



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

More feedback and more freedom, what a great couple of days. Thanks to Neil for informing us of the latest details of the Strathbogie Granite Project and to Darryl for sharing his knowledge of fungi and responding to the request a couple of issues back as to what variety of mushroom or toadstool was featured on the front page. Read on.

Also, at the risk of stretching a point about Granite, this being the Granite News, I have also included a wee article about one of those granite lighthouses featured in the book, 'Seashaken Houses', reviewed a couple of weeks ago. The commitment and engineering skills involved to build these life-saving edifices beggars belief and the Bell Rock Lighthouse in Scotland seems worthy of mention.

And isn't it nice to be able to get out and about a bit more, but still remembering to take care and socially distance ourselves. As one microbiologist, specialising in infection control has stated, "It's not the masks and gloves that are the most important defence against the Covid-19 virus, it is people's behaviour."

'We're all in this together' has never been more appropriate or more important at this time, so please take care out there.

Until next issue stay warm and safe, **Pauline**  
**And Kenny?** Was sandwiched in amongst 3 articles on p.5.



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 leader is best when people know he barely exists. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say, we did it ourselves.'**

**Lao Tzu (604-531 BC)**  
**Chinese philosopher & writer**

**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

In 1984 one event at both the Winter Olympics & the Ice Skating World Championships offered this magnificent spectacle of strength, beauty and poise. Re-live & enjoy.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Til6Pv3NgCI>

## And the answer is.....

In answer to the question in Issue 14. Covid #12... "What is this mushroom?", the red/orange one is Fly Agaric, the classic fairytale toadstool. Usually found with oak or pine trees.

There were hundreds of them at the Ruffy Rec Reserve. They start out as a small bright red button with white flecks, then widen and flatten out as they mature, turning more orange.

Don't eat them, they are poisonous.

A common advice to anyone foraging for mushrooms is to always leave a half a one for the coroner.

**Darryl Otzen**


**Ruffy**



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# Community Notices & Classifieds

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

<b>1st weekend of the month (not winter)</b> 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
 <b>2nd Monday each month</b> @ 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
 <b>2nd Wednesday each month @ 9.30am</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP MORNING TEA</b> This enjoyable social event is open to all. Bring along any books or home-grown produce.	Highlands Community Centre Enjoy a cuppa, swap
 <b>2nd Friday each month</b> @ 6.30pm	<b>DRINKS ON THE TABLE</b> Starts at 6.30pm. Bring along your favourite drinks. Meet up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially those who are new to the area.	Highlands Community Hall
<b>3rd Thursday or Friday each month</b>	<b>HUGHES CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> The next meeting will be on 10/12/2019 commencing at 7pm. All welcome.	at ?????? Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268
<b>Last Thursday each month @ 5.30pm</b>	<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
 <b>4th Saturday each month 10-12 or 12-2</b>	<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
<b>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b>	<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
<b>Every Monday @ 10 am</b>	<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
<b>Every Thursday @ 7.30 (sharp) - 9pm</b>	<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

### Money saving ideas for appliances - courtesy of Environment Victoria's energy saving tips

Appliances, especially those used to heat or cool space, are often one of the most significant energy expenses in a household. Short of purchasing super-efficient new appliances, here's what you can do with what you've got.

#### Set your heater to 18-20 degrees

Every extra degree can add approximately 10% to the winter running cost of your heater. Coupled with warm clothing or a snug blanket, this temperature range will keep you comfortable with much less energy use than if you set your thermostat to higher temperatures.

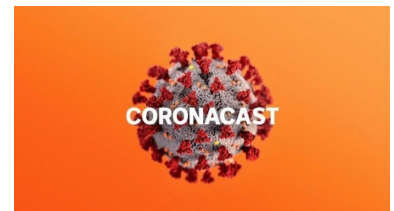
#### Turn electronics off at the power point

Leaving all or your appliances on standby, such as TVs, computers, clocks or anything with an electrical display, all adds up. Turn these off at the plug when not in use. The difference is small but noticeable.

### 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.

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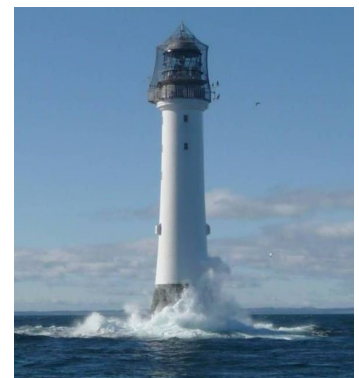
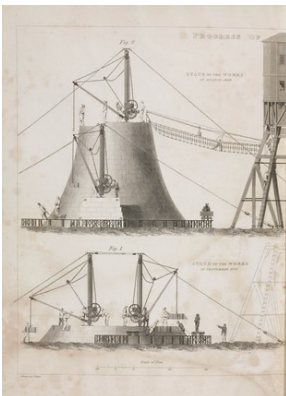
## The Bell Rock Lighthouse - situated off the east coast of Scotland

The Bell Rock Lighthouse sits in the North Sea, 18kms off the east coast of Scotland, and is the world's oldest surviving seawashed lighthouse being built between 1807 and 1810 by Robert Stevenson and John Rennie. Ostensibly Rennie was the architect of this engineering feat but as he only visited the site twice in the 4 years of construction, whereas Stevenson faced the daily hardships along with his men, it is he rather than Rennie who is credited with building this sturdy and essential 35m tall seashaken house.

The standard of masonry, on which the lighthouse rests, is of such a high standard that in over 200 years nothing has had to be replaced or adapted. Although the lamps and reflectors were replaced in 1843 they then went on to light the Cape Bona Vista lighthouse in Newfoundland, Canada, and since 1988 the lighthouse has been automated.

Why on earth would someone attempt to build a light in such an inhospitable place? As the rock on which the lighthouse rests was only above the water line for 4 hours each day, and otherwise invisible to shipping, it was a case of necessity being the mother of invention as the Bell Rock continued to claim ships and lives year after year. Petitions from agitated captains and shipowners began to pile up on the desks of the Commissioners of Northern Lights. Eventually approval was given to try to erect something more substantial than a bell on the rock, that rang out as a warning, but was continually washed away in the North Sea storms.

Construction in 1807 lasted only as long as the summer, as Stevenson desperately tried to work on the rock for just the 4 hours of low tide each day. The workers lived on board the boat that had transported them out to the reef, so the first structure that was erected was actually the Beacon House (see the RHS of the drawing below), a curious 12 sided cabin on thick oak stilts sunk into the reef and secured with thick, iron chains. It weathered the winter gales which meant when Stevenson and his men returned in 1808 they lived in this structure and commenced work on the lighthouse proper. It took four months to excavate a circular pit 600mm deep and 14m across, as it was twice daily flooded by the sea and upon this, the carefully carved and dressed granite blocks began to rise. Each one of them had been carved to dovetail with its mates and secured above and below with stout oak pegs. It is this interlocking feature which gives the lighthouse its strength to resist fierce North Sea gales. Of course as these foundations grew up from the rock it meant that work was no longer confined to just the low tides and the tower was raised more rapidly out of the surrounding ocean. The rest, as they say is history, & the Bell Rock light has been a beacon of hope for over 200 years.



## Funny Farms...still more to come

JLad and JDJnr checking their lambing ewes found a potential disaster. A ewe partially delivered two lamb heads. On catching the ewe, JLad pushed one head back into the birth canal and delivered the smaller lamb. It was deceased. He placed it out of the way and delivered the second lamb. It was stunned but alive.

He asked JDJnr to push on its chest but JDJnr touched it once and declared "That's disgusting its got goo all over it!" JLad demonstrated how to do CPR and blew into the lambs nose so that JDJnr could see how seriousness of the situation. JDJnr rose to the challenge and started chest compressions while JLad breathed into the lambs nose.

A minute or so later JLad decided to give the lamb the "Big Bob the Vet" airway clean out special experience – grabbing it by the back legs and swinging it in a controlled arc so that gravity would help move the mucus out of its nose and throat.

When JLad returned the lamb to the ground, JDJnr restarted chest compressions and soon it revived into a healthy live lamb with a grateful mother.

**Judith Artridge**



## Strathbogrie Granite Project

Much water has flowed under the proverbial bridge since the last community update on the granite project was presented in the Strathbogrie Hall last year. Field work continued in the Terip Terip area along the top of the Black Range late in 2019 before it was time to prepare some lectures and head to Portugal in January. And why Portugal ... some background first.

**The Strathbogrie granite extends for 100 km from the Tallarook plateau to Mt Samaria and has formed a major physical barrier across Victoria.** It is primarily the existence of this granite that explains why the main freeway from Melbourne to Sydney leaves Melbourne heading north, and only after Avenel does it turn northeast towards Sydney.

**The Strathbogrie Granite Project is built around collaboration between Professors John Clemens at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and Neil Phillips of the University of Melbourne.** Clemens and Phillips were involved in initial studies of the Strathbogrie granite as postgraduates at Monash University in the 1970s, and the work has expanded since 2010. The granite plateau is a mixture of state forest and private land, and landowners have been generous in providing access for this research over the years. Results are regularly communicated through community talks and field trips, scientific publications and at the 2017 International Granite Symposium in Benalla.

Back to Portugal. The north of Portugal is made up of numerous granite bodies with their iconic pavements and countryside littered with boulders. These granites have a similar age to those that we have in Victoria and SE Australia generally. There is a strong granite research group at the University of Porto in northern Portugal and we share our findings. There is also extensive expertise in the geological survey and many questions followed my lectures in Porto and Lisbon and during the two field trips we could share.

Portugal also has a major granite quarrying industry which provides much of their road surfaces of granite tiles, and high-quality slabs as we might use for kitchen benches. It was fascinating to watch them cut 2 metre cubes of granite with diamond-impregnated wire and in doing so to avoid any cracks or discolouration.

After Portugal it was home to a new Australia and world in which field work plans were put on hold during Covid-19 lockdown. In the meantime, the South African Geological Society asked for a short talk by video on the Strathbogrie granite work and this is available now on Youtube. Plans for the project leaders to meet in Stellenbosch in South Africa next month have been revised and we hope this can be in 2021.



Further details from Neil Phillips, PO Box 3 Central Park 3145 Victoria. [neil.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com), or John Clemens, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, [jclemens@sun.ac.za](mailto:jclemens@sun.ac.za).

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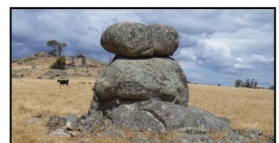
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