THE GRANITE NEWS



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



1st December 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 41

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Last Tuesday a crowd of more than 100 family, friends and community members gathered at the Yea Wetlands
Discovery Centre to celebrate the life of Peg Lade. A lady of many talents who did 'nothing by halves'.

Various family members and friends spoke about Peg's life, illuminating some of the humorous and significant events that occurred over 96 years of life. All of those present discovered aspects of Peg, previously unknown, to add to

their own memories of this remarkable woman.

Her grand-daughter, Tess, described Peg beautifully -

"Granny has taught me that the onus is on you to create interesting opportunities: you need to have a good idea, a solid strategy, and an efficient way to execute it. With determination, education, intrigue, charm, and a community, there's

nothing that can't be achieved.



Peg at Glentannar, 1992

So, Granny, you may not have had a succinct definition of the scientific meaning of life, but you built a great life, and you sure gave a lot of meaning to mine, to ours. You'll be thought of frequently with love and will be deeply missed."

The Lade family's official obituary for Peg is on p.3.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was looking forward to Artbox returning to Nagambie.



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 do what I do best, which is to bring back images of wilderness and hopefully contribute - in my way - to people's appreciation of what they stand to lose."

> Peter Dombrovskis (1945 - 1996) Tasmanian Wilderness Photographer



Month	Highlands	Ruffy
Nov.	71.2 mm	115.5 mm
2024 Total	702.3 mm	665.5 mm
Rainy Days	8 days	9 days

		What's On - December 2024 & January 2025
Details see p.6	Sat. 7th Dec.	RUFFY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY @ TCC, Ruffy
	W/end 7th & 8th Dec. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open the first weekend each month - discover some stunning artwork.
	Sunday 8th December	LAST GRANITE NEWS for 2024 - get your articles, ads and anything else in ASAP!
	Monday 9th Dec. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNERS @ 183 Old Highlands Rd Highlands Spinning Club's final meeting for 2024 @ Andrea & Alex's. Please BYO salad.
Details? See p.6	Friday 13th Dec @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS END of YEAR - ANNUAL FAMILY GET-TOGETHER @ Highlands Hall
*	Friday 3rd Jan. 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
	Saturday 4th Jan. @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS BOOKCLUB @ Highlands Hall
	Sunday 12th January	FIRST GRANITE NEWS for 2025 - get your articles, ads and anything else in ASAP!
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative	Saturday 18th Jan. @ noon	HCCC BBQ LUNCH & AGM - all welcome - enquiries 0427 524473 @ TCC, 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 11th December and 8th & 22nd January 2025.
	Every Tuesday - 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 3rd & 17th December 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
P. S.	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

Peg (Margaret) Webb LADE

28.7.1928 - 29.10.2024

"Nothing by Halves"

Peg grew up at Yirraba, a farm near Glenburn, 20 kms SE of Yea, and in 1950 she married Doug Lade and moved to Glentannar in Highlands, 20 kms NW of Yea where they lived for the next 60 years. At Glentannar, she and Doug brought up 5 children before they eventually moved to Yea in 2012 for a more manageable old age.

Educated with her siblings and cousins at home in her primary years, she was a boarder at MCEGGS (Merton Hall) during WW2 before studying Agricultural Science at Melbourne University. Her adventurous spirit was evident in her riding 100 miles (160 kms) from Yirraba to Dookie College to do her 2nd year of University. She rode via Glentannar to visit Doug on the way. As one of three women amongst the immediate post-war intake, she and her friend Liz Dexter topped the year in the practical subjects. Despite not finishing her degree when she left to marry Doug, she pursued and developed her interest in geology, botany, and birds throughout her life. She loved reading and writing and books have always been a great source of knowledge and enjoyment. She formed important and enduring friendships with those in her Book Club, an association that continued for more than 50 years.

Peg led a rich and resourceful life and Glentannar hospitality was legendary, with family and many friends having fond memories of being squashed in around the lobby table at mealtimes and in between. Family was incredibly important to Peg, and she carried on many of the family traditions of long walks and picnics that she had been brought up with at Yirraba with her parents Ercil and Roger Webb Ware, into her life in Highlands. She was one

of five: Ken, identical twins Pat and Peg, Barbs and Helen, and she and Doug had five children, Alistair, Jenny, Neill, Sally, and Meredith. She has derived great pleasure from her grandchildren Hugh and Tess, Isabel and Eliott, and Shanaz and Ariana.

Eager to embrace life to the full, Peg first went on a safari to Central Australia in 1966 leaving the youngest of her children in Grandma Lade's care. This was life-changing as she met like-minded people and went on several more safaris followed by extensive travels to outback Australia.

Peg had initiative and she turned ideas into reality to create a thriving cottage industry, Glentannar Homecrafts. Over 17 years, with Helen McCall helping with the cutting out, Peg produced more than 4000 beautiful sheepskin jackets that were worn from the Antarctic to Alaska. This gave Peg financial independence and allowed her and Doug to embark on overseas travel. Their trips included South America with Jenny and Rod Ferguson, and China in 1978. They went to Lake Baikal in Siberia in Russia on a Birdos trip, oblivious to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall at the time. One of their most memorable, adventurous trips was walking in the North-West Frontier of Pakistan with Tim McCartney Snape, his mother, Bobby, and a small group of friends.

Peg was good at organising herself and other people. She was community-minded and initiated many group activities, including the Highlands Ramblers and the Probus walking group. But life is never smooth, and Peg brought her instinctive strength of character to dealing with a number of major crises including Neill contracting meningitis at the age of 7, and Sally nearly dying from a typhoid-like illness she contracted in India. Peg and Doug showed great courage and optimism and a natural ability to manage the press while dealing with Jenny and Rob having been kidnapped in Afghanistan. Not to be overshadowed by family drama, Peg contracted a nasty water-borne amoeba, Balamuthia, in 2008. There were only 4 people worldwide who are reported to have survived it. With the help of old-fashioned sulphur drugs and a super-human determination to get better and become independent, she has lived and flourished in the 16 years since then.

Peg was fiercely independent to the end, living her final 8 years alone at Anne St after Doug died in 2016. We respected her determination to lead her own life. She didn't quite make it to 100 but what a relief that her life could have been as good as it was for as long as it was with the warm and supportive local community. Peg was adamant that the elderly should not be mourned, but we know that the way she has lived her life has touched and inspired many people.

Thanks so much for all your kind messages, they are very much appreciated. Peg will be greatly missed. A life so well-lived.

Jenny and Meredith Lade

HCCC Landcare needs YOUR help

Blackberry infestation is out of control again this year across the Hughes Creek Catchment. This is not only a problem for individual landholders but for all our communities.





These photographs show the extent of the problem in just one small area. This problem is not just confined to the creeks and is problematic across numerous places in the catchment.

These plants are now in fruit and the problem will be spread by birds; action should be taken **NOW** to avoid a bigger and more expensive problem in the years to come.

How you can help

If the problem is on your property, please start a program to eradicate the plants, you can do this by physical means, suitable for small areas, or start a spraying program. Spraying can be done until the first frost, normally in early May.

If you see an infestation on neighbouring properties, this would be a good opportunity to get all the affected landholders working together on an eradication programme. Why not start a conversation, organise a neighbourly meeting, assist each other to get on top of this problem before it becomes overwhelming and spreads to areas currently unaffected?

Some landholders may think that this is 'someone else's problem, it is not, it is everyone's responsibility and needs to be dealt with promptly.

Please let HCCC know of any lack of interest or action and also contact your local shire environment officer, or the bio security officer at the DEWLP offices in Seymour especially if the problem is on government land.

If this year's spread looks impressive, next year's will be much bigger and more expensive to control!

How can the HCCC help

- · HCCC will subsidise the costs of chemicals by 50%, please contact the HCCC before purchasing chemicals to get approval for the subsidy, as we have limited funds so please contact Neil van Buuren for further details
- · HCCC have spraying equipment, that can be borrowed, for an exceedingly small cost to assist eradication
- \cdot We can put you in touch with a company that that spray from a helicopter, this is only suitable for large problems over 15 Ha.
- · HCCC also have information on a new company that sprays from a Drone, the drone can target small infestations in areas that are difficult to reach with a vehicle or tractor.
- · Can provide a list of commercial spraying companies.

Impact of Blackberries

Impact on ecosystems and waterways

Blackberry is considered a serious environmental threat and is highly invasive. It can provide harbour and a food source for pest species, as well as serve to outcompete and eliminate other vegetation by excluding light from the soil surface.

In its early stages of infestation, blackberry will grow over, or occupy gaps in, native vegetation and, in later stages, can severely restrict regeneration in native forests.

Continued on p.5

HCCC Landcare needs your help - continued

Agricultural and economic impacts

- · Blackberry is an extremely serious agricultural threat, owing to its rapid growth and ability to reproduce through various methods. It is a highly invasive species that will readily establish on disturbed sites and infest large areas. Once established it is expensive to manage and can even be a fire hazard due to large amounts of dead canes.
- · The plant's strong prickles make it hazardous and unpalatable to grazing animals (except browsing animals, such as goats and deer) and impenetrable thickets provide harbour and food for pest animals such as rabbits and foxes, starlings and blackbirds. It may also restrict access to watercourses in forestry operations and for grazing animals.
- · Blackberry may affect the establishment and growth of both softwood and hardwood seedlings in plantation forestry.

Social value and health impacts

Blackberry can restrict access to and along watercourses which may affect recreational activities. It also produces strong prickles which make it objectionable to humans and in large infestations, may be a fire hazard due to large amounts of dead canes.

Management

Prescribed measures for the control of noxious weeds:

- · application of a registered herbicide
- physical removal
- · mulching.

Contact information

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative - Landcare Network email neil@hccclandcare.net .au https://www.hccclandcare.net.au/

Victorian Government

https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/search?guerv=weeds

https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/prescribed-measures-for-the-control-of-noxious-weeds

Spraying contracts in the area

Hillside Spraying 5796 9192 / 0417 407 721 David Webb 0417 150 113

To Any Post-Operative Rehabilitators

We have a Danish Linak (HB43-02)adjustible HOME CARE BED looking for a home for any osteo-arthritic or post op-person or who has overdone it tramping through the Strathbogie Granites or who is just facing the realities of aging painful backs and joints.

The hand-held remote allows for the usual range of leg elevation/depression positions and enables the user to sit up/sit down and to readily stand up from the bed from a range of heights.

Please call Sandy MacKenzie (0411 552 426) for more details - the bed and mattress would need to be collected from Avenel (a two person lift is needed preferably to a trailer as it is 2.25mx1.00m and very heavy).

A contribution of \$300 ONO would be appreciated.





Hughes Creek

Catchment

Collaborative









THE HIGHLANDS HALL **COMMITTEE**

Are putting together a local produce hamper as a fundraiser for future works at your Hall.

Tickets will be sold at our **End of Year Highlands/Caveat Family Get Together on**

> Friday 13th December \$5 per ticket or \$10 for 3

Fabulous wines, cider, beer, olive oil, honeys, a voucher from our local flower farm, a voucher for lovely manure (interesting!) and other local handmade crafts and homemade yummies plus more.

Raffle will be drawn on the night.

Cash only please.

CHANCES are HIGH for a WIN!



To help plan how land will be used in the future, Council is developing a Rural Residential and Land Use Strategy and Urban Growth Strategy.

We want to hear your thoughts on potential issues and opportunities that could impact the future use of land in the Shire.

This is the start of the conversation.

From 11 November to 13 December

fill out the online survey or come along to one of our drop-in sessions:

Thursday 21 November 2pm-6pm Euroa Conference room, Euroa

Wednesday 27 November 2pm-6pm Avenel Memorial Hall, Avenel

Thursday 28 November 2pm-6pm Violet Town Community Centre, Violet Town

Tuesday 3 December 2pm-6pm Nagambie Senior Citizens Centre, Nagambie

Wednesday 4 December 2pm-6pm Longwood Community Centre, Longwood

Monday 9 December 2pm-6pm Strathbogie Memorial Hall, Strathbogie

Community Panel 2025

We're looking for up to 30 community members (18 years and older) to join a Community Panel (the Panel) in February 2025:

- The Panel will look at the current evidence including the issues and opportunities and develop recommendations to help create the Rural Residential and Land Use Strategy and Urban Growth Strategy.
- To cover any costs and thank you for your time, you'll receive a \$100 gift card after the last session.







Highlands/Caveat

End of Year Family Get Together

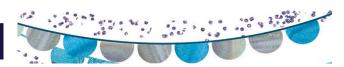
Friday the 13th December at 6:30pm The Highlands/Caveat Community Group Highlands Hall



BBQ provided BYO drinks, glass, chair, and a salad to share

This is a community break up, so we invite all groups and members to attend

No pets please



Is this the most dangerous tool on the farm?

Some years ago I had to quickly ram a star picket into some ground near our dam. I used my trusty hand post driver and had no trouble in the soft soil.

But alas: the soil was so soft that the driver went in too easily and on the upstroke it came off the steel post. By then I was already on the down stroke and the momentum carried my hand down on the top of the post. Ouch!

One look at my lacerated hand (the soft part between my thumb and palm) convinced me that it needed medical attention. I could see things that were not pleasant to look at at all. With a hanky jammed in my fist I raced home and off to hospital for stitches and a tetanus shot.

Now I know I can be clumsy, but I've found out since that mine is not an isolated case. I now know of at least seven people who have had similar injuries. One was in hospital for several days with surgery.

The lesson is clear: wear sturdy work gloves and be very, very careful. I cringe whenever I see someone ramming posts without gloves. And while we're on an OH&S topic, hearing protection mightn't be a bad thing either.

Justus Hagen

Footnote: my hand has completely recovered, albeit somewhat scarred. I was lucky!





The **Ruffy Hall Committee** would like to thank all those who attended last weekend's Trivia Night,

and to thank the volunteers, cooks, and donors, including Koala Cherries, for their time and contributions to the prize hamper

and

the famous Ruffy supper.

Thanks also to Justus and Darryl for running the show.



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.

Highlands BookClub - Recommendations. NEXT MEETING Sat. January 4th @ 7pm

And the final 2 recommendations from the last Highlands Book Club Meeting are -

Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit by Dieter Barkhoff

Every GOOD Boy Deserves Fruit is a collection of short stories. The first story opens in a schoolyard in North Sunshine. The last story, Mother Tongue, closes as a migrant boy is about to begin his education in the same schoolyard.

Picking Up the Pieces by Sarah Guthrie

This book describes how a bereaved mother kept going, the shape of her grief amounting to an intensely loving portrait of her son.

** Don't forget you can place reservations for these titles at your local libraries in all 3 Shires, on-line or in person OR pop into the Mobile Library at Highlands every second Wednesday & reserve some then.

Did You Know..... back issues of The Granite News can be found on the HCCC Website?

Isn't technology amazing!

www.hccclandcare.net.au

Improvements to the electricity network

AusNet has now completed the \$10 million of improvements it promised in time for this summer.

This includes:

- a switch so they can change between the bushfire mitigation technology (Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters

 REFCL) and traditional protection systems which means they can balance power reliability and effectively
 manage bushfire risk for the community
- eight advanced reclosers and 11 single phase reclosers which will make finding faults faster to get power back and reduce the number of people impacted by an outage.

The main causes of outages last summer were lightning, weather, animals and trees.

To reduce these AusNet has:

- installed barriers at 46 sites to prevent animals accessing the powerline
- undertaken an assessment of how lightning impacts the network
- completed a full tree assessment removed 164 hazardous trees along the 1,200 kilometre-long line.

On Total Fire Ban days, the REFCL will be operating on its highest setting which can reduce the risk of electricity starting a bushfire. This does mean that the line will be at its most sensitive and while a lot of work has been done to reduce power outages, there's an increased chance of faults on these days.

Plan for the future

Every five years, AusNet completes an Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

In AusNet's EDPR recommendation for 2026-31 they recommended spending around \$22 million on building an express powerline from Benalla to Euroa to provide the area with a secondary electricity supply. By bypassing towns before Euroa, the new 47-kilometre line would reduce the area for issues to occur. While this hasn't been approved yet, they've used community feedback and the socio-economic impact to the region to build a case to support the project.



Find out more

If you'd like to find out more:

call **0455 314 204**

email asksbcg@gmail.com

visit AusNet's team at a local event in December – locations will be posted on www.ausnet.com.au/euroa

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program launched

Alpine, Indigo, Greater Shepparton City, **Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Councils,** all members of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, are supporting the regional Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program. All 6 councils have teamed up to help residents and businesses easily buy affordable, high-quality solar panels, storage batteries, efficient hot water systems, and reverse cycle heating and cooling.

The program combines a fully vetted installer and products, as well as comprehensive information on each of the products, including the available rebates. The program gives peace of mind to customers that service quality and safety are a priority by undertaking random audits on installations. The program embraces the use of local contractors to maximise cost savings and minimise the carbon footprint. There will be a further opportunity for local businesses to participate in the new year.

Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to upgrade their homes or workplaces with renewable and energy efficient technologies that will help them save on their energy bills and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers plans to expand its energy efficient technology offer to include induction cooktops, home and business electric vehicle chargers, insulation, draft proofing and home energy scorecard assessments.

To find out more, or get a quote head to goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au

Types of Snakes and how to deal with snake bite - continued

More than 150 venomous snake breeds can be found across the country. Five of the most prevalent snakes found in Victoria are:

Tiger snake

Much maligned because of its aggressive nature and toxic venom, the tiger snake gets its name from its yellow and black cross-bands. However, not all tiger snakes have this pattern. The most commonly seen is olive brown to blackish-brown, with cream to yellowish cross-bands.

Eastern brown snake

Also known as the common brown snake, these are responsible for most snake-related deaths in Australia. These reptiles are mainly found in eastern Australia, with a bite causing progressive paralysis and even death within an hour.

Red-bellied black snake

The red-bellied black snake contains venom, however, no deaths have been registered from this type of snake as they are not aggressive in nature. They can be found in urban forests, bushland and woodland areas of Melbourne and eastern Victoria.

Highland copperhead snake, lowland copperhead snake

Found in cold rainfall regions, the copperhead snake (pictured top of article) can be found in southern Victoria (lowland) and north-eastern Victoria (highland). Although they prefer to avoid humans, their venom can be fatal without emergency medical assistance.

Eastern small-eyed snake

These snakes are found in regional Victoria, from the far east to the outer west and south. Nocturnal in nature, their venom is extremely venomous. However, no deaths from the eastern small-eyed snake have been recorded in Victoria.

NB: Although shy these snakes are resident in the Highlands area - Ed.

If your pet is bitten, take them immediately to a veterinary hospital - even if they are not yet showing signs of distress - you have 30mins max for an anti-venene treatment to be administered for, hopefully, a successful result although this does depend on the size of the dog and how much venom was injected. Cats have a different metabolism but speed in veterinary treatment is essential for survival.

What to do if you get bitten by a snake

Although Australia has a formidable reputation for its venomous wildlife, snakebites are still rare. It is, however, imperative that you know first-aid basics for snake bites should you, your pet, or someone else you're with falls victim to a snake bite.

There are two types of snake bites:

- · venomous, which can be potentially fatal, and
- dry snake bites, which cause pain and swelling.

You can buy first-aid kits that specifically cater for snake bites. Otherwise, make sure your home emergency kit includes pressure bandages and add them to your car emergency kit if you're going bushwalking or holidaying in regional areas.

St John's Ambulance Victoria advises to immediately call emergency services on 000 whether it is venomous or not and apply first aid pressure immobilisation to slow the spread of venom in the body.

According to St. John's, when a person is bitten by a snake, if you cannot get to a hospital, while waiting for an ambulance, you should do the following:

- Follow the 'DRSABCD' Danger, response, send for help, airway check, breathing, and if not breathing, commence CPR and use a defibrillator if available:
- Lay the person down and try to calm them
- Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage around the bite. This aims to stop the movement of venom in the bloodstream
- Continue to add a firm, heavy elasticised roller bandage on the limb if bitten on the arm, this would be starting on the fingers and rolling down, if on the leg, start at the toes
- Wrap the bandage past the snakebite and as far up the limb as possible. Add a splint if available
- Stay as still as possible to minimise circulation
- · Observe and record details of the bite
- Wait calmly until medical assistance arrives.



Article - Courtesy of RACV 9/10/24 Photo - Getty Images

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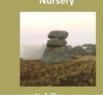
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The Granite News is widely distributed on the lands of the Taungurung clans - First People of the Rivers and Mountains.



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.