
THE GRANITE NEWS



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



1st March 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 26

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Over the last few weeks, I've had emails land in the Editor's inbox, from people who would like to contribute to the HCCC area in a financial way that raise the question of donations - and specifically who can I donate to?

To that end I have included a list of some of the community groups in the Hughes Creek Catchment for readers to maybe consider donating some funds to. Like all community groups, run by local volunteers, any extra \$\$ always come in handy be it for infrastructure, maintenance, training, activities or community led social events - the last one being even more important given the current recovery situation.

Contributions to all will be gratefully accepted. Please note that not all groups might have tax refundable status.

If your preferred community group isn't listed below, fear not, it's sure to appear in the next few issues.

And speaking of issues, with the Recovery phase in full swing there is probably not the necessity now for 2 issues a week of TGN so The Granite News will be taking a step back and next Thursday's issue will be the last one mid-week. As of **Sunday 8th March**, it will be back to a weekly newsletter with copy due to arrive, for inclusion, in the Editor's inbox by Thursday evenings please.

The Granite News (under the auspices of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare group)

A/c Name - HCCC

BSB - 083 543

A/c Number - 929 488 471

Highlands-Caveat CFA

A/c Name - Highlands-Caveat RFB

BSB - 633 000

A/c Number - 160 630 067

Highlands Hub

A/c Name - The Highlands Hub

BSB - 633 000

A/c Number - 241 020 197

Ruffy CFA

A/c Name - CFA Donations Account

BSB - 633 225

A/c Number - 1022 0603

Reference - 22640 Ruffy FB

Terip Terip CFA

A/c Name - CFA Terip Terip FB

BSB -633 000

A/c Number - 225 217 983

Terip Rec Reserve

A/c Name - Terip Rec Reserve

BSB - 063 682

A/c Number - 010 168 376



If you know of someone who needs to be kept in the loop but isn't a TGN reader please tell them to sign up at pdphroberts@gmail.com The editor@tgn.org.au email is still dysfunctional.

Kia kara,
Pauline



What's On - March & April 2026

		What's On - March & April 2026
Last visit!	Monday all day	RUFFY WELL-BEING ROOM @ Ruffy Hall Jack Sullivan will be in attendance 2 nd March
	Monday 2nd March 10 - 3	EUROA SERVICES HUB - Assistance with Birth, Death and Marriage certificates
	Mon. 2nd & Wed. 4th 10-4	SERVICES AUSTRALIA @ Alexandra Hub
Details? See p.5	Wednesday 4th March 5.30-8	COMMUNITY DINNER @ Highlands Hall/Hub Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires are generously providing a meal for the community.
Details? See p.4	Friday 6th Mar. 9.30 - 3.30	FENCING WORKSHOP @ Creighton's Creek
Details? See p.6	Monday 9th March 2 - 4pm	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COUNTRY HIGH TEA @ Ruffy Community Hall
	Friday 13th March @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK YAY it's back! @ Highlands Hall/Hub Drinks on the Deck (on the grass actually) is returning on the second Friday of the month @ 6pm at the Highlands Hall for a bit of normality. Please bring finger food.
	Thursday 26th Mar. @ 5.30pm	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.
	Saturday 28th March @ 7pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Gayle & Bill's 157 Old Highlands Rd Come along to share your favourite reads and to enjoy a little slice of normality.
	Sunday 29th March @ 10	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS departing from Highlands Hall
	Tues., Thurs. & Fridays	PRIMARY CARE CONNECT @ Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub
	Fridays 9am - 3pm	YEA & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES @ Highlands Consultations on the following dates - March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th and 27 th
	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
Check dates first 5772 0333	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? Possible forthcoming dates 11 th & 25 th March and 8 th & 22 nd April

Letter to the Editor

Hi there,

We have an event coming up that we would love to advertise in the next Granite News if possible.

Biodiversity Recovery Alliance Walk #1 - Friday 6th March 4-5.30pm

Join Cath Olive and Janet Hagen for a walk and yarn as we check how burnt country along the Hughes Creek is recovering after the bushfire.

We will be walking through Lyn Burleigh's place, and will meet at the Chestnut Creek property, 347 Caveat Ruffy Road, Ruffy — just down from Boathole Hughes Creek on the right.

Registrations essential, with numbers limited to 10. Register via the following link:

[Biodiversity Recovery Alliance - Walk #1](#)

Any questions?

Contact Allison Trethowan, Biodiversity Recovery Alliance Facilitator
info@biodiversityrecoveryalliance.com or on **0409 404258**.



Many thanks,

Allison Trethowan



Yea handyman Richard Wojcik has generously donated a beautiful handmade kennel for someone who has lost theirs in the fires and needs shelter for their furry king or queen. It is fully insulated (roof walls and floor), and is beautifully constructed (including spouting).

It will suit a pooch around the size of a kelpie. Pick up from Highlands Hub, you will need a trailer or Ute!



RAINFALL for February 2026



Unfortunately, the Ruffy Rainfall gauge went the way of so much else and Darryl has subsequently been unable to continue recording this vital stat.

However, at the other end of the plateau Alistair has sent in February's results for Highlands.

52.6mm - 7 days - 53.8mm for the year so far.



FENCING WORKSHOP CREIGHTONS CREEK



Morning tea and lunch provided

LEARN HOW TO REBUILD AND REPAIR FIRE-AFFECTED FENCES



Friday, March 6
9.30am - 3.30pm
Creightons Creek

Learn how to rebuild your farm from the ground up. Join us for a practical, on-farm workshop. Learn how to install new fencing and maintain and repair existing ones, as well as how fencing relates to good biosecurity. Also includes speed session on whole farm planning and land class fencing principles by Agriculture Victoria. Spots are limited so register to claim yours.



stocksense@vff.org.au



vff.org.au/stocksense



@vffstocksense

**** HIGHLANDS ****

The Hub @ the Highlands Hall is open Mon, Wed & Fri 10am to 3pm & Sat 9-12

1603 Ghin Ghin Road, HIGHLANDS VIC 3660

Email: thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com

- **Wednesday March 4th 5:30 - 8pm - COMMUNITY DINNER.** Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires are generously providing a meal for the community at the Highlands Hub.
Main: Roast Roll Buffet : Roast lamb, pork and beef, served in rolls with fresh salads (coleslaw, garden, curry pasta) and condiments. **Dessert:** Lemon cheesecake, strawberry tart & chocolate cake.

- **Thursday 12th March from 7.30pm Murrindindi Shire Council Business Breakfast**
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/murrindindi-shire-council-business-breakfast-alexandra-tickets-1983041649957>

This friendly gathering is the perfect place to connect with peers, share ideas, and hear important updates from Council and other support agencies on bushfire recovery planning, resources and initiatives. **See p.10 for more details**

- **Tip & Waste Update**

Yea Tip is operating under normal hours - **Tuesday 10-4, Saturday 9-4 and Sunday 9-3**

If you can't attend during these times, contact: Michael Hill – Team Leader, Resource Recovery
0408 185 196 (Appointments subject to staff availability)

Yea Resource Recovery Centre accepts: Metal loads (any size)

General waste up to 3m²

Loads over 3m² must be booked at Alexandra Landfill prior to arrival.

Contact: Kris Sawyer – Waste Management Supervisor 0408 286 838

Peter Elward – Waste Management Supervisor 0417 683 492

NB: Tip fees are waived until May 12th 2026

- **Are you registered for a Property Clean-up?**
vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on **1800 560 760**.
- **Blaze Aid:** <https://blazeaid.com.au/registering-for-help>

- **CLOTHING**

We have lots of clothing available and more coming in so please come and check out The Hub. Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted to organise the clothes into sizes.

- **HUBBINGS** - the Highlands Hub version of Bunnings!!

Many thanks to Deb and Kev for the donation of various building and hardware materials.

Make an appointment with **John Rogers on 0478 221 311** or email thehighlandshub2026@gmail.com and he will be happy to assist you with any items you may need or answer any questions.

- **IBC DELIVERIES**

YES! THEY ARE HERE!!

Deliveries of the IBCs will take place in Highlands only over the coming weekend Feb. 28th - March 1st.

If you have ordered some you will receive a phone call to verify delivery arrangements in the next few days.

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

Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225 - now heard every Monday on UGFM @ 11.30 Tune in for Hub news



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



Tablelands, Tucker and Timings at the Ruffy Hub

- 2nd March Monday Lunch Sandwiches, salads, Dinner grab out of fridge or freezer.
- 3rd March Tuesday Lunch sandwiches/salads Dinner, BBQ and Salads by us.
- 4th March, Wednesday Lunch sandwiches/or salads Dinner Make own from fridge or freezer.
- 5th March, Thursday Lunch, Violet Town Ladies group curry's Stall displays from many service providers will be in attendance
- 6th March Friday Lunch sandwiches / salads Dinner Salvos

Acknowledgments and thanks to:

- Mawson's Bakery, who continue to donate a supply of bread 5 of 7 days a week for the Ruffy pop-up kitchen indefinitely, which is amazing!
- Lions Club of Euroa - Supported by Lions International Foundation for the Marquee valued at \$1800 for the community to keep. We thank them so for putting it up and assisting with so many chores around and about.
- The Rapid Relief Team for the absolutely amazing community connect day on Thursday the 26th of Feb. An estimated 350 plus attended.
- Matt and Leonie for the wheelie bin donation hunting and collection of donations, and allocation, which is immensely appreciated.
- Annabelle Cleeland for convening a meeting of representatives across the Tablelands to meet with people who have been involved in other disasters in Mallacoota, Strathewen and Corryong to share their knowledge of recovery committees - 35 people were in attendance in the MASH.
- **Monday 2nd March - Services at the Euroa Recovery Hub 10am - 3pm**
For anyone needing assistance applying for their Birth or Marriage certificates:
Births, Deaths & Marriages
- **Primary Care Connect**
Primary Care Connect: attend the Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.



High Tea and Pamper
afternoon to celebrate



International
Women's Day

Ruffy Community Hall on 9th March 2026
from 2pm to 5pm

Tickets via trybooking

*Limited tickets available
BYO glass and if you can a plate to share*



Register now - limited tickets Pampering prizes on the day- reflexology, foot pampering, massages. High tea. BYO glass for some sparkles. Great company 🙌🥂😊 <https://www.trybooking.com/DJZMC>

Any questions, speak to
Anne, Flic, Katie Bogie, Catie Euroa and Coll
Please come along and join in some girl time, some surprises are in store!



Please register, as this \$1000 payment has been extended, and you do not need to be a farmer.

Exciting news; the VFF have just extended their \$1000 grant to \$2000.

If you previously applied and got the initial \$1000 you should have received the additional \$1000 into your account already. If you hadn't previously applied then jump online now and fill in the 4 min application.

This grant is open to anyone that has a farm, small holdings included. **EVERYONE** should apply even if you only have an acre. All you need is some identification including a rates notice and an amenities bill.

<https://www.vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/>

BURNT DOESN'T MEAN DEAD!



These photos were taken six months apart. Take heart, and give nature time to recover.

**GRANITE TO
GOULBURN**

**BIODIVERSITY
RECOVERY
ALLIANCE**

These posters were made by locals
as part of community-led recovery





BUSHFIRE STABILISATION ASSISTANCE February 2026

for the Longwood - Berrys Lane Fire

Fences, Essential Water & Control Lines

Information for private landholders affected by bushfires

Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) can assist landholders impacted by a bushfire event.

CFA is the Fire Control Agency for the Longwood – Berrys Lane fire and is coordinating the stabilisation works with the support of FFMVic. The Victorian Government has policies in place to help properties recover from the fire response impacts* caused by the fire response operations.

CFA or FFMVic may provide the following assistance to private property landowners:

- Stabilising dozer and grader control lines on private property by pushing back soil and applying erosion-control measures to protect the land and water quality. Reseeding and crop replacement are not included.
- Replacement of essential water* that has been taken by fire services from domestic tanks and stock or irrigation dams for firefighting purposes.
- Repairs to fences cut or damaged (including fallen trees) during fire response and subsequently not impacted by fire.
- Fences damaged by bushfire on the private/public land boundary only (and not covered by insurance).

If you believe you are eligible, please fill out the attached form by 30th March and email to:

emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

An Assessor will be in contact to discuss eligibility and to arrange an on-site inspection.

- Other fire affected impacts, damaged property, assets (i.e. crop loss) and internal fences are not covered by this assistance.

Private Land / Public Interface

FFMVic can connect the applicant to the relevant land manager, to provide financial support for materials to replace or repair fences located on the boundary of private land and public land interface (i.e. National Parks, State Parks and State Forests). The cost of materials will be based on replacement of the fence type and condition that existed before the fire. **For detailed advice and support, please visit FFMVic 'Public Land Recovery' website <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>**

*Response impacts are impacts undertaken to contain a fire, such as – cutting fences, damaging fences with machinery, installing mineral earth breaks with machinery, taking water (vehicles and aircraft).

*Fire affected impacts are the impacts to the land and assets caused by the fire and are not covered by the fire control agency.

*Essential water is water required to sustain:

- The health of affected residents and pets.
- The health and productivity of their stock; and
- Agricultural and horticultural crops, permanent planting and intensive industries.

Business Breakfast Alexandra

Thursday 12 March 2026 from 7.30 am
at On Point Brewery, 9 Downey Street



Be part of the first Murrindindi Business Network event for 2026 in Alexandra. Free and open to all businesses across the Shire, this networking breakfast supports recovery following the 2026 Longwood bushfire.

Hear updates from Council and more about support available through support agencies, including Business Victoria, Community Business Connect, Tourism North East and AgBiz Assist.

Gain practical insights from industry professionals, learn about funding and recovery assistance, and access tools to help businesses rebuild, adapt and grow.

Registrations now open. For more information, you can:

- visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessbreakfast
- call us on 5772 0333
- scan the QR code.



This event is supported with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



The Art of Deception

Ron Litjens
The Butter Factory
13 Rattray Street, YEA

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2026
7.15 pm supper; 7.45 pm presentation



YRCL members free Landcare members \$5
Non-Landcare \$10 Kids free (CASH only)
RSVP: JUDY BROOKES: juncball@icloud.com

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Bushfire Casualty

Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr Paul Hildebrand

Koriella Ward
phildebrand@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
0428 758 617

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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.