

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



**5th March 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 27**

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

**DON'T FORGET** with the Fire Recovery phase in full swing there is no longer the necessity for 2 issues a week of TGN so The Granite News will be taking a step back and this Thursday's issue will be the last one mid-week. As of next **Sunday - 8<sup>th</sup> March**, it will be back to a weekly newsletter with copy due to arrive, for inclusion, in the Editor's inbox by Thursday evenings. Please file this new deadline away for future reference. Thanks.

Many thanks to those people who have already donated funds to their preferred local community group(s) and HUGE apologies must be offered to the Ruffy CFA for the inclusion of the incorrect BSB number in last week's TGN. See below for the **CORRECT** BSB number for any future donations. Thanks to Margery for the alert.

### Ruffy CFA

**A/c Name** - CFA Donations Account

**BSB** - 063 225

**A/c Number** - 1022 0603

**Reference** - 22640 Ruffy FB

### Tablelands Community Centre (TCC)

**A/c Name** - Tablelands Community Centre

**BSB** - 803 078

**A/c Number** - 100 065 240



Contributions to all will be gratefully accepted. Please note that not all groups might have tax refundable status.

If your preferred community group isn't listed above, fear not, it's sure to appear in the next few issues.

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 [pdphoberts@gmail.com](mailto:pdphoberts@gmail.com) The [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) email is still dysfunctional.

Kia kara,  
Pauline



Last Friday night saw a well-attended and informative evening for farmers, held at the Highlands Hall/Hub

For a summary of the night's sessions see p.3

Brad Costin and Nick Linden from Agriculture Victoria demonstrating how to construct and use a drag net to remove organic material from dams. >>>



## What's On - March & April 2026

		<b>What's On - March &amp; April 2026</b>
Detail? See p.5	<b>Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> March @ 6pm</b>	<b>YOGA LADIES - CURRY NIGHT!</b> @ Ruffy Community Hall
Details? See p.7	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. 9.30 - 3.30</b>	<b>FENCING WORKSHOP</b> @ Creighton's Creek
Details? See p.7	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 4-5.30</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY ALLIANCE WALK</b> starts @ 347 Caveat-Ruffy Rd Viewing the fire recovery along Hughes Creek. Numbers are limited, so register now
Details? See p.7	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>NEED FOR FEED ARE DELIVERING - RUFFY, LONGWOOD &amp; CREIGHTONS CREEK</b>
Details? See p.6	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2 - 4pm</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COUNTRY HIGH TEA</b> @ Ruffy Community Hall
	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March @ 6.30</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK YAY it's back!</b> @ Highlands Hall/Hub Drinks on the Deck (on the grass actually) is returning on the second Friday of the month @ 6pm at the Highlands Hall for a bit of normality. Please bring finger food.
	<b>Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30</b>	<b>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MONTHLY MEETING</b> Everyone is welcome to attend @ Whiteheads Creek Hall
	<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. @ 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> @ Michael K's 890 Caveat-Dropmore Rd All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP</b> @ Gayle & Bill's 157 Old Highlands Rd Come along to share your favourite reads and to enjoy a little slice of normality.
	<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March @ 10</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> meeting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our still stunning local area. <b>Supported by HCCC Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235</b>
	<b>Tues., Thurs. &amp; Fridays</b>	<b>PRIMARY CARE CONNECT</b> @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	<b>Fridays 9am - 3pm</b>	<b>YEA &amp; DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b> @ Highlands Consultations on the following dates - March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Sundays @ 11am</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GATHERING</b> @ 44 Yorston Rd, Highlands This is a non-denominational meeting, Everyone is welcome to this calm, compassionate and open environment. Tea, coffee & lunch provided. <b>Enquires? John - 0425 840999</b>
Check dates first 5772 0333	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Possible forthcoming dates 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>

## AUTUMN on the FARM - Tactical Planning

Last Friday, 27th February, the new marquee at the Highlands Hub was put to great use with farmers coming to hear from experts how to plan for autumn on the farm after being burnt out.

Brad Costin, AgVic, shared tactics to protect, monitor and clean out dams to best ensure farm water supplies for stock. Protecting water quality is critical to being able to keep or return livestock to the farm. With drought conditions leading up to the fire Brad also shared the Summer water calculator as a great tool to estimate on-farm water supply.

Agriculture Victoria has a great range of resources available online to help with property planning and recovery after fire that you can access here [On-farm bushfire recovery resources](#). It covers everything from fencing, pasture and water management, stock containment areas to feed budgeting.

Brad highlighted that the Victorian Government's drought support program is still available to farmers. The drought support program covers:

- One-on-one business support planning with an excellent list of providers that includes soil and pasture, grazing, succession or business planning expertise – look them up here.
- Grants for on-farm infrastructure up to \$5,000 dollar for dollar, so \$10,000 investment for \$5,000. The criteria include the need to have farm income, actual or potentially projected, of \$75,000 per year or be earning at least 50% of total income from the farm.
- Look Over The Farm Gate support of \$5,000 for community events open to organisations supporting farming communities.

**This is in addition to the Victorian Primary Producer Bushfire support grants of \$75,000 that you can find here [www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/)**

**Sarah D'Arcy from Valley Seeds**, whose research and development trial site at Yarck was also impacted by the fires, shared important information for pasture assessment after fire. If you have a post-fire soil test email it through to Neville at [natkins@valleyseeds.com](mailto:natkins@valleyseeds.com), who will be able to support you with agronomic advice on the best pasture varieties to sow to make the most of pasture rehabilitation specific to your farm.

**Nick Linden from AgVic** described feed budgeting as what we have versus what we need. Where pastures have completely burnt, all feed in the immediate future will come from a silo or a hay shed so it is important to know the quality of these feed supplies to be able to meet production targets. What your animals need can be found in the Beef and Sheep drought feeding books. What you have can be determined by a feed test; \$66 from FeedTest. **We have 10 free feed tests available for fire-affected farmers. It will be first in best dressed - contact Rhiannon 0429 964 609.**

**Jim Moll is a Rural Financial Counsellor – RFC - with AgBiz Assist**, an independent and free service available to all Victorian farmers. RFCs can assist with all things financial on the farm – meeting with the bank, applying for bushfire or drought grants, farm business adjustment, fire recovery concessional loans, farm household assistance. Jim stressed it's important not to self-assess eligibility for initiatives such as grants as RFCs can meet with farmers for free to determine eligibility and help plan recovery and/or business adjustments on the farm longer term. You can contact **AgBiz Assist RFCs at AgBiz Assist or call 1300 834 775.**

Finally, **The Unbreakable Farmer – Warren Davies** shared with us the most important thing of all – taking care of ourselves in stressful times. We are the critical part of our family, our farm and our communities, and our health and wellbeing is paramount.

This event was put together by Kate McAlpin from the Highlands Hub and Rhiannon Sandford, Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator at the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. **If you want further info or need help to follow up any of this info catch Kate at the Hub or call Rhiannon 0429 964 609.**

## **\*\* HIGHLANDS \*\***

**The Hub @ the Highlands Hall is open Mon, Wed & Fri 10am to 3pm & Sat 9-12**

1603 Ghin Ghin Road, HIGHLANDS VIC 3660

Email: [thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com](mailto:thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com)

- **Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm Murrindindi Shire Council Business Breakfast**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/murrindindi-shire-council-business-breakfast-alexandra-tickets-1983041649957>

This friendly gathering is the perfect place to connect with peers, share ideas, and hear important updates from Council and other support agencies on bushfire recovery planning, resources and initiatives.

- **Tip & Waste Update**

Yea Tip is operating under normal hours - **Tuesday 10-4, Saturday 9-4 and Sunday 9-3**

If you can't attend during these times, contact: Michael Hill – Team Leader, Resource Recovery  
**0408 185 196** (Appointments subject to staff availability)

Yea Resource Recovery Centre accepts: Metal loads (any size)

General waste up to 3m<sup>2</sup>

Loads over 3m<sup>2</sup> must be booked at Alexandra Landfill prior to arrival.

Contact: Kris Sawyer – Waste Management Supervisor 0408 286 838

Peter Elward – Waste Management Supervisor 0417 683 492

**NB: Tip fees are waived until May 12<sup>th</sup> 2026**

- **Are you registered for a Property Clean-up?**  
[vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up](http://vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up) or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on **1800 560 760**.

- **Blaze Aid:** <https://blazeaid.com.au/registering-for-help>

- **CLOTHING**

We have lots of clothing available and more coming in so please come and check out The Hub.

Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted to organise the clothes into sizes.

- **HUBBINGS** - the Highlands Hub version of Bunnings!!

Many thanks to Deb and Kev for the donation of various building and hardware materials.

Make an appointment with **John Rogers on 0478 221 311** or [thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com](mailto:thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com) and he will be happy to assist you with any items you may need or answer any questions.

- **IBC UPDATE** - A large number of residents have ordered IBCs through the Highlands Hub either in person or via the Facebook page. Unfortunately, there were not enough to go around. What was available was delivered over the weekend 28-1st March or alternative arrangements were made at the time of phone contact.

If you have not received any IBCs or contact regarding delivery, then your name has been placed on a waiting list for distribution if more IBCs become available

Some plumbing fittings are available at the Hub and we are hopefully receiving some more in the near future. If you need some help with connections just please reach out.

- **The Hub Is open on Labour Day, Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-3pm**

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

**Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225 - now heard every Monday on UGFM @ 11.30 Tune in for Hub news**

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## **\*\* RUFFY & TERIP \*\***



### **Tablelands, Tucker and Timings at the Ruffy Hub**

- **5th March, Thursday Lunch**, Violet Town Ladies group curries Stall displays from many service providers will be in attendance
- **CURRY NIGHT AT RUFFY HALL THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
The yoga women have cooked up a feast of curries - Thai Chicken Curry, Butter Chicken, Indian Beef Curry, Vegetarian Curry. Come along 6pm onwards. Hope to see you
- **6th March Friday Lunch** sandwiches / salads Dinner Salvos

### **Acknowledgments and thanks to:**

- Seymour Toyota support with Van for outreach from the Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub.
- 12 bikes donated snapped up quickly thanks to Frankston Service Club
- **Primary Care Connect**  
Primary Care Connect: attend the Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



High Tea and Pamper  
afternoon to celebrate



International  
Women's Day

Ruffy Community Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
from 2pm to 5pm

Tickets via trybooking

*Limited tickets available  
BYO glass and if you can a plate to share*



Register now - limited tickets Pampering prizes on the day- reflexology, foot pampering, massages. High tea. BYO glass for some sparkles. Great company 🙌🥂😊 <https://www.trybooking.com/DJZMC>

Any questions, speak to  
Anne, Flic, Katie Bogie, Catie Euroa and Coll  
Please come along and join in some girl time, some surprises are in store!



**Please register, as this \$1000 payment has been extended, and you do not need to be a farmer.**

**Exciting news;** the VFF have just extended their \$1000 grant to \$2000.

If you previously applied and got the initial \$1000 you should have received the additional \$1000 into your account already. If you hadn't previously applied then jump online now and fill in the 4 min application.

This grant is open to anyone that has a farm, small holdings included. **EVERYONE** should apply even if you only have an acre. All you need is some identification including a rates notice and an amenities bill.

<https://www.vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/>








# FENCING WORKSHOP

## CREIGHTONS CREEK



Morning tea and lunch provided

LEARN HOW TO REBUILD AND REPAIR FIRE-AFFECTED FENCES


**Friday, March 6**  
**9.30am - 3.30pm**  
**Creightons Creek**

**REGISTER FOR FREE NOW**  


Learn how to rebuild your farm from the ground up. Join us for a practical, on-farm workshop. Learn how to install new fencing and maintain and repair existing ones, as well as how fencing relates to good biosecurity. Also includes speed session on whole farm planning and land class fencing principles by Agriculture Victoria. Spots are limited so register to claim yours.

 stocksense@vff.org.au  
 vff.org.au/stocksense  
     
 @vffstocksense

Stock Sense is funded by the Cattle Compensation Fund and the Sheep and Goat Compensation Fund and proudly delivered by the Victorian Farmers Federation

## Biodiversity Recovery Alliance Walk #1

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 4-5.30pm

Join Cath Olive and Janet Hagen for a walk and yarn as we check how burnt country along the Hughes Creek is recovering after the bushfire. We will be walking through Lyn Burleigh's place, and will meet at the Chestnut Creek property, 347 Caveat Ruffy Road, Ruffy — just down from Boathole Hughes Creek on the right.

**Registrations essential, with numbers limited to 10.** Register via the following link:

[Biodiversity Recovery Alliance - Walk #1](#)

**Any questions?**

Contact Allison Trethowan, Biodiversity Recovery Alliance Facilitator

[info@biodiversityrecoveryalliance.com](mailto:info@biodiversityrecoveryalliance.com) or on 0409 404258.

Many thanks,  
Allison Trethowan



## NEED for FEED

Next hay run, Victorian Labour Day long weekend, March 7th to 9th.

Back to Longwood fires, this time via Euroa and Creightons Creek to Ruffy.

If you have a truck and trailer and can lend a hand you can register here <https://www.needforfeed.org/hay-run.html>

Fuel for trucks, meals and drinks for crew are covered.

If you are a fire affected farmer, you can register here to receive an allocation

<https://www.needforfeed.org/apply-for-assistance.html>

If you have good quality fodder to donate we can arrange to pick it up

<https://www.needforfeed.org/fodder-donations.html>

And if you would like to support our ongoing work as we continue to make a difference

<https://www.needforfeed.org/donate.html>



### BUSHFIRE STABILISATION ASSISTANCE February 2026

for the Longwood - Berrys Lane Fire

Fences, Essential Water & Control Lines

#### Information for private landholders affected by bushfires

Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) can assist landholders impacted by a bushfire event.

CFA is the Fire Control Agency for the Longwood - Berrys Lane fire and is coordinating the stabilisation works with the support of FFMVic. The Victorian Government has policies in place to help properties recover from the fire response impacts\* caused by the fire response operations.

CFA or FFMVic may provide the following assistance to private property landowners:

- Stabilising dozer and grader control lines on private property by pushing back soil and applying erosion-control measures to protect the land and water quality. Reseeding and crop replacement are not included.
- Replacement of essential water\* that has been taken by fire services from domestic tanks and stock or irrigation dams for firefighting purposes.
- Repairs to fences cut or damaged (including fallen trees) during fire response and subsequently not impacted by fire.
- Fences damaged by bushfire on the private/public land boundary only (and not covered by insurance).

If you believe you are eligible, please fill out the attached form by 30<sup>th</sup> March and email to:

[emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au)

An Assessor will be in contact to discuss eligibility and to arrange an on-site inspection.

- Other fire affected impacts, damaged property, assets (i.e. crop loss) and internal fences are not covered by this assistance.

#### Private Land / Public Interface

FFMVic can connect the applicant to the relevant land manager, to provide financial support for materials to replace or repair fences located on the boundary of private land and public land interface (i.e. National Parks, State Parks and State Forests). The cost of materials will be based on replacement of the fence type and condition that existed before the fire. For detailed advice and support, please visit FFMVic [Public Land Recovery](#) website: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

\*Response impacts are impacts undertaken to contain a fire, such as - cutting fences, damaging fences with machinery, installing mineral earth brooms with machinery, taking water herbicides and algaecide.

\*Fire affected impacts are the impacts to the land and assets caused by the fire and are not covered by the fire control agency.

\*Essential water is water required to sustain:  
 - The health of affected residents and pets.  
 - The health and productivity of their stock; and  
 - Agricultural and horticultural crops, permanent planting and intensive industries.

# HOLLOW LOGS ARE HOMES FOR OUR LOCAL ANIMALS!



## DON'T CLEAR THEM AWAY, LET NATURE MOVE IN

Fallen logs are precious homes for the animals we love, who will be struggling after the fires — help them out by leaving logs where they fell.

**GRANITE TO  
GOULBURN**

**BIODIVERSITY  
RECOVERY  
ALLIANCE**

These posters were made by locals  
as part of community-led recovery



## A Moment of Autumn Presence

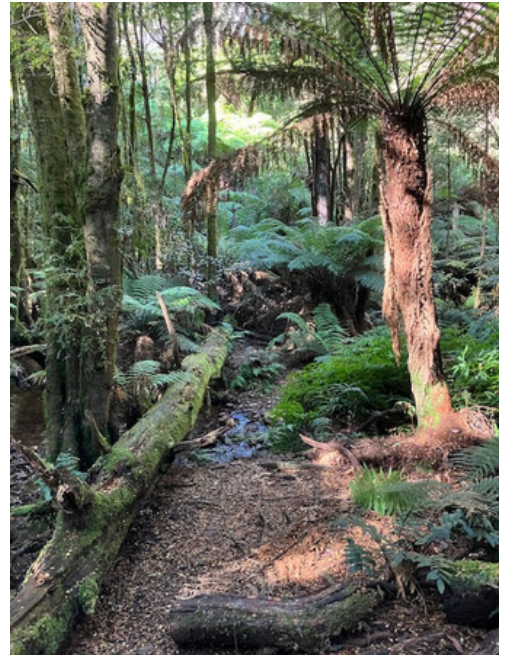
Ever heard of Forest Bathing aka The Green Prescription? The Japanese have been doing it for quite a while - immersing themselves in a forest and 'listening to the trees'. It's not that hard to do.

Next time you are outside, take a moment to notice the trees. Are the leaves beginning to change? Is the soil feeling cooler beneath your feet? Autumn is a season of "letting go"—a perfect time to release the summer hustle and find your own rhythm again.

**Quick Nature Tip:** Did you know that the scent of the forest after rain—petrichor—actually helps lower cortisol levels? If you can't make it to a walk, try to step outside immediately after the next autumn shower and take three deep breaths.

As the air cools and the forest begins its transition into March and April, it is the perfect time to move from thought into action. Whether you want to "dip your toe in" or dive deep into the experience, you don't have to do it alone. No prescription required—just a pair of walking shoes and a willingness to be present.

**Upcoming Nature Insights Walks:**  
Island Creek Picnic Area Kinglake  
Sunday, March 8th 10 am - noon



March Walk: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mindful-forest-walk-in-kinglake-national-park-tickets-1983656405708>

# The Art of Deception

Ron Litjens  
The Butter Factory  
13 Rattray Street, YEA

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2026  
7.15 pm supper; 7.45 pm presentation

YRCL members free    Landcare members \$5  
Non-Landcare \$10    Kids free (CASH only)  
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**Bushfire Casualty**

**Murrindindi Shire Council**

**Cr Paul Hildebrand**

Koriella Ward  
[phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
0428 758 617

**Bushfire Casualty**

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**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.