INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, August 9, 2023

murrindindibusiness.com.au

National Tree Day keeps growing

IN celebration of National Tree Day on Sunday, July 30 and Schools Tree Day on Friday, July 28, Murrindindi Shire Council supported several local treeplanting activities by supplying plants, garden stakes, tree guards and equipment, with over 1000 plants going in the ground across six different sites.

On National Tree Day, Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group, together with Alexandra Scouts, led by Sarah Southam, planted around 250 plants along the rail trail in the Fawcett area.

For Schools National Tree Day, the Yea Primary Schools, with support from Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN), planted over 200 plants along a section of Boundary Creek in Yea, predominantly grasses and ground covers.

Students from St Mary's Primary School in Alexandra planted 100 shrubs in the existing established garden beds along UT Creek in Alexandra. These garden beds were originally planted out by St Mary's students several years back, so it was nice for the students to see how the plants were doing and to supplement the beds with extra plants where it was needed.

Prior to National Tree Day, council also arranged for a small group of volunteers to plant sections of Old Josephine Cutting, Grannies Lane and McColl Lane in Alexandra. The group planted around 600 shrubs, grasses, rushes and sedges collectively at

several local Landcare groups, also hosted planting events across the Shire with their members and they are planning future planting activities. If you'd like to get ugln.net and find a group near you.

done to everyone involved in be very proud of your efforts.

UGLN, which is made up of involved, visit their website at the National Tree Day planting activities across the shire. You have Murrindindi Shire Council made a significant contribution to Mayor John Walsh said, "Well our environment, and you should

'Not only did these events result in over 1000 plantings; they brought our community together and created a special opportunity for us to appreciate the wonderful place in which we live."



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group, together with Alexandra Scouts, planting along a section of the Rail Trail in Fawcett. -S

Lake Eildon to be as full as possible in lead-up to spring

GOULBURN Murray Water, in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) held a joint webinar to provide information regarding the upcoming forecast for the region, how Lake Eildon and Waranga Basin are managed, floodplain management plans and studies, the GBCMA flood portal, flood preparedness and what the SES/VicEmergency warnings mean.

The question that everyone wanted an answer to was, "Are we going to experience any further flooding in 2023?

The answer was that while there has been a shift in the weather and so it was becoming increasingly less likely, we're not out of the woods as yet.

June had been an exceptional month for large parts of the state. There was unexpected above average rainfall. Dry conditions had been expected, but tropical moisture from the north west brought rain across from Kimberly into the south east of the country.

2022 had been a la niña year but forecasts from various international agencies concur that we're likely to be heading into el niño territory ahead of the coming summer.

It is anticipated storage volume in Lake Eildon will increase through August, aiming to be as close to full as possible to meet demands as they rise.

Andrew Shields, River Operations Manager for Gouolburn Murray Water said he anticipated storage volume will increase through August and the aim was to have it as close to full as possible to meet anticipated demand. They will bring it up to full and then release water as demand rises.

If significant rainfall occurs when storage is full, releases can be made ahead of time if forecasts show a serious rain event is imminent. As a drier period is anticipated over the coming weeks and months, storage is considered critical ahead of it.

Understanding the chance of different sized floods occuring is important for managing flood risk. The preferred way of expressing that chance is Annual Exceedance Probability. A flood with a 1% AEP has a one in a hundred chance of being exceeded in any year.

The GBCMA website has a community flood intelligence portal where specific information can be found, right down to the risk profile of a particular address. There is an instruction video available on the page to help get you started if you need help. To access this information, go to gbcma.vic. gov.au/our-region/waterway-floodplainmanagement/floodplain-planning/ gbfloodintelligenceportal

The SES advised of new simplified notifications that will be used across the various agencies that respond to emergency situations. 'Emergency' is red and the highest level of warning. It requires immediate action and any delay potentially puts life at risk. 'Warning' is orange and is equivalent to Watch and Act. It means take

action now, an emergency is developing nearby and you should act now to protect yourself and others. The third and lowest level is 'Advice' which is yellow and denotes an incident is occurring and conditions should be monitored. The SES want people to know that if a life is in danger, the first call should always be to Triple Zero (000).



CindyMcLeishMP cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

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COMMUNITY DIARY

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain UGFM 98.5 Flowerdale / Hazeldene UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306 Tues

Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150 Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427 Thu

Seniors Social Club 1pm
AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222 Sun

Alanon Record Phina Guidence, training, Ph 5772 1057
7.30-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 Sun Sun Thu

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318 1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257 Alexandra Golinet Stockhall melliphir 172 227 Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285 Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm. Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988 1st Sun 2nd Wed Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318 Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL pH 5772 2946 Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 2rd Sat 3rd Sat 3rd Wed

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL. CLOSED due to COVID. Ph 0409 950 913 4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall. Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm

Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517 Last Fri Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA =

For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.



Commonwealth Games

IT was surprising more wasn't said about the 2026 Commonwealth Games being cancelled until we factor in this is Victoria. Whatever people say, Daniel Andrews is a master politician. Don't get that mixed up with he serves the people like the statesmen of old. The John MacIntyres, George Turners and Jeff Kennetts. Politicians that worked



THUMBS DOWN: To irresponsible dog owners who allow their mutts to roam the streets of Alexandra, in particular the two dogs running down Grant Street last week at the end of school time.

THUMBS UP: To council for fixing the Alexandra town clock.

THUMBS UP: To Alexandra Panels and Towing for their very efficient service and a great job on my car, and they cleaned it as well. A very happy customer.

THUMPS UP: To the Murrindindi Shire Council for reconnecting the power to the Grant Street clock. All vou have to do is ask.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

for the people are gone. Dan has an agenda, it does not include the will of the people or serving Victorians best. From COVID-19 lockdowns to erosion of freedom of speech, no other politician in a democracy would get away with it. There's too many examples I could list; Slug Gate, Red Shirts, it goes on.

The games would have showcased regional Victoria to the world. That sort of coverage is gold. Once the public saw Bendigo, Mansfield, Echuca, Swan Hill even Lake Eildon, the interest would be there but Dan isn't interested. He bid for the games to get votes, he's anti-Commonwealth which is why he's hindering another bid from an Australian state or federal assistance. Yes there's going to be an enquiry but we all know Dan won't cooperate. He'll fight divulging information, develop selective amnesia or absent himself to China on a secret mission. The investigation will cost tens of millions and achieve nothing just add to the over one billion dollars for breaking the contract, or will it be one billion pounds? Either way it won't bother Dan, he got his regional votes.

The truth is there's no real opposition to Labor in Victoria. Next election he'll say the right buzzwords at the right time, promise the moon. That promise he partially kept, the craters are in our roads. Î hope another venue for the games is found in Australia, however regional Victoria's reputation is

Tom Collins, Alexandra

Voice to Parliament

AS a person who follows public issues via the media and often comments, this is a reminder. What a democracy we live in, that's open to everyone, however I have noted our federal and state members of Parliament, Haines and McLeish have been silent on the upcoming Voice referendum, a ves or no vote.

I admire people who are prepared to put pen to paper. I might disagree with them, but I'll always defend their right to do so.

So, it's time for both of them to make a public statement on yes or no.

Ray Donkin, Buxton

Alexandra Seniors Club report

by Mike Jennings, honorary secretary

THE bridge players opened the week with action on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The committee met on Tuesday morning to plan the rescheduled annual general meeting which will now be held on Friday, August 25 at 1pm in the Bayley Street clubroom.

The carpet bowlers were in action after lunch with the

Yea

contest ending in a drawn match. The ukulele players were happy strumming and singing to a few old favourites on Thursday afternoon and hopefully improving their muscle memory with new chords to remember.

On Friday, the business meeting was well attended and the club welcomed new members Marg Rouse, Humphries. Shane Ros Lloyd, Brenda Bennett and

Rick Weppner. The club welcomes new members so if you are interested in any of the activities please attend on the appropriate day. The members will be pleased to see you.

Watch this space for future coach trips such as Morning Melodies or visits to interesting places. Meanwhile, enjoy the cool weather, it won't be long before you are complaining about the heat. Stay safe.

Weekly Weather August 10-August 15, 2023

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

<u>Alexandra</u>

DAY	LOW H	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	3	16 🕮	Wednesday	2	17 🕮
Thursday	7	11 🥋	Thursday	6	12 🥋
Friday	6	13	Friday	5	14
Saturday	7	12 🥋	Saturday	7	13 🥋
Sunday	6	14 📂	Sunday	6	14 츴
Monday	6	13 🥋	Monday	6	13 🥋
Tuesday	7	14 🥋	Tuesday	7	14 🥋
Standard			The Mea Chronicle		

ALEXANDRA 💳 NEWSPAPERS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can now be submitted via email to editorial@

Alexandra 3714. or drop them into the Alexandra office.

Letters must be 300 words or less.

We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print. All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.





RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.11	steady	below minor	
Rubicon R at Rubicon	`12.00pm Mon	0.71	steady		
Acheron R at Taggerty	9.20am Mon	1.93	steady	below minor	
Home Ck at Yarck	10.57am Mon	0.31	steady		
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	11.57am Mon	0.65	steady	below minor	
Yea R at Yea	11.24am Mon	1.09	steady		
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.74	steady		
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.65	steady	below minor	
Goulburn R at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.39	steady	below minor	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.34	steady	below minor	
Goulburn R at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.76	steady	below minor	
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	11.32am Mon	1.29	steady		
ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023					

DISTRICT RAINFALL

AlexandraN/Amm
Buxton20mm
Eildon (AWS)
Flowerdale7mm
Kinglake13mm
Lake Eildon 8mm
Jamieson14mm
Taggerty
Yarck 15mm
Yea11mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	287.70m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	95.2%
Metres below full supply	
Daily inflow	
Release	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	48%
5	

Standard

DEADLINES

Real Estate Thursday noon Trades & Services Thursday noon Early General News Thursday 5pm Classifieds Monday noon Editorial Monday 9am Sports Editorial Monday 10am Letters to the Editor Monday 9am Thumbsup/down Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Telstra tower outages due to upgrade

AS many mobile phone users in Alexandra would have realised by now, phone connectivity is a problem this week.

Telstra is currently upgrading their Alexandra mobile base station and it is causing temporary disruptions to mobile service for Telstra tower users, for both Telstra customers and for people on other providers which use the Telstra tower, such as Aldi or Belong.

The upgrade is expected to bring improved 4G capacity and new 5G coverage.

A Telstra spokesperson said that due to the significant works required on the site, a full site shutdown was required between Tuesday, August 8 through to Friday, August 11. During this period, there will be no Telstra mobile technology operating.

Landline services, NBN internet services and mobile coverage from other network providers will not be impacted.

Any calls to Triple Zero from an impacted mobile phone when the site is off air will automatically be diverted to any working mobile network for connection to emergency services.

Regional General Manager for Telstra, Jenny Gray, said, "While coverage and capacity will be impacted during this time, we want to keep the amount of time the site is off air to an absolute minimum and give the community as much time as possible to plan for the disruption.

"We must turn the site off for a few days to perform the significant work needed to improve our mobile network in the Alexandra area. However, once it is all done, residents should notice an improvement in their service."

The works are intended to improve mobile connectivity in the existing coverage footprint. It is not expected to expand the current footprint.

For customers wishing to access 5G on the Telstra network when it's available, they will need a 5G capable device and have a Telstra 5G phone plan, so for some people, that may mean upgrading their current device.

If anyone believes they have been significantly impacted while this upgrade is taking place, they are welcome to to contact Telstra on 132 200 and request that they be sent a compensation pack. All compensation applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Given the short term nature of the works, a temporary base station will not be activated. Telstra said that they will look to minimise outages as much as they can during the works.

Tips for improving connectivity while works are underway

For mobile coverage in the interim, if residents have access to a wi-fi signal at home or at work, you can activate wi-fi calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to use a Wi-Fi network to make and receive mobile calls. To find out more, just search in your settings icon on your phone or ask Google.

Many businesses use the Telstra network for their EFTPOS terminals. However, Telstra does not operate the EFTPOS network; it is operated by financial institutions. Many EFTPOS terminals can also be connected using fixed line or Wi-Fi/NBN internet connections. Retailers should contact their bank for more information and details on how to switch between these methods to ensure continuous service.



ALL HOURS

Meet and greet with the new bank manager

MEMBERS of the Alexandra and district community were invited to a 'meet and greet' with the new manager of the Yea Community Bank in Alexandra on the evening of Monday, July 31 at the Alexandra RSL Hall.

Chair Jim Osborne opened the meeting and introduced the new manager Rebecca (Bec) Taylor, along with staff members Jo, Michelle and Kirsty.

Ms Taylor spent seven years as assistant manager at the Mount Evelyn branch of



Yea Community Bank staff members with new manager Rebecca Taylor (centre) and State Manager at Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd, Ashdon Capp (right). -AR

the Bendigo Bank prior to joining the Yea Community Bank as manager, and Mr Osborne commented that the board are feeling very happy about the appointment.

Mr Osborne reiterated to the Alexandra community that the bank will not be opening a branch in the town, but that services will be offered through the Alexandra Newsagency, where Bec and the team will provide backup, and the new office. Meetings with Bec or another team member at the Alexandra office will be by appointment. The office will be shared with Rural Bank.

The bank will be open three days each week in Yea, on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, but they will consider more if warranted. If Monday is a public holiday, the bank will be open on a Tuesday instead.

Mr Osborne noted that the 'big banks' are reducing their number of branches and relying instead on e-banking. Foot traffic into banks has reduced to about 10 per cent of what it once was.

He said that the mobility of the manager was very important as she will be able to respond to the community's needs.

More widely, the financials of the Yea Community Bank are "looking good," and at the AGM they hope to declare a profit and dividends. They have paid back all of their debts to Bendigo Bank. They expect that within the next 12 months, small community grants will be on the agenda. He added that the grants will need to be reciprocal, with benefits to the bank as well as to the community group.

Asked what services will be provided at the Alexandra office, Mr Osborne responded that it's for whatever people want to do in private. At the newsagent, people are coming and going and there may not be the level of privacy required. People will not be able to open an account at the office, but they can do so at the newsagency or in Yea.

Ms Taylor is happy to assist people from across the Murrindindi Shire with their banking needs. All they need to do is call and make an appointment.

Ron Cooper and the Alexandra bookshop

Do you know of a fabulous volunteer who deserves an accolade in the newspaper? Emailus at editorial@alexandranewspapers. com.au or call 5772 1002.

MANY people do not realise the expertise Ron Cooper has shown in creating and managing the current second-hand bookshop, which he has serviced and managed daily for a period of over 20 years. It is so immaculate in its presentation that most people on their initial entry assume it to be a new book shop rather than a second-hand bookshop.

The original bookselling idea began many years ago when a man and his wife using a trestle table outside the library sold a few second-hand books to help the library. But as his wife became ill the gentleman asked Ron to take it over instead, which he did for a couple of months. After greatly improving the productivity of the operation and realising the potential, Ron decided to continue indefinitely.

Ron had spent years as a warehouse manager and his great skill in storage layouts enabled a great ability in space saving.

He eventually then moved into a building next door to the National Bank building for about a year and created an actual bookshop. Throughout the years he also created and managed three 'pop-up' shops, opening and closing them at times to move overloads of books.

In 2005 when the pharmacist moved operation into his new pharmacy built next

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Andrew, Robyn and Brooke

door to the existing pharmacy, it left the old building vacant, so Ron took over those premises where he has managed the current bookshop with various volunteers for over 19 years.

He completely redecorated the shop with new floorcoverings, and designed and had built excellent shelving using his great expertise and experience in storage layouts to save space. The current bookshop now accommodates around 30,000 different books which he cleans, sizes and catalogues all before shelving them for display.

With his passion and a great dedication for the bookshop, Ron has travelled many large distances in his van to collect books for the shop. On one occasion he collected 50 boxes of books from one house alone.

After the 2009 Black Saturday fires, Rotary donated 200 cartons of books to Ron, and delivered to his own home. It took him three months to sort and clean before he delivered them to the bookshop before carefully shelving them for display.

Before the COVID-19 period had struck the community, the owner of the shop building decided to extend the shop. He doubled the size of the premises which provided an excellent boost in space and the opportunity for Ron to increase many more interesting shelves for books to be accommodated.

A short time later the owner decided to sell the premises so the shop building now has a lucky new owner with the luxury of an excellent tenant.

Ron has been a great asset to Alexandra's main shopping street and great fundraiser for the Alexandra Library. The Alexandra Friends of the Library Bookshop has raised an incredible amount of money and is of great assistance to the library.





THE ALEXANDRA: EILDON: MARYSVILLE andard

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks Alexandra Newsagency Alexandra Newspapers Bucks Country Bakehouse Yarck Choppers Buxton Eildon Newsagency Alexandra Endeavour Hazeldene Store Igloo Buxton Marysville FoodWorks Mansfield Newsagency Merton General Store Metro Narby Seymour Newsagency Simpsons Caltex Taggerty Store Thornton Store Yarck Meat and Produce Yea FoodWorks Yea Newsagency



Audited Media Association of Australia

abc

This week's Church Services

ANGLICAN St Johns Alexandra

9am Eucharist each Sunday Children welcome Rev Mario Hendricks - Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish Parish Administrator, Father Jose Mathew Presbytery 0468 810 871 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St. Andrews, Downey Street, Alexandra Worshipping, Welcoming Sharing the transforming love of Jesus Services 10am each Sunday contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People, Loving Life 118 Grant Street, Alexandra Contact: Ps Steven Turner Ph: 0413 127 283 Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street , Alexandra Pastor Daniel Kriss Services 10am every Sunday Phone 0400 282 536 www.mccbc.com.au

THEVINE

A Christian community of the Baptist Union of Victoria Sunday 4.30pm service Kids program during school term St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street, Alexandra Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone Ph: 0481 472 152

Out&About

THE items in Out and About are sourced from our advertising and news stories. Out and About is not a free community **listing diary**. Not all items can be included and are placed at discretion of Alexandra Newspapers.

Do you or someone you know have information or experiences nave information of experiences to share about past Alexandra flood events? Drop into the council chambers and chat with consultants from Engeny Australia on Friday, August 11 from 2-4pm or Saturday, August 12 from 10am-noon

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Eildon Events Inc will hold their AGM at Morning Mist, Back Eildon Road at 10.30am. For further details contact 0400 715

****** TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

Eildon Action Inc will hold their AGM at Eildon VIC. Everyone is welcome. Nominations can be submitted on the night.

Homewood Hall will hold their AGM at the hall at 6.30pm. All

Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group will hold their AGM at 7.30pm at the Homewood Hall.

****** THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

2030Yea Community Energy is hosting two more presentations in the Renewable Future for Yea series. Doors open at 6pm for 6.30 start. Yea Wetlands. Bookings can be made at events.humanitix.com/2030yeapresentations. Further details on page seven of The Yea Chronicle.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

UGFM will hold their AGM via Zoom at 7.30pm. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact info@ugfm. org or phone 5772 2722.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Goulburn Fishing Festival 2023. Free event at Eildon. 10am-Lions Park, Riverside Drive. Live music, market stalls, Snobs Creek Hatchery tours, Vic Fish Kids clinics and more. Fireworks at 7pm. vfa.vid.gov. au/goulburnfishfest

National Tree Day celebrated across Murrindindi Shire

Continued from page 1.



Yea Primary Schools planting a small section along Boundary Creek in Yea with ground covers and grasses. -S



Taking a break from all of the hard work. -S



The planting efforts of the volunteer group along a section of Old Josephine Cutting in Alexandra. Volunteers tidied up the area with brush cutting, maintenance on the tree guards, and in-fill planting. -S

Planning underway for infrastructure upgrades and early years workforce plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is preparing to engage suitable professionals to begin planning and design work for future upgrades to kindergartens in Alexandra and Yea, after securing a \$148,586 grant through the Victorian Government's Building Blocks

As part of this work, council will also develop a plan to support the attraction, retention and development of the local early childhood workforce.

Murrindindi Shire was recently announced as one of the first local government areas for the pre-prep (four-year old kinder) roll out between 2025 and 2032 under the *Best Start*, Best Life reforms, which aim to increase kindergarten programs to 30 hours per week, up from the current 15 hours per week. This announcement follows the roll out of the free

15 hour per week three-year old kinder, under the same reforms, which has been active in Murrindindi Shire since 2021.

Council applied for funding under the State Building Blocks grants program, following a review of early childhood infrastructure and service requirements in the shire. The review identified capacity challenges at the Alexandra and Yea kindergarten facilities, which would impact their ability to meet increased demand for pre-prep program hours. The review made several recommendations, which included developing an early years workforce plan.

This planning and design work will pave the way for further funding applications for there to be 'shovel ready' projects to support the community's needs.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor John Walsh said "Council is aware of the nation-wide challenges around attracting and retaining early childhood staff, and we know our communities are struggling to access these vital services locally, with long wait lists, ageing infrastructure and little capacity to expand.

"Our population is increasing and with the current hours of local kindergarten services set to double from 2025, action needs to be taken to avoid children missing out on two free years of pre-school education. As part of the infrastructure planning work, we'll also be preparing a workforce plan to help us engage and retain educators to support families and children in our shire," he said.

Council and Agriculture Victoria host flood recovery workshop for local farmers

MORE than 40 people came to the Molesworth Public Hall on Thursday, July 27 to learn about current animal health issues and how farmers can deal with stressful situations.

Murrindindi Shire Council and Agriculture Victoria hosted the 'Caring for Our Stock, Caring for Ourselves' workshop to highlight the importance of animal and farmer health.

Principal Vet Dr Anna Manning from Delatite Veterinary Services shared some observations about stock on flood affected properties. Dr Manning explained current health issues in animals across the region and how to respond, particularly liver fluke, worms and lice. Advice on managing feeding regimes to minimise susceptibility to grass tetany was highly engaging.

With 40 years of experience specialising in trauma recovery, psychologist Dr Rob Gordon spoke to attendees about the effects that stress can have on the body, and some of the signs to keep an eye out for. As disasters tend to disrupt the usual patterns of life, one of the most important things in recovery is staying connected with your community. Another key message was that if situations seem so difficult that it becomes hard to make a decision or take action, it can be an indicator of ongoing stress. A useful short circuit can be to make time for relaxation, pleasure and leisure.

Representatives from RuralAid and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry attended. Mental Health Consultant Zoe Edmonds, who offers a free counselling service to small business owners, their families and their employees under the Partners in Wellbeing Program, also attended. Ms Edmonds reported that trauma (resulting from a disaster) which is unresolved can lead to ongoing stress and impact physiological health.

This event is one of the latest flood recovery activities conducted across the shire, as council reaches out through pop up hubs and events connecting with communities to support the recovery process for all. Murrindindi Shire Council is also attending the monthly Yea Cattle Sales at the Yea Saleyards to offer information and support to farmers.

To stay up to date on the latest flood recovery information and future events, subscribe to receive the flood recovery e-newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor John Walsh said, "Farmer health is very important in both the physical and psychological sense. We know healthy farmers equal healthy farms, and vice versa. Supporting farmers and their farms to bounce back after the floods is essential for our community to grow and prosper."



Dr Rob Gordon. -S



Dr Anna Manning. -S

Murrindindi

An Hour With An Ambo in Eildon

EVERY Wednesday for the next three months, Ambulance Victoria is providing the Eildon community with an information session and free health checks.

The first session will focus on the use of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to consult with an Emergency Doctor from the comfort of your home, at no cost. The session will be run by Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Paramedic Peter Scott and Advanced Life Support Paramedic Phil Irving.

Information will be made available about MyAged Care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and representatives can assist with referrals if required.

Ambulance Victoria looks forward to seeing the Eildon community and supporting your health care needs.

The event will take place at the Eildon Community Centre, 2 Centre Avenue, Eildon on Wednesday, August 23 from 10am to noon.

This event will occur every Wednesday for a three-month trial period.

Mixed results in quarterly ambulance data

AMBULANCE Victoria have released their response data for the final quarter of the financial year 2022/23, April 1 to June 30, in the Murrundindi local government area.

There were 260 code one incidents. Code one incidents are defined as requiring urgent paramedic and hospital care, based on the information at the time of call.

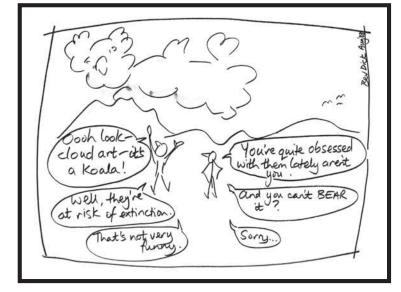
260 code one incidents is a very similiar number compared to the same quarter last year, when there were 252 incidents.

There was a longer average response time for code ones this year, with 26 minutes and

16 seconds, compared to 24 minutes and 18 seconds last year.

The percentage of code one incidents attended in under 15 minutes for this year was 27.7 per cent. This was considerably worse this year when compared to the 36.5 per cent achieved last year.

Code two incidents are acute and time sensitive, but do not require a lights and sirens response. The number of code two incidents this quarter was 190 and the average response time was 49 minutes and nine seconds. Last year there were 185 code two incidents and the response time was 52 minutes and 34 seconds.



UT Creek (Alexandra) Flood Scoping Study Drop-in Sessions

Do you, or someone you know, have information or experiences to share about past flood events in Alexandra? Drop in to the Alexandra Council Chambers and chat with consultants from Engeny Australia to help Council

In collaboration with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and Engeny Australia, Council is conducting the UT Creek (Alexandra) Flood Scoping Study and is using community feedback, along with mapping, rainfall and streamflow data, to better understand flood behaviour within the Township.

You are invited to share information about flood impacts and extent, along with photos of damage to infrastructure or indications of water levels.

Project consultant Engeny Australia is experienced in similar local studies and knows the value of meeting on site to discuss past experiences. Consultants will be attending two drop-in sessions at the Alexandra Council Chambers to meet residents. Access to the Council Chambers is via a laneway on Grant Street to the right of the Shire Hall entrance.

- Friday 11 August, 2.00 4.00 pm
- Saturday 12 August, 10.00 am 12.00 noon

understand flooding impacts and plan for the future.

Can't get to a drop-in? You can still complete a questionnaire online or in person at the Council's Alexandra Library or Customer Service Centre.

For more information and to get involved, visit Council's online engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/alexandrafloodstudy



Murrindindi Shire Council and GBCMA has received funding to complete this project from the Victorian Government's Risk and Resilience Grant Program.

Are your points really expiring?

WELL known Australian companies who hold loyalty points programs are the new target for scams in Australia.

According to the National Anti-Scam Centre, customers who receive texts from Qantas Frequent Flyer, Telstra and Coles loyalty programs are to be wary following 209 reports to Scamwatch in the last four months.

"While the vast majority of reports to Scamwatch received so far are in relation to Qantas Frequent Flyer, Telstra and Coles loyalty programs, it is important for Australians to be aware that any loyalty program could be referred to in this type of scam," ACCC Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe said.

The scam begins with customers receiving a text message or email stating their loyalty points are expiring and it includes a link to a fake website which prompts customers to log in with their personal credentials. In some cases, customers are also asked to provide credit card details to access their points. Scammers then steal customers points, login details and personal information to

use on other platforms and commit identity fraud.

To protect yourself, don't ever click on a link included in a text message. Always, access the app or website independently to check on the status of your points.

"The National Anti-Scam Centre has contacted the companies that have been impersonated by scammers and is working with web host providers to have the fake websites taken down, to minimise harm to the community," Ms Lowe said.

"We are very concerned that Australians experiencing cost of living pressures may be more susceptible to these scams. Scammers are deliberately panicking consumers by claiming their points are expiring soon. We urge people to immediately delete or ignore any message regarding a loyalty program that contains a link."

To avoid scams always stop and take time before providing any personal information, stop and ask yourself if the message can be fake. Protect yourself by acting quickly if something feels wrong. Contact the company who was referenced in the scam and report the scam to *scamwatch.gov.au*



Big changes to egg production coming soon -S

Phasing caged eggs out sooner rather than later

LAST month, Agriculture Ministers met to endorse the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. This report recommended to bring forward by 10 years a phase out of all battery cage eggs by 2036.

Agriculture Minister Murray Watt has said, "It would be left to each state to decide exactly when they will implement it."

Three major supermarkets are on board with the change, with two of them already committing to 100 per cent of cage eggs being off the shelves by 2025.

According to the Australian Eggs lobby group, demand for free range eggs has grown significantly in Australia over the last 15 years and egg farmers have responded by investing in increased free range egg farming capacity. Free range is now the most popular egg category at the supermarket, making up 47 percent of total retail sales.

Current cage hen farmers are feeling the brunt of this forward cessation of caged eggs as they have heavily invested in cages and equipment.

A statement from Egg Farmers of Australia, CEO Melinda Hashimoto said farmers in various states had mixed

"Our free range and barn laid sectors have the green light to expand, but cage egg producers are in limbo with no clear picture about their future in Australia's egg supply chain," she warned.

"That's because the ministers voted to end cage eggs, but left the phase out time to each state to decide. This could be good news or bad news for producers, depending on how long the states allow cage eggs to continue to be sold. Consequently, we need clarity from states so that farmers can plan for their future."

Demand for free range eggs has grown significantly in Australia over the last 15 years and egg farmers have responded by investing in increased free range egg farming capacity.

Under the law, eggs labelled as 'free range' must come from hens that are able to roam and forage outdoors for at least eight hours each day.

The definition of cage eggs are eggs produced from hens that are housed in cages inside large, climate controlled sheds. The modern structures used in Australia generally have multiple tiers, with a conveyor belt between each level to catch and remove manure automatically

As free range eggs are usually more expensive than caged eggs, what will this mean down the track for consumers when the only option is to purchase free range?

Well, you can have these eggs scrambled, poached or fried.

Family rescued on the Cathedral Range

LOCAL police called Marysville SES shortly before 3.30pm on Sunday, August 6 to help locate a family of four on Sugarloaf Peak. The SES set up a command point and headed out, sending crews up two different tracks to search. Two members located the group on Wells Cave track a little over an hour later.

The hikers were well prepared and fit, however with two very young children present they made the wise decision to call for help on one of the trickier sections of rock face.

Fortunately, the SES had taken plenty of rope equipment with them and were able to rig a high angle rescue system quickly while additional rope operators from SES Alexandra Unit, Monbulk Fire and Rescue (CFA) and Wandin Fire Brigade made their way to the scene to assist.

The team then started the careful process of lowering each person down a 15m rock face safely. The rescue kit includes specialist gear designed to suit both children and adults, with three different set ups used in this instance.

Friends of Kellock fundraiser



Wayne Miller with some of the pine offcuts. -KM

FRIENDS of Kellock are running a fundraiser, selling bags of kiln-dried pine offcuts thanks to Glencoe Trusses. The bags are being sold for \$10 each. Orders can be placed by ringing 0409 965 329 or purchased at Embling Rural.

RSPCA needs your help fight against animal cruelty

RSPCA Victoria is calling on all animal lovers to get baking this August for its tastiest annual fundraiser, Cupcake Day.

Sweet or savoury, all treats will be welcomed in offices, schools, and homes across the state with hundreds set to join the fight against animal cruelty by hosting their own event.

Bakers can host a Cupcake Day anytime in August, with hosts encouraged to register their event online to receive host tools and resources to promote their event and get people involved, plus they will go into the running to win from an exciting list of prizes.

These vital funds will help support RSPCA Victoria's ongoing work to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome neglected, abused, and homeless animals.

RSPCA Victoria CEO Dr Liz Walker said every dollar raised helps fight animal cruelty across the state.

"Animals make our lives better, and what easier way to help them than to share good treats with friends, family and colleagues while raising money for animals in need," Dr Walker said.

"Our community provides funding for 90 per cent of the RSPCA's work in the state. Events like Cupcake Day are one way we can help care for our shelter animals, investigate reports of cruelty, provide community outreach programs to support pets and their people, and improve animal welfare."

Donations through RSPCA Cupcake Day can make a difference. \$36 can provide an animal with a warm bed, love and care for one day in our shelter. \$58 helps a shelter dog learn to trust again with specialised training and affection. \$90 helps transport injured and abused animals to get medical care. \$252 helps provide care and enrichment for

an animal in RSPCA Victoria shelters for a week and \$1008 helps care for a mistreated, abused or abandoned animal in our shelters for a whole month

To register, visit rspcacupcakeday.com.

Wind farm survey

THE Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group conducted a survey which ran for six weeks in June and July regarding the proposed FERA wind farm. 201 people responded. Of those, 99 per cent live in Mitchell, Murrindindi or Strathbogie Shires. The highest number of respondents came from Highlands (23 per cent), Ruffy (12 per cent) and Terip Terip (12 per cent).

Of the respondents, only seven per cent said that they were contacted directly by FERA about the proposal.

Ninety-six per cent of respondents stated that the region's landscape is either 'extremely' or 'very important' to their way of life and that there are high levels of concern about a range of potential project impacts. These included landscape, roads and biodiversity (90 per cent), impacts on geology and hydrology (85 per cent) and visual impacts (84 per cent). Eighty per cent said that they were very or extremely concerned about FERA's community engagement.

Thirteen of the comments were in support of the project and 294 of the comments were opposed.

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS





COMMUNITY MEETING IN STRATH CREEK

Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community? Come along to the Open Community Meeting in Strath Creek and speak directly to your Councillors.

Meeting details:

30 August 2023 from 5.00 - 7.00 pm Strath Creek Public Hall 10 Ferguson Street, Strath Creek

If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you and your community.

Prior registration is not required, we'll greet you and collect your details on the evening. Email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call Council on 5772 0333 for more details.

MOVING MURRINDINDI

Moving Murrindindi is a partnership program between Council and Community Accessability.

The program aims to connect volunteer drivers with senior citizens, people with a disability or financially-disadvantaged members of our community who might be in need of a low-cost transport option to get to medical appointments, social outings or other transport hubs.

Clients or carers wishing to use the Moving Murrndindi service can contact Community Accessability on 1300 704 530 or email transport@communityaccessability.org.au for further information on bookings, transport costs and concessions.

FLOOD RECOVERY POP-UP HUBS

Council is running a series of pop-up hubs for you to meet the flood recovery team. This is an opportunity to share your story and to find out what supports are available to you.

Events are currently planned for Buxton, Flowerdale, Glenburn, Kinglake and Yea.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoveryevents for the latest details on upcoming events

POSITIONS VACANT - COUNCIL POOLS

Are you a water-loving individual with a passion for sun, fun and safety? We have the perfect job for you! Join our team this summer at one of our seasonal pools in Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville or Yea.

There are multiple positions available, including

- Assistant Aquatic Operations and Facility Supervisor
- Senior Duty Manager
- Duty Manager
- Lifeguard

Visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs to see all available positions, apply for a position and to find out more.

Applications close at 11.45 pm on Sunday 20 August 2023.

BE READY FOR THE CONVERSATION

Australia is having a conversation about the referendum being held later this year.

Council has a responsibility to provide factual and practical information to our community about changes to law and legislation that impacts our democracy, to enable informed participation in the voting process.

The Voice referendum is about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body.

We are committed to sharing clear, unambiguous information with the community, enabling residents to make a considered and informed choice in the upcoming referendum.

Voting in the referendum is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over. Be informed at voice.gov.au.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program?

Applications are currently open for all funding streams, however round one closes on 31 August for the following grants:

- Sponsorships
- Community Projects
- Local Events
- Events of Major Significance

Don't miss out! Call our Grants team on 5772 0333 or visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants for more information.

AN HOUR WITH AN AMBO IS COMING TO EILDON!

Every Wednesday for the next three months, Ambulance Victoria is providing the Eildon community with an information session and free health checks.

The first session will focus on the use of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to consult with an Emergency Doctor from the comfort of your home, at no cost. The session will be run by Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Paramedic Peter Scott and Advanced Life Support Paramedic Phil Irving.

Information will be made available about MyAged Care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and representatives can assist with referrals if required.

Ambulance Victoria looks forward to seeing the Eildon community and supporting your health care needs.

Session Details:

23 August 2023 from 10.00 am - 12 noon Eildon Community Centre, 2 Centre Avenue, Eildon

Starting 23 August 2023 this event will occur every Wednesday for a three-month trial period.

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request 5772 0333

Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra





ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL Charli Stephens - 3/4A

Charli is a bubbly student who always shows the school values. Charli is a kind and caring friend. She watches out for younger students in the yard, acting with care and integrity. Charli always has a smile on her face! We are proud to have you in our learning community, Charli. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Zarhlia is a kind friend and a very helpful class member. Keep up the great work.



Cody and Logan displayed the school values of cooperation and respect this week in all their work.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Magical mayhem at Yarck Hall

ARTZ@Yarck finished their season with the music, mayhem and magic of Sass and Secrets.

The Kid's Magic Workshop was conducted at midday by magician Cath Jamison. It was attended by an enthusiastic group of aspiring magicians who had to swear on the 'Magician's Oath' before the secrets of several wonderful tricks were unlocked for them.

Prior to the evening performance, the Yarck Hall chefs conjured up a fabulous two course meal and supper for the chosen ones who booked early. These meals and supper have been a

feature of Artz@Yarck and are a credit to the chefs and the community. The organisers would like to thank all involved and those who served and cleaned up after.

Following dinner, it was a case off strap yourselves in and away the show roared. Magician Cath Jamison and cabaret star Aurora Kurth led the audience through a riotous and extremely interactive evening.

It may have been cold outside but by the end of the evening, the audience was hot. Numerous audience members were cajoled and crooned and some were even dragged up on stage including the mayor and also the president of the hall committee and his wife.

Cabaret singer, Aurora Kurth, managed to lead and stay ahead of all comers in a great rendition of *Don't Rain on My Parade*.

To top it off, Carol Harding won the raffle, a fantastic Alexandra Quilters' rug donated to the hall committee as a fundraiser. Thanks to the quilters for their generous donation and to all who bought tickets. Thanks also to Regional Arts Victoria and Murrindindi Shire Council for their support.

Like the show, with their help, it has been a great ride that enabled the Yarck Hall Committee to bring the community together and use the hall for high quality theatre usually only available in Melbourne.

Everyone who attended was a winner. Sass and Secrets was an unforgettable experience for young and old.



The children's magic workshop. -S



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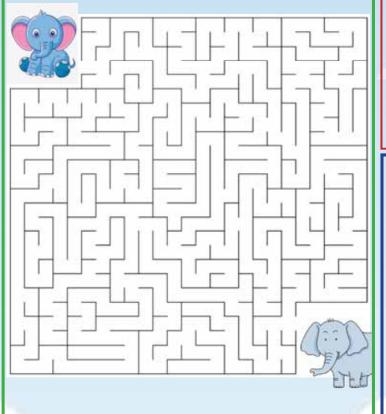
(03) 5772 2110 alexgrainstore @gmail.com



Carol was the winner of the rug. -S



Help the baby elephant find its way back to its mother.







JUST JOKES

What's as large as an elephant but weighs nothing at all? An elephant's shadow.

How do elephants talk to each other? On the ele-phone!

What do you get when you cross a fish with an elephant?

Swimming trunks!

What sport will an elephant always beat you at? Squash!

FACT-ASTICAL

Did you know that There are three different species of elephant - the African Savannah elephant, the African Forest elephant and the Asian elephant.

Did you know that Elephants are the world's largest land animal! Male African elephants can reach 3m tall and weigh between 4,000 -7,500kg.

Did you know that elephants spend between 12 to 18 hours eating grass, plants and fruit every single day!

Did you know that each elephant creates about one tonne of poo per week.

natgeokids.com/au

Country Tech



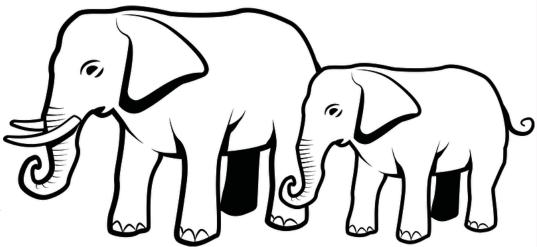
89 - 91 Grant Street Alexandra Victoria 3714 5772 3165

Simply color the picture on the right, fill in your details and drop it off at Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street Alexandra Vic or post it to P O Box 5 Alexandra Vic 3714.

Entries close and need to be received by 11am Monday prior to our next edition.

Name	
Address	

Phone D.O.B.



WORLD ELEPHANT DAY - August 12



John Benston unveiling the honour

Limestone dinner honours brigade leaders

ONE of the many highlights of a Limestone Community Christmas in July Dinner held on July 29 was the unveiling of a Limestone Fire Brigade Honour Board. The honour board is a gift from the Limestone community to the brigade. The Honour Board recognises members of the Limestone Brigade who have served as captains or been awarded Life Membership for outstanding

The honour board was unveiled by John Benston, a former Limestone resident, who served as the brigade's first leader from 1973 to 2000 and was awarded life membership in 2005.

Some 80 members and friends the Limestone community attended the Christmas in July dinner. It was the first social occasion community since well before the onset of COVID-19. Through the work of local volunteers, the fire station was transformed into a wonderful dining and events venue. A superb three course meal was catered for by locals Marilyn Mallia, John Brick and Kimm Noonan.

A key purpose of the evening was to inform the community about the Limestone Community Project. The project aims to record and inform, through public signage and a Limestone Story Wall, some of the remarkable features of Limestone's past and present.

The Limestone Community Project is being led by Ian Marshman and Jan Beer.

All proceeds from the dinner and an associated fundraising auction, wonderfully supported by generous donors and spirited bidders alike, will go towards the Limestone Community Project.

Over \$8000 was raised on the evening. Combined with a generous grant of \$2000 from Yea and District Rotary, these funds will now be sufficient to enable the public information boards and the Limestone Story Wall to proceed. These will be installed before the end of the year.

Ian and Jan would welcome hearing from anyone in the wider community who may have photos or other memorabilia about life and times at Limestone. You can contact Ian on 0439 600 873 and Jan on 0407 144 777.

Are you missing money?

VICTORIANS encouraged to go online to find out if they are among thousands of people with a claim on a pool unclaimed money topping \$109 million.

The State Revenue Office (SRO) holds records of money that remains unclaimed after 12 months including refunds, rents and bonds, share dividends, salaries and wages, debentures, interest and proceeds from sales. The majority of entitlements have been held by the SRO for less than ten years.

regional Mornington Peninsula leads the way with \$2.8 million followed by Yarra Ranges (\$2 million) and Greater Geelong (\$1.9 million). Across the state, there are some 678,000 entitlements waiting to be claimed.

In addition to unclaimed money, the SRO also holds all Tattersalls, Intralot and Tabcorp prizes, as well as TAB winnings, that have remained unclaimed for six months or more.

The highest unclaimed entitlement gaming \$2,136,327 from Tattersalls which was received in March 2016. To claim these winnings, you must supply your original ticket

All Victorian businesses and trustees holding \$20 or more in unclaimed money are reminded they must record and keep the money for at least 12 months, then lodge it with the SRO. Lodgements can be made via the SRO website.

To search for unclaimed money, visit sro.vic.gov.au/ unclaimedmoney. You will need your name or company name, and the address that you believe the unclaimed money lodging organisation would have had on

Fisheries collaborate on Macquarie perch

A COLLABORATIVE new research project will bring together fisheries experts from across Australia and abroad to work jointly on re-establishing wild populations of the endangered native Macquarie Perch.

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt officially announced the \$3.7 million project, which will drive collaboration of governments, university researchers and recreational fishers.

The three year project will conduct dedicated research to 'crack the code' on captive breeding of the species, meaning fisheries experts will be able to produce and release Macquarie Perch using hatchery broodstock, rather than capturing wild adult fish every season.

The project, led by the Federal and Victorian Governments, features partners across government, universities and community, including Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), Fisheries Fisheries Authority (VFA), Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), NSW Fisheries and the North East and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authorities.

This important work will also be driven by research partners including Deakin

University, University of the Sunshine Coast, Monash University, Arthur Rylah Institute and the Norwegian Institute of Aquaculture Research, as well as the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

Macquarie Perch were once abundant in south-eastern Australia but a range of factors, including barriers to fish migration and loss of habitat, have restricted populations to just a handful of locations. Breeding currently relies on annual collection of broodfish from the wild, with experts having been unable to replicate environmental conditions for broodstock to thrive in hatcheries over several breeding seasons.

This dedicated research project will examine nutrition, hormones, the timing of breeding and other factors to understand how to consistently produce fingerlings for stocking, boosting the ongoing work to save the Macquarie Perch from extinction.

Since 2022, the VFA's Snobs Creek hatchery has produced more than 185,000 Macquarie Perch including 40,000 released in Victoria's north-east earlier this year.

Indi Volunteer Grants for community organisations

INDEPENDENT Federal Member for Indi Helen Haines has announced the 2023-24 Volunteer Grants program is now open for Expressions of Interest.

Grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 are available to assist eligible not-forprofit community organisations support the efforts of their volunteers by enabling the inclusion of vulnerable people and promoting volunteer participation.

Dr. Haines said, "There is always strong interest in these grants, and I receive many applications from a variety of hard working, community focused organisations.'

The grants funding is available for specific uses including purchasing eligible small equipment for volunteer use, contributing to volunteer transport costs, training courses for volunteers, adapting practices to support volunteer safety, costs of background screening checks for volunteers and activities that promote awareness of or increase participation in volunteering.

"In previous years, recipients of these grants have invested in first aid training, purchased iPads and sound equipment, and covered the costs of promoting and recruiting new volunteers," Dr Haines said.

"I am always inspired by the dedication of volunteer groups that I meet with as I travel across Indi, and grants such as this go a long way in supporting volunteers to continue their important work.

"Volunteers provide essential services to our communities that might not otherwise be met, and they build social connection which is important for our mental health and wellbeing.

"I encourage all not for profit community organisations to consider putting in an expression of interest which will be assessed by a panel of community members, with successful applicants then invited to apply to the Department of Social Services for a grant," Dr Haines said.

Details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at helenhaines.org/ resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2023-24. Expressions of interest must be received by 5pm, Friday, September 1.

Agriculture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

The story of Charlie Carp

THE story of Charlie Carp is interesting and unique. The company was set up in June 1998, via a group of people from the Hay and Deniliquin districts in New South Wales who were interested in pursuing a viable commercial use for European carp, whilst at the same time reducing their numbers.

The company processes between 300 and 400 tonne of European carp per year. They are removed from Australian waterways and turned into a rich garden fertiliser.

Charlie Carp use the whole fish, not just fish scraps. They believe this gives the product an edge on its competitors, as well as being a freshwater fish rather than a saltwater fish.

The carp are either fresh or snap frozen. They do not use rotten fish.

They initially mince the fish and place it into a rendering plant where water is added and the fish is slowly cooked and rendered down. Once it is rendered



Tom Telford, Don Middlemiss, Bruce Marchei, Jenny Irwin, Ron Kopanica and Lindsay Franklin from Chalie Carp. -S

down, it is then screened through a centrifuge which separates the liquid from the solids, and further screened down to 100 micron.

This creates an extremely concentrated and highly balanced plant food, containing macro and micro nutrients for your plants and soil. The liquid contains

natural oil from the fish which helps to deter garden pests.

The liquid is processed into bottles and the solids are dried and combined with compost to make a fertiliser pellet, which allows them to produce zero waste in their processing.

New research set to support the Australian industrial hemp industry

AGRIFUTURES Australia is championing the burgeoning hemp industry through three newly published industrial hemp reports to help the Australian industrial sector reach its production target of more than \$10 million per year by 2026.

The AgriFutures research reports support the industry's need to develop options for processing Australian industrial hemp straw and provide a best management practice manual and gap analysis for growing, harvesting and storing industrial hemp in Australia.

Food, fabric, even fence posts have the ability to be made from industrial hemp, and it captures a staggering four times more carbon than trees.

Dr Stuart Gordon, Senior Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Agriculture and Food, and co-author of the three reports, said the research provides a valuable opportunity for the sector to uncover the far reaching potential of the environmentally sustainable, multipurpose crop.

"The exercise through AgriFutures Australia was excellent because it allowed us to audit the system, realise what's there and what we need. It's a great foundation for the next movement or the next set of investment in the industry," said Dr Gordon.

While each of the three reports are set to support growers in their production, Dr Gordon highlighted the best management practice manual for growing, harvesting and storing industrial hemp in Australia as an industry heavy hitter.

"That's a big download from many of the key industry players in the game at the moment and was written by a large committee," Dr Gordon said.

"From agronomists, to the Department of Agriculture, and the Australian Hemp Council itself, it's a download of their information and it's the most up to date, recent information associated with the crop in Australia."

The reports have been produced as part of AgriFutures Australia's Emerging Industries Program, which focuses on new industries with high growth potential.

AgriFutures Australia's Senior Manager for Emerging Industries Dr Olivia Reynolds said, "these publications facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise and represent the best knowledge we have to date."

Industrial hemp, which must be grown understate or territory government permits, has very low tetrahydrocannabinol content (THC) but the grain is high in protein and healthy fats. Since 2017 it has been legal to sell industrial hemp seed for human consumption.

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- Omega 3 (deters powdery mildew)
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- Amino acids
- Beneficial Microbes
- Increases soil carbon
- Microbial activity
- Helps breakdown organic matter
- Promotes strong brix levels
- Improves the natural immune system

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August Monthly Store Sale at Yea Saleyards

by Ryan Sargeant, Elders Yea/Mansfield

The August Monthly Store Sale saw agents yard 750 head of cattle inclusive of cows and calves, which was a typical winter style yarding. The majority of the cattle were very wintery in condition and perhaps did not weigh quite as heavy as they may have looked. This coincides with the majority of southern markets throughout this time of vear.

There was definitely a greater attendance of prospective buyers this month with a noticeable increase of agency competition from southern Gippsland, north east and north central Victoria.

Commission buyers such as Duncan Brown, Giovanni Nativo and Cambell Ross were also very active throughout the sale Feedlot buyers were in attendance, although not significantly active due to the inability of purchasing enough required cattle to fill a load.

The market trend was most definitely dearer compared to the July Store Sale, with rates being \$50 to \$150 per head greater in most categories of livestock. These prices are also to be described as firm in comparison to other Victorian based market centres

Overall, 370 steers were yarded, along with 280 heifers. The average price per head was \$924 and the average weight 308.7kg. The top price for a steer was \$1730 and for a heifer \$1050. The top weights were 512kg for a steer and 354kg for a heifer. The total turnover at the sale was \$678,160.



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Start of the top Heifer Run. Auctioneer Anothony Delaney with Tyson Bush and James Robbins. -S

PHOTO COMPETITION

Judges comments:

The scene and colors are beautiful, capturing the beauty of our region. The leading lines within the image are lovely, created by the placement of the seating.

This draws our eyes to the reflections and surrounding hills, inviting viewers to be led into the photo and encouraging them to sit in and be part of the

Congratulations to all who entered this month.

Our judge, Sam Hicks, has almost four decades photography experience. Sam has an on-site studio, portable studio and runs workshops. You can find further information at samhicks.com.au or vou can contact her on 0427 723 227.

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And the winner is Lorraine Whitehead of Eildon with her 'landscape' themed photo of the Eildon Pondage. Lorraine has won a \$50 voucher kindly donated by Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

Remember to submit your photo competition entry to win a \$50 gift voucher from Embling Rural in Alexandra. This months theme is 'winter'. See our July 26 edition for details.



Cornbread

from the CWA Mince Matters Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

- 1 and a 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 3 teasp caster sugar
- 1 teasp salt
- 1 and a 1/2 cups polenta (corn meal)
- 1 and 1/4 cups milk

90gm butter melted and cooled

METHOD

Sift flour and baking powder into a bowl. Add caster sugar, salt and polenta.

Beat eggs with milk, add cooled melted butter.

Add wet to dry ingredients and stir well to combine. Grease a 18 X 28cm lamington tin with

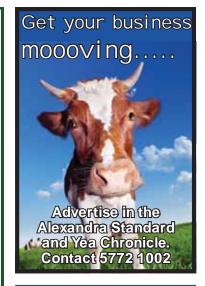
butter, and spread batter evenly in the Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes

until bread shrinks from the side of the

Cut into squares and serve hot. Serve with last months casserole recipe



Redgate CWA meet at 1pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at 31 Perkins Street Alexandra. Contact Maureen on 0402 804 517.



SAVE THE DATE

August 24 & 25 - Mulwala Riverine Plains Innovation Expo

August 29 - Sale

Gippsland Red Meat Conference

Gippsland Agricultural Group

August 31- Lake Bolac Slugging slugs & conical snails

September 12 - Canberra AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

ÄgriFutures Australia

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Combined agents store sale Oct 6 Combined agents store sale

Nov 3 Nov 24 Weaner Sale

Combined agents store sale



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The beginning of the Volunteer **Assisted Dying Review**

THE legally required review of the first four years of the nation's first voluntary assisted dying law has now begun, with a final report due by the end of 2024.

The review will not consider any changes to the legislation. It will instead evaluate the systems, processes and practices which underpin the operation of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act including safeguards and protections, equity of access, the Voluntary Assisted Board's role Review functions and the Department of Health commissioned Statewide Pharmacy and Care Navigator services.

Those engaged in voluntary assisted dying, including doctors and families, will take part in a consultation process to gauge how voluntary assisted dying is operating since its introduction.

The review will be conducted by the Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence and will apply recognised methods, practices and ethical guidelines throughout the evaluation process

Since its introduction in June 2019, the voluntary assisted dying law has given eligible Victorians a dignified and compassionate choice at the end of their life, giving them the support and care they deserve in their final moments

Victoria has led the way on voluntary assisted dying laws, with the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act coming into effect in 2019. In the years since, all other states have followed our lead.

Only Victorian adults who have an incurable, advanced and progressive medical condition and who have decision making capacity can access voluntary assisted dying.

Once the review concludes in 2024, the final report will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament. For more information on voluntary assisted dying visit health.vic. gov.au/patient-care/voluntary-assisted-

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Spring and hay fever are just around the corner

THE sight of wattle about to bloom in August is a sign that Spring is near. Sadly, for many of us that also signals that hay fever is also around the corner.

Not that we should blame wattle. There is a misconception that wattle is a cause of hay fever, however you might be surprised to learn that it usually isn't. For starters, the pollen from wattle is too large to be carried in the wind to find its way up our noses or in our lungs. It's the smaller sized pollen grains which can lead to sneezes and wheezes.

The sort of pollen size you find in the more likely culprits of hay fever such as eucalyptus, Murray Pine, certain weeds, grasses, canola and 'Patterson's Curse'. There can also be other triggers, such as dust mites, mould or pets and other animals.

Pollen is measured in micrometres or μm . The smaller the pollen grain, the greater

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chance it will cause irritation. The typical pollen size for wattle is 40 µm, whilst the typical size of the more common causes such as Ryegrass is 20 µm.

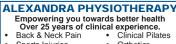
Thunderstorms can also trigger severe hay fever or asthma episodes because the pollen grains can split into even smaller particles measuring about five µm in size.

Hay fever is also known more technically as 'Allergic Rhinitis' and the way to treat it is to start by talking to your local pharmacist. They should be able to tell you about the most suitable pharmacy medicines to manage your hay fever symptoms. Some people need to use more than one medicine throughout the hay fever season, and those medicines can include tablets, nasal sprays and eye drops.

Nasal sprays may not be your first choice when it comes to treating hay fever, but they are highly effective, and convenient and

easy to use. There are a number of 'oncea-day' nasal sprays for adults which used to be available only on prescription but can now be bought without a prescription at your local community pharmacy. These nasal sprays which are designed to treat and prevent hay fever, can be used every day through the hay fever season, if that is what is required. Nasal sprays might not be for everyone, so non-drowsy antihistamine tablets are an alternative, or you might need a combination of the two.

If you suffer from asthma, which is also linked to hay fever, your pharmacist can discuss the importance of controlling both your asthma and hay fever. If your hay fever is causing runny eyes, it's also a good idea to talk to your pharmacist about suitable eye drops for treatment and prevention.



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Yea&District Memorial Hospital

Yea & District Memorial Hospital offers the following services and opportunities to assist and support community members in their health & wellbeing journey to Live Well & Feel Good.

Details can be found on our web site

www.yeahospital.org.au



Cardiac Support Service

Our Cardiac Nurse will assist those with heart conditions or at risk of developing, includes home visiting support. Face to face clinic appointments or tele health available.



Diabetes Education

Our diabetes nurse educator works with you and other health care partners to support your diabetes management. Face to face clinic appointments or tele health available.



Counselling/Psychology

Our trained psychologist & counsellor are available to assist you with any issues including anxiety, depression, stress, personal and family relationship difficulties, life transitions including grief, health changes, parenting support, pain management, disordered eating, goal setting and personal growth. Face to face clinic appointments or tele health available



Dietician

Our Dietitian can work closely with you to develop dietary strategies designed to help deal with, prevent or treat a wide range of health and medical conditions for both adults and children. Healthy eating modification can also be provided. Our Dietitian is also available to do community group presentations on healthy eating. Face to face clinic appointments or tele health available.



District Nursing

our nurses can support you with your health conditions, including medication management, health education, wound care, post-acute care, continence management & palliative care. All support provided in the home environment.



Integrated Health Promotion

involves collaborative work internally and within the community with other organisations – our staff members are able to deliver talks/presentations to community groups – please call number below to enquire.



Speech Pathology

We offer services for both children (pre-school) and adults. Our children's services are based at Yea and Kinglake attached to kindergartens. Our service for adults – supports anyone with language & swallowing difficulties. For further information please call number below.



Volunteering

We have a variety of volunteering opportunities at Yea & District Memorial hospital – including working on health promotion events, community advisory roles and within our Aged Care facility assisting in the activities program. So, if you have time to spare we'd love to hear from you.

Coming soon in late August - Mental Health Nurse
Referral criteria & details will be promoted & added to website shortly

Our other services

Our Aged Care facility – Rosebank Hostel (STAR rating 5) & Rosebank Nursing Home (STAR rating 4) is available to support your residential aged care needs plus our Acute services – ward & urgent care (with tele health medical support out of hours & weekends) are available 24 hours per day 7 days a week. Further details on web site.

Yea Show

We will also be showcasing our services with demonstrations, health checks and giveaways at the upcoming Yea Show at Yea Recreation Reserve on 25th November 2023 – please pop along and visit our stand.

For more information or to book an appointment please call our Community Health Administration/Intake service on

5736 0448



Stay well this winter by keeping your vaccinations up to date

WINTER is here, and the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit is urging the community to continue protecting themselves and their families from flu, respiratorysyncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

Now is not the time to be complacent, with cases of Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV continuing to be recorded across the Goulburn Valley region, particularly in children under five.

Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit Clinical Director Will Cross said good hygiene is key when it comes to protection against these viruses.

"The best way to help stop viruses spreading is for everyone to always practice good hygiene, especially if you have flu like symptoms," Dr Cross said.

"You can help stop the spread by staying at home if you don't feel well, covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and wearing a mask in crowded places or if you are visiting high risk settings that have vulnerable people, such as aged care facilities or hospitals.

"Where you can, avoid contact with people who are at higher risk of getting sick, such as infants, older people and those who are immunocompromised until you feel better."

Viral infections like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for most people, causes nothing more than cold like virus symptoms, such as a runny nose and cough. However, it can cause serious lung infections

in babies especially those born premature, young children with certain medical conditions, older people, or people with pre-existing lung or heart disease.

There is currently no vaccination for RSV available in Australia but staying up to date with your influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations can reduce the risk.

What is RSV?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus that affects the lungs and airways. It is mostly seasonal, occurring more frequently in autumn and winter and can affect people of all ages. Common symptoms include a runny nose, sore throat, cough, sneezing, fever, body pains, headache, and/or loss of appetite. Symptoms can last up to one to two weeks.

What is influenza (flu)?

The flu is a contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract which is spread by breathing in droplets from coughs or sneezes containing the bacteria. It's a seasonal infection that occurs usually from April to September. Common symptoms include the sudden appearance of high fever, dry cough, body aches and fatigue. Symptoms can last for several weeks.

More information can be found at *gyhealth.org*. *aw/publichealthunit* or by contacting your local GP or pharmacist.







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McLeish calls games cancellation embarassing

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish believes that regional communities will pay the price of the state government's embarrassing cancellation of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

She also stated that Premier Andrews failed to outline how many projects will be cancelled and how many jobs will be lost as a result of this decision. Previously, the government linked the games with the creation of 7000 full time jobs.

Ms McLeish said, "The Andrews Government's cancellation of the Commonwealth Games is a betrayal regional communities embarrassment for Victoria on the world stage.

"Local communities were promised jobs and a lasting legacy of housing, sporting and community infrastructure but instead will miss out once again.'

"Regional areas have had another promise ripped out from under them and will be left behind once again by the city centric Andrews Government.

McLeish states **Victorians** paying highest taxes in Australia

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish has said that Victorians are paying the highest property taxes in the nation, driving up rents, making housing less affordable and putting home ownership further out of reach for

She said that analysis by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) reveals the full impact of the Victorian Government's new Rent Tax and COVID Debt Levy will increase total land tax revenue per person. It will increase from \$783 in 2022-23 to \$1051 in 2023-24, more than 34 per cent in just 12 months.

The PBO stated, "Victoria is expected to rely more heavily on property taxes to generate revenue than any other state." The report follows recent confirmation that Victorian rents are also increasing faster than any other state.

Victorians will pay a total of \$2120 in property taxes per person across 2023-24, compared to \$1646 in New South Wales and \$1343 in Queensland.

McLeish said the state government was continuing to punish renters and first home buyers for their own waste and mismanagement.

"We are being made to pay the highest taxes in the nation because of the waste and mismanagement of the Andrews Government," Ms McLeish said.

"Every extra dollar in property taxes adds more pressure on rent and property prices at a time when people are already struggling to make ends meet."

"With Victoria's rents already rising at the fastest rate in the nation, higher property taxes will only make a bad situation worse and push affordable housing for many local families even further out of reach.'



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Expressions of Interest invited - Yea Cemetery Trust

The Yea Cemetery Trust is exploring ways for the local Yea community to be involved in the management and running of the Yea Lawn and Old Cemeteries, and is seeking expressions of interest from community members who would

The Trust consists of Councillors of Murrindindi Shire Council, who meet independently of Council to oversee the management of the cemeteries.

If you have previous experience and/or an interest in cemetery management and a passion for volunteering, the Trust would like to

You'll need to submit your expression of interest, addressing the Yea Cemetery Trust in writina:

- by email to msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au; or • by post to PO Box 138 Alexandra, VIC 3714
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For further enquiries, please contact Michael Chesworth on 5772 0333

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Time Fraction: Full Time, 1.0 EFT. Location: Eildon campus

WWCC: Requires a 'Working with Children

Position Status: Initial 12-month contract.

ABOUT US

Holmesglen at Eildon is a purpose-built Conference facility and a campus of Holmesglen Institute, Victoria's largest provider of Vocational & Higher Education. Visit www.holmesalenateildon.com.au for more

TO APPLY

Visit the Careers at Holmesglen section of our website at www.holmesglen.edu.au

Like to know more? Please contact General Manager of Holmesglen at Eildon – Rozanne Lawton PH: 5774 2631 or email her on rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au

If you require specific support to apply for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on 03 9564 2676 and we will work with you to identify the best way to assist.

holmesglen

Sous Chef - Eildon

Holmesglen is seeking an experienced Sous Chef to join their team in Eildon, Working closely with the Head Chef in a remarkable commercial kitchen, the Sous Chef will create innovative dishes using locally sourced and grown ingredients. This position is ideal for someone passionate about seasonal, sustainable, and locally sourced food for corporate and student

Salary: \$60,000 p.a. + 11% super Overtime available (25% salary loading equating to \$15,000 p.a. by agreement).

Time Fraction: Full Time, 1.0 EFT.

Location: Eildon campus.

WWCC: Appointment to this position is dependent on obtaining and maintaining an 'employee' Working with Children

Position Status: An initial contract will be offered for 12 months

Holmesglen at Eildon is a purpose-built Conference facility and a campus of Holmesglen Institute, Victoria's largest provider of Vocational & Higher Education. Visit www.holmesglenateildon.com.au for more information

TO APPLY

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Like to know more? Please contact General Manager of Holmesglen at Eildon – Rozanne Lawton PH: 5774 2631 or email her on rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au

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An exciting opportunity exists for one or more passionate Speech Pathologists to join our Primary Health team, servicing a mixed caseload, or working as a specialist paediatric or specialist adult Speech Pathologist, depending on your experience and area of interest.

The role of the Speech Pathologist at ADH is well varied and always rewarding. It includes assessment, treatment and management of a broad range of clients in the community and inpatient setting, including children and adults with

communication or swallowing disorders, and those with difficulties in speech, language, voice, fluency and literacy. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with families, aged care facilities, people living with disabilities, day care centres, local schools and other organisations to deliver Speech Pathology services, staff education and promote the importance of early intervention.

The successful candidate will be well supported within a close-knit team of allied health professionals, as well as via clinical supervision and education opportunities. You will be client focused, demonstrate effective interpersonal and written communication skills, be able to work autonomously and manage a busy workload and have the ability to function as an effective member of a multidisciplinary team.

For queries regarding this position please contact Chris Wasley, Primary Health Manager on 5772 0900 or Christine. Wasley @adh.org.au.

To access a position description or to apply visit

adh.org.au/careers/current-vacancies. Applications must address the Key Selection Criteria.

Applications close August 25, 2023. close of business.

Classifieds

DEATH NOTICES

DICKINSON -Raymond 'Ray 1942 - 2023 Passed away at Alexandra District

Husband of 60 years to Joy. Father to David, Wayne and Raelene. Grandpa to Ben, Aaron, Sarah and Angus. Great grandpa to Amelia and Chandler. 'Forever farming'

SHAW, Jenni

Murrindindi East U3A members and committee deeply saddened at the recent passing of their well respected committee member and tutor Jenni Shaw. Sincere condolences to the family at this sad time.

FUNERAL NOTICES

DICKINSON

A Graveside service celebrating the life of Ray will be held at Marysville Cemetery on Friday, August 11, 2023 commencing at 11am.



1800 080 909

IN MEMORIAM



September 8. 1948 - August 9, 2022. Terribly missed,

always loved and remembered. Until we meet again. Jan.

MEETINGS



Upper Goulburn

Community Radio Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact secretary via email info@ugfm. org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic 3714 or call 5772 2722

HOMEWOOD HALL AGM will be held at the hall 6.30pm, August 15.

MEETINGS



Notice of AGM Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group.

commencing 7.30pm Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at the Homewood Hall. Secretary Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare

EILDON ACTION INC will hold its Annual General Meeting on August 15, 2023 at 5,30pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Everyone welcome. Nominations for committee and committee positions and committee positions can be made on the night or submitted prior to the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the Visitor Information

FOR HIRE

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Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

YARCK HALL, quilt raffle winner was Carol Harding of Alexandra. Thanks to all

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FALLONS BUS GROUP

The fascinating life of the brush-tailed phascogale

(Phascogale tapoatafa) shares its family tree with other members of the carnivorous marsupial dasyuridae family such as dunnarts, antechinus and quolls.

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the brush-tailed phascogale was nocturnal and primarily arboreal, healthy. meaning it relies on connected forests and woodlands so it can travel through the treetops to search for nectar, insects, spiders, centipedes and bird eggs.

"As a hollow dependent species, the brush-tailed phascogale will use several tree hollows in which to nest and shelter during the day," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"This is possibly a predator evasion tactic but means the demand for nest hollows is further exacerbated. Where natural hollows no longer exist, it readily uses artificial nest boxes.

"It's easy to determine if a nest box is being used by either a glider or a phascogale. Gliders build their nest out of fresh leaves and keep their nest box clean, whereas a brush-tailed phascogale constructs its nest out of a variety of materials, mainly stringybark but also animal



The brush-tailed phascogale is one of the nocturnal native marsupials living in the Goulburn Broken catchment, -Russell Jones

feathers, snakeskin, and even the desiccated bodies of dead animals

"Their habit of using the corner of their nest box as a toilet also gives the nest box a unique phascogale

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said nest boxes were readily sought out and used by a variety of native animals so if you live in a woodland or forested area, installing nest boxes on your property is one of the most immediate ways you can benefit wildlife.

"As with its relatives. antechinus and dunnarts, the brushtailed phascogale leads a short, fast life. After mating in late autumn to early winter, the male perishes. As he is around just one year old, this makes the brush-tailed phascogale the largest known mammal to die after its first and last breeding season," she said.

"The female raises her five to eight young from mid June to early August, firstly within their pouch which is a fold of skin on her belly rather than a true pouch for seven weeks and then within the nest until the joeys are five months old. A female will sometimes raise two litters in her lifetime. She typically dies before turning turn two years

SITUATION VACANT

recommending homeowners across

the state prioritise cleaning their chimneys this winter to help prevent a fire occurring. A chimney fire in a house in

fire

services

Raglan, just outside Beaufort, late last month is a timely reminder of the importance of cleaning your chimney flue after a free-standing wood heater went up in flames.

Elmhurst Fire Brigade firefighter Hamish Keith witnessed the impacts first-hand of the flue that was 95 percent blocked by soot.

"Because of the design of the heater and the way it was burning, there was a significant build-up of black tar, which evidently caused the blockage and the fire to ignite," Hamish said.

"It looked like cancer inside an artery. From the top to bottom of this five-metre-high flue, you couldn't see a torch light.

"Luckily, the family had working smoke alarms that alerted them to the fire, as smoke filled 60 percent of their house due to the chimney being unable to exhaust it.'

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the recent Raglan fire is a strong reminder to residents to have their chimneys professionally cleaned each year.

"This is just one of the damaging 48 chimney fires CFA

have responded to this year," CO Heffernan said.

Have you cleaned your chimney flue this winter?

"As you warm your home this season, simply use a torch to regularly check for soot build up or obstructions to reduce the risk of a fire starting from your fireplace or wood heater

"Our latest statistics show us most fatal fires start in sleeping and living areas, so for your family's best protection, smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, living and hallway area.

Rescue Fire Victoria Commissioner Freeman Gavin AFSM said maintaining your working fireplace is essential for home safety. "Those of us with a fireplace of her." fireplace at home are enjoying them a lot at this time of year. Proper maintenance ensures they don't pose a risk to your family home," Commissioner Freeman said.

"Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire and keep wood, clothes and other combustibles at least one metre from fire. "Extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house, and check that embers are cold before disposing of them.' Victorians are reminded that longlife battery or interconnected smoke alarms located in all bedrooms, hallways and living areas of the home can save lives for as little as



Prevent a chimney fire by having your chimney cleaned annually. -S

Chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually. Over time there could be a build-up of creosote, a black tar-like residue, which is highly flammable and could clog up chimneys. Creosote is not only caused by general use, it can also build up quicker if you are using incorrect fuels, such as green wood or treated timbers. To reduce the risk of a fire starting from your fireplace or wood heater, you should use a torch to check for creosote buildup or obstructions and have your chimney professionally cleaned annually. Only burn dry, clean wood. Extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

Chef - Eildon

THE OPPORTUNITY

Holmesglen is currently seeking an enthusiastic Chef to become a valued member of our friendly team based in Eildon. As a part of our catering team, the Chef will operate in a remarkable commercial kitchen setting.

Salary: \$55.181 p.a. + 11% super Overtime available (25% salary loading equating to \$13,795 p.a. by agreement).

Time Fraction: Full Time, 1.0 EFT.

Location: Eildon campus.

WWCC: Requires a 'Working with Children Check'

Position Status: An initial contract will be offered for 12 months.

Holmesglen at Eildon is a purpose-built Conference facility and a campus of Holmesglen Institute, Victoria's largest provider of Vocational & Higher Education. Visit www.holmesglenateildon.com.au for more

TO APPLY

Visit the Careers at Holmesglen section of our website at www.holmesglen.edu.au

Like to know more? Please contact General Manager of Holmesglen at Eildon – Rozanne Lawton PH: 5774 2631 or email her on rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au

If you require specific support to apply for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on 03 9564 2676 and we will work with you to identify the best way to assist.

holmesglen

council voting rules Change to

THE Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has advised that, in a council election, there are two categories of voters; state-enrolled voters and council-enrolled voters. Statevoters are automatically enrolled for a council election if they are on the state electoral roll for an address within that council area.

To be eligible to enrol as a 'council-enrolled voter' you must be 18 years or older and not on the state roll within that council area. You must also meet one of the following criteria: you own a rateable property in the area, or you pay rates on a property you occupy, for example, you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the council for the tenancy, or you are a director or company secretary

of a corporation that pays rates to a council and you have no other voting entitlement in that council.

If you have more than one enrolment entitlement in a council area, you still only get one vote.

At this point in time and for any by-elections that occur up until July next year, someone will be automatically enrolled for a council election if they were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the election immediately before October 2020 for the council or ward. Anyone who is not automatically enrolled needs to apply to council to enrol.

However, changes to the Local Government Act now require all ratepayers who have an enrolment entitlement to apply to council to

enrol and vote in the 2024 local government election. They will not be automatically enrolled. Once they are enrolled either as a stateenrolled voter or a council-enrolled voter they must vote in all future elections in the council areas they are enrolled in.

Council enrolled voters in Whittlesea and Casey City Councils will not transition to the new requirements until after the 2024

The VEC does not develop legislation that determines eligibility to enrol to vote. Their role is to administer the state electoral roll and conduct the local government elections on behalf of the local councils.

Renewable Future for Yea series

2030YEA Community Energy is hosting two more presentations in the Renewable Future for Yea series on August 17 at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre.

Donald Mace, Indigo Power's General Manager of Electricity Retail, will present their Blueprint for Communities to get to 100 per cent renewables.

Donald has 25 years of experience working in Australia and overseas for both multinational and small businesses across many industries. He has a passion for building and strengthening the communities within Indigo Power's reach to make a real impact on climate change. As General Manager of Electricity Retail, Donald will be looking to grow Indigo Power's customer base through working with communities, business partners and leveraging the renewable projects Indigo Power is working on.

Donald "Partnering said. communities to tackle climate change is at the core of Indigo Power's business. We are here to collaborate with communities and aim to work with as many groups as possible.

Let's create a 100 per cent renewable energy future for your community.'

Andrew Lawson, Director at Fera Australia, will speak about the proposed Seymour Wind Farm.

Andrew is a civil engineer who has had leading roles in the delivery of major infrastructure projects including City Link and Docklands in Victoria. More recently he was involved in running a technology company for 12 years and over the last three years has been a director of Fera developing projects in Victoria and Tasmania.

The Seymour Wind Farm investigation area is bounded by Avenel, Longwood, Ruffy, Highlands and Tarcombe. The proposed project represents an opportunity for Australia and Victoria in the transition from coal power sources in accordance with Victoria's renewable energy targets of 40 per cent by 2025 and 50 per cent by 2030. Fera is focusing on this region due to its strong wind resource and proximity to the main transmission line between Melbourne and Sydney.



Donald Mace. -S



Andrew Lawson, -S

SPORT

Alexandra Pony Club holds August Afternoon Rally

by Elissa Page

A DAY of equestrian learning and fun at was held at Collett's Alexandra for Alexandra Pony Club on Sunday, August 6.

Members gathered for an enriching afternoon rally where they focused on various aspects of the Pony Club syllabus of instruction, providing riders with an opportunity to refine their skills in riding, horse care, and citizenship.

The rally kicked off with ridden lessons conducted by the experienced and knowledgeable Maddy Hill. Participants had the chance to fine-tune their riding skills under her guidance in the well-kept arena.

Simultaneously, veterinary expertise of Laura Nath shone through during the horse health sessions. Riders learned essential skills such as taking temperatures, listening to the horses' heartbeat, and mastering the art of bandaging Laura also delved into feeding requirements for ponies

and important information about horse diseases and illnesses was shared.

Throughout the day, Sally, Elissa, and Anna conducted informative sessions covering different aspects of horses. These sessions covered parts of the horse, parts of the saddle, and an exploration of the fascinating colours and markings found on horses. Additionally, participants were treated to some exciting ridden activities, putting their newly acquired knowledge into practice.

The rally was not without exciting moments, as a raffle was held, with first prize generously donated by the Alexandra Grain Store. Amid all the learning, participants were treated to a fantastic afternoon tea, providing a much-needed opportunity to relax and connect with fellow members.

The August Afternoon Rally at Collett's Alexandra proved to be a truly fabulous venue for the days equine activities.



All eyes on vet Laura Nath during a leg bandaging session. -S



Alli knew all of the saddle parts. -S



Ava and Ella soaking up the winter sun. -S

Alexandra Football Netball Club Juniors

by Ray Steyger

IN round 13 of the season, Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams returned to Rebel Park and hosted Wandong in four games of football, while the Alexandra Black and Alexandra Red netball teams played each other. The under 16 football team hosted Euroa at Rebel Park. The under 9s and 10s football had a game, but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring, so there is no win loss for that competition.

Football

Under 12 Wandong 3.3 - 21 defeated by Alexandra 5.9 - 39

North Central Construction
- Josh Northmore. Essence
Coffee Lounge - Angus
Clark. FoodWorks - Harish
Balansag. Alexandra
Bakery and Café - Chase
Hilder. Coach - Billy
Baker, Tybar Reid and Levi
Campbell.

Under 14 Wandong 0.0 - 0 defeated by Alexandra 19.23 - 137

North Central Construction - Logan Conway. Essence Coffee Lounge - Cameron Clark. FoodWorks - Heath Sutcliffe. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Jesse Winch. Coach - Ryan Te Giffel.

Under 16 Euroa 5.5 - 35 defeated by Alexandra 9.12 - 66

DMK Taxation - Shaun Sutcliffe. Essence Coffee Lounge - Luke Wal. FoodWorks - Angus Antrobus. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Ryan Sproles. Coach - Casey Collett.

Netball

Under 11 Alexandra Black 15 defeated Alexandra Red 5

Alex Black: FoodWorks -Jayde Stewart. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Bella Lamaro. Alex Sportspower - Annie Barker. Alex Red: FoodWorks
- Zoe Coller. Alexandra
Bakery and Café - Tilly
Miljkovic. Miljkovic
Family - Lila Friswell.

Under 13 Alexandra Black 29 defeated Alexandra Red 15

Alex Black: FoodWorks
- Cassie Kidd. Alexandra
Bakery and Café - Megan
Kendall. Alex Sportspower
- Charli Newlands.

Alex Red: Foodworks
- Ella Palmer. Alexandra
Bakery and Café - Tahlia
Peine-Malone. Miljkovic
Family - Nikita Lyttle.

Under 15 Alexandra Black 16 defeated by Alexandra Red 26

Alex Black: FoodWorks -Ashlee Collett. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Chelsea Webb.

Alex Red: FoodWorks -Eva Twitchett. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Darcy Kidd. Wales Family - Abby Miljkovic.

A very big thank you to the award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2023. Next Sunday, Alexandra junior football and netball teams return to Rebel Park for the last home and away round of the season. We host Tabilk in four games of football, Alexandra Black host Tabilk in two games of netball and Alexandra Red host St Marys in two games of netball. In the under 15 netball, Alexandra Black host Yea and Alexandra Red has a bye. In the under 16 football, the Rebels play Leitchville Gunbower at a venue to be confirmed. If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season please speak to Melissa Crane and Shona Miljkovic to go on the roster.

Alexandra will host Junior Preliminary Finals of football and netball at Rebel Park on Sunday, August 27.



The under 10s match. -S



Nathan Webb in the under 12s match.



Eli Van Lierop in the under 12s match. -S



Luke Wal in the under 16s. -S



Callan Howell in the under 16s. -S



Toby Lucas in the under 14s match. -S



The under 10s match. -



Heath Sutcliffe in under 14s football. -S



Ella and Cassie in under 13 netball. -S



Ruby and Jayde in under 11 netball. -S



Harper and Zoe in under 11 netball. -S

A golden ferret at Marysville Golf Club



Yea golfers Vicky Butler and Adrianne Anglin with Heather Jenkins and Mim Page after their game at Gardiners Run Golf

by Lesley Rundle

THERE are many unusual and unique terms used in golf to describe various aspects of the game. Examples include Birdie, Albatross, Eagle, Airy and Mulligan. A number of the Marysville golfers, when asked on Saturday, had not heard the term a Golden Ferret which Mim Page played when golfing on Gardeners Run golf course last Thursday. There was great excitement when Mim hit her ball out of a bunker straight into the hole and thus claimed a Golden Ferret. There are very few courses in the Dalhousie District which have bunkers, so this expression is rarely

heard locally. Well played Mim.

Last Saturday golfers played a stroke round for the August monthly medal. The ladies winner was Gail Leigh (12) with net 77 followed by Lesley Rundle (30) with net 80. The men's winner was Richie Clark (17) with net 73 on a count back from Steve Coker (16). The nearest the pins were won by Steve Coker, Mark Bambery and Paul Martin, who also won the Golden Shot. Also on Saturday, Steve Coker and Margaret Blair played their delayed mixed match play match which Steve won 2-1.

Next Saturday the second round of the mixed match play will be

played with Paul Martin playing Mark Bambery, Richie Clark v Peter Lilley, Steve Coker v Jody Doran and Brian Worcester will play Yewls Kuan. Those who are no longer in the mixed match play will play a Stableford game.

During the week several dangerous trees and branches were removed from around the front nine holes. Members thank Kellan Fiske and the volunteers for assisting Barney and Darren Bell to carry out this mammoth task. More time will be spent on the project this week.

The club AGM will be held on Saturday, September 2 in the clubhouse at 9.00am.

Sunny weather for Alexandra golfers

by Elizabeth Gos

LAST week the Tuesday players enjoyed a beautiful day. Paul Martin had a good round of (30) 39pts to win, relegating Brad Newton to runner up with (13) 33pts. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Greg Millard and on the seventeenth and eighteenth to Paul Martin.

The ladies turned up at 9am on Wednesday expecting another sunny day, but instead it was one of our winter fogs, a fog which did not lift until well after eleven. So, again, only nine holes played with no competition. Start time has changed for the rest of August with hit off at 11.30. Next Wednesday, August 16 is scheduled as Stableford.

A sunny day on Saturday, but after more rain a very wet course. The Monthly Medal winner was Brendan Smith with a respectable 77(8)69. Mick Holohan was the runner/up with 84(11)73. James Betts cleaned up the nearest the pins winning the fifth, seventh and eighteenth. Dave Silverman had the fewest putts with 26. Ball Run Down: Corey Jack. Raffle Winner: Steve Darmody. Next Saturday, August 12 is scheduled as Stableford.

10 players compete for Eildon Monthly Medal

by Puttamattic

SATURDAY at Eildon Golf Club saw 10 players compete for the delayed July Monthly Medal and the final round of the bag competition. Considering the rain on Friday, the course was in good condition. All players enjoyed a fine and dry day and the course played well.

Winners on the day: Dennis Seamer took out the July Monthly Medal and B Grade, with a net 70. Dennis also sealed the win of the bag competition, winning a new golf bag in our 12 game competition. Great work Dennis.

Second place this week and A Grade winner Michael McLear on net 72, third Rod Taylor net 73 and ball run John Rachcoff net 74. Michael McLear also took out the nearest the pin second shot on the third. No winners on the fifth and eleventh. Rod Taylor took out the twelfth with no winner on the fourteenth. We had no winners on the two birdie holes this week. Peter McNair was the lucky entry draw winner and he also took out the swindle draw.

Congratulation to all our winners. We are looking forward to the course improving even more over the next few weeks.

Round four squash results

by Kristelle Leary

CARBONARA had a bye this week.

Lasagne v Spaghetti

Charlie v Reece: A very close match. Both players were reading the play well, but Charlie managed to get ahead and take the win. 56 to 52.

Lucas (fill in) v Jared: Jared dominated the first game with a huge lead. Lucas came back in the second but lost it again in the third. In the end Jared came out on top. 70

Justin v Oli: A blow out in game two was very costly for Oli. Imaginative shots and power from Oli were countered by a cool head and exceptional court coverage by Justin. Justin was victorious. 72 to 54

Daniel W v Pep: A very energetic and tight match. Daniel took the first game, but Pep came back to take the second. Game three was a draw and Daniel won the final game. Despite Daniel winning two games, Pep had earnt too many points in game two and won the match. 62 to 57.

Jim v Daniel K: Daniel had the better of a tight start. With some deft stroke-play he proceeded to take a strangle hold on the match and drew errors from Jim. Daniel took the win. 69 to 45.



Oli digs out a backhand against Justin. -S

Bolognaise v Ravioli

Blake v Aiden: With his greater experience, Blake kept a consistent lead. Aiden tried but couldn't bring in the win. 66 to 52.

Kristelle v Lee: Ever consistent, Kristelle's serves gave her opponent some real trouble. Lee fought hard to win the third game but was unable to keep up the pace allowing Kristelle to take the trophy. 68 to 45.

Jodie v Simon: The first two games were claimed by Simon. Pulling up her socks, Jodie managed to figure out Simon's gameplay, taking the last two games but still losing the match. 69 to 52.

Stuart (fill in) v Michael M: Both opponents were playing well, and each game had a small point difference. Michael snuck ahead in the end and won the match. 60 to 54.

Michael H v Andrew: Grinding away Michael kept at it to try and take a game. Andrew refused to yield and held on to every game, taking the match with a substantial lead. 69 to 45.

Round 10 of winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

MANSFIELD Blue travelled to Euroa to play Seven Creeks while Euroa came to Mansfield to play Red. Benalla were forced to forfeit due to illness and missed out on the trip to Mansfield to play Black. Terip and Moglonemby faced off at Torip

Terip's Frances Lawrence, Bec Lyttle, Phoebe McDermid and Jenny Martin welcomed the visitors who toiled hard all day. Moglonemby's Judy Sands, Marlene Hanrahan, Mary Kelly, and Lyn Johnston got close in two sets, losing one in a breaker and the other 8-6. Terip won the other sets convincingly and won the match 6/48 to 0/20.

In Euroa, Seven Creeks' Rowena Ellis and Rosie Cameron won their opener 8-4 against Mansfield Blue's Fiona Lindsay and Sophie Yencken, but Clare Beecham and Jill Breadon took theirs 8-0 for the visitors.

Sets were again split when Yencken and Breadon won 8-4 against Cameron and Kim Hamill, while Ellis with Kerry Hewlett won 8-1. Only one game separated the teams going into the deciding set. Seven Creeks took both though and won the match 4/36 to 2/26.

Mary Dewis and Pat Howard watched their teams play in the Mansfield match. It was cold off the court, but players warmed up in their contest. Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Ros Doxey, Ruth Nolan and Julie Brooks put on a masterclass. Games were hard to come by for the hosts, as the visitors' excellent form and fitness propelled them forward. Euroa took every set and won 6/48 to 0/8, which moved them into second spot of the ladder. Mansfield Black and Benalla also switched places. Four rounds remain with semi-finals played in Mansfield on the September 4. MTA will also hold its AGM that night.

Ladder: Terip 81, Euroa 66, Moglonemby 65, Mansfield Black 53, Benalla 48, Seven Creeks 38, Mansfield Blue 26, Mansfield Red 23.

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au







Rebels defeat Yarra Junction

by Ray Steyger

THE Outer East League 2023 season round 14 saw the Rebels return to Rebel Park and host Yarra Junction for two games of football and four games of netball.

Football

Reserves Alexandra 8.14 - 62 defeated Yarra Junction 4.3 - 27

The Reserves, playing with 14 players on the ground as Junction was short, kicked five unanswered goals in the first half in a good contest. While Junction won the second half with four goals to three as both teams worked hard

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen - Jake Steyger. Ampol fuel card - Lachlan Collard. Alex Sportspower - Michael Coombs. Buxton Hotel - Jack McKay.

Seniors Alexandra 29.12 - 186 defeated Yarra Junction 5.10 - 40

The Seniors needed a win to retain the chance of finishing top two and started with ten goals to two before adding six goals to one in the second quarter against a hard working but undermanned Junction. The Rebels managed another 13 goals to two in the second half as Ted Watkin kicked 12 and Will Stewart seven to add to his season tally.

Awards: Incentives - Ted Watkin, Nick Meehan and Ryan Lucas, Buxton Hotel - Tom Boots. Yarck Hotel / Endeavour Petroleum volunteer award - Steve McDonald. Raffle winners after the games, meat tray - Ross Cornell, wine - Brad Howell, gate raffle -Richard Jack.

Netball

Haggis, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer -Jorja Gesler.

B grade won 53 - 18: Incentive - Eliza Gesler. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Ash Creighton.

C grade won 21 - 20: Incentive - Mikaela Krijt. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Kylie Cairns.

Under 17 won 26 - 21: Incentive - Emily Irwin. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer -Ashlee Frankcombe.

Thursday's Rebel Raffles continued last Thursday and we thank our sponsors Swenrick Constructions, Yarck Hotel, Reddrops FoodWorks / Houseboat Sales Lake Eildon, Eildon Bakery / Yarck Meat and Produce, Alexandra Quality Meats / AFNC canteen, Yea Chinese Restaurant / Bailey Funerals with the winners Bob Pearson, Rocky Parkinson, Julie Steyger, A grade won 53 - 49: Incentive - Caitlan Anne Benghamy and Mary Pearson. The Swenrick Constructions Joker Jackpot was not won last week and will be worth \$300 on Thursday, so come along for your chance to win a prize.

Thursday, August 17 the Club will have retired Australian soldier Dave Farrell visit to address the under 15 netballers and under 16 footballers after training, with meals available. Dave will then get together with the senior netballers and footballers after their training. Entry is free and everyone is welcome. Meals available as usual.

This coming Saturday, the senior football and netball teams travel to Warburton for our last home and away game of the season, in two games of football and four games of netball. Awards will be at the Grand Hotel in Healesville. The Division Two Finals will commence the following Saturday and run for three weeks. Venues to be announced this week. Grand Finals on Saturday, September 2.