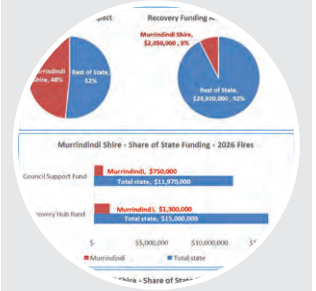


STUDENTS CELEBRATE

Students from Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea celebrating 100 Days of School.



Murrindindi Shire \$2,050,000, 8%



Where's our fair share of recovery funding? Page 8



Temporary accommodation in fire impacted areas Page 9

Recovery in crisis

WHEN Colleen Furlanetto, a volunteer at Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub in Ruffy until last Tuesday, was asked about the community's recovery from the Longwood fires, she didn't hold back.

"It's a s...show," she said. "We've got the largest fire on private property in the state's history and we've had the most appalling response ever in living memory for a natural disaster, particularly fires. It's just not okay."

Hub volunteer calls for Royal Commission into fire recovery

While the government departments have been making "all these announcements [about money]... Certainly at the hub that I've been a part of up until Tuesday [August 4], seven months, it's been 99.9 per cent donations.

"Local government is really trying, I want to be really clear, but they don't have the resources that they need," she said.

Colleen added, "I think that this is an opportunity for government of whatever flavour to go, you know what, this hasn't been too good until now. Here's an opportunity for us to really pick this up. We'll never forget this fire. And the 'could have, should have, would have' is a matter for another day. The fire inquiry is one thing, but we need an inquiry, and I would go as far as

to say, a Royal Commission into the recovery."

She said that while the inquiry recognised the poor response to recovery, there has been little improvement since the hearings.

"I think it's a sad indictment on us when the leaders are sitting in it [the inquiry hearings] and they still don't seem to hear it and talk to us about the money that's there, and

'this is coming' and 'this is incorrect', the information that an MP might be saying is inaccurate.

"What's not inaccurate is that this has had the worst response that it could have. There are people in tents, and there are people without accommodation, and there are families displaced. And we seem to just hear this rhetoric of, 'well, you know, it takes time to get into recovery' and 'we've got to take time.'"

Continued page 8

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*ISSUED AT 9.24am AEDT MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2026

Importance of reporting elder abuse

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 third in a series of articles from the event, each focusing on a different topic.

Acting Detective Jade Reid from the Benalla Family Violence Unit spoke at the forum about an issue which often goes unseen and unreported: family violence and sexual assaults affecting older people and people living with a disability.

She said, "Victoria Police recognises that there is a significant gap in reporting within these communities."

AD Reid said that people over the age of 65 and people with a disability are identified as priority communities because they're at greater risk of experiencing family

violence and sexual assault.

She explained that there are various reasons why many of these incidents never get reported to police, and many reasons why this happens.

"Some people may rely on the person who is abusing them for their daily care or support. Others may fear that they won't be believed, may not know how to report, or may have communication barriers that can make asking for help difficult. These barriers can leave people feeling isolated and without any options," she said.

"Here in the Benalla Police Service area, we know that this is a real issue, and we know that there are far more incidents occurring than are actually reported to police."

She provided a fuller explanation of elder abuse, saying, "Elder abuse occurs when someone an older person trusts causes them harm by their actions or by failing to provide them care and support that

they need and require. Elder abuse is a violation of human rights and can have serious physical, emotional, psychological and financial impacts.

"...There are many different types of family violence, and especially in elder abuse. There's physical abuse, such as hitting, pushing, things like that. Psychological or emotional abuse can include intimidation, threats, humiliation, controlling behaviour, or isolating someone from their friends or family. Financial abuse is particularly high in elder abuse. This can be misusing money or bank accounts, property and assets are getting changed without permission, or someone's pressing that elderly person to make financial decisions. There's also neglect, failing to provide food, medical care, personal care, or other basic needs. There's healthcare and aged care abuse by withholding medication or treatment, providing poor care,

or making decisions that negatively affect an older person's health or wellbeing. Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual contact, abandonment, deserting or leaving an older person without appropriate care or support, and there's even self-neglect. This is when an older person is unable to or unwilling to care for themselves, placing their own health and safety at risk.

So who is committing this elder abuse? AD Reid said many people are surprised to learn that elder abuse is most often committed by someone the older person knows and trusts. That may be an adult child, or the partner of an adult child, grandchildren, or an intimate partner, friends, acquaintances or neighbours. In some situations, older people become the primary carer or financial provider for an adult child or family member experiencing homelessness, relationship breakdown, addiction, release from prison or other life

challenges. These situations can increase the risk of financial, emotional and physical abuse.

Warning signs that may indicate elder abuse can include unexpected injuries or frequent accidents, sudden changes in their finances or missing money, fear, anxiety or withdrawal around certain people, poor hygiene, malnutrition, or unrelated medical conditions, unpaid bills despite adequate income, isolation from family, friends or community, or a carer who appears overly controlling or refuses the older person to speak independently.

If you're concerned that someone is experiencing elder abuse, listen without judgment. Ensure that person's immediate safety if they are at risk. Encourage them to seek support from trusted family members or specialist services. Contact police if crime has occurred or if someone is in immediate danger or needs any assistance. Early intervention can prevent further harm.



OPERATION SWAMP: The police operation in Yarck.

Police conduct Operation Swamp

ON Friday, July 31, Operation Swamp was conducted by Alexandra and Benalla Crime Investigation Unit detectives, Mansfield and Benalla Highway Patrol, Murrindindi uniform units, the Victoria Police Dog Squad, and the Sheriff's Office Victoria. The operation targeted the predictable pattern of motor vehicles travelling to the Victorian alpine region with a primary focus on road safety and alpine driver equipment checks.

381 negative portable breath tests (PBTs) were performed on drivers by officers, \$14,000 in debts recovered, with one male driver testing positive to an illicit drug.

Three occupants of motor vehicles were arrested after being detected in possession of drugs of dependence with two of

the occupants issued with drug diversions.

A 35 year old Ringwood East man, and sole occupant of a utility, was arrested by detectives after commercial quantities of drugs of dependence were alleged to have been located within the motor vehicle.

Alexandra CIU detectives will allege that the man was in possession of a commercial quantity of cannabis and methamphetamine and traffickable quantities of cocaine and GHB. Various items suspected to be from the proceeds of crime were seized which included a utility and jewellery in the possession of the male. As a result of the seizure, Eastern Region detectives executed a search warrant where it is alleged that further drugs of dependence



VEHICLE SEIZED: The utility seized by police.

were located and seized, and additional items suspected to be from the proceeds of crime were seized including a jetski and Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The male was remanded in custody where he appeared before the Shepparton Magistrates' Court on Monday, August 3. The male was

remanded in custody with his next scheduled court appearance on October 28.

The police would like to thank all motorists travelling through Yarck who were impacted by delays caused by the police operation. Your patience in reaching your destination safely is appreciated.

Weekly red bin collection proposed

IF elected at the next state election, the Liberals and Nationals will require councils to provide Victorian households with a weekly general rubbish collection.

Under the current system, more than 30 councils across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria have cut back their general rubbish collection to fortnightly.

Fortnightly collections are hugely inconvenient for larger families, households with young children, apartment residents, and people managing nappies and incontinence products.

They also said that Labor has tripled the landfill levy, resulting in significant increases to council waste charges which are not subject to the rate cap. This is placing unnecessary cost pressures on households and resulting in huge increases in illegal dumping.

If elected, the Liberal and Nationals will review the rate of the landfill levy alongside their previously announced review of the container deposit scheme. They will also apply the rates cap to council waste charges.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club Report

By honorary secretary Mike Jennings

TWO tables of bridge opened the week for the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club. The committee gathered on Friday morning to plan the activities for the next couple of months. Many ideas and suggestions were discussed at the business meeting in the afternoon.

The club trip to Healesville RSL for Morning Melodies is going ahead as planned and members discussed a trip to Mansfield Armchair Cinema with lunch in one of the hotels. Wait and see what is showing that excites when we research the program.

After refreshments the 500 players had a change of direction playing euchre instead. Chess and UNO were also on the program. Come along and join us in the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Market @ Yarck
Devonshire teas, bacon and egg sandwiches and toasties

Saturday, July 18
from 9am

Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

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 DOWN

Murrindindi Shire for not maintaining the drains and gutters in our shire. When contacted regarding this matter of poorly maintained and blocked drains within the shire, we were told that maintaining crossings and drainage is the responsibility of the landowner. Some of the gutters and drainage system are in such poor condition that they are a slipping hazard and a health hazard. I wonder why we pay our rates, if this simple task cannot be attended to?

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



NEW INDUCTEES: Nine new members joined the Alexandra Lions Club at its recent meeting.



ALEXANDRA LIONS: The club's long-standing members were honoured for their service. Pictures are emcee John Beale, Luke Chapple, Ken Smedley, Brian Sladen, Bob Cooper and District Governor Russell Edwards.

Alexandra Lions induct nine new members

THE Lions Club of Alexandra was delighted to induct nine new members at their meeting on Wednesday, August 5 at the Corner Hotel. This brings the total number of Lions in Alexandra to 24, a remarkable effort given that in February the club was in danger of folding or merging with another club due to low numbers.

The meeting was held in an

upbeat atmosphere, with plenty of camaraderie and chit chat. If you are interested in joining, visit lions201v5.org.au/alexandra/ or speak to one of the members.

50 YEARS OF SERVICE: Lion Ken Smedley (right) was honoured by DG Edwards for his 50 years of service to the club.



ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRA: Charter members from April 1, 1967. Back: Fred Darmody, Jack Sinclair, Les Wilkinson, Ron McDonald, Bert Holly, Peter Miller and Geoff Smith. Centre: Don Crook, Ciril Davy, Allan Dobson, Len Newton, Roly Atkinson, Wally Moore, Arch Girdwood and Roy Fox. Front: Bernie O'Brien, John Pollock, Rex Tate, Jack Ansett, Governor's Special Representative from the Rotary Club of Seymour Ken Weeding, Les Coates, Gordon Newton, Bill Price and Reg May. Absent: Chas Cornall.

Alexandra Rotary seeking past club members

THE Rotary Club of Alexandra would like to announce that the 60th anniversary of its formation is fast approaching. It was chartered in 1966.

A gala dinner will be held at the

Alexandra Shire Hall on Saturday, October 17.

Rotary needs assistance from relatives of previous Rotarians to locate members to invite. If you are a relative of any charter member in

the photo or later members please contact Helen Gibb, secretary, at helengibb1953@gmail.com

Rotary is planning an evening of entertainment and fine food. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Flanno for a Farmer in Alexandra to support Farm Angels

ALEXANDRA Events will be holding a Flanno for a Farmer event at the Grant Street rotunda on Friday, August 14, running from 11am to 2pm, to raise money for Farm Angels.

There will be a barbecue and a raffle, the Murrindindi Mobile Clinic will be attending, along with Murrindindi Shire Recovery. The ABCs Country Hour will be broadcasting on-location.

Farm Angels have been supporting local residents with recovery following the Longwood bushfires, and this is a chance for the community to return the favour by wearing flannel and getting involved.

August cattle prices fall to around \$5 per kilogram at the Yea Saleyards



FARMERS GAINING CONFIDENCE: The recent run of wet weather may be giving farmers a level of confidence in their livestock, with prices falling slightly across the board.

PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

By BAILEY DIXON

THE August Combined Agents Store Sale took place at the Yea Saleyards last Friday, with prices dropping back slightly from the highs of earlier this year. There was still a decent yarding of around 2400 cattle.

Elders Livestock Agent Andrew Hill commented that farmers might be feeling a degree of confidence from the weather.

"Prices have come off a bit, right across the board. There's probably a bit of confidence with the weather, a few of the feedlots are pretty stocked up with cattle and still waiting to move them. And now we've got this rain that should keep the cattle drop up a little bit, I would have thought," Andrew said.

"It was a pretty good yarding of cattle considering we're in August. Most of the cattle were in good nick."

There were limited cows and calves on the market, with only seven or eight pens at the sale, making around \$2500. There were also a few pregnancy tested in-calf cattle there.

There was a mix of older and younger steers at the sale. Alex Scott and Staff had a good run of nine- to 10-month-old steers, around 300 of them, that sold well. Those 500kg steers made anywhere from \$2780 down to \$2690. The 400kg steers made \$2060 to \$2170, around 510c/kg to 535c/kg, down slightly from previously.

The 330kg steers made around \$1860, sneaking up to the 560c/kg mark.

"They're sort of sweet cattle, everyone wants to buy that sort of weight cattle," Andrew said.

Steers weighing 295kg reached \$1780, nearly \$6 per kilogram. This weight cattle were making around \$7 per

kilogram a month ago.

In terms of the heifers, 380kg cattle were making \$1940, bringing them out at 511c/kg, where a couple of months ago they were making mid to high \$5 per kilogram. The 340kg and 287kg heifers made \$1650, 266kg heifers made \$1270 and a pen of 183kg heifers made \$1100.

"It was a big buying area, cattle went to South Australia, feedlots, cattle went to Gippsland, Bendigo, Goulburn Valley. A bit of a spread there," Andrew said about buying habits.

The next cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards will be on September 4, with the monthly Combined Agents Store Sale. There will also be a Victorian Farmers' Federation (VFF) Stock Sense workshop on August 28 about buying livestock with confidence, running from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Foundation Murrindindi recruiting new volunteer directors

FOUNDATION Murrindindi is inviting community-minded people who want to make a difference to join its volunteer board of directors, with expressions of interest now open.

As Murrindindi Shire's community foundation, Foundation Murrindindi plays a vital role in growing local philanthropy, supporting community-led projects and responding to local needs. Following a busy year to date supporting communities impacted by the January 2026 Longwood Bushfires, the Foundation is looking to strengthen its board with new members who are committed to making a lasting difference across the shire.

Foundation Murrindindi Chair Naomi McNamara said the organisation was seeking enthusiastic people with strong community connections and passionate about helping Murrindindi thrive.

"This is an exciting opportunity to join an organisation

that is investing in the future of our communities. We're looking for people who bring fresh ideas, broad local knowledge and a commitment to strengthening the communities we serve."

The foundation is particularly interested in hearing from people with experience or expertise in fundraising and philanthropy, and community leadership and networks.

Expressions of interest are especially encouraged from people with strong local networks across western Murrindindi Shire, helping ensure the foundation reflects the diversity of communities across the municipality.

The board meets monthly and directors serve in a voluntary capacity, providing strategic leadership, ensuring strong governance and helping grow the foundation's impact throughout Murrindindi Shire.

Over the past year, Foundation Murrindindi has con-

tinued to expand its impact through its community grant programs, the Murrindindi Community Food Share, the establishment of its Community Charity Trust with Deductible Gift Recipient status, and the launch of the Murrindindi Disaster Fund following the Longwood Bushfires.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people who want to give back to their community in a meaningful way," Naomi said. "Whether you have previous board experience or are looking to take that next step in community leadership, we'd love to hear from you."

Expressions of Interest close on August 31.

Further information about the board director role, recruitment process and application package is available on the Foundation Murrindindi website or contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688 or email robyn@foundationmurrindindi.org.au

Lucky Dianne found Miss Bettye

THE final winner of the Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop 'Find Miss Bettye' mannequin challenge has been announced, with the competition to celebrate

the arrival of their new mannequin.

Dianne is the lucky winner of a \$20 Redgate op shop voucher, having correctly guessed that Miss Bettye was at the Rotary Park

Information Centre.

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



Foundation Murrindindi

Shape Today Strengthen Tomorrow

Board Members Wanted

Foundation Murrindindi is inviting committed and enthusiastic individuals to become members of our Board of Directors.



As a director, you will help shape the strategic direction of the organisation, uphold strong governance practices, and engage in important activities such as fundraising and distributing grants.



This role offers a chance to create positive change within the community, work alongside like-minded philanthropic leaders, and support the Foundation's ongoing mission.



This is a voluntary role.



Application close on **31 August**

For more information visit our website www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au or scan the QR code



WHAT'S ON AT TRAWOOL

TRiVIA

free to play & prizes
Friday 21st Aug, 7pm
WIN x4 MEDALLION CLUB SEATS



Sunday 6th Sept

FATHER'S DAY 2026

Enjoy lunch in Wild Water
bone in 450g Rib Eye steak special \$65
all Dad's receive a complimentary drink on arrival!



Aug 15 | 6pm

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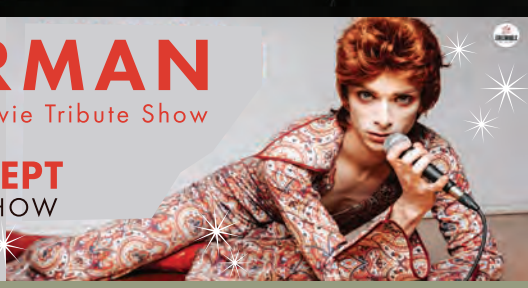


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AusNet continues safety improvements with \$40 million investment

AUSNET has completed one of the largest powerline safety upgrades on its network, investing more than \$40 million to reduce risk of fire starts in Victoria's highest-risk areas.

Over the past two months, AusNet has replaced 108 kilometres of ageing bare-wire powerlines with insulated ones which will reduce fire start risk and improves network resilience for customers and communities.

The major upgrade program was delivered in Murrindindi Shire areas including Flow-
erdale, Glenburn and Toolangi.

AusNet Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the work was targeted at Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) upgrades with the focus to build a safer and stronger network.

"This is a major investment that continues our delivery for community safety and network resilience across some of Victoria's most bushfire-prone areas."

"Importantly for the community, we've replaced ageing infrastructure with insulated powerline technology that significantly reduces the risk of fire starts," Mr Linnie said.

More than 100 new power poles were also installed, as insulated powerlines require additional structural support to safely traverse difficult terrain.

The upgrade was completed in challenging winter conditions across steep and hard-to-access landscapes. It is the largest concentration of SWER replacement works AusNet has ever delivered within such a short timeframe.

More than 120 people worked on the upgrade, including field crews, engineers, planners, contractors and community engagement specialists.

Liberals and Nationals to restore wild dog control

THE Liberals and Nationals have stated that if elected, they will restore effective wild dog control and give farmers the tools they need to protect their livestock and livelihoods.

Deputy Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Emma Kealy said farmers deserved practical, evidence-based wild dog management that recognised the realities of farming alongside public land.

"Farmers should be able to protect their livestock and their livelihoods," Ms Kealy said. "A Liberals and Nationals Government will listen to farmers and restore effective wild dog management so they are not left fighting this problem alone."

A Rainbow farmer recently sent the State Government a \$40,000 bill for sheep lost to wild dog attacks.

"Farmers warned Labor what would happen when effective controls were removed. Now since the unprotection zone was removed, livestock are being mauled and killed and producers are carrying the cost," Ms Kealy said.

They said that rather than properly addressing an issue that is decimating Victorian farmers, the government has stripped key wild dog baiting data from its own management plans, just months after being exposed for quietly slashing ground baiting targets across eastern Victoria.

In April it was reported that ground baiting targets had been cut by up to 66 per cent across the state's 14 wild dog management zones between 2024-25 and 2025-26. Baiting targets for 2026-27 have now been deleted altogether.

Ms Kealy said the disappearing data was no accident, as the government was keen to avoid backlash for its reduced baiting effort.

“Farmers are watching the ground baiting effort be quietly wound back, and now Labor has simply deleted the evidence rather than answer for it,” Ms Kealy said.

Ms Kealy said "Our plan is about backing the people who produce our food and fibre, strengthening regional communities and making sure country Victorians get their fair share."

PETITION ABOUT YARCK-GOBUR ROAD



SAFER ROADS: The Yarck-Gobur Road has been in poor condition since the January bushfires.

PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

A PETITION has been launched through the Victorian Parliament calling for improvements to Yarck-Gobur Road.

Yarck-Gobur Road is vital for local residents, farmers, emergency services, school buses and visitors.

The petition is aimed at showing the level of community support for a safer, more reliable road.

The petition can be found at parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/upgrade-of-yarckgobur-road

The aim of the petition is to help make Yarck-Gobur Road safer for everyone.



Quiet the head noise

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8:30am – 5pm weekdays (except public holidays)

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Where’s our fair share of recovery funding?

MURRINDINDI Shire Council’s submission to the 2016 summer fires inquiry features an infographic which highlighted the challenges being faced by fire-impacted residents of the shires, as well as council itself, being tasked to fix roads, bridges, signs and other pieces of council infrastructure on a tiny proportion of the funds.

The chart starkly outlines the concerns of council. Murrindindi Shire suffered 48 per cent of the impact from the summer 2026 fires in Victoria, yet by the end of March had received only eight per cent of the recovery funding, being \$2,050,000 out of the total of \$24,920,000.

In the Council Support Fund, Murrindindi Shire Council received \$750,000 while the

statewide total was \$11,970,000.

In the Recovery Hub Funding, council received \$1,300,000 out of \$15,000,000 supplied around the state.

Murrindindi Shire accounted for 48 per cent of the homes destroyed, 47 per cent of the outbuildings destroyed, and 50 per cent of the fencing destroyed. Eight per cent therefore seems deeply unreasonable.

As Murrindindi Shire Council states, “Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes.”

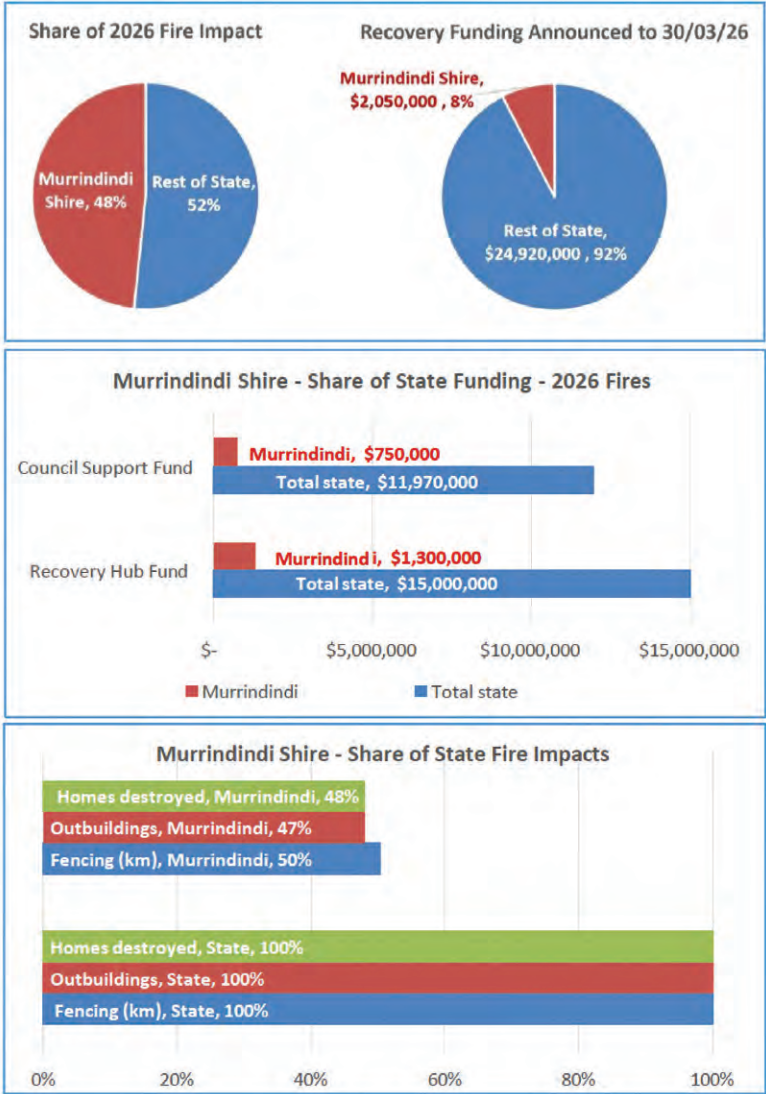
When asked about this, a Victorian Government spokesperson said, “We’re backing bushfire-affected Victorians including in Murrindindi with a range of supports to help them on the road to recovery, including

emergency payments, temporary accommodation, clean-up support, and mental health services.

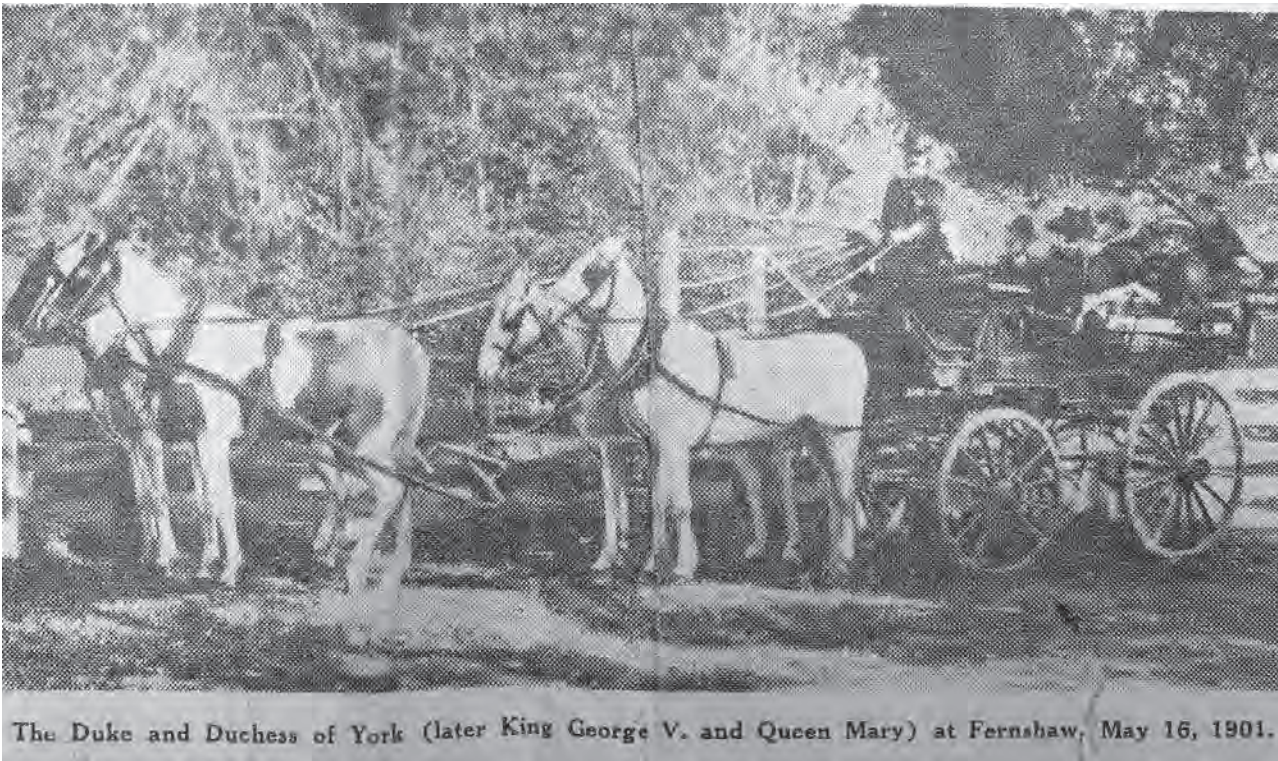
“Help remains available and anyone in need should call the Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.”

They also stated that relief and recovery funding is allocated by program, not by individual council area. The submission in question is dated through March 2026 and does not reflect the full scope of recovery funding Murrindindi residents have received through programs.

FIRE RECOVERY: An infographic from Murrindindi Shire Council’s submission to the Inquiry into the summer 2026 fires.



A ROYAL VISIT TO FERNSHAW



A LETTER to the editor was published in *The Age* on May 22, 1943, describing a royal visit to Fernshaw by King George V and Queen Mary. Submitted by Morwell Hodges of Healesville, its full contents is found below:

“To the Editor of *The Age*.

“Sir, -There are many who can recall the visit to Australia at the beginning of the century of the then Duke and Duchess of York (later King George V and Queen Mary), whose sojourn in this country was indeed a royal progress.

“On January 1, 1901, Australia was proclaimed a Commonwealth. This was followed by the death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901, and the proclamation of King Edward VII on January 24. While in Australia, the Duke and Duchess mostly affected formal mourning attire by reason of the passing of Queen Victoria.

“Older residents of Healesville particularly remember the advent there

of the Royal couple, who, on May 16, 1901, enjoyed a coach drive through the scenic beauties of the Black Spur. The accompanying historic photograph, taken at Fernshaw, shows the Royal party seated in the coach, driven by Mr Charles Andrews, who died at Healesville last month, aged 90 years.

“When “Uncle Sam” a well-known big tree on the Black Spur, was reached, the Duchess was presented with a large bunch of chrysanthemums, one of which she gave to the coachman. Ever afterwards Mr Andrews was anxious to claim one’s attention and, having done so, he would extract from the depths of a faded envelope a piece of paper containing a greyish powder; this, he would proudly say, was the chrysanthemum given him by Queen Mary.

“- Yours etc, Morwell Hodges, Healesville.”

Hub volunteer calls for Royal Commission into fire recovery

■ **From front page**

Colleen said she’s heard of warehouses in Melbourne and other capital cities which have stock for overseas disasters and wondered why this wasn’t deployed.

She expressed strong concern for people’s mental health following the disaster. “We lost one life to this fire in the early days. The number of people that we will lose to this fire, we will start counting in big numbers... This isn’t good enough.”

It needs to be remembered that so many people were impacted and that all trauma is valid. Grief is not a competition about who lost the most. There is also a tendency in our area to minimise our own needs because of the feeling that someone else might be worse off. In the long run, this helps no-one.

In addition, she is concerned about children, with parents focused on fire recovery and feeling

emotionally absent for their children. They haven’t felt able to take a break. She said, “There’s nothing left in the tank, either financially or capacity to do it.”

There has also been a sharp increase in family violence, including elder abuse with adult children telling parents to sell up so they can receive their inheritance now.

Ruffy is on the border between Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires, with the hub on the Strathbogie side. The new model for the hub is to have a community-selected Community Recovery Committee. They received the handover on Tuesday, August 4, and certainly have some big shoes to fill. The hub’s activities will continue, including the Tuesday Community Recovery Services and the Friday Community Meals.

Colleen commented, “There has to be a point where it’s not just left

a community to organise... It’s just the pressure on one demographic of our community, our volunteers. We don’t mind turning a sausage every day, but we can’t turn it 24 hours a day. At some point we have to sleep. And we have to recover ourselves as people, or otherwise we’re not there. And we’ve got to make room for others to come forward as well.”

She said of grant applications, “It is such a burden onto people who are recovering. There are people in our community recovery committee at Ruffy who lost their homes, who are burnt out. That’s why they’re there. But they don’t have their houses yet. They’re either living off the hill or they’re living in a caravan or they’re living in a shed... No jobs are getting done while they’re trying to do this.”

She added that some of the “pro-

ocols and systems and processes are absolutely absurd and not fit for purpose.”

As an example, she said that different Rotary groups have supplied a water tank, but DEECA won’t be filling the tank because there’s no funding for it. A person from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing suggested that they instead apply to Givit. More work. Colleen said, “We’ve offered point blank to donate our water. We have a dam that’s not potable water, but they could boil it, they could put it in and have a shower. But there’s no money to cart it.”

She added, “Then they’re saying, well, if you don’t hurry up and apply, you’re going to miss out. Well guess what? Some people have just crawled out of a hole and have just started to be able to think day by day, without trauma and the thought of suicide every waking

hour. And now they’ve got to fill out forms. And then it’s their problem because they didn’t fill out the form.”

She also said, “If this is the largest fire in state history of private land, we didn’t have a Premier, we didn’t see a Prime Minister, we didn’t see the Army. Why? The Army is saying we weren’t asked. It’s not too late for the Army. They’re more than welcome to come in. They could cook some barbecues and help let the others have a rest. It’s never too late for the Premier, the current Premier, to come out and have a look... and do something about it.”

She believes that all levels of government have the opportunity to correct the situation. “We’re happy to lend a hand,” she said, “But we are not the cavalry. The cavalry should be government and it’s not being government.”

McLeish questions number of shire contractors in the clean-up

ON June 16, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish asked a series of questions of the Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery, a ministerial position which no longer exists following the reshuffle.

With reference clean-up contractors for the 2026 Longwood Fire in Murrindindi, she asked, “How many contractors, based in the Murrindindi Shire, have been awarded contracts (or sub-contracts) for clean-up activities.”

The minister, Vick Ward, responded on July 28, just prior to the abolition of their ministry on August 4.

She said, “The State-Coordinated Clean-Up Program is available to eligible residents, businesses and community asset owners to remove bushfire-affected structures and hazardous debris. Forge Solutions is the appointed head contractor for the State-Coordinated Clean-Up Program and has engaged sub-contractors from required trades to deliver clean-up activities. As at June 29, there are three active sub-contractors based out of Murrindindi Shire that are engaged on the State-Coordinated Clean-Up Program.”

She added, “Local contractors



MEMBER FOR EILDON CINDY MCLEISH

can continue to register their interest in delivering clean-up activities through the Forge Solutions website at forgesolutions.au. To deliver clean-up works, all sub-contractors must hold the appropriate licences and qualifications.”

Ms McLeish also asked, “Which contractors have been awarded contracts (or sub-contracts) for clean-up activities, and what are their locations (by postcode).”

The response received was, “As at June 29, the State-Coordinated Clean-Up Program has 25 active sub-contractors delivering clean-

up activities across bushfire-affected regions. Forge Solutions, the head contractor, has engaged sub-contractors to deliver the specific services required, including certified demolition operators, traffic management and hygienists.

“These sub-contractors are based across 16 local government areas. The majority of sub-contractors are based in Mitchell Shire, Murrindindi Shire and Greater Shepparton.

“While Forge Solutions seeks to engage local contractors to support clean-up activities, certified

demolition contractors are not available in some areas, hence qualified trades are engaged from other regions to ensure clean-up works continue to meet the needs of bushfire-affected property owners.”

Ms McLeish later said, “Recovery isn’t just about repairing fences and roads. It’s about rebuilding communities and local economies. When only three of 25 recovery contracts have gone to local businesses, it’s fair for the community to ask whether that opportunity has been missed. Local contractors that I’ve spoken with, people and businesses with the equipment and skills, feel like they have been forgotten. The Black Saturday learnings were that disaster recovery must restore local communities and economies. That principle has since underpinned national and state recovery policies.

“It would have been nice to ask the government to explain why it hasn’t happened here but as our communities continue their long recovery, the Carroll Labor Government has abolished the dedicated Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery.”

Temporary accommodation in the fire-impacted areas

IN June, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish asked a series of Questions on Notice to the Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery.

She was seeking numbers for how many individuals or households in the Murrindindi Shire qualified for temporary accommodation support, and how many of these individuals or households were referred for temporary accommodation assistance.

She also wanted to know how many modular homes and caravans are available to bushfire impacted residents in the Murrindindi Shire and how many have been issued, and how many eligible individuals or households remain without suitable temporary accommodation, and how many are living in tents.

The response referred Ms McLeish to the Minister for Disability/Minister for Children, in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

DFFH was contacted about the issues raised. A Victorian Government spokesperson responded, “Victorians recovering from the bushfires are doing it tough. Labor is delivering \$1 billion in housing support, providing a pathway from emergency accommodation to long-term housing for Victorians who need it most. This investment is helping deliver more than 1300 new social and affordable homes across regional Victoria, because every Victorian deserves a safe and secure place to call home.”

\$1 billion? 1300 new social and affordable homes? If this sounds familiar, then you’re right. It’s the Victorian Regional Housing Fund.

The media representative was asked, are you able to provide information on how the Regional Housing Fund relates to the Longwood fireground area (including the towns of Alexandra, Cathkin, Yarck, Fawcett, Terip Terip, Ruffy, Merton, Caveat, Highlands, Dropmore, Tarcombe, Gobur, Kanumbra, Creightons Creek, Upton Hill, Woodfield, Maintongoon, Koriella, Molesworth, Acheron and Longwood East?)

No response was received.

In the original reply, the following information was also provided: To date the temporary accommodation support program has provided 17 caravans onsite for interim accommodation to people who want to remain on their land and continues to work collaboratively with Emergency Recovery Support Program caseworkers to meet people’s needs. At present one modular home is occupied, three are being assembled onsite and a further 12 will be completed onsite by the end of August. Anyone whose home was destroyed or damaged due to the January bushfires should contact the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 for support with temporary accommodation.

Natural Disaster Recovery now under EMV

NEW Premier Ben Carroll unveiled his new ministry on Tuesday, August 4, and it certainly held a few surprises.

Premier Carroll said, “I have reduced the Ministry. This is a simple measure I can make right now to save taxpayers money. Because every dollar my government spends will be treated with respect and only where it delivers the greatest value for Victorians.”

It appears that one of these cost-saving measures is the abolition of the ministry for Natural Disaster Recovery.

The individual ministry is now no more, and is located under the Emergency Services portfolio, led by Minister Paul Edbrooke.

Other ministerial reshuffles include Colin Brooks taking on the role of Treasurer from Jaclyn Symes, as well as being Minister for Industrial Relations.

Anthony Carbines will become the new Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy, a new

Cabinet role which will focus on driving innovation and investment, while keeping AI development ethical and responsible. He will also become the new Minister for Major Events, Medical Research, Economic Development and will remain the Minister for Racing and the Leader of the House.

Deputy Premier Gabrielle Williams will become the new Minister for Education, Women and Gender Equality, Skills and Training and First Peoples.

Lizzie Blandthorn will remain the Minister for Children, Disability and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

Steve Dimopoulos will become the new Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC, Equality and will remain the Minister for Sport.

Paul Edbrooke will become the new Minister for Police, Emergency Services, Crime Prevention and Multicultural Affairs.

Enver Erdogan will become the new Minister for Finance, Minister

for Government Services and will remain the Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

Luba Grigorovitch remains the Minister for Youth and Carers and Volunteers.

Paul Hamer will become the new Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

Melissa Horne will become the new Minister for Jobs, Industry and Advanced Manufacturing, Defence Industry and will remain the Minister for Ports and Freight.

Sonya Kilkenny will become the new Minister for Prevention of Family Violence and will remain Attorney-General and the Minister for Planning.

Tim Richardson will become the new Minister for Local Government, Consumer Affairs and Renters.

Michaela Settle will become the new Minister for Water and the Minister for Rural and Regional Development and will remain the Minister for Agriculture.

Ros Spence will become the new Minister for Youth Justice, Correc-

tions, Victims Support and will remain the Minister for Community Sport.

Nick Staikos will become the new Minister for Housing, Building and Precincts, Homelessness and Seniors.

Ingrid Stitt will become the new Minister for Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and will remain the Special Minister of State.

Natalie Suleyman will become the new Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and will remain the Minister for Small and Family Business and Veterans.

Jaclyn Symes will become the new Minister for Energy and Resources, the State Electricity Commission, Climate Action, Environment and will remain the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

Vicki Ward will become the Minister for Public Transport and will remain the Minister for Creative Industries.

Nina Taylor will become the Cabinet Secretary.

Student of the week

Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake Disticts

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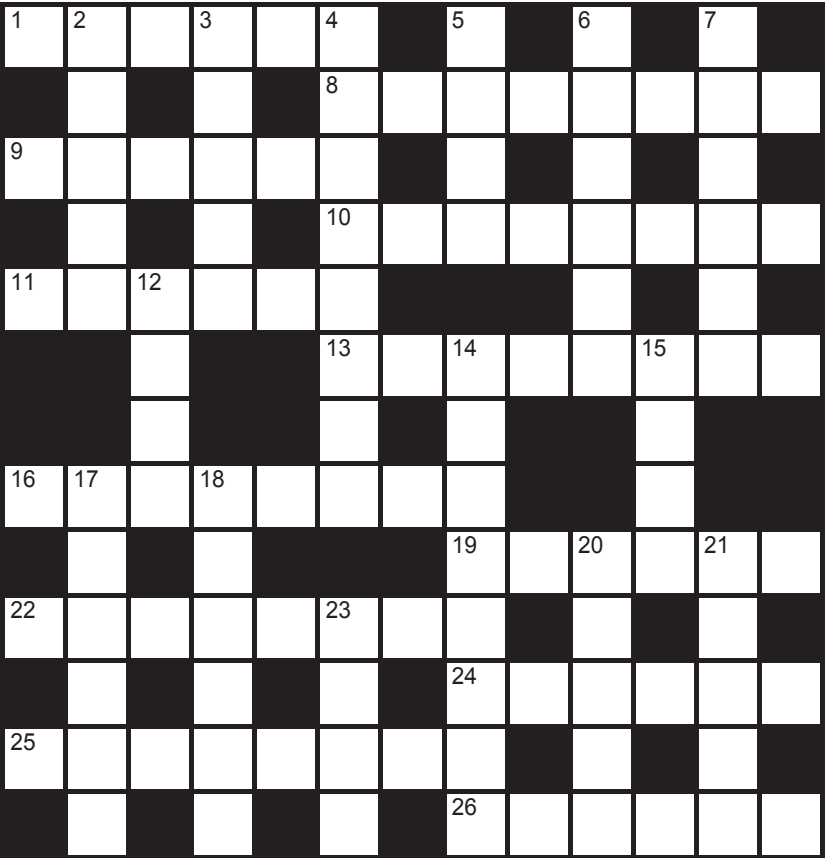
A portrait of a young boy with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with a red and white striped tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a blue and white background with the word 'ALEXANDRA' visible.

Noah K
St Mary's Primary School

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

1145

- ACROSS**
- 1 When one delivers a speech, one does what (6)
- 8 Which term implies a relationship to the first age of the world (8)
- 9 What is a means of access or attainment (6)
- 10 What is the angular distance north or south from the equator (8)
- 11 To make known, is to do what (6)
- 13 To be unlearned, is to be what (8)
- 16 To put in peril, is to do what (8)
- 19 To venerate, is to do what (6)
- 22 Denver is the capital of which American state (8)
- 24 Name an opening in a building for the admission of light (6)
- 25 The intervening time is known as the what (8)
- 26 When one adjusts a clock, what does one do (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Name a form of theatrical entertainment in which recent events are parodied (5)
- 3 To be stretched tight, is to be what (5)
- 4 Name a particular type of bee (8)
- 5 What is an authoritative decree (4)



- 6 What is a written communication (6)
- 7 Where are flowers cultivated (6)
- 12 To be useless, is to be what (4)
- 14 Which term implies that something is more limited in width (8)
- 15 Name the highest point (4)
- 17 What are hangman's halts (6)
- 18 What is a quantity or an extent (6)
- 20 What are climbing plants called (5)
- 21 Name another term for a perch (5)
- 23 To be eager, is to be what (4)

MINI WORD FIND

445



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

- | | | | |
|------|------|--------|------|
| Dad | Fur | New | Sets |
| Dais | Ham | Nurses | Yes |
| Dam | Jam | Pram | Your |
| Dim | Lone | Say | |
| Fail | Mat | Sea | |

WHICH WORDS

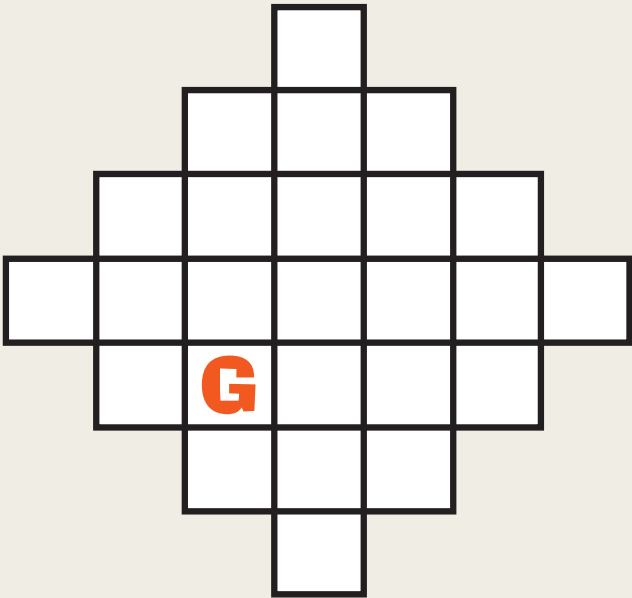
- 1 SHOGUN**
- (a) A powerful Japanese leader
- (b) A smoothbore weapon for firing small shot
- (c) A device placed in shoes to maintain their shape
- 2 UNIPAROUS**
- (a) Producing only one at a birth
- (b) Not restrained by social conventions
- (c) One-legged

E-QUATIONS

455

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

A	Y+F	
F	T×T	9
K	A-O	
O	K÷T	
Q	T×Y	21
T	K-F	
Y	T+O	



BIYWORD

185

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:**
- Camera (Comb. form) (3)
- Crater (7)
- Extinct NZ bird (3)
- Grinding tooth (5)
- Intense anger (3)
- Royal dog (5)
- Spy (5)**
- Suspicious: smell a ... (3)
- Sweet drink concentrate (7)
- US state (5)

A	C	I	O
A	C	L	O
A	D	L	R
A	E	M	R
A	E	M	R
C	I	N	T

SUDOKU

145

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

QUICK THINK

455

Solve the crossword. Each answer has four letters.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Location | 1 Misrepresent |
| 5 Eye makeup | 2 US state |
| 6 Wool sources | 3 Consequently |
| 7 Drop off | 4 Otherwise |

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

QUICK THINK

MINI WORD FIND

WHICH WORDS

E-QUATIONS

Q:21, T:3, Y:7

A:16, F:9, K:12, O:4

3 Then, 4 Else.

DOWN: 1 Skew, 2 Iowa, 6 Ewes, 7 Wane.

ACROSS: 1 Site, 5 Kohl.

Heffernan steps down as CFA Chief

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan AFSM has advised the CFA Board and Victorian Government that he will be stepping down from his position as Chief Officer to accept the role of Chief Executive Officer at St Johns Ambulance NSW.

Chief Officer Heffernan started his journey in 1998 as a volunteer with the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), before commencing a salaried career. He held many leadership roles in the RFS before being appointed as the CFA Chief Officer in November 2020.

During his tenure at CFA, Chief Officer Heffernan has served CFA and the Victorian community with distinction leading the state through some of the most con-

sequential fires since 2009 and a range of transformational initiatives within the authority.

With Fire Services Reform formally coming into effect on July 1, 2020, Chief Officer Heffernan has been instrumental in leading the implementation of a complementary fire services model and the Victorian Government's Fire Services Statement.

Chief Officer Jason Heffernan AFSM said while he has been privileged to serve in the role, that service has only been possible because of the unwavering support of his family.

"Like the families of so many CFA volunteers, staff and operational leaders, they have made sacrifices that often go unseen but should

never go unrecognised," CO Heffernan said.

"CFA has a proud history, but more importantly, it has a bright future. I leave knowing the organisation is in capable hands with every member playing a part in continuing to drive the improvements necessary to meet any challenges ahead.

"I want to thank my CFA family for your support, your friendship and your unwavering commitment to your communities."

Chief Executive Officer Greg Leach AFSM said Jason been the State Response Controller through many major fires Victoria has experienced in recent years and his clear and calm leadership in these settings has achieved the best pos-

sible outcome for Victorians in very challenging circumstances.

"Jason has been instrumental in many new preparedness initiatives including the first statewide readiness exercise, the development of the Catastrophic Day Fire Plan and Checklist and Get Fire Ready which supports brigades to engage and help prepare their local communities," CEO Leach said.

"As a Champion of Change, Jason worked at the national level to progress the interests of female firefighters and has supported practical measures to make things better including the provision of fit for purpose Personal Protective Clothing (PPC).

"He has led the introduction of new technologies such as next gen-

eration Virtual Reality mobile Driving Simulators, CFA Pocket book app and the radio replacement program.

"He has also championed the establishment of Fire Medical Response, the Remote Area Firefighting team (arduous firefighters) and Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

"On behalf of the Victorian Government and CFA, I thank Chief Officer Heffernan for his leadership, dedication and service to the brigades and volunteers of CFA and the wider Victorian community."

Chief Officer Heffernan will continue his work with CFA until November, giving the organisation time to recruit someone into the role ahead of the 2026/27 fire season.

Belkner a successful Artist in Residence for Yea Arts Inc

EVERY arts organisation needs someone who will bravely wade into opportunities, and Vikki Menhennitt was that brave soul for Yea Arts Inc when she reached out to a national level artist to propose a project.

That led to coffee with Sarah Belkner, long-time collaborator with Tim Minchin, Missy Higgins, Sarah Blasko and more. Sarah is a busy musical director, musician in top-flight shows, and a solo artist in her own right. So, it was a massive coup to capture her attention, buy her coffee and gain her agreement to travel interstate to a country area as Artist in Residence for a weekend.

Yea Arts owe Vikki gratitude, because Sarah Belkner's weekend as the Yea Arts Artist in Residence was an absolute success.

Sarah arrived at Melbourne Airport at lunchtime on Friday, July 31, then by 1.30pm was running a vocal workshop with music and theatre students at Yea High School. There was excitement among the students at the opportunity to hear stories from a renowned performer and learn some of her vocal trade secrets. It was a satisfying session for all involved, as Sarah found herself so warmly welcomed and drawn into the world of the students.

Saturday morning saw the scheduled and well-promoted free vocal workshop for community members, which attracted around 25 participants. With some local musicians joining Sarah in providing the backing, the session ran well over time as a rehearsal of songs for the evening performance. Everyone, including Sarah, was having too much fun learning new songs and playing together.

Although volunteers were rushing to get the Alexandra Shire Hall set up in time for the evening's entertainment, Sarah remained cool and professional, sound checking and doing final rehearsals with most of the singers from the morning's workshop and getting the feel of the hall with the band.

The performance started



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: SARAH BELKNER (CENTRE) WITH PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKSHOP.

shortly after 6.30pm, with Sarah playing a number of her own compositions on the hall's lovely baby grand piano. Between songs she shared her story in a wonderfully honest way, bringing the audience into the circle of friends she'd made during her stay.

Gradually the singers were introduced to fill out the sound, and the band joined in to raise the tempo. There was a lovely break in the proceedings as Sarah borrowed an acoustic guitar and sat on the edge of the stage to sing with Yea High School students; no microphones, no amplification. The audience sat in rapt silence as the quiet moment played out, with emotions spilling over into tears of joy for the performers and audience members.

After a short interval, band members Jonathan Fisher and Tim (who'd travelled from Tasmania to see Sarah play) delivered an impassioned version of Radiohead's 'Creep' before Sarah returned to the stage. The second set took the intimate energy of the room up to a new level as Sarah, the band and singers delivered a new

take on classics such as Carole King's 'It's Too Late', Kate Bush's 'Running Up That Hill', and Peter Gabriel's 'Sledgehammer' with Tim returning to take the lead on a couple of verses.

As Sarah left the stage to honest and heartfelt applause, audience members were effusive in their praise. Many expressed their joy at having had the opportunity to participate or simply witness a coming together beyond any ordinary concert.

But the weekend still wasn't over; Sarah's next stop was a session she ran with the Seymour Performers' Workshop. It was another lovely moment in an experience that felt like a justification for everything that community arts organisations try to achieve. At the end of a busy weekend, Yea Arts volunteers felt like all their effort was truly worthwhile and started thinking about how to make an even greater experience with another Artist in Residence next year.

Yea Arts Inc brought Sarah Belkner to the district as their Artist in Residence with the assistance of Murrindindi Shire Council.

Alexandra RSL Upcoming Events



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

TUESDAY 18 AUG 26 - 11AM



Service at Alexandra War Memorial
Leckie Park 11am.



Service will include speeches and
wreath-laying followed by light
refreshments at the Alex RSL.



**POOR EYESIGHT BUT
VERY SWEET: ONE OF
THE WOMBATS FROM
NARBEVIEW
WILDLIFE SHELTER.**

How are our native animals faring?



**IN NEED OF SOME TLC: A
POSSUM BEING CARED FOR.**



**SO YOUNG: MANY
BABY KANGAROOS
ARE ORPHANED
FOLLOWING
VEHICLE COLLISIONS.**



**SNUG AS A BUG IN A
RUG: A SLIGHTLY
OLDER JOEY IN CARE.**

PSITTACINE Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD) is a terrible disease which impact many Australian birds, including cockatoos, galahs, rainbow lorikeets, rosellas and corellas. Threatened and endangered species such as the orange-bellied parrot and swift parrot are also at risk.

Sadly, birds which contract the disease become malnourished and often starve to death.

Many people will have seen birds in our area impacted by the disease. They are often missing a significant number of feathers and look bedraggled. They may also have feather discolouration and be able to fly. The disease also impacts the beak and claws, with the beak over-growing and the claws becoming brittle or overgrown.

Shelley from Narbeview Wildlife Shelter said that the disease can spread among flocks of birds, and therefore it is vital that people contact wildlife carers to humanely euthanise the birds as there is no cure. This will prevent the disease from spreading to the rest of the flock.

She added, "If you have any concerns at all, no matter what you think, it's better to get someone to

check. If there's nothing wrong, that's fantastic. But if there is, we've caught it, so that's great."

Another major concern regarding native birds at present is the incursion of bird flu into Australia.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) states, "Wildlife rehabilitators and rescuers may encounter sick wildlife from species considered at higher risk of H5 bird flu. In these circumstances, carers should assess their own risk, follow recommended biosecurity practices, and report any suspected cases to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888."

Shelley was concerned about the amount of time it may take for someone from DEECA to attend, but she understood its importance. She also noted that the ruling only applied to birds showing symptoms of bird flu and not cases such as injured birds or birds with PBFD.

She was keen for people to differentiate between the symptoms of PBFD and bird flu, so they can be handled accordingly.

She also said that there's a disease, spironucleosis, which

impacts king parrots each year, during the colder months, and can be deadly to the birds.

As with PBFD, many cases of this start as a result of people feeding the birds out of dirty bird feeders. Bird poo stays on the feeder and when the birds ingest seeds, they are sometimes also taking in bird poo.

Asked whether people should scatter food on the ground instead, Shelley said, "You're still going to get bird poo in that area anyway. Ideally, don't feed the birds. They're native birds. But people aren't going to do that, I know. But ideally, that's the solution. Don't feed them."

Shelley also noted that there is a greater prevalence of spironucleosis and PBFD in some years more than others and wondered about the impact of the changing climate.

Shelley also expressed concern about wombats being impacted by mange, a treatable disease. Despite this, some people still choose to shoot the wombats, thinking that it is best for the animals.

When the animals are shot, the wombat carcass is sometimes not disposed of properly and just left in the paddock. The mange will

live on the animal while the host is alive, but after it dies, it will seek another host.

Shelley said, "I'll come out and help treat mange. I do not have a problem because I'm trying to save them. There's some that we can't, but if we start treatment early enough, we can save them." She added that she is happy to supply all of the medications.

"It's horrendous death. Horrendous. Because the mange mite makes very thick crusting all over the wombat's body, their mouth, their eyes, so they can't see. Their mouth gets to a point where the crustings are so thick, their mouth can't move. They starve and die."

Shelley avoids taking wombats with mange into the Narbeview shelter to avoid spreading the disease, and because wombats are creatures of habit, keen to stay in their familiar habitat. She is also very cautious, using gloves and gowns when looking after them.

As wombats are fairly predictable, following the same routes, it makes them easier to treat. They have a great senses of hearing and smell, but unfortunately their eyesight is poor. On the road for example,

they might wonder what the noise is and by the time they see the vehicle, it's too late.

Shelley added, "If people are going out to put the main cures on the burrows, then the less they smell the better. Don't use kind of smelly soaps or perfumes or heavy shampoos. When putting a burrow flap in, just pour the solution in a little cup over the burrow. Don't touch anything and walk away."

If you don't know where the burrow is, a washing machine powder scoop can be taped on the end of a PVC pipe of similar, about three metres long, and the measured dose of Cydectin placed into the scoop. People can then sneak in and pour it down the back and neck of the wombat. "Sometimes they don't even know I've been there," Shelley said. This form of treatment does however require multiple doses.

Phalaris toxicity is an ongoing issue for kangaroos in our area, and coming into spring, there are likely to be more cases. It's caused by eating Phalaris grasses such as Phalaris aquatica. Kate from Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter often deals with these cases.

‘Let’s Stop Bullying’ campaign for school children



STOP BULLYING: A new campaign has been launched to help tackle bullying and other harmful behaviours affecting school-aged children.

A NEW national awareness campaign has been launched by the Australian Government to help tackle bullying and other harmful behaviours affecting school-aged children.

The campaign responds to the 2025 *Anti-Bullying Rapid Review*, which found that more than one in four students in years four to nine say they have experienced bullying regularly.

It also investigated the changing nature of bullying, highlighting that reports of cyberbullying have risen by 455 per cent in five years, and over half (53 per cent) of young people in Australia say they have experienced cyberbullying.

The review found that more needs to be done to raise understanding and to support action to address bullying and harmful behaviours.

A dedicated website, *LetsStopBullying.gov.au*, is now available with a range of free, expert-developed resources for school-aged children, parents and carers. More resources will be added ahead of the 2027 school year, including resources for the school workforce, which will be available on the Let's Stop Bullying website.

The Department of Education commissioned subject matter experts Dolly's Dream (Alannah and Madeline Foundation), together with Cool.org and Project Rokit, to develop the anti-bullying resources for school students, parents and carers. The campaign materials were also developed in close cooperation with subject matter experts to ensure they are trauma informed and fit for purpose.

Dr Charlotte Keating, clinical psychologist and co-chair of the 2025 Anti-Bullying Rapid Review, said the campaign serves a serious need.

"Bullying today is no longer limited to physical shoving and name-calling in the playground. It can be quieter and less visible, but the harm it causes is very real. It can detrimentally impact a young person's sense of self-worth and confidence, their mental health and schooling outcomes, with those impacts often lasting well into adulthood.

"We have spoken to thousands of students and families across Australia who have experienced bullying and seen the devastating impact it has (or, can have) on children. The Let's Stop Bullying campaign will play a significant role in providing the knowledge and tools to help navigate the changing nature of bullying."

Professor Jo Robinson AM, Head of Suicide Prevention Research at Orygen and Co-Chair of the 2025 Anti-Bullying Rapid Review, said, "Bullying can have a significant impact on students' mental health and wellbeing, with those who are bullied being more likely to experience issues including depression, self-harm, and suicidal ideation. This campaign provides communities with essential tools to recognise the possible signs of bullying and understand the actions they can take to help prevent and address harmful behaviours early."

Kate and Tick Everett, who founded Dolly's Dream in memory of their daughter, Dolly, who took her own life at the age of 14, are also supporting the campaign

"We experienced firsthand the devastating effects of bullying and cyberbullying. We founded Dolly's Dream to help ensure no child, parent or carer feels alone, and since 2018 we've supported thousands of schools and families across Australia. The 'Let's Stop Bullying' campaign is a welcome step towards changing the culture of bullying in Australian schools, and ensuring families have the support they need."

The campaign website, including free resources, is available at *LetsStopBullying.gov.au*

5772 1002

1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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CANINE BEHAVIOURIST
and CERTIFIED MASTER
DOG GROOMER

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CFA WELCOMES NEW RECRUITS TO THEIR RANKS

GIVE THEM A HAND: Consider joining the CFA.

CFA has welcomed an additional boost of 1500 new recruits into brigades across the state since January, further enhancing their capacity to respond to emergencies this fire season.

Kicking off in March, CFA's annual Give us a Hand recruitment campaign gave brigades the opportunity to call out to local residents or to re-engage with those who have been considering joining in the past to express their interest in making a difference to their community.

Following a challenging and devastating fire season, CFA thanks the encouraging number of Victorians who have put themselves forward to play a role in protecting their communities.

Of the new recruits, 983 are between the ages of 18 and 34, 483 are women and 1,222 will become operational firefighters. Nearly 300 members have also put their hand up to assist brigades in highly valued support roles.

The north east of Victoria saw 494 new volunteers over the age of 18.

If you're interested in joining CFA or learning more about volunteering, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer

Dog days ahead if funding fails

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is calling on the Federal Government to urgently commit funding to wild dog control, as the nation's leading management program faces an uncertain future.

Funding for the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator is due to expire at the end of September, with funding for the National Wild Dog Action Plan expiring a month later.

NFF President Hamish McIntyre said wild dogs were a serious threat to farmers and their animals.

"Wild dogs cost our industry an estimated \$302 million each and every year," Mr McIntyre said.

"Wild dogs are especially cruel killers, often leaving livestock to suffer slow, painful deaths from their bites.

"It's vital that the National Coordinator is reinstated come September. If funding isn't renewed, we'll be undoing more than a decade of progress.

"Farmers already spend millions of dollars and countless hours managing wild dogs.

"These wild dogs come from all directions, including National Parks and Crown Land. It makes them very difficult to track.

"We need national support, and a crucial part of that is through the Coordinator and the Plan."

The Chair of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee is seeking a federal commitment of \$250,000 per year over five years to maintain the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator role and support the regional travel, communications and administrative functions required to deliver the program.

The plan is a nationally agreed framework that enables coordinated, evidence-based management across jurisdictions.

The National Coordinator plays a critical role in supporting governments, regional groups, and land managers to deliver effective, landscape-scale control programs.

The NFF has backed the chair's funding request, and multiple industry bodies have already committed to co-funding the vital program.

"Without this nationally aligned approach, control efforts would become fragmented and less efficient, leading to increased livestock losses, reduced producer confidence, and heightened pressure on rural communities and ecosystems," Mr McIntyre said.

"We're only halfway through a 10-year management plan. There's still a lot of important work ahead."

"The Federal Government already funds national management coordinators for pigs, deer, rabbits, cats and foxes. It's baffling they would walk away from wild dog management now.

"We urge the Federal Government to step up and financially commit to the Wild Dog Action Plan, before it's too late."

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Annual General Meeting
Yea Garden Club
Thursday, August 13, 2026
At Yea RSL Hall at 1:30pm.
New Members welcome.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Yea Cemetery Trust
AGM – will be held at Yea Council Chambers, followed by YCT General Meeting August 19, 2026 at 10am
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SPORT

Anthony La Grutta wins 54-hole event at Yea

By ALAN PELL

CONDITIONS on the Yea Golf Club course over the past few weeks have remained heavy, with preferred lies still in play. Hopefully, with the recent rain behind us, members can look forward to some sunnier weather and the arrival of spring.

Wednesday, July 29 saw 16 men contest a Par event, with Luke Gregory (9) blitzing the field with a superb plus five. Jim Redmond (23) was next best with minus two, followed by Alan Pell (13) on minus four and Zach Pell (12) on minus five. Bob Glenister won the nearest the pin on the 10th for two, while Carl Maffei took out the Club Award.

Saturday, August 1 was the second round of the 54-Hole Event, with Trevor Connell (21) taking the honours with minus three. Anthony La Grutta (14) and Peter Johnston (15) both finished on minus four. There was no nearest the pin on the second, while John Tanner won the Club Award.

In the Ladies Stableford, Meryl Connell (23) made it a family double, winning with 31 points. Sharon Grogan (32) and Christine Simmons (25) were next, both finishing with 28 points.

Wednesday, August 5 saw 22 men contest a Stroke and Putting round. Recently returned from his Canadian trip, Mic Spagnolo

(9) took the honours with a nett 69. Jim Redmond (22), ever reliable, was second with nett 72, followed by Brian Simmons (13) with nett 74.

Mic also won the putting with an incredible 21 putts. Peter Johnston was nearest the pin on the second, while Russ Wealands took out the Club Award.

Last Saturday saw 21 men contest the final round of the 54-Hole Event, with the day also doubling as the Monthly Medal. Young Cody Dunne (26) continued his good form to win the day, and his second Monthly Medal of the year, with a superb nett 68. His dad, Chris Dunne (5), finished second with nett 71,

followed by Kevin Coghlan (23) with nett 72. Anthony La Grutta (15) was fourth with nett 73, just ahead of Jobe Dunne (15) on nett 74.

Chris Dunne won the putting with 24 putts. There was no nearest the pin on the 11th, while John Renehan took out the Club Award.

The 54-Hole Event was won by Anthony La Grutta with 19 points, from Peter Johnston on 17 points and Phil Armstrong on 15 points.

Congratulations to all the winners and placegetters, and hopefully the improving weather will soon see the course drying out and the preferred lies put away for another year.

Thornton Eildon seeking new head coach after Tash Hay steps down

AFTER eight incredible years of Tash Hay leading the Thornton Eildon Senior Women's team, it's time for the club to welcome a new chapter, with expressions of interest open for a new head coach.

The club says a heartfelt thank you to Tash Hay for her passion, dedication and commitment to Thornton Eildon District Football Netball Club. Nearly a decade of service has helped shape players, culture and club. Thank you will never be enough for everything she's done.

They wish her all the best as she enjoys a well-deserved rest. She'll always be part of the Shinboners family.

Expressions of interest are now open for the 2027 Senior Women's Head Coach. If you're passionate about developing players and leading a great group of women, the club would love to hear from you.

Email tedfnc@outlook.com with your coaching style, values and relevant experience. For further information, contact President Lucy McRae on 0467 977 450.



UPCOMING CRICKET SEASON: The Seymour District Cricket Association leadership team is preparing for the 2026-27 season after their AGM.

Seymour District Cricket Association sets course for 2026-27 season following AGM

THE Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) has officially launched preparations for the 2026-27 season following a productive Annual General Meeting that confirmed the association's executive team and endorsed a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening cricket across the district.

Mitch Itter was re-elected as President and will continue in the dual role of Secretary, while Mark Nipperess was returned as Vice-President and Jacob Tarran was re-elected as Treasurer.

SDCA President Mitch Itter said the meeting highlighted the strong collaboration between clubs as planning ramps up for the upcoming season.

"It's fantastic to have such strong

support from our clubs as we head into another season. The AGM was a really positive meeting, with plenty of discussion and a clear focus on continuing to grow cricket across our region," Mr Itter said.

The AGM saw clubs endorse a number of key competition updates for the season ahead.

Junior cricket is expected to return to traditional age groups, with Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 competitions planned for 2026-27. Current nominations indicate nine Under 12 teams, five Under 14 teams and five Under 16 teams, while the possibility of introducing an Under 10 competition will continue to be explored.

Clubs also confirmed the continuation of the All-Girls Cricket

League, with four teams already expressing interest, while discussions also commenced on establishing an SDCA Junior Cricket Academy.

Senior cricket will begin on Saturday, October 10, with the season opening in Twenty20 format. Additional standalone T20 fixtures have also been scheduled for December 19 and January 9 following the Christmas break.

The Association also endorsed several governance and playing condition changes, including the introduction of a 35-degree heat rule for junior cricket, payment of umpires prior to the toss, the establishment of an Umpire Coordinator role and the adoption of an Overage Permit Policy.

Mr Itter said the decisions made

at the AGM reflected the Association's commitment to providing opportunities for players of all ages.

"We've made some important decisions around both our senior and junior competitions that will help provide greater certainty for clubs as they prepare for the season ahead. There are some exciting opportunities on the horizon, particularly around junior participation and player development," he said.

"Seeing the All-Girls Cricket League continue to build momentum and the discussion around establishing an SDCA Junior Cricket Academy is really encouraging. Creating more opportunities for young cricketers is something we're committed to as an association."

Mr Itter also thanked clubs and volunteers for their ongoing contribution to cricket across the Seymour district.

"I'd also like to thank all of our club delegates who attended the AGM and contributed to the discussions. The SDCA continues to be driven by its clubs, and the collaborative approach shown on Monday night will put us in a strong position for the 2026-27 season."

"On behalf of the Association, I'd also like to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve on the executive this season as well as our club delegates. Cricket simply doesn't happen without volunteers, and we're looking forward to working with our clubs to deliver another successful summer of cricket."

Seymour team takes out Presidents Cup at Marysville

By LESLEY RUNDLE

LAST Thursday the Dalhousie Veterans played at Marysville with 46 players vying for the 2026 Presidents Cup. Conditions were a little heavy, but the weather was fine with cloud overhead for most of the round.

The winners were a team from Seymour consisting of John Callaghan, Phil Jarvis, and Darren Cook with nett 62.34 just beating

last years winners from Strathbogie Grant Pearce, Mick Dixey and Phil Fry with nett 62.5. It was a pleasure to host this event and thanks go to Steve Coker for coordinating it and to all those players who participated on the day.

Last Saturday the golfers, in good weather conditions, played a mixed stableford round. The player with the best score of the day was Keith Atwell (17) with an excellent 42 points followed by a new playing

member Ian Dunbar (24) with 38 points. Members welcomed Ian to the club and hopefully he will be a regular Saturday player.

The nearest the pins were won by David Douthwaite, Glen Rattay, Ming Kuan and Gail Leigh who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday all golfers will play a stableford round. The club committee will be meeting prior to the tee off at 10am.

The club AGM will be held at 8.45am on September 12 and all

members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. The club committee nomination forms are available at the club. The club raffle will be drawn at the meeting and members who still have books to return are asked to do so as soon as possible.

A meeting was held last week with representatives from the four Murrindindi clubs to review the last season of the Foodworks Murrindindi Masters and to prepare

for the next one. The club thanks Cathie Harper from Foodworks for convening the very worthwhile meeting and to the Alexandra Golf Club for hosting it.

All Murrindindi golfers are asked to please note the dates for each round of the upcoming 2026-27 Season. Yea on November 21; Marysville on December 5; Eildon on January 9 and Alexandra on January 30. Emergency date if required will be February 13.



LADIES DAY: The event was well attended, with a marquee set up for the seniors game and the ladies wearing various shades of pink.

Ladies Day takes over Rebel Park in the final home game of the season

THERE was certainly a buzz around the Rebels on Saturday afternoon, but inside the Ladies Day marquee, the atmosphere was something else altogether.

More than 90 women arrived to find a beautifully decorated marquee and a little goody bag complete with a personalised cookie, a small bottle of bubbles and some chocolate. It was the perfect welcome and a pretty good indication that this was going to be an afternoon worth settling in for.

Hosted by Alexandra Football Netball Club President Kylie Cairns, the marquee quickly filled to the brim, with laughter, conversation and music creating a wonderful atmosphere from the very beginning. Glasses were raised, old friendships

were rekindled, new ones were made and there was a real sense that everyone was there to simply enjoy the afternoon.

And it really was an afternoon where everyone belonged.

There were women who have been part of the Rebels family for years, women attending Ladies Day for the very first time, and others who simply came along to catch up with friends and enjoy a great afternoon out. Some had a long-standing connection to the club, while others don't support the Rebels at all, but for a few hours, none of that mattered.

The marquee was filled with laughter, conversation and good company as everyone soaked up the atmosphere of the final home game

of the season, with senior football providing the perfect backdrop just outside.

Of course, Ladies Day is also about recognising the women who have contributed so much to the Alexandra Football Netball Club over the years. Behind every great club are countless women who give their time, energy and support in ways both big and small, and Saturday provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate them.

A special thank you from the club goes to those who worked in the canteen throughout the afternoon, allowing some of the long-standing Rebels women to step away from their usual roles and enjoy Ladies Day themselves. It was a lovely way to recognise the contribution they

have made to the club.

And the afternoon certainly wouldn't have been the same without Dutchy, Marshall and Simon, who kept the marquee bar well and truly looked after throughout the celebrations.

With the marquee full to the brim, a sea of pink, plenty of laughter and the senior game providing the perfect backdrop, it was easy to understand why Ladies Day has become such a much-loved event on the Rebels' calendar.

For those lucky enough to be there, it was an afternoon of great company, plenty of laughs and memories made. For everyone who wasn't... Well, you might want to make sure you don't miss Ladies Day next year.

Small field of 10 enjoys ideal golfing conditions in Alexandra

By DAVE SILVERMAN

ONLY seven players turned out to play in last Tuesday's Stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, probably a reflection of the average forecast from the bureau. In the end, however, the rain held off and the plucky seven got through without anything worse than wet feet.

Bill Wind was the winner on a countback from Leo Dynes, with both carding 28 points, and yours truly filled third spot with 27.

Nearest the pins on both seven and 17 were taken out by Brad Newton.

There was no play last Wednesday. With many of the regular players away, and the remainder disenchanted with the soggy course, the decision was made to do something else instead.

Last Saturday's Stableford competition, sponsored by Alexandra Brick Laying, also only attracted a smallish field of 10, which was a shame, because the day turned out to be an absolute ripper, with sunshine (yes, really) and light winds, making it a real pleasure to be out on the course, even with a little residual moisture underfoot.

After four hours or so, the runaway winner was Michael Holohan, who scored 37 points, putting him five clear of second-placed Jarrod Williamson on 32, and your roving reporter, who seems to have found his level, once again in third with 31.

Only three of the five available nearest the pins went off, with Russell Purcell taking five and 12, and seven going to new playing member, Will Simpson. This is Will's first mention in the results, but I'm fairly confident that you'll be reading his name again before too much time passes.



ENDURANCE AND RESILIENCE: Emma Grenfell was proud to finish the half marathon.

KINGLAKE RUNNERS TAKE ON MELBOURNE HALF MARATHON

THREE members of the Kinglake community took part in the Run Melbourne Half Marathon on July 19, finishing around the two-hour mark.

Emma Grenfell finished with a time of two hours, five minutes and 40 seconds; Kirk Mercuri crossed the line after two hours, eight minutes and 13 seconds; and Johanna Lunde finished with a time of one hour, 57 minutes and 56 seconds.

Participating in a half marathon takes months of training and dedication, determination, resilience and perseverance, and these incredible individuals deserve congratulations.



A PROUD MOMENT: KIRK MERCURI GIVING THE THUMBS UP AFTER FINISHING THE RUN MELBOURNE HALF MARATHON.

CITY STREETS: JOHANNA LUNDE FINISHED WITH THE FASTEST TIME OF THE KINGLAKE TRIO, AT ONE HOUR, 57 MINUTES AND 56 SECONDS.

Eildon Golf Club temporarily closed due to extreme weather

By PUTTAMATIC

HELLO everyone and welcome to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. Last week there were eight players compete in a stroke round.

The day was fine and some sunshine even popped in for a brief visit. However it was very wet under foot and the carts had to very selective where they drove around the course. With the soft condition of the course and with significant rain predicted the club will be closing until further notice. All members keep an eye on your emails and texts for more updates.

The winner last week was Jezza Magee nett 68, runner-up Leigh Munro 75. Ball run winners Grant Walter 76 and Rod Taylor 77. Nearest the pin winners last week, there were no winners on the third, fifth or 11th, Leigh Munro was the closest on the 12th and Grant Walters took out the 14th.

Jezza Magee won the putting competition with 27 putts for the day; Jezza also won the super six competition with nett 27 on the six designated holes. There were no birdies on the 15th but Rod Taylor birdied the eighth winning a round of drinks for his group. Colin Long won the entry draw and Leigh Munro chanced his luck with the swindle draw.

Congratulations to the winners and hope to see you back at the club soon.

Alexandra Squash Club: Round four of term three pennant

By ANDREW BROWN

Monday competition

Team One versus Team Four

ERIC versus Holly: Eric used his experience to outplay Holly, who is still learning the sport. Eric with one of the biggest wins of his career: 96-28.

Randy versus Laura: Laura, controlling the ball well, dominated the first three games. Randy came back to win the fourth and final game, but it wasn't enough, Laura claiming a 12-point win 68-56.

Simon versus Chris: Simon has been playing good squash since joining the club and clocking up wins each week. This week Chris made Simon earn the win in a

match with some great rallies. Final scores Simon 82, Chris 54.

Phil versus Danny: Two players on an upward trajectory. In this match Phil played good orthodox squash and Danny lacked his usual shot consistency. A good win for Phil 60-47.

Team Three versus Team Five

Tyler versus Bec: Tyler's experience showed against an opponent who is just beginning to play the game. Tyler had Bec running and won in style 90-39.

Will versus Jess: The first two games were close but, once again, Will demonstrated that he is picking this sport up quickly. He used creative shots to counter Jess's looping serves, moving ahead over

the last two games to win 69-48.

Sam versus Mick: With two of the four games tied 16 each and only two points difference in the third set, the final result was heavily influenced by the lead Sam took in the second set. Sam taking the match 67-60.

Jim versus Derrick: What a close match. Derrick capitalising on a lack of precision in placement from Jim early on, with effective cross-court drives and boasts. However, Jim tightened his serve and started to pick off Derrick's drop shots. As Derrick began to tire, Jim was able to snatch victory in the final moments 52-50.

Wednesday competition

Team One versus Team Four

Jess versus Nathan: New player, Nathan, shot to an early ascendancy, but Jess found success with her drop shots in the second and third sets. The final game was a point for point shoot-out at 14 points each. That was enough for Jess to preserve her lead and win 55-47.

Nicole versus Beth: A great game played in a great spirit, with plenty of laughter. Although close, Beth's experience was the difference in the end. 57-54.

Michael M versus Daniel K: Michael's pre-game nerves quickly turned to dejection when he discovered that he was playing the club champion. Daniel placed the ball cleverly and Michael could not exert any pressure in return; able

only to steal points here and there. A comfortable win for Daniel 75-27.

Team Three versus Team Five

Marty versus Jordan: Great match up; Jordan playing with power, Marty executing with finesse. Although Marty won the final game, Jordan took the match 74-61.

Travis versus Matt: Matt has stepped up to a higher level and held his own. Although there were some great rallies, Travis took the lead early and extended it throughout the match to win quite comfortably 68-47.

Ben versus Michael H: A see-sawing match, with each player winning two games. It was Michael who emerged dominant, winning 64-57 and avenging last week's loss to Ben.



TOUGH CONDITIONS: Seymour applying pressure to the Alexandra junior footballers trying to move the ball in slippery conditions.



ELEVEN AND UNDER: The Alexandra 11 and Under Black team took on Nagambie in an elimination final.



ALEXANDRA VERSUS YEA: The Under 12 footballers absolutely soaked and dirty, but still playing hard.



WET AND MUDDY: The Alexandra Under 10s attempting a muddy tackle on the Seymour players.



UNDER 15 BLACK: The Alexandra Under 15 Black team took on Yea in the qualifying final.



UNDER 15 RED: Alexandra Under 15 Red took on St Mary's in an elimination final, unfortunately missing out on progressing.

Three Alexandra junior teams through to the finals

UNDER 12 FOOTBALL

ALEXANDRA'S Under 12 footballers put together a fantastic team performance in their elimination final against the Yea Tigers at Rebel Park last Sunday, coming away with a convincing 8.4-52 to 2.5-17 victory.

The young Rebels took to their home ground determined to keep their finals campaign alive and worked hard across the ground. Strong pressure, great teamwork and some excellent passages of play saw Alexandra take control of the game and finish with a well-deserved 35-point win.

Kayden Andrews led the way in front of goal with three, while Baxter Lamaro kicked two. Jace O'Sullivan, Louis Hill and Zander

Williamson each added one.

Goal kickers: Kayden Andrews three, Baxter Lamaro two, Jace O'Sullivan one, Louis Hill one, Zander Williamson one.

Best players: Nata Carter, Joey Creed, Tahj Parker, Baxter Lamaro and Grift Thomas.

A fantastic finals performance from the Under 12 Rebels, who will now travel to Broadford on Sunday, August 16, where they will take to the field at 12pm as they look to keep their Grand Final hopes alive.

Under 10 football

It was a fantastic morning for the Under 10 Rebels, who took to a wet and muddy Rebel Park for two Lightning Premiership games last Sunday.

The Rebels first came up against Yea and put together a great team performance to come away with

the win. With little time to rest, they were straight back out on the ground to take on Seymour, where they once again played some terrific football and recorded their second win of the day.

Two wins from two games means the Under 10s have now earned themselves a spot in the Under 10 Lightning Premiership Grand Final in two weeks' time.

A fantastic effort by all the players, who handled the wet and muddy conditions brilliantly and continued to work hard for each other across both games.

The club says a big thank you also to their coaches, parents and supporters who turn up week in, week out to encourage the kids and make junior football possible. It has been a great season for this group, and

they can't wait to cheer them on in the Grand Final.

JUNIOR NETBALL RESULTS

Three of Alexandra's junior netball teams took to the court at Rebel Park last Sunday for a big day of finals action.

The Under 11 Black team faced Nagambie in an elimination final. The girls put in a great effort and fought hard throughout the match, but Nagambie proved too strong in the end, bringing the girls' season to a close.

The Under 15 Black team took on Yea in the qualifying final in what was a close and hard-fought contest all game. The Rebels kept their composure and continued to work hard right until the final whistle,

coming away with a fantastic win and, most importantly, booking themselves a spot in the Grand Final in a fortnight's time.

The Under 15 Red team also faced an elimination final, taking on St Mary's. After a slow start, the girls fought their way back into the contest in the second half and gave it everything they had. Unfortunately, St Mary's were too strong in the end, bringing the Rebels' finals campaign to an end.

A fantastic effort by all three teams to make it through to finals and represent the Rebels with pride. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, team officials, families and supporters on a great season. A special congratulations to the Under 15 Black girls, who now have two weeks to prepare for the Grand Final.

Ladies Day takes over Rebel Park in the final home game of the season

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THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

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HEADING TO THE FINALS: Despite tough competition, the Alexandra Rebels Senior and Reserves sides took victory against Belgrave and are through to the finals. Pictured is Tom Halligan.

Rebels in finals

BOTH senior Alexandra Rebels sides recorded impressive wins over fellow finals contender Belgrave at Rebel Park last Saturday.

Reserves
Alexandra 11.11-77 defeated Belgrave 10.5-65

The Reserves fielding their strongest team for many weeks took to the field against fellow finals contender Belgrave with a win keeping a double chance a possibility.

As expected, the game was close and hard fought over four quarters with the Rebels tackling and general team play resulting in them dominating their opponents where they were never headed running out 12-point winners.

Morgan Eastwood and first year player Jesse Ellks were two of the Rebels' best for the day together with the experienced premiership players, Jake Steiger, Lachlan Collard, Brent McDonald and Tom Halligan prominent.

Goal kickers: James four, Coventry two, Phillips, McDonald, Hill, Clarke, and Wallis with one each.

Awards: Shannon Group Award, Morgan Eastwood; Future Fit Finance, Jesse Ellks; RUOAK Hotel Award, Lachlan Collard; Buxton Hotel Award, Jake Steiger.

Seniors
Alexandra 16.18-114 defeated Belgrave 7.6-48

In a game with plenty at stake with a Rebels win securing a double chance and a Belgrave win keeping their finals chances alive. It was the Rebels who dominated the game from the opening bounce and were never challenged with a methodical domination of their opponents running out 66-point winners.

The Rebels midfield of ruckman Lachlan Nankervis, on ballers Ryan Lucas (In career best form) and Sam Boots who together with a winning centre line of Mitch Parker in the pivot and young wingman Riley Frankcombe and Callan Howell giving the Rebels' forward line countless opportunities lead by gun forward William Stewart with six goals (leading the league goal kicking with 70 goals) and small forward Josh Edwards with three goals.

Goal kickers: Stewart six, Edwards three, Critchley two, Lucas two, Watkins, Grimwade and Nankervis one each.

Awards: Kervale Incentive, Ryan Lucas; O'Briens Real Estate Award, Lachlan Nankervis; RUOAK Hotel Award, Callan Howell; Buxton Hotel Award, Riley Frankcombe.

Both Rebels sides good recent form will be tested fully when they travel to play undefeated Pakenham at Pakenham in the final home and away game before finals start.

With players to return to both sides the pressure is on all players to maintain their selection and what better reward than to be a member of the team to inflict Pakenham's first defeat.

Under 18s
Alexandra 8.9-57 defeated by Olinda Ferny Creek 10.4-64

Awards: Bowens Award, Ryder Brady; Kia Chadstone Award, Fletcher van Lierop; ANFC Club Voucher, Logan Conway; Coaches Award, Heath Sutcliffe.

NETBALL

- A Grade:** Alexandra 56 defeated by Belgrave 61
Awards: Incentive, Ava Krijt; Corner Hotel Award, Belle Spargo.
- B Grade:** Alexandra 32 defeated by Belgrave 51
Awards: Incentive, Jaz Collett; Corner Hotel Award, Cassie Kidd.
- C Grade:** Alexandra 25 defeated by Belgrave 47
Awards: RUOAK Hotel, Ash Creighton; Corner Hotel Award, Fiona Stephens.
- Under 17s:** Alexandra 32 defeated Pakenham Maroon 28
Awards: Koala Cherries, Leah Cole; Corner Hotel Award, Zoe Mullins.