



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

I really like feedback and the last issue of TGN generated a hat trick of responses, so my thanks to those readers who took the time to get back to me and offer some excellent suggestions.

One of them is this week's Website of the Week & was sent in as a follow up to the article on frogs. Associate Professor Murray Littlejohn is a man who has developed his passion for frogs into a lifelong profession. Known as the "grandfather of frog recordings" he was the first researcher to actually record their calls and wonder about their meanings. The link below is an excellent article on the story behind our understanding of frog calls and makes for fascinating reading. Thank you Sue.

The second email arrived with an impressive MP4 link attached to it, which sadly is so large that it can't be inserted in TGN as is but maybe you can type the following into your browser and come up with the complete visual experience - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2110534662424327>

Although the pictures are stunning, the words are pretty powerful just by themselves, so I have included them on p.3. Apparently the poet is Haroon Rashid, from Kashmir, and my thanks to John and Lisa for sending it in.

Finally our regular correspondent Colin, of the Covid-19 blogs, has sent in a couple of photos of fungi found on his property, see below. Thanks also.

Until next issue take care and stay safe, **Pauline**  
**And Kenny?** Just can't wait for the spinning sessions to restart.



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)

**'It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.'**

**Ansel Adams (1902-1984)**

**American photographer & environmentalist**

**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 else pops up with some rain & warmth

Thanks to Colin for these varieties of mushrooms? toadstools? Does any reader know what their names are, potential toxicity and what they are useful for, if anything? Please send your comments to [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) and then we will all know.



These large red fungi were found under the pine trees at the end of Brigadoon Rd.

>



These are common on the property, thought they were edible but family have suffered discomfort after eating.

## Let's Laugh

Travel plans in 2020 be like :



## Coronavirus 24hr Hotline

1800 020 080

## Website of the Week

Following on from the frog article in last week's issue here's some more fascinating frog information <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-29/meet-frog-recording-pioneer-murray-littlejohn/8827066>

# 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. Bring along any books or home-grown produce.	Highlands Community Centre enjoy a cuppa, swap
2nd Friday each month @ 6.30pm	<b>DRINKS ON THE TOWN</b> Starts at 6.30pm. A social gathering with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who enjoy a drink with 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 ?????? Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
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 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**

### Stopping chimney draughts - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips during Covid-19

Chimneys used with open fireplaces are designed to extract air from the house, whether or not a fire is burning. This means that your chimney can let a lot of air in and out of your home. Blocking the chimney when it isn't being used will reduce the movement of air up and down your chimney and improve the comfort of your home.

This can be done with a chimney damper, check to see if your chimney is already fitted with a damper. If it is then use it, if not then get a professional to fit a damper at either the top or the throat of the chimney. Close it down when there is no fire in the grate as it prevents air from moving in and out of your home.

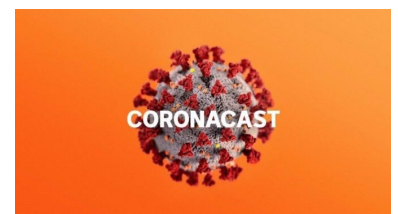


**WARNING this advice does not extend to gas appliances.**

### 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](#).



Dr Helen Haines - Federal Member for Indi

invites you to a ZOOM workshop  
as part of the community design process for  
**Unlocking Community Energy in Australia**

[https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/  
cb8b5b02f0054b43871a338074a4cb23](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cb8b5b02f0054b43871a338074a4cb23)

Thursday May 28 @ 7pm

<https://zoom.us/j/98091781177>

Although this is a 2030 Yea Workshop the content  
could well be applicable to other areas

We live in challenging times. And Australia's energy system is  
changing. What the future of Australia looks like is up to us.  
Australia's energy system is undergoing a significant shift.

In the aftermath of World War II, Australia built a network of  
massive coal-fired power stations to fuel our booming  
economy. This supply of bountiful and cheap energy under-  
pinned a period of huge prosperity. But this network is  
reaching the end of its natural life as those coal stations break  
down and retire. Over the coming years, they will need to be  
replaced.

At the same time, we know that  
we need to reduce greenhouse  
gas emissions to keep our  
climate in a safe zone.



We are shifting inexorably to-  
wards a new, clean energy  
system. Where the 20th century electricity system was built  
around large, centralised power stations in fossil-fuel rich  
locations, the electricity system of the 21st century will be  
decentralised, with thousands of small- and medium-scale  
power stations dotted across our sun-drenched regions.

This transformation will happen right here in regional  
Australia and presents an enormous opportunity for regional  
communities to thrive in a post-pandemic world.

Community energy offers a model for how this might be  
done. Community energy is where a community develops,  
delivers and benefits from an energy project such as a solar  
installation or wind farm, a battery or an energy efficiency  
upgrade. Already there are around 101 community energy  
projects across the country, where everyday Australians are  
coming together to take control of their own energy future.

In the electorate of Indi, communities are leading the way in  
showing renewables are beneficial for regional Australia.  
There are ten community energy groups in our Indi alone,  
one in every major town. Groups like Totally Renewable  
Yackandandah have pioneered community energy models,  
Euroa is developing its own micro-grid, and a local start-up -  
Indigo Power - is one of Australia's first community-owned  
electricity retailers.

But this industry has the potential to achieve so much more.

## We fell asleep... by Haroon Rashid

We fell asleep in one world...

And woke up in another

Suddenly Disney is out of magic...

And Paris is no longer romantic

New York doesn't stand up anymore...

And the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress

Mecca is empty

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons...

And not visiting friends and families

Becomes an act of love!

Suddenly you realise

Power, money and beauty are worthless

And can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for.

The world continues its life...

And it is beautiful!

It puts humans in perspective, locked in their homes

Is it sending us a message?

"The earth, water and sky are fine without you.

When you come back, remember

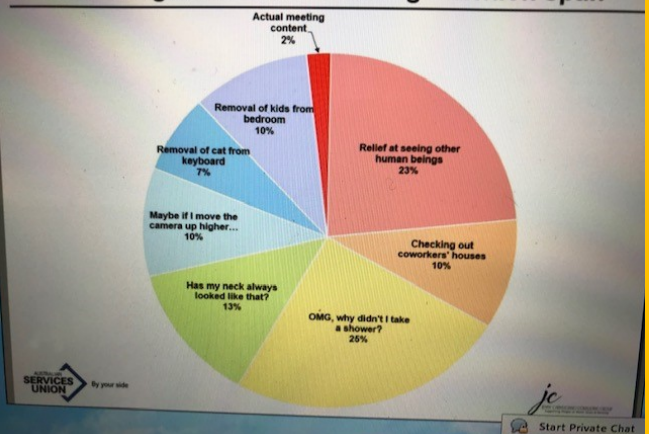
You are my guests

Not my masters!"



## ZOOM Meetings the 'new' normal?

### Close - Diagram of Zoom Meeting attention span



**STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL PLAN 2017 – 2021 (2020 REVIEW)**  
**DRAFT BUDGET 2020-21**

At its Council meeting held on Monday 27 April 2020, Council formally considered its Draft 2020-21 Budget and revised 2017-2021 Council Plan (2020 Review), and resolved that they be placed on public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days as per Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Stage Three restrictions enacted by the State Government under the current State of Emergency COVID-19 requires everyone to stay home except for essential circumstances. Therefore, Council will not hold public forums on the Draft Budget in the Shire this year.

**Council Plan 2017 – 2021 (2020 REVIEW)**

The Council Plan 2017-2021 is the key strategic document for Council and contains and is required to be reviewed annually and contains:

- Council Vision, Mission and Values
- Commitment to Engagement and Communication
- Goals
- Key Strategies

A Strategic Resource Plan which sets out the resources to achieve the objectives

**Draft Budget 2020-21**

- a. The total amount projected to be borrowed as at 30 June 2020 will be \$368,000 (loans outstanding 30 June 2020)
- b. The total amount proposed to be borrowed during 2020-21 is \$5,000,000
- c. The total amount projected to be redeemed during 2020-21 is \$81,000 (principal to be repaid)
- d. The projected total amount of borrowings at 30 June 2021 is \$5,287,000 (loans outstanding 30 June 2021)
- e. The projected cost of servicing the borrowings during 2020-21 is \$20,000 loan interest
- f. The proposed differential general rates to be levied by Council will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each category of rateable land by the rate in the dollar as indicated below:

Rating Category	Cents in the Dollar CIV
Residential Land	0.0052181
Vacant Residential Land	0.0091317
Farm Land	0.0041745
Commercial/Industrial	0.0062617
Vacant Commercial/Industrial Land	0.0109581

- g. The proposed Municipal Charge to be levied is \$0.
- h. The following annual services charges are proposed to be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse -

Type of Charge

- Collection and disposal of domestic refuse - 80 litre bins - \$383;
- Collection and disposal of domestic refuse - 120 litre bins - \$383
- Collection and disposal of domestic refuse – 240 litre bins - \$765
- Collection and disposal of waste from commercial/industrial premises - 240 Litre bins - \$765
- Collection and disposal of recyclables (all sized bins) - \$181
- Service Charge - Tree Management program - \$29
- Kerbside/Recycling/Organics - \$563

Elloura - Council grants a rebate to each owner of rateable land within the Elloura development who qualifies under the Owners Corporation Agreement in recognition of services being provided within the development not requiring Council resources. This is subject of an agreement between Council and Elloura.

In order to promote development and attract new residents Council proposes to continue a scheme to assist buyers of new homes, or those who build new homes, by excusing rates for a two-year period from settlement subject to:

Proof of eligibility for and receipt of State First Home Buyers Grant being provided (for a newly built home, an existing property which is being sold for the first time as a new residential premise, a land and building package, or vacant land on which a new home is built)

**STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL PLAN 2017 – 2021 (2020 REVIEW)**  
**DRAFT BUDGET 2020-21**  
**(continued)**

- Continuous occupancy of the subject property as a primary place of residence
- Maximum Capital Improved Value of the property will be \$750,000
- Land being rated as vacant residential land if a house does not exist on it

**Have your say by making a submission**

Council invites members of the public to make a written submission on the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Draft Budget 2020-21 under Section 223 of the Act. **Public submissions will be received until 5pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020.** Council encourages submissions through the following:

Filling out the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/yaocyl5n>

Sending an email to [info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

Writing a letter addressed to Chief Executive Officer, Strathbogie Shire Council, PO Box 177, Euroa 3666

A person making a submission is entitled to request in their submission that they wish to be heard or be represented by another person specified in their submission, before a **Special Council meeting. This will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 commencing at 5pm at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.** To adhere to social distancing requirements, submitters will be contacted if they have requested to be heard to explain how this will occur.

**The Draft Council Plan and Draft Budget will be considered/adopted at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30 June 2020 commencing at 5pm at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.**

**Any person requiring further information concerning the Draft Council Plan and/or the Draft Budget, the making of a written submission or the meeting on Tuesday 16 June 2019, should contact David Roff on 5795 0000.**

**Document availability**

Copies of the Council Plan and Draft Budget are available by request by contacting Council's office (109A Binney Street, Euroa), and Council's Customer Service Office (293 High Street, Nagambie) before Wednesday 3 June 2020. The Council Plan and Draft Budget are also available on Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yaocyl5n>

Please note that all written submissions lodged with Council will become public documents and available for inspection by the public in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

**Julie Salomon**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Funny Farms & the laughs keep coming**

**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:**

The twin lambs were her own but the tiny teats were tucked high in the inguinal area. JDJnr was around and I asked if he'd help feed the lambs. JDJnr is 5.

"I'm good at feeding lambs. Whenever I have the bottle the lamb just comes straight to me!" he boasted. "That's great!" I encouraged, as any help even from a chattering 5 year old was welcome.



"Today we don't have a bottle; the lamb will drink off its mother." He looked puzzled at that, so I explained further. "I might have to hold the ewe so she doesn't move too much and then the lambs can get a drink. But if the lambs get behind me while I am holding her would you be able to get them and point them in the right direction?" There was a pause. He studied the ground as he skipped along beside me.

He looked up and asked, "Will the lambs know what I'm pointing at?"

**Judith Artridge**

## 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

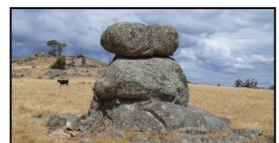
Building • Carpentry • Construction

# 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)