

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



20th July 2025 | Volume 19 Issue 24

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another school term commences and the latest Granite News lands in your email inbox, signifying that over half the year has already disappeared but also that the freezing cold winter that has been impacting the HCCC area has got to be over soon.

However, it appears that low cloud, catabatic winds, dumps of rain and subzero temperatures don't limit the social activities of our wonderful little communities from a Curry Night to Euchre to the usual Rambling around the hills it's all happening this week. Be in it!

DON'T FORGET that next week's TGN will be distributed on **Saturday 26th July**, a day earlier than usual, SO please ensure that anything that needs to be contributed to TGN for that issue arrives in the Editor's inbox by **Wednesday 23rd July**. Thanks.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was looking forward to the SRRCG's AGM.

GET ONE BEFORE THEY ALL GO!!

The Tablelands Community Centre, with generous support from Strathbogie Shire Council's Circular Economy Organics Fund delivered by Sustainability Victoria, has created a Community Garden Perpetual Calendar.

The Calendar is designed as a desk calendar for gardeners to create an ongoing record of outcomes in their patch throughout the seasons. The Calendar features artwork by Janet Hagen as well as planting information and tasks for each month compiled by local Ruffy gardeners.

These would make a great gift for those developing their growing skills and experienced gardeners alike.

The **Calendar is on sale for just \$10.00** with all proceeds assisting the Tablelands Community Centre and can be purchased by either popping into the **TCC to see Fiona on a Tuesday or contacting Cheryl on 0409 01973**.

What a GREAT Christmas present, it's never too soon to start shopping. I got one! **Ed.**



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

"A mother should never be forced to choose between motherhood and education. Educating a mother is an investment in the entire nation."

Professor Sydney Engelberg
University lecturer

Evidence the earth is flat



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
June	109.2mm	104.5 mm
2025 Total	235.4 mm	253 mm
Rainy Days	12 days	11 days

		What's On - July & August 2025
Details? See p.3	Friday 25 th July @ 5pm	HIGHLANDS CURRY NIGHT @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome bring your favourite curry to share, \$5 family RSVPs ASAP - 0499 478884
	Sat. 26th July @ 7 pm	EUCHRE CARDS NIGHT Due to numerous requests - it's BACK! @ Terip Rec Reserve
	Sunday 27 th July @ 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
	Monday 28th July @ 1.30	RUFFY VEGE CLUB GATHERING @ 152 Maggies Lane, Ruffy
	Thurs.31st July @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Friday 1st Aug. 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
	Sat 2nd August @ 6pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Community Hall
	Monday 4th Aug. @ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON @ RUFFY @ Tablelands Community Centre Come enjoy some creative company and craft the afternoon away. Gabriele 0402 335840
	Fri. 8th Aug. @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ 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
	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 23rd July and 7th & 21st August
	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 22 nd July and 5 th & 19 th August 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
	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



♦ EUCHRE ♠ CARDS NIGHT



**TERIP TERIP REC RESERVE
SATURDAY NIGHTS • 7PM START**

**STARTS 19TH JULY – 4 WEEK SEASON
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED – COME FOR FUN!
TEA, COFFEE & GOOD COMPANY PROVIDED**

**BRING A FRIEND OR COME SOLO –
EVERYONE'S WELCOME!**



Ruffy Vege Club

The next Veggie club gathering is scheduled for

Monday 28th of July
at Barb and Andrew's garden

152 Maggie's Lane Ruffy at 1:30 pm.

Please bring something to share for afternoon tea.
New Members welcome.

Enquires Cheryl 0409 019763.



Letter to the Editor

WATSONIA WEED CONTROL

The invasive watsonia weed is the subject of control efforts along the Hughes Creek at Tarcombe, starting 14 July. Watsonia is an environmental weed that spreads from seed and bulb division. Flood events have provided favourable conditions for plant dispersal and increased competition with native vegetation.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, in partnership with Mitchell Shire Council, is coordinating control to target watsonia in the early growth stage, when it is more susceptible to control.

This work is part of flood recovery funded by the Victorian Government and Mitchell Shire's Roadside Weeds and Pest Program.

Martine Hooper
GBCMA - martineh@gbcma.vic.gov.au

NB: if you would like to find out more details email Martine

Photo: Watsonia weed along the Hughes Creek at Tarcombe will be controlled.



ENCOURAGING POLLINATORS ON YOUR PROPERTY - Part #2

Connectivity counts

Insect pollinators benefit from greater connectivity of habitat in a landscape that allows them to forage over a wider radius and increase in numbers in the local area. Encourage neighbours and other landholders to plant for pollinators and create connections across your landscape.

Utilise ecotones

Ecotones are the margins between two different habitats. Ecotones often contain a more diverse mixture of pollinator species because they are inhabited by pollinators from both habitats. Protect and utilise ecotones such as the transition zones between woodland and grassland, or heath and shrubland, to create highly diverse floral and insect communities.

Amplify the flower signal

Plants have evolved large flowers or clusters of smaller flowers which attract more pollinator visits. Large, colourful and diverse plantings attract more pollinators. Ideally plant in groups that contain different vegetation layers - combine a species-rich mixture of wildflowers, groundcovers, herbs, lilies, rushes, climbers, shrubs and trees.



Plant for the future

When establishing pollinator habitat, consider including species that are indigenous to your area and can tolerate increasingly warmer and drier (or wetter) conditions, to improve resilience to global warming. Rehabilitate weedy areas into managed pollination reservoirs by introducing lots of flowering plant diversity. Be careful not to plant invasive or listed weeds and look for suitable replacements.

Double the crop value

Plants that are pollinator-attracting may be a commercially viable crop species in their own right and can be used to diversify crop production. Bushfoods, such as Acacia seed, Pig Face, Sweet Apple Berry and many more are in high demand for use in fresh and manufactured products. Native plant seed is also needed for revegetation projects. Farmers can also support beekeepers by hosting beehives to increase pollinator numbers on a farm.



iNaturalist

Are you interested in adding to the

iNaturalist's

environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area?



iNaturalist

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.

Have YOU been to a Crafternoon yet?

The Ruffy craft afternoon is a wonderful edition to the Tablelands Community Centre offerings. They have been meeting on the first Monday of each month at 1pm and are enjoying learning all sorts of new skills with lively conversation and many a good laugh throughout the afternoon.

It has been really inspiring to see the projects others undertake and how readily they share their knowledge and skills. New members are always welcome.

Next session is on the 4th of August from 1pm -at the TCC 27 Nolan's Road Ruffy.

☎ **phone 0402 335840** for more information



NEW - Solar Panel and Battery Rebates for Victoria

With the new Cheaper Home Batteries Program, Victorians can access additional government rebates and interest-free loans for installing batteries.

Making the switch to solar is an attractive proposition for households looking to reduce their energy bills. Going all-electric and installing a solar panel (PV) system can cut your energy bills by more than \$1,000 a year, according to Solar Victoria. Furthermore, households that also install a solar battery system can save an average of \$1,400 per year on power bills.

Although the cost of installing a solar panel (PV) system may seem high, Solar Victoria provides several incentives for eligible homes. If you're considering installing a solar system on your property, it's crucial to speak to the right solar provider. Here is a guide to the Victorian rebates and interest-free loans on offer, including the Cheaper Home Batteries Program.

Cheaper Home Batteries Program

The State Government's \$2.3 billion Cheaper Home Batteries Program, delivered through the existing Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), offers a 30 per cent discount on solar batteries from 5-50kWh capacity for households, businesses and community facilities like town halls or sports centres. The program comes without means testing and is available to upgrade existing solar systems with a solar battery, or to set up a new solar and battery system.

The scheme will officially start on 1 July 2025 (the new financial year). It can also be 'stacked' on to state discounts like the Solar Homes Program for even bigger savings.

Solar Homes Program

Solar Victoria delivers the Victorian Government's Solar Homes Program, which offers rebates and interest-free loans to help households save on solar and transition to efficient all-electric homes. There are three types of incentives for eligible Victorian households with existing homes or homes under construction:

- Solar panel (PV) rebate
- Solar panel (PV) interest-free loan
- Solar hot water system rebate.

Solar for Rentals Program

Solar-powered rental properties can ease energy costs for tenants while increasing the property's value. The Solar for Rentals program offers eligible rental properties a rebate up to \$1,400 for the installation of solar panels (PV) on their property, plus the option of an interest-free loan to match the rebate amount.

To find out more go to <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/>





Book recommendations - Highlands Book Group

NEXT MEETING Saturday August 2nd @ 6pm Highlands Hall



TITLE & AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION
Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo	- A 2012 non-fiction account of the lives of residents of a slum in Mumbai called Annawadi, which sat adjacent to the Mumbai International Airport. Katherine Boo follows the stories of a handful of the slum's residents, including that of Abdul Husain, whose family's fight with a neighbour changes the course of his life.
Unsettled - by Kate Grenville	More than two decades on, and following the defeat of the Voice referendum, Grenville is still grappling with what it means to descend from people who were, as she puts it, 'on the sharp edge of the moving blade that was colonisation'. So she decides to go on a kind of pilgrimage, back through the places her family stories happened, and put the stories and the First People back into the same frame, on the same country, to try to think about those questions. This gripping book is the result of that journey.
Once Upon a Wardrobe - by Patti Callahan	Margaret Devonshire (Megs) is a seventeen-year-old student of mathematics and physics at Oxford University. When her beloved eight-year-old brother asks Megs if Narnia is real. George presses her to ask the author "Where did Narnia come from?" Despite her fear about approaching the famous author, who is a professor at her school, Megs soon finds herself taking tea with C. S. Lewis and his own brother Warnie, begging them for answers.
The Colony - by Audrey Magee	In 1979, as violence erupts all over Ireland, two outsiders travel to a small island off the west coast in search of their own answers, despite what it may cost the islanders. An expertly woven portrait of character and place, a stirring investigation into yearning to find one's way, and an unflinchingly political critique of the long, seething cost of imperialism.
Outrageous Fortunes - by Megan Brown & Lucy Sussex	When Mary Fortune arrived in Melbourne with her infant son in 1855, she was determined to reinvent herself. Mary became a pioneering journalist and author. When Mary died in 1911, her identity was nearly lost. In Outrageous Fortunes, Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex retrieve Fortune's astonishing career and discover an equally absorbing story in her illegitimate son, George. While Mary was writing about crime, George was committing it.
One Hundred Years - Debra Oswald	Set against a century of world events and social upheavals, Betty's story takes us to the fby frontlines of the anti-war protests and the women's liberation movement of the 1970s, to the AIDS crisis during the 1980s, to living in Mexico and eventually becoming a TV screenwriter. Even in her nineties. Betty is still passionately engaged with the world, still surprising us.
A Wisdom of Age - by Jacinta Parsons	An uplifting, inspiring book about the wisdom of older women - and what we can learn from them to rewrite the story of the second half of our lives. A Wisdom of Age tells a different story about ageing - a story about reclaiming the fierce girl we have inside us; about an unapologetic taking up of space; about speaking out and re-finding our confidence; and finally, about wisdom.
An Umbrian Love Story - by Marlena de Blasi	A tale of love, food, renovations, recipes and wine from the author of the best-selling A Thousand Days in Venice. A lush and evocative account of when Marlena moved with her beloved Fernando to the beautiful town of Orvieto, in Umbria.
Peter Camenzind - by Herman Hesse	Peter Camenzind, published in 1904, was the first novel by Hermann Hesse. It contains a number of themes that were to preoccupy the author in many of his later works, most notably the individual's search for a unique spiritual and physical identity amidst the backdrops of nature and modern civilization, and the role of art in the formation of personal identity.
Herman Hesse Pilgrim of Crisis by Ralph Freedman	This biography explores Hermann Hesse's life to discover what led to his absorption in certain themes and traces the author's impassioned quest for meaning in a fragmented era filled with crises that posed philosophical contradictions for the artist.
Wild Dark Shore - by Charlotte McConaghy	In Charlotte McConaghy's lovely new novel, Wild Dark Shore, Dominic Salt and his family moved to Shearwater Island eight years earlier. The rising seas have forced the scientists to evacuate, and the Salt family, whose job is to manage the island's seed bank, has only six weeks left before they, too, will be leaving. The fictional Shearwater is based on the real subantarctic island Macquarie, halfway between Tasmania and Antarctica. The seed vault, also fictional, is based on the one in Svalbard, at the other end of the planet.
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini	- Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later, a friendship grows between Mariam and a local teenager, Laila, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. When the Taliban take over, life becomes a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear. Yet love can move a person to act in unexpected ways, and lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism.
Cows Save the Planet - by Judith Schwartz	In Cows Save the Planet, journalist Judith D. Schwartz looks at soil as a crucible for our many overlapping environmental, economic, and social crises. Schwartz reveals that for many of these problems—climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, droughts, floods, wildfires, rural poverty, malnutrition, and obesity—there are positive, alternative scenarios to the degradation and devastation we face. In each case, our ability to turn these crises into opportunities depend on how we treat the soil.



Get ready for Landcare Week 2025!

Landcare Week 2025 is just around the corner – it runs from **Monday, 4th August to Sunday, 10th August**. It's a great opportunity to raise awareness about the environmental, community, and wellbeing benefits of caring for our land and waterways.

How to get involved?

This year, we'll be sharing inspiring local stories and celebrating the people behind Landcare. There are plenty of ways to get involved, including submitting a photo for Landcare Australia's [Landcare Through the Lens](#) campaign. By submitting a photo, you will go in the draw to win a Milwaukee Dual Battery Chainsaw!

Branded resources for landcare groups and community organisations to promote the L.I.F.E. (Landcare Is For Everyone) Landcare Week campaign (like the banner image used in this email!) are available on the [Landcare Australia website](#).

BIG SALE



TREE Tube

Stock

\$3 EACH

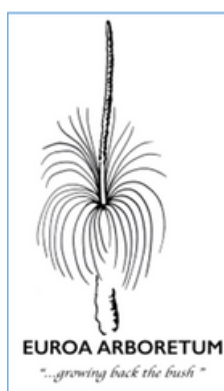
*Excluding advanced potted stock

SPECIES INCLUDE: Red Gums, Blue Gums, Drooping She-oaks, Broadleaf Peppermint, Swamp Gums, Red Stringybarks, Red Box, White Box, Yellow Box, Candlebarks and Manna Gums

WE'RE OPEN

12PM TO 4PM

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS



You can still order plants now for the 2025 season

euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form

The order form is updated to show what is available now. You must have Excel to complete the form or contact us

nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au



ADVANCE NOTICE - DATE for YOUR DIARY

Creighton's Creek, Ruffy, Terip Terip, Longwood East Neighbourhood Watch Group

will be holding its AGM on
Monday 11th August at 4.30pm at the TCC in Ruffy

Rabbit Control Information Session

When: Saturday 16th August

Time: 7PM to 9PM

Where: Taggerty Hall - 5 Taggerty-Thornton Rd, Taggerty
Supper provided

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 Cathedral Landcare Group - cathedrallandcare@gmail.com or phone 0418 579 220.

Funded by the Victorian State Government.



<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>Mature, Well Hung and Available from:</p> <p>Victory Meats, Seymour Victory Meats, Broadford Scotch and Fillet, St Helena Scotch and Fillet, Mentone</p>	 <p>Donated by supporters of the magnificent King Parrots.</p>	<p>DE MARIA & ASSOCIATES <i>Barristers & Solicitors</i></p> <p>Family Law Conveyancing Power of Attorney & Wills Estate Disputes Deceased Estates</p> <p>☎ 03 9717 5277</p> <p>Level 1, Suite 111 95 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen Vic 3754 Justice@demariaandassociates.com.au</p>	 <p>Donated by Friends of Yellow Box (Eucalyptus Meliodora)</p>
<p>This space needs a sponsor...</p> <p>Is it YOU?</p>	<p>"A new name but the same friendly staff at Seymour"</p> <p>Join our Loyalty card program & save</p> <p>IF YOU WANT IT - WE'VE GOT IT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Nutrition, Health & Feed Supplies - Pasture, Seeds, Weed/Pest Control & Fertiliser - Feed Testing - Pet Food & Accessories - Equine Supplies - Water Troughs, Poly Pipe & Fittings - Fencing & Livestock Handling <p>Glenn: 0439 990 480 Store: 03 5792 1088 Email: seymour@wbhunter.com.au</p> <p>HUNTERS TRADE • RURAL • HARDWARE</p>	<p>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p>BenCo</p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
<p>DINDI ELECTRICAL SERVICES</p> <p>DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Get in touch for all your electrical needs</p> <p>Coen Bird</p> <p>0433 885 441 coenbird@dindielectrical.com.au</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><i>Highlands Haulen</i> AND RECOVERY</p> <p>Local and Statewide Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hay / Silage - Farm Equipment - Machinery / Excavators - Building Supplies - Sheds / Cabins - Trucks / 4X4s - 24/7 Breakdowns <p>Steve 0419 860 484 haulen.com.au</p>	
<p> Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr Paul Hildebrand</p> <p>Koriella Ward phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0428 758 617</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground</p> <p>Ideal for private or community gatherings, meetings, workshops</p> <p>Very Reasonable rates</p> <p>Hosts 1st Friday BBQs</p> <p>Contact tccruffy@gmail.com</p> <p>0427 690970</p>	<p> KCK David & John KORBYSON CONTRACTING & KEEPIERS SINCE 2025</p> <p>For all your livestock needs (sheep, cattle, spot spraying)</p> <p>No job too big or small. Competitive pricing. Please contact David on 0417 150113</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from supporters of our local Platypus</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS GROVE</p> <p>Australian, locally produced premium extra virgin olive oil.</p> <p>Farm gate pick up or delivery available.</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.</p> <p>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> Strathbogie Granite Project</p> <p>neil.phillips@bigpond.com</p>



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.