

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



14th June 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 41

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Well winter has certainly arrived with a vengeance yet again reinforcing my dislike of the month of June as the coldest, bleakest and darkest month of the year. With only 7 more days to the shortest day of the year I hang out annually for June 22nd as we are then on the downhill run to the longest day of the year and, my favourite tweaking of the hours - daylight saving!

Returning to this current week though, a reminder that the mid-year school holidays are rapidly approaching and that means The Granite News will be taking its usual brief 2 week break. I feel confident, at the moment, that a 2 week hiatus will not result in a record-breaking 20+ page issue on July 12th so next week's issue of TGN is the **LAST ONE** for this term.

Please organise your articles, ads and anything else to land in the Editor's email inbox by **COB Thursday 18th June**, thanks.

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 an absolute joy!

Some good news about wildlife survival.

This photograph of a platypus was taken on Tuesday in the Hughes Creek near the Boathole by Sean Mathews. Welcome home little one. **Ed.**



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

"Even the smallest stone in a riverbed has the entire history of the universe inscribed upon it."

Hikaru Okuizumi

Japanese novelist



Refund anyone?

Did you know that you may be eligible for a **20% discount** on your car registration.

It needs to be a light vehicle and privately owned.

Go to Service Victoria website or app.

<https://service.vic.gov.au/services/registrations-rebate>

		What's On - June & July 2026
Details? See p.9	Wed. 17 th June 12 - 4pm	HCCC presents - RESET YOUR SOILS & PASTURES @ Terip Tennis Club Understand where you are up to and the next steps. Lunch provided RSVP required.
	Thursday 18 th June @ 6.30	TERIP CFA AGM - Dinner will be served @ Terip Rec Reserve
Details? See p.4	Sunday 21 st June 12-3	KIDS' DAY with KATE PERRY @ Ruffy Hall
	Thursday 25 th June @ 5.30	SECRET MENS' BUSINESS @ Michael K's 890 Caveat-Dropmore Rd All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ. BYO & chat.
	Friday 26 th June @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING @ Terip Rec. It's been a while so why not come along. On-line attendance should be possible.
Details? see p.5	Saturday 27 th June 12.30-4	CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY - HIGHLANDS @ Habbies Howe Shearing Shed Enjoy a 2 course Indian lunch followed by a relaxed afternoon tea, music and door prizes.
	Saturday 27 th June @ 6.30	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Sunday 28 th June @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting @ Highlands Hall/Hub Everyone is welcome to come and explore our still stunning local area. Supported by HCCC. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249039 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Monday 29 th June @ 1pm	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' MEETING @ 190 Red Gate Lane Orchard removal @190. New members welcome. Enquiries? Cheryl 0409019763
	Monday 6 th July @ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON is back to stay! @ the MASH tent, Ruffy Hall
	Tuesdays only	PRIMARY CARE CONNECT @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	Tuesdays @ 5.30pm	MAT PILATES with Anastasia @ Highlands Hall Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$15 Enquiries? Anastasia 0436 428065
	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
	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? Forthcoming dates 24th June and 8th & 22nd July.



**** 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

Wednesday 17th June

GV Family Care 10am - 2pm

If you're looking for a bit of guidance, GV Family Care will be on-site to offer a calm space to set goals and get connected with:

- Case management and disaster legal help
- Insurance advocacy and financial counselling
- Health, wellbeing, and government grant registration

PCC Emergency Recovery Team 10am - 2pm

The PCC team will be here to help simplify the recovery process and handle the "heavy lifting" of paperwork. Drop in for help with:

- Grant Applications: Navigating the forms together.
- Financial & Legal Support: Sorting through insurance and hardship options.

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

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225

Mindfulness Magic

On Sunday the 14 June, 7 people gathered to participate in the Highlands Mindfulness Walk. Due to postponing for one day we had an amazingly beautiful, clear, sunny day with a fresh gentle breeze. Tony Fitzgerald from Nature Insights and his wife Kerry began the walk with some gentle yoga warm ups accompanied by relaxation breathing. This had us all in a more relaxed state to fully appreciate the following experiences of mindfulness as we explored the forest on Steve Matthews' serene property on Sprunt's Rd in Highlands.

The objective was to be in the present moment and to escape, at least for a short time, the stresses caused by the Longwood Fires. With broadened appreciation of the beauty of the surroundings and the resilience of nature, we were able to acknowledge our place in the cycle of nature.



We came together at the end of the experience to share a cup of tea and some homemade pumpkin soup by a warming campfire as the evening coolness descended.

Thank you to Tony and Kerry.

Please watch for two upcoming Mindfulness Walks in the near future. The reminder to slow down and find peace was very beneficial.

Andrea & Alex.



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



TABLELANDS FIRE RECOVERY HUB - KEY DATES

JUNE

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 16th - Visiting services and cuppa and chat 10.30 am

Friday 19th - Community Dinner

Sunday 21st June 12-3 - The Kids' Day with Kate Perry Trauma art therapist (bring bark & leaves from your property for the craft activity) launch of Old Red the story of the little fire engine that stepped up to fight the fires.

Also 3 very special guests just for the kids more info soon....(Bookings required) All welcome!

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



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)	



When the bushfires swept through our region, we didn't just lose a building – we lost the heart of our community. Our community centre was where Landcare coordinated its work, where yoga and workshops brought people together, where children played, where we held our annual Christmas party and where our monthly BBQs made sure no one felt alone. It was our safe place, our meeting place, our shared home.

Rebuilding the centre means rebuilding connection, resilience, and belonging. It means restoring a space where people can gather, learn, celebrate and support one another.

The fires took the structure but they didn't take our spirit. Together we can bring back the place that brings us together.

Committee of Management Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy



Celebrating our Community - Highlands

Where: Habbies Howe Shearing Shed, 110

Dropmore Road, Highlands

Saturday, 27 June 2026 - 12.30 pm to 4:00 pm

Enjoy a two-course Indian lunch by the Peppercorn Hotel, followed by a relaxed afternoon tea.

There'll be live music from a local musician and the chance to win a door prize.

Everyone is welcome — no registration needed.

You're also invited to honour bushfire volunteers and community members across the Shire by sharing a message or story on our Volunteer Recognition Wall - scan the QR code to make your contribution.



Community Engagement Team
5772 0333
murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Birdlife Australia and the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network are seeking volunteers for two planting days in Gobur on 11th & 12th July.

Both properties were affected by the Longwood Fire and are looking to rehabilitate their properties, whilst creating habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Both properties have approximately 300 plants to plant and they would love some assistance.

The planting days will be held over the weekend of 11th & 12th July.

Planting Day 1

When: Saturday 11th July 2026, 9am to 2pm.

Lunch provided.

Where: 160 Frees Rd, Gobur

Planting Day 2

When: Sunday 12th July 2026, 9am to 2pm.

Lunch provided.

Where: 461 Frees Rd, Gobur

RSVP for both events:

caroline.wilson@birdlife.org.au

Letter to the Editor

Dear Pauline and readers,

I'd like to share a current fund raising campaign from the Biolinks Alliance, who are a partner with the HCCC's Granite to Goulburn Biolinks project.

Readers are invited to share the link more widely to help raise much needed funds for on-ground monitoring and support of community volunteer programs that aim to understand the impacts to special species, such as arboreal mammals, hollow-dependent birds, threatened plants, lost paddock trees and more.

Tax deductible donations can be made via this link:

<https://chuffed.org/project/reconnecting-nature-eofy-campaign>

More information about bushfire recovery efforts, volunteering opportunities and contact details can be found on the Biodiversity Recovery Alliance website.

Check out the Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance work and interesting resources for more information.

Thanks so much,
Sam



Help us raise \$18,000 to restore & reconnect habitat this end of financial year

WARNING!

Did you know that thieves now use metal detectors to find those 'spare' house keys hidden under bricks, in the shrubbery, under pot plants, etc

All those much-loved hiding places that have been used forever.

Maybe it's time to rethink a safer place....



Planting days in Gobur, Vic.

BirdLife Australia's Birds on Farms (Yarra to Yea) project are seeking volunteers for two planting days in Gobur, just north of Yea. Both properties were affected by the January 2026 bushfires and are looking to rehabilitate, whilst creating habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Both properties have approx. 300 plants to get in the ground and they would love some assistance! The planting days will be held over the weekend of July 11 & 12. Volunteers are welcome to come for one day, but can also come to both if keen (maybe make a weekend of it in lovely Yea!). Details below.

Planting day 1

When: Saturday 11th July 2026, 9am to 2pm.

Lunch provided!

Where: 160 Frees Rd, Gobur

Planting day 2

When: Sunday 12th July 2026, 9am to 2pm.

Lunch provided!

Where: 461 Frees Rd, Gobur



What to bring: Sturdy footwear, gardening gloves, water bottle, snacks, warm and wet weather clothes, and binoculars for a spot of birdwatching if you like.

RSVP: for both events caroline.wilson@birdlife.org.au

♥ This project is made possible through Equity Trustees and other philanthropic contributions. This project is also supported by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network.



Save Birds. Save Life.

birdlife.org.au

**** YAY! - Spinning is back ****

Greetings Pauline,

I read about the successful UFO weekend and it got me thinking about having a get-together here for the Spinners and anyone else who would like to join us.

I now have the "COTTAGE" looking as though someone loves it, so it would be lovely to Host some visitors for some chatter and/or "work" or both.

Bring your lunch - tea and coffee provided.

**The Date for the Diaries is
Monday 13th July from 11a.m.**

Thanks,
Jan



NB: All good things come to those who wait. Ed.

Save the Date...

Terip Trivia Night

Date: Saturday 1st August

- **Venue: Terip Recreation Reserve**
- **Cost: \$15 per person**
- **Supper included**
- **BYO alcohol**

You can RSVP with a table or simply join us on the night.

We look forward to seeing you there for a great night of entertainment and friendly competition.

Kind regards,
**Terip Recreation
Reserve Committee**



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



Ruffy Veggie Club's

next gathering is on the **Monday 29th of June @1pm at Cheryl and Joes 190 Red Gate Lane**. We will be removing the remains of the orchard. If anyone has an extra star-picket remover they could bring that would be really helpful. New Members welcome and any queries contact **Cheryl - 0409 019763**

Photos below are from the recent working held at the TCC. A **BIG** thank you to everyone who participated.



Quick Koala Quiz - ANSWERS

1. How much weight in eucalyptus leaves do koalas consume in a day?
 - a) **Up to 1 kg** Koalas have to eat a lot of leaves each day to survive as they are not a very efficient energy source
 - b) 500gms
 - c) 200gms
2. Koalas were once hunted to the brink of extinction but, thankfully, hunting was banned across Australia in the 1930s. How are koalas faring in the wild today?
 - a) They're fine
 - b) **They're endangered** Sadly koalas face many threats in the wild which have impacted their population numbers which meant that in 2022 koalas in Qld, NSW & the ACT were newly listed as ENDANGERED
3. What threats do koalas face?
 - a) the destruction of their forest homes
 - b) climate change and related disasters like fires and floods
 - c) dog attacks, car strikes and/or disease
 - d) **all of the above** Koalas are doing it tough in the wild. Their habitats are being destroyed leaving them with fewer gum tree leaves to eat from and take shelter in. Increased time in the ground means they are vulnerable to animal attacks and car strikes. Additionally, disease along with fires and floods are often fatal.

And now for this week's koala questions....

4. Koalas are an important part of indigenous culture. What does Koala mean in the Dharug language of the Sydney basin area?
 - a) hairy
 - b) no drink
 - c) sleepy
 - d) round
5. By what year could koalas be facing extinction?
 - a) 2050
 - b) 2060
 - c) 2075
 - d) 2100



Answers in next week's Granite News.

And then there's this not so little chap...

Hi Pauline

Very happy to see this fella on top of Good Morning Bill. A big fella and looks healthy albeit the hill is still scorched earth

Regards

Andrew



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.

STOP PRESS

It's been a while since the last HCCC meeting (with most committee members now unavoidably living off the Tablelands) but

Friday 26th June @ Terip Rec @ 7pm is the date for your diary

Everyone is welcome and on-line attendance should be possible so why not come along (in person or digitally) and find out what plans are afoot to enhance the beauty and environment of our local area.

Australia Post is pleased to announce that applications for our **2026 Community Grants** program are now open.

Community Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for locally led and delivered projects that help people meaningfully connect and improve mental wellbeing outcomes in their community.

For more than six years, the Australia Post Community Grants program has made a real difference in communities across Australia, supporting initiatives that strengthen social connection and promote positive mental wellbeing.

We also have a proud history of supporting communities during disasters, acting as a vital connector and provider of essential resources and support. This experience has reinforced the critical role that strong social connections and mental wellbeing play in community recovery.

In recognition of these ongoing needs, this year, we are again offering an additional \$250,000 in grant funding to support projects that enhance mental wellbeing and build resilience in disaster-impacted communities.

Eligibility criteria and information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Applications close 6th July 2026, 11.59pm AEST.



Planning to plant some farm trees next year?

Master Class series 2026 @ Euroa Arboretum How to grow SUCCESSFUL REVEGETATION PROJECTS with native species

These Revegetation Master Classes will be run by Euroa Arboretum staff as part of the Trees on Farms Incubator Program is funded by Agriculture Victoria.

They support our community of rural landowners to receive in-depth training and planning advice that will help strengthen technical knowledge and informed decision-making when planting trees on farms.

The Trees on Farms Incubator Program aims to:

- promote opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and communities of practice for landowners through existing networks, communities, and other interest groups
- build the skills of landowners so they can gain the technical requirements for growing trees on their farms to support confidence in decision making
- assist landowners to develop high-quality project plans that can be used to apply for the Victorian Trees on Farms Grant and get \$2000 per hectare to establish planting on sites less the 20ha.

Day 1: Natural Regeneration Saturday 4th July, 9.30 – 1.30pm

Interpreting landscape and what that means for plant selection. Creating success despite grazing herbivores. Field trip component – enhancing natural regeneration.

Day 2: Site Design for Multiple Outcomes, 11th July, 9.30 – 1.30pm

Site selection and landscape context. Fire, drought and disease. Stacking success – multiple positive outcomes with revegetation in an agricultural landscape.

Day 3: It's all about Seed, 25th July, 9.30 – 1.30pm

Where does your seed come from? Site preparation and maintenance
Direct seeding as a revegetation technique
Wildflower meadows and grasslands

Day 4: Building Plant Knowledge, 1st August, 10 – 3pm

Where do your plants come from? 101 Plant identification
Thinning and harvesting opportunities Site visit – agroforestry sites

Day 5: Design Your Project, 15th August, 9.30 – 1.30pm

Plant selection, costing, ordering. Fencing and site preparation
Pest plant and animal control via Landcare Programs. Grants and funding opportunities available.
Linking to contractors and bushcrews.



Expressions of Interest to enrol in this FREE course are now open.

Please email : janethhagen@gmail.com or cathy.olive@euroaarboretum.com.au or text 0458 904268



Soil ecosystem engineers & adaptation



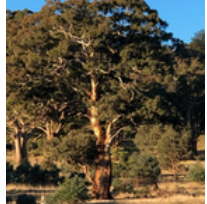
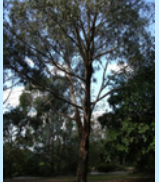
- Echidnas can shift 7 tonnes of soil a year, trapping leaves, seeds & water;
- Soil depressions left by echidnas encourage germination & plant growth;
- Burying of plant material during foraging boosts soil carbon;
- Echidna digging creates a patchwork of litter, carbon, nutrients & vegetation;
- Artificial echidna scrapes have been used for ecological restoration;
- Harness the power of echidnas for nature-based solutions!

Eldridge, J.D. (2021) Dig this: a tiny echidna moves 8 trailer-loads of soil a year, helping tackle climate change. The Conversation 5 March 2021. <https://theconversation.com/dig-this-a-tiny-echidna-moves-8-trailer-loads-of-soil-a-year-helping>

10

Those AMAZING echidnas
might be small but they
are the best bulldozers
when it comes to
enhancing soil and carbon
Did you know?

<<<<

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 <i>Barristers & Solicitors</i> 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	 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.