



Alexandra SES receives new rescue truck Page 3



Inquiry seeks major bushfire overhaul Pages 4-5



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL
Foundation students from Alexandra Primary School celebrating the first 100 days of their school journey.
MORE IMAGES ON PAGE 8

Recovery must follow impact

AS Victoria's most severely affected municipality during the 2026 summer bushfires, Murrindindi Shire Council has welcomed the release of the Victorian Parliament's *Inquiry into the 2026 Fires*, saying the report reflects the experiences shared by fire-affected communities and provides a strong foundation for improving disaster recovery across Victoria.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said it was encouraging to see Parliament recognise many of the issues communities had been raising since the fires, but the focus must now turn to action. He is seeking practical on-ground improvements.

Community not a substitute for government responsibility

"This report belongs to everyone who took the time to share their experiences," Cr Gallagher said.

"For many people across Murrindindi, the recovery is far from over... What really matters now is putting those lessons into practice."

Council welcomed the Inquiry's recommendation that recovery funding be reviewed as the true scale of damage and community need becomes clearer, and that future funding better reflects the impact experienced by individual communities.

The report also recognises the

extraordinary contribution of volunteers, neighbourhood houses, community organisations, sporting clubs, businesses, recovery hubs and local leaders throughout Murrindindi's recovery.

"Our community demonstrated what can be achieved when people come together to support one another," Cr Gallagher said. "Community resilience is one of our greatest strengths, but it should never become a substitute for government responsibility."

Council also welcomed the report's recognition of the expanding

role local government now plays during disasters and throughout long-term recovery. Cr Gallagher commented, "The funding and capability available to councils must grow with them."

Council will continue advocating for the implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations; a transparent, impact-based recovery funding model; sustainable funding for the long-term recovery role of rural councils; stronger support for community hubs and locally led recovery; and a clear implementation roadmap so communities can

see how recommendations are being delivered.

"If the lessons learned in Murrindindi help strengthen Victoria's emergency management system, every community facing future disasters will be better prepared and better supported."

"No community wants to become an expert in disaster recovery. The real measure of success will be whether these recommendations are turned into practical improvements before the next emergency."

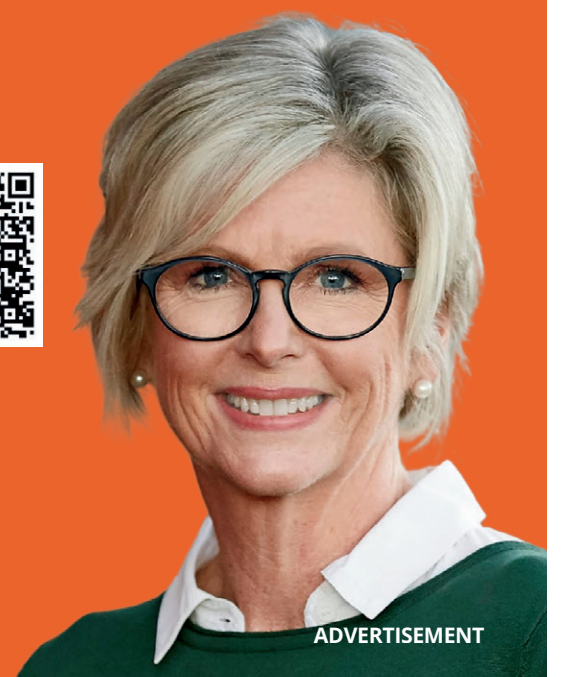
The full *Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires* report can be accessed at parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/2026firesinquiry/reports

MORE HELP SECURED FOR ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS

The government will expand prac payments to allied health students - easing financial pressure on our future health workforce. **I built the case for this change**, including delivering a petition signed by 43,000 Australians to the Parliament calling for action.

Helen Haines MP

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Monday

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Tuesday

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7 - 13

RAINFALL:

7 days from 9am Monday

Alexandra

10mm

Buxton

N/A

Eildon (AWS)

11mm

Flowerdale

17mm

Jamieson

20mm

Kinglake

19mm

Lake Eildon

18mm

Mansfield

9mm

Taggerty

14mm

Yarck

12mm

Yea

2mm

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level

274.17m

Capacity as at 9am Monday

51.7%

Metres below full supply

14.73m

Daily inflow

3,500ML

Release

1,950ML

Eildon Pondage

58%

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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or

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PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published.

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

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Labor blind to the danger on major road

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the Victorian Government has dismissed growing community concerns over dangerous conditions on Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, slamming its response as out of touch with the realities faced by regional drivers.

After local residents raised concerns before winter, Ms McLeish called in March for urgent action to restore faded centre and edge line markings across the Kinglake Ranges, warning that heavy fog, winding roads and poor visibility created a serious safety risk.

Instead of committing to fix the problem, the government responded by defending its methods and encouraging drivers to report hazards.

Ms McLeish said the response was out of touch with what drivers experienced.

"The problem isn't that the government doesn't know about

these faded line markings, it's that they've chosen to do nothing about them," Ms McLeish said.

"The line markings are poor in the daylight and virtually invisible in fog and low light. That's not an inconvenience. It's a serious safety risk."

"This is a road that emergency services, school buses, freight operators, tourists and local families use every day. Yet the Minister says ring the hotline."

Ms McLeish said claims the road was inspected every fortnight didn't pass the pub test.

"If there were inspections every two weeks, we would see action, not the same empty rhetoric that dismisses our concerns," she said. "This is exactly the sort of city-centric thinking regional Victorians are sick of."

"Anyone who has driven through the Kinglake Ranges in thick fog knows they are the difference between arriving home safely and not."

Reporting family violence

THE Benalla Policing Forum was held online on the evening of Thursday, July 23. Murrindindi, Mansfield and Benalla Shires, along with Mount Buller, are within the Benalla Police Service Area (PSA), so participants were able to gain plenty of insight into current operations and policing tactics. This is the second in a series of articles from the event, each focusing on a different topic.

Inspector Jamie Cutler spoke about family violence within the Benalla PSA. She explained that the investigations into serious family violence, sexual offences and children run out of Benalla.

They also have an embedded family violence court liaison officer in the family violence team, helping victims of family violence as well as perpetrators of family violence negotiate through their intervention order processes and conditions and deal with the court.

The focus of her talk during the Benalla Policing Forum was on family violence and the work of the family violence investigation unit. She explained that

they take on and investigate serious family violence incidents. This could be the traditional family violence serious assault, but it also includes associated crimes such as someone burning down another person's house and there is a family violence theme.

They also take on serious stalking matters, kidnappings and abductions relating to family violence.

In addition, they conduct 'management of the parties', taking actions to try to prevent family violence using a variety of strategies.

She spoke about an operation called Operation Harmony, run at Christmas time to try and settle everybody down at a time of year when emotions can run high. They work closely with stakeholders including Orange Door, which provides domestic violence support, along with men's behavioural change programs, mental health programs, financial or drug and alcohol support programs. There's also the Centre Against Violence and Safe Steps.

She said that there are many types of family violence, including physical, emotional, verbal, financial, sexual, controlling behaviours, property damage, and coercive control. To report such behaviour, either as a victim or somebody else, you can call triple zero, attend a police station, ring Crime Stoppers (anonymously if preferred), or you can ask a friend, colleague or neighbour to help report and get police to your address.

She gave particular attention to coercive control in the discussion, saying, "It's a way of controlling and intimidating and isolating people within their environment so that they don't feel that they can leave. They begin to feel really unsafe and almost trapped and afraid. It's a dangerous one. Unfortunately, some people would almost rather be physically assaulted than be the victim of coercive control. That's how bad that can be. Learn about it so that you can recognise it and help people in your community, empower them to come forward and speak to us."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Crime in Alexandra

FOR the last 10 years, Melbourne has been experiencing a number of car thefts resulting in high speed chase and end in crashes on a daily basis. This phenomenon appears to have migrated to the streets of Alexandra with a man driving a stolen car through our streets last week trying to avoid police to achieve Lord knows what.

Local police, police chopper and police dogs were used to apprehended the man at immense cost. During this time locals were at risk of collision or being knocked over resulting in the primary school being locked down and public amenities being closed.

As I predicted he was on bail within hours. There are no consequences for lawless behaviour anymore. If there were people would think twice before pulling stunts like this. So many of these offenders are already on bail and when they finally get sentenced having pleaded not guilty they get less a penalty than if your caught doing five km/h accidentally over the speed limit. This was not the case in the past, consequently offending like this was rare.

This guy was given bail.

Does anyone believe he won't reoffend before his court date? So often bail is given multiple times, even judges are treating bail conditions like a suggestion rather than law.

We have a new premier now and a state election in November. My hope is whoever is in charge they start making law relevant again and make people responsible for their actions again start acting like adults.

Tom Collins, Alexandra

YOUR SAY

Email

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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Letters to the Editor

THE STANDARD / CHRONICLE

PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

LETTERS to the editor must be signed with the full name, address and contact telephone number of the author provided. Letters under 250 words are preferred and we reserve the right to edit letters to fit in with space requirements. Nom de plumes will only be published at the editor's discretion. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by this newspaper.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

Station Name	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00AM Mon	1.43	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00AM Mon	N/A	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00AM Mon	1.02	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	9.00AM Mon	0.37	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.39AM Mon	0.66	steady	below flood level
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00AM Mon	1.30	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00AM Mon	3.80	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00AM Mon	0.66	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00AM Mon	1.50	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00AM Mon	0.35	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	1.82	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	1.31	steady	

*ISSUED AT 9.24am AEDT MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2026

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers offers upgrade options

GOULBURN Murray Solar Savers includes a range of technologies to help households and businesses manage energy use and reduce running costs over time.

Available options include solar panels, battery storage, heat pump hot water systems, reverse-cycle

heating and cooling, EV chargers, induction cooktops, insulation, draught proofing, and home energy assessments.

These technologies can support more efficient energy use. For example, solar panels generate electricity on-site, batteries allow

stored energy to be used later, electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction cooktops typically use less energy than older systems, and insulation and draught proofing help maintain indoor temperatures.

A range of government rebates

and incentives may be available to help reduce upfront costs. These include the Federal Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, Solar Victoria rebates and interest-free loans, and the Victorian Energy Upgrades program. Eligibility depends on individual circumstances.

The program can help participants understand which options and incentives may apply.

To explore available products or register your interest, visit the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers website at goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au



A WELCOME UPGRADE: Alexandra SES members with their new rescue truck.

Alexandra SES receives new rescue truck

ALEXANDRA SES volunteers have received a welcome boost to their rescue capability, adding a first-of-its-kind medium rescue truck (MRT) to their vehicle bay to greatly improve members' ability to navigate their diverse response area.

The state-of-the-art truck, which is the first of the VICSES MRT fleet to be fitted with an Allison Automatic Transmission, is specially designed to increase performance across steep and challenging terrain such as in the Black Range State Forest and when responding alongside neighbouring units in the Cathedral Range State Park.

The vehicle was funded by VICSES as part of the organisation's commitment to improving performance and drivability for volunteers across the state, with VICSES the first Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) member agency to implement the uprated trans-

mission modification in this model of vehicle.

VICSES Alexandra Unit's brand-new vehicle underwent rigorous testing as part of VICSES' Drive Days event at Creswick earlier this year, when volunteers carried out side-by-side comparisons with regular MRT models to better understand improvements in the vehicle's performance.

VICSES Alexandra Unit's existing 2016 MRT will be repurposed to strengthen capability elsewhere in the VICSES fleet later this year. Local members are now training and familiarising themselves with their brand-new MRT before it officially becomes their primary rescue appliance in the coming weeks.

While the vehicle will allow more efficient travel throughout the region, the new MRT also comes equipped with a suite of state-of-the-art Holmatro Pentheon hy-

draulic equipment to bolster the unit's ability to provide life-saving road crash rescue (RCR) response in Alexandra and surrounding communities.

The handheld, battery-powered cutters and spreaders no longer require members to tether the equipment to a vehicle power source, allowing for greater manoeuvrability and improved ability to access and retrieve entrapped patients.

The Pentheon suite is widely used across VICSES' RCR fleet, with 104 RCR-accredited units across the state called to more than 2500 RCR incidents in 2025/26.

It marked the fourth consecutive yearly increase in RCR-related incidents for VICSES and signified the service's busiest road crash rescue year on record.

The vehicle upgrade follows a busy year for VICSES Alexandra Unit volunteers, who were called to

more than 170 incidents in 2025-26, including almost 100 for storm and nearly 20 relating to road incidents.

To find out more about volunteering with VICSES, visit ses.vic.gov.au/join-us

Chris Brockwell, VICSES Assistant Chief Officer, Asset Capability Advisor said, "VICSES Alexandra Unit's uprated MRT is an exciting first for VICSES and an important addition to the unit's emergency response capacity.

"With the state-of-the-art equipment they need, members will be better able to provide timely and efficient response in all corners of their community and save lives in the process."

Alexandra SES Unit Controller Trevor Evans said, "unit members are looking forward to using the new rescue truck and Pentheon equipment and putting them through their paces."

One month left to nominate a Victorian achiever

NOMINATIONS are open for the 2026 7NEWS Community Achievement Awards for Victoria, recognising the individuals, businesses, community groups and organisations making a meaningful contribution across the state.

Think about the people and organisations within your workplace, industry or local community. Who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, service, achievement or commitment to others?

A nomination is an opportunity to acknowledge the work being done by an outstanding Victorian individual, business or organisation.

You can begin a nomination today and return to complete it before the closing date.

Nominations close on Friday, August 28.

For more information, visit awardsaustralia.com

Yea drainage improvement works

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's contractor, Foley Services, will be conducting drainage improvement works at Meadow Road and Moyle Street, Yea, from Wednesday, August 5 to Wednesday, August 12, weather permitting. The works will help improve drainage in the area.

Temporary traffic management will be in place and motorists may experience delays, traffic diversions and changed traffic conditions. Nearby residents may also experience temporary impacts to driveway access, noise and dust while works are underway.

Council would like to thank the community for their patience while the important works are completed.

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END POLIO NOW

End Polio Baton Relay -Events for August

RC Yea 9th August – Activities in Main Street
RC Alexandra 14th August – BBQ Main Street
RC Kinglake Ranges 19th August –
Polio Information Dinner
Details on Club Facebook pages

Rotary

COMMUNITY DIARY

LOCAL RADIO FREQUENCY

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS WEEKLY

- **Tue** Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
- **Wed** Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
- **Thu** Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
- **Fri** Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
- **Fri** Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas Ph 0422 225 801
- **Sun** Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
- **Sun** ALANON meeting; 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086
- **Sun** AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

- **1st Mon** St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
- **1st Wed** Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
- **1st Thu** Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
- **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
- **2nd Thu** Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
- **2nd Sat** Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ 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
- **4th Thu** Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
- **Last Fri** Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 0409 819 040

Contact Alexandra Standard and Yea Chronicle to add your event on 5772 1002 or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au. 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.

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP

I would like to thank all the wonderful staff at Reddrops, when I had a low moment while shopping there. They were really magnificent. Shop locally.

THUMBS DOWN

Talk about kicking someone when they are down. Someone stole our concrete garden seats, bird baths and concrete pot from our property in Yarck between mid June and July 6. We would appreciate their return asap. Not only are they sentimental to us, we've lost everything else, but now, we and the wonderful people working on our property which was burnt out in the January fires, have no place to take a break and sit. It would have taken two people to lift the seats. If these people have a conscience, you'll return them if you have a heart.

THUMBS UP

I'd like to thank everyone for the help they have given us when the fires were on, and Murrindindi Shire Council too. G and D Lashford, Cathkin.

THUMBS DOWN

Can anyone enlighten me what is going on with our mail? I sent a letter posted to PO Box number in the main street and it took six weeks to travel six foot across the footpath.

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

Inquiry seeks major bushfire overhaul

THE Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee report, *The 2026 summer fires across Victoria*, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on Tuesday, July 28. The report was the result of the inquiry held into the 2026 bushfires, including the Longwood fire, with submissions, public hearings, open mic sessions and site visits held across the fire impacted areas.

No official cause of the Longwood Fire has been announced yet. It is still under investigation by Victoria Police, almost seven months later.

Chair Michael Galea stated in the foreword, “More than 440,000 hectares of land were burnt, an area larger than that affected by the Black Saturday fires of 2009. 451 homes were destroyed, a further 1110 outbuildings lost, and businesses were severely affected. It is estimated that more than 45,000 livestock deaths were recorded, as well as an incalculable loss of wildlife. Tragically, one individual, Maxwell Hobson, lost his life... Victoria entered the 2026 fire season with a clear understanding of the heightened risks in conditions. Catastrophic conditions on January 9 saw the creation or major expansion of numerous fires. Fire agencies and communities were overall well-prepared, and through a combination of the tireless work of agencies, firefighters and communities, the response was strong and saved many lives. Considering the conditions, it is remarkable that we did not see mass fatalities as was seen in 2009.”

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Ryan said, “The VFF has been calling for practical reforms for years, including better management of public land fuel loads and stronger support for the CFA that properly recognises the impact of bushfires on farm businesses. Many of those recommendations have already been recognised through previous bushfire reviews. We don't need another report, we need governments to start delivering and they can start doing that today.”

The recent Inquiry’s report held 80 recommendations.

Combined agencies
The first recommendation seeks a review of the roles and relationships of Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV), to improve accountability, reduce complexity and strengthen frontline operational leadership. It was asked that there be an evaluation of the secondment arrangements and advise how they could be strengthened.

CFA
The report recommends that the Victorian Government support CFA to develop and fund a volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention

strategy, as well as a review into declining volunteer numbers, and the establishment of CFA specialist firefighting teams.

They should also “commit to the accelerated replacement of all CFA singlecab frontline firefighting tankers and fund a fleet renewal program that removes these vehicles from operational service within five years.” Furthermore, they recommended that the CFA establish a public database to monitor fleet status, including vehicle class, age and operability.

Local knowledge
CFA, FRV and FFMV should develop a policy framework for incorporating local knowledge into their preparation and response capabilities, including private units and applicable machinery, and provide support to holders of private units. In addition, there should be a review into ways in which local knowledge can be better integrated into incident management teams.

Water access
The government should also provide ongoing funding for strategically located bulk water tankers and continue to invest in innovative firefighting appliances, including ultraheavy tankers, and establish a dedicated rural firefighting water infrastructure fund to support the installation, upgrade and maintenance of strategic water tanks and other water storage assets in high bushfire-risk areas.

There should be collaboration between emergency agencies to standardise access to bulk water across the state, and that all firefighting appliances be fitted with standard adapter kits. Static water points should be signed and tested before each season, including private tanks where the owner consents.

Mitigating risk
The Victorian Government should ensure fire agencies undertake an urgent sciencebased appraisal of areas with extreme fuel risk prior to funding and implementing works ahead of the next summer.

A further recommendation is that the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) create an in-season escalation process for councils and brigades to request urgent roadside works following substantial rain and grass regrowth events that increase fire risk or block access.

Legislation should be amended to provide the CFA with clearer authority to enforce roadside vegetation management, investigate bushfire hazard complaints, issue and enforce fuel management notices and require remediation by public land managers, particularly around critical infrastructure, and that the Victorian Government ensure that roadside vegetation management can demonstrate clear risk reduction for community infrastructure and emergency response, while

limiting ecological harm.

There should also be minimum maintenance standards regarding vegetation management on roadsides, and consideration of permitting landholders to undertake approved fuel reduction activities on nearby roadsides, where appropriate.

The Victorian Government should increase support for CFA and EMV locally-delivered facetoface bushfire preparedness initiatives with measurable outcomes.

The Inspector-General of Emergency Management should review wire rope safety barriers and other roadside safety infrastructure to ensure they do not impede bushfire prevention, response or recovery activities.

EMV should also publish annual regional readiness statements before each fire season.

Messaging
Improved messaging about bushfire risks is sought, along with the appropriate actions to take in preparation, and an improvement in warning literacy and decision-making. There should also be improved education for the community about bushfire places of last resort, and enhanced messaging on how to make properties less fireprone and what to do in fire situations.

Technology
The government should prioritise the delivery of reliable power supply and telecommunications resilience in bushfire-prone communities, and should actively consider how emerging fire detection technologies, including AI-enabled cameras and remotely piloted aircraft systems, can augment Victoria's existing bushfire preparedness measures.

It was suggested that there be an education campaign in

communities with high fire risk around what information sources are available in emergency situations where power and communications are lost.

It was recommended that EMV prioritise updates to enhance the VicEmergency app for useability and accessibility, with better quality of messaging.

In addition, there should be a review of the CFA's radio communications suitability and compatibility with other fire services radios.

There should be continued funding to the CFA for the Elevated Seasonal Response Initiative.

Relief centres and recovery
It was recommended that the Victorian Government work with councils to facilitate stronger understanding of the funding arrangements for the establishment and operation of emergency relief centres. This should include an evaluation of certain upfront relief costs to assist smaller councils. Additionally, the government should investigate ways to more adequately support a community-enabled response, including upfront funding to community hubs for essential provisions, rather than reimbursements.

There should be a review and evaluate the support packages offered to communities during relief and recovery stages of emergencies, focusing on community needs, and ensuring equitable access for all fire-affected communities including those who stayed to defend. Clearly defined eligibility criteria should be provided to assist with reducing challenges with claim resolution, and measures by which emergency relief payments could be made immediately after residents are asked to evacuate.



DRAWING LESSONS: AMONG ITS 80 RECOMMENDATIONS, THE BUSHFIRE INQUIRY CALLED FOR FASTER CLEAN UP PROGRAMS, IMPROVED RECOVERY SUPPORT AND STRONGER COMMUNITY RESILIENCE MEASURES FOR FIRE AFFECTED RESIDENTS. PHOTO: ANDY WILSON

The report also seeks a review into the eligibility methodology for disaster relief payments at both state and Commonwealth levels.

In addition, the report recommends the prioritisation of the delivery of temporary modular housing for homeless residents whose homes were significantly damaged or destroyed by the fires, and ensure sufficient temporary accommodation remains available until permanent housing is completed, enabling people to remain close to their properties and communities. There should also be faster planning and building approvals, and Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) for bushfire-affected property owners with councils supported to provide rate relief, and improvement in insurance affordability in fireprone communities.

Early recovery funding

allocations should be reviewed and adjusted as damage assessment and recovery needs become clearer, and there should be an impact-based recovery funding model for major bushfires, with allocations based on scale and type of loss.

Government fire spending

The report asks that the Victorian Government publish regular, publicly accessible reports detailing bushfire recovery expenditure, project delivery, funding allocations and outcomes.

Community hubs

It was recommended that the Victorian Government establish a rapid case management deployment system or provide case-management training to community hub leaders, and that a community recovery hub model be established for natural disasters. A lack of information sharing between

the Victorian Government, local councils and community organisations caused many challenges and it was recommended that this be addressed.

Mental health

It was recommended that the Victorian Government establish a dedicated program for improving baseline mental health service capacity in rural and regional areas, and ensure that recovery case management assistance integrates psychosocial support with practical recovery issues. In addition, the government should develop a longterm psychosocial recovery plan for communities affected by repeat disasters.

Clean up

The Victorian Government should establish a default cleanup model for major bushfires to ensure that properties are cleaned up quickly and residents are not

exposed to hazardous material. Cleanup support should not be dependent on insurance status, with support provided while insurance claims are being processed. Clear and up-to-date eligibility rules, underinsurance definitions and referral pathways for clean up support should be published within two weeks of a major bushfire.

Waste levy

It was recommended that the Victorian Government ensure waste levy waivers and gate fee rebates remain in place until the end of 2026.

Road access

A permit system was recommended to authorise landholders to access roads closed by disasters where certain conditions are met. This could be expanded to authorise landholders to gain access for essential agricultural purposes, and access for accredited wildlife rescuers.

Primary producers

Assessments of productive loss of primary producers, not purely residential damage, should be factored in when designing recovery support for agricultural businesses, and the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) should establish a single accountable pathway for landholders seeking fencing repairs that involve public or Crown land. Ways by which local veterinarians and registered firearms owners can access impacted properties to support farmers and assist with livestock euthanasia should be explored.

Business recovery and tourism

It was recommended that the Victorian Government establish targeted business recovery grants to support businesses affected by the 2026 summer fires, and that Visit Victoria, promote initiatives to support regional tourism and events in bushfire affected areas, and restore visitor confidence.

Natural environment

Environmental recovery in bushfire affected regions including rehabilitation of native vegetation, erosion control, pest and weed management, biodiversity restoration and catchment recovery should be prioritised, as well as DEECA reviewing postfire wildlife response arrangements, including the deployment of trained wildlife volunteers, veterinarians and wildlife organisations.

Ongoing work to repair fire-impacted road network

SIGNIFICANT work is continuing to repair and reopen Murrindindi Shire's fire-affected road network.

Council has assessed 451 kilometres of council-managed roads in the fire impacted area, with 405 kilometres requiring works of varying scale.

Assessing and treating hazardous trees across the affected network was the first step in restoring safe public access. Further works range from significant repairs to road surfaces and infrastructure, through to the replacement of signs and guideposts.

164 kilometres of roads require repairs to road surfaces and infrastructure, while a further 242 kilometres require replacement signs and guideposts. Of the 132 impacted roads, 62 have reopened to the public. Many remaining closures continue, allowing authorised access for residents, clean-up crews and primary producers, where safe.

Council has completed inspections of 84 road bridges, with 55 found to be impacted and nine requiring full replacement or significant repairs.

On the Great Victorian Rail Trail, 27 bridges have been inspected, with 15 impacted and three requiring full replacement. Temporary access arrangements have been established where required.

Fire-affected roads can remain unpredictable due to damaged surfaces, subsequent heavy rainfall, missing guideposts, barriers, signage and line marking, as well as culverts, drainage and fencing. Some culverts have collapsed, or remain at risk of collapse, making conditions especially dangerous after dark.

Drivers are urged to slow down and drive to the conditions, obey speed restrictions and remain alert for livestock and wildlife where fencing has been damaged.

Mayor Damien Gallagher, said "Reopening 62 roads is an important step forward, but more than 400 kilometres of our road network still requires works, alongside significant damage to bridges and other critical infrastructure. Our crews and contractors are working hard to restore safe access, but recovery on this scale takes considerable time, resources, and investment.

"Council cannot deliver a recovery effort of this magnitude alone. Continued partnership and investment from the Victorian and Australian Governments will be critical to restoring our infrastructure and supporting the long-term recovery of our communities.

"In the meantime, we ask everyone travelling through fire-affected areas to take extra care, check current road conditions before setting out and follow all road closures and restrictions", Cr Gallagher said.

Check VicTraffic and council's website for current road access information rather than relying on Google Maps. Heavy vehicles must continue to apply for permits before travelling on affected roads. For more information, visit www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireimpactedroads

Student of the week

Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake Disticts

Proudly supported by
Bendigo Bank



Ava H
St Marys



Lennon B
Alexandra Primary School

CHURCH SERVICES - ALEXANDRA
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 4.30pm 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
CHURCH SERVICES - YEA
ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion. Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala 0458 113 099
ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA Sunday Service time 11am Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0435 953 777
CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew 0459 402 547 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 4.30pm Immaculate Conception Parish Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am
CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482 St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am
SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA Station Street Yea Sunday Service 10.30am Colin Whiteway Ph 0457 340 525
UNITING CHURCH 1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road, Kinglake West. 9716 2330

The full story on the outdoors vote

ALL major parties contesting the upcoming Victorian election have made promises about how they will treat hunting and the outdoors if elected. Victoria has 56,965 licenced hunters and 245,147 anglers, meaning that the campaign for the outdoors holds significant sway.

This is particularly relevant in the Eildon electorate, where there are 1217 game licence holders according to statistics from the Game Management Authority (GMA). Lake Eildon also provides numerous opportunities for anglers, while the state forests offer public land hunting.

During their term, the Victorian Labor government refused to ban duck season, kept some 300,000 hectares of the Central Highlands state forest from being turned into a new Great Forest National Park, appointed dedicated ministers for outdoor recreation and set aside \$36 million from registration and marine licence fees for a fund to upgrade boat ramps and remove parking fees.

The Coalition has matched Labor's outdoors portfolio, with spokeswoman Melina Bath promising that duck season would remain if they formed government. They also vowed to increase the Victorian fisheries enforcement team, after cuts last year to the number of Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) enforcement officers by the Labor government.

One Nation Victoria President Warren Pickering said that they would also keep duck season if elected and keep access to public land for hunting, fishing, four-



IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOORS: The major parties have laid out their election commitments around the outdoors while hunting and shooting groups release their election priorities. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

wheel driving and trail bike riding. They also vowed to increase Victorian fisheries enforcement.

Meanwhile seven hunting and shooting groups across Victoria, including Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA), Field and Game Australia, Australian Deer Association, Victorian Amateur Pistol Association, Victorian Hound Hunters, Gippsland Deerstalkers and Bowhunters Association, have released their list of election priorities.

The 2026-2030 Shooting and Hunting in Victoria election priorities state that whoever wins the state election will set up a \$9.7 million Game Management Action Plan to guide a sustainable hunting policy from July 2027; reinvest hunting licence revenue

into a trust account to boost game management, research, infrastructure and education; allocate \$700,000 to a three-year Hunters for the Hungry pilot project to support field operations, processing and volunteer training to channel wild game meat through established food relief networks to Victorians experiencing food insecurity; pilot licensed hound hunting access in selected national parks; develop a hunting tourism strategy for Victoria; and over four years allocate \$12 million for target sports facility upgrades, \$4 million for public land partnership grants to upgrade hunting facilities, habitat restoration and signage, and \$3 million to promote responsible game management and hunting.

Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell endorsed for Northern Victoria

RIKKIE-LEE Tyrrell will lead One Nation's ticket for the Northern Victoria region at the 2026 Victorian state election in November.

Ms Tyrrell broke ground in 2022 as the first One Nation MP ever elected to the Victorian parliament and has been a strong voice for an end to the neglect of regional areas by the Andrews, Allan and Carroll Labor governments.

A former farmer and emergency services volunteer, Ms Tyrrell has also worked in the hospitality, tourism and real estate sectors.

She's a mother with two children. Ms Tyrrell has been a strong advocate for Northern Victoria and regional communities across the state, highlighting in particular the Labor government's appalling and dangerous neglect of the regional road network. She has advocated for reductions in red tape for the state's irrigators, and for the expansion of drought assistance provided to farmers.

Ms Tyrrell also moved to criminalise desecration of the Australian and Victorian flags, and has advocated for implementing recommendations for IBAC and the state Ombudsman to improve government accountability.

She has also spoken strongly against the divisive 'Respectful

Relationships' program rolled out in Victorian schools.

One Nation is pleased to endorse Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell to lead the party's ticket in Northern Victoria.

The party will announce its full upper house ticket for the Victorian election in the coming week.

Ms Tyrrell's endorsement comes at the same time party leader Pauline Hanson is back in the media highlighting her policy commitments if One Nation came to power at the federal level.

Although not necessarily state responsibilities Ms Tyrell gave her view on some of the key policy commitments of Ms Hanson.

Reduce annual immigration to 130,000 while keeping visas for occupations facing workforce shortages, such as doctors and nurses.

"Immigration policy sits at the federal government level but most people know that we don't have the essential services such as health and housing to meet the demand of the population we already have so a circuit-breaker is required. My electorate of Northern Victoria faces serious workforce shortages, so it is important to allow skilled migrants on working visas in to assist with this."

Reduce spending on the NDIS by targeting waste and also abolish Aboriginal affairs departments.

"In a Victorian context, I totally oppose the Victorian Government's Treaty and the millions of dollars it will waste, just to appease one race of people. We are all Victorians and there should not be a separate body just for one particular race."

To scrap the climate change department, abolish net zero policies and withdraw Australia from the Paris Agreement.

"I have always opposed the robbing of prime agricultural land to build renewable energy projects. If people want to put solar panels on the roof at home they are more than welcome, but the Victorian Government's obsession with net zero by pushing through unwanted transmission lines, solar panels and wind turbine without any consultation is a disgrace."

She would cut all funding for the SBS and strip the ABC of the majority of its taxpayer funding.

"Funding for SBS and the ABC is a matter for the federal government, but I stand with Pauline in recognising the important role regional ABC media outlets play for people in the bush."

Shing and D'Ambrosio depart ministries

ON Thursday, July 30, Premier Ben Carroll announced that Lily D'Ambrosio and Harriet Shing would be leaving the ministry and would not be recontesting their seat at November's state election.

The retirement of Health Minister Harriet Shing is of particular relevance in Alexandra as the proposed merger between Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health has been approved by the boards but requires ministerial sign off. She has only been the Health Minister since April 2026, along with her other most recent ministries of Ambulance Services and Water.

Lily D'Ambrosio has most recently been Minister for Climate Action, Energy and Resources and the State Electricity Commission, all since December 2022.

Change to electoral act proposed

UNDER the current electoral system, parties can direct how preferences flow through group voting tickets.

This means candidates can win Upper House seats through deals made rather than direct support from voters.

The *Electoral Amendment (Miscellaneous Matters) Bill 2026*, introduced into the Victorian Parliament this week, will abolish group voting tickets.

This will end 'preference whispering', where parties strike complex preference deals that can see candidates elected with only a small share of the primary vote.

A new above-the-line voting system will require voters to number at least five groups in order of preference. Those preferences will then flow to candidates in the order they appear below the line for each party or group.

This will put voters in control of their preferences making our elections fairer and more transparent. This change will also bring Victoria into line with other states.

The reforms will also require the Victorian Electoral Commission to publish information about new political parties, because a party's name does not always tell voters who is behind it or where their preferences may flow.

The information will be publicly available so Victorians can make more informed decisions.

Premier Ben Carroll said, "Fair elections are the bedrock of democracy, and we are delivering these reforms to ensure Victorians can be confident in their electoral processes. Victorians shouldn't wake up after an election wondering how someone with only a handful of votes ended up in Parliament."

Council News



August 2026

Final Rates Reminders Issued

Final rates reminder notices have now been issued to customers with overdue rates. If you receive a notice, we encourage you to review it and take action as needed.

We understand this may be a difficult time for some in our community. If you're experiencing financial hardship or need support, please complete a Rates Payment Plan or Financial Hardship Application form, or contact us to discuss the options available. Our team is here to work with you confidentially and respectfully.

For details, call Council on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates

Pet registration checks underway

Community Safety Officers are visiting towns across the Shire to follow up on pet registrations.

Residents may notice Council vehicles and signs advising that Council officers are in their area.

Pet registration is a legal requirement and helps us reunite lost pets with their owners, respond effectively to animal-related concerns and support responsible pet ownership across the Shire.

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

Advocacy efforts at National General Assembly

Council has returned from the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2026 having delivered one of its most significant advocacy programs in recent years, taking the experiences, challenges and aspirations of Murrindindi communities directly to national decision-makers and helping shape the national conversation on disaster recovery and resilience.

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

Funding to support children and families

Council has secured \$500,000 in funding from VicHealth through the Partners in Place program to support the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families over the next five years.

The project will bring together Council, local services and community partners to strengthen support networks and create lasting positive outcomes across the municipality.

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

Movies, Meals and Meaningful Connections

Share a meal, enjoy a film and connect with others at a series of free community movie showings across Murrindindi.

Supported through Look Over the Farm Gate and inspired by R U OK?, these welcoming events encourage connection, conversation and positive wellbeing, while celebrating the importance of looking out for one another.

For details on movies and to register visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RUOK-26



Have your say on the future of Grant Street

Council is inviting the community to help shape the future of Alexandra's town centre. The project builds on several funded safety upgrades already underway and will help identify priorities for future improvements to safety, accessibility, public spaces and the overall experience.

Consultation closes on 6 September 2026.

Community members can share their ideas through an online survey, interactive map and a range of in-person engagement activities. Find out more and have your say at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grantstreet

National Tree Day 2026

National Tree Day 2026 was a great success with activities across the month of July. This included well attended community planting events, a wonderful webinar talking about pollinators at our libraries and broadcast online, and a Read, Learn and Win activity book draw for the kids.

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

Road recovery continues after the January Bushfires

Six months after the January 2026 bushfires, Council continues to make progress repairing and reopening fire-affected roads across Murrindindi Shire.

To date, 62 roads have reopened, with crews continuing work to restore safe access and repair damaged road, bridge and trail infrastructure.

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

Recovery must follow impact: Parliament's Inquiry

Murrindindi Shire Council has welcomed the release of the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires. The report recognises many of the issues raised by our community and provides a foundation for improving disaster recovery. Council will continue advocating to ensure the recommendations lead to meaningful action.

Read more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/callforaction

Get in touch
5772 0333

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

Stay informed

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news
Follow us on Facebook @murrindindishirecouncil

STUDENTS CELEBRATE 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



EILDON: Has anyone checked the water at Lake Eildon? There might be something in the water because the junior classroom at Eildon Primary School aged overnight. Grey hair, wrinkles, walking sticks and cardigans appeared as the students transformed into little old ladies and gentlemen to celebrate some very special milestones: prep students reached 100 days of school, year one celebrated 300 days and year two marked an impressive 500 days of learning. The classroom was full of laughter as the ‘Senior Citizens’ enjoyed a day of fun activities celebrating just how much they’ve learned and grown. Pictured are Shannon, Ruby, Lachlan, Daniel and Ellie-Mae, with Miss Whittaker at the end.



YEA: Prep students at Yea Primary School celebrated their 100th day of school by dressing a little wild, creating colourful animal masks, and taking part in a range of fun 100-themed learning activities throughout the morning. The celebrations continued with a class party filled with delicious treats and an opportunity to reflect on everything the students have learned and achieved over their first 100 days of school. In the afternoon, the whole school joined in for wild-themed House Sports, featuring jungle dancing, a monkey madness obstacle course, croc-infested river crossings, and a daring tiger toss. It was a fantastic day full of laughter, learning, and celebration.



BUXTON: Young students at Buxton Primary School cheerfully celebrating 100 Days of School.



TOOLANGI: Prep students from Toolangi Primary School wearing fabulous outfits to celebrate 100 Days of School.



MARYSVILLE: Prep students from Marysville Primary School having fun celebrating 100 Days of School.



MIDDLE KINGLAKE: Prep and grade one students from Middle Kinglake Primary School with their teacher Natasha Lang, celebrating 100 Days of School on Tuesday, July 22.



KINGLAKE WEST: Prep students at Kinglake West Primary School with their teacher Melissa Sullivan celebrating 100 Days of School.



SCHOOLS TREE DAY: Students from Middle Kinglake Primary School taking part in Schools Tree Day. Pyjama Day was on the same day.



FANTASTIC EFFORT: Students from Middle Kinglake Primary School feeling proud of their effort.



DIG IT: One of the Toolangi students digging a hole for planting.



TREE PLANTING: The Toolangi Primary School planting took place on the school grounds.



TOOLANGI: On Monday, July 21, students at Toolangi Primary School took part in Schools Tree Day.

It's time to complete your Census.

A young man with dark hair, glasses, and a mustache is sitting at a wooden table outdoors. He is wearing a bright yellow high-visibility shirt with reflective stripes. He is holding a black smartphone in his right hand and looking at the camera. On the table in front of him are several sheets of paper, likely census forms. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

Every answer matters

If you know where you'll be on **Census night, Tuesday 11 August**, you can complete the form for your household as soon as you get your instructions. Complete online, on paper or with help from us.

 census.abs.gov.au



Census



Ready for more?

When you switch careers to Victoria Police, we'll invest in your development and make your career transition easy. Alongside a great starting salary, career progression and opportunities to specialise, you'll also benefit from nine weeks leave, and paid training, all while making real impact in your community every day.



MADE
FOR
MORE

H5 avian influenza detected in Victoria

H5 BIRD flu has been detected in Victoria for the first time. The disease was detected in a greater crested tern found at Portland.

Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Graeme Cooke said on Thursday, July 30, "Preliminary testing has indicated H5 bird flu in a single greater crested tern found in Portland. Further genetic testing is underway at CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness at Geelong to formally confirm this result."

By Monday, August 3, there were seven positive cases in Victorian greater crested terns.

Although distant from Murrindindi Shire, there have now been 55 confirmed or presumed positive cases in Australia, so keep an eye out and ensure that dogs are kept on leashes and away from dead birds and that cats are kept inside.

Take a photo or recording and immediately report any birds which appear unwell or deceased

due to unknown causes to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. Avoid contact with sick or dead birds.

Victorian Farmers Federation President, Ryan Milgate said, "Farmers should review their biosecurity plans and keep an eager lookout for any unusual illness or unexplained bird deaths... While this detection is concerning, it's not unexpected and the wider agriculture industry has been undertaking an enormous amount of preparation over the past few months for this very moment."

"Importantly, this detection is in a wild bird. There has been no spread to commercial poultry flocks or any agricultural environment at this stage, and the risk to human health remains very low.

"We are continuing to work

closely with government and industry as the response continues.

"Good biosecurity remains our best defense against the spread of disease. We strongly encourage all livestock producers, not just poultry farmers to review their biosecurity plans, ensure they reflect current risks, and remain alert for any sick or dead birds or unusual signs of disease on or near their property."

Agriculture Victoria has called for farmers and backyard poultry owners to review their biosecurity practices to protect their birds from disease.

"Poultry owners can help protect their birds by keeping sheds, yards and equipment clean, quarantining new birds and limiting contact between poultry and wild birds," Dr Cooke said.

"Always make sure your foot-

wear is clean and wash your hands before and after handling your birds or eggs."

Eggs, poultry and game meat are safe to eat when properly handled and cooked according to standard food safety practices.

Further information about protecting poultry and other birds can be found at tinyurl.com/yvmtetup

The Alexandra Poultry Club Show is coming up on Sunday, August 9 in the Poultry Pavilion at the Alexandra Showgrounds. Secretary Tony Milton has advised that the show will still be going ahead. At this stage, there has been no directive from the Victorian Poultry Fanciers Association to cancel any poultry shows in Victoria. The Victorian Poultry Fanciers Association take advice from Agriculture Victoria.



Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

By HONORARY SECRETARY MIKE JENNINGS

THE week started with nine players enjoying an afternoon of Bridge. On Friday, a well-attended social meeting was held and in general business, the members decided to have an excursion to Healesville RSL for Morning Melodies on Tuesday, August 11. The entertainment is a Shirley Bassey tribute. The table and coach are booked so get your name on the list on the front desk now.

The committee meet up on Friday at 10.30am and a business meeting follows at 1pm. If you would like to join them please head along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon for good company and a cuppa before a game of 500, chess or UNO. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

High-angle rescue near Strath Creek Falls

ON the evening of Saturday, August 1, emergency services were paged to a high-angle rescue incident in Mount Disappointment.

VICSES and CFA High-Angle Rescue crews successfully retrieved two patients in difficult terrain near Strath Creek Falls. They undertook a highly-complex high-angle rescue to return the patients to level ground.

VICSES and CFA worked together for more than four hours, with technical rescue teams using rope rescue systems to access the patients and affect their rescue.

In addition to Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria members, local volunteer units which took part in the rescue included SES Marysville, SES Alexandra, Strath Reedy Creek CFA and Yea CFA.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: Yea Saleyards has received a grant to install an integrated solar, battery and generator-backed power system at the Yea Saleyards. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

\$1.7M for AusNet Energy Resilience Community Fund recipients

FIFTEEN councils and community groups across Victoria will receive close to \$1.7 million from the final round of Major Grants funding from AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund.

AusNet Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the grants support community-led projects that build long-term resilience and provide practical support during outages and extreme weather events.

"These projects are important because they are shaped and delivered by communities themselves. Local councils, community organisations and volunteers know

what they need and have turned that knowledge into practical solutions that keep people safe, connected and supported," said Mr Linnie.

ERCF-funded projects are creating trusted local places and mobile solutions that keep lights on, phones charged, food and medicines refrigerated, communications available and essential services operating during prolonged power outages and emergency events.

"Grant funding backs local leadership with the infrastructure, education and preparedness communities need to look after each oth-

er before, during and after events," he said.

Through the Energy Resilience Community Fund, AusNet has supported the creation of over 90 community resilience hubs, with many operational and ready for community use now and for future emergency events.

Murrindindi Shire Council received \$113,000 to install an integrated solar, battery and generator-backed power system at Yea Saleyards. The project will enable up to three days of power for lighting, communications, amenities, water and animal welfare during power outages and emergency events.



Draft Library Strategy and Action Plan 2027-2030

Help write the next chapter of your library

Libraries are changing to support learning, wellbeing, connection and access to information in new ways.

Council is developing its next Library Strategy and Action Plan. Whether you visit the library regularly, occasionally or have never used the service, your feedback will help shape future programs, spaces and services.

To take part and provide feedback by 28 August:

- call 5772 0333
- email mls@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
- via form at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/draftlsap
- scan the QR code



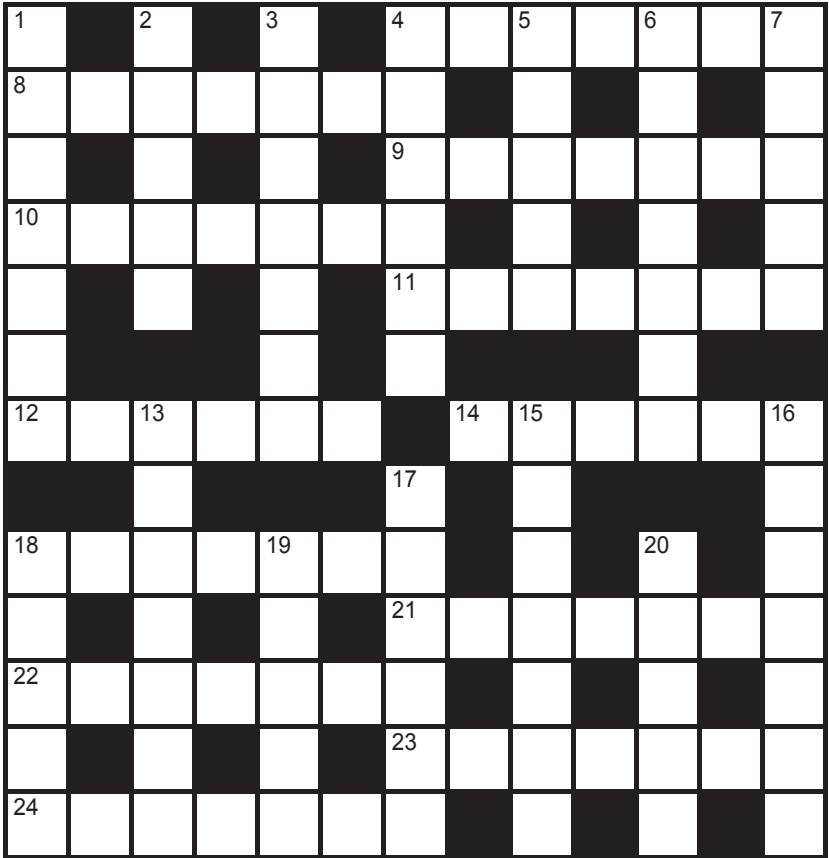
Or visit our Library Coordinator in August from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm:

- Monday 3 at Alexandra Library, 49 Grant Street
- Wednesday 5 at Yea Library, 15 The Semicircle
- Thursday 6 at Kinglake Library, 19 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

1144

- ACROSS**
- 4 Who is a member of the peerage (7)
 - 8 Name an electrical accessory plug (7)
 - 9 Which term means "southern" (7)
 - 10 What is a calendar called (7)
 - 11 Which word describes where the sun rises (7)
 - 12 What do we call a boarder (6)
 - 14 Name an alternative term for an actor (6)
 - 18 Which saw is used for cutting metal (7)
 - 21 To be friendly, is to be what (7)
 - 22 What is a cavalry soldier called (7)
 - 23 To prognosticate, is to do what (7)
 - 24 Name some barren areas of land (7)



- DOWN**
- 1 What is a sunshade (7)
 - 2 What is molten lava (5)
 - 3 What word describes quivering with delight? (7)
 - 4 What are pairs or couples (6)
 - 5 Name coarse forms of files (5)
 - 6 What is a place set apart for young children (7)
 - 7 Name another term for a claw (5)
 - 13 Which people are licensed to practise medicine (7)
 - 15 What are malingerers called (7)
 - 16 To have moved back, is to have done what (7)
 - 17 What do we call stars of unusually small stature or size (6)
 - 18 To have detested, is to have done what (5)
 - 19 What was high-octane petrol previously called? (5)
 - 20 To embarrass, is to do what (5)

MINI WORD FIND

444



Find the following words in the grid. They may be read in any direction, even diagonally. Some letters are used more than once.

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|------|------|
| Borer | Hairy | Say | Yeah |
| Chef | Hero | Sit | Yes |
| Ear | Ink | Tend | Yet |
| Err | Led | Thy | |
| Foal | Rid | Tray | |

WHICH WORDS

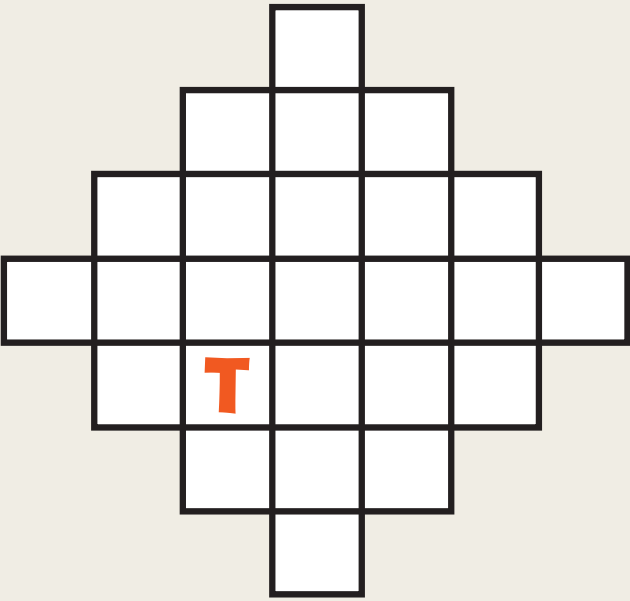
- 1 LINEAMENT**
- (a) A liquid preparation for applying to sprains and bruises
 - (b) A distinctive characteristic
 - (c) Something serving as a lining
- 2 POTHER**
- (a) Any herb added as seasoning in cookery
 - (b) Commotion
 - (c) A plant grown in a flowerpot

E-QUATIONS

454

Letters A to Z have a number value. Some are shown in the right-hand cells. Create remaining values using clues in centre cells.

C	F+W	13
F	M-L	
L	R÷M	2
M	V-C	
R	L×M	
V	M+C	
W	L×L	



BIYWORD

184

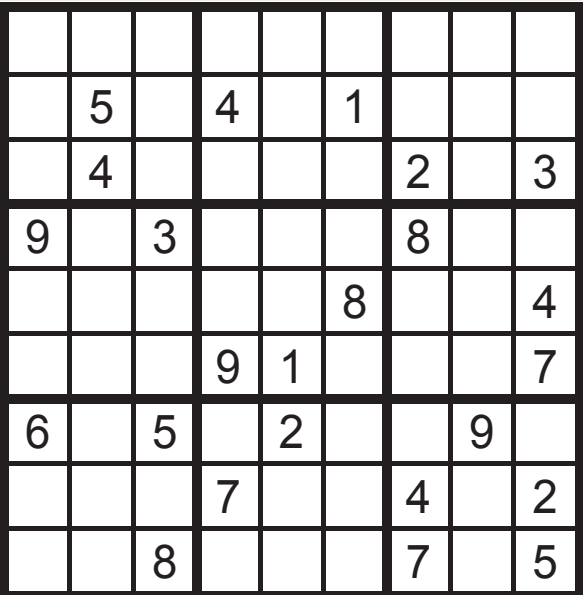
Build it yourself using the clues and each of the twenty-four letters once only to form ten words: five across and five down. A key word (bold clue) builds on the letter set in the grid.

- CLUES:**
- Aus commando regiment (3)
 - Completely surrounding (7)
 - Indigines (7)
 - Land Mobile Radio (3)
 - Milk coffee** (5)
 - Mount (5)
 - Outcome (3)
 - Roamed (5)
 - Spread hay for drying (3)
 - Wooden shoe (5)



SUDOKU

144

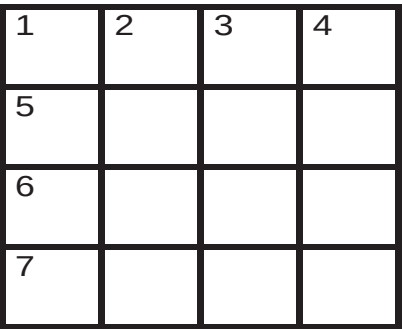


QUICK THINK

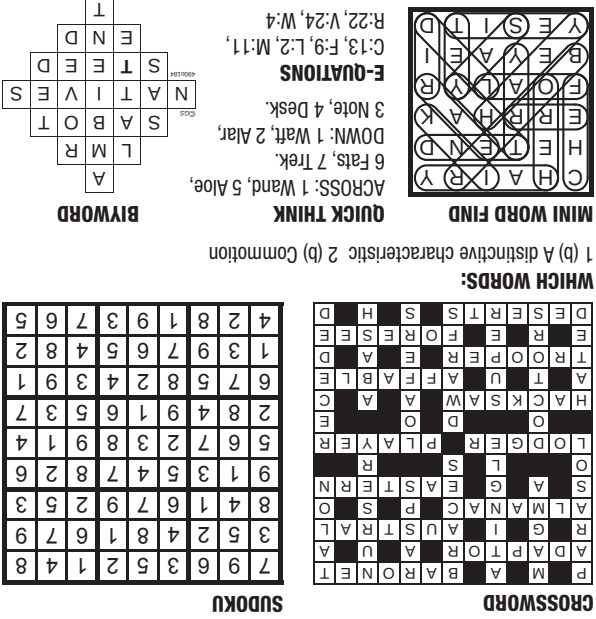
454

Solve the crossword. Each answer has four letters.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Magician's rod | 1 Drift |
| 5 Medicinal plant | 2 Winglike |
| 6 Saturated substances | 3 Written reminder |
| 7 Arduous journey | 4 Work station |



SOLUTIONS



Six months on / The Longwood bushfires in the Murrindindi Shire

By DIANNE GOSCHNICK

It's now six months since our lands were stripped
When a raging fire razed and ripped
Wiping out all within its path
And now we are dealing with the aftermath.

Although so random it weaved and rolled
So many homes, sheds and livestock were amongst the toll
As well as their fodder, grass and hay
We will never forget that fateful day.

You may now see grasses green upon the hills
But what you don't see are the mounting bills
With recent rains turning black to green
Some would say they can't see where the fire has been.

Believe me now, this may be true
But the real cost of this disaster has somewhat grew
Along with the costs of living also beyond so many
Unable to pay property insurance, some haven't any.

So many out there struggling just to survive
Although making it through the fires, they are thankful to be alive

And with winter upon us there are many still out in the cold
Unsure where to turn to, some quite young, others now old.

Some have moved on, their lands left behind
For a more comfortable lifestyle and a home to find
Some may return, but some still unsure
As life as they knew it, not the same as before.

While the hills and the paddocks maybe looking so green
The vivid realization where disaster has been
With lifetime memories and homes burnt and charred
People's lives and souls will be forever scarred.

So spare a thought and lend a hand
To help those impacted to restore their homes and land
And improve their wellbeing so they can soon return
To move forward in life, something they really yearn.

Thinking of the many dealing with the aftermath of the January bushfires, please know there is support out there to help people through this tough time.



SUPPORT FOR CARERS: The Murrindindi Carer's Support Group July meeting, held at Grant St Grocer, attracted a decent amount of members for good food and hot drinks.

Murrindindi Carer's Group returns to Grant St Grocer roots

THE Murrindindi Carer's Support Group held their July meeting last Friday at Grant St Grocer in Alexandra, a return to where they first held their initial meetings. Talia from Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH) was guest speaker at the meeting. It's been a busy year for the group, with carers attending events, retreats, meetings, etcetera. The group welcomes carers from around Murrindindi Shire, with meetings held on the last Friday of the month at 10am. Going forward, meetings will be held at Grant St Grocer, with the next one on August 28. To find out more about the group or for more information, contact Anthea Forbes on 0418 402 455 or email anthea.gary.forbes@bigpond.com

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Daffodil Day celebrates 40th anniversary

CANCER Council Victoria's iconic fundraiser, Daffodil Day, will mark 40 years of hope this August with bunches of daffodils on sale across the state, helping to raise money for vital research and giving hope for a cancer-free future.

This year, Daffodil Day takes place on Thursday, August 20, with Cancer Council aiming to raise more than \$5.5 million across the country.

Lyrian Fleming-Parsley, Head of Fundraising and Communications at Cancer Council Victoria, urged the community to show its support this Daffodil Day and play an important part in helping drive world-class cancer research.

"For 40 years, Daffodil Day has united Australians in giving hope to those impacted by cancer," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"Every donation helps fund world-class research, bringing us closer to better treatments and better outcomes for people facing cancer."

As the only charity working across every area of every cancer, Cancer Council Victoria drives and supports life-saving research, prevention and support programs.

In the last five years alone, it has invested more than \$138 million into cancer research, contributing to breakthroughs in prevention, screening, early detection and treatment.

Ms Fleming-Parsley said recent data from the Victorian Cancer Registry highlighted both the progress being made and the work still to be done.

"Victoria recorded its highest-ever number of cancer diagnoses in 2024, but advances in screening, early detection and treatment are estimated to have saved 23,900 Victorian lives over the past five years," she said.

"While research is helping more Victorians survive cancer than ever before, the record number of diagnoses shows there is still so much more work to do."

Cancer remains the leading cause of death in the state, with 33 Victorians dying from the disease each day.

"Nearly all of us have been impacted by cancer, whether directly or through the experience of a loved one, and it's incredibly sad that about one in two Victorians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"That's why every person who supports Daffodil Day this month, including buying daffodils on August 20, can feel proud knowing they're helping fund life-saving research and supporting Victorians affected by cancer at every stage of their journey."

Victorians can support Daffodil Day in August through making a donation, holding a fundraising event, get involved in the Daffodil Day Dip, or buy daffodils from one of the Daffodil Day stalls.

Go to daffodilday.com.au for more information.

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NEED FOR FEED SENDS ANOTHER AMAZING DELIVERY

NEED for Feed came back into the Longwood Fire area on Saturday, July 25. They had lunch in Euroa, put together by the Euroa Lions Club, before spreading out into the area.

There were an amazing 21 trucks carrying 760 bales, shared to 66 fire-affected farmers from Longwood to Highlands to Terip Terip to Yarck.

So far since the fires, Need for Feed has delivered 200 truckloads of hay to farmers in the area, nearing 8000 bales.

The drivers are all volunteers, and they get reimbursed fuel from donations by different people.

On the Saturday night,

Alexandra Events put on a Christmas in July. There was a barbecue with Alexandra Events supplying the meat and a few drinks. The Lions Club of Alexandra cooked the meat.

Andrew Embling from Alexandra Events explained, "We held it over at the Alexandra Racetrack because it was somewhere where we could park the trucks. Around 16 of the truck stayed and enjoyed night, just getting around together and having a talk."

The trucks came from as far away as Ulverstone in Tasmania, as well as trucks from Portland, Hamilton, Cobram, Shepparton, and Upper Beaconsfield.

Andrew added, "Alexandra

Events and Need Feed would like to thank Andrew Armstrong because we couldn't get the trucks into some of the places because it was so wet, so we made a bit of a stack pile up where the farmers will come and pick them up at Andrew Armstrong's area, so there were four trucks went into there. We had a couple of other blokes to thank there as well, Daniel Wales and also Tom Swanton, who came and helped unload the trucks. Need for Feed is a Lions project. They do a great job right through floods, droughts and fires, but are always there to do it. We also had a couple of Marysville Lions came in with a load on the tray truck."



NEED FOR FEED: Andrew Lineman, Rennee Pennell, Graeme Troutseek and Phillip Radford.

Long-standing Oaklands Hunt Club purchases property in Flowerdale

THE prestigious Oaklands Hunt Club has purchased a new base of operations in the Flowerdale area, bringing their efforts to manage Victoria's rampant fox population and promote equestrian activities to the Murrindindi Shire.

Oaklands Hunt Club was formed in 1888 and is one of the longest-running and most prolific hunt clubs in Victoria, with rich history and traditions.

Following the loss of their traditional property due to land rezoning on Somerton Road at Oaklands Junction five years ago, the club began the search for a new home. This happened to be a property with over 2000 acres in Flowerdale.

Oaklands Hunt Club President, Joanne Stubbs, who has been a member of the club for around 50 years, was kind enough to talk with this newspaper about their future.

"We are going to be an equestrian hub in the area," Joanne said.

"It will take us a few years to get to that stage and to put in the infrastructure so that we have yards for horses, we have cross-country courses, we have arenas, that sort of thing. It is also the home for us, the Oaklands Hunt Club."

The club committee will be meeting in November to finalise their business plan and strategy moving forward. They are hoping to move their approximately 60 foxhounds and two full-time staff onto the property by the end of the year, but the kennels still need building before that can happen. They have the necessary permits.

"The community here has been extremely welcoming," Joanne said.

"Murrindindi Shire Council has been a breath of fresh air to deal with and even the mayor came along to our opening day, and we had the planning permit for the kennels before we took possession. And the building permit was done three weeks after that. They were so welcoming."

"From when we took possession of this property, we had an event here with trail riders on the Saturday from the trail riding club. Then an afternoon tea for all the locals to come and meet us. And then the next day had a hunt from here. From that weekend, we got 32 new members."



We want to encourage non-riding people, but who are still part of the area, to be part of whatever events we organize. We'll hold that sort of stuff in the off seasons so we can get more involved with the locals rather than worrying about the hounds going to different places every week.

OAKLANDS HUNT CLUB PRESIDENT, JOANNE STUBBS

The plan is to Airbnb the main house and the stone cottage, mostly for people who can bring their horses and ride around the property.

They have a separate area up the back of the property, more like a campsite, which is suitable if people want to bring dogs to hunt (given dogs can't be too close to the foxhound kennels because of cross diseases, etcetera). The other two houses on the property are allocated for the club's staff to live in.

"The hounds need to be fed twice a day. They need to be walked out every day, exercised. You often can't exercise all of them together, so you might have to take them in two different groups," Joanne said.

"You need to organise for cleaning the kennels, be there to deter-

mine if a vet needs to come or anything like that. It's a full-time job."

The shearing shed on the property will slowly become their club room area. However, if the club have people agisting sheep on the land, then they'll be using the shearing shed for shearing. They also plan to run cattle.

"Our plans are to also have a social club for the area operate out of the shearing shed. We're in the throes of getting a liquor license so that we can run it like a club," Joanne said.

"We want to encourage non-riding people, but who are still part of the area, to be part of whatever events we organize. We'll hold that sort of stuff in the off seasons so we can get more involved with the lo-

cals rather than worrying about the hounds going to different places every week."

The fox hunting season for the club runs from the first weekend in May through to mid-September every year, leaving the horses still fit to compete at the Melbourne Show. They normally run two hunts per week during winter.

Their calendar is pre-prepared, and they run everything past the Department of Agriculture and are very conscious of following proper legislation and rules.

"We have to gain a licence to hunt fox, and our foxhounds are not allowed to kill the fox," Joanne explained.

"Our huntsman is in charge of the hounds. They stay out front of the rest of the riders, who are not to interfere with them. He will move the hounds across the paddock to a piece of cover, such as a plantation, and then he will signal on the horn for the hounds to disperse and start to work, see if they can sniff out a fox."

The Oaklands Hunt Club has around 65 to 70 members of varying skill levels.

"We have a variety of different members riding levels. Some compete in show jumping or eventing

in the off season and some just go on trail rides. Some don't like to jump at all," Joanne said.

"Equestrian is the only sport where men and women compete equally at an Olympic level. So as such that tradition of being on an equal level has followed through the sport."

"All the different hunt clubs around in the regional areas know who they are, know when the competitions and the hunts take place, and they just want to eradicate foxes. It's not as formal as the UK."

"You get a lot of country riders, kids from pony clubs, kids from riding or adult riding clubs, things like that, that will participate in a hunt during winter. And it's often just to get out during the cold weather."

"We welcome anyone as long as they're a capable rider. And we do have entry level rides at the beginning of the season, where we invite people along to see if they actually enjoy it."

The Oaklands Hunt Club will be part of the Hunt Clubs Association of Victoria ball at the Flowerdale Estate in August, becoming part of the shire community and bringing an added aspect of interest to the local area.

Alexandra's Geoff McClure wins A Grade and pairs competition at Mansfield Clay Target Club

MANSFIELD Clay Target Club welcomed shooters from near and far on Sunday, July 19 for its monthly competition, with a crisp winter morning setting the scene for a lively day on the range. Despite a cold, foggy start and a touch of frost underfoot, the weather soon cleared and the day shaped up beautifully for competitors and spectators alike.

Shooters representing Mansfield, Woods Point, Numurkah, Euroa, Alexandra, Melbourne Cricket Club, Mt Bogong and even Perth took part, all keen to test their skills across three competitive events.

The day opened with a 50-target medley, made up of 25 targets Double Barrel and 25 targets Single Barrel.

Rob Kirley from Mansfield claimed the overall win, finishing with an excellent 57/60 after a shoot-off. In A Grade, Geoff McClure from Alexandra secured vic-



WINNERS: (From left) Rob Kirley, Peter Evans, Leon Tonks and Geoff McClure.

tory with 56/60, also after a shoot-off. Euroa's Leon Tonks took out B Grade, while Mansfield's Peter Evans topped C Grade.

The second event raised the challenge with 10 pair Double

Rise, requiring competitors to hit two targets at once rather than just one.

Andrew Cameron from Melbourne Cricket Club led the way in AA Grade, while Andrew Jacotine

from Euroa took out A Grade. Numurkah's John Fothergill won B Grade, and Stuart Harrison claimed C Grade.

For the final event, competitors teamed up for 20 pair Deauville Doubles, bringing the day to an exciting close.

With a flawless score of 20/20, Andrew Cameron from Melbourne Cricket Club and Geoff McClure from Alexandra proved too strong, taking out the event in impressive style. Close behind were Numurkah's John Fothergill and Nathan Morris, who finished second with a strong score of 19/20.

All in all, it was a terrific day of competition, camaraderie and winter sunshine at Mansfield Clay Target Club.

Next month, attention turns to the Mansfield-Woods Point Shield, where teams will battle it out for bragging rights and the chance to have their names added to the shield.

John Norfolk claims monthly medal with a clear margin

By DAVE SILVERMAN

NOT a huge amount of golf to report on at Alexandra Golf Club last week, as the threat of bad weather once again played havoc with the numbers.

Only five men teed off last Tuesday for the now standard Stableford competition, despite the conditions being fairly benign. Greg Ebinger was the runaway winner with 39 points, with second spot going to Russell Purcell on 30, and Billy Wind in third on 29.

Russell claimed the nearest the pin on seven, and 17 went to Greg.

There was no golf played last Wednesday, as the ladies failed to achieve a quorum. "Too wet and cold" was the official verdict.

Thirteen players turned out last Saturday for the August Monthly Medal round, lured by the promise of a fine, sunny day. Sponsored by Burnsies Pizza, the tee-off time was 11am, and for the first couple of hours all golfers felt a little bit cheated, as the fog persisted until about 1pm, when the sun made a welcome appearance, and the remainder of the afternoon was, as promised, warm and sunny.

The Medal winner, by a very clear margin, was John Norfolk with a score of 85 nett 70, with second-placed Mick Holohan carding a nett 76. Third and fourth spots were filled respectively by Russell Purcell and Shane McGorlick, both on 77.

John took out nearest the pin on two on his way to the win, Burnsie claimed five and 12, seven fell to Bruce Flanders and Greg Ebinger took 18, a bright spot in a fairly forgettable day by his standards.

John and Shane shared the honour of the fewest putts, both recording only 29 for the round.

Three degree morning doesn't deter golfers in Eildon

By PUTTAMATIC

HELLO everyone and welcome to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. On a cool morning that started with only three degrees and the day that the club celebrate thoroughbred horses' birthday, members didn't seem to see a lot of thoroughbreds in last week's competition.

Although there were only six players everyone was in great humour and as the day warmed up it turned out a day for golf with good friends. The course was a bit wet under foot but the greens played fantastic.

Winner last week was Leigh Munro with 31 points, second Kerry Power 29, ball run Rod Taylor 26. Nearest the pin winners, Leigh Munro on the 11th, John Matthews 12th, Jezza Magee 14th, no winners on the third or fifth, no winners in the drink birdie holes last week, Super Six winner was Kerry Power.

The club ran a side team's match last week and team Munro, Power and Long took out the chocolates earning a ball for each player. Entry draw winner last week was Rod Taylor and Leigh Munro had a spin with the swindle draw.

Next week will be a stroke round, congratulations to all winners and look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

MARYSVILLE GOLFERS RETURN IN MORE REASONABLE WEATHER

By LESLEY RUNDLE

A WEEK of reasonable weather saw a number of golfers return to the two weekly competitions at Marysville Golf Club. The Thursday nine holers played stroke on the back nine holes and the winner was Brian Worcester followed by Mark Alexander who also won the nearest the pin on the 11th hole. Gail Leigh won nearest the pin on the 18th and the putting with 15 putts.

The 'fair weather golfers' came out of the woodwork last Saturday to play for the August monthly medal. Gail Leigh (12) with 75 nett was the ladies medal winner followed by Sabrina Stow (24) with nett 82. Drew Kaemp-

kes (11) won the men's medal with nett 72 on a countback from Brian Worcester (19). The nearest the pins were won by Drew Kaempkes, Peter Lilley, Glen Rattay and Richard Clark who also won the Golden Shot. Hayden Ruddock won the putting with 27.

On Thursday the Dalhousie Veterans will play a three-person ambrose Presidents Cup at Marysville with a 9am arrival for a 9.30am tee off. For a \$20 annual fee all Dalhousie golfers over 55 years of age are encouraged to join the Veterans competition and enjoy playing on various courses around the district. Next Saturday all golfers will play a stableford round.



DEEP CONTEMPLATION: The lady golfers thinking about giving up golf and trying white water rafting maybe.

Alexandra Squash Club: Round three of term three pennant

By ANDREW BROWN

Monday competition

Team Two versus Team Four

Lachie versus Holly: A fun game to watch. Holly is improving each week but Lachie had a smashing serve that couldn't be returned and won 91-39.

Sally versus Laura: Another great game to watch with lots of momentum swings. Great short game points. Well done both players. Sally prevailing 63-58 thanks to a strong final game.

Sam (fill-in) versus Chris: What an intense final game. Plenty of rallies and a great competition throughout. Sam eventual winner 66-63.

Andrew versus Danny: A closely fought match until the final game, where Danny flexed his muscle and reversed last week's result with a good win 58-49.

Team One versus Team Five

Eric versus Bec: Eric had too much experience for Bec, reading the play well, for a strong win 68-47.

Randy versus Jess: A terrific game, close all the way. Characterised by some great serving by both players. Short game working well for both players. Randy winning a



LINING UP THE SHOT: Sam chasing a well-placed shot from Chris.

number of points on deep shots, however Jess the victor 64-57.

Simon versus Mick: Simon had too much control for Mick, forcing Mick into loose shots that Simon was able to dispatch easily. A big win for Simon 87-40.

Phil versus Derick: Derick returning to squash after an ex-

tended break. The first game even at 13 each. However, Phil then lifted, starting the subsequent sets strongly and forcing Derick to try to catch up. In the end, a good win for Phil 62-45.

Wednesday competition

Team One versus Team Five

Jess versus Matt: Jess jumped

away with a good margin in the first game. The remaining games were much closer, but Jess hung on to prevail by a narrow margin 55-52.

Nicole versus Jordan: Scores were close in the first two games, with Nicole edging ahead. A big third game set Nicole up for the win and despite another close result in the final game, Nicole ended with a convincing win 67-52.

Ben (fill-in) versus Michael: There were some great rallies in this match. Most games were close, but Ben gained ground in the second game especially and was too strong overall. 66-53.

Team Two versus Team Four

Matt versus Nathan: Nathan had the edge on Matt this match, accumulating points in each game to finish with an impressive 74-46 result.

Ethan versus Beth: Beth held control all match and wouldn't give Ethan a break. Ethan played well and made some good shots when he could. Beth storming to a 78-36 victory.

Daniel W versus Daniel K: The young up and comer playing the established and experienced champ. Daniel K displaying class and experience, winning comfortably 69-48.

YEA JUNIOR NETBALLERS ROUND OUT THE SEASON



TEAM SPIRIT: The Yea Yellow Under 13 team participated in their last game for the season.



SMILES IN SUNSHINE: THE UNDER 11 NETBALL AWARD WINNERS, MADELINE LYNCH AND BRIDIE TAIT.



HARD TO CHOOSE: The Yea Under 13 award winners for Yea Yellow, Evie McKay, Evie Madden and Alexis Rowson.



A GROUP EFFORT: The Yea Under 15 netball team for 2026.

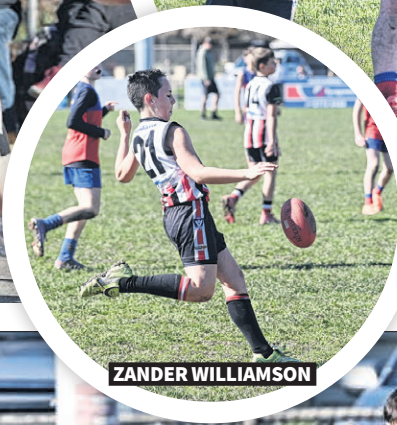
ALEXANDRA JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL MATCHES DRAW A CROWD



ALEXANDRA RED: UNDER 15S PLAYER ELLA PALMER THROWING THE BALL.



EADIE GIBSON



ZANDER WILLIAMSON



▲ UNDER NINES: NED HEDGER SENDING A TACKLE ON THE SEYMOUR OPPOSITION.



DEFENCE: Under 14s player Gus Barkley applying immense pressure to the Shepparton player attempting to move the football onwards.



JUNIOR FOOTBALL: The Alexandra Under 10s in action against Seymour.



APPLYING PRESSURE: The Yea Tigers laying on the pressure against a strong Seville side.



SHOOTING FOR POINTS: Yea trying to slip a goal past the Seville defenders.

PHOTOS: Savannah Gregory Photography

Yea Senior women footballers through to qualifying final

THE various Yea Football Netball Club teams took on Seville at the Yea Recreation Reserve last weekend for challenging competition across football and netball sides.

The Yea Senior women defeated Seville and will take them on again next Saturday for the qualifying final at Yarra Glen.

Football

Seniors

Yea 31 defeated by Seville 113

Reserves

Yea 53 defeated by Seville 85

Senior women

Yea 20 defeated Seville 2

Netball

A Grade

Yea 34 defeated by Seville 91

B Grade

Yea 31 defeated by Seville 69

C Grade

Yea 17 defeated by Seville 54

D Grade

Yea 11 defeated by Seville 62



A DESERVED WIN: Alexandra Under 18s player Matt Wal challenging against Yarra Glen, with the side eventually emerging victorious from the match.



FIERCE COMPETITION: Under 18s player Tom Clark sending the ball onwards while Yarra Glen players chase his heels.



RESERVES CLAIM VICTORY: Reserves player Will Goyder punting the ball.



IN THE AIR: Alexandra Seniors player Charlie Boots competing for possession in the air.

Alexandra Under 18s bring home solid win

Reserves take the win while Seniors leave defeated

THE Alexandra Rebels travelled to Yarra Glenn returning home with a win for the Reserves and a loss for the Seniors.

RESERVES

Yarra Glen 2.3-15 defeated by Alexandra 17.11-113

Rebels continued their impressive run to the finals recording a 98-point win over Yarra Glenn, their running and tackling continues to be their trademark.

For his third consecutive week Luke James was best on field with nine goals, following 10 goals in his previous two games, totalling 29 goals in three weeks.

Scott Hill made a welcome return from injury with four goals.

Connor Heaslip continues to accrue countless possessions with his fierce attack on the ball, Jesse Ellks with another fine game.

Ben Cooper and Dylan Jack were prominent throughout.

Goal kickers: James nine, Hill four, B McDonald two, Toby Ward and Luke Frith one each.

Awards: Shannon Group Award, Luke James; Future Fit Finance Award, Conor Heaslip; RUOAK Hotel Award, Scott Hill; Buxton Hotel Award, Jesse Elks.

SENIORS

Yarra Glen 16.11-107 defeated Alexandra 15.5-95

The Rebels travelled to Yarra Glenn to play the river pigs on their home ground knowing a win would secure the double chance in the finals.

A loss and their opponents double chance remained a reality with two rounds remaining.

As expected with so much at stake the game opened with fierce tackling at a frantic pace with Yarra Glenn going to the main break leading 47 to Alexandra's 28.

The Rebels came out after half time recording a seven goal to one goal quarter, 16 points up at three quarter time.

Not to be denied Yarra Glenn opened the last quarter with two quick goals scoring eight for the quarter to the Rebels' four goals in a hectic last quarter with scores level with two minutes to go.

Yarra Glenn scored twice to run out 12-point winners. The last quarter was marred by a number of questionable free kicks awarded to the opponents deep in their forward line much to the frustration of the Rebels' supporters.

Ex-AFL Travis Cloake was a ma-

jor headache for the Rebels with seven goals.

Lachlan Nankervis and Brad Johnson in the ruck gave the Rebels every chance of victory.

Bart Wallace in defence played his best game for the year.

Mitch Parker, Charlie Boots, Sam Critchley (four goals) and Scott Heveren all put in impressive games.

Goal kickers: Critchley four, William Stewart two, Brad Johnson two, Pat Phillips, Sam Boots, Edward Watkins, Cameron Bishop, Riley Frankcombe, Peter Cairns, Will Clarke all had one each.

Awards: Kervale Award, Lachlan Nankervis; O'Briens Real Estate, Bart Wallace; RUOAK Hotel Award, Brad Johnson; Buxton Hotel Award, Mitch Parker.

This week Alexandra play their last game at Rebel park for the season against Belgrave with a win securing the double chance.

UNDER 18S

The Alexandra Rebels Under 18s have been a terrific group of young men who have banded together throughout the season.

While wins have been hard to come by, their commitment, determination and team-first attitude

have never wavered, and on Saturday they were rewarded with a well-deserved victory over Yarra Glen.

With a full team of 20 players, the Rebels were determined to bring home the four points.

The opening term was a tight, defensive contest, with both sides only managing behinds.

However, the Rebels found another gear in the second quarter, piling on 3.3 while holding Yarra Glen scoreless to head into the main break with all the momentum.

Yarra Glen responded strongly after half-time, kicking 3.4 to Alexandra's 1.4, reducing the Rebels' lead to just one goal at the final change.

With the game on the line, the boys refused to give in.

They continued to work hard for one another in the final term, adding another two goals while restricting Yarra Glen to just three behinds to secure a fantastic 15-point victory.

The win was a fitting reward for a group that has shown resilience and commitment all season.

Coach Sam Kidd was incredibly proud of his players and the effort they have put in throughout the year.

As you would expect, the team

song was sung loud and proud after the final siren.

Goal kickers: Shannon Galloway three, Matthew Wal two, Cam Clark one.

Awards: Bowens Award, Tom Clark; Kia Chadstone Award, Fletcher Van Lierop; AFNC Club Voucher, Ryder Brady; Coaches Award, Matt Wal; HG Turf (Club Voucher), Lachlan Williams.

NETBALL RESULTS

A Grade

Yarra Glen 70 defeated Alexandra 34

Awards: Incentive, Stef Jager; Corner Hotel, Katherine Quinsee.

B Grade

Yarra Glen 68 defeated Alexandra 22

Awards: Incentive, Kara Dolan; Corner Hotel, Ash Creighton.

C Grade

Yarra Glen 44 defeated Alexandra 13

Awards: RUOAK Hotel, Elly Gambrell; Corner Hotel, Kate Broadway.

Under 17s

Seville White 41 defeated Alexandra 11

Awards: Koala Cherries Award, Marli Collier; Corner Hotel, Eva Twitchett.

Alexandra's Geoff McClure wins A Grade and pairs competition

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THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

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JUNIOR NETBALLERS IN ACTION: The Alexandra Under 11 Red netballers taking on Seymour.

Alexandra junior football and netball matches draw a crowd

FOOTBALL

Under 16s
Alexandra 61 defeated Shepparton Unite 30
Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Lucas Crane; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Jaidyn Dimech; Kazza's Diner, Josh Northmore; Gilligan Plumbing Award, Logan Conway; Coaches Award, Hudson Brooks; Elissa Paige Award, Ethan Hargrave.

Under 14s
Alexandra 20 defeated by Shepparton Swans 60
Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Eli Van Lierop; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Hudson Brooks; Kazza's Diner, Nate Simms; Coaches Award, Riley Kirley.

Under 12s
Alexandra 14 defeated by Seymour 97
Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Logan Kerr; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Sam Grech; Kazza's Diner Award, Tahj Parker; Coaches Award, Nate Broadway; Phil Savage Award, Jace O'Sullivan.

Under 10s
Awards: Kazza's Diner Award, Jedd Kelly; Canteen Voucher, Zac Gleeson; Footy Cards, Patrick Gilligan and Ryan Kirley.

Under nines
Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge Award, AJ Doyle; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Ash Bristow; Phil Savage Award, Kason Halliday; Footy Cards, Elias Wright and Ned Hedger.

NETBALL

Under 11 Red
Alexandra 3 defeated by Seymour 25
Awards: Annabelle Hill and PJ Smith.

Under 11 Black
Alexandra 15 defeated by Yea 9
Awards: Zara Crouch and Lalah Goodman.

Under 13 Red
Alexandra 12 defeated by Broadford Blue 35
Awards: Jayde Stewart and Olivia Laverty.

Under 13 Black
Alexandra 30 defeated

Broadford White 12
Awards: Scarlett Pearce and Lila Friswell.

Under 15 Red
Alexandra 6 defeated by Yea 16
Awards: Ella Palmer and Ruby Friswell.

Under 15 Black
Alexandra 44 defeated Broadford 16
Awards: Asher Mullins, Tehya Vine and Asha Vine.

More images on page 18



We are coming to Yea

A social and information evening for current and prospective families.

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming dinner to connect with local families, meet our team, and discover what makes Ballarat Grammar such a special community.



BALLARAT GRAMMAR

Register your interest:



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