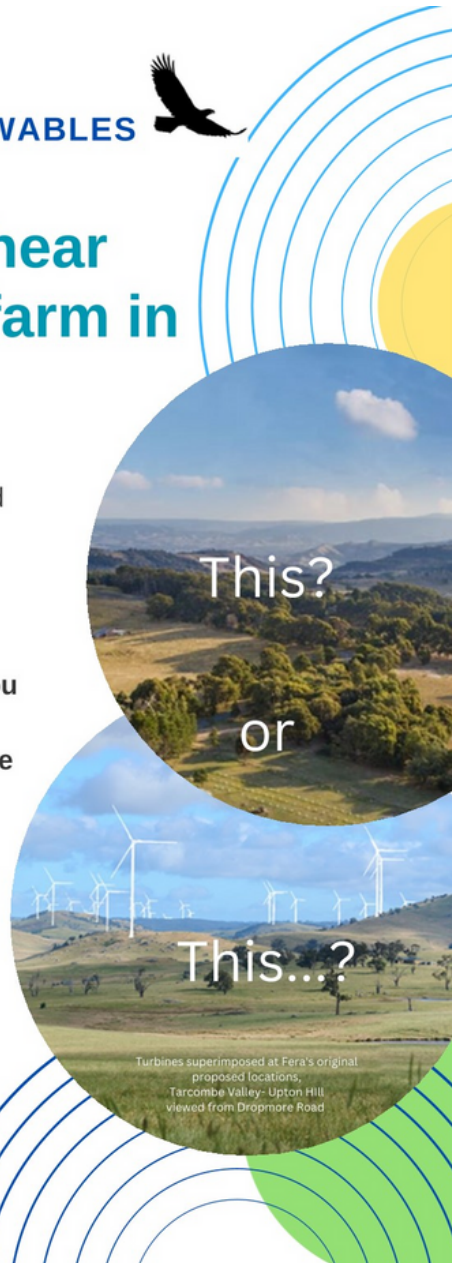


What's this I hear about a windfarm in Highlands??

Italian developer, Fera, is proposing a large windfarm and transmission line development that will impact the people and environment of our area. **It is important that more information is shared with you because Fera is *not* communicating with everyone equally.** Join us to hear about what we know.

**HIGHLANDS HALL
SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2023
@ 10AM**

For further information contact
info@srrcg.com
or visit the [SRRCG website](#)



Proposed Windfarm Area

Legend

Blue grey = Turbines

Yellow = Transmission lines

For those interested readers who haven't been able to attend any of the public meetings so far, this map gives an indication of the extent of the proposal.

Kong Meng Hill Trek

A guided walk highlighting some of the spectacular granite structures and native vegetation of the Strathbogrie Ranges.

Saturday 17 June commencing 10.00 am from 1323 Tarcombe Road Avenel

We will meet at Stephen Onian's property 1323 Tarcombe Rd Avenel which is 13.2 km from the Hume Fwy. Look for the palm lined driveway. There is plenty of parking space near the house.

It is anticipated that the walk will start near the house site (360m) then across the creek and traverse a gentle slope to an elevation of 400m. The walk will then follow a westerly direction downhill to 220m elevation before climbing a steep slope east to 420m elevation, (great views of the surrounding hills to the south and east, as well as the riverine plains to the northwest) and then back to the house site.

Total walk is only 2.5-3 km but quite steep in places. The walk is graded as per the Australian Walking Track Grading System as Category 3 (suitable for most ages and fitness levels, tracks may have short steep sections, a rough surface, and many steps). The walk is unsuitable for children under 12 years.

As well as plenty of interesting granite there is also much for the botanically inclined. Plants you will see include Ausfeld's wattle (*Acacia ausfeldii*), Austral indigo (*Indigofera australis*), Hickory wattle (*A. obliquinervia*), Rock Isotome (*Isotoma axillaris*) and a giant Stringybark, possibly Cannon's Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha* subsp. *cannonii*) which is normally restricted to NSW.

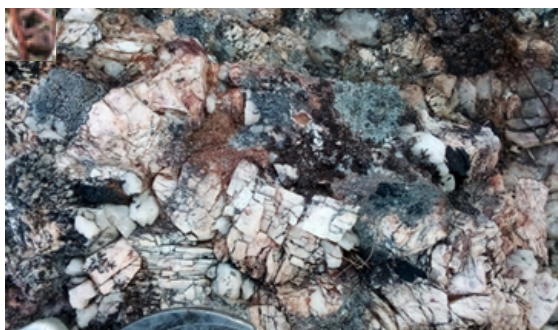
We are fortunate to have 3 knowledgeable guides (Neil Phillips, Stephen Onians and John Thompson) who between them can cover the geology, botany, and geography of the country we will be walking. Hopefully, we will also have some walkers who can fill us in about Kong Meng.

You will need to be reasonably fit to do the walk and will need to have good walking shoes or boots, loose fitting clothes, warm jumper, hat, sunscreen, and a waterproof jacket. Bring some sandwiches or snacks and water.

Please register your interest to take the walk by emailing Kevin Whithear kgwhithear@gmail.com no later than 9 June 2023. Please include your phone number and the names of any persons who will be accompanying you.

We prefer to limit the size of the walking group to 20 persons so places will be allocated on a first in basis. If registration is significantly oversubscribed, we may be able to organise an additional walk.

Kevin Whithear Email kgwhithear@gmail.com Mobile 0400 667138



Coarse grained crystals in a pegmatite (type of granite) which you will see on Kong Meng Hill.

<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>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</p> 	<p>Chris Sharman 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>Darren Gilbert open studio @ Yea Butter Factory</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com</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>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p>BenCo 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 Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au 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>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 Ideal for Private or Community gatherings 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>HIGHLANDS GROVE</p> <p>Australian, family owned local producers of premium cold pressed extra virgin olive oil, made for your goodness and enjoyment.</p> <p>0417 018 070 enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au highlandsgrove.com.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>Granite Hills Community Nursery</p>  <p>www.granitehillsnursery.com.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 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, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.