

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard

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

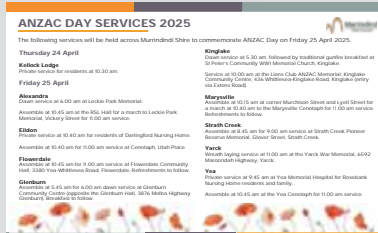
P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, April 16, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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### Detectives appeal for public help



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### Weekend sport



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Members of the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club were delighted when Yvonne brought in some Easter bonnets made by Marysville Primary School students. The hats were made just prior to the end of term, and were on display at the Easter parade in Marysville on Friday, April 4. The staff and students thought it would be a great idea to share kindness and the fun of Easter with the club. The bonnets were then taken to Kellock Lodge, to share the joy even further. -AR

## Alexandra detectives appeal for public help

ALEXANDRA Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance to help solve a 53 year old mystery.

Investigators are attempting to identify an unknown man who was located deceased in Buxton on Christmas Day, 1971.

Two teenage girls were celebrating the holidays with a swim in the Steavenson River

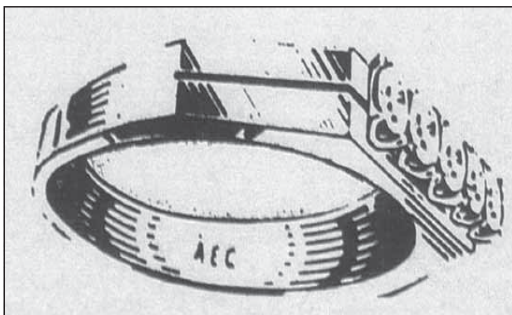
when they happened upon the man's body about 4.30pm. They quickly summoned on of their fathers, who then contacted the Marysville Police. At the time, the nearest Crime Investigation Unit was in Lilydale.

The discovery occurred about 60 metres downstream from the Maroondah Highway bridge and the man's remains were in an

advanced stage of decomposition. It was estimated that he had been in the water for about three weeks.

The man was believed to be aged in his 40s or 50s, about 183cm tall with dark, greying hair and a large build.

Continued Page 11



A drawing of the ring the man was wearing. -S

**Rotary**  
Club of Alexandra

**55th EASTER Art Show Alexandra 2025**

SHIRE HALL,  
55 GRANT STREET

You can book for opening night online by scanning code or pay at the door

[www.alexandraartshow.com](http://www.alexandraartshow.com)

**GALA OPENING NIGHT**  
**Friday 18 April 6.30pm**  
\$25pp includes drinks and finger food  
**Saturday 19 April 10am-5pm**  
**Sunday 20 April 10am-5pm**  
**Monday 21 April 9am-12noon**  
Entry Saturday, Sunday & Monday \$5pp  
Kids under 16 free

## MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday 11 May 2025

Treat your Mum to a special Mother's Day celebration with a complimentary glass of sparkling on arrival. Indulge in a delicious three-course luncheon showcasing the finest local produce.

With breathtaking views, exquisite wines, and live music, it's the perfect way to show Mum just how much she's appreciated.

- 12.30pm - 4pm • Bookings essential
- \$90 per adult (3 course and canapés)
- \$30 per child (4-12 years, 2 courses)
- Infants 3 years and younger, no charge



## Holmesglen at Eildon

Conferences • Functions • Events

92 Moore Road, Eildon 3713  
E: eildon@holmesglen.edu.au  
[www.holmesglenateildon.com.au](http://www.holmesglenateildon.com.au)  
Book now: 03 5774 2631





Alexandra District Health

5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital

5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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## Letters to the Editor

### Caravanning

ON behalf of members of the Canberra Caravan Club, I would like to let you know of the wonderful time we had visiting your local area while staying at the Marysville Caravan Park.

Members of our club in nine caravans travelled to Marysville as part of a roving rally visiting small country towns, staying in Marysville Saturday, March 1 until Monday, March 3.

Our members spent a total of \$4141 during our short stay. This was made up of site fees, groceries, fuel, personal shopping and entertainment in your area at various venues. We also visited several coffee shops in your area as well as dinner at your local eating establishments. We wish to complement the local council, and the community of

Marysville for rebuilding the town, and the local businesses after such a devastating loss. I am sure you will agree that caravanners are an important source of revenue to regional communities and a useful contribution to tourism in your local area.

We wish to compliment the managers and their staff on the facilities at the Marysville Caravan Park, and the local businesses we visited in your area. The members found them very helpful and extremely friendly.

Hopefully, we as a club will visit the Murrindindi Shire again in the future.

*Diane Jarrett, secretary, Canberra Caravan Club*

### Labor

I'VE heard that a number of candidates are not attending the Candidates' Forum at the Alexandra Town Hall on Sunday, April 27.

How sad is that. I want to see my preferred candidate in the flesh. I want to be reassured Mitch Bridges is upright and can put some words together and that he is willing to travel all the way from up north to this remote corner of Indi. I want Mitch to be there for me. It is a big blue for a candidate to opt out of this and six or seven similar community forums because s/he is scared, shy or feels inadequate.

And yes, it is a test, a test to demonstrate how much a candidate cares about people in our part of Indi.

To bastardise an memorable slogan I say, 'If they don't show, vote no.'

*Robyn Walsh, Yarck (ALP Member)*

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to  
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or  
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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The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA

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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  
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611  
Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall  
Fri Communithea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1<sup>st</sup> Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318  
1<sup>st</sup> Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Weekly Weather

April 16 - April 22, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	12	26	Wednesday	12	26
Thursday	13	28	Thursday	12	29
Friday	13	27	Friday	13	28
Saturday	12	22	Saturday	11	22
Sunday	9	17	Sunday	9	17
Monday	10	19	Monday	10	19
Tuesday	10	21	Tuesday	10	21

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.19	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.38	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.23am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.45am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.20am Mon	0.36	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.20am Mon	0.15	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.07	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.29	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	4.15pm Sun	0.10	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.82	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.04	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.57am Mon	0.78	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.46AM ON MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2025				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	0mm
Buxton.....	0mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0.2mm
Flowerdale.....	0.4mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake .....	N/Amm
Lake Eildon .....	0mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty .....	0mm
Yarck .....	0mm
Yea.....	N/Amm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	278.33m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	63.2%
Metres below full supply.....	10.57m
Daily inflow .....	350ML
Release.....	5500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	78.3%



**THUMBS UP:** To our Mayor Damien Gallagher for the honest and thought-provoking explanation of his Acknowledgement of Country.

**THUMBS DOWN:** Our small unit block has just had 30 bins delivered on top of the 30 we already have. Our problem is there is no room to store the bins in a sightly manner. When we were originally told about the bins, it was stated that we did not have to accept the extra bins. How does everyone feel about this waste of money and it does not necessarily make for a greener planet. Are there going to be four trucks to collect those or all in the same trucks we have now?

**THUMBS DOWN:** To Ray Donkin, of Buxton, who has surpassed his usual statements with an absolutely offensive sign that doesn't reflect the views or opinions of the great people of Buxton. It's an embarrassment and, in the wake of his recent inaccurate tirade about Welcome to Country, just another example of how out of step with modern culture this person is. The message is definitely not representative of our great community and the billboard a blight on our lovely town.

**THUMBS UP:** To the organisers of the Highball Car Show at Erindale Hayshed in support of Buxton and Taggerty CFAs. A truly amazing day with amazing cars and magnanimous hosts. Thank you.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To Ray Donkin who has authorised a sign that has been erected in Buxton. The sign espouses negative attitudes and taints not only our beautiful and welcoming town but smears the Liberal Party. It must be taken down as it blatantly incites hatred.

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

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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



## Foundation Murrindindi's volunteer grant program open

FOUNDATION Murrindindi proudly announces the launch of its new grant program initiative aimed at supporting the operations of volunteer driven, grass roots community organisations within Murrindindi Shire.

The Volunteer Grant program will support projects to engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base, and strengthen volunteering in local communities within Murrindindi Shire.

Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by reducing barrier for volunteers, increasing participation in volunteering and increases community capacity.

Grants of up to \$1500 are available to eligible community organisations. Grant applications close on Wednesday, April 30.

To find out more about this grant opportunity please visit [foundationmurrindindi.org.au](http://foundationmurrindindi.org.au). You will see our fact sheet with more information about the grant criteria and eligibility.

We require all applicants to contact the Foundation first, to discuss your project and how it fits within the grant program. Contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688.

## Correction

AMONG the photos of the Alexandra Races in last week's edition, there was an image of a bride-to-be and three bridesmaids. The bride-to-be was incorrectly identified as Sarah. The bride-to-be's name is Tylah. Our apologies.

# Dumping is not donating

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to donate responsibly and avoid dumping items outside charity donation bins or op shops.

While donating clothes and household goods in good condition to charities is a great way to support the community and reduce waste, leaving items outside donation bins or charity shops creates significant challenges. These discarded items are often damaged by the weather or not fit for resale, meaning charities are left to foot the bill for disposal.

Laura, a volunteer from the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House and Op Shop, explained how the issue affects their team. "We absolutely love and appreciate the generosity of our community. Their donations are what keep our op shop running and helping others. Every item sold helps fund important local programs like our Foodshare initiative and subsidised courses at the Neighbourhood House for people who may not be able to pay full fees," she said.

"However, we have an increasing number of items being dumped outside the shop, often in poor condition due to exposure to the weather. While we're always grateful for donations, our volunteers shouldn't have to sort through damaged or unsellable items, especially when they've been left out in the rain or overnight.

"We kindly ask that donations be made during our opening hours, and that people consider whether the items are in good enough condition to sell. Unfortunately, when items are dumped and can't be used, we have to pay for their disposal, and that takes funds away from the community programs that donations are meant to support."

Murrindindi Shire Council's Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams also expressed concern, urging residents to do the right thing.

"Dumping unwanted items is not only inconsiderate, but it also goes against the spirit of giving.

"If you want to help, make sure your donations are clean, in good condition and dropped off directly to op shops and charities during operating hours so volunteers can check they're suitable for resale.

"Council reminds residents that donating responsibly helps charities focus on their important work, rather than diverting resources to manage dumped goods. You could also be liable for fines if you're founding dumping items in front of op shops or donation bins.

"To help residents with unwanted household goods, council provides Resource Recovery Centres in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Marysville and Eildon. We also run re-use shops, known as 'Scrap Shacks' at the Alexandra and Yea Resource Recovery Centres. Let's work together to keep our community clean and support our local charities. Remember, dumping is not donating."

## Murrindindi's fire restrictions are officially lifted

FIRE restrictions to end in parts of north east The Fire Danger Period (FDP) officially ended on Monday, April 14 in the following municipalities within CFA Districts 12 and 22. These included Shire of Moira, Shire of Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, and Murrindindi Shire Council.

As restrictions lift, CFA is urging residents to remain fire-aware, as dry Autumnal conditions combined with strong winds can still lead to fast moving grassfires. Deputy Chief Officer for the North East, Gavin Thompson AFSM said favourable weather conditions has allowed restrictions to ease.

"Fire behaviour has slowed remarkably over the last few weeks due to rain events, lower daytime temperatures and single figure night temperatures," Gavin said.

"We have seen a reduction in callouts to grass and scrub fires over the last several weeks.

"Most nights we have been seeing dew appearing and some parts of the area have even seen their first frost."

Residents travelling to other parts of Victoria are reminded to remain vigilant, as fire danger periods in other regions may still be active. With the end of the FDP, some landowners may choose to resume private burn-offs, but it's essential to take precautions and ensure conditions are safe before proceeding.

To prevent unnecessary emergency callouts, landowners must register their burn-offs. If smoke or fire is reported, it will be cross-checked with the register to

avoid an emergency response. Burn-offs can be registered online at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au).

Where possible, landowners should also notify neighbours and those nearby who may be sensitive to smoke.

Having a burn-off safety checklist is recommended. These include check fire restrictions in your area and register your burn-off, monitor weather conditions, especially wind, notify neighbours to prevent unnecessary emergency call, maintain a three metre firebreak clear of flammable materials, have enough equipment and water to contain the fire, never leave a burn-off unattended and stay until it is fully extinguished.

If your burn-off gets out of control, call 000 immediately. For tips on protecting your health from smoke, visit the EPA Victoria website.

## ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2025



The following services will be held across Murrindindi Shire to commemorate ANZAC Day on Friday 25 April 2025.

### Thursday 24 April

#### Kellock Lodge

Private service for residents at 10.30 am.

### Friday 25 April

#### Alexandra

Dawn service at 6.00 am at Leckie Park Memorial.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the RSL Hall for a march to Leckie Park Memorial, Vickery Street for 11.00 am service.

#### Eildon

Private service at 10.40 am for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home.

Assemble at 10.40 am for 11.00 am service at Cenotaph, Utah Place

#### Flowerdale

Assemble at 10.45 am for 11.00 am service at Flowerdale Community Hall, 3380 Yea-Whittlesea Road, Flowerdale. Refreshments to follow.

#### Glenburn

Assemble at 5.45 am for 6.00 am dawn service at Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall, 3876 Melba Highway Glenburn). Breakfast to follow.

#### Kinglake

Dawn service at 5.30 am, followed by traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter's Community WW1 Memorial Church, Kinglake.

Service at 10.00 am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial, Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake (entry via Extons Road).

#### Marysville

Assemble at 10.15 am at corner Murchison Street and Lyell Street for a march at 10.40 am to the Marysville Cenotaph for 11.00 am service. Refreshments to follow.

#### Strath Creek

Assemble at 8.45 am for 9.00 am service at Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial, Glover Street, Strath Creek.

#### Yarck

Wreath laying service at 11.00 am at the Yarck War Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway, Yarck.

#### Yea

Private service at 9:45 am at Yea Memorial Hospital for Rosebank Nursing Home residents and family.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the Yea Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.





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Endeavour Alexandra  
Hazeldene Store  
Igloo Buxton  
Marysville Grocer  
Merton General Store  
Seymour Newsagency  
Taggerty Store  
Thornton Store  
Yea FoodWorks  
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



## Alexandra Senior and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THIS week's meeting had members smiling when vice president Yvonne had everyone wearing Easter bonnets made by the students of Marysville Primary School. After having photos taken, the bonnets were collected and donated to Kellock Lodge to be enjoyed by the residents.

It was great to see president Marg Hall call in between her ongoing medical treatments. Treasurer Dave had everyone smiling for Comedy Corner and later entertaining the UNO players as he tinkled away on the club piano.

The members recounted good reports of Tuesday trip to Healesville RSL *Morning Melodies*, with great entertainment from Ron Kingston and a nice lunch. A big thank you from *Barry the Bus* for driving the coach hired from the shire council.

Jan, Brenda and June were smiling after Ron conducted the chocolate raffle then John Wainwright told everyone about his move to Australia and his work as an electrical engineer aboard the offshore oil platforms.

After the formalities members retired to the tea room for refreshment and a chat then settled down to games of 500 and UNO. The Monday Beginners Bridge sessions have been temporarily halted due to the tutors being unavailable but Wednesday sees two tables in action this week.

A reminder that there will be no social meetings on either Good Friday or ANZAC Day. The members will be back in action of the first Friday in May. If you feel like joining us you will be most welcome. Hoping everyone has a pleasant Easter break. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

## Easter in 2025: Everything will be all right

by Fr Mario Hendricks

THIS is the third year after we experienced the great upset of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you can remember, the days during COVID-19 were by and large marked by a great void. Void of rituals, void of faces, void of presences, void of contacts. It had widespread and at times violent consequences. The pandemic has taken away our certainties, our habits, our feasts, our meetings.

A fear, mixed with disorientation and bewilderment, has taken hold of us during that time. We feel lost, confused, blind. We could not read what is happening very well, we cannot see or glimpse what it will be, how we will be, how and if we will resume our life.

Now we are again able to celebrate easter with family and friends. It is again a time of togetherness, with the expressed feeling, "Everything will be all right."

For me that is the central message of our Easter celebrations. It carries the vision that "everything will be all right."

Easter reminds us of our interconnectedness and that our lives are intertwined. It enforces and instils a deep sense of belonging, in whatever way you choose to celebrate it. Without that Easter faith and vision, every consolation, every commitment to justice and peace will be a short-lived recipe for the heart of any person who yearns to rise again.

I therefore believe that, in the days and months to come, we will all need a renewed capacity for togetherness and interconnection, we will need a new vision for selfless giving and of uplifting one another.

# The most important festival

by John Jessop, The Anglican Parish of Marysville and Buxton

EASTER is the most important festival in the Christian Church's year in the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. For me, it is the celebration of the enduring love of God. But what does this mean when we look at some of the dreadful things, both natural and man-made, that are happening in the world, particularly Ukraine and the Middle East? We might reasonably ask, "How could a loving God allow such atrocities?" How can God allow such evil? The fact is that true love has to be freely given. Human beings, created in the image of God to be in a relationship of love, are free to reject that love. In rejecting that love they seek their own power which almost invariably leads to inflicting harm on others, this is the nature of evil.

We see this in the treatment of Jesus who was such a threat to the religious hierarchy that they plotted his death. As a consequence, Jesus is betrayed by one of his chosen followers, denied by one of his closest friends, Peter, lied about, suffered gross injustice at the hand of Pilate, torture and finally suffocated and died in agony on a Roman cross. In other words, Jesus endured all the evil that human beings can inflict on other human beings. At any point he could have avoided his ordeal but he chose not to. Why? He did this to show that no amount of evil, not even death, can extinguish or deflect God's love.

This might seem ridiculous, but the truth of it is seen in the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, the crucifixion would be just another Roman statistic. As it is, the Resurrection shows that nothing can extinguish God's love. Aspects of the Resurrection are bound to remain a mystery but one thing is certain: the disciples were convinced that they had seen, conversed with and eaten with the risen Lord. As a consequence, their lives were transformed from fearful, grieving men and women, to bold courageous apostles and leaders of the church who were determined to proclaim the good news of God's love in the risen Christ Jesus. For me, the best example of this is Peter, who had denied his Lord but who, in the Resurrection, became the bold leader of the persecuted church.

The symbols of Easter tend towards new life and it is the constant renewal of life that we celebrate at Easter. Resurrection is not something that simply happened in the past or might happen some time in the future; it is for the here and now. Human beings have the capacity to forgive and be forgiven, they have the capacity to begin again after loss or disaster. The human spirit cannot be crushed by evil. Jesus demonstrated this for all time and for all humanity. This is a great gift but like all gifts, it is only of use if it is accepted. Happy Easter.

## 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,  
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  
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

## The Anglican Parish of Marysville and Buxton

## Holy Week and Easter

### Christ Church, Marysville

**Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday**  
7pm Commemoration of the Last Supper

**Friday, April 18 – Good Friday**  
Noon Good Friday Liturgy

**Sunday, April 20 – Easter Day**  
10.30am Easter Family Eucharist

### St Thomas's, Buxton

**Sunday, April 20 – Easter Day**  
8.30am Easter Holy Communion

All are welcome to these services. For more information,  
please contact The Rev'd John Jessop 5774 7655

## Easter Services Notice

St John's Anglican Church - 39 Downey Street, Alexandra

### April 17 Maundy Thursday

**6pm:** Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist and Passover Meal.  
A combined, ecumenical service with Churches and Congregations in the district

### April 18 Good Friday

**9am:** Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Solemn Liturgy

### April 20 Easter Day

**9am:** Family Eucharist

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# Alexandra Rotary Art Show

THE Rotary Club of Alexandra presents the 55th annual Easter Art Show this Easter weekend at the Alexandra Shire Hall.

The art show began in 1970 with almost 200 art works on display in the shire hall and grew to include nearly 500 over the years in the community hall. Over this time, the show would have hosted over 12,000 pieces of art, sculpture and photography, with hundreds of artists having had their work showcased.

Fifty-five years is a major milestone and the theme of the show this year. Fifty-five years of an art show, at 55 Grant Street. A few people have asked why theres’ a red ute on our website, poster and flyers? It’s a ‘55 FJ Holden and was meant to draw attention, which the organisers believe it has done. The blue Holden Monaro that will be parked out front of the shire hall on opening night is a 1970 model, 55 years old. Our members and volunteers will also be wearing commemorative badges with a prominent 55.

Last year we introduced the bright Trademutt brand art show club shirts which have a mental health awareness message. This year they have brought that full circle with the major beneficiary being the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group (GVSAG). Chaired by Jacky Gilbee, Jacky will help open the show on Friday night and the monies raised and donated will help her to continue her amazing work in the area.

Another change for the year has been the expanding of our ticket to other venues, including Marian Rennie’s sculpture garden at Acheron, Alexandra Community Shed (The Woodies) sale day, the Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club sale and display, and the Alexandra Community Hub’s pre-loved art sale. Your \$5 admission to the art show will get you free admission to these venues, and from their gold coin donation entry, you will receive a discount to attend the art show. The intention is to create an Easter art and interest trail in the area.

A big thank you to all of the contributing artists, many local and some from the far reaches of the state. Some names include Bev Aisbett, Fiona Bilbrough, Vicki Combridge, Julian Bruere, Ron Muller, and many more. Renowned water colour artist Greg Allen is the 2025 judge. We have also had amazing support from our sponsors, helping us to keep promoting local talent. The Cathedral Golf Club, Murrindindi Shire Council, Marie Evans, D&G Cunningham Estate, Simpsons Fuel, Hedger Constructions, Alexandra Community Pharmacy, FoodWorks, Foundation Murrindindi and Darlingford Waters Boat Club to name a few. As well as supporting the GVSAG group, funds raised will go to other local Rotary initiatives, winter firewood program, Lift the Lid Hat Day, Dindi Daze and Cycle Dindi. Alexandra Rotary also supports the Rotary International Shelter Box program where essential shelter and food items are sent to places like Myanmar after their devastating earthquake.

The Rotary Club of Alexandra hopes you can come and enjoy the 2025 art show and are able to find something beautiful to take home.

## Good Friday Appeal to be different this year

THE Good Friday Appeal is fast approaching, but there will be a change in the way that the collection will be run. The CFA and SES will no longer be tin rattling at intersections in the shire due to safety concerns around uncontrolled intersections. There are no traffic lights in the shire, which is the preference as a collecting location, and therefore permits have not been issued. This is likely to impact many regional towns

around the state.

Lochie Lake from the Alexandra Fire Brigade explained that they’ll still be walking around town and driving around the streets in their truck.

The change may result in a drop in the total donations, so it’s vital that people lend their support to the worthy cause. Donations can also be made online at [goodfridayappeal.com.au](http://goodfridayappeal.com.au) if you don’t see the collectors.

## Night Strike in Koriella

THE Koriella Fire Brigade, located at 10 Stoney Creek Road in Fawcett, is to conduct another night training exercise as part of the Koriella Fire Brigades annual series of ‘Night Strike’ training exercises on Friday night the May 9.

The exercise will include most of our local brigades from within the Alexandra Group.

The exercise will be conducted in the Fawcett and Koriella areas from 6pm through to 11pm. It will involve local brigades ‘turning out’ to a mock motor vehicle accident that has occurred on private property in Fawcett which has subsequently started a grass and scrub fire threatening a homestead. There will be no live or active grass fires however a CFA car prop will be in position and utilised.

We conduct this training to expose our crew members to situations that they will often come across when ‘turning out’ to real incidents. The better trained they are the better the response is, this is to ensure that we remain a trusted and reliable capability for our communities and to build stronger ties and better cohesion within local emergency services.

Lastly, being a night exercise, it would be appreciated that if you need to travel along Spring or Stoney Creek Roads in Koriella or Fawcett that night, please exercise caution

when doing so, so that volunteers are not put in harm’s way with the additional risk of speeding traffic. Please observe the required 40kph speed limit when approaching flashing red and blue lights.

All queries can be directed to the Koriella Fire Brigade Captain, Scott Reeves via email [scott.koriellafb@gmail.com](mailto:scott.koriellafb@gmail.com) or by calling 0417 584 910.

## Engagement completed and report with government

THE Eminent Panel for Community Engagement’s has completed its report, which is now being considered by the government. No decisions on the future use of state forests in the Central Highlands have been made while the government considers the report.

The panel spoke to over 1000 people at 60 engagement sessions and received over 14,000 responses through Engage Victoria to its consultation on the future of state forests in Victoria’s Central Highlands, although not all were happy with the quality of the engagement and nor the questions asked.

## Candidates finalised

THE Federal election is set to occur on May 3, and while the candidates aren’t finalised until after we go to print, the current candidates have declared their intention to stand.

The candidates for the House of Representative are Mitch Bridges (Labor), James Trenery (Coalition), Alysia Regan (Greens), Helen Haines (Independent), Mark McFarlane (Independent), Athol Thomas (One Nation), Michael White (Family First), Ben Howman (Legalise Cannabis Party) and Tim Quilty (Libertarian Party).

A series of questions have been sent to the candidates and their responses will be included in coming editions.



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A photograph of a young woman with blonde hair singing into a microphone on stage. She is wearing a white crop top and blue jeans. Large balloons are visible in the background.

My artwork will be available to purchase from the exhibition.

 [donovanwilson@redbubble.com](mailto:donovanwilson@redbubble.com)



# Lest we forget



Frank Gardiner. -S



Water was lapping at the foot of the North Eastern Laundry building, where the Alexandra Standard offices are now located. Pictured are Mrs H Johnson, Miss M Rosica and Mrs Doug Joyce with baby, Julie, during the 1973 flood in Alexandra. -S



The grave of Frank Gardiner -S

FORMER local Doug Joyce lived in Alexandra for 14 years, starting in his job at the dry cleaners on December 13, 1965.

His late wife, Fairlie, featured in the well known image of the dry cleaners in flood in 1973. She was holding his eldest daughter, Julie. Their other two daughters, Nicole and Vicki, arrived later.

Doug kindly provided us with an image of Fairlie's uncle, Frank Singleton Gardiner,

who was aged 15 when he joined up to fight in World War I. He was wounded in action in France in October 1917 and had his left leg was amputated to the thigh. The following day, he was shipped to Liverpool and later to Brighton, UK. He was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on July 30, 1920.

Another uncle, Robert Henry Gardiner, was killed by a German sniper on October 5, 1918. On the same day, the Australian Corps was

withdrawn from the Western Front, handing over its line to US troops, and the 5th Division was withdrawn to Oisemont for rest. He is buried in France.

Frank and Robert were among the children of Singleton Gardiner. Singleton's brother, also called Frank, died in Cairo during the war, on December 30, 1915. He was aged 45.

Lest we forget.

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including CWA morning tea and cake stall  
**EASTER SATURDAY**  
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Register at  
[www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)



**FOREST FIRE  
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA**





# We're voting for: Helen Haines

INDEPENDENT FOR INDI



**We're from Murrindindi and we're voting 1 for Helen Haines.**

**Helen is our Independent Federal Member for Indi. She works for us and with us. While the major parties play politics, she's always fighting for Indi. We can rely on her to put Indi first, 100% of the time. We know being Independent works for Indi. We trust her and that's why we've put our names in this advertisement, paid for by community donations.**

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Graeme Foster  
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Michelle French

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Rita Seethaler  
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Michelle Bolmat  
Fiona Henson  
Marg Lauricella  
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Gail Dollimore  
Paul Barnard  
Rebecca Bessant  
Andrew Bottomley  
Diana Cherry  
Neil Cornell

Cat Harper  
Teresa Iacono  
Heather Joblin  
Neri Kijlstra  
Neill McLennan  
Jodie Morrison  
Vitto Oles  
Daryl Porter  
Di Robb  
Grant Stinear

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Authorised by Elise Anderson  
97 Grant St, Alexandra 3714





# Driving tired? You won't see the crash coming.

Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

**Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.**

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# The new bins: your questions answered

NEW bins are being delivered around the shire as part of the new four bin system. Members of the public sought answers to a variety of questions. These were posed to council.

**QUESTION:** *Can bins be swapped, either formally or informally? (ie. a gardening business needs more room for garden waste but has no bottle waste. Can they swap their bottle bin to a pub for example and get their garden waste bin in return?)*

**ANSWER:** No. Bins are registered to specific property addresses and must stay at that property. Each bin has a serial number and is linked to the property for collection and billing purposes. If you need extra bins to suit your needs, you can request them through council. Additional charges apply, unless exempt due to medical or other legitimate reason.

**QUESTION:** *Will there be four separate bin truck types to collect the waste from each bin or are the trucks multipurpose? There have been a variety of comments from people saying that both waste and recycling go into the one truck and are suspicious recycling and general waste are re-mixed.*

**ANSWER:** There will be six new collection trucks for the four-bin service. While the trucks may look the same, each one will only collect one type of bin per run, just like the current system. Currently in Murrindindi Shire, recycling and general rubbish are not mixed. Each material is collected and processed separately. The new collection service will also keep each stream separate as this is the cheapest approach.

**QUESTION:** *Are larger shared bins available for people in units where there isn't space for each unit to have separate bins?*

**ANSWER:** Yes. Council's Kerbside Collection Policy allows shared or larger bins for multi-unit dwellings, where space is limited. All bins can be upsized to 240L and they can be shared

between units, if everyone agrees. Council will assess each request case by case.

**QUESTION:** *Will bin bags be supplied for the organic waste caddies? If not, is there a particular type of bag that should be used?*

**ANSWER:** Council will not be supplying caddy liners, and they are not mandatory. If you choose to use caddy liners, they must be compostable and certified to AS4736 standards. These are accepted by our organics processing facility. You can use the council provided smooth, easy-to-clean caddy without a liner. Alternatively, you can place a paper towel or some garden waste in the bottom to keep it dry. Council will work with local retailers to ensure certified compostable liners are available locally.

**QUESTION:** *How much will rates increase due to the four bin system?*

**ANSWER:** Council is proposing no additional cost to ratepayers who currently have a two-bin service, for the new four-bin service. The current annual waste charge is \$428.35 for general rubbish bin (red lid) and \$130.95 for the recycling bin (yellow lid), a total of \$559.30. The proposed annual charge for the



four-bin system is \$560. This is mandatory for properties in township areas. The proposed annual charge for the three-bin service (no food and garden organics) is \$410. This applies to rural and commercial properties. Properties which previously did not have a kerbside service and are now included in the mandatory service zone, will be required to pay for the kerbside service from July 1.

The new expanded service will not cost more because of savings made by: Collecting landfill bins fortnightly instead of weekly; diverting up to 60 per cent of waste from landfill to recycling through the new green bin (food and garden organics); diverting glass (purple bin) from the more expensive recycling (yellow bin); and reducing landfill disposal costs, which are the most expensive part of the service.

Recycling helps lower costs and supports the creation of new products from recovered materials. Keeping glass out of the recycling bin (yellow lid) helps reduce costs because broken glass contaminates other recyclables and sends more to landfill.

Keeping recyclable items out of landfill is key to keeping costs down and making the system more efficient for everyone.

**QUESTION:** *Will a simple calendar/ collection schedule be made available for easy reference?*

From June 30 the Murrindindi Shire Council Recycling and Bin Information App will be available to download from council's website. People will be able to view, download and print your calendar, set yourself bin reminders and have access to the full A-Z guide on how to correctly dispose of your items.

**QUESTION:** *What if house households or businesses don't need a particular bin type? Can they return it?*

**ANSWER:** No, bins cannot be returned. Under Victorian legislation, the kerbside collection service is compulsory, and a standard set of bins is assigned based on the property's location. Urban households must have all four bins: red (rubbish), yellow (recycling), green (FOGO), and purple (glass). Rural households must have three bins: red, yellow, and purple. The green FOGO bin is optional. This is a requirement under state law, not a council decision. Charges apply to the property regardless of whether the bins are used. Commercial properties can opt out of the kerbside service entirely or customise their service.

**QUESTION:** *What goes into the general rubbish bin?*

You can use your red bin for items that can't be recycled or composted, including soft plastics and hard plastics that aren't recyclable, nappies and baby wipes, broken crockery, general household rubbish and kitty litter. A full list is available on council's website.

Please don't place the following items in your red-lid bin: Food scraps, lawn clippings or garden waste, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, batteries or e-waste (like old phones or cables), liquid waste or chemicals, or hot ash or coals. These items must go in the appropriate recycling or organics bins or taken to a Resource Recovery Centre.



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We aim to develop the whole child spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

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During your tour you will meet with our staff, see our classes, playground, learn about our curriculum and have the opportunity to ask questions.

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**Enrolments close June 2025.**

Please call or email to register your interest and to make an appointment for an enrolment tour.

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**Web [smalexandra.catholic.edu.au](http://smalexandra.catholic.edu.au)**




**St Mary's Catholic Primary School welcomes enrolments for Foundation 2026 during Term 2 2025.**



**OUR VISION STATEMENT**  
At St Mary's school we encourage an inclusive, learning community that values safety, love and faith.





# Alexandra detectives appeal for public help

*Continued from Page 1*

Investigators at the time scoured the scene but there was no trace of evidence to give detectives any insight into how the man's body came to wind up in the river; no signs of a fall, no personal property left behind or hints of a potential fishing mishap.

In the following days articles ran in each of the daily metropolitan papers and the story was substantially covered by the local press but no one came forward to identify the deceased.

Investigators turned to interstate law enforcement agencies, exploring the possibility that the man may have been a holiday visitor, but these efforts yielded no further clues as to who this man could have been.

Dental analysis determined the man had undergone extensive molar repairs, so the results were shared throughout the Australian dental profession but again the efforts were unsuccessful.

The unidentified remains were checked in line with many missing persons cases at the time, including the well-documented disappearance of unionist Alfred 'The Ferret' Nelson whose car was recovered from the Yarra River in 1971, but whose body has never been found.

Due to particular documented body features of both men, the possibility of the Steavenson River body being that of the 'The Ferret' has been ruled out.

An autopsy revealed the man had heart disease and cirrhosis of the liver.

Such was the decomposition of the body that it was impossible to ascertain whether the man had sustained any physical injuries in the lead up to his death.

A coronial inquest was held on August 16, 1972, where the cause of death was determined to be consistent with drowning and the man was buried in a metropolitan grave where he remains unidentified.

Fast forward to 2025 and Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit detectives insist this case can still be solved.

There were several interesting items found on the man that police believe may hold the key to his identity.

In addition to the belt around his waist, the man was wearing a large, thick belt around his stomach which appeared to have been used to support his stomach muscles.

Along with a gold Unicorn watch, the man wore, on his left ring finger, a black signet ring which was inscribed "21.4.71 P.U.C.K".

Detectives are investigating the possibility that this inscription could have actually been the Cyrillic 'П.И.С.К' meaning 'risk' in English.

In support of this theory the man was described at the time of the discovery as "continental migrant" and a Ukrainian youth camp was, and remains, four kilometres upstream from where the man's body was found.



*Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit Detective Sergeant Flynn Loughlin (second from right) speaking to the assembled media next to the Steavenson River. -AR*

Enquiries have been made with the Ukrainian Embassy and the camp but have yet to yield any additional information as to the man's identity.

Investigators have released an image from the case file, believed to depict what the ring found on the man resembled.

Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit Detective Sergeant Flynn Loughlin said despite the decades that have passed this man can be identified.

"We are confident that there is someone out there who knows something that can help determine who this man was," he said.

"This may have occurred back in 1971 but this man was someone's son, he had a family, and there were those who loved him.

"Even the slightest bit of information could be the missing link we need to finally be able to provide some closure in this matter."

Anyone with information that could assist police is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

## Final Eildon Easter Twilight Market of the Season Incorporating the inaugural Eildon Boat Show & Shine

MARK your calendars for the grand finale of the season, the Eildon Easter Twilight Market will incorporate the inaugural Boat Show and Shine on Saturday, April 19 from 4-8pm. This is the biggest market yet, held at the Lion's Leisure Park, Riverside Drive, right on the stunning banks of the Eildon Pondage.

Registration is essential for the boat show and shine, participation is free. All enquiries contact Tim at [info@infernomarine.com.au](mailto:info@infernomarine.com.au), there will be cash prizes and giveaways.

As with all the Eildon Twilight Markets, there will be a fantastic variety of live music. Easter Saturday is no exception. The evening kicks off with performances by Paul Ray Music and the exceptionally talented youth, Maya O'Loughlin and Tilly Rose. Next *The Herbets*, a 60s concept band known for their lively dance hits of the decade will be presented. They don the era's uniform and not only sound great but look fantastic too. Their music appeals to all, with hit songs from the 60s, as well as re-covered classics from the 80s, 90s, and 2000s. Get ready for a night full of fun and dancing.

There will be free face painting, an Easter Bonnet Parade, bring your bonnet or hat along and create a masterpiece on the day. It's open to all ages and genders, even your furry friends. There are great Easter hampers up for grabs, thanks to the support of Eildon Go Grocer. And, of course, Captain Koala will be there, handing out free Easter eggs.

Enjoy a delightful variety of food and beverage vendors, as well as numerous artisan and craft stalls to explore. Community groups are supported on the day too with the RSL and their sausage sizzle, Eildon Lion's with their 50th Anniversary Raffle, and the CFA are also conducting a wood raffle to raise much needed funds.

This is the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and family, enjoy great music, and have fun, all for a gold coin entry. Remember, it is a pet friendly event, dogs must be on a lead and under control at all times.

All funds raised go back into community projects, such as the community stage, permanent cantilever waterproof sun shelter,

and upgraded lighting. It's amazing what can be achieved when community groups and

organisations work together. Thank you for all your support.

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**EASTER GALA**  
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Open Saturday and Sunday  
April 19 and 20  
10am to 3.30pm  
7 Station Street, Alexandra

All information can be found at:  
[alexandratramway.org.au](http://alexandratramway.org.au)  
/alexandramuseum  
or by contacting 0427 509 988

**MARYSVILLE MARKET**

Second Sunday of each month

**Sunday, April 20**  
9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls along with home made cakes, local honey, plants, jewellery and handcrafts. Community sausage sizzle and live music.

To book please call 0494 329 695 or email [marysvillemarketinc@gmail.com](mailto:marysvillemarketinc@gmail.com)

**EILDON EASTER TWILIGHT MARKET**  
SHOWCASING THE INAUGURAL BOAT SHOW & SHINE & EILDON PONDAGE

Live Music  
Food, Drinks & Stalls  
FREE Face Painting  
Easter Bonnet Parade  
Pet Friendly  
Entry - Gold Coin

**EASTER SATURDAY**  
19/4/25  
4pm-8pm

FREE FACE PAINTING & EASTER BONNET PARADE THANKS TO EILDON GO GROCER  
YOUTH LIVE MUSIC THANKS TO MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

**EASTER BOOK SALE**  
**EILDON**

Fiction & Non-fiction  
Children's, Adult's, large print etc

Money that is raised will go towards starting a Eildon Community Gym  
Supported by Eildon Opp Shop, Goulburn River Books and Eildon Action Inc.

**At the Eildon Community Centre**

**Saturday 19th 9-6pm**  
**Sunday 20th of April 9am-3pm**

Book donations accepted!  
Contact for more information:  
0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142

**FREE ENTRY**



# Planned burns lead to smoke in towns

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 Country Fire Authority (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.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan is urging Victorians to understand permit requirements before conducting private burn-offs while the Fire Danger Period (FDP) remains in place across most of Victoria.

“We are now starting to issue schedule 13 permits to farmers to burn crop stubble to kill off weeds and reduce pests, however we remind Victorians, that no burning off is to occur unless people have received permission,” Mr Heffernan said.

“It is vital that landowners check local conditions are safe and appropriate before burning off, both on the day and the days following.

“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 off activity should have enough water and resources on hand to monitor and extinguish and Triple Zero Victoria must be notified as awareness for emergency services and community members.”

Victoria’s Chief Environmental Scientist Professor Mark Patrick Taylor 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 through EPA’s AirWatch,” Professor Taylor 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/](https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/)

To find out what can and can’t be done during fire danger period, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/warningsrestrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/warningsrestrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i)

Check fire restrictions and register private burns at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](https://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/forcommunity/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health](https://epa.vic.gov.au/forcommunity/environmental-information/air-quality/smoke/smoke-your-health) or [epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch](https://epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch)

## Be mindful when burning off

NOW that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) is over, burn piles may be part of your weekend chores as you tidy up your yard.

Burning off laws are in place to make it easier for residents to maintain their properties all year round.

Before you light those fire piles remember to be a considerate neighbour and let them know prior to when you plan to light up. Understandably smoke may cause a trauma response in the general community so having open communication helps ease the minds of anyone affected by this. By letting your neighbors know and giving them time to prepare to make arrangements is also important if there are people living in the area with health problems such as asthma that can be triggered by smoke.

According to local laws, persons must not burn any noxious or toxic substance, which can be classified as toxic (containing or being poisonous material) and noxious (a substance that is physically harmful or potentially fatal to living beings).

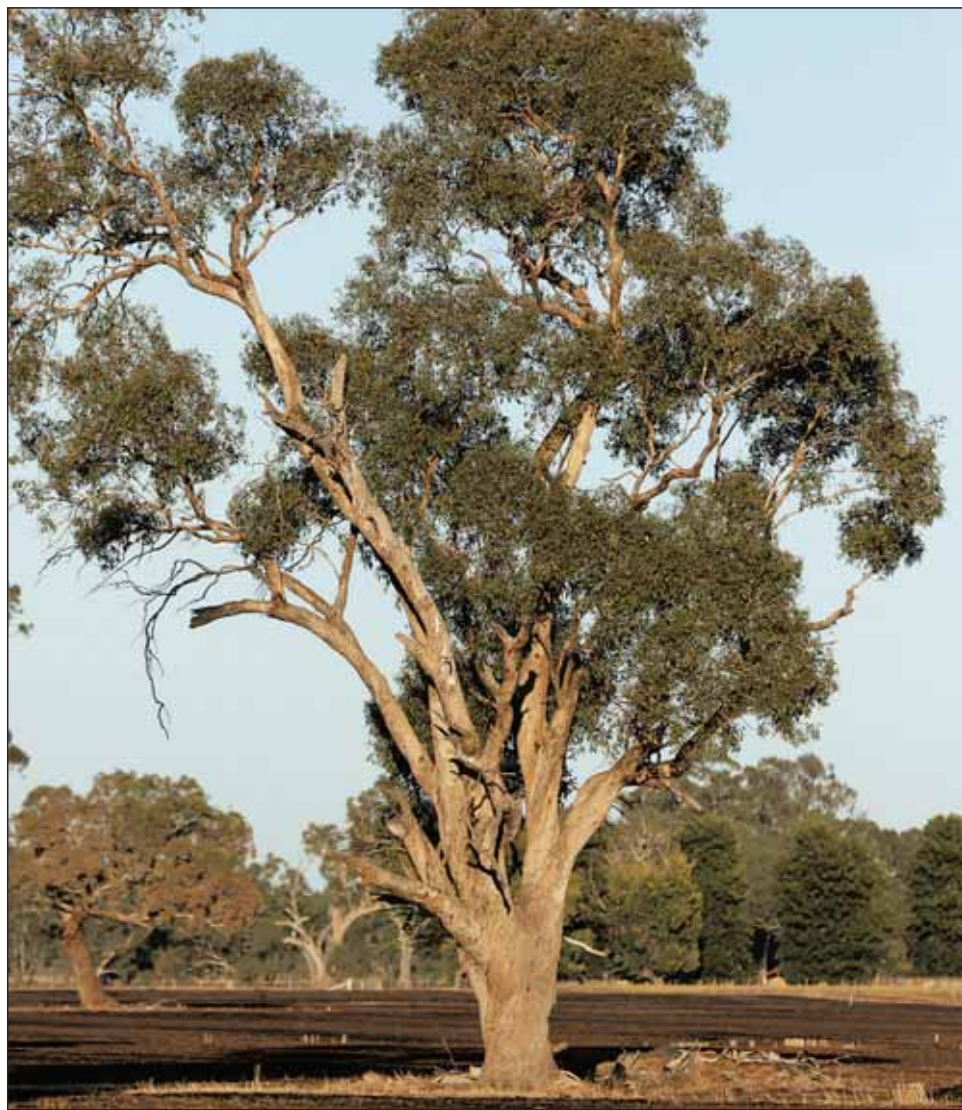
Burning anything other than approved materials, decreases air quality as it releases harmful pollutants and toxic fumes.

For your safety and others, you must meet the following conditions when conducting a burn off. You must always have the means to prevent your fire escaping and the ample water to extinguish the fire available. Your burn area must be clear of flammable material with a three metre radius around the fire. If an authorised officer directs you to extinguish your burn off you must obey these directions. Upon completion of burning off you must ensure its extinguished properly and ashes are spread around to ensure this. The burn pile must not include damp or green materials, and the fire must be supervised at all times by an adult.

Murrindindi Shire Council states on their website if your land is less than one hectare, the burn pile must not exceed one metre by one metre in size.

If your land is more than one hectare the burn pile must be no more than 20 cubic metres, the fire must not be lit if wind speed exceeds 15 kilometres per hour, and the burn pile must not be located closer than five metres to the property boundary or five metres to any building. Any fire that does not meet these conditions will require a permit from council.

Private burn offs need to be registered online at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](https://firepermits.vic.gov.au) all through the year, this can then be crosschecked if a member of the public reports smoke activity to emergency services. You can call the burn off registration line on 1800 668 511 however this can involve long wait times as call takers also take vital emergency calls.



Protect your paddock trees while cleaning up your property. -S

## Reminder to protect valuable paddock trees when burning stubble

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is asking all landowners to take the necessary steps to protect paddock trees when burning stubble on their properties.

Landowners have several options when it comes to managing crop stubble. If landowners are managing particular issues in a paddock, burning may be the chosen option as fire restrictions have lifted in Murrindindi Shire.

“It is important to protect native paddock trees. They provide shade to stock, reduce wind impacts to crops, store carbon and provide habitat to important pollinators and birds that feed on pests,” Hume Natural Environment Program Officer, Daniel Pendavingh said.

Native trees are protected by law and there are ways to avoid damaging them. This includes, establishing an adequate fire break around native trees and ensuring there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively with

adequate water and fire extinguishing equipment accessible.

“We encourage landholders to be well prepared before beginning a stubble burn. Creating firebreaks around trees and having enough people, water and equipment ready to extinguish the fire will ensure you can protect your valued native trees.”

If fire restrictions are in place a permit is required to burn grass, stubble and other vegetation on your property until the Fire Danger Period ends.

Find out more at [cfa.vic.gov.au/warningsrestrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/warningsrestrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i)

Find out more about native vegetation and farming at [environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/farming-and-native-vegetation](https://environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/farming-and-native-vegetation)

Anyone wanting to report the destruction of paddock trees during stubble burning should contact their local council.

## Be cautious about low water levels

PEOPLE planning to visit northern Victoria’s lakes, dams and reservoirs during the school holidays are being urged to be cautious of changed conditions.

Dry weather combined with high irrigation demand means that levels at many of Goulburn-Murray Water’s (GMW) water storages have dropped significantly in recent months.

Levels at Lake Eildon and Lake Eppalock have both fallen more than 15 per cent in the past four months alone.

GMW Water Storage Services general manager Leonie Bourke said this meant there were new hazards for boaters to be aware of.

“People heading out on the water may find conditions are quite different to the last time they visited, even if that was as recent as the summer,” she said.

“With water levels dropping, there will be various hazards such as trees and sandbars that are now closer to the surface. These hazards will not always be immediately visible to boaters and water skiers, making it particularly important people navigate with caution.”

During the 2024 autumn school holidays, approximately 177,000 people visited GMW’s storages.

While visitation is therefore likely to remain high, there may have less people around than during the peak summer period.

Ms Bourke said this was another change that should factor into people’s plans.

“When there are fewer people on the water it is less likely someone will be nearby if an incident occurs,” she said.

“Before heading off, people should tell someone specifically where they are headed and when they plan to return.

“Having the right equipment is also important. Life jackets are essential, and personal location beacons can also be very useful when something goes wrong.”

People can find more information on boating safety by heading to GMW’s Recreation webpage.



# Four bins from July 2025.



Your bin system is changing for the better. New bins are being delivered across the Shire for use from July. Learn more about how these changes affect your household.

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# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## What would an exotic disease outbreak look like on your property?

by Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer, Northern Region

IT is difficult to imagine a more stressful scenario for a producer, an exotic disease has been diagnosed on their property. What happens next?

Naturally there are numerous possible scenarios and the approach taken would vary according to the specific disease. A series of documents known as AUSVETPLAN are in place to guide the process to help ensure a consistent, successful outcome.

In general, the producer's property would be quarantined to limit the chance of the disease spreading to other properties.

Further samples may be collected to confirm the diagnosis and to help ascertain the extent of its spread on the property. These would be tested at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) at Geelong.

Epidemiological information, such as recent movements on and off the property, would be collected to help guide tracing and surveillance activities on other properties.

An Incident Control Centre would be established at a suitable location in a nearby town, whose activities would be directed by a State Control Centre.

Infected premises operations would be put into place to eradicate the disease on the property and

to ensure contaminated material doesn't leave the property.

This would vary according to the nature of the disease. If destruction of livestock or property is necessary compensation would be paid.

Local movement controls may be set up through the declaration of restricted areas and control areas.

Eventually, when eradication of the disease had been achieved, proof of freedom testing would be necessary to prove to our trading partners that the disease had been successfully eradicated.

It sounds like a lot, but all of this would be necessary in order to preserve Australia's multi-billion-dollar livestock industries and to prevent the establishment of a new exotic disease.

Naturally, none of this will be necessary if we don't allow these diseases to enter Australia and to come into contact with our livestock.

We urge you to report any unusual signs or suspected cases of emergency animal disease immediately to the all-hours Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. Early reporting increases the chance of effective control and eradication.

For further information contact your local Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officer.

## ACCC report confirms fresh produce sector concerns

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomed the recent release of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) *Supermarkets Inquiry Final Report*, which confirms that market imbalances could have long-term consequences for Australia's fresh produce sector.

NFF President David Jochinke said the report's independence and thorough evidence gathering reinforce concerns raised by producers.

"The fact that the majority of the report's 20 recommendations focus on fresh produce supply chains demonstrates that our concerns were valid," Mr Jochinke said.

"For two years, debates have raged about supermarket market power, but this independent report provides clear confirmation. Fresh produce suppliers are facing serious, real challenges.

"While not all agricultural commodities are affected, fresh produce suppliers have been particularly vulnerable to market imbalances, information asymmetries, unclear supply

and demand forecasts, and buyer incentives that undermine competition.

"The ACCC's conclusion that major supermarkets' use of market power could have lasting consequences for efficiency and sustainability underscores the urgency of action."

The NFF and its members, including the NFF Horticulture Council, played a key role in establishing this inquiry and providing evidence.

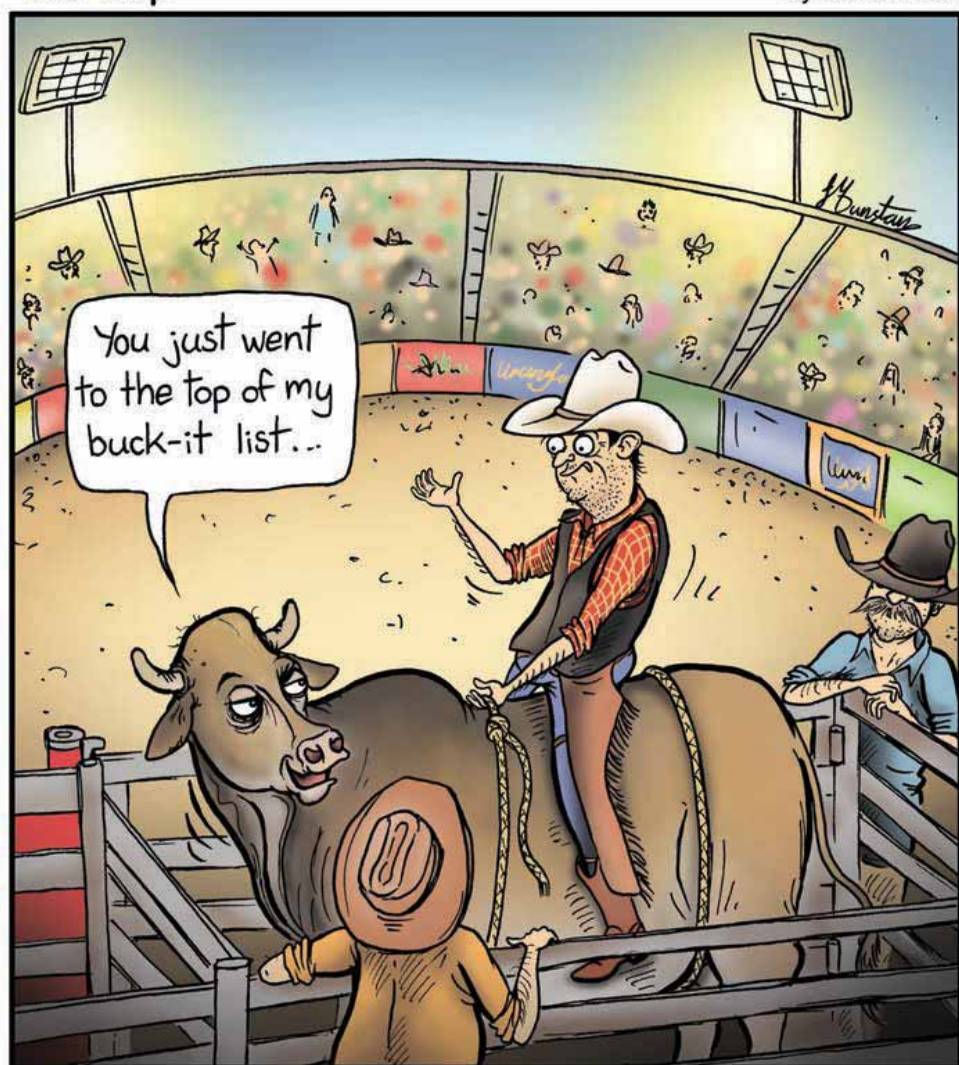
"It's now critical that these recommendations don't gather dust. We welcome the government's in-principle support for all recommendations and call for bipartisan commitment to their implementation," Mr Jochinke said.

"Whoever forms the next government must work closely with fresh produce suppliers to ensure these recommendations deliver meaningful change.

"We also acknowledge the government's \$2.9 million commitment to producer education on rights and protections, an important industry priority."

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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*The geocaching group. -S*



*Catherine discovers a cache. -S*

## Harry leads the geocaching treasure hunt

GEOCACHING was included in the program for U3A members last week. It was the first time it's been offered, and for most of the participants it was something new.

Geocaching is a kind of real-world treasure hunt using a GPS-enabled device such as a smart phone or tablet. To assist with the learning, U3A was very fortunate to have as tutor the very capable Louise Flowers and her talented grandson, Harry Bond. This family have been able to team up for fun at family events and they were more than happy to share their knowledge.

Harry, as 14 year old 'Geo-Master', ran a short PowerPoint presentation to explain how the morning of geocaching would work. This outdoor recreational hobby is enjoyed worldwide and like most activities, there are rules. Harry was a gifted and confident presenter and most of these rules he explained from the comfort of Louise's couch. He then went on to patiently assist the participants to load the geocaching App onto each and everyone's mobile phone. After this it was off to Leckie Park.

Some of the participants were quick to catch on, the first cache was found in under 10 minutes. Others were having difficulty in using the GPS enabled app. This seemed to be of no concern to Harry who problem-solved each query, one at a time.

They learned that geocachers use the term 'muggles' to describe people in the community with no knowledge of geocaching. When searching for a cache, they have to avoid having others stumble across it by accident. They also were shown a cache which was uniquely designed and hidden into a handrail. This was a higher level 'hunt', one that needed more than just novice skills. It was an activity for later, with more time to spare and more experience.

At times they stopped, to enjoy the weather and also to have further questions answered as they came up. After a cache was discovered, they had to pass it to the group so that everyone could check it off. They then had to refer back to the app to record the findings and acknowledge that the cache had been found. The game was a mixture of understanding technology in order to find the hidden 'treasure'.

By the end of the session the group had walked the circuit of the park and up to the Tramway Museum and return. They discovered that geocaching is an active and enjoyable way to spark exercise and conversation. Everyone was dazzled with Harry's charm and declared the young man an honorary U3A member.



*Louise Flowers and her grandson Harry Bond. -S*



*Louise assists Catherine and Judy with the search. -S*



*Catherine, Judy and Andy with Harry. -S*

# Promises, promises

THE Federal Election is set for Saturday, May 3. In the lead-up, there will be plenty of press releases flying around. We will be using this section in coming weeks to provide summaries of these announcements.

### *Democrats*

#### *Carly Noble – Senate candidate*

"Incentivising battery storage across households and businesses nationwide can alleviate grid stress caused by intermittent solar power. Establishing federal programs for distributed and storage in schools, government housing, alongside re-nationalising poles and wires through transparent processes, are crucial stages. Additionally, prioritising transmission upgrades, avoiding excessive grid investments, adequately compensating landowners who host transmission lines, and ensuring reliable dispatchable generation sources as coal plants phase out are vital strategies."

### *Family First*

#### *Bernie Flynn – Senate candidate*

"Family First has renewed its calls for a ban on puberty blockers, hormone treatment and surgical mutilation of gender-confused children in the wake of [the recent] decision by Justice Andrew Strum of the Family Court. In a bombshell ruling that rejects the gender fluid ideology of LGBTIQ+ political activist-informed medical interventions on children, Justice Strum ruled that a 12-year-old boy was not a girl and that he must not be allowed to go to the local gender clinic, despite his mother's wishes for him to be injected with puberty blockers... Mr Finn said if Family First Senators held the balance of power after the May 3 election they would immediately introduce legislation to de-fund Australia's child gender clinics, establish a Royal Commission into child gender medicine and create a compensation fund for victims like Mel Jefferies who now bitterly reject their gender transitions."

### *Independent*

#### *Helen Haines – House of Representatives candidate*

Childcare: "Helen Haines MP is hoping to create hundreds of new childcare places and increase capacity in Indi by up to 10 percent... Dr Haines' Early Education Plan proposes the capital grants stream be increased from \$500 million to \$1 billion, bringing the total value of the Building Early Education Fund to \$1.5 billion."

Power bills: "Dr Haines has launched her policy for an 'Electrify Everything Loan Scheme' that would help homeowners lower the cost of running their home through home batteries, energy-efficient appliances and solar storage solutions. She has also committed to help small business reduce their energy and tax bills through a proposed \$30,000 energy incentive for small business and primary producers. The loan scheme for households reduces the upfront financial

burden on consumers through interest-free loans for home electrification upgrades she says will drive down power bills."

Supermarkets: "Dr Haines said a Supermarket Ombudsman is necessary to regulate the operation of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct, with powers to create binding determinations, issue infringement notices and refer investigations to the ACCC for court action."

Microgrids: "Dr Haines said she would push for a tripling of the funding for microgrids in regional communities to \$150 million."

Potholes: "Helen Haines will fight for funding to help councils fix potholes and repair damaged roads. Dr Haines' plan to reboot the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program would provide \$500 million a year in untied grants to local councils."



# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
**Page 18**

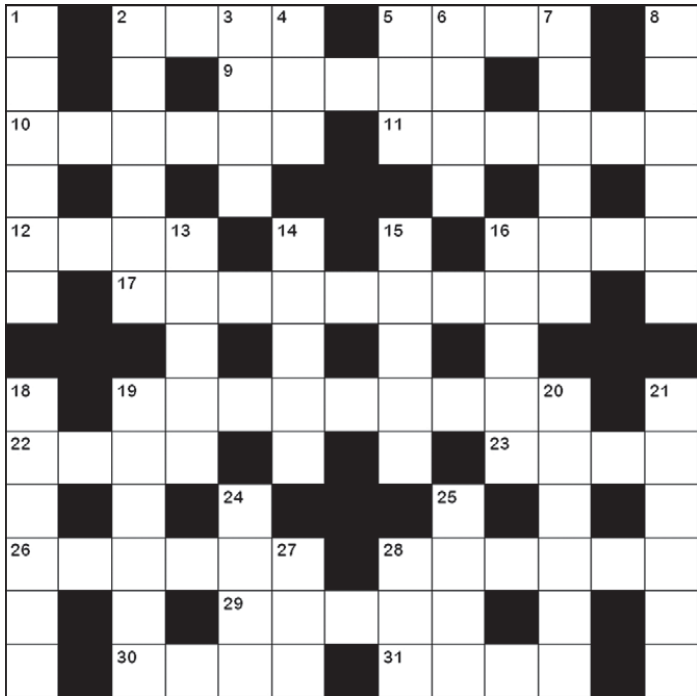
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- A festive occasion.
- Experienced an emotion.
- Unpredictable behaviour.
- Apply oil.
- Dealer in foodstuffs
- Answer back.
- Festive celebration.
- Misappropriated funds.
- A wanderer.
- Weathercock.
- Very large book.
- Native of Crete.
- Wispy white cloud.
- Woman whose husband has died.
- Dye with a colour.
- Not domesticated.

### DOWN

- Precious few.
- Game bird.
- A narrow path.
- Picnic spoiler!
- Fleshy pear-shaped fruit.
- Very light brown.
- Changed direction.
- Knitted pullover.
- Strike with a heavy blow.
- Reddish brown dye.



- A clear blue sky.
- Feigned attack.
- Forces out.
- Take orally.
- Burning hot.

- Toxic infection.
- Be wide open.
- Brown egg-shaped fruit.
- Egg of a parasitic insect.
- Female of domestic cattle.

## Word Search

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

## Sudoku

	3		1				4
	4		2			7	
7						3	2
			3	5		4	
	7						5
		4		9	7		
3		1					6
		5			6		7
	6				5		9

### Easter

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| CELEBRATION | FAMILY       |
| CHOCOLATE   | FEAST        |
| CHRISTIAN   | GOODFRIDAY   |
| COMMUNITY   | HOLIDAY      |
| EASTERBUNNY | HOTCROSSBUNS |
| EASTEREgg   | TRADITION    |

### Difficulty: Hard

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

	×		-	8	34
-		×		-	
	×	4	-		33
-		÷		+	
	-		+		4
-8		14		6	

### 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.

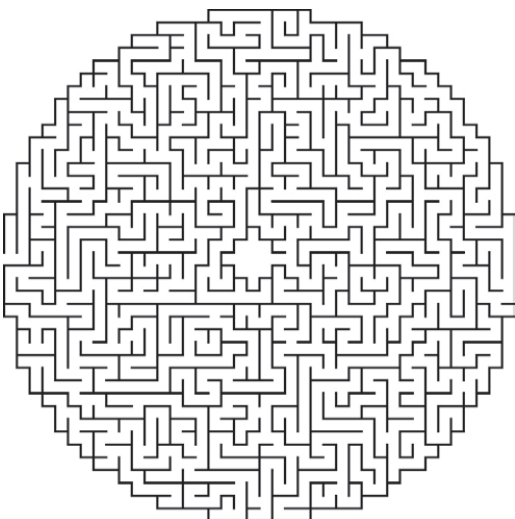
# St Mary's celebrate Harmony Day

St Mary's Primary School celebrated Harmony Day on Thursday, April 3 with students and staff wearing orange.

Harmony Day is a celebration of the country's cultural diversity and a time for our school community to come together and promote the elimination of racial discrimination, inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all.



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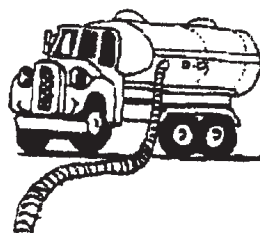
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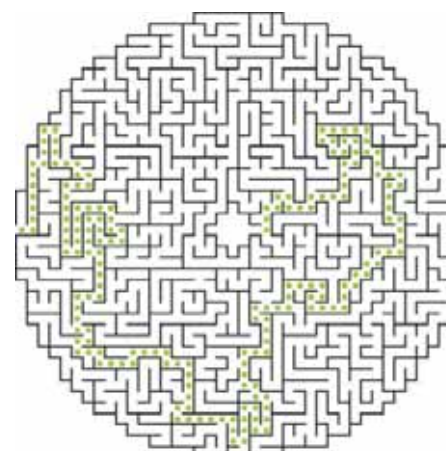
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**MATH SQUARES**

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Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

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It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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#### MEETINGS

**EILDON BOWLING CLUB** Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

#### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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#### MEETINGS

**Notice given of a Public Meeting** to be held at Yea Racecourse and Recreation Reserve on Monday, May 5 commencing at 7pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three or more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on June 30, 2025. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries, please contact the secretary, John Quinlan on 0428 576 543.

#### GARAGE SALE

#### GARAGE CLEAR OUT PROPERTY CLEAR OUT

**13 Francis Street, Yea**

**Easter Saturday, April 19, 2025**  
From 9am - 3pm. Cash only.

John Guttridge MBLF (Molesworth Bazaar Life Member) estate. Old school mechanics workshop where workplace OHS never existed.

Pay what you think or donate to relocation fund or just take it.

Artist scrap (metal and mechanical bits and pieces), old Holden parts, bench grinders, chain lengths (some with couplings), heavy duty cable lengths with swage ends, motors, electrical motors (mostly three phase), some tools, spanners, sockets etc. 10,153 assorted nuts and bolts. Pulleys and pulley blocks.

#### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### EASTER OFFICE CLOSURE

**Our office will be closed from Friday, April 18 and will reopen on Tuesday, April 22.**

**Early classified deadlines for April 23 edition will apply**

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

**This includes death and funeral notices, public notices, meetings, for sale, situation vacant, etc.**



#### FUNERAL NOTICES

**LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace**

A service honouring Bruce's life will be held at Alexandra Football Netball club rooms on Thursday, April 17, 2025 commencing at 11am followed by a private cremation.



#### FOR SALE

**MODERN barbecue;** \$250. A set of Brosnin men's golf clubs and buggies; \$500. Large fan; \$50. Queen size mattress topper; \$100. Small generator; \$150. TV; \$100. Aluminum 6ft step ladder; \$100. Approximate 14ft extension ladder; \$200. Electric leaf blower; \$50. Outside umbrella; \$50. Phone 0499 551 180.

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#### GARAGE SALES

**ALEXANDRA, 141 Grant Street.**

Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 9am - 4pm.

**ALEXANDRA, 25 Downey Street.**

Four days of Easter. 9am - 5pm. Heaps of old building tools and materials. Camping and household goods. Open to make offers.

**ALEXANDRA, 7 Aitken Street.**

April 19 and 20. 8am-3pm. Garagenala, old milkcans, vintage cast iron pots and scales, collectable bottles, windmill, wooden bench, rustic farm wheels, vintage silverware, collectable items and heaps more.

**EILDON, 727 Back Eildon Road.** Easter Saturday and Sunday. 9am - 6pm. Horse gear, vintage chainsaw, camping and sports gear.

**EILDON, U13, 2 Riverside Drive.** Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am to 4pm. Outdoor setting, wooden table, recliner chair, books, DVD, 10 person dinner set, mirrors, haberdashery and lots more.

#### DEATH NOTICES



**BERRY, Peter**

The Marysville RSL Sub-Branch is sad to report that the long standing, respected member and friend, Peter, passed away on March 29.

We extend our deepest sympathy to wife Jenny, their family and friends.

**LEST WE FORGET**

**LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace**  
25/02/1949 - 07/04/2025

Went to sleep forever in my arms.

Very loved husband and soulmate to Lynne.

Devoted dad to Cassandra and Dale, Stewart and Rebecca, Sherilee.

Adored pa to Dakota, Emma, Jackson, Declan, Lillie and Natalia.

Great Grandpa to Braxton. Aussie dad to Tatiana.

**LUCKMAN, Bruce.**

My heart is absolutely shattered. My love for you is endless. Forever in my heart and forever in my arms. Lynne.

**LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace.**

25/02/1949 – 07/04/2025. Dad, you were the most beautiful, loving, and supportive father, father in law, and pa to our family. We will forever cherish the wonderful memories — the family holidays, your warm hugs, your stories, and the quiet moments of comfort only you could give. Your love never wavered, and your support was a constant in our lives. You were our rock, and we are so grateful for every moment we had with you. We are so proud of your many years of dedicated service with the CFA — a role you lived with passion, courage and quiet strength. You will live on in our hearts always. With all our love, your son, Stewart, daughter in law, Rebecca, and your adoring grandchildren, Jackson and Lillie.

**LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace.**

True and trusted friend and partner of Sharrock Television for 40 years. Our heartfelt thoughts are with Lyn and the family. Anne and Geoff Sharrock.

**LUCKMAN, Bruce.**

25/02/1949 - 07/04/2025. Brother to Judy. Brother in law to Keith. Uncle to Robert and Kelly. Will be sadly missed. RIP Bruce.

**LUCKMAN, Bruce.** Long time friend of Dave and Gail Kneeshaw. At Rest.

### Police urge to report sex offences linked to dating apps

VICTORIA Police is urging people to contact police if they experience any form of sexual offending linked to the use of dating apps.

Dating apps have become a common way for people to connect, and while many users have a positive experience, police have received an increase in reports of people being sexually assaulted after meeting in person.

In concerning trends identified by investigators, this can include rape, sexual or inappropriate touching and sexual harassment.

This may involve people engaging in what begins as consensual sex or sexual activity before consent is withdrawn for any reason, one party engages in an activity the other party has not consented to or when the other person becomes violent or aggressive.

Victoria Police wants to make it clear that any form of sexual offending is completely unacceptable, and consent can be given or withdrawn, at any time, for any reason.

There must be expressed consent every single time you engage in sexual activity. Consent can never be assumed, otherwise it may be considered an offence.

By law, you must follow the affirmative consent model before engaging in, and during, sexual activity.

Affirmative consent means that the people involved must actively ask that they have consent from each other. Their response can be in the form of saying “yes”, or nodding.

This includes situations where a person has consented to the same or different sexual act with the same or different person before.

In Victoria, all parties must freely agree to a sexual act for there to be consent.

While we encourage victims to report sexual offences as soon as possible, it doesn't matter how much time has passed, we are always able to investigate the crime.

It's crucial that the community understands that dating apps are not investigators, police are the only ones able to conduct a criminal investigation and hold perpetrators to account. Reporting to the dating app is not the same as reporting to police.

Police can request information from dating apps to assist in solving sexual offence investigations and can also conduct a criminal investigation even where one party has blocked or deleted someone from the app.

Detectives from the Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) and Sexual Crimes Squad have been working tirelessly to investigate reports of the crime, support victims and hold perpetrators to account.

These detectives are trained to understand the complexities of sexual offences and support victims from disclosure, through to the investigation process, and then on to court proceedings.

SOCIT and the Sexual Crimes Squad acknowledge the difficulties in reporting sexual offences to police and want victims to know it is never too late to make a report.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a sexual offence, please come forward and contact police so it can be investigated.

One of the most important things police are able to do for sexual assault victims is give them advice on and connect them to a wide range of support services.

Even if someone ultimately decides they do not want to make a formal report or for an investigation to be conducted, police can still assist them with seeking further support such as medical services or counselling.

Victoria Police will always respond to any report of sexual offences, no matter when it occurred. Anyone who contacts police will be supported and treated with respect, courtesy and dignity.

Support and advice are also available from Sexual Assault Crisis Line (1800 806 292) or the National Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Counselling Service at 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000). If you can't get to a phone, ask someone else to do it for you.

For more information about affirmative consent, visit [respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/news/affirmative-consent](https://respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/news/affirmative-consent)

For more information on safe online dating, visit [crimestoppersvic.com.au/current-focus/onedating](https://crimestoppersvic.com.au/current-focus/onedating)

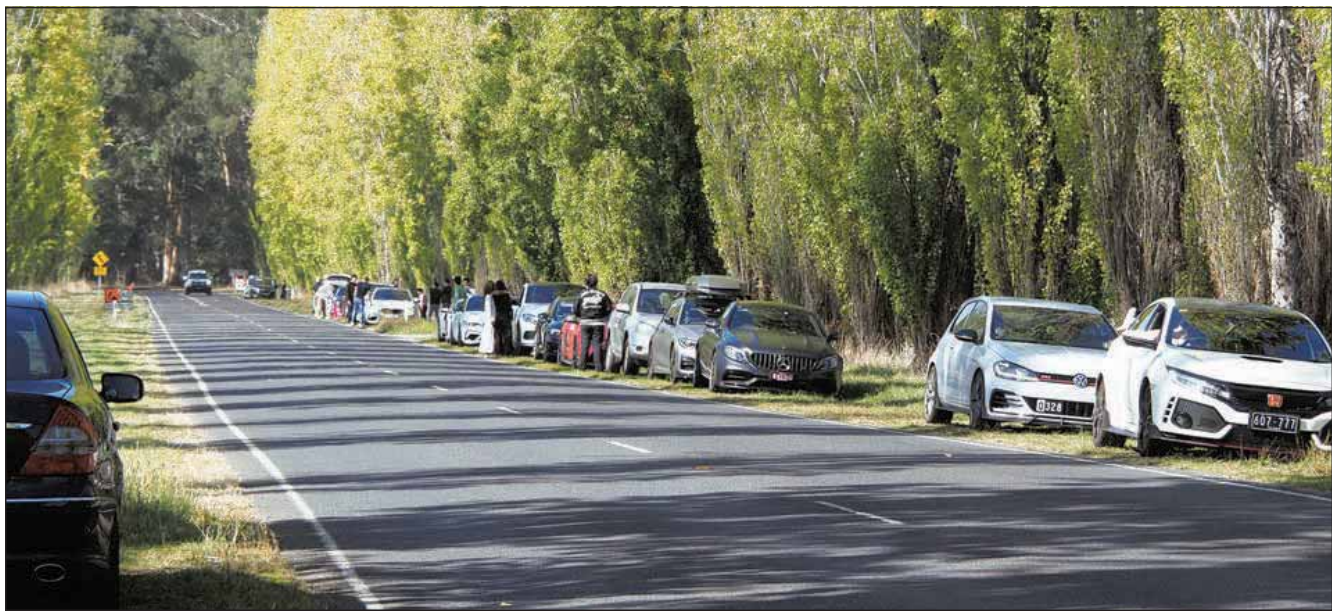


# Signage installed at the poplars

THE Department of Transport has installed new signage around the poplars on Buxton-Marysville Road as well as temporarily changing the speed limit to 80k/h.

The signage, located near Retreat Road and at the Marysville Golf Course, states 'Please avoid stopping on side road,' with one of the signs not working correctly. It has caused many to wonder which 'side road' they're referring to.

The popularity of the poplars brings many tourists into the area, and this should of course be encouraged. The problem is not the cars stopping on the side of the road, but rather it's the people standing or sitting in the middle of the road during the height of autumn.



Vehicles parked at the poplars on Saturday, April 12. -AR



The Department of Transport has installed new signage around the poplars on Buxton-Marysville Road as well as temporarily changing the speed limit to 80k/h. -AR



The signage, located near Retreat Road and at the Marysville Golf Course, states 'Please avoid stopping on side road,' with one of the signs not working correctly. It has caused many to wonder which 'side road' they're referring to. -AR

## Falling flu vaccinations and potential horror flu season

FALLING influenza vaccinations due to vaccine fatigue and misinformation, combined with the risk of a horror flu season like the one experienced in the northern hemisphere, could result in more lives lost from flu and other respiratory diseases this year.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen said there had been a fall in the number of flu vaccines in Australia, with data showing a drop in flu vaccines last year compared to the previous year.

"We know there's some vaccine fatigue out there following the pandemic, and some wildly misleading and damaging information on social media, and this is leading to fewer people getting their shots," Dr McMullen said.

"I can't be too blunt about this: thousands of people die each year from respiratory disease including flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Older people, the elderly and immunocompromised people; and babies, young children and pregnant women with underlying medical conditions; are particularly vulnerable to some of these respiratory viruses.

"People should get their flu shot each year well before June, when the flu season starts. This is also good time to think about a COVID-19 booster, particularly if you are aged over 65 or at higher risk of severe COVID-19.

"The best protection from flu is about three to four months after having your shot, which means people should get their vaccination around April or May.

"People need to start booking appointments now with their GPs, who are trained to ensure that people, including vulnerable cohorts, such as the elderly and children, receive their vaccinations in a safe and timely manner."

Dr McMullen warned there was potential for a horror flu season in Australia following a severe season in the Northern Hemisphere.

"Countries like the United States had a very severe influenza season, with the Centre for Disease Control estimating at least 41 million illnesses, 540,000 hospitalisations,

and 23,000 deaths from influenza during their season so far," Dr McMullen said.

Dr McMullen said it was critical that people were not dissuaded from getting their flu or other shots because of misinformation about vaccines spread on social media, vaccine hesitancy or complacency.

"If people have any concerns, they should speak to their GP who can spend time with them and answer questions," she said.

The Australian Government recommends everyone over the age of six months has an influenza shot every year. Flu is the most common illness that can be prevented with a vaccine.

Information about the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, including who should get vaccines, can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

The influenza vaccine is free under the National Immunisation Program for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months and over; children

aged six months to under five years; pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy; people aged 65 years or over, and people aged six months or over who have medical conditions that mean they have a higher risk of getting serious disease.

### Redgate CWA report

A VERY big thank you to the community for helping make the Redgate CWA Cake Stall and Scone Challenge a huge success. Just over \$1000 was raised.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, April 24 starting at 1pm in the club rooms on Perkins Street, Alexandra. The theme is Easter and hostesses are 'surprise'. The competitions are flower of the month and Easter Bonnet. Our guest speaker at 2.30 pm will be Murrindindi Mayor Damien Gallagher.

Coming events include laying a wreath at the Alexandra ANZAC Day service. The next Coffee Catch up will be on Thursday, May 8 at 11am at Café Alex. The Group Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held at the Yack Hall on Friday, May 23 to display entries and assist in stewarding duties, and Saturday, May 24 is open to the public to view from 10am. Entry is only \$5. All are invited to see beautiful craft work, cooking, preserves, horticulture and photography. There is also a branch challenge with the theme 'Child's Birthday Party'.

A Devonshire Tea will be open in the clubrooms on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25 from 10am to 2pm to coincide with the Beanie Festival being held in the Alexandra Shire Hall. For anyone with dietary requirements, a gluten and dairy free option will be offered.

Craft days continue every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. Small donation of \$2 with tea and coffee available and please bring your own lunch.

If you would like any more information, please contact Sue Wynn on 0412 435 946 or Jane Laws on 0412 653 647.

## New parenting portal for Victorian parents

VICTORIAN parents and carers now have access to a free online service to support them through every stage of parenting, starting from family planning to early childhood.

Last week the Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins launched the Parents Portal on the Service Victoria platform and app and announced that a digital birth certificate will be piloted later this year.

The portal is a one-stop shop for parents and carers seeking information and resources when planning to have a child. It includes resources on maternal and child health services, early childhood education, playgroups, kindergarten, and critical information on emergency services.

The service is shaped by feedback from Victorian families and carers and includes important information for parents

who have a child with a disability and LGBTQI+ parents.

Building on information in the 'green book', a book supplied to parents to track their children's health and development progress, the portal aims to provide parents with more resources for early childhood and beyond, particularly around key life events and accessing essential healthcare services.

The new portal is part of the state government's digital transformation agenda, designed to make it quicker and easier for Victorians to interact with government services.

This is the first phase of rollout for the Parents Portal, it will be expanded over time to incorporate new functions and features to respond to the changing needs of Victorian families.

Future features being considered include a personalised navigator to enable new and soon-to-be parents to access personalised content about their child's current development stage.

A new digital birth certificate will be piloted on the Service Victoria app to make it easier for parents to securely store and show proof of their child's birth when they need to, such as enrolling their child in three year old kinder.

Victorians can visit the portal on the Service Victoria app or at [service.vic.gov.au/find-services/family-and-child/parent-support](https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/family-and-child/parent-support)

Through the Service Victoria app, Victorians can easily access more than 130 government services online. To download the Service Victoria app, go to the Apple or Google Play Store.



# A perfect autumn day for Highball Cars and Coffee



There were more cars than ever before at the event. -AR



The driveway was looking gorgeous. -AR



The cars rolling in. -AR



The event wasn't just for cars. Trucks were also welcome. -AR

TELEVISION personality Glenn Ridge hosted Highball Cars and Coffee at Erindale, on the Maroonah Highway between Buxton and Taggerty, on Sunday, April 13.

Entry to the event was via a gold coin donation to the Taggerty and Buxton Fire Brigades.

Around 600 cars took part, coming from far and wide to be a part of the event celebrating motor vehicles in all their various forms. The number of vehicles was certainly up on previous years, and there were plenty of keen onlookers.

The paddock was full of lines of cars, and there were plenty of photographers keen to capture the perfect shot, particularly as the vehicles made their way along the remarkable driveway.

Local community groups also benefited, providing catering at the event.

To find out more, visit [facebook.com/highballcarsandcoffee](https://facebook.com/highballcarsandcoffee)



Cars of all shapes and sizes were on display. -AR



The array of cars was truly extraordinary. -AR



The events raised a large amount for local community groups and fire brigades. -AR



## SPORT

# Bingo with a Twist at Eildon Bowls Club



Maree, Marlene, Christine, Hughie, Brett and Lisa enjoying the afternoon on Sunday, April 13. -AR



Eyes down at Bingo with a Twist, held at the Eildon Bowls Club.



Waiting to tee off in the fog. -S



Sandy putts as Helen Ruth & Marion look on. -S

## Final round of Summer Cup and the Bob Dodge Golden Putter

by Dave Silverman

JUST on perfect weather last week for Tuesday's round, which attracted a field of thirteen. Unfortunately, one player NCRed (No Card Recorded for those of you who don't play). Get well soon, Frank.

The rest of us ploughed on, and, at the end of the day, it was Graeme Emmerson who came out on top-just-with 36 points. Steve Darmody came in second, also with 36, and third was Russell Purcell on 35. Purce also claimed the nearest the pin on seven, and eighteen went to Nigel Waterhouse. Rundown vouchers went to Bill Wind, Dave Silverman, and James Fulton.

On a foggy Wednesday morning, fourteen ladies turned up at the course to play a four ball best ball. By the time the game was over, the sun was out, and it shone brightest on Donna Meggitt and Mor Gale, who had won the day with 46 points. Marie Stace and Marg Fahey came in second with 44, and in third place was the team of Ruth Worland and Helen Findlay on 43.

Sue Greatorex and Sandra Morris were the nine hole winners, and the nearest the pins went to Barb Doyle and Bron Howell on two and Marion Williamson and Sandy Wettenhall on seven.

Saturday was an early start as the temperature was forecast to be 30 degrees. The round, sponsored by Koala Country Cherries, attracted a field of twenty, and teed off at 8.30am. As well as being the April Monthly Medal, it was also the final rounds of both the Summer Cup and the Bob Dodge Golden Putter.

Appropriately, it was Alison Rouget who took off the monthly medal, with a very impressive 95 nett 64, well clear of second-placed John Norfolk, who had a nett 68. Len Jenkins came in third with 70, Brad Kidd, also on 70, was fourth and fifth place went to Simon Rouget with 71, thus neatly

bookending the scores with a brace of Rougets (not sure if "brace" is the right Collective Noun for a group of Rougets, but it'll have to do for now).

John Steer and Steve Darmody shared the honour of the fewest putts, both having just 29. Nearest the pins went to Dave Silverman on two, Jarrod Williamson on seven, Darms on twelve and eighteen was claimed by Luke Heard. To round off an average day on the course, Dan Burns went home a winner, taking off the meat tray, and hearty congratulations must go to Luke Heard, who took out both the Summer Cup and the Golden Putter. Well done, El Capitan.

## Marysville wins challenge with the Tour Elephants

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday 21 players played stableford on the back nine holes with some new players, Ally Strachan and Kait McDiarmid playing and some returning members Alex Bullard and Di McKenzie also playing. Gail Leigh (6) won the competition with an excellent 22 points followed by Kellan Fiske (12) with 20 points. Mark Alexander won the nearest the pins on both the 11th and 18th holes. The shot of the day was played by visitor Ally (0) who, on the 13th Par four hole hit his drive half way up the hill close to the green. His second shot, a chip, hit the flag and after a confident putt he birdied the hole.

On Saturday the car park was full of cars belonging to members and the visitors of the day, The Tour Elephants. This group of golfers have been playing in a Marysville Challenge for 10 years in what has become a major event on the club syllabus. The 44 golfers played a stableford round with mixed groups and a shotgun start. Local knowledge was obviously a great advantage with all major winners playing for Marysville. The ladies winner was Helen Howard (22) with 37 points on a countback from Amanda Rattay (26). Ken Whittingham (29) won the men's competition with an excellent 40

points and Richy Clark (15) was the runner up with 39 points. Nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Glen Rattay, Heather Jenkins and Brian Worcester who also won the golden shot. There were a few novelty challenges with Amanda Rattay winning the ladies longest drive, Drew Kaempkes winning the men's longest drive and Ross Ansell hit the straightest drive and also played an eagle on the Par four fifth hole. At the presentation it was announced that Marysville had won the challenge with 769 points and an average of 32.04 and Tour Elephants gaining 610 points and an average of 30.5. The Tour Elephants have won the beautiful wooden trophy on five occasions and Marysville are gradually catching up with four wins.

At the presentation after play thanks were given to many people who contributed to such a successful day with Steve Morrell the Tour Elephants Captain and Steve Coker the Marysville President speaking on behalf of all members. Special thanks were given to Heather Jenkins who coordinated the event, the staff at the Pavilion Bar and Grill for the delicious lunch and to the Tour Elephants for their ongoing friendship and support.

On Sunday Round four of the mixed/men's Handicap Division two pennant

was played at Strathbogie. Marysville beat Alexandra 3-2 which places Marysville on top of the ladder as they go into the final round next week against Whittlesea.

Next Saturday a stableford round will be played and all Easter visitors to the area

are welcome to join the competition. Please note that as daylight saving has ceased play is now a 9.30am for a 10am tee off. On Thursday, April 24 Marysville will be hosting the Dalhousie Veterans event.



From left to right: Steve Morrell, Richy Clark, Steve Coker, and Richard Knight with the Tour Elephants versus Marysville Trophy. -S



# Junior Rebels



Under 18 player Shannon Galloway taking a kick. -S



Under 17 netball player Ashlyn Newman. -S

## Scorching conditions for Thornton/Eildon Women's football team

by Scott Whitehead

**Thornton/Eildon Women's Football  
defeated by Warburton  
1.1.7-11.9.75**

IN blazing sunshine usually associated with cricket season, Thornton/Eildon Women's football team hosted Warburton at the Thornton Recreation Reserve. With both teams coming off a win the previous week the game on paper looked like it would possibly be match of the round.

Warburton were the first to hit the scoreboard and had Thornton/Eildons backline players under constant pressure throughout the quarter. Bechet Cousens, in only her second game for the blue and white showed a cool head returning many of the Warburton forward entries. At the sound of the siren for the first quarter Warburton had kicked four goals one behind while keeping Thornton/Eildon scoreless.

The contest tightened in the second quarter but again Warburton dominated with their fast-moving game play kicking one goal five behinds while again denying Thornton/Eildon opportunities to score. Injuries to Abby Coolahan and Imogen Paine left the home team's backline missing key players.

Gathering in the shade at half time Thornton/Eildons coaching staff were sympathetic to the conditions the game was being played in but had belief the team could turn the game around in the third quarter.

Shuffling the magnets, Katie Crothers was moved to centre half back where she found plenty of the ball but her hard running and long kick wasn't enough to slow Warburtons scoreboard progress. Thornton/Eildon did however have a glimpse of hope when Trinity Tebbutt took a contested mark and kicked truly from 40 meters out.

With many players from both teams feeling the heat, both agreed to reduce the number of players on the field in the final quarter to ensure an even contest and to look after the welfare of the players.

The game continued on the same path as the previous three quarters with Warburton showing they are probably the team to beat this year. Xahlia Stevenson however had different ideas and as her confidence grew found more and more of the footy. In her first year of senior football Xahlia at the age of 14 proved she is more than capable of competing at the senior level and will be one of many players to watch in the coming season.

At the sound of the final siren Warburton finished on top winning by an impressive 75 points. While the result was not what Thornton/Eildon were hoping for, the improvement from last season will inspire



Katie Crothers getting -S



Xahlia Stevenson giving it her all. -S

them to continue to work on the things that will take them to the next level.

Goals: Trinity Tebbutt: One

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General store: Katie Crothers, Café Alex: Trinity Tebbutt, Murrindindi Aged and Home care: Xahlia Stevenson, Coaches award: Bechet Cousens.

Next week the competition takes a break for Easter. Training is every Monday and Thursday starting at 6pm with meals available on Thursday nights for \$15. If you are interested in being a player, supporter or a sponsor you can find details on the Thornton Eildon District Football & Netball club's Facebook page or by email [tedfnc@outlook.com](mailto:tedfnc@outlook.com)

## Celebrating a fantastic season of basketball

THE 2025 basketball season has wrapped up with an incredible finals series, and all of the players have improved out of sight, thanks to the great coaches and umpire contributions. A big thank you to the supportive crowds. Congratulations to all the teams and individuals who played this season and everyone should be really proud of their efforts.

### Under 12 Boys Premiers – All Stars

THE All Stars claimed victory over the Rockets in a hard-fought final, with Archie Armstrong awarded Best on Court, and Angus Barkly named Most Valuable Player of the season. Harry Winch was the Most Valuable Player runner-up. Coaches' Awards were given to Beau Nash, Koby Williams, Logan Kerr, and Baxter Lamaro. What a terrific season.

### Under 14 Boys Premiers – Blitzers

A COMPETITIVE grand final saw the Blitzers triumph over the Kings, with a game that was anyone's to win until the final buzzer. Levi Campbell earned Best on Court, Eli Van Lierop was named Most Valuable Player, with Josh Northmore as the runner-up. Coaches' Awards went to Chase Stevenson, Declan Armstrong, Jordan Carr, and Jaiden Dimech. A fantastic season for these young stars

### Under 13 Girls Premiers – Dynamos

THE Dynamos capped off their successful season by defeating Jazz in the grand final. Tilly Miljkovic was awarded Best on Court and also took home the Most Valuable Player trophy, with Zoe Collier as the runner-up. Coaches' Awards were presented to Brea Ward, Ella Banks, Zelda Van Lierop, and Lainey Martin. Well done to the entire team.

### Under 19 Boys Grand Final Champions – Jaguars

THE Jaguars pulled off a strong victory in the Under 19 Boys Grand Final, with Drew Collier named Best on Court. Brad Johnson earned the title of Most Valuable Player, followed by Drew Collier as runner-up. Coaches' Awards went to Isaac Seyfang, Hamish Wilson, Josh Crane, and Drew Collier. A great season of basketball.

### Under 19 Girls: Grand Final Champions – Lightning

THE Lightning soared to victory in the Under 19 Girls Grand Final, with Marli Collier earning Best on Court. Regan O'Toole was voted Most Valuable Player, with Marli Collier as runner-up. Coaches' Awards went to Millie Weeks, Jess Newman, Charlie Edwards, and Maddie Sawyer. Congratulations to these talented athletes.

A special mention to Anita Carr, awarded Life Membership for her



Under 12 Coaches awards: Beau Nash, Logan Kerr, Koby Williams, and Baxter Lamaro. -S

tireless dedication to the club, and Lee Collier, who received the Liz Fiske Memorial Volunteer Award for outstanding volunteer contribution.

A huge thank you to all our umpires, coaches, scorers, and committee members for their hard work and commitment this season. The success of this season

wouldn't have been possible without your support.

Here's to another great season ahead. We are always looking for new helpers, committee members, and umpires, so please get in touch if you'd like to volunteer at [Mail. adba@gmail.com](mailto:adba@gmail.com)

Winners are grinners, what a fantastic end to a memorable season.



THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

# Standard

## Sport

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## Seniors football match stopped due to injury

by Michelle Jack

### Football

#### Reserves

**Alexandra 4.6-30 defeated Warburton 19.15-129**

ALEXANDRA travelled to Warburton last Saturday for round two of the Outer East League 2024 division one season, the Reserves taking to the field after the women's football game between Warburton and Officer. The Burras, Premiers

for the last couple of years, showed their experience and polish as they added to the scoreboard each quarter but the Rebels never gave in and worked hard to the final siren.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen: Harry Reed, Ampol fuel card: Luke Wal, Alexandra Hotel: Tom McKinlay, Buxton Hotel: Nate Kerle, Sportspower: Josh Crane.

### Seniors

**Alexandra 15.12-102 defeated Warburton 6.5-41**

THE Seniors welcomed Angus Smith to replace the injured Steve Steiner, the Rebels starting with five goals to one going uphill in the first quarter before adding four goals to three in the second quarter. The match was physical after some close contests including the second Semi Final last year, the Rebels adding three goals to one in the third quarter before repeating that in the last quarter, the game halting

half way through the quarter after an incident that left Lucas O'Sullivan motionless on the ground. Play was stopped and did not resume as Lucas remained on the ground receiving medical attention awaiting an ambulance, the game called off and the scores at the time being the final scores.

Awards: Incentives: Josh Edwards, Matt Peric, Ben Cooper, and Nick Meehan, Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award: Neil / Annie Robinson.

### Netball

A GRADE lost 21 - 64: Incentive: Jazmin Collett, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Caitlan Haggis.

B grade lost 17 - 61: Incentive: Maddy Richards, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Jess Shaw.

C grade lost 11 - 61: Incentive: Georgia Smith, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Brodie Wheelhouse.

D grade lost 21 - 25: Incentive: Rose Hurrey, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Ashlee Frankcombe;

Thursday's Rebel Raffles started last Thursday and the club thanks their sponsors. The winners were Des Rasmussen, Ray Steyger, Dylan Jack, Brad Kidd, Dan Crane, and Elizabeth Kidd. The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot will be worth \$400 next week so go along and buy some tickets at \$1 each but you need to be at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw. Due to the ANZAC Day public holiday, there is no training on Thursday and no meals for this week.

In round three on Saturday, April 27, the club is very proud to work with the Alexandra RSL to

celebrate the ANZAC spirit as the club will host Powelltown for games of football and netball, all entry fees collected and monies raised at the gate go to the Alexandra RSL to support their important work within the community. There will be a line up of players and officials between the reserves and seniors football matches with the Alexandra RSL members acknowledging the ANZAC spirit. The club thanks their sponsors, Murrindindi Shire Council and Alexandra Newspapers for their support.

After the games the Dream Team auction will be held, lists will be available on the day with the auction to commence around 7pm, open age football and netball players are grouped, all earning points during the season and at the Club and League Presentation Functions.

The group with the most points earns their owner 50 per cent of the pool raised at the auction, the second group earns their owner 30 per cent of the pool with the winners announced at the Club Senior Presentation function on Saturday, October 5. It is worth studying the form guide especially with several new players in all grades of football and netball.

The club is seeking assistance and needs volunteers so if you would like to help with home game tasks including scoreboard, canteen, bar work and maintenance amongst other things, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.



Reserves player Scott Heveren. -S



Seniors player Ed Aujard fighting for the ball. -S

**Our office will be closed Friday, April 25**

Early deadlines will apply

**Display booking and artwork noon, Thursday, April 24**

**We will reopen Monday, April 28, at 9am**

Standard

The Hera Chronicle

## EASTER OFFICE HOURS

**CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 AND MONDAY, APRIL 21**

**EARLY DEADLINES  
APPLY FOR APRIL 23  
EDITION**

**NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17**  
★ DISPLAY ADS - BOOKING AND ARTWORK  
★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES ★ TRADES

**10AM MONDAY, APRIL 21**  
★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**WE WILL REOPEN 9AM TUESDAY, APRIL 22**



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