

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



8th March 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 28

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Never let it be said that expatriates don't care about what is happening at 'home'. I received the following email from Stephanie (Looking Glass) whose son is currently studying at Oxford and is a member of the University AFL Club.

Support for our local community has come from all corners of the globe. Just this week the Oxford University Australian Rules Football Club raised \$800 from member donations for the Highlands-Caveat CFA. Some members of the club have been directly or indirectly affected by the fires and its members wanted to show their support for local CFA volunteers and the wider community.

The photo is of the men's and women's teams after Sunday training, ahead of the 106th annual varsity match against Cambridge on 21st of March. **Go Oxford!**



Upton Hill CFA

A/c Name - CFA Donations Account

BSB - 063 225

A/c Number - 1022 0603

Reference - 22840 Upton Hill FB



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

If your preferred community group hasn't been listed yet, 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 pdphroberts@gmail.com
The editor@tgn.org.au email is still dysfunctional.

Kia kara,
Pauline



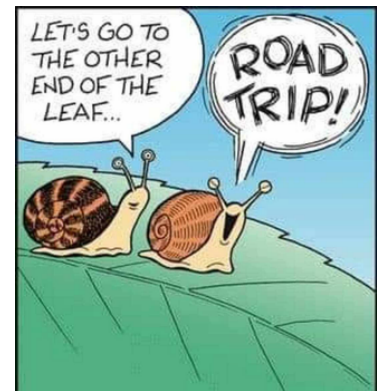
Feedback?

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

"Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up."

David Orr - American academic



Koalas - Did you know?

What is a koala's primary source of food?

- a) Gum nuts
- b) Eucalyptus leaves
- c) Native nuts, seeds and flowers
- d) Leaves, insects and small reptiles

Answer in next week's TGN.

What's On - March & April 2026

		What's On - March & April 2026
Details? See p.5	Monday 9th March 2 - 4pm	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COUNTRY HIGH TEA @ Ruffy Community Hall
Details? See p.3	Thursday 12th March 7.30am	MURRINDINDI BUSINESS BREAKFAST
	Friday 13th March @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK YAY it's back! @ 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.
	Sat. 14th March @ 4pm	BEER, MUSIC, FOOD, HUGS & LAUGHTER (Band - No Pressure) @ Highlands Hall
Details? See p.4	Wed. 18th March 5.30-8	COMMUNITY DINNER - FREE FOOD TRUCKS, MUSIC, etc @ Highlands Hall/Hub Everyone is welcome - Special speaker - The Unbreakable Farmer - Warren Davise
	Details? See p.8	WED. 18th MARCH @ 7.30 HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MONTHLY MEETING Everyone is welcome to attend @ Whiteheads Creek Hall
	Thursday 26th Mar. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Michael K's 890 Caveat-Dropmore Rd All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Saturday 28th March @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Gayle & Bill's 157 Old Highlands Rd Come along to share your favourite reads and to enjoy a little slice of normality.
	Sunday 29th March @ 10	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our still stunning local area. Supported by HCCC Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Tues., Thurs. & Fridays	PRIMARY CARE CONNECT @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	Fridays 10am - 2pm	YEA & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES @ Highlands Consultations on the following dates - March 13 th , 20 th and 27 th
	Sundays @ 11am	CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY GATHERING @ 44 Yorston Rd, Highlands This is a non-denominational meeting, Everyone is welcome to this calm, compassionate and open environment. Tea, coffee & lunch provided. Enquires? John - 0425 840999
Check dates first 5772 0333	Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Possible forthcoming dates 11th & 25th March and 8th & 22nd April

**** 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

- **Thursday 12th March from 7.30am 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 3m²

Loads over 3m² 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 12th 2026

- **Are you registered for a Property Clean-up?**
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 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 9th 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



Community Dinner

Free Food Trucks, Music and Guest Speaker

Wednesday 18 March, 5.30 - 8pm

Highlands Community Hall
1603 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands

Join our Mitchell and Murrindindi communities for a dinner at Highlands Community Hall. Come and enjoy Bahn Mi Brothers and Marjan Kebab food trucks and Matt Mogan Music.

The Unbreakable Farmer, Warren Davies, one of Australia's leading mental health speakers will chat about resilience, wellbeing and life under pressure after the recent fires.

Contact us

t. (03) 5734 6200 e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee 2026-2028

Mitchell Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from 12 community members to join the Environment Advisory Committee.

They're calling for people who:

- are interested in the local environment
- have experience or a background in environment or sustainability
- are keen to contribute to environment and sustainability issues in Mitchell



The committee provides a valuable opportunity to harness the community's knowledge, experience and skills to provide advice to Council on environmental sustainability and management issues and initiatives in the Shire.

Successful applicants will be appointed for a two-year term starting in April/May 2026. The committee meets every two months, with occasional additional meetings if required.

Applications close 5pm Thursday 26th March 2026

More information

For further information please contact the Mitchell Shire Council's Environment Coordinator, Elyse Kelly on **5734 6200** or environment@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

The key focus of the Committee over the next 2 years will be:

- Development and Implementation of Council's inaugural Biodiversity Strategy
- Implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Review of the Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan.
- Providing environment and sustainability advice on other key Council policies, plans and strategies that will be updated and/or developed during the committee's term.

The Committee will be involved in a number of ways including:

- Written advice to Council
- Environmental input to key Council strategies, programs and projects
- Advice on strategic issues that affect the environment
- Advice on the design and delivery of specific environmental programs by Council
- A forum through which community representatives, Councilors and staff can discuss, develop and contribute to environmental issues relevant to Mitchell Shire
- Assisting with the promotion of the Shire's environmental assets, management policies and projects.



Membership

The committee aims to tap into the knowledge, skills and experiences of community members to provide Council with strategic advice and recommendations about environmental sustainability and management issues.

Representatives will be appointed by Council for 2 years. Meetings are held every 2 months with an occasional special meeting in-between.

Representatives will be chosen based on:

- Diversity of environmental interests and knowledge.
- Live, work and/or volunteer within the municipality, or have a demonstrated connection to the municipality through professional, technical or industry alliances.
- A mix of urban and rural members across the geographical spread of the shire.
- A mix of skills and attributes to complement other members of the committee.
- Ability to regularly attend and participate in meetings as scheduled.

APPLY NOW!

STUMPS ARE STILL HOMES!



Losing large trees is heartbreaking, but leaving stumps is still very valuable! Help out our native birds and animals by leaving large stumps as habitat real estate.

GRANITE TO GOULBURN **BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY ALLIANCE**

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





With the fire recovery well under way the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) is seeking feedback from landholders as to what they need from a Landcare perspective into the future. If any readers have any ideas, suggestions or queries please email

janet@hccclandcare.net.au

or

neil@hccclandcare.net.au



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)
RSVP: JUDY BROOKES: juncball@icloud.com





March 2025

Changes to Council services over Easter

During the Easter long weekend (3-6 April), there will be some changes to Council services:

Kerbside Collection: This service will continue as usual over the Easter long weekend.

Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs): Our RRCs will be open as usual, except closed on Good Friday (3 April).

The Alexandra Landfill will be closed to the public on both Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC

Library and Customer Service Centres: All Library and Customer Service Centres will be closed from Good Friday and will reopen Tuesday 7 April.

Urgent Matters: For urgent issues like stock on roads, dog attacks, or unsafe road conditions (including fallen trees), please call 5772 0333.

Non-Urgent Requests: We will be back to assist you from Tue 7 April. You can also lodge a request at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request

Advocacy for bushfire recovery

Council continues to push for the support our communities need following the January fires.

Recent advocacy has focused on urgent local mental health services, stronger recovery funding, an extension to the 2026 summer fires inquiry deadline, and new data highlighting the need for investment in jobs, farms and tourism.

You can explore Council's current advocacy priorities on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/bushfire-advocacy

Come along to a fire recovery event

There are upcoming events to support our communities impacted by the fires:

- 11 March, 6.30 pm: Looking after yourself and others with Dr Rob Gordon - Fawcett
- 12 March, 7.30 am: Business Breakfast Alexandra
- 13 March, 1.00 - 4.00 pm: Fawcett Hall - Council planning, building and environmental health officers
- 18 March, 5.30 pm: Community Dinner Highlands
- 19 March, 7.00 pm: Looking after yourself and others with Dr Rob Gordon - Terip Terip
- 20 March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm: Highlands Hall - Council planning, building and environmental health officers

Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events

Sign up for the Fire Recovery e-News

The Fire Recovery Newsletter keeps our community connected with the latest support, resources and local updates following the January 2026 fires.

Register on our website at

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recovery-news

Road access and closures

Road conditions in fire-affected areas remain hazardous. Council has introduced a classification system for local roads impacted by the fires to enable resident access.

Find a full list of road closures, classifications, authorised access details and updates at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireimpactedroads



Get in touch

5772 0333

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Stay informed

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news

Follow us on Facebook @murrindindishirecouncil

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



Bushfire Casualty

Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr Paul Hildebrand

Koriella Ward
phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
0428 758 617

Bushfire Casualty

KCK
David & Julie
KORBYSON CONTRACTING & KELPIES
SINCE 2025

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.