

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



19th July 2026 | Volume 20 Issue 45

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Did you know that July 26th is National Tree Day? Did you know that it's celebrating its 30th birthday in 2026?

Originally established in 1996 by Planet Ark it encourages Australians to get involved in tree planting and environmental care, promoting community engagement and environmental stewardship.

Celebrated on the last Sunday in July, the last Friday in July has been nominated as Schools Tree Day to allow school students to get involved with planting trees for the future...for the health of our beautiful planet or to just enjoy the colour, the shape, the shade and the wildlife that make trees their homes.

With the local area's trees diminished considerably in recent months why not buy a single tree, you don't have to create a plantation, and plant another reminder of longevity, carbon capture and scenic beauty next Sunday.



As the French theologian Hyacinthe Loyson said in 1866 - "Blessed are the people who plant trees knowing that they shall never sit in the shade of their foliage".

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.



Despite the look on Ruby's face she really is pleased to see Alex.

Where did this reunion happen?
See p.3 to find out more.



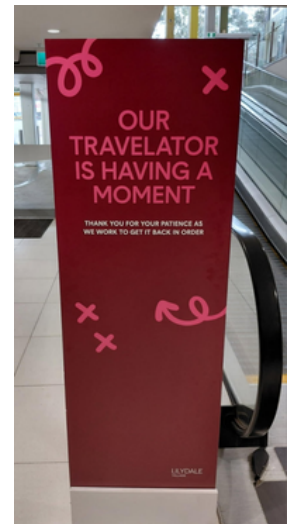
Feedback?

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

"I'm not, in any way, frightened of dying but I would be annoyed because there are things I still want to do."

Sam Neill (1947 - 2026)
NZ-Australian actor, author & vigneron



Did you know?

The Cornthwaite Tree near Thorpdale in Gippsland measured 114m when it was felled in the 1880s. Then a sign was erected showing how tall it had been! Go figure?



		What's On - July & August 2026
Details? See p.3	Wednesday 22 nd July 9.30-1.30	HERITAGE TREE TALK by Dr Greg Moore (Melb. Uni) @ Euroa Football Club rooms
Details? See p.5	Friday 24 th July from 2pm-6pm	Telstra - Update of current proposal to rebuild bigger & better @ Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.7	Saturday 25 th July @ 11.30-2	YEA GARDEN CLUB are hosting a hot soup & garden chat @ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Saturday 25 th July @ 6.30	HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP @ Highlands Hall/Hub
	Sunday 26 th July @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting @ Highlands Hall/Hub Everyone is welcome to come and explore our still stunning local area. Supported by HCCC. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249039 or Robyn 0409 528235
Details? See p.8	Sunday 26 th July 10-12	GRANITE to the GOULBURN - MINDFULNESS MUSHROOM WALK @ Pranjip
	Thursday 30 th July @ 5.30	SECRET MENS' 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.3	Friday 31 st July 5.30 - 8pm	XMAS in JULY @ Highlands Hall/Hub
Details? See p.5	Saturday 1 st Aug @ ??	TERRIFIC TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT @ Terip Rec Reserve
	Monday 3 rd Aug. @ 1pm	CRAFTERNOON is back to stay! @ the MASH tent, Ruffy Hall
Details? See p.9	Every Saturday in July @ 6.30	EUCHRE CARD NIGHTS ARE BACK AGAIN!! @ Terip Rec Reserve
	Tuesdays @ 5.30pm	MAT PILATES with Anastasia @ Highlands Hall Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$15 Enquiries? Anastasia 0436 428065
	Thursdays @ 9am	MAT PILATES with Mel @ Highlands Hall Bring your own mat/towel and water bottle. Cost \$20 Enquiries? Mel 0498 643 608
	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 22nd July and 5th & 19th August.



GOULBURN BROKEN
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

PROTECTING SIGNIFICANT TREES of the grey box grassy woodlands

The Goulburn Broken CMA invites you to a 'Landscape Legacies' Grey Box Grassy Woodlands Project event.

Guest presenter Dr Greg Moore (University of Melbourne, School of Agriculture, Food & Ecosystems Sciences) will speak about the value of trees in our landscape and launch the Goulburn Broken National Heritage Trust Significant Tree Register project.



PROGRAM:

- ✓ Wednesday 22 July, 2026
- ✓ 9.30am for 10am start - 1.30pm
- ✓ Euroa Football Clubrooms, Dunn St
- ✓ No cost. Light lunch provided

REGISTER:
janicem@gbcm.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0418 316 169
Please advise any dietary requirements
RSVP: Monday 20 July

Find out how you can participate in the Landscape Legacies project to protect and restore Grey Box Grassy Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken catchment landscape.

Learn how to register significant indigenous trees onto the National Heritage Trust Significant Tree Register and help protect these natural icons.



This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the Goulburn Broken CMA, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.





Community Dinner

Christmas in July

Friday 31 July, 5.30pm - 8pm

Habbies Howe, 110 Dropmore Road, Highlands

Join our Mitchell and Murrindindi communities for Christmas in July with a free roast dinner at Habbies Howe. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, enjoy live country music by Brock Edwards and don't miss Santa with presents for the kids!

Bring yourself, your family, friends and neighbours – everyone is welcome! Let's come together for a chance to pause, share a meal, and feel supported.

Contact us

t. 5734 6200
e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



It appears that the Highlands Spinning Club meeting last Monday was THE place to be, with not one but TWO letters landing to let everyone know the joy of reconnecting.

Dear Pauline,

Well, the first Spinning Day was great. Andrea, Alex, Marilyn, Rhonda, John, myself and Ruby had a lovely day catching up on happenings for the first time in 2026. The weather could have been nice and sunny ---- but that was not to be.

The next get-together will be Monday 10th. August. Same place, same time, same crazy company.....

By then, the "Cottage" and surrounds should be looking much better. The garden will be back to a respectable sight. May even have some flowers putting on a colourful show, not just the variable shades of green.

Jan



Hi Pauline

It was wonderful to be at the spinning club on Monday with John, Jan, Marilyn, Rhonda, Alex and I.

We laughed a lot at crazy jokes and came away feeling uplifted Ruby was happy to see Alex too.

Andrea



**** HIGHLANDS ****

The Hub @ the Highlands Hall is open
Wednesday 10am to 2pm & Saturday 9am to noon
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
NEW TIMES Wednesday 10-2 and Saturday 9-12 NEW TIMES

HUB HAPPENINGS

📅 Tues 21st July

Mat Pilates @Highlands Hall, 5:30pm \$15, BYO mat. Call Anastasia 0436 428 065

📅 Wed 22nd July

Yea and District Memorial Hospital Women's Health Clinic 45min appointments. To book - 9675 0050
YDMH Mental Health Team in attendance from 10-2pm. Ivan Lister is at the Hub and doing home visits.

- Please also note a Leadership meeting is also being held at the hall from 9:00 -3:30pm so things will be running a little differently. We will still have tea and coffee in the site office sunshine and will have access to the normal meals and groceries.

GV Family Care & Primary Care Connect: Recovery (Grants, legal, financial help): 10am-2pm. Case manager access

HUBBINGS (Highlands Bunnings) will be open from 10-2pm with Craig available to assist. Assorted camping supplies are also available. **We are also clearing the hardware items from the tennis court so please come and take anything that you can use.**

📅 Thurs 23rd July

☀️ **NEW Mat Pilates Class** @ Highlands Hall 9:00am \$20 cash. BYO mat. Call Mel 0498 643 608

📅 Fri 24th July

Dinner at the Highlands Hall 5:30 - 8:00pm Hosted by Central Christian Church Seymour

📅 Fri July 31st

Christmas in July - Murrindindi and Mitchell Shire event. 5:30-8:00pm
Habbies Howe Shearing Shed, 110 Dropmore Rd Dropmore

HUB NEWS

Currently available:

Carpet Rolls - new and used	Jackets	Jumpers	Beanies	Scarves	Handmade blankets
Pine Posts- second hand	Warm socks	Hor water bottles with covers	Doonas & pillows		

CLEARANCE: All clothing and bedding to be cleared by July 31st. So come in and grab some more.

***** Printed copies of TGN are now available from the box beside the notice board outside the hub *****
Contact: Andrea Bauer 0417 369 225



**** RUFFY & TERIP ****



TABLELANDS FIRE RECOVERY HUB - KEY DATES

JULY - AUGUST

Upcoming dates

Please note the Tablelands Hub is only open now on Tuesdays with services in attendance, morning tea Cuppa and Chat at 10.30am all welcome, Friday night dinners and other events updated regularly.



Telstra Update – Ruffy Mobiles

June was a busy month for Telstra, with the successful deployment of our temporary mobile base station at the Telstra site (corner of Nolans Road and Hobart Street, Ruffy). We were also able to reconnect the site to mains power, allowing all telecommunications equipment to be removed from the block next to the hall.

A big thank you to Frank and Tracey for hosting the equipment, and to the community for their patience and support throughout the process.

Looking ahead, we have a proposal to re-build a bigger mobile base station at the Telstra site. The additional infrastructure is intended to improve depth of coverage and increase network capacity for the community.

Daniel from Telstra and project representatives from Amplitel will be available at the **Ruffy Hall - Friday 24th July, from 2pm to 6 pm**, to discuss the proposal. The session will be a drop-in format, so community members are welcome to attend at any time during those hours.

Following the drop-in session, information about the proposal will be published on the RFNSA website, allowing anyone unable to attend to view the details of the proposal and provide feedback.



Free medical appointments in Ruffy

If you or a family member needs medical advice from a GP or nurse practitioner, come along to Ruffy Hall when Central General Practice Mansfield visit in the **Murrindindi Health Bus on Tuesday 21 July from 10am-2pm**. The medical team will offer bulk-billed appointments for local residents on general practice health concerns, skin checks, women's and men's health checks, children and babies examinations, scripts and specialist referrals.

Book online CGP Mansfield – [Book Doctors Appointment Online Now](#). Call the clinic on (03) 5775 2591 or just come along and wait your turn. Walk-in clients are accepted. All are welcome. This activity is supported by funding from Murray Primary Health Network through the Australian Government's PHN program.

The poster features a scenic background of rolling hills under a sunset sky. The title 'MURRINDINDI DISASTER FUND GRANT PROGRAM 2026' is prominently displayed in white and green text. The Foundation Murrindindi logo is in the top right. A central message states the fund's purpose and origin. Two callout boxes indicate the grant opening and closing dates. A footer provides contact information and the website.

**MURRINDINDI
DISASTER FUND
GRANT PROGRAM 2026**

Supporting our communities to recover,
rebuild and thrive.

In response to the Longwood Bushfire in January 2026, Foundation Murrindindi launched the Murrindindi Disaster Fund.

Funds are now available for disbursement to community groups impacted by the Longwood Bushfires in Murrindindi Shire.

**GRANT OPENS
JULY 20TH 2026**

**GRANT CLOSES
AUGUST 20TH 2026**

For more information visit www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au/grant-programs

Disaster Recovery Grants Open to Support Communities Impacted by the Longwood Bushfire

Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$2,500 through Foundation Murrindindi's new Murrindindi Disaster Fund Grant Program, with **applications opening on 20 July**.

The grant program has been established to support communities impacted by the January 2026 Longwood Bushfire by funding local projects that help people reconnect, strengthen wellbeing and build resilience as recovery continues. The grants are funded through Foundation Murrindindi's Murrindindi Disaster Fund, launched immediately following the fires. Since then, generous donations from individuals, businesses and community organisations have enabled the Foundation to begin investing back into the communities most affected.

Funding is available to not-for-profit community groups and organisations in fire-impacted areas including Alexandra, Acheron, Terip Terip, Yarck, Kanumbra, Fawcett, Highlands, Cathkin, Caveat, Maintaingoon and surrounding communities.

Foundation Murrindindi Chair Naomi McNamara said the grants recognise that lasting recovery is driven by local people. "The Longwood Bushfire affected far more than homes and properties. It disrupted lives, relationships and the sense of connection that makes communities strong," Naomi said.

"Funding can be used for a wide range of grass roots initiatives and practical support including community gatherings, youth programs, wellbeing activities, small improvements to community facilities and emergency preparedness projects. These grants are about supporting local people to lead recovery in ways that matter most to them to deliver meaningful outcomes."

Foundation Murrindindi Executive Officer Robyn Hill said the program was designed to keep recovery community-led. "Every community's recovery journey is different. The people who live here know what will make the greatest difference and are best placed to understand their community's needs, and this program gives them the opportunity to put this knowledge into action," Ms Hill said.

Eligible community organisations must be based in Murrindindi Shire, hold a current ABN and deliver charitable outcomes that benefit fire-affected communities. Funded projects must be completed by 30 June 2027.

Applications close on 20 August 2026, with successful applicants to be announced in late September.

Grant guidelines and application information are available at foundationmurrindindi.org.au.

For further information - Robyn Hill, Executive Officer, on 0488 007 688 or robyn@foundationmurrindindi.org.au



Letter to the Editor,

Hi Pauline,
Many thanks for advertising the Yea Garden Club's visit to Highlands on **Saturday 25th July**.

I would like to let you know of the extent of our visit as we will have around 200 potted plants, bulbs and cuttings to give away to all those who have had their gardens devastated.

Hopefully in the Spring many will find all sorts of plants shooting in their gardens but there will be some lost and we hope people will just come and take armfuls of plants home to fill in some bare spaces, with our blessing.

We have all been busy potting up for your community and will have cuttings and bulbs too.

Regards,
Elaine White - Secretary YGC

Talking Trees

Trees do a lot more than just take root. Trees on farms improve biodiversity, enhance soils, and sequester carbon all while improving farm productivity and health. In this webinar, featuring farmers and experts from Ag Vic, learn more about how trees can benefit your farm while being used to generate additional revenue through agroforestry, carbon farming, or biodiversity markets.

Watch a recording of the webinar on our (Landcare) YouTube channel.

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

VIC CATCHMENTS
A Collaboration of CMAs

Landcare
Victoria Inc.

Talking Trees

Graeme Anderson,
Dr Hugh Stewart,
Mike Robinson - Koss and
Josh Rigg.

The Victorian Carbon Farming Outreach Program is delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the National Carbon Farming Outreach Program

Mindful Mushroom Walk

Has winter wrapped itself around your days, life feeling still and heavy beneath the grey —
is your spirit craving something quiet and alive?

Join us in learning mindfulness techniques in nature and exploring the micro world
around you.

Mindfulness is the intentional, non-judgmental awareness of the present moment. It means focusing your attention on what is happening here and now — your thoughts, emotions, and sensations — without trying to change them. Mindfulness can be practiced anywhere, but in nature, it is often amplified because the environment naturally slows the mind and engages the senses.

Sunday 26th July
10am to 12pm

Cnr of Longwood-Pranjip Road and Drysdale Road, Pranjip

To book contact: Jemma Norman on 0447 298616.

Please bring a chair and your phone to take photos.



Brought to you by Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network
in Partnership with the Granite to Goulburn Biodiversity Rehabilitation Alliance



Acclaimed musician performing in Alexandra

Sarah Belkner @ Alexandra Shire Hall Saturday August 1st 6.50 - 8.30

Some artists give a performance; the very best leave something behind.

Over one special August weekend, Sarah Belkner will share not only her extraordinary musicianship, but her curiosity, generosity and love of the creative process with our community. From Alexandra to Seymour, through workshops and an intimate concert, Sarah will engage with singers, songwriters and musicians to share her insights. Then, for those community members who simply love music, the concert on Saturday 1 August at Alexandra Shire Hall will be an opportunity to experience a musical conversation about creativity and the joy of making something together.

That's what an artist residency is. Not just a concert; a gift to the community.

Enquiries to YeaArtsInc@gmail.com. Concert bookings: yeaartsinc.org/tickets



Free medical appointments in Ruffy

When: Tuesday 21 July
Time: 10am-2pm
Where: Ruffy Hall

Bookings: Call Central Practice Mansfield on (03) 5775 2591
 Walk-in clients accepted.

Strathbogie
 SHIRE COUNCIL

This activity is supported by funding from Murray Primary Health Network through the Australian Government's PHN program.



Denis watched his ancestral lands be ravaged as a kid. It sparked a major change.

Indigenous Protected Areas are a homegrown but relatively unheard-of conservation model, making waves in Australia and around the world. Continued from last week....

"There's so much work to do, and Traditional Owners everywhere are wanting to be part of the country's management and decision-making. It's a no-brainer," O'Leary says. But the payoffs go beyond biodiversity. Social Ventures Australia found that every dollar invested in these areas generates around \$3 of total social, cultural, economic and environmental value. The analysis counted other community benefits, such as steady jobs, better health outcomes, more role models for young people and reduced rates of violence.

How are IPAs funded?

Conservation work is critical — but it comes at a high price. To halt the extinction of 99 of Australia's priority species over the next 30 years, new estimates published in the journal PNAS predict it will cost \$15.6 billion per year. That's roughly 1 per cent of Australia's GDP.

"We could always do with more. The environment is always squeezed," Rose says. At 71, Rose is now retired, but he has worked for over four decades in conservation.

Over his career, he says he's observed a "vast discrepancy" between funding for IPAs and non-Indigenous managed areas, such as national parks or marine reserves.

IPAs are primarily funded by the Australian government, with some private partnerships. They account for over half of Australia's National Reserve System (NRS) — the network of protected areas that safeguards the country's biodiversity. According to recent analysis, IPAs receive around \$0.21 per hectare per year — less than 2 per cent of the funding given to the rest of the NRS. By comparison, state-managed protected areas receive far higher levels of support. Data shows non-Indigenous protected areas receive \$58.43 per hectare per year in NSW — essentially 278 times more funding.

Comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous protected areas can be "apples and oranges," says Rose, due to differing resources and visitor numbers. But the funding gap reveals the scale of work carried out by Indigenous Rangers on "the smell of an oily rag," he says.

Meanwhile, the federal government continues to invest in the program. In January, the Minister for the Environment and Water, Murray Watt, announced \$13 million to create at least eight new IPAs as part of the government's \$250 million Australian Bushland Program.

O'Leary welcomes the expansion of the IPA network but warns it may risk spreading resources too thinly. "Governments love to announce marine parks, but then they don't always love to keep funding them over time," he says.

We need to not forget the old ones and leave them friendless.

He points out the uncomfortable contradiction in funding protected areas, while Australia remains one of the world's largest fossil fuel exporters.

"It's one foot on the brake, one foot on the accelerator," O'Leary says.

At the same time, for Australia to meet its global biodiversity commitments, supporting Indigenous-led conservation will be key, says Chels Marshall, a Gumbaynggirr woman and ecologist.

In 2022, the government — along with 190 countries — set a goal to protect and conserve 30 per cent of its land and marine areas by 2030 at a landmark conference in Montreal, Canada. It made this commitment as part of a global initiative to halt mass extinction events, preserve biodiversity and combat climate change. Since then, another five countries have joined, bringing the total to 200.

Continued next page...



Tae Rak channel and holding pond at Budj Bim, where Denis Rose helped to establish one of the early IPAs. Source: Supplied / Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Indigenous Protected Areas - continued from previous page

Without IPAs, Marshall says Australia would have "no hope" of achieving this target.

"Aboriginal people, rather than developing and selling off Country, are conserving it through IPAs and are assisting — no leading — Australia's 30 by 30 targets," she says.

A global model

The decision by Australian Traditional Owners to forge their own path to Indigenous-led conservation through an international definition has inspired other First Nations communities worldwide.

Over the last two decades, there have been several knowledge exchanges between Canadian and Australian Traditional Owners to share experiences of eco-stewardship.

Valérie Courtois, a member of the Innu Nation, the director of Canada's Indigenous Leadership Initiative, supports a network of Canadian Guardians — the country's version of a Ranger. She says First Nations communities share a wider philosophy.

"There's a general understanding amongst Indigenous peoples that the lands that we care for and are part of are not ours. They're everybody's," she says.

In 2013, Courtois and a delegation of Canadian Indigenous Guardians visited Australia's Northern Territory. It was June when she arrived at the Warddeken IPA. Located east of Kakadu National Park, the IPA covers a substantial part of the National Reserve System, spanning 1.3 million hectares of staggering rocky landscapes on the Arnhem Plateau. It's managed collaboratively by 36 distinct First Nations clan groups and is home to a wide range of threatened species, including northern quolls, bustards, black wallaroos, the Oenpelli python and the Arnhem Land rock-rat.

Courtois recalls how the sun beat down as the delegates viewed some of the world's oldest rock art. She adds: Australian Indigenous Rangers met the extremities of the Arctic in the winter of 2019 as 'friendly payback'. We had the Rangers come up to the [Canadian] Northwest Territories and we put them on a dog sled," she says. "They took us to a footy game. We took them to an NHL [ice hockey] game."

Canada's Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) movement is still emerging. The exact number of IPCAs in existence is not yet known. "We think there's somewhere around 200 active proposals underway across the country," Courtois says. Many reports cite Australia's IPA program as one of the inspirations for the IPCA program.

The future of IPAs

Rose, who was among the delegates who took part in the cross-cultural trip, says the global reach of the IPA program has exceeded his "wildest dreams". But the outcomes closer to home are what matter most. His Country, Budj Bim, now sits under three main Indigenous Protected Areas.



Indigenous Rangers on a dog sled in Canada as part of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative.

Source: Supplied / Indigenous Leadership Initiative

"We went from being excluded to now managing around 6,000 hectares," he says. It's a win-win. The environment wins, the cultural heritage aspects win, the community wins. As IPAs continue to roll out across Australia, Rose hopes Rangers will receive more funding and recognition.

"I feel pride in repairing the impacts of colonisation, and pride in getting people back on Country."

This story was produced with support from the Pulitzer Center's Ocean Reporting Network and originally featured on SBS.



Tallarook – a sport is born

July 2026 Update for landholders and community

- 50th Anniversary of Rogaining (24-hour cross-country navigation)**
- Victorian Rogaining Championships: 25-26 September 2026 (Friday – Saturday)**
- Location: Tallarook Plateau**

Tallarook-50 progress

Numerous landowners have been approached and have generously offered their land to use as part of the 24-hour course. Geoff and Pam Albers have kindly offered Great Missenden property and Steve and Yvonne Taylor an area to use as our base camp and start/finish. To these people and all those who are supporting rogaining, a big thank you and please contact us with any questions. We do not enter private property without landholder permission, and we make areas out-of-bounds if we cannot locate owners.

Our course setters Alaster Meehan and Paul Monks (2025 Victorian Rogaining Champions) have already started setting the course of 60-80 controls on private and public land. They will create options both to challenge the best and to encourage our beginners.

Today controls sites are marked by tape then during Winter will be checked for location. In September electronic markers will be placed, used during the event, and collected afterwards. We would be grateful if landowners do see any of these, please basically ignore them.

Tallarook-50 upcoming preparations

Base camp setup will happen during the final week of September with some tents, portaloos, catering facilities and the start / finish arrangements being completed.

The big event – the Victorian Rogaining Championships in on 25-26 September 2026 (Friday– Saturday). There will be an award ceremony after midday Saturday then the cleaning and pack-up starts around the base camp. The electronic controls are then collected, rubbish taken home and equipment retrieved. During 2026, we will be keeping the Tallarook community and our rogainers informed of our activities through newsletters like this, and we're always happy to address questions or queries as they arise. The 50th Anniversary Rogaine is being advertised on the VRA website: www.rogainevic.org.au as are some shorter rogaines being held during Winter. The sport's Australia-wide policy insurance is also documented on this site.

History of rogaining

After its humble beginning at Tallarook in 1976, the sport of rogaining has spread to all Australian States and then to over 30 countries. It involves a cross-country navigation event for teams using map and compass, and the championship events last for 24 hours. The Victorian Rogaining Association runs a 6hr, 12hr or 24hr rogaine most months and 200 - 400 participants is a typical turnout. It caters for children with their parents, teenagers and adults to octogenarians. The World Rogaining Championships is the elite component with the 20th WRC set for September 2027 in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia.

Contacts for the main volunteers already involved in the 50th Anniversary Rogaine

Neil Phillips gneilphillips@gmail.com 0417 300 400 (Community Liaison)

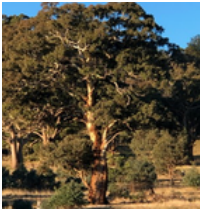
Alaster Meehan 0419 319 965 (Course Setter – close to completion)

Paul Monks (Course Vetter – active over coming weeks)

Boris Bulkin (Catering – closer to September but starting to plan equipment and site)

Nick Somes nick@rogainevic.org.au 0407 871 046 (VRA President)

Grant Jeffrey (Tallarook-50 Co-ordination)

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	 KCK 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.