

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



**5th October 2025 | Volume 19 Issue 33**

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Spring has definitely sprung - The Granite News has had its usual 2-week hiatus and suddenly the email inbox is full to bursting with a plethora of activities, ads and announcements that all need to go into **THIS** week's issue, which is the biggest one ever!!

It is really gratifying to see what an important instrument TGN is for keeping the HCCC communities connected (as well as readers beyond). So many thanks to those of you who read it and also contribute.

Speaking of which there is an excellent article by Keith from Avenel in this issue about a recent trip to Arnhem Land and his very informative experiences there. For those of us who have largely lived our lives somewhat ignorant of the actions taken by indigenous communities, for almost 100 years - 1938 being a watershed moment in this story - (see p.10 for details) the Yirrkala Bark Petitions of 1963 may come as a complete surprise. But as these important historical documents are now on display in Parliament House and the National Museum in Canberra go to p.11 to find out more about this significant event in our country's history. Thanks Keith for sharing.



October also celebrates two Landcare essentials - Water Week and Bird Count. See p. 14 and p.7 respectively for more information.

It also sees the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) welcome local sitting member for Euroa - **Annabelle Cleeland, MLA to its next meeting - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at the TCC Ruffy at 7.30pm.** It's not often that Landcare groups get an opportunity to chat with their parliamentary representatives so an interested attendance would be great.

Can't make it in person? Join in via the Zoom link here -

<https://zoom.us/j/98780693308?pwd=xeCfTmFPpbBBCa9Zac2WFuIHEKAi4.1>

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline  
And Kenny? Was getting excited about Wilderhoods event - 16/10

Feedback? [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.hccclandcare.net.au](http://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












"Unlike the stomach, the brain doesn't alert you when it is empty."

### Arabic Proverb



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
Sept.	32mm	38 mm
2025 Total	500 mm	504.5 mm
Rainy Days	11 days	10 days

**NB: Rainfall for Highlands was only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of September's usual amount.**

		What's On - October & November 2025
	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. @ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT SPINNING CLUB</b> @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd Tea, coffee, friendship and laughs will be in plenty. <b>Enquiries? Jan &amp; Ruby 5790 4361</b>
	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. @ 1pm</b>	<b>CRAFTERNOON</b> @ Tablelands Community Centre Come enjoy some creative company and craft the afternoon away. <b>Gabrielle 0402 335840</b>
	<b>Thurs 9th Oct. @ 7.30pm</b>	<b>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING</b> @ TCC Ruffy Come along and meet our special guest Annabelle Cleeland - MLA for Euroa.
	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. @ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> @ 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. <b>Contact Paula 0419 551882</b>
<b>Details? See p.6</b>	<b>Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. @ 11am - 1pm</b>	<b>LEAP - Local Emergency Action Program</b> - come along and create it @ TCC Ruffy
	<b>Sat. 25th Oct. @ 7pm</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP</b> <b>New summer time start!</b> @ Highlands Community Hall
	<b>Sunday 26th Oct @ 10am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS WALK</b> meet @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our stunning local area. <b>Supported by HCCC</b> <b>Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235</b>
	<b>Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. from 6pm &gt;&gt;</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH</b> @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights. <b>Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</b>
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall</b> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are 15th &amp; 29th October and 12th &amp; 26th November.</b>
	<b>Every Monday @ 6pm</b>	<b>MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall</b> BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash <b>Enquiries? 0436 428065</b>
	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays 1-3</b>	<b>DIGITAL &amp; ON-LINE LEARNING</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy Dates for October - 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> . <b>Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788</b>
	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</b>	<b>ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY</b> 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
	<b>Mon 8.45- 9.45am</b>	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK</b> with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket <b>Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com</b>

# An excellent date for your diary!



## New updates from iNaturalist Australia

Great Southern Bioblitz 2025

Molesworth Spotlighting Walk

**When:** Friday 24th October

**Times:** 7:15 for a 7:30 pm start, finish approx. 9:00pm

**Location:** Molesworth Nature Conservation Reserve. Meet at the Goulburn River boat access (drive through the caravan park, go slow over the speed humps!)

**Map link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1HnWwLseor1MWtLD8>

Tony Fitzgerald from Taungurung Land and Waters Council will lead the walk.

**Why?** Very few records exist of much nocturnal survey work being done at Molesworth. In particular, listening and looking ...



Are you interested in adding to the  
iNaturalist'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.



# 2025 Soil Testing – Expression of Interest



The Goulburn Broken CMA is offering primary producers in the catchment, free 0-10cm soil, chemical tests through the Nature Services for Ag project.

The project is funded by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

To register your interest, fill out an expression of interest form through the following link or QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Zaburrbn40?origin=lpLink>



Or contact:

Jon Longden, Land Health Officer, GB CMA  
0477 455 335

[Jonathan.Longden@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jonathan.Longden@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

Soil chemical testing is a fundamental step in understanding the fertility and potential of your soil.

Soil chemical tests measure pH, soil organic carbon (SOC), cation exchange capacity (CEC), macronutrient levels, electrical conductivity and soil texture.

#### Express interest for the following:

- 1-3 comprehensive soil tests for your farm. The number depends on farm size. Numbers are limited; first in best dressed for those who meet criteria (e.g. location, primary producer, land size)
- Soil analysis conducted by Nutrient Advantage, Werribee.
- A GB CMA project officer will arrange a time to collect your sample/s with you. Soil test results will be emailed to you.



The data acquired from these soil tests is used in various ways:

- To provide farmers with information on the health of their farms soils, so they can make informed management decisions.
- To provide GB CMA a view of the health of the soils within the region. This enables us to seek funding and direct resources to improve the land health of the region.
- To demonstrate the effort that farmers in the region are making to improve the health of their soils.
- To design follow-up soil test interpretation workshops.

#### For more information contact

GB CMA on:

Tel: (03) 5822 7700

[www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

You can also follow us on:



**Australian Government**

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

Healthy, resilient and increasingly  
productive landscapes supporting vibrant communities.

# SPRING AHEAD

FRIDAY 10TH OCT, 2025

With a grazing focus,  
topics include:

- Business strategy
- Rebuilding after & preparing for drought
- Mindset for managing tough seasons

## Details:

- **Time:** 9.30am - 2.30pm
- **Host:** Callum Lawson
- **Location:** Alanvale,  
937 Upton Road, Avenel
- **Bring:** chair, water bottle
- Morning tea & lunch supplied

**More info:** Rhiannon Sandford, Sustainable  
Agriculture Facilitator, 0429 964 609  
rhiannons@gbcm.vic.gov.au



To register:

Click this link

<https://forms.office.com/r/M0RfKGFiz2>

Or use the QR code



WITH DOM WALKER  
ADVISOR & COACH, RCS



This event of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program is supported by the  
Goulburn Drought Resilience Plan Implementation Group  
through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government.



GOULBURN  
DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLAN  
IMPLEMENTATION GROUP





# RUFFY TABLELANDS

inc. Terip Terip & Longwood East

Community Emergency  
Preparedness Workshop

**SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 2025**

Tablelands Community Centre  
27 Nolans Road, Ruffy

**11am – 1pm Refreshments Provided**

We need your help to create our Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) for the Ruffy, Terip Terip & Longwood East Tablelands district.

Your participation will help inform the LEAP as we discuss potential risks to our communities, ways to prepare, and the pathways to recovery, all aimed at building a more resilient Tablelands Community.

This workshop will be facilitated by Terip Terip's Andrew Holloway, who'll ensure that your contribution is considered and valued.

**Please RSVP by 1<sup>st</sup> October to Fiona Feldtmann  
sms 0439 203 120 or email [leap@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:leap@shepparton.vic.gov.au)**



Scan this QR  
Code for further  
information on  
the LEAP  
project



LEAPing into Safer Communities is a collaborative project between Strathbogie Shire Council and Greater Shepparton City Council, funded by the Victorian State Government.

# RAIL TRAIL-BIRD COUNT



Join the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network for a walk along the rail trail. The event is part of the 2025 Murrindindi Bioblitz and we will record all bird species and numbers observed.

***When: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October***

***Time: 9.00am – 11.00am***

**Where: Great Victorian Rail Trail – Kanumbra.  
Meet about 500m from the start of Mcguigans Road in Kanumbra.**

- Wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear.
  - Bring a water bottle.
  - Followed by a light lunch.

***To register contact Landcare Facilitator Chris Cobern on  
0413 855 490 or email [ugln.projects@ugln.net](mailto:ugln.projects@ugln.net)***



**COVIDSafe rules:** Do not attend the activity if you have Covid19 or are unwell with cold/flu symptoms.





### Got a Spare Room, Caravan, or Bunkhouse? Help House Our Staff! 🍒

As we gear up for the 2025-26 Cherry Harvest, Koala Cherries is looking for local accommodation options to support our amazing harvest crew.

If you have a spare room, caravan, bunkhouse, or other temporary accommodation available from mid-November to mid-January, we'd love to hear from you!

Accommodation should have cooking and bathroom facilities; simple arrangements are fine if they are clean and safe.

#### How it works:

We will include basic details of what you can offer along with your contact details on our **Accommodation Listing**, which is shared with our harvest workers. You'll liaise directly with the employee to finalise arrangements.

To express your interest please email your details to [jobs@koalacherries.com.au](mailto:jobs@koalacherries.com.au) or alternately, call us on: (03) 5773 4250.

Thank you for supporting our Harvest Season!



## SAT 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

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



## CANCELLED

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

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



## Wilderhoods in Urban Areas In Mitchell Shire

**7pm – 8.30pm Thursday 16 October**

Teams webinar. Register via QR code to receive link

*Mitchell Shire Council proudly present Dr Cassia Read: Co-founder and Director of the Castlemaine Institute. Cassia is an ecologist, educator and garden designer with interests spanning landscape ecology, climate adaption, urban greening, wildlife gardening and community engagement.*

Join us to learn about what are wilderhoods and how this could work in Mitchell Shire in your neighbourhood. Cassia Read will discuss:

- Create networks of urban habitat across existing public and private greenspaces
- What can I do on my property and with neighbours to make a difference?
- Share expert knowledge on how urban habitat creation is a core part of wilderhoods

RSVP by Friday 10 October via bookable QR code to receive Teams Link or email [environment@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

(03) 5734 6200

[mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/events](https://mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/events)



## NOTES from the last HCCC Meeting

- NOW is the time to start planning for this year's blackberry eradication - contact [neil@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:neil@hccclandcare.net.au) for options
- Deer control - As more and more fallow and samba deer cruise across the Tablelands' paddocks it appears that the state government doesn't regard deer as a pest species and that their priority is with deer in the peri-urban areas (outskirts of Melbourne) - which is a great pity for the bigger picture.
- The Granite Hills Community Nursery @ Highlands has mature local trees currently available for purchase.

[granitehillsnursery.com.au](https://granitehillsnursery.com.au)