



Trek for Kids participants with members of the Alexandra Lions and Rotary Clubs on Friday, August 25 in Rotary Park. Lions and Rotary supplied a lovely lunch to the participants. -AR

Trek4Kids visits Alexandra while raising funds for Starlight Foundation

ON Friday, August 25, Alexandra Rotary and Lions Club supplied lunch to participants in Trek for Kids.

The event raises money for the Starlight Foundation and has been occurring for 27 years. It's run entirely by volunteers and this

year the 65 participants in 30 vehicles have raised a remarkable \$205,000.

The car rally started in Stockton before heading for Mudgee and Temora. By the end, they will have travelled over 3000km, predominantly on dirt roads, across the eight days.

After visiting Alexandra, their next stop was Beechworth followed by Yass, where the event ends.

100 per cent of the funds raised will go towards the Starlight Foundation, and could grant up to 31 wishes. The foundation may

also put some of the funds towards Captain Starlight in hospitals.

The event is always held in the last week of August and takes the volunteers all year to prepare.

A Limestone tragedy

POLICE will prepare a report for the coroner following a crash in Limestone. It is believed that a ute with five occupants was being driven in the paddock of a private property off Macklins Road when it rolled down a hill, crashing into a tree at about 11.05am on Sunday, August 27.

A 21 year old Ashburton man died at the scene.

A 22 year old Malvern man was airlifted to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

A 21 year old woman was airlifted to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Another 22 year old Glen Iris man and a 21 year old Mulgrave woman also travelling in the vehicle were not injured.

Police, Ambulance, CFA and SES Road Rescue crews from Yea and Alexandra were called to the incident.

Two Ambulance HEMS, along with SES and CFA high angle rescue teams from Alexandra, Marysville, Monbulk and Wandin worked together with Police Search and Rescue to rescue two people trapped in the vehicle 100m down the hill.

Access to the scene was hampered by slippery wet grass on a steep hill meaning equipment

needed to be relayed in by smaller 4wd vehicles.

Crews returned home around 7.30pm on Sunday after a long day hauling road accident rescue equipment to the scene by rope down steep terrain.

Well done to all crews on a team effort, and condolences to the friends and family of the deceased man. Wishing all involved a speedy recovery.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, with information or vision is urged to call Crimestoppers or 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au



Emergency services workers at the site of the tragic incident in Limestone. -S

Further support for timber workers announced

THE Victorian Government has announced that they are scaling up support for timber workers, sawmill operators and their communities, as Victoria transitions away from native timber logging.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney spoke about the expansion of the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program, increasing worker top up payments from up to \$120,000 to \$150,000 and allocating extra payments to workers over 45 years old.

The wider community forestry sector, including firewood sellers, guitar makers, seed collectors and other Forest Produce Licensees will be eligible for the expanded Worker Support Payments, and redundant equipment compensation, plus payments for undersupplied timber, and a one off hardship payment.

The first round of the Forestry Transition Fund is now open to create more local jobs in impacted timber communities. The fund will provide grants of up to \$1 million to expand, diversify or start new businesses while also allocating wage subsidies to incentivise people to employ transitioning timber workers.

The Sawmill Voluntary Transition Package is also now open to support mill owners to stay in the industry or switch to new sectors. These packages will ensure workers entitlements are met and will include plant and equipment compensation.

An initial Harvest and Haulage Support Package will

be available for forest contractors in September, which will include contract and equipment compensation and worker redundancy payments.

Harvest and haulage sub contractors, chip truck drivers and other businesses heavily dependent on the native timber industry, will also be eligible for the next round of the Timber Innovation Grants which are expected to re-open in late September.

The Victorian Government will continue to consult with forest contractors to ensure their critical skills are retained for ongoing management of the state's public land with genuine opt out packages available for those who choose to exit.

Deb Kerr, CEO of Victorian Forest Products Association, said, "While we welcome the additional support for workers, contractors, communities, and new regional businesses, it is hard to fathom how the government has treated native hardwood mills who had acted in good faith. This is not how a government acts that wants to promote Victoria as a prime location for business. As the main body advocating for wood and wood fibre businesses in Victoria, we will continue to fight for better outcomes for our industry."

For more information on how to get local support, please visit vic.gov.au/forestry or contact the Forestry Transition Hotline on 1800 318 182. To register for the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program, visit forestworks.com.au

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Tues Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm
Ph 5773 2306
Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222
Sun Alanon Recovery Phone 0402 428 086.
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu 7.30-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL. CLOSED due to COVID. Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Letters to the Editor

Suicide awareness walk

ALARMINGLY, suicide rates in the Murrindindi Shire are among the highest in Victoria. The cause in part is being attributed to the mental impact of the bushfires that devastated the region several years ago. Sometimes the scars take years to surface.

The Goulburn Valley suicide group in Yea said it welcomed the Murrindindi Shire’s support and assistance in bringing the issue out into the open.

The third annual suicide awareness walk will take place at 9am on National Suicide day, Sunday, September 10. The walk aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma and support families and friends who have lost loved ones. For more information visit the website gvsag.org.au or phone 0417 907 278. All welcome.

Donald Lawson, Yea

Alexandra Scouts go wildlife spotting



A pobblebonk frog. -S

LAST week The Alexandra Scouts had a fun night walking through McKnezie Reserve in search of some wildlife at night.

They heard an owlet nightjar and a boobook owl as they were on the walk and many frogs calling from the small dam nearby.

The group identified three different species of frogs by using the FrogID app, and recorded their calls as part of a *Australian Museum Citizen Science Project*.

The scouts were lucky enough to see a brush-tailed possum and also some kangaroos that were feeding in a nearby paddock.

The next Junior Landcare activity will be building nesting boxes for wildlife which will be installed onto trees on the rail trail.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.10	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.68	steady	
Acheron R at Taggerty	10.00am Mon	0.96	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	7.56am Mon	0.29	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	10.18pm Sun	0.65	steady	below minor
Yea R at Yea	8.24am Mon	1.11	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.65	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.26	steady	
ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023				

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra Hub for all their help sorting out my stuff. Great service and friendly staff.

THUMBS DOWN: Where is our Australian flag in Rotary Park? Anyone wish to help with this? It has been gone for months and has not been replaced. Very sad to see.

THUMBS UP: To St Mary’s for having photos of school children in the Standard once again. It is great to see them.

THUMBS DOWN: To the elderly man with the Ford Ranger and large trailer who parked outside the barber shop and the Sportspower shop in Grant Street mid-morning on Thursday last week. It was very inconsiderate when parking is at a premium.

THUMBS DOWN: When are the lines going to be painted at the T-intersection on corner of William and Station Streets? It is very dangerous with large trucks turning into William Street when vehicles are parked right up to the corner.

THUMBS UP: To Dale Young for his brilliant piece in Letters to the Editor last week.

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can now be submitted via email to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or mail to PO Box 5 Alexandra 3714. or drop them into the Alexandra office.

Letters must be 300 words or less.

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

August 30 - September 5, 2023

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

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Monday

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Monday

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Tuesday

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Tuesday

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra..... N/Amm

Buxton..... 10.5mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 5mm

Flowerdale..... 13mm

Jamieson..... 17mm

Kinglake 16mm

Lake Eildon 8mm

Mansfield..... 3mm

Taggerty 4mm

Yarck 4mm

Yea..... 12mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....288.10m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....96.8%

Metres below full supply.....80cm

Daily inflow3500ML

Release.....1000ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....54%

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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DEADLINES

Real Estate

Thursday noon

Trades & Services

Thursday noon

Early General News

Thursday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

Sports Editorial

Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor

Monday 9am

Thumbsup/down

Monday 10am

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

5772 1002 or reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Suicide Awareness Walk coming up

JACKY Gilbee lost her 18 year old son Russell to suicide in 2018.

Her need to divert her grief into something positive was the catalyst for the creation of the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group.

GVSAG was formed in 2021, by a group of community members in the Goulburn Valley region whose lives have been affected by suicide.

They aim to raise awareness, reduce the stigma around talking about mental health and suicide, and to support family and friends and those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

The GVSAG Suicide Awareness Walk is an annual community event that aims to shine a light on the startling figures around suicide in Australia.

Suicide is the 15th leading cause of death overall, males are three times more likely to die by suicide than females and one in two young people are impacted by suicide by the time they turn 25, according Suicide Prevention Australia.

And behind every number is a life which was valued and will be missed.

This year, the GVSAG walk is being run on World Suicide Prevention Day, Sunday, September 10.

It's a day of global observance, which brings together over 60 countries, with a shared mission to reduce stigma, advocate for policy change, encourage people to seek help, and honour the memories of those lost to suicide, and those who grieve for them.

"Fixing the problem starts with awareness that we have a problem in the first place. We need to work on destigmatising showing emotion, talking about mental health issues, and allowing all people a safe environment to ask for help," said Jacky.

The participants will also have a chance to pause and take time to reflect on loved ones that have been lost to suicide, and honour not only their lives, but their memory and the legacies they have left for those who carry on.

"The walk is important because when you are affected by suicide, you feel like you're the only one out there that's been affected. No one will feel this bad. No one knows what I'm going through. When you actually go to one of these walks, you realise there's a lot of people there, we have more than 100 people every year, you are surrounded with people that are feeling the same way. And then you realise they're not sad, and you realise that this is one day of the year that you can think about this person openly," Jacky said.

Registrations Open at 8.30am at Yea Railway Station. At 9am the event kicks off with an Acknowledgement of Country, and a welcome from GVSAG Founder Jacky Gilbee.



GVSAG walkers on the rail trail. -S

This year there are two guest speakers, Nic Healy from ABC Radio who will speak about the impact suicide has on a community, and Michelle Graeber from the Anxiety Recovery Centre, who will be sharing how best to broach the subject with someone you think may be contemplating suicide.

There will be counsellors on the walk for those who would like to access them and the

CFA and Police will be on hand to help with crossing the highway and safety in general.

At 11am the walkers return to celebrate their accomplishment and enjoy a free sausage sizzle courtesy of the Rotary Club of Yea. There will be music and food, creating new memories about the people who are loved and missed.

You can find out more at gvsag.org.au/event/goulburn-valley-suicide-awareness-walk-2023

Alexandra Seniors Club report

by honorary secretary Mick Jennings

WITH no ukulele lesson this week, the club only had the sound of cards shuffling and bowls rolling down the carpet before members assembled for the annual general meeting on Friday.

Retiring president Jan Paloaro opened the meeting welcoming everyone. In her report, she thanked the committee for their efforts both in the hall and for our outside activities. Treasurer David Tanner reported that the club was in good shape financially.

The election of a new committee was a mere formality as the only change was in the presidency, with Barbara Mills elected to the position. In her address she thanked the committee for their efforts and looked forward to a successful year commencing with the committee meeting on Tuesday, August 29 at 11am in the clubroom to plan the future activities. Already pencilled in are trips to Healesville RSL in October for the Cliff Richard Tribute Morning Melodies and a trip to Alowyn Gardens and the Chocolaterie near Yarra Glen in early November.

The FoodWorks voucher raffle was won by retiring president Jan Palaoro, a suitable thank you for her efforts.

After the meeting the members retired to the tearoom for tea and cake, a chat and then games of 500 and UNO. Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions are due.

Bridge, bowls and a ukulele lesson as usual this week before the monthly business meeting on Friday, September 1 at 1pm in the clubroom. If you would like any information about club activities please give Mike a call on 0456 456 263. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Trout season to open with a festival

TROUT season officially opens on Saturday, September 2 and everyone is invited to celebrate it at the Goulburn Fishing Festival.

Activities will include market stalls, spinning prizes, cooking demonstrations and live performances at the new location in Lions Park in Eildon. There will be plaster arts painting, games run by the education team and face painting.

The Goulburn River and Eildon Pondage will share in the release of 2000 massive 'stonker' rainbow trout weighing up to 5kg, which will be stocked at various sites for the trout season opening. They'll have a combined weight of seven tonnes, which almost guarantees to create lifelong memories for fishers and their families.

As well as trying your luck at catching a trophy trout at one or more spots on the stonker trout trail, you can also help the Snobs Creek hatchery team stock the Pondage with trout.

Children's fishing classes will be held, with bait and tackle provided, but you must make a booking for them. Book at eventbrite.com.au/e/goulburn-fishing-festival-2023-kids-fishing-clinics-tickets-639084367547

The Snobs Creek hatchery will be open for tours where you'll be able to meet and chat to Fisheries Officers and then the pièce de résistance will be the fireworks over the pondage from 7pm.

For more information, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/events/trout-opening-festivals/goulburn-fishing-festival



-S

Reducing road trauma in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is seeking community input to help plan for future road safety measures across the shire.

Drivers, motorcyclists, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users are invited to provide input on road safety issues in the shire and how they think road safety can be improved.

As outlined in a 2021 review into road trauma in Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires, Murrindindi Shire recorded the highest number of crashes compared to other small rural shires and 15 of the 19 large rural shires in Victoria, with several factors contributing to this statistic.

Feedback gathered during this consultation will help shape the development of council's draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, with the goal of reducing road trauma, death and serious injury on Murrindindi's roads by implementing tangible safety measures and initiatives.

Community members are invited to get involved by sharing their thoughts on road safety issues, including personal experiences, or by attending an online 'Community Conversation' event, where

they can learn more about the project and provide input.

Pop-up events will also be hosted at Yea FoodWorks on Monday, September 11, from 9.30am to noon, Alexandra FoodWorks on Thursday, September 21 from 2 to 4.30pm, and the Kinglake Market on Sunday, September 24 from 10am to 1pm, where you can chat to council officers in person about the project.

Council is grateful for funding from the TAC Road Safety Grant Program to complete this important work.

To get involved and provide input, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/roadsafety or call 5772 0333. Feedback closes on September 30.

Mayor John Walsh said, "Road safety is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play, including council, state and federal governments, vehicle manufacturers and motorists. Over the coming months, we'll be gathering input from local community members, key road user groups, agencies and road authorities to help guide the development of our draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

"The results of the Murrindindi and Strathbogie road trauma review are concerning to say the least. Road accidents have a devastating impact on the lives of victims, their families and our community. The aim of our Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan is to provide a framework to effectively reduce road trauma in our shire and help us achieve our vision of zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2050, which is in line with the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030."

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Wear It Purple Day at Alexandra Secondary College



Wear It Purple Day fun. -S



Alexandra Secondary School marked Wear it Purple Day on Friday, August 25. -S

Wear It Purple Day is about fostering supportive, safe and empowering and inclusive environments for LGBTQIA+ young people.

It was founded in 2010 in response to global stories of young LGBTQIA+ people, their struggles and tragically for some the loss of life following bullying and harassment resulting from the lack of acceptance of their gender identity or sexuality.

Alexandra Secondary College students showed their support for their fellow students and LGTBQIA+ young people everywhere on Friday August 25.

Nutbush Bash in Alexandra

YOU'D be hard pressed to find an adult Australian who's not familiar with the *Nutbush* dance.

Inspired by the Ike and Tina Turner song from the 70s, *Nutbush City Limits*, the dance is performed the nation over when people get together at events such as school dances, community gatherings and social events.

Alexandra's Karen Stillman is running a *Nutbush Bash* event to raise money for breast cancer research on Saturday, September 16 at the Alexandra Football Ground, starting at 11am.

She's planning for a big turnout, with stalls of all sorts, food and drink offerings, and the Alexandra Football Netball Club kiosk and bar will open too.

One in seven women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, according to the Breast Cancer Network of Australia. All proceeds of this event will go towards helping those suffering with the disease.

If you're a beginner or just keen to practice, you can go to the free lessons being held on Monday evenings from 5.30pm at St Johns Hall in Downey Street, Alexandra.

On Monday, August 28, the rehearsal will be recorded for a story on WIN Television. They will be airing a story promoting the event, as well as covering it on the day. So if you've a mind to get your face on the telly, the *Nutbush Bash* might be your ticket.

To be a part of the event, please visit eventbrite.com.au/e/nut-bush-bash-alexandra-tickets-693921978317

This week's Church Services

ANGLICAN St Johns Alexandra
 9am Eucharist each Sunday
 Children welcome
 Rev Mario Hendricks - Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

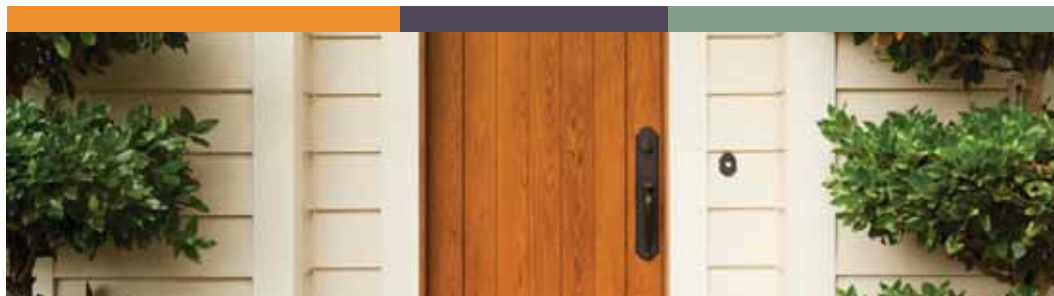
Immaculate Conception Parish
 Parish Administrator, Father Jose Mathew
 Presbytery 0468 810 871
 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia
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 contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
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 118 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Contact: Ps Steven Turner
 Ph: 0413 127 283
 Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

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

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



Outreach Support Visits Door Knock

Residents in flood affected areas of Yea, Molesworth, Thornton and along Whanregarwen Road can expect a visit from the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry (VCCM) over the next two weeks.

Representatives from VCCM will be conducting door knocks on behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council, as part of our support for the community following the October 2022 floods.

Council and our partner agencies would like to ensure that residents are supported in their recovery and offer information, referral and resources to assist where possible.

Through these outreach support visits, VCCM representatives can answer questions regarding access to supports and resources as you move forward.

For more flood recovery information

For more information about resources available for your ongoing recovery, visit the Flood Hub on Council's website. This hub has information on available grants, infrastructure updates, and support services available. Find out more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022



Out&About



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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

The Murrindindi Health Network invites you to a meeting with Dr Niki Vincent, Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner to hear her journey. 1-2pm at Yea Town Hall. Ligh catering will be supplied. For enquires contact 5736 0400 or email yeahospital@ydmh.org.au

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Goulburn Fishing Festival 2023. Free event at Eildon. 10am-4pm. Lions Park, Riverside Drive. Live music, market stalls, Snobs Creek Hatchery tours, Vic Fish Kids clinics and more. Fireworks at 7pm. vfa.vid.gov.au/goulburnfishfest

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

You are invited to a workshop to help increase healthy eating and activity in children. 4-7pm Yea Shire Hall. RSVP by September 4. Contact Hailey Docking on 5736 0468 for more information.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Alexandra Op Shop will hold their AGM at 10am at the op shop.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Alexandra Cricket Club AGM will be held at the Alexandra Bowling club at 7pm. All welcome.



Pictured left to right, Serina and Mark Coghill, Jaxon Carlton, Abdul Mannan, Norman Khan and Mohammad Ayas -MP

New owners for Alexandra Service Centre

IT'S an end of an era for Mark and Serina Coghill as they hand over Alexandra Service Centre to the new owners Abdul Mannan and Norman Khan as of Friday, September 1.

Owner Mark has spent two decades working with Alexandra Service Centre, formally known as J&K Repairs. He began sweeping floors and helping clean up before starting his apprenticeship.

After a short stint away in Western Australia working in the mines, Mark returned to Alexandra with his wife Serina in 2012. They then purchased the mechanical workshop now known as Alexandra Service Centre and the rest is history.

Mark and Serina are looking forward to the next chapter full of travel, quality time with their young and growing family with baby number three on the way.

"We have thoroughly enjoyed operating Alexandra Service Centre and would like to thank all of our amazing customers that have supported us over the years," Serina said.

The new owners Abdul and Norman are new to Alexandra. They have been in business since 2017 and in the automotive field since 2012 previously working for car dealerships. They have extensive experience in European cars as they used to work extensively with Volkswagen. They currently have two other Melbourne based repair centres, making Alexandra Service Centre their third business.

The new team have also received the tender for Eildon, Thornton, Taggerty and Alexandra with the towing service for RACV for roadside breakdowns and they will also be an accredited repairer for RACV.

"We are thrilled to be taking over Mark and Serina's good name in Alexandra and we are excited to be here, please come and see us if you need anything," Norman said.

Norman is planning to move to Alexandra with his family. As he has lived in the Melbourne Suburb of Fawkner for 16 years he is looking forward to the big change.

"I think it will be a big hit with my kids too as they experience country life," Norman said.

Where can your dog play?

TO clear up the confusion about where dogs can be let off the leash in park areas, Murrindindi Shire's Director Community and Development Andrew Paxton advised, "In public places and parks within our townships, dogs are allowed off leash, unless specific signage is in place advising otherwise. For example, the Great Victorian Rail Trail is an on-leash pathway in line with Council's Community Local Law and some playgrounds across the shire are designated dog-free areas as signposted.

"This is common across all municipalities and recognises that the presence of dogs can sometimes create concerns related to hygiene, allergies, potential conflicts with other dogs, and the safety of children.

"Council officers recently replaced old or damaged signage at the Leckie Park playground in Alexandra, which

we understand may have caused some confusion for residents. There has been no change to requirements at this playground. Dogs are not allowed within the playground area. The remainder of Leckie Park is a dog off-leash park. It's important to note that all dogs must be under effective control by their owners at all times.

"Within the next 12 months, we will be reviewing dog on leash, dog off leash and dog free areas as part of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the known health benefits of having a pet in our life.

"We are keen to actively involve the community in this review and we'll be seeking community input soon," Mr Paxton said.



The sign that has caused confusion in the community -MP

what MURRINDINDI BUSINESSES WANT have your say survey

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An online quick survey

murrindindifoodandwine.org.au



Victoria's High Country app is up and running

TOURISM North East has recently announced the launch of its new *Victoria's High Country* visitor app, a dynamic digital visitor guide and wayfinding tool that puts the latest information about everything there is to eat, see and do in the hands of visitors to Victoria's High Country. The app connects visitors with local businesses, experiences and in turn boosts local tourism.

The app gives local tourism businesses assistance in helping to drive traffic to their business by promoting their experiences and connecting them more readily to visitors. The app provides hyper local information allowing visitors to locate and connect with tourism experiences in the town they are staying as well as providing search and

wayfinding capability enabling visitors to explore the region based on their interests and needs.

The app is still new and has some early teething issues. The Marysville Market appears to be located behind Steavenson Falls for example, and Lake Mountain isn't listed, however it is expected that such issues will be resolved in due course.

The app was developed by Tourism North East, with support from a grant from the Victorian State Government via Regional Development Victoria, to enhance the region's digital offerings and capabilities.

The *Victoria's High Country* app is available for download on the iTunes App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android).



We'd love to say a big thank you to all our amazing customers that have supported us over the years.

We plan on staying in the area and spending some quality time with our young family.

Thank you!

Alexandra Service Centre
OFFICE



Join us for a pause
in time to reflect
and remember.

Third Annual GOULBURN VALLEY Suicide Awareness Walk Sunday 10 September 2023

Registration 8:30 am; Event Start 9:00 am
Rail Trail Loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges

Walking to remember those lost, raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support families and friends in our Goulburn Valley community.

For more information, to volunteer, & to register:

www.gvsag.org.au



gvsaginc



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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Luke and Henry have displayed the school values of Respect and Co-operation this week. Well done.



Judd Cunningham-White - 5/6A

Judd consistently shows the school value of care to our younger students. He is a wonderful role model to others, assisting them whenever he can, without being asked. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Judd. You are a star.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anna is always seen living out our school values and thinking of others. She is an empathetic and considerate member of our school community. Anna is a dedicated learner who tries her best in all subject areas. She listens to her peers, considers the feelings of those around her and strives to do her best.

Congratulations Anna.



BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Betty is a kind friend who goes out of her way to make others feel included at playtime. Well done Betty.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kingslake branch

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Successful grant recipients announced

FOUNDATION Murrindindi has announced the recipients of the 2023 Connecting Communities Grants, a program designed to foster community engagement, strengthen relationships, and support initiatives that enhance the quality of life in the Murrindindi region.

This year's grant round included an array of applications from local organisations and individuals who are dedicated to creating positive change within the Murrindindi community.

The Connecting Communities Grants program, which is in its third year, received a record number of applications, which highlights the enthusiasm and commitment of the local communities to work together towards shared goals.

The grants aim to provide support to projects that reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, foster community connections, increase social participation and inclusion and enhance a sense of belonging.

Foundation Murrindindi has announced the following organisations and initiatives as the recipients of the 2023 Connecting Communities Grants: Taggerty Lego and Games Nights through the Taggerty Progress Group, the Kingslake Rotary Art Show run by the Rotary Club of Kingslake Ranges, Country Music Gathering, TriGym Marysville Flowerdale Community Open Day, Flowerdale, the Community House Buxton Family Fun Nights run by Buxton Primary School, a Pride and Prejudice event run by Kingslake Boomerang Bags, Glenburn Community Gatherings run by the Glenburn Hall and Progress Association, Barefoot Bowls run by the Flowerdale Sports Club, Seniors

Week and Carers Week activities run by Menzies Support Services, Community Woodfire Pizza Night run by Fawcett Mechanics Institute, Seniors Week activities run by Murrindindi East U3A, and Flowerdale Community Carols run by the Flowerdale Hall.

"We are truly inspired by the passion and dedication shown by Shire of Murrindindi community groups in these grant applications," Robyn Hill, Executive Officer at Foundation Murrindindi, said.

"The Connecting Communities Grants program reflects our commitment to building stronger, more connected communities, and we are excited to see these projects come to life."

For more information about Foundation Murrindindi, or to make a donation to support the ongoing work of the Foundation, visit foundationmurrindindi.org.au or contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688.



The Flowerdale Sport Club being presented with a cheque from Foundation Murrindindi. -S

Alexandra Rotary finds out about Foundation Murrindindi

ROTARY Alexandra's guest speaker last week was Robyn Hill who joined Foundation Murrindindi in 2014 after a corporate career in Melbourne.

The foundation is an independent charitable fund supporting community led projects, which evolved from the Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation started following the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires.

As a place-based foundation with an independent board of skills based members, the foundation understands local needs because its members live locally. They had seed funding of \$1 million from the Victorian government, to be spent over 10 years. \$850,000 has been invested in 110 community projects by 50 organisations, including \$200,000 for youth suicide and mental health services, and assisting with the Alexandra Football and Netball Club clubroom redevelopment.

As well as direct provision of funds, the foundation acts as an enabler to help positive things happen, because the needs within our community don't stop.

Recent grants have been provided to Alexandra Secondary College, including \$49,000 for mental health support, \$30,000 for stage two of the Murrindindi Youth Garden, \$16,000 for students transitioning from primary to secondary schooling, and \$5000 in back

to school vouchers in Yea and Alexandra.

Connecting Communities Grants recognise that 30 per cent of households in the shire are single person households. The list of recipients is found in the other article on this page.

A social enterprise is soon to be launched, so that local giving can have local impact.

There are many parallels between the work of Rotary and Foundation Murrindindi and by working together, we can all do better. Twenty per cent of Murrindindi Shire residents volunteer, compared with state average of 13 per cent.

It was an entertaining and informative speech. If you want to find out more or can financially help Foundation Murrindindi, visit their website, foundationmurrindindi.org.au



Foundation Murrindindi Executive Officer Robyn Hill and Rotarian Bob Flowers. -S

Bridging the gap for healthcare through virtual doctors

ON Wednesday, August 23, the new initiative *Hour with an Ambo* held at Eildon Community Centre commenced.

MICA Paramedic Peter Scott presented the session alongside his colleagues and Caroline Brown from Caledonia Care also gave a talk about My Aged Care and NDIS applications and funding.

Each week there will be a presentation on health matters such as heart health, CPR and free health checks such as blood pressure and looking at vital signs. The ambulance officers can refer you to the necessary appointments if needed.

Peter said, "These checks are to not only check if you're well, but also maybe saving you ringing 000 down the track."

The first session presented to the community was about the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department. Peter felt this was an important topic for the Eildon community because in the township there is no GP or medical services available and some people many not drive or they may find it difficult to get to Alexandra or other areas close by.

Mr Scott said to the audience that just because you don't have a medical facility in town doesn't mean you can't speak with a GP and get the care you need.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) is a standalone emergency department and it's funded by the Victorian Government. It operates independently and is available for everybody. It offers access to emergency healthcare for those who don't present with time critical healthcare needs.

Mr Scott said, "Obviously if you have chest pains and sweaty and unwell you need to ring 000. You don't ring VVED for this. VVED is for non-emergency issues, where people can have Telehealth medical consultations which connect patients with emergency physicians and are available 24/7."

To access the service, you need to have a video camera that functions with internet connection and paired to a phone. The doctors must be able to have a visual of you while they talk to you. To use this service,



MICA Paramedic Peter Scott explaining the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department system to the audience. -MP

you can self refer or other services such as the ambulance can refer you.

The VVED started out as a pilot program in October 2020 initiated by the Northern Hospital to support the COVID-19 patients that were presenting in large numbers at the hospitals in the northern suburbs. The idea was to relieve the pressure on the emergency waiting rooms as there were long wait times. In February 2022, it expanded to a statewide coverage.

Ambulance Victoria and Northern Health conducted a pilot in 2021 and 81 per cent of the patients were referred to a different pathway and not an emergency department. This virtual program is taking pressure of the emergency systems.

All Victorian residents and interstate visitors can access these services, and it's free of charge.

Mr Scott said, "The aim is to provide the right care at the right time and the right place."

The VVED is useful for instances when you need antibiotics, have pain, chest infections, gastrointestinal symptoms, or vomiting providing there is no blood,

etcetera. Through the VVED, people with palliative care needs can even be put onto a palliative care physician.

If the VVED thinks you're in the high risk category, they will ring an ambulance.

Mr Scott explained to the audience how QR codes provide to access VVED. You can also visit the website and select the register icon.

Once registered with the VVED you will go into a virtual waiting room for your appointment. First you see a triage nurse and then you will have a consultation with a doctor to work out the best care path for you and your needs.

The doctors can email referrals and scripts to you, order pathology and pretty much everything you would get at a normal doctor or emergency department. They can provide self-care advice and GP follow up. Interpreters are also available which can be requested in the initial registration process.

For more information visit vved.org.au



Caroline from Caledonia Care talking to the audience about support available with MyAgedCare and NDIS. -MP

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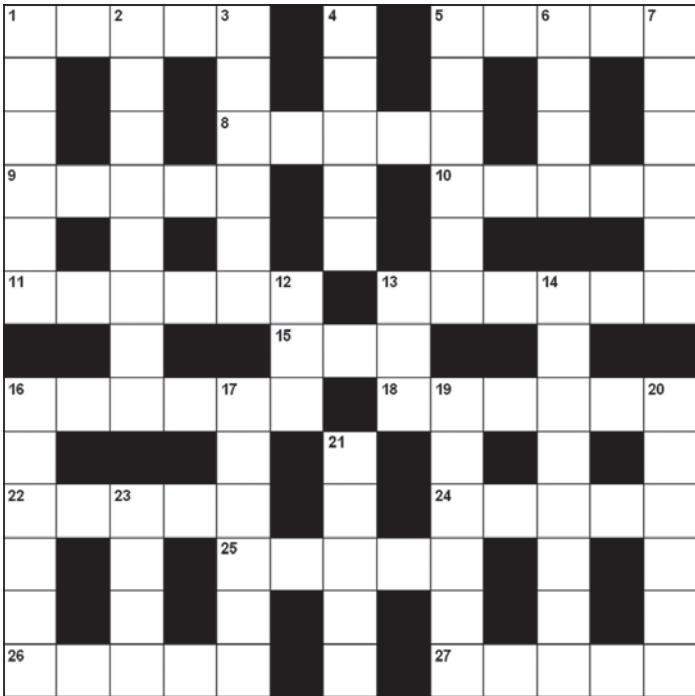


PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1. Ten-armed cephalopod mollusc.
 - 5. CD composed of many songs.
 - 8. Jewellers magnifying glass.
 - 9. Adult male duck.
 - 10. Relating to law.
 - 11. An unmarried girl.
 - 13. Heated up.
 - 15. Be in debt to.
 - 16. A frenzied woman.
 - 18. Cooked in hot water.
 - 22. Skin disease in furry animals.
 - 24. A twilled woollen fabric.
 - 25. The wife of a raja.
 - 26. The present occasion.
 - 27. A pointed tool for writing.



- DOWN
- 1. Not often.
 - 2. A city dweller.
 - 3. Remove all traces.
 - 4. A fine mist.
 - 5. Congenital absence of a limb.
 - 6. Two-masted square-rigged ship.
 - 7. Handled very roughly.
 - 12. A sign of assent.
 - 13. An intricate network.
 - 14. A load of nonsense.
 - 16. Wealth regarded as evil.
 - 17. Punish by a fine.
 - 19. Preoccupy completely.
 - 20. Coat with flour before cooking.
 - 21. Australia's wild dog.
 - 23. The middle of the day.

Word Search - Spring

Balmy	V	G	F	L	E	I	H	N	B	C	T	B	C	U	D
Blossoms	A	A	R	I	L	C	R	A	I	N	Y	I	G	A	B
Buds	T	X	A	Y	G	T	N	S	T	H	N	N	F	A	T
Colour	T	U	G	O	B	G	W	I	J	C	F	F	E	D	D
Daffodils	E	F	R	H	H	U	M	Y	I	U	O	R	I	O	Q
Flowers	T	L	A	M	R	S	D	P	Z	D	Q	W	G	S	Z
Fragrant	A	O	N	R	N	D	H	S	I	R	U	O	L	O	C
Germinate	N	W	T	A	Y	T	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	S	B
Growth	I	E	W	W	W	M	S	B	W	N	V	G	Y	E	P
Picnic	M	R	C	O	K	B	L	Y	V	F	K	Y	V	L	P
Rain	R	S	R	B	J	T	L	A	A	Z	L	O	S	K	G
Warm	E	G	B	S	L	F	S	J	B	E	H	A	C	T	M
	G	E	F	F	T	K	V	S	I	Q	Q	R	U	R	J
	N	J	V	V	N	Y	I	S	O	Y	E	K	T	K	R
	O	Q	H	M	B	A	L	T	E	X	S	J	T	M	A

Maths Squares

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.

	x		+	1	37
-		+		x	
	-		-		-5
+		+		-	
7	-		+		10
6		14		2	

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

Fill in the missing letters

Fill in the missing letters

alm B_o_so__ B__s C_lo_r _a__odi_s F_o_ers
_ra_rant Ger_in_te Gro_t_ _i_ni_ Ra__ _a_m

Vale
Jenni Shaw

by Robert Crimeen

EILDON has lost one of its most dynamic, community-minded residents with the death on July 28 of Jenni Shaw.

Jenni, who coincidentally lived in Shaw Avenue, had battled ill-health, necessitating an extended hospitalisation in Box Hill, shortly before she died, surrounded by her adoring family. She was less than a month short of her 77th birthday.

Jenni was christened Jennifer Mary, but much preferred the abbreviated form. She returned home from hospital and gallantly produced the August edition of the much-loved monthly newsletter *Eildon Edition*, which she had edited and published for several years.

Sadly, it was her final contribution to a community she had loved, and for which she had done so much.

Jenni's daughter, Elissa Gault, who with her brother Paul delivered revelatory eulogies to a packed congregation of mourners at Alexandra Uniting Church, told the gathering her cherished mother was born in Fleetwood, a fishing village on England's rugged north west coast, where her father George Impett was a fisherman from a long line of seafarers.

Her mother Florrie Fish, who had been born in Collingwood, was the daughter of British immigrants who had farmed in Kinglake.

The Fish family returned to England before the outbreak of World War II, which blocked any immediate plans they might have had to make Australia their home once again.

But determination triumphed, and when Jenni was about 18 months old, the family sailed back to Australia as proud '10 Pound Poms' aboard the SS Ormonde.

Living in Clayton, and having to get herself off to primary school, a journey necessitating two bus rides at the tender age of five, young Jenni considered herself the 'original latchkey kid'.

"I think this early experience contributed to her incredible sense of emotional resilience," Elissa told the mourners.

Jenni's secondary education began in Clayton, but was completed at Methodist Ladies' College.

"Mum was academically very bright," Elissa said. "She could have entered any profession and excelled, although perhaps not veterinary medicine. She would faint at the sight of animals' blood, even if she hadn't witnessed the blood being shed."

Her tertiary education was at Burwood Teachers' College, and she began her teaching career at Clyde North Primary School.

A keen horse rider, Jenni met John Hobby, who would become her first husband, through the Broadford Trail Riding group.

After living in Canterbury, in what Jenni vowed was a haunted house where she would often hear footsteps in the corridor but never saw a ghost, she and John relocated in 1975 to Mansfield, where she was district relief



Jenni Shaw. -S

teacher and John home-cared for Elissa, and Paul after his birth in 1976.

Five years later, the family moved to Gobur, from where Jenni commuted to fulfil her duties as Ruffy Primary's teacher. Elissa recalled her mother loving the Ruffy posting, adding that she later taught at district schools including Yarck, Euroa and Eildon.

In 1986, Jenni and John divorced, "... another very unusual situation for the time," Elissa said.

"Mum was never afraid to do things differently from what society expected. She was always open-minded and ahead of her time.

"She'd go about her business quietly and discreetly, always the quiet achiever. She set high standards for herself, and lived up to them.

"Mum was extremely resilient and when things went wrong she would sort them out.

"One night we were on our daily drive back from Ruffy school down the Gobur cutting, when we got a flat tyre on the wagon. It was dark, there were no mobile phones... and we also had no torch.

"So Mum took off the hubcap, and we got some twigs so we could light a fire in the hubcap. She changed the tyre in the light of the burning twigs and off we went back to Gobur," Elissa said.

In 1988, Jenni married Mervyn 'Merv' Shaw, who some people refer to as the "Mayor of Gobur," Elissa revealed.

In his eulogy, Paul said, "Merv was the love of Mum's life." Together they enjoyed many trips around Victoria, accompanied by their adored dogs, Jess and Pup, who also slept on the bed.

Jenni cared for Merv when he became unwell until his unexpected death in 2018.

Her many interests included ceramics, quilting, the strange art of corn dollies, spinning wool shorn from black sheep and knitting hats, gloves and large jumpers that smelled of lanolin.

She loved her garden, native birds, native flowers, art depicting both, and spending time with her grandchildren feeding seed to the king parrots drawn to her back garden.

Jenni loved classical music, playing the recorder, was dedicated to learning Italian and cooked to perfection recipes derived from her favourite magazine, *Epicure*.

An astute investor and extremely frugal, she never purchased anything she didn't need, and bought as many clothes as possible from the op shop.

"Mum really loved living in Eildon, her little cottage, her neighbour Joan, her Pondage walking group with Mary and Wendy, all the friends she made at U3A, putting together the Eildon Edition, and supporting Eildon Action," Elissa said.

"Mum wanted the very best for Eildon and strived to achieve it. Many times I'd ask her if she wanted to meet for lunch, but she would say she was going to be at the information centre to make sure it was open for the tourists.

"Mum was my best friend, my champion, a wonderful Nonna to my kids and mother-in-law to my husband Andy.

"I'm going to miss her more than words can possibly express."



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Frankie making people's days brighter



Six year old Frankie, who attends Alexandra Primary School, started making people's days brighter about six months ago with her footpath chalk drawings on Aitken Street. Her father, Scott, explained that it started off as a way to teach his daughter her ABCs. -AR



Some people who have been enjoying the drawings and messages have sometimes left Thank You cards or more chalk. Many also stop to say thank you. -AR



Frankie and her family are often busy making new footpath creations each day if the weather is nice, and they welcome other people joining in. -AR



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SEPTEMBER Oil Prices (as at 1/9/2023 to 30/9/2023)



Moi Cotton Seed 20L \$65

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MOI Blended Vegetable Oil is high in poly unsaturated & is ideal for bakery purposes, salad dressing, shallow or wok frying. Great oil for the budget conscious.



Kristel Cost Saver Canola 15L \$45

A low cost canola oil with great results. This product is a great solution for those who are frequently changing oil and wanting to replace their fryers with new fresh oil more often but still save on costs.



Riverina Vegetable Oil 20L \$50

***Box & bag 15L \$36**

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Riverina Canola 20L \$53

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ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Paringa Livestock producing elite genetics

LOCAL family run business Paringa Livestock are using up to date science, genetic knowledge and well researched biological systems in order to provide elite genetic bulls for Australian beef producers.

Tom and Olivia Lawson have been breeding bulls for over 20 years and they are continually aiming to better their practices to achieve sustainable beef production.

Olivia explained, "We don't promote ourselves as better than anyone else. However, in terms of our point of difference in our product offering of genetics, we offer genuine yearling bulls to beef breeders with access to the latest high performing genetics available. We are a family owned and operated business, full time working with our cattle every single day.

"We focus on highly functional, feed efficient and highly fertile cattle with high-end carcass characteristics that are adapted to all markets in Australia. Primarily, a lot of our clients are part of supply chains where they are supplying high performing cattle that are fed on grass rather than grain finished. They are quite unique in that regard.

"We supply Angus, black and red and a product called Stabilizer which is a fully hybrid design that developed initially in America around 20 years ago. We brought the trademark to Australia and started breeding Stabilizers here around 16 years ago. We are one of very few that breeds Stabilizers in Australia.

"Stabilizers offer a unique opportunity. They are made of up to four breeds that compliment each other. They offer higher performing, maternal and terminal performance over a pure-bred Angus.

Tom added, "With the product Stabilizer, it's about achieving hybrid vigour/heterosis. This is how you can increase your traits such as fertility and longevity. The only way you can improve these traits is through crossbreeding (heterosis).

"Stabilizer is optimal mainstream crossbreeding. It's usually two to six breeds being used. The products change and evolve over the years as markets change. Traditionally it has been Angus, Simmental, and Gelbvieh and Hereford."

On the land, Tom and Olivia are continually improving soil health through holistic grazing. Olivia said, "Soil health is equally if not more important to us than the genetics of the business, because we are 100 per cent a grass business. We have been rotationally grazing for 20 years and have become more and more attuned to why looking after our soil and grass is vital for soil health, water retention and drought resilience. Ground cover is also important to maintain 100 per cent of the time as it reduces erosion, wind erosion and helps water infiltration and soil carbon levels."

Tom and Olivia have just completed a grazing for profit school (RCS) up in Toowoomba. They developed their own grazing charts through the course.

Olivia said, "It reiterated to us the importance to striving to improve soil health and it will in turn improve pasture health and animal health. In terms of holistic management, our business is all about the land, plants, and animals and the people.

"We are conscious of the impact on our ecosystem and land health. We made a the switch to a biological farming system a

long time ago. We have previously won a sustainable farming award in 2014 through Landcare. We really have been passionate about this for quite some time."

Paringa Livestock have their Annual Bull Sale coming up on September 21 on property at 1pm and on Auctionsplus. For more information visit paringalivestock.com.au



Tom Lawson at home at Paringa Livestock -S



Stabilizer Heifers at on the land -S



Recipe kindly submitted by Kaye Baynes of the Yea Branch of the CWA

WHOLE ORANGE AND COCONUT CAKE RECIPE by Barb Fisher

INGREDIENTS

2 oranges
185 grams butter
1 and a half cups Castor sugar
3 eggs
1 cup dessicated coconut
1 and a half cups SR flour

METHOD

Place whole oranges not peeled into saucepan cover with water and simmer for 25 minutes.

Cream butter and sugar, add eggs 1 at a time.

Remove oranges allow to cool slightly.

Chop and roughly remove seeds

Place in blender till oranges are pulp.

Combine with butter and sugar then add dry ingredients.

Cook for 1 hour 20 minutes at 160



PHOTO COMPETITION

Each month we are running a photo competition with a theme. The theme for the month of September is 'baby animals'.

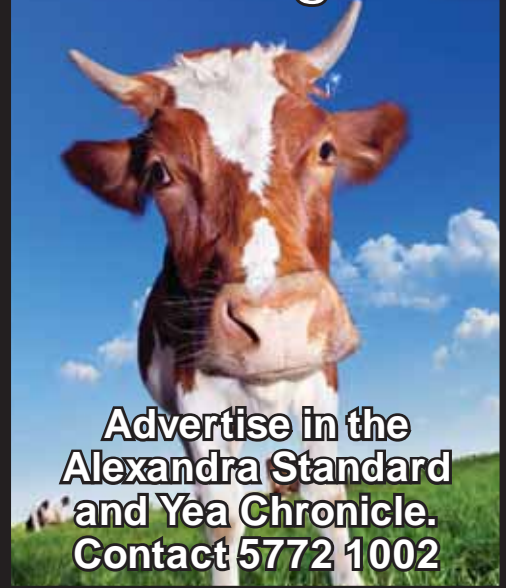
Simply send in your name, address, phone number and date of birth with your photo to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au (files cannot be smaller than 1mb or exceed 10mb and must be of printable quality), or PO Box 5 Alexandra Vic 3714 or you can drop it off at Alexandra Newspapers located 43 Grant Street Alexandra.

The winner will receive a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. Entries need to be received by September 30, 2023. Please do not submit photos that have been edited in any way, any photos that have not been taken by you, any photos not taken in the last 12 months or any more than 3 photos per month.



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Keeping varroa mite out of Victoria

BEEKEEPERS are urged to be vigilant in monitoring for varroa mite and to keep up-to-date with permits, as Agriculture Victoria strengthens its surveillance in response to a detection over the border.

Victoria's Chief Plant Health Officer Dr Rosa Crnov on Friday, August 25 provided reassurance that no varroa mite has been found in Victoria.

On Thursday, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries confirmed varroa mite in beehives at Euroley in the Riverina and Euston in the Sunraysia region, resulting in a new Biosecurity (varroa mite) Emergency Order being issued. New South

Wales has led a response to eradicate varroa mite since it was first detected in Newcastle in 2022.

This comes as Victoria's almond pollination season in the Sunraysia region is coming to an end, and beekeepers are moving their hives to pollinate other Victorian fruit and crops.

Dr Crnov said Agriculture Victoria biosecurity officers have been on the ground in Sunraysia undertaking targeted surveillance and no varroa mite was detected.

"Victoria is committed to the National Response Plan and will be undertaking

further surveillance in the region. We are also working closely with New South Wales to trace beehives and understand their movements."

Under the nationally agreed response plan, no hives can move within 25km of an infested beehive.

This applies to bee hives located in Victoria that are located within NSW's 25km zone at Euston.

"Agriculture Victoria will make every effort to contact any beekeepers that might be affected in this zone. Beekeepers who think they might be impacted are encouraged to contact us," she said.

Victoria has a rigorous permit system in place to help keep the state free from varroa mite. A permit is required for anyone bringing bees, hives, queen bees, used beekeeping equipment, pollen for bee feeding, and bee products, including honeycomb, into any part of Victoria from any other state or territory.

"It's crucial for beekeepers to follow the mandatory permit system for entry of bees, hives and apiary movements into Victoria. This system helps protect our state, while enabling essential horticultural pollination activities to continue."

"Application for queen bees from all states except New South Wales will be assessed. Permits will not be granted for queens, escorts and queen cells from NSW at this time," she said.

Victorian registered beekeepers are required to keep movement records under Victorian regulations, preferably in BeeMAX. Varroa mite is a parasite of adult honey bees and honey bee brood. It weakens and kills honey bee colonies and can also transmit honey bee viruses.

For more information on Varroa requirements, reporting and permit applications, visit the varroa page on the Agriculture Victoria website, agriculture.vic.gov.au/varroa

Any suspect varroa should be reported to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Farming for the future

ACCORDING to ABARES, changes in seasonal conditions have reduced farm profits by 23 per cent on average between 2001 to 2020.

These changes pose a serious risk to the agriculture sector, which feels the brunt of the changes, having full exposure to changes in seasonal temperature and rainfall, and extreme weather events such as drought, fire and flood.

Agriculture is critical to local communities, the Australian economy, good land management, and food security.

We are seeing the impacts of fires and floods in insurance premiums and coverage.

To be prepared we need to understand the climate and related policy operating environment, and where it's headed. Many local Landcare and producer groups have been working to provide information and education around topics related to climate and management tactics. Farmers have been making changes to their management.

It's not all doom and gloom. National moves towards a carbon neutral economy offer an opportunity for farmers to be paid to implement new practices which meet their business goals. These practices include revegetating waterways or rocky outcrops, improving production of perennial pastures.

Recently, Yea River Catchment Landcare Group was awarded a Victorian Landcare grant to host a series of presentations and workshops about climate change and carbon in agriculture. The series seeks to increase understanding of and planning for climate change on farms through addressing

practical options, decision making and confusion around carbon.

For further information and booking details, please read the advertisement on this page.

"We are aiming to bring people together to raise current issues and discuss emerging technology and practices to address these," Rhiannon Sandford, secretary of Yea River Catchment Landcare Group, said.

"We've noticed confusion about the opportunities and requirements of carbon management on farms, and a desire for farmers to come together to share and discuss local issues. We thought this was a good opportunity to bring people together."

The group will organise a series of presentations running until mid-2024. The first session in the series is a presentation on September 21 in Yea, with seasonal forecast specialist Dale Grey from Agriculture Victoria, and environmental scientist and ecologist Dr Martino Malerba from Deakin University.

"Dale is going to take us through the latest on predicted rainfall and temperature changes for our area, as well as new data showing step-changes in local stream flows. He will also look at the current seasonal risk and explain options to plan for the predicted warmer and drier spring, and now summer," Rhiannon said.

Dr Malerba leads the Teal Carbon group at Deakin's Blue Carbon Lab. Teal carbon refers to freshwater wetland ecosystems. Freshwater wetlands are important in mitigating the effects of climate change as they can store large amounts of carbon. Conversely, when degraded from, for

example, water extraction, pollution and landscape modification, they are very large emitters of greenhouse gases. Mismanagement of natural wetlands has led scientists like Dr Malerba to look at and consider farm dams as potential freshwater wetland systems.

Farm dams are a big opportunity for increasing biodiversity on farms and can reduce farm carbon emissions when livestock are fenced out.

Farm dams are large emitters of greenhouse gases, but relatively simple interventions like fencing out livestock can alter them from emitters of greenhouse gases to sinks storing carbon from the atmosphere.

"Farm dams in our area are for stock water supply, so while we all value less fouling of dams by stock, reduced evaporative losses and more birds on our farms, we need to explore with experts like Dr Malerba the practicalities and options for fencing out dams and troughing water," Rhiannon said.

"Options like hardened access points or fencing dams in paddocks close by for checking water troughs might work out to be the most practical. The great news is that Martino and his team are looking for ways to get the carbon market to pay for dam refurbishments."

Planning is underway for the second session, a forum on November 17. Rhiannon said, "We are looking to engage speakers on a range of topics, including soil carbon, carbon in vegetation on farms, and farm emissions accounting. Simon Quilty, Global AgriTrends and Churchill Fellow, is our keynote speaker."

SAVE THE DATE

September 12 - Wodonga
Efficient Farm Office workshop
- AgVic

September 19, 20 & 21 - Henty
Henty Machinery Field Days

September 23 & 24 - Yea
Yea Garden Expo at Yea Saleyards
- Rotary Club of Yea

October 21 - Yea Saleyards
Detox your home - Sustainability
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AUCTION START TIME 9.30am

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Oct 6 Combined agents store sale

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Dale Grey - Seasonal Risk
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Dr Martino Malerba -
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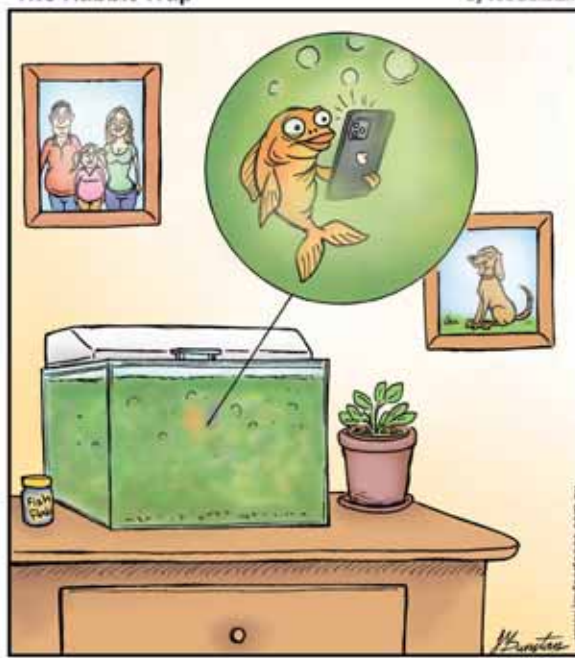
**Bookings
essential**

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The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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

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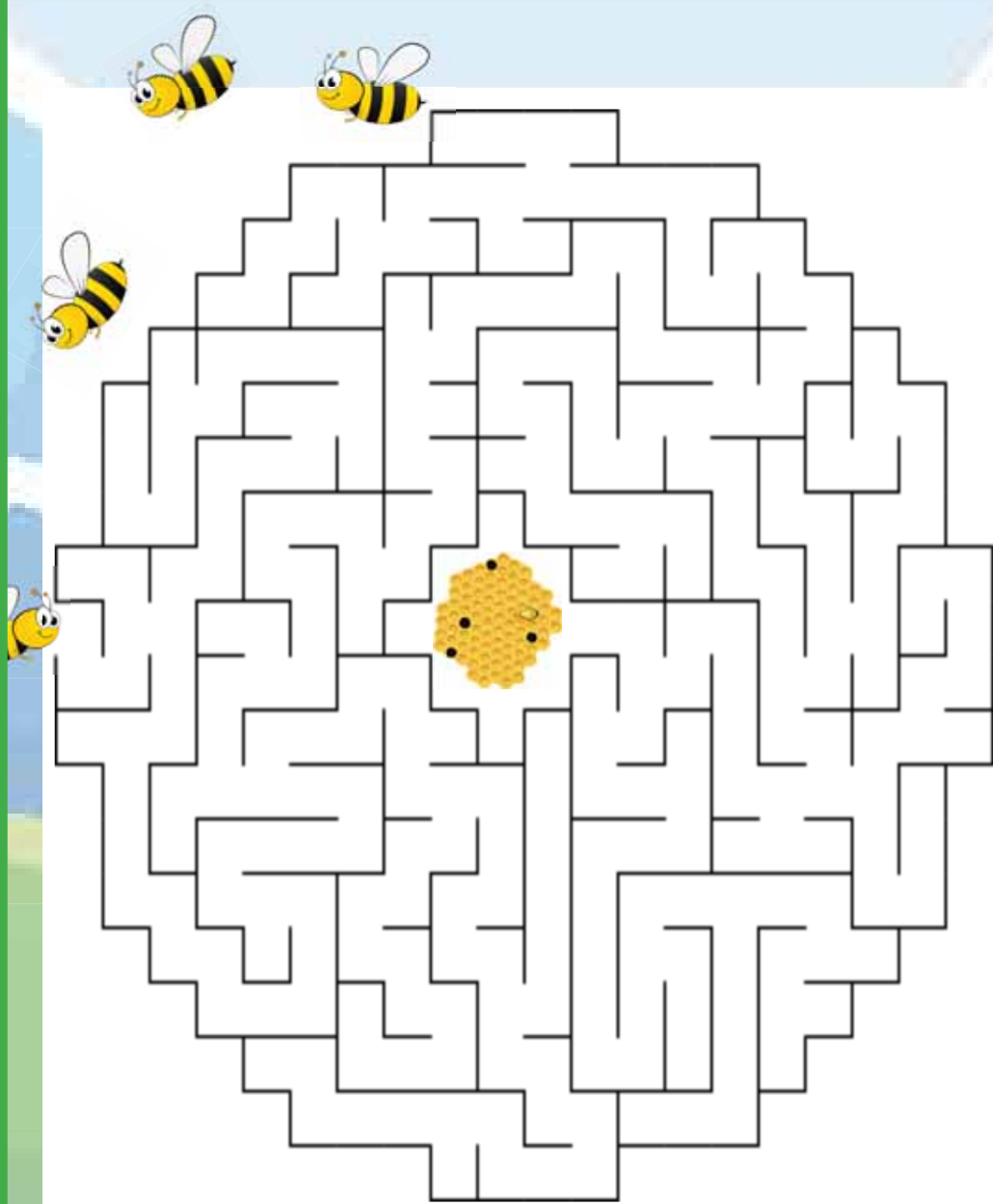
D.O.B. _____



First day of Spring - September 1, 2023

A - M A Z E - I N G

Help the bees find their way to the centre of the bee hive.



FACT-ASTICAL

Lots of cuddly animals give birth in the spring, including deer, birds, and rabbits.

Spring brings out the bees, which are super important for our environment. They help flowers, plants, and trees grow.

Spring is ideal for planting many flowers and crops because the soil is cool enough for roots to thrive, there's lots of rain, and new plants love the warmer air.

WORD MATCH

Match the words to create spring time activities.
One has been done for you as an example.

Weather

Flowers

Bees

Birds

Grass

Sun

chirp

shines

warms

grows

bloom

buzz

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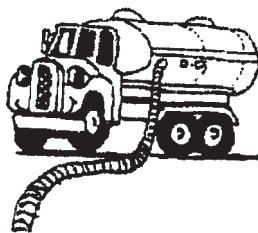
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Unite Australia
Not divide by race
VOTE NO

Authorised by Raymond Donkin, Buxton.



Upcoming Tree Removal Works at lower Eildon Pondage

In collaboration with Eildon Landcare Group, Council will be cleaning up an area of woody weeds along the Goulburn Valley Highway, around the lower Eildon Pondage.

Eildon Landcare has already done a fabulous job removing small weed species from this area, and we'll be building on their efforts by removing and mulching the Poplar trees, removing hung branches and trimming dangerous branches. Not only will this improve safety and access for people who enjoy fishing on the Pondage or those who use the walking path, opening up the view, it will also improve the biodiversity of the area.

These works are set to commence during the first week of October and should only take a couple of days to complete. During this time, traffic management will be in place on the Goulburn Valley Highway. Any delays will be kept to a minimum, but locals should expect a short delay of up to five minutes. Residents who usually walk around the Eildon Pondage need to be mindful of the works as there will be no access to the path between the car park area and the bridge as shown on the map.

For more information about this project, give Council a call on 5772 0333.



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Please email applications to
nigel.lyttle@education.vic.gov.au by
September 8, 2023.

DEATH NOTICES

MUNNERLEY,
Craig David
01/06/1965-
16/08/2023
Passed away surrounded by loving family.
Son of Margaret and Bruce (dec.)
Brother of Kerri and Michele.
Father of Lauren, Jake, Jacquelyn.
A brother, uncle, cousin, grandfather and loyal mate to many.
He will be sadly missed.

GARAGE SALES

YEA 121 HIGH STREET
Saturday, September 2 at 9am. Includes China, glassware, salad bowls, platters, silverware and bric-a-brac. 60s, 70s and 80s items.

MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA CRICKET CLUB
Annual General Meeting, September 13 at 7pm at the bowling club. All welcome. Looking forward to a great season. Come and support your club.

THE ALEXANDRA OPPORTUNITY SHOP Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, at 10am at the op shop.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales

Alexandra
Treadmills, X- trainers,
exercise bikes, rowers
and more.

PH:0407 231 377

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$28 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

SITUATION VACANT

McKenzie's Tourist Services Pty Ltd Since 1927

FULL TIME BUS DRIVER

Long term employment opportunity with our team

Family owned business

Buxton start and finish

School run AM and PM

Service to Ringwood and return

Daily overtime and weekend overtime available

Please send your resume or enquiry to

mckenzie@bigpond.com

or phone 5962 5088



Housekeeping

BIG4 Taggerty Holiday Park is looking for energetic, reliable and motivated people to join our housekeeping team.

The successful people will be responsible for maintaining our standard of cleanliness for all cabins, glamping tents, amenities and park facilities.

Flexible hours available.
School holiday work also available.
Students welcome.

The successful people must have the ability to work unsupervised as well as part of a team and have great attention to detail.

Full training provided.

Please e-mail enquiries and/or resumes to
book@big4taggerty.com.au.

All ability facilities at Lake Eildon

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) has been working with various councils and government agencies to increase the number of all ability facilities at its storages.

GMW Recreation and Land Officer Chris Braden said considerable progress has been made in making GMW storages more inclusive.

“Across our dams, lakes, and reservoirs, we have 20 all ability toilet blocks and eight all ability barbecues,” Mr Braden said. “At locations with these facilities, there are also parking options and the pathways between the amenities are suitable for people of all abilities.

“The all abilities facilities that have been established at our storages in recent years have been very well used. These facilities are invaluable, as they open up recreation areas people with disabilities might not otherwise be able to enjoy.”

The only all-ability facilities (disabled access amenity blocks) at Lake Eildon in the Murrindindi Shire is the Jerusalem Creek public amenity block which was completed in May 2020, funded through the Victorian Government’s Boosting Recreational Water Use initiative.

There is also disabled access at the council operated Lions Park amenity block on the northern side of the lower Pondage at Eildon.

GMW has completed a business case for an all-abilities access upgrade to the Outlet Tower Gardens Recreation Area. Subject to receiving external funding, the proposed works would include installation of dedicated all-ability parking bays, upgrading pathways, upgrading the existing table settings in the picnic shelters to all-ability table settings, and installing comprehensive information signage behind the lookout fence line at a height to suit all ability viewing.

GMW has a list of all ability facilities at its storages, you can view these at g-mwater.com.au/all-ability-facilities

Sick Pay Guarantee for more workers

THE Victorian Government is helping more casual and contract workers access sick and carer’s pay, increasing the number of jobs covered by the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee and extending the pilot until March 2025.

Minister for Employment Ben Carroll announced more than 400 new jobs are now eligible for the nation-leading Sick Pay Guarantee, giving thousands more workers in casual and contract jobs the opportunity to access up to 38 hours a year of sick and carer’s pay.

Casual, contract and self-employed workers including community support workers, taxi and rideshare drivers, arts workers, childcare and early childhood workers, fitness instructors, tourism and outdoor recreation workers, factory workers, fruit pickers and hairdressers can check their eligibility and sign up to the scheme today.

Newly eligible workers can apply for sick and carer’s pay from the day they sign up, and workers who were eligible in the first phase of the pilot will benefit from an additional year of the pilot.

The \$245.7 million Australian-first initiative aims to reduce workplace illnesses and injuries and keep businesses safer and more productive.

Workers can check their eligibility and sign up online at vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee or in the Service Victoria app. Neighbourhood Houses can also help people to sign up and access the scheme, visit nhvic.org.au to find a participating Neighbourhood House.

Need a helping hand this tax time?

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is providing dedicated support to taxpayers this tax time.

Tax Help

The Tax Help program is a free and confidential service open to people who earn \$60,000 or less each year and have simple tax affairs.

“Our ATO-trained volunteers are there to walk you through all stages of your tax return, from creating a myGov account, to navigating lodging through myTax, letting us know if you don’t need to lodge, and even how to lodge an amendment if you’ve made a mistake. They can also help you find any superannuation you may have forgotten you had,” Assistant Commissioner Tim Loh said.

The Tax Help program also supports First Nations people and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, providing support and assistance in many community languages.

The program is available now until the end of October. More information about Tax Help is available at ato.gov.au/TaxHelp

Tax Clinics

Taxpayers who are not eligible for Tax Help may be able to access the National Tax Clinic program, a government-funded initiative to help those who may not be able to afford professional advice and representation with their tax affairs.

The tax clinic program is available to eligible individuals, small businesses, not-for-profit organisations and charities.

More information is available at ato.gov.au/TaxClinic.

Support for First Nations people

The ATO’s Indigenous helpline provides specialised tax and super assistance, tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The ATO Indigenous helpline staff can answer questions on a range of topics, including what to do if you run a business, have a second job, received income from the gig economy, received an education scholarship or bursary, or received a government payment.

In addition to the Indigenous Helpline, the ATO has several programs on offer to make managing tax and super affairs simpler. Assistance can also be provided online or by phone so even those living in rural or remote locations can access the service.

The Indigenous Helpline is available on 131 030 on Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm excluding public holidays.

Assistance for culturally and linguistically diverse taxpayers

The tax office has translated information to help people understand tax and superannuation in Australia in their preferred language.

These resources are available at ato.gov.au/TaxTimeResources

Self-help options

The ATO also provides digital tools, including myTax, the ATO app, and online services for individuals, businesses, tax agents which can be used to resolve a range of queries and perform specific actions on accounts.

Another resource is ATO Community, an online peer to peer discussion platform that allows members of the community to ask and share information about tax and super issues with other community members. With more than 122,000 members involved and over 235,000 posts, your query might already have been answered.

Have you prepared for fire season?

by Jason Heffernan, CFA Chief Officer

VICTORIA is expecting a warmer spring and an earlier start to the fire season this year and we’re asking those living in high risk areas to take action to prepare their family and property.

The new Spring Seasonal Outlook that has been released predicts the fire risk in the coming months to be normal across the state, as well as strong drying patterns in Gippsland’s forested areas and elevated grass fuel loads in central, western and northern Victoria.

While La Niña conditions have subdued Victoria’s fire risk the past three years, our state is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world and we need people to be prepared as we approach warmer conditions.

CFA crews have been protecting lives and property in this environment for decades, some for more than a century. They’re highly trained, professional firefighters that have made every effort to prepare their communities ahead of this fire season, as they do every year.

We’re constantly working with our Victorian emergency service partners throughout the cooler months to prepare for fire season and this year is no exception.

However, while we continue our work, our crews implore people to understand that fire safety is a shared responsibility between fire services and the community.

We’re asking all Victorians in high risk areas to take simple actions to prepare their family and property as the weather begins to warm.

If you live near areas with bush, forest, long grass or coastal scrub, these actions and decisions may well save your life and property in the event of a bushfire.

Find some time to sit down with your family or household and make a Bushfire Survival Plan, and if you already have one, it’s a great time to review it.

It’s also the perfect time to tidy up your property, this can include clearing your gutters, pruning branches away from your roof or walls, keeping grass shorter than 10cm and removing leaves and twigs from around your property.

Landowners should also consider private burn offs to remove green waste ahead of Fire Danger Period (FDP) declarations. All burn offs must be registered, which can be done online at firepermits.vic.gov.au.

Stay informed by downloading the VicEmergency app to stay across incidents and fire danger ratings in your area.

I urge all Victorians to visit the CFA website to learn more about how they can prepare themselves ahead of this bushfire season at cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare.

Jobs rising in the regions

REGIONAL unemployment in Victoria has plunged to an unprecedented low as jobs continue to grow in towns and cities across the state.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows Victoria’s regional unemployment rate fell to 2.4 per cent in July. This is the lowest in the country and the lowest mark in the state’s history. The national regional unemployment rate stands at 3.3 per cent.

More than 8000 jobs were created in regional areas last month, the best performance among the states and pushing the total number of people in work in the regions to a record high 864,000.

The labour market is strong in regional and metropolitan areas, overall a record 3.65 million Victorians are in work and Victoria leads the nation in jobs created last month, over the past year and since November 2014.

More than 500,000 Victorians have secured a job since the September 2020 height of the pandemic economic shock,

140,000 more jobs than the next best performer.

Victorian wages jumped by 0.7 per cent in the June quarter and 3.6 per cent over the year, the highest annual growth since 2011.

The most recent ABS growth data shows Victoria’s state final demand, a key performance indicator, grew by 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of the year, higher than the national average and the second highest of any state.

Almost 1.6 million Victorians live outside of metropolitan Melbourne. Victoria’s population growth led the country before the pandemic and we are seeing a return to strong growth alongside the strong labour market.

Victoria’s population grew by almost 40,000 in the December quarter. This is the highest increase reported by the ABS of all the states. Over the year, Victoria’s population increased by 2.1 per cent to 6.7 million persons.

Spring flows to start in September

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) plans to deliver water for the environment down the Goulburn River in September to benefit native fish, platypus and the long-term health of the waterway.

Goulburn Broken CMA Environmental Water and Wetlands Manager, Simon Casanelia, said the annual water release was referred to as the Goulburn River early spring fresh and was expected to run from approximately September 4 to 31.

“This additional water will enhance available habitat for native fish, platypus and waterbugs, enabling them to use the food washed in from the high flows as the weather becomes warmer,” Mr Casanelia said.

The fresh is expected to benefit the whole length of the Goulburn River downstream of Lake Eildon. It will begin with a peak flow of approximately 9500ML/day at Trawool and Shepparton before slowly dropping back to approximately 1000ML/day later in September.

Mr Casanelia said peak flows would be well below minor flood levels along the Goulburn River.

“At Trawool the river will reach 2.4m, the minor flood level is 4m, and at Shepparton the river will reach 4m, the minor flood level is 9.5m. Timing and height of the fresh may vary depending on natural flows in the river. Delivery of water for the environment will reduce or stop if there is any flood risk.

“Timing of the spring fresh has been complex this year. Planned works at Goulburn Weir in October require the fresh to start in early September. This could have led to high flows during the Goulburn Fishing Festival on September 2, however following consultation with the community, it was agreed to delay the start of the fresh several days so as not disrupt the fishing festival or the planned Goulburn Weir works.”

Environmental flows are planned by the Goulburn Broken CMA in consultation with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) as well as Goulburn-Murray Water, who manage the releases of environmental flows from its storages.

This use of water for the environment is authorised by VEWH in line with its *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24*, which is available for download from vewh.vic.gov.au, with regular watering updates posted on the Goulburn Broken CMA website gbcma.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Shire Council's August meeting

THE Murrindindi Shire Council meeting was held on Wednesday, August 23. Cr Gerencser was an apology for the meeting.

Community recognition

In Community Recognition, council recognised the contribution to the community of Joe and Elaine Exton. Mayor Walsh said, “It is my great pleasure to reflect on, acknowledge and celebrate the significant contribution of Joe Exton and his family’s contribution to the betterment of the communities of the Kinglake Ranges.”

He particularly noted the donation of land by Joe and his family at the corner of Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Exton Road in Kinglake Central for the purpose of a community centre. Fortunately, the community centre survived the Black Saturday fires with only minor damage. The Middle Kinglake Primary School, located across the road from the centre, along with the childcare centre and maternal health centre were destroyed by the fires. Joe and Elaine offered to donate a significant proportion of land adjacent to the community centre to support the rebuilding effort.

On July 1 this year, Joe sadly died while on holidays in Queensland at age 87. Cr Walsh extended his own and council’s sincere condolences to the family, along with their respect and appreciation for the significant contribution Joe and his family have made for the benefit of the communities of the Kinglake Ranges and Murrindindi Shire.

He presented flowers and a certificate to Elaine Exton and family. “His and yours will be an enduring legacy. I thank you sincerely,” Cr Walsh said.

There were no participants in public presentations, and there were no questions of council.

Glenburn Community Plan

The Glenburn Community Plan was presented to council and carried by council. The priorities in the plan are to hold more regular social gatherings, advocate to VicRoads for improved safety on Melba Highway in the township area, establish a local newsletter, restart community breakfasts, create a Glenburn market, and set-up community-run transport.

Flood Recovery Plan

The October 2022 Flood Recovery Plan was also presented and will now seek community consultation. It was developed in consultation with many of the agencies involved in flood response and recovery stages. It’s intended to be a ‘living document’ to be updated and amended as required.

During the flood, 73 private properties were flooded, 305km of roads were impacted, 1098 livestock were killed, 50,000 fish were lost, 603km of fences were impacted, and 14 council bridges were impacted.

Financial Report

The Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter to June 2023 was presented to council. The interim result for the year ending June 20, 2023, is an operating surplus of \$4.5 million, \$2.6 million lower than the revised budget surplus of \$7 million.

This is mainly due to a reduction in grant revenue which is recognised at the end of the financial year, and under expenditure in employee entitlements. The cash balance is \$7.4 million, and investments are \$33.6 million. The value of grants received in advance are reported as a liability on the balance sheet.

It was noted that while the capital works program was impacted by floods and wet weather, a significant proportion of the capital works were still achieved, including the replacement of McDonald’s Bridge in Gobur, the Yea Caravan Park Bridge and the Break O’Day Road Bridge in Glenburn, and the completion of the Great Victorian Rail Trail and Eildon Shared Trail. The road re-sheeting program is still in progress and some major works were deferred. \$5.6 million was recommended for carry-forward budget for these works. Eighty-eight per cent of the capital works program was delivered, despite the challenges.

The officer said, “All in all, councillors, it’s been a very good year so far.” She added that they are yet to complete the audit.

The auditor general will now explore the report with a view to getting the stamp of approval, for progression to the audit and risk committee and recommendations for council to adopt.

Carry forward budgets

Some operating project expenditure and capital works projects have not been completed due to factors such as grant funding for projects received later than expected therefore delaying commencement, reallocation of resources to respond to the October 2022 flood emergency and February 2023 Flowerdale and Maintongoon fires, staff movements and delays in filling vacancies, lack of contractor availability, and inclement weather impacting commencement of projects.

The 2023/24 Annual Revised Budget shows an operating surplus for the year of \$4 million, which is an increase of \$2.9 million on the original 2023/24 adopted budget. This movement primarily reflects a significant increase in capital grants funding for capital works projects and operating income, which offsets the increase in operating expenditure budget.

The Capital Works Revised Budget of \$21.6 million is an increase of \$5.6 million from the original 2023/24 adopted budget. Carrying forward these budgets allows council to continue the delivery of these committed projects.

Responding to a question, on the underlying surplus anticipated, from Cr Gallagher, the officer said, “There’s still a deficit underlying result but better than what we had previously put forward. The capital works don’t calculate towards that underlying result.”

Council endorsed the carry forward budgets.

Councillor reports

Cr Gallagher spoke about the opening of the new St Mary’s Primary School building refurbishment.

At the August meeting of the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association, chaired by Mike Dalmau, they heard from the Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network CEO Nicky Leitch and representatives from the Boating Industry Association of Victoria. A further presentation on boat licencing and sewerage lines to support development was made later in the week by a local assembly of the Goulburn Regional Partnership. He also attended the Municipal Association of Victoria’s Gender Equality Workshop with Cr McAulay. He found the discussion to be valuable, and noted the governance impacts including pay equality and access to opportunities.

Some shire residents may receive a letter from LG Valuation Services. They have been appointed by the Victorian Valuer General. They are seeking assistance to accurately and appropriately value properties in the region for rates and taxation purposes.

Rate notices are due to be distributed in early September. If people are suffering from financial hardship, please contact council to discuss options.

Cr McAulay spoke about the Shaping Murrindindi’s Future project, with over 120 people already participating in workshops and interviews. Tourism North East has launched the mobile tourism app this week, highlighting tourism locations in the shire and beyond. She encouraged people to register on the Tourism North East Facebook page or download the app. She also congratulated the Yea Wetlands on their reopening following the October 2022 flood damage. The Goulburn Regional Partnership had a meeting last week at Eildon with the shire CEO and key staff, along with senior staff from state government departments. It provided the opportunity to showcase Eildon and the Eildon Activation Plan.

She said that the highlight of her past month was attending the much-anticipated launch of the Buxton history book. She encouraged people to purchase a copy.

Cr Haslam took the opportunity to pay her respects to Jenni Shaw, who passed away suddenly on July 28. The Eildon resident was heavily involved in many community groups in many towns in the shire, including Eildon Action and U3A, and was well known at Eildon Primary School. She instigated getting the Eildon Information Centre up and running following the COVID-19 pandemic, and was the editor of the Eildon Edition local newsletter. “Jenni, you will be greatly missed by so many. It was a privilege to know you,” Cr Haslam said.

On portfolio matters, Cr Haslam said that the container deposit scheme will commence on November 1. There will be a 10 cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle returned. It provides various community and sporting groups with an easy way to raise funds.

Jason Lodge, owner of Nanny Jan’s Emporium at the Eildon Shopping Village, has signed up to provide the first collection point in the zone. They will act as a drop-off point, with people earning a 10 cent refund for every eligible can, carton or bottle returned.

Mayor Walsh spoke about the opening of the new extensions at St Mary’s Primary School, and later in the week presenting leadership certificates to their students. He also presented leadership certificates at Yea High School. A Grow Well Dindi workshop was another event he attended.

He spoke about the fires which engulfed Maui County in Hawaii. On behalf of the shire, he has written to the mayor of the county, expressing condolences and best wishes. Murrindindi Shire received many similar letters of support following the 2009 fires.

Like Councillor Haslam, he expressed his condolences to the family of Jenni Shaw, noting her service to the community which she also provided at Gobur and Yarck.

Cr Carpenter and Cr Lording had nothing to report.

CEO Bonazzi spoke about attending the Goulburn Regional Partnership forum. The aim was to foster collaboration, bring together regional stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities, and to prioritise projects and initiatives for potential government funding. The attendees were also invited to attend some of the boat building sites, given that it is one of the major employers in the area.

Council is also advocating to state and federal governments to increase the disaster recovery funding to allow natural-disaster damaged infrastructure to be built back better and with greater resilience. She said that rebuilding damaged roads, culverts or bridges in the same way was bound to result in similar damage in the future.

The cost to council of the October 2022 flood was in the order of \$35 million. They are seeking to ensure that the costs are covered by government disaster funding.

She was pleased to advise that council has been allocated \$1 million to improve the resilience of the restored assets against future disasters. Murrindindi was one of 14 shires severely impacted during the 2022 floods to share in the \$9.4 million council priority betterment program. This will allow some enhancements, such as the use of more resilient materials.

Council made a submission to the state government’s draft Victorian Bushfire Management Strategy. They raised concerns over vague implementation, unclear roles and insufficient funding. They also asked that state government support be made available to support any actions requiring council participation. They expressed concern about bushfires associated with the cessation of native timber logging transition, and emphasised enhanced community safety and collaboration. They are seeking more detailed guidance, role clarity and adequate resources to effectively address bushfire risks and community needs.

On the day of the meeting, the state government announced that the Forestry Transition Fund is now open for businesses and community groups, including chambers or commerce and associations, peak bodies and business networks. They can apply for grants to expand, diversify or start new businesses. A \$20,000 wage subsidy is available to employers for each native timber worker.

Don’t forget your dad on Father’s Day

“THE older I get, the smarter my father seems to get.”

Tim Russert, the acclaimed former journalist and author of the book, *The Wisdom of Our Fathers*, made this observation, one that would be a familiar notion to many.

Unsurprisingly, Fathers’ Day is a tradition that began in the United States, though its exact beginnings are unknown. In Australia, it began to be observed in the 1930s.

On August 29, 1936 in Perth’s *The Daily News*, a publication that ran from 1882 to 1955, printed an advertorial with gift suggestions for the day.

Australian fathers may have finally found who to hold accountable for the unimaginative presents they tend to receive, given *The Daily News* suggestions were “a new pair of sox, a suit of pyjamas, a new shirt or hat.”

However, one gift suggestion would be very unlikely to get a guernsey these days.

“One of Dad’s greatest comforts is his tobacco. You cannot go wrong with a pipe, a box of cigars or a supply of his favourite tobacco or cigarettes.”

The first Sunday in September was officially designated as the day through the Commonwealth in 1964, and that choice is widely thought to have been made with commercial interests in mind.

That’s because September puts Father’s Day almost evenly between Mother’s Day and Christmas in a calendar year, giving shoppers the time to save their pennies between gift giving events.

Unlike Australia, Father’s Day in the UK and US is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, one month later than Mothers’ Day, giving Brits and Americans less time to save or prepare, so we can thank the Commonwealth for that.

This year, Fathers’ Day falls on Sunday, September 3. We wish all fathers, and those who play that role, a wonderful day filled with love and laughter.



Father’s Day is on Sunday, September 3. -RS

MARYSVILLE residents and visitors were delighted to experience the music of the Victorian Concert Orchestra on Sunday, August 27 at the Marysville Community Centre.

The orchestra was led by musical director and conductor Gerald Keuneman OAM. He previously spent 26 years with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and has over 100 film credits to his name, including performing on the soundtracks of *The Man from Snowy River*, *Crocodile Dundee*, *Babe* and *Shine*. He has conducted

the Victorian Concert Orchestra since 2010.

The two soloists were Veronica Iredale and Nicholas Matter. They were joined by over 35 musicians.

The program commenced with *Advance Australia Fair* and ending with *Time to Say Goodbye*. Other pieces included *Thieving Magpie Overture*, *Anything You Can Do*, *Pomp and Circumstance March* and *Music of the Night*.

The event was hosted by the Marysville Lions Club, who did a wonderful job organising the event.



Nicholas Matters singing Advance Australia Fair. -AR



The entire Victorian Concert Orchestra. -AR



One of the tuba players. -AR



The violists. -AR



The strings. -AR

SPORT

Lengthy battles for Winter Tennis players

by Rhonda Carpenter

MANSFIELD hosted two matches when Mansfield Black welcomed Terip and Red and Blue played their penultimate round of the season last Monday. Euroa hosted the other two matches when Seven Creeks took on Benalla and Moglonemby faced Euroa.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Bec Lyttle and Phoebe McDermid played Mansfield Black and were pushed in the openers eventually taking both 8-6, and 8-5. Mansfield Black enjoyed the return of Di Ellis finding form to strengthen their team.

Lengthy sets and friendly banter brought out the best in all players and Black's Jenny Bell combined superbly with Ellis to win their set

8-6. Terip were convincing in the other sets though and will be ready for their finals campaign. Terip won 5/46 to 1/26.

Euroa had their own tune up and will be ready to meet Terip next week with a strong win over Moglonemby. Lyndall Bigland, Sue Vaughan, Ros Doxey and Ruth Nolan melded together magnificently, and despite being stretched they took every set. Moglonemby's Deb Seach, Judy Sands, Lyn Johnson, and Mary Kelly made them work for it, unlucky to lose 6-8 in two sets. Euroa won 6/48 to 0/20.

Seven Creeks gave Benalla great finals' preparation with a tough contest from the outset. Rowena Ellis and Kerry Hewlett made an impression winning 8-2

against Benalla's Claire Sharp and Maureen Jewell in their opener. Helen Chectuti and Deb Siggers returned the favour with an 8-2 win of their own.

Seven Creeks Melissa Cossar and Nicola Enright had warmed up, but Benalla steadied and took the remaining sets, one in a tiebreak and one 8-6. Benalla won 5/42 to 1/28

Mansfield Blue's Michelle Pigdon, Sophie Yencken, Clare Beecham, and Jill Breadon barely allowed Mansfield Red into the contest, but Mansfield Red took a while to warm up. Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Loretta Armitage, and Deb McCormack brought their best in the final sets. Fraser and McCormack unlucky to lose 6-8, while Murray and

Armitage had a satisfying 8-6 win. Blue won the day 5/46 to 1/23.

For next week's final round Euroa meet Terip in a top of the table clash, Benalla play Moglonemby in the third versus fourth contest, Mansfield Red play Seven Creeks and Mansfield Blue play Mansfield Black. The final four won't change. Starting at 10.30am the semifinals will be

played in Mansfield on September 4. Spectators are most welcome. Members are encouraged to attend MTA's AGM that evening in the clubhouse at 7pm.

Ladder: Terip 102, Euroa 95, Moglonemby 83, Benalla 72, Mansfield Black 56, Seven Creeks 41, Mansfield Blue 38, Mansfield Red 33.



Bec Lyttle, Phoebe McDermid, Cindy Hayes and Frances Lawrence from the Terip team. -S

Practically perfect at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

THIS week Eildon Golf Club had a near perfect day for golf and 11 players enjoyed fine weather and sunshine to compete for the August monthly medal. The course is still a bit wet under foot which made scoring tough at times.

The August monthly medal and A grade winner was John Rachcoff with a net 73, B grade winners Wayne Kukpe net 74 and Kerry Power net 74. Other winners: nearest the pins were Rod Taylor on the twelfth and Michael McLearn on the fourteenth. No winners on the third second shot, fifth or eleventh. Grant Walters scored a birdie on the eighth hole but winner on the fifteenth. The entry draw was won by Col Long and the lucky swindle winner was Kerry Power.



The Crash and Bash winner. -Phil Wisewould Photography



Lennie Bonnici winning the Enduro for his team. -Phil Wisewould Photography

Alexandra Speedway wins for O'Brien, Bonnici, Warren and Judd

by Dean Thompson, DMT Sports Media

ALEXANDRA and District Speedway Club held their annual Three-Hour Enduro tag team Speedway race and the big Mick Corbett Memorial for Crash and Bash along with the first round of this seasons Ladies Crash and Bash season point score. Once again the best drivers at dog leg racing rose to the top in all three classes with former 100 Lap derby winners Shane O'Brien and Lennie Bonnici, who just happen to be brother in law. While Brad Warren won the Corbett Memorial for the first time and his car earlier won the first round of the Ladies with Lea Judd driving his car to victory.

Ten hours of action played out in front of the fans in attendance warming up their winter after around nine weeks without racing. Starting with the ladies, Judd won the first qualifying race ahead of Felicity Roycroft by five seconds, with the Victorian champion Leanne Young back in third place. Placings swapped around in the second qualifier with Roycroft a four second winner in front of Young and Judd, before Young won the last in front of Roycroft and Romney Stirling.

A fifteen-lap feature event began with the state champion Young in pole position and Roycroft on her outside. Stirling, Kath George, Sam Robinson, Clare Lynch, Lea Judd, Kimberley Greengrass, Bree Claridge and Simone Rawlins rounded out the field. When the green flag was unfurled, Young was quick to assume control of the race with Stirling into second spot and Roycroft having a tough time of it through the dogleg for the first time through, dropping back to seventh place. At the third lap, Judd assumed second spot and started reeling in Young quickly.

Judd took the lead on lap seven and from their ran away with the race. Stirling continued on strongly as did Robinson, while Young dropped out of the race at lap 12. Consistently lapping and moving her way forward was Claridge and as 15 laps was reached for Judd, the chequered flag

signalled through a top five of Judd, Stirling, Claridge, Lynch and Greengrass.

The tag team Enduro main event was initially created to be a fun event with no seriousness intended. However, like all competitors in any activity, once race drivers hit the track, they want to win, and the event has grown into a serious event for a good fifteen or so teams each season. Eight heat races determined where teams would start the feature event. Winners of a heat or more were O'Brien and Bonnici, Lee Beach and Lenny Bates, Cameron Dike and Scott Angus, Dylan Barrow and Warrick Taylor, Josh Service and Daniel Unternahrer, Luke Fallon and Steve Kershaw, Darrent Forrest and Heath McCashney and Brendan Miller and Damien Miller combinations.

Lining up after the qualifying for the three-hour feature event the top ten of twenty-nine teams were the Miller brothers, Beach/Bates, Service/Unternahrer, O'Brien/Bonnici, Dike/Angus, Fallon/Kershaw, Forrest/McCashney, Anthony and Daniel Knight, Chris and Brian Graetz, and Sonia and Wayne Nelson.

The Nagambie club team of O'Brien and Bonnici took the initial lead after getting through the hustle and bustle of the dog leg portion of the course the best. Damien Miller put his team in front briefly before Forrest took the lead for his tea for a significant portion. After the first fifty laps, and after many teams had already suffered damage or misfortune of some kind, the race settled down with Damien Miller still out in the lead. Warrick Taylor was chasing him and the O'Brien/Bonnici team were in third, then the Knights and the Fallon/Kershaw team.

At one stage the David Barrie and Garth Wilson team settled into fifth at around the one hundred and twenty lap mark as the Knights dropped out of the top five. First, second and third continued on their way with Brendan Miller, Dylan Barrow and Shane O'Brien in battle. Eventually after a broken rack to Damien Miller and then a failing differential for Brendan Miller, with Barrow and Taylor suffering mechanical

issues also, the O'Brien/ Bonnici team took control of the race and chased the record distance mark of 282.

As the clock chimed for the end, and at 279 laps, O'Brien and Bonnici completed the victory in front of Luke Fallon and Steve Kershaw with Damien Miller and Brendan Miller completing the race in third place. Beach and Bates were declared fourth. The second, third and fourth combinations all representing Alexandra Speedway Club and rounding out the top five was Jeff Blencowe and his son Mitchell from the Drouin Speedway Club.

The second annual Mick Corbett Memorial for the Open division of Crash and Bash was also the opening event in what you could say is the men's point score despite ladies being able to compete in the class should they wish. Longwarry man Brad Warren won the first of six qualifiers with James Carden-David, Jayde Aarts, William Leeson, Steve Young and then Warren once again completing the winners list before the 34 lap final.

Accepting the challenge to start further back in the field instead of from the front row and therefore setting themselves up to put on a show for the fans were Brad Warren and Mark Hebblethwaite. This left Steve Young, Daniel Kettels, William Leeson, Rob Bushell, Aarts, Jordan Smith, Daniel Williams, Kenneth Mankey, Mark Taylor (last years Corbett winner) and John Petty starting in the top 10. As the green flag dropped, setting the crazy clan of Crash and Bash identities on their way. Kettels took the early lead before Bushell moved to the front and Warren, before the field had completed lap 10, moved from 15th to first as he got past Bushell.

Halfway through the race Warren led Bushell, Young, Hebblethwaite and Brad Trainor. Eventually, as Bushell suffered his own demise and Kettels climbed back into contention and battled Hebblethwaite for the podium second and third places whilst Warren continued on his merry way. On reaching 34 laps, Warren had won by almost a complete lap from Hebblethwaite, Kettels,

Petty and Craig Claridge, making it a great night in the top five for the Claridge husband and wife Craig and Bree.

Alexandra activity on race night from the team at Aussie Salvage Squad thanks to the relationship between the crew and David Parker and Clare Lynch and that itself produced a bit of fun during the event for officials, drivers and fans and another great event was run and won at Alexandra and District Speedway Club.

Sunshine and warm temperatures for Marysville golfers

by Lesley Rundle

AFTER a few Saturdays of inclement weather, last Saturday golfers were able to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures. It is a credit to Kellan Fiske and his team of volunteers that the course has, with good drainage and good management, been playable throughout the winter and the syllabus has mainly been adhered to. Although a number of members are away travelling, those who have played were grateful that their golf games could continue. Visitors to the area and local golfers are very welcome to come and play on our beautiful course either as social players or competition golfers.

Last Saturday two pairs played the penultimate round of the mixed match play competition. They were both close matches with Brian Worcester beating Jody Doran one up and Richie Clark winning against Mark Bambery two up. Richie and Brian will play the final on Saturday, September 9. The other golfers played a Stableford round. The ladies' winner was Bec Lee (24) with 32 points followed by Gail Leigh (12) with 31 points on a count back from Margaret Blair. Peter Lilley (13) won the men's section with 35 points and Steve Berry (9) with 33 points was the runner up on a three-way count back. The nearest the pins were won by Ming Kuan, Yewls Kuan, Steve Berry and Rebecca Lee who also won the Golden Shot.

Next Saturday, after the AGM in the clubhouse at 9.00am, a stroke round for the September monthly medal will be played and the ladies' round will include the third round of the Barton Shield.

The dates for the 2023/4 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters have been decided. This is a highlight of the golfing year for the clubs in the Murrindindi Shire - Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and Yea - with each club hosting one round. The first round will be held at Marysville on Saturday, November 18. Eildon will host the second round on January 13, 2024. Alexandra on February 3 and Yea on February 10. January 27 has been avoided due to the long weekend.

Wet and soggy conditions deter players at Alexandra golf

by Elizabeth Goss

THE Tuesday and Wednesday competitions were again cancelled due to wet and soggy conditions but with sunny spring-like weather later in the week there was a good turn out for Saturday's Stableford round. The results were a count back between the winner Michael Bossonnet (14) 37 and Brad Newton (13) 37. Nearest the pin on the fifth was Dylon Jack, on the seventh James Betts, on the twelfth Luke Heard and on the eighteenth Brendan Smith. Ball Rundown: Luke Heard 36, James Bets 36, Cory Jack 36 and Simon Rouget 34.

Next Wednesday, September 6 is scheduled as Stroke, Monthly Medal and Count Your Putts. Start time announced later. Next Saturday, September 2 is Stroke, Monthly Medal and Count your Putts. Hit Off 11.30am for noon.

Saturday, September 9 is the golf season opening day with a Stableford round. This also means that those Club Championship rounds are not far away.



The Alexandra golf course. -S

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

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The Rebels grand finalists

THE Senior Rebels football team are not the only ones set to play in a grand final this season.

Congratulations to the under 13 and under 17 netballers, and the under 12 and under 14 footballers on getting into their grand finals as well.

Wishing you all the best of luck. Go Rebels.



The under 13 netball team, Alexandra Black. -S



The under 17 netball team. -S



The under 12s football team. -S



The under 14 football team. -S