



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Some more informative feedback, on a variety of topics, landed in the Editor's email again in the last few days and you can find it scattered throughout this issue of TGN. Thanks to Carole (website), Helen (Euroa Market), John (off-peak power) and Judy (draught stopper) for their contributions. Also Janet Hagen has written an interesting article on Dung Beetles on p.3 and I'll bet the staff at the Euroa Post Office can't wait for her next shipment to arrive! Until next issue take care and stay safe, **Pauline**  
**And Kenny?** Was keeping warm in the wood rack.



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

**'A house is just a pile of stuff with a cover on it.'**

**George Carlin (1937-2008)**

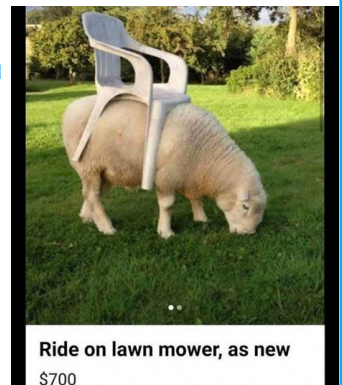
**American stand-up comic, actor, author, philosopher & social critic**

**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**

**Let's laugh**



**Coronavirus 24hr Hotline**

**1800 020 080**

**Website of the Week**

If nothing else Covid-19 and the subsequent isolation has led to some really creative artistic endeavours & this one is a beauty. Hop onto Youtube and search for Daniel Emmet & Nessum Dorma & you won't be disappointed.

## Drive through FARMERS' MARKET in EUROA each Friday

You might have seen Helen McDougall (Ruffy Store) briefly on the ABC nightly news on Saturday evening as part of an article about that was highlighting a fantastic new initiative in Euroa.

To quote Rhiannon Tuffield from ABC Shepparton -

**"The closure of farmers' markets across Victoria has prompted the launch of a grassroots project to support farmers struggling to sell their produce.**

Strathbogie Local, an online store that operates through the Open Food Network site, has provided a sales platform for local meat, vegetable, dairy and wine producers, while a truck depot in Euroa has been transformed into a pick-up point.

Strathbogie Local organiser Shirley Saywell said many farmers relied on markets as a primary source of income.

"Many of the local growers don't sell into the big supermarkets," she said.

"They rely on little boutique outlets, they rely on weddings, cafes and farmers' markets.

"Most of those avenues have dried up, so they've lost 90 per cent of their market sales, so our new setup is really critical."

So if are you interested in getting some seriously good produce the system is very simple. Hop onto the **Open Food Network Strathbogie Local Shop** website <https://openfoodnetwork.org.au/strathbogie-local/shop> and place an order. From bread to beer to brisket, and that's just the second letter of the alphabet, there's a plethora of delicious goodies to choose from. Or check out FB <https://www.facebook.com/strathbogie-local/>

**Orders are of the Click & Collect variety each Friday from 12-4 at Brady & Kibble, 36 Scott St, Euroa**

or if Euroa is not a feasible option Helen McD has offered the Ruffy Store as depot for deliveries and pick-ups as she is absolutely passionate about this enterprise.

**Ring Helen on 0429 904209** to accept her generous offer or find out more.



# 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><br>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><br>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><br>This enjoyable social event is open to anyone. Bring along any books or home-grown produce.   | Highlands Community Centre<br>enjoy a cuppa, swap          |
| 2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm             | <b>DRINKS ON THE TOWN</b><br>Starts at 6.30pm. A great way to catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who don't drink. BYO drinks & power.   | Highlands Community Hall                                   |
| 3rd Thursday or Friday each month          | <b>HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b><br>The next meeting will be in 2020 commencing at 7pm. All welcome.  | at ??????<br>Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268         |
| Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm          | <b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b><br>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><br>Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other.  | at 94 Old Highlands Rd<br>Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366   |
| Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30         | <b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b><br>The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in??<br><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><br>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><br>Swing dances featuring Big Band music of the 1930s and 40s, and they are definitely all about having fun!!  | at Euroa Uniting Church Hall<br>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**

### More ideas for draughts - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips during Covid-19

**Install a DraftStoppa device above your extraction fan for \$25-35**

Like chimneys, these are large gaps to the outside world where air escapes. That's their purpose when in use, but when they're idle, they leak. Install a DraftStoppa device for \$25-35.

**If you've got an evaporative cooler, fill in the vents during winter**

In the winter months when these are not in use, they simply leak warm air outside. For \$30, you can install a HeatSaver in five minutes to block these gaps in the cooler months.

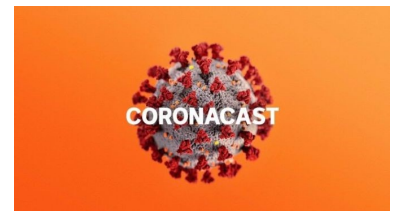
**Seal the gaps around your doors and windows quickly and cheaply with adhesive tape or caulking**

Doors and windows, especially those to the outside, can be significant draught trouble spots. Cheap materials like adhesive tape and rubber or plastic caulking can be installed in minutes for less than \$10.

### 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](#).



## Landcare and the escaping Dung Beetles

by Janet Hagen

Two starter colonies of dung beetles arrived by Austpost Air Express from Canberra this week. The girls at Euroa Post office rang to alert me of their arrival and were intrigued to find out about what they could hear moving around inside the packages. "Dung beetles and we will be in town to pick them up in a few hours", was my reply.

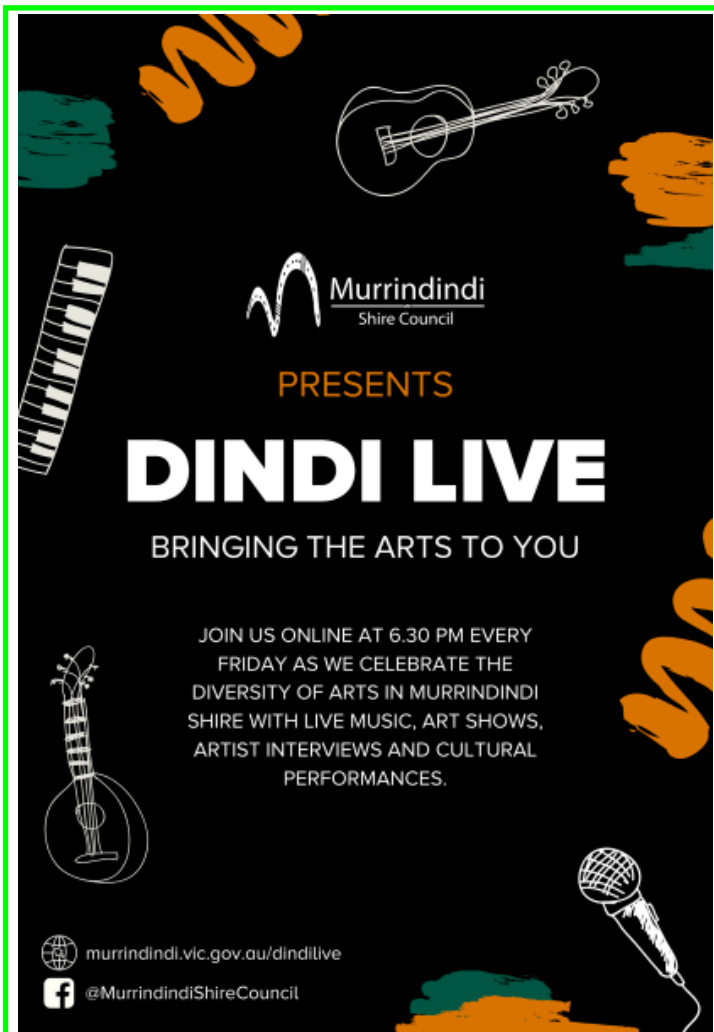
An hour later, another call from the post office, the dung beetles were getting restless and a few had escaped into the post office, could we come quickly. Some relieved staff handed over the seething packages, very glad that they didn't have to deal with the increasingly active contents. The colonies were contained in clip-lock lunch boxes with drilled air holes and wrapped in netting bags and sealed in perforated postage bags. One of the boxes had been cracked open in transit !

These dung beetles are the species **Bubas Bison**, a winter active beetle that enjoys cold, wet conditions and cow manure. They have been released on farms in Terip and Highlands which are involved in **HCCC Landcare's Improving Soil Carbon project, managed by Neil Van Buuren**. Dung Beetles provide environment and economic benefits as they bury carbon, sequestering it directly into the soil. The nitrogen and phosphorous in the animal dung is buried directly into the soil, aeration of soil is achieved by the burrowing beetle as well as the actual removal of the dung, which is a requirement for breeding flies. Quite nifty little helpers these beetles.

**Other species of dung beetles, O. Taurus and E. Fulvus** are already established in our area. Landcare's long term aim is to introduce a full suite of species that will be active during every season. Summer and autumn active species are needed next.

Thirteen more species suitable for our area will eventually become available from Soilcam Australia.

**Each starter colony costs around \$700.** Five more colonies have been ordered and will arrive when favourable breeding seasons allow more to be harvested. Most cattle farmers will be observing dung beetle activity in their cow pats now as the previously introduced species get active.



Murrindindi  
Shire Council

PRESENTS

# DINDI LIVE

BRINGING THE ARTS TO YOU

JOIN US ONLINE AT 6.30 PM EVERY FRIDAY AS WE CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF ARTS IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE WITH LIVE MUSIC, ART SHOWS, ARTIST INTERVIEWS AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCES.

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindilive](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindilive)  
@MurrindindiShireCouncil

The poster features a black background with white line-art illustrations of a guitar, a piano keyboard, a microphone, and a stringed instrument. There are also orange and green brushstroke-like shapes.



Cow pat with dung beetle activity



Up close & personal with dung beetles

## Eastern Great Egret – (Ardea Modesta)

One of Australia's most elegant birds, the snowy-white **Eastern Great Egret** is often seen wading in a range of wetlands, from lakes, rivers and swamps to estuaries, saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats. They usually feed in shallow water, standing & waiting for fish, frogs, insects and other small aquatic creatures to appear before stabbing them with their long, yellow bill. They also walk slowly through the water, on the lookout for prey. Large fish are eaten with difficulty, and are often snatched from the bill of the egret by raptors.

The Great Egret's overall plumage is white, and, for most of the year, when not breeding, the bill and facial skin are yellow. The feet are dark olive-grey or sooty black, as are the legs. During the breeding season, the bill turns mostly black and the facial skin becomes green. Also at this time, long hair-like feathers (nuptial plumes) hang across the lower back, and the legs become pinkish-yellow at the top. Young Great Egrets are similar to the adults, but have a blackish tip to the bill.

The Great Egret can be confused with other white egrets found in Australia. It can be distinguished by the length of its neck, which is greater than the length of its body (and with a noticeable kink two-thirds of the way up), a dark line extending from the base of the bill to behind the eye and the overall larger size.

Great Egrets occur throughout most of the world and are common throughout Australia, although their status is Secure in most of the country, in Victoria & WA it is endangered.

Great Egrets prefer shallow water, particularly when flowing, but may be seen on any watered area, including damp grasslands. Great Egrets can be seen alone or in small flocks, often with other egret species, and roost at night in groups.

The Great Egret usually feeds alone. It feeds on molluscs, amphibians, aquatic insects, small reptiles, crustaceans and occasionally other small animals, but fish make up the bulk of its diet. The Great Egret usually hunts in water, wading through the shallows, or standing motionless before stabbing at prey. Birds have also been seen taking prey while in flight.

The Great Egret breeds in colonies, and often in association with cormorants, ibises and other egrets. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a large platform of sticks, placed in a tree over the water. The previous years' nest may often be re-used. Both sexes also incubate the eggs and care for the young (usually two or three).

A very beautiful and stately bird.

**With thanks to Birdlife Australia for the text and Ron Litjens for the photo.**



Ruffy Store needs a Bookkeeper

Experienced, part time, Xero savvy. Helen McDougall 0429 904209

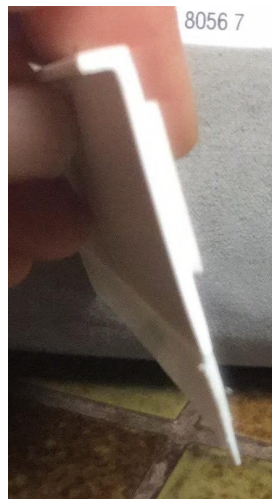
**WARMTH in WINTER** As the cold and rain start to close in for winter a couple of readers have sent in the following advice and suggestion for dealing with heating at this time of the year. Stay warm!

## Test-run Draught Excluder

I purchased a cavity door draught excluder from Bun-nings. Australian made MORODAY brand. This is the packet.



I pre-tested the seal along door and the cavity and it fit easily. After it was stuck on (self adhesive) that 2mm lip jammed my door. I think the door must have bowed slightly - still not bad after 45 years of frequent service. Then I spent maybe 45 mins with dad's Dremmel planing the lip off. The sliding door was often slammed shut in emergencies and occasionally in frustration but never again. It takes a purposeful motion now. I thought I'd share this info so other readers can choose one without the 2mm lip to use on their old cavity sliding door.



Judith Artridge

## POWER SAVING ?

A recent article on power saving. Cost of supply = \$ per kwh.)

We are all familiar with the terms base load, peak, off peak tariff and solar rebate.

In our case the cost of peak = \$0.414 /kwh. Off peak = \$0.199/kwh.

Recently the off peak tariff was increased by \$0.018 /kwh.

Actually, this does not seem to mean much, as off peak only comes in between 11.00pm and 7.00 am on week nights.

Nobody uses much power during these times. An increase in cost would probably not mean much to the ordinary person.

### Then the penny dropped !!!!

Off peak tariff ranges between 11.00 pm to 7.00 am Mon. to Thurs. **BUT ALSO** from Fri. 11.00pm. right through to 7.00 am. Mon. without a break.

As people's power usage is greater on week ends, does an increase in off peak supply cost still not mean much ?

An increase in peak tariff would bring howls of protest, no matter how slight! Off peak does not rate much attention, so what a wonderful way to make extra revenue, and get away with it.

John Sporry

**NB:** Apparently Scott Morrison has often observed "Inertia and complexity are the best friends of an energy retailer."

(The Bigger Picture - Malcolm Turnbull) Ed.

Shopping around costs nothing but may save you \$.



## Time for some more Toadstools or maybe Mushrooms??

Last issue saw a couple of photos of toadstools/mushrooms asking readers if anyone could identify them. As no-one has responded to the Editor I'll assume that their names, toxicity and uses are unknown to any TGN readers. Maybe this photo might elicit some information instead. Please send any details to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) as it would be great to know what we have growing in our paddocks.

## HABBIES HOWE BEEF

MATURE, WELL HUNG &  
AVAILABLE  
IGA SEYMOUR  
GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN  
MARKET  
L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH

SCOTCH AND FILLET  
ST HELENA, MENTONE &  
MERNDA



General earthworks & hole boring  
Shed design, construction & removal  
Metal fabrication & welding  
Crane truck hire

Callum - 0437 182 223  
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com

## Chris Sharman

Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy  
Specialist

Acme – Air Conditioning |

Electrical | Solar

M: 0418 551 301

T: Office - 9785 7339

E: [chris@acmeair.com.au](mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au)



## CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS

Established 1978  
NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS,  
RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL  
ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.

Registered Building Practitioner

Call Colin for a quote  
Telephone: 0419 502 782

# ruffy

produce store

special events | venue hire

first friday night bbqs | 'Tour de Ruff'  
monthly long table lunches  
and more

bookings a must

03 5790 4387 0429 904 209  
or [store@ruffy.com.au](mailto:store@ruffy.com.au)



Supplying everything you need

Products & Expertise in

- Animal Production
- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling



PH: (03) 5792 1088

HELPING YOU GROW

## FRANZ KLOFT MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Repairs & service of vehicles

Tyres, Windscreens, Exhausts,  
Batteries, Wheel alignment,  
Brakes, Automatic transmission  
& we do New car servicing

Phone 5795 2910 FREE QUOTES  
38 Railway Street, Euroa

# BenCo

## PLUMBING SERVICES

Ben Laycock  
License no. 105134

# 0438512299

[bencoplumbingservices.com](http://bencoplumbingservices.com)  
[ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au](mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au)

## AG Fencing & Contracting Services

Grant Wheatley

All fence constructions,  
Equipment maintenance & Pump  
repairs, Blasting Service  
"Not sure if we do it?"

Give us a call  
0407 028 122

# KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE



DAMS  
EARTHWORKS  
STOCK+WATER CARTAGE  
& MORE

0429 804 235  
MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM

## Thompson Sound



Sound PA Systems for  
Special Events

Stephen 0409 672 602

[www.thompsonsound.com.au](http://www.thompsonsound.com.au)

## IT Professional in the Highlands

Can help with all problems with  
your mobile phone, I Pad, box  
computer or any  
email issues



Happy to travel

John Rogers 0478 221311

## EDUCATION SPACE For Hire

The Tablelands Community  
Centre at Ruffy

Ideal for Meetings, Lectures or Arts  
& Crafts

Very Reasonable Rates  
Contact Melissa Macdowall  
0404 833388

## Advertising space available

Contact Editor for  
details

[editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

de Castella  
Design & Construction

"DESIGNING & BUILDING WITH YOU"

Pre-purchase Inspection & Owner Builder Assistance Available

- Homes
- Renovations
- Extensions
- Decks
- Verandahs
- Carports

YEA & DISTRICTS 0432 991 992

## Donation from Supporters of the RAKALI



[bluetopbiz.com.au](http://bluetopbiz.com.au)  
efficiency, sustainability, innovation  
presentations, reports,  
marketing, training,  
risk management,  
web design & maintenance.  
energy management, grant apps,  
solar modelling

Sue 0411 010 379  
Neil 0417 503 472

## HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Meeting Room and/or Hall  
available for hire

MEETINGS  
FUNCTIONS  
WORKSHOPS  
PARTIES  
WEDDINGS

Reasonable rates  
Contact Judy Cameron  
5796 9247

## KELLBELL PTY LTD

SEYMOUR & DISTRICT

- ROADS
- DAMS
- LAND CLEARING
- TREE REMOVAL

All aspects of earthmoving

Mark Kelly 0428 547 798 | Andrew Shaw 0427 969 297  
[kellbell25@bigpond.com](mailto:kellbell25@bigpond.com)

## [DKO] CONSTRUCTIONS

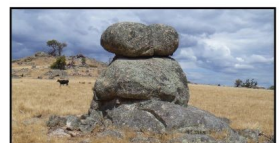
Building • Carpentry • Construction

# 0477 640 590



A GRADE  
POWER & SOLAR  
Solar Design & Installation  
Experts in Off Grid Battery  
Systems, Solar Grid Tied  
and back up Generators.  
Craig Andrew 0419889555

## Kelly's Hut



Strathbogie Granite  
Project

[neil.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com)