

# Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, July 26, 2023 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Students participating in the Alexandra Secondary College Cross Country Ski Program. More information and photos on page 20. -S



New manager at Yea community bank, Rebecca Taylor. -S

## Introducing the community bank's new manager Rebecca Taylor

REBECCA Taylor has begun her tenure as the manager of the new community bank of Yea.

Ms Taylor, who prefers to be known as Bec, started on Monday, July 17 and has hit the ground running, working across the two sites in Yea and Alexandra.

Bec has more than a decade's experience in banking and finance, having previously worked at another Bendigo Bank branch, the National Australia Bank and for a mortgage broking firm.

She left her previous role at Bendigo Bank in February to spend some time with her young son and to help her husband set up his electrical contracting business.

Bec was attracted back to work partly because this new role is close to her husband's family in Eildon, so she already spends a lot of time in the area. Bec and her family plan on moving into the neighbourhood soon, from where they now live in the outer eastern suburbs.

Banking services are available in Alexandra by appointment. Call the Yea branch on 5797 2188. Cash deposits and withdrawals are still available at the Alexandra Newsagency. In Yea, the bank is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 3.30pm.

## Regional tourism package announced

PREMIER Daniel Andrews has announced a \$170 million regional tourism package that will build on the tourism sector.

With visitor expenditure in Victoria at a record \$35 billion annually, this new package will help build tourism infrastructure projects that improve visitor experience and increase visitor spending across the state, creating new jobs, benefiting tourism operators and regional communities.

The \$150 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund will ensure that the regional tourism offering continues to be the very best by supporting new events, new attractions and more accommodation for visitors.

The fund includes \$70 million for regional events that will help Visit Victoria bring the biggest and best events to our regions, bringing visitors and dollars to communities right across the state.

Attracting visitors to key destinations and supporting tourism businesses like wineries, breweries and distilleries to add much needed accommodation to their offering is so important, so the government will invest \$60

million for Regional Tourism Infrastructure.

To assist Victorian primary producers, they will also invest \$10 million to grow food and fibre exports and encourage more Australians to buy Victorian.

They will also invest \$5 million for regional multi-cultural festivals to support towns across regional Victoria to hold multi-cultural festivals such as Tet, Chinese New Year and Nyepi.

In addition, the government is also investing \$20 million for regional tourism marketing, to ensure our outstanding regional offering is marketed across the state, the country and the world.

The final design and make up of the package will be subject to consultation and engagement with industry.

In addition to the tourism package, the \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund will provide grants for projects that will increase the supply of workers' accommodation in regional Victoria, to reduce pressure on the rental market and helping businesses to attract the workers they need.

## A revamped grants and sponsorships program

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has launched a new Grants and Sponsorships Program, aimed at providing financial support to individuals, groups and businesses in the shire.

The program will continue to support projects and events that contribute to the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community, through the following six funding streams: Quick Response Grants, Sponsorships (including eligible individuals), Community Projects, Local Events, Events of Major Significance, and Special Purpose Grants.

Grant applications are now assessed quarterly, except for Quick Response Grants, which are assessed monthly and Special Purpose Grants which are assessed as specified in their respective guidelines and must be approved by council.

Grant applications are now open for all streams, with quarterly grants closing on August 31. Quick Response Grants are open all year round.

To learn more about the program, including application

deadlines and assessment criteria, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants) or call the Grants and Sponsorships team on 5772 0333.

Mayor John Walsh said, "The new program was designed to be more flexible and responsive to the diverse needs and aspirations of the Murrindindi Shire community. We recognise that our community is full of creative and passionate people who have great ideas and initiatives that can make a positive difference in our region. The new program offers a range of funding options that cater to different types of applicants, projects and events. I encourage anyone who has an idea or a proposal that aligns with the program's objectives and guidelines to apply for funding. We are looking for projects and events that enhance the quality of life of our residents and visitors and celebrate our unique natural and cultural heritage, that foster social inclusion and diversity and promote innovation and sustainability."

## Services Australia bus rolls in

DO you need help with Centrelink claims, Medicare registrations or assistance in accessing online services?

Services Australia's Mobile Service Centre Blue Gum is travelling through the region in coming weeks, offering locals easy access to Medicare, Centrelink, National Disability Insurance Scheme and Department of Veterans' Affairs services.

Mobile Service Centres are 20 tonne trucks operated by staff from Services Australia, providing regional and rural Australians with friendly face-to-face service and tailored support.

The bus will be at the following locations:

Yea near the Swimming Pool, High Street, Wednesday, July 26 from 9am to 4pm.

Alexandra near the shire hall, Perkins Street, Tuesday, August 1 from 9.30am to 4pm.

Eildon near the shopping complex, Main Street, Wednesday, August 2 from 9am to 4pm.

Marysville near the information centre, Murchison Street, Thursday, August 3 from 9.30am to 4pm.

Kinglake near the Kinglake Hotel, Aitken Crescent, Wednesday, August 9, 9am to 4pm.

For more times and locations visit [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobile-service-centres](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobile-service-centres)







# New President for Marysville and District Lions Club

ON Wednesday, July 19, Marysville and District Lions Club Inc held their yearly changeover dinner at the Marysville Community Centre.

Immediate past President Norman Fiske passed his role on to new president Neil Guscott for the following term.

This year the Marysville Lions Club has had their 50th year celebration and have continued to make some considerable donations to many organisations, amounting to just under \$22,000.



*Pictured left to right: Norman Fiske (Immediate past President), Danielle Lee (First Vice President), Dallas Guscott, Glenn McFadzean (Secretary), Neil Guscott (Present Marysville and District Lions Club President) and Graham Mackay. -MP*



*Alexandra Secondary College are building a new outdoor classroom, an amphitheatre which will be used to conduct open air music and drama classes, briefings for students doing physical education and will also be a spot for students to congregate during recess. Funding was provided by the school, the state government, and a generous donation of \$5000 from the Alexandra Op Shop. Maintenance Manager Darrell Hedger and Principal Nigel Lytle are pictured at the site of the works. -RS*

## Buxton history book trivia night



*The quiz night at the Buxton Pub. -AR*

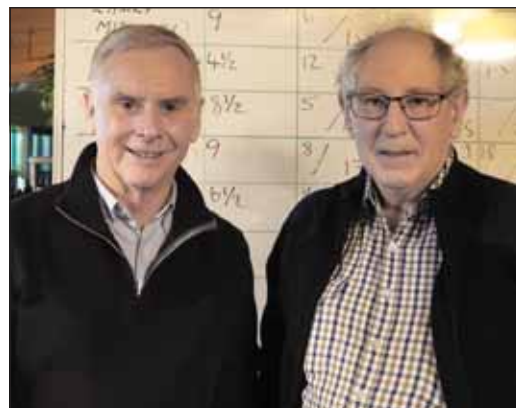
THE Buxton history book trivia night, held at the Buxton Hotel on Thursday, July 20, was successful on many levels. It was a fun night's entertainment, there was a generous community spirit, and it was a successful fund-raiser.

Prior to the commencement of the quiz, many participants took the opportunity to catch up over dinner. Congratulations to Linda and her team in the kitchen who managed so capably to feed many with such efficiency.

Thanks to the expertise of master of ceremonies, Glenn Ridge, and quiz master, Matt Corkhill, nine teams worked their way through five different categories of trivia, varying from local history to television show musical themes. The questions were varied and sometimes challenging. Sometimes it was difficult to get consensus within the team and, on occasion, teams may have had to resort to randomly guessing. As one bright spark said, "It's easy if you know the answer."

In between rounds, there was lots of happy conversation, along with spinning wheel excitement, as five lucky people won donated prizes from local businesses. Then, when the final results were announced, the winning team (Wayne's World) and the facilitators were each presented with a bottle of wine donated by Utter's Riverhouse Wines and Little River Wines.

Members of the losing team were lucky enough to go home with a useful kitchen utensil, a wooden spoon. To conclude the



*Glenn Ridge and Matt Corkhill. Glenn Ridge was the former host of Sale of the Century. -AR*

evening, people checked for a sticker under their chairs to see if they had won a mystery prize.

The Buxton history book committee would like to thank the local businesses and individuals who gave so generously, the organisations who supported this event, and all those who attended the night and participated in such good spirit.

On Saturday, July 29 from 1.30pm in the Buxton Memorial Hall, *Buxton - its past, present, people and places* will be presented to the community. Everyone is invited to attend, either to purchase a book or simply catch up with others.

Those who have pre-purchased books will be able to collect their copies. To assist with catering please RSVP to [rsvp@buxtonprogress.org.au](mailto:rsvp@buxtonprogress.org.au)

## Blue green algae warning removed for Lake Eildon

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) has now removed the blue-green algae warning for Lake Eildon following a significant decline in algae levels.

GMW announced the blue-green algae warning for Lake Eildon on April 21, 2023. It remained in place for 88 days.

GMW will continue to undertake water quality monitoring and if blue-green algae reach levels deemed unsafe by national health guidelines, a warning will be issued. The removal of this warning along with the ones at Newlyn Reservoir and Hepburn Lagoon means there are currently no blue-green algae warnings in place at any GMW storages.

To keep up to date with current blue-green algae warnings, phone 1800 013 357 and select the BGA information option,

or visit the Blue-Green Algae page on the GMW website at [g-water.com.au/news/bga](http://g-water.com.au/news/bga).

Customers are reminded water supplied by GMW is not suitable for human consumption without first being properly treated. For more information, head to the Water Quality page on the GMW website at [g-mwater.com.au/water-quality](http://g-mwater.com.au/water-quality)

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# 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*.

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### WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Alexandra District Health invites you to join them for their 2023 Open Board meeting. To be held at 4pm at the Alexandra RSL. Tea and coffee provided. RSVP to [jennifer.creed@adh.org.au](mailto:jennifer.creed@adh.org.au) by close of business on Friday, July 21.

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### SATURDAY, JULY 29

A farewell party is being held at Christ Church Marysville for Val Cockerell, Heather Mills, Sue Moss and Ada O'Flaherty. You are invited to drop by anytime between 12.30 and 3.30pm. For catering RSVP by July 24, to 0400 838 149 or 0427 633 489.

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### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Book now for Sass & Secrets at Yarck Hall. Dinner and show or just enjoy the show. BYO drinks. Online booking at [trybooking.com.au/CISXY](http://trybooking.com.au/CISXY). For full details contact 0467 413 767.

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### MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Yea & District Historical Society Inc AGM will be held at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall supper room. New members welcome.

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### TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

Alexandra Garden Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the Uniting Church Alexandra.

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Friends of the Library Yea will hold their AGM at 2pm at the Yea Council Chambers. All bookshop volunteers are invited to attend and new members are welcome.

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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Eildon Events Inc will hold their AGM

at Morning Mist, Back Eildon Road at 10.30am. For further details contact 0400 715 319.

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### TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

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

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### MONDAY, AUGUST 21

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

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### 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. [yfa.vid.gov.au/goulburnfishfest](http://yfa.vid.gov.au/goulburnfishfest)

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# Merton man wins on Millionaire Hotseat

GUY Haston from Merton is \$11,000 richer after winning *Millionaire Hotseat* on Wednesday, July 19.

Guy and his partner live in Merton on a 75 acre farm in a 160 year old cottage with their cats Cabernet and Sauvignon.

As regular viewers would be aware, contestants are asked to tell an amusing tale from their life when they're on the show, and Guy's story was about Sauvignon.

Guy said that one day, Sauvignon decided that his laptop keyboard looked like a comfortable spot to relax and decided to take a nap upon it. Somehow, this caused the deletion of the entire contents of his laptop, which was never able to be retrieved.

It was Guy's first attempt at *Millionaire Hotseat*, and his win came nearly a year and a half from the time he applied to go on the show.

"It was the very first time for me, being about 18 months from when I applied to when I got the phone call," Guy said.

As he applied during the COVID-19 lockdowns, the auditioning process was different to usual.

"Normally you would go in and sit in a group situation, but because it was COVID-19, we did it by Zoom," he said.

It didn't even occur to Guy that he might win. "I wasn't expecting it. I was just going for the experience," Guy said.

Despite lots of time to plan, Guy went in without a strategy. "It's very hard because you don't get a choice for where you're seated, and unfortunately I was seated in the sixth seat. So by the time it all got around to me again the second time, I was the only person left standing," Guy said.

Guy also won fastest finger first, so he already had a thousand dollar cheque in his pocket by the time he got to the hotseat. But he knew he wouldn't be taking home a million.

"By the time I got around me again at the very end, there was only 10,000 left and two questions to go," he said.

Guy will be using his winnings for a very special purpose. His brother has been battling several different cancers over the last couple of years, so Guy is putting the money towards an adventure for the two of them. They're going to Africa.

"We will be heading off to the Serengeti and doing Safari next year," Guy said.



Guy with Eddie Maguire and his winnings, cheques totally \$11,000.



Guy Haston from Merton in the hotseat. -S

## Alexandra Seniors Club report

by honorary secretary Michael Jennings

WITH a number of apologies for the annual general meeting planned for Friday, it was decided to postpone until later in August. The club instead held a social meeting with Frank telling the jokes instead of treasurer Dave who was backmin Maroondah Hospital. Hope to see you back behind the desk soon, mate. Members enjoyed the usual cuppa and cake after the brief meeting and played 500 and UNO as usual.

Earlier in the week, the bridge players were in action on Monday and Wednesday and on Tuesday John's Yellow team defeated the Blacks on the carpet.

There was a good turnout for ukulele tuition on Thursday as they add another key to the chords the players have to contend with as they sing and strum to some old favourites. There was interest in the bass ukulele and solid body electric tenor uke I brought in too, but hopefully I haven't started anyone into UAS (ukulele acquisition syndrome).

It is pleasing to receive membership applications from would be members and we are always pleased to see new faces at club activities.

If you would like information about what we get up to please give me, Mike, a ring on 0456 456 263 or come along to the Bayley Street clubroom at 1pm on a Friday. This Friday will be a social meeting and the committee will meet up again on Tuesday, August 1. Stay Safe, keep warm and keep smiling.

## 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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Baptist Union of Victoria  
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Kids program during school term  
St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street, Alexandra  
Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone Ph: 0481 472 152





Heather Mills. -S



Sue Moss. -S



Val Cockerell. -S



Ada O'Flaherty. -S

# A farewell for long term Marysville residents

FOUR long term Marysville residents are leaving the town, with a farewell party to be held in their honour. All have been active in the Marysville Anglican Church community.

One of the party organisers, Di Cherry, said, "The sadness for all of us is that we have four very faithful members of our congregation and the community, as they're involved in a number of organisations, and it's all happened in a very short time."

The party is being held for Val Cockerell, Heather Mills, Sue Moss and Ada O'Flaherty on Saturday, July 29 from 12.30 to 3.30pm. People are welcome to either stay for the whole time or just drop in. They are hoping for a very relaxed and happy afternoon.

They are not the only people leaving, with Diana adding that Len and Pat Sund, and Harry and Pat Whiteley, "people who have lived here all their lives and now in their old age, they're having to move."

Diana provided the backgrounds of the four people in alphabetical order.

Val Cockerell has lived in Marysville permanently for 48 years. Her husband, Max, was a civil engineer. When they came up to Marysville, he became involved with the water board and had a lot to do with where the new reservoir was located, and did all of the negotiations about that. He was also involved with negotiations around the town's sewerage system. Val and Max established Blackwood Cottages, a very popular place for holiday makers. When they retired, they built a large home in Gould Terrace which they were able to save in the fires. Sadly, Max passed away not long after Black Saturday. Val was involved in many organisations, including the church and the Marysville Opportunity Shop (MOPS). Their three children were educated locally until they reached high school age. At this point, they attended school 'down the line' and Val drove return journeys across the Black Spur twice a day for many years to take the children to school. "She is the most cheerful person, who has had all sorts of difficulties recently and doesn't let that stop her," Diana said.

Heather Mills' husband Ian was a builder. Sadly, three of the four people are widows, Heather included. Diana Cherry and her husband have known Heather and Ian more than 40 years because they lived opposite each other in Melbourne and their children grew up together. Heather has been very involved in the Marysville Historical Society, including spending time as president. She continues to come up for meetings and to volunteer. Heather and Ian bought a house in Marysville three years before the 2009 bushfires, and they were burnt out. They lost everything. Ian died almost exactly two years ago.

Sue Moss describes her time in Marysville as "12 lovely years." She came up in 2011 permanently and immediately became involved in organisations. She got involved in U3A in Alexandra and was involved in the MOPS committee, and she was a church warden (as was Val). She arrived in Marysville in 2011 after retiring as a teacher in 2010, and has mixed easily in the community. She was the only one of the three leaving who wasn't involved in the Black Saturday fires, but she was always very conscious that many others had been through hard times. "She's just a lovely person who we're all going to miss. We're going to miss all of them, because they were all so community-minded," Diana said.

Ada O'Flaherty and her husband go back a long way. Her first husband was Bob, and they established the old Yarra Track Shop, and then together they built Wombat Cottage on the highway in Narbethong. Bob sadly died and Ada had five years alone before marrying Eamon O'Flaherty. Eamon built a large house on the Black Spur. The house was "just extraordinary," Diana said. "He managed to get everything right." After Eamon passed away a year ago, Ada wasn't able to live there alone and decided to move away. Ada spent more than 40 years in the area.

Heather and Ada have moved to Healesville. Val's moved to Geelong and Sue's moved to Croydon.

## UT Creek (Alexandra) Flood Scoping Study Share Your Experience



Would you like to share your experience or recollection of flooding in Alexandra? Perhaps you, or someone you know, has information about large flood events. If so, we would like to hear from you.

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

Flooding from UT Creek has been experienced in the Alexandra Township in the past, most notably in 1975, 2010 and 2017. Community members are invited to share information about flood impacts and extent, along with photos of damage to infrastructure or indications of water levels.

### How to get involved

- Complete a questionnaire online or in person at the Council's Alexandra Library or Customer Service Centre
- Drop a pin on the online Alexandra map to share your flood experiences
- Chat with consultant Engeny Australia in person at Alexandra Council Chambers (behind the Alexandra Shire Hall – access via laneway on Grant Street to the right of the Shire Hall entrance) on
  - Friday 11 August, 2.00 - 4.00 pm
  - Saturday 12 August, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

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



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



JOForrest, Director of Nursing at Darlingford and Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, started working in the aged care industry in about 2010, not directly employed but as a lecturer in Nursing and took students into aged care facilities. As a result, she had a good knowledge of what was happening in aged care and the residents. She started managing aged care homes in 2017.

RESIDENTS BORN IN 1925-1930

**What was the approximate year of birth of the residents at the time you started working in the industry?**  
In 2010, many of the residents were born in 1925 or 1930.

**What were they like as a group?**  
Jo described the residents as lovely people, adding that they were “A little more politically correct. Definitely never swore. More reserved, and had a properness about their interactions.”

**What kind of music did they like?**  
“When I used to have students, we used to play music in the dining room and lounge rooms. We’d play lots of the stuff from the 1950s and 1960s, because they were in their 20s and 30s then. Buddy Holly, Billie Holliday, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, that kind of thing,” Jo said.

**What was their attitude towards life?**  
“Their focus, when you had conversations about their youth and marriage and those sorts of things, divorce was fairly uncommon. There was a lot of focus on hard work. There was still the very strong mentality of the women staying at home. Very much so,” Jo said.

**How did they like to spend their time?**  
“Bingo is always everybody’s favourite game in the whole world for as long as I’ve been in aged care. They also liked bus outings. They liked going on trips to see the coast or up to the parks and things like that. They liked going out. Afternoon tea was a massive focus for them then, and the women were very heavily into craft. The women formed knitting groups and sewing groups and things,” Jo said.

**What kinds of things did they like to talk about?**  
“Their families. Always their families. Their

children and grandchildren, or if they come from the country, lots of focus on their farm properties and things that they did on farms, farm dogs, horses and things like that.”

**What was their attitude towards money?**  
They had a really high focus on frugality. They were not wasteful.

**What was their attitude towards child-rearing (different for men/women)?**  
The men were not particularly involved [in child rearing]. What I have noticed over several generations was that the men were not hugely involved in their own children but became far more interested in their grandchildren. It’s still very much the same in aged care, although I do find with changes in cognition, the men tend to develop more closeness to their children as they get much much older. Their grandchildren, before cognitive impairment became a problem, were the focus.  
Women were very much the hands-on in the household, the way that they talk about it. In one of the homes I used to manage in fact, the women created a domestic chores group. They would sit in the dining room a couple of times a week and peel the vegetables and fold the linen together as a group. They loved it. They’d natter away. The men were never present, ever.  
With regard to child rearing, there was very much a ‘get out there on your bike and don’t sit around the house. Don’t get under my feet’ attitude.

**What was their attitude towards the changing morals of the day?**  
I recall lots of discussion about things like tattoos and when they saw on television too much flesh on a show. Mini-skirts that were too short or mid-riff tops or low-cut tops. It was a little confronting I think for some of the people. That has changed over time.  
Divorce has become a lot more common. They’ve seen a lot of their adult children who are now in their 50s and 60s divorced now, which has been quite challenging for a lot of our residents.

**What was the best thing about that particular generation?**  
I’d love to say their sense of family in a lot of ways. I would probably be kidding myself if I didn’t think there were a lot of the same kind of issues. I think the sorts of issues that

we see now in social media were always there, they were just not as well known. We do find with people who have got a cognitive impairment, we hear stories about what went on when they were younger, but it was well hidden. I do sense a greater sense of family, a pride in the family network that is perhaps a little different.

CURRENT RESIDENTS

**What are they like as a group?**  
Acceptance of change. They’ll talk to me about the fact that I have a tattoo and things like that. There is a change. People that are moving into the facility now have been seeing people with tattoos for the last 15 years. For the people who were in aged care when I first started, it wasn’t commonplace. At that stage, it was bikies and sailors.

**What kind of music do they like?**  
The residents now will happily sing along to ABBA and things that were commonplace when I was a little girl. Things that were common 40 years ago instead of 60 years ago.

**What is their attitude towards life?**  
It’s the acceptance of the fact that life is changing and moving. I’ve got residents that know their way around mobile phones and laptops. Definitely, there is a greater acceptance of and knowledge of modern technology. People in homes when I first started in 2020 had no mobile phones or computers.

**How do they like to spend their time?**  
Still Bingo. I think a lot of the dynamic changes with the individual homes. I’ve worked in city homes as well as regional homes. They still love get-togethers and chit chats and afternoon teas. But you do see them now happier to sit and watch a movie together. I didn’t see much of movies as a social activity before, but I do see a bit of that in some homes now. If they want to go out on a bus ride, they want to go to a destination and do something, whereas 15 years ago, their going on a bus ride was going sightseeing and looking at the coast as they drove by.

**Has there been any change in the kinds of things do they like to talk about?**  
Not really.

**What is their attitude towards money?**  
Yes. I would say I do see some residents who are still cognitively-able talking about the fact tat they don’t have a problem spending their money on things that they want and need at this point, whereas a generation or two behind that, they were very much about saving money so that they’ve got something to give to their children.

**What is their attitude towards child-rearing (different for men/women)?**  
I do see maybe a little bit more involvement from men. Maybe that’s because the next generation along, women started to go to work so they were maybe forced into a little bit more hands-on work with the children. Maybe just a tiny bit. There are closer relationships now, just a little bit.

**What is their attitude towards the changing morals of the day?**  
Maybe more acceptance of those things we talked about. Clothing, tattoos, marriage or relationship breakdown, and children outside of marriage.

**What is the best thing about that particular generation?**  
How broad-minded they are. I have to say, I’m impressed.



Jo Forrest. -AR

Ailsa De Courcy: How have the generations of aged care residents changed?

AILSA De Courcy started working in the aged care sector quite late in her working life in 2005, having been made redundant for the second time. She was looking for a job that was rewarding, but also offered secure employment. With an ageing population, the industry was only going to grow. Twenty-three years later, with a six year gap while she cared for her mother who had Alzheimers, she is still enjoying what she does.

She initially worked in a 120 bed facility in Cheltenham where she did part of her training and then in Cranbourne. She now works at Menzies Support Services as a community support worker, providing a range of supporrs to people in their own homes and in the community.

**What was the approximate year of birth of the residents at the time you started working in the industry?**  
Most of the residents were in their 80s and 90s having been born in the early part of the 20th century. Two residents were over 100 and one lady, born in 1899, spanned three centuries.

**What were they like as a group?**  
As a group, they were a hardy lot, having been through two world wars and the depression. Like all of us, they enjoyed music of their youth, from the 1940s, and Michael Bubl  was very popular. They watched old time movies and also enjoyed Andr  Rieu and the big bands of the 1930s.

**What kinds of things did they like to talk about?**  
They all loved to talk about their lives and their families.

**What was their attitude towards money?**  
Most of them were quite frugal with money having lived through the era of a single income.

**What was their attitude towards child-rearing (different for men/women)?**  
Most of the women were housewives who worked during the war years but then stayed home to raise a family. Their attitude toward children was very different; children were

to be seen but not heard and be respectful of their elders. Nothing was for nothing so pocket money came from chores. Children obeyed the rules.

**What was their attitude towards the changing morals of the day?**  
They found the changing morals of the day a little disconcerting, quite shocking really. They believed in what they had been taught.

**What was the best thing about that particular generation?**  
The best thing about that generation was their attitude. Very few complained about anything and they were always polite and grateful for any assistance provided.

**How did these things change in the next generation?**  
I don’t think people have changed all that much, maybe not quite so rigid in their beliefs, not so easily shocked, but in the long run we all have the same needs as we age – comfort, security and support, friendship and family.



Ailsa De Courcy. -S



# The end of the road for bouncing pillows at caravan parks?

WITH the recent changes to public liability insurance for caravan parks, owners aren't feeling very buoyant with the news that the jumping pillows must be removed in order to have public liability insurance for their park.

Cameron Blanchard, manager of the Marysville Holiday Park, has recently had to remove the park's jumping pillow after having at least five different liability insurance companies advising that they won't insure the park while the jumping pillow is there.

"We had to remove it or not have public liability. This is for all caravan parks across the board," Cameron said.

When it comes to insurance premiums, caravan parks are also feeling the brunt of the rising costs. Extreme weather events such as floods and fires have contributed to price hikes for insurance premiums.

Cameron said, "It's gone up leaps and bounds each year despite no claims. It's a rising cost with no signs of it turning around anytime soon. Unfortunately, it forces operators to put their fees up and the consumer is wearing it.

"We have been working closely with the Murrindindi Shire Council regarding



*These moments will be few and far between at caravan parks now. -MP*

the insurance and they have been very supportive."

A spokesperson from the Insurance Council of Australia said, "Insurance globally is currently in a 'hard' market, which means capital is scarce, reinsurance is more difficult to obtain, and risk appetites are low, all of which can impact the cost of premiums locally, particularly those sectors that represent a higher insurance risk.

"Since 2019, the caravan park sector has been impacted by the hard insurance

market and has resulted in some insurers withdrawing from this sector of the market.

"Caravan parks located in areas of high extreme weather risk and/or which have installed guest facilities that may impact underwriting risk, for example pools, water slides, jumping pillows, trampolines and licensed bars are particularly affected by this as these facilities present more risk and have been a source of public liability claims."

Scott Parker, Chief Executive Officer from Victorian Caravan Parks Assoc Inc. (VicParks) commented on the current climate that caravan parks are facing.

"Very few, if any, insurance companies are now covering jumping pillow risk. This is despite there never being one caravan park jumping pillow claim for customer injury for as long as anyone can remember.

"Some insurers are seemingly convinced that jumping castles are the same risk as a jumping pillow. They are entirely different products with an entirely different risk profile, yet underwriters refuse to acknowledge that and include jumping pillow cover in premium renewals. Of course, these renewals are scarce even with jumping pillows excluded and it is extremely difficult to find property insurance cover as well.

"This is a clear case of market failure, and we are calling on the Victorian Government to intervene or we will find caravan parks being unable to continue to operate. These risks burdening the state with even more homeless people and reducing the availability of affordable holidays for hundreds of thousands of Victorians every year."

## Concern over breaches of bag limits on the Pondage

AN Eildon local has expressed concern about an ongoing fishing issue on the Eildon Pondage.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority regularly release large rainbow and brown trout, formerly breeding stock, into the Pondage. The fish are intended as sport for recreational fishers. Such releases occur several times per year.

The local person stated that a group of people tend to arrive at the Pondage release location in time for the arrival of the Fisheries truck and proceed to start catching the fish.

The person said that the group will often continue fishing for five days with multiple rods, and was concerned that they may not be following the bag limits.

The bag limit is generally five per species per day, so people can catch up to five trout which can be a mix of rainbow or brown trout. There is no minimum legal size, however people can only have two trout within their bag limit which are bigger than 35cm. This is the same as Lake Eildon. There is also no season applicable, unlike in rivers including the

Goulburn River. More information can be found at [vfa.vic.gov.au](http://vfa.vic.gov.au)

Many local fishers will not 'take their fish', instead choosing to release their catch and often recognise the same trout many times over.

Contacted about the issue, a Victorian Fisheries Authority spokesperson said, "We encourage people to get out to regional Victoria to wet a line and the Eildon Pondage is a popular spot among families from across the state.

"Everyone who purchases a recreational fishing licence contributes to our record-breaking fish stocking program, which has seen more than 26 million fish released in the past three years, more than any other state in Australia."

The Victorian Fisheries Authority post on social media each afternoon detailing what stocking has occurred earlier that day, but they don't publicly detail upcoming stockings.

Suspected illegal fishing activity should be reported by calling 13 FISH (133 474).

## A FAREWELL PARTY

for four good friends of our community

Val Cockerell Heather Mills

Sue Moss Ada O'Flaherty.

Please come and join us to wish them well for the future

DATE : Saturday, July 29

DROP-IN : any time 12.30-3.30pm

PLACE : Christ Church Marysville

Light finger food provided

For catering purposes RSVP by phone,

text or email by 5pm Monday, July 24

Ring Sue Boyle 0400 838 149

or Diana Cherry 0427 633 489

or by email [marysvilleanglican@gmail.com](mailto:marysvilleanglican@gmail.com)



## Murrindindi & High Country Cooking Oil Solutions

Head Office: 11 Milroy Court, Wheelers Hill

T: 0400 144 211 E: [info@mhccos.com.au](mailto:info@mhccos.com.au)

W: [mhccos.com.au](http://mhccos.com.au)

**AUGUST Oil Prices (as at 1/8/2023 to 31/8/2023)**



**Moi Cotton Seed 20L \$65**

Premium quality, highly refined cottonseed oil. Extended life, reduced gum, and suitable for all deep frying.



**Moi VegBlend 20L \$55**

Blended and high in poly unsaturated. Great oil for the budget conscious.



**Riverina Cotton Seed 20L \$55**

A long-life premium frying oil, ideal for deep frying with good drain off and high smoke point.



**Frying Tonight 20L \$60**

Australian made. Especially designed to give you heavy duty, deep frying strength as well as great tasting food. Frying Tonite delivers all the qualities that you demand.



**Riverina Canola 20L \$53**

This great product is vigorously tested. This ensures we meet our product quality requirements and that we can provide you with the highest quality Australian Canola Oil every time.



**Riverina Vegetable Oil 20L \$50**

Fresh quality products that deliver everything you demand an oil to do. Australia's Riverina oils are a Australian brand you can trust.



**Goodrop Premium Canola 15L \$55**

Crafted for exceptional endurance. It creates lighter, tastier foods, over more time for less. Longer fry life means longer term value.



**Kristel Cost Saver Canola 15L \$45**

A low cost canola oil with great results. A great solution for those who are frequently changing oil but still want to save on costs.



**Canopy filter exchange \$10+gst each** (like for like condition).

**Canopy & exhaust fan cleaning TBQ.**

These prices are subject to waste oil removal we supply 25L full lid easy to use waste tins, no heavy lifting into tank as we replace your old full waste oil tins with changeover empty tins.

This business is a sponsor of Alexandra Football Netball Club, Thornton Football Netball Club & Yea Football Netball Club.





Proudly supporting  
**Student of the week**

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

**Bendigo Bank**



## EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Shayla and Amelia** have shown cooperation and respect throughout their activities this week.



## BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Mitchell** has been very focused on his learning and putting in his best effort in all areas. Keep up the wonderful work Mitch.



## ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Millie Ferguson - 3/4B

Millie consistently shows our school values. She is a caring friend who looks out for others. Millie has a great sense of humour and a positive outlook which makes her great to be around. Thank you for bringing your positivity to our learning community, Millie. You are a star.

**Student of the Week**

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch

**Bendigo Bank**



*The team at AAMI Stadium where they laid hybrid turf. -S*



*The turf being prepared for use. -S*



*Growing the turf in Murrindindi. -S*

# The green green grass of home at the FIFA Women's World Cup

THE FIFA Womens World Cup kicked off on Thursday, July 20 in Auckland and local business HG Turf have had a big part to play in this huge world event.

HG Turf have supplied the hybrid grass for eight of the 10 stadiums. Hybrid grass is a state of the art product which contains 95 per cent natural grass and five per cent artificial grass.

Hamish Sutherland, managing director at HG Turf, said hybrid grass is "still a natural grass but the synthetic grass in it helps with stability and durability. It protects the natural grass and more importantly helps with consistency.

"By having hybrid grass, it's a consistent field for ball rolling, bouncing, players turning and sliding. This is important for soccer because it's a lot of ball surface interactions whereas in sports such as AFL and rugby, they carry the ball.

"The hybrid grass (HERO) is grown locally in Alexandra along with other states. It's a knitted hybrid grass system where the vertical fibres are knitted to an underlying grid and it is grown in the sand. This results with a system where it can be rolled up on farm and transported to stadiums. As soon as the grass is laid down, players can play on it straight away.

"The sand layer is quite thick, coming in at 40mm and weighing in at 80kg per square meter, so players can't move it. This is what stadiums need, especially for multipurpose use. You need to use sand in the product because its high performance in terms of drainage and aeration," he said.

The team at HG Turf have been working with this technology for 25 years. They started off with the MCG contract in 1998 and are continuing to supply the stadium. Over the years they have seen what has worked and what hasn't worked, and have had to innovate over time.

HG Turf has also supplied its product to the Sydney Olympics in 2000, the Rugby World Cup in 2003, 2011 and 2019, and the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and 2018.

Hamish said, "To have a FIFA World Cup is just huge. Two billion viewers. It's such a huge event. We are very humbled and proud to be part of it."

Gavin Sutherland, co-founder and director of HG Turf, said, "It's been a group effort, the staff all the way from mechanics to the field and the office staff have all contributed. We really are very lucky to have the staff that we have to make it work."



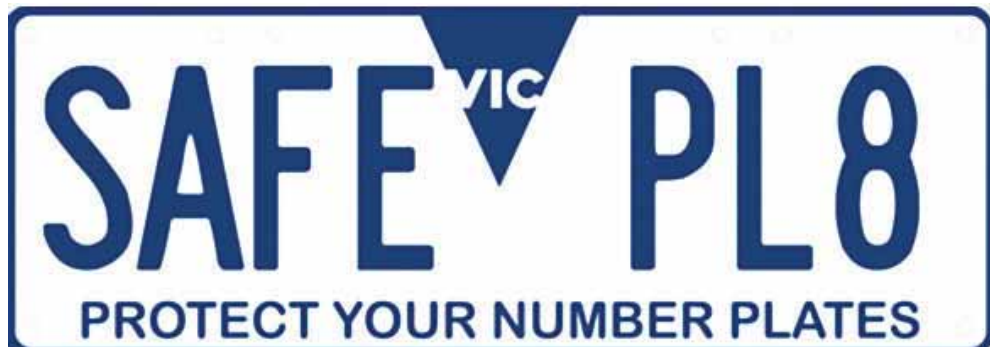
# Menzies clients get creative in their photography program



Anne-Marie enjoying the photography program activity at Menzies Support Services -S



Darren holding balloons as part of the photography program. -S



## Protect yourself from number plate theft

SERIOUS offenders have been using stolen plates to avoid identification when committing illegal offences such as petrol theft, drug trafficking and burglary.

Help prevent offences and avoid the inconvenience and cost of replacing your number plates by securing your plates with one way, anti theft screws. These can be fitted with a standard flat bladed screwdriver.

To avoid these crimes from occurring it is recommended you park your car in a secure place off the street, in a garage or carport where possible.

Where can I get anti theft screws? Keep an eye out for SafePL8, where local

police fit anti theft screws to your vehicle on the spot, often for free.

Follow your local police Eyewatch page on Facebook to keep up to date with upcoming events.

You can also ask your local car dealership, service centre or your local Automotive supplier about one way screws. An installation cost may apply.

If you're a victim of number plate theft, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 and make a report. If you see something suspicious, contact your local police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. For more info, visit [police.vic.gov.au/safepl](http://police.vic.gov.au/safepl)

## Rural Australians for Refugees hold vigil marking 10 years of offshore detention

Wednesday, July 19 marked ten years since offshore processing and detention of asylum seekers and refugees arriving by boat was reinstated by the Rudd Labor government.

The Alexandra branch of Rural Australians for Refugees held a vigil in Grant Street on Wednesday to call for it to end.

A candle was burnt, and a bell tolled 10 times over the course of the vigil to mark the tenth anniversary of the current program of offshore detention.

Rural Australians for Refugees members spoke to locals about their position and invited people to contact federal parliamentarians if they shared RAR's concerns.



Alexandra Rural Australians for Refugees at their vigil protesting 10 years of offshore detention. -RS

## Delivering for our community

As your Independent MP, you can count on me. I am your strong voice, working each and every day to advocate for you, your family and our community.

My office assists thousands of constituents with NDIS, Centrelink, Medicare, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues. My office is open 9am - 5pm weekdays. If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please phone, email or visit my office.

**Helen Haines** MP

Wangaratta / 117 Murphy Street  
03 5721 7077  
Wodonga / 79 High Street  
02 6024 6284

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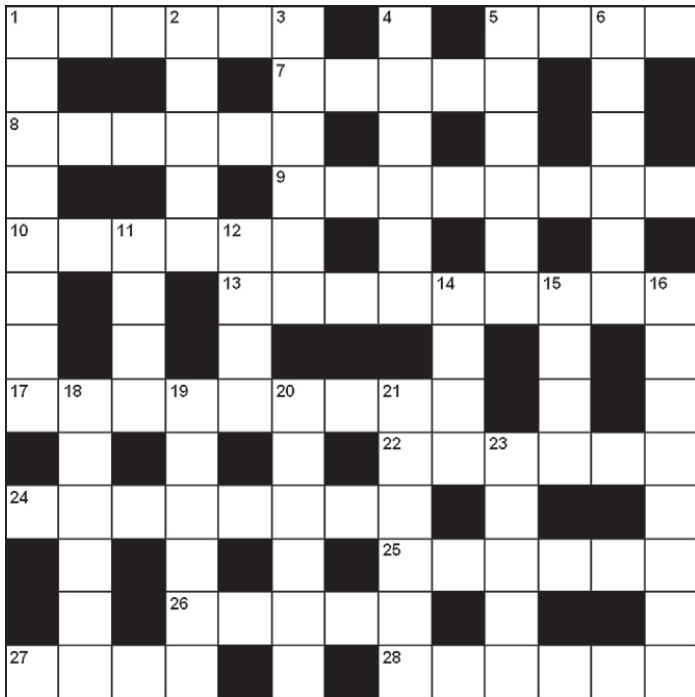
# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
**Page 17**

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- With honesty.
- Eat like a bird.
- Fourth month of the year.
- Hold on to.
- Jumping herbivorous marsupial.
- Loose sleeveless cloak.
- Waiter of the Second Coming.
- Upset stomach.
- Produce buds.
- Mixed letters word games.
- Showing favouritism.
- A fleshy fruit.
- Elaborate song for solo voice.
- Sprinkled lightly.



### DOWN

- A long and mournful complaint.
- A distinguishing characteristic.
- Pulled with a jerk.
- Copper and tin based alloy.
- Easily altered.
- Joyful religious songs.
- Birds projecting beaks.
- Wash with soap and water.
- A less than average tide.
- Transmission of knowledge.
- Rocked back and forth.
- Distant but within sight.
- An Asian temple.
- Annoy continually.
- Given out.
- Gaps between cloud masses.

## Word search – Winter

Blankets

Freezing

Gloves

Heater

Scarf

Skiing

Snow

Snowman

Temperature

Toboggan

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

## Criss Cross Word Puzzle

Use the clues to fill in the words.

Words can go across or down.

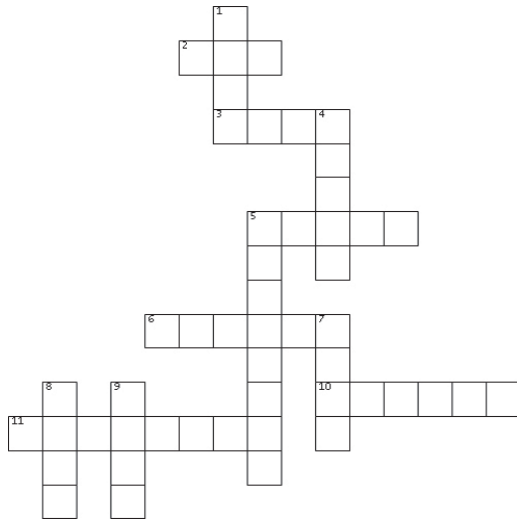
Letters are shared when the words intersect.

### ACROSS

- Electric
- Donkey
- Eagle
- Cold
- Crossword
- Glossy

### DOWN

- Window
- Barbecue
- Program
- Skipping
- Rat
- Lion



## Maths Squares

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 25.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication & division are performed before addition and subtraction.

2	×		-		+		8
+		+		-		×	
	+		-		-		-3
×		+		+		+	
	+		×		+		17
+		+		+		+	
	+	15	+		-	16	16
79		34		12		57	

## Sudoku

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 0 to 9 and letters A to F.

Every row and column and every group of 16 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

F				1	C		5	7	0
2	E				1	3	F	0	D
6		A	8	9		B		1	C
1	5	C		7	3	D		2	
E	7	4			6	5			D
		2	4	C	B	6	1	D	7
B		1			A	E	7	3	6
A	6		F	7		C		3	2
	C	7		D		2	4		F
	9	5	A	8	7	C		2	
		E	6	1		9	3	0	7
A	8				2	D		9	6
			9			F	2	E	8
4	3	0		2			9	1	D
F	D		1	C	5	8			
2	1	9		6		8			F



A piece of history getting removed in Buxton last week. -Buxton Fire Brigade

# A piece of history removed in Buxton

WITH frost on the ground, clear sky above and some feelings that a bit of our history was being lost, the radio communications tower installed behind the fire station after the Black Saturday Bushfires was removed last week.

The tower was part of the temporary Police Station established at Buxton following the devastating 2009 Victorian Buhfires.

The Marysville Police operated out of the temporary facility until the new station in Murchison Street was constructed. After the police station was removed the tower was left in place but wasn't found to be necessary for CFA purposes.

With the construction of the new workshop immediately behind the existing station building, the security enclosure around the tower needed to be realigned to enable better access to the station from the rear parking area.

CFA Tower Riggers inspected the tower and agreed that it was best to remove the tower rather than attempt to realign the security enclosure. So, a bit of history gives way in order to provide safer access to the fire station. The area will eventually be landscaped as part of Buxton CFA's ongoing fire station improvement works.

## Community feedback invited on flood scoping study

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is seeking information from local community members on past flood events and impacts in Alexandra.

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

Community members are invited to get involved by completing a short questionnaire, either online or in person at council's customer service centre or Alexandra Library.

Flooding issues and impacts can also be marked on an online map within the questionnaire, including damage to infrastructure, roads or water levels at different locations.

Consultants from Engeny Australia will be also available to speak with community members about their experiences in person at the Alexandra Council Chambers on Friday, August 11 from 2 to 4pm and on Saturday, August 12 from 10am to noon. Entry to the council chambers is via the laneway on Grant Street, to the right-hand side of the Alexandra Shire Hall entrance.

The project supports the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain

Management Strategy and is made possible with funding from the Victorian Government's Risk and Resilience Grant Program.

Concurrently, the GBCMA is leading a large-scale study of the Goulburn River, below Lake Eildon. The Goulburn and Broken Rivers Flood Study will help the GBCMA and other agencies understand how the Goulburn River affects adjoining land and will include the areas of Thornton, Whanregarwen and Molesworth. The GBCMA will conduct community engagement later this year. Once complete, information from the study will be publicly available and will be used to evaluate mitigation options.

Mayor John Walsh said, "The information the community provides for these studies is crucial to understanding past flood behaviour.

"While the Alexandra township was not as significantly impacted as other areas of our Shire during the October 2022 floods, it has seen its fair share of flood events in the past, most notably in 1975, 2010 and 2017.

"If you, or someone you know has any information to share with us about your experience during past flood events in Alexandra, I encourage you to get in touch. We're looking for photos of flood water, information on water levels or anything you can remember from these events that you think would be useful for us to know."



# Farewell to the Commonwealth Games

AFTER significant planning work and extensive market soundings completed, it became certain to the Victorian Government that the cost of hosting the Regional Victorian Commonwealth Games will exceed \$6 billion, more than twice the estimated economic benefit the Games would bring the state.

In the face of the numbers, the government made the decision not to proceed with hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2026.

Premier Daniel Andrews said, “We were pleased to be asked to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games, but not at any price. I think all Victorians would agree that more than \$6 billion is just too much.”

“Locals have told us that more places to live and more places to stay across regional Victoria is what really matters.”

The government has advised the CGF and Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA) that the state will be terminating the Host Agreement. They are hoping to reach a rapid and amicable resolution of all contractual matters, including a reasonable settlement of costs incurred, to allow the CGF the opportunity to seek an alternative host city for 2026.

The main reason to host the games was to deliver lasting benefits in housing, tourism and sporting infrastructure for regional Victoria. Now in place of the this the Victorian Government will deliver a \$2 billion package to ensure regional Victoria

still receives all the benefits that would have been facilitated by the games.

Ahead of the Housing Statement to be released later this year and in addition to the Big Housing Build the Victorian Government has promised to provide a new \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1300 new homes across regional Victoria.

The new homes will include a mix of social and affordable housing, and will work with councils, regional partnerships and local communities to determine the right mix of stock and locations for each region.

A new \$60 million Regional Community Sport Development Fund will deliver new projects including aquatic centres, indoor stadiums, lighting upgrades and walking

and cycling paths for regional communities across Victoria.

There will also be \$40 million for an All Abilities Sport Fund to remove the barriers of entry for people with a disability to get involved in sports through grants, scholarships and mentoring.

Further detail of the \$2 billion regional package will be revealed after consultation with sporting codes, councils, tourism bodies and the community.

## Regional Housing Fund announced for Victoria

LAST week the Victorian Premier announced a \$2 billion package to ensure regional Victoria still receives all the benefits that would have been facilitated by the Commonwealth Games, including a \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1300 new homes across regional Victoria.

A \$150 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund will also be introduced to deliver every one of the permanent new and upgraded sporting infrastructure projects planned as part of the games, a new \$60 million Regional Community Sport Development Fund and \$40 million for an All Abilities Sport Fund to remove the barriers of entry for people with a disability to get involved in sports through grants, scholarships and mentoring.

With the newly announced Regional Housing Fund, a Victorian Government spokesperson said, “We know there’s no more important issue anywhere in the state right now than housing. Ahead of the Housing Statement to be released later this year, and in addition to our Big Housing Build we will provide a new \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund to deliver more than 1300 new homes across regional Victoria. These new homes will include a mix of social and affordable housing and we’ll work with councils, regional partnerships and local communities to determine the right mix of stock and locations for each region.”

Rural Councils Victoria has welcomed the state government’s commitment to a \$1 billion fund to build 1300 new social and affordable housing homes in rural and regional Victoria.

Rural Councils Victoria Chair Cr Mary-Ann Brown said, “In our frequent meetings, RCV has consistently told the government that housing is our number one priority, and it was gratifying to hear the government acknowledge that.

“The 1300 new homes will go some way towards meeting the demand for new homes in rural Victoria.

“We will advocate strongly to ensure that rural Victoria gets its fair share of those homes.

“The Rural Victoria Housing Blueprint, commissioned by RCV and delivered by SGS Economics & Planning, identified the need for about 5800 new starts per year over 15 years to deliver the 87,400 new homes rural Victorian communities will need.

“We look forward to working with the government to ensure the design of these funding streams means they are accessible by rural councils and rural communities to deliver the homes rural Victorians need.

“We understand the fiscal constraints that prompted the decision to cancel the Commonwealth Games and welcome the announcement that the benefits that the games would have provided will still be delivered and flow to areas beyond games venues.

“As well as new homes, RCV welcomes investment in rural and regional tourism and events, sport, getting more local families playing sport, helping people with a disability play sport and the promise of 3000 new jobs around the state.

“RCV will advocate strongly to ensure rural Victorians get their fair share of those facilities and jobs.”

## Support for further community housing

THE Community Housing Industry Association Victoria says the Andrews Government’s \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund will provide a much needed boost to social and affordable housing in the regions and improve the lives of thousands of Victorians.

In announcing the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games, Premier Daniel Andrews confirmed at least 1,300 social and affordable homes would be built across regional Victoria, beyond the hubs that would have hosted the event.

CHIA Vic acting CEO Jason Perdriau said the additional homes will leave a lasting impact now and for generations.

“This investment will be life-changing for the many regional Victorians who are in hardship as a result of the housing crisis,” Mr Perdriau said.

“The Regional Housing Fund will deliver homes that are desperately needed. We know more than 36,000 households in regional Victoria are experiencing homelessness, housing stress or living in overcrowded homes. Additional social and affordable housing will make a difference.

“Investment in social housing is an investment in the economic prosperity of Victoria. Safe, stable, affordable housing can ease pressure placed on our hospitals, judicial system and community

services, and improve the liveability of our suburbs.

“This \$1 billion boost complements the Victorian Government’s historic \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build program, as well as the Federal Government’s recently announced Social Housing Accelerator that committed \$496 million to the state.

“The announcement comes as the Victorian Government considers other major reforms to planning and housing supply. This provides a critical opportunity to deliver a long-term plan and investment pipeline for social and affordable housing that spans electoral and economic cycles and creates a fairer housing system for all Victorians.”

## Access to medical abortion improving

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has welcomed the changes to improve access to medical abortion across Australia, particularly for women living in rural and remote communities.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) decision removes a number of restrictions for health professionals who prescribe and dispense MS-2 Step, including removing the requirement for GPs to undertake mandatory training and registration every three years. The changes also mean that all pharmacies will now be able to stock and dispense medical abortion medication like any other prescription.

The move is in line with recommendations in the Senate Inquiry into Universal Access to Reproductive Health Care report, including those made by the RACGP.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins said it was a significant step forward to improve access to holistic reproductive care.

“This is a huge step forward to improve access, particularly for those living in rural and remote communities,” she said.

“As a GP in a regional centre, I know all too well that there are significant barriers to reproductive care in rural and remote areas. These services are vital, and they must be

affordable and accessible for everyone who needs them.

“The TGA’s changes will enable greater access to medical abortion for women throughout Australia and will reduce unnecessary red tape for the GPs who provide these essential services.

Dr Higgins said GPs will be even better placed to provide the holistic support, counselling and follow up that is required with medical abortion.

“GPs are often the first port of call for people seeking support for unplanned pregnancy, because they know and trust their GP, and more so in rural communities where the local GP is often the only health service available.

“It is extremely important, access to safe medical or surgical abortion services for women is part of a holistic approach to reproductive health. This is essential, regardless of a woman’s income or where she lives,” she said.

The RACGP made a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare. Dr Higgins and Professor Mazza AM also appeared at a public hearing and both are special advisors to the National Women’s Health Advisory Council.

## Household numbers declining over time

ACCORDING to a new report from the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), based on the latest Census data, more Australians are living alone than ever before.

One in four (26 per cent) of households are now occupied by one person. This is up from 24 per cent in 2016 and 18 per cent in 1981.

The average Australian household has shrunk from 2.6 people in 2016 to 2.5 people in 2021, this is the first decrease in household size since 2000. Household sizes have been falling since 1910, when the average size was 4.5 people.

Of people living alone, 55 per cent were women and 45 per cent were men. Half of women living alone were aged 65 years or older, compared to one third (32 per cent) of men living alone.

Senior researcher, Dr Lixia Qu, said the decrease in household size is due to more couples having fewer children or no children, plus an increase in people living alone.

“We’re seeing many more households with older couples as Australia’s population ages, and more young couples without children. In previous generations that wasn’t as common.”

AIFS Acting Director, Liz Neville, said the findings come at time when people are being encouraged to “live with others” and increase household sizes.

“We know that we have a major housing challenge in this country and people are being urged to share homes with family and friends, to decrease the demand and lower house prices,” Ms Neville said.

“Meanwhile, this data shows that more people than ever are living alone, indicating that strategies must be responsive to latest trends in household size.”

The report also showed that Australia’s households have become more diverse over time, with increasing proportions of First Nations and immigrant households. More than one third of Australian households are now immigrant households. This number climbed from 28 per cent of all households in 1981 to 35 per cent in 2021.

Dr Qu said both Asian and African countries have become a key source of immigrants in recent years.

“While we’re seeing drops in households with people born in the UK and Ireland, the proportion of Australian households with people from Asian and African backgrounds is on the rise,” Dr Qu said.

The proportion of households with reference persons from Asian countries increased from less than two per cent of Australian households in 1981 to 13 per cent in 2021.



# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Sudden horse deaths across the state

AGRICULTURE Victoria is working to investigate the cause of multiple sudden deaths in horses which have occurred on separate properties since Tuesday, July 4.

To date, there have been 13 confirmed horse deaths on five separate properties to July 20. The properties are located on the Mornington Peninsula, south east Melbourne, Ballarat and Colac, with no common links immediately evident. The affected horses reportedly died quickly with short term non-specific signs of illness or no observed illness.

The investigation involves owners, private veterinarians, and a range of experts, including the Australian Centre of Disease Preparedness and the University of Melbourne. While the investigation is in early stages, testing for a number of infectious diseases has to date been negative. Potential toxicities are also being explored. Unfortunately, the investigators currently have access to limited suitable diagnostic samples.

Several informal reports of further affected properties are being investigated, with a number of instances of false information identified to date. Anyone aware of speculated further cases is asked to encourage official notification. Please do not share unconfirmed information online or on social media.

Agriculture Victoria is asking for notification of any sudden horse deaths in Victoria since July 1, 2023. Notifications can be made via EAD Hotline on 1800 675

888 for new cases or via [cvo.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:cvo.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au) for past cases (since July 1) that have not yet been reported.

Timely engagement is critical for obtaining good quality diagnostic samples.

Although samples to date have tested negative for Hendra, each call out should be considered on a case by case basis and may not be connected to this incident, therefore Hendra precautions should be taken. Practitioners should consider rushed testing for Hendra (facilitated by Agriculture Victoria) in acutely ill or dead horses and prior to any invasive investigations or treatment. When contact is unavoidable, use of full PPE, including impervious boots such as gumboots, overalls and gloves, safety eyewear and P2 respiratory mask is of critical importance in case of Hendra or other zoonotic diseases.

Horse owners are reminded to make sure their Property Identification Code (PIC) details are up to date. PICs are free and easy to get on the Agriculture Victoria website.



**Sudden horse deaths have occurred across Victoria in recent weeks.**  
-Betty Wills

## How Soil Nutrition Affects Grass Tetany in Beef Cattle

by Stuart Foy, Graduate Agronomist, Nutrien Ag Solutions

DURING the cold winter months and early spring, some cattle farmers will experience grass tetany in their herds that can lead to, in some cases, death of their livestock. It is crucial to address the significance of maintaining appropriate soil nutrition to prevent the emergence of grass tetany in cattle.

Grass tetany, scientifically known as hypomagnesemic tetany, presents a significant risk to the health and productivity of cattle.

Understanding grass tetany and its effects is a great way to arm yourself with the skills to notice early symptoms and employ management strategies to negate the associated risks.

Grass tetany is a metabolic disorder characterized by low magnesium (Mg). This condition, if left untreated, can lead to serious health implications, including muscular spasms, reduced milk production, weight loss, reproductive issues, and even death in severe cases. While several factors contribute to the development of grass tetany, the most critical component lies beneath our feet, the nutrition of the soil. Grass tetany usually occurs in late winter/early spring when the grass has higher than normal potassium levels which interrupts magnesium absorption by the rumen. This problem can be accentuated by the inappropriate use of potassium fertiliser.

Soil nutrition serves as the foundation for plant growth, indirectly influencing the health and nutrition of grazing animals. Magnesium is a crucial mineral for cattle, as it plays a vital role in nerve and muscle function. Unfortunately, the natural supply of Mg in Central Victoria's soil can often be inadequate for sustaining optimal livestock health. Subsequently, the grasses cattle graze upon may lack sufficient levels of magnesium, thereby increasing the risk of grass tetany.

To moderate the threat of grass tetany, farmers in Central Victoria must prioritise soil nutrition management. By employing the following key practices, you can promote optimal mineral levels in the soil and safeguard the well being of your cattle.

### Soil Testing

Regular soil testing ensures a comprehensive understanding of nutrient levels and pH balance in your pastures. Aim for a pH level

between 6.0 and 6.5 (CaCl<sub>2</sub>), as acidic soil reduces the uptake of magnesium. Other soil elements, magnesium, calcium, sodium, potassium, and nitrogen play a vital role in dictating the risk of grass tetany.

**Fertiliser applications:** The application of well balanced fertilisers, rich in minerals like magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium, is vital to correct nutrient deficiencies. The concentration of phosphorous in the rumen is also very important, the higher level of phosphorus the better magnesium absorption. A soil test can identify these deficiencies before they become a health concern to stock.

### Mineral Supplementation

In addition to soil nutrition management, directly supplementing livestock feed with magnesium rich minerals is crucial during periods of increased risk. Various magnesium supplementation options are available, including powered supplements and mineral blocks. Cattle that are also deficient in salt (sodium) are at a greater risk of contracting tetany. Introducing blocks with a high sodium content is advised.

### Pasture Management

Rotating pastures and implementing diverse species can help maintain a consistent nutritional profile. Forage species such as clover provide higher magnesium and calcium levels, offering a natural solution to soften grass tetany risks. Having weeds like capeweed isn't necessarily a bad thing in relation to grass tetany. Capeweed is a good source of energy that cattle can source to alleviate the risks of getting tetany.

Recognising the critical role that soil nutrition plays in guarding against the emergence of grass tetany in Central Victoria's pasture systems. A comprehensive approach encompassing soil testing, fertilisation, mineral supplementation, and pasture management will set the foundation for healthy and productive livestock. By prioritising soil nutrition management practices, the well being of the producers' cattle can be ensured.

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## PHOTO COMPETITION

Each month we are running a photo competition with a theme. The theme for the month of August is 'WINTER'.

Simply send in your name, address, phone number and date of birth with your photo to [manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto: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 Embling Rural in Alexandra.

Entries need to be received by August 31, 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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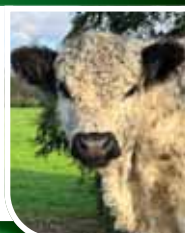
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# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture



*Fox and dog bounties are again being offered. -Miki Yoshihito*

## Fox and dog bounties

Participants in the Victorian Fox and Wild Dog Bounty are reminded that the system is now digital.

Agriculture Victoria introduced the new system last year to streamline the application process, reduce wait times at collection centres and allow participants to keep track of bounty applications.

To register for the digital system visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/victorian-fox-and-wild-dog-bounty](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/victorian-fox-and-wild-dog-bounty)

For assistance, please chat to bounty collection staff on collections days or call the customer service centre on 136 186.

The nearest collection points are in Mansfield at the depot located at 128 Highett Street from 2 to 4pm on Wednesdays, July 26, August 23, September 20 and October 18, and in Broadford (fox only) at 5 Mollinson Street, Broadford from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Thursdays, July 27, August 24, September 21 and October 19.

## VFF lobbies for road maintenance

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says it was a missed opportunity to not redirect any money from the cancelled 2026 Commonwealth Games to Victoria's crumbling regional road network.

VFF President Emma Germano welcomed the funds from the \$2.6 billion earmarked for hosting the games being spent in regional Victoria, but says it was a mistake to not spend any on crumbling regional roads.

"Our country roads are the lifelines of regional Victoria, supporting the backbone of our regional economy. Redirecting funds to fixing these roads would have made sense and would have delivered a benefit to every regional Victorian.

"Time and time again our roads have been left to crumble and now the only legacy the Andrews Government risks being remembered for in regional communities is the neglect of country roads," she said.

Noting the Victorian Government's commitment to provide funding for sporting infrastructure, social housing and tourism, Ms Germano said the government has a

responsibility to deliver positive outcomes for all regional Victorians.

"Sports stadiums in Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong are little comfort to regional Victorians stuck on the side of the road with a bent wheel and blown out tyre.

"Tourists won't visit regional Victoria if it has a reputation for having the worst roads in the country.

"Our broken country roads are compounding cost of living concerns for all Victorians who are facing unexpected and unbudgeted repair bills to keep their cars on the road.

"The additional costs to farmers and transporters is only adding to the cost of doing business and the cost of food on the supermarket shelves.

"Daniel Andrews has let slip a golden opportunity to make a difference to regional Victoria pass by. Real investment in country roads would have had a tangible impact for everyone and the VFF will keep pushing for regional Victoria's fair share of road funding," Ms Germano said.

## Looking after your animals and yourself

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and Agriculture Victoria are hosting a free workshop for all farmers on Thursday, July 27 in Molesworth, talking about how looking after your animals and yourself.

This is an opportunity for farmers across Murrindindi Shire, whether experienced or new to the industry, to hear from the two guest speakers about animal health issues that the district may be facing, and about mental health information and support available.

Delatite Vet Services principal vet Anna Manning will discuss current animal health issues and how to respond. Knowing how to deal with liver fluke, worms, lice and clostridial diseases can be important for this time of year.

Dr Rob Gordon is an expert in supporting people impacted by floods and other natural disasters. He will discuss methods and strategies to help manage yourself in prolonged disasters and managing continuing stressful situations.

The event will take place at the Molesworth Public Hall, 4355 Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth, on Thursday, July 27 from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

A free supper will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, contact Toni Dakis from Agriculture Victoria on 0428 975 728 or email [toni.dakis@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:toni.dakis@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

## Flood recovery pop-up hubs

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

Next pop-up times are:

Molesworth Hall on Wednesday, July 19 from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Alexandra Library on Thursday, July 27 from 10am to 1pm.

Yea Library on Tuesday, August 1 from 5 to 6.30pm

Yea Library on Wednesday, August 2 from 10am to 1pm.

Dates are currently being planned for the Flowerdale, Kinglake, Glenburn and Buxton communities. A meeting was previously held on July 13 in Thornton.

The flood recovery team will also be attending the Yea Cattle Sales each month to offer information and support to farmers. They will be in attendance on Friday, August 4 from 10.30am to 3pm, and Friday, September 1 from 10.30am to 3pm.

For more information about resources available for your ongoing recovery, visit the Flood Hub. This hub has information on available grants, infrastructure updates, and support services available. It can be found at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022)

Murrindindi Shire Council received funding from the Victorian Government through Emergency Recovery Victoria's Community Recovery Hubs grant program in response to the October 2022 flood event which impacted Victorian communities.



*Recipe kindly submitted by the Yarck Branch of the CWA*

0403 309 502

### COCONUT JAM SLICE

*by Margo Galloway*

#### BASE

125g butter or margarine, softened  
125g (1/2 cup) sugar  
1 egg  
185g (1 1/2 cups) self raising flour

#### FILLING

90g (1 cup) desiccated coconut  
125g (1/2 cup) sugar  
1 egg  
2 tablespoons jam

#### METHOD

Base: Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and fold in flour. Press mixture into a 20cm (8 inch) square baking tin lined with baking paper or foil

Filling: combine coconut, sugar and egg in a bowl and mix well.

Spread the jam over the base then spread the coconut mixture evenly over the top. Bake in a hot oven at 200C for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Cool in the tin and cut into squares. Makes 25 pieces of slice.

Note: Traditionally this is made using raspberry jam but any other jam or marmalade can be used. My personal favourite is lime marmalade. You know like the old song 'You put the lime in the coconut...'



### SAVE THE DATE

**August 3** - Straun

Straun to Victoria, Producer and AgTech Tour  
- PIRSA

**August 13-15** - Wagga Wagga Thriving Women Conference  
- AgriFutures

**September 22** - Wagga Wagga Adapting in agriculture - accessibility in agricultural enterprises- Ability Agriculture Business Network

### UPCOMING CATTLE SALES DATES

**Aug 4** Combined agents store sale

**Sept 1** Combined agents store sale

**Oct 6** Combined agents store sale

**Nov 3** Combined agents store sale

**Dec 1** Combined agents store sale



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### The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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# Fera answers some questions about the proposed wind farm

DISCUSSIONS about the Seymour wind farm have been ramping up, with meetings occurring with farmers who may choose to play host to wind farm turbines across a large area, including Caveat, Dropmore, Terip Terip, Ruffy, Yarck and Highlands. Molesworth and Whanregarwen may also be impacted by the installation of transmission lines.

## Fire risk

Wind turbines are a well-known fire risk. There are estimates that approximately one in 2000 catch fire each year. A large proportion of the proposed wind farm turbines are within bushfire management overlay areas.

Contacted about the issue, a CFA spokesperson advised, “CFA has a role to play in providing advice on any potential infrastructure development or project in relation to potential fire risk impacts. Should this project progress, CFA expects to be engaged to ensure that bushfire risk is considered in regard to the location and design of the proposed project. CFA has standard fire safety measures for proposed wind energy facilities such as fire protections systems, water storage tanks and automatic shut-down capability to ensure ground and air crews can safely respond to incidents in these areas, should they occur. CFA has experience in firefighting in and around wind farms, including the use of aircraft.”

Fera advised that in the case of a fire, “wind turbines are halted, reducing the potential for collisions with helicopters and increasing the access for aerial firefighting. Each wind turbine will be in open space, aerial firefighting will not be restricted by the turbines.”

Following analysis of bushfire response in the area of the Waterloo wind farm, the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) found that the access roads acted as fire breaks.

The CFS also commented that with the turbine blades halted, and strong wind conditions, the turbines were easily identified and did not pose a flight risk, adding that guy-wires on met masts should include aerial friendly identification as they were more difficult to identify. Appropriate high visibility orange buoys will be installed on all wind mast towers across the project.

Fera also stated that the improvement of local roads access will increase accessibility for emergency vehicles for fire management and increase evacuation efficiency. Improved

telecommunications will further improve the response to bushfires and any emergency within the area.

## Impact on wildlife

Wind farms are known to kill or injure large numbers of birds and bats each year. Fera was asked what plans they have in place to reduce the impact on wildlife.

They responded that they are “working with Biosis Australia, leading experts for ecology and cultural heritage. Biosis have been commissioned to conduct detailed studies into the project’s ecology. Commencing with a desktop flora and fauna assessment (completed) to summarise the key biodiversity values across the site, including ecological vegetation classes (EVCs), threatened ecological communities (TECs), and threatened flora and fauna listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and Victoria’s Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act). Biodiversity values will be summarised separately for the WEF study area, and transmission easement.

“To ensure that the programs for birds, bats and all key vegetation is assessed on the ground, each of these studies are being run through each of the seasons and the site

vegetation will be conducted over the next six months.

“Prior to finalising the studies, we will continue our meetings with the local Landcare and environmental groups to add their input into the studies and ensure that the studies and investigations cover all the area’s sensitive flora and fauna. We are also working with the local land council to ensure the cultural heritage elements across the project area are identified and inform the final design of the project. The information collected will then be used to finalise the final turbine and transmission infrastructure for the project.

“The largest extents of remnant native vegetation within the study area are represented by the Black Range State Forest, Caveat Nature Conservation Reserve, Yarck Nature Conservation Reserve, Molesworth Bushland Reserve and Dropmore G46 Bushland Reserve. Vegetation along waterways including the Goulburn River, Crystal Creek, Johnson Creek, Spring Creek, Hughes Creek, Reedy Creek and Running Creek (public land). Significant tracts of native vegetation do remain on private land within the Strathbogie Ranges in the study area.”

Biosis is starting the survey work to detail the flora and Fauna of the road reserves, farm-based nature

corridors and the forest areas. This work will be used as we plan the final locations of the turbines together with the other studies and feedback from landowners.

## Clearance areas around turbines and transmission lines

Fera was asked about the size of the foliage clearance areas around the turbine, and around each of the transmission line types. The plan is now to have multiple substations, each with a 132kV transmission lines to the grid connection point. It is argued that having multiple transmission lines running in different routes to the grid connection point would cause even more disruption. Fera was asked whether this is accurate, and whether they will be above-ground instead of underground.

Fera advised that, “Nearly all turbines will be built in open farmland. Access to each turbine will require roads and tracks to be upgraded. These will typically be developed with each farm to create roads that have long term value to each landowner... The width of each road is approximately 6m. At each turbine site a laydown area will be created, approximately 50 metres wide by 100 metres long.

“With respect to the transmission lines, the easements vary in width depending on the size of the transmission lines,” they said.

They are investigating two options, the connection of the project via a single high voltage 330kv tower connection between a substation and the national transmission line with a second option that groups the turbines in clusters of 15 to 20 turbines and connects them to the national network via 132 single pole HV lines.

Fera said, “The second approach is more complex, but it remains the preferred local solution based on feedback from our discussion with landowners. In terms of width, the single pole approach, we will look to use existing alignments for local transmission along road reserves and on private land. With regard to the single high voltage transmission line the easement would be circa 60 metres wide, largely through private land.”

They added, “The transmission lines will be underground between turbines, so there is no change to this approach. Where possible we will look to design the transmission lines to be underground. The single poles are circa 29 metres high (this is similar to the tree canopy height), whereas the lattice towers are circa 35-40 metres high (this is five to 10m above the typical tree canopy height).”

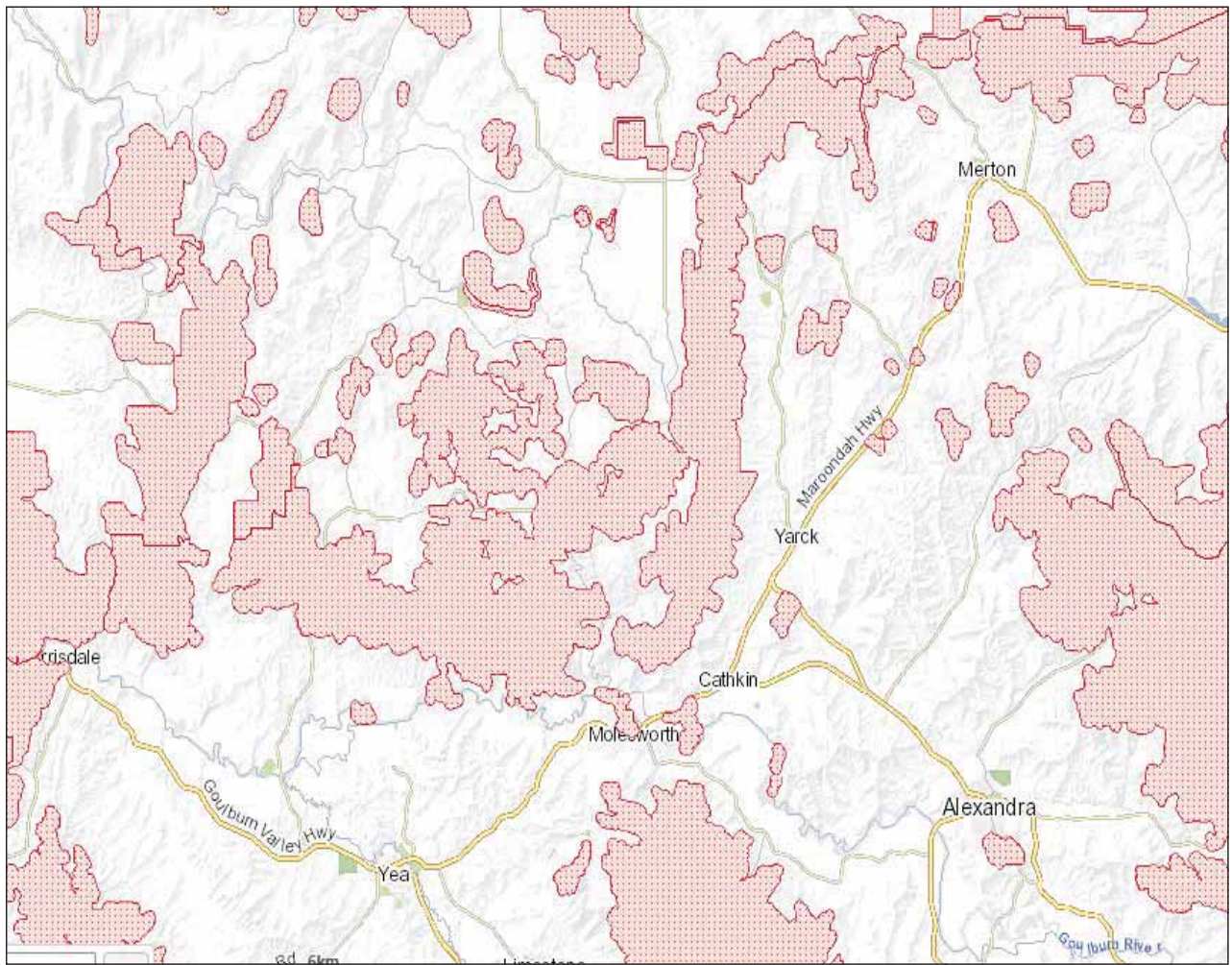
## What will happen to the towers once they have become obsolete?

Fera was asked about what will happen to the towers once they become obsolete. Fera responded that, “The turbines will be 100 per cent recycled at the end of life. The key area being developed at present is focussed on the composites and glues used in blade manufacture. These are being investigated to ensure that they can be broken down at their end of life and recycled. The nacelle and masts are all 100 per cent recycled.

“Depending on the company supplying the turbines they will have a manufacturer’s warranty of between 25 and 30 years. Fera expects that they will have a further five to 10 years of life in addition to the warranty period.

“Contracts with all landowners and the planning proposal for the project ensures that provisions are made for the turbines and associated infrastructure to be removed to a level of 0.5m below ground. Money is placed in a fund to ensure turbine and tower removal, importantly 100 per cent of the turbines and towers will be recycled at the end of their productive life.”

For further information about the project, visit [feraaustralia.com.au/seymour-2/](http://feraaustralia.com.au/seymour-2/)



The red areas are the locations where bushfire management overlays are in place. -VicPlan

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Risk and Resilience Grants are open

UP to \$8 million in grant funding is now available for projects that reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters on Victorian communities and economies as part of the latest Risk and Resilience Grants Program.

Floodplain management authorities, municipal councils, volunteer groups, state government departments, other non government emergency management organisations, small businesses and research institutions will be able to apply for grants of up to \$250,000 as part of the program.

The grants program is funded under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Disaster Risk Reduction and aims to reduce the risk and limit the impact of natural disasters in line with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

Projects must focus on one of the following three key themes: Climate change, by supporting adaptation risk reduction and mitigation initiatives that reduce disaster risk; Designing for risk and resilience by supporting initiatives that strengthen the resilience of Victorian infrastructure

including government and community infrastructure; Managing local and regional risks and building resilience which includes supporting initiatives that improve understanding of local or regional disaster risks, strengthen accountability for and governance of regional risks; and support initiatives that are seeking to directly reduce disaster risk at a local or regional level.

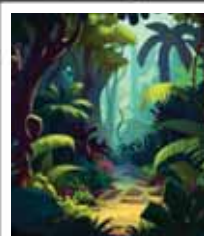
Applications close on August 10. To learn more about the grant program and application process visit [emv.vic.gov.au](http://emv.vic.gov.au)





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## JUST JOKES

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What do you call a three-eyed tiger?

A tiiiger.

How do tigers prefer to have their meat?

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What happened when the tiger ate the comedian?

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What is a tiger's favorite day of the week?

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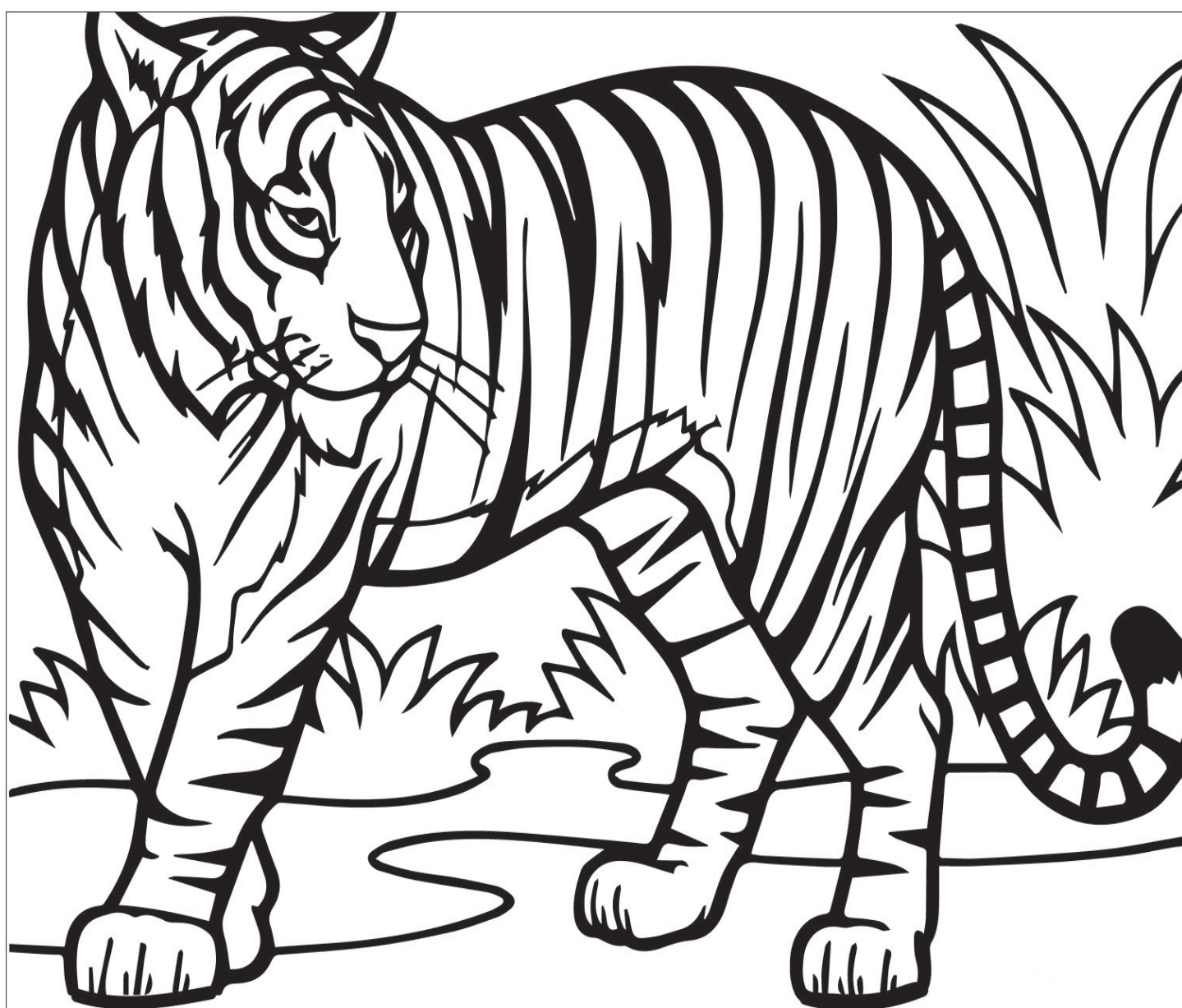
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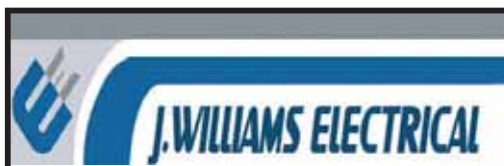
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Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

## MEETINGS



The Board of Directors of Alexandra District Health  
invite you to join us for our  
**2023 Open Board Meeting**

This event will be held on  
**Wednesday 26th July, 2023 at 4.00pm, at  
Alexandra RSL, Grant Street Alexandra.  
Tea and Coffee provided.**



Please RSVP to [Jennifer.Creed@adh.org.au](mailto:Jennifer.Creed@adh.org.au)  
by close of business, Friday 21st July 2023.

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Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd is one of the oldest newspapers in Victoria, and the oldest in the Murrindindi Shire, first publishing in June 1868. We publish *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*, across Murrindindi and beyond. We are looking for someone to fill a role in our administration department and to assist our sales department. You will need to have the ability to be able to take on a large and important part in our team.

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- . Assisting with weekly paper distribution
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#### What you need:

- . Dynamic customer service
- . Excellent communication skills
- . Excellent knowledge of all Microsoft programs
- . To be friendly, helpful and motivated
- . To be a great team player
- . Able to follow written and verbal instruction
- . Ability to work under the pressure of deadlines and multi task in a busy office.
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#### How to apply:

To be considered for this position, submit your resume and cover letter to  
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Only applicants who are Australian residents or hold a relevant visa are eligible to apply.

**Standard**

**The Yea Chronicle**

Alexandra Newspapers is an independant newspaper and not affiliated with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

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# Classifieds

## DEATH NOTICES

### GILMORE, Alan

We are saddened to announce the peaceful passing of Alan 'Bull' James Gilmore (77 years) on July 21, 2023.

Loved father of Catherine, Ross (dec), Louise and Gary. Loving Grandfather to Zoe, Maya, Nathan and Nicholas. Father in-law to Warwick and Sarah. Son of Jim (dec), and Win (dec). Brother to Marie and Judy.

We're left filled with fond memories of him teaching us paddock bashing on horses, dirtbikes and in old 'Gilmorized' cars, fishing and hunting, nature appreciation, and choosing a good piece of wood. He will be deeply missed by family and friends, his jokes and laughter forever resonating in our hearts.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### GILMORE

The service to celebrate Alan's life will be held at the Thornton Hall on Thursday, August 3, 2023, commencing at 1pm.



## MEETINGS

### EILDON ACTION INC

will hold its Annual General Meeting on August 15, 2023 at 5.30pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Everyone welcome. Nominations for committee and committee positions can be made on the night or submitted prior to the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the Visitor Information Centre or on the night.

## MEETINGS



### Upper Goulburn Community Radio

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

**YEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC** Annual General Meeting Monday, August 7, 2023 at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall Supper Room. New members most welcome.

**ALEXANDRA GARDEN CLUB AGM** will be held at 2pm on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at the Uniting Church Alexandra.

### FRIENDS OF THE YEA LIBRARY

Annual General Meeting. Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 2pm at Yea Council Chambers. All bookshop volunteers invited to attend. New members welcome.

## FOR HIRE

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## SITUATION VACANT



### MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

PERMANENT PART TIME (FIXED TERM) 12 HOURS PER WEEK

Alexandra District Health (ADH) is seeking a dynamic Media and Communications Coordinator to manage the ADH social media as well as internal and external communication activities.

The Media and Communications Coordinator will provide a central point of contact and expertise in all aspects of media and communication activities at ADH. You will work closely with our Executive Team preparing and assisting in the distribution of media releases, managing the content of the staff Intranet, website and social media platforms and assisting in the coordination and organisation of ADH marketing and consumer information.

You will have experience in producing media articles and releases and be able to build our media content into integrated social media and communication campaigns. Our ideal candidate is creative and ideas-driven, who can take those ideas, workshop them with others, and then execute them swiftly and effectively.

Our successful candidate will be at ease working across a variety of digital platforms and systems and can manage competing priorities.

If you are looking for an exciting new role in an innovative, flexible, and supportive environment, this may be the perfect role for you. The fixed term role is to December 30, 2023 with the possibility of extension.

Flexible work arrangements are supported at Alexandra District Health, flexible hours will be considered.

Please contact Juliana McCashney, Manager People and Culture if you have any queries regarding the role on 5772 0997.

To access a position description and to apply visit:

[adh.org.au/careers/current-vacancies](http://adh.org.au/careers/current-vacancies).

**Applications close Wednesday, August 2, 2023, close of business.**

## SITUATION VACANT



Heavy combination truck driver  
Permanent full time position

HG Turf Group is a family owned business operating since 1995.

Our Turf Farm is located in Alexandra, North East Victoria.

HG Turf services domestic, trade and commercial markets in Melbourne and parts of Regional Victoria.

With an increased demand in sales we are seeking a Heavy Combination Truck Driver to assist in delivering turf orders to our customers.

You will be an important part of our dedicated team and will work in a positive and supportive work environment.

On offer to the right candidate is a competitive pay rate, very attractive working hours along with numerous training and development opportunities.

### Responsibilities include:

- Completing Pre-Start checklist and CoR documentation daily
- Communicating with the head mechanic in regards to maintenance and repairs
- Ensuring a high standard of cleanliness and housekeeping are kept
- Delivering turf to our customers in a courteous and respectful manner
- Comply with HG Turf's OH&S Policies and Procedures

**To be considered for this role it would be preferred but is not essential to have the following attributes:**

- A current Heavy Combination licence with a minimum of 2 years experience
- Forklift licence and experience
- An understanding of OHS and CoR and the ability to comply with all standards
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Prompt and Punctual
- Great attitude towards customer service

To discuss this opportunity, or for more information please call 5770 3000.

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume to -

[LSazonov@hgturfgroup.com.au](mailto:LSazonov@hgturfgroup.com.au)



# Missing man may be in Eildon area

Police are appealing for public assistance to help locate missing man Brett. The 44 year old left his home address in Iona on July 17.

Brett is described as being about 180cm tall, with a medium build, short brown and grey hair and a moustache and beard. Police and family have concerns for Brett's welfare due to a medical condition.

It is believed Brett might be travelling in a black Ford Ranger, registration 1KR8DA. The vehicle has a flare kit of the side and

modified black wheels. It also has a canopy and an army sticker on the back.

He is known to frequent the Lake Eildon and Bunyip State Forest areas. Police have released an image of Brett in the hope someone may know of his current whereabouts.

Anyone with information or anyone that may know of Brett's whereabouts is urged to contact Pakenham Police Station on 5945 2500.

## Minimum wage on the rise

THE national minimum wage increased as of July 1, to \$882.80 per week, or \$23.23 per hour.

The national minimum wage sets a minimum rate of pay for employees not covered by a modern award or enterprise agreement. About 0.7 per cent of Australian employees are paid the national minimum wage.

It does not set a floor for minimum wage rates in modern awards but minimum award wages will increase by 5.7 per cent.

In setting award rates of pay Fairwork Commission is required to consider the amount of the national minimum wage rates in modern awards.

"The characteristics of employees who rely on modern award minimum wage rates and are directly affected by our decision are significantly different to the workforce as a whole," a Fairwork spokesperson said.

"They mostly work part time hours, are predominately female, and almost half are casual employees. They are also much more likely to be low paid."

In its considerations the commission placed significant weight on the impact of the current rate of inflation on the ability of modern award reliant employees, especially the low paid, to meet their basic financial needs, inflation is reducing the real value of these employees' incomes and causing households financial stress.

"We acknowledge that this increase will not maintain the real value of modern award minimum wages nor reverse the reduction in real value which has occurred over recent years," the spokesperson said.

"However, the level of wage increase we have determined, we consider, the most that can reasonably be justified in the current economic circumstances."

## Regional unemployment remains at historic low

EMPLOYMENT grew to a record level last month. An additional 7500 Victorians secured a job in June, pushing the total number of people in work to more than 3.63 million.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show that 123,600 Victorians found work over the past year alone.

Almost 490,000 people have secured work since September 2020 when the pandemic economic shock was at its height, more than any other state in both absolute and per capita terms.

Victoria's unemployment rate remains at an historically low 3.7 per cent.

The state's participation rate, the share of people working or seeking employment, remains at a near record high of 67.6 per

cent. Victoria's regional unemployment rate is a low 3.1 per cent.

The economy is strong with data released last month showing 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.

Victoria returned the strongest retail trade growth of all the states in May with a full one per cent rise in the month to \$9.2 billion.

The NAB business survey for June found that business conditions in Victoria remain higher than the long-term average.

The ABS last month reported that Victoria's population grew by almost 40,000 in the December quarter, the highest increase of all the states. Over the year, Victoria's population increased by 2.1 per cent to 6.7 million people.





-S



-S



-S

# Alexandra Secondary College Cross Country Skiing

THE Alexandra Secondary College Cross Country Ski Program is up and running. The program is open to students from all year levels.

Every Wednesday, weather permitting, ASC students in the program head up to Lake Mountain to train.

The program includes coaching with Lake Mountain ski instructors, emphasising skill development, race technique and fitness in a fun atmosphere.

Nat and Beryl Morandi from Marysville Ski Centre have been sponsors of the ski squad since 1992 with ski hire, race ski preparation, and clothing.



-S



-S



-S





*The Alexandra versus Mansfield match. -S*

# Alexandra Soccer Club

by Maree Boliancu

THE Alexandra Junior Soccer Club concluded its season last weekend with an exciting match against the Mansfield teams.

Dedicated soccer players gathered at Leckie Park every Saturday morning to practise and refine their skills. These sessions provided a safe, enjoyable, and engaging learning environment for the children, offering them the opportunity to

enhance their confidence, techniques, and understanding of the game. Each session concluded with two simultaneous soccer matches, one team comprised of younger children, while the older upper primary students competed against each other. In between these matches, everyone eagerly anticipated games against the parents and enjoyed the occasional sausage sizzle.

We extend our sincere thanks to the parents who assisted throughout the season.

Some parents dedicated their time to setting up the field before each program, while others contributed to running the games and activities. Your support was greatly appreciated.

A new set of soccer goals have been recently installed for the club by the Murrindindi Shire Council, for the duration of the FIFA Women's World Cup to celebrate the event.

A special acknowledgement goes to Laura, Larry and Sally for their hard work in organising and ensuring the smooth operation of the program. Their dedication was invaluable.

As the Alexandra Junior Soccer Club wraps up another successful season, we look forward to the future, building upon the skills and camaraderie fostered this year. Thank you to everyone involved for making it a memorable and rewarding experience.



*The Alexandra versus Mansfield game. -S*



*Lining up for a kick. -S*

## Alexandra Golf Club news

by Elizabeth Goss

THOUGH the days have been lovely and sunny this last week it has only brought small numbers of players back to competitions.

On Tuesday, July 18 there were six stalwarts playing, with Brad Newton the winner (13) 37pts and Nick Emmerson the runner up (20) 31pts.

Wednesday was again just a social nine holes. Next Wednesday, August 2 hopefully will be Stroke, Monthly Medal and Count Your Putts.

Numbers were better on Saturday with 13 players. Greg Millard was the winner with (17) 36pts and Luke Heard the runner up with (1) 34pts. Nearest the pin on the second went to Brendan Smith, on the fifth to Camilo Garces, on the seventh to Nick Emmerson and on the twelfth to James Betts. Ball Run Down: Nick Emmerson and Brendan Smith. Saturday, July 29 is scheduled as a Stableford round.

## Eildon Golf Club report

by Puttomatic

THIS week we had only seven players contest a Stableford round. The weather was fine, however the course was still wet and good scores were hard to get.

Our winner on the day J. Rachcoff with a very good 36 points followed by a return to form by J. Beal with 31 points and G. Walters on 29 points.

Other winners: nearest the pin M. McLear got the chocolates on the third hole second shot and also twelfth hole. No other nearest the pins were achieved. M. McLear also recorded a birdie on the eighth hole. None recorded on the fifteenth hole.

Congratulations to the winners. Next week is a stroke round and July monthly medal.

# Round one of term three pennant results in squash

by Kristelle Leary

RAVIOLI had a bye this week.

### *Bolognese v Lasagne*

Aiden (fill in) v Charlie: An excellent game from two of our new players. Charlie's ability to read the play served him well and gave him a slight advantage over Aiden. Charlie for the win. 67 to 45.

Kristelle v Mick: Kristelle's serves had Mick stumped. She outplayed him with her experience and took all four games for the victory. 74 to 54.

Simon (fill in) v Justin: A fast paced game for these two. Simon's skill and ability proved too great for Justin. Winning three games and the match, Simon came out on top. 67 to 48

Michael H v Jim: Up until the final game it was a close contest. But Jim loaded his serves in the final game to blow the match apart and run home with the trophy. 65 to 47.

### *Carbonara v Spaghetti*

James G v Matt (fill in): A close match with two games each. Matt managed to hold on for the win, taking his victory with only a two point lead. 57 to 55.

Lucas v Jared: It was Jared's first ever competition match and he is already showing his potential. Lucas won the first game, but Jared turned it around to take the next three and the match. 63 to 58.

Kelly v Oli: Winning the first two games, Oli was in a good position to take the match. Kelly had other ideas, coming from behind. The third match was a draw and Kelly took game four with a massive lead to win the match. 60 to 55.

Michael M (fill in) v Pep: Michael gave Pep the run around. After drawing the first game Michael went on to win the next three with Pep fighting him all the way. Michael won. 60 to 50.

James W v Andrew (fill in): Both opponents were playing well and it was a close match. James won the second game, however Andrew's placement saw him take three games and the match. 71 to 65.



*Oli prepares to play a backhand against Kelly. -S*



SPORT

# Rebel juniors return to Rebel Park

by Ray Steyger

IN round 11 of the season, the Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams returned to Rebel Park for the first home game in two months. Hosting Yea to play four games of football together with Alexandra Black to play three games of netball, Alexandra Red having the bye and the under 16 football team hosting Shepparton United at Rebel Park. The under nines and tens football had a game but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

### Football

#### Under 12

**Alexandra 13.13 - 91**  
**defeated Yea 1.2 - 8**

North Central Construction - Jayden Dimech. Essence Coffee Lounge - Billy Baker. Foodworks - Chase Hilder. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Jet Olive. Coach - Max Kaiser.

#### Under 14

**Alexandra 8.8 - 56**  
**defeated Yea 6.8 - 44**

North Central Construction - Lachlan Williams. Essence Coffee Lounge - Heath Sutcliffe. Foodworks - Aiden Campbell. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Tom Clark. Coach - Toby Lucas.

#### Under 16

**Alexandra 6.6 - 42 defeated**  
**Shepparton United 5.2 - 32**

DMK Taxation - Casey Collett. Essence Coffee Lounge - Ashley Dean. Foodworks - Coen Miljkovic. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Brad Johnson. Coach - Shaun Sutcliffe.

### Netball

#### Under 11

**Alexandra Black 21**  
**defeated Yea 10**

Foodworks - Annie Barker. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Harper Williamson. Alex Sportspower - Havana Fereday.

#### Under 13

**Alexandra Black 17**  
**defeated by Yea 19**

Foodworks - Holly Williams. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Hannah Weeks. Alex Sportspower - Samantha Fraser.

#### Under 15

**Alexandra Black 15**  
**defeated by Yea 30**

Foodworks - Talia Nash. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Brianna Golland.

A very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2023. Next Sunday, Alexandra junior football and netball teams travel to Kings Park to play St Marys in four games of football and Alexandra Black to play two games of netball with the under 15s having a bye. Alexandra Red netball travels to Broadford for three games, under 16 football to play Moama at a venue to be confirmed. If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season please speak to Melissa Crane and Shona Miljkovic to go on the roster.

Thank you to all the families that have paid their season 2023 junior football and netball player memberships and any families that have not done so yet, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact Club President Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.



Preparing to kick. -S



Tackling for the ball. -S



Max Kaiser in the under 12s. -S



Callan Howell in the under 16s. -S



Tom Clark in the under 18s. -S



Taking a leap. -S



# Rebel netballers struggle against Yarra Glen

Results on page 24.



Penny Van Lierop in C grade. -S



Kylie Cairns in C grade. -S



Sarah Mooney in B grade. -S



Taking off with the ball. -S

# Rebel juniors return to Rebel Park



Mitch Kidd in the under 12s. -S



George Sotiropoulos in the under 16s. -S



Aiden Campbell in the under 14s. -S



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# Standard

## Sport

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## Rebel footballers win at away matches

by Ray Steyger

THE Outer East League 2023 season round 12 saw the Rebels travel to Yarra Glen to play two games of football and three games of netball.

### Football

#### Reserves

**Yarra Glen 4.4 – 28 defeated  
by Alexandra 8.8 - 56**

The Reserves had some late changes due to unavailability in the seniors, the Rebels and Yarra Glen kicking one goal each in the first quarter before the Rebels added two unanswered goals in the second quarter. The two teams kicked two goals each in the third quarter in a good contest, the Rebels finishing the better with three goals to one in the last quarter of an entertaining game.

**Awards:** Shepparton Volkswagen - Mitchell Coutts. Ampol fuel card - David Ray. Alexandra Sportspower - Sam Kidd. Buxton Hotel - Dylan Jack.

#### Seniors

**Yarra Glen 7.10 - 52 defeated  
by Alexandra 12.14 - 86**

The Seniors had three players doubling up from the reserves and more than six regular players unavailable but kicked the only goal of the first quarter, adding four goals to one in the second quarter. The second half was a tough contest with several injuries on both sides, the Rebels kicking seven goals to six to take a hard-fought win.

**Awards:** Incentives - Taylor Kleinschmidt, Tom Boots and Ryan Lucas. Buxton Hotel - Jordan Laurie-Rhodes. Volunteer award - Sam and Emma Kidd.

### Netball

A grade lost 42 - 75: Incentive - Katherine Quinsee. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Lucy Grage-Perry.

B grade lost 23 - 40: Incentive - Brodie Wheelhouse. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Fiona Stephens.

C grade lost 13 - 52: Incentive - Kylie Cairns. Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Emily Van Lierop.

Thursday's Rebel Raffles continued last Thursday and we thank our sponsors Swenrick Constructions, Yarck Hotel, Reddrops Foodworks / Houseboat Sales Lake Eildon, Eildon Bakery / Yarck Meat and Produce, Alexandra Quality Meats / AFNC canteen, Yea Chinese Restaurant / Bailey Funerals with the winners Dylan Jack, Melissa Crane, Andy P, Mitchell Coutts, Steve Steiner and Todd Galloway. The Swenrick Constructions Joker Jackpot was not won and will be worth \$1,400 next Thursday so come along for your chance to win a prize.

This coming Saturday the senior Club football and netball teams return to Rebel Park and host Powelltown for two games of football and four games of netball. Ladies Day is on for the afternoon, so get a ticket from Kylie Cairns. Everyone is invited into the social rooms after the games to enjoy some Club hospitality.



Matthew Peric. -S



Will Stewart. -S



Riley Frankcombe. -S