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Council adopts renewable energy guidelines for Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has adopted the *Guidelines for Successful Renewable Energy in Murrindindi Shire*, providing a clear framework to guide how renewable energy projects are planned, assessed and supported across the municipality.

While council is not the planning authority for large-scale renewable energy projects, the guidelines clearly set out the standards and expectations that will shape council's position on any proposal brought forward in Murrindindi.

The guidelines establish council's position on renewable energy development and will inform future advocacy, referrals and engagement with project proponents and government.

Portfolio Councillor for Sustainability and Assets, Cr Paul Hildebrand said the adoption of the guidelines responds to increasing interest in renewable energy proposals within the shire, while making it clear that council's priority is protecting Murrindindi's farmland, livelihoods and long-term economic base, despite Murrindindi not being located within a designated Renewable Energy Zone.

"We've already seen a number of renewable energy proposals come forward from wind, solar and pumped hydro, and it's important we have a clear, consistent framework to guide how these are considered," Cr Hildebrand said.

"These guidelines set out what council expects if renewable energy proposals are brought forward in Murrindindi, ensuring projects are well planned, appropriately located and that our farming land, landscapes and local economy are properly protected, while delivering tangible and enduring benefits for our community."

The guidelines have been informed by community consultation, with feedback showing strong support for the intent of the framework, alongside a desire for clear expectations and stronger weighting in how projects are assessed and determined.

Cr Hildebrand said the guidelines will form the basis of council's submissions on future proposals.

"They give us a clear and consistent basis to represent community expectations and to be upfront about where development may be suitable, where it is not, and the standards that must be met to protect what matters most to Murrindindi," he said.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the guidelines are an important step in ensuring Murrindindi is prepared for future change.

"Renewable energy is a key part of the state's future, and regional communities like ours will play a role in that transition," Cr Gallagher said.

"Our role is to make sure that happens in a way that respects our landscapes, supports our communities and delivers lasting local benefit."

Cr Gallagher said the guidelines also strengthen council's ability to engage with government and industry.

"They send a clear signal to proponents about the level of planning, engagement and local benefit that will be expected if a project is to gain council and broader community support," he said.

The guidelines will now guide council's engagement with developers and government

on renewable energy proposals across the shire.

To learn more and view the guidelines, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-Documents/Strategies-and-Plans/Guidelines-for-Successful-Renewable-Energy-in-Murrindindi-Shire

Man charged with theft of generator and other items

A FORMER Murrindindi Shire local appeared on Wednesday, April 1 at the Mansfield Magistrate's Court regarding alleged offences in Murrindindi and beyond. The case was held over to May 27.

2026

Police are charging that on January 5, the accused at Marysville stole a Khola brand generator, valued at \$20,000, belonging to UGFM Radio.

On the same date, the accused is charged with intentionally and without lawful excuse damaging property (fencing) belonging to DEECA, valued at \$200.

The man has also been charged with possession of a drug of dependence (methamphetamines) and possession of a prohibited weapon (knuckle dusters) on February 10 in Marysville.

2025

The accused is charged with entering a building on Marysville-Buxton Road in Marysville on February 9, 2025, with intent to steal.

Also on February 9, the man is accused of stealing from the Outdoor Education Group (OEG) in Marysville five Husqvarna chainsaws, two circular saws, an angle grinder, Kinesis hiking boots, a set of keys and various other tools and outdoor equipment, with the value totalling \$12,066.

Related, the accused is charged with dishonestly undertaking in the retention of goods, knowing the goods, a key to the OEG buildings to be stolen goods.

The man is also accused of entering as a trespasser a building, or part of a building, known as the DEECA depot on Lyell Street in Marysville with intent to steal on February 21.

He's accused of stealing from DEECA on February 21 nine Stihl chainsaws, a portable pump, various power tools and batteries, valued at \$30,000.

On the same day, he is accused of stealing power tools and equipment belonging to DEECA, valued at \$5000.

The accused is charged with trespassing into a building known as the Taungurung Land and Waters Council Depot in Alexandra on July 5 with intent to steal. He is also charged with the theft of five chainsaws, a hedge trimmer, a Stihl blower, a Makita tool bag, chainsaw accessories, and various other tools and equipment, valued at \$15,000.

2024

In addition, he was charged with driving a motor vehicle in Coldstream while methylamphetamine was present in his oral fluid and driving an unregistered vehicle on November 10, 2024.



The Easter Bonnet Parade at the Eildon Twilight Market. More images on page 17. -S

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Thornton intersection challenges

LOCALS will be aware that there are frequently collisions at the main intersection in Thornton, so the Department of Transport was asked whether they were considering installing a Stop sign at the corner of Taggerty-Thornton Road and the Goulburn Valley Highway in Thornton, instead of a Give Way sign.

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson responded, "Safety is our top priority, and we're constantly monitoring our road network to identify where improvements are needed. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and we all have a part to play when it comes to keeping everyone safe."

The department advised that there are no current plans to change road signage at this location. They plan to continue to work closely with Victoria Police to improve safety across our arterial road network. More than \$1.1 billion is being invested to deliver lifesaving infrastructure as part of the road safety strategy to reduce road trauma across Victoria.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

HOPEFULLY members of the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club had a lovely Easter weekend. This coming Friday, the committee meets at 10.30am and a business meeting will follow at 1pm. The club welcomes new members so please come and join in at the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

PUBLISHERS

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Sue McKay presenting the quilts to Jeanne Cartwright. -S



Sue presenting the first quilt to Darlingford resident Dulcie Casey. -S

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Sun AA meeting: 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 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.

Beautiful quilts for Darlingford residents

THIRTY residents at Eildon's Darlingford Nursing Home are the proud owners of exquisite lap quilts created and donated by two extraordinarily talented and generous Melbourne artisans.

The quilters are Sue McKay and close friend Robyn Gibbons, members of a quilting group they founded and which meets every Wednesday in Tarneit, a suburb in Melbourne's west.

However, the Darlingford quilts were a personal project.

Unfortunately, Robyn was unable to accompany Sue and husband Dave to Eildon, so Sue alone presented the quilts to Darlingford's lifestyle coordinator Jeanne Cartwright, watched on by senior staff, including CEO Donna Walsh.

"They are gorgeous," Jeanne told Sue. "Words can hardly express the gratitude I and the entire Darlingford team feel for what you and Robyn have done for our residents.

"The residents, management and staff are truly grateful for the kindness you have shown in making these quilts, that must have taken countless hours of your time, and for which you have borne all material costs.

"It is very humbling that you chose our nursing home in little Eildon to be the recipient of such a gift."

About a third of the quilts depict the colours of the Victorian AFL clubs, and Jeanne predicted there could be some keen competition from residents to acquire the most popular.

"I know at least a dozen residents are Essendon supporters and there is only one Bombers quilt," she smiled.

Sue revealed that she and Robyn decided last year that they needed a fresh challenge for their own Friday quilting get-togethers.

"We were bored," she laughed. "Robyn said, 'Why don't we make some quilts for

a nursing home? They will brighten up the days for the elderly,' and I thought it was a great idea.

"Dave and I have been coming to Eildon as caravanners at two parks, in the Shaw Avenue holiday house we owned for a number of years, and continuing to regularly visit long-term friends over a long period, and it feels like a second home to us.

"For that reason I said to Robyn, 'Why don't we make the lap quilts for Darlingford, which is a superb nursing home?' She agreed, and here we are 30 quilts later."

Sue also had the honour of presenting the first quilt, to nonagenarian Dulcie Casey. Dulcie's choice was a vibrant floral quilt that contained a lot of pink.

"I love pink," she said, flashing a broad smile to the assembled group. "And I adore this quilt."

Weekly Weather

April 8 - April 14, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra Yea

| DAY | LOW | HIGH | DAY | LOW | HIGH |
|-----------|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|
| Wednesday | 14 | 23 | Wednesday | 14 | 23 |
| Thursday | 14 | 26 | Thursday | 14 | 26 |
| Friday | 11 | 22 | Friday | 11 | 23 |
| Saturday | 9 | 18 | Saturday | 10 | 18 |
| Sunday | 9 | 19 | Sunday | 9 | 19 |
| Monday | 10 | 21 | Monday | 10 | 21 |
| Tuesday | 9 | 20 | Tuesday | 10 | 20 |

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
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reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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.

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

DEADLINES

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Real Estate | Thursday 5pm |
| 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

Autumn planned burns: Why do I see or smell smoke?

WITH calm autumn conditions across much of the state, communities can expect to see smoke in the air as a mix of planned burns, private burns under CFA's permit system and agricultural burns take place over the coming weeks.

While current conditions are ideal for burning, weather patterns may cause smoke to linger over parts of the state overnight and through to early morning on some days.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it is crucial fire agencies take advantage of favourable conditions when they present.

"Planned burning on public land is one of the tools FFMVic uses to keep Victoria safer from bushfires," Mr Hardman said.

"Our climate is changing and that means finding the right days for safe and effective planned burning is becoming more

challenging. Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable.

"With the current favourable weather and forest conditions, we are delivering as much planned burning as we can.

"Reducing dry vegetation such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and small fallen branches means fires are less intense and slower to spread, making it more likely that firefighters can keep bushfires small and contained before they pose a risk to communities.

"We work closely with CFA, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Bureau of Meteorology to keep the smoke impact from planned burns as low as possible. We make every effort to make sure favourable weather conditions reduce smoke drift into communities."

Victorians can register to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns at the Planned Burns Victoria website at plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au

CFA Acting Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic said while fire restrictions are beginning to lift in some areas and landholders are starting to burn-off on their properties, Victorians should remain vigilant before igniting their burn and ensure conditions are safe to do so.

"We are now seeing Fire Danger Periods end in some parts of the state, and we have been issuing a small number of agricultural permits for some farmers where restrictions still remain," Mr Slijepcevic said.

"You may see a large amount of smoke in areas where these activities take place, so we ask farmers to let their neighbours know who may be sensitive to smoke so they can take necessary precaution.

"Any burning activity must always have someone in attendance, with enough water resources to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

"For greater awareness for emergency services and community members, burn-offs should be registered on the fire permits website or if you wish to start your burn-

off immediately, register your burn-off by calling 1800 668 511."

Victoria's Chief Environmental Scientist Jen Martin said EPA understands smoke from any source, including planned burns and private burn-offs can cause health concerns.

"Be prepared by watching for FFMVic planned burn notifications and by checking the air quality in your area on EPA's website," Dr Martin said.

"Your nose is also an excellent smoke detector. If you can smell smoke, take the necessary precautions to protect your health."

The Planned Burns Victoria website has details of all planned burns currently on the three-year Joint Fuel Management Program, visit plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/

To find out what can and can't be done during fire danger period, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

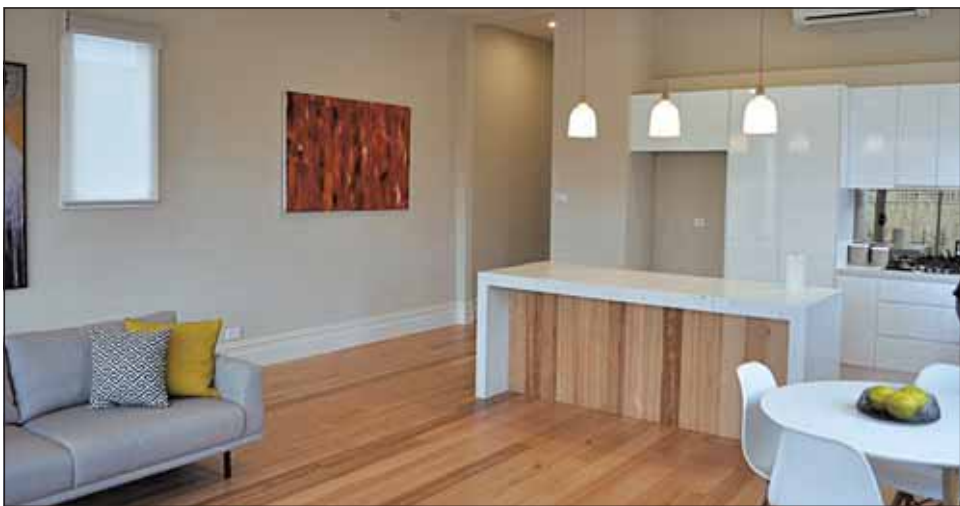
Check fire restrictions and register private burns at firepermits.vic.gov.au or call 1800 668 511.

Detailed information about current air quality throughout Victoria can be found on EPA's website.

Visit the EPA website for tips about looking after health when there is smoke at epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health or epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch



A heritage house renovated in Albert Park by Buckner Built. -S



An example of Buckner Built's heritage home renovations. -S

Opportunities with Buckner Built construction company

BUCKNER Built construction company has over 25 years of experience in the construction industry, ranging from commercial and residential works, to fit-outs and renovations.

Founder and director Scott Buckner spoke about the company's willingness to work with the locals to rebuild after the January bushfires.

"In a nutshell, I've owned property in Eildon for 25 years and I own a vineyard at Snobs Creek," Scott said.

"All the insurance work is getting the locals telling me, look Scott, builders are booked out for five years. We can't get our houses rebuilt after the fires or whatever else. So I think that if you've got time and resources, you should do some of that work."

Buckner Built is based in Williamstown, but they do work all around Melbourne.

"I live in Williamstown during the week, and then on the weekends and some other days I live up at Eildon, it just depends what it is. I've been a ratepayer up there for 25 years, I think," Scott said.

"And that's how come I'm getting this feedback from people saying that builders are saying no, there's a five-year wait, which is unusual. So I've got to try and solve the problem with subcontractors from Melbourne, because Melbourne's a little bit quiet at the moment.

"My subcontractors can go up and make, I've got a couple of houses at the vineyards that they can stay at if they need to. I like to try and use local tradies, but if they're flat out, then I'll have to source them elsewhere."

There is a range of different jobs that Buckner Built undertakes, all the way up to eight storey apartments. They

hold commercial and domestic builder's licences.

"Our company, we build up to eight stories in apartments and so forth. That's sort of like the maximum height. And then the smallest project we'll do is a period renovation in Williamstown, Newport and Yarra, all around that sort of area," Scott said.

"We do one-off homes as well. We do townhouses like dual locks and commercial work. So if anyone needs fit-outs or if anyone needs you know, commercial property built, we do that as well.

"We've done a lot of volume in Melbourne as well. So we know how to keep prices down if that's what the client needs. We've also done a lot of period work in heritage overlay areas and we've done a lot of difficult renovations on period homes that are 100, 120 plus years old.

"There's numerous examples of us doing heritage work where heritage listed homes, like they're actually listed heritage homes. And we've done a lot of those under the guidance of the heritage people at the local council.

"We're commercial builders unlimited and domestic builders unlimited. And the commercial builder unlimited is the hardest license to get in Australia. It took 10 years for me to get a commercial unlimited license and university and all that sort of jazz."

Scott concluded with what he believes is the most important part of what Buckner Built can offer.

"What I think is important is we have availability to get going on your project almost immediately once the documents are prepared, etcetera," he finished.

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Government announces no more phones in non-government schools from 2027

THE Victorian Government is leading the nation by ensuring every student can learn free from distraction.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll last week announced new legislation to extend the ban on devices to non-government schools.

“Less screen time. More learning time. For every Victorian student,” Premier Allan said.

“The evidence shows it worked and now we’re going further, so every Victorian student, in every Victorian school, can put

their phone away and focus on learning,” Mr Carroll added.

The legislation will also cover wearable devices like smart watches and wireless earbuds.

Victoria led the nation by banning mobile phones in public school classrooms in 2020. This change will extend the ban to every student in every Victorian school, from January 28, 2027.

An independent evaluation found students were more focused in class and more social

during breaks. Schools also reported fewer critical incidents involving phones.

Expanding the ban to wearable and personal audio devices further limits distraction in classrooms and keeps students safe.

Wearable devices that capture photos, video or audio can pose risks to students and staff. Victoria will be the first state to legislate these restrictions on wearable technology in schools. They will work closely with schools to ensure the level of restriction is practical.

Under the legislation: Mobile phones must be switched off and stored away from first to final bell; wearable devices must have notifications, cellular connection and recording functions switched off; personal audio devices must not be used during school hours.

Rolling out a state-wide policy will provide consistency and certainty for parents, students and school communities.

Exceptions apply for students that require devices to monitor health conditions.

Correction

In the article, Insurance and Centrelink post-fire, we were provided with an incorrect phone number for Centrelink’s Financial Information Service. It should read 132 300.

Information wanted about Terip Terip CFA break in

THE Terip Terip CFA Station was broken into sometime during Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning of the Easter long weekend, and vital equipment was stolen.

This includes one Stihl MS391 FarmBoss chainsaw, two donated chainsaws, two Honda quickfill pumps, a Stihl pressure washer, two new GME UHF handheld radios, and jerry cans of fuel.

CFA District 12 said that it is deeply disheartening to see this happen to a community that recently faced the devastating Longwood fire and is still working hard to rebuild and recover. Much of the equipment taken was gifted to the Terip Fire Brigade to help rebuild capacity after the fires.

If anyone has seen or has information about suspicious people or vehicles loitering around the Terip Recreation Reserve or CFA station, please report it to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or online.

Alexandra and Yarck Anzac Day services

THE Dawn Service in Alexandra will be held at 6am on Anzac Day in Leckie Park.

The form up for the main service will commence at 10.45am before the 11am service at the Cenotaph in Leckie Park.

At the completion of the Dawn Service, there will be a gunfire breakfast back at the RSL. There will be a light luncheon after the main service.

In Yarck, the service will be at the war memorial at 10am.

Dinner meeting for Lions Club of Alexandra

by Bob Cooper, Past District Governor

THE Lions Club of Alexandra’s dinner meeting for April took place at the Corner Hotel on April 1. While that day could be classified as April Fool’s Day, there were serious matters being discussed that evening.

The members had the very real pleasure of having as their guest speaker, Captain of the Alexandra CFA, Chris Lynch. The members had all heard, and in some cases had experienced, the challenges, even the horrors, of January’s bush fires. But they hadn’t been confronted, challenged, taunted by that holocaust of heat, as Chris and his own CFA team had.

Chris was at pains to point out the importance and necessity of preparation and team work, in his own ‘family of fire fighters’, and in each of the other groups of brave souls who saved our town.

Much has been done over recent weeks to acknowledge and to thank in various ways, the amazing contribution made by Chris’s CFA team, and those many others, many of them volunteers, who contributed so well and so bravely. So much is owed to you all. A special ‘thank you’ to you Chris for so clearly and graphically sharing the details of those unforgettable days with us. All are so grateful.

Another important feature of the evening’s business, was to confirm the club’s major office bearers for the 2026 / 2027 year. They are President Bryan Slader, Secretary John Beale, Treasurer Deb Mathieson. Each of these three Lions is continuing in their respective offices.

Other elected office bearers include Vice President Judy Blizzard, Membership Ray Mathieson, Assistant Membership Joanne Lakeland, Lion Tamer Mary Beale, Tail Twister Bob Cooper, Guest Speakers Bob Cooper, and Magazine Judy Blizzard.

This talented and experienced team will positively and productively guide the club in supporting its much loved community, through the next Lions year.

Easter Colouring Competition winners

THANK you to everyone who entered our Easter colouring competition.

We had some great entries and it was really hard to decide who the winner was, so we decided to give away two Easter hampers.

Our winners are Leo from Eildon and Scarlett from Alexandra.



Leo. -BD



Scarlett. -AR

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 Fr 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,
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Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
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OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
0408 123 581
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

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

THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew’s, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

Out & About

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Free health checks at Yea Sale Yards; cardiac and diabetes checks.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Murrindindi Shire Council invites you to LEAP first 72 hours workshop at Community Hub @ Taggerty. 10am-noon. Visit

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hourstagertyor call council 5772 0333 to book.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

The Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery Trust will be holding their AGM at 10.30am at the Molesworth Hall. All are welcome, with the trust seeking new volunteer trust members. For more information or to register your interest, email secretarycathkincemetery@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Eildon RSL sub-branch AGM will be held at 5pm at the Eildon Visitor Information

Centre. Nominations for office bearers and five general committee members closes at 5pm, April 15. Nomination forms can be obtained from the secretary, Sue McLaurin, susanmclaurin55@gmail.com or phone 0409 050 494.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

An open community meeting will take place from 5pm at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, hosted by Murrindindi Shire Council. This is an opportunity to speak to council about topics or issues that affect you and your community. Prior registration is not required.

WHAT'S ON?

Urgent Care Services**Victoria**

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vved.au/self_registrations



Find out more at urgentcare.vic.gov.au

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Athan Woo

Athan consistently shows the school values. He strives to achieve his best in his learning and is a reliable learning partner, particularly in Mathematics. Athan supports others in making positive choices and is always a good role model. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Athan. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Logan, Mitchell and Jasper

Logan, Mitchell and Jasper for trying their hardest with all learning tasks



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dylan L

Dylan is recognised for trying his hardest in all learning areas, always being an active listener, and seeking help when he needs clarification in a task to further his understanding. He is a role model to others with his respectful and polite character, showing kindness, and making positive choices. Dylan lives out our school values every day.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Evening Refreshment - Acheron by Ron Mueller. -AR



Straight Bet by Nina Volk. -AR



Silver Morning by Maxwell Wilks. -AR

Magnificent works on display at art show

THE 56th Annual Rotary Easter Art Show took place at the Alexandra Shire Hall over the Easter long weekend.

The event started on the evening of Friday, April 3 at opening night. Attendees were able to view the artworks while enjoying finger food and drinks.

The opening night was purple, supporting Rotary's campaign against domestic violence.

Show director Jennifer Paul noted the recent fires and thanked the sponsors for their support. She said, "It has been an honour to be part of a team working together to bring this longstanding and worthwhile event to fruition."

Judge Drew Gregory announced the award winners after the official opening by University of Adelaide Emeritus Professor Angus Simpson.

Prize winners

Gold Medal (Best in Show), Evening Refreshment - Acheron, Ron Muller .

Section One Oil or Acrylic, Silver Morning, Maxwell Wilks.

Section Two Work on Paper, Straight Bet, Nina Volk.

Section Three Any Medium up to \$750, Spinifex Pigeons, Vida Pearson.

Section Four Local Scene, Serenity - Lake Eildon, Susan McIntyre.

Section Five Emerging Artist, Friends, David Burns.

Section Six Photography, Moonrise at Waterhole, David Corke.

Section Eight Junior Artist, In Rainbows, Ruby Wall.

Section Seven, Popular Choice and raffle winners were to be announced after conclusion of show, at noon on April 6.



The team of volunteers from Rotary during the set-up on Friday. -AR



Burnt logs were donated to the display by a local CFA member. -S



The section of the display designed to represent the vibrancy of recovery and support. -S



Some more of the lights in the flower display. -S

Longwood bushfire flower display at Melbourne Flower Show

RED Earth Bulbs put together a reflective display centred around the Longwood bushfires of January at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in March, to remind people about the devastating effects of the fires.

Tim Drewitt is the owner of Red Earth Bulbs, and the organiser of the display. He spoke about how it came to fruition.

“We’re long-term exhibitors there [the Melbourne Flower Show]. It was our 18th year and each year we try and highlight either something in the community or an event that has happened last year,” Tim said.

“We thought that it was a good opportunity to bring the Longwood bushfire, or I guess all of the Victorian bushfires back, front and centre to the roughly 110,000 people that attend the show over five days.”

Tim had a banner produced that contained an image of the Alexandra Fire Station, and a truck leaving the station, as well as the names of all the towns impacted by the Longwood fire.

“That was all on one side of the banner and on the other side we had the statistics for the day. So the temperature, the wind, the number of properties that were impacted, the houses that were deemed unlivable, and the ones that were saved,” Tim said.

“The entire display was done as an example from the fires, the flowers and plantings that we used was, very hot colours, bright red and orange and yellows, that represented the fire coming through.

“Then on to a section of whites and muted tones of plants and flowers, which represented the ash that remained after the fire had been through, still with some glowing embers and that sort of thing around. And then through to the transition of the landscape regenerating

and full color display. So it was a quite a large display. It was about 100 square meters.

“We utilized logs from a CFA member in Alexandra that they brought down to us and trees that were actually from their front garden. as well as tin and materials that were from their chook shed that was lost in the fires as well. Also our tin went from the burnt tin through to the banner through to brand new tin, signifying the change as the fire went through and as the recovery proceeds.”

A lot of effort went into planning and executing the display, since the plan was changed last minute after Tim saw the affected communities first-hand when visiting Yarck just after the Longwood fire.

“The actual idea of doing this for the Flower Garden Show probably came out of Yarck when we actually attended the colour run at Yarck,” Tim said.

“The hardest part was getting our banner right and doing that sort of thing. So the banner itself took about two weeks of work. We were already growing plants in advance, we just had to pivot on the colors and the scheme that we’re going to use. The plants were in production six months beforehand. We just didn’t know that they were going to be used for this display.”

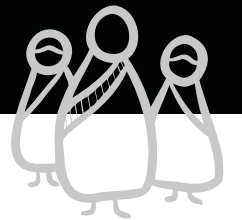
Tim also spoke about what he hoped the impact of the display was.

“We sell bulbs, but that part of our site was purely for people to reflect, to bring attention and thoughts back to the communities that have been impacted,” he said.

“It’s not an area that we ever make money out of. So it costs us probably nothing short of about \$10,000 to install a display like that. We installed lights all through it as well. The night lights basically were a combination of reds and oranges and yellows to pop the fire around the stumps to highlight that.”



The display starts out with the reds and oranges of the fire, then changes to the white of the ash, and finally the vibrant colours of recovery. -S



PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE TREATY AUTHORITY

Throughout the treaty process, the Treaty Authority will make public notifications to ensure the public is aware of important milestones and events.

The Treaty Authority gives notice under clause 9.4(a) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework that it has entered the following Traditional Owner Group onto the Negotiations Database (known as the Negotiations Register) for the purposes of Traditional Owner treaty negotiations with the State of Victoria:

Traditional Owner Group Taungurung

Country: Taungurung Country is bounded by the Great Dividing Range to the east and south, the Campaspe River to the west and by the Ovens River and a series of flats and wetlands in the north. Our Country incorporates spectacular high Country and Warring (Goulburn) River flats, tall Mountain Ash forests, rugged snow gum mountain tops and sweeping grassy woodlands, billabongs, creeks and rivers. Our Country includes places of cultural, historic and contemporary importance including the Cathedral Range, the Strathbogie Ranges, Mt Buffalo and Mt Bulla, the Warring (Goulburn River), Reedy Lake and the Corop wetlands.

The Treaty Authority gives notice under clause 10.2(d)(ii) of the Treaty Negotiation Framework that:

1. Taungurung has notified the Treaty Authority of their intention to form a Delegation for a treaty in respect of certain land & waters described below; and
2. the process of self-determined collective agreement-making to form a Delegation outlined in clause 10.3 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework will begin no earlier than **27 April 2026**.

The relevant area of land and waters over which a treaty may be negotiated is the Country described above.

The Treaty Authority encourages First Peoples whose Country includes some or all of the land and waters described above to contact the Treaty Authority for information about the treaty process. You can contact the Treaty Authority on 1300 133 033 or email us at info@treatyauthority.au.

For more information, including access to the Treaty Authority’s full Public Notice, please visit treatyauthority.au/public-notifications/.



The Longwood bushfires flower display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show all lit up, representing the devastation of the fire through to the period of recovery. -S



A steampunk sewing machine for sale at the market. -AR



Zahlia. -AR



The weather was perfect for the event. -AR

A fabulous day at the Alexandra Easter Fair



Laura. -AR



April and Jenny. -AR



Cohen. -AR



Heather. -AR



John. -AR



Sam trying to catch some ducks. -AR

Marysville Market enjoyed by tourists and locals



The Marysville Triangle Community Men's Shed were kept busy on the sausage sizzle. -AR



The Marysville Market was held on Easter Sunday, with many keen shoppers out and about. -AR



People were able to stock up at their favourite stalls, as well as check out some new ones. -AR



Norm Fiske. -AR



A large crowd gathered to cheer on the rubber ducks floating down the Steavenson River on Sunday, April 5. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Marysville Kindergarten, with people paying to choose a duck, hoping that it will be first to reach the bridge. -AR

The Marysville Duck Race raises funds for kindergarten



Following the race, children enter the water and help to gather up the ducks, ready for next year's event. -AR

We're currently doing planned burning to keep Victoria safer from bushfires.

To learn more about planned burning, or to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns via email or text.

Register at www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au



FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

New recruits bolster January response at Molesworth CFA

NEW recruits in Molesworth Fire Brigade have already put their training to use, jumping on trucks to assist with the January fires just months after their training was finalised.

Six fresh new faces were part of the brigade's response this fire season where they had the chance to put their training into action and defend not only their own homes but those of the broader community.

The group wrapped up their training at the end of November 2025 and brigade Captain, Nicholas Fisher, said it was great to see them already making a difference as firefighters.

"It is wonderful to have some new young blood in the mix alongside our existing group," Nicholas said.

"Through jumping on the trucks for the Longwood fire they essentially got 10 years' worth of experience in just a few weeks."

Federal Government halves fuel excise for three months

FOLLOWING a meeting of the National Cabinet recently convened by the Prime Minister, the Australian Government will halve the fuel excise on petrol and diesel for three months.

The halving of the fuel excise will reduce the cost of fuel by 26.3 cents per litre. This will reduce the cost of a 65L tank of fuel by nearly \$19.

The spike in fuel prices as a result of the war in the Middle East is hurting Australians and causing financial stress. This will help to provide some relief.

The halving of the fuel excise commenced on April 1 and runs to June 30.

Further, the Federal Government will reduce the Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge to zero for three months to help truckies continue their vital work for our nation. The government will also defer the next scheduled increase in the Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge by six months.

Australians are encouraged to use public transport wherever possible to help conserve fuel for the regions, with the Victorian Government moving to cut the costs of public transport.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will continue to monitor fuel prices to help ensure that the lower excise rate is fully passed on at the bowser.

While Australia's fuel supply outlook remains secure in the near term because of the actions the Federal Government has taken, the longer this war goes the worse the impacts will be.

Since the conflict commenced four weeks ago the Federal Government has taken action on fuel. They have passed new laws to double penalties for petrol companies for price gouging; appointed a national Fuel Supply Taskforce Coordinator and Taskforce; released 20 per cent of Australia's petrol and diesel fuel reserves, targeted at regional areas; changed fuel standards to get more fuel flowing; changed diesel standards so Australia's refineries can supply more diesel; tasked the ACCC to ramp up fuel price monitoring and issue on-the-spot fines; engaged with international partners to keep supply flowing, including securing a supply agreement with Singapore; introduced laws to make sure companies pay truckies fairly when fuel prices spike; and introduced legislation to underwrite the purchase of fuel by the private sector.

National Leaders also agreed and released a National Fuel Security Plan.

The Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister Bowen continue to engage key international counterparts to help ensure the continued flow of fuel and diesel shipments to Australia from trade partners. The ACCC will continue to keep Australians updated on these discussions and developments.

The Australian Government will be announcing more measures to prepare the nation for supply chain challenges over coming days and weeks.

Kelly Timms was one of the members who joined the brigade and said it was a whirlwind to finish the training and be thrust into one of the most major fire seasons in the state's recent history.

"My partner has been involved with the brigade for over 30 years and I always thought I didn't have the time, but I wanted to do more for the community so I decided CFA was a way I could do that while also doing something with my partner," Kelly said.

"The only time I had seen a fire truck was when I would pick him up from the station or when they would come down to the kinder.

"We had training nights down at the station where we went through a lot of theory and

they really prepared us for our General Firefighter Training."

Kelly said her confidence grew 10-fold after training and she was able to lean on that to protect her own property.

"I was really nervous, I hadn't even been to a little grass fire down the road, but our trainers, John Morris and Shannon Roach, had always said to me 'trust in your training,'" Kelly said.

"And it was because of that training my partner and I were not only able to save our home and our business, but help other people in the community.

"It wasn't all just about firefighting though, one day we met some friends of

ours at the roadblocks who delivered us some sandwiches, and we just drove them around to all the smaller brigades in the area who didn't have access to a big town with supermarkets or lots of catering services."

Kelly said she was able to polish and refine her skills in the weeks after the fire also.

"There was a lot of mopping up to do so I spent so much time on the truck, I really knew it inside out," Kelly said.

"All those hours on the truck cemented my knowledge and will help if something like this ever happens again or even when I am attending a small grass fire up the road, it was such valuable experience."

For those who are unsure if they should sign up or think they might not have the time, Kelly said they should at least visit a station, talk to the volunteers, and see what it is all about.

"There are so many things you can do that don't involve fighting the fire," Kelly said.

"Brigades always need help sweeping the floors or washing the trucks.

"You're also a volunteer so you can work it around your life. More people in a brigade means the workload can be shared which then means the more flexible it can be."

Kelly also said the experience of becoming a volunteer opened her eyes to what people can do to help the CFA even if they aren't members.

"This fire season in particular has stressed the importance of being properly prepared," Kelly said.

"Ensure you do things like trim back trees, make sure a fire truck could fit in your driveway, have the proper tank fittings for your hoses. All these things help us out without you ever signing up."

If you're interested in joining CFA or learning more about volunteering, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer



The new recruits for the Molesworth Fire Brigade. -S



There was certainly something for everyone at the event. -AR

Book fair raises funds for an Eildon gym

THE Epic Book Sale in Eildon was held at the Eildon Community Centre across the Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend.

The event featured a huge array of books, including fiction and non-fiction, with best-sellers as well as more obscure titles.

The funds raised will go towards starting an Eildon Community Gym, and the event was supported by the Eildon Opportunity Shop, Goulburn River Books and Eildon Action Inc.



Keen shoppers at the book fair. -AR

Council News



April 2025

State Mayoral Advisory Panel

Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, has been appointed to the Victorian Government's Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel (LGMAP) for 2026, providing the Murrindindi community with a direct voice in key state-level discussions about the future of local government.

Cr Gallagher said he was honoured to once again represent regional communities such as Murrindindi at the state level.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/SMAP

Autumn in Murrindindi

Council is inviting visitors to explore the region this autumn and support local recovery after the January 2026 bushfires.

Council is working with Tourism North East to support local businesses and encourage people to plan a relaxing visit and enjoy what the region has to offer.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/autumn for details.

Community Capacity Building Program

Council's Community Capacity Building Program supports businesses, volunteers and community members across Murrindindi Shire with training and development.

Some events were postponed earlier this year and will restart in April, with more added regularly.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ccbp to stay up to date.

Changes to Recovery Hubs

Reflecting current demand, Council is updating its Recovery Hub locations and hours.

In Alexandra, the Hub will move from the library to the Customer Service Centre at 28 Perkins Street opening Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

In Yea, Saturday sessions ended on 28 March. Support will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/hubs for details.

Calling to prioritise fuel and fertiliser

Council is calling on State and Federal Governments to protect access to fuel and fertiliser, warning that shortages and rising costs could slow bushfire recovery.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said reliable diesel supply is critical for recovery work, including fencing, clean-up, freight and farm operations, following the January 2026 bushfires.

Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fuel



Great Victorian Rail Trail remains closed

Council is reminding the community that while some closed sections of the Great Victorian Rail Trail may appear safe, significant risks remain. Residents and visitors are urged to respect closure signage and safety barriers.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gvrtclosure for details.

Local jobs powering bushfire recovery

Council's bushfire recovery is supporting local jobs, with tree works carried out by businesses across the region. More than 100 people from 15 businesses are working on clean-up, safety and firewood processing, with many hiring local staff.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoveryjobs for details.

Highlands Community Lunch

Council is working with local hall committees to bring people together after the fires, to share a meal, reconnect and support each other. Come along Saturday 11 April from 12 noon at Highlands Community Hall, 1603 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands.

Anne Leadbeater will be there to support the conversation with more than 30 years' experience helping communities recover after disasters. Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverylunch

Remember to register your pet

Registering your cat or dog helps keep pets safe and supports responsible pet ownership across Murrindindi Shire.

All cats and dogs over three months of age must be registered with Council and registrations are renewed in April each year.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets for details.

School Crossing Supervisor - Yea

Casual school term role, helping children, families and pedestrians cross roads safely and making a real difference in the community.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs for details.

Get in touch

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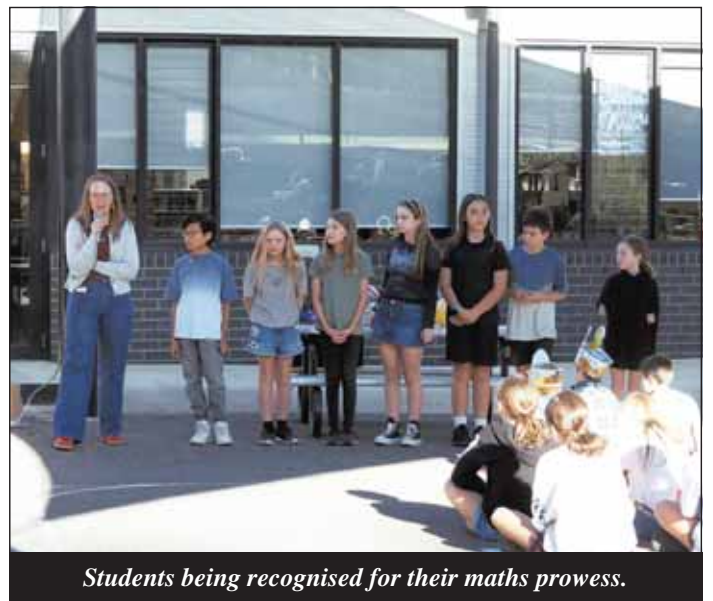
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Easter bonnet parade at Alexandra Primary School



Some of the students were presented with awards for their work at the assembly on Thursday, April 2.



Students being recognised for their maths prowess.



The Student of the Week receiving his award.



-photos by AR



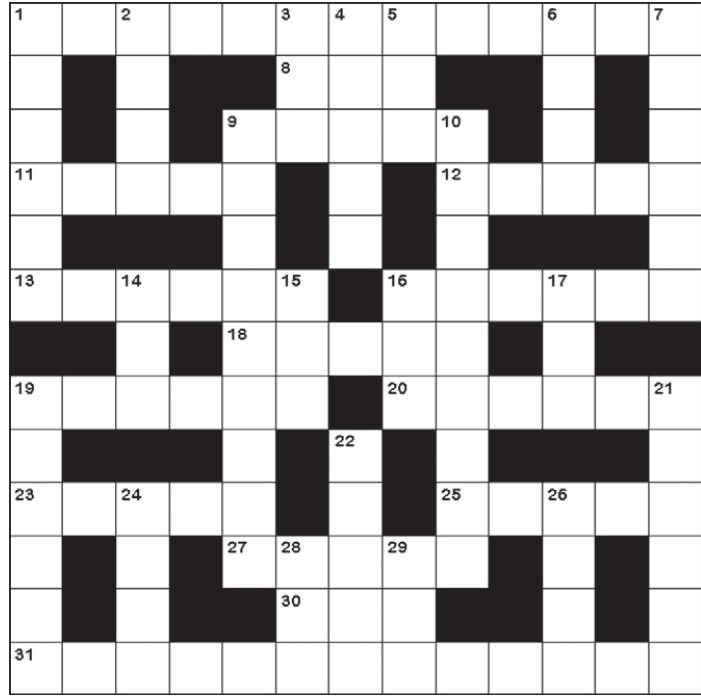
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS Page 15

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Established as the genuine article.
 - Make a mistake.
 - Having the taste of sugar or honey.
 - The fur of a rabbit.
 - Black hornless beef cattle.
 - Devastate and destroy everything.
 - Small reptile with two pairs of legs.
 - Looked at with fixed eyes.
 - Vehicle equipped for a camping holiday.
 - A great and widespread shortage.
 - A long barrelled firearm.
 - Garden tool used for cutting grass.
 - A piece of lace placed under a dish or bowl.
 - Unidentified Flying Object.
 - Broken into extremely tiny fragments.



- DOWN**
- A fisherman who uses a hook and line.
 - A device for capturing animals.
 - Never been used before.
 - Hikes through mountainous areas.
 - Strong feelings of rage and anger.
 - A small thin branch.
 - Used a divining rod to search for water.
 - Laughed quietly and secretly.
 - The art of stuffing and mounting animals.
 - Exuberant vigour and energy.
 - The organ of hearing.
 - Went in first in front of the of others.
 - A distinctive quality.
 - Sprinkled or preserved with salt or brine.
 - A person who announces important news.
 - A metal blade used as a cutting tool.
 - Worry unnecessarily of excessively.
 - The direction in which the sun sets.
 - Knocked unconscious by a heavy blow.
 - A written record of events.

Word Search

O T S G S D G S O E D F C I E
 K U C T R C I A Y T N O E S Y
 T A J A A P Z T A X M T P N M
 F N L B Z R A E Z E A I O O O
 H O Z O K D S L T F L L U Z N
 S R W W V R O L J C Z Z A T O
 W T K V Y Z B I E Q N E B G R
 C S D I O R E T S A Z F K M T
 X A M W N G C E F Y Q K M D S
 C O N S T E L L A T I O N J A
 N X L S N T T Q X P L S T B Z
 J V L M R V E S R E V I N U K
 O G R J O E E Z M L U N A R O
 X O O U K O Y M G D Q V W O S
 J S T T B D I O R W W X W K I

- Space**
- ASTEROID GALAXY
 - ASTRONAUT LUNAR
 - ASTRONOMY SATELLITE
 - COMET SOLAR
 - CONSTELLATION STARS
 - ECLIPSE UNIVERS

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 3 | 7 | 1 | | 4 | | | | |
| 1 | | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | 9 | 1 | 8 | | | |
| | 7 | 8 | 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | 1 | | | | 6 | 4 | | |
| | | | | 6 | 8 | 7 | | |
| | 2 | 3 | | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | 1 |
| | | 1 | | 9 | 6 | | | 8 |

Difficulty: Medium
 Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9. Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

Math Square

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|---|----|
| | + | | ÷ | | 10 |
| + | | × | | × | |
| | × | 5 | - | 4 | 31 |
| - | | + | | - | |
| | × | | + | | 11 |
| 13 | | 31 | | 3 | |

Fill in the missing numbers.
 The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Colouring Page



Word Search - Words starting with "J"

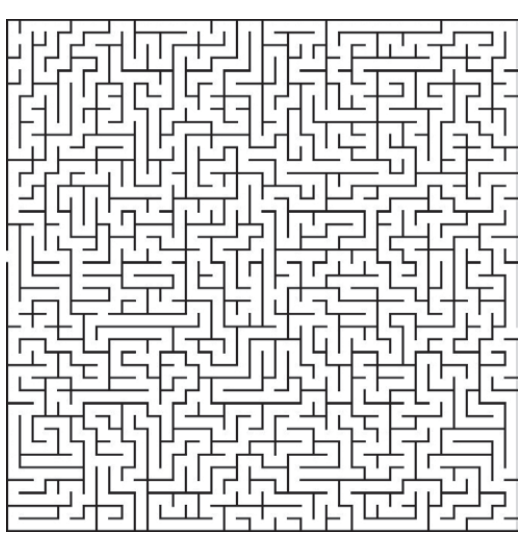
- JACKET
- JAIL
- JELLYFISH
- JET
- JIGSAW
- JOG
- JOIN
- JOKER
- JOLT
- JUICE
- JUMPING
- JUMPY
- JUNGLE
- JUNIOR

Math Square

Fill in the missing numbers.
 The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| | - | | + | | 0 |
| - | | - | | + | |
| | + | | - | | 9 |
| - | | - | | - | |
| | + | 9 | - | 8 | 4 |
| -5 | | -8 | | -2 | |

Maze



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Reminder to change smoke alarm batteries

VICTORIA'S fire agencies are encouraging residents to test their smoke alarms after winding their clocks back last Sunday, as data shows more than half of serious house fires start in the bedroom or living room.

Smoke alarms provide a vital early warning if a fire breaks out, but only when they are installed and working properly.

On average, 18 people die in preventable house fires in Victoria each year, with two in every three fatalities occurring in a bedroom or living area.

Preventable fatalities are those that could have been avoided through safer practices, maintenance or education.

CFA Acting Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic AFMS said the figures are a timely reminder that in the event of a fire, every second counts.

"Using the end of daylight saving is a simple way to remember to check your smoke alarms are in working order as we head into the cooler months," Alen said.

"Smoke alarms save lives and provide you and your family the opportunity to escape danger. Fires can engulf an entire room in just minutes, and smoke will not wake you up."

Alen said it was important not only to install smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas and hallways, but to test them regularly.

"To test your smoke alarm, simply press the 'test' button for about three seconds. If you don't hear three beeps, it's a clear sign the battery or the unit itself needs replacing," Alen said.

"All smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and those with replaceable batteries should be changed annually."

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) Deputy Commissioner Community Safety and Operational Training Joshua Fischer said that testing your smoke alarm should be part of your annual Easter Sunday activities.

"Only working smoke alarms save lives, so taking a moment to crack open your Easter long-weekend by cleaning and testing your smoke alarm could be the most 'egg-cellent' fire safety step you take for your home," he said.

"There are plenty of smoke alarms available to suit every budget and living arrangement, and interconnected smoke alarms are a good option to ensure everyone in your home is alerted if a fire takes hold.

"It's essential to have working smoke alarms installed in your home, but it's just as important to give them a test regularly to make sure they continue to protect you, your loved ones, and your home. Make no 'egg-scuses'."

When checking, installing, or replacing your smoke alarms, CFA and FRV recommend.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom and living area. Smoke alarms must be located between each bedroom area and the rest of the house. Install a smoke alarm on each level of the house. Recommend the use of smoke alarms powered by a 10-year long-life battery. All smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years.

Smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound. Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling at least 30cm from the wall. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. Press the test button until the alarm sounds. Smoke alarms should be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner at least once a year.

Replaceable batteries in a smoke alarm need to be changed yearly.

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Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra.
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Notice of 2026 Annual General Meeting,
Eildon RSL Sub-Branch
In accordance with By-Law 10C (11) (a),
The Eildon RSL Sub-Branch 2026 Annual
General Meeting will be held on:
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 5pm
Eildon Visitor Information Centre, Main
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Business:
Election of General Committee Members
and Office Bearers.
Presentation of reports.
All financial service, affiliate and life
members can nominate. Nominations for
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A spotted harrier in flight. -S

Meet the spotted harrier

THE spotted harrier is featured this month in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's 2026 Year of the Raptor community awareness campaign.

Raptors are birds of prey and includes Australia's two species of harrier, the spotted harrier and the swamp harrier.

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the long-legged, medium-sized spotted harrier (circus assimilis) could be seen flying low and slow around the Goulburn Broken catchment's open woodlands, grasslands and cropping areas.

"The spotted harrier sports an owl-like facial disc with a narrow ruff that gives it the appearance of having a short, stubby head," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"Its facial disc is not just for good looks. This circle of stiff feathers helps to direct the sounds of scurrying prey to its ears.

"Spotted harriers can also raise or lower these feathers, which helps to further funnel tiny sounds made by potential prey to their sharp ears. As well, it has long legs that are perfectly designed for swooping and seizing small prey."

Spotted harriers use sticks and twigs to build their shallow platform-like nest on a horizontal branch, with the female undertaking most of the construction. Once built, she lines it with eucalypt leaves which is a common practice of raptors as the antiseptic properties of eucalyptus helps keep the germs at bay. The male supplies freshly caught prey to feed hungry chicks.

As cropping areas have a ready supply of rodents, the spotted harrier pair will often nest close to a cropping paddock. Rabbits, lizards and small ground birds are also hunted. Spotted harriers prefer their food fresh and will rarely eat carrion, the decaying flesh of dead animals.

"Never one to let an opportunity go by, it hunts by 'quartering' an area, whereby it systematically flies low over the ground, keeping a sharp eye open for anything that moves. It will also take advantage of fenceposts as a handy look-out point," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

Bird watching is an enjoyable way to see the Goulburn Broken catchment's beautiful birdlife, including its amazing raptors.



A spotted harrier. -S

Woodwork and community: Backing Men's Sheds

WHAT happens in Victoria's Men's Sheds goes well beyond woodwork and a cuppa, which is why the state government is investing in Men's Sheds to make sure they can grow and expand.

Minister Spence joined Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon at Alamein Men's Shed to announce that a new round of funding is open.

"A shed isn't just a room. For a lot of men, it's where they build a community and find support," Ms Spence said.

"This is about more than just tools and timber. We're proud to support the incredible work Men's Sheds do in local communities across Victoria helping men stay connected, healthy and supported."

Grants of up to \$100,000 will help Men's Sheds buy new or update equipment, expand their sheds and upgrade their facilities or build a new shed to improve community access.

For many, their shed is more than a workshop, it's where they find routine, friendship and community.

More than 360 Men's Sheds now operate across Victoria, with the government delivering more than 600 grants to sheds across the state.

Keeping men connected and part of their community can save lives.

Applications for the 2026-27 Men's Shed Funding Program are now open at dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program

Eildon comes alive: An Easter Twilight Market to remember

WITH beautiful weather and the buzz of visitors in town, the Eildon Easter Twilight Market on April 4 was the perfect way to wrap up the season. From the very start, there was a real sense of excitement in the air, with locals and visitors coming together to enjoy one of the biggest, brightest, and most joyful markets yet.

The event kicked things off with a much-loved tradition, our youth music session led by the Paul Ray Music Group. Talented young performers Alexis Farley, Maya O'Loughlin, Tilly Rose and Ada O'Loughlin set the tone for the evening with fantastic live music. Thank you to AGL and Murrindindi Shire Council for continuing to support live music in Eildon. It truly brings these events to life.

Families gathered around the free face painting and craft stall, where kids (and plenty of fun-loving adults) got creative designing

their Easter bonnets ahead of the parade. Captain Koala was a huge hit, spreading smiles and handing out Easter eggs to kids of all ages. Thank you to Eildon Go Grocer for helping make this special moment possible.

The Easter Bonnet Parade was bursting with colour and creativity, and the organisers are so grateful to Cindy McLeish for taking on the tough job of judging. Choosing a winner was no easy task.

As the sun began to set, the atmosphere shifted into celebration mode with the return of *The Herberts*, bringing all the energy of the 60s back to Eildon. After such a popular performance last year, the community asked for them back, and they absolutely delivered. It was a joy to see people of all ages up dancing, laughing, and enjoying the music together.

Events like this simply wouldn't happen without incredible volunteers. From setting up and packing down to managing sound, lighting and gates, their dedication and hard work are what make the magic possible. Thank you.

With more than 80 stalls, this was the biggest market yet, and the organisers are so grateful to every vendor, supporter, and community member who helped make it such a success.

Eildon really shines at moments like this, when people come together, connect, and create something special. They can't wait to do it all again.

An extra special thank you to Karine Haslam, the creator, organiser and life force behind Eildon Twilight Markets. Karine is moving away, so the Easter Twilight Market was her last ever market.

The markets were created to boost morale in the community and bring people to Eildon after the lockdowns. What was born from the need to lift the community up, has become a headliner in the Murrindindi calendar. She will be more than missed.

The team hopes they can do her proud and keep Eildon Twilight market up and running. They said that while they can never replace Karine, maybe, if they pull together, a handful of people can do what one superwoman has done.

If you would like to keep the markets growing and can volunteer your skills, they would love to hear from you. Contact them at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

Thank you to Karine for all the memories, and thanks to everyone who showed up to make the Easter Market the event it was. What a community.



Plenty of food was available at the event. -S



Karine Haslam. -S



Alexis Farley. -S



The stalls did a roaring trade. -S



The Herberts. -S



A prize winner in the Easter Bonnet Parade. -S

Seventy-five years of CFA support for the Good Friday Appeal

COUNTRY Fire Authority's (CFA) long and proud history of involvement with the Good Friday Appeal will reach a remarkable 75 years this year, while the appeal will mark an impressive 95 years of fundraising.

Raising vital funds for the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) has been a long-standing tradition for CFA members and only further reinforces their commitment, generosity and community spirit.

Over the past 75 years, CFA members have raised more than \$41 million for the iconic Victorian cause, with hopes this year to raise more than last year's \$1.88 million.

On Thursday, February 19, Gisborne Fire Brigade members and CFA Deputy Chief Officer Trevor Weston joined in on the festivities at the RCH to officially launch the 2026 Good Friday Appeal.

Members formed a Guard of Honour to announce the Faces of the Appeal, with three-year-old Alissa and six-year-old Oliver

both having received life-saving care from the RCH.

Gisborne Good Friday Appeal Area Manager and CFA brigade member Mark Carter has been organising and fundraising for 20 years as a passionate ambassador and is extremely proud of the work the brigade does.

"For us, it is a special tradition, and some of our members have been involved for up to 50 years," Mark said.

"We get the local Scouts and Cubs involved and we usually get two or three minibuses and take them around town. They get a real buzz out of it for such a good cause.

"We still do the old-style door knock and fundraise at local shops throughout the year.

"Seeing what comes through at the end of the day and knowing it goes to such a fantastic place is so rewarding."

Last year the brigade raised \$74,107, bringing their cumulative total to \$399,584,

and are now set to celebrate an impressive \$400,000 in their milestone 50th year.

"Donald Fire Brigade [one of the first brigades to fundraise] used to come down in their old T Model Ford vehicle and collect from towns along the way. As one of those towns, our involvement evolved very quickly from there," Mark said.

"The work they do in the RCH is so important. I had two premature babies myself, and I'm thankful they didn't need to go there, but I always knew the support was there if needed.

"The technology and expertise they get from RCH is well worth it, because the kids are worth it."

Almost 150 CFA brigades are involved in tin rattling, door knocking and fundraising efforts each year, and CFA Deputy Chief Officer Trevor Weston has been among those as a member.

"I've been involved through my time at Wyndham Vale and Werribee Fire Brigades and our involvement as an organisation is something we are really proud to be a part of," Trevor said.

"We were fortunate enough to witness just two examples of the great work that the RCH and the appeal do alongside the support of the Victorian community at the launch.

"To get out in the community to promote the message of the appeal and the work they do at the RCH is incredibly important.

"Many of our members have unfortunately required the services of the RCH, so I absolutely encourage the community to give wherever and whatever they can, whether that is to our CFA volunteers who will be out on Good Friday collecting, or online and through other avenues."

Make this Friday a Good Friday. Give what you can, in person or donate online at fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/find-a-fundraiser

Council monitoring fuel situation

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is continuing to closely monitor the evolving fuel situation and its potential impact on service delivery.

At this stage, council has not received any notification from its kerbside collection contractor indicating that fuel cost increases will be passed on, and bin collections are continuing as scheduled. However, council recognises that sustained fuel price volatility creates ongoing risk and this position may change if current pressures persist.

Council is closely monitoring potential impacts to other services as the higher fuel prices start to take effect. Road maintenance and other operational services are continuing as normal, with increases to fuel costs currently being managed within existing project and maintenance budgets, which are already very tight. Council does not have capacity to absorb ongoing cost escalations without making offsets elsewhere. If higher fuel costs are sustained, this would reduce the scope of works and, over time, may affect service levels.

Council's kerbside collection contract includes provisions for fuel cost adjustments. Should these provisions be triggered, there would be a direct budget impact for council. These costs cannot be passed on to ratepayers within the current financial year, as fees and charges have already been set. Any longer-term financial impacts would be managed through future budget decisions, including reprioritisation of expenditure.

A special levy to offset fuel costs is not being considered at this stage.

It's time to get vaccinated

WITH 24,800 flu cases already reported at the end of March 2026 and following the worst flu year on record, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has called on patients to roll up their sleeves and visit their GPs to receive an annual flu shot.

There were 502,972 lab-confirmed flu cases in 2025, with the Australian Bureau of Statistics recording 1738 deaths involving influenza.

In each month from August 2025-January 2026, more deaths were associated with influenza than COVID-19.

Meanwhile, flu vaccination coverage remained low. By the end of August 2025, just 25.7 per cent of children aged six months to five years, 14.5 per cent of five to 15 year olds, and 60.5 per cent of over-65s were immunised.

RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said the high flu numbers likely contributed to overwhelmed hospitals and ambulance ramping.

"Last year was a horror flu year. That likely contributed to the surge in demand on our hospitals we saw in 2025, and unacceptable ambulance ramping when hospitals couldn't cope as a result," he said.

"No one wants to see that again. Not parents, and not the state and territory governments which run our public hospitals.

"Practices have been receiving their 2026 flu vaccinations, and many will be running flu clinics to make it quick and easy to reduce your risk of serious illness. So, book your flu vaccine with your GP today."

With needle-free intranasal flu vaccines becoming available at no cost for young

children in several states, Dr Wright said it has never been easier for families to prevent a severe flu infection.

"Annual flu vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your family this winter, and your general practice is the best placed to get vaccinated," he said.

"Your GP understands your medical history and can provide personalised vaccination advice.

"More than 2700 of the flu cases Australia has recorded this year were among babies and children under five, who are at a higher risk of hospitalisation and complications, whether or not they have pre-existing medical conditions.

"All adults should get a flu vaccine each year, but for those young children, it's essential.

"GPs in New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia will be able to offer needle-free vaccinations for children aged two to five, and Western Australia for children aged two to 12.

"Needles are a big barrier to vaccination. About six in 10 parents feel distressed at the thought of vaccinating their child, and that's understandable. Two thirds of kids and about a quarter of adults have strong fears around needles.

"Intranasal vaccines provide the same protection as current vaccinations, but replace a needle with a painless spray. It's a smart way to keep kids safe from severe infections, which can have long-term health consequences.

"All states should be making flu vaccinations free for everyone, and needle-free vaccinations for our youngest patients is the smart way to prevent stressful hospitalisations for them and their parents."

NFF statement on National Cabinet fuel meeting

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) notes National Cabinet's agreement to a National Fuel Security Plan as a first step in coordinating the response to ongoing fuel pressures, but significantly more action is required to shore up fuel supplies for food production.

"National coordination is critical in a situation like this, and we welcome efforts to bring governments together to respond," NFF President Hamish McIntyre said.

"However, immediate work needs to occur outlining how the government intends to secure fuel supply for Australian farmers.

"There is rising angst among farmers about supply and cost at a critical time as the sector readies for the winter sowing period."

The NFF met with its members following National Cabinet to discuss the new national plan.

"While the national coordination was welcomed, our members found the lack of detail in the plan concerning," Mr McIntyre said.

"Halving the fuel excise will provide relief for consumers, but it does little directly for farmers and we hold concerns that as to the impact this policy may have on overall fuel demand."

Mr McIntyre said the announcement reinforced the need for NFF's key asks on fuel supply: An agriculture-specific plan to secure fuel supply for farmers and fishers, including clear 'trigger points' for government action to safeguard food production in both the short and medium term.

The plan must drive sector coordination across all jurisdictions and all commodities. The inclusion of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as critical industries/service under the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984*. Targeted small business support for those across the supply chain facing acute financial pressures.

"Now we have the beginnings of a national framework, farmers and fishers need a clear, agriculture-specific plan so they can make informed decisions about planting, harvesting and keeping food moving across the country."

The NFF also welcomed the government's commitment to underwriting the imports of fuel supplies.

Mr McIntyre highlighted the importance that any new measures are carefully monitored.

"It is important costs aren't passed onto farmers and regional communities or that they create unintended consequences in an already volatile environment."

CFA Good Friday Appeal: Over \$11,000 raised in east of Murrindindi Shire

IN CFA's 75th year supporting the Good Friday Appeal, the generosity of Victorians right across the state has exceeded expectations, helping CFA raise an incredible \$2,150,000 for The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

Once again, CFA volunteers were out in force on April 3, both on their fire trucks and on foot, making their way around local streets rattling tins all morning to raise vital funds in their communities for a much-loved and well-respected cause.

Locally, in the east of Murrindindi Shire, Alexandra raised \$4224, Eildon raised \$2620, Thornton raised \$1018 and Taggerty raised \$1539. This made for a total of \$11,139.

As a major fundraiser for the appeal, and one that hits close to home, CFA has now raised more than \$43 million over an impressive 75 years.

It was also a milestone night for the appeal as they marked an astonishing 95 years of

fundraising, with a record-breaking final tally of \$25,268,485.

Acting CFA Chief Officer Alen Slijepcevic AFSM presented the new customised cheque for the momentous year with the total amount CFA contributed to The Royal Children's Hospital alongside Gisborne Fire Brigade members Mark Carter and Sandra Barotta last Friday night.

"As an organisation, we are incredibly proud of our CFA members' efforts each year who lend their time to fundraise alongside the Victorian community for such a worthwhile cause," Alen said.

"Thank you to all participating brigades across Victoria for your contribution to this year's Appeal and for the work you do in your local towns not only to protect them but to also help save young lives.

"Many of our members have required the services of the RCH, and it is an absolute

privilege to be a part of raising such important funds and to see direct results of that fundraising that the brigades do put toward technology and research to help our Victorian children."

Viewers at home took a trip down memory lane through a collection of photos and videos showcasing CFA volunteers out in their synonymous yellows interacting with communities.

While, a 3D balloon fire truck was a hit with the kids during the day and those in the phone room at night, as was a special visit from Eynesbury Fire Brigade members to the Royal Children's Hospital on their way to the counting room.

The money raised for The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal will be used to ensure kids are provided with the best possible treatment and care.

Easter Challenge at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

ONCE again, and possibly for the last time this season, common sense prevailed at Alexandra Golf Club and last Tuesday's tee-off time was 9am, with a compact field of seven taking the start.

Len Jenkins was the winner with 38 points, two clear of Bruce Colville and Leo Dynes in second and third respectively. Lennie also claimed the nearest the pin on 18 on his way to the win, 17 went to Dan Burns and your roving reporter took seven.

Rundown vouchers went to Burnsie and Bill Wind.

Eleven ladies played a stroke round last Wednesday, all vying for the April Monthly Medal, but, after battling the course for four hours or so, no medal was awarded. Both Ruth Worland and Judy Pearson recorded a net score of 70, and will therefore have to play off to decide the winner.

So, with Ruth on top and Judy in second spot, third place went to Marion Williamson with a net 72, and Rosemary Parker, making her competition debut, in fourth on 73.

Rosemary also took the nearest the pin on two, Ruth claimed five and 18 went to Helen

Findlay. Lyn Capp was the nine hole winner on the back nine.

Last Saturday saw the playing of the Easter Challenge, a four person Ambrose format, and it was anticipated that 40 or so would turn up. In fact, a bumper field of 74 players teed off in almost perfect conditions. The winners, with an impressive net 52.5 were, in fact, the five person team of Ben and Corey Jack, Jason Krijt, Brad Kidd and Shane Carney.

In second spot, with a net 54.5, were Jan and Sharyn Petrzela, Bron Howell and Michael Bossonnet. Third went to Gary Smith, Liam Rothwell, Matt Jager and Luke Heard with

55.25, and fourth place was taken by Steve Darmody, Frank DeVries, Perrin Gooding and Jack Pyke with 56.6.

The best junior team carded a net 62.5, and included Logan Heard, Hudson Brooks, Leo Jager and Hugo Rothwell.

Nearest the pins went to Matt Jager on two, James Kidd on five, Matt Richards on seven, Gary Smith on 12 and Corey Jack on 18. Ruth Worland was the major raffle winner.

The club's sincere thanks must go to The Corner Hotel, FoodWorks, Matt Jager Golf and Jack Naden, the major sponsors for last Saturday's event.



Youngster on approach to the ninth. -S



Four fifths of the winning team, being Jason Krijt, Brad Kidd, Shane Carney and Corey Jack. -S



The future of golf. Logan Heard, Hudson Brooks, Leo Jager and Hugo Rothwell. -S



Players enjoying excellent conditions at Eildon Golf Club. -S



Players enjoyed a fun day out for the Easter Bluegums Tournament. -S

Easter Bluegums Golf Tournament at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

LAST week the Eildon Golf Club hosted the annual Easter Bluegums Golf Tournament day with 59 players competing in an Ambrose match. With the players starting the day with an egg and bacon roll and some players with liquid courage, to take on the course with all teams chasing bragging rights for the

2026 champions, it's safe to say spirits were very high.

Joining them on the course were 20 club members competing in their own two person Ambrose competition and plenty of green fee players on the course throughout the day as well.

Club winners on the day, Allison Southwell and Kerry Power with net 62.25. Runners up Denis McDonald and John Beale 63.25, ball run winners Sandi McLearn and Michael McLearn 65.25 and Tony Grayson and Rhys Southwell 65.5.

Other winners for last week, nearest the pin saw Kerry Power on the fifth, Robert Perry on the 11th, R Southwell on the 12th and T

Grayson on the 14th. Entry draw winner was Ian Lakeland, swindle Peter McNair and Joker Allison Southwell.

The club says a huge thankyou to the Bluegums Golf Tournament Organisers and players who turn up every year to support your golf day and to support the Eildon Golf Club.

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Resilient Thornton-Eildon squad geared up for season opener

by Sophia Weaver

THE Thornton Recreation Reserve was buzzing with energy last Thursday as over 60 supporters and players gathered to celebrate the official jumper presentation for the 2026

Thornton-Eildon Football Netball Club (TEDFNC) women's team.

The evening, which featured a catered dinner by Foodie Kat, served as both a celebration of the upcoming season and a testament to the club's spirit. Addressing

the crowd, Club President Lucy McCrae and Coach Tash Hay reflected on a pre-season fraught with uncertainty, noting that there were initial doubts about whether the club could even field a team this year.

A Remarkable Turnaround

Following the departure of numerous veteran players due to retirements, growing families, and relocations, the pre-season began with only a small handful of returning women. However, through a dedicated campaign of local advertising, word-of-mouth, and encouragement by existing members, the club successfully built a full roster.

The newly formed squad has officially registered in the Outer East Football Netball League. Coach Hay praised the influx of new talent, noting that many players are brand new to the sport but are rapidly developing the necessary skills through hard work and the guidance of returning teammates.

Leadership for 2026

The night concluded with the announcement of the 2026 leadership group and support staff who will guide the dynamic club through the challenges ahead.

Captain: Siobhan Bell. Vice Captain: Bechet Cousens.

Coach: Tash Hay. Assistant Coach: Rebecca Clark. Development Coach: Jamie Cousens.

Team Manager: Abbey Coolahan.

Trainer: Ken Whitehead. Runner: James Fulton.

Get Involved

The team is now raring to go for round one, which kicks off Saturday, April 11, at Seville. The club continues to welcome new interest.

Women over the age of 14 interested in playing are encouraged to contact Coach Tash Hay at 0430 119 420. For those looking to support through volunteering or memberships, further information is available on the club's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Thornton Eildon Roos 2026 players. -S



The Thornton Eildon leadership team for 2026. -S

Sandy Wilson Ladies Bowl at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday the annual Sandy Wilson Ladies Bowl was held with Marysville members hosting 45 ladies from clubs from the Dalhousie District and further afield.

Special mention to the six ladies from Benalla Golf Club who stayed in Marysville overnight before playing in the bowl for the first time. They assured us that they 'would be back'.

The weather was unexpectedly perfect for golf and all the visitors enjoyed playing on the well-prepared course. The team from RACV Healesville won the bowl and the ladies from Eastern Golf Club were the runners up.

At the presentation Mim Page, the ladies' President, thanked all those who had contributed to the organisation of the

successful event and thanked all those who had travelled to Marysville to support it.

After the ladies had cleared the course the nine holers played stableford on the back nine holes. Keith Atwell (11) took out first place with 18 points with Peter Doery (18) just one point behind.

Last Saturday golfers played stroke for the second round of the Summer Aggregate. Congratulations to Heather Jenkins for winning the ladies section with scores of nett 73 and 75, a total of 148. The men's winner was David Douthwaite (25) with nett 74 and 73, a total of 147. With nett 73 David was also the daily winner on a countback from Adam Littlejohn (24).

The nearest the pins were won by visitor Ross Freeman on the fourth, Brian Worcester on the ninth and Richy Clark on the 11th and 18th. Ross also won the Golden Shot.

Travis Stow won the putting with 28 putts on a countback from Ray Jones.

Next Saturday the juniors who have registered to play in the Junior Ambrose Day will play with their partners while the Marysville members will play a stableford round. Members please note that on April 11 the Tour Elephants will play the annual challenge and it will be an 8.30 for 9am tee off. The following week on April 18, with daylight savings no longer relevant, Saturday tee off time will be 9.30 for 10am.

Last Sunday Marysville had a bye and hosted the second round of the Dalhousie District Pennant Handicap Division Two. As there is no pennant on Easter Sunday the Marysville team will next play Broadford at Eildon on Sunday, April 12. Last Tuesday the Dalhousie veterans played at Marysville and a report will be given next week.

Kenda Rally cancelled

WITH great sadness and disappointment the Alexandra and District Motorcycle Club advised on Facebook that they have made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel the 2026 Rubicon rally.

The post said, "Like all major decisions regarding the 2026 Rubicon rally, the decision to cancel this years event, due to uncertainty surrounding fuel cost and availability, while incredibly difficult, takes into account our punters best interests.

"We fully understand the planning, excitement and anticipation our riders have when they lock in their entries and prepare their rides for a great weekend in Victoria's legendary high country.

"We hope to reschedule the rally to a date later in 2026, dependent on the fuel situation improving... We apologise for any inconvenience. Over the coming weeks all entrants will receive a full refund via PayPal."