THE GRANITE NEWS



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



7th September 2025 | Volume 19 Issue 31

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another month has gone the way of the Dodo and we are ¼ of the way through September already, so now I'm just wondering if anyone has anyone started their Christmas shopping yet?

September 7th sees **National Threatened Species Day** come around again and Australia's track record when it comes to keeping our unique, much-loved and very special animals on the planet in healthy numbers continues to be dismal.

According to the Australian Conservation Foundation... "Many of our threatened species are under increasing pressure from habitat destruction for agriculture, mining, and urban sprawl, as well as climate change fueled bushfires and predation from invasive species such as cats and foxes.

The State of the Environment Report

released in 2022 reveals that "habitat loss and degradation is the most dominant mechanism by which species are threatened in Australia, with nearly 70% of Australian threatened taxa impacted."



And just as the thylacine has disappeared from our world, (7th September 1936) ongoing habitat destruction is having devastating impacts for the

- 556 species on the national threatened fauna list and
- 1402 species on the national threatened flora list.

From the black cockatoo to the pygmy possum to the iconic koala, the hundreds of animals that make their way to the national threatened species list may suffer the same fate as the fabled Tasmanian tiger without the strong action needed to protect them.

Neglecting our responsibility to these precious animals is tantamount to leaving them in the cold to die."

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was celebrating Wattle Day!

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

"I choose a block of marble and chop off whatever I don't need."

Auguste Rodin (1840 - 1917) French Sculptor



Did you know?

It takes 7 litres of water and 1 litre of oil to create 1 litre of bottled water!!

So why not invest in a solid water bottle that can be used many times over and turn on the tap!

		What's On - September & October 2025
	Friday 12 th Sept@ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK are well to Karli & Peter @ Highlands Community Hall 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
Nove store cause	Sat. 13 th Sept. @ 6pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Community Hall
	Thurs. 15 th Sept@ 7.30pm	TERIP REC RESERVE AGM @ Terip Rec Reserve All community members are welcome, especially anyone that may be interested in taking on a Committee position or have ideas for future community events.
	Thurs. 25 th Sept @5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Sunday 28th Sept @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS WALK meet @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our stunning local area. Supported by HCCC Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Friday 3 rd Oct from 6pm >>	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights. Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
Details? See p.6	Sat 4 th & Sun 5 th October	EUROA SHOW & SHINE EVENT - time to declutter so RuffArtz can shine too!!
	Monday 6 th Oct. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT SPINNING CLUB @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd Tea, coffee, friendship and laughs will be in plenty. Enquiries? Jan & Ruby 5790 4361
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative	Tuesday 7th Oct. @ 7.30pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ TCC Ruffy Come along and meet our special guest Annabelle Cleeland - MLA for Euroa.
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are 17 th September and 1 st , 15 th & 29 th October.
	Every Monday @ 6pm	MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy Just resting until September Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
	2nd & 4th Sundays	ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
Canom rate	Mon 8.45-9.45am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Landcare at Whiteheads Creek

Did you know that Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group was one of the very first Landcare groups ever formed, in 1986?

Almost forty years later, an enthusiastic group of 35 people from across the community gathered on Sunday 24 August for a planting day. This time the goal was to plant understorey shrubs that would provide a record for the future of the natural vegetation of the area. In many cases our indigenous vegetation is confined to roadsides, and the shrub layer has all but disappeared.

The first site chosen was the old Whiteheads Creek School on Highlands Road. Already graced by magnificent old trees, the natural shrub and ground flora layer was all that was missing at this location.

Organiser Allan Coulsen was delighted by the turnout, as people young and old participated. Allan said, "We are keen to see young people involved in this project on the historic blocks at the heart of our community on Highlands Road. This can only strengthen our community ties to our past."

The planting project is part of an ongoing effort to preserve and display the natural vegetation of the area, for all time.

Lesley Dalziel - Whiteheads Creek

Photos - Nancy Halpin









With Spring officially underway it's Magpie time as they defend their territory and remind us that while they might be small in stature their beaks have impact!



As I understand it those lovely warbling magpie calls that herald the start of most mornings are definitely NOT a salute to the sun, but more along the lines of "This is my patch buddy, rack off!" **Ed.**

Important Reminder...

TGN has only 1 more issue until its 2 week break Last issue for Term 3 is **Sunday 14th September** - returning to an inbox near you on **Sunday 5th October**

Don't forget to plan your ads, articles or announcements accordingly.



Are you interested in adding to the i Natutaliste's



environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area?

If YES then download the App now, follow the instructions for use and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.

Australia has some new marsupial species – but they're already extinct

Story by Jake Newman-Martin, Curtin University; Alison Blyth, Curtin University; Kenny Travouillon, Western Australian Museum; Milo Barham, Curtin University, and Natalie Warburton, Murdoch University Article from The Conversation.

You are probably familiar with kangaroos. Wallabies too, and most likely quokkas as well. Less famous are their small, endangered cousins, the bettongs. These little marsupials love to dig and have a thing for mushrooms.

Because of their size and relative scarcity, it has always been hard to work out exactly how many different species of bettongs there are and where they all live.

Scientists have believed there are five living species of bettongs – but our new research, published today in Zootaxa, changes our understanding of the diversity of these creatures. And knowing that might help us understand why many efforts to protect them have failed, and how we can do better in future.

A small hopping engineering crew

A single bettong weighs just a couple of kilos but can move tonnes of earth each year in an effort to find food. This makes them "ecosystem engineers", turning the soil over and improving ecosystem health as they forage.

There have long been five acknowledged living species of bettong: the boodie, the woylie, the northern bettong, the rufous rat-kangaroo, and the eastern bettong. There are also a few subspecies that are thought to have gone extinct due to feral cats and foxes.

But our new study changes things.

Bones and teeth

We measured the skulls and teeth of 193 bettongs from museums across Australia, as well as in the Natural History Museum of London and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. We also looked at their arm and leg bones, to determine how the shape and function of their limbs can be used to tell between species, something that had not been done in detail previously.

The aim of our investigation was to better understand the woylie. It has always been difficult to identify woylie bones in fossil beds, so our work would also help paleontologists in the field.

Our analysis surprisingly showed that what we have been calling a woylie was actually three separate species.



Photo - Wildlife Wonders Eastern Bettong

Meet the family

It was previously believed there were two subspecies of woylie.

The first is what we generally call a woylie: Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi, a living species found in Western Australia. The second is extinct: Bettongia penicillata penicillata (the brush-tailed bettong), once found in South Australia and New South Wales.

However, our study indicates there are enough differences in the teeth and skull to recognise these as two separate species.

We also identified an extinct third species, Bettongia haoucharae or the "little bettong". Its partially fossilised remains were located in the Great Victoria Desert and Nullarbor Plain, indicating that it was well adapted for the arid outback.

Once we were able to split the woylie (Bettongia ogilbyi) from the brush-tailed bettong (Bettongia penicillata) we could look more closely at the populations within the southwest of Western Australia.

From here we identified that the living woylies of the southwest are made up of two subspecies, both critically endangered. These are Bettongia ogilbyi sylvatica, or the "forest woylie", and Bettongia ogilbyi ogilbyi, the "scrub woylie".

The forest woylie is found throughout the cool wet forests southwest of Western Australia, particularly the Jarrah forest, while the scrub woylie is found in more open scrub habitats. Some individuals of scrub woylies were recorded as far as Shark Bay in Western Australia's arid Gascoyne region. The scrub woylie was better adapted to dry conditions than the forest woylie but was not a true desert dweller like the extinct little bettong. **Cont. p.6**

Australia has some new marsupials species - but they're already extinct.

continued from p. 5

So why does this matter?

The woylie is critically endangered, with about 12,000 individuals thought to remain. Conservation efforts have been focused on moving individuals to areas where they were thought to have previously occurred.

At least 4,000 woylies have been moved into different habitats during conservation efforts. However, our new study shows woylies were always restricted to southwest Western Australia and so were unsuited to some of the areas they were moved to. The bettongs that once lived in those other areas were very likely different species, with different adaptations.

Woylies eat fungi, which are known to grow in damp places on the forest floor. The northern bettong is also a fungi specialist,

and it faces a threat as temperature increases make mushrooms less available.

When woylies are moved out of the southwest they no longer have access to their fungi food sources. Some previous attempts to move individuals have failed – and researchers have been unsure of why the woylies could not survive where they were thought to have previously lived.

According to our research, the woylie actually was never present in these environments. It was instead another kind of bettong that was better adapted to live in these arid habitats.

Moving individual animals can be a useful tool for both species conservation and ecosystem management. If a species becomes extinct, it may be substituted with a similar species that performs the functions previously carried out by the extinct species.

In the case of bettongs, it's about finding which species can do that job and thrive in these arid ecosystems. This is worth doing as the ecosystems are suffering in their absence.

With the brush-tailed bettong elevated to full species and the description of the little bettong, our findings add two new extinct species to the ever-growing list of extinct mammal species in Australia.

Our work further highlights the terrible loss of unique marsupial species across Australia that we were not even aware of, and the urgency of protecting what remains.

- Kenny Travouillon works for the Western Australian Museum. He received funding from the Australian Biological Resource Study.
- Study.

 Milo Barham has received funding from the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia.

 Milo Barham has received funding from the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia.
- Natalie Warburton currently receives funding from the Australia and Pacific Science Foundation and has previously received funding from Australian Research Council.
- Alison Blyth and Jake Newman-Martin do not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or
 organisation that would benefit from this article and have disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic
 appointment.

Dear Tablelands Community,



RUFFARTZ is planning to bring another fabulous evening of entertainment for your musical and social pleasure in late January 2026. We urgently need to raise some money to make this possible.

We have been given the opportunity to kick this fundraising off by hosting an Entry Point into the Euroa Show and Shine event, first weekend in October. We can have a table there with items for sale.... so, it's to be a good old-fashioned "Jumble Sale!"

We will gratefully accept any usable items at all that you would consider donating. Things such as clothing, tools, plants, jams, cakes, biscuits, books, crockery, linen or knick-knacks as possible suggestions for you.

We are truly excited to put on another show for you and hope to sell enough tickets this time to plan for second event later in the year.

Please consider using this chance to help you "declutter" and then join us for the fruits of your gift! Feel free to message me on 0412 366 783 or drop things off at 268 Buntings Hill Rd Ruffy.

Warm regards

Donna Lee (Chairperson - on behalf of the whole fantastic Committee).



at the Terip Recreation Reserve

Saturday, September 27th

(1) From 1:30pm

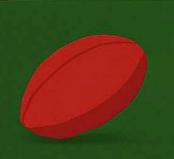


First bounce 2:30pm – LIVE on the BIG SCREEN!

Hot food included

\$10 PP kids free

Come along and cheer on the big game with the local community!









Join us for a Celebration

Sunday the 21st of September 2025 at 12pm/ Noon

at the Ruffy Fire Shed, Nolans Road, Ruffy.

The Ruffy Brigade is officially Opening the Extension to the Fire Shed and Unveiling our Honour Board. We are also celebrating the volunteers who make this Brigade as good as it is: by presenting Service Awards to all eligible members.

We are providing a BBQ Lunch from 12 noon for all attendees. (please notify Ann of any Dietary restrictions.)

We want to engage with the community to highlight the wonderful people and facilities that keep our community safe.

Please RSVP to Ann on 0421 364 263 or <u>alaherty@yahoo.com.au</u> by the 15th of September.



My EV and other battery-powered equipment

Presenters: Ron Litjens, Ian Tobin & Alister Huth

When: 6:30 - 7:30pm Thursday September 18

Where: Yea Butter Factory, 13 Rattray St, Yea

This is a FREE 2030Yea Community Event All welcome!

The transition to battery power is being driven by efficiency. The average electric vehicle (EV) converts 85% or more of its electric energy into motion, compared to 20–30% for a petrol driven car. EVs are much less complex, requiring less servicing and replacement parts. In the near future your EV's battery could double as your home battery!



As an introduction to this presentation, read about lan's trip to Melbourne in his Tesla.

But wait! There's more! What about battery power hand tools? Join Ron, Ian and Alister to hear about their EV experiences ... and discuss other battery-operated equipment. Come with lots of questions.

Please call or text 0428 969366 to book (for catering).

Highlands-Caveat Spinning Club.....

is BACK!!

We will meet on Monday 6th October after a break......

Beginning at 11 a.m.. Tea, coffee, and nibbles provided.

Hope to see you there. New members are welcome.

We are a friendly group.

Address: 450 Caveat-Dropmore Road, Caveat.

Enquiries? - Jan Sporry 5790 4361







Planning for Change in Landcare



Presenter: Kimberley Boswell

Kim is a Facilitator, Trainer and Coach with more than 25 years experience in community engagement, fundraising and volunteer program management.

Kim's involvement in Landcare and environmental volunteer groups spans 15 years having served as a Landcare Network president, group committee member, volunteer and in a working capacity at a network, state and national level.

Kim is a regular consultant and facilitator to the movement and the founder of Community Leader Academy, an online community providing tailored support to professionals in Landcare and beyond

Kim has over 150 skills-based trainings and facilitation of strategic planning sessions for Landcare and environmental groups.

What will be covered Understanding barriers to change

By understanding the most common barriers holding us back, we can understand where we are resistant to change in order to move forward.

What's in it for me?

By implementing some key principals and practical tools, we can make succession a part of our everyday culture and a natural flow of the organisation rather than something that sits on the to do list and never gets actioned.

Useful Tools

A selection of recommended free tools and resources that support groups by making things easier to track where they are, capture organisational knowledge and recruit volunteers in a planned and systematic approach.

WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

0437 310 840



















Advance Date for your Diaries

SAT 11TH OCTOBER

BOOK A TABLE WITH YOUR FRIENDS, OR JUST COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN



STARTS AT 7PM & TICKETS ARE \$10 PER PERSON

CONTACT DARRYL FOR BOOKINGS: 0468 771 024 OR DOTZEN@GMAIL.COM



Euroa Arboretum Presents

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Saturday 13th September

6PM – 9PM

DOORS OPEN 5.30

NORTH EASTERN HOTEL 2 DE BOOS ST, EUROA

Book Tickets: www.euroaarboretum.com.au







Murrindindi Shire Council News September



R U OK? DAY FILM SCREENINGS

Council is inviting you to join us in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea for films, food and conversations to celebrate R U OK? Day.

Come along to one of the following films:

- Thursday 11 September from 5.00 pm at Yea Shire Hall for a BBQ followed by Runt
- Friday 12 September from 2.00 pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall for the film Runt
- Friday 12 September from 5.00 pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall for a BBQ followed by the film *Runt*
- Thursday 18 September from 5.30 pm at Ellimatta Centre at Kinglake Trust Reserve for a BBQ followed by Just a Farmer

For more information and to RSVP, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ruokdayfilms2025 call Council on 5772 0333, or visit one of our Library and Customer Service Centres.

FREE PADS AND TAMPONS NOW AVAILABLE

Free pads and tampons are now available from vending machines at the Kinglake and Yea Library and Customer Service Centres.

This is part of Victoria's \$23 million program to improve access to period products in public places including libraries, and other facilities.

For more information, visit the Better Health website at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/free-pads-and-tampons

DRAFT HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN

Council is developing a Health and Wellbeing Plan, informed by community feedback, data and local health providers. It focuses on mental, physical and social wellbeing, with priority groups including children, young people and older adults. Once adopted, it will guide Council's future initiatives.

Read the draft and share your feedback at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/hwp or call 5772 0333.

NEW GMSS ENERGY SAVING PRODUCTS

Council can help residents and businesses access reliable, cost-saving solar and energy products through the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers (GMSS) program. Products include solar panels, batteries, heat pumps, efficient heating and cooling, EV chargers, and more.

Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gmss

PUBLIC HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Council's Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake, and our Mobile Service, will be closed on Friday 26 September for the Grand Final Eve public holiday. Usual hours will resume on Monday 29 September.

For urgent matters such as stock on roads, dog attacks or unsafe road conditions, including fallen trees, please call 5772 0333 at any time.

For non-urgent requests, visit our website anytime at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request

MELBA HIGHWAY WORKS

Transport Victoria are completing works to ensure roads in the Yarra Valley remain reliable, supporting local communities, businesses and tourism. Upcoming works to repair two landslips on the Melba Highway in Dixons Creek, just south of the Healesville-Kinglake Road intersection will commence mid-October and are expected to be complete by early 2026.

For more information on these works visit the Transport Victoria website transport.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL PLAN AND COMMUNITY VISION

The Council Plan sets our direction for the next four years and reflects the priorities, aspirations and ideas shared by the community. The refreshed Community Vision outlines what the people of Murrindindi Shire hope our community will look like in ten years' time.

For more information and to read the Plan, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplans

ELF READING DAY IS BACK IN ALEXANDRA

ELF Reading Day is a community initiative that promotes language and literacy skills in children through reading, singing, talking and playing.

Come down to Grant Street in Alexandra on Friday 19 September from 10.00 - 11.00 am and dress up as your favourite book character, or just enjoy the storytelling at a reading station.

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date, subscribe to the Murrindindi Matters e-newsletter, follow us on Facebook or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news

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Cr Paul Hildebrand

Koriella Ward phildebrand@ murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0428 758 617

Tablelands Community Centre

Upgraded facilities & playground

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Very Reasonable rates

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No job to big or small. Competitive pricing Please contact David on 0417 150113

Donated by supporters of our local koala population



Donation from supporters of our local **Platypus**



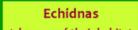
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enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au highlandsgrove.com.au















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Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472



Project neil.phillips@bigpond.com



The Granite News is widely distributed 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.