

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, July 1, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

**INSIDE THIS
WEEK'S
EDITION**

Murrindindi celebrates new citizens



Page 3

Joey Scout disco and game night



Page 7

Philip Webb receives OAM



Page 12

Weekend sport



Pages 14-16

Menzies facing dire financial situation

THE following letter was sent to members of Menzies Support Services on Wednesday, June 24 from Menzies Support Services Chair David Beattie. It is republished here with permission.

Dear Members,

It is with some trepidation that I write to advise that a difficult decision has been made to list The Mount for sale.

For some time, Dame Pattie Menzies Centre (DPMC) has worked hard to protect this final asset in the hope that our financial position could be turned around. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, those hopes have not come to fruition.

Many interested parties have been approached with our request for support of our situation. So far we have failed to obtain the required support.

As you may have heard, Menzies has disengaged from Aged Care service provision as of June 30, 2026. This has been in the works for many months, and now as that approaches, it has not been soon enough.

As you all know, Menzies has suffered huge trading losses by anyone's standard, ongoing for many years, and all attempts have been made to steer the course back to a sustainable track. Menzies may be able to salvage its business operations by liquidating the land and buildings assets it holds, but not unless a buyer for the properties, or a financier willing to offer mortgage support appears in the next month or so.

Rest assured all possible avenues of support are keenly pursued by the Committee of Management, but it is



Pictured are Dame Pattie Menzies, shire President Kath Cooper, and Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, Commonwealth Minister for Finance, at the opening of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in 1981. -S

entirely possible that Menzies will need to close its' doors to prevent further losses being incurred.

Obviously, this is a very regrettable situation for all concerned. As President, I myself am very unhappy that the future looks so bleak, and would love to have been able to say, "All is well,

and let's start a new chapter back at the Mount."

Menzies has previously engaged financial consultants to advise on any and all possible courses of action with very little to show for our money. So further investment in third parties taking no responsibility

for our ongoing success has been ruled out.

I have had enormous trust in the staff of Menzies who have done an amazing job in tough times and shown me what loyalty and dedication really looks like. These are quality people who take their jobs seriously and have performed

above and beyond their roles to get Menzies this far.

There have been fantastic events that we have all loved to share with our participants over the years, most recently the weekend entertainment groups and the Halloween party, and the coffee van training course from last year. The Dame has been a great success in its 18 months, and efforts to keep this alive as well will go on.

So, to be absolutely clear: Menzies continues to operate at this time. The Mount (including approximately 30 acres and the residence), the Nihil Street office, and approximately 30 acres of farm/industrial land have been placed on the market. Menzies has financial obligations that cannot be met without either selling or refinancing these assets. If sufficient funds cannot be secured in the near future, Menzies is likely to cease trading. If the sale or refinancing of our assets is successful, there remains a genuine opportunity for Menzies to continue serving our community.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and encouragement during this exceptionally difficult period. Whatever the outcome, the committee remains committed to acting in the best interests of Menzies, its staff, participants and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

David Beattie

*Treasurer / President
DPMC Committee
of Management*

MORE FUEL FOR FARMERS AND FAMILIES - NOT BILLIONAIRES

I've backed a cap on fuel tax credits for mining giants - with a carve-out for farmers and small businesses. Because fuel security matters, and it should **support the people who need it most, not boost the profits of billionaires.**

**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



ADVERTISEMENT

Change of owner for The Alexandra Standard

REGIONAL publisher North East Media (NEM) has reached agreement with the Mott family to purchase *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle* mastheads.

NEM publisher Hartley Higgins said he was pleased with the agreement as the mastheads come with strong historic connections and award-winning coverage of their towns and regional communities.

NEM has published country newspapers as a family business for over 100 years and have an acute appreciation of how important a local newspaper is for its community.

"We believe local newspapers should actively reflect the communities they serve and consistently promote the local economy and jobs," he said

CEO Edward Higgins said he felt that reader value can be added to local newspapers along with digital media services.

"These mastheads fit well with our regional newspapers at Mansfield and Euroa, and will be supported by our Wangaratta based print and publishing technologies.

"A local newspaper can and should be a vital part of any community; we plan to take on issues and champion causes, while providing a local medium to celebrate life's special occasions, whether it be in the classifieds for births and deaths, or milestone stories and obituaries.

"Local newspapers' future lie in their ability to reflect and promote the community they serve, especially in regional Australia where local reporting and trust are essential for community accountability," he added.

Alexandra Newspapers publisher Celina Mott said she would like to thank customers, advertisers, contributors, and current and former staff, who have contributed to maintaining the newspapers over the past 15 years.

"We will be handing over the reins on July 1 to a competent media outlet and are

confident that the trusted news service that the community has relied on over the past 160 plus years will continue with well-informed coverage of local issues," she said.

Originally launched in 1868 as *The Alexandra Times*, *The Alexandra Standard* also covers Yarck, Taggerty, Thornton, Buxton, Eildon and Marysville.

The Yea Chronicle, which dates to 1890 originally started as the *Yea Telegraph*. It covers the western side of Murrindindi Shire, including Yea, Strath Creek, Glenburn, Flowerdale, Kinglake and Highlands.

The purchase follows NEM's acquisition of newspapers in the NSW Monaro, Riverina, and Central West regions in recent years.



Journalist Anne Richey with CEO of North East Media, Edward Higgins. -AR



THUMBS UP:

Big thanks to the awesome young crew who helped out at the Fawcett community event, Alistair, James and Anne-Marie. Always happy to jump in, lend a hand and support the community.

THUMBS DOWN:

To council for giving people who lost everything in the fires less than two weeks to pay the supplementary rates, and for charging people who no longer have a house for the bin service.

THUMBS DOWN:

After reading that the fundraising money raised at the Yarck Hotel to help the five CFAs communities was given to Foundation Murrindindi, I, like many other people I have spoken to, will be very careful in the future who to donate to. I have also been told individuals are not entitled to this money. So sad. Ask the question before you donate.

THUMBS DOWN:

How long do communities have to wait for the money raised to be dispersed to people who need it to help move on with their lives.

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

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

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

Standard *The Yea Chronicle*

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

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 Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Wed Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 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



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.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	11.00am Mon	1.48	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00am Mon	0.48	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.00am Mon	0.54	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	11.22am Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.00am Mon	0.45	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00am Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	11.00am Mon	0.59	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	3.57	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.36	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00am Mon	1.16	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00am Mon	1.50	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	11.00am Mon	0.79	steady	Below Flood Level

**ISSUED AT 11:56 AM AEST MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025



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.



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



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	8mm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	2mm
Flowerdale	8mm
Jamieson	2mm
Kinglake	39mm
Lake Eildon	1mm
Mansfield	2mm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarck	4mm
Yea	6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	276.36m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	57.6%
Metres below full supply	12.54m
Daily inflow	1000ML
Release	1100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	80%



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

Murrindindi celebrates new citizens during Refugee Week

MURRINDINDI Shire Council marked an important milestone for 26 community members on Thursday, June 18, at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at Alexandra Shire Hall during Refugee Week.

Gayathri, Rithika, Sachin, Christine, Peter, Sam, Shrawan, Haolie, Matthew, Punyisa, Hannah, Klaus, Lalita, Steven, Hien, Kerry, Arun, Cory, Sadhana, Jill, Mohinder, Jayant, Viyan, Faith, Niroshan and Jeremy pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people and its democratic beliefs, and committed to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher presided over the ceremony which was attended by Deputy Mayor Cr Anita Carr, Cr Paul Hildebrand, Cr Sandice McAulay and Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi. Special guests included Ian Newman and Joy Burchell from Fawcett, Jonathon Tofts from Terip Terip, Shivaun Murphy and Graham Halliburton from Yark and Daryl King, President of the Rotary Club of Yea, recognised for their contribution as volunteers supporting community-led recovery hubs and as pillars of their local communities.

Held during Refugee Week (June 14 to 20), the ceremony provided an opportunity to reflect on the courage and resilience of refugees and to recognise the important contributions people from diverse backgrounds make to Australian society and local communities.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the ceremony highlighted the strength and diversity of the Murrindindi community.

“Having taken your own unique journey to be here, I am in awe of the commitment you make today,” Mayor Gallagher said.

“I acknowledge the thousands of generations of Taungurung People as the earliest custodians of the land we stand upon today and respectfully acknowledge Elders past and present. The memories, stories and traditions that each of you bring as new Australians enrich our community and complement the longest continuous civilisation on earth.

“This ceremony coincides with Refugee Week and provides a moment to reflect on the experiences of people who have been forced to flee persecution, conflict or violence and have found safety and a new beginning in Australia. Refugees make enduring contributions to our communities, enriching the social, cultural and economic fabric of Australian life.”

Australian citizenship ceremonies are among the final steps in becoming an Australian citizen and are an important occasion for both new citizens and the wider community.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, visit the Department of Home Affairs website immi.homeaffairs.gov.au or call the citizenship information line on 131 880 during business hours.



Conferees Niroshan, name withheld on request, Hien, Matthew, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher, Shrawan, Sadhana, Hannah, Punyisa, Jill, Arun, Jeremy, Gayathri, Kerry, Haolie, Sachin, Peter, Steven, Mohinder, Klaus, Cr Anita Carr, Christine. Front row from left: Viyan, Jayant and Rithika (far right), and children of the conferees. -S



CEO Livia Bonazzi, Graham Halliburton, Jonathon Tofts, Donna Slevin, Joy Burchell, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher, Cr Anita Carr, Cr Sandice McAulay, Ian Newman and Cr Paul Hildebrand. -S

Council call for extension of free bushfire waste disposal

MURRIDINDI Shire Council is urging the Victorian Government to extend free bushfire waste disposal at council sites until June 30, 2027.

Council says ending the current support on June 30, 2026, would prematurely withdraw recovery assistance and shift the financial burden directly onto fire-affected residents, many of whom are still cleaning up from the January bushfires.

By the end of June 2026, council expects to have received about 14,000 tonnes of bushfire debris at its landfill, equivalent to around seven years' worth of landfill in just a few months, placing significant and unplanned pressure on local infrastructure and resources.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the extension is needed to avoid shifting recovery costs onto residents who had already been through enough.

“Recovery does not happen to a government deadline,” Cr Gallagher said. “Many people are still working through insurance, demolition, safety issues, contractor availability and the emotional toll of what has happened. It would be deeply unfair to make them pay full disposal costs from July 1 simply because their clean-up is taking longer.”

Without an extension, council would need to charge the full gate fee from July 1. For construction and demolition waste, that would rise to \$362.59 per tonne in 2026/27. These fees include the cost to council to operate the landfill, GST and the Victorian Government EPA levy of \$155.95 per tonne. This effectively transfers state-imposed costs onto disaster-affected communities unless intervention occurs.

Cr Gallagher said council's request was practical, fair and time-limited. “This is not an open-ended subsidy. It is a targeted extension to help people finish the job safely, legally and without being hit with costs they cannot avoid,” he said.

“Behind every load of fire-damaged waste is a household trying to rebuild, a family trying to move forward, or a property owner trying to make their land safe again.”

The Victorian Government, through Forge Solutions contractors, continues to work through the devastating impact on the community.

However, many properties have been deemed ineligible for state-supported clean-up, leaving owners to manage the work and costs themselves.

Emergency Management Victoria figures from June 16 show 291 properties in Murrindindi have registered for clean-up, with 125 eligible for state government assistance. Of those eligible properties, 78 are either underway or complete.

Council says many other properties, including sheds and outbuildings, are not eligible for state support but still need to be made safe and cleaned up.

Council says removing support too soon could delay clean-up, increase risks of illegal dumping and place more pressure on residents already dealing with the long road to recovery.

Council is calling on the Victorian Government to fully fund the disposal of debris from the clean-up, including reimbursing council landfill operating costs and waiving the EPA levy, to ensure disposal remains free for residents and does not create a secondary financial impact from the disaster. This is consistent with the arrangements for previous disasters in Victoria.

Cr Gallagher said the extension would give residents certainty and help the clean-up continue safely and responsibly.

“Our community has carried enough. Extending free waste disposal until June 2027 is a simple, fair step that would make a real difference,” Cr Gallagher said.

Let's Eat winner

THE winner of the May 'Let's Eat' \$50 voucher was Mike Bossonnet from Alexandra. Mike will be having a \$50 feed on us at Lake Eildon Hotel.

Be sure to get your entry form in a coming edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in *Let's Eat; It's our treat.*



The TAC L2P program is transitioning from the Alexandra Community Hub to Berry Street in Shepparton from July 1. Pictured are members of the Alexandra Community Hub who have been involved with running the L2P program, including Sue Sedelies, Cindianna Slorach, Cass Groves and Jenni Bowles. -BD

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.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Alexandra District Health will be conducting free diabetes health checks at Murrindindi Foodshare, 88a Grant St, access via Bayley St carpark, on Thursday, July 2, from 9am to 12pm. No appointment necessary.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Eildon Events Inc will be holding their AGM on Tuesday, July 7 at 4pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Contact Sue McLaurin for nomination forms at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Eildon Art Class happens every Wednesday courtesy of Murrindindi Shire Council. It runs from 10am to 12pm every Wednesday at the Information Centre in Eildon, 1 Main Street. Bring your own art materials. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Space is limited, so contact Kati on 0407 812 536 to reserve your spot.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Bush Toy weaving will be taking place at the Yea Wetlands to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2026. For ages five and up, \$5 entry and bookings are limited. Will take place at the Yea Wetlands from 10am on Friday, July 10.

Learn to create beautiful ink paintings with Cassie Fisher Patterson, Wild Blak Arts / Yanggurdi. A plant-ink based painting workshop for adults, entry is \$10 and it will take place at the Yea Wetlands on Friday, July 10 at 1pm.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Alexandra District Health will be conducting free diabetes health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy, 101 Grant St, on Thursday, July 16, from 10am to 12pm. No appointment necessary.



Angelique, Nola and Annaleise at The Dame, where the theme was pink on Wednesday, in a show of support for breast cancer research. -AR

Additional medications available direct from pharmacies

THE Victorian Government is expanding Chemist Care Now. From July, adult women can access the oral contraceptive pill directly from their pharmacist with a free consultation. No prescription or GP visit is required. They will only need to pay for the cost of the medication at the counter.

It's a big help for regional Victorians facing long GP wait times and limited access. The Alexandra Pharmacy is the only pharmacy in Murrindindi Shire participating in Chemist Care Now program.

The pharmacists who deliver this service have completed a postgraduate training module to keep women safe.

Before dispensing the medication, pharmacists must undertake a thorough consultation in a private consultation room and outline any risks. Consultations will include advice about other options, including long-acting reversible contraception.

Also from July, Victorians will be able to access treatment for mild dermatitis and acne such as topical retinol and tretinoin.

Acute and mild musculoskeletal pain, including minor sprains, strains, and joint pain, can now be treated at your local chemist. Highly trained pharmacists can provide certain anti-inflammatory

medicines for short-term use, with no GP visit required.

Since launching, Chemist Care Now has delivered almost 100,000 services.

Sixty-seven per cent of services have been for women, including more than 43,000 treatments for uncomplicated UTIs and more than 20,000 consultations for the resupply of hormonal contraception.

To find out more about Chemist Care Now, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/chemist-care-now

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

Wild dogs killing 20 to 40 lambs a night

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish has called on the Victorian Government to urgently strengthen wild dog control efforts, warning attacks are escalating across regional Victoria and leaving farmers with devastating financial and emotional scars.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms McLeish highlighted horrific attacks across her electorate, including at Glenburn where one sheep producer has suffered repeated attacks killing between 20 and 40 lambs a night.

The issue was also raised by Gippsland East MP Tim Bull and Ovens Valley MP Tim McCurdy, who reported similar attacks and concerns in their districts.

Ms McLeish said Labor's current approach did not go far enough.

"The government is always happy to talk about boosting efforts through its new Vertebrate Species Management Program that includes feral pigs and foxes, but no-one is screaming about feral pigs and foxes," she said.

"It is wild dogs that are destroying farming businesses, tearing livestock apart, leaving some animals with their entrails dragging on the ground and causing enormous distress for farming families.

"Farmers from Glenburn, Toolangi and the Yarra Valley through to Mansfield, Merrijig and across Victoria are reporting the same thing, more attacks, more losses and more frustration."

Ms McLeish said it is not just about livestock losses, there is also a threat to native fauna, bushwalkers and school groups.

"It is also the emotional toll of seeing animals torn apart and years of breeding programs wiped out in weeks," she said.

Ms McLeish called on the Minister for Environment to increase resources, strengthen control programs and give frontline doggers the tools they need before more farming businesses are pushed to breaking point.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

NUMBERS were a bit down this week at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club. I'm not sure whether it was the cold weather, the start of school holidays or the Socceros being on television. There was nothing exciting on the agenda so the members were soon enjoying refreshments before the usual games of 500 and UNO. John, Jack and Christine won the chocolate bars.

A reminder that Jeanie Hurrey will be giving an Aged Care Planning presentation after the Business meeting this Friday at 1.30pm. All welcome.

It's less than three weeks to the AGM and nominations for committee positions are welcomed. New members are always welcome so come along and join in. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Seeking local responses in Police Satisfaction Survey

EACH year, Victoria Police seeks community feedback on safety concerns through their annual Community Sentiment Survey. The responses help the police to identify the issues that matter most to Victorians. The fifth annual Community Sentiment Survey is open now.

The responses from the community will help inform and improve Victoria Police initiatives to keep communities safer.

Acting Senior Sergeant Adam Foley, Murrindindi East Cluster Manager (Alexandra, Eildon and Marysville) based at the Alexandra Police Station said, "We're seeking feedback from our local Murrindindi community on any safety concerns, how they would like to interact with their local police and where they would like us to focus our

efforts to prevent and deter criminal activity. The community will directly help us identify the issues that matter to them the most."

"The survey is anonymous and takes about five minutes to complete. Our members will also provide the details to the survey's during the course of their daily duties. We will disseminate the results through our Benalla Eyewitness Facebook page in August."

There is also an easy to read version of the survey questions, with short sentences, everyday words and images to support understanding.

For more information and to find the survey, visit engage.vic.gov.au/project/vicpol-2026/survey/6585

Celebration of NAIDOC Week at Yea Wetlands

ONCE again, the Yea Wetlands are proud to be involved in the celebrations of NAIDOC Week, July 5 to 12.

The Sunday, July 5 event, run by Auntie Angela ten Buuren, is unfortunately now sold out, even after extra places were added. For the lucky ones, Auntie Angela will conduct a Welcome and Smoking ceremony and lead an immersive sculpture walk in the Wetlands, followed by lunch. It's something to look forward to next year if you have missed out on tickets.

On Friday, July 10, they are offering two craft workshops, one for school-age kids and the other for adults. They are lucky once again to have Cassie Fisher Patterson from Wild Blak Arts/Yanggurdi conduct these workshops. Cassie has been a regular participant at Yea Wetlands celebrations and is an excellent teacher. Cassie is a multidisciplinary artist, bushtukka woman and Waster Weaver with the Victorian

Aboriginal Weaving Collective. Some of her weaving is currently exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne.

Cassie's deep connection to Country manifests in her extraordinary knowledge of plants, which she uses for food, medicine, art and craft. She creates bush-dyed fabrics, extracts ink from them for painting, weaves the grasses and uses plants in a range of fashion creations. A passionate cultural communicator, Cassie enthuses those who participate in her workshops.

On Friday July 10 at 10am, she will teach kids to weave their very own special bush

toys from materials found in the bush. This is a great activity for getting kids interested in the natural environment.

At 1pm on Friday July 10, Cassie will teach adults about plant based ink and how to paint and draw with it. This session will open new horizons for you whether you consider yourself a painter or not. What a treat.

For bookings, use the QR code in the ad, or visit trybooking.com/DNAEB

Bookings close on Wednesday, July 8.



Cassie Fisher-Patterson running a textile workshop for NAIDOC 2023. -S



Auntie Angela ten Buuren at the Wetlands Welcome ceremony in 2023. -S

National Tree Day events in Murrindindi Shire

NATIONAL Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event, and there are plenty of ways to get involved across Murrindindi this June and July.

This year, Murrindindi Shire Council is working with local Landcare groups to offer a mix of activities for all ages, from learning opportunities and hands-on planting events to family-friendly programs at shire libraries.

Join the Love your Pollinators webinar

A free online webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 15, exploring the role of vegetation in supporting pollinators like moths and how you can create habitats at home.

The session will be presented by Zoos Victoria and will also be broadcast at Alexandra, Kinglake and

Yea libraries for those who prefer to attend in person.

All participants will receive a free pollinator-friendly plant, with collection available after the event.

To learn more, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Explore/Events-and-Activities/Whats-On/National-Tree-Day-Talk-2026-Webinar-Vegetation-and-Moths

Take part in local tree planting

Community tree planting events will take place across the shire, including a council-led planting day on Sunday, July 26.

These events are a great opportunity to get outdoors, connect with others and contribute to local biodiversity. Additional planting activities will also be delivered by Landcare groups, with

details to be shared as they are confirmed.

To find events near you, visit tinyurl.com/34vt3xft

Read, learn and win at your local library

From June 8 to July 31, children can join the 'Read, Learn and Win' draw by picking up free activity books at Murrindindi Shire libraries.

By completing the activities, children can enter the draw and learn more about trees, pollinators and the natural environment along the way.

Get involved

Whether you join a webinar, plant a tree or take part in a library activity, National Tree Day is an opportunity for the whole community to learn, connect and care for the environment.

Visit council's events page for more information on these events.

The hunt for Miss Bettye continues

ANOTHER round of 'Find the Mannequin' for the Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop to celebrate the arrival of their new mannequin.

Winner of the last round and a \$10 op shop voucher was Barb. The op shop will contact the winner.

Residents of Alexandra and surrounds are again invited to look at the photo of the mannequin included in this edition, with the purpose of locating whereabouts in town the photo was taken.

Participants are then invited to attend Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop to fill in a supplied ticket with their name and contact details and their guess of the location of the mannequin to 'Bettye's Barrel' at the op shop.

The winner of a \$10 op shop voucher will be drawn Saturday, July 11, at the op shop's close of business, and announced in the following edition of the paper.

The Redgate Bazaar Op Shop is an Anglican Mission that supports the community wherever possible. The shop's opening hours are 10am to 3pm, Tuesday to Saturday.



Fill out a ticket stating where Bettye is in town at the Redgate Bazaar Op Shop for your chance to win. -S

NAIDOC Week 2026 at Yea Wetlands

School Holiday Fun at Yea Wetlands

Bush Toy Weaving



Ages 5 up

Come and learn to weave toys from natural bush materials!

Friday July 10 at 10am at Yea Wetlands

\$5

SCAN



Hurry, bookings limited!

A workshop for adults

Plant-ink based Painting



Learn to create beautiful ink paintings with Cassie Fisher Patterson, Wild Blak Arts/Yanggurdi

Friday July 10 at 1pm at Yea Wetlands

\$10

SCAN



Hurry, bookings limited!

The early history of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre

IN 1979, a property known as The Mount was purchased by the local community with funds raised locally matched by the federal government.

The idea for The Mount began in September 1978, when members of the Alexandra Lions Club decided that the town required a centre for people with special needs. However, the issue was not reported on until the following year.

In February 1979, an article in the *The Alexandra Standard* read, "A great deal of preparatory planning has gone into a submission to the federal government, requesting financial assistance in purchasing a suitable property for use as a Day Training Centre and holiday farm."

Later in the article, the topic of Dame Pattie Menzies getting involved is broached. Dame Pattie Menzies was the widow of Sir Bob Menzies, who had died the previous year. Dame Pattie Menzies had been born in Alexandra, the daughter of John Leckie, and maintained strong connections in the area.

The article continued, "Replying to a personal approach by Lions, Dame Pattie Menzies (a native of Alexandra) stated that she was happy to be of some use in establishing such a centre in the town. 'If my name will help get a centre started, I would be pleased for you to use my name,' she wrote."

A committee of management for both the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre (DPMC) and 'The Mount' was formed in 1978. They broached the Health Commission of Victoria, who sent representatives to inspect possible sites for the centre.

"Approaches were made to the Health Commission of Victoria, Hospital Division, to obtain information of the procedure to be followed, and representatives of the Division visited Alexandra to inspect possible sites for the proposed centre. Of three sites, one was selected, the property known as the 'Mount', a well-known landmark of Alexandra.

"Application was made to the Hospital and Charities Commission to be registered as an incorporation, a constitution drawn up by the Committee of Management with the assistance of Mr Colling, and Trustees

were selected for the Centre," an *Alexandra Standard* article in May of 1979 said.

With interest high for a new centre, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed for the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, to raise money.

"After an article appearing in *The Standard* appealing for interested parties to attend a meeting at Redgate Motel on May 8 to form a Ladies Auxiliary for the proposed Dame Pattie Menzies Centre at Alexandra, it was very pleasing to see 31 ladies in attendance."

The Ladies Auxiliary clearly met with great success, because a captioned photograph in the January 23, 1980, *Alexandra Standard*, showed the ladies presenting a \$10,000 cheque to the centre.

The caption reads, "Pictured is Roger Mann (president of DPMC committee) receiving a cheque for \$10,023.10 from the DPMC Auxiliary President, Mrs Anne Sharrock, Treasurer Mrs Helen Cunningham, Secretary Mrs Gail Collis and Concern Quest Entrant Miss Ann Triffit at the Auxiliary Christmas Break-up dinner held at the Wayfare Restaurant, Alexandra."

There were multiple other large donations made to the cause. \$20,625 was pledged at a dinner to launch the public appeal, along with \$3000 in cash donations, Alexandra Lions Club committed \$18,000, the Centre Committee's \$4000, and \$5000 from Kerry Packer. In total, \$46,000 was initially raised.

Finally, the time arrived for the purchase of 'The Mount'. In the *Alexandra Standard* on December 12, 1979, it outlined the ceremony for the handing over of the keys to The Mount.

Owner Mr George Cooms gave the keys to president Roger Mann. Others in the photo are committeeman, Tom Crampton, and Gail Collis, Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

DPMC commenced activities at the site in early 1980.

The article stated, "The purchase of the property is the first stage in an ambitious plan to provide a centre where it will cater not only for local needs, but which will provide temporary accommodation in the country for people from the metropolitan and other areas."

Yea RSL Hall likely to be sold

JEFF Swain from the Yea RSL sub-group announced at the Yea Rotary changeover dinner that the Yea RSL Hall may be placed on the market.

Jeff explained, "We've had trouble getting a committee. There weren't enough expressions of interest to come on the committee to make it worth holding an election, which means we have no choice but to recommend the RSL be closed as at December 31. Anzac House is looking at options to see if they can avoid that, but ultimately it means if we can't form a committee, we can't maintain our commitments under the Incorporations Act, which will mean we'll have to close the sub-branch.

"If the sub-branch closes, then the trustee of the land and the building... That ultimately is the committee of RSL Victoria, then they will have to take possession of the hall and land in due course. It will be inevitable that that will be sold.

"The benefits of that sale will go to support veterans across the state of Victoria, so the money won't be lost to veterans," he said.

He added, "The big impact that we've been trying to avoid for the last seven years with the help of Rotary and the Town Club, for example, is to maintain the hall so that small community groups that couldn't afford to hire the other venues in town, have access to a meeting place. That will be the impact."

The situation is common across Australia at present, as the number of veterans is diminishing, particularly in smaller rural areas, as there have been few wars since Vietnam.

Jeff said, "We're in that situation where we have sufficient members to continue to operate, although the number of veterans we've got has fallen below the threshold

that would ordinarily trigger a review anyway, so it's not just a committee, it's also the number of veterans. The number of associate members or affiliate members is acceptable. But again, age and medical conditions means there's not many people who can do much work anymore.

"Financially we're okay, although the maintenance of the building is an issue for the patriotic fund, but in terms of the members' funds and so on, we're good for about three years, but the responsible thing is to close down in a managed way while we're capable of doing it, not just lurching to disaster and someone else has to come and clean up a mess."

Having six month's notice about the impending changes gives the community groups and other groups in the area the chance to work out whether they can take it on.

Jeff was keen to make the point that the RSL and Legacy are organisations that are not designed to last forever. "When there's no more veterans or war widows needing assistance, then it's quite appropriate for us to close down," Jeff said.

He was very appreciative of the support from Rotary, and acknowledged that it will be a pity for the shire.

Rotary has helped to keep the RSL going for at least the past seven years, running Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies in Yea, and they have agreed to continue doing this morning forward. There will still be an RSL representative do *The Ode* and place a wreath.

Jeff added, "As long as there's a veteran in town, there'll be someone to commemorate the fallen on each of those days."

Yea Rotary have assured Jeff that the memories of the club will not be lost.

RACV releases policy positions on automated vehicle roll-out

RACV has released its first policy positions on automated vehicles, calling on the Australian Government to progress national safety laws and the Victorian Government to update the road rules and registration system so that the technology can be safely deployed on Australian roads.

With self-driving capability now available in the car market, and self-driving robotaxi services expected to follow, RACV believes there is an opportunity for Australia's regulatory framework to better keep pace with the technology so that motorists have clear guidance on how automated vehicles can be safely used.

RACV Head of Policy James Williams said Australia was at an important juncture, with a significant road safety opportunity on the table.

"Human error is a factor in around 90 per cent of all crashes, so if we can get the settings right, automated vehicles have the potential to deliver one of the most meaningful reductions in road trauma we've seen in a generation," Mr Williams said.

"If we move too slowly, however, there is a risk the technology will be deployed without the safeguards motorists deserve. Industry is already moving faster than government."

RACV's analysis suggests that Australian law continues to assume a human is performing the dynamic driving task at all times. In practice, there are already vehicles on our roads capable of steering, braking, accelerating and changing lanes without human intervention.

They stated that while the Australian Government has already accepted it has a role accrediting operators to ensure the safe operation of automated vehicles, in a similar way to humans needing a licence to drive, the government is moving too slowly.

"The role of the driver is shifting from performing the driving task to supervising an automated driving system, and it is important that our laws reflect that so that motorists understand what's expected of them and regulators have clarity on what they're enforcing," Mr Williams said.

RACV is encouraging the Federal Government to progress the introduction of automated vehicle safety laws that regulate the Automated Driving System Entity (ADSE), including over-the-air software updates and automated technologies that are not classified by manufacturers as highly

automated, and to establish the national in-service safety regulator to help assure the safety of automated vehicles across their full life cycle. They are also seeking a requirement for manufacturers to provide consumer education and awareness as part of their safety accreditation.

RACV is also calling on the Victorian Government to update the road rules and vehicle registration. As a priority, they are seeking an update of the definition of 'proper control' to clarify when a driver maintains control through supervision and monitoring rather than physical contact with the steering wheel. RACV's view is that a hand on the wheel should continue to be required for vehicles up to and including Level Three automation.

In addition, they are seeking an update to the Driver Licence Test and the development of public education campaigns to help motorists understand the levels of automation, the responsibilities of a fallback-ready driver, and the risks of distraction and fatigue when supervising an automated vehicle.

Mr Williams said that preparing motorists was just as important as updating the regulatory settings.

"Supervising an automated vehicle is a different skill to driving one. It requires sustained attention with relatively little to do, which can be challenging for any driver. Motorists would benefit from clear information, clear guidance and appropriate training before taking the wheel of a vehicle that can drive itself," he said.

RACV supports the deployment of automated vehicle technologies that can demonstrably improve road safety, and welcomes the introduction of self-driving robotaxi services in Australia under trial conditions.

Mr Williams said RACV would continue to work closely with counterpart clubs around the country, the Australian Automobile Association and governments at every level to encourage a nationally consistent approach.

"This is ultimately a national challenge, and it would benefit from a national response. Motorists shouldn't face one set of rules in Victoria and another over the New South Wales border. Australians would be well served by a clear, consistent and safety-led framework, and the time to start that work is now," Mr Williams said.

Women of CFA rise to the challenge

ANNUAL CFA women's challenge camps have been taking place across the state giving the women of CFA a chance to come together, push their limits, and get inspired.

The camps are run over one weekend in each CFA region and provide women the opportunity to face physical and mental challenges together while delving into personal development, leadership, team building and networking sessions.

The North East Region held their second ever camp in mid-May and Buxton Fire Brigade's Stacey Mallett said she found a well of self-confidence from attending the camp that has helped in her everyday life.

"I have been with CFA for 20 years, but I've been stuck in the mindset that I was just a five foot something female so I can't really do anything... Coming to the camp gave me confidence in myself again," Stacey said.

"I am terrified of heights and last year when I came, I did the pole and I stopped probably six times going up.

"I didn't think I was going to make it to the top but my goal this year was to improve on that and I got to the top of the pole," she said.

The South East region are pioneers of the women's challenge camp, running

their eighth camp in mid-June. Camp organiser Olivia Duffy is a fierce advocate for the women's camp.

"The women who come to the camps always walk away feeling empowered and inspired and it would be great if we could encourage other emergency services, both here and internationally to adopt something that provides that experience for their women," Olivia said.

North East region camp organiser, Tanya Lumley, echoed her sentiments.

"The North East are newer to providing the camps but already they offer our region so much," Tanya said. "When women are empowered, amazing things can happen."

Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan AFSM, said the camps are an example of the personal development CFA can provide.

"The women in CFA bring so much and it is my hope we can continue to work with them through programs like these to make CFA a more inclusive and supportive place for everyone," Jason said.

The West, South West and North West region also ran their camps throughout May.

Joey Scouts hold a disco and games night

THE Alexandra Joey Scouts held a disco and games night on Wednesday, June 24 at the Alexandra Scout Hall. The Joeys were invited to bring a friend to the event, or people could come along and try the group out, even if they didn't know anyone there beforehand.

The children had a great time, with glowsticks and games, with plenty of music and disco lights.

The event was a celebration for the last Joey Scouts night of the term.

Joey Scouts is for children aged five to eight, with a wide range of activities for them to try, both in the scout hall and beyond. They generally meet on a Wednesday night from 5pm.

If children are keen to join, their parents can contact Kelly Menzies by searching for Alexandra at scoutsvictoria.com.au



Elliott, Luke and Christian. -AR



In another game, the children had to bob down when the music stopped. -AR



Jack, Matilda and Henry. -S



The children taking on a superhero pose when the music stopped. -AR



The short meeting at the start, before the games began. -AR

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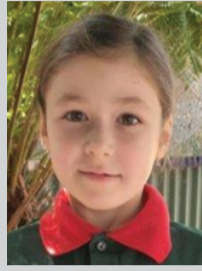
Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

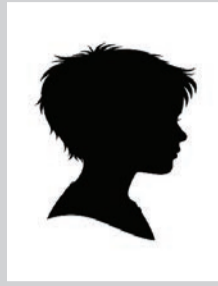


EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ellie-Mae J



For demonstrating the school value Achievement. You consistently complete your work to the best of your ability, take great pride in keeping your learning space tidy, and are putting more and more detail in your writing each week. We love seeing your hard work shine through. Keep being the wonderful learner you are, Ellie-Mae.



Bella T

For demonstrating the school value Achievement by making great progress with her your reading, which is becoming more fluent every day. Brilliant, Bella.

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ted, Sadie, Presley, Shaelee, Harper, Max and Ella for displaying our school values of Resilience, Respect and Safety.



ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mireia P

Mireia is nominated in recognition of her outstanding attitude towards learning and her positive contribution to our school community. Throughout the term, Mireia has consistently demonstrated respect, responsibility, and resilience in all aspects of school life. She approaches challenges with determination, shows kindness and consideration towards others, and always strives to do her personal best. Her enthusiasm for learning and willingness to support classmates make her a valued member of our school.



BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Zoey, Noah and Ziggy

Zoey, Noah and Ziggy for respecting others' personal space.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Women's Health Mobile Clinic to visit Alexandra

IN rural and regional Victoria, women and people with a cervix often face challenges in accessing essential sexual and reproductive healthcare close to home. That's why Breast Screen Victoria has partnered with the Victorian Department of Health to bring essential healthcare services right to people's doorstep through the new Women's Health Mobile Clinic. The Nina van is now equipped to offer a range of additional services.

The bus will be in Alexandra from July 1 to 24.

People can book a free 45 minute appointment with a nurse to talk about sexual and reproductive health, general wellbeing, and get important health checks like cervical and bowel screening. This service is available to women of all ages, including teenagers, providing care close to home.

Topics which can be discussed with the nurse include contraception, including long-acting options such as IUDs and Implanon, pregnancy options counselling, sexually transmitted infections, cervical and bowel screening, menstruation, pelvic pain, perimenopause and menopause, bladder concerns, irregular bleeding, and any other women's health issue.

If you need to see a doctor, specialist, or another service, the nurse can help guide you and provide referrals.

The Women's Health Mobile Clinic is welcoming and inclusive, open to all women and people with a cervix. If you require any assistance, such as an interpreter or mobility support, please let us know when you book your appointment.

To book a free 45 minute appointment with the nurse, call 9675 0050 or visit breastscreen.org.au/community-engagement/womens-health-mobile-clinic

Rail trail update

EMERGENCY Management Victoria (EMV) were asjed for an update regarding the rehabilitation of the Great Victorian Rail Trail following the devastating Longwood fire. The rail trail was very badly impacted, with three bridges identified for full replacement and at least seven sustaining significant damage.

An Emergency Management Victoria spokesperson said, "Emergency Management Victoria is helping to remove dangerous fire-damaged trees alongside the Great Victorian Rail Trail to support the recovery of communities affected by the January bushfires."

Fire damaged trees removed from along the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be taken to locations within Murrindindi Shire for processing and management by council.

Registrations are still open for the clean-up program. The program removes damaged structures from homes, businesses and community assets that don't have insurance, or not enough insurance. Anyone who may be eligible is encouraged to register online at vic.gov.au/register-for-cleanup or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 (select option 3) to discuss their circumstances.



The underside of the bridge at Kanumbra on the rail trail. -S

Backing Murrindindi campaign launched ahead of Victorian election

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has officially launched its advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, calling on all political parties and candidates to commit to backing rural communities and investing in Murrindindi's future.

The campaign, titled *Backing Murrindindi*, outlines seven priorities designed to support thriving communities, stronger local economies and a more resilient future for Murrindindi Shire.

The campaign brings together well-established community priorities into a clear and unified case for state investment. It comes at a critical time for Murrindindi, following years of increasing pressure on rural communities and the significant impacts of the January 2026 bushfires.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the campaign was about ensuring Murrindindi's challenges, opportunities and future needs were firmly on the agenda during the election campaign.

"Backing Murrindindi is about making sure rural communities are not overlooked when major funding and policy decisions are made," Cr Gallagher said.

"Our communities continue to face significant challenges, from disaster recovery and ageing infrastructure through to financial sustainability, housing pressures and access to services.

"We are asking every candidate and party to make a clear commitment to back these priorities, fund them, and recognise the scale of need in rural Victoria. This is not about new ideas, it's about delivering what our community has been calling for, clearly and consistently, for years.

"We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair investment that reflects the realities of rural Victoria and the scale of the challenges our communities are managing."

The campaign outlines the following advocacy priorities: Fair funding for rural councils, Alexandra Relief and Community Centre redevelopment, Lake Eildon Master Plan implementation, Rural Road Rehabilitation Program, place-based Youth Services, Kinglake planning for water and sustainability, and Yea Oval reconstruction.

Cr Gallagher said the priorities had been shaped by clear evidence, strategic planning and direct community need.

"These are practical projects and reforms that will support recovery, strengthen resilience and help secure the future of communities across Murrindindi," he said.

"Now is the time for candidates and parties contesting the state elections to step up and commit, but it is also time for our community to expect more, ask the questions and back the future we want.

"When our community speaks with one voice, it strengthens our case and makes it harder to ignore."

The campaign includes a dedicated advocacy booklet highlighting key community projects, supporting information and a message from the Mayor.

Council is encouraging residents, businesses, community groups and local organisations to support the campaign by engaging with candidates, asking for commitment and reinforcing the case for investment in Murrindindi.

To learn more about the Backing Murrindindi campaign and view the advocacy booklet, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/backingmurrindindi

July 2026

Backing Murrindindi Victorian State Election Campaign

Council has launched an advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Election to ensure the needs of our rural communities are clearly heard by all political parties and candidates.

Following recent bushfires and ongoing challenges, Council has identified seven priority areas focused on recovery, infrastructure, services and long-term sustainability.

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

Public recycling basket trial in Murrindindi

Council is trialling new recycling baskets on public bins across the Shire, making it easier for people to participate in Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme while supporting local fundraising and recycling efforts.

These baskets provide a simple way for people to leave eligible drink containers for others to collect and claim the 10-cent refund through the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

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

Victoria's Top Tourism Town Awards

Alexandra was named a finalist in the 2026 Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards, in the Small Tourism Town category in June.

This nomination highlights the diversity of tourism experiences, townships and strong collaboration between communities and local tourism businesses across the region.

Thank you to everyone who voted, and we look forward to hearing the results when they are released in August.

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

2026 Immunisations

Did you know, a comprehensive childhood immunisation service is provided throughout the Shire and offered free to all children aged between 6 weeks old and less than 5 years old?

For more information or to book an appointment, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/vitavo or email immunisation@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Business Month

Thank you to everyone who was involved, participated and made June a great success.

To review the program, access resources and highlights, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mbm



National Tree Day Events 2026

Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event brings communities together to grow a greener future.

This year, locals can get involved through activities including the 'Love your Pollinators' webinar on 15 July, a community tree planting event in Alexandra on 26 July, and library programs like the Read, Learn and Win draw running until 31 July.

With opportunities for all ages to learn, plant and connect with nature, it is a great chance to support local biodiversity and make a lasting environmental impact.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ntd26

Council adopts 2026/27 Budget

Council has adopted its 2026/27 Annual Budget, outlining a stabilising approach to maintaining essential services while supporting ongoing bushfire recovery.

The Budget includes a \$15.7 million capital works program to renew and upgrade infrastructure, along with continued investment in community recovery.

It balances service delivery, infrastructure needs and long-term financial sustainability in an ongoing challenging financial environment.

Community submissions were considered before the final Budget was presented to Council for adoption.

View the Budget at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget

Get in touch

5772 0333

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

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KID'S PUZZLES

Colouring Page

SOLUTIONS Page 11



Haines pressures government over bank closures

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has called on the Australian Government to urgently respond to the Senate inquiry into bank closures, as regional communities continue to lose essential banking services.

Dr Haines raised the issue in Parliament on Monday, pressing the Treasurer on why the government has still failed to provide a response to the inquiry more than two years after its report was handed down.

"Regional communities too often feel like they're the last to get services and the first to lose them, and that is exactly what we are seeing with bank closures," Dr Haines said.

"Banking is an essential service, yet too many regional Australians are being left behind as branches continue to disappear."

The Senate inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia found that 596 regional towns that once had bank branches now have none, and recommended that access to financial services be formally recognised as an essential service, alongside guaranteed access to cash and in-person banking.

In Question Time, Treasurer Jim Chalmers acknowledged the importance of regional banking, stating, "local banks can be the lifeblood of country towns" and "we know how important they are."

The Treasurer also pointed to government measures including a temporary halt on branch closures, telling parliament, "We've negotiated a

moratorium on branch closures for two and a half years."

He said the government had also introduced alternative services, including Bank@Post.

Dr Haines said while these steps are welcome, they do not replace the need for a clear, formal government response to the Senate inquiry and a long-term plan to guarantee access to banking services in the regions.

"This is not just about convenience. It is about fairness, safety and basic access to essential services," she said.

"For many people in regional communities, particularly older Australians, face-to-face banking that they rely on is not available.

"With unreliable internet and rising scams and financial misinformation, in-person banking is critical to staying safe and in control of finances.

"In towns like Alexandra in the southern part of my electorate, locals are now forced to travel up to two hours round trip just to complete basic over-the-counter transactions."

Dr Haines said the government has now had more than two years to respond to the Senate inquiry and must act without further delay.

"Regional communities deserve certainty. It is time to formally respond to the inquiry, recognise banking as an essential service, and guarantee real access to cash and in-person banking before more towns lose their last branch."

Word Search - Words starting with "V"

VALLEY	Y	V	B	A	V	W	V	A	Y	X	E	C	Y	V	P
VAN	T	O	Y	U	J	F	F	E	X	R	P	I	I	R	R
VANISH	J	L	V	A	L	L	E	Y	I	E	C	S	P	J	L
VASE	A	C	S	B	J	M	O	P	L	N	I	W	R	I	E
VEGETABLE	T	A	H	X	N	R	S	B	H	T	X	I	G	V	X
VEIN	I	N	R	K	I	Y	A	W	V	N	I	L	O	I	V
VIBRANT	V	O	A	K	O	T	J	A	P	Z	J	P	K	B	H
VIBRATE	X	A	B	R	E	S	S	Z	C	K	H	I	H	R	T
VIOLET	O	W	N	G	B	E	U	A	N	L	S	K	B	A	E
VIOLIN	T	S	E	I	F	I	S	R	U	B	I	E	F	T	L
VIRUS	I	V	G	X	H	C	V	X	I	B	N	N	L	E	O
VISIT	P	H	M	M	B	L	L	X	T	V	A	U	X	V	I
VOLCANO	N	Y	N	W	N	B	I	I	A	P	V	H	Z	J	V
VOTE	K	C	X	C	Z	W	Y	O	F	V	A	D	H	G	I
	P	T	D	X	H	E	T	O	V	Q	X	B	B	B	O

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.

	+		-		14
+		+		-	
	-		+	7	6
+		+		+	
5	+		-		3
14		15		2	

Our history: Travelling the Black Spur in 1919

by G R Broadbent, *The Argus*, August 27, 1919

If you think the Black Spur is bad now, this article from 1919 outlines how truly terrible it was back in 1919.

WHILE much depends upon the hour of starting, the state of the roads also is a factor in determining when one may reach an objective and whether or not he gains it.

I left Melbourne on Saturday morning last with the intention of visiting Marysville (61 miles) but drew up at Narbethong (53 miles) after a very strenuous passage over the Dividing Range via the Black Spur which is in an appalling condition of mud and ruts a foot deep in places.

On passing through Ringwood, motorists may now continue straight on instead of bearing round to the right at the summit of a rise just beyond, a short cut having been made for a mile or more to where it rejoins the old road near the old Burnt Bridge Hotel (now closed). The new section of highway is formed and metalled and is in first class order.

In half a mile beyond patches of freshly strewn metal were encountered, the stones being spread over the full width of the fairway, and not having been rolled in made progress decidedly awkward with the motorcycle. These conditions prevailed for about three miles, the lower portion of Burt's Cutting being particularly bad. It seems a barbarous way of leaving a road. It also is wasteful as the stones are being scattered by traffic. Clearing these impediments I soon reached Lilydale (24 miles) and continued over good roads past Coldstream and turned to the right at Coombe Cottage.

Then followed a fine stretch of seven miles, portions of which however, having received a coat of some soft clayey material, showed signs of being greasy when wet, and it seemed to be a pity that a good road should be thus impaired. The unmetalled section from Yeringberg to Yarra Bridge being dry was easily negotiated. There was no occasion even to change gear while the descent to the bridge is much improved.

Healesville was passed through at 38½ miles, and more metal met with on the grade beyond, and also on the slopes near Gracedale quite covering the roadway. The

stones are small, however and it is to be hoped that no blinding will be applied as it makes a dirty road greasy when wet, dusty when dry, while it adds absolutely nothing to the wearing surface.

Crossing the bridge where Fernshaw once stood I soon began the ascent of the Black Spur, a formidable grade under best conditions but too steep to be much longer tolerated especially as there is a decidedly easier route available. The surface was fairly clean over the first two miles (to the water trough), when slush and mud and greasiness prevailed to the summit and indeed past the Hermitage to Narbethong.

Opposite Kitt's Glen the surface was worst. I simply ploughed through heavy mud in first gear using my feet to correct the balance, while occasionally the footrests would be dragging through the mire.

Following the toot of a motor-horn came a big car swinging through the mud under easy throttle and brakes just touching. It was a Buick in the mountain motor service going down to meet the Healesville train. I also passed several four-in-hand timber wagons, heavily laden on narrow tyres cutting into the roadway so vilely that soon it will not be passable even to these juggernauts.

On the northern side of the range the mud was slightly drier in places, stiffer, rutted, more dangerous but at the Hermitage corner it was slime with some little improvement over the remaining two miles to Narbethong.

The last seven miles over the range from Fernshaw occupied 55 minutes. On the return after lunch I managed to cover the first 16 miles in an hour. So heavy and treacherous was the mud that I had to halt twice to give the engine oil.

I could not relax my grip of the handle for a moment and it was on these occasions I wondered why this slushy clayey useless muck could not be scraped up and flung into the valley. Instead we find the average road repairer knows no better than to shroud even a metal surface with unlimited quantities of earth.

The Blacks' Spur is bad enough from its grade alone but when holes and ruts and mire are added it becomes a barrier that isolates communities and is a standing disgrace to all who share responsibility.

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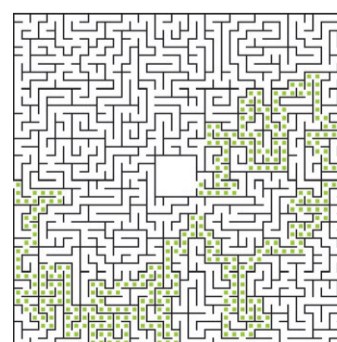
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Philip Webb. -S

Congratulations to Philip Webb OAM

PHILIP Webb, founder of Philip Webb Real Estate and a past president of both the REIV and FIABCI (The International Real Estate Federation), was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours.

Over 50 years, he built one of Victoria's largest independent agencies from a business he started at 19, before merging with Barry Plant in 2022.

Philip also has strong links to the Yea area, having lived in Molesworth as a child and attending Yea High School.

He left Yea when he was 18 and got a job in Doncaster selling vacant blocks of land, as the suburb was being developed. At the time, blocks were just \$5000 to \$6000. He commented, "It's all a bit different now."

Philip very much enjoyed the real estate industry, although in his early life, he was keen to become an architect. He explained, "I didn't do well enough in matric exams to get in anywhere, so I thought selling real estate will do."

He's obviously been very well suited to the industry, co-founding his company in 1972 when aged just 19. By the time he sold it, he had around 140 staff working for him.

At the same time, he was president of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) and was on the board for about 10 years. He was also past-president of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI).

He commented of these roles, "It certainly helps you understand the intricacies of the real estate market. I mean it's in a very interesting position at the moment and I'm not sure that it's going to perform the way that government's intended to and so forth, so we'll see what happens."

Returning to his childhood in the Yea area, he said, "I loved Yea. I really had the best education possible there, I believe. It was fantastic. It was only a small school. There was a group of us, we were the largest group at the time that ever had done matric, which was year twelve in those days. We did matric and most of it was done by correspondence. That's how it was in those days. We survived and some did quite well. I didn't do quite so well as I thought. I didn't know at the time when I was at school that I was dyslexic and it made it a little bit hard for me to keep up."

Asked how he handled having dyslexia during his career, he said, "I think I just had

to work a bit harder. That's really all it was. I had to get up a bit earlier and try and keep abreast of everything. You work a little bit harder and things start to work out. I didn't have as much trouble with numbers and so forth, but I think for a long time they just thought I was a bit slow and 'he's a slow reader'. It was difficult reading things off a notice board and then translating that to your notes and so forth. It was an interesting thing at the time. I just thought I was dumb, but as it turns out, I'm probably not as dumb as I thought."

Philip and his family have a farm on Break O'Day Road in Glenburn which they purchased about 20 years ago. They've gradually purchased small parcels of land around them as well.

He said of the farm, "We love getting up there. I spend probably half the week up there, at least two or three days at Glenburn each week and we live in Melbourne, still in Canterbury."

His daughter and son-in-law have moved up to Glenburn live there full-time and are going to take over the running of the farm as well. His son-in-law is a farmer from the western districts.

Philip added, "I still have a lot of friends in Yea. It's just full of decent people. An amazing area... I'd probably say that some of my best times on this planet have been associated with the Yea area. That's why we've got a farm up there."

During his time in real estate, he was also engaged in a lot of charity work, including creating 600 hampers for people in Melbourne's east going through challenging times in the lead-up to Christmas. The hampers include food and festive treats.

He said, "We really look forward to that and really get a lot of satisfaction out of being able to help people... It's just a little thing that we do but it's become quite a big logistic thing each year and a lot of friends have helped and a lot of friends have donated and a lot of friends have helped pack the bags and pack the hampers and it's just a nice thing to wake up Christmas morning knowing you've helped a few people."

This used to be done through the business, but now that the business has merged with Barry Plant, he continues with the hampers as an individual. If people would like to help out with the hampers, Philip can be contacted on 0418 550 990.

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



Mayor Damien Gallagher presenting on Disaster Management Fatigue at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. -S



Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher, Governor-General Sam Mostyn and shire CEO Livia Bonazzi. -S

Mayor and CEO advocating for Murrindindi in Canberra

MURRINDINDI Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher and CEO Livia Bonazzi travelled to Canberra last week, sharing Murrindindi's story.

Damien presented on Disaster Management Fatigue at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on June 23.

Damien and Livia then went to Parliament House alongside Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Scott Jeffery and CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi to discuss their collective power and telecommunications resilience concerns in the office of Federal Communications Minister, The Hon Anika Wells MP.

Damien thanked the Municipal Association of Victoria for hosting them for debrief discussions late in the day.

The following day, June 24, they engaged in some powerful discussions about bushfire recovery with the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Local Government, Kristy McBain MP. They were joined by Strathbogie Mayor Scott Jeffery and CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi.

Damien explained, "It was all about conveying the recovery experience of Murrindindi Shire and Strathbogie Shire residents."

This was followed by one of the most important discussions of the week with The Hon Emma McBride MP in

her capacity as Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.

Damien and Livia outlined how our community is struggling, and support is just not landing. The recovery gap is being filled, unfunded, by local professionals and philanthropically funded champions.

They spoke at length of the criticality of support for impacted residents and farmers for whom the protracted recovery is just bloody tough. The shire representatives also proposed some sensible, efficient, and achievable solutions.

Damien said, "The great honour of the day came representing the special stories of Murrindindi first responders, council staff, and dedicated community members who stepped up and mobilised community-led recovery hubs for impacted friends and neighbours at Highlands, Terip Terip, Yarck and Fawcett, and continue to do so, almost six months on.

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, offered a caring ear and sincere concern for Murrindindi community member wellbeing.

Yarck Hall returns to business as usual

YARCK Hall has announced that almost six months after the fire, the hall is returning to its usual business as a community hub. They will continue to support the community to recover, but won't be stocking material aid anymore. They felt that it was the right time to make the change and added, "We're so proud to be a part of this resilient community."

To all of the volunteers and friends of the Yarck Hall, you have done an amazing job and should feel incredibly proud of what you have been able to achieve.

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SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round 10 of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Orb Weavers versus Red Backs

ERIC versus Matt: Both players were trying their best, but Matt took no prisoners in this match, applying pressure from start to finish. Matt will need to have his grading reviewed after this match. 78 to 30.

Jessica versus Sally: A game of momentum swings. During the middle two games Sally was able to read the play and cut off many shots from Jessica. Sally used her placement and applied pressure to gain the advantage on the score board. 60 to 55.

Chris versus Mick: Mick looked to have a winning lead after three games, but Chris raised the intensity in game four, refusing to give an inch, clawing back an eight-point deficit to win the match. 68 to 64.

Michae H versus Jim: A match where good serves made the difference. Games one and three were both ties but Michael had Jim on the ropes in game two and capitalised by putting away loose shots. Game four Michael only needed to defend his lead, but Jim had other ideas, focussing on placement and the back corners where Michael floundered to get the ball back. Scores were tied with 10 seconds to go and Jim used his skills to finish of the match and win. 51 to 49.

Trapdoors versus White Tails

Tyler versus Michae H (Coach): A very good game to watch. Tyler has come a very long way and his game tonight was excellent. A great training match with Michael winning the match. 53 to 40.

Laura versus Liane: Laura had the edge due to her pinpoint backhand placement that Liane could not get to. It was a close match. Laura claimed the match. 62 to 50.

Rob versus Travis: High energy game, lots of running and long rallies. It was a battle of the drop shots that Rob won, winning the match, 61 to 56.

Daniel W versus Andrew: You would pay to watch these two. Great long rallies, neither could get the edge and ended in a draw. 55 to 55.

Wednesday competition

Hornets versus Mosquitoes

Nicole versus Jordan: Despite having a sore wrist, Jordan managed to dominate general play early in the match and made the most of Nicole's return shots. Nicole stayed in the game thank to some wayward serving. As the

match went on Jordan pulled away to claim the win 67 to 60.

Lucas (fill in) versus Mick: See-sawing games with incredible down-the-line shots from Lucas. Mick had a strong comeback in the last, but Lucas was just too good with his returns and serves. 65 to 61.

Ben F versus Justin (fill in): Superb squash. Both controlling their shots beautifully to create long and exciting rallies. In the final minute Ben made an amazing comeback for victory. 67 to 58.

Sandflies versus Wasps

Ben H versus Beth: What a great game. Ben held it for most of the time, but Beth made a massive comeback in the last game and only lost by two-points. 58 to 56.

Phil versus Michael M: After both players missing last week Phil felt rusty while Michael appreciated the break. Phil shot to an early lead as Michael lamented shots that just missed the mark. In the third Michael managed to intercept Phil's drop shots with dives that brought within range of the match. Phil was able to close out the last game winning the match. 63 to 53.



Funnel Webs were winners of Monday nights. Pictured are Randy and Sam, with John absent. -S



Sandflies were the winners of Wednesday nights. Pictured are Phil, a stand in for Jess B, and Ben H. -S

Last winter tennis round before school holiday break

by Deb Mims

THE last Euroa District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) round before taking a break due to the school holidays saw Mansfield once again at home, hosting Moglonemby.

Mansfield versus Moglonemby 2-37, 4-37

With a last minute illness and an injury, Mansfield had to call in some help. Kiera McDonagh and Sophie Yencken joined forces with regulars Cathie Anderson and Loretta Armitage to battle against Moglonemby's team of Judy Sands, Sue Vaughan, Lisa Krepp and Robyn Johnson.

A battle it was and despite finishing equal on games, Moglonemby took the major points with taking four of the six sets. Oh those tie breakers. If only they had both gone Mansfield's way, then a whole different result would have been on the score sheet.

Despite Pat Howard withdrawing last minute due to a non-tennis related injury, she still showed up with her famous sponge kisses and to cheer the team on. Thank you Pat.

Euroa versus Wappan 0-16, 6-48

Mansfield's team, Wappan headed over to Euroa for a top of the table clash, to discover

that the Euroa team thought they were playing in Mansfield. Phew, lucky they realized before they left Euroa and Mary Dewis came to the rescue with sandwiches for afternoon tea.

After some confusion and I'm sure laughter as to what could have been, all took to the courts for very close matches, despite the scores saying otherwise.

Wappan showed their strength against Faye Mollison, Julie Harrington, Triona King and Mary Kelly taking that vital point of each set to give them the major points. Anna Speirs, Jenny Bell, Kimberley Marsden and Rhonda Carpenter hit the courts firing on all four cylinders, taking all six sets.

Terip Terip versus Creightons Creek 4-45, 2-32

Terip Terip hosted Creightons Creek with Frances Lawrence, Phoebe MacDermid, Meg Ford and Jenny Martin battling against Lyndall Bigland, Deb Seach, Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes.

A couple of tie breakers, one each way showed how closed the match was with Terip taking the major points by securing four of the six sets and ahead on games.

Benalla had the bye so will return to the courts first week back after the school holidays.

Red gum benefits winners at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

ALTHOUGH the fog lifted very briefly, the bulk of last Tuesday's 18 holes were played under the all-too-familiar layer of grey.

Of the 10 players who registered, it was Greg Ebinger who emerged from the pack to win with 38 points. In second spot was Josh Ormand, a visitor from Benalla who scored 33.

Both Greg and Josh were beneficiaries of a "Member's bounce", with both their tee shots on 16 saved from a watery grave by the old red gum on the left of the fairway.

Third went to Billy Wind who had 31 points, and Bruce Colville took the nearest the pin on seven, with Greg collecting 17 and 18 in a storming finish to the round.

Vouchers went to Nick Emmerson and yours truly.

Only six ladies for last Wednesday's Stableford round, with Marg Fahey making a welcome return to Wednesday golf, and Helen Findlay back from her overseas jaunt, bearing the gift of Belgian chocolates, from Belgium, no less.

Ruth Worland won the day with 29 points, edging out Rosemary Parker on a countback, with Helen taking third spot with 27.

Nearest the pins went to Ruth on two and Helen on 18, but one of the highlights of the day belonged to Sandra Morris, who holed a very long par putt on seven for a massive five points, and got a resounding cheer from her playing partners for her efforts.

The fog was once again the dominant feature for last Saturday's Stableford round, which was sponsored by JTS Custom Carpentry, and attracted a field of 13.

The current conditions do not lend themselves to great scores, so Mick Holohan did very well to come in with 35 points, good enough for the win. Dan Burns came in second with 33, third was James Kidd, also with 33, and fourth went to Simon Rouget with 32.

Simon also claimed nearest the pin on five, seven went to Luke Heard, a bright spot in an otherwise average day by his lofty standards, and Jarrod Williamson took 18. Seven and 12 went begging.

Eildon golfers travel to Lancefield for Irish Stableford

by Puttomatic

HELLO everyone and welcome back to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. It was great to see a much better turnout last Saturday at Eildon.

In cool foggy conditions, 15 players which included some visitors contested a stroke round to take the title of June Monthly Medal winner. Congratulations Peter McNair the monthly medal winner, who came in with a net 68 to take first place honours from Phil Gourlay just one stroke behind on 69.

They weren't the lowest scores for the day with one of the club's regular visitors Rosemary Parker returning with a net 66, well done Rosemary but unfortunately visitors are not eligible to win the Monthly Medal.

Wayne Kupke, John Rachcoff, Rod Taylor and Kerry Power all qualified for the ball rundown. Brad Newton was nearest the pin on the par four third (second shot), Rod the 12th and Phil Gourlay the 14th. The fifth and 11th went unclaimed as did the two birdie holes on offer.

Rosemary Parker did manage to win a prize securing the secret six competition, Peter McNair was successful with the least amount of putts for the round returning an impressive 24 putts for the day.

Phil Gourlay was the entry draw winner, Phil Dally the swindle recipient and Adam Kupke tried his luck at the joker draw.

Last Sunday some of the guys for Eildon played in an Irish Stableford in teams of four event at Lancefield. Congratulations to Wayne Kupke, John Rachcoff, Phil Dally and Rod Taylor for coming out on top with a great win, well done guys.

Again, it was great to see a wonderful turnout considering the cool conditions congratulations to all winners and the club hope you all come back next week. Until then, take care and happy hitting.

Marysville Golf Club report

by Lesley Rundle

AS the cooler days set in the extra activities at the Marysville Golf Club diminish somewhat but the golfers do play enthusiastically in the Thursday nine hole and Saturday 18 hole competitions.

Visitors to the area are most welcome to join the weekly competitions and can just turn up and play. Thursday 12.30 for a 1pm tee off and Saturdays 9.30 for 10am tee off.

The Thursday nine holers played stableford on the front nine holes and the winner was Glen Rattay (4) with 19 points. Lloyd Flaherty (9) was not far behind with 18 points. No player was able to reach the fourth green with their tee shot but Peter Lilley was nearest the pin on the ninth.

After a cool start the Saturday golfers played stroke for the first round of the Winter aggregate. It was a case of 'Where have all the ladies gone?' but with some recovering from illness and others returning from holidays the numbers should increase over the next few weeks.

The ladies winner was Gail Leigh (12) with nett 75 followed by Margaret Blair (36) with nett 89. Keith Atwell (17) won the men's section with nett 70 followed by Glen Rattay (11) with nett 75. Gail Leigh, Justin Ruddock and Margaret Blair won the nearest the pins and Margaret also won the Golden Shot. Richy Clark won the putting with 26 putts.

Next Saturday the second round of the Winter Aggregate will be played and the Match Committee will have a meeting after the presentation.

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 six by four trailer load and orders can be made by contacting the club on 5963 3241.



The Thornton Eildon team. -LB Photography

Playing through the fog: Roos show spirit against Wandin

by Sophia Weaver

LAST Saturday morning brought an early start and testing conditions for the Thornton-Eildon District Football Netball Club (TEDFNC), as players arrived at the Wandin North Recreation Reserve by 7.40am.

When the opening whistle blew at 9.10am, a thick blanket of fog engulfed the ground, completely obscuring the far side of the field. However, the low visibility did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Roos side.

Building on recent momentum, TEDFNC managed to secure a hard-earned point in the second quarter. The score marks a significant milestone for the developing "green team," who have now successfully hit the scoreboard two weeks in a row.

The progress was evident to everyone in attendance, including the opposition. Supporters noted a vast improvement in the Roos' defensive pressure and structure compared to their last encounter in April, where Wandin dominated with a 132 to zero victory. This time around, the Roos

fought hard to restrict the margin to 86 to one, effectively halving the gap from their previous meeting.

As the morning fog began to lift, the Roos only grew stronger and more resolute, refusing to make the afternoon easy for the home side. The match evolved into a highly competitive, end-to-end battle. While Wandin capitalised on their chances to secure the win, the Roos kept pushing until the final siren, relentlessly battling for another score.

Coach Tash Hay praised her team's resilience and noticeable growth.

"As the fog lifted, the team grew stronger and more determined," Coach Hay said.

"They didn't make it easy for Wandin. The ball moved end to end, with Wandin able to convert their chances while the Roos kept battling for another score.

"It was another solid effort from the team. We halved the margin from the last time we played them, and even Wandin acknowledged how much improvement our team has made since that first match."

With clear signs of development and a tightening defense, TEDFNC continues



Thornton Eildon gameday award winners Bechet, Ella and Magenta. -S

to head in the right direction as they build toward the remainder of the season.

Gameday Awards: Bechet Cousens, \$20 Dindi Kids cash gift; Ella Dean, \$25 Club Voucher; Magenta Connolly, \$30 Rebel Gift Card from VADHSS.

Next game is a late one: 4.45pm against Yea at the Yea Show Grounds.

Alexandra junior football and netball report

THE junior Alexandra Rebels were back in action last Sunday, with plenty of determination and effort on display across both football and netball.

Football

On the football field, the Under 16s came up against a strong Moama outfit, going down seven to 133. Despite the scoreboard, the boys continued to compete and never stopped working for one another. A special mention must go to the Under 14 players, who stepped up to help the Under 16s and ensured the side was able to take the field.

The Under 12s battled hard against St Mary's, winning 45 to 26, while the club's Under Nines and Under 10s once again showcased excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and developing skills.

Football Award Winners

Under 16: Levi Campbell, Mitchell Kidd, Jaidyn Dimech, Maverick Burchall and

Jayd Bennett.

Under 12: Jace O'Sullivan, Sam Grech, Zac Stephens, Tahj Parker and Logan Heard.

Under 10: Darcy Simpson, Cohen Pearce, Oscar Backx and Dusty Manning.

Under Nine: Eden Kelly, Jude N-Morcom, Noah Dyson, Riley Wings and Lachlan Wood.

Netball

On the netball courts, there were some terrific contests, with the Under 11 Red and Under 15 Black teams recording impressive wins over Yea and St Mary's respectively. The Under 13 Red team was edged out by just one goal in a thrilling all-Alexandra clash against Under 13 Black, while Under 11 Black battled hard throughout the day.

Netball Results

Under 11 Red
Alexandra 5 defeated Yea 2

Awards: Annabelle Hill and Isabelle Wings.

Under 11 Black

Alexandra 4 defeated by St Mary's 12

Awards: Tilly Blakeney and Oakley Bishop.

Under 13 Red

Alexandra Red 17 defeated
by Alexandra Black 18

Awards: Alexandra Red, Matilda Woehl and Charli Stephens; Alexandra Black, Scarlett Pearce and Ruby Bermingham.

Under 15 Black

Alexandra 37 defeated St Mary's 28

Awards: Zoe Coller, Ivy Miljkovic and Indi Hoornweg.

The club says a huge thank you to all of their coaches, team managers, volunteers and families for their continued support.

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Rebels versus Emerald in fog: Alexandra Football Netball Club

THE Alexandra Rebels travelled to play fifth-placed Emerald in a danger game with a win essential to maintain third place on the ladder.

The task was made even harder with an injury/availability list in excess of 15 since the game against Pakenham two weeks earlier, an injury as bad as many supporters could remember.

Thick fog greeted the Rebels on arrival resulting in the Under 18s game being abandoned.

Reserves

**Emerald 11.18-84 defeated
Alexandra 3.4-22**

The Reserves were able to field a side due to Jayden Valentine and Shannon Galloway both Under 18 players stepping up to help, as well as Braydon Norris coming out of retirement to help the boys out.

The team gave their all but were outplayed across four quarters by their Emerald opponents. One positive was the performances of young Rebels Jayden Valentine who was certainly up to the challenge, Dylan Jack, Luke Wal, Joshua Crane, Lachlan Collard, Brayden Norris and Cooper Phillips were also prominent throughout.

Goals went to Jayden Valentine with two and Cooper Phillips with one.

Awards: Shannon Group Award, Jayden Valentine; Future Fit Finance Award, Lachlan Collard; RUOAK Hotel Award, Brayden Norris; Buxton Hotel Award, Dylan Jack.

Seniors

**Emerald 9.8-62 defeated by
Alexandra 9.12-66**

The Senior side took to a fog shrouded ground making for a close low scoring game and although the Rebels were never headed a 15-point margin was never exceeded.

Covering the loss of Kellan Percy (full back), Thomas Wynne (centre half back), Will Stewart (full forward) and forward Bart Wallace from last week's game against Seville highlighted the challenge the boys faced.

Better players were small forwards Johnathon Grimwade and Josh Edwards who created constant threats to the Emerald defence. Young ruckman Brad Johnson continues to impress with another standout performance.

The defence was rock solid lead by captain Tom Boots and brother Charlie Boots and midfielder Harry Aikman was prominent as well Scott Heveren keeping Emerald's key forward goal less also a deserved special mention.

Goal kickers: Edwards two, Grimwade two, Sam Critchley, Cameron Bishop, Riley Frankcombe, Steve Steiner all with one each.

Awards: Kervale Award, Jonathan Grimwade; O'Briens Real Estate, Brad Johnson; RUOAK Hotel Award, Tom Boots; Buxton Hotel Award, Charlie Boots.

The Rebels now travel to play cross town rivals Yea in the local derby in another danger game with wins crucial to be followed by a badly needed bye which won't come quick enough giving the club an extra week to strengthen their availability list and continue the march to the finals.

The Under 18s made the trip to Monbulk last Saturday morning, however unfortunately the weather had other plans. After thick fog settled over the ground, conditions were deemed unsafe and the match was abandoned before play could get underway.



Reserves player Lachlan Collard. -S



Seniors player Brad Johnson. -S



Reserves player Brayden Norris. -S



Seniors player Scott Heveren. -S



Reserves player Cooper Phillips. -S



Seniors player Jonathan Grimwade. -S

Netball results

It was a tough day on the court for the club's netballers, with Emerald proving too strong across all four grades. Despite the results, teams continued to compete hard and never stopped fighting until the final whistle.

A Grade

Emerald 64 defeated Alexandra 25

Awards: Mia Rouget, Incentive Award; Kara Dolling, Corner Hotel Award.

B Grade

Emerald 74 defeated Alexandra 24

Awards: Stef Jager, Incentive Award; Lily Cox, Corner Hotel Award.

C Grade

Emerald 53 defeated Alexandra 20

Awards: Kelsey Purcell, RUOAK Hotel Award; Emiliah Del Conte, Corner Hotel Award.

Under 17s

Emerald 29 defeated Alexandra 15

Awards: Koa Parker, Koala Cherries Award; Phoebe Kidd, Corner Hotel Award.

The girls now turn their attention to Thursday night's specialist training with Julie Hoornweg, former Melbourne Vixens coach and highly respected netball mentor. Julie will be working with the Under 15s and Under 17s from 5 to 5.45pm, followed by a Q and A session from 5.45 to 6.15pm.

The A, B and C Grade players will then take the court with Julie from 6.15 to 7.25pm. The club encourage all players to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to learn from one of the game's most experienced coaches.