

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



3rd May 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 35

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Each week a lot of information arrives in the editor's inbox and inclusion in TGN depends on space, timeframes and anticipated interest to readers.

From the dot points, reports and articles that I have received recently about the response from various levels of government and institutions eg: CFA to the January fires, not all of which have been published in their entirety, it has become obvious to this reader that the various HCCC communities feel that things could have been done differently and, most importantly with more urgency, particularly in the initial stages of this latest natural disaster.

As someone who hasn't been on the ground 24/7 I cannot offer an opinion on those observations, but I am very aware as to how much has been done, in the absence of any external input, by the most amazing groups of volunteers who are spread across the plateau. The old adage "Volunteers work for free but their work is priceless" seems particularly apt here.

During this past week I have received not one, but two extensive media releases from both Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires* detailing how they are progressing with negotiations with the state government in order to get a fairer share of the disaster relief pie than has been already allocated, as well as offering recommendations to ensure better outcomes in the future.

Normally I wouldn't include such extensive articles in TGN but after reading them I feel that some readers may be unaware of what is being done on their behalf and perhaps interested in the steps that are being taken to expedite issues that are still not resolved to anyone's satisfaction.

It may be that some readers will think that this is 'too little, too late', but at least efforts are being made to highlight the extensive, and ongoing, nature of the destruction and hopefully this might ensure a better, more cohesive and effective response for the 'next time' a disaster happens.

*NB: Mitchell Shire was the least affected shire of the 3 that make up the HCCC area, but no doubt they are offering up their experiences too.

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

"If you want happiness for an hour - take a nap. If you want happiness for a day - go fishing. If you want happiness for a year - inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime - help someone else."

Chinese proverb

The Four Apostrophe's' of the apocalypseses's'



Month	Highlands
April	23.1 mm
2026 Total	183.4 mm
Rainy Days	7 days

		What's On - May 2026
Details? See p.5	Friday 8 th May 10am - 2pm	FOCUS on REBUILDING @ Highlands Hall/Hub Supporting our community to rebuild after the fires. Come along to find out more.
	Friday 8 th May @ 6pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Hall/Hub YAY - it's back! Bring along finger food to share and enjoy the company of friends.
 Details? See p.11	Tues. 12 th May @ 6 & 7.00pm	HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT CFA BBQ & End of Season Meeting @ Highlands Hall/Hub
Details? See p.5	Wed. 13 th May 9.30 - noon	GARDENING AFTER THE FIRES WORKSHOP @ Highlands Hall/Hub A FREE workshop to help our communities rebuild their gardens.
 Details? See p.11	Sat. 16 th May @ 6pm	TERIP END of FIRE SEASON CELEBRATION @ Terip CFA
	Sat. 23 rd May @ 6.30pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Sunday 24 th May @ 10am	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
 Details? See p.12	Monday 25 th May @ 7.30	RUFFY CFA AGM @ Ruffy Fire Shed
	Thurs. 28 th May @ 5.30	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.
Details? See p.11	Sat. 30 th & Sun 31 st May	20th UFO WEEKEND (CRAFTS) @ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Sunday 31 st May	BIG THANK YOU DAY @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	Tuesdays only	PRIMARY CARE CONNECT @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	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 13 th & 27 th May and 10 th & 24 th June.

The Highlands Stone Circle

Sitting at the junction of the Highlands and Ghin Ghin roads the Stone Circle was erected in 1982 on the occasion of the centenary of the settlement at Highlands and to commemorate the six families who settled the Highlands - Caveat district in 1882-83.

The Lades and Yorstons came from Strath Creek near Broadford.

The McAlpins and the Chisholms were from Emu Flat near Lancefield.

The Minchinton family came from Corop near Rochester.

The Zoch family were originally from Arcadia east of Murchison.



The local historical committee planned the Stone Circle. Peter Yorston, Steve and Ric McAlpin and Alistair and Neill Lade selected the suitable granite slabs, averaging 2 metres in length. These were then erected in a circle approximately 6 metres in diameter.

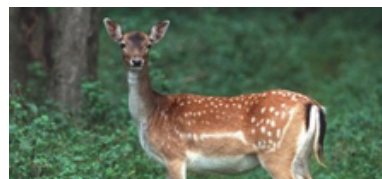
A bronze plaque, which features a district plan drawn by Doug Lade, was sculptured by Michael Hall - son of Clive and Mary Hall (Yorston) before being placed on a horizontal slab to complete the installation.

Pat McNamara, State member for Benalla, conducted the opening ceremony. This was followed by a CFA ceremony where the Regional Officer presented medals to the firemen, descendants of the pioneer families. It was notable that the firemen wore Scottish kilts for the occasion.

This article was originally published in TGN several years ago and has been resubmitted by TGN's first Editor - Miranda Yorston for readers' enjoyment and interest - Ed.

Letter to the Editor

Expressions of Interest: Deer Control Program Granite to Goulburn Biodiversity Recovery Initiative



Are you a landholder affected by bushfires?

If your property is over 20 acres and you're struggling with deer management, we're here to help! As part of the Granite to Goulburn Biodiversity Recovery, a team of approved local shooters is available to support deer control efforts on bushfire-affected properties.

To register your interest in having a shooter assist you, please contact Jemma Norman at facilitator.lpcmn@gmail.com

Calling all private shooters!

We're seeking your help to gather data on deer populations within bushfire-affected areas. Your contribution will support efforts to secure funding for ongoing deer management throughout the region. If you're keen to assist with data collection or wish to be considered as an approved shooter for this project (conditions apply), please reach out to Jemma Norman.

Together, we can make a real difference for our local environment. Don't miss this opportunity to get involved—contact us today!

Thankyou

Jemma Norman
Landcare Facilitator
Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network

0447 298 616



Councils call on State Government to extend free bushfire waste disposal program



Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires have called on the Victorian State Government to urgently extend Council's free bushfire waste disposal program beyond its current end date of 12th May.

The councils are calling for a further six months to be added to the program to ensure recovery continues to be properly supported for households impacted by the January bushfires.

In January, the State Government provided two programs for bushfire impacted property owners to use following the January 2026 fires.

- Free waste disposal at Council-managed landfills and Resource and Recovery Centres – available to all bushfire impacted property owners/tenants until May 12th.
- On-site clean-up for eligible property owners however it must be a primary place of residence, under-insured or uninsured; no deadline has been provided for the end of this program.

Over 275 Murrindindi property owners registered for the State Government on-site clean-up program, however only 27 have been accepted with just 5 seeing any activity at their property. Strathbogie has seen 131 property owners registered with 14 accepted and 4 seeing any activity at their property.

Some people have reportedly now given up waiting for the State Government program and have withdrawn from the process whilst many others have been deemed ineligible.

Demand has been high for the Council operated, fee-free waste disposal services, with a years' worth of waste being registered in the first four months of the year at the Alexandra landfill site.

The free bushfire waste disposal at council facilities is currently providing a critical safety net for those with no other viable recovery pathway. With a high number of people still waiting for their assessments, closing this option now would unfairly shift pressure onto those least able to absorb it.

Of the many municipalities affected by the 2026 fires, these two shires were the most impacted, yet the scale of State-funded recovery support has not yet matched the level of damage experienced locally.

Reports are still coming that many residents are only now beginning the difficult process of clearing fire-damaged properties as the need to secure temporary accommodation ahead of winter becomes increasingly urgent. The delays to clean up have also had a compounding impact on mental health and wellbeing with residents continuing to confront the extent of damage to their properties.

Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council, Cr Damien Gallagher, said the community was increasingly anxious about the looming end date.

"For many people in our Shire, recovery hasn't even properly started yet. Some residents are only now gaining safe access to their properties, while others waited in good faith for State programs that are still moving slowly," said Cr Gallagher.

Mayor of Strathbogie Shire Council, Cr Scott Jeffery said we have seen many people take advantage of the free waste disposal at Council's sites over the past few months.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page....

"Many residents in Strathbogie are not eligible for the on-site state-provided clean-up program - so this service simply provides essential support for people least able to absorb further pressure. Without accessible and affordable disposal options, there is also a heightened risk of environmental harm and illegal dumping, which could further impact already vulnerable landscapes and waterways.

"We're seeing strong use of the service and many of these people are already carrying enormous financial and emotional strain. Without an extension, these residents will be left with no viable pathway to safely and affordably remove fire-damaged waste," said Cr Jeffery.

Both councils are urging the State Government to act quickly to avoid compounding hardship for already vulnerable households.

"Behind every load of fire-damaged waste are families trying to put their life back together, businesses trying to reopen, and communities doing their best to move forward," Cr Jeffery added.

"Support needs to keep pace with impact, especially for those who have the least capacity to carry more. Right now, it's not and that needs to change and quickly."



Focus on rebuilding

Supporting our community to rebuild after fires

Friday 8 May, 10am to 2pm

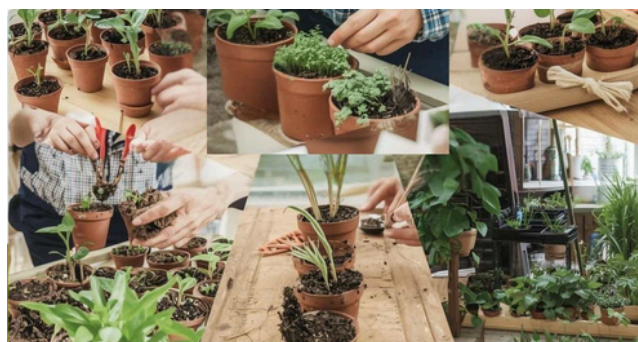
Highlands Community Hall, 1603 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands

Council's rebuild team will be at Highlands Community Hall to help you understand what's involved in rebuilding your home. They can walk you through things like planning and building permits and important requirements such as septic systems and wastewater.

If you're not sure where to start, or just want to talk things through with someone, you're welcome to come along and have a chat. It's a chance to get clear, practical advice and take the next step toward rebuilding.

Contact us

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



Gardening after Fires Workshop

Wednesday 13 May, 9.30am to 12pm

Highlands Community Hall, 1603 Ghin Ghin Road

Free Gardening after Fires Workshop to support community through education, connection and hands-on gardening skills to help rebuild your garden.

Guest presenters Lauren from lala Landscaping and Fearghus and Zara from Granite Hills Community Nursery, will assist with:

- Building knowledge in garden design principles and planning after fire
- Sharing resources and insights into fire resilient plant selection
- Learn practical skills in how to sow and propagate plants
- Encourage long-term community and environmental regeneration

Contact us

t. (03)57346200 e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



Murrindindi calls for reform after fire inquiry hearing

Murrindindi Shire Council has renewed its call for targeted structural reform to Victoria's disaster recovery system following its appearance before the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires. Council's submission, reinforced through Council's testimony at a public hearing held in Alexandra on Friday 24th April, sets out 15 practical, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen preparedness, response and long-term recovery.

The evidence presented to the Inquiry points to a fundamental issue at the centre of recovery.

Murrindindi was the most heavily impacted municipality in Victoria during the January fires, with almost one third of the Shire affected and nearly half of the State's structural losses occurring locally, including 216 homes, more than 520 outbuildings and widespread destruction of farming infrastructure and fencing. Impact assessments compiled by Emergency Management Victoria show that Murrindindi experienced around 48 per cent of the State's losses.

Despite this, Council received approximately 8 per cent of recovery funding including the same \$750,000 Council Support Fund allocation as most of the other 18 impacted councils.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said this misalignment between impact and funding was central to Council's evidence.

"Frontline in the disaster, back of the queue in recovery - that's the reality for Murrindindi," Cr Gallagher said.

"By any measure, Murrindindi sustained close to half of the State's impact, yet received a fraction of the recovery funding," Cr Gallagher said.

"Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes for our communities."

Council's submission outlines how this one-size-fits-all approach has created visible gaps in recovery, particularly in rural municipalities managing large-scale damage across dispersed communities with limited workforce capacity.

"When funding does not reflect impact, it affects the pace of recovery, the visibility of services, and ultimately confidence in the system," Cr Gallagher said.

Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi told the Inquiry that while recovery is underway, many parts of the Shire remain in relief, with new requests for assistance continuing months after the fires.

"The defining issue before this Inquiry is not only the scale of the fire, but how recovery has unfolded," Ms Bonazzi said.

"Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes. The recovery system assumed impact was evenly distributed. The evidence shows it was not."

Ms Bonazzi said the consequences of this mismatch are now shaping recovery on the ground.

"Recovery is the point at which we either restore communities or quietly lose them," she said.

"Under-funded recovery does not just delay rebuilding, it compounds trauma."

Council's submission highlights broader systemic challenges exposed by the fires, including:

- Telecommunications and power failures that left communities isolated
- The absence of fit-for-purpose local relief infrastructure
- Increasing pressure on volunteers and local government capacity
- Gaps in coordination, data sharing and recovery delivery

It also reinforces the cumulative impact of repeated disasters, with Murrindindi communities still recovering from floods, storms and drought prior to the 2026 fires.

Continued on next page....

Continued from previous page....

"Recovery frameworks often assume events occur in isolation. Communities experience them as cumulative, layered and unfinished," Ms Bonazzi said.



A key focus of Council's recommendations is the need to move from short-term recovery responses to proportionate, place-based funding models that reflect verified impact and support long-term recovery. Ms Bonazzi said local government's role as the recovery coordinating authority must be properly resourced to remain effective and sustainable.

"Local government sits at the centre of recovery. We are the coordinating authority, the delivery layer, and the connection point to community," she said.

"But this is not a sustainable model if the funding that underpins it is not proportionate to the task."

"Resilience is not a funding model. Without structural reform, rural communities will continue to carry a disproportionate burden", Ms Bonazzi said.

Mayor Cr Gallagher said the Inquiry must now focus on ensuring its findings lead to real change.

"There is clear scope for this Inquiry to deliver meaningful recommendations for reform, particularly in addressing recovery funding inequity," Cr Gallagher said.

"What matters now is that those recommendations are adopted and implemented by Government, not left sitting on a shelf."

Council representatives, including Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher and Director of Community and Development Andrew Paxton, appeared before the Inquiry at Alexandra Shire Hall to present evidence on behalf of the community.

While the public hearings have concluded, Council is continuing to encourage community members to continue sharing their experiences to ensure the full impact of the fires is understood.

"The hearings may have concluded, but the story of recovery is still being written," Cr Gallagher said.

"We encourage our community to continue telling their story, because every voice contributes to the change needed to build a fairer, stronger recovery system."

To read Council's full submission to the Inquiry, visit:

<https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Advocacy-and-Partnerships/Parliamentary-Inquiry-into-the-2026-Summer-Fires-Across-Victoria>

FREE Sustainable House Bus Tour

Saturday May 9th

Bus leaves at 10am from the Yea Library & returns by around 2pm

Feedback from last year's FREE Sustainable House Bus Tour was very positive, so we are offering it again.

We will visit three different homes that demonstrate energy efficiency and sustainability.

To book a seat, please call or text Clare - 0428 969 366





**** HIGHLANDS ****



The Hub @ the Highlands Hall is open
Wed & Fri 10am to 2pm & Sat 9am to 3pm
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
Wednesday & Friday 10-2 and Saturday 9-3 NB: 3pm!!

EVENTS - Wed. 6th May - GV Family Care 10-1 - Wellbeing for children, parents & caregivers
Fri. 8th May - Primary Care Connect 10-2 - Emergency Recovery navigating after the fires
Fri. 15th May - Mitchell Shire Trivia Night - Details to come....

- **Highlands Community Conversation- Recovery Planning Update (April 2026)**

The previous edition of The Granite News gave a written overview of the Community Conversation meeting held in April 2026. The formation of a Community Recovery Committee is essential to facilitate the community's recovery. **If you are interested in becoming a member of the Community Recovery Committee or would like to nominate someone else, please contact The Hub via email or Andrea on 0417 369 225**

The full version of the Community Conversation Report can be found here:

<https://highlands-hub.org.au/documents>

- A Parliamentary Inquiry session was held at The Alexandra Shire Hall on April 24. Andrea Bauer represented The Highlands Hub, CFA and Community FireGuard Group along with Sam Hicks and Coll Furlanetto from the Fawcett Hall and The Tablelands (Ruffy) Hubs. David Webb, Highlands CFA Captain, also presented in the Open Mic session. All transcripts of the day will be available when approved at <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/2026firesinquiry>

- **Local businesses — get listed for free**

We've launched a new business directory for Highlands and surrounds, making it easier for locals to find and support services in the area. If you're a local business, you can add your listing at no cost. It takes a few minutes and helps connect you with people who are actively looking for what you offer. All submissions are reviewed to keep the directory local and relevant.

Add your business here: <https://highlands-hub-directory.softtr.app/>

Alternatively, come see us at the hub!

- 2 sets of washing machines and dryers are now available at The Hub. Please bring your own washing soap. Keys are in an external key lock for access at any time. Ask at the Hub for the CODE



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

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



It was a privilege to attend and represent the Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub with Andrea from Highlands Hub and Sam from Fawcett Hall at the Summer 2026 fires Inquiry. so proud of our collective efforts for our communities. Here`s hoping we were heard. Coll (Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub)

Unbreakable Farmer: Men's Steak Night

What a night. Over 60 blokes from across the Tablelands came together on Friday, 24th April for Unbreakable Farmer – Men's Steak Night at the Ruffy Community Hub, supported through the Look Over the Farm Gate program.

Warren Davies – The Unbreakable Farmer – delivered a powerful, honest session on mental health, disaster recovery, and the strength that comes from staying connected. As the report notes: “His presentation emphasised the intersection of mental health and disaster recovery, highlighting the importance of preparedness and community support.”

The room was full of neighbours, sons, fathers, mates and new faces. A good feed, good company, and conversations that matter.

Key takeaways from the night:

- Building capacity before a crisis
- Making sense of emotions through real storytelling
- Strengthening communication and connection
- Community is the backbone of recovery

A huge thank you to Agriculture Victoria, Euroa Rotary, the Over the Farmgate grant and everyone else who helped bring the night together.

Community-enabled recovery in action.



Latest news from Terip....

We've had a bit of a rest and recharge... but we're back!

Regular dinners are returning and will now be held on the last Thursday and middle Saturday of every month. The fire and heaters will be on if it's cold, so come along and enjoy a great night with the community — we're looking forward to seeing plenty of familiar faces again.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 16th May – CFA End of Fire Season Celebration

Celebrate the end of the fire season with the crew and community. Wood-fired pizzas, dessert and drinks provided.

- CFA Members: Free
- Non-members: \$20
- Includes 1 free raffle ticket (\$5 each extra)
- BYO alcohol

Saturday 23rd May – Fencing Material Pickup

Collect fencing materials.



More details will be released closer to each date.

We look forward to seeing you at The Terip Rec soon.

Kind regards,

Terip Recreation Reserve Committee



31st May

Big Thank You Day

12th June

Women's Night

28th June

Kids and Family Day



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)

Highlands-Caveat CFA

I would like to invite all Highlands-Caveat CFA members to a BBQ at the Highlands Hall on

Tuesday 12th May 2026

followed by the

Highlands-Caveat Fire Brigade's
Post season Meeting.

BBQ to start at 6pm, everything supplied
- followed by the
Post-season meeting at 7pm.

This is a good opportunity for everyone to catch up and have their say about what turned out to be a busy fire season. It would be fantastic to see as many there as possible.

Many thanks

David Webb (Captain - HCRFB)

Please note: the BBQ is just for HCRFB volunteers, thanks



This may be the last hurrah so why not be in it?

Every year for the last 20 out of 22 (Covid has a lot to answer for) the annual UFO (UnFinished Objects) craft weekend has happened at the Highlands Hall... and it's on again!

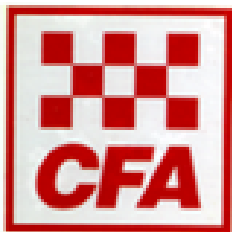
Saturday 30th May 9-5

&

Sunday 31st May 10-4

If you are interested in attending and creating, continuing or completing your latest work of art please contact Pauline pdphroberts@gmail.com to find out more.

Enquiries before **THIS Wednesday 6th May** would be ideal, I need to finalise the catering.
Thanks.



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****

Ruffy Country Fire Brigade CFA

Notice of AGM to be held on
Monday 25th May 2026 at 7:30pm
at the Ruffy Fire Shed
Nolans Road, Ruffy



Elections for all positions on the brigade management team will be held on the night.
Any enquiries to be forwarded to the
Secretary - Ann 0421 364 263

Ruffy Vege Growers

The Ruffy Veggie Growers' Group came together for our first gathering of 2026 on a beautiful, warm autumn day. It was the perfect setting to reflect on where to next with our gardens, share our successes and setbacks, and begin planning for the season ahead.

We were fortunate to receive very generous seed donations from The Diggers Club and The Seed Collection Company, which were met with real enthusiasm by the group. We also gratefully received a \$500 donation from Barham Garden Club, which was used to purchase gift cards from Seymour Garden Centre. The garden centre kindly added bonus cards, which was very much appreciated.

In looking to the future, the group voted to become actively involved in establishing and maintaining more Community Produce beds at the Tablelands Community Centre site, with the intent to grow more fresh produce to share with the community. And also, to include more practical working bee type learning experiences at our get togethers.

If anyone is interested in participating or joining the Ruffy Veggie Growers' group please **contact Cheryl on 0409 019763**. New members are always very welcome.



Biodiversity Alliance Mothers Day Bird Watching and Nature Therapy Event

We're very excited to invite you to our first citizen science event! This kicks off our citizen science monitoring programs and will include some tuition on bird ID and monitoring.

Bird survey workshop & bird monitoring project launch

Date: 10th May 2026, 9.30am-12.00pm

Address: Michael Bankes, 523 Gap Rd, Longwood East. (Meet at his cabin)

Program: Bird walk & species count – 2 x20 mins in different areas. Also, over morning tea, a discussion of the ecological impacts of the fire.

Food: Morning tea provided, BYO lunch & cup.

Bring: Binoculars, Bird ID book if you have one, hat, lunch, cup for tea and maybe a raincoat!

Useful apps: ebird, iNaturalist – have these downloaded onto your phone and sign up for an account with login before you come

Essential to RSVP by 6th May 2026 to Allison at info@biodiversityrecoveryalliance.com or 0409 404258



May 2026

2026 Fires Inquiry Council submission

Council has lodged a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires, representing community experiences.

With nearly half of Victoria's structural losses occurring in Murrindindi, Council is advocating for impact based recovery funding and stronger support for small rural councils.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireinquiry

Free firewood collection extended

Council is continuing its free firewood program, with more collection times now available.

Eligible residents can book a maximum of two collection times with a permit.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/freefirewood

Murrindindi Business Month

Council is proud to announce Murrindindi Business Month, an initiative designed to support, strengthen and celebrate local business.

This free program guides businesses through recovery, growth and future planning.

Strong local businesses support a strong community.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessmonth

Funding to support youth wellbeing secured

Council has secured \$140,000 in VicHealth funding to deliver a new youth-focused creative arts and active recreation program across the Shire, supporting healthier and more connected communities.

Updates on the program will be shared through Council's website as planning progresses.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/youthgrant

Events Forum 2026

The Strath Creek Progress Association, supported by Council, will host the Murrindindi Events Forum in Strath Creek on Wednesday 13 May, from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm.

This event is part of Council's Community Capacity Building Program, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Community Development Fund.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eventsforum26

AusNet Energy Resilience Projects Grants

Applications are open for the final round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Grants, supporting community projects that strengthen local energy resilience and preparedness for outages, emergencies and severe weather.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ausnetgrant

Draft Annual Budget 2026/2027

Council is preparing a draft Annual Budget for the next financial year. The draft Budget is scheduled to be made available to the community for comment during May.

Reinstatement of Road Management Plan

Council temporarily suspended the Road Management Plan at the end of January 2026 to prioritise fire response, community safety, and recovery efforts.

As of Tuesday 7 April, the Plan has been reinstated across all roads, except those directly fire affected.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rmp

Get in touch

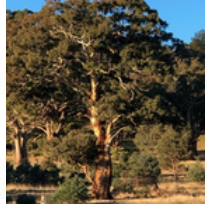
5772 0333

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	 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) KOSBYOVN 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.