
THE GRANITE NEWS



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



22nd February 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 24

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Well, it appears that this coming week is certainly going to be one for special occasions as not one, but three events at both Highlands and Upton Hill are definitely worth adding to your diaries. First up - Fanfare please

GOVERNOR AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MINISTER TO VISIT HIGHLANDS HUB

The Governor of Victoria Margaret Garnder AC and Emergency Management Commissioner Tim Weibusch will be visiting the Highlands Hub on **Thursday 26 February at 10.30am** to meet with fire impacted residents and support agencies.

Morning tea will be provided.

AND

Grant Sims - Downunder AG @ Upton Hill CFA Fire Shed Wednesday 25th Feb. @ 10am - 1pm

Join in the discussion of some post-fire recovery options to help pasture reestablishment and soil recovery. A light lunch will be provided by GBCMA Sustainable Ag Program - RSVPs required

AND

You've read about The Unbreakable Farmer in previous issues of TGN now you can meet him in person





Gearing up for Autumn but feeling the weight of the "what-ifs"? We're getting the farming community together at the Highlands Hall for a night of tactical planning to take the guesswork out of the coming season.

Special Guest:

Warren Davies (The Unbreakable Farmer)

Warren is one of Australia's leading voices on resilience and mental health in the bush. After years of facing everything from drought to financial ruin on his own farm, he now travels the country sharing his "Unbreakable" mindset to help fellow farmers navigate the highs and lows of life on the land.

We're covering the practical stuff:

-  Water Management: Securing your dams and budgets.
-  Pasture Recovery: Planning your next moves for the grass.
-  Stock Return: Safe containment and health management.
-  Timelines: Walking away with a clear plan of action.

Dinner and soft drinks are on us!

BYO other drinks

 **Where: Highlands Hall (1603 Ghin Ghin Road)**

 **When: Friday, 27th February | 5pm - 8pm**

From the Highlands to our surrounding fire-affected neighbours: let's bridge the gap, share the load, and plan for a stronger season ahead. See you on Friday 27th!

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



What's On - February & March 2026

Details? see p.7	Mondays all day	RUFFY WELL-BEING ROOM Jack Sullivan will be in attendance 23 rd Feb and 2 nd March	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.7	Wednesdays 9.30 - 4.30	RUFFY WELL-BEING ROOM Kate Reid will be in attendance on 25 th Feb.	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.7	Thursdays 1.30 - 4.40	RUFFY WELL-BEING ROOM Gemma Parkinson will be in attendance on 26 th Feb.	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.6	Fridays 9am - 3pm	YEA & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES @ Highlands Consultations on the following dates - February 27 th & March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th and 27 th	
N/A 8 th March	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
Details? See p. 4	Wednesday 25th Feb. 10-1	FIRE RECOVERY SESSION - GRANT SIMS DOWNUNDER AG	@Upton Hill CFA Shed
Details? See p.7	Wednesday 25th Feb @ 12	COMMUNITY LED DISASTER RECOVERY MEETING Everyone welcome to attend.	@ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.6	Wednesday 25thFeb. @5.30	FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT on the NEW stage! Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy. Dinner provided. BYO drinks.	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
Details? See p.1	Thursday 26th Feb. @ 10.30	VISIT - VICTORIAN GOVERNOR & TIM WEIBUSCH (EMC)	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Thursday 26th Feb. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.	Venue ??
Details? See p.6	Friday 27th Feb. 9-1	HIGHLANDS VISITING SERVICES - lots to choose from	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
Details? pp.1&3	Friday 27th Feb. 5-8pm	TACTICAL PLANNING FOR FARMERS	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Friday 13th March @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK YAY it's back! 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.	@ Highlands Hall/Hub
Check dates first 5772 0333	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 Possible forthcoming dates 25th Feb and 11th & 25th March



AUTUMN ON FARM TACTICAL PLANNING

**Community,
Support, Advice**

**BBQ DINNER +
SOFTIES ON US**

BYO ESKY FOR FROTHIES

What to expect

- Farm Water Management -**
Protecting farm dams and building water budgets
- Pasture Assessment -**
Assessing pastures and planning next recovery steps
- Bringing stock back to farm -**
Managing stock return, containment, feed and health
- Action timeline -**
Creating a clear timetable for action to support recovery and on-farm decisions

Details

Friday 27th February 2026

5pm - 8pm



Highlands Hall

1603 Ghin Ghin Road
Highlands



Supported by



GRANT SIMS *Downunder AG* FIRE RECOVERY SESSION

Upton Hill CFA Shed - Wednesday 25th Feb, 10am - 1pm

PLEASE JOIN US TO LOOK INTO SOME POST FIRE RECOVERY OPTIONS TO HELP PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT AND SOIL RECOVERY.

Grant has extensive knowledge in soil and pasture health and will talk about a fire recovery seed mix that can be sown into fire damaged soils. He will also discuss other potential remedies to assist soil biology.

Light lunch provided by Goulburn Broken CMA Sustainable Ag Program.

Please RSVP your attendance by text to:

Susie Bate 0409 174 041 or Callum Lawson 0437 182 223

Please BYO chair and water bottle.



Aerial Photography

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Photography of properties/infrastructure for insurance and historical purposes
Located in Highlands.



Contact Mel Cornell: mel@thepaddockpractitioner.com or **0498 643 608** for further information or booking.

Are YOU in need of some crafting therapy?

I'm a crafty person - that's as in arty, not sneaky - and as a result I've been fielding several offers of various types of craft materials over the last few weeks for those people who no longer have their favourite past-time resources to hand.

If that is YOU - be it knitting, card craft, patchwork, etc and you would like to be the recipient of such largesse please email the Editor - pdphroberts@gmail.com and indicate what type of creative crafts you are interested in. I will then forward your request and details onto those people who may be able to assist with supplies.



Last Friday night saw a great turn up at the Highlands Hall and the initial use of the new outdoor stage.

Constructed by Kev & Deb, with materials they donated, it's sure to be the focus of any future outdoor performances at the Hall.



Now officially known as the "Highlands Community Stage donated by Kev & Deb of Maintongoon" and according to Kev - the Stage is for EVERYONE to enjoy - all the musicians from Murrindindi region and beyond.

With thanks to both the Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires for the pizza dinner, Sue and Anne Leadbeater for their informative talk and the live music by Freddie Gibson which lifted everyone's spirits.



Even Daryl's emu wanted to get in on the act!



**** 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

MAIL DELIVERY from Monday 16/2/26

Normal delivery is now fully in place. Mail and parcels will no longer be available for collection at the Highlands Hub.

- **Please Note** - the Hub won't be serving lunches after **Friday 20th**. Tea, coffee, snacks and frozen dinners will be available. Groceries, clothes etc will also still be available.
- **Wednesday 25th February 5.30pm @ Highlands Hub NEW Community Stage - donated by Deb & Kev.**
LIVE MUSIC by NoPressure
Dinner provided. BYO drinks

- **HIGHLANDS VISITING SERVICES - Friday 27th February 9am - 1pm**

Council, government agencies and community organisations are working together to provide support that responds to current needs as the community begins transitioning toward longer term recovery.

- **Visiting Highlands Hall will be:**
 - Murrindindi & Mitchell Shires - including the Planning Development teams
 - Agriculture Victoria,
 - AgBiz Assist,
 - Services Australia,
 - VCC Emergencies Ministry,
 - Department of Families, Fairness and Housing,
 - Salvation Army (virtual)
- **YEA AND DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE will be visiting the Highlands Hall/Hub from 9am - 3pm on the following dates**
February - Friday 27th
March - Friday 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
- **AUTUMN ON FARM TACTICAL PLANNING MEETING**
Friday February 27th 5-8pm Highlands Hall BBQ dinner.
See pages 1 & 3 for more details
- **Yea Tip (aka the Yea RRC - Resource & Recovery Centre)** is free for any burnt items, steel, 3 x cubic metres of general waste. Check Murrindindi Shire website for opening hours.

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225 - now heard every Monday on UGFM @ 11.30

Tune in for Hub news

**** RUFFY & TERIP ****

Community Led Disaster Recovery Meeting

Annabelle Cleeland MP and Disaster Wise's Pete Williams and Kate Fawcett to speak on their lived journey sharing what worked, what didn't and how a community-led recovery can take shape from here.

Ruffy Hall
Wednesday February 25th @ 12pm
All welcome

STOP PRESS!!

There are 2 wild dogs out and about around Brigadoon Rd
One is a bull Arab and the other a terrier cross.
They have attacked horses! Be vigilant.

RUFFY WELLBEING ROOM

WALK-INS WELCOME
(Located in the loan portable room adjacent to the back of the Hall)

DROP IN TO OUR TEMPORARY SITE LOCATED AT THE RUFFY HALL FOR COUNSELLING, SUPPORT, DEBRIEFING, SUPERVISION OR JUST A CHAT.

THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY THE RECENT FIRES.

IF THE DOOR IS OPEN, JUST KNOCK AND COME IN.

IF THE DOOR IS CLOSED, WE MIGHT BE TALKING WITH SOMEONE ELSE. PLEASE COME BACK IN A BIT.

MONDAYS - ALL DAY WITH JACK O'SULLIVAN

2ND FEBRUARY 16TH FEBRUARY 23RD FEBRUARY AND 2ND MARCH 2026
*PLEASE NOTE: JACK WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2026

JACK O'SULLIVAN - RED GUM REFLECTIONS
EMAIL: CONTACT@REDGUMREFLECTIONS.COM.AU
MOBILE: 0458 115 401

WEDNESDAYS - 9.30 AM - 4.30 PM WITH KATE REID

4TH FEBRUARY 11TH FEBRUARY 18TH FEBRUARY 25TH FEBRUARY 2026
*PLEASE NOTE: KATE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 2 PM ON WED 4TH AND 3 PM ON WED 11TH FEBRUARY 2026

KATE REID - SEVENS CREEK PSYCHOLOGY
EMAIL: ADMIN@SEVENS CREEKPSYCHOLOGY.COM.AU
PH: 5795 2194

THURSDAY 19TH AND 26TH - 1.30 PM - 4.30 PM WITH GEMMA PARKINSON

GEMMA PARKINSON - GMP THERAPY
ACCREDITED MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER
EMAIL: THERAPYGMP@GMAIL.COM

HOW TO ACCESS Rapid Response Grants

Open: 4 February 2026

Close: 4 March 2026

Payments via ACF fortnightly once approved

\$1,000 per individual
max of \$2,000 per household

Fire-Impacted residents of Strathbogie & Mitchell Shire eligible

WHAT CAN IT BE USED FOR?

- Transport, food and shelter (people or animals)
- Medical, health and well-being needs
- Connectivity and essential technology
- Repairs or replacement of critical assets and belongings

HOW TO APPLY

1. Prepare your info
2. Complete the form
3. Check your email
4. Send documents



Scan to apply

 **AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION**
Administered by Australian Communities Foundation
Guided by a local Community Advisory Committee

 **Strathbogie**
DISASTER RELIEF FUND

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



Community Recovery Survey

We value your input as our community continues its recovery. Your feedback will help shape future support and planning.

Scan the QR code to provide feedback.



Recovery eNews

Keep updated with a newsletter emailed directly to your inbox.

Scan to sign up today.



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Bushfire Casualty

Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr Paul Hildebrand

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

Bushfire Casualty

KCK
 David & Jane KEMP

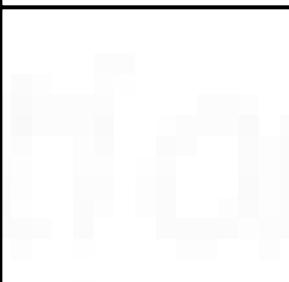
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HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

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MEETINGS
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Reasonable Rates
 Contact Paula Lade
 0419 551 882

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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.