

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



8th May 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 15

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Yet again, this week we were witnesses to a once in a lifetime event (although it may depend on your age) of the dual coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey.

Whilst Charles was ridiculed for years about his environmental interests, with hindsight, it appears that he was ahead of the pack when it came to caring for the environment and using regenerative farming techniques on his extensive estates throughout the UK.

Maybe with his now increased profile as a world leader his necessarily subtle diplomacy may influence others to regard our wonderful world with a little more respect in the years ahead.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was highlighting the Tablelands Kids' Play Group date.

Know Your Weeds

Salvinia - Salvinia Molesta

A floating mat-forming aquatic fern, with slender branching rhizomes occurring just below the water's surface.

Salvinia is a Weed of National Significance and a State Prohibited Weed.

This is because it forms dense mats that restrict the water flow, hinder recreational use and reduce the oxygen levels in the water. As it reproduces entirely from vegetation fragments it can spread itself effortlessly across any form of waterway.

It is unlikely to be confused with any native species as it has very distinctive leaves - both juvenile and mature.

Emerging short-stalked leaves are green, oval and smooth edged., whereas the older submerged brown leaves are deeply divided on stalks, ending in hairy root-like filaments.

The tops of the leaves are water repellent as they are covered with fine waxy hairs.



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

"Reading can seriously damage your ignorance."

Anon



Did you know?

In 1974 science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke made the bold claim that one day computers would allow people to work from home and access their banking records! Turns out that sci-fi was no longer fiction.

Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
April.	79.6 mm	60.5 mm	to come
2023 Total	165.9 mm	137 mm	to come
Rainy Days	3 days	10 days	to come

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.

What's On - May 2023

	<p>NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.</p>	<h2>What's On - May 2023</h2>
	<p>Monday 8th May @ 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>Tuesday 9th May 10-noon</p>	<p>TABLELANDS KIDS PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy FIRST SESSION - All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends</p>
	<p>Friday 12th May @ 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>Thursday 18th May @ 7pm</p>	<p>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING Terip Rec Reserve Everyone welcome - put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473</p>
<p>Details? See p.4</p>	<p>Thurs. 18th May @ 10am</p>	<p>CLIMATE, WATER AND SOILS @ Gargarre Botanical Gardens, Girgaree Using technology and observations for management decisions in agriculture</p>
<p>Details? See p.5</p>	<p>Saturday 20th May @ 9.30am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT RFB FIREWOOD - CUT, SPLIT & STACK Many hands make light work with a BBQ lunch to follow. Contact David 0417 150113</p>
	<p>Thursday 25th May @ 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>Sunday 28th May @ 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>Monday 29th May 2-4pm</p>	<p>RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ Pip & Steven's 91 Boat Hole Road Ruffy Sharing, ideas, knowledge and produce - NOTE new time Enquires? Janet 0458 904268</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 17th & 31st May and 14th & 28th June.</p>
	<p>Every Monday @ 10am</p>	<p>RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.</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>

Soil Carbon project presented at the Sustainable Agriculture Forum

HCCC Project Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin

On the 20th of April I was invited to present HCCC's Soil Carbon project at Dookie College as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Forum (GB CMA).

After an introduction of the Hughes Creek Catchment area and its peculiarities (granite rocks as parent material and soil acidity), the three trial sites were introduced, each one with its plan, formulated by our science partners at AgriSci to test the long-term effects of various management strategies, soil ameliorants and fertilisers' applications on Soil Carbon levels.

At **Lawson Farm**, the trial site is in a paddock that hasn't been very productive; soil test evidenced low phosphorus, potassium and sulphur (P, K, S); high acidity (4.3 to 5.2 in CaCl₂) and high aluminium (saturation 11%). Our research question was, will the addition of soil ameliorants (compost at 5t/ha, lime at 3 t/ha, and Nutrisol) and a hybrid fertiliser (20% carbon plus added nutrients, at 300kg/ha) help to improve soil pH and nutrition, and ultimately lead to an increase in soil carbon levels?

At **Tarcombe Herefords** the trial site is in a well-established, deep-rooted perennial pasture, but soil test evidenced low P, K and S, which could hinder pasture growth. Our research question was, can we increase paddock productivity, and ultimately soil carbon levels, with a combination of grazing strategies and a multi-nutrient fertiliser? (3:1 mix of single superphosphate & muriate of potash, rate of 260kg/ha). The trial plots have been fenced off, and three grazing strategies were advised for each plot: based on time (six weeks rest after grazing); based on growth stage of Phalaris, to avoid grazing close to the ground (50 sheep in at 4th leave's stage; sheep out with grass no less than 5 cm); set stock as usual (control test).

At **Looking Glass**, the trial site is in a pasture with a good sub clover base, that has become degraded and dominated by annual winter grasses and broadleaf weeds (low value annuals). Our research question was, will the improvement of degraded pastures lead to higher biomass production and to an increase in soil carbon levels? To do so, we will compare the long-term effects of sowing a multispecies winter mix with conventional drill vs the Soilkee Pasture Renovator on pasture composition, growth, and soil carbon levels. (The mix includes triticale, forage oats, cereal rye, forage barley, annual ryegrass, arrow leaf clover, Persian clover, crimson clover, forage radish, purple top turnip, peas, vetch, lentils, beans, safflower).

We wish to thank again all the farmers involved in these trials, and AgiSci for ensuring that our research abides to scientific methods. In the future months we will ensure we'll keep following the protocols for each trial site, and we will keep monitoring each plot for any change, until the time will come to do some more soil testing to find out if, and how, SC levels have changed, and then draw some conclusions.

This article is part of a series aimed at increasing our understanding of Soil Carbon. 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: Dr. Cassandra Scheffe, Soil Scientist, David Hawkey, Agronomist - AgriSci Pty Ltd
Local Farm Partners: Callum & Les Lawson, Lawsons Farm – Highlands. Cameron Stewart and Stephanie Reeves, Looking Glass – Highlands. Rob and Tim Hayes, Tarcombe Herefords – Tarcombe.



MAY
18TH
10AM



CLIMATE, WATER AND SOILS:

Using technology and observations for management decisions in agriculture

Goulburn Broken CMA and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network and are co-hosting a fantastic line up of speakers.

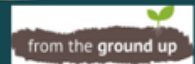
- Dale Grey (Ag Vic)- Seasonal Forecast Outlook
- Dale Boyd (Ag Vic) - Soil Moisture Probes and understanding how deep soil moisture can influence decisions on farm
- James Diack (Soils for Life) - observational tools to understand soil health and how farmers are using these tools to change management practices.

Where: Gargarro Botanical Gardens Cafe, Winter Rd, Girgarre

For more information and booking, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/sz7CMB4rSs> or use QR code



THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY THE GOULBURN BROKEN CMA THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM



Giving back to local volunteers

Every week hundreds of generous volunteers give up their time to support Mitchell Shire's community groups and programs.

That's why Mitchell Shire Council is celebrating National Volunteer Week 2023 by supporting local volunteers.

Community groups can apply for a grant of up to \$500. Funds can support volunteer thank you events or activities, training and development or transport.

For more information about Council's volunteer grant and volunteering opportunities, visit www.volunteeringmitchell.com.au

For groups wanting to be featured on the website or for those who would like some help applying for the grant, please call **5734 6343**.

Applications open Wednesday 10 May and close Wednesday 7 June.



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NEW!!

Commencing

Tuesday 9th May 10-12

and then fortnightly

Why not come along and join in the FUN!



Letter to the Editor

Hi All

It's that time of year again when the Highlands-Caveat CFA organise wood for the Rovers at Mafeking Park.

If you could lend a hand with the wood cutting / splitting / stacking it would be greatly appreciated if only for an hour or two - many hands make light work!!!

Join us on Saturday 20th May at 9.30am and a BBQ lunch will be provided. This is a good time to socialise with other volunteers and help our local brigade.

You don't have to be a CFA member, all are welcome.

Please **RSVP** to me for catering purposes on either **0417 150 113** or david_webb1@bigpond.com

Thanks
David Webb

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0457 319 537

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Piano to give away

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Calling all crafty people, that's crafty as in arty, as opposed to sneaky....

The annual UFO (Un-Finished Projects) weekend is once again happening at the Highlands Hall on

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May

Come along & have a great time continuing or commencing your next masterpiece

For further information **0408 246308**





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CELEBRATING IDAHOBIT DAY ON 17 MAY

To celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT Day), Council is hosting its inaugural Pride Flag Raising Ceremony in Alexandra on Wednesday 17 May 2023.

Council is proud to demonstrate its commitment to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community this IDAHOBIT Day. We're inviting everyone in our community to come along to the Ceremony.

Event details:

When: Wednesday 17 May 2023

Time: 10.00 – 11.00 am

Where: Outside the Council offices at 28 Perkins Street, Alexandra

A free morning tea will be provided and you'll get the opportunity to hear from our guest speaker Tara Pedersen.

Council will also be celebrating IDAHOBIT Day and flying the Pride flag at our Kinglake and Yea Library and Customer Service Centres.

COMMUNITY MEETING IN NARBETHONG

Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community? Council is hosting an Open Community Meeting in Narbethong for you to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors.

Date: Wednesday 31 May 2023

Time: 5.00 - 7.00 pm

Venue: Narbethong Community Hall, 606 Maroondah Highway, Narbethong

You will have five minutes allocated, in which you may also be speaking in front of the public, as well as Council officers. If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. Prior registration is not required, we'll greet you and collect your details on the evening. For more information, email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au.

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S PLAN FOR NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2035

Demonstrating its commitment to fighting climate change, Council has developed a draft Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2035, which will act as a roadmap to help Council and the community work towards net-zero emissions by 2035.

Council is now calling on residents, business owners and landholders to review the Plan, provide feedback and vote for your choice of actions that Council can take to support you. By providing your feedback, you will also go in the running to win one of two \$100 FoodWorks Supermarket vouchers. Feedback must be received by Sunday 25 June 2023.

You can provide your feedback and vote on actions:

ONLINE

- visit our online engagement platform, The Loop
- attend an online information session

IN PERSON

- register your interest in being involved in an upcoming focus group session
- chat with Council officers at one of our pop-up events across the Shire

To read the Plan, and for more information on how you can get involved and join the conversation, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction

You can also get information from our Library and Customer Service Centers in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake, or the Mobile Library, or give Council a call on 5772 0333.

POSITIONS VACANT

Do you love working with the community, and delivering quality services and programs? Council is seeking part-time and casual Library and Customer Services Officers to join the team! Applications close at 11.45 pm on Sunday 14 May 2023.

To view more information about the positions available and to submit your application, please visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs and click on Vacant Positions.

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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.