



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

What a glorious, autumnal weekend, definitely one that was most welcome and no doubt enjoyed by all, not only because it allowed us to get outside and “do things”, but also because we could maybe do those things with people we hadn't seen for a while. It's the little things in life that are worth waiting for.

One of those little things, as the nights get colder, might just well be a good book to read. For those readers who live in the Murrindindi Shire the amazing library (angels) staff have been offering a non-contact home delivery service of items personally selected to your taste/loan history, of books, DVDs or audio books, for the last 8 weeks. If you haven't made use of this fantastic service as yet a phone call to **5772 0349** can assure you of some excellent recreational items delivered to your door! And like all good things in life, it is also **FREE!**



Until next issue take care and stay safe, **Pauline And Kenny?** Was getting an excellent view of the jousting.



Feedback? - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
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**'Man is seldom content to witness beauty. He must possess it.'**

**Grand Chief Minister  
Sir Michael Somare**

**Papua New Guinea's longest serving  
Prime Minister (17 years)**

**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**

## It's amazing what pops up with some rain & warmth

Over the last few weeks mushrooms, and toadstools, have been popping up all over the place around the HCCC area as conditions have been just ideal for their propagation.

These whoppers appeared in the editor's front paddock absolutely dwarfing any other fungi in that 20 acres and nothing like them has ever been seen before in 30+ years. So...what exactly are they?

They are **Giant Boletes** and they are Australia's largest terrestrial fungus growing up to 1 metre in diameter, although these ones would have only been about 60-70cm across.



Some people might even consider eating them, they are certainly large enough to supply a meal or two, however as they are quickly infested by maggots, it's **not** a culinary option that TGN would recommend!

Apart from the overwhelming size the interesting feature of these large fungi is, unlike other mushrooms and toadstools, they don't have gills/frills on the underside of their caps, they have pores. These openings are actually the end of very long tubes that extend from the cap downwards.



**Does anyone have anything of interest growing on their properties? Why not take a photo & send it to the editor along with some details, for future publication. It's always nice to discover new & unusual things.**

## Let's Laugh



## Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

**1800 020 080**

## Website of the Week

Advice on recycling and resource recovery infrastructure in Victoria  
<https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/project/advice-on-waste-infrastructure-in-victoria/>

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## CALENDAR of EVENTS — or something to look forward to...

1st weekend of the month (not winter) 10-4	<b>DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO</b> Darren's studio, with his creative works is now open on first weekend each month. An inspirational environment where both art and sculpture come to life in a beautiful scenic countryside of Highlands.	2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
2nd Monday each month @ 11am	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2019 at the same place Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch & coffee will be provided.	contact Jan 5790 4361
2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am	<b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b> This enjoyable social event is open to anyone who wants to enjoy a cuppa, swap any books or home-grown produce.	Highlands Community Centre
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm	<b>DRINKS ON THE TOWN</b> Starts at 6.30pm. A chance to catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who love a good drink and a good power.	Highlands Community Hall
3rd Thursday or Friday each month	<b>HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome.	at ???????
Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat	at Caveat Church
4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2	<b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other.	at 94 Old Highlands Rd Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? <b>Please note the Mobile Library Service is temporarily suspended until further notice!!</b>	at Highlands Community Hall
Every Monday @ 10 am	<b>QIGONG AT RUFFY</b> Vivien Watmough looks forward to welcoming you to the benefits of this ancient well-being practice. For bookings and enquiries please call Vivien on 0428 969366 or email: <a href="mailto:vivienwatmough@gmail.com">vivienwatmough@gmail.com</a>	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm	<b>SWING DANCE CLASS</b> Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!	at Euroa Uniting Church Hall Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559

**All these monthly events will be returning to a place near YOU, hopefully soon, but not until it is safe. Stay tuned .....**

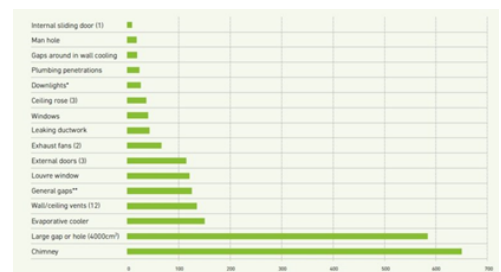


**Postponed until further notice**

### DRAUGHT PROOFING - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips during Covid-19

Unlike installing cool technology such as solar panels and batteries, draught proofing simply means filling up all the holes and gaps where the good air in your home escapes. Sexy, no? Important? Very. If you've heated up the air in your home, you don't want that air leaking out under the door. It means you've spent money heating air for little gain.

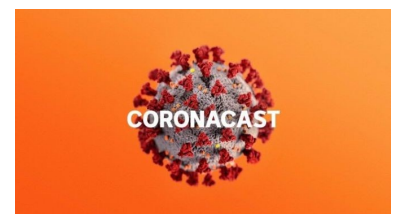
This graph shows potential air leakage points in a home, listing them from least to most severe. The bigger the hole or gap, the more air leakage through that point. So, it's best to start with filling the biggest gaps in your home first.



### Coronacast - all yours for free!

In these times of instant social media and 'fake news' Coronacast is an accurate podcast that helps to answer your questions about coronavirus or COVID19. The latest news and research is broken down to help you understand how the world is living through an epidemic.

Listen for free on [ABC listen app](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Google Podcasts](#).



## Where to next for our recycling?

Following on from the article about recycling confusion, in the last issue of TGN, Infrastructure Victoria has published the final advice to the Victorian Government on recycling and resource recovery infrastructure in Victoria.

The advice includes 13 recommendations that were developed in consultation with government and stakeholders and focuses on six priority materials including plastics, paper and cardboard, glass, organics, tyres and e-waste.

The 13 recommendations include;

1. Improve infrastructure capacity and capability for recovering and reprocessing priority materials
2. Increase the diversion of organic waste from landfills
3. Provide clarity to the waste-to-energy sector and establish regulatory settings to achieve desired waste-to-energy outcomes
4. Review funding mechanisms to increase infrastructure and capability
5. Provide ongoing statewide and locally tailored behaviour change programs
6. Reduce contamination in material streams
7. Introduce waste minimisation initiatives
8. Remove barriers and strengthen markets for priority materials
9. Ensure that producers and consumers involved in making and using products share the responsibility for their fate
10. Provide greater clarity of rules & responsibilities for Victorian Government bodies involved in recycling and resource recovery
11. Improve the quality and use of data to support resource recovery
12. Use targets to drive performance
13. Strengthen the status of, and processes around, Victoria's Recycling Infrastructure Plan.

Research shows there is no single approach to achieve these outcomes and all levels of government, business and households need to work together if we are to realise the huge opportunity.

**If you are interested in finding out more see p.1 for the Website of the Week.**

## Funny Farms - but wait there's more...

Farming is rarely thought of as fun by full time farmers at the coalface. However sometimes farming brings a smile to your face. Here are some examples:

When you return to the ute from opening the gate and find your Kelpie Joe has jumped from the passenger side to sit in the driver's seat, it's not the situation that makes you smile, but the idiotic look on his face. As though he thinks he can actually drive through the gateway.

Sheep do follow each other, sometimes blindly. It's a great thing to behold how easily they will run through the drafting race after a few practice runs, so to speak. This day, I had run them through the race twice, they were going fairly well. One more time should do it so I got them in position again. This time they WOULD NOT go forward. I was away back behind them and couldn't see Kelpie Joe standing on his back legs with his paws actually ON the drafting gate, peering down the race for the first chance to draft. What exactly was he thinking?



Kelpie Joe and Arty the Wonder Dog are fairly keen on chasing balls. Kelpie Joe is the ultimate scrounger and much to Arty's envy, he'd come back from a trip to Greenvale with part of a long dead carcass. I saw Arty jump into the front of the Suzuki, get a ball and bring it to me. Seeing that a game was about to start, Joe left his precious treasure and came towards me. As soon as I threw the ball, Joe raced off expecting to be overtaken by Arty but Arty immediately ran to the carcass, picked it up and ran off in a different direction.

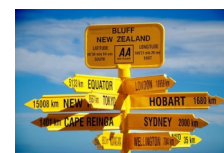


Judith Artridge

**I miss people, places and things.**

**So nouns, essentially.**

**I miss nouns.**



## Seashaken Houses - A Lighthouse History from Eddystone to Fastnet

Tom Nancollas thoroughly researched and beautifully written book about 8 of the off-shore British lighthouses, literally built on rocks in the ocean, is a fascinating read. Not only does it cover the amazing engineering construction of these edifices it also describes the unique décor and the claustrophobic lifestyle of the keepers who kept these tall towers' lights beaming across the cruel seas in all weathers. Talk about dedicated to their jobs! From the first Eddystone built in 1698 to the Fastnet light built in 1904 the book highlights 8 of the most famous, or the most challenging to construct, or the most unusual lighthouses that have kept ships relatively safe from danger over the last 200 years. All these magnificent edifices are all made of granite!





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## In these hard times, time to think

Some people use humour to cope, others are offended by it.

Some people can remote work, others cannot.

People are panic buying in supermarkets and panic selling on stock markets.

Some people are losing their jobs, some their companies, some their super and some their minds as they grapple with full-time parenting.

Everybody is responding to this in different ways, and we have to show tolerance to how they cope.

The world doesn't just need strong leadership, it needs strong networks.

Social Distancing, the most important term we've never heard before, is for the body, not the brain and not the heart.

Pick up the phone twice as much as you used to - call your friends, your family, your colleagues and your clients.

Stay connected - they need you, and whether you know it or not, you need them.

Originally published in Tableland Talk, attributed to Cameron Douglas and submitted by Justus Hagen.

## The Frogs are Calling YOU

**Are you interested in becoming a frog citizen scientist? Help us find out how frogs have responded to wetland watering in Victoria.**

DELWP runs a large, long-term program called **WetMAP** (Wetland Monitoring & Assessment Program for environmental water) that monitors sites across Victoria where water is delivered to wetlands to improve the health of frogs, fish, vegetation and birds. Frogs and tadpoles are currently being monitored.

**Frogs are an important part of the natural world, but many types of frogs are in trouble & becoming threatened. Frogs are very sensitive & act as early indicators of environment change and stress.**

**WetMAP** is now incorporating a frog citizen science project to investigate how frogs respond to water for the environment & their preferred water regime and habitat. Citizen scientists are sought to visit Wetlands across northern Victoria and record frog calls using the Australian Museum's free **FrogID** app which is available for both iPhones & Androids. **It is a fantastic tool that is easy to download and use. All one needs to do is visit a wetland, take a recording and press submit!** The **FRogID** app will then get back to you with details of what frogs were calling. Any information gathered will increase frog scientific knowledge.

This new project is a collaboration between the Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP, Frogs Victoria, the University of Melbourne, the Australian Museum, GBCMA & NCCMA.

To sign up, or for more information about registering to be a frog citizen scientist, head to [www.frogscalling.org](http://www.frogscalling.org) or contact [lynette@frogsvic.org](mailto:lynette@frogsvic.org).

Reprinted from the Land for Wildlife newsletter Dec. 2019



## Damselflies & Dragonflies (Hemiphlebiidae)

Dragonflies and damselflies are large, conspicuous insects generally found near freshwater habitats. They are an ancient and successful group that was around long before the dinosaurs evolved. One species, known from fossil evidence, that lived around 250 million years ago was the largest insect known to exist and had a wingspan of over 70 cm!

Their success as a group is largely because of their fantastic flying abilities and their well-developed eyes. They are excellent hunters of other flying insects and can hover, move in zigzags, and even fly backwards. And they are fast - some of the larger dragonflies can reach flying speeds of 70 km per hour - possibly the fastest flying insects on Earth. Many people find their size and speed intimidating but, despite their powerful jaws, they are harmless. In fact, they do us a favour by eating many insects that bite us.

### Dragonfly and damselfly facts

- There are 320 species known in Australia.
- Both adults and larvae are predatory.
- Adults are often found close to water, where they hunt flying insects.
- Adults' legs point forward, forming a basket to capture prey in mid-flight.
- Dragonflies are generally more powerful fliers than damselflies and most dragonflies have large eyes that almost meet at the top of their head.

Damselflies often rest with their wings folded along their backs. Dragonflies usually rest with their wings held straight out from their body.

Adult dragonflies are generally stout bodied and when at rest spread their wings out to the sides. Damselflies are generally more delicate and hold their wings along their body when at rest.

Eggs are laid into, or close to, water. The larvae adopt an aquatic lifestyle, with only a few exceptions. They feed on aquatic animals such as other insects, tadpoles and occasionally fish. Some larval dragonflies and damselflies are commonly known as 'mudeyes'. They are important in the diets of many aquatic predators such as fish.

After progressing through up to twelve larval stages the larvae crawl out of the water. Their skin splits and the adults emerge. The adults are predators that often capture prey while flying.

Several species are endangered and this is because many Odonata (flying insects) larvae rely on precise water temperatures, good oxygen levels and unpolluted water to survive, and some of these habitats have been degraded. This sensitivity means that dragonflies and damselflies are important bio-indicators of water quality. **(Damselfly on left & Dragonfly on right below)**



With thanks to the Australian National Museum for the text & Phillip Glowacki for the photos.



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