



**Daffodil Day for Cancer Council** Page 2



**Gillian Triggs visits Alexandra** Page 4



**Fawcett bridge mentioned in Federation Chamber** Page 6



## VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Aaron King, Neil Robinson, Bill McAllister, Ed Davies, Tony Corkhill, Bob Bengamy, Gerry Laws, Marianne Raymond, Marg Rouse, Steve Watson and Luke Fegen.

**MORE ON PAGE 8**



# 10.6 per cent not enough

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has welcomed additional Australian and Victorian Government funding to support bushfire recovery, while warning that significant recovery needs remain across the shire seven months after the January 2026 fires.

The Australian and Victorian Governments have announced additional funding to support Community Recovery Officer and Recovery Hub programs through to June 2028.

Murrindindi Shire Council will receive an additional \$920,000.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the funding was important recogni-

## Newly announced funding welcomed but not enough

tion that recovery remains an ongoing challenge for many communities.

"This funding is welcome and will help ensure recovery support continues in our communities for longer," Cr Gallagher said.

"Many residents, farmers, businesses and community groups are still dealing with the consequences of the January fires, and recovery will continue for years, not months."

The additional funding will support council's Community Recovery Officer and Recovery Hub

programs, helping maintain local recovery services and coordination for impacted communities.

Cr Gallagher said the announcement was a positive step, but it did not change the scale of the recovery task facing Murrindindi.

"We appreciate this additional investment, but it does not close the gap between the scale of the disaster and the recovery funding received. Murrindindi experienced around 48 per cent of Victoria's structural losses from the January bushfires.

Even with this latest grant, our share of recovery funding allocated to councils for the January fires increases from around 8.3 per cent to 10.6 per cent. This is progress, but it highlights that there is still a long way to go before our recovery funding more closely reflects the impact experienced by our community."

Cr Gallagher said council would continue advocating for long-term recovery funding commensurate with the scale and complexity of the recovery effort in Murrindindi.

Council has previously advocated for \$6 million to support the operation of recovery hubs and locally led recovery over the next couple of years. Even with this latest funding, more than \$3 million is still required to meet that identified need.

"Our recovery hubs and officers working directly with affected communities are not a short-term response. They need to be there as people rebuild their homes and businesses, restore their farms and work through the social and economic impacts of this disaster," Cr Gallagher said.

**Continued page 11**

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Standard

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NEM

NORTH EAST MEDIA

LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES:

Alexandra

Yea

Wednesday3 - 144 - 14

Thursday5 - 155 - 15

Friday6 - 166 - 17

Saturday6 - 187 - 18

Sunday6 - 187 - 18

Monday8 - 198 - 19

Tuesday10 - 1810 - 19

RAINFALL:

7 days from 9am Monday

Alexandra18mm

Buxton17mm

Eildon (AWS)24mm

Flowerdale28mm

Jamieson35mm

Kinglake37mm

Lake Eildon21mm

Mansfield15mm

Taggerty25mm

Yarck25mm

Yea27mm

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level276.24m

Capacity as at 9am Sunday57.2%

Metres below full supply12.66m

Daily inflow8,000ML

Release130ML

Eildon Pondage76%

DEADLINES

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Wednesday 2pm

Classifieds

Monday 12noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

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**DAFFODIL DAY:** Rebecca, Shirley, Phillip, Emily, Rupert and Ange (Bernie absent) selling daffodils outside The Dame on Daffodil Day, Friday, August 21. The event raises funds for Cancer Council. The team were selling cut daffodils, potted daffodils, potted snowdrops and pens. The potted daffodils and snowdrops were grown by Menzies Support Services clients as part of the horticulture program.

# The sad closure of a local business

YEA Brand Dairy has sadly closed down. It has been a part of Murrindindi Shire's food story for more than two decades.

Andrew Kirk advised that the closure was the result of the sad passing of his brother Matt Kirk who was the managing director of the company.

Andrew advised that creditors will be paid and that the company may be sold.

Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc said, "First and foremost, we extend our sincere condolences to the Kirk family following the sudden passing of Matt.

"Our thoughts are with Andrew, Steve and the entire Kirk family and the team at Kirk's foods at what is an incredibly difficult time.

"We also want to acknowledge two remarkable local cheese-makers, Dave and Kell.

"For 23 years, Dave and Kell quietly went about producing exceptional dairy products in Yea, building a reputation for quality amongst chefs, retailers and home cooks well beyond our region.

"Over those years their craftsmanship was recognised with an extraordinary number of awards and medals right through to the recent Gold Medal for Yea Brand Crème Fraîche and Silver Medals for their Mascarpone, Vintage Cheddar and Mature Club Cheddar.

"Those awards tell only part of the story.

"Behind every medal were years of knowledge, skill, early mornings, consistency, persistence and an absolute commitment to making the best product possible.

"The closure of Yea Brand Dairy is a genuine loss for Murrindindi's food, wine and beverage community.

"Dave and Kell, you should be enormously proud of what you achieved over those 23 years, building on Ross and Jane's efforts.

"The doors may have closed, but the awards, the craftsmanship, the products people loved and your contribution to our region's food story remain.

"From all of us at Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc., thank you for the sensational product, the support you gave this group and hugs to you all at this very difficult time."

## Bird flu detected near Yarra Glen

THE Victorian Department of Agriculture has released a map showing the approximate location of reported sick or dead wild birds and wildlife, including wild mammals.

The detection occurred on or after August 14 in the postcode 3775, which includes Yarra Glen. The website states, "a detection of HPAI is defined as a positive test for high pathogenicity H5 or H7 subtype of Avian influenza." It was found in the sub-group "Gulls, terns and noddies."

The only other inland locations are in postcodes 3109 and 3340, in the same subgroup.

Fifteen other postcodes areas on the coast have also been impacted, to the south and west of the state.

As of Friday, August 21, there had been 21 cases in Victoria.

## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

| Station Name                    | TIME       | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS       |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|-------------------|
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)  | 8.00AM Mon | 0.65   | steady   | below flood level |
| Rubicon River at Rubicon        | 8.00AM Mon | 0.74   | steady   |                   |
| Acheron River at Taggerty       | 8.00AM Mon | 1.18   | steady   | below flood level |
| Home Creek at Yarck             | 7.27AM Mon | 0.48   | steady   |                   |
| Yea River at Devlins Bridge     | 5.40AM Mon | 0.76   | steady   | below flood level |
| Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd    | 8.00AM Mon | 1.83   | steady   |                   |
| Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin     | 8.00AM Mon | 3.78   | steady   |                   |
| King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale | 8.00AM Mon | 0.80   | steady   | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Trawool       | 8.00AM Mon | 1.61   | steady   | below flood level |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook       | 8.00AM Mon | 0.45   | steady   | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Seymour       | 8.00AM Mon | N/A    | steady   | below flood level |
| Whiteheads Creek at Seymour     | 8.00AM Mon | 1.47   | steady   |                   |

\*ISSUED AT 8.39 AM AEDT MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2026



# AusNet charged over alleged low-hanging transmission line risks

AUSNET Transmission Group (AusNet) is facing 22 charges over allegations it failed to manage known safety risks associated with low-hanging transmission lines across 18 locations in Melbourne and regional Victoria. One location, Glenburn, is in Murrindindi Shire.

Glenburn was the location of a fire on a farm property on January 7, 2025. An Energy Safe Victoria spokesperson said following their investigation into the fire, "The grass fire at Glenburn on January 7, 2025 appears to have been caused when transmission lines induced a hazardous voltage on a nearby deactivated electric farm fence."

Ausnet has advised that the Glen-

burn location identified in the charges is on the same transmission line as the location of the January 2025 fire, but it is not the same span. A transmission line extends across multiple towers, with each span referring to the individual section of line between two towers. The low clearance span relevant to these charges is located elsewhere along the transmission line.

In the upcoming court action, Energy Safe Victoria has accused AusNet of failing to notify affected landholders about low-clearance transmission lines on their properties and how to operate safely around them, despite allegedly being aware of the spans for up to 18

months before taking action.

The alleged conduct is a breach of AusNet's general duty under the *Electricity Safety Act 1998* to minimise, as far as practicable, the safety risks created by its electricity network.

The charges relate to 21 spans that AusNet identified as potentially having serious clearance issues in early 2023. Of the 22 charges, 21 allege AusNet failed to notify affected landowners and occupiers about these spans, while one alleges it failed to maintain an adequate system for recording those notifications.

Energy Safe launched an investigation in March 2022 after commu-

nity members reported concerns about low-hanging transmission lines on their properties.

Transmission lines are uninsulated and carry electricity at very high voltages. Electricity can arc to equipment that contacts, or comes too close to, a transmission line, potentially causing serious or fatal injuries.

The lines relevant to this prosecution are older assets designed and constructed under different standards than apply to new transmission lines today.

Legacy lines are not automatically required to be raised to current design standards, but electricity companies must identify and ap-

propriately manage the safety risks associated with them.

Making affected landholders aware of low-clearance transmission lines is a simple but important safety measure, giving people the information they need to avoid potentially dangerous activities or take appropriate precautions when operating large machinery or undertaking other activities nearby.

At the time of the alleged offending, a breach of general duties charge carried a maximum penalty of \$288,465 for a corporation under the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*.

The matter is listed for a first mention at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on November 19, 2026.



**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT:** Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, speaking at the Just a Farmer movie screening last year to promote farmer mental health. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

## UNBREAKABLE FARMER NAMED BUSH CHAMPIONS FINALIST

THE finalists for The Weekly Times's Bush Champions awards were announced last Wednesday, with 30 rural and regional Australians in the running to be named overall Bush Champion today (Wednesday, August 26).

Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, was a finalist for this year's awards for his mental health work and community outreach. Though he is from Kyabram, Warren has spent many hours travelling around Murrindindi Shire providing support post-bushfires, including alongside the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van and as guest speaker at various events.

The Weekly Times said about him, "growing up in Melbourne, Warren Davies chased his dream to buy a dairy farm by age 22. However, the devastating Millenium Drought wiped out his livelihood, forcing him off his land and pushing him into a deep personal crisis.

"Turning his darkest days into a mission, Warren founded The Unbreakable Farmer to address mental health across regional Australia. Today, he travels to communities impacted by bushfires, floods, and droughts – from the Queensland outback to remote townships – sharing his lived experience, breaking down stigma,

and equipping farmers with mental health tools and support networks.

"Facing a rural suicide rate 40 per cent higher than in major cities, Warren's outreach reminds isolated primary producers that they are never alone," The Weekly Times said.

Warren spoke about the work he has been doing to help Murrindindi Shire recover post-Longwood bushfire.

"With the fires impacting the area, I've been on the ground since the first couple of days of the fires and circulating all through the community, checking up on people, making sure that they're

doing okay, running events and making sure I'm dropping into the community hubs and staying connected with the people that have been running there and just offering support to those that are struggling a little bit with their mental health," he said.

Being a finalist for the Bush Champions award means a lot to him, but the mental health support he provides is the key takeaway.

"Recognition is good, but that's not the reason why I do what I do. I do it more for the community and for the people that I get to work with more, but it's still great to be recognised," Warren said.

## All Fired Up grant program

BLAZE Aid Australia are running their All Fired Up grant program, with a 50 per cent co-payment to help eligible farmers improve the safety, reliability and effectiveness of their existing private firefighting equipment.

The co-payment grant covers 50 per cent of approved costs for repairs, servicing and upgrades such as pumps, baffled water tanks, hoses, nozzles, UHF equipment, protective clothing and first aid kits.

Eligible costs covered under the program may include: Slip-on and skid-mounted firefighting units; firefighting trailers; baffled water tanks; firefighting pumps and engines; hose reels, hoses, nozzles and fittings.

The program supports farmers who are investing in their own fire preparedness and are ready to assist their neighbours and wider community when needed.

In addition to private firefighting unit upgrades, Blaze Aid is seeking to expand the All Fired Up initiative to provide air/water fire extinguishers for community members, helping users of country roads, households and small landholders be better prepared this fire season.

Applications for the grant program open at 9am on September 1, 2026, and close at 5pm on September 30, 2026.

## Mobile, mobile internet and NBN outage

MOBILE calls, mobile internet and NBN suffered an outage in the Marysville, Eildon, Taylor Bay, Narbethong and Buxton areas from about 10.50am on Tuesday to 1.30am on Wednesday. The same occurred on Friday, August 21 from 4.10pm to the early hours of the morning.

When asked about the cause of the

outage, a Telstra spokesperson replied, "Third-party works damaged a fibre optic cable in Wattle Street in Alexandra, which interrupted some mobile and nbn services in the area."

It's understood that both outages were caused in the same location.

"Our crews worked through the

night to locate, excavate and repair the damaged cable, with all affected services now restored and operating as normal.

"We know how important it is for people to stay connected and thank the community for their patience while repairs were carried out.

"This incident is also a reminder

of the importance of checking for underground infrastructure before starting excavation works, including contacting Before You Dig.

"Any customers with ongoing concerns are encouraged to get in touch with us so we can work with them one-on-one," the spokesperson said.







# Extensive list of charges

A NARBETHONG man appeared at the Ringwood Magistrates Court on August 12. The list of charges facing the man is extensive.

He is accused of driving a motor vehicle on Old Gippsland Road in Lilydale on February 14, 2024, during a period of disqualification.

Between November 16 and 19, 2025, the man is accused of stealing a John Deere tractor at Buxton, valued at \$36,000.

On January 22, at Narbethong, the man is accused of dishonestly undertaking in the retention of goods, knowing the goods to be stolen goods.

These items include: A Bentley 12 gauge shotgun, GME radio,

## Narbethong man appears in court on multiple charges

scuba equipment, boxing gloves, John Deere tractor, a Cigweld and argon gas tank, a Stihl blower, a Stihl whipper snipper, an Adventurer branded freezer, a Powerblade branded auger with associated attachments, a Davey branded water pump, a machete, a Fiskars branded axe, a Fat Max toolbox, a Cora Lee Ponies bag containing horse equipment, a black shopping bag containing party food and supplies, a set of Jabra branded headphones, a grey and black clip case containing jewelry and collectible coins, a navigational compass, a stealth camo trail camera, a Cig Mig weld-

er 160 quickset, a portable fuel tank and a Kawasaki GA2300a generator.

In addition, the man, being a non-prohibited person, is accused of possession of a registered Category A long arm without being a holder of a licence issued under part two of the Firearms Act and is accused of possessing a prohibited weapon without an exemption under section 8B or an approval under section 8C of the *Control of Weapons Act 1990*, namely a machete. He is also accused of possessing cartridge ammunition while not being the holder of a licence under the *Firearms Act 1996*

or a permit under section 58A.

He is also accused of possessing drugs of dependence, namely Ritalin 40mg, Vyvance Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate 50mg, and methyl amphetamine.

In further charges relating to May 2, at Narbethong, the man is accused of dishonestly undertaking in the retention of goods, knowing the goods to be stolen goods.

These items include: An Adventureridge LED camping light, Beats branded earbuds and case, a Powertech inverter, a Cigweld gas cutting and welding kit, Ironman winch extension, 100 piece tap and die kit,

Stanley socket set, gray case with wire brushes, Stackon first aid kit, plastic tub containing 12v auto electric accessories, Dewart combination laser and tripod, CPI cubic laser, Makita drop saw, Safiery 300w solar panel in black case, various tools in grey tub, AEG sander and jigsaw, Makita 40v blower, Makita circular saw, Makita rotary hammer, Makita brushless saw, Makita impact driver, Makita angle grinder, Milwaukee six pack charger, Milwaukee cable cutter, Milwaukee hex impact driver M12 BID, Milwaukee hammer drill, Milwaukee batteries (2), blue dry box (2) containing camping equipment, laser level staff and a concrete screed.

# Beef production breaking records in 2025-26 while lamb and mutton slows

AUSTRALIA'S beef industry has delivered a record financial year (FY) for FY2025-26, with beef production reaching 2.985 million tonnes and cattle slaughter recording its highest financial-year total since 1978.

The latest livestock processing data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows nearly 9.6 million cattle were processed during FY2025-26, up 8.1 per cent year-on-year, while beef production increased 8.6 per cent to a record 2.985 million tonnes.

Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) Senior Market Information Analyst, Emiliano Diaz said the figures highlight the strength of Australia's cattle supply and processing sector.

"Favourable seasonal conditions over recent years expanded the national herd and supported elevated cattle availability, driving historically high processing volumes across the country," Mr Diaz said.

"While the record result was primarily driven by strong supply conditions, the industry achieved it against a backdrop of increasingly challenging global trading conditions towards the end of the financial year.

"Demand for Australian red meat remained resilient overall, highlighting the sector's ability to adapt and compete in a more volatile global environment."

**Beef**

The record financial year was capped by an exceptionally strong June quarter, with beef production reaching a new quarterly record of 780,620 tonnes.

New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland each recorded their highest quarterly beef production on record,



**BREAKING RECORDS: Almost 9.6 million cattle were processed during the 2025-26 financial year, up 8.1 per cent from last financial year.** PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

highlighting the widespread strength of cattle supply and processing activity across Australia's major producing regions.

Beef production also strengthened in the June quarter as exporters accelerated shipments ahead of safeguard thresholds being reached in China and Korea.

Typical seasonal patterns emerged during the June quarter, with increased slaughter numbers resulting in slightly lower carcase weights than the March quarter, while the female slaughter rate lifted as expected.

"The strength of the June quarter reflects both the depth of cattle supply and the processing sector's ability to efficiently handle elevated throughput across Australia's key cattle-producing states," Mr Diaz said.

**Lamb**

Lamb slaughter continued to contract during FY2025-26, however production declined at a slower rate as heavier animals drove record carcase weights.

Lamb slaughter totalled 22.075 million head, down 15.3 per cent year-on-year, while lamb production declined 11.2 per cent to 554,658 tonnes.

Despite the reduction, FY2025-26 remained the fourth-largest lamb production year on record.

The June quarter saw lamb slaughter fall 21.6 per cent year-on-year to 5.286 million head, while production declined 15.7 per cent to 140,995 tonnes. The national lamb carcase weight reached a record 26.7kg per head during the quarter.

"The lamb sector is producing fewer animals than a year ago, but record carcase weights have helped offset some of the decline in slaughter numbers," Mr Diaz said.

**Mutton**

Sheep supply contracted sharply throughout FY2025-26, driving the lowest annual mutton production and sheep slaughter levels since FY2022.

Annual sheep slaughter fell 31.5 per cent to 8.045 million head, while mutton production declined 28.8 per cent to 209,865 tonnes.

The June quarter recorded the lowest sheep slaughter and mutton production levels since June 2021, with sheep slaughter falling 46.9 per cent year-on-year to 1.334 million head and mutton production declining 43.1 per cent to 34,205 tonnes.

"The sheep industry is moving through a markedly different phase of the production cycle, with lower turn-off reflecting tighter sheep availability following the elevated processing levels of recent years," Mr Diaz said.

## Kinglake by-election set for December

ELECTORAL Commissioner Sven Bluemel is asking residents and ratepayers in Murrindindi Shire Council, Kinglake Ward to be ready to have their say in the by-election scheduled for December, following the resignation of Councillor Jodi Adams. The by-election will be held by post.

'You must be correctly enrolled by the close of roll, which is 4 pm on Wednesday, September 23. As this is a postal election, it's important to check your address details are correct. This includes any alternative postal address,' Mr Bluemel said.

"If you're an Australian citizen living in Kinglake Ward and you've recently turned 18 or moved, you can enrol or update your details online at [vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment](http://vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment)"

Ratepayers in Kinglake Ward can apply to the council to enrol by calling 5772 0333. As long as they don't have another voting entitlement in Murrindindi Shire Council and pay rates, property owners or occupiers and corporations can apply to be enrolled, even if they are not a citizen.

Owner-ratepayers occupier-ratepayers, or a director or company secretary of a corporation of a property who were automatically enrolled in Kinglake Ward for the 2024 general election for Murrindindi Shire Council will continue to be enrolled for the by-election, unless their circumstances have changed. Council-enrolled voters can check their enrolment by calling the council on 5772 0333.

"Voting in local council elections is compulsory if you are enrolled. We encourage ratepayers who are eligible to apply to vote to participate in their democracy," Mr Bluemel said.

"Your local council makes important decisions about your community services and businesses, so it's important to have your say by voting in this by-election."

Around 1804 Victorians are enrolled in Kinglake Ward, which includes Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Castella and Toolangi and surrounds.



**ALEXANDRA**  
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- YEA

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# Government launches new campaign to save people from dodgy cars

THE Victorian Government has launched a new campaign to protect Victorians buying used cars.

The new ‘Don’t Buy a Regret’ campaign launched last week to raise awareness of motorists’ rights when buying a used car. The Consumer Affairs Victoria advertising campaign will appear on social media as well as cinemas in Victoria.

More than two thirds of young Victorians have bought a used car, and many Victorians are unaware of what to check before they buy, or what to do if something goes wrong after the sale.

More than half of all used car sales are made through private sellers and private purchasers often have no access to protections such as a statutory warranty that may apply when buying from a motor car trader.

The education campaign provides practical advice to help consumers understand their rights when navigating the used car market.

Consumer Affairs Research released earlier in the year found nearly a third of sampled used cars were advertised online with odometers wound back by at least 25,000 kilometres.

The state government currently has new laws before the Victorian Parliament to strengthen consumer protections against unlicensed trading and modernise the regulatory framework for motor car trading across the state.

These laws will make it easier to investigate, fine and prosecute odometer tampering, with traders required to check



DON'T BUY A REGRET: New campaign launched by government to educate people about the dangers of buying used cars. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

the odometer before sale.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Tim Richardson said, “Buying a used car is a big purchase; get it wrong and you’re left out of pocket with an unreliable car, and no help from the seller.

“We want Victorians to understand their rights so they don’t get taken for a ride. More Victorians are shopping for cars online, and our laws will make sure dodgy operators have nowhere to hide.”

The reforms also create a single point of contact for Victorians who’ve been ripped off, tighten the rules on auction houses and strengthen the safety net for buyers left out of pocket.

Consumer Affairs Victoria will also conduct targeted compliance action as part of a statewide crackdown on unlicensed motor car trading.

For more information on the campaign visit [consumer.vic.gov.au/buying-a-used-car](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/buying-a-used-car)



BRIDGE MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT: The fire-damaged Fawcett bridge.

# Fawcett bridge mentioned in Federation Chamber

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines spoke in Federation Chamber, on August 19, about the need for betterment funding for local infrastructure, particularly mentioning the bridge at Fawcett which was burnt during the Longwood fire.

She said, “When a natural disaster damages essential infrastructure, we should be able to fix it properly.

“In Fawcett, a small town in my electorate of Indi, residents are still recovering from the devastating January bushfires. Their old timber bridge has been closed since the fires, and last week flooding cut access to the temporary causeway.

“This bridge was built prior to modern heavy vehicles and needs to be completely rebuilt. The Victorian government, however, is insisting that Murrindindi shire submit designs to rebuild the bridge like for like, but no engineers engaged by the shire will sign off on a repair job, rightly insisting on a full rebuild to modern standards that will be resilient to the next inevitable fire or flood.

“The result is a stalemate with the Fawcett community, the ones who miss out. I want to acknowledge Sam Hicks from the Fawcett Hall for her passionate and powerful advocacy on this issue.

“This is a clear example of bureaucracy getting in the way of common sense and holding back recovery, and that’s why I want to talk about betterment funding. The disaster recovery funding arrangements ensure we can replace critical infrastructure after a disaster, but the current framework makes it too hard to rebuild that infrastructure so it’s better protected against the next disaster, even though doing so makes financial sense, such as raising the height of a bridge or using fireproof materials. It’s like the lesson we learned from our parents: it’s better to do the job once and do it well.

“Extreme weather events will continue, we know that, so disaster recovery funding should help make communities more resilient. This is not just a Fawcett problem; it’s a problem for regional communities right across Australia and was raised consistently at a parliamentary inquiry into the financial sustainability of local governments.

“Communities from Broome to Bright, recovering from disaster, are having to fight their way through layers of government and red tape just to get essential infrastructure rebuilt for the future. It shouldn’t take three levels of government and a maze of bureaucracy just to get a bridge replaced.

“Now, I’ve welcomed the government’s announcement that the disaster recovery funding arrangements are being reviewed, and I particularly welcome the proposed resilient infrastructure scheme, which could unlock more betterment funding. I’ll be working with my electorate to ensure these changes help us recover stronger and safer.

“But after everything Fawcett has been through this year, the least this community deserves is for governments to work together to get that bridge replaced. Fawcett can’t wait for a government review, because, when disaster strikes, we shouldn’t just rebuild what’s been there before; we should build it back better so the next disaster doesn’t leave the community facing that same problem all over again.”



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## VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY COMMEMORATED



**PAYING RESPECTS:** Alexandra RSL President Bob Benghamy paying his respects.



**REMEMBERING THE FALLEN:** Neil Robinson speaking to the attendees.



**EMCEE:** David Dimech.

**THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN:** Steve Watson spoke about the events of the Battle of Long Tan.



# Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorated

VIETNAM Veterans' Day was held on Tuesday, August 18, and in Alexandra it was commemorated at the Cenotaph in Leckie Park.

Emcee David Dimech emceed the event, pointing out that the event marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, before introducing Neil Robinson.

Neil said, "You may or may not remember, or you may not have known, but Vietnam our introduction, was to the banners of a newspaper, the newspaper headlines saying, 'All away with LBJ'. As you may or may not know, LBJ was the President of the United States of America, one of our good allies.

"So, away went another generation of young Australians to a war with our allies, the United States of America, to a place called Vietnam. And if I was honest with you, I didn't even know the place. I'd never heard of Vietnam. But we all soon learned.

"With any conflict or any war, for a long time they only called it a conflict, they didn't see any war, we learn new words. Things change. Every conflict is different. But in this conflict or this war, we learnt new words, like 'napalm', an horrific bomb. We learnt another word called 'agent orange', devastation. And another word... 'conspiration'.

"Today, to honour the Australian men and women who served in the Vietnam War, we remember those who entered their nation's call and served far from home in physical, dangerous and often unforgiving circumstances. They were soldiers, they were sailors, they were airmen and nurses. What a great job those medical staff did.

"They came from cities and towns and rural communities across Australia united by a sense of duty and a commitment to serve. In the dense jungles on patrol through hostile terrain in the air and the sea and in medical units caring for the wounded. They carried out their responsibilities with courage, professionalism and determination. Many faced fear, hardship and loss. Some pay the ultimate price, giving their lives in service to their country. Others returned home bearing physical wounds and the invisible scars of war.

"Today, we pay tribute, not only to those who fell, but also to those who served and endured. 60,000 young [Australian] men and women served in Vietnam, 521 were killed, 3000 were evacuated wounded. And we don't know how



**LAYING A WREATH:** Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. PHOTOS: Anne Richey

many who came home for the invisible scars of war.

"We acknowledge the sacrifices made by their families, whose love and strength and support sustained those boys and girls through service and the long journey home. For many veterans of Vietnam, their return to Australia was not, definitely not, what they deserved or what we expected. Yet despite the challenges they faced, they continued to serve their communities, raised families, build their lives and contribute to the nation that they'd sworn to protect. Their resilience stands as a testament to their character and their courage.

"We remember the mateship that bound them together, the loyalty they showed one another and the values they had and held in the face of adversity. Their service forms an enduring chapter in Australian military history and a lasting legacy for future generations.

"Let us never forget the names of those who did not return. Let us honour those who came home. Let us recognise those magnificent nurses and medical personnel who eased the suffering, the crews who flew dangerous missions, the sailors who served offshore, and every man and woman whose service contributed to the mission they faced.

"As we reflect, upon their sacrifice may we also renew our commitment for peace, understanding and remembering. To the Australians who served in Vietnam we thank you, we honour

you and we remember you. May God bless Australia and may God protect our service personnel. Thank you."

Steve Watson spoke about the Battle of Long Tan, which took place on August 18, 1966. He described the battle as "one of the most significant actions brought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the Vietnam War."

He said, "The battle took place in a rubber plantation near the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat in the Phước Tuy Province in South Vietnam. In the days before the battle, enemy forces had fired mortars and recoilless rifles at the Australian base in Nui Dat. Patrols were set out to locate the firing positions and determine whether the enemy was there or had withdrawn.

"On the afternoon of August 18, D Company's 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) continued their search through the Long Tan Rubber Plantation. D Company numbered just over 100 Australian troops and was accompanied by the three-man New Zealand Artillery Forward Support Observer Party. At approximately 4 o'clock that afternoon, 11 Platoon encountered enemy soldiers moving through the plantation.

"What began as a brief contact with the enemy rapidly developed into a major engagement. D Company soon found itself facing a much larger force, including elements of the Viet Cong 275 Regiment and the D445 Battalion. They were essentially 1500 soldiers.

"The battle was fought in extremely difficult conditions. Torrential monsoon rains swept across the plantation. Visibility was poor, communications were difficult, the rains were heavy.

"Just as a sight note, I was just in Vietnam last week and I actually went to the Long Tan site. The battlefield is as far as the bowling ground behind us. The rubber plants are only about two inches wide, but essentially no cover... The battle was fought throughout that period in extremely difficult conditions. Despite this, D Company held extremely well.

"Central to their survival was artillery support from the Gate. Australian artillery batteries, together with 161<sup>st</sup> Battery from New Zealand Artillery, provided continuous and highly accurate fire. Thousands of artillery rounds were fired around the Australian conditions, sometimes extremely close to friendly troops.

"The New Zealand Forward Observer with D Company, Captain Maurice Stanley, played a critical role in coordinating the artillery support while the battle continued around him.

"As the fighting intensified, another serious problem developed. D Company was running seriously low on ammunition. Two RRF No. 9 Squadron Iroquois helicopters were tasked to fly ammunition to the battlefield. Despite the severe weather and fighting below, the helicopters flew into the Long Tan Rubber Plantation and dropped ammunition on the surrounding

streets. Those ammunition boxes arrived at a critical moment to allow people to continue the fighting.

"Meanwhile, back at Nui Dat, reinforcement was being organized. Soldiers mounted in M113 armoured personnel carriers from 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron moved towards Long Tan. The armoured personnel carriers fought their way through enemy troops as they approached the battlefield. Their arrival along with infantry reinforcements strengthened D Company's position as darkness began to fall.

"Approximately three hours after the intense fighting the enemy withdrew from the plantation. When the battlefield was searched the next morning, the scale of engagement became apparent. Eighteen Australian soldiers had been killed and 24 wounded. The enemy also suffered heavy casualties. Although the exact number remains debated, it was estimated that up to 900 enemy soldiers were killed.

"The Battle of Long Tan was ultimately a story of soldiers holding together under extreme pressure. It demonstrated the importance of infantry discipline, artillery support, armour, aviation and above all, teamwork.

Australian infantrymen stood their ground in the rubber plantation. Australian New Zealand gunners provided artillery support. A 9th Squadron aircrew flew through monsoon conditions to deliver desperately needed ammunition. Armoured crews and reinforcements pushed forward to reach their mates before darkness fell. Different units, different services of two nations on that afternoon were all working together for the same objective.

"Today, 60 years later, we remember the men who fought at Long Tan. We remember their courage, their professionalism and their mateship. Above all, we remember the 18 young Australians who were members of the full-time army and conscripts who did not return from the Long Tan rubber plantation."

Tony read the *Remembrance Prayer*, following which the wreaths were laid and Riley Cole read *The Ode. The Last Post* was then played, and the flag raised by Gerry Laws.

Luke Phegan read the *Ode of the Royal Australian Regiment* and all were upstanding for the *Australian National Anthem*.



# Trout season begins with free fishing festival at Eildon

VICTORIA'S premier trout fishing region will come alive on Saturday, September 5 as the free Goulburn Fishing Festival returns to Eildon, offering a full day of family-friendly activities, fishing experiences and outdoor entertainment.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said the popular annual event is held on the first Saturday every September to mark the opening day of trout fishing season in Victoria's rivers, creeks and streams such as the nearby Goulburn River.

Running from 9am to 2pm, the free Goulburn Fishing Festival will feature free kids' fishing clinics, casting competitions, cooking demonstrations, educational displays, stalls and a range of hands-on activities designed to help people learn more about fishing. This year from 4pm there will be local music and a local pop-up food and drink provider to enjoy before the fireworks display at 7pm.

There will also be self-guided Snobs Creek Hatchery tours where families can learn about how the VFA breed, grow, and stock fish.

"Opening day of trout season is a major occasion for Victorian fishers and the Goulburn Fishing Festival is a fantastic way for



**GOULBURN FISHING FESTIVAL: A popular event, this year's festival will feature family-friendly activities, entertainment, and stalls designed to help people learn more about fishing.** PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

families to experience everything that makes this region so special," Mr Dowling said.

"Based at Eildon Pondage, the festival is about bringing people together, encouraging more Victorians to get outdoors and showcasing why recreational fishing continues to be one of the state's most popular activities."

The event will also see 2000 'stonker' rainbow trout stocked into the Goulburn River below the pondage, providing great fishing at riverside reserves that are easily accessible.

"Youngsters will get the opportunity to learn from Fishcare

volunteers about casting, rigs, bait selection, and other practical skills to help build confidence on the water in our free learn-to-fish clinics," Mr Dowling added.

"Kids who participate in a clinic will also receive a free fishing rod to take home with a tackle box, and links to online instructional videos through our Little Anglers Hub. Spots in the clinics always go fast so we'd encourage parents to get in quickly and register."

"Families can also help our staff from the nearby Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery stock trout into the pondage. The festival will also include market stalls, face painting, educational activities, an aquaculture stall with free tastings of locally grown trout and fly-casting lessons."

"We'd love to see a big crowd in Eildon for what promises to be a terrific day of fishing fun for current and aspiring anglers alike."

The event will be held at Lions Park on Riverside Drive in Eildon and families are encouraged to keep fishing and enjoy the local music, food and drink from 4pm before enjoying the fireworks display at 7pm.

For details about the day, including registration for clinics, visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest)

## Energy transition benefits

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines is leading the call for a national framework to ensure regional communities get a fair share of the economic benefits of the renewable energy transition.

Dr Haines, together with Member for Wentworth Allegra Spender, moved a motion in federal parliament on Monday, August 17 calling on the government to establish a permanent, nationally consistent framework that requires minimum community benefit contributions be paid from renewable energy proponents to communities hosting their infrastructure.

The framework would require community benefit funds to deliver intergenerational benefits to communities, while also supporting local governments manage their growing responsibilities in facilitating the energy transition.

Dr Haines said this will give communities greater clarity about what to expect when dealing with proponents while providing proponents with more certainty and consistency about what they need to bring to the table.

She said there was an opportunity to learn from proponents already doing this well and establish a stronger national standard.

"The transition will not succeed if regional Australia feels it's something being done to communities rather than something being built with them," Dr Haines said.

"There are renewable energy proponents doing excellent work with communities, and we should learn from those examples."

"The goal isn't to make it harder to build renewable energy. It's to make sure we build it well, in partnership with the people who call these places home."

Dr Haines said the motion also notes the growing national conversation about community benefits from major infrastructure, including AI data centres.

### DROP BY MY UPCOMING LISTENING POSTS

**YEA**  
When: Tuesday, 1 Sept at 9:30am -10:15am  
Where: Yea Post Office

**ALEXANDRA**  
When: Tuesday, 1 Sept at 2:30pm - 3:30pm  
Where: Alexandra RSL Hall

**Helen HainesMP**  
03 5721 7077  
[helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)  
[helenhaines.org](http://helenhaines.org)



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

ADVERTISEMENT

2026

GOULBURN FISHING FESTIVAL

Saturday, 5 September

Lions Park, Riverside Drive, Eildon

FREE EVENT - EILDON

9am - 2pm

Fishing Festival

4pm - 7pm

NEW - Enjoy local music, pop-up food and drinks before the fireworks display at 7pm.

Market stalls, Kids activities, Spinning wheel prizes

Snobs Creek Hatchery tours - Buses provided every half hour to hatchery for guided tours from 9.30am to 12.30pm

2000 'stonker' rainbow trout released at 11 sites

Vic Fish Kids Clinics Eildon Pondage (bookings essential)

[www.vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest)

Fireworks 7pm

Scan me

Go Fishing Victoria  
More people fishing, more often



# Day two of the Longwood fire fight

By ANNE RICHEY

DISTRICT 12 Commander Stephen Keating spoke about the Longwood fire at length in a wide-ranging interview, including some of the local concerns. This is the second article in the series.

Stephen said, “At the start of the second day of the fire, Thursday, January 8, the fire had a perimeter of 49km. By the end of the second day, the fire had a perimeter of over 200km in steep, challenging landscape, meaning that trucks were unable to access some of the areas.

“That became so that leading into the second day, when it burnt through into Upton Hill, even then first thing in the morning, ‘You’d think, oh, we’ll have a little bit success in trying to control the spread,’ but the dryness and that continued heat. The other thing is the atmosphere was very unstable, so we had an atmospheric instability that allowed for vertical movement of the hotter air. That allows, so we might have a normal forecast wind of 20 kilometres an hour, but as that hot air rises up out of the fire, it draws more air in.

“So on the Thursday when we got that great big convection column over the fire, that drew the fire along significantly. I talked about on the Wednesday, the fire spreading at 16 hectares in a minute. On the Thursday it was up to 60 hectares a minute for it, between about two and four o’clock. That’s around the time that it got in through Ruffy. It was burning 60 hectares every minute at all sides... but the forward speed was recorded over 20 kilometres an hour.

“Now that’s really up there with the some of the highest recorded grass fire speeds. And that was pretty exceptional, and it wasn’t that it was a high fire danger day, it wasn’t super windy until Friday. It was simply that big convection column that caused that behaviour.

Some concerns have been raised among the community in the Ruffy area about the helicopters which were actively working on the fire and then departed just prior to the fire hitting. When asked about this, Stephen said, “Would you fly a helicopter in a thunderstorm?”

“That’s the very simple answer,” he said. “It’s a very, very dangerous atmosphere happening with the pyrocumulus. That’s the fire itself building and creating that thunderstorm. Our aircraft can’t safely operate in those kind of environments.”

Asked about the frequency of such conditions, Stephen responded, “When they become pyrocumulus, the aircraft move away from those areas. We can’t fly in smoke... It’s very marginal for an aircraft to work on a big running fire at the very front. Normally you’re working on the sides because when that smoke column tips over, you can’t see where the ground stops and the air starts. Safety is a really important component of aerial firefighting.”

Aircraft did successfully protect many properties, however due to the extreme fire behaviour, they just couldn’t get into Ruffy safely.

He added, “There’s a few reasons that our aircraft will move around. There’s absolutely no priority of work for our aircraft other than the state control priorities. It’s not ‘pick this property over that property’. We put the aircraft where we get the best return and where we can effectively do work. There’s no point when that fire was again running hard on Thursday. There’s no point dropping loads in the middle of a five kilometre wide front and we’re stopping 10 metres here and 10 metres there. If we can stop a flank of the fire and we can actually stop that becoming a front later on, that’s a higher priority for us.”

Stephen was also asked about the decisions to locate the Incident Control Centre for the fire in Alexandra at a time when the fire, and the wind direction for the following days, were pointing in that direction.

Stephen replied, “There’s a fair bit of discussion about the incident control centre and its location. That was in place from Wednesday morning. It was put in place because we knew the three days of weather were coming. After the fire started there were some discussions about moving the incident control centre away from Alexandra after it had been set up. There were a couple of issues with that. One is you lose that connectivity with the fire ground if we moved it to Seymour.

“There were other teams around, but again, remember Friday was the worst weather day since Black Saturday, so every other team was allocated for Friday elsewhere. The other point is it was in the right place to be able to manage the resources. It was full of people with good local knowledge, whether it was from Forest Fire

Management or CFA... I suppose it’s not normal that we end up with an incident control centre in the way of a fire, but it happens a bit and I’ve had several other experiences of it. I’ve talked to I’ve talked to some people from the Horsham team who have had that happen because they’re similarly there on the northwest edge of the Horsham community. And I’ve experienced it at Hayfield and at Bairnsdale as well. It’s not the best situation, but moving it would be more disruptive and cause more concern,” he said.

“But [the incident control centre] did end up having to move because we lost power, we lost connectivity, and without good access into Alexandra, we had difficulty with accommodation and other supplies. It moved on the Saturday afternoon after the big day.

“Can you imagine the uproar if we moved on the Thursday and it got burnt out on the Friday? That’s the other side. How would the community react if we move the control team away from one of the communities that we’re going to be impacted? And that was part of our discussion, and it is contentious to talk about. Was it in the right spot or not? Well, in my mind, absolutely it was.”

He was asked whether this was despite the lack of power and connectivity.

He replied, “Well, we’ve got backup generators at the facility and we’ve got backup connectivity at the facility. When the network drops out, it takes a bit of time for those to establish, but certainly the systems that we have in the backup space, we planned for that. We carried backup communication.”

He was asked whether people needed to bring in their Starlink services for use at the incident command centre during the incident and he replied, “Absolutely. That’s our biggest problem in any shire. You’re

probably well aware of in the communication space. I think it’s the federal obligations for telecommunications providers to provide backup power. Four hours isn’t enough.

“The sites need to be resilient to emergencies. It’s no good having your phone tower on top of the hill if access to it gets blocked every time we have a flood or a fire or a storm and then you can’t get a technician there to put in the generator. The option would be either you have a generator there all the time or you have another kind of solar or some kind of backup system to run that. But it’s kind of frustrating and as local emergency services we’ve had some discussions with the federal ministers responsible for that committee to try to help them see the problems that it causes when we have those outages. I mean, back in the floods, we were helicoptering generators to phone towers to get them back up.

“This part of the world relies so heavily on communications and unfortunately are frequently experiencing natural disasters, whether it’s fires, floods or storms. We get them a lot and the needs are always there, so frustrating in our world that we don’t have the resilience in that space that other countries do and other parts of even our own country.”

As the fire progressed, many people were calling triple zero, but there were not enough resources to have fire trucks at every property.

Stephen said, “We tell everybody that at the start of every year, we have for the last 30 years, don’t expect a fire truck. Probably the difference is, this community doesn’t get many big landscape fires. When I say the community, the fire footprint, we have the odd big fire, but if you were to tell people we’re going to have a fire that travels over 60 kilometres

and impact on everybody, not a lot of people in this part of the world would expect that that would occur.

“You go to Highlands and Terip Terip, in those areas, for example, normally through summer there’s green grass up there. Their fire season normally is pretty short. The last big fire that ran from Yea to Alexandra is in the 1960s. It’s not regular. We have fires, but not really big dynamic fires like this. I worry that that will change in years to come.

“In East Gippsland, for example, the big fires down there are probably a little bit more frequent. So maybe every 10 or 15 years they’ll have a big landscape fire. If we were to talk to communities down there and say don’t expect a fire truck, they go, we know, because they’ve had that experience. Up here, not many people have had that experience because normally our fires are smaller and when you make a phone call, we get the fire brigade attend.

“So for people to be making phone calls and not get the fire brigade, it’s I suppose it’s a new experience for them, but it’s also quite unnerving that when you think you can call for help any time, that it’s actually not there and there’s not the capacity for the CFA to get to every property.

“That’s why one of the most important things that we do in the fire brigade is prepare communities because the work you do on your own property and around your own house and having your own fire plan before there’s a bad fire day is actually more likely to protect your house than red truck showing up. That’s why it’s a partnership between fire brigade and the communities because we need everybody to be working in that space. Talk to your local CFA, they’ll have information to help develop a plan.”



CFA DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER: STEPHEN KEATING.



# Time to check your enrolment details

With less than 100 days until Victorians head to the polls on Saturday, November 28, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging all eligible voters in the Murrindindi Shire to check their enrolment details and be ready to have their say in this year's election.

Almost 4.7 million Victorians are expected to cast their vote in

November in what Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said will be the state's largest and most complex election yet.

He reminded all Murrindindi Shire residents that voting is compulsory for all Victorians who are Australian citizens aged 18 and older.

"First-time voters who will turn 18 on or before Saturday, Novem-

ber 28 should also make sure that they are enrolled, as this may not have happened automatically," Mr Bluemmel said.

"Enrolment for the state election will close at 8pm on Tuesday, November 3, Melbourne Cup Day."

Mr Bluemmel said the election is an opportunity for every eligible Victorian to have their say and make their vote count.

"Now is the time to check your enrolment matches your current residential address so that you can make your voice heard in November," he said.

"There are many ways you can vote. You may vote on election day, vote early, by post or with extra support.

"Plan ahead and choose the best option for you.

"We are mailing more than three million EasyVote guides to Victorian households to help voters understand their voting options and how to make their vote count," he said.

Check and update your enrolment at [vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment](http://vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment)

Voters can also sign up to the free VoterAlert service at the VEC website to receive important election reminders by SMS and email.

## Newly announced funding welcomed but not enough

**■ From front page**

"We are grateful for this funding and for the support provided by both levels of government. However, the reality is that hundreds of residents are still rebuilding, businesses continue to face challenges, community recovery remains an active task, and council is managing the long-term impacts of one of the most significant disasters in our shire's history. Recovery is far from over, and council will continue to seek the government funding needed to help our communities rebuild and recover."

"I have invited Premier Carroll to visit Murrindindi Shire to experience firsthand the impact of the Longwood fire, the stoicism and resolve of our community to rebuild and support one another, but also the scale of the challenge that remains.

"Council will continue working with the Australian and Victorian Governments and recovery partners to support Murrindindi communities through the years ahead."

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

By HONORARY SECRETARY MIKE JENNINGS

AFTER a good start with six players enjoying a few hands of Bridge at Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club, things went 'wheels up' when we were advised on Thursday evening that one of the Bridge players had tested positive for COVID-19.

For the safety of our members the committee decided to cancel the Friday meeting and the task of advising members began. Things should be back to normal this week with a social meeting on Friday.

If you fancy a Friday friendly chat, a cuppa and a game of cards come along and join us in the Bayley Street clubroom at 1pm. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.



**ALEXANDRA  
OPEN  
GARDENS  
POSTPONED**

GARDENS tell stories, of resilience, seasons, and the people who nurture them. After a tough few years of frosts, heatwaves, personal challenges, and more recently, the heartbreaking Longwood fires, the committee has decided to postpone the October Open Gardens Weekend to 2027.

This extra time will help the incredible volunteer garden owners rebuild, re-imagine, and re-grow the spaces you love to explore.

The committee knows that many will be disappointed, but they promise that 2027 will be worth the wait. They thank you for standing with them and the community.

◀ OPEN GARDENS POSTPONED: One of the gardens featured previously.

# \$21 billion in lost super: find yours, fund your future

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is urging the community to check for any super they may have lost track of, with new data showing over \$21 billion is waiting to be claimed.

ATO Deputy Commissioner Ben Kelly said checking for lost super could be the most rewarding five-minutes of your life.

"You always want to know where your wallet is. Lost super is much the same. It's your hard-earned money, and a quick search can reconnect you with that money to make sure you are maximising your retirement savings," Mr Kelly said.

Super can become lost for a variety of reasons, mostly when an account is inactive from no contribu-

tions, and your contact details are not up to date. When a super fund is unable to contact an individual to reunite them with their super, it may be transferred to the ATO to hold and attempt to reunite.

"We know life gets busy. If you change jobs, move house or switch phone numbers, this can leave super sitting in old or inactive accounts, or result in your super being transferred to the ATO," Mr Kelly said.

"By updating your contact details with your super fund and the ATO, or letting us know your nominated super account, you may be reunited with money you had long forgotten about.

"Many individuals did not realise

their super was lost. For all individuals, but especially at or approaching retirement age, every dollar counts. We are focused on reuniting people with what's rightfully theirs to help bolster their nest egg and make the most out of retirement."

Last year, the ATO returned more than \$1.1 billion in unclaimed super through consolidations to super accounts and direct payments to eligible individuals.

This included the ATO visiting remote communities, where they contacted a number of individuals aged 56 years and over with significant amounts of lost super, as part of a targeted campaign.

These visits helped people reclaim life-changing amounts. In

one case, the ATO reconnected a married couple approaching retirement with their super accounts valued at over \$1 million, which significantly changed their retirement planning.

"The average amount in lost super is around \$41,000. Depending on your age, this could grow to hundreds of thousands of dollars if you put it to work for your retirement where you want it," Mr Kelly said.

"Think of lost super as lost opportunities; finding it now could help maximise your savings in retirement."

As at June 30, 2026, around four million people held two or more super accounts.

"Holding multiple accounts

might not sound like a problem, but it could mean you're paying multiple sets of fees and insurance premiums, which can draw down your retirement savings over time," Mr Kelly said.

"If you're logging on to ATO Online via myGov to lodge your tax return, it is the perfect time for a quick super health check to help you find lost super, identify whether you have multiple accounts and decide whether consolidating your accounts is right for you."

Visit the ATO website for information on how to find lost and unclaimed super at [ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/superannuation-searching-for-lost-super-annuation](http://ato.gov.au/forms-and-instructions/superannuation-searching-for-lost-super-annuation)



## 1147

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|    |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |   |    |
| 14 | 15 |  | 16 |  |    |  |    |  | 17 |  |   |    |
|    |    |  |    |  |    |  | 18 |  |    |  |   |    |
| 19 |    |  |    |  | 20 |  |    |  |    |  |   |    |
|    |    |  |    |  |    |  | 21 |  |    |  |   |    |
| 22 |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |    |  |   |    |
|    |    |  |    |  |    |  | 23 |  |    |  |   |    |

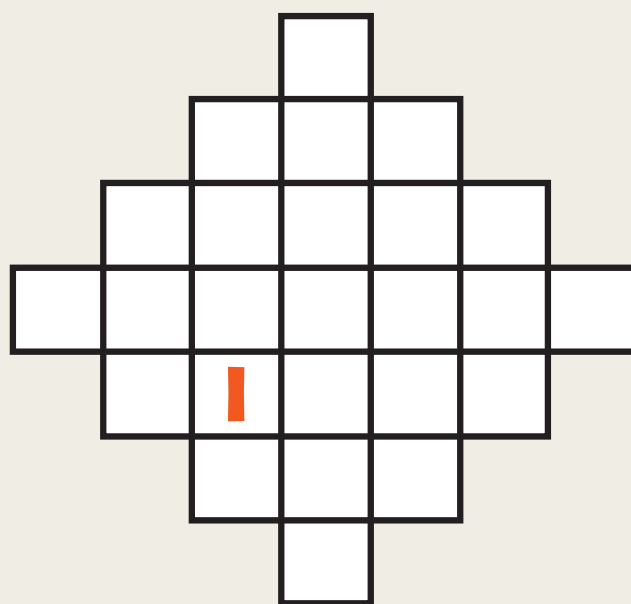
- 15** The symbol XC suggests which number (6)
- 16** What is a small case for a miniature portrait (6)
- 17** To cut into two parts, is to do what (6)
- 20** Name the 15th day of March (4)

B R A T N D  
O G N I I R  
B U B B L E  
H A T U G I  
C R Y D Y G  
I D E A M N

|        |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bay    | Bud   | Guard | Reign |
| Bid    | Buy   | Gym   | Tie   |
| Bob    | Cabin | Hunt  | Tug   |
| Brat   | Cry   | Idea  |       |
| Bubble | Edge  | Out   |       |

(a) Inequality  
(b) Administration  
(c) The act of dispersing

|          |            |           |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| <b>E</b> | <b>L+X</b> | <b>17</b> |
| <b>G</b> | <b>O÷O</b> |           |
| <b>I</b> | <b>L+E</b> | <b>26</b> |
| <b>L</b> | <b>T-L</b> |           |
| <b>O</b> | <b>T-X</b> |           |
| <b>T</b> | <b>E+G</b> |           |
| <b>X</b> | <b>I-T</b> |           |



**CLUES:**  
Deity (3)  
Enhanced Chip Set (3)  
Germ cell (5)  
**Gnaws (5)**  
Ideal (7)  
Outer part of roof (7)  
Rear (5)  
Sebastian (abb) (3)  
Twig (5)  
Weep (3)

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | O | R |
| B | E | P | S |
| C | F | P | S |
| D | G | P | S |
| E | O | R | T |
| E | O | R | T |

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

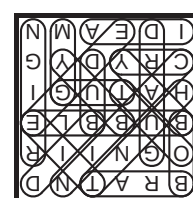
|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>               | <b>DOWN</b>          |
| <b>1</b> October birthstone | <b>1</b> Skip over   |
| <b>5</b> Shark              | <b>2</b> Scale down  |
| <b>6</b> Spring bloom       | <b>3</b> Parallel    |
| <b>7</b> Camping gear       | <b>4</b> Disoriented |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |

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R  
 S O B  
 S P O R E  
 E R F E C T  
 S I T E S  
 G O D  
 D

**QUICK THINK**  
ACROSS: 1 Opal, 5 Mako,  
6 Iris, 7 Tent,  
DOWN: 1 Om!t, 2 Pare,  
3 Akin, 4 Lost.  
**E-EQUATIONS**  
E:17, G:1, I:26, L:9,  
O:10, T:18, X:8



## MINI WORD FIND

(b) Agreeing  $\geq$  (a) inequality

### WHICH WORDS:

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

**SUDOKU**

[illegible]

## CROSSWORD



# Reporting disability abuse

THE Benalla Policing Forum was held in July. The Benalla Police Service Area (PSA) encompasses the Murrindindi, Mansfield and Benalla Shires, along with Mount Buller. This is the fourth 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 about disability abuse.

She said, "People with a disability, particularly women and children, experience significantly higher rates of family violence and sexual offending than the general community."

"While many forms of abuse are common across all family violence situations, perpetrators may also exploit a person's disability in unique ways. This can include controlling access to money or disability support payments; withholding medication, food, mobility aids or medical equipment; refusing assistance with personal care such as showering, dressing or eating; threatening to abandon the person or to place them into institutional



care; isolating them from their friends, family and support networks; telling them that the police and support services won't believe them because they're disabled; and deliberately misleading police or others about a person's abilities or circumstances. These behaviours are all forms of family violence and are never acceptable," she said.

"At Benalla Police, we have committed to improving trust, accessibility and confidence within our community. We want everyone to know that they will be listened to, treated with dignity, and taken seriously when they come forward to police."

"To achieve this, we are working closely with local disability service

providers and support organisations. We are providing education to staff and carers about the warning signs of family violence and sexual assault, what to do if someone makes a disclosure, and how to report these concerns to Victoria Police.

"Carers, family members, neighbours, and support workers all play an important role. Often, they are

the first people to notice changes in behaviour, unexplained injuries, fear, social isolation, or signs of coercive control. Recognise these indicators and acting early can make a significant difference.

"Our message today is simple. Family violence and sexual assault can affect anyone, regardless of age or ability. Everyone deserves to feel safe, respected and supported. Both elder and disability abuse is often hidden because it happens behind closed doors and is frequently committed by someone the victim knows and trusted. By recognising the signs, having conversations and knowing where to seek help, we can all play a role in protecting these vulnerable members of our community."

"If you're experiencing abuse, or are concerned about someone else, please don't ignore it. Speak to Victoria Police or support services. By working together as a community, we can reduce barriers to reporting. Support those who need help and ensure that offenders are held accountable," she said.

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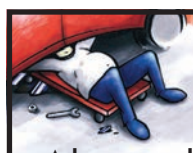
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State Government

Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Safety on Public Land Act 2004

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

I, Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, give notice pursuant to section 7(1)(a) of the *Safety on Public Land Act 2004*, that I have made a public safety zone declaration published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The declaration made on 20/08/2026 takes effect 01/09/2026 to 28/02/2027 inclusive.

They specify areas of state forest which have been declared public safety zones for;

• conducting Fire Operations and the maintenance of public safety.

Activities identified on the Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP), are known as Fire Operations.

The area where these activities occur are known as a Fire Operations Area and includes a 'Buffer' of 150 metres outside the perimeter of any Fire Operations Area.

A Public Safety Zone (PSZ) may be applied to a Fire Operations Area.

The declaration specifies the period for which the areas have been declared public safety zones; the times or periods during which access to the public safety zones is restricted or prohibited; activities permitted, prohibited, or restricted in the public safety zones; restrictions or conditions (if any) applying to the public safety zones; and persons or classes of persons exempt from their operation.

A copy of the maps showing the location of Fire Operations is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/JFMP](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/JFMP).

A copy of the declaration is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>

The declaration and maps showing the location of Fire Operations may be inspected at the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, by appointment with the Joint Fuel Management Program Coordinator, telephone 136 186.

Active planned burns are listed on the Planned Burns Victoria Website ([plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)) as either 'Within 10 Days', 'Next 24 hours', 'Now' or 'Patrol'.

Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

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The Alexandra Opportunity Shop Inc.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10am in the RSL Hall.

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DEATH NOTICES



SAVAGE, Patrick.

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# AMA calls for urgent action on AI health misinformation

THE Australian Medical Association is calling on the federal government to act urgently on AI-generated deepfakes, warning the technology is being used to impersonate trusted health professionals and spread potentially harmful misinformation.

Ahead of Scams Awareness Week, the AMA renewed its call for stronger protections in a letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, welcoming the establishment of the Office of AI and urging the government to prioritise its digital duty of care policy to help protect Australians.

The AMA remains concerned that deepfake content is being used

to impersonate reputable health professionals and expose patients to potentially unsafe health advice, yet there are no regulations in place to enforce the removal of this harmful material from digital platforms.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen said a regulatory response that keeps pace with emerging risks and supports public confidence in digital health information is urgently needed.

"Scams Awareness Week is a timely reminder that increasingly sophisticated online deception can have real-world consequences," Dr McMullen said.

"Deepfake campaigns that mis-

represent trusted clinicians can undermine evidence-based care, spread misinformation about prescription medicines, and encourage consumers to abandon clinically validated therapies in favour of unproven alternatives.

"It should not be left to the clinicians whose identities are being stolen and misused to identify, report and pursue the removal of deceptive content. The AMA supports a digital duty of care that places responsibility on AI providers and digital platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harms arising from their services.

"This should include strong transparency requirements, effective

safeguards against unauthorised and deceptive synthetic content, and timely takedown mechanisms for harmful deepfakes. We are calling on the government to move quickly to put these regulations in place to reduce the risk of harm to Australians."

The AMA raised these concerns with the Minister for Communications, Anika Wells, in June 2025, and has now written to the Prime Minister calling for urgent action on its digital duty of care policy and stronger safeguards against harmful AI-generated content.

It recommends a regulatory framework be developed that includes: mandatory identification

of the individual or company responsible for any online post promoting a medical product or service through a publicly accessible and designated contact point (for example, email); an accessible portal for individuals to report fake, misleading or AI-generated content; unsubscribing mechanisms enabling users to opt out of unsolicited medical advertising; time-bound takedown requirements, mandating platforms to remove harmful content within a specified period after a complaint is lodged; appropriate enforcement powers, including the ability to issue infringement notices for non-compliance.

## EPA cracking down on bin operators skipping good habits

ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency (EPA) Victoria has begun a snap inspection blitz on skip bin operators as it continues to crack down on illegal waste dumping and ensure a level playing field for operators doing the right thing.

With 50 skip bin companies in their sights, EPA officers are scrutinising waste handling and record keeping practices at each premises and looking for evidence of unlawful management, storage or disposal as part of the Victorian government's multi-agency Illegal Waste Dumping Taskforce crackdown.

Rogue operators in the skip bin industry have been identified as major contributors to illegal dumping, particularly of construction and demolition waste, contaminating public and private land, creating fire hazards, leaving costly clean-up bills.

Victoria's environmental laws impose strict rules on waste producers, transporters, and receivers. All waste must be taken to a facility that is EPA-authorized to receive and manage it safely. Waste transporters are obliged to ensure the sites they use are permitted to take the type of waste they carry.

EPA Executive Director of Operations Rachel Gualano said lawfully operating skip bin companies play a vital role in the waste industry, and warned EPA would not hesitate to take action against those who fail to comply with their obligations.

"Skip bins are a common collection point for many types of waste, and operators have a legal duty to know what's in the bins they're transporting, and to make sure that waste ends up in an authorised facility," Ms Gualano said.

"We routinely trace waste back through the supply chain using documentation, serial numbers and other forensic methods.

"But we don't just investigate. We act, to fine or prosecute skip bin companies, the individuals or businesses who engage their services, and those who receive the waste unlawfully," she said.

In a compliance blitz across Victoria's Southwest earlier this year, more than half the sites inspected did not have the required EPA permissions to operate.

"Rogue operators tempted to undercut legitimate operators and rip off their customers and the Victorian public by illegally dumping waste can expect a knock on their door and the full weight of EPA's regulatory powers," Ms Gualano said.

The Illegal Waste Dumping Taskforce is a partnership between Victoria's environmental agencies, led by EPA Victoria with the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and DEECA.

For more information about the responsibilities of waste carriers, visit [epa.vic.gov.au/transport-industrial-waste](http://epa.vic.gov.au/transport-industrial-waste)

If you see illegal dumping or know anything about it, report it to the EPA on 1300 372 842 or go to the online pollution reporting portal at [epa.vic.gov.au/report-illegal-waste-dumping](http://epa.vic.gov.au/report-illegal-waste-dumping)



**JOBS IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDS:** Houseboats at Lake Eildon.



**IMPRESSIVE FACILITIES:** Students earing from LEHIA president Mike Dalmau.



**ANCHORAGE HOUSEBOATS:** The Yea High School students lined up for a photo.



**INDUSTRY IMMERSION:** Students at Lake Eildon.



**YOU WISH:** The students checking out one of the speedboats.



**ASKING QUESTIONS:** Students were able to ask questions about the jobs available.



**KEEN WORKERS:** The students outside Eildon Outdoor Service.



**HOW DOES IT WORK?:** Students checking out a jet ski.

## Yea High School students learn about houseboat industry

BOATING Victoria in partnership with the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association and the Central Ranges LLEN hosted VCE Vocational Major (VM) students from Yea High School at an industry emersion day at Lake Eildon.

Students were exposed to boat building, marine automotive, and tourism and hospitality industries.

LLEN provided transport free of charge and Boating Victoria and the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association provided lunch for students and staff on one of their houseboats.



# Kids Helpline data highlights the impact of bullying

KIDS Helpline has released new data revealing among the young people who contacted the service for counselling support about bullying in 2026, one in eight also reported current thoughts of suicide.

yourtown CEO Tracy Adams said the figures highlight the serious distress some children and young people experiencing bullying are facing, reinforcing the importance of early support and making sure young people know where to turn.

“We know suicide is complex, and there is rarely one single cause. When a young person reaches out to us about bullying and tells us they’re also experiencing thoughts of suicide, we are there to support them and, when necessary, be ready to take action to support their safety,” Ms Adams said.

“That’s why early support matters. We want children and young people to know they can reach out when something first starts to feel wrong. They don’t need to wait until they’re struggling to cope or in crisis.”

Kids Helpline has responded to 1512 bullying-related counselling contacts in the first half of the year,

and bullying remains the number one reason people access information and resources on the Kids Helpline website.

On August 17, Kids Helpline held its annual Largest Anti-Bullying Lesson, giving students and educators practical tools and strategies to recognise, respond to and prevent bullying.

More than 627,000 students across Australia took part this year, an increase of almost 30 per cent on the 488,000 students who participated in 2025.

Ms Adams said the record participation showed just how important conversations about bullying are to children, young people and school communities as is learning tools to understand what it looks like, what they can do about it and where they can turn for help.

“The extraordinary response from schools tells us there is a real appetite for practical tools that help children and young people recognise and respond to bullying,” Ms Adams said.

“We want conversations happening early. We want children and young people to be equipped with

tools to respond to bullying, and, just as importantly, to know there are people and services ready to support them when they need it.”

The new data comes ahead of the 2026 Kids Helpline Giving Week appeal which aims to raise \$500,000 to help fund around 9000 calls from children and young people.

“Supporting the wellbeing of young people is something we all have a role in. Governments have a role. Schools, families and communities have a role. And services like Kids Helpline need to be there when a child or young person has built up the courage and decides now is the time to get some help,” Ms Adams said.

While Kids Helpline has been part of Australia’s mental health support system for more than 35 years, 41 per cent of Kids Helpline funding came from community support.

“People know they can trust and turn to Kids Helpline because we’ve been there for children and young people for more than three and a half decades, and I think many understandably assume a service like ours must be fully funded. The re-

ality is we’re not,” Ms Adams said.

“Community support helps make Kids Helpline possible. It helps put a professional counsellor at the other end of the phone or webchat when a young person makes the decision to reach out.”

Ms Adams said that community support was critical to ensuring Kids Helpline could continue to be there for children and young, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whatever the reason they reach out.

“We need to be there no matter why they’re reaching out. It might be bullying. It might be problems with friends or family, their mental health, thoughts of suicide, or simply something happening in their life that they don’t know how to deal with on their own.”

“This Kids Helpline Giving Week, we’re asking Australians to help us keep being there. Every donation helps us reach more children and young people and means more opportunities for them to have potentially live saving conversations when they need it most.”

To find out more, visit [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

# Almost summer weather for ladies winter tennis matches

By DEB MIMS

AFTER a complete washout last week, all Euroa and District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) teams took to the courts in what can only be described as ‘almost summer weather’.

The two Mansfield teams were up against each other, with Deb Mims finally returning to the court post back surgery. Under strict instructions by the captain to play the fifth player rule so that Mims only played one of the three sets, the two Debs, Mims and McCormack were up against Wappan’s Rhonda Carpenter & Kimberley Marsden.

An excited but equally nervous Mims was pleased how overall she played and held up with McCormack ably supporting her when she just couldn’t make that extra step. Carpenter and Marsden obviously decided that they weren’t going to take it easy on the Debs winning the set convincingly.

**Wappan versus Mansfield 6,48 - 0,9**

Beside them, Wappan’s Anna Speirs and Jenny Bell showed no mercy against Cathie Anderson and Carolyn Murray, and despite some great rallies they also took the set.

In the second round Loretta Armitage took to the court in place of Mims and with Carolyn battled hard against Bell and Carpenter.

Wappan showed Mansfield why they are on top of the ladder with a clean sweep of the sets rather convincingly.

**Moglonemby versus Terip Terip 1,28 - 5,45**

Moglonemby hosted Terip Terip at their home courts at Euroa. Sue Vaughan and Marlene Hanrahan came out of the blocks firing taking their first set against Frances Lawrence and Phoebe McDermid in a tight set.

Alongside them Moglonemby’s Robyn Johnson and Lisa Krepp tried everything to get on top of Terip’s Suzanne Irvine and Jenny Martin to no avail. A see-sawing of scores saw a tie break among them, with Terip Terip coming out on top taking five of the six sets. The only match of the day to have a tie break, which is unusual.

**Creighton’s Creek versus Benalla 2,32 - 4,39**

Creighton’s Creek, whose home courts are also Euroa’s, welcomed Benalla and a battle ensued. Creightons Creek’s Lyndall Bigland and Ros Doxey went down to Peta Kelly and Maureen Jewell in a tight set while Carmel Linehan and Kerry Hewlett evened it up with taking their set against Marg Clode and Wendy Maxwell.

With one game the difference Benalla’s way, Kelly and Clode jumped right out of the blocks and even before Bigland and Linehan could contemplate what was happening the set was over. Doxey and Hewlett then evened things up with taking their set against Jewell and Maxwell.

With two sets apiece and one game the difference, the last round was vital for both sides to battle hard. With Benalla taking out the last two sets, this gave them the major points for the day.

Euroa had a bye.

## Free dental care for children at school

THE Victorian Government is saving working families money with free dental care for kids.

In Victoria, tooth decay is one of the most prevalent diseases, with almost 43 per cent of five to 10 year olds affected.

It is also one of the highest single causes of preventable hospitalisations in kids aged five to nine years old.

Regular dental checkups can cost parents up to \$400 a year per child, putting pressure on household budgets.

The Victorian Government created Smile Squad to make sure Victorian kids have the healthiest smiles for free.

Delivered by dedicated mobile teams of oral care clinicians, students receive free check-ups and follow-up care.

It includes X-rays, teeth cleaning, fluoride

treatments, dental sealants, fillings and root canals.

The at-school care also means busy families don’t need miss work or school for a dental appointment.

Since 2019, Smile Squad has treated more than 175,000 public school students, visited more than 1000 public schools, handed out more than one million oral health packs, and opened three regional specialist hubs in Bendigo, Geelong and Latrobe. Students at Victoria’s public schools and 54 eligible low-fee non-government schools can access the free service.

The aim is to make access to care easier, cheaper and fairer.

Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt said, “Every child deserves a healthy smile. That’s why we’ll continue to support working families with free dental care.”



# NEMA supports post-fire recovery effort

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was recently asked the following questions: What supports were potentially available from NEMA/DRFA during the incident and recovery phases of the Longwood fire? What requests were made to NEMA/DRFA by the Victorian Government during the incident and recovery phases of the Longwood fire? What actions were undertaken by NEMA/DRFA at the request of the Victorian Government (or offers accepted by the Victorian Government)?

A NEMA spokesperson responded, “State and territory governments have primary responsibility for responding to disasters and determining what assistance is provided to impacted communities.

“Through this process the Australian Government committed more than \$253 million, jointly funded with the Victorian Government, for recovery measures including primary producer grants, clean-up programs, temporary accommodation support, recovery hubs and other assistance for af-

ected communities and businesses.

“The Australian Government also worked closely with Victoria throughout the January 2026 bushfires, providing extensive operational, logistical and financial support to help communities respond and recover.

“Through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Australian Government coordinated a whole-of-government response, embedding liaison officers in Victoria’s State Control Centre, activating national coordination

arrangements and ensuring the Victorian Government’s requests for non-financial assistance were supported.

“The Australian Government assistance to the Victorian bushfires response included Australian Defence Force support for emergency personnel through accommodation, catering, staging areas and ration packs, as well as the deployment of specialist firefighting aircraft and the coordination of more than 1200 interstate emergency management personnel.”



## Soggy course for Eildon golfers

By PUTTAMATIC

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. Last week eight players braved the elements to take on a soggy Eildon golf course in a Stableford round. After a slight delay to the start of play and some very light rain the day cleared up and golfers even saw some sunshine for a brief time.

The winner last week was Jezza Magee winning for the second match running with 30 points, runner-up Leith Munro also with 30 points. Ball run winners Nick Munro 30 points and Rod Taylor 29 points and Nick Munro took out last week's Super Six competition.

Nearest the pin winners were Nick Munro on the third, Rod Taylor on the fifth, no winner on the 11th, Rod also took out the 12th and 14th. There were no birdies on the birdie drink holes eight and 15.

The club also ran a side team's competition with the winners Ian Lakeland, Nick Munro, Leith Munro and Jezza Magee all securing a win over Grant Walters, Colin Long, Michael McLearn and Rod Taylor.

Next week will be a stroke Monthly Medal round at this stage; this is depending on the course conditions and the weather conditions.

All members please keep an eye on your texts and email for updates on course conditions and possible course closures. Hope to see you at the club soon.

## Shane McGorlick meets his handicap in tough conditions

By DAVE SILVERMAN

EIGHT players turned out to Alexandra Golf Club for the Stableford round last Tuesday, which was played in fine, mild and mainly sunny weather, although the going was still quite heavy.

Lenny Jenkins ran out the winner with 31 points, and second went to Mick Holohan on 28, on a countback from yours truly in third. Mick took out nearest the pin on 17, and Lenny claimed 18, with rundown vouchers going to Leo Dynes and Billy Wind.

And then, last Tuesday night, the rain came again, and continued on and off throughout Wednesday, meaning that, once again, the ladies' competition was a non-starter.

Eight was the magic number again last Saturday, and, as on Tuesday, the weather was fine and mild although naturally the course was, and is, still very soggy.

Koala Cherries sponsored the day, and the winner, and only person to play to their handicap, was Shane McGorlick, whose 36 points was highly respectable under the circumstances. John Steer took second place with 34 points, and third went to Simon Rouget who had 32.

Only two of the five available nearest the pins were claimed, with five going to Shane and your humble scribe, with my only good shot of the day, taking seven.

# Charity Day by Marysville golfers to support BlazeAid

By LESLEY RUNDLE

DESPITE the steady winter rain, some fog and sometimes frost the Marysville Golf Club course has remained open throughout the winter months.

This is due to the hard work and commitment of the course volunteers who have carried out their maintenance work in the challenging conditions, often having to change their plans at the last minute.

The Thursday nine holers played

stableford on the front nine holes. Brian Worcester (8) won with an excellent 23 points followed by Heather Jenkins (9) with 18 points. Brian also won the nearest the pin on the ninth hole and Gail Leigh won on the fourth hole.

Brian and Gail were also on the winner's list last Saturday when a mixed stableford round was played.

Gail (12) won the competition with 38 points on a countback from Brian (19) and also won the nearest the pin on the fourth

hole and the Golden Shot.

Colin Davies won the nearest the pin on the ninth and Keith Atwell won on the 18th hole.

Alexandra golfers John Norfolk and Bruce Flanders were welcomed to the competition. Next Saturday all golfers will play a mixed stableford round for the Neil Murphy Trophy.

Saturday was also a designated Charity Day with all money raised donated to the Foundation Murrindindi/BlazeAid's 'Purchase a Picket' Appeal for Bushfire Recovery.

A \$10 donation can purchase one star picket to assist BlazeAid with their fencing replacement programme.

The club is in the final stages of setting up the Miscore digital scorecard system and this was used successfully by players last Saturday.

The club thank those members who have been involved with installing this programme and thank Peter Doery for being on hand last Saturday to assist players with the system.



ON THE COURT: Jess preparing to receive Will's serve.

# Alexandra Squash Club: Round six of term three pennant

By ANDREW BROWN

Monday competition

SEVERAL players were unavailable on Monday, making this a shorter than usual evening. Nevertheless, there were some great games played.

Lachie versus Tyler: This was an enjoyable game to watch and a fairly even contest with some great rallies. Tyler won the first game, but Lachie won the next three and drew ahead to a good win 68-52.

Jess versus Will: Will won the first game by three points. Jess won the second game by three points. The third game was tied 15 points each. It all came down to the last game: Will was ahead by four points when time ran out. Final scores 62-58.

Justin versus Sam: Plenty of good rallies throughout the match but overall, Justin was just too strong, his serve causing Sam challenges.

Justin won each game and took the match 81-47.

Simon versus Stuart: Simon has been winning his matches comfortably so far this season but was pushed harder this time by Stuart, who is beginning to return to his usual form. This was an intense but friendly match throughout. Simon won several points from sublimely placed serves and controlled his length well. Stu won points with a combination of power shots and strategic placement. In the end, another win for Simon 71-51.

Jim versus Danny: Some tight rallies throughout but Jim held his composure to take points and games when needed. Danny will be disappointed in the final score; a good win for Jim 61-45.

Wednesday competition

Team One versus Team Two

Nicole versus Tyler (fill-in): Nicole found it difficult to intercept Tyler's powerful shots and

Tyler forged to an early lead. However, errors from Tyler in the third game allowed Nicole to dominate and take over the lead. In the final game, it was Tyler who came out just ahead in what was an even tussle. 60-58.

Matt (fill-in) versus Liane: Matt's serve was on fire, forcing Liane onto the back foot. Liane used her experience in cross-court play and some good serves of her own but it was Matt who won in a clean sweep 70-42.

Michael versus Justin: This match provided the sort of entertainment that it promised. Michael produced some terrific, low, hard cross court shots. Justin pulled off some spectacular returns of serve. An amazing "seal dive" from Michael thrilled the crowd. A game of dives, brilliant boast shots and sheer determination. Michael prevailing 62-57.

Team Three versus Team Four

Marty versus Beth: Marty's

boundless energy gave him the edge over Beth's experience. Although Beth fought hard to win the third game, Marty took the match in a strong display 80-51.

Travis versus Nathan: Travis took the lead in the first game. In the second, Nathan put in a massive effort to get ahead but Travis managed to hold him off. More of the same in the third game, Nathan just seconds away from winning but Travis denying him. Then a tie in the fourth and final game. Great squash from both players. A good win for Travis 63-53.

Ben versus Daniel: The curly-haired player started with an early lead. Sadly, that soon evaporated as the power player took control of the match and started accumulating points. Ben pulled off some extraordinary shots and did well to amass 37 points, but it is difficult to win against Daniel. Final result: Daniel 83-37.





**ENDURANCE TIME: SHANE O'BRIEN IN THE NUMBER 54 CAR, PART OF THE DEFENDING THREE-HOUR ENDURANCE CHAMPIONS. PHOTO: NAPIER PHOTOGRAPHY**

# Upcoming three-hour endurance at Speedway

By **DEAN THOMPSON**

This Saturday afternoon and into early evening, the Alexandra and District Speedway Club will hold its annual three-hour endurance event for Speedway Sedans comprising of almost 30 teams of two cars each with two drivers. The big event will not be the only racing on the day with Standard Saloon competitors and Junior Sedan racers also being afforded the opportunity to have a skid.

Racing will commence from 1pm with some qualifying racing and finals for the supporting

classes with the enduro potentially the last event of the schedule to send spectators home happy. Some other combinations pundits suggest watching out for and not limited to, include Caleb Lincoln and his father Colin, Travis Ramsdale and his brother Wayne, Nathan O'Brien and his mate Josh Barber, Jack Brennan and Matt Shankland, Danny and Peter Cox, Dale and Russell Smith, Alexandra resident Luke Fallon and his son Will, Shane Roycroft and Lee Beach, and David Donegan and Ian Thomsen.

The race is long, it dishes up challenges such as refuelling, breakages, flat tyres, damage repairs, mechanical repairs, and driver errors. Some cars are much faster than others, and anything can happen to them. Fans enjoy the social gathering around fire pits, with their friends watching and enjoying the sounds of race cars until it all comes down to the end where, it is possible, more than one team are in with a chance to win it all. Junior competitors with 1200cc powered race cars have also been allocated a spot on the schedule with Victorian champion Jaylen

Knight, and their sibling Kobi coming into competition with Alexandra members Lucas Magor and Bryden Bishop. It is a small field with Jaylen the absolute stand-out in the field. Racing begins 1pm. Free camping available so that people can have a great safe night and snooze off any enjoyment had for a safer trip home Sunday. Reach out directly to the club with any questions prior to attending, you can find them on social media. The track is located at 131 Gordon Street in Alexandra, just past the horse racing track and golf course facilities.

## Multiple achievements for Alexandra Speedway at the SSV Awards

ALEXANDRA Speedway had a very successful night at the recent Speedway Sedans Victoria (SSV) Awards, coming away with a number of achievements. Blake and Maddy Beach were named Top Stars Ambassadors for 2025-26, making it three years in a row that Alexandra Speedway members have taken home Ambassador of the Year awards. Matt Bishop walked away from the event with Ambassador of the Year for Street Stocks, plus two fifth place finishes in his series and fourth overall. Dylan Barrows was crowned Modified Driver of the Year. The club says a big thank you to the committee members who took the time to attend the awards night and represent Alexandra Speedway.

### SNAPSHOTS: ALEXANDRA SENIORS AND RESERVES TAKE ON SEVILLE AND BELGRAVE



**ON THE MOVE:** Alexandra Reserves player Conor Heaslip moving the ball against Belgrave.



**SENDING A FLIER:** Reserves player Cooper Phillips sending the ball on its way towards goal.



**KICKING IN ACTION:** Seniors player Mitch Parker kicking the ball down the field.



Upcoming  
three-hour  
endurance at  
Speedway



PAGE 19

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JUNIORS CLAIM  
PREMIERSHIP



PREMIERS: The Alexandra Under 10s took victory in the Lightning Premiership Grand Final, finishing a solid season.

UNDER 10S WIN GRAND FINAL WHILE NETBALLERS COME CLOSE

ALEXANDRA'S Under 10 Footballers capped off a fantastic season with a brilliant win over the Nagambie Lakers in the Lightning Premiership Grand Final.

The young Rebels were pumped and ready to play, but at half time found themselves trailing by just two points. After a quick half-time

pep talk from coach Aaron, the boys came out firing, dominating the second half and running away with an impressive 70 to 41 victory.

A fantastic effort by all the kids and a great reward for their hard work throughout the season. Congratulations to coach Aaron,

along with all the volunteers, parents and supporters who have helped the team along the way.

Well done Rebels on becoming Lightning Premiership Champions.

**Netball**

Alexandra's 15 and Under Black netballers took on St Mary's in their Grand Final last Sunday.

The Rebels played some fantastic netball and fought hard throughout the game, but St Mary's gained momentum in the third quarter and went on to defeat Alexandra 44 to 34 to claim the premiership.

Although it wasn't the result the girls were hoping for, making it through to the Grand Final was a

fantastic achievement and a great way to cap off a strong season.

Congratulations to all the players on a great year, and a special well done to Coach Pep on guiding the girls all the way to the Grand Final.

A fantastic effort by Alexandra's 15 and Under Black team. Hold your heads high.

# Seniors still have fighting chance

IT was a disappointing weekend for the Rebels in their endeavours in the first week of finals.

**Reserves**

Belgrave 14.13-97 defeated Alexandra 7.2-44

The Reserves took to the field with a common theme throughout the second half of the season constantly missing a number of key players through either injury or unavailability and were disappointing against a bigger and more disciplined Belgrave.

Harry Correa was a clear winner voted the Rebels best and was well supported by key experienced

**Tough matches for Alexandra senior sides but hope remains**

midfielders Tom Halligan, Connor Heaslip, Brent McDonald as well as defenders Brendan Musgrove and Nate Kerle.

The boys now hand over the premier's title and must now plan and regroup for season 2027.

Goal kickers: Galloway, Correa, D Jack, Hill, McDonald, Phillips, Eastwood all with one each.

**Seniors**

Seville 13.13-91 defeated Alexandra 9.8-62

The Rebels all season against the two top sides have been in

every game but have failed to secure a win and this was the same result in the qualifying final against Seville played at Woori Yallock.

Lachlan Nankervis continued his outstanding performance with another lion-hearted performance in the ruck. Mitch Parker generated great drive out of the centre putting his body on the line time and time again.

Bart Wallace and Peter Cairns in defence made life difficult for the Seville forwards.

Ben Cooper and Johnathon Grimwade were other solid contributors in an even team the Rebels now have one week to regroup regain some key personnel and play Emerald at Healesville next Sunday for the right to proceed to the Preliminary Final.

Goal kickers: Edwards, Critchley two each. Nankervis, Aikman, Stewart, Bishop, Coventry one each.

**Under 17 Netball**

Alexandra's Under 17 Netballers have kept their finals campaign

alive after a great win over Seville White in last Saturday's Elimination Final.

It was a close contest early, with the Rebels holding just a two-goal lead at half time. The girls finished strongly, pulling away in the final quarter with nine goals to Seville's five to secure the win.

Zoe Mullins was outstanding in goals with 27 goals, while Marli and Asher worked hard in defence and Phoebe was strong through the centre.

The Rebels now take on Emerald this Sunday, August 30 at 9.50am at Healesville.