

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



14th September 2025 | Volume 19 Issue 32

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Last Friday night saw another couple of valued members of the Highlands community, Karli and Peter, farewelled as they and their two donkeys head off to Metung to continue their lives - enjoying the combination of both the bush AND the beach, as well as being closer to family.

Larry's thoughtful speech thanked them for their contribution to the local community they have called home for the last 18 years and wished them all the best for the future. A good attendance from the Highlands community sent them on their way. See p.3 for more.



On a totally different tack almost every week another person joins the TGN readership. This continues to amaze me as the only form of distribution is via group email so word of mouth must be the contributing factor.

Readership currently sits on 740 readers, which means that since taking on the role of Editor readership has doubled! I'm rather chuffed about that, but let's not rest on our laurels. If any readers know of anyone else who would like to enjoy an informative, environmental read each week please head them in the direction of www.hccclandcare.net.au to subscribe online. Thanks.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was helping out at the Whiteheads Creek tree planting

DON'T FORGET.....

The next issue of The Granite News will be

Sunday 5th October

Copy needs to be received by Thursday 2nd October

Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
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

"Make yourself a priority once in a while, it's not selfish, it's necessary."

RUOK Day was Sept. 11th



Especially for Manual drivers - enjoy the chuckle. Go dad!!

Did you know?

Lake Baikal in Siberia is not only the world's deepest lake but also contains 20% of the world's fresh water!

Definitely something to ponder due to its location and the percentage of potable water it contains.

		What's On - September & October 2025
	Mon. 15th Sept@ 7.30pm	TERIP REC RESERVE AGM @ Terip Rec Reserve All community members are welcome, especially anyone that may be interested in taking on a Committee position or have ideas for future community events.
	Sat. 20th Sept. @ 6pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP NB: Rescheduled date! @ Highlands Community Hall
	Sunday 21st Sept. @ noon	RUFFY CFA CELEBRATION @ Ruffy Fire Shed Official opening of the fire shed extension is just the start RSVPs to Ann 0421 364263
	Thurs. 25th Sept @5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
Go Hawks!	Sat. 27th Sept. from 1.30pm	TERIP's AFL GRAND FINAL DAY @ Terip Rec Reserve BIG Screen - kick off at 2.30pm - Hot food - \$10pp - Kids free. See p.4 For details
	Sunday 28th Sept @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS WALK meet @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come and explore our stunning local area. Supported by HCCC Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Monday 29th Sept. @ 1.30	RUFFY VEGE CLUB GATHERING (See p.3 for details) @ 230 McLeans Lane, Ruffy
	Friday 3rd Oct from 6pm >>	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights. Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
Details? LastTGN	Sat 4th & Sun 5th October	EUROA SHOW & SHINE EVENT - time to declutter so RuffArtz can shine too!!
	Monday 6th Oct. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT SPINNING CLUB @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd Tea, coffee, friendship and laughs will be in plenty. Enquiries? Jan & Ruby 5790 4361
	Monday 6th Sept@ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON @ Tablelands Community Centre Come enjoy some creative company and craft the afternoon away. Gabrielle 0402 335840
	Tuesday 7th Oct. @ 7.30pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ TCC Ruffy Come along and meet our special guest Annabelle Cleeland - MLA for Euroa.
	Friday 10th Oct. @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Community Hall Bring food to share and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. Contact Paula 0419 551882
Details? See p.8	Sat. 11th Oct. @ 7pm	RUFFY TRIVIA NIGHT at Ruffy Community Hall Book a table and bring your friends Bookings Darryl 0468 771024

a HUGE thank you

We would like to say thank you to all our friends who came to Drinks on the Deck to farewell us on our new adventure.

We have loved all our years in Highlands and in particular being part of this very special community. We were really touched by everyone's kind thoughts and wishes.

With heartfelt thanks,
Karli and Pete Neicho



NB: The beautiful donkey drawing was done by Highlands local artisan - Vitto Oles - and it is stunning!

Ruffy Veggie Club Gathering You're invited!

The next Ruffy Veggie Club gathering is scheduled for **Monday 29/9 at 1:30pm.**

At Sue & Craig's - 230 McLeans Lane, Ruffy.

Please park near the orchard shed.

We will utilise the orchard shed for cup of tea etc.

Then can carpool or walk to house to look at the hot house/garden.

New members are most welcome.

Please bring something for afternoon tea and any produce/seeds you wish to share.




Enquires please contact
Cheryl 0409 019763



S
e
t

D
a
t
e
s
&

T
i
m
e
s

	Continued...	What's On - September & October 2025
	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 are 17th September and 1st, 15th & 29th October.
	Every Monday @ 6pm	MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy Just resting until September Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
	2nd & 4th Sundays	ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
	Mon 8.45-9.45am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com



MISSING

one Angus heifer

tag number V11
 escaped from yards at the corner of
 Gum Rd and Dropmore-Caveat Rd
 If anyone knows the whereabouts of
 this animal please contact us on

0427 904295

thank you
 Gerard & Ann Hill



NB: photo is for illustrative purposes only

New updates from iNaturalist Australia

Great Southern Bioblitz 2025

Molesworth Spotlighting Walk

When: Friday 24th October

Times: 7:15 for a 7:30 pm start, finish approx. 9:00pm

Location: Molesworth Nature Conservation Reserve. Meet at the Goulburn River boat access (drive through the caravan park, go slow over the speed humps!)

Map link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/1HnWwLseoR1MWtLD8>

Tony Fitzgerald from Taungurung Land and Waters Council will lead the walk.

Why? Very few records exist of much nocturnal survey work being done at Molesworth. In particular, listening and looking ...



iNaturalist

Are you interested in adding to the
 iNaturalist's

environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area?



iNaturalist

If YES then download the App now, follow the instructions for use and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.

Myths busted: How to stay safe this magpie season

by Laura Dare

Zip ties? Umbrellas? Talking to magpies? We break down the best ways to avoid swooping magpies this season – and the myths that just won't go away. As spring creeps in, so does the seasonal stress: Swooping magpies are back.

Whether you're a cyclist, dog walker, or just trying to enjoy the sunshine without being dive-bombed, here's what you need to know. It's not personal (unless they remember your face. Magpies aren't out for blood – they're just overprotective dads.

During nesting season (August to October), some male magpies go full gladiator mode to protect their chicks. Most female magpies don't swoop – they're too busy incubating the eggs and looking after the nest. Here's the twist: Only about 10 per cent of breeding males swoop, with even fewer actually making contact.

Still, if you've been swooped before, you're more likely to be swooped again. Magpies have insanely good facial recognition and can remember people for up to 20 years. Some even seem to pass warnings on to their offspring – a kind of feathered family vendetta. They also have "preferences" – some target only cyclists, some go for pedestrians, and some ... well, they're equal opportunity offenders.

They're also known to swoop at dogs – especially if your dog is off-lead or showing a little too much interest in their nesting tree. It's because some magpies see dogs as natural predators, even if your pup couldn't care less.

Magpie swooping myths – busted

All magpies swoop

Nope. Most are chill. Only a small group of fiercely defensive dads get into swooping mode.

They're aggressive jerks

Not true. They're actually devoted, intelligent birds doing what any parent would – defending their young.

They hate the colour yellow/purple/fluoro green

There's zero evidence for this. Swooping is about behaviour and territory, not your fashion choices.

Cable ties and fake eyes always work

Sometimes they help. Sometimes they make you look like a walking craft project and the magpie doesn't care.

Zip ties, streamers and staring contests: What actually works?

Here's what science says might help:

Best bets:

Avoid the area: Seriously, just walk the long way round for a few weeks

Walk in groups: Magpies tend to go after lone targets

Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunnies: For protection and intimidation

Use an umbrella: Held up, not swung.

Get off your bike: Walk it past known swooping zones.

Stay calm: Don't shout, run or flail. You'll just prove them right.



Mixed results:

Fake eyes on the back of your hat/helmet: Might work, might not

Zip ties, pipe cleaners, streamers, party hats: Weird? Yes. Effective? Sometimes. At the very least, you'll warn others to steer clear.

Talking to them: Yes, really! Some people say regularly greeting local magpies keeps them on side.

Don't do this:

Feed them to "make friends": It can cause dependency or disease

Attack, yell at, or throw things: It can make them more aggressive (and it's illegal)

Don't pick up a chick on the ground: It's probably a fledgling learning to fly.

They're songbirds, not villains. Magpies aren't mindless swooping machines. They're incredibly intelligent songbirds that can:

- Mimic 35-plus sounds, from other birds to dogs and car alarms
- Recognise and remember 100-plus human faces
- Communicate with other magpies about who's friendly (or not)
- Solve problems and even introduce their young to trusted humans
- While they can hold a grudge, they can also form bonds – some people report magpies singing on their balconies or visiting every day.
- What if a magpie swoop goes too far?

While most swoops are just warnings, injuries can occasionally happen – usually from startled reactions like falling off a bike.

Continued on p.6

Myths busted: How to stay safe this magpie season - continued

Severe injuries are rare, and fatalities are extremely rare, often involving indirect causes like collisions or falls during an attempted escape.

As a native species, magpies are protected across Australia. Removal is considered only when a bird poses a genuine risk to public safety. If a swooping magpie on your route is getting a bit too bold, you can report it to your local council, which can install signs or manage the area to reduce risks. You can also check sites like magpiealert.com to see if others have flagged that location. And if possible, take a detour until the season passes. It's only temporary.

It's not just the magpies

Magpies might have the worst PR, but they're not the only birds taking issue with your springtime stroll.

Other birds known to swoop across Australia include:

- Magpie-larks (aka mudlarks): Often fly up from the ground and may attack their own reflections in car mirrors or windows
- Masked lapwings (aka plovers): Loud, dramatic and not afraid to use their wing spurs (sharp spikes at the "elbow" or carpal joint of their wings) if you get too close. They sometimes fake injuries to lure you away from their nests
- Noisy miners and wattlebirds: Will swoop year-round to defend territory, not just during nesting season
- Silver gulls, pelicans, ravens and kookaburras: Not so much territorial as they are opportunistic – these guys swoop to scavenge food, especially at picnics, beaches, and outdoor cafés

Magpies get the most airtime because their swoops feel personal – but the truth is, most swooping birds are just trying to protect their home or grab your chips.

The same advice applies for all of them: **Steer clear of nesting sites, stay calm, protect your head, and never feed wildlife.** A bit of distance and respect goes a long way – no matter the species.

Masked lapwings, also known as plovers, are frightening swoopers.

Magpies are part of the soundtrack of our mornings.

Outside of swooping season, they're curious, social, and great for gardens (they eat insects and snails.).

If we treat them with a bit of respect, they might just treat us the same way. Or at least let us walk to the bus stop in peace.

Until then – wear a wide-brimmed hat, choose your walking routes wisely, and remember: It's not forever, just in nesting season.



Article originally published in The Post SA.



Got a Spare Room, Caravan, or Bunkhouse? Help House Our Staff! 🍒

As we gear up for the 2025-26 Cherry Harvest, Koala Cherries is looking for local accommodation options to support our amazing harvest crew.

If you have a spare room, caravan, bunkhouse, or other temporary accommodation available from mid-November to mid-January, we'd love to hear from you!

Accommodation should have cooking and bathroom facilities; simple arrangements are fine if they are clean and safe.

How it works:

We will include basic details of what you can offer along with your contact details on our **Accommodation Listing**, which is shared with our harvest workers. You'll liaise directly with the employee to finalise arrangements.

To express your interest please email your details to jobs@koalacherries.com.au or alternately, call us on: (03) 5773 4250.

Thank you for supporting our Harvest Season!





Join us for a Celebration

Sunday the 21st of September 2025 at 12pm/ Noon

at the Ruffy Fire Shed, Nolans Road, Ruffy.

The Ruffy Brigade is officially Opening the Extension to the Fire Shed and Unveiling our Honour Board. We are also celebrating the volunteers who make this Brigade as good as it is: by presenting Service Awards to all eligible members.

**We are providing a BBQ Lunch from 12 noon for all attendees.
(please notify Ann of any Dietary restrictions.)**

We want to engage with the community to highlight the wonderful people and facilities that keep our community safe.

Please RSVP to Ann on 0421 364 263 or alaherty@yahoo.com.au
by the 15th of September.



My EV and other battery-powered equipment

Presenters: Ron Litjens, Ian Tobin & Alister Huth

When: 6:30 - 7:30pm
Thursday September 18

Where: Yea Butter Factory, 13 Rattray St, Yea

This is a FREE 2030Yea Community Event
All welcome!

The transition to battery power is being driven by efficiency. The average electric vehicle (EV) converts 85% or more of its electric energy into motion, compared to 20–30% for a petrol driven car. EVs are much less complex, requiring less servicing and replacement parts. In the near future your EV's battery could double as your home battery!

As an introduction to this presentation, read about Ian's trip to Melbourne in his Tesla.

But wait! There's more! What about battery power hand tools? Join Ron, Ian and Alister to hear about their EV experiences ... and discuss other battery-operated equipment. Come with lots of questions.

Please call or text 0428 969366 to book (for catering).



YEA GARDEN EXPO

20 & 21 SEP 2025
9AM - 3PM

Location: Yea Saleyards
Flat Lead Road, Yea (see website for directions)

Only an hour from Melbourne!

- Native & flowering plants
- Garden sculptures
- Motorised barrows & vehicles
- Garden tools & Vegetable bins
- Seedlings
- Mulch, fertilisers & compost
- Ride-on & push mowers
- Nurseries
- Small chainsaws
- Roses
- Deciduous & Ornamental trees
- Garden books
- Plant Creche
- Speakers Program
- And much more.....

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE!

Entry \$12 at the gate - \$10 booked online
Concession \$10
Kids U/16 FREE.
Pay at the gate or book online via www.trybooking.com:
www.trybooking.com/DBYVD (Bookings open August 1st)

FREE PARKING

Contact: yeagardenexpo@gmail.com
www.yearotary.org.au



TERIP TERIP REC RESERVE AGM

**15th
SEPTEMBER
7:30 PM**

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

SAT 11TH OCTOBER

BOOK A TABLE WITH YOUR FRIENDS,
OR JUST COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN

RUFFY TRIVIA NIGHT

STARTS AT 7PM & TICKETS ARE \$10 PER PERSON

CONTACT DARRYL FOR BOOKINGS:
0468 771 024 OR DOTZEN@GMAIL.COM

SPRING 2025 EDITION

WATER MATTERS

Join us for National Water Week: 20-26 October 2025

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities to understand its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.



Free event - Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens

This year's main event, **Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens**, will be held on Wednesday 22 October, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces.

Book your seat early to attend the seminar in person and collect a free waterwise garden pack on the night, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for anyone who can't make it to the event in person.

23 October: Register to join and support this year's **Water Night** challenge.

Join us in the national challenge to turn off all non-essential taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis, Water Night reached over 4.2 million people in 2024. This year, we're inviting people to nominate their school, club or business to be recognised and celebrated for leading community waterwise action.



Find out more and register:
waternight.com.au



Scan to find out more and
book your seat, or visit:
riverlinksvenues.com.au

School kids take part in competition to design a toilet paper wrap.

We're engaging thousands of students to create a design for the wrap around toilet paper rolls. This year's competition reinforces 'Don't Flush It' and the 3Ps (what to flush) - pee, poo and paper, sparking creativity and awareness of wastewater processes. Winning designs will be shared across GVW platforms.

Every Drop Counts - Let's work together to save water.

We all need to take action to protect precious water supplies right across the region as we move into spring and summer.

Using water wisely not only help us maintain drinking water supply, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and reminders about **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

Visit our Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it.



Scan for tips to save drips, or visit:
gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water



Need to get in touch?

General Enquiries: 03 5832 4800

24/7 Faults & Emergencies: 1800 454 500

Email: mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au





Join us for Water Week

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities in understanding its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.

This year's main event, **Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens**, will be held on **Wednesday 22 October**, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces. People who register early to attend the seminar will be able to collect a waterwise garden pack, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for people who want to learn more but can't get to the event in person.

On **Thursday 23 October**, we will be part of **Water Night**, a national initiative encouraging households to turn off non-essential water taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis for the fifth year running the online event continues to grow. Reaching over 4.2 million people, more than 15,000 individuals signed up in 2024. This year, participants will be invited to nominate the sporting club, school, business or community group they're connected to, allowing us to celebrate those in our region who are leading the way in understanding more about water and promoting water-saving.

We will also engage thousands of students through our **Schools Toilet Paper Wrap Competition**, which asks kids to design the wrap that holds toilet paper rolls together. This year's competition reinforces the Don't Flush It message and the 3Ps (what to flush) – pee, poo and (toilet) paper - not only sparking creativity, but deepening students' understanding of the wastewater process. Winning designs will be announced during Water Week and celebrated across our platforms.

This year's Water Week will be celebrated as well as lived, with every initiative reinforcing the importance of water and community-wide action. **You can register for Let's Grow:**

<https://riverlinksvenues.com.au/whats-on/event-details/#!/calendar/event/lets-grow-25>

Save Water: Every Drop Counts

With recent dry seasonal conditions and lower than usual water storage levels we asked people in Euroa, Violet Town and Mansfield to be especially mindful of their water use. Both Euroa and Violet Town had Stage 2 water restrictions in place from May - July, and with higher-than-average water use in Mansfield, we also asked the townspeople to be aware of their water use. Thanks everyone for making every drop count where you can.

We all need to take action to protect our precious water supplies and we'll be sharing the Save Water right across the region as we move into spring and summer. Using water wisely not only help us maintain the supply of drinking water, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

We've created a Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it. You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and the Permanent Water Saving Rules, which apply all year round.

There are simple things we can all do - fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, and being smarter with how and when we water gardens. The webpage also includes videos to help you make easy changes and check your home for hidden water waste.

Every drop counts. Let's be waterwise together.

Visit gvwater.vic.gov.au/savewater to learn more.





Wilderhoods in Urban Areas In Mitchell Shire

7pm – 8.30pm Thursday 16 October

Teams webinar. Register via QR code to receive link

Mitchell Shire Council proudly present Dr Cassia Read: Co-founder and Director of the Castlemaine Institute. Cassia is an ecologist, educator and garden designer with interests spanning landscape ecology, climate adaption, urban greening, wildlife gardening and community engagement.

Join us to learn about what are wilderhoods and how this could work in Mitchell Shire in your neighbourhood. Cassia Read will discuss:

- Create networks of urban habitat across existing public and private greenspaces
- What can I do on my property and with neighbours to make a difference?
- Share expert knowledge on how urban habitat creation is a core part of wilderhoods

RSVP by Friday 10 October via bookable QR code to receive Teams Link or email environment@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

(03) 5734 6200
mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/events



Standing up for Murrindindi: Council advocates for fair investments and local priorities

Murrindindi Shire Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, has returned from Canberra where he joined three fellow Victorian Mayors as part of the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) inaugural Mayoral Delegation to the Federal Parliament. The visit provided an opportunity to put the concerns of local councils directly before Federal decision-makers.

The advocacy campaign coordinated by the MAV is built around five pillars:

Making Community Infrastructure Happen – delivering the infrastructure that growing and connected communities need.

Making Safer Roads Happen – connecting communities and supporting a safer and more productive Victoria.

Making Fairer Energy Happen – engaging communities in Victoria's energy transition.

Making Resilient Communities Happen – future-proofing communities to withstand natural disasters.

Making Local Democracy Happen – supporting stronger, safer communities and countering disinformation.

Mayor Gallagher took the lead on the Resilient Communities pillar, calling for a dedicated "Building to Withstand Fund" to support pre-disaster investigative works and prioritise upgrades for high-need infrastructure.

"Our residents know the cost of more regular, more intense disasters: bushfires, floods, storms. Rebuilding the same as before is wasteful. If we build back stronger and smarter now, we will save taxpayers millions and reduce the disruption to communities," Cr Gallagher said.

The delegation also highlighted climate risks, noting that Murrindindi's electorate of Indi is among the most climate-vulnerable in the country, and neighbouring Nicholls ranked the most exposed, with 26.5% of properties projected to be uninsurable by 2030, rising to 80-90% in some townships. Council made it clear that rural communities cannot be left to shoulder the risk without stronger support.

Across two days, the Mayors met with Government, Opposition and Crossbench MPs and advisers.

The primary aim of this advocacy was simple: to ensure our voices are heard in national debates, to put Murrindindi on the map for decision-makers in Canberra, and to press the case for fair investment.

It is a credit to the Murrindindi community and Council's team, that our Shire was invited to be part of this delegation. Through its thorough examination of the issues and its practical, solutions-focused approach, Murrindindi Shire Council has earned the respect of governments and agencies across Australia.

On returning from Canberra, Mayor Gallagher and Council CEO Livia Bonazzi met with Victorian Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Nick Staikos, to restate Murrindindi's local priorities.

Council made a strong case for:

- Fair and sustainable funding reform, including adoption of recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services
- Exemption from the Windfall Gains Tax for Council-led, community-benefit projects such as the Eildon key worker housing initiative
- Reforms to rural health funding so residents can age in place with equitable access to services
- Overhaul of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy so rural ratepayers are not unfairly burdened by land value charges that far exceed income capacity

Continued on p.13

Standing up for local Councilscontinued.

Alongside these reforms, Council outlined project priorities including:

- Activating the Lake Eildon Master Plan, including a \$49 million tourism and economic growth project
- Investment in safer roads and \$10 million for rural road rehabilitation across 720km of unsealed roads
- \$8.8 million for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing and industrial land in Yea and Alexandra
- \$1.4 million to establish a Regional University Study Hub in Murrindindi to support local students and workforce needs.

Mayor Gallagher said while no formal commitments were secured, the advocacy ensures Murrindindi's voice, and that of rural councils across Victoria, is being heard at the highest levels of government.

"We're not seeking handouts. We're asking for fair treatment and recognition of the unique challenges small rural shires face. Our communities deserve a fair go, and Council will keep making that case until we see change," Cr Gallagher said.

NB: Although this article concerns Murrindindi Shire, the rationale could equally apply to others.**Ed.**

COMMUNITY GUITARISTS ROCKED THE YEA SHIRE HALL!

The High Voltage community guitar concert held at the Yea Shire Hall on the 7th September was a roaring success. Despite terrible weather on the day the community still ventured out in force to support the concert. It was no exaggeration to report that the hall absolutely thumped with the deep bass guitars, the multiple drummers and the many, many rocking electric guitars.

Yea Rotary welcomed concert goers out the front of the hall with a free sausage sizzle. The performers got a good feed before heading on stage and any passers by could also enjoy a snag or two. Yea Arts Inc thank Daryl King and his assistant Brian for their fabulous BBQ skills. UGFM Community Radio conducted interviews with performers and were great informing listeners what to expect and also broadcasting to those who could not attend.



The event was opened by Murrindindi Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher. Fourteen year old Tilly Rose then took centre stage with local guitarist Julian Laucius and performed her original songs. From just two people on stage, the next support act was the Yea High School band and twelve people filled the upper stage and performed a number of well-loved tunes.

Joseph O'Farrell the lead creative on the project was a fabulous MC and built up the excitement. The house band brought together a range of talented musicians who had never worked together and after a few rehearsal sessions the professional musicians got the crowd buzzing with a fantastic rendition of AC/DC 'Long way to the top' with Michelle Mussett on bagpipes. The time for the High Voltage concert had arrived. The guitarists who signed up to be part of the event who were from all walks of life, ages varying from fourteen to over seventy took to the tiered stage, holding their guitars up in the air like true rock stars. The thundering sound of many guitars all playing together resonated to the core and the dramatic stage lighting delivered a marvellous feast for the eyes and the ears. The high energy continued with Dindi Dance, enthusiastic little punks sprang into action with lively dancing that topped off the entire performance.

Joseph O'Farrell said: "I'm still buzzing, what a night! There wasn't a spare seat left in the house, the community showed up and ROCKED OUT! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event."

<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>Mature, Well Hung and Available from:</p> <p>Victory Meats, Seymour Victory Meats, Broadford Scotch and Fillet, St Helena Scotch and Fillet, Mentone</p>	 <p>Donated by supporters of the magnificent King Parrots.</p>	<p>DE MARIA & ASSOCIATES Barristers & Solicitors</p> <p>Family Law Conveyancing Power of Attorney & Wills Estate Disputes Deceased Estates</p> <p>☎ 03 9717 5277</p> <p>Level 1, Suite 111 95 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen Vic 3754 Justice@demariaandassociates.com.au</p>	 <p>Donated by Friends of Yellow Box (Eucalyptus Meliodora)</p>
<p>This space needs a sponsor...</p> <p>Is it YOU?</p>	<p>"A new name but the same friendly staff at Seymour"</p> <p>Join our Loyalty card program & save</p> <p>IF YOU WANT IT - WE'VE GOT IT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Glenn: 0439 990 480 Store: 03 5792 1088 Email: seymour@wbhunter.com.au</p> <p>HUNTERS TRADE • RURAL • HARDWARE</p>	<p>Brought to you by a little antechinus living in a hollow near you.</p> 	<p>BenCo PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
<p>DINDI ELECTRICAL SERVICES</p> <p>DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Get in touch for all your electrical needs</p> <p>Coen Bird</p> <p>0433 885 441 coenbird@dindielectrical.com.au</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p><i>Highlands Haulen</i> AND RECOVERY Local and Statewide Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hay / Silage - Farm Equipment - Machinery / Excavators - Building Supplies - Sheds / Cabins - Trucks / 4X4s - 24/7 Breakdowns <p>Steve 0419 860 484 haulen.com.au</p>	
<p> Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr Paul Hildebrand</p> <p>Koriella Ward phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0428 758 617</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground</p> <p>Ideal for private or community gatherings, meetings, workshops</p> <p>Very Reasonable rates</p> <p>Hosts 1st Friday BBQs</p> <p>Contact tccruffy@gmail.com</p> <p>0427 690970</p>	<p> KCK David & John KORBYOYN CONTRACTING & KEEPIES SINCE 2025</p> <p>For all your livestock needs (sheep, cattle, spot spraying)</p> <p>No job too big or small. Competitive pricing. Please contact David on 0417 150113</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from supporters of our local Platypus</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS GROVE</p> <p>Australian, locally produced premium extra virgin olive oil.</p> <p>Farm gate pick up or delivery available.</p> <p>0417 018 070 enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au highlandsgrove.com.au</p>	<p> HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</p> <p>Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire</p> <p>MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS</p> <p>Reasonable Rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882</p>	<p>Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees</p> 
<p>Echidnas take care of their habitat</p> 	<p>Granite Hills Community Nursery</p>  <p>www.granitehillsnursery.com.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au</p> <p>Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy.</p> <p>Grant applications, project management.</p> <p>Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</p>	<p> Strathbogie Granite Project</p> <p>neil.phillips@bigpond.com</p>



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 and grow.

May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.