

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



31st May 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 39

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Well, it happened again last week the 20 readers' email filter systems that don't appear to like anything associated with mating blocked TGN from their inboxes - again. For those of you who received The Granite News in a timely manner the problem children were the last 5 words of the blurb about the echidna book and how the last male standing can impress the female he's been pursuing. Go figure? And now for the **BEST** news!

**** STOP PRESS ****

Community Power in Action: A Massive Thank You!

What an absolutely incredible day for our community! On behalf of the Highlands Hub, I had the honor of accepting a donation from the legendary Yea Tigers, the Lawd auctions' team, and everyone who bought a raffle ticket or supported the cause.

We were completely blown away to be handed a cheque for a massive \$37,660 - which was \$2,660 more than we anticipated! This incredible effort represents the most significant single piece of financial assistance the Hub has received to date, outstripping local, state, and federal government funding.

When the system fell short, our community stepped right up.

This money is already being put to work, mapped directly to our recent resident survey data:

~41% (\$15,500) for Immediate Relief & Hardship Support: Funding vital fuel vouchers for transport and generators, plus emergency mini-grants of up to \$500 for urgent costs like groceries, utilities, and property clean-up.

~32% (\$12,000) for Community Engagement & Mental Health: Keeping our vital community dinners running to tackle isolation, and funding door-to-door outreach for our elderly and vulnerable residents.

~20% (\$7,500) for Hub Operations & Sustainability: Covering the essential running costs; like electricity, insurance, and trailer maintenance - to ensure the Hub remains a reliable space for everyone.

The extra \$2,000 surprise will be rolled right back into these core pillars to stretch our impact even further. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing with Highlands. We are rebuilding together!

Kate McAlpin - Highlands Hub

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

"Sir David Attenborough's enduring passion for the planet's innumerable lifeforms remains one of television's abiding achievements."



Kate with a most welcome donation

		What's On - June 2026	
	Monday 1st June @ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON RETURNS - YAY!	@ the MASH tent, Ruffy Hall
	Monday 1st June @ 6.30	HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT CFA AGM Everyone is welcome to attend.	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Thurs. 4th June @ 6pm	POT LUCK DINNER Please bring: a dish or dessert to share. BYO beverages. A great chance for the community to catch up, share a meal & keep the Terip spirit strong. Everyone is welcome.	@ Terip Rec Reserve
Details? see p.3	Friday 5th June 5.30-8	COMMUNITY DINNER with BOGAN BINGO	@ Habbies Howe Wool Shed
	Friday 12th June @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK YAY! It's back! Bring along finger food to share and enjoy the company of friends.	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
Details? See p.7	Friday 12th June @ 6pm	RUFFY WOMEN'S NIGHT All Welcome - Bookings required	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.8	Saturday 13th June 9-12	ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP for RUFFY INFRASTRUCTURE All interested community members are welcome.	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.10	Saturday 13th June 1.30-3.30	MINDFUL EXPERIENCES with NATURE	@ end of Sprunts Rd
Details? see p.3	Wed. 17th June 12 - 4pm	HCCC presents - RESET YOUR SOILS & PASTURES Understand where you are up to and the next steps. Lunch provided RSVP required.	@ Terip Tennis Club
	Thursday 18th June @ 6.30	TERIP CFA AGM	
	Tuesdays only	PRIMARY CARE CONNECT	@ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	Tuesdays @ 5.30pm	MAT PILATES with Anastasia Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$15 Enquiries? Anastasia 0436 428065	@ Highlands Hall
	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. Enquires? John - 0425 840999	@ 44 Yorston Rd, Highlands
	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? Forthcoming dates 10th & 24th June and 8th & 22nd July.	@ Highlands Community Hall

HCCC presents 



RE-SET YOUR SOILS & PASTURES

Understand where you're up to and next steps

- ☒ **Soil Assessment -**
What happens to soils after bushfire
- ☒ **Pasture Assessment -**
Assessing pastures and planning next recovery steps
- ☒ **Bring along -**
Soil test results and pasture photos if you have them

LUNCH PROVIDED

Wednesday 17th June, 2026
12pm - 4pm

Terip Terip Tennis Club
8 Springs Road
Terip Terip

Speakers include:
David Hawkey, agronomist, Agrisci
Dr Cassandra Scheffe, soil scientist, Agrisci
Damian Adcock, agronomist, Barenbrug Seeds
Graham Martin, agronomist, Yenda Producers

RSVP Rhiannon Sandford
0429 964 609
rhiannons@gbcm.vic.gov.au



This event is supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust Climate Smart Agriculture Program

DON'T FORGET

FREE disposal of fire affected detritus at the local Resource Recovery Centres ie: Tips

has been extended until June 30th!!

Now for an increase in realistic funding for Shires severely impacted by the January fires as such funding would be most welcome.



Secret Men's Business

A spirited meeting of SMB was held on Thursday 28-5-26

Many important? issues were discussed, alas nothing positive was achieved, so all issues were deferred to the next meeting.

Also a quorum was not achieved as some members were "frozen" absentees.



Community Dinner

Join us for Bogan Bingo & Pasta Night

Friday 5 June, 5.30 - 8pm

Habbies Howe Shearing Shed, 110 Dropmore Road, Highlands

Calling all Mitchell and Murrindindi legends for a night of fun with Bogan Bingo and a range of pastas from Seymour Pizza & Pasta. Expect a night of laughs, an air guitar competition and some classic 80's and 90's tunes. Dinner and bingo will kick off at 6pm.

All welcome, bring your family, friends, neighbours.
Dress up in your favourite flanny or come as you are!

Contact us

t. 57346200
e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



Letter to the Editor

Dear Highlanders,

Many of you who have been in Highlands prior to 1982 will have a copy of Helen McCall's terrific historical document, 'Highlands 1882-1982'. It was completed as part of the 100 year celebrations of Highlands, which is represented in the Stone Circle on the corner of Old Saleyard Lane and Ghin Ghin Road.

After the tragedy of our January bushfires I have met so many people who now call Highlands home and many have expressed an interest in knowing more about the history of this area.

Maybe it's time to find some funding to reprint Helen's fascinating document so that more people can read about the amazing pioneers who first settled this land, riding their ponies to school, finding innovative ways to generate electricity, growing all their food, it was a tough existence. There may be additional stories about the pioneers that you know about that could be added to this document.

Maybe it's also time to write the sequel, 1982 to now, before our memories fade completely! If you are interested in contributing in some way to this project, contact me and we'll see what unfolds.

Warm regards,
Miranda Yorston
0408 969261
miranda.yorston@gmail.com



Letter to the Editor

Hello Pauline,

Please find attached the final flier for HCCC's workshop **'Re-set your soils and pastures'**, **17th June 2026, 12pm at Terip Terip**.(see p.3)

This workshop is about understanding the impact of fire on soil fertility and stability, pasture persistence and weediness, and using this information to prepare for spring 2026 and autumn 2027 on-farm. Speakers include those with pasture recovery experience from the Upper Murray fires in 2020.

I encourage farmers to bring along soil test results if they have them, the speakers are happy to hang around after the session and work through individual questions/plans.

Also in attendance and available to chat will be AgBiz Assist Rural Financial Counsellor and Yea & District Memorial Health wellbeing services.

Lunch at 12pm, speakers will commence at 12.30pm. All welcome.

Please pass on my number **0429 964 609** for anyone with questions.

Thanks,
Rhiannon Sandford
GBCMA



Rainfall at Highlands for May 2026

104.4mm

15 rainy days

YTD 287.8mm





**** HIGHLANDS ****

The Hub @ the Highlands Hall is open
Wednesday 10am to 2pm & Saturday 9am to noon
1603 Ghin Ghin Road, HIGHLANDS VIC 3660
Email: thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com



The Hub has a NEW phone number - 0491 941005 - new messages will come from this number

Please note NEW opening times for the Hub
NEW TIMES Wednesday 10-2 and Saturday 9-12 NEW TIMES

WHAT'S ON AT THE HUB: THIS WEEK & BEYOND!

Wednesday 3rd June from 10 - 2 - Family Care and Primary Care Connect

Friday 5th June - Shire Community Dinner - Bogan Bingo - at the Habbies Howe
Wool Shed - see p.3

LAUNDRY : The Rotary Trailer is moving on to Ruffy, so currently there is one washing machine and dryer in the LAUNDRY ROOM within the rear toilet block. There is a view to adding a second machine and dryer depending on usage so please mark the record sheet each time you use it. The demand may increase due to the closure of the Yea Laundromat after a recent fire. **The key lock is attached to the door and the code is available from The Hub or Andrea 0417 269 225**



Returning on 9th June!

Mat Pilates with Anastasia at the Highlands Hall
Every Tuesday 5.30pm.
Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle.
Cost \$15
Contact Anastasia on 0436 428065 for enquiries

***** Printed copies of TGN are now available from the box beside the notice board outside the hub *****
Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225

On Sunday 24th May a big group of **HIGHLAND RAMBLERS** had a great walk to the National Bank Rocks and through Bungle Boori to an unknown Pinniger Cairn.
Thanks Andrew Shaw for all your history of our beautiful area.
The next walk is Sunday 28th June.
If you would like to be included in our Ramblers WhatsApp group call **Robyn on 0409 528235.**





**** HIGHLANDS ****



Fire-impacted volunteers and community members recognition events

From June, Murrindindi Shire Council will host a series of local community gatherings in **Terip Terip, Highlands, Yarck and Fawcett** to thank and recognise the extraordinary efforts of volunteers and community members in fire-affected areas during and after the January 2026 bushfires.

Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings, which will celebrate the strength, teamwork and capability of our local communities. The events will include food and music, opportunities to connect, and the presentation of a community plaque acknowledging local volunteer efforts.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher encourages everyone to come along and show their appreciation for the people whose efforts, generosity and community spirit have helped carry Murrindindi through one of the toughest periods in our history.

"These gatherings are intended not only to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and community members, but also to provide an opportunity for people to connect, reflect on what they have experienced, and acknowledge the ongoing recovery journey."

"Council recognises that many in our community continue to face challenges, and we want to ensure these events create a respectful and supportive space to honour that shared experience and the support that continues across our communities," said Cr Gallagher.

Everyone is also invited to recognise the bushfire volunteers and community members across the Shire by sharing a message or story through Council's online Volunteer Recognition Wall, where they can record their own experiences or the contributions of others at: www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recognition26.

Volunteering does not stop for a single week. New volunteers are needed now more than ever - particularly in the bushfire-impacted areas, where many people are exhausted after going above and beyond, often taking on far more than would normally be expected in a typical year.

Council has more information about volunteering opportunities at:
www.theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/volunteerhub

LOST

A 2 year old Angus Heifer with a pink Habbies ear tag went missing in April from the paddock on the corner of Lades Rd & Highlands Rd Highlands



Please call Norm 0418 379 401

NB: photos are for illustrative purposes only



EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

If any readers are interested in attending Pilates classes at the
Highlands Hall
(conducted by a qualified instructor)

RSVP ASAP to Mel 0498 643 608
indicating preferred day(s) and time(s)



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



TABLELANDS FIRE RECOVERY HUB - KEY DATES

JUNE

Friday 12th June

Women's Night Event 6:00pm (Bookings required) All welcome!

Sunday 21st June

Kids & Family Day 12pm – 3pm Fun Activities (Bookings required)

All welcome!

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1582692>



The Ruffy Veggie Club

had a very productive day sowing seeds for the coming season for themselves and the Tablelands Community Garden. Approximately 230 seed pots were sown and will be loving cared for by Craig and Sue over winter in their newly restored Green house. It was a terrific gathering with the usual banter, laughter while we worked and a delicious afternoon tea to follow.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to Craig and Sue for hosting.

Next gathering is on the **Monday 29th of June @1pm with a working bee at Cheryl and Joe's 190 Red Gate Lane** scheduled.

New Members welcome any queries contact **Cheryl- 0409 019763**



TABLELANDS FIRE RECOVERY HUB – WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Kitchen & Hub Operations

Monday: Kitchen **CLOSED**

Tuesday: HUB & KITCHEN **OPEN**

Wednesday: Kitchen **CLOSED**

Thursday: Kitchen **CLOSED**

Friday: HUB & KITCHEN **OPEN**

Saturday: Kitchen **CLOSED**

Sunday: HUB & KITCHEN **OPEN**

Meals Available

- Frozen meals available every day.
- Fridge meals in outside glass-door fridge
- Freezer stocked regularly with ready-to-heat meals

Tuesday: All Services Attend

- Primary Care Connect
- Family Care
- GV Health Psychologist
- Other Visiting Services
(Can vary week to week)



Engagement workshop on Ruffy infrastructure plans

A community engagement workshop to explore and understand community needs, aspirations and priorities for community infrastructure now and into the future will be held at the Tablelands Community Centre site on **Sunday 14th June 2026**.

Strathbogie Shire's Recovery Team will host the workshop in partnership with national community engagement and planning firm Capire Consulting from 9-12.



Capire Consulting previously partnered with Council on key projects, including the Urban Growth Strategy and Rural Residential Growth Strategy and offered pro bono support soon after the fires.

Lead facilitators Denise Francisco and Eliza Knox will partner with Council representatives in presentations, Q&A session and open house engagement activities to cover key rebuild issues: status of community infrastructure in Ruffy township, funding and Council priorities

- planning and delivery process to replace or rebuild
- understanding community needs, aspirations and priorities
- explore opportunities for sustainable management models,
- discuss any proposed new facilities on existing footprints and future funding models.

This initiative is a valuable opportunity to ensure local rebuild efforts and future infrastructure and facilities align with the evolving needs and aspirations of the entire Ruffy community.

Join our session from 9am to share your ideas and hopes for the future. We'll have a marquee set up, the heaters running and egg and bacon rolls and coffee, hot chocolate and tea will be available.

Mayor Scott Jeffery said Council recognised strong community interest in reinstating the Ruffy Recreation Reserve and the Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre in their previous forms.

"This broader consultation process to help develop community infrastructure in Ruffy is a timely opportunity to consider options that cater for the future needs of the community," Cr Jeffery said.

"We are aware Ruffy Recreation Reserve's Management Committee is progressing its rebuild and design concepts for a replacement pavilion at the oval. Council looks forward to discussing these plans as part of the conversation with the wider community on the day.

"One of the objectives on 14th June is to set clear expectations and community understanding on the process involved in community infrastructure projects. Council is keen to make the best use of available funding for all rebuild opportunities, in the best interests of the Ruffy community."



Strathbogie Shire Council

is keen to hear from fire impacted individuals about the environmental support you would like to see (i.e. habitat restoration, pest monitoring, weed control, tree planting, fencing grants etc). This survey is a great opportunity to get them on the agenda as something that the communities' needs to help with long-term recovery.

This will assist Council to advocate for support.

Please note you do not need to answer every question.

<https://share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/strathbogie-shire-community-recovery-and-resource-survey>



TERIP CFA ELECTIONS

Terip Terip CFA will be holding its brigade elections over dinner on **Thursday, 18th June at 6:30pm.**

All Terip Terip CFA members are requested to attend.

Dinner will be provided.



Shannon Roach

Captain - Terip Terip Fire Brigade

DGO - Alexandra group

M: 0400 842009

E: shnon1@hotmail.com

HIGHLANDS UFO WEEKEND

Celebrated its 20th year over the last 2 days and was enjoyed by all who attended.

More information from this annual event in next week's TGN.

Stay tuned....



This is slow. It is quiet. It is safe.
It is quality time for us to open to nature around
us that is always there.
Waiting for us.

MINDFUL EXPERIENCES WITH NATURE

Provided by Tony Fitzgerald, Nature Insights

The walk itself has well-documented evidence of its calming and de-stressing benefits. Of more importance though, are the easy to apply mindfulness techniques you may want to take back with you and apply, if and when needed.

*Tony has been a ranger for over 25 years, is a licensed Parks Victoria tour operator and accredited Forest Therapy guide.
He experienced first hand the personal, community and ecological impact a bushfire can have.*

The mindfulness in nature techniques he will be sharing on this walk were borne from what he found helpful during the months and years of rebuilding and recovering post fire.

**First of a series: Saturday 13 June 2026, 1:30-3:30pm
End of Sprunts Road, Highlands**

**Campfire cuppa and afternoon tea provided
Wear appropriate warm clothing and footwear for the outdoors.
We will be walking on gentle terrain for about 1 km**

RSVP 11.6.26 and questions: tony.fitzgerald@natureinsights.au

* limited places to provide everyone a calming experience



*** YAY - Crafternoon is BACK! ***

We, the TCC had quite a few enquires about our Crafternoon (which I am thrilled about) so we are starting up again, for the time being in the MASH tent at the Ruffy Hall.

The Date for your Diary is the first Monday of every Month 1pm onwards @ the MASH Tent - Ruffy Hall.

CRAFTERNOON RETURNS

The Tablelands Community Centre craftgroup "Crafternoon" is meeting again in our temporary venue.

Join us for an afternoon of creativity, conversation and relaxed company.

Bring along your knitting, crocheting, sewing, painting, paper crafts, any craft project you're working on - or simply come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Date: Monday 1st June 1pm onwards

Venue: MASH Tent at Ruffy Hall

3 Nolans Road, Ruffy

Contact: Gabriele 0402 335 840

We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new ones.
There is always room at Crafternoon!

Gabriele Papeneux
TCC Treasurer



Rabbit Control Field Day

Demonstrating effective techniques for controlling rabbits.

When: Saturday 13th June

Time: 10am to 2pm (light lunch included)

Where: Taggerty (address provided on registration)

Join Landcare and the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) presenter, Neil Devanny for a field day demonstrating how to manage rabbits on your property.



Did you know that it only takes one year for a pair of rabbits to produce up to 184 rabbits in a good year?

The feral rabbit has had a devastating effect on our native biodiversity and agricultural productivity.

Rabbits are invasive pests and cause damage to gardens, bushland and agricultural areas.

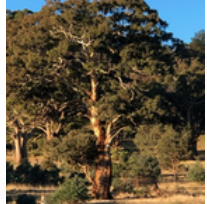
During the field day, we will demonstrate how to eradicate rabbits with various control techniques that can be applied on your property.

- Learn from VRAN Mentor Team members about Best Practice Rabbit Management
- Observe field demonstrations of the techniques used in rabbit management including fumigation, ripping, baiting, and implosion of rabbit burrows
- Understand the biology and ecology of rabbits ... that this informs why best practice management includes all the techniques that it does
- Understand the importance of burrows and warren systems to the success of rabbits
- Understand the role of Calicivirus (RHDV) and other viruses in rabbit management

RSVP to Cathedral Landcare Group - cathedrallandcare@gmail.com or phone 0418 579 220.

Funded by the Victorian State Government.



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	Bushfire Casualty	KCK David & John (partners) KORBYOVN 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 	Bushfire Casualty	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.