

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



18th October 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 56

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Some of the more observant TGN readers may have noticed that as of last week there was a new sponsor on the back page - CSA.

A couple of weeks ago the managing director, Scott, sent me the following email...

"Our company would be happy to sponsor an ad on the back page of your regular newspaper. I am just down the hill at Locksley and we have done a fair bit with the community after the fire."

So if anyone is in need of land surveying, civil engineering, planning or a project manager, CSA have an office in Euroa.



Meet Charles and Camilla King-Parrot who each spring decide to pop in for a daily visit at both ends of the day. One might call them highly intelligent, others mercenaries. Occasionally another pair of king parrots join them and we share the love, and the sunflower seeds, around.



A timely reminder that as of tomorrow it's National Bird Week and anyone can participate in the great Aussie Bird Count by spending 20mins a day observing their local avian population by registering and then recording any sightings at - <https://birdlife.org.au/events/aussie-bird-count-2026/>

If you know of someone who needs to be kept in the loop but isn't a TGN reader please tell them to sign up at pdphroberts@gmail.com
The editor@tgn.org.au email is still dysfunctional.

Kia kara,
Pauline.



Feedback?

pdphroberts@gmail.com 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

"Read then think
Listen then think
Watch then think
Think - then speak."

**Jackie Kennedy-Onassis
(1929-1994)**



Did you know?

The Greenland Shark can live anywhere from 270 to 500 years old.

That's seriously OLD!

		What's On - October & November 2026	
Details? See p.11	Friday 23 rd Oct. @ 10.30am	BREAST CANCER MORNING TEA	@ Highlands Hall
Details? See p.4	Saturday 24 th Oct. @ 10.30am	HIGHLANDS VIC EMERGENCY WORKSHOP	 @ Highlands Hall
Details? See p.4	Sat. 24 th Oct 2.30pm >>>	TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB ** Celebrating 100! **	@ Terip Rec Reserve
	Saturday 24 th Oct. @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB - come along & share some good reads	@ Highlands Hall
	Sunday 25 th Oct @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Discover the neighbourhood	@ Highlands Hall
	Thursday 29 th Oct. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MENS' BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ. BYO & chat.	back @ the Caveat Grotto
Details? See p.5	Saturday 31 st Oct. 9 - 1	HIGHLANDS SPRING MARKET Come along or be a stallholder	@ Highlands Hall
Details? See p.10	Saturday 31 st Oct. 11 - 3	STELLA DAY OUT a one day literary festival with Stella Prize listed writers	@ Ruffy Hall
	Monday 2 nd Nov. @ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON BYO craft projects and plate to share.	@ Ruffy Hall Enquiries? Geraldine 0402 335840
	Thurs. 5 th Nov. @ 6pm	TERIP COMMUNITY POT-LUCK DINNER	@ Terip Rec Reserve
	Tuesdays 10.30 - 2	CAKE & CUPPA - all welcome every week	@ Ruffy Hall
	Mondays @ 9.30 Thursdays @ 9	MAT PILATES with Mel Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$20	@ Highlands Hall Enquiries? Mel 0498 643 608
Resume Nov. 9th	Tuesdays @ 5.30pm	MAT PILATES with Anastasia Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$15	@ Highlands Hall Enquiries? Anastasia 0436 428065
	Sundays @ 11am	CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GATHERING This is a non-denominational meeting, Everyone is welcome to this calm, compassionate and open environment. Tea, coffee & lunch provided.	@ 44 Yorston Rd, Highlands Enquires? John - 0425 840999
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?	@ Highlands Community Hall Forthcoming dates 28 th Oct. and 11 th & 25 th Nov.

Project opportunity for HCCC members.

Climate Smart Ag Project

We have been invited to run a field day, or workshop based on the following topics

- How to improve soil water holding capacity through improved ground cover, reduced tillage and better grazing management.
- How to link wetlands and riparian zones through rehydration corridors.
- How to slow the flow of water through our landscape to retain flows, refresh ground water reserves and reduce erosion, in consultation with GB CMA.
- How to restore wildlife habitat around farm dams, springs, and soaks to improve biodiversity richness and abundance, in the Strathbogie Ranges.
- Showcasing interventions farmers can undertake on their properties that will help them cope with future droughts, floods and climate change at a hyper- local level as well as a whole landscape scale.

Please contact Janet Hagen or Neil van Buuren with your Expression of Interest and which topic should be targeted.

It's Weed season again

With the impacts of the fires in January and the extremely wet winter, weeds are threatening to be a big problem in the next 12 to 24 months.

Early action while the plants are still small will give landowners a good opportunity to get on top of problems. It's much easier and cheaper to control a small outbreak than a large one in 12 months, HCCC will provide spraying equipment at no cost for the next 12 months.

Agricultural and economic impacts of Blackberries

- 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.

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.
- HCCC have spraying equipment to assist at no costs.
- HCCC also have information on a new company that sprays from a Drone, the drone can target small areas in difficult to reach areas with a vehicle or tractor.
- Provide a list of commercial spraying companies.

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.





Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

HCCC Landcare 2026 AGM

Members are invited to attend the HCCC AGM to be held on

Thursday 19th November at 6pm

**Venue: Blue Tongue Berries,
445 Northwood Road Seymour.**

After a challenging year for many members, let's enjoy a dinner and celebration after the official business. If any members are interested being on the committee, please join us.

RSVP to Sue van Buuren on 0411 010 379

(call or text) numbers and dietary requirements required and places are limited, so get in soon.



<https://www.bluetongueberries.au/>



10:30 am
Highlands Hall
Saturday Oct 24, 2026



**VIC
EMERGENCY**
www.emergency.vic.gov.au



Our workshop will cover:

- ✓ The Australian Warning System – the levels and what they mean.
- ✓ How a warning is issued on VicEmergency.
- ✓ The difference between an incident and a warning.
- ✓ Ways communities can stay informed.
- ✓ Where CALD communities and people living with disability can access emergency information.
- ✓ How to set up a profile, watch zone, change settings, toggle overlays, and customise notifications on the VicEmergency app.
- ✓ Other apps to help you stay informed.



Learn how to use the VicEmergency app and website to get the right information, at the right time.

Together we are better prepared

Terip Terip Tennis Club 100th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday 24 October 2026

Terip Terip Tennis Club, 8 Springs Rd, Terip Terip

2.30pm onwards:

Watch the Terip team and join them for a light afternoon tea

4.30pm-5pm: Speeches

5.30pm: Dinner (RSVP essential for catering)



Join us for an afternoon of celebration, stories, social connection and tennis!

Afternoon Tea and Dinner provided, bring your tennis racquet! All Welcome!

Historical Display - Photos - Giveaways
Tennis Activities - Raffle (AO Tickets)

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



RSVP to teripteriptenniscub@gmail.com by 14 October



Saturday 31 October, Highlands Hall

Come along and celebrate all things local at the Highlands Spring Market!



Take Home Food



Arts & Crafts



Local Services & Community Groups



Face painting and live music



Ready to Eat



Plants & Garden



Health & Wellness



Wine & Spirits

Open 9am to 1pm

**10am - Propagation Workshop
by Granite Hills Nursery**

A hands-on session teaching you how to propagate plants using cuttings, seeds and division.



Granite Hills
Community Nursery

12pm - The First 72 on You

An education sessions on emergency preparedness, awareness of risks and the importance of emergency planning.



Find out more



<https://bit.ly/HighlandsSpringMarket>



Murrindindi
Shire Council





PREPARING FOR THE FIRE SEASON



Highlands Vic Emergency Workshop Highlands Hall on Saturday, October 24th, 2026, at 10:30 AM

Learn how to navigate the VicEmergency app and website so you can get the right information at the right time. This workshop covers everything from the Australian Warning System levels and issuing warnings to setting up watch zones, custom notifications, and accessibility options. Head down to the Highlands Hall to help ensure our community stays informed and safer together.
Led by Emergency Management Victoria and CFA.

The First 72 ON You Workshop Highlands Hall Saturday Oct 31st at 12 noon.

An education session on emergency preparedness for the first 72 hours after an emergency. Awareness of risks and the importance of emergency planning. Do you have a kit with enough supplies to get you and everyone in your home through 72 hours following a disaster?
Held in conjunction with the Highlands Spring Market

Community Conversation and Planning Session Highlands Hall Saturday November 7th, 2026 10:30-12:30 with lunch to follow

Reflecting on the last fire season. Share your experiences. Learn from other members of the community and the attending CFA members. Hear the advice on the coming fire season, what has changed and is recommended after the Longwood fire and how you can prepare.
Your circumstances may not be what they were for the last season. Assistance with developing a fire plan or amending an existing one. Led by a CFA facilitator.

🌱 2027 Euroa Arboretum Nursery Order Form — Live 12th October 2026 🌱

Our full nursery catalogue and order form for the 2027 season will be **available on our website from 12th October 2026**. <https://euroaarboretum.com.au/>

Please take a moment to read through the order form carefully — it includes important details on species availability, production timing, and how our grow-to-order system works.

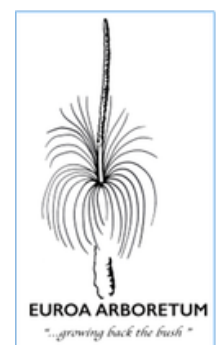
With bushfire recovery efforts underway across the region, we anticipate high demand this season. We strongly encourage customers to place orders early to secure the species you need.

If you have any questions, our team at the Euroa Arboretum Nursery is here to help.

Let's grow the next chapter of our landscape together 🌱

Euroa Arboretum Retail Nursery Closure for 2026

The Euroa Arboretum retail nursery is wrapping up for the season, with our **final trading day on 12th November 2026**.



We're still bursting with beautiful stock — a range of hardy native grasses for erosion control and a gorgeous range of native daisies and wildflowers to splash bright colour throughout your garden this time of year.

Come say hi on Mondays or Thursdays, 12pm–4pm, have a wander, and take home some natives for your patch.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK AT THE HUB



This Wednesday

- **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Community Market Garden (44 Yorston Rd, Highlands)**
 - Lend a hand to get plants in the ground, build garden patches, and connect with neighbours. As crops grow, we will be cooking and sharing meals together! Donations of plants and seeds are welcome, but please give John a quick call ahead to check what is missing or what he has an abundance of.
Contact: John Leary at 0425 840 999 or just turn up.
- **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Recovery Support (PCC & GV FamilyCare)**
 - Drop-in help with grants, paperwork, insurance, and family support, plus Rural Outreach with Ivan Lister for a coffee and a chat.
- **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Mitchell & Murrindindi Mental Health & Wellbeing Local**
 - Free, confidential, place-based support, with no GP referral or Medicare card needed. Access LiNC Workers, Peer Navigators, and mental health professionals. Drop-ins welcome!
 - **Info & Phone Support: 1300 000 559**
- **1:00 – 3:30 Special Event: Cuppa & Conversations with Warren Davies ("The Unbreakable Farmer")**
 - Where: Highlands Hall
 - Details: Drop in for a cuppa, a chat, and a chance to connect. This special stop is part of the regional tour aboard the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van, bringing health and wellbeing support right into our community. Featuring special guest Warren Davies, it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with neighbours, share a yarn, and talk about resilience and wellbeing under pressure.

Chainsaw & Firewood Exchange Opportunity

Do you have fallen timber, trees, or property clearing that needs chainsaw work? We are looking to connect landowners with local volunteers who can help clear timber and cut firewood in exchange for keeping a portion of the wood. It's a great way to get your property tidied up while helping neighbours stock up for winter!

Contact Sam to register your interest: 0439 695 632

Breast Cancer Morning Tea

Come along for a wonderful morning of good company, delicious food, and a chance to raise funds for breast cancer research. A special highlight of the day will be hearing the personal breast cancer journeys shared by two locals, one male and one female. There will also be raffle prizes up for grabs.

It all takes place on Friday, October 23rd at 10:30 AM at the Highlands Hall.

Highlands Vic Emergency Workshop

Learn how to navigate the VicEmergency app and website so you can get the right information at the right time. This workshop covers everything from the Australian Warning System levels and issuing warnings to setting up watch zones, custom notifications, and accessibility options. Head down to the **Highlands Hall on Saturday, October 24th at 10:30 AM** to help ensure our community stays informed and safer together.



*** Printed copies of TGN are now available from the box beside the notice board outside the hub ***

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225

RUFFY HALL WEEKLY UPDATE

This update is also available at ruffy.com.au click on Ruffy Mechanics Hall.
Don't forget to **BOOK YOUR EVENT** booking details below

SAVE THESE DATES

NEW EVENTS

COMMUNITY DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHT Saturday 14th November,
Dinner and a DIY taco bar start at 6:00 pm; the movie screening starts at 7:00 pm.



Join us for a screening of the classic Australian film The Man from Snowy River on the hall's big screen, organised as part of a student community mentorship project.

The Movie screening is Free and everyone is welcome.

The DIY Taco Bar dinner costs \$15 per adult (kids' pricing and gold coin donations apply). Bookings are essential for dinner and seating via [TryBooking](#).

STELLA DAY OUT - A ONE DAY LITERARY FESTIVAL - IN RUFFY

The Stella Day Out is a mini literary festival and it is coming to Ruffy. Spend the day immersed in thought provoking conversations with acclaimed Australian authors. A day to gather, connect, listen, discover and celebrate the joy of books and ideas. Books available for purchase.

All Day, Saturday 31st October.

REGULAR EVENTS

QIGONG (Chee-goong) IS BACK - Join Ingrid for some beautiful calming moves to relax your body and mind. 2pm Tuesdays \$10 exchange.

TCC CRAFT AFTERNOON

Next month it's **Monday 2nd November at 1pm**. Share skills, get inspired and enjoy conversation in good company, while you work on your latest project. Everyone welcome.

TUESDAY CUPPA AND CAKE

Every Tuesday there's a delicious morning tea and lots of chat. Join us for a cosy chat by the fire. Everyone welcome. **Agencies and services also visit 10am - 2pm**

FRIDAY DINNERS

Dinners are being coordinated by **Brad Moody (0439 364 993)** Brad is very happy for other groups to offer a dinner, please give him one weeks notice if you would like to do something.

HALL BOOKINGS TO DATE

OCTOBER

Every Tuesday	Cuppa, Cake & Chat plus Services	10.30am-2pm
Friday 23	Community Dinner Steak or Mushroom Sandwiches	6 pm
Tuesday 26	Qigong with Ingrid	2 pm
Friday 30	Community Dinner Pot Luck	6 pm
Saturday 31	TCC Stella Day Out Writers Festival	All Day

NOVEMBER

Every Tuesday	Cuppa, Cake & Chat plus Services	10.30am-2pm
Monday 2	Craft Afternoon	1 pm
Tuesday 3	Qigong with Ingrid	2 pm
Friday 6	Community dinner	6 pm
Tuesday 9	Qigong with Ingrid	2 pm
Saturday 14	Community Dinner & Movie Night	6 pm

HALL BOOKINGS: Bill Eddy 0428 326 567 or Judy Eddy 0459 291 946 email j.eddy29@bigpond.com

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS SO THAT YOUR BOOKING CAN BE CONFIRMED

DID YOU KNOW?

For TGN readers without internet facilities a limited number of hard copies are now available at both Ruffy & Terip.

The LAST Highlands Ramblers walk for 2026 is on SUNDAY 24th October

It promises to be one of the best for 2026 BUT...

It is a difficult walk with steep downhill parts and a bit of rock hopping in the creek - so wet feet are likely. Grading would be a '4'

Sounds great?

Come along, BYO picnic lunch, departing from the Highlands Hall @ 10am



"The Victorian Electoral Commission is recruiting thousands of election officials across Victoria to work at the 2026 Victorian State Election, & is particularly seeking expressions of interest from residents of regional Victoria, where local knowledge and community connections are especially valuable.

A range of paid roles will be available across Victoria. Training is provided, and opportunities are available to suit different skills, experience and availability.

People can register their interest through the VEC's online election staff portal: Register for election work Victorian Electoral Commission"

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/careers/work-at-elections/register-for-work>

WILDLIFE, FUNGI AND FIRE- CONFERENCE

Sunday 8th Nov 9.15am – 1.15pm

What have you noticed about wildlife & fungi after the fires?

Come along to this conference to find out about wildlife recovery, the benefits that fungi provide to revegetation and the amazing ecological work done by some mammals.

Presentations on

- The relationships between mammals and fungi (Aviya Naccarella)
- Wildlife survival after bushfires (Prof. Don Driscoll)
- The life of Southern Greater Gliders (Katherine Best ANU & Bert Lobert)
- How fungi help ecosystems recovery after fire (Melvin Xu and Ema Corro MYCommunity- practical mycology)

Organised by Strathbogie Ranges Conservation
Registration essential

<https://events.humanitix.com/wildlife-fungi-and-fire>

Tickets \$25

FREE to fire impacted landholders & students.

Morning tea and lunch provided

Further enquiries email admin@strathbogie_ranges.org
https://www.strathbogie_ranges.org.au



STELLA DAY OUT Ruffy

A free one day literary festival
Saturday 31 October
Ruffy Hall, 3 Nolans Rd,
Ruffy VIC 3666

*Hear directly from Stella Prize-listed writers
as they discuss their craft. It will be a vibrant
day of exciting conversations, celebrating
some of the best new Australian writing.*

For bookings
scan the QR code



TALK ONE: 11AM-12PM
Edwina Preston in conversation with a local
moderator

12-1PM free lunch and book sales

TALK TWO: 1PM-2PM
Louisa Lim in conversation with a local
moderator

Stick around for book sales with Ink Bookshop
and signings after talks one and two.



Please join us in celebrating Terip Terip Tennis Club 100th Anniversary Celebration

RSVPs by 14th October please!

Email:
teriapteriptennisclub@gmail.com
or call
**Cindy 0429 772 011 or Frances
0427 904 262**



At last....



Secret Mens' Business will be held this month **Thursday 29th October** **@ 5.30pm**

at the Caveat Church's
much-loved grotto.

Everyone is welcome.

The site has now been cleared
and is completely safe.

Let's get together and discuss
a proposal for the site.
Enquiries? Michael K

Public Notice

Ruffy Community Action Group Inc. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Ruffy Community Action Group Incorporated warmly invites
all community members to attend its Annual General Meeting.

Date: Monday 23rd November 2026

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Ruffy Hall

All community members are welcome, and we encourage
anyone interested in supporting the Ruffy community to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Enquires: The Secretary 0409 019763



Pink BREAST CANCER Morning Tea

Together we can make a difference

Friday Oct 23 | **10:30am** | **Highlands Hall**
Victoria, Australia

Listen to the breast cancer journey experienced by two locals – one male, one female.

- ♥ Raise some money for breast cancer research.
- ♥ Share good company and good food.
- ♥ Raffle prizes available.

Hope Support Research



GROW. COOK. CONNECT.

Highlands Community Garden & Kitchen

We are setting up a brand-new community market garden right here in Highlands, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

Our goal is simple: to grow fresh produce for our community, share and learn new skills, explore self-sustainability, and create a fun, healthy space to connect with neighbours.

WHAT IS IN STORE?

- Grow Together:** Learn and practice gardening techniques, from planting to harvest.
- Harvest & Cook:** What is better than growing your own food? Eating it! As the garden produces its yield, we will be exploring, cooking, baking, and preserving delicious dishes together in our outdoor garden kitchen.
- All Welcome:** Whether you are an experienced green thumb or a complete beginner, or just want some social fun, there is a place for you here.

Got plants, seeds, or skills to share?
We are always on the lookout for donations of seeds, seedlings, plants, or your unique gardening wisdom to help get the patches thriving!

JOIN US

- When:** Every Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Where:** 44 Yorston Rd (first on the right), Highlands
- Contact:** Reach out to organiser John Leary on 0425 840 999 or simply turn up on the day!



Healthy Wetlands on the Goulburn Community Day

Walk 'n' Talk at Homewood Lagoon meeting at Yea Angling Club

When: Wednesday 21st October
Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm with a lunch provided following the event
Meeting Place: Yea Angling Club, 332 Ghin Ghin rd, Ghin Ghin

What to bring: Walking Shoes, pants and weather appropriate clothing, hat and a water bottle

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) and Taungurung Land and Waters Council are working together to care for Goulburn (Waring) and its wetlands.

We look forward to welcome Damien Cook (wetland ecologist) and Lyndsey Vivian from Arthur Rylah Institute to talk with us about understanding:

- how the billabongs are connected
- what makes a wetland healthy
- eDNA testing and what it provides
- how to look after billabongs on your property

RSVP and further information:
Sue (GBCMA) on 0458 324 780 or suek@gbcm.vic.gov.au
Kerstie (TLWC) on 0408 114550 or klee@tlawc.com.au.

We invite others to walk along side us in healing Country and developing ways to work together for the benefit of all



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS - PLANNING SESSION

Stronger Communities Safer Together

Reflect • Plan • Prepare

10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Highlands Community Hall
Saturday Nov 7, 2026
Followed by lunch

Come and be part of the conversation!

Join your neighbours and community members to reflect on the last fire season and plan for the coming one.

- ✓ Share your experiences.
- ✓ Discuss what worked and what didn't.
- ✓ Talk about what you've learned.
- ✓ Begin your fire plan or refine an existing one.

Facilitated by a CFA presenter.

PREPARE YOUR HOME | **LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER** | **STAY CONNECTED** | **BUILD A SAFER COMMUNITY**

Together we are better prepared



Wildlife, Fungi and Fire

· CONFERENCE ·
SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
9.15AM-1.15PM

Join us for a special opportunity to hear from experts on wildlife, fungi and fire

This conference is hosted by the Strathbogrie Ranges Conservation (SRCMN).

Supported by G2G Granite to Goulburn and sponsored by Landcare Victoria through the 2026 Victorian Government Landcare Grants.

Venue: Euroa Community Conference Centre, Memorial Oval, Euroa

Registration essential: \$25, or free for pensioners, students & fire-impacted landholders. Catering included.

Enquiries: admin@strathbogieranges.org
Information at: www.strathbogieranges.org.au



Registrations via QR code or
<https://events.humanitix.com/wildlife-fungi-and-fire>

Presentations on:

The relationships between mammals and fungi

Aviya Naccarella

Wildlife survival after bushfires

Prof. Don Driscoll

The life of Southern Greater Gliders

Katherine Best ANU and Bert Lobert

How fungi help ecosystems recovery after fire

Melvin Xu and Ema Corro
MYCOmmunity-practical mycology



**STRATHBOGRIE
RANGES
CONSERVATION**
MANAGEMENT NETWORK

Granite to Goulburn
**BIODIVERSITY
RECOVERY
ALLIANCE**



DON'T MISS OUT!!!
DEADLINE FOR THESE GRANTS CLOSING ON 21st OCTOBER

GRANT OPPORTUNITY 1:

Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of the January 2026 bushfires.

For information on eligibility, funding guidelines and how to apply contact Rural Finance at ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.

Applications will close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY 2:

Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans

Loans of up to \$250,000 are available for eligible primary producers who have suffered significant damage to their assets as a result of the January 2026 bushfires.

Loans of up to \$100,000 are available for eligible primary producers who have suffered a significant loss of income as a direct result of the January 2026 bushfires.

For information on eligibility, including loan guidelines and how to apply contact Rural Finance at ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425.

Applications close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.

Please Note: AG VIC have been attending Tuesdays at the Ruffy Hall to support residents with questions. Please drop in to access support. Or email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au

COMING UP AT THE RUFFY RECREATION RESERVE

The Rec. Reserve Committee and their enthusiastic support network are getting back on track with many events planned at the Reserve in the forthcoming months.

November 20th, 21st & 22nd Recreational Vehicle Gypsies Annual Christmas Gathering

They are also hosting three weekend Horse Events early in 2027:

January 9th & 10th, February 16th & 17th and April 17th & 18th

The Carriage Driving Folk are also keen to return on the first weekend in May

SAVE THE DATE

January 1st 2027 New Years Day Family Picnic and Old fashioned Sports Day

Save this date and invite your family and friends to this re-creation of the famous "Boathole Sports" A Ruffy tradition for many years the "sports" were held every New Years Day at the Boathole with locals competing in wheelbarrow races, sack races, egg & spoon races, nail driving & gumboot throwing competitions as well as sheaf tossing & pillow fights over the water! Sounds exciting & maybe slightly dangerous!

Why not come along and join us for the safe 2027 version of this fun event at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve on New Years Day 2027?

Everyone welcome.

Contact Pam Sprunt for more info 0461 283913



Community voices sought for Recovery Committee

Murrindindi Shire Council is inviting community members affected by the January 2026 bushfires to express interest in joining the Murrindindi Municipal Recovery Committee (MMRC).

Council is seeking to appoint up to five community representatives through this process. The MMRC will include up to six community representatives in total, including a nominated representative from the Highlands and District Community Recovery Committee.

The MMRC provides governance and coordination for recovery and monitor progress on the 2026 Fire Recovery Action Plan. The Committee brings together Council, government agencies, recovery partners and community representatives to coordinate recovery, identify emerging needs and gaps, and maintain a shared understanding of recovery progress. It is not a service provider or a forum for managing individual cases.

Recovery started straight after the fires, and the MMRC has been operating since then, with Council and State agencies coordinating relief and recovery efforts. As recovery moves into its next phase, it is timely to broaden the Committee to include community representatives and strengthen community involvement in the work ahead.

Murrindindi Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said community knowledge and experience would help keep recovery decisions connected and appropriate to the needs of people across the Shire.

"Recovery affects people and communities in different ways. We want to hear a broad range of perspectives, including views that may not always be heard, so community experience can inform the work ahead."

Community representatives will help bring priorities, concerns and emerging needs to the MMRC, listen to different views, and share accurate recovery information through their networks. They are not expected to speak for every person in their community, and applicants do not need to belong to an established organisation. We are looking for people who can bring their lived experience, community knowledge and perspectives to the table.

Council is seeking people with connections to communities affected by the fires, including farmers and rural landholders, businesses and tourism operators, young people, older residents, volunteers, renters, uninsured or underinsured residents, people with disability and other groups with distinct recovery needs. Direct bushfire experience is valued, alongside other forms of community knowledge and experience.

The MMRC is expected to begin in this format in December 2026. It will generally meet monthly for about two hours. Representatives may also spend up to two hours a month preparing, consulting with their community and sharing information after meetings. Appointments will initially be for 12 months and reviewed as recovery needs and the Committee's membership evolve.

Representatives will receive a \$100 honorarium for each meeting they attend, recognising their contribution, community knowledge and lived experience. Council will provide an induction, meeting papers and practical support to help people participate. Applicants can confidentially discuss accessibility or other participation needs with Council.

Expressions of Interest open Monday 19 October and close Sunday 7 November 2026.

To apply, complete the Expression of Interest form at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/MMRC

For more information, contact the Recovery Team on 5772 0333.



Koriella free firewood site to close end of October

Murrindindi Shire Council's Koriella free firewood site will close at the end of October. **The Terip site will remain open until the end of November as the tree clearing program on roadsides nears completion.**

Work to remove hazardous trees along more than 400 kilometres of roads affected by the January 2026 bushfires is now nearing completion. With approximately 800 kilometres of roadside requiring inspection and hazardous-tree works, this has been one of the largest and most complex parts of the clean-up for Council to undertake.

Council would ordinarily have a crew of four people undertaking this type of work. At the peak of the fire recovery operation, up to 100 contractors were involved, including local contractors who brought in additional specialist support to help safely complete the enormous program of works.

The program has so far distributed more than 8,000 cubic metres of free firewood to the Murrindindi community. More than 3,000 permits have been issued since the program began, helping local households access firewood recovered through the clean-up of areas affected by the January 2026 bushfires. With the available firewood generated through the roadside recovery works now successfully distributed to the community, and hazardous-tree works nearing completion, the temporary collection sites are also nearing the end of their purpose.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said Council understood how important the program had been to many community members.

"We know the January bushfires caused significant loss and disruption, including the loss of firewood that many households had worked hard to collect and store," Cr Gallagher said.

"The free firewood program has been one practical way Council could support our community through recovery, while making use of timber collected during the clean-up of fire-affected areas.

"We are grateful to everyone who has taken part in the program. The strong response, with more than 3,000 permits issued, shows how valuable this support has been to local households."

The program has also supported people who may not have been able to collect firewood themselves, with supplies made available to local Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigades and community organisations for distribution to vulnerable community members.

Council will progressively close the firewood collection sites now that the available firewood has been successfully distributed and this will allow the areas to be cleared and safely prepared for summer.

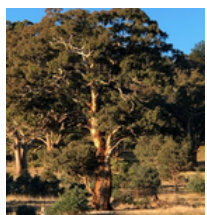
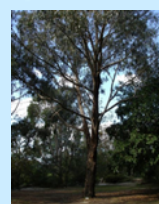
"Working with trusted local organisations has helped us get firewood to people who may face barriers to collecting it themselves, including older residents and others experiencing vulnerability," Cr Gallagher said.

"We understand some community members may be disappointed that the program is coming to an end, particularly while recovery is continuing," Cr Gallagher said.

"We want to give people as much notice as possible while also ensuring the sites can be properly cleared and made safe before the summer fire season.

Council thanks the contractors for their continued work and support throughout this program and the community for its cooperation and care while using the collection sites.

For more information and to apply for a collection permit visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/freefirewood

HABBIES HOWE BEEF Mature, Well Hung and Available from: Victory Meats, Seymour Victory Meats, Broadford Scotch and Fillet, St Helena Scotch and Fillet, Mentone	 Donated by supporters of the magnificent King Parrots.	DE MARIA & ASSOCIATES Barristers & Solicitors Family Law Conveyancing Power of Attorney & Wills Estate Disputes Deceased Estates ☎ 03 9717 5277 Level 1, Suite 111 95 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen Vic 3754 Justice@demariaandassociates.com.au	 Donated by Friends of Yellow Box (Eucalyptus Meliodora)
RURAL FENCING SERVICES JARRAD ☎ 0409 082 257	"A new name but the same friendly staff at Seymour" Join our Loyalty card program & save IF YOU WANT IT - WE'VE GOT IT - Animal Nutrition, Health & Feed Supplies - Pasture, Seeds, Weed/Pest Control & Fertiliser - Feed Testing - Pet Food & Accessories - Equine Supplies - Water Troughs, Poly Pipe & Fittings - Fencing & Livestock Handling Glenn: 0439 990 480 Store: 03 5792 1088 Email: seymour@wbhunter.com.au HUNTERS TRADE • RURAL • HARDWARE	Brought to you by a little antechinus living in a hollow near you. 	BenCo PLUMBING SERVICES Ben Laycock 0438 512299 Licence no. 105134 ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com
DINDI ELECTRICAL SERVICES DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS Get in touch for all your electrical needs Coen Bird 0433 885 441 coenbird@dindielectrical.com.au	KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE  DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE 0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM	 Strathbogie Granite Project neil.phillips@bigpond.com	
Murrindindi Shire Council Cr Paul Hildebrand Koriella Ward phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0428 758 617	Onsite welding 250 Amp Lincoln welder - Oxy heating and cutting - Emergency call-outs Jack McMaster woodshedcreek@hotmail.com 0498-036-194 Yea and surrounds 	KCK David & Jane (retired) KOBAYASHI CONTRACTING & KELPIES SINCE 2024 For all your livestock needs (sheep, cattle, spot spraying) No job to big or small. Competitive pricing. Please contact David on 0417 150113	Donated by supporters of our local koala population 
Donation from supporters of our local Platypus 	CSA - LAND SURVEYORS - CIVIL ENGINEERS - URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNERS - PROJECT MANAGERS 03 5820 7700 www.csmith.com.au admin@csmith.com.au	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS Reasonable Rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882	Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees 
Echidnas take care of their habitat 	Granite Hills Community Nursery  www.granitehillsnursery.com.au	Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472 Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au	ROGAINING • 50th Anniversary •  Tallarook 2026



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. May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.