

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, June 3, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Donation to Foundation Murrindindi



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Ruffy Thank You Lunch



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Weekend sport



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Buxton Primary School students worked with Upper Goulburn Landcare Network last week to create nest boxes as habitat for animals in fire-impacted areas. More on page 17. -S

Menzies aged care services to transfer to Omnia

MENZIES Support Services has announced that Omnia Community Health will assume responsibility for the direct delivery of home and community-based aged care services in Murrindindi Shire on July 1, 2026. NDIS services will remain with Menzies.

The change was described as an important step to ensure the long-term sustainability of these services locally.

After more than 45 years in the sector, Menzies Support Services said that the transition is a proactive decision to safeguard the continuity and quality of care for local aged care clients into the future.

Omnia Community Health, formerly Nexus, already delivers services across Hume, Macedon Ranges, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie local government areas. With established locations in Broadford, Kinglake, Kilmore, Kyneton, Romsey, Seymour, Sunbury and Wallan, Omnia has a strong presence and experience in delivering high-quality, community-based care.

Acting CEO/Operations Manager Kellie Fielder at Menzies said the decision reflects a commitment to ensuring clients continue to receive reliable support.

"This transition is about securing the future of aged care services in our community. We are proud of our long history and deeply value the trust our clients have placed in us. Omnia Community Health shares our commitment to person-centred care, and we are confident they will continue to deliver the high standard of service our community expects."

Continued Page 21

FIXING OUR DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS FAILURES

We've seen too many people cut off from communications during natural disasters - putting lives at risk. I've introduced a bill in Parliament to establish temporary disaster roaming, require 24-hour backup power for mobile towers, and support projects that boost resilience - so communities stay connected when it matters most.

Helen Haines MP

Wangaratta: 117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta | 03 5721 7077
Wodonga: 79 High Street, Wodonga | 02 6024 6284
helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au | helenhaines.org

Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St, Wangaratta VIC 3677.



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
 Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400
In an emergency dial 000

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Independently owned and operated with no association with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN: To barking dogs, causing anxiety and stress to neighbours simply wanting to enjoy peace and quiet in their own homes. Please control your pet's barking behaviour. It's called responsible pet ownership. Don't leave them home alone only to annoy the neighbours. Thank you.

THUMBS DOWN: To Vic Roads and Murrindindi Shire Council for failing to act on the neglected and deplorable state of disrepair of the safety barriers lining the middle of the Goulburn Valley Highway between Yea and Molesworth.

THUMBS UP: To the Yea Men's Shed on their amazing coordinated response in assisting our fire affected community with much needed material support over many weeks. Well done Sheddors.

THUMBS DOWN: To the owners of all the vacant, derelict buildings in the main street of Alexandra. Just because they are vacant doesn't mean you don't have a responsibility to keep them presentable. You should be ashamed.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
Non-emergency police assistance
131 444
EMERGENCY 000

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

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
 Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
 Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
 Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
 Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
 Sun AA meeting: 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.
 Sun ALANON meeting: 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086

MONTHLY

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

Varroa mite chemical resistance in Victoria

TESTING of an apiary in north east Victoria has confirmed varroa mites with resistance to pyrethroid miticide treatments. The location is understood to be in the Rural City of Benalla.

The likely pathway of the pyrethroid resistant mites into Victoria was in hives moved from interstate last year and subsequently sold to a Victorian beekeeper.

Executive Director Biosecurity Charlotte Austin said the detection of pyrethroid resistance in Victoria highlights the importance of beekeepers maintaining a close watch on miticide treatment results.

"Beekeepers are urged to regularly monitor mite levels in their hives to check that treatments are working, and rotate miticides with different chemical groups as part of best practice management.

"It is important beekeepers remain alert and let us know if their products do not appear to be working as expected," Ms Austin said.

Early in 2026, varroa mites resistant to pyrethroid and formamidine chemicals (commonly used chemicals to control varroa mites) were detected in New South Wales and Queensland.

The pyrethroid resistant varroa mites detected in north-east Victoria are undergoing

further analysis with results expected at the end of the month.

Agriculture Victoria is working collaboratively with beekeepers to ensure they have the tools and knowledge to effectively manage Varroa mites in their apiaries.

"Victoria's two-year Varroa Transition Program is supporting best-practice management, with Bee Biosecurity Officers and apiary inspectors available to provide practical advice.

"Our Bee Biosecurity Officers bring hands-on help and advice including surveillance techniques, chemical treatment options and how to schedule and plan for treatment," Ms Austin said.

Victoria joined other Australian states, territories and industries in transitioning from eradication to management of Varroa mite based on the National Management Group decision in 2023.

The Victorian Government's commitment to strong biosecurity helps protect communities, food supply and everyday life for Victorians.

More information is available on Agriculture Victoria's varroa mite current situation page and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council website at honeybee.org.au

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Bridge players were in action on Wednesday afternoon at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club, and a social meeting was held on Friday afternoon. Nothing startling happened and we were soon enjoying refreshments in the tearoom with Mary, Joan and new member Val clutching the chocolate bars.

The usual games of 500 and UNO followed. A big thank you to the young lady from Murrindindi Shire Council who did a splendid job tidying the gardens surrounding the Bayley Street clubroom. A reminder that Friday morning is the committee meet up and a business meeting follows after lunch. The coach for the Healesville RSL trip on Tuesday, June 9 departs the clubroom at 8.45am. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	7.00AM Mon	1.15	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00AM Mon	0.52	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.00AM Mon	0.61	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.30AM Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.51	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	2.00AM Mon	0.27	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	7.00AM Mon	0.62	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	7.00AM Mon	3.24	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	7.00AM Mon	0.42	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	0.73	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	7.00AM Mon	0.32	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	7.00AM Mon	0.99	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

***ISSUED AT 8.54 AM AEDT MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on Facebook

Standard The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather
 June 3rd - June 9, 2026
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	12	Wednesday	7	13
Thursday	6	10	Thursday	6	11
Friday	6	11	Friday	5	12
Saturday	7	13	Saturday	6	14
Sunday	6	14	Sunday	6	15
Monday	7	14	Monday	7	14
Tuesday	10	15	Tuesday	10	15

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DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	10mm
Buxton	20mm
Eildon (AWS)	9mm
Flowerdale	9mm
Jamieson	36mm
Kinglake	17mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Mansfield	4mm
Taggerty	14mm
Yarck	5mm
Yea	2mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	269.49m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	40.6%
Metres below full supply	19.41m
Daily inflow	1000ML
Release	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	51%

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DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Foundation Murrindindi receives \$145,620 donation for Bushfire Recovery

FOUNDATION Murrindindi has gratefully received a donation of \$145,620 to the Murrindindi Disaster Fund following the hugely successful *Rise From The Ashes* concert held in Yarck on March 7.

The fundraising event, organised by local Terip and Yarck residents Chris Sharman and daughter Chloe with support from the Frankston Bombers Football Netball Club, brought communities together in support of people impacted by the devastating Longwood bushfire in north east Victoria.

Event organiser Chris Sharman said the success of the concert reflected a shared commitment to helping communities recover.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support shown by everyone who contributed to the *Rising From The Ashes* concert,” Mr Sharman said.

“From performers and volunteers to sponsors and community members who attended or donated, people came together with a shared vision of supporting bushfire-affected communities and helping them recover for the long term.”

Funds raised through the event were originally intended to be distributed in collaboration with local CFA brigades. Following discussions with stakeholders, Foundation Murrindindi was approached to manage the distribution process through the Murrindindi Disaster Fund to ensure the funds could be directed efficiently and equitably to communities most affected by the fires.

Foundation Murrindindi Executive Officer Robyn Hill said the organisation was humbled by the generosity shown through the event.

“This extraordinary contribution reflects the compassion and community spirit that emerges during difficult times. We sincerely thank everyone involved in organising the concert and all those who donated so generously.”

The funds will be distributed through the Murrindindi Disaster Fund to support bushfire-affected communities, with a focus on local recovery needs identified in partnership with community organisations and leaders.

Foundation Murrindindi is an independent charity with a long history of supporting community-led disaster recovery across the region, ensuring donations are directed where they can make the greatest impact over both the immediate and longer-term recovery journey.



Chris Sharman, Robyn Hill and Chloe Sharman. -S

FYI ERV joins EMV under EMC BTW

EMERGENCY Recovery Victoria (ERV) has joined Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

The Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) Tim Wiebusch said of the change, “The transition will better integrate relief and recovery operations and initiatives within the broader emergency management system at a local, regional, and state level. Victorians affected by the summer bushfires can rest assured knowing that recovery services will continue to be delivered at the same level.”

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) is expected to be fully integrated into Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) by June 30. There will be no reduction to frontline staff.

This integration brings the functions of ERV in alignment with legislative powers of EMC with the ERV CEO becoming a Deputy Commissioner (Relief and Recovery) reporting directly to the EMC.

The EMC has legislated responsibility to lead and coordinate recovery, including the activities of all agencies and organisations for all emergencies under the State Emergency Management Plan.

EMV will continue to support all communities and councils to ensure recovery is seamlessly coordinated and delivered. This includes across the Community Recovery Officers, Recovery Hubs, and the Clean-up Program while the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 will also remain open.

Low opening seasonal water determination

ON June 1, Lake Eildon was hovering around 40 per cent capacity. Goulburn-Murray Water River Operations Manager Andrew Shields commented, “Inflows to Lake Eildon have been well below average for the last two years.”

“Due to these lower water levels and inflows, water entitlement holders in the Goulburn system will likely see a low opening seasonal determination allocation when the 2026/27 water year begins on July 1. Goulburn-Murray Water will continue to meet our water supply obligations for customers.”

The latest seasonal determination outlook was released on Friday, May 15 and shows what could happen for all northern Victorian regulated river systems, including the Goulburn system, through the 2026/27 water year based on different inflow scenarios. Visit nvrn.net.au/outlooks/current-outlook

Supporting farmers through recovery

Technical information, practical advice and financial support is available to eligible primary producers



Find out more: agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought



Spiny cray season now open

RECREATIONAL fishers are being encouraged to take advantage of Victoria's great outdoors this winter as the three-month season for Murray spiny freshwater crayfish opened on June 1.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Chief Executive Officer Travis Dowling said the Murray cray season is highly anticipated on the freshwater fishing calendar.

"Murray crays are a delicacy so the season provides a great opportunity for people to try their luck at snagging the world's second largest freshwater crayfish," Mr Dowling said.

"Catching Murray crays is great fun for fishers of all ages and experience levels.

"If you're looking to catch and keep Murray crays, we recommend the mid to lower reaches of our larger inland rivers such as the Ovens, Goulburn, Mitta Mitta and Kiewa.

"These areas also boast excellent camping spots and facilities which make it easy to enjoy a meal of delicious crays around the campfire with friends and family."

Hoop nets, baited lines (no hooks), and your own hands may all be used to

catch Murray crays. Open top lift nets can only be used to catch Murray crays at Lake Eildon, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Dartmouth.

Nets must be attached to a tag that remains above the water's surface with the owner's full name and address written clearly.

Mr Dowling said it is also important to know how to measure crays correctly, from just behind the eye socket to the rear of the carapace, which is the main body shell.

"Measuring Murray crays correctly and only keeping ones between 10 and 12cm ensures we keep large, breeding females in the system to produce offspring for years to come," Mr Dowling said.

"Any female crays carrying eggs under their tails must be released immediately."

A daily bag limit of two crays applies, as does a statewide possession limit of four per person at any one time.

For more information on bag and size limits for Murray crays, grab a free Recreational Fishing Guide from a tackle store, download the free VicFishing app, or head to vfa.vic.gov.au/murraycrays

Local recipients of FRRR grants

THE Foundation Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) has awarded \$1,148,973 in grants for 79 locally led projects that will empower very remote, remote, rural and regional communities to be more vibrant, resilient, sustainable and self-sufficient.

Funded through FRRR's Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program, the grants are awarded to not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) to deliver locally driven solutions that strengthen economies, address service gaps and build resilience in remote, rural and regional communities.

The latest round of funding supports a diverse mix of projects that foster resilience, social connection and local capacity, helping communities embrace new opportunities while addressing challenges such as housing, food security, equitable access to education, social isolation, disasters and climate events, and the preservation of cultural and community assets.

Locally, \$5888 in funding was received by Diamond Valley Community Support Inc in Kinglake for *Breakdown the Digital Barrier!* The project will empower older residents by improving digital literacy, fostering safe

online practices and strengthening social connections through in-person guidance.

Buxton Progress Assoc Inc received \$16,352 for *Additional Breathing Apparatus for Buxton Fire Brigade*. This will support health and wellbeing and improve response times by providing breathing apparatus to local fire brigade.

Gnarly Neighbours Inc received \$25,000 for *Youth Disaster Resilience and Community Recovery*. The project will support young people in Seymour and surrounds (including Alexandra) to improve their mental health and wellbeing after COVID-19 and disasters through youth wellbeing activities.

Ruffy Mechanics Institute Reserve Inc received \$25,000 for *3R's: Ruffy Restore and Reconnect*. It will safeguard a local meeting place by upgrading an electrical switchboard and installing air conditioning in a community hall in a bushfire-impacted region.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital received \$25,000 for *Health on the Move - Rural Outreach Clinics* to foster health and wellbeing following the Longwood fires by delivering free outreach clinics providing preventative physical and mental health screenings.

Council takes on the Marysville Community Centre

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has taken over the control of the Marysville Community Centre. They were asked to provide more information on this, including the reasons behind it, and any forward plans for the centre.

They responded, "Murrindindi Shire Council took on the direct management of the Marysville Community Centre from June 1, following the planned wind-up of the Gallipoli Park Marysville Community Asset Committee.

"The Community Asset Committee formally advised council in July 2025 that it could no longer continue in its management role due to ongoing sustainability and volunteer capacity challenges. Following this advice, council worked closely with the committee to explore options and support the continued operation of the centre, while a long-term arrangement was considered.

"The committee continued to manage the centre in an interim capacity while transition planning was undertaken. Council thanks current and past committee members for their significant contribution and commitment to the Marysville community over many years.

"Council assumed responsibility for the management of the Community Centre to ensure the facility continues to operate smoothly and remains available for community use.

"Council is currently integrating the centre into its existing booking, maintenance and operational systems and will continue to explore future management arrangements that support the long-term sustainability of the centre and its ongoing role as an important community asset."

The vital work of the Yea Cancer Charity

SIMONE Sier from the Yea Cancer Charity gives \$1000 to anyone in Murrindindi Shire who has a cancer diagnosis, with numerous people being helped out multiple times.

Having funds available is such an important thing when a cancer diagnosis is received, as all of the different medical treatments can end up costing a lot. There can also be some extensive travel costs, with some people needing to travel to Melbourne for radiation five days a week.

She commented however that the charity has been "pretty quiet of late" as they haven't been getting many doctor referrals, as happened in the past.

"A lot of it's been word of mouth," she said, "And people who have cancer don't know that we've been helping."

The Yea Cancer Charity was originally created in 2011 with two local ladies, Jan Tull and Julie McLean. They used to donate \$250 to people that were diagnosed and Simone took it over in 2016 when Jan left Yea. Simone has lost many family members and friends to the disease.

During the first fundraiser, they raised over \$30,000 at the Shire Hall for a Collingwood night, and payments were increased as a result, starting with \$500 and then increased to \$1000 per patient.

Since the start, the charity has given out an amazing \$142,000, and at the last fundraiser, they raised \$36,416 on Oaks Day 2024 at the racecourse. That was their biggest fundraiser so far.

There was no fundraiser for the charity last year as one of Simone's friends had been diagnosed with terminal cancer so Simone's focus was on that. This year however, they are looking at doing Oaks Day again.

They also have a lady, who chooses to remain anonymous, who donates upwards of \$7000 each year to the charity and has done so for about seven years. Sedona Estate also donates cartons of wine for every fundraiser that they hold each year. If anyone has any items to donate to the auction, this would be most welcome.

People can attend the upcoming event, or they can contact Simone directly if they would like to make a financial donation. Local community groups and businesses also support the cause.

She commented that when she received the Australia Day Award in 2022, many people at the breakfast didn't even know that the charity existed, and Simone found that people were coming up and putting money in the tin, keen to donate.

For the recipients, anonymity is always guaranteed, and people can also refer people that they know. Simone said, "I'm the only one who knows." The money is transferred via direct deposit after a few questions are asked to ensure that it's legitimate. She also needs to do an annual statement to the government to advise where the funds went.

Simone explained that the funds generally go toward helping people to pay their treatment, such as chemotherapy. She added, "At the moment we're happy to help out anybody that's sort of doing it tough with any cancer diagnosis."

She was also pleased that there is a new cancer treatment capability at Alexandra District Health, which will remove some of the travel pressures.

Simone can be contacted at yeacancercharity@gmail.com or by calling 0419 386 208.

McCORMACK FUNERALS
 Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
1800 080 909
 Please call the team
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
 Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
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 Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
 personalised funeral and memorial services
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

Out & About WHAT'S ON?

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

100 lap derby and standard saloon cup is on Saturday and Sunday, racing starts at 1pm at Alexandra Speedway.

Alexandra Timber Tramway is open Saturday and Sunday from 10am-3.30pm both days. Diesel and stream train rides.

Marysville Winterfest is on at Burrengeen Park Marysville from 4-7.30pm. There is a lantern walk at 5.15pm. Live music, fire spinner, bubbles, face painting, barbecue or bring your own.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

2026 Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show. Trucks, rods, music, amusements, food and much more.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Eildon/Alexandra Mens Shed AGM will be held at 1pm at McKenzie Street, Alexandra.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

CFA Molesworth Biannual election and AGM will be held at 8am at the Molesworth Fire Station.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Don't miss the new musical by Steve Paix. *Mr Pres!!!! The Fake Musical*. 2pm at The Memo, Healesville. yarraranges.vic.gov.au/culturetracks or phone 1300 368 333.

Church Services

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

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia
 St Andrews, Downey Street,
 Alexandra
 Worshipping, Welcoming
 Sharing the transforming love of
 Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
 Contact 5772 2362

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

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

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

DISCOVER THE SOUNDS INSIDE THE HONEYCOMB

**MELBOURNE
RECITAL CENTRE**

Learn more at:
melbournerecital.com.au



Over 200 Ruffy community members turned out to say thank you for the support post-bushfires. -BD



Darryl King and Pauline Macdowell from the Murrindindi and Woodbourne Community Hub presenting a cheque for \$10,000 to Colleen Furlanetto and the Ruffy Community Hub. -BD

Ruffy community gathers for Thank You Lunch to acknowledge bushfire support

LAST Sunday, from 12 to 3pm at the Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub in Ruffy, over 200 members of the community gathered for a Thank You Lunch to acknowledge the support and assistance given to them

both during and in the aftermath of the Longwood bushfire.

Attendees enjoyed a multi-course lunch and live music in a long marquee that stands outside the hub,

as well as under the autumn leaves in the yard behind the hall.

Short speeches were made by Colleen Furlanetto and Anne Leadbeater, to acknowledge the

immense support in recovery and the efforts of volunteers and emergency services.

Darryl King and Pauline Macdowell from the Murrindindi

and Woodbourne Community Hub presented the Ruffy Community Hub with a cheque for \$10,000, as a way of returning their support from the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.



Some of the food available for the Thank You Lunch. -BD



Part of the Thank You Lunch under the autumn trees behind the Ruffy hall. -BD

Twelve charged over campfires in Victoria's north-east

THE Conservation Regulator has charged 12 people after campfires were found burning on Total Fire Ban days in Victoria's north-east last summer.

The charges relate to incidents on February 5 and 7, 2026, when a Total Fire Ban was in force across the local fire district due to dangerous fire conditions.

Conservation Regulator Authorised Officers detected the campfires during patrols on public land.

Four men have been charged over a campfire at Running Creek Campground in the Mansfield State Forest on February 5.

Three men have been charged after a campfire and charcoal camp cooker were found burning at the Island Campsite in the Delatite Arm Reserve on February 5. A 17 year old male who was at the site has also been issued with an official warning.

Three men and two women have been charged over a campfire at a campsite north of Raids Inlet at Lake Eildon on February 7.

Each person has been charged with a single offence related to keeping a fire alight in the open air during a Total Fire Ban.

The charges follow a Shepparton man being convicted and fined \$5000 in the Mansfield Magistrates' Court last month for lighting a campfire at Lake Eildon during a statewide Total Fire Ban on December 26, 2024.

The Conservation Regulator conducts targeted patrols in camping areas across Victoria over summer to reduce bushfire risk and protect communities and the environment.

Campers are responsible for knowing whether a Total Fire Ban is in place, before lighting a campfire.

Total Fire Ban declarations are available via the VicEmergency website and app or through the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Lighting a fire on a Total Fire Ban day can result in significant penalties, including fines of up to \$48,842 and up to two years in jail.

Conservation Regulator Hume Manager of Regulatory Operations Greg Chant said on the issue, "Total Fire Bans are declared to protect the community and the environment, when hot and windy conditions can allow embers from even small fires to spread quickly and ignite new fires in the landscape.

"Under Total Fire Ban conditions, lighting fires in the open air is illegal as it puts lives, property, and the environment at serious risk."

Seasonal message from FFMVic

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer
Chris Hardman

WINTER is almost here, and so far I think we've had the fastest, longest, busiest year I can recall for quite some time.

Across January, I was incredibly proud of our crews (both FFMVic and beyond) and the community for their response to bushfires across the state. Although we had one tragic loss of life, I am close enough to the detail of these things to know how much worse this might have been if it weren't for the readiness of agencies to respond, and the preparedness of community to react. We say often that bushfire management is a shared responsibility; and this is never truer than at the height of a hot, dry, Victorian summer.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all for your strength, service, action, and belief this season. There remains work to do to recover, but overwhelmingly I witnessed a system working and a state pulling together. Thank you to all who made submissions to the Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria to help shape our continual learning from these events.

From the busy-ness of the bushfire season, our crews have stepped straight into delivery of our planned burning program. Autumn typically for our crews means more opportunities to burn, with more stable conditions tending to make fire behaviour more predictable and manageable.

This year autumn has thrown us a few surprises. Conditions have not always been in our favour, but we've been out delivering burns where it has been safe and suitable to do so. The AFAC Winter Seasonal Outlook released this week shows we can expect dry and warm conditions to continue over winter and heading into spring and warns of the potential for another early start to the fire season.

With the support of communities and working with our emergency sector partners, we will continue to take a flexible and year-round approach to reducing bushfire risk. Where planned burning is not possible or appropriate, we'll deliver non-burn fuel works, including mulching, mowing, slashing and spraying to help reduce fuel-driven bushfire risk in our state forests, national parks and on protected public land.

I wish you a good, rain-filled winter.

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Student of the week

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Senior-SHAYLA S



For demonstrating the school value Achievement in Maths by successfully moving onto the Secondary level. Amazing work, Shayla.



Demonstrating the school value of Achievement by mastering repeating patterns using two colours in different ways, such as red/ green and blue/blue/yellow/yellow patterns and creating your own patterns independently. Keep up the fantastic work, Lachlan.

ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charlie M



Charlie has settled into school with ease. He is a responsible learner and thrives on being challenged. Charlie is a caring and supportive class member who always demonstrates kindness and respect. Charlie should be very proud of his positive attitude and thirst for learning. You are a valued member of the Foundation class.

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

RYAN S



Ryan has shown the school values of respect, care and integrity this week. He has been a positive member of our school who has treated others with care. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Ryan. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students of the Week are Max, Jazmine and Emmet for showing respect towards others and their personal space.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

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McLeish presents petition opposing Rubicon solar project

ON May 12, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish tabled a petition opposing the proposed Rubicon solar project bearing 1509 signatures.

Ms McLeish stated when presenting the petition, "This petition of residents in Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Assembly the proposed Rubicon Solar Project that is located in a high bushfire-risk zone, surrounded by dense forest with only one road in and out.

"The site lies close to two school camps that host children year-round, increasing the danger in the event of fire. The inclusion of lithium battery storage adds serious risk of explosion and contamination of local waterways.

"This industrial-scale development would ruin the rural landscape, threaten wildlife and tourism, and cause significant stress and mental

health impacts for residents who fear for their safety and the loss of their way of life."

"The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly oppose and reject the Rubicon Solar Project, and to prevent large-scale industrial energy developments in bushfire-prone, environmentally sensitive, and rural residential areas."

She later stated in Parliament, "The Longwood fire in January was dangerously close [to the proposed solar farm]. Further, they are worried the development would damage the rural landscape, impact wildlife and tourism and place further stress on a community already concerned about the safety and loss of its way of life. I welcome reassurances from the minister that consultation will occur if a planning application is lodged, but that must be genuine consultation, not tokenistic."

Funding available for drought preparedness projects

MORE than \$3 million in grants is now available to empower eligible agriculture-dependent communities to prepare for drought by building and maintaining their social resilience.

This is the second round of funding to be delivered by Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) through the *Future Drought Fund's (FDF) Communities Program*, which is funded by the Australian Government.

Grants are available to local not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) for projects that establish and grow community networks, increase local collaboration and engagement, share

knowledge and develop leadership skills, or upgrade small-scale community infrastructure.

There is \$1 million available in Small Network Grants of up to \$50,000 to support agriculture-dependent communities within 314 Local Government Areas (LGAs), including Murrindindi Shire.

FRRR encourages groups to contact the team to discuss their project idea. Applications are currently open and close on June 30 at 5pm. Funding will be announced late October. Learn more by visiting frrr.org.au/funding/dfd-communities

Open letter from Kinglake Friends of the Forest

LED by residents of the Kinglake region, over 200 people from bushfire risk areas have written to the Victorian Premier calling for an end to the current planned burning program. 176 of the signatories are residents of Kinglake region, and 44 signatories are from other bushfire risk areas. Although only signatories from the Kinglake region were sought, nearly 100 urban residents have added their names in support.

Kinglake Friends of the Forest drafted the open letter with other members of the community at a town hall meeting last year.

The letter urges the government to heed the evidence in several independent studies by the Australian National University and Curtin University, as well as the state's own commissions and inquiries that raise serious issues with the current burning program.

The letter includes the statements, "We hope never to experience another catastrophic bushfire like 2009. But we must be prepared. That is why we are writing to implore you to urgently update Victoria's bushfire mitigation

practices in line with recent science and new technology. We are deeply concerned that the current planned burning regime is not effective, is endangering threatened species and it is harming public health."

It further states, "The rationale that underpins the current planned burning regime is based on an outdated theory that forests become more flammable as they age. Although high-quality, peer-reviewed journals have discredited this idea, FFMV appears to cherry-pick literature that relies on decades-old research and short-term data."

The open letter asks for planned burns to be replaced by a range of updated bushfire mitigation approaches including investment into rapid detection and suppression technologies.

The Bushfire Research Centre of Excellence (ANU and Optus) states, "Bushfires are expected to cost the nation at least \$30 billion over the next three decades. Recent modelling from ANU shows investment in early bushfire detection could save Australia \$8.2 billion over the next 30 years"

Sue McKinnon, President of Kinglake Friends of the Forest, said, "In 2009 we had to evacuate, the fire turned around only three kilometres from our house. Ever since then our summers are scheduled around the weather and what needs to be done to prepare for another evacuation. It's clearly obvious to me from looking at the forest after a planned burn compared to the areas that have recovered after 2009 that planned burns are just causing a flush of shrubs and a more flammable dryer, more open, windy, degraded forest. What I see is also reflected in current fire science which shows areas recently disturbed by planned burns are more likely to burn. On top of this, the forest is wrecked by the burns, habitat and wildlife suffers. Locals hate autumn because of the smoke that now dominates this once beautiful season. It's time the government stopped burning, started truly funding protection and heeded current science."

The letter has also been sent to the current *Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria*.

Winter road and track closures

VISITORS to Victoria's parks and forests are being reminded that majority of the seasonal road and track closures will begin from June 11, following the King's Birthday long weekend.

The temporary closures make it safer for motorists and reduce damage to remote roads and tracks that are vulnerable to winter conditions, including heavy rain and snow.

Each year, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Parks Victoria, and the Conservation

Regulator enforce road and track closures across public land from May through to November.

Authorised officers will be educating visitors about the upcoming changes in busy parks and forests during the King's Birthday long weekend, followed by increased patrols and surveillance over the 2026 closure period.

In 2025, Parks Victoria Authorised Officers issued 200 infringement notices under the Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations including for driving

cars or riding trail bikes illegally off-road or in restricted areas.

Anyone caught driving or riding on a closed road in Victoria's parks and forests face a maximum penalty of up to \$4070 if prosecuted in court.

Before heading out, visitors are advised to check local road and track closures and weather conditions.

For more information about public land road closure, visit ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests

Haines bill to strengthen disaster communications

WARNING that repeated communications failures in regional areas are putting lives at risk, Independent Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, last Monday introduced legislation to improve the resilience of Australia's telecommunications networks during natural disasters.

Dr Haines said North-East Victoria has endured successive catastrophic events in recent years, including the Black Summer bushfires, major flooding in 2022 and 2023, and the January 2026 bushfires that devastated parts of Indi.

"Two fires this summer, the Longwood Fire and the Upper Murray Fire, destroyed 400 homes and burnt more than 250,000 hectares," Dr Haines said.

Dr Haines said her constituents experienced repeated telecommunications outages during the bushfires, putting their safety at risk.

"Despite multiple reviews and inquiries making clear recommendations, governments have failed to act. When communications fail, lives are put at risk."

Dr Haines said her *Strengthening Communications in Natural Disasters Bill* would deliver three key reforms: temporary disaster roaming, mandatory power backup for mobile base stations, and a stronger pathway to fund community resilience projects.

"This is a simple, life-saving measure that is already technically possible and operating in other jurisdictions," Dr Haines said.

"It has been recommended repeatedly, including by government reviews, yet still has not been implemented. People must not lose the ability to call for help in an emergency."

The legislation would also require the communications regulator to identify high-risk mobile tower sites and enforce minimum backup power standards.

"When towers have adequate battery or generator backup, they stay online longer, ensuring people can receive emergency warnings and stay connected when it matters most."

Dr Haines said she had long advocated for at least 24 hours of backup power for critical sites, a recommendation supported by multiple inquiries and the Victorian Government.

The bill would also formally recognise disaster-resilient communications as eligible for public interest telecommunications funding, enabling greater Commonwealth support for mobile backup systems, satellite connectivity, and rapidly deployable infrastructure such as Cells on Wheels and community Wi-Fi hubs.

"This ensures disaster resilience is treated as core infrastructure, not an afterthought," Dr Haines said.

The legislation was seconded by Independent Member for Mayo in South Australia, Rebekha Sharkie. "My community understands the very real threat of bushfires. We have lived through the fear, uncertainty and heartbreak that comes when fires threaten lives, homes and entire towns," Ms Sharkie said.

Dr Haines said the reforms were urgently needed as regional Australia faces a future of escalating climate-driven disasters.

"This bill is about ensuring that when the next fire, flood or storm hits, people can still call for help, access emergency information, and stay connected," she said.

"In regional Australia, communications are not a convenience. They are a lifeline."

Sad news about missing person

POLICE will prepare a report for the Coroner following the discovery of a man's body inside a vehicle in Fernshaw on the Black Spur on Sunday, May 31.

Officers were patrolling the area when they observed a vehicle down an embankment just off the Maroondah Highway around 10.30am.

The body, which is yet to be formally identified, is believed to be that of missing 96 year old man Hoey Kou (David). The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Our condolences to the man's family and friends.

Fire-impacted volunteers and community members recognition events

FROM June, Murrindindi Shire Council will host a series of local community gatherings in Terip Terip, Highlands, Yarck and Fawcett to thank and recognise the extraordinary efforts of volunteers and community members in fire-affected areas during and after the January 2026 bushfires.

Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings, which will celebrate the strength, teamwork and capability of our local communities. The events will include food and music, opportunities to connect, and the presentation of a community plaque acknowledging local volunteer efforts.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher is encouraging everyone to head along and show their appreciation for the people whose efforts, generosity and community spirit have helped carry Murrindindi through one of the toughest periods in our history.

"These gatherings are intended not only to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and community members, but also to provide an opportunity for people to connect, reflect on what they have experienced, and acknowledge the ongoing recovery journey," Cr Gallagher said.

"Council recognises that many in our community continue to face challenges, and we want to ensure these events create a respectful and supportive space to honour that shared experience and the support that continues across our communities."

Everyone is also invited to recognise the bushfire volunteers and community members across the shire by sharing a message or story through council's online Volunteer Recognition Wall, where they can record their own experiences or the contributions of others at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recognition26

Volunteering does not stop for a single week. New volunteers are needed now more than ever, particularly in the bushfire-impacted areas, where many people are exhausted after going above and beyond, often taking on far more than would normally be expected in a typical year.

Council has more information about volunteering opportunities at *theloop*. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/volunteerhub



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Deer harvest report 2025: Alexandra ranks in most popular hunting areas

THE Game Management Authority (GMA) last week released the *Estimates of the 2025 deer harvest in Victoria* report, which showed an estimated 158,500 deer were harvested by recreational hunters last year; down from 167,600 in 2024 and 66 per cent above the long-term average of 95,400 since 2009.

According to the report, of the three deer species predominantly found in Victoria, sambar deer were the most harvested with an estimated 118,400 harvested. Of that, 54 per cent were female. Fallow deer were the second most harvested species, with an estimated harvest of 38,000 deer and 55 per cent were female. Red deer came in third.

The number of licenced recreational deer hunters in 2025 was 51,347. Fifty-five per cent of licensed hunters actively hunted in 2025 and each harvested an average of 5.6 deer over 11 days of hunting.

In terms of methods for hunting deer, the report says that an estimated 19,900 deer were

harvested using hounds in Victoria during the 2025 calendar year.

“The surveys in 2025 suggest that stalking is more efficient than hound hunting in a per person sense. The overall efficiency from the general survey was 0.51 deer harvested per hunting day compared with the hound hunting efficiency from the hound hunter survey of 0.41 deer harvested per team member per hunting day,” the report states.

It also says that April had the most days hunted, with 178 days, and that June had the most deer harvested, with 124.

Alexandra was in the list of towns around the most popular hunting areas, alongside Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Corryong, and Wodonga, ranking as the fifth most popular area. The highest number of deer harvested were around the towns of Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Healesville, Heyfield and Wodonga, respectively.

The total deer harvest was estimated to be greatest in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA), followed by the North East CMA and the East Gippsland CMA.

GMA Research Principal, Dr Jason Flesch, said the research was based on information gathered from randomly selected licenced deer hunters who voluntarily participated in the phone surveys.

“Approximately 4700 deer hunters participated in the phone survey and provided information about their hunting activity, including how many deer were harvested, where hunting occurred, hunting methods used and the species of deer harvested,” Dr Flesch said.

“This research helps build a stronger understanding of deer harvest trends and hunting activity in Victoria.”

The report is produced annually by the GMA in collaboration with the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. For a full copy of the *Estimates of the 2025 deer harvest* report, visit gma.vic.gov.au



A sambar deer. -Amit Rawat

May meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

AT the May meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council, Kim O'Connor was congratulated on his role as the new Director for Sustainability and Infrastructure. Cr Adams is on a leave of absence, Cr Lording was unwell and requested planned leave for the next 30 days. There was no public participation.

Grants and sponsorship quarterly allocations

Applications received February to April 2026.

Council noted Quick Response grants awarded under delegation: \$2500 for Alexandra CFA Auxillary high tea; \$2500 for Lions Club of Marysville and District to install an additional doorway at the Marysville Community Centre; \$1000 for the Buxton Progress Association community fun day; \$1990 for the Strath Creek Progress Association Anzac Day service; \$2500 for Tri Gym protective floor covering; \$2000 for Alexandra Junior Soccer Club equipment upgrade; \$899 for Ukulele Heaven's Beanie Song workshop; \$252 for Lions Club of Kinglake Anzac Day service; \$1000 for Rotary Club of Yea's 40th anniversary; \$1400 for Yea and District Memorial Hospital's Mothers Day Classic; \$900 for Toolangi Castella District Community House community lunch; \$1500 for Alexandra and Eildon District Lapidary Club new machine; \$1500 for Triangle Arts Group WinterFest 2026.

Council endorsed the allocation of funding for project grants: \$1000 for Upper Goulburn Landcare Network landscape restoration; \$2734 for the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve communications and community support; and \$4400 for Kinglake Historic Society historic storage building relocation.

They also endorsed the allocation of funding for local event grants: \$2500 for the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum Heritage Machinery Festival; and \$4270 for the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre NAIDOC Week 2026.

Alexandra East Development Plan

The Alexandra East Development Plan is complete and was presented to council for adoption. The plan was made possible through a Commonwealth grant and provides a framework for already zoned residential land. It was developed with extensive community engagement and agency consultation. Consideration was made for drainage, road access, pathways, lot diversity, bushfire safety, etcetera, and the plan provides a clear structure for future development.

Council adopted the Alexandra East Development Plan.

Inclusion of strategic investment borrowings in the 26-27 annual budget

Purpose of report is for council to endorse an inclusion in the 26-27 annual budget an intent to borrow up to \$1.5 million to enable future strategic investment. Council cannot enter into borrowing unless it is included in the budget. It means that council can consider borrowing, not that they have to. There is no project or planned application attached to this report. Any future borrowing would require a separate report, business case, and due process.

Council endorsed the inclusion of the provision.

Council Priority Action Plan 25-26 March quarter progress report

Progress continues despite the bushfires in January and subsequent reallocation of resources. There were 70 actions for the quarter ending March 31, 2026. Of the four actions due for completion this quarter, one is complete, one is still in progress, and two have been deferred due to the bushfires. In the year to date update, eight actions are now complete, 48 actions are on track, 4 actions are progressing with delays and 10 have been deferred. Significant achievements this quarter include endorsement of the Murrindindi Health Network Plan, progression of key worker housing in Eildon, and the provision of bushfire support.

Council noted the progress report.

March 2026 quarterly finance reports

Forecasted revenue for the year has increased by \$356,000, while projected expenditure has risen by \$292,000. The increase in forecast revenue is primarily attributed to a \$266,000 increase in operating grants and a \$90,000 increase in capital grants, while the increase in expenditure is due to delivery of activities funded by the additional grants. The operating surplus is expected to increase from \$3.96 million to \$4.03 million, however the underlying result is projected to decline slightly. There is a projected increase in cash reserves of \$42,000. There are no new or unanticipated material changes to the budget that would require formal adoption of a revised budget.

Council noted the report and accepted the officer's recommendations.

Councillor reports

Cr Carpenter attended the 40 years of Yea Rotary celebration. People rebuilding after the bushfires can talk to council's rebuilding team about planning; they may be exempt or able to use VicSmart's fast-track provision or there might be temporary housing available for three years. She also reported there are no delays in permit approvals at this time.

Cr McAulay spoke about the upcoming Murrindindi Business Month in June, which provides a variety of opportunities for local businesses and community groups. In the Eildon key worker housing, modular homes have been delivered to 18 Twenty First Street.

Cr Hildebrand spoke about bushfire recovery on Murrindindi Shire's road network. There were 132 roads impacted and a total of 431km. Seventy-seven roads have been reopened, while 222km of roads remain under limited access. Significant emergency works are still underway on roadsides and damaged road surfaces. Preliminary design work for Breakaway Bridge in Acheron is underway.

Cr Carr said that the rail trail remains a priority for council and they continue to advocate for its restoration post-bushfire. They have met with the various agencies involved to progress recovery planning. Approximately \$8 million in impacts has been identified. There will be a special meeting of council to discuss the draft budget on Wednesday, June 3 at 6pm.

Cr Gallagher spoke about the opportunity to share Murrindindi Shire experiences with several parliamentary inquiries, including a Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability in Wodonga and the Victorian Legislative Council Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires. He thanked Kerry Starr for her service as Coordinator of the Toolangi Castella District Community House over 19 years and wished her well in retirement.

CEO report

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi said that reestablishment assistance payments for households whose primary home was destroyed or made uninhabitable by the fires will remain open, with no set closing date at this stage. Previously the payments were available until 180 days after the emergency.

The Fire Recovery Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner visited Terip Terip and Highlands last week. The free firewood collection has now been opened to all residents of Murrindindi Shire, not just those who are fire impacted. Mental health support post-fire has been expanded with a new partnership between various local organisations to ensure coordinated support.

Ms Bonazzi said that Menzies Support Services have announced the transition of home and community-based aged care services to Omnia Community Health, effective July 1, 2026.

Around 100 new container collection baskets are being installed on rubbish bins around Murrindindi Shire thanks to an \$8000 grant.

Reduce wood heater smoke this winter

THE Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria says it's time to take steps to improve the efficiency of your wood heaters and reduce the smoke they emit.

The state's environmental watchdog has some handy tips about how to get the most out of your wood heater and reduce smoke going into the air.

The condition of the heater, the flue and the quality of the wood you're using all contribute to the smoke from your chimney.

"You'll get less smoke and more heat for your money, if you do it right," EPA Chief Environmental Scientist Dr Jen Martin said.

"Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and

extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

"Don't leave it smouldering as it's inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard," she said.

Wood heater owners have an obligation, under the Environment Protection Act's General Environment Duty, to minimise smoke from their wood heater.

Another important tip is to avoid burning the wrong things, including coal, coke, driftwood, household rubbish, painted wood, chemically treated timber or the green-coloured pine logs used at parks and playgrounds.

EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours' health and seek

alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung conditions such as asthma, pregnant women, infants, young children, those aged 65 years and over and people with diabetes.

"If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, follow your doctor's advice," Dr Martin said.

The EPA website has more information for anyone who wants to be a good neighbour and create more heat and less smoke from their wood heater, epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters



Let's eat, it's our treat

A hearty three-course winter feast you can make at home

PICTURE this: Winter is fast approaching, and you are hosting a handful of friends for dinner. Outside, thick fog blankets the town and chill air whips through the streets. Pedestrians pull their collars up tighter against their necks and hurry onwards, eager to be near the crackling warmth of a wood fireplace.

With such a setting, what are you going to serve your guests to make them feel toasty and warm inside? Certainly not salad, or the lighter meals of summer and spring. You need hearty winter meals.

Let this three-course meal guide provide you with a starting point, or inspiration for the types of meals perfectly suited to the chilly Murrindindi climate.

Chicken and vegetable soup

A classic recipe, chicken and vegetable soup is good year-round, but it has the added benefit of warming your insides when consumed in the colder months. It can be eaten hot and then the leftovers can be frozen in glass or plastic containers, providing a meal both now and in the future.

Ingredients: Olive oil; one leek; two garlic cloves; one carrot; two celery sticks; two zucchinis; one turnip; chicken stock; chicken breast or thighs.

Before beginning, there is a difference between store bought and homemade chicken stock. The former is easier, but homemade chicken stock adds an extra level of flavour to your chicken and vegetable soup. It takes more time, certainly, but the added flavour is the trade-off.

In terms of preparing your vegetables, peel and dice everything bar the leek and the garlic cloves. The leek should be halved and sliced thinly, and the garlic cloves crushed.

Put olive oil in a saucepan to heat, then add leek and garlic. Cook until soft.

Add the rest of your vegetables and cook for a couple of minutes to release the flavours.

Pour in eight cups of chicken stock, add your chicken pieces, and then add one cup of water. Bring the saucepan to the boil.

Once it has boiled for a minute, lower the temperature to allow the soup to simmer.

Stir occasionally while letting it simmer for around an hour, or until the vegetables are nice and tender.

If the chicken hasn't fallen apart, you can remove it and let it cool, then dice it and re-add.

Serve in bowls, with a seasoning of salt and pepper if that is your preference.

Beef shepherd's pie

Shepherd's pie is another classic cold-weather meal that is relatively easy to prepare and tastes amazing. Mashed potato combined with juicy beef mince and earthy vegetables is delicious.

Ingredients: Olive oil; one brown onion; one carrot; one celery stick; two garlic cloves; beef mince; tomato paste; canned crushed tomatoes; Worcestershire sauce; beef stock; frozen peas; cheese; potatoes.

Preheat your oven to 220 degrees.

Peel, wash and chop potatoes, then add to a saucepan of boiling water. Let that boil for 20 minutes while you prepare the other ingredients.

Heat a saucepan with olive oil. Dice the carrot and celery and chop the brown onion, then add to the saucepan and cook for five minutes or so.

Add crushed garlic and cook for around 30 seconds. The mix should be nice and fragrant.

Add your beef mince and let it brown for around eight minutes, stirring with a wooden spoon to ensure it doesn't burn or stick to the bottom of the pan.

At this point, add tomato paste, the canned tomato, Worcestershire sauce and stock, and let the mixture simmer for 15 or so minutes.

Stir in your frozen peas, then let it cool for around 15 minutes.

The next step is to spoon the cooked beef and vegetable mixture into a ceramic rectangular or square baking dish. Layer the mash potato over the top and grate some cheese above that.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the mashed potato and cheese is a lovely golden-brown colour, then serve.

Spiced rhubarb and orange puddings

To end the evening, spiced rhubarb and orange puddings add a bit of flair and panache to your three-course winter meal extravaganza. They are a small but flavourful dessert.

Ingredients: One orange; rhubarb; brown sugar; spices (cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg); vanilla extract; self-raising flour; unsalted butter; buttermilk; caster sugar; three eggs.

The orange is the most important part of this dish and requires the most preparation to ensure it is flavoursome. Put it in a pot, cover with water and place a small plate above to make sure the orange stays submerged. Bring the pot to the boil, then reduce to a simmer and let cook for an hour and a half.

Drain the pot, slice the orange into quarters, and put it to the side to cool while you prepare the rest of the dessert.

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees, then grease six ovenproof baking dishes (around the 250ml size).

In another saucepan, add rhubarb, 220 grams of brown sugar, half a teaspoon of each of the spices, two teaspoons of vanilla extract, and a quarter cup of water. Bring the mixture to a simmer and stir it for around five minutes.

Using a food processor, put the now-cool orange pieces inside with the skin on, and operate until the orange is broken down. Add 285 grams of self-raising flour, 180 grams of butter, 250ml of buttermilk, 220 grams of caster sugar, and the three eggs. Operate the food processor until it is all mixed.

Going back to the greased baking dishes, portion out your mixture between all six, filling them to two-thirds full.

Place the baking dishes on a baking tray and cook for around 40 minutes, or until golden-brown on top. They should rise.

Dish them into bowls and cover them with the spiced rhubarb mix, which should be kept warm. The dessert is best served warm for the full experience.

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King's Birthday

Long Weekend

Winter hits different at Lake Mountain

WINTER is back and so is the winter wonderland of Lake Mountain Alpine Resort.

Just a short drive from Marysville, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort is gearing up for another season of snow-filled fun, family adventures, and that first-time-in-the-snow feeling that never gets old.

From family-friendly toboggan runs to wide open snow play areas surrounded by

alpine forest, Lake Mountain remains one of the easiest ways to experience snow in Victoria. No ski pass stress, no experience needed. Just show up, layer up, and let the excitement take over.

This season, the mountain comes to life in a more playful way than ever, with a comic-inspired campaign led by Lenny, Lake Mountain's leadbeater's possum mascot. From tobogganing to snowball fights, Lenny

brings a fun, imaginative twist to the winter experience and helps tell the story of a mountain that doesn't take itself too seriously.

Beyond the fun, Lake Mountain continues to highlight the importance of respecting and caring for the alpine environment. The region is home to unique native wildlife and delicate ecosystems, and visitors are encouraged to enjoy the snow responsibly while helping preserve the natural landscape.

Whether it's kids racing down toboggan runs, building a snowman for the first time, or spotting Lenny's world brought to life in comic, Lake Mountain Alpine Resorts is where simple moments turn into lasting memories.

As the snow returns and the mountain comes alive again, Lake Mountain is ready to welcome visitors back over the King's Birthday long weekend, from June 6, for another season of big smiles, and the opportunity to experience a winter wonderland.

Marysville Winterfest

Saturday 6th June
Burrengeen Park
4:00-7:30
Lantern walk: 5:15
Live music - Fire spinner - Bubbles -
Workshop - Face Painting - Fundraiser BBQ
Or BYO





WINTER SEASON

Spend a day at Lake Mountain with your family and make the most of the winter season!



From thrilling toboggan runs and cross-country skiing to scenic snow walks, there's something for everyone.



Come join us this winter. With snowmen to build and snowball fights to win!





Today we have Lenny the Leadbeater's possum!

Hi, my name is Lenny and my family are endangered

AND SO...

WINTER

Come meet me at Lake Mountain

MASCOTE

THE LEADBEATER POSSUM

The Leadbeater's possum is a tiny, critically endangered marsupial found only in Victoria, Australia.

They are called 'Fairy Possums'.

LENNY OUR HERO!

HOORAY FOR LENNY!

VISIT LAKE MOUNTAIN TO SEE LENNY

See you on the 6th of June.

LEADBEATER'S SOCIETY IS RUN BY FEMALES.

THE END

Scan me and book now!





King's Birthday

Long Weekend

Truck show ready to roll on June 7

THE 29th annual Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show will be held on Sunday, June 7, during the King's Birthday long weekend.

Organiser Andrew Embling said that this year's show is "looking to be about the same size as last year, but you never know, we just might get a few more trucks come along."

He said that there have been many enquiries about truck entries for this year.

There's also a great music line-up, including Darren Maddock from Albury who will be on the stage two or three times throughout the day, and Kane Vincent with his band *Slow Burn*. They'll be entertaining people throughout the day.

There will also be the ever-popular auction. Last year, the auction raised funds for the Murrindindi Health bus, which had a very timely launch, just days before the Longwood fire. This year, the auction will be raising funds for fire relief and mental health support, including the upcoming *Comedy and*

Conversations events, with the first to be held in Yarck in July.

Andrew commented that supporting mental health and wellbeing is so important going into winter.

The auction items include a split system, a bed and breakfast weekend, car and truck fridges, chopping boards, clothing and scroll gates. He said that there are expected to be around 80 to 90 items. The auction starts at 2pm.

The wood chopping will be held in Rotary Park, with around 35 axemen already booked. Laurence O'Toole senior and junior will both be competing, along with Dylan Rowe and local Jason Kirley. There will also be around six axemen from the Coffey family, in the juniors and seniors. There will be an axeman coming from Tasmania, a couple from NSW and a lot from Victoria.

There will also be amusements at side show alley, just like every year.

There will be traffic management controlling the traffic as people cross over Grant Street, and the shops will all be open. Local food vendors will be in around the Alexandra Shire Hall area, with stallholders including local kindergarten, schools and fire brigades.

Continued Page 14

Marysville Winterfest

MARYSVILLE Winterfest returns this June, bringing light and warmth to the heart of winter. Held in Burrengeen Park, the event features live entertainment, fire pits, kids activities and a welcoming community atmosphere.

The highlight is the lantern parade, where glowing creations circle the lake at dusk, creating a magical experience for all ages.

Truck show ready to roll on June 7

Continued from page 13

The CWA will also be there, and the scouts will be doing the raffle. The first prize in the raffle is a Mercedes Sports car for the weekend from Brighton Mercedes. The winner will pick the car up and go down to Sorrento for a night at the Sorrento Hotel, before returning the car to Berwick the next day. The prize is valued around about \$2500. The second prize is a \$1000 fuel voucher and \$1000 voucher for FoodWorks, and the third prize is shortbread biscuits, pasta and flour from Bill Quail who was one of the major suppliers of all those sorts of items going out to all of the community houses.

There's plenty for people to do, so head along, and of course it's all free of charge.

On the Saturday night prior to the truck show, on June 6, there will be a dinner for all of the show's sponsors, held at the Alexandra Shire Hall.

The truck run will also be on Saturday, June 6, starting at Yarck. There will be a barbecue in Yarck before the truck run in the car park behind the Giddy Goat. The trucks will then head to Alexandra at noon in a convoy and do a lap of the town before parking up at Rotary Park. "We're certainly looking forward to having a lot of trucks in the truck convoy," Andrew said.



Some of the crowd at the 2024 truck show. -AR

Feeder and weaner sale at Yea Saleyards

YEA Saleyards yarded approximately 3970 head of cattle last Friday for the Feeder and Weaner Sale, with multiple livestock agents represented. The average price per head for the sale was high at 601c/kg, with concerns in the industry about a dry winter leading to more cattle being sold.

Steers sold consistently, reaching a top price of \$3160 per head and top weight of 603.3kg, making for 524c/kg. Included in their ranks were several pens of Red Angus that sold well, alongside regular Black Angus.

Heifers reached \$2470 and 471.4kg, matching the price of the steers with 524c/kg. Heifer breeds included Herefords and a number of Charolais pens but were predominantly Black Angus.

Elders livestock agent Andrew Hill said that cattle sold well on the day.

"We yarded a bit over 4000 cattle. There would have been over 100 of those big 450 to 600kg steers that made over \$3000 to \$2900. Then you come down into your middle of the road steers, about 400kg, they were making about 535c/kg," Andrew said.

"There's a lot of August, September spring-drop calves that were part of the feature sale, and they sold very well. Some of those young steers sold into the 600c/kg bracket or a touch better. I thought the market might have been somewhere around 80c/kg dearer than last week with a very good run of well-bred Angus and Hereford cattle.

"You get onto the heifers, and all those heifers sort of climbed into that 500c/kg bracket where normally they've been trading in the 470c/kg or 460c/kg. But they've all sold into that \$5 per kilogram live weight and sold well.

"There's a lot of good run on those future breeder heifers and weaner cattle to go on. There was a dispersal of the Kelly Angus stud the other side of Yea that sold well. The major feed lotters were there, the major butchers were there. Cattle sold as far as Swan Hill, Bendigo, back down into Gippsland."

The next cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards is the monthly Combined Agents Store Sale this Friday, June 5.



The sale featured multiple livestock vendors, including Elders and VLP. -BD



There were a variety of breeds of heifers available last Friday. -BD



Hereford and Charolais heifers filled a number of pens. -BD

YEA SALEYARDS		STOCK REPORT 29 MAY 2026	
Feeder & Weaner Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	3,970		
Average \$ per head	\$1,880		
Average weight per head	312.8 kg		
Top price per head		\$3,160	\$2,470
Top weight		603.3 kg	471.4 kg
Turnover	\$7.46 million		



The first row of cows and calves drew a large crowd. -BD



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State Government



PUZZLES

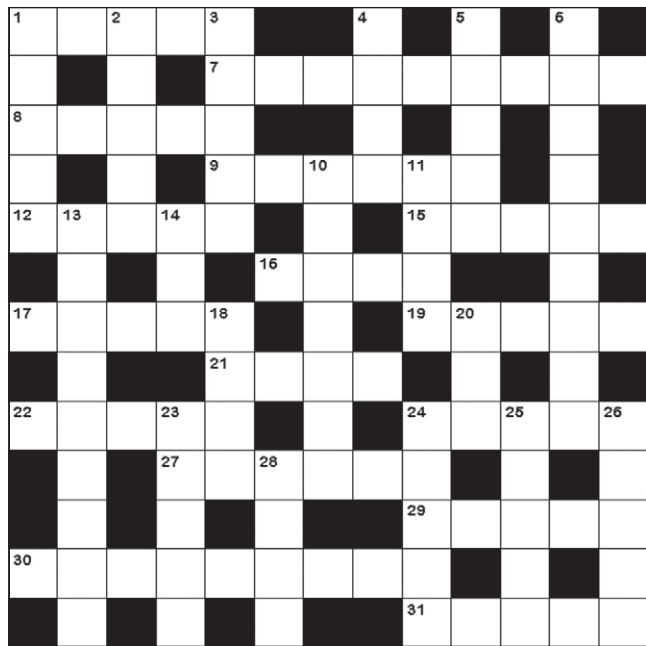
SOLUTIONS
Page 18

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

ACROSS

- Small helpful suggestions or pieces of advice.
- Of chief concern and importance.
- A small donkey used as a pack animal.
- Refuse to accept or acknowledge.
- A weak chirping sound, as of a small bird.
- Boat permitting water to penetrate.
- A small coffee-house or teashop.
- Scatter or spread about over a surface.
- Transport from one place to another.
- An image used as an object of worship.
- Rough or surly in manner and speech.
- Dressed in out of fashion clothes.
- A person who holds a property by lease.
- A crown-like headdress worn by women.
- A person acting in the place of another.
- Used to prime a violin bow for the best sound.



- Occupation of athletes who compete for pay.
- An imitation of the genuine article.
- An established line of travel or access.
- Uttered a snide, slightly stifled laugh.
- Consumed with envy over another's success.
- Musical symbol indicating the pitch of the notes.
- A river cascading over a steep precipice.
- The period immediately before something.
- A man's partner in marriage.
- An exaggerated sense of self-importance.
- Group of vehicles operating under one ownership.
- Use fear to discourage or prevent an action.
- Enfolds completely with a cover for protection.
- Have a strong emotional longing for.
- To dig a well in the earth.

DOWN

- A established custom that is hard to give up.
- A person trained to care for the sick or infirm.

Word Search

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

Girls names

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| ALLISON | OLIVIA |
| BELINDA | PHYLIS |
| JANE | ROSEMARY |
| KAREN | SALLY |
| LIZZIE | SANDRA |
| MARIE | SUZANNE |

Math Square

	+		+	9	22
+		+		+	
	-		x		-23
+		÷		+	
3	-		+		8
12		8		20	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

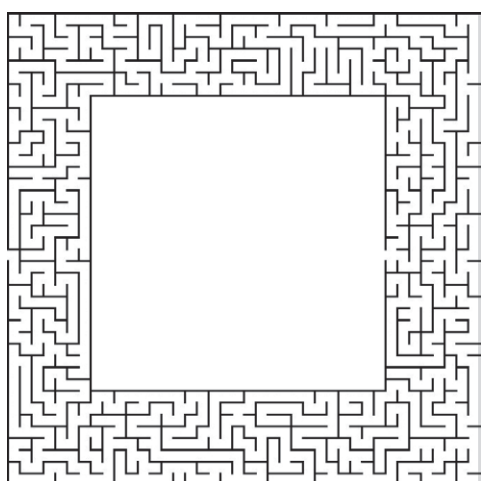
Sudoku

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

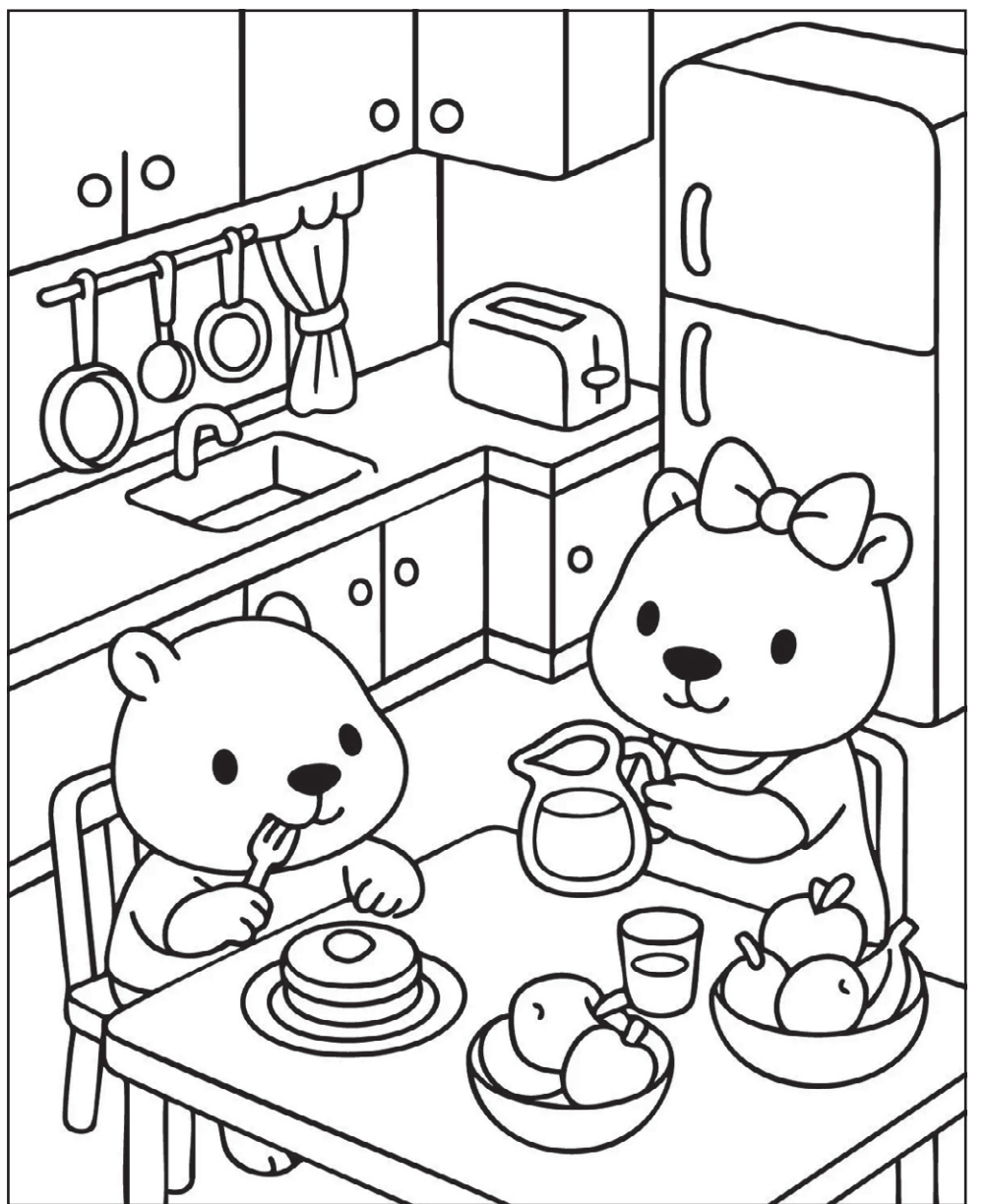
Difficulty: Hard

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

Maze



Colouring Page



Word Search - Words starting with "R"

R A B B I T
 R A I N B O W
 R A P I D
 R A S P B E R R Y
 R E A D
 R E A D Y
 R E A L
 R E D
 R I N G
 R O B O T
 R O C K
 R O C K E T
 R O L L
 R O U N D

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

Math Square

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

	-	5	-		-9
-		-		-	
2	+		-		7
+		-		-	
	-		-		-1
11		-4		0	



Buxton Primary School creating nest boxes

Zanni Waldstein and Leigh Redding from Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) had another nest box building session on Friday, May 29 at Buxton Primary School. The children had a great time constructing and painting more bird and marsupial nest boxes to be put out by the Intrepid Landcare group on rail trail areas and other fire affected land in the region as habitat for displaced creatures. The materials were funded by a grant received from Bendigo Bank.



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The state government has not accepted a recommendation by the Rapid Review into Victoria's Firearms to cap the number of guns license holders can own. -Klimkin

Government rejects recommendation to cap number of guns: Firearms Rapid Review

SIXTEEN recommendations were made in the *Rapid Review into Victoria's Firearm Laws* report, with the review's findings and the state government's response made public last Monday, May 25.

The review was conducted by former police commissioner Ken Lay following the Bondi terror attack of last year. It received more than 500 written submissions and conducted in-person consultations with stakeholders.

The state government has accepted 15 of those recommendations but chose to reject recommendation one, that suggested "introducing a cap of up to four firearms (per individual category A and B) license holder."

The report says in its key findings to support recommendation one, "the average Victorian firearm owner holds four firearms, noting that many licence holders do not own any firearms" and "a nationally consistent approach supports consideration of firearm caps, while allowing Victoria to respond to its specific community safety, economic and environmental context".

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Acting President Peter Star has welcomed the Victorian Government's decision not to proceed with a cap on firearm numbers for primary producers, describing it as a sensible and practical outcome for Victorian farmers who use firearms as an agricultural tool of trade.

"Victorian farmers use firearms as an essential tool of trade for pest animal control, livestock protection and maintaining out leading animal welfare and biosecurity standards," Mr Star said.

"The decision not to introduce an arbitrary cap on firearm numbers is a sensible one that acknowledges the operational needs of primary producers.

"Farmers understand the importance of responsible firearm ownership and maintaining strong safety standards. It's not lost on us the reason why these reforms were flagged in the first place and we fully back the need to keep the community safe.

"However, any new requirements around licensing, storage, training or compliance must be practical, proportionate and workable for people living and working in regional and rural Victoria."

The state government's rejection of recommendation one of the review means that the Australian states and territories are split. New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia have all implemented caps, while Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and now Victoria haven't.

Other recommendations made in the review were accepted by the government, stretching from legislative change to the *Firearms Act 1996 (Vic)* to more information sharing around risk-based decision making.

The government will update firearm categories so that higher-risk firearms are appropriately classified, consider strengthening oversight across the full licence lifecycle, and consider strengthening the use of criminal intelligence in firearms licensing and prohibition decisions.

Of particular note is recommendation four, which suggests the state government "consider limiting eligibility of firearm licences to Australian citizens, or New Zealand citizens with permanent residency in Australia."

The government accepted this recommendation and will be seeking to introduce a citizenship requirement for gun holders through legislative changes.

Several of these recommendations are being progressed through legislation now. The state government will consider the review's other recommendations requiring legislative change, while the Department of Justice and Community Safety will lead the work to acquit the recommendations that do not require legislative reform.

To read the full *Rapid Review of Victoria's Firearm Laws* report and view the state government's response, visit tinyurl.com/55km6522

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

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

8	+	5	+	9	22
+		+		+	
1	-	6	x	4	-23
+		÷		+	
3	-	2	+	7	8
12		8		20	

MAZE

KIDS - MATH SQUARE

4	-	5	-	8	-9
-		-		-	
2	+	6	-	1	7
+		-		-	
9	-	3	-	7	-1
11		-4		0	

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DEATH NOTICES

CLIFFORD, GRAHAM
 Special friend to Liv and Marley, will miss our hugs. Rest in peace, you have earned it.

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Alexandra Race Club have several vacancies available on their committee.

If you would be interested in joining the committee of this important sporting club, phone Anne on 0417 576 652 or Chris on 0407 194 037 Particularly if you have any interest in book keeping.

FUNERAL NOTICES

Boote, Betty Doreen

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Betty Boote will be held at The Murrindindi Chapel, Alexandra on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 commencing at 11.30am, followed by a burial at Alexandra Cemetery.



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MEETINGS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Rotary Alexandra Wood Raffle Winner is Daryl Piergrosse. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

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If you could talk to the animals

IF, like Dr Dolittle, you could talk to the animals, what would you ask? And what would the animal say back to you? While artificial intelligence (AI) is likely to create many challenges in our society, there may also be some unexpected benefits. One of them might be allowing humans to communicate freely with animals.

While many people will have witnessed parrots learning to speak some words from our human language, AI is making inroads into making it possible for humans to speak animal languages, and to be understood.

The Earth Species Project is actively using AI to study and decode animal communications. The researchers are making some remarkable discoveries. It seems for example that many animals have their own grammar rules which can be mapped.

They have discovered that elephants call each other by individual names, and this can be replicated using synthetic sounds. Through playing that synthetic sound, a particular elephant will respond, the holder of that name. The animal may walk over by itself or it may respond vocally. The other elephants have been shown to ignore the sound as it doesn't relate to them. Marmoset monkeys have also been found to have individual names in the marmoset language.

The same technology found that elephants have the capacity to make a noise which is so low that humans cannot hear it, but it can be replicated.

Project CETI has been tracking whales across long periods of time, recording their sounds and actions. They have also been placing trackers directly onto the whales. Using unlabelled audio files, AI was able to discover the acoustic rules and hidden grammar of whale communication.



Project CETI states, "Despite their dramatically divergent evolutionary lineage, sperm whales have aspects within their communication system typically reserved for humans." They also discovered that whales are using a phonetic alphabet.

DolphinGemma, from Google, explores the sounds made by Atlantic spotted dolphins. AI can anticipate what the dolphins' next whistle will be, and it allows the researchers to respond in real time with synthetic sounds that the dolphin can understand and respond to. They even taught them a new word, as a sound they had trained into a pod as the word for sargassum seaweed which began being used in their community. This was the first known instance of a word passing from one species to another's native vocabulary.

The Earth Species Project has built Nature LM Audio, an AI model specifically built for interpreting the sounds of the natural world. AI can synthesise raw sound files into human text. It has also learnt to count the number of animals in a recording and to detect high stress calls. Birds have been found to use 30 to 40 distinct syllables, and to use them in distinct sentences.

In addition, researchers have been able to replicate the movements of bees using a robotic bee, and have the other bees respond to its actions and find food. These robot bees may in the future be used to encourage natural bees towards crops which need to be fertilised.

Through listening and processing via AI, scientists may be able to work out insect numbers in an area based on bird calls, for example. Whales might report on sea temperatures and micro plastics in the ocean through talking to each other. Sudden frog distress calls might indicate pollution.

Many people have conversations with their pets and both pretend to understand what is being said. Soon both we and our pets might know exactly what each other is saying. There will probably be some type of animal language gizmo soon to hit the market. Be prepared to provide more pats.

If the decoding of animal languages continue, and it becomes more widely available to the public, imagine what you might hear as you walk through our beautiful forests. Just don't tread on an ant.

Gaelle Broad: Government is playing catch-up while communities still suffer

NATIONALS Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad said recently that the Victorian Government is continuing to play catch up with fire affected communities struggling to recover from the summer bushfires.

Ms Broad told Parliament the government must prioritise support for communities trying to recover from the bushfires, as many people had been abandoned by the system.

Ms Broad said she had spoken with many people who were frustrated, angry and distressed.

"CFA volunteers have shared their frustration about relying on ageing fleets and failing equipment; calling for backup strike teams and air support with none available; asking for more water and being told no; driving past their own homes on the back of a truck and watching them burn," Ms Broad said.

"There were residents in communities where backup for essential services failed, which put lives at risk; an elderly couple just out of Alexandra still buying bottled water over a hundred days after the fires; the Fawcett community desperately calling

for star pickets to rebuild fences destroyed by fire; residents in need of mental health support being told to wait or that none is available; confusion and delays with the state government's clean-up programs so far behind; a lack of government support to assist with euthanising stock; and delays seeking the support of wildlife volunteers.

"The slow-turning wheels of disaster recovery funding arrangements between federal and state governments are full of bureaucratic red tape. Our state government expects local councils to step up during a disaster but failed to deliver the funding or resources to help communities get back on their feet."

Ms Broad said the communities that suffered the greatest impact, such as Murrindindi and Strathbogie shires were under extreme pressure due to inequitable funding.

"It is easy for the government to put out a media release that support is available, but requiring people to apply for assistance across various different agencies shifts the burden onto individuals who are already struggling to survive," Ms Broad said.

"Facing a pile of paperwork when you have experienced such loss simply adds to the trauma."

Ms Broad recently called on the government to extend the waiver for tip fees for bushfire victims as it was due to expire on May 12. It was extended to June 30, but Ms Broad said this was still not long enough and would add to the pressure and red tape for affected residents.

"I am part of a parliamentary committee considering the state's response to the summer bushfires and I do not wish to pre-empt the findings or recommendations of the report, but as the Nationals representative for Northern Victoria I have a responsibility to highlight these issues," Ms Broad said.

"The fact that we have no standard playbook for support following disasters is problematic when Victoria is one of the most bushfire-prone areas in the world.

"The fires are no longer in the media headlines, but the communities are still suffering. I will continue to fight for those affected by the summer bushfires to get the support they need."



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Menzies aged care services to transfer to Omnia

Continued from Page 1

The transition will maintain continuity of care for clients, with Menzies and Omnia working closely to ensure services remain consistent and responsive throughout the process.

Staff currently delivering home and community-based aged care services will be invited to submit an expression of interest for roles with Omnia Community Health, providing an opportunity to continue supporting local clients under the new arrangement.

David Wild, CEO of Omnia Community Health, said the organisation was committed to the importance of investing in and supporting the local workforce.

"We recognise the skill, experience and local connections that the current Menzies staff have, and we are pleased to be able to create opportunities for staff to continue delivering care within their local communities. Our focus is on ensuring the continuity of high-quality, person-centred care for those currently receiving in-home and community based aged care services."

This planned transition reflects broader sector changes and the importance of strong, sustainable service models in regional communities.

Menzies Support Services remains committed to supporting the Murrindindi community through its ongoing disability and community programs, while working collaboratively with Omnia Community Health to ensure a smooth and positive transition for all involved.

Speaking about the change, Menzies Support Services Acting CEO Kellie Fielder said, "Omnia and Menzies are strongly committed to ensuring a sustainable and seamless transition to support continuity of services for our clients. Our number one priority is making sure clients are supported from June 30 through to July 1 as smoothly as possible."

Kellie added, "Omnia is keen to retain as many existing staff-client relationships as possible. An expression of interest process has been made available exclusively to Menzies staff who are interested in transitioning to Omnia."

She confirmed that an all-staff meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, with the public announcement made on Wednesday. Representatives from Omnia, including CEO David Wild and Executive Director - Community Care Michelle Pasic, attended a meeting with aged care staff on Wednesday alongside Menzies Committee President David Beattie and Acting CEO Kellie Fielder.

Staff were encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification during the session.

Menzies currently has approximately 19 staff working in the aged care service, including a mix of part-time, casual, and a small number of full-time employees.

Under the transition arrangements, staff employment with Menzies will conclude on June 30, with all entitlements paid out in accordance with legislative and industrial obligations. From July 1, those who accept roles with Omnia will commence employment with the new provider.

Kellie acknowledged that the announcement has come as a significant adjustment for staff, stating, "It has been a big shock. We've had ongoing conversations with staff, provided follow-up support, and reminded everyone of the Employee Assistance Program."

She added, "We are very committed to ensuring this transition is as smooth as possible for both clients and staff."

For NDIS services, Kellie confirmed there will be no change, stating, "It is business as usual. I'm aware there have been some rumours, however Menzies is not closing down."

In closing, Kellie said, "The committee has not taken this decision lightly, but it is a necessary step to sustainably ensure

services continue to be available for our ageing population."

Omnia CEO David Wild said, "I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution Menzies Support Services has made to the community over more than 45 years, and the thoughtful and proactive approach being taken to ensure the ongoing sustainability of local aged care services. This announcement reflects a strong commitment to maintaining continuity and quality of care for clients across the shire."

"On behalf of Omnia Community Health, I want to express our appreciation for the collaborative and constructive engagement to date."

"We are committed to working closely with Menzies and partners across the network to support a smooth and positive transition for clients, staff and the broader community."

"Our focus will be on maintaining continuity of care, supporting the local workforce, and ensuring that services remain person-centred, accessible and responsive to community need."

"I look forward to continuing to work together with colleagues across the Murrindindi Shire as this transition progresses."

Pat Jane speaks about her life in Alexandra and beyond

NINETY-five year old Pat Jane was the youngest of eight children, but sadly the twins passed away. Pat said, "I had a very lovely mum (Lucy) and dad (Jim Walker) and siblings. I was told I was quite spoiled, but I didn't protest about that."

She explained that her father was a sawmill owner in Tanjil Bren, Noojee, and Millgrove near Warburton. He then invested in a farm at Koriella. Sadly, the farm, Springfield, burnt in the recent Longwood Fire. Pat commented, "It meant a lot to me because that's where I got engaged. The sentiment comes back into you when you go out and see it there like that."

Pat attended Alexandra High School from Koriella. In those days there was no transport to school so she had to ride her bike up and down the big hills in between Koriella and Alexandra. She laughed, "No wonder they call me thunder thighs."

She particularly remembered the magpies swooping as she rode past. "I'd go to school and I'd get teased because there was magpie manure on my head. I said, I'm not going to school anymore," she added.

Eventually her father got a small jinker, and this was used to ferry them to school instead. Later, Tom Mitchell would ferry them in his lorry, with the children sitting on stool on the back.

Pat added that the distance "was very hard on mum because she didn't have a licence at that time. She had to get a taxi if she wanted anything, because dad was away in the bush a lot."

Pat later worked on the farm and had a horse that she used to ride at shows and other events.

Her father, Jim Walker, was a famous woodchopper, winning at the Brisbane Show, the Melbourne Show and the Sydney Show. He also used to be on the television show, *World of Sport* on Sunday afternoons.

Eventually, Pat moved to Alexandra and worked for Fred Marden who had the drapery store.

Pat met her husband, Allan Jane, a builder, at the Alexandra Football Club. Pat said, "He was a very good footballer... I started going with him."

At the time, her father had a mill at Tanjil Bren and had bought a site at Mount Buller and opened a mill at Mansfield. One of her sisters, Von, married Perce Newman, and they were going to take over the farm, so Pat and the rest of the family moved to Mansfield.

Pat said, "I was already going with my late husband and I looked the field over and no, no one was nice to see you, so I'm coming back again. So I came back here [Alexandra] to live, and sadly my sister Von, I was out staying with her on the mill, and she had a little baby. And her husband, Perce Newman, he was up the bush and he got killed on the mill. It was very upsetting. So dad ended

up selling the farm there. I came back here and lived, and I had a very, very, very happy marriage and three lovely children. We lost their last little girl with the blood disease, Maxine. But we were happy with what we had, and they were very good to us."

Sadly, her husband died 27 years ago "because he was given a bad blood transfusion. He was a very healthy man because he was blundering up and down. So that was pretty heartbreaking," she said.

"But I've never regretted coming to Alexandra because I just love Alexandra. Beautiful people. I've got so many beautiful friends, and it's just been kind to me. I've been in different clubs. I was president of the Ladies Probus until I wasn't that well, and I still go to the meetings."

"I was always involved heavily in sport and I coached the netball sides over here. It's still basketball to me. I umpired them and I started it off when the football club had to get a netball side going or they couldn't stay in the competition. I started that off... I've always been involved."

She always feels happy when parents want her to come along and see how their child is going in netball. She commented, "I've always had a lot to do with young people because I enjoy their company and it's great."

She expressed concern about the lack of active shops in Grant Street and about some of the items which can't be purchased locally.

She said of the *Alexandra Standard* that when she went away, "I always used to say now keep the *Standard* for me until I get back."

Pat and Allan's children are Robert and Karen, both now based in Melbourne. Robert used to be a bank manager. He and his wife have two boys and a girl, as well as nine grandsons, making Pat a great grandmother.

Karen formerly worked as a school teacher. Karen and her husband have two children, with their daughter having three year old twins.

Pat commented of her grandchildren and great grandchildren, "I'm sort of young with them and I do appreciate the fact that I'm walking on eggshells sometimes because their lifestyle and their period of time is totally different because I'm 96 soon, and so they're totally different... I'm a cuddly person. I love people, I love people around me and it doesn't matter what generation they are or anything."

Pat has seen some remarkable changes in the area during her time. She remembered that back in the day, there was a shared phone line in the Koriella area and each household had its own ring. She said, "There was an old lady out there and you could hear her picking up, listening to what people were saying. There was no privacy or anything."



Pat Jane in her garden. -AR

Despite the challenges of the old days, Pat said, "I just wish I could have the world back what it was like when I was young, when I was having my children. It's so commercialised now... You can be online type of things, shopping and that, and then they wonder why all the shops are battling." People also forget that local people get employed by those shops, and this is so important.

She believes that children these days are overindulged. "They've all got to have watches to switch on and these motor scooters... It worries me that people are not giving their brains a wash, or an alertness, because everything's so technical... And then when they're 18 they want a car or something and it puts such pressure on the parents."

She added, "I would like to go back to the relaxed way."

Pat said, "I can remember when we went on our honeymoon and Allan had a utility because there was a builder and we were really battling to get this place finished... When we came back again and Allan said, 'now we just have to go easy now until I get back working again. My sister's passed away, she used to be a theatre assistant at the hospital up here. When we came home, he

said, 'Now look love, we just have to be very [frugal]'. So we walk in the door and on our kitchen bench there were all these groceries. Honest to God, there was everything there. Stuff you'd barely use like cinnamon and stuff like that. 'Oh, it was my sister Norma'. And he said, 'well that is just beautiful'."

"Anyway, that was all right, two days goes past. Next minute we get this big bill. She'd billed them all up. He goes, 'You know, suddenly I've lost liking your sister'."

She said of her husband, "He was beautiful. Gorgeous. He was just a quiet achiever. He was very good, great with the children and very good with me. Was a long member of the football club and he put a new kitchen and things in for them. I can't say anything bad about him actually."

Allan was born in Colac before his family moved to the area. She told the story of a woman with three young children whose husband passed away unexpectedly, having been stung by swarming bees. The man had worked at Ruok Mill. Allan and his father organised a working bee and built a house for her. The mill supplied all of the timber.

She added, "But people are too busy these days. They're too busy."

SPORT

Charity Day at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday 15 players played a stroke round on the back nine holes at Marysville Golf Club. The winner was Keith Atwell (11) with nett 30 and Lloyd Flaherty (13) was the runner up with nett 34. Dave Robins (11) won the putting competition with just 11 putts and was nearest the pin on the 18th hole.

The Thursday nine-hole competition is held every week and all locals and visitors are welcome and encouraged to play in the friendly competition. No need to book, just turn up at the club at 12.30 for a 1pm hit off.

While the nine holers were playing at home last week the ladies continued their regular travels around the Dalhousie District to support member clubs when they host a bowl or tournament. The Dalhousie District covers a huge area with 17 clubs as far from Marysville as Hidden Valley, Trentham, Romsey, Strathbogie and Woodend.

Last week it was the Euroa ladies' turn to hold their tournament and four Marysville ladies enjoyed playing on the very well-prepared course in beautiful autumn weather. Margaret Blair won a nearest the pin and Heather Jenkins received one Player of the Year point.

The next District event is at Avenel on June 11. Avenel is the only course in the district which has sand greens which creates for many golfers an interesting challenge.

Last Saturday on Charity Day all the golfers played a stableford round and the ladies played for the Mavis Hadfield trophy. The ladies winner was Heather Jenkins (21) with 33 points followed by Gail Leigh (10) with 30 points.

David Douthwaite (21) with 37 points won the men's competition and Keith Atwell (19) with 36 points was close behind. The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Drew Kaempkes and Justin Rudduck who also won the Golden Shot.

All raffle money, competition fees, competition winnings and donations were donated to the Marysville SES, a vital cog in the Triangle District and further afield. Next Saturday golfers not involved with the Hole in One competition will play a stroke round for the June monthly medal.

On the King's Birthday weekend the club will hold a fundraising Hole in One competition for all locals and visitors, golfers and non-golfers. The event will be set up on the practice green so the course will remain open to visitors and members.

The competition will run between 10am and 4pm each day and no bookings are required. Golf equipment will be supplied with one ball costing \$5, \$20 for five balls and \$50 for 15 balls. There will be a cash prize of \$1000 for the first hole in one and prizes for nearest the pins. Head along and give it a go.

Trailer loads of firewood are still available at the club and can be delivered at no cost throughout the Triangle area. The cost is \$120 for a 6 x 4' trailer load and orders can be made by contacting the club on 5963 3241.

Having farewelled Alan and Helen Howard recently club members will this week farewell another stalwart of the club, Ray Jones. Ray and his wife Jane are relocating to Bendigo and will be greatly missed by current and former members. Ray has been a long-time member of the club and his contribution, particularly with course and equipment maintenance is greatly appreciated. With his practical skills and mechanical knowledge Ray will be hard to replace. Members wish Jane and Ray all the best for their move to Bendigo.

May Monthly Medal at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttamic

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club match report. Last Saturday was the club's May Monthly Medal Stroke round; there was a small turn up last week with the threat of rain making the day less inviting. However six players contested for the May Medal and they did get wet but not as wet as they could have.

Congratulations to Rod Taylor who finished the day with nett 70, followed by Ian Lakeland with nett 72 and the ball run winner Denis McDonald with nett 75. Rod was also the super six winner, and took out the nearest the pin on the third, Phil Gourlay was the closest on the 12th and 14th but the fifth and 11th went unclaimed last week. There were no birdies on the two birdie holes for the week. Peter McNair took out the entry draw and had a chance with the swindle draw.

Next Saturday is another Stroke round count your putts, hope to see you at the club soon and congratulation to all winners.

Golfers having fun at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

LAST Tuesday turned out to be fine and mild, once again flying in the face of the BOM, although one member seems to be anticipating some seriously adverse conditions. Greg Millard's acquisition of an all-terrain, high clearance golf cart, complete with 4 wheel disc brakes and chrome-plated grease nipples, has some of us wondering who he knows at the bureau.

There is an old adage that goes "Beware the wounded golfer", and your roving reporter (Dave Silverman) proved the truth of this by teeing off while feeling a little second-hand, yet somehow floated to the top of the pile to win with 39 points. Leo Dynes came in second with 34, and 34 points also put Bruce Colville into third spot.

Leo took the nearest the pin on 17, with 18 going to Nigel Waterhouse, and Brad Newton picking up seven, as well as a rundown voucher. The other voucher went to Steve Pearson.

Nine ladies decided to just have a bit of fun last Wednesday, as opposed to playing golf, a distinction that all tragics can appreciate. Puttos was the game, no, I don't know either, and the winners were Donna Meggitt, Judy Pearson and Lyn Capp, with a net score of 58.

The only nearest the pin to go off was 18, which went to Sue Greatorex, Marie Staca and Ruth Worland.

It's a pretty fair bet that the weather forecast was at least partly responsible for the comparatively small field of 14 for last Saturday's Stableford round. Sponsored by the Corner Hotel, the game was played in mainly fine, cool conditions, with



Jarrod Williamson on the 14th. -S

only a light sprinkle here and there to keep golfers on their toes.

Jarrod Williamson was the winner of the competition with 38 points, two clear of Russell Purcell and Luke Heard in second and third respectively, with Dan Burns in fourth on 35. Jarrod was also sartorially

splendid, as the attached photo shows, although opinion was divided as to whether it was an attempt to stay visible in the fog, or an object lesson in not getting dressed in the dark.

Nearest the pins went to Luke on two, Greg Millard on seven, Jarrod on 12 and Bruce Flanders on 18.

Alexandra Squash Club: Round six of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Funnel Webs versus Orb Weavers

RANDY versus Jessica K: Such a close game. Jess got the upper hand in the second game and refused to relinquish that lead through to the end of the match, holding out for the win. 58 to 52.

Sam versus Chris: A well-played match. Sam started by winning the first two games. Chris fought in the third to take the game and eve the scores. In the deciding game Sam had more stamina and trick to take the match. 64 to 59.

John versus Michael H: Michael wanted the win and started strong with a winning first game. The winds changed as second game drew and John claimed the last two games increasing the winning margin each time. John's experience triumphed. 67 to 58.

Red Backs versus Trapdoors

Matt versus Eric (fill in): A great match to watch. There were some long rallies, but Matt played some awesome drop shots, taking home a solid win. 70 to 39.

Sally versus Laura: The competitive spirit ran wild in this match. The games won seesawed between opponents, but neither was giving in. With two games each it came down to points. Sally had gained four-points more throughout to win the match. 68 to 64.

Mick versus Rob: Mick has been holding his own in the higher level this pennant. Rob was quick as always but Mick had some trick that won him the match. 66 to 58.

Andrew (fill in) versus Daniel W: The court was playing some funky tricks. Both players did well with the unpredictable bounces and angles from the ball coming off the wall. It was a good match and Daniel claimed the victory. 60 to 57.

Wednesday competition

Mosquitoes versus Sandflies

Jordan versus Ben H: A really close match. Ben had just a bit more consistency and fewer unforced errors, winning the match. 70 to 66.



Jordan lines up for a backhand against Ben. -S

Mick versus Daniel L: A tight game until the end. Mick finished with a run of unbroken serve to nail in his victory. 62 to 51.

Mark versus Phil: Mark started strong and kept up with Phil until the final game. Phil got away in the final game as Mark waned. Phil was victorious with a good win in the final game. 65 to 47.

Bees versus Hornets

Marty versus Nicole: A family rivalry. Marty had some beautiful shots, but Nicole may have held back somewhat, assisting in Marty's win. 56 to 52.

Lucas versus Kristelle: Lucas got the jump on Kristelle in the first game but she turned the tables in the second. Lucas dominated the second half with his difficult serves. Lucas took home a solid victory. 75 to 48.

Justin versus Ben F: These battlers came out swinging so hard that a racquet was dislodged and flew across the court. Ben had Justin on the ropes in the first half, but Justin brought some amazing plays to overcome Ben's lead and claim the win for himself. 58 to 57.

Action at the Alexandra senior football games



Reserves player Lachlan Collard charging. -S



Seniors player Brandon Kapakoulakis under pressure. -S



Alexandra Reserves player Conor Heaslip. -S



Seniors player Scott Heveren trying to dodge a tackle. -S

Wide variety of opponents for Alexandra junior footballers and netballers

Football

Under 16

Alexandra 8.9-57 defeated Broadford 4.12-36

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Harrison Christie; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Aiden Campbell; Kazza's Diner, Jayd Bennett; Gilligan Plumbing, Mavrick Burchall; Coaches Award, Harish Balansag.

Under 14

Alexandra 4.7-31 defeated by Shepparton Bears 11.4-70

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Harish Balansag; Essence Coffee Lounge, Javi Miljkovic; Kazza's Diner, Eli Van Lierop; Coaches Award, Angus Barkley.

Under 12

Alexandra 15 defeated by Seymour 44

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Bodhi McKenzie; Essence Coffee Lounge, Baxter Lamaro; Kazza's Diner, Griff Thomas; Phil Savage Award, Isaac Kociancic; Coaches Award, Zander Williamson.

Under 10

Awards: Kazza's Diner, Harvey Hill; Canteen Voucher, Leo Jager; Footy Cards, Lincoln Conway and Dusty Manning.

Under Nine

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Arlo McKenzie; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Fletcher Lynch; Phil Savage Award, Hannah Carter; Footy Cards, Sonny Crouch and Byron Pitts.

Netball

Eleven and Under Red

Alexandra 4 defeated by Broadford 12

Awards: Isla Hutt and Isabelle Wings.

Eleven and Under Black

Alexandra 7 defeated Seymour 21

Awards: Josie Blakeney and Matilda Blakeney.

Thirteen and Under Red

Alexandra 5 defeated Seymour 52

Awards: Lainey Martyn and Matilda Woehl.

Thirteen and Under Black

Alexandra 13 defeated by Yea 30

Awards: Scarlett Pearce and Tess Welsh.

Fifteen and Under Red

Alexandra 31 defeated by St Marys 42

Awards: Eadie Gibson and Ruby Friswell.

Fifteen and Under Black

Alexandra 33 defeated by Yea 34

Awards: Zelda Van Lierop, Asher Mullins and Ivy Miljkovic.

Euroa and District Ladies Winter Tennis report

by Deb Mims

HOW fickle weather can be, with two weeks ago being a washout for all matches and last week another lovely day for all to enjoy.

Benalla versus Wappan 2-4, 26-43

Mansfield's team, Wappan, ventured up the Midland Highway to battle it out against Benalla. Anna Speirs, Rhonda Carpenter, Carol Watts and Kimberley Marsden took the opportunity to talk strategies on the drive, which obviously worked with a win against Benalla's, Peta Kelly, Maureen Jewell, Marg Clode and Wendy Maxwell.

In keeping with past weeks, there was a tie-breaker in among the scores. A couple

of "doughnuts" going Wappan's way helped to push the game score out.

Terip Terip versus Euroa 3-3, 27-40

The match up between Terip Terip and Euroa appeared much closer with the two teams sharing the sets. Lyn Johnson filled in for Terip alongside regular "Teripians" Cindy Hayes, Phoebe McDermid and Jenny Martin.

Having won the first three sets, Terip was on a roll against Faye Mollison, Judy Sands, Danielle Scotis and Mary Kelly of Euroa until Lyn had to retire hurt in her next match with an arm/elbow injury, which meant she then had to forfeit her third and final set. Here's to hoping it's not too

serious an injury, and the clubs wish Lyn a speedy recovery.

Creightons Creek versus Moglonemby 5-1, 46-30

Creightons Creek dominated their match against Moglonemby. Lyndall Bigland, Rowena Ellis, Ros Doxey, and Lyn Pierce came out firing taking the first five sets, and yes one was a tie-breaker.

Moglonemby team, Sue Vaughan, Marlene Hanrahan, Robyn Johnson and Lisa Krepp fought hard and despite only winning one set, there was some very close score lines that went Creightons Creek's way. Not quite the lovely rain free day the

other matches experienced, with Euroa having spots of rain that were annoying but didn't interrupt play. Apparently, lots of hitting/rallying, stretching and changing directions, according to Creightons Creek's captain Lyndall, who also said that the day was better than a Pilates workout.

Mansfield

Despite Team Mansfield having the bye, some of the girls met up for a hit and went for a coffee and chat post playing. Deb Mims took the opportunity to try out her back and see whether it would stand up to playing after back surgery. Answer is yes, but needs to get fit before committing to rejoining the team.

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Alexandra Seniors player Tom Boots. -S

Win and loss for Alexandra senior footballers: Tough week for netballers

THE Rebels Reserves and Senior sides faced danger games when they travelled to finals aspirant Belgrave, coming away with a win and a loss.

Reserves
Belgrave 8.11-59 defeated
Alexandra 4.3-27

Taking to the small Belgrave ground and with a number of key personnel missing contributed to a disappointing performance outplayed across four quarters going down by 32 points.

Midfielder Conor Heaslip continued his outstanding form again the Rebels best. Cooper Phillips on the wing with his run and tackling was an impressive contributor. In the backline William Goyder and Nat Kerle held up well under constant pressure. Ben Wallis was a lone hand up forward scoring three of the Rebels' five goals.

The league bye now gives the team time to regain key personnel and regroup in their biggest test to date against Pakenham.

Awards: Shannon Group, Conor Heaslip; Future Fit Finance, Cooper Phillips; Ruoak

Hotel Award, Nate Kerle; Buxton Hotel Award, Will Goyder.

Seniors
Belgrave 11.9-75 defeated by
Alexandra 12.11-83

The Rebels faced a danger game to continue their six-game winning streak against Belgrave with Mitch Parker, Sam Critchley and Justin Coventry either injured or unavailable after their hard-fought victory over Yarra Glen.

As with most games this year a slow start had them trailing by 17 points at quarter time and 15 points at the main break.

A five goal to one third quarter had the boys nine points up at three quarter time.

With both sides scoring four goals in the final quarter, a nine goal to five goal second half was just enough to record an eight-point victory.

Young local forward/ruckman Bradley Johnson continues to impress with his best game for the club to date. Nick Meehan and Tom Boots were standouts in defence.

Gun forward Will Stewart did not disappoint with five goals, supported by Ted Watkins and Scott Heverin with two goals each. With many fine contributors Peter Cairns and Sam Boots continue to impress.

Awards: Kervale Award, Brad Johnson; O'Briens Real Estate Award, Nick Meehan; Ruoak Hotel Award, Will Stewart; Buxton Hotel Award, Peter Cairns.

After this week's bye the Rebels face their two biggest challenges to date, undefeated Pakenham at home with Tom Mitchell returning for his second game for the club followed by Seville a week later also at Rebel Park.

Under 18
Upwey Tecoma 22.12-144
defeated Alexandra 5.2-32

Awards: Bowens Award, Matt Wal; Kia Chadstone Award, Ryder Brady; AFNC Club Voucher, Heath Sutcliffe; Coaches Awards, Mitch Rowntree.

Netball

A Grade
Belgrave 56 defeated Alexandra 44

Awards: Incentive, Elly Hedger; Corner Hotel Award, Amy Jamieson.

B Grade
Belgrave 36 defeated Alexandra 32

Awards: Incentive, Larni Bullock; Corner Hotel Award, Sarah Mooney.

C Grade
Belgrave 40 defeated Alexandra 19

Awards: Ruoak Hotel Award, Ash Kean; Corner Hotel Award, Emiliyah Del Conte.

Under 17s
Alexandra 22 defeated Pakenham
Lions Maroon 21

Awards: Koala Cherries Award, Marli Coller; Corner Hotel Award, Phoebe Kidd.



Reserves player Cooper Phillips. -S