

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



26th April 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 34

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Today, Sunday, has been a rather long day with a 3am alarm for a 4am Uber to take Peter and me to the Wellington Airport to fly home at 6am! Needless to say, jetlag isn't really possible on such a short trip - 3.5 hours, but exhaustion certainly is and with a bit of a confusion over time zones - the body is telling me it's 2 hours later than my brain believes, this could make for an interesting issue of TGN....

However, over the last couple of months I'm sure that there are many more people on the Tablelands who have lost sleep or worked ridiculous hours to keep a bit of normality in the lives of others, all of whom have been impacted by January's fires.

Whilst it's not possible to single out everybody's unique and individual contributions for their local communities' benefit, the following article landed in the Editor's email inbox earlier in the week -

Gift cards for 2 Highlands Volunteers

Recently the Highlands Community Group presented RACV gift cards to Andrea Bauer and David Webb for their outstanding contribution to our community before, during and after the devastating Longwood fire that came through our area.

Last year both Andrea and David helped the community to prepare for the upcoming fire season. With their help, community members were able to develop plans about property protection and "time to leave" options. During the fire they devoted much of their time to help the safety of the community.

After the main fire went through they both provided unbelievable community support. Andrea was responsible in setting up and running the Highlands Hub – an incredible resource helping people getting back to some sort of normality. David turned out and helped control numerous fire outbreaks for many weeks later despite having most of his own farm burnt.

The Highlands Community Group would like to thank Andrea and David for their efforts. With the help from RACV, the Group was able to present some Gift vouchers to Andrea and David to enjoy some time away with their families at any RACV Resort in Australia. **See photo >>>>>**

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

"With blighted eyes and blistered feet,
With stomachs out of order
Half mad with flies and dust and heat,
We'd crossed the Queensland border."

Henry Lawson (1867 - 1922)
Australian writer & poet
from 'The Paroo' 1893



		What's On - April & May 2026	
	Monday 27 th April @ 1pm	RUFFY VEGEGIE GROWERS MEET AGAIN!! @ Cheryl & Joe's 190 Red Gate Lane All welcome and as usual there will be cake. Any queries contact Cheryl - 0409 019763	
	Thurs. 30 th April @ 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.12	Friday 1 st May @ 5.30pm	MITCHELL & MURRINDINDI SHIRES' FREE COMMUNITY DINNER @ Highlands Hub	
Details? See p.3	Sunday 3 rd May 9 - 11am	RECOVERY on the HILL @ Upton Fire Station, 1475 Upton Rd All welcome to come and chat with a Bonus Tool Table. RSVPs required	
Details? See p.4	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.6	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. Get down and get dirty!	
	Details? See p.6	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	
	Tue/Thu/Fri	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.	



Recovery on the Hill

Longwood East - Longwood - Locksley - Upton Hill - Avenel

Coffee, snag, and a chat at the Upton Hill fire shed



Time: 9am till 11am

When: Sunday 3 May 2026

Where: Upton Hill Fire Station

1475 Upton Rd, Upton Hill

PLUS: A Tool Table with a range of
donated tools free to pick up.

RSVP by 28 April 2026

recoveryonthehill2026@gmail.com

Recovery on the Hill Get-Together is supported by the Victorian Government.



Australian Government

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL





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.57346200e.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





TERIP CFA
END OF FIRE SEASON CELEBRATION!
 Come together to celebrate a big season and say thanks to our amazing community!

WOOD-FIRED PIZZA NIGHT!
 SATURDAY 16TH MAY
 FROM 6:00 PM
 TERIP CFA

\$20 NON-CFA MEMBERS
FREE! CFA MEMBERS -

INCLUDES: WOOD-FIRED PIZZA, DESSERT & DRINKS
 INCLUDES 1 FREE RAFFLE TICKET ON ENTRY!
 BYO ALCOHOL

BIG RAFFLE!
 DON'T MISS OUT!
 EXTRA TICKETS JUST \$5 EACH!
 GREAT PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!
 The more tickets you buy, the better your chances to WIN BIG!

Bring the family, catch up with mates, and enjoy a great night out!
We'd love to see you there!

RSVP:
 Jenny 0448 833 876
 teripterip3710@gmail.com
 Terip Community FB

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



**** 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 - LOTS still happening, see calendar on p.2 for an extensive list of dinners & other details

Available FREE at the hub for our residents:

- **NEW** - Pine posts
- **NEW** - 8 or 10 rolls of canvas (2.5m - 3m)
- **FREE** item to anyone impacted by the fires - compost tumbler, located in Yea. Will need a ute or trailer to pickup. See photo >>> Please contact the Hub **0491 941 005**



- The 6 IBCs filled with water near the tennis courts need to leave the Highlands soon and be empty when they do. Please come and fill whatever you have, or the water will go onto the group.
- 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>

Friday 1st May - an absolute whopper of a day!

Primary Care Connect Recovery Team (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

The PCC team is here to help navigate the aftermath of the January fires. They are experts at "connecting the dots" and can assist with: VERRF \$1,000 Payments: Hands-on help applying for the relief payment. Insurance & Legal: Navigating claims and legal support.

Murrindindi Health Van (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

The health van will be on-site at the Hub offering professional mental health support and general advice. If you've been feeling the weight of things lately, pop in for a confidential, friendly chat.

Community Dinner at the Hall (5:30 PM) With Comedian Josh Crute

Hosted by the Murrindindi Council. Come along for a delicious meal and even better company!
On the Menu: Beef in savoury peanut sauce Chicken and vegetable stir fry Fried rice

Saturday 30th May - a DATE for your DIARY

DIY Series Week 2: Small Engines Workshop (11:00 AM @ Highlands Hall)

Join us for the second installment of our DIY series! This session is all about Cleaning Carbys. Learn the tricks to keeping your small gear in top shape and your engines humming.

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

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225

NB: Continued on next page



Continued from page 5

What's been happening at the Hub:



A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who provided the amazing food for the Pasta Night on April 24th. An extra special thank you to Sally Murchie for organising this too as otherwise it wouldn't have happened. Approximately 60 tummies were filled with yummys. . Thank you to Bradley Prorok who donated Wagyu beef packages that were handed out as door prizes... Who is registering for Iron Man? Some happy dogs in the region too with delectable bones also distributed.



Highlands Community Conversation – Recovery Planning Update (April 2026)

On Saturday 11th April 2026, community members gathered at Highlands Hall to discuss recovery progress following the January bushfires and to help shape future planning. The meeting also supported the establishment of the newly formed Highlands Relief Hub Inc, which will play a key role in coordinating medium- to long-term recovery efforts.

What the Community Highlighted

Residents reflected on the strong sense of community that has emerged since the fires, with neighbours supporting one another and the Hub providing vital assistance. However, several ongoing challenges were identified, including limited early support, communication difficulties during the emergency, delays in clearing roads and hazardous trees, and the need for more reliable essential services.

Key Recovery Priorities

Participants identified several immediate priorities for recovery:

- Continued clearing of dangerous and fallen trees along roadsides
- Faster clean-up of damaged properties and infrastructure
- Support for rebuilding homes and replacing essential assets such as water tanks
- Improved access to financial assistance and mental health services
- Strengthening community connections and ensuring fair distribution of support

Skills Needed to Support Recovery

The discussion highlighted the importance of strong leadership, communication, administration, and grant-writing skills, along with practical expertise such as building, fencing, machinery operation, environmental management, and emergency planning.

Next Steps

Community members nominated potential candidates to serve on the Highlands Relief Hub Inc committee. Further nominations will be sought to ensure broad representation. Volunteers will contact nominees to confirm their interest, and if required, a ballot will be held to finalise committee membership.

The Highlands community continues to demonstrate resilience and determination as recovery efforts move forward, with collaboration between residents, volunteers, and agencies remaining central to rebuilding and strengthening the region.

NB: A link to the full document is coming.....



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

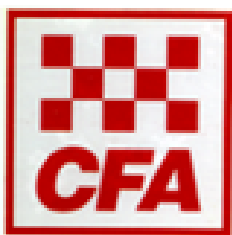
- Frozen meals available every day.
- **Fridge meals** in outside glass-door fridge
- **Freezer** stocked regularly with ready-to-heat meals



Tuesday: All Services Attend

- Primary Care Connect
- Family Care
- GV Health Psychologist
- Other Visiting Services

(Can vary week to week)



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****

Ruff Country Fire Brigade CFA

Notice of AGM to be held on
Monday 25th May 2026 at 7:30pm
at the Ruff 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

Need some chainsaw work to get you back up and running?

Pop into the Highlands Hub (anyone is welcome) during hours of operation and leave your details:
The legends from Four Wheel Drive Victoria are heading to **Highlands and surrounds** over the coming weeks.

Professional Tree & Log Assistance:

All-Rounders: Whether it's clearing fallen timber across tracks, removing limbs from fences, or general cleanup of damaged trees, these guys are ready to pitch in.

Qualified Operators: Every person on the tools holds a current chainsaw ticket - they are experienced, safe, and really know their stuff.

Fully Equipped: They're coming prepared with their own saws and recovery gear to get the job done right

Dates for your Diaries

Avenel Active

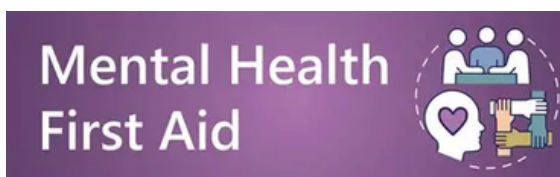
are holding 2 Mental Health + Aid sessions

Saturdays 16th & 30th May

10- 4

Memorial Hall, Avenel

More information to come...



Did you know?

All 3 Shire Councils

- Mitchell
- Murrindindi
- Strathbogie

impacted by January's firestorm have recovery websites.

If you haven't checked them out already why not give them a try - you might find some useful information to assist with your future plans.

Mitchell - <https://tinyurl.com/yzkx9bvf>

Murrindindi - <https://tinyurl.com/bdhwusze>

Strathbogie - <https://tinyurl.com/48nd5y7k>

ANZAC Day the Kiwi Way

About 15 years ago, give or take, Peter and I found ourselves on the South Island of New Zealand and stumbled upon an ANZAC Day service in the township of Akaroa, just as it was commencing. We hovered around at the back of the crowd unable to walk past a commemoration that meant so much to both our country's histories. It was simple and reasonably short in duration but the thing that stood out for me was the fact that both the New Zealand **AND** Australian national anthems were part of the service. To me this made excellent sense as ANZAC wouldn't be ANZAC without the NZ in the middle of it, but this reciprocal acknowledgement was not something I had come across back home across the ditch.

So, I wrote to the then Defence minister and the National President of the RSL and asked the question - Why not? The replies I received were basically the same - that it was up to the individual RSL branches to devise their own services and if they wanted to include the NZ national anthem that was their decision. I was subsequently delighted when the Yea-Kinglake Branch of the RSL commenced including the NZ National Anthem as part of their remembrance service, as it was such a logical inclusion.

Fast forward to this weekend and once again Peter and I are in New Zealand and this time we're in Wellington with several ANZAC services to choose from - we decided to attend the one in the middle of the afternoon at the Atatürk Memorial Park. For readers unfamiliar with the name Atatürk he is regarded as the founding father of modern Türkiye, as well as being the commander of a small group of Turkish soldiers atop the heights above the Gallipoli beaches - Chunuk Bair to be precise. And it was the New Zealanders, the Wellington Regiment in fact who scaled those heights and advanced the furthest inland on that first fatal day

As a result the New Zealand government, with Turkey's approval, created this Memorial Park in the 1980s to honour Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - defender of Gallipoli, as a sign of respect between the two nations. And they located it on the outskirts of Wellington, overlooking a brilliant piece of ocean and at the top of a cliff, with the only access being by foot. This was deliberate because in many ways it replicates the topography of Chunuk Bair and although it is probably only about a third of the height of the original, it is still an interesting climb.



At this service however it was the national anthems of New Zealand and Türkiye that were sung, but prior to that the service commenced with a Karanga - a Maori ritual chant of welcome - as the dignitaries the Attorney General of NZ, the Turkish Ambassador and the High Commissioner of Australia all walked to their places on the small, paved area and the rest of us attendees stood in solemn and respectful silence. This vocal high-pitched wail is very emotive, even if one doesn't understand the Maori words, and as I discovered afterwards its purpose is to welcome visitors, acknowledge the dead and create a formal link between host and visitors. I felt very privileged to be a tiny part of this tradition and am hopeful that the respect and dignity that was shown can transfer across the Tasman for any future ANZAC Day services in Australia. **Ed.**





You're invited to a free community dinner

**Friday 1 May 2026 from 5.30 pm
at the Highlands Community Hall**

Council is working with local hall committees to bring people together after the recent fire. Join us for a relaxed, free community dinner at the Highlands Community Hall, focused on connection, conversation and simply spending time together. After the Longwood Fire, it has been a challenging time for many, and sharing a hot meal is a simple but meaningful way to reconnect, unwind and support one another. Whether you come for a quick bite or stay for a longer chat, everyone is welcome.

5772 0333
murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Planning your recovery

Whole Farm Planning course EOI now open for fire impacted landholders

Share your experiences, ideas and prepare a new plan for your farm

Expressions of Interest for Whole Farm Planning courses are now open for landholders impacted by the recent bushfires. A Whole Farm Plan can help design a farm that is easier to manage, more productive and offers environmental benefits.



This EOI will be used to identify groups of landholders to run courses. We will be in contact when we have enough participants in your area.

Participants meet for up to 6 sessions to cover farm management and recovery topics. An online format will also be available.

Workshop topics include:

- Farm design and layout
- Setting current and future goals
- Soils, biodiversity and land classing
- Pasture and grazing/feed management
- Farm water supply planning
- Farm business planning

- Looking after yourself
 - Risk management.
- A free laminated property map will be provided as part of the course.

To express interest in this first round of courses by 30 April 2026:

Please fill out the form at:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Ky1eKXn8N3>

Or use the QR code:



For more information contact:

Kylie Macreadie on 0427 052 352

Or Email:
recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au

"I did the FarmPlan 21 course following the Moyston fire. It helped me redesign paddocks and importantly got me off the farm and sharing with others for a few hours each week." David Coad, Moyston.

Agriculture Victoria is working with Victorian farmers and industry to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters, including fires, floods and storms.



FREE Sustainable House Bus Tour Saturday May 9th

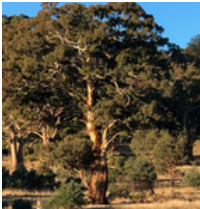
Bus leaves at 10am from the Yea Library & returns by around 2pm

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



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.