

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



30th March 2025 | Volume 19 Issue 12

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Don't forget this is the last issue of The Granite News before the traditional fortnightly break - returning to an inbox near you on **Sunday 20th April**.

With the Easter holidays in the middle of this break please drive safely and watch out for drivers, unfamiliar with country driving, on our local roads during this time. Everyone should arrive home safely.

Also, please note that the last ad space on the back page has become available for any reader wanting to advertise their business or altruistically support this excellent community newsletter. At just \$250 for a year - email editor@tgn.org.au if you are interested.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was checking out the feral blackberry infestation.

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative leaps into 21st C technology

The next meeting of the HCCC (Thursday 1st May) will see a new, innovative way of engaging more residents and landholders in important discussions about Landcare.

For the first time attendance at the meeting can be via



in the comfort of your own home - more details to follow...

WANTED

For the Highlands Community Hall
Foldable Table Tennis Table
Please call Robyn - 0409 528235
if you have one to sell or donate



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

"When you think about it it's not a bad way to live - to remember your life by your dogs."

Markus Zusak

Australian author of
Three Wild Dogs



Did you know?

April is Citizen Science Month.

Which means everyone, who doesn't have a B.Sc after their name, has a chance to assist with all sorts of ongoing science projects. Getting involved is easy – all you need is access to the internet as there are a number of websites dedicated to connecting citizens with science projects. Popular websites for finding citizen science projects include SciStarter, iNaturalist, eBird and Zooniverse.

		What's On - March, April & May 2025
	Mon. 31st March @ 1pm	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS CLUB See p.8 for details Meeting at the Tablelands Community Centre for a garden tour Enquiries? 0458 904268
	Friday 4th April 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
	Friday 11th Apr. @ 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
Details? See p.8	Fri. 11th & Sat 12th Apr. @ 7	THE LAST STAND - GREATER GLIDER SPOTTO near Caveat
	Monday 14th April @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNERS @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd Tea, coffee, friendship and laughs will be in plenty. Enquiries? Jan & Ruby 5790 4361
	Sunday 20th April	THE GRANITE NEWS RETURNS - send your articles, ads and anything else by 17/4.
	Thurs. 24th Apr. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Sunday 27th April @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS WALKS meet @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our stunning local area. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Thurs 1st May @ 7.00pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING All Welcome - in person or via ZOOM @ TCCC Ruffy
	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 2nd, 16th & 30th April and 14th & 28th May.
	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 1st & 15th April and 6th & 20th May 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

Flying Ant Day - Did you notice it?

Each autumn, there comes a moment when we suddenly notice that the ground is crawling with large-winged ants.

Then the air seems to be full of them and we find ourselves ducking and diving, trying not to get them in our mouths or hair when riding the farm motorbike or push bike.

So, what causes this simultaneous taking to the air, and is there really such a thing as Flying Ant Day?

This annual swarming event usually occurs in February or March and coincides with a period of hot and humid weather. Winged ants appear at slightly different times around Ruffy, are associated with rain and their activity prompts farmers to dream of an autumn break.

Many people find it startling seeing an ant swarm flying around their home. Flying ants are often mistaken for termites and can cause alarm to those unaware of what is going on, the urge to spray them with fly spray is great but unnecessary.

Prior to swarming, ants are going about their everyday business and living in a colony in a nest. Many different species of garden ants nest in dry soil. You'll often find them in flower beds and lawns, and under paving slabs or stones. Patios are a favoured location. They are common in almost any dry, open area that is warmed by the sun including gardens, grasslands and bushland.

In the few weeks before the swarming event happens, you may see heaps of soil appearing above the nests.

An ant colony can only expand so much. At some point a new queen will need to strike out on her own to begin a new colony. She needs to meet and mate with a male from a different colony and find a new area in which to start building her nest. Growing wings and flying enables her to do this.

Flying ants are known as alates, so each year alates emerge from nests and take flight. They aren't interested in people or picnics - they are just looking for a mate. The large-winged females and the smaller winged males are often seen flying joined together. This is known as the nuptial flight.

These flying insects may seem annoying to some people, but their tunnelling activities play a vital role in improving soil quality.

Their swarming events also provide a vital food resource for many species of birds like swifts and swallows.



Janet Hagen
HCCC Landcare Facilitator



Are you interested in adding to the



**i Naturaliste'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.



The Future is Bright for the Tablelands Community Centre.

The Tablelands Community Centre was formed after the closure of the Ruffy School in 2005. At a public meeting widely attended by people from all over our Tableland: Caveat, Creightons Creek, Highlands, Longwood East, Pon Keen, Ruffy, Tarcombe, Terip Terip and Upton. It was hoped that the building and grounds not go on the open market for sale by the Education Dept. and could remain in the hands of the community to be used for educational, entertainment, internet, a meeting place, cultural, health and wellbeing purposes as well as a home for the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (Landcare) office. This hope was realised with community support and the Strathbogie Shire becoming owners for community use in perpetuity.

It's fair to say that over the last 20 years the Community Centre has fulfilled these aims and more, providing a comfortable and central location for various individuals, visitors and groups to meet and hold events, run workshops or regular classes.

The Tablelands Community Centre is an unfunded not-for-profit incorporated association. Dedication and hard work by a volunteer committee and residents who are passionate about keeping it running has gone into making it a hub for the wider community.

You can find on a regular basis at the Tablelands Community Centre

- Yoga on Monday Mornings 8:45am till 9:45am
- Internet and Tech help available every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 1pm till 3pm or just drop in for a cuppa and a chat
- First Friday of the month BBQ 6pm, still popular a great place to catch up with others in a very informal atmosphere
- Steet Library
- Excess produce trailer and community picking garden as part of the Circular Garden Project
- Playground
- Starting on the 5th April & every three weeks She's a Barber, mobile barber Robyn
- Starting in June monthly craft group gathering

There's so much that is possible at our Community Centre and ideas flow but, as with any other organisation we rely on funding and support to develop innovative services and diversify income sources. We are open to sponsorship opportunities and value organisations, businesses and individuals who care about community. Let's keep the doors open.

To this end there's fundraising projects planned: a garden project raffle, a Gardening Perpetual Calendar with amazing artwork (You'd be proud to hang this on your wall) And of course the Federal Election polling place on the 3rd May with sausage sizzle, burgers and baked goods on voting day any donations will also be gratefully received.

Many thanks to all those who have put in their time and effort over the years to keep your centre not only going but improving. It proves that the Tablelands Community Centre is truly a Community Centre for all.

The Community Centre is available for hire at very reasonable rates contact us for bookings. Feel free to pop in any Tuesday from 10am till 3pm for a cuppa our doors are open.

Help us continue to thrive your donations greatly received and can be made to the: Tablelands Community Centre Inc. BSB 803078 Acc 100065240

Contact: tccruffy@gmail.com Phone 0427 690 970





garden project



RAFFLE

TICKETS \$10 EACH

get your
tickets to
win

1st Prize - bulka bag compost mix

2nd Prize - bulka bag compost mix

**3rd Prize - Morris Outdoors assorted garden gloves
and boot guards**

4th Prize - 3 bags organic lucerne mulch



Compost mix in bulka bag loaded on to your trailer or ute in Ruffy
61% Compost, 30% Gypsum, 6.6% Crusher Dust, 2.4% Guarno

TICKETS DRAWN SUNDAY 31st MAY 2025

Ticket purchases : tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970
Call in at the Tablelands Community Centre on a Tuesday
between 10am till 3pm

Ticket sellers will be out and about



Proceeds of the raffle will go towards ongoing development of the Tablelands Community Centre circular garden project. We thank you for your support of this project and wish you GOOD LUCK with your ticket purchase

Did someone say Election?

As most readers of The Granite News would know TGN is an apolitical publication and as such does not offer political opinion or accept advertising of a political nature.

It does however aim to inform its readers and to assist with understanding matters affecting our local communities and the wider world.

To that end there are not one but two Meet the Candidate meetings being held just south of the HCCC area in Alexandra and Yea on **Sunday 27th April**.

All constituents of Indi are invited to come along and meet the candidates standing for election on **May 3rd**.

INDI CANDIDATE FORUM

Residents of Yea and surrounds – this is your opportunity to ask questions and hear from our federal election candidates.

What are your concerns?

- The changing climate?
- Integrity in Parliament?
- Housing?
- Roads?
- Health services?
- Youth unemployment?

WHEN
Sunday April 27
6pm – 7.30pm

WHERE
Yea Wetlands
Discovery Centre
2 Hood St, Yea, Victoria 3717

THESE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN INVITED

Alysia Regan (GR)
Helen Haines (IND)
James Trenery (LIB)
Michael White (FF)
Mitch Bridges (ALP)

BOOKING



<https://events.humanitix.com/candidate-forum-in-yea>

CALL OR SMS
0428969366



Federal Election Candidates' Forum - Indi 2025

What matters to you and your family?

What matters to Eildon and Murrindindi?

What matters to Australia?

Hear from the candidates standing for election in May

Ask questions on things that matter to you

On **Sunday 27th April 2025**, from **2pm to 4 pm**, there will be a Candidates' Forum for the electorate of Indi at the **Alexandra Shire Hall**.

Watch out for posters with candidate names over the next month.

In order to give the audience comparison, each candidate will be asked to address the following two questions as part of their opening 5-minute address.

Question 1: What are the measures you propose for Australia to meet its energy needs, while at the same time meeting its emission reduction targets for 2030 and 2050 under the international Paris Climate Agreement?

Question 2: What policies do you propose to address the issues associated with the youth of our country being currently so disadvantaged?

Following this, candidates will answer questions from the audience, both in the Hall and listening and texting in via UGFM.

The formal event will end around 4pm, when there will be an opportunity to chat to candidates over a cup of tea.

This is a free event. Everyone is welcome and the organisers anticipate a polite discussion at all times.

Enquiries? Contact the organisers:
RAR Alexandra and MCN c/-
bevdict3903@gmail.com

MOST IMPORTANT !!

If you are a new resident of the Indi electorate, or for that matter any other electorate (as The Granite News is read across borders) don't forget to register your new address with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

<https://www.aec.gov.au/>

by Monday 7th April
so you are eligible to vote!

FROG DISCOVERY WALK

RAIL TRAIL – MERTON



Join the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network for a night of frog discovery. Learn to recognise different frog calls and help us collect important data on the rare Bibrons Toadlet.

There will be a short introduction from ecologist and frog expert David De Angelis followed by a guided walk along the rail trail listening, looking, and recording frogs.

April is the peak calling season for the threatened Bibrons Toadlet, so now is the time for us to get out and listen for them. The male toadlets call in autumn from depressions within damp leaf-litter. Eggs are then laid in the leaf litter and hatch after rain floods the area, providing water for the tadpoles.

Families are very welcome. Please wear clothing suitable for the weather (frogs love rain so don't be put off by a rainy evening). Bring a torch or headlamp.

When: Saturday 26th April

Time: 6.00PM to 8.00PM

Where: Merton Cemetery car park, Duke Street Merton

***To register contact Chris Cobern on ugln.projects@ugln.net
or 0413 855 490***

Important Covidsafe advice:

Do not attend the activity if you are unwell, especially with cold/flu symptoms.



This event has been funded by VicTrack.



RUFFY VEGE GROWERS

The next Ruffy Veggie Growers gathering is Monday 31st March.

We are planning a trip to have a look at both the community gardens in Violet Town and Euroa with a shared picnic in the Violet Town park.

Meeting at the Tablelands Community Centre at 1pm to facilitate carpooling.

Please bring a chair or picnic rug. New members always welcome

Enquiries Cheryl 0409 019763.



For Sale

Exercise bike. \$60.00.

Home gym. Weider Pro2000 brand (as new condition) \$300.00.

Punching bag (Fenech brand) with 2 pairs boxing gloves (also Fenech brand) sizes Large & Small

Good condition. \$150.00.

Phone: 0412 074571



FREE to a good home

I have two sheep to give away good lawnmowers.

Rob 0411 880024.



SHE'S A BARBER
mobile barber



Tablelands
Community
Centre

27 Nolands Road, Ruffy

**BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Saturday 5th April
10am to 3pm**

*To book, please contact me via the booking link on
Facebook or Instagram or message/call on 0423 176 878*

My name is Robyn and I'm a Qualified Barber, completing my Certificate III in Barbering in July 2023 at Biba Academy.

*Services include Mens, Ladies and Kids cuts
Specialising in neurodivergent adults and kids*

<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 Barristers & Solicitors</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 Sheep & Cattle Contractors</p> <p>KOSBYOVN CONTRACTING & KEEPIES SINCE 2024</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>Strathbogrie Granite Project 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.