

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



10th May 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 36

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

The last two days, 8th & 9th May, mark four calendar months since the Longwood firestorm engulfed the HCCC area.

In that time the most incredible community spirit has been evident from one end of the Tablelands to the other. Locals helping each other has been the hallmark of the immediate aftermath as well as the recovery that is still happening and given the glacial speed of bureaucracy to complete, or even commence, certain tasks it appears that the recovery stage will be longer than one would wish for.

I have been dwelling on the two letters from the Murrindindi and Stratbogrie Shires published last week, and I am still gob smacked that the financial assistance to each of the impacted Shires across the state is the same amount of funding (\$750,000) no matter the actual damage or impact on people's livelihoods in each area.

Whilst I'm usually a fan of even playing fields this time it seems like lazy accounting when one Shire has 48% of its area impacted but receives the same assistance as another Shire that has minimal damage. That really does not make sense and could be seen as disadvantaging the very families that need the most support possible.

To that end I have not been advised of any extensions to the **FREE** waste disposal at Council Resource Recovery Centres which means as of **Tuesday 12th May** this assistance will cease. My advice, if you can, get your bushfire affected waste to your closest tip in the next 2 days!

Also, it appears that there is no magic wand when it comes to staffing the incredibly important Hubs at Highlands, Ruffy and the Terip annexe. A handful of locals, supported by others when possible, have done the most incredible job managing these vital lifelines to their communities over the last 4 months. Given the lack of external support to take on the role of these community assets (that could quite conceivably be required for several months more) I wonder if there are any readers who might have a few hours available, to help out the core volunteers who have kept the Hubs operating. Bushfire fatigue is no doubt a factor, 4 months along, but the need is still there so call Andrea (0491 941005) or Coll (0427 920245)

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

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest.

It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

Sir David Attenborough
8th May 1926 - 100 years young

**'Phonetic' is not.
'Abbreviation'
is 12 letters.
'Thesaurus' doesn't
have a synonym.
'Monosyllabic' has five
syllables. Say what
you will about English,
but it has a sense of
humor.**

EXPRESSIONS of INTEREST

If any readers are interested in attending Pilates classes at the Highlands Hall (conducted by a qualified instructor)

RSVP ASAP to

Mel 0498 643 608

indicating preferred day(s) and time(s)

What's On - May & June 2026



Details?
See p.9

Tues. 12th May
@ 6 & 7.00pm

HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT CFA BBQ & End of Season Meeting @ Highlands Hall/Hub

Details?
See p.9

Wed. 13th 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.7

Friday 15th
May 5.30 -8pm

CAV'S TRIVIA NIGHT & CHINESE DINNER @ Highlands Hall/Hub



Details?
See p.8

Sat. 16th May
@ 6pm

TERIP END of FIRE SEASON CELEBRATION @ Terip CFA

Details?
See p.3

Sat. 23rd May
@ 9am

WORKING BEE @ MAFEKING PARK - Come & help the Rovers resurrect the park



Sat. 23rd May
@ 6.30pm

HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Hall/Hub



Sunday 24th
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?
pp. 3&4

Sunday 24th
May 10-12

CREIGHTONS CREEK - RECONSIDERING GARDENS post fire@ Creightons Ck Hall



Details?
See p.9

Monday 25th
May @ 7.30

RUFFY CFA AGM @ Ruffy Fire Shed



Thurs. 28th
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.

Sunday 31st
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 13th & 27th May and 10th & 24th June.**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Pauline,

With the recent destruction of so much roadside habitat, first with the fires, then the extensive clearing post fires, there is so little habitat left for the birds and mammals that depend on these important corridors. As with me, many people are grieving the loss of old trees, their hollows and the mid-level shrubs and small trees in between.

Something important to consider, which may assist the recovery of small mammals and birds such as finches and wrens (who are often the hardest hit after fires). All the hundreds of piles of debris from tree clearing along the many fence lines have now become the only refuge for these little birds. On my walks, I am observing them using these piles as habitat. Anticipating these piles of wood will soon be set alight for burning, I worry this will result in these last of refuges being destroyed, which is especially concerning as we head into winter.

If landowners do have the capacity to leave even a few piles in each paddock until there is suitable habitat regrowth, then we will be able to save many small birds (and mammals no doubt) and enable a wider genetic pool for future generations. Please consider!

Many thanks.

Tim Andrews
Terip Terip

Another Letter to the Editor

Good morning Creightons' Creek community,

I'm delighted to share details for this event which will be held at the Creightons Creek Hall on Sunday 24 May between 10am-12pm - flyer on **p.??**.

This forum is an opportunity to learn more about how you can plan a more fire-smart garden that has risk reduction at its heart.

Our keynote speaker is John Rayner (Burnley Horticulture). We'll also explore some case studies from local garden designers Miranda Yorston and myself (Neil May) as well as local gardener Annette Radford. We'll also hear from Euroa Arboretum's Cathy Olive followed by a panel style Q&A.

Whether your garden was impacted by the recent fires or you're simply re-assessing the risk of your garden, this session will cover a broad range of topics including design principles to reduce fire risk, the importance a garden plays in our health and wellbeing as well as practical advice on what to do next.

There'll be a coffee van onsite and a BBQ lunch will be served after the session. Please RSVP via the QR code on the attached flyer or email creightonscreekrecovery@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!

Kind regards

Neil May (on behalf of the CCGR)

SAVE THE DATE for TERIP DIARIES

Terip Terip CFA will be holding its brigade elections over dinner on **Thursday, 18th June at 6:30pm.**

All Terip Terip CFA members are requested to attend.

Dinner will be provided.



Shannon Roach

Captain - Terip Terip Fire Brigade
DGO - Alexandra group

M: 0400 842009

E: shnon1@hotmail.com

Yet another Letter to the Editor

Hello Everyone,

The Rovers have reached out for some help cleaning up the Rover Park. They were fantastic to us after the fires helping get stuff up to The Hub and helping clear roads. I'm looking for volunteers to help with a working bee at the **Rover Park on Saturday 23rd May about 9.00am.**

Anyone is welcome and hopefully we can get quite a few attendees there to help out as they are not having a Mudbash this year due to the amount of cleaning up that needs to be done.

Thanks,

David Webb - Captain HCRFB
0417 150113



CREIGHTONS CREEK RECOVERY GROUP PRESENTS:

RECONSIDERING GARDENS AFTER A FIRE EXPERIENCE

DATE

24 MAY

TIME

**10:00AM
- 12:00PM**

**FOLLOWED BY
A BBQ LUNCH**

A garden can be an important part of recovery and restoration following a bushfire

**Learn how you can plan a fire-smart garden
which has risk reduction at its heart**

Hear from John Rayner (Burnley Horticulture),
local garden designers Miranda Yorston & Neil May,
local gardener Annette Radford and the Euroa
Arboretum's Cathy Olive

RSVP BY 19 MAY
VIA QR CODE OR EMAIL:
CREIGHTONSCREEKRECOVERY@GMAIL.COM



Location: Creightons Creek Recreation Reserve,
1489 Creightons Creek Road, Creightons Creek

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT



Sir David Attenborough - 8th May 1926 ~2026

100 years young

No doubt when someone gets to the ripe old age of 100 they would have had amazing experiences throughout their life, if only due to their longevity.

However, Sir David Attenborough, has not only experienced a plethora of amazing things himself, in his century of life, but also recorded so many more amazing experiences and then shared such wonderful gems of the natural world with a viewing audience worldwide. That is one hell of a legacy!

In fact, over the last few days many esteemed scientists and fieldworkers in the area of natural science, across the world, have come forward to say that their love for their chosen professions came from watching the incredible ground-breaking series Life on Earth (and its successors) as children. That is some impact. So how did David commence such an avalanche of interest and a dedicated following for his endeavors?

Well, it appears that like most small boys a century ago he was into 'collections' - leaves, shedded snake skins, stones, fossils, etc. When he was 11 he applied his knowledge of his own natural world for profit. He grew up on the campus of University College, Leicester, where his father was principal and when he heard that the Zoology department was in need of some newts, he offered to supply them at 3d each. The source, which he didn't reveal at the time, was a pond adjacent to the department!

His love for the natural world really commenced with fossils though. In the late 1930s he cycled into the English countryside and arriving at an exposed rock face, he began searching among fallen fragments below. He picked up a promising stone and split it apart with his hammer. As he remembers it, "There, perfect in every detail, glinting as though it had just been polished, was a coiled seashell... an object of breathtaking beauty. And my eyes were the first to see it since its occupant died 200 million years ago."

It was a fossil ammonite – a spiral-shelled creature around the size of his palm. Due to their coiled appearance, local people once believed they were snakes, but they were actually cephalopods: a marine mollusc similar to the modern-day nautilus, which swam in ancient oceans.

"I suppose it's true to say that it was one of the key moments of my life," he said. "I have been repeating that moment, off and on, throughout my life and the thrill has still not worn off."

The proverbial Peter Pan, with the curiosity of his 11 year old self, it's no wonder he is still enjoying life.



There's obviously heaps more information about Sir David on the internet if readers want to find out more about his life's work and legacy but one obscure little fact is that tennis balls are now fluoro yellow due to his decision, as a BBC2 controller in 1986, to broadcast the tennis at Wimbledon in colour! White balls just don't show up on colour TV, so they had to go.

NB: At the speed which some players serve, white or yellow, would be lost on me and an ace for the server. We can also thank him for programming Monty Python's Flying Circus and Pot Black too!

Footnote - his favourite place on Earth, aside from his home, is the Great Barrier Reef.



**** 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 - It's another big week at the Hub with a focus on garden recovery, family support, and a community night you won't want to miss!

Wednesday May 13th

Gardening After Fires Workshop

- Time: 9.30 am – 12 pm
- Details: Join Lauren (Lala Landscaping) and the team from Granite Hills Community Nursery.
- Learn about: Fire-resilient plant selection, garden design principles, and hands-on skills for sowing and propagating plants to help rebuild your garden.

GV Family Care

- Time: 10 am – 1 pm
- Support: Practical assistance with routines, counseling, and case management for parents, children, and caregivers.

Primary Care Connect (Recovery Team)

- Time: 10 am – 2 pm
- Assistance: The PCC team is here to help navigate the recovery process. While the VERRF grant has now ended, they can provide hands-on help with other available grants, insurance questions, and financial hardship options with a dedicated financial advisor available.

Friday May 15th

Primary Care Connect (Recovery Team)

- Time: 10 am – 2 pm (see above for details)

Murrindindi Health Van

- Time: 10 am – 2 pm
- Focus: On-site mental health support and general wellbeing advice. Come by for a quiet chat and expert tips on looking after yourself.

Community Dinner: Cav's Trivia & Chinese!

- Time: 5.30 pm – 8 pm
- Details: A free dinner for our Mitchell and Murrindindi communities! Enjoy Papa Rich's Noodles and test your general knowledge with Cav's Trivia. Everyone is welcome!

DON'T FORGET

- 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



Community Dinner

Join us for Cav's & Chinese!

Friday 15 May, 5.30 - 8pm

Highlands Community Hall, 1603 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands

Join our Mitchell and Murrindindi communities for a free dinner at Highlands Community Hall. Come and enjoy Papa Rich's Noodles with a wide range of dishes & test your general knowledge with Cav's Trivia.

Bring yourself, your family, friends, neighbours, everyone is welcome!

Contact us

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

www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au





**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



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
CFA MEMBERS - FREE!

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 833 875
teriptrip3719@gmail.com
Terip Community FB

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)

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





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



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



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





Working Dogs Clinic

Express your interest below!

We are looking at hosting a Working Dog Clinic in Highlands to support farmers and their dogs to learn, connect and build new rural skills.

The clinic is organised in partnership by Australian Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministries and supported by Mitchell & Murrindindi Shire Council.

Scan the QR code to express your interest in the clinic:



Contact us

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



A Date for your Diaries Highlands Hub's Biggest Morning Tea

Date: Saturday, May 23rd

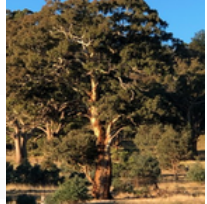
Time: Starting at 10.30 am

Details: Join us for a spread of yummy cakes, slices, and plenty of tea as we raise vital funds for cancer research and support.

Why it matters: 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. Every dollar helps change those outcomes.

Donations: We know things are tough right now, so please know that even a gold coin donation is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference!



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.