

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, February 14, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Malicious damage to Queen Alexandra statue



The statue of Queen Alexandra in Jack Shiel Gardens has been covered following the vandalism. -S

ON the morning of Friday, February 9, damage to the Queen Alexandra statue, also known as the Princess Alexandra statue, in Jack Shiel Gardens was reported to the police. The statue's head had been removed in a very terrible act of vandalism.

The act was met by widespread disgust in the community. Some wondered whether there was any connection with the felling of the royalty-associated cork oak in Fernshaw in 2022.

Police advised that exhibits have been recovered at the scene of the statue vandalism and that they will be DNA tested and fingerprinted.

If you saw, heard or know anything, please contact the Alexandra police on 5772 1040 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

The statue has been on permanent loan to Alexandra from the National Gallery since it was unveiled in 1939. It was created by Charles Somers, born in 1825. More on the history of the statue can be found on page 17 of this edition.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "I am just deeply saddened by the recent act of vandalism that

targeted the Queen Alexandra statue in Jack Shiel Gardens, Alexandra.

"This statue commemorates Queen Alexandra as the Princess of Wales. Since 1939, Queen Alexandra has sat serenely and peacefully in Jack Shiel Gardens, a monument to our shire's important history.

"The vandalism of public property is a crime and cannot be condoned. Our community deserves better, and these types of acts only cause upset in our community.

"Council appreciates the efforts of Victoria Police in investigating this matter and we remain committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all residents.

"I urge anyone in the community who might have information related to this incident to contact Alexandra Police."

On the same night that the statue was damaged, a vehicle in Alexandra was broken into. This was followed by a similar incident on the following night, November 10. In addition, there was a burglary in Thornton.

Police would also like to remind people to beware of online scams, with a local person the victim of a criminal obtaining property by deception.



This is a **recurring meeting taking place every fourth Saturday of the month** for anyone bereaved from suicide. This support group is run by volunteers of Lived Experiences and welcomes anyone aged 18 years and over.

Support groups are a space to connect with others, self reflect, discuss challenges, share experiences and self help strategies.



Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9.30am till 10.30am



Meeting Room, Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass Street, Yea



FREE

For further information, contact

Jacky (Founder) - 0417 907 278 or Steve (Secretary) - 0412 334 521
visit our website at gvsag.org.au

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Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

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

WEEKLY
Tues Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm
Ph 5773 2306
Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222
Sun Alanon Recovery Phone 0402 428 086.
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY
1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's
regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this
a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of
what groups are available in the community, when they meet
and a contact phone number.

Letters to the Editor

Patriotism
AS one of the pre-Boomer vintage and who lived in the United Kingdom both before and during the war, may I put a different slant on Valerie's letter to the *Standard* last week?
I can remember, before the war, the papers discussing a debate by students at either Oxford or Cambridge, "Would you go to war for your country?" An over whelming vote was for no, yet not much over a year later many of those students were in the air in the Battle of Britain, staffing the navy, etcetera. Many others were in the home guard, digging up lawns to grow food, etcetera.
They were prepared to protect their homes, families and way of life from a dreadful alternative.
Patriotism is a strange thing. In everyday life, it is not something one gives much thought to, even on celebration days, but if you are overseas and hear *Waltzing Matilda* played on board a Qantas flight home it really touches your heart.
If Australia's shores or family and way of life were threatened, I am sure patriotism will be to the fore. Let's hope our country is never in that situation.
Elizabeth Goss, Alexandra

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on Facebook

having a celebration?
need invitations?

CALL NOW!
5772 1002
or email us on
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Weekly Weather
February 14 - February 20, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	22
Thursday	11	26
Friday	13	29
Saturday	15	31
Sunday	15	31
Monday	15	31
Tuesday	18	31

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	21
Thursday	10	26
Friday	12	29
Saturday	15	31
Sunday	14	30
Monday	14	30
Tuesday	18	31

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	3.00pm Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Acheron R at Taggerty	3.00pm Mon	0.60	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	1.21pm Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	2.39pm Mon	0.57	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	3.00pm Mon	0.51	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	3.00pm Mon	0.52	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	3.00pm Mon	1.34	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	3.00pm Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	3.00pm Mon	1.64	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	1.51pm Mon	1.21	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	3.00pm Mon	3.73	steady	

**ISSUED AT 3.15PM ON MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra N/Amm
Buxton..... N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)..... 0.4mm
Flowerdale..... 0mm
Jamieson..... 0.2mm
Kinglake..... 1mm
Lake Eildon 0.4mm
Mansfield..... 1mm
Taggerty 0mm
Yarck 0.4mm
Yea..... 0.4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....288.15m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....97%
Metres below full supply.....75cm
Daily inflow1000ML
Release..... 3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....55%

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: (Literally) to the Alexandra District Health (ADH) Urgent Care Department and our local ambulance service. The care and dedication shown after a severe accident to my hand was amazing. The doctor and nurses consulted with the plastics team at Maroondah Hospital and stabilised my hand ready for transport down to Ringwood for plastic surgery, where the successful re-attachment of my thumb was carried out. I am very grateful for the wonderful care I received at both the ADH and Maroondah Hospital.
THUMBS UP: To Alexandra District Health. From the initial contact all the way to the final procedure, the service was just fantastic. A big thank you to all the staff at ADH for caring and delivering a very professional service to our community. We are very lucky to have this facility right here in Alexandra.
THUMBS UP: To council for its Reconciliation Action Plan. It's for all of us. Thumbs up also to Lachlan Fraser for his 'Make Australia Day Fair' Facebook group. Australia Day should be for all of us.
THUMBS DOWN: To the deranged idiot who cut the head off the Princess Alexandra statue in Perkins Street. The statue has been a part of our town's rich heritage for many years. This federal, state and local government sanctioned madness and vandalism of Australia's colonial and empirical history must be stopped before it gets completely out of hand. I hope the idiot is quickly apprehended and charged.
THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra Open Gardens Committee for their purchase of trees along the Maroondah Highway entrance to Alexandra.
THUMBS DOWN: To Murrindindi Shire Council for allowing these trees to be surrounded by one metre high long grass.
THUMBS DOWN: To the local petrol stations for the high price of LP gas at \$1.35. Buxton is \$1.17 and Melbourne even cheaper. Why so much difference for locals?
Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to *editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au*
Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

Standard

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

Who are you really dating on dating websites?

ACCORDING to the National Anti Scam Centre, a team within the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), in 2023, criminals stole more than \$40 million in fake investments from people in Australia through dating websites and social media.

These financial scammers are pretending to be a real person who wants a relationship with you, spending weeks or months gaining your trust, then telling you to invest your money or cryptocurrency in 'opportunities' that turn out to be fake, leaving you broke and broken hearted.

The scam usually starts when someone you don't know contacts you through a dating app, website or social media. They show interest in developing a relationship with you, and follow this up with frequent messages expressing strong feelings for you. When you've built trust with them, they tell you about an investment scheme or platform where you can make money easily. The idea they pitch often involves cryptocurrency. They may offer to show you how easy it is to invest. You may even make a profit quickly

from a small amount you've invested. If you run out of money or ask for it back, they tend to disappear and unfortunately you can't get your money back.

To protect yourself, don't give out personal information or act on investment advice from someone you have only met online, always follow your gut instincts and if there is any doubt stop communicating with them.

Always keep in mind, the people you communicate with aren't always who they say they are. Scammers can use different profile picture and lie who they are. It's easier to do this with an online relationship.

Act quickly if something feels wrong, firstly, contact your bank immediately if you've invested or lost money. Contact the platform you were scammed on and let them know about the scam. Tell your friends and family, it helps to share your experience. They can support you and you can help protect them from scams, and report scams to Scamwatch at scamwatch.gov.au

Hospitals to work together more closely

YEA and District Memorial Hospital CEO Elizabeth Sinclair and Alexandra District Health CEO Jane Poxon were keen to dispel rumours of an amalgamation between the two organisations, however they are planning to work more collaboratively into the future.

In a joint statement, Ms Poxon and Ms Sinclair said, "We're looking for opportunities to collaborate so we can enhance the health services available to the

Murrindindi community, however we're not discussing an amalgamation.

"We've recently partnered our Finance and People and Culture services to ensure both health services can benefit from and share in the expertise and resources available in our region.

"This includes our new Director of People and Culture who started at the beginning of February, and whose team will work across both Alexandra District Health and Yea Memorial District Hospital."

Redgate Alexandra CWA report

WELCOME back to another year for Redgate CWA. The January meeting had an Australiana theme and the members enjoyed a sharing lunch. The guest speaker was Marlene Fleming who entertained the members with her coffee table book of beautiful photos of her family trip through central Australia.

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 22 at 1pm at the club rooms. The afternoon tea hostesses are Martine and Cynthia. The theme is Valentine's Day and the competitions are flower of the month and romantic article. The guest speaker is Nathan from NP Podiatry at 2.30pm.

The upcoming events are the Hume Goulburn Group Conference on Saturday, March 2 at 10am in Yarck. The Redgate

branch will run the trading table. They have also started baking for the scone challenge and cake stall on Saturday, March 16 outside FoodWorks.

Craft days on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm are fun, and full of laughter and sharing. Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee is provided. The cost is only \$2.

On Fridays, from 10am to 12pm, members are using their skills in knitting, crocheting, embroidering and tapestry-making, as well as making knitted items for Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes.

If you would like to join Redgate CWA, please call president Sue Wynn on 0412 435 946 or secretary Holly Wal 0429 123 846.

Alexandra Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

IT'S encouraging to see that people read the club's news in the *Standard* as after last week's report I received a phone call from a new resident of Alexandra who volunteered to drive a coach for club excursions. I now have to investigate what's on in the eastern suburbs for future trips.

Lilydale International and Dorset Gardens Morning Melodies and lunch have attracted my attention as have a trip to Hunters Antiques and Collectables in Bayswater for those who collect 'stuff'. Watch this page.

The bridge players met up on Monday and Wednesday and there was a social meeting on Friday. After the formal

part of the meeting treasurer Dave told the jokes and Steph spun the wheel for the Chocolate Raffle, in the absence of Ron who is recovering from his stay in Shepparton Hospital. It was 'M' day with Marg, Marion and me (Mike) going home with a smile on their faces. The members finished the afternoon with the usual games of 500 and UNO.

This Friday, we will have a sing song with Ian leading the singing accompanied by Dave on piano and Mike on his trusty ukulele.

As always, a reminder that all seniors are welcome to come and join us. Just come along to the Friday meeting in the Bayley Street clubroom at 1pm. Meanwhile, keep smiling and stay safe.

Alexandra Museum Report

ANOTHER year of new beginnings at the Alexandra Museum. In January we celebrated Volunteer Memorial Day and Australia Day with Diesel train rides and sharing our local history.

On Sunday, February 25 the museum will celebrate 38 years of passenger operations (1986). Come and enjoy a special morning tea and self guided tours will be available.

It will be easier for visitors to see our platform staff as they have a new uniform. Thank you to Noanie at Alexandra Apparel for her help and guidance.

Individual group bookings are available to suit your needs. Please contact Jane on 0427 509 988 or info@alexandratramway.org.au

If you have a spare hour or two please consider helping at our museum with mowing, cleaning and general maintenance jobs. If you would like more information please call the number above.

"How can there be a future, if you don't know the past."

Quake rattles and rolls

IN the early hours of Thursday, February 9, a magnitude 4.3 earthquake shook much of Victoria.

The epicentre of the quake was close to Leongatha, with a depth of 10 kilometres.

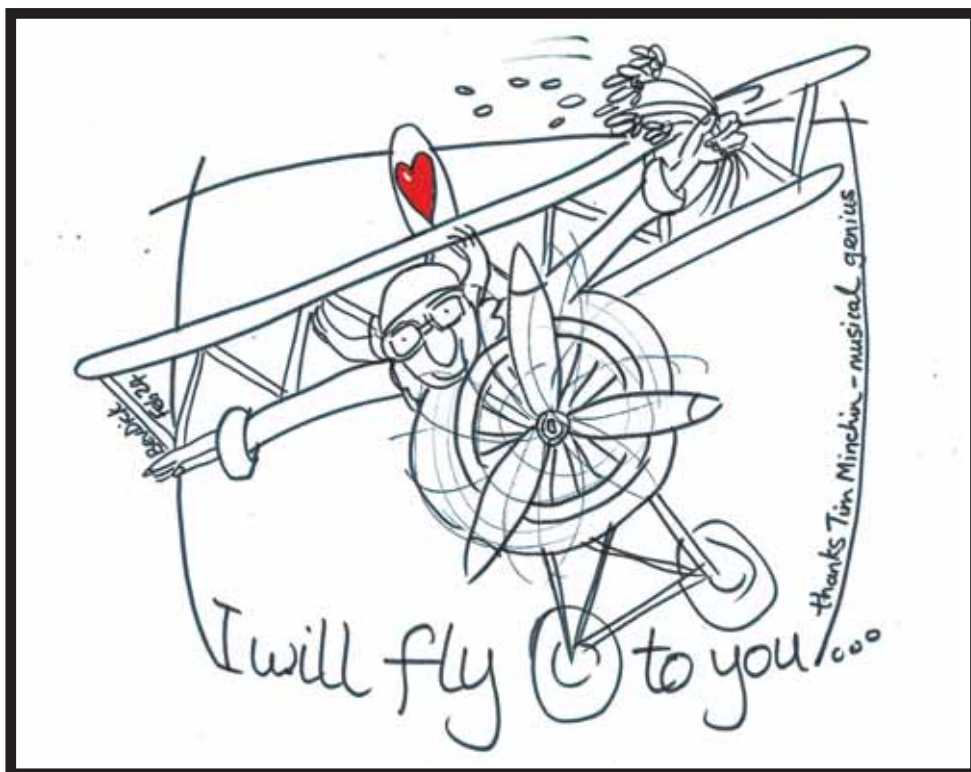
According to the 'felt reports' on GeoScience Australia, the quake was felt from Seymour in the north, to Traralgon in the east, down to Wilsons Promontory in the south and across to Ballarat in the

west. There were also reports of it being felt in Tasmania and South Australia.

There were a total of 5431 reports by noon the following day.

Locally, there were six 'felt reports' in Marysville, one each in Alexandra, Yea, Toolangi and Kinglake.

It was the largest Victorian earthquake since September 2021, measuring magnitude 5.9 with the epicentre near Rawson.



Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea and cake stall
Saturday, February 17 from 9am
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Standard

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Out&About



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

If you have been impacted by recent flooding and have waste to dispose of, including household and green waste, contact council's waste team on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

If you are paying your council rates in full, payment is due February 15. The third instalment is due February 29, 2024.

Nominations for council's 2024 Community Awards are now open. Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year and Community Group or Initiative of the Year. Nominations close Sunday, March 24. Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Market @ Yarck from 9am. Plants, soap, preserves and jams, jewellery and much more. Contact Sharon for further information or regarding stall hire 0407 879 612.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The next meeting of the Alexandra RSL will be held at noon. This meeting is an Annual General Meeting, followed by the normal monthly meeting with light lunch.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Book now for Coffee and commerce: brewing up economic buzz, business breakfast 7-8.30am at On Point Brewery, Alexandra. It's free – book at murrindindifoodandwine.org.au

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

MULTI VENDOR - online clearing sales. Alexandra and Acheron. See ad in this weeks edition. Contact Embling Rural, for full details 0418 266 038.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Public meeting, Buxton Memorial Hall at 2pm. To form a Buxton Open Spaces Committee. For further information email secretary@buxtonprogeess.org.au

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Long Lazy Summer lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Noon - 4pm. Three course lunch featuring local produce, free flowing bubbles from Snobs Creek Estate. Spectacular views. Accommodation available. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

GOBUR – online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concludes March 4 at noon +2 min increments. Inspection on Tuesday, February 27. 9.30am-2.30pm. Contact Embling Rural for further information 0418 266 038.

Is there a doctor in the band?



Dr Lachlan Fraser and Marg Lauricella attending to the injured magpie. -S

IT'S never boring when the *Pans on Fire* steelband get together to play a gig, but their performance on Sunday, February 11 at the Marysville Market was just a little bit different.

Baritone pan player, Marg Lauricella, arrived at the gig with a magpie that she had rescued from the road as she drove to Marysville. Swathed in a towel, the stunned magpie rested in the back of the band bus while the band played their first set of the day.

Between the first and second sets, the magpie was brought outside for inspection, and someone cried, "Is there a doctor in the house?"

Well of course there was, and fellow baritone player Dr Lachlan Fraser was soon at hand, with medication, instruments and bandages.

After an examination of the bird, he diagnosed a possible broken wing, and went to work cleaning and sterilising the wound, before applying a splint and wrapping the magpie in a loose bandage.

The magpie appeared more relaxed as the band played its second set, and the members of the band hope that it makes a full recovery in the animal rescue centre.

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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 Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
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 118 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Contact: Ps Steven Turner
 Ph: 0413 127 283
 Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

A Christian community of the Baptist Union of Victoria Sunday 4.30pm service
 Kids program during school term
 St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
 Alexandra
 Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone
 0481 472 152



Miss White with Marysville Primary School's new prep students, Nellie, Xanthia and Victor. -S

Where will the disaster relief funding go?

ADDITIONAL support from the state and federal governments for Victorian Communities affected by the recent December and January storms and floods was announced last week.

It includes \$105 million for increased financial assistance to support the immediate and long term recovery and rebuild phase.

This assistance will be jointly funded under Category A and B of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and it includes emergency roadworks from larger scale works like the rebuilding of roads, bridges and culverts, and finding and fixing potholes, asphaltting and repairing road surfaces damaged by the severe weather events to get flood affected Victorians back on the road.

The Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said, "We're making a significant investment in fixing damaged roads to ensure that Victorians in storm and flood affected areas can get back on the road as soon as possible."

The Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien isn't impressed with the announcement, saying, the announcement of \$105 million is standard funding activated for emergency works after a natural disaster and not a new, designated roads package.

Mr O'Brien said it will be lucky to go close to addressing the worst damage caused by floods in spring and the current summer.

"Our roads were in a dire state before this season and at best, the funding will only get them back to where they were, that is, still disastrous.

"After a 45 per cent cut in road maintenance funding since 2020, our roads are suffering from tens of thousands of potholes, rough surfaces, cracking, rutting and broken shoulders.

"This has led to a 414 per cent increase over three years in compensation claims lodged by Victorian drivers who've suffered damage to their vehicles due to the poor state of our roads."

Mr O'Brien repeated his calls for a specific funding package to catch up on the backlog of roads maintenance plaguing the state.

"The \$165 million allocated by the Government after the October 2022 floods barely scratched the surface but we need at least that money again to begin much needed repair of our roads," Mr O'Brien said.

The \$105 million funding will also include the expansion of the Emergency Recovery Hotline which enables residents affected by disasters to access information about available programs that can help them recover and connect them with mental health, business, legal and financial support services.

Expanding the Recovery Support Program which can provide storm and flood impacted residents with access to a dedicated Recovery Support Worker, playing an important role to connect them to critical services and support programs specific to their recovery journey.

Additional mental health and wellbeing support including psychological First Aid training programs, face to face mental health and wellbeing support from the Bendigo Mental Health and Wellbeing hub, free and subsidised telepsychology services from Rural Health Connect, and proactive emergency outreach visits and group counselling sessions.

These additional support services will be available in the 28 Local Government Areas where disaster assistance is already available, including the *Personal Hardship Assistance Program* (PHAP), which continues to support eligible storm and flood affected Victorians, and support to councils to repair and restore essential public assets.

To access recovery support, impacted residents can call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. If you think you may be eligible for re-establishment assistance, you should contact council.

Information on disaster assistance, including PHAP is available on the Australian Government's website at disasterassist.gov.au and the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing website services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program

Council's ward boundaries under review

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has been named as one of 10 councils in Victoria with ward boundaries to come under review.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is running the review at the request of the Minister for Local Government. Reviews occur regarding the internal boundaries (wards) of a council when the number of voters per councillor is forecast to be outside the legislated +/- 10 per cent tolerance in one or more wards at the next local council election. The aim is to make sure each voter is represented equally at the next local council election.

The VEC will share the options in a preliminary report and invite the community to have their say on these options. After considering factors including the requirements of the law, population data and your views, the VEC will then make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

People can share their views in writing and draw a map of their preferred ward boundaries in a submission.

For Murrindindi Shire Council, submissions open on Wednesday, February 21 and close at 5pm on Wednesday, March 13.

Online information sessions are being conducted for people to find out more about the ward boundary reviews. Sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams at noon on Monday, February 19 and noon on Tuesday, February 20.

People can join from their computer or phone. The link and phone number to join will be available 30 minutes before the session begins at the website vec.vic.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/council-reviews/subdivision-reviews/councils-under-review/murrindindi-shire-council

Joining generations through play

ALEXANDRA is set to be a part of a six week pilot program of intergenerational playgroup, run by Playgroup Victoria and local organiser, Jess Slapp.

The idea behind intergenerational playgroup is to bring together multiple generations, supporting communities and nurturing relationships through play. In doing this, it fosters awareness, understanding and respect between generations and assists in breaking down social barriers and the isolation that is commonly experienced by new parents and ageing communities.

Jess explains her passion behind the project, "Personally, the idea has been bouncing around with me for a while. A few years back I'd heard a story about a community in England that was bridging their daycare shortages by linking retirees with local families and thought it was a fantastic idea.

"When I became a mum in 2022, I felt quite isolated having no family locally, and began to chat with others wondering how many of us were feeling this way. Chatting with people of all different life stages made me realise that isolation can happen quite often to mums and older people in our community, and then it felt obvious that these two groups of people would have more in common than we initially think.

"Then, I started watching the *Old People's Home* series on ABC, and fell in love with the idea of enriching lives through unique connections in our community. I got in touch with Playgroup Victoria to see what established programs they could offer me to attend, and surprisingly my contact there mentioned that they hadn't had much interest in these programs and that they'd like to pilot some programs around the state.

"Of course, I put our hand up, and got chatting with our local playgroup committee and a few friends from a couple of other relevant community groups about how great this would be.

"So the nuts and bolts started coming together, with a few key contacts supporting me from all sorts of places, including the Alexandra Playgroup, Murrindindi Shire Council Library and Murrindindi Shire Council community staff. We're now here."

Jess hopes the program establishes a base level of intergenerational connections across our community, and maybe creates some little glimmers in people's day.

Jess added, "Even if the program doesn't continue after its six week pilot, I'd love for the idea to continue blossoming in our community in whatever format that looks like. We're all busy, but if we make a little bit of time for things like this, I think we'd all be better for it.

"I'd also love for the program to encourage other community members who find themselves in linking positions between community groups, to join me in establishing these programs. I have to admit, so far, it's been so much easier than I thought it might be. I'm feeling very supported by our community in this endeavour."

The program is open to anyone interested in hanging out with local parents and children in the community. So far, there is already some interest from Jess's friends from Murrindindi U3A and Redgate CWA who are hoping to come along.

Jess suggested the program might also be a great opportunity for those who are part of local, intergenerational families to bring, say, an aunt along with your kids, meet some new people and go for a coffee after. Ideally, having repeat attendees to increase the amount of familiarity between the kids and adults present will be beneficial.

The sessions are free and will be held at the Murrindindi Library from 9am to 10am starting on Tuesday, February 20 until Tuesday, March 26. It is encouraged those planning to attend to register prior to give us a good indication of numbers. This can be done by registering at playgroupvic.typeform.com/tinyandwise

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW 2024

The Victorian Electoral Commission is conducting a review of Council's ward boundaries.



At the request of the Minister for Local Government, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is reviewing Murrindindi Shire Council's internal boundaries (wards).

These types of reviews happen when the number of voters per councillor is forecasted to be outside the legislated +/- 10% tolerance in one or more wards at the next local council election. This makes sure each voter is represented equally.

You're invited to have your say on the proposed ward boundaries, outlined in the VEC's preliminary report, and how well they represent your community. You can share your views in writing and draw a map of your preferred ward boundaries. This is known as a submission.

Submissions open on 21 February, once the preliminary report is made available, and close at 5.00 pm on 13 March.

To learn more, come along to one of the following information sessions:

- Monday 19 February at 12 noon
- Tuesday 20 February at 12 noon

To join a session (online or via phone) and for more information on the review, visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au and search 'murrindindi' or scan the QR code below.



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Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

 **Bendigo Bank**

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ayla Davies - 3/4B

Ayla, thank you for your kind and caring attitude to your teachers and peers. You always lend a hand when you see help is needed. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Ayla.

You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Betty is a great role model for our school. She is caring, includes others and is focused on her learning.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Heath and Logan have been attentive in displaying the school values of Integrity and Respect this week. Well done.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kaidyn has had a super start to the school year. He is focused and engaged in the classroom. Kaidyn offers insightful points to discussions and confidently answers questions. He asks for help and accepts that sometimes things may work out differently than he hopes. Kaidyn is showing resilience in class and out in the yard, he is not letting things get in the way of his positivity. What a wonderful start to grade two, keep it up. Well done, Kaidyn.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kingslake branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

Plantation forest grants available

THE second round of grants for the \$74 million Support Plantation Establishment Program is now open for applications.

Farm foresters, First Nations businesses and the forestry industry are among those who will benefit from funding to support more new plantation forests in Australia.

Acting Deputy Secretary of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group Dr Jared Greenville said the grants aimed to increase domestic timber supply, particularly construction and manufacturing timber.

"Australia's plantation forest estate has been in decline for over a decade," Dr Greenville said.

"Estimates from 2019 predict a shortfall in domestic production of softwood logs of

3.4 million m3 by 2050 based on 2015-16 production levels.

"That's why this grant opportunity continues to play an important role to increase Australia's future timber supply and reduce our dependence on imported timber.

"It's also an important investment in regional and rural jobs and the new plantations will continue to contribute to Australia's carbon emission reduction targets."

The first round of the program has awarded more than \$3.2 million across seven projects in New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. It is expected that a further announcement of successful projects from

the first round, which closed on January 24, will be made shortly.

"The Australian Government is providing funding of \$2,000 (GST exclusive) per hectare of new long-rotation plantation forest established," Dr Greenville said.

"It can take some tree species 20 to 30 years of growing before they are suitable for harvest and can be processed into structural timber.

"This growing time is even longer for some hardwood species."

Projects can run for one, two or three years and must be concluded no later than June 30, 2027.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit tinyurl.com/2cz95e4s



Plantation grants are now available. -Robert Linsdell

leap

into 2024

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email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Welcome to Sacred Heart's new acting principal

THE school principal is a significant role in the running of an educational facility, and for Kathryn Stewart she has double the responsibility. She's the principal of St Mary's Primary School in Alexandra, and

has now been appointed as acting principal at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea.

Kathryn said, "Being a principal in two schools doesn't happen a lot, however it is

becoming something that can be done if required."

Kathryn grew up in Sydney and lived in the Hunter Valley since 2014. She made the move to Victoria in 2022 to take on the role of principal at St Marys in Alexandra.

Kathryn comes from a Catholic family and attended a Catholic high school. She completed her original degree through the Australian Catholic University. She recently finished her Master of Education in Leadership and Management through another Catholic university, Notre Dame.

Late last year, Kathryn was asked if she would take on the position of acting principal at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, in addition to St Mary's. Both positions are full time roles. The role of a principal is to oversee the day to day running of the school, supporting staff, being the face in the school community, overseeing the business side of running a school, the curriculum, the learning of the children, and when it comes to Catholic education, it also involves being a faith leader in the school.

Kathryn described the change as interesting. "I've been splitting my time across both schools and support them both and be a face in both places.

"At Sacred Heart, I'm currently getting to know the community and understand their needs so I can best support them. I'm happy to be here and be part of such a lovely community and have felt very welcomed... which has been lovely. Being in education, particularly in a Catholic school, it's a privilege to support and serve the local communities."



Acting Principal of Sacred Heart Primary, Kathryn Stuart is overseeing the school until a new principal is secured. -S

Tyrrell seeks driver education for Victorian school students

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has appealed to the Victorian Government to introduce a driver education module in Victorian secondary schools.

In response to the tragic increase in deaths on Victorian roads in 2023, Ms Tyrrell wants a basic driver safety skills and basic vehicle maintenance program made available to all students in Years 10 to 12, to better prepare them for when they get their drivers licence.

Speaking during the adjournment debate in State Parliament, Ms Tyrrell highlighted the sad increase in road fatalities last year, including the tragic loss of 60 young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age.

"Many of these horrific deaths may have been avoided had our young drivers been exposed to a more thorough and rigorous introduction to our road rules, safety and the importance of vehicle maintenance," Ms Tyrrell said.

Ms Tyrrell said making a course available to all Victorian Year 10 to 12 students through their schooling would enable qualified educators to correctly teach vital

and potentially life saving knowledge as the students prepare to get their learners or probationary licences.

"Last year's road toll statistics show that many young drivers lack education, understanding and respect on our roads and while some parents and carers have outstanding road safety skills and knowledge to pass on to their children, a school based educational course dedicated to road safety, driving skills and basic vehicle maintenance would better prepare them for their first years on the road," Ms Tyrrell said.

"I do not wish to see our young people being lost on the roads because they were denied the time, patience, and correct guidance from those who are deemed responsible enough to show them how to be safe drivers."

Ms Tyrrell called on Education Minister Ben Carroll to implement a drivers safety skills and basic vehicle maintenance module into the Victorian secondary school curriculum, making it available to all students from years 10 to 12.

A significant parliamentary apology

ON Thursday, February 8, the Premier of Victoria formally apologised to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care.

Before 1990, more than 90,000 children were placed in institutional care in Victoria. Many children experienced harm at the hands of those trusted to protect them. Some now carry trauma and grief with them as adults, at times leading to poverty or homelessness.

The new Victorian Care Leavers Redress Scheme is under development and will be co-designed with Victorians who grew up in institutional care.

The scheme will build on support available through the National Redress Scheme set up after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Until the scheme begins, the Victorian Government is providing Advanced Redress payments of \$10,000 to people who were physically, psychologically or emotionally abused or neglected as children in institutional care in Victoria before 1990, and who are now critically or terminally ill.

Applications for Advanced Redress payments can be made at services.dffh.vic.gov.au/advance-redress-payments

People who need support can contact Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) or Open Place (Relationships Australia Victoria). Crisis help is available through Lifeline on 131 114.

The full text of the Premier's Parliamentary Apology to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care is located at premier.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

Nominate a community member, group or initiative!



Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to our Shire? Would like to recognise the efforts of a local community group or initiative?

Nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards are now open! Previously called Citizen of the Year Awards, this year we're focusing on the wonderful people who volunteer in our community, and just like last year, Award winners will be announced and celebrated during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May 2024), providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate the contributions of volunteers in our community.

So, what are you waiting for? Nominations are now open for the following Award categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards to nominate an individual or group for an Award.

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, as well as the Mobile Library.

Nominations close on Sunday 24 March 2024.



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

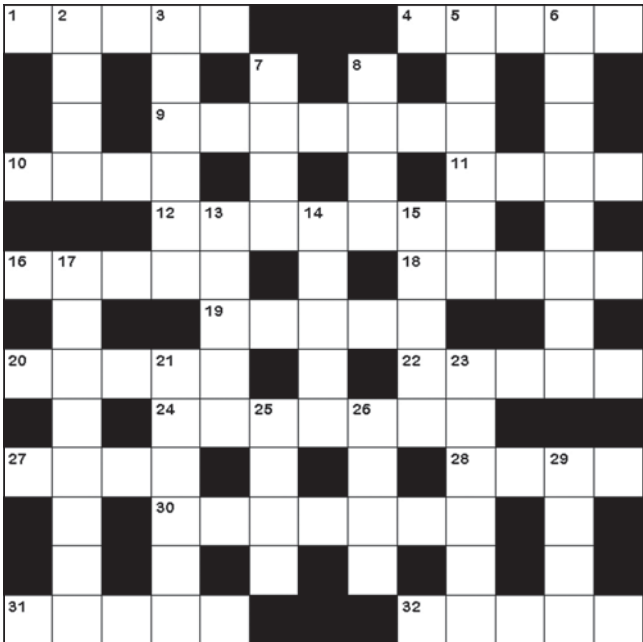
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Lacking taste or flavour.
4. Picture taken by a camera.
9. A wild duck.
10. Plant used for flavouring food.
11. Unable to hear.
12. Framework of a crisscross pattern.
16. Moving very fast.
18. Block on which metals are hammered .
19. Egg shaped.
20. A Mallee fowl.
22. A large natural stream of water.
24. Journalists who report the news.
27. In this manner.
28. Something that is owed.
30. A pleasant reception.
31. Happy and gay.
32. Learn by reading books.

DOWN

2. Ancient stringed instrument.
3. Moving quickly and lightly.
5. Kept out of sight.
6. Vitamin B1.
7. A horizontally level.
8. Cab for hire.
13. Make up for.
14. Work implements/
15. A group of activists.
17. Escape clause.
21. Reply or respond to.



23. Make a depression into.
25. Join together by heating.
26. State of mind.
29. Having no hair.

Word Search

Happy Valentine's Day
February 14

- AFFECTION
BOW
CARD
CRUSH
CUPID
DATE
DIAMOND
GIFT
HUG
LETTER
LOVE
ROMANCE



Double Puzzle

OWOLLDGI
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
2

IATYHRC
[] [] [] [] [] [] []
11

OISPSNOMAC
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
3

RYSTINEOGE
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
6

YAUMTNHI
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
11

LNISSIEKDN
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
1 4 7 8

PNOYAPLITRHH
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
10

RNAUTSDNIDGEN
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
9 5

[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Maths Squares

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

	+		×		23
+		-		×	
9	-		+		7
-		+		+	
	-	1	+		9
10		-2			28

Sudoku

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

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

Watch those pests in Summer

A MALE Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) was found in Kinglake in late January. Murrindindi Shire Coucil is working with the Yarra Valley QFF Regional Coordinator, Bronwyn Koll, to help the Kinglake community manage the spread of this serious pest.

While there haven't been further reported sightings, council would like to remind everyone in Murrindindi Shire to be alert and take the necessary steps to manage and help stop the spread of QFF.

During summer, QFF becomes more active and adult female flies lay their eggs in a wide range of host fruits. You can help manage the spread of QFF by putting up special netting over your veggie garden and fruit trees, before the fruit ripens, to keep the flies out. You should also remove unwanted fruit trees from your property and clean up any fallen fruit.

If you suspect QFF has made a home in your garden or you think you might have seen it on your property, give council a call on 5772 0333 and they can help you identify it, as well as help you take the right next steps to remove it and prevent it from returning. It's always helpful if you can take photos of the damaged fruit, larvae, or the fly if you have trapped it, to assist in identification. By reporting sightings to council, it also helps council focus on weed management efforts, including targeting Blackberry.

Controlling the spread of QFF is the responsibility of all landowners, including council.

For information on what you can do to help slow the spread within your own property, please visit Murrindindi Shire website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/QFF

You can also pick up a helpful 'No Flies On Us' information pack from your local garden centre or hardware store, or you can call Council and they can arrange to have one sent to you.

Agriculture Victoria's Statewide Fruit Fly Co-ordinator Cathy Mansfield offered additional advice if you find QFF on your property.

"QFF can breed in many other home garden crops that are present in mid summer such as peaches, nectarines and berries, with fruit becoming increasingly attractive as it ripens. Fruit infested with fruit fly should be microwaved, frozen or placed into plastic bags and left in the sun for at least 14 days before being thrown in the rubbish bin.

"Keep damaged fruit out of the compost, the warm and humid conditions create the perfect environment to rear a new generation of flies," Ms Mansfield said.

"When it comes to netting, ask for fine insect netting at your hardware store or garden centre, the holes are approximately two millimetres in diameter, rather than bird netting which QFF can get through."

Ms Mansfield finally added, "Insect netting can be expensive but as long as it's UV stable should last for many years, which makes it a very affordable long term control method. You can also use QFF pheromone traps to catch male flies and this will help you to know whether there are flies present. If you do use baits or insecticides, follow the label instructions and maintain your program of applications to minimise the chance that you will miss a generation of flies."

Fore more great QFF control tips visit Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au

Beanie festival makes donation to Embassy

MURRINDINDI Beanie and Fibre Festival event coordinator, Carolyn Weeks, on behalf of the MBFF volunteer Committee was thrilled to hand over a cheque to Sasha Barrow of the Embassy of Ideas Alexandra recently. The funds will support the work that the Embassy does within the community.

Each year the festival relies on donations from the community at large to donate beanie and winter warming items of all shapes and sizes in order for the much-loved event to go ahead.

Monies raised from participating stall holders and the sale of donated items goes back into the community. Anyone

can get involved. This is a community event organised by the community for the community.

Now in its 10th year, the festival is expanding to include more sites over the weekend of the May 25 and 26, and in the lead up will feature workshops for both adults and children.

To find out how you can get involved, brochures including entry forms will be available in local shops and online at beanie.org.au soon or you can follow them on Facebook. The Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival is always the fourth weekend in May.



Carolyn Weeks and Sasha Barrow at the cheque handover. -S

Bus it to the Alexandra Races on March 2

PICNIC Racing returns to Alexandra on Saturday, March 2. Alex Races Rock is one of the most fun meetings of the season. *The Rockin' Tones* is a great, traditional rock band that will get you up and moving.

Getting to the races has never been easier. Buses are running on three routes, from Eildon, Marysville or Yea. People need to book online to reserve a seat. There is a small charge of \$5 return. Children 15 and under travel free but they must also have a reservation. Take the hassle out of getting to the races and book early at trybooking.com/COPA

Dress up as your favourite rock idol or group for a chance to win some great prizes.

Young people 16 and under can enter the air guitar competition. Marco the Magician and Jess the face painter will be there too. The big screen returns to make all the local and Melbourne races will be larger than life.

The organisers would like to thank sponsors FoodWorks, Whanregarwen Pastoral, Rubicon Hotel Motel Thornton, Ernie Hadfield Contracting, Bet 365 and Thompson Family Racing for their support of the day.

Attendees can purchase tickets at the gate for \$15 or \$10 concession. Children aged 15 and under are free.

THE WHAT DAY IS IT BIT

Victoria's bathing experiences are a short trip from home, but light years from the real world. Don't be alarmed by that strange feeling – that's just your stress melting away.

Unwind at revitalising places like Alba Thermal Springs & Spa.

[VISITVICTORIA.COM](https://www.visitvictoria.com)

VICTORIA EVERY BIT
DIFFERENT

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Stop the spread of invasive weeds

ALL Victorians can help protect our food growing communities, our biodiversity, gardens, lakes and places of cultural significance by helping to stop the sale of two of the world's most invasive aquatic weeds.

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Manager High Risk Invasive Plants Angela Constantine said the ongoing illegal trade of water hyacinth (*eichhornia crassipes* or *pontederia crassipes*) and salvinia (*salvinia molesta*) is putting the state at risk.

"We're running a campaign helping to raise awareness about the risks of these plants, as they can cause extensive damage by choking rivers, dams, lakes and irrigation channels," Ms Constantine said.

"The continued trade of these plants helps them to spread fast and once introduced to a new area, these weeds quickly cover waterways.

"These weeds may look attractive, but their ability to quickly spread harms native plants and wildlife, and reduces water quality for farming and recreation."

Water hyacinth and salvinia are primarily spread by people buying and selling them to go in ornamental ponds, dams and aquariums.

"It is illegal to buy, sell or give away water hyacinth or salvinia in Victoria, however in most cases home gardeners are unaware of the potential harmful impacts of these weeds," Ms Constantine said.

"When you consider that one water hyacinth plant can produce more than 3000 seeds over summer, you can see how easily they can be spread from a backyard pond. They also have extensive root systems that can generate other plants too.

"The plants can be carried by birds to other waterways and once established,

the infestations can be costly and hard to control.

"Salvinia, also known as 'water spangles', is equally invasive, and can cover an entire dam in just one season."

Agriculture Victoria will safely treat, remove and dispose of state prohibited weeds such as water hyacinth and salvinia, at no cost to the land holder.

If you suspect you have water hyacinth or salvinia on your property, please take a photo of the plant and email it to weed.spotters@agriculture.vic.gov.au, or call the customer contact centre on 136 186. You can also make a report via the Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/waterweeds



Salvinia in a pond. -S



Hyacinth in a dam. -S

Alexandra Online Clearing Sale

A/C: MULTI VENDOR

Commencing: Thursday, February 22 - noon

Finish: Monday, February 26 - noon
(+2 min increments)

Inspection Day: Thursday, February 22
9.30am – 2pm

**ACHERON – A/C R Reid – 411 Acheron Road,
Acheron (Property sold)**

John Deere tractor 5320 front loader – 1782hrs, tyres 65%,
John Deere grab, towing ball, buggy, Honda CT 110 bikes, hay rings,
cattle feeder, farm sundries, antique collectables, furniture.....lots

**ALEXANDRA – A/C Est C.D. Munnerley,
39 Aitken Street, Alexandra**

Engineering tools, wood working tools, chain saw, Freedom mobility
scooter – 5 years old, motor mowers, trailer,
furniture – some antique – 155 lots

ALEXANDRA – A/C Pavloff Family Trust

2 x front end loader buckets, Cromtech diesel 6kVA generator –
electric start, electric tools

All lots - photos on-line @ Embling Rural Clearing Sales
emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/#!/



EMBLING RURAL ALEXANDRA
PH: 5772 3110
Andrew Embling - 0418 266 038



GOBUR Online Clearing Sale A/C ESTATE DAVID TUDGEY

Commencing: Thursday, February 29 – noon
Concludes: Thursday, March 4 – noon (+2 min increments)

Inspection Day: Tuesday, February 27 - 9.30am – 2.30pm

Wide span cabin kit – still in packs, plan and materials list available on request.
Army trucks, landrovers, army trailer, generators, horse jinker, saddlery,
Land Rover parts, collectable toys, army metal boxes and antique items,
large amount of ex-army clothes and collectables.
Approximately 180 lots

All lots – photos online @ Embling Rural Clearing Sales
emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/#!/



EMBLING RURAL ALEXANDRA
Office: 5772 3110

Further enquiries: Andrew Embling: 0418 266 038



SAVE THE DATE

March 1 - Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents – Store Sale

April 5 - Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents – Store Sale

Get in touch

Phone 0419 722 570

Email: saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Yea Saleyards adheres to upholding the highest possible animal welfare standards and always aims to comply with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Saleyards and Depots*.

Yea Saleyards requires all vendors and transporters consigning or delivering livestock to the Yea Saleyards Facility to comply with the Industry Standards as stated in the MLA document *Is it Fit to Load?*

Livestock will not be accepted at the Yea Saleyards that fails to comply with the *Is it Fit to Load?* guidelines.



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Alexandra Standard
and **Yea Chronicle**.
Contact 5772 1002

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Farmers urged to monitor damp haystacks for fire risk

THE CFA is urging farmers to ramp up their hay maintenance for the remainder of the season following a surge in haystack fires, with CFA responding to more than 50 since November.

Igniting predominantly in the western parts of the state across the Wimmera and Loddon Mallee, CFA has responded to 29 in the north west region and 12 in the west region.

The rise calls for the agriculture sector to monitor the moisture and temperature of their hay more regularly, to store in separate stacks and in sheds away from farming equipment and structures.

A recent haystack fire of over 1000 hay bales in Arapiles on a total fire ban day in the Wimmera and the Mallee serves as a timely reminder for the agriculture sector to ensure they are implementing the appropriate management tools to prevent fire risk.

CFA District 17 Commander Lindsay Barry said spontaneous combustion is the leading cause of haystack fires in Victoria

and just one damp bale is enough to ignite a whole stack.

"We are currently in the storage phase of hay season, and there are some contributing factors that lead to ignition," Lindsay said.

"Unfortunately, at the beginning of the season, some bales weren't produced to industry standard, and were stored away with too much moisture.

"Green or damp hay is susceptible to overheating, so those two in combination will make a fire."

Lindsay said due to the significant rain we have received during summer, haystacks that were neither placed inside a shed nor covered with a tarp have been considerably exposed.

"The hay has been pressed for so long, and because of the summer we've had, the majority of fires are where hay has been stored outside and exposed to the elements," Lindsay said.

"Water and hay don't really mix, especially when they stack together. This creates organic decomposition which produces heat, and you end up with a hay fire due to spontaneous ignition."

Having experienced something similar this time three years ago, Lindsay recalls farms received over 100 millimetres of rain in one storm hitting their haystacks, and a trail of fires as a result.

"For farmers who own hay, or who manage haystacks, we need them to be more vigilant and ensure they're doing regular temperature checks," Lindsay said.

"If they are warm, put measures in place to break down and separate the stacks and use machinery to put in strategic breaks if you can.

"Because of recent weather, we can only implement maintenance and management now."

More information on how to prevent haystack fires can be found on CFA's website cfa.vic.gov.au/hay

Victoria's Biosecurity safeguards set to strengthen

THE state government has strengthened enforcement power and increased penalties to enhance capability to manage biosecurity incidents and protect Victoria's agriculture sector.

The Biosecurity Legislation Amendment (Incident Response) Bill 2024, passed in Parliament last week is aiming to strengthen Victoria's biosecurity response system to ensure it is fit for purpose and can respond to ongoing and evolving threats from diseases, pests, and weeds.

The legislation has set increased penalties for trespassing on agricultural premises, doubling them to up to \$23,077 for an individual and \$115,386 for an organisation.

Fines will also increase for not following biosecurity and traceability requirements during an emergency response, including for breaching movement restrictions under a Control Order, and for deliberately spreading an exotic disease.

Victoria Police will also be recognised as livestock inspectors to enhance their ability to effectively investigate farm crimes involving livestock theft. Inspectors will receive additional powers, including allowing them to direct vehicles in emergency animal disease outbreaks.

The legislation has also made it an offence to possess livestock whose identification tags have been illegally removed or replaced, preventing fraudulent practices that undermine Victoria's livestock traceability and access to export markets.

The administration of compensation for livestock owners and businesses impacted by emergency animal diseases has also been strengthened, ensuring fair payments tied to market value and more streamlined processes for replacement livestock.

Victoria's agriculture sector is already underpinned by strong biosecurity, but with ongoing and changing threats from diseases, pests and weeds, it's important the legislative system that protects our farms, animals, crops and plants continues to improve.

The state government has invested \$112.7 million in emergency animal disease preparedness this term to safeguard Victoria's agriculture sector from Biosecurity threats to its future.

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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Recipe kindly submitted by Redgate CWA

MARIA'S ZUCCHINI BREAD

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs
2¼ cups caster sugar
3 teaspoons vanilla essence/extract
2 cups grated zucchini
1 cup oil
¼ teaspoon baking powder
3 cups plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarb soda
1 teaspoon salt
3 teaspoons cinnamon
1 cup chopped walnuts
¾ cup sultanas or raisins

METHOD

Beat eggs until light and foamy. Add the sugar, vanilla and oil gradually, and beat until thick (mousse like).

Add the zucchini and mix well. Stir the dry ingredients together and fold into the zucchini mixture and the chopped walnuts.

Pour into two greased and lined 500gram loaf tins and bake in a moderate oven (180 deg) for 1-1½ hours.

Serve with butter or just plain and can be toasted under the grill as well and buttered.

Can also be frozen.



PHOTO COMPETITION

Only a couple of weeks left to submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

February's theme is 'your choice' - feel good February. Full details in last week's edition.



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Investing in children's health to better their future

AN initiative across the Murrindindi Shire is focusing on children's health and wellbeing to make changes for a healthier future. It has been working in the background across Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Alexandra District Health and support partners Murrindindi Shire Council, Nexus and Seymour Health.

The program started as RESPOND, a research project initially undertaken by Deakin University Institute for health transformation and global obesity centre, as a community-led, place-based approach to improving the health and wellbeing of children through the entire Murray, Ovens, and Goulburn Valley Regions in Victoria.

In 2019, RESPOND changed its name in the Murrindindi Shire to Grow Well Dindi where initial workshops began with the focus on improving healthy eating and physical activity levels of children across the shire.

Melissa Storey, co-manager of Grow Well Dindi explained the idea behind it.

"Our vision is to have the actions of Grow Well Dindi be self-sustaining. They are meant to be run by the community. Actions have been identified and possible solutions to barriers towards healthy eating and physical activity for children. The idea is community come up with the ideas, run it and sustain it."

"By building capacity and assistance with the ideas, it makes it more sustainable. We are here to help. Hopefully all the actions from the workshops are taken over by the community and we hope for the brand of Grow Well Dindi to grow in the community."

Grow Well Dindi recently conducted three workshops. The first two workshops were for the community leaders and for the third meeting, the invitation was extended out to community members to brainstorm and identify challenges in the community and create action ideas.

The people who attended the workshops will be involved in the implementation of the action ideas.

Working groups were developed from the workshops to tackle the action ideas and they come under the subgroups of education, social, physical activity, and healthy eating.

Action ideas from the workshop included the following areas to improve in our local community. Nutrition education for parents of young children, extracurricular activities for school aged kids, education for young people, parents, school staff, sport, and recreation facilitators. Advocating for more government funding for more transport, education around disability, football and netball food policy review, more opportunities for fun and physical activities which aren't competitive, more community involvement making healthy options available, reactivating partnerships with local grocery shops regarding the positioning of unhealthy food, supporting volunteerism, increase volunteers in sport, healthy lunch orders and surveying what sports kids want to be involved in.



Hailey Docking, co-manager of Grow Well Dindi said, "We hope these changes we see in the community have an increase in healthy eating in Murrindindi Shire's children. A lot of children nationwide don't meet the fruit and vegetable requirements. We are hoping to increase the proportion in the shire of children who do meet the requirements. This also goes with physical activity, as a lot of children don't meet the guidelines for their age. The long term benefits of this, if we increase healthy eating and physical activity from an early age, is that they will sustain those healthy habits later in life and it would decrease the risk of being

overweight or obese, and related diseases such as cardiovascular disease."

You might see a Grow Well Dindi marquee at future events in the shire, if you do, Hailey and Melissa are welcoming everyone to come and say hello and have a chat.

Melissa said, "If any of the action ideas interest you and you want to be part of the working groups, or have any ideas, please reach out to us at growwelldindi@gmail.com, we are also on Facebook and Instagram at Grow Well Dindi. We would love more followers, so we have constant direct line to the community. Please don't hesitate to contact us."



Here for You

DECEMBER COMMUNITY UPDATE - GOULBURN VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Survive the Heat!



Happy Holidays for this December and holiday season! As the weather warms up, extreme heat can lead to illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which can lead to life-threatening condition like heatstroke.

Understanding Heatstroke

Heatstroke is a medical emergency and requires immediate medical attention. It occurs when the core body temperature rises above 40.5 °C and the body's internal systems start to shut down. Many organs in the body suffer damage and the body temperature must be reduced quickly. Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

This Summer, protect yourself and your family from heat related health concerns.

Survive the heat this summer with these simple tips:

1. Keep drinking water at frequent times and keep a full drink bottle with you.
2. Never leave kids, adults or pets in cars as the temperature can double in minutes.
3. Consider spending time in cool or air-conditioned buildings
4. Block out the sun at home during the day by closing curtains and blinds.
5. Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day.
6. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.



7. Eat smaller meals more often and cold meals such as salads.
8. Don't forget your pets – a cool bath, a wet towel to lie on, a place next to a fan and plenty of fresh water work just as well for animals.
9. Keep up to date with weather forecasts – watch the news daily, check the Bureau of Meteorology forecast online and read the current heat health alert on health.vic.gov.au.
10. Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, older people, young children, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.

If you observe symptoms of heat-related illness, seek medical help. If you or someone you know is unwell, call Nurse on call at 1300 60 60 24 for 24-hour health advice or see your doctor.

In case of an emergency, call 000. For more information, head to <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/heat-stress-and-heat-related-illness>



BOLO DECEMBER REPORT (Be On the Look Out)

COVID-19

COVID-19 is spreading in our community and we all need to help stop its spread. More people are getting sick in the community because our protection from both infection and vaccination decreases with time. No single new variant is to blame. We need to help and take care of people who are at greatest risk of getting sick – this includes older people over 65, people with a disability or other medical problems and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. If you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19, it's important not to visit people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from the virus. You can get FREE RAT tests from your local council.

For more info visit: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-victoria>

GASTROENTERITIS

Gastroenteritis (or gastro) is a bowel infection that causes diarrhoea and sometimes vomiting. It can cause dehydration, especially in young children and babies or older people. Children in particular need to drink plenty of clear fluids. Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to prevent gastroenteritis infection. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against gastroenteritis. Keep your child away from others until 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. If symptoms persist, visit your local GP. For more information, head to <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/gastroenteritis>

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The image shows the logo for Armstrong Plumbing Pty Ltd. The logo consists of a stylized blue triangle with the letters 'A P L' inside it. To the right of the triangle, the text 'ARMSTRONG' is written in a large, bold, blue serif font, and 'PLUMBING' is written below it in a smaller, bold, blue sans-serif font. To the right of 'PLUMBING', 'PTY LTD' is written in a smaller, blue sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'ARMSTRONG PLUMBING' is written in a small, blue sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, there is a vertical line. To the left of the line, the text 'NEW AND RENOVATION WORK' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below this, 'ROOFING, GUTTER AND SPOUTING' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below that, 'SEPTIC AND DRAINS' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. To the right of the line, 'LICENSED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below this, 'MAINTENANCE AND BLOCKED DRAINS' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below that, 'JET CLEANER AND DRAIN CAMERA' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom of the image, the text '85 Betts Road, Yea 3717' is written in a black sans-serif font. Below this, the phone number '0417 356 428 | 0408 973 278' is written in a bold, black sans-serif font. Below the phone number, the text 'Master Plumber member 35 years - License No. 17255' is written in a black sans-serif font. At the bottom, the email address 'info@armstrongplumbing.com.au' is written in a black sans-serif font.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETING

Buxton Memorial Hall
Saturday, February 24 at 2pm.
The Triangle community is invited to attend a public meeting for the purpose of electing at least five community members to form the inaugural Buxton Open Spaces Committee.

The committee will be responsible for advising Murrindindi Shire Council on the management of public open spaces in and around Buxton. This new committee replaces the Buxton Recreation Reserve Committee that was dissolved by council in response to the Local Government Act (Vic) 2020.

This is an opportunity for people to have a say in the management and future of public open spaces around Buxton.

Further information:
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DEATH NOTICES



COLLER, Ross
24/08/1939 -
13/12/2023

Members of the
Acheron Fire
Brigade wish
to express their
condolences to
the family of Ross
Coller. Ross served
from 1968 to 2000,
with 10 years in
leadership roles
including Captain.
Always level-
headed and a
pragmatic operator,
his service together
with the Comms
and Secretarial
work of his wife
Nancy for over a
decade, equated
to them being a
loyal and valued
duo in the Acheron
community.
We thank them.

GILMORE, Gary

My beautiful Gaz, we
can't believe that you
are gone - you have left
a giant gap in our hearts
and lives. Thank you for
18 years of unconditional
love and for our two
terrific boys who have so
many of your beautiful
qualities. I will miss
so much about you,
especially your giant
hugs, your beautiful
smile, sense of humour,
deep laugh and the light
and fun you brought to
our lives and the support
you gave me. I wish we
had so much more time
together. I love you and
I will look after our boys
with everything I have to
give. Love Sarah.

Dear Dad, I am so glad of
the years I got with you.
You taught me so much
stuff and I learned a lot
from you. Dad, two of
the most important things
you taught me was how
to fish and hunt. I am so
glad you taught me that
because two months ago, I
shot my first rabbit up the
farm. You are the reason
why I keep on trying with
everything and never give
up. Thank you, dad, for
being the best dad anyone
could have asked for. You
are my idol. I will never
forget you and I will
forever miss you. Love
Nicholas.

Dad, I love writing
father's day cards and
will miss doing that for
you. I loved that you
always taught me things
that will help me up at
the farm and in life and
especially how to use the
tractor. I will remember
all the fun we had out on
the boat and hunting up
at the farm and when I
would say something that
made you laugh without
me even knowing what
I said. Also, driving cars
up the farm and learning
new things from you. I
love you dad and I will
miss you forever and ever.
Love from Nathan.

DEATH NOTICES



HALIT, Patrick
10/11/1940-07/02/2024

Cherished
husband of
Jeanette, loved
father of Lana,
Shaun and Josh,
father in law and
great mate of
Steve. Adored Pa
of Emerson, Coco,
Morgan, Satchi,
Nic and Ali-Rose.
You've left a
heartache no one
can heal, love
leaves a memory
no one can steal.

A celebration of
Patrick's life will
be on February 20,
12-3pm, Alexandra
Football Club.

FUNERAL NOTICES

GILMORE, Gary

A service to
celebrate the life of
Gary 'Bull' Gilmore
will be held on
Friday (February
16, 2024) at 11am
in the William
Matthews Funeral
Home, 45 Cave
Hill Road, Lilydale,
followed by light
refreshments. In
honour of Gary's
favourite activities,
the dress code is
highly encouraged
and welcomed
please wear as
follows. Flannel's,
work clothes,
hunting, fishing,
BRC Piling,
Browns, Delta and
Montrose FC shirts.

William Matthews
Funerals

SITUATIONS VACANT

CLEANERS REQUIRED

**Lake Eildon and
Thornton area**
Part time shift.
Monday – Friday
from 10am - 2pm.

Yea area
Monday – Friday
key jobs
commencing after
4pm before 7am
next morning.
Two positions
available. One at
two hours/day. One
at three hours/day.

Ph Joseph on
0401 162 311.

IN recent years, Lake Eildon has been impacted by blue green algae during the summer months, impacting activities conducted by both tourists and locals.

The ABC has recently reported on Lake Nhill, where blue dye has been added to reduce blue green algae blooms. Lake Nhill has been closed many times in the past due to such outbreaks, and the locals have found that the dye works better than other algae solutions.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) was asked whether they are considering trialling blue dye in any of their water catchments, including Lake Eildon.

GMW Water Quality Coordinator Bianca Atley responded, “At present, there are no suitable options for treating blue-green algae in large bodies of water.

“Water authorities that provide town and drinking water are sometimes able to add chemicals to water supplies to treat blue-green algae. However, these methods are not transferable for storages such as the ones GMW manages for various reasons.

“Some chemicals used to treat blue-green algae are toxic to aquatic life and recreation users. Most chemicals also need to be manually injected, which would be logistically challenging at larger storages.

“When there is a rain event, a lot of different nutrients flow into water storages that could also compromise the effectiveness of any chemicals that have been used.”

Many factors can influence the growth of blue-green algae including weather, water temperature and nutrient levels.

These and other more complex factors operate in combination, and no one factor can be pinpointed as a cause of high levels of algae.

While a solution such as dying the water may therefore be effective in one situation, it may be ineffective in another.

If a blue-green algae warning is issued, GMW does not have the option of trucking in water from an unaffected alternate source due to the large quantities of water GMW supplies and its large area of operation. Instead, GMW looks to isolate the high levels of blue-green algae to the storage it has been detected in.

If possible, GMW will lower the level at which water is released from the storage, so that the blue-green algae do not spread.

This is because the algae often accumulate at the surface, lowering the offtake level can therefore minimise the chance of transferring the algae downstream. GMW’s ability to do this depends on the infrastructure at the storage.

GMW always samples downstream of its storages in order to determine if the blue-green algae has been successfully isolated.

More detail on blue-green algae along with current blue-green algae warnings can be found on the GMW website at g-mwater.com.au/news/bga

People can also phone GMW’s blue-green algae hotline on 5826 3785 anytime.

DEECA were also contacted for comment on whether blue dye might provide a viable solution in farm dams. They provided the following advice.

Prevention principles

There are measures that can be taken to minimise algal blooms include: minimising nutrient level of water flowing into the dam; manipulating the concentration or cycling of nutrients within the dam water. Encourage diluting and flushing during wetter months; minimising sunlight load on the dam; minimise the temperature of dam water; encourage gentle mixing of dam water to avoid stratification of water into discrete temperature layers; prevent stock physically disturbing dam sides and sediments, or defecating and urinating in the water.

Planning and management practices

Keep a comprehensive vegetative cover on the catchment area. Maintain a vigorous cover of plants of reasonable height (ideally above 5mm). Avoid acidification, soil structural damage or fertility, which will reduce vegetative growth. Prevent the baring of soil as the result of overgrazing or preferential grazing. Minimise the time cultivated soils remain bare and time operations to enable rapid revegetation.

Control soil erosion

Repair and reclaim eroding areas. Keep soil disturbance operations (roading, building sites, drains) to a minimum. Use judicious design, construction and maintenance of tracks and roads. Avoid cultivation of steep slopes.

Use strategic fertiliser programs

Match fertiliser application soil and plant needs. Apply fertiliser at times of strongest plant growth. Do not spread close to drainage lines or dams.

Locate and manage intensive animal operations

Minimise the production and concentration of animal wastes recycle wastes (extensively) onto pastures or appropriate crops. Use storage ponds of adequate capacity to hold liquid wastes before recycling. Keep intensive operations away from streams and drainage lines.

Drainage line management

Keep drainage lines well vegetated. Dense grassy swards are suitable for drainage lines in the upper part of catchments but tree based vegetation is needed around streams and waterways. Employ properly constructed drainage line crossings for stock and vehicle movement. Restrict stock access to beds and banks of streams. Fence as appropriate. Provide off-stream watering points. Do not allow roads, tracks or intensively cropped areas to drain directly into streamside areas or natural drainage lines.

Dam design and construction

Use large deep dams to give lower water temperatures and reduce the intensity of temperature stratification of the water. Locate and size dams to encourage the regular dilution and flushing of stored water from catchment flows. Locate dam to minimise sunlight load where possible. Construct water entry path into excavation of the dam such that it does not cause excessive turbulence and scour.

Dam management

Employ buffer or filter zones of thick vegetation immediately upstream of the dam to minimise entry of sediment and nutrients. Fence dam and reticulate water to troughs. Minimise erosion caused by wave action, but encourage a reasonable amount of wind action over the surface of the water to mix surface layers of water with lower layers. Do not allow surrounding vegetation to block too much of the wind. Occasionally de-sludge dam to avoid excessive build up of sediments and organic material. Minimise disturbance of bottom sediments by stock (including geese and ducks). The addition

of filter alum (aluminium sulphate) to dam waters at the beginning of the summer season is another option for helping keep sediments on the bottom. Grow trees to give some shade to the dam. Do not plant trees on the embankment.

If all else fails

Even with the best planning and good management practices, there is still a chance of getting an algal bloom.

If an algal bloom does occur there are a few essential steps. Stop using the water and use an alternative uncontaminated source. Only return to using the original supply if testing indicates it is safe to do so. Get professional identification of the algae and advice on particular action needed. Analyse why the bloom occurred and plan actions to avoid future recurrence.

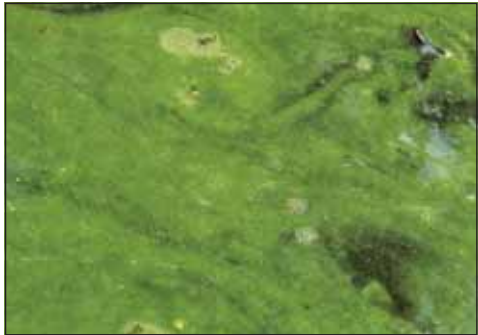
Treating with chemicals

Chemical treatments may have side effects such as killing aquatic life that feed and control the levels of beneficial algae will cause plants to rot, which in turn will cause a sudden decrease in oxygen levels in the dam that will affect aquatic life.

Some blue-green algae produce toxins which can persist in the water following treatment of the algae. These toxins can be poisonous to animals, humans and aquatic life.

There are registered chemicals to kill blue-green algae but chemical treatment should not be attempted unless absolutely necessary and after seeking professional advice.

Whenever using any chemicals, make sure the directions on the label are followed and all requirements for withholding periods are observed.



Blue green algae. -Christian Fisher

How well do you know your council?

THE Know Your Council comparisons have been made available for 2022/23. The comparisons allow people to explore shire expenses and activities comparatively. For the purposes of this article, Murrindindi Shire has been compared to Alpine, Mansfield and Strathbogie Shires.

Animal Management

The number of animals reclaimed from council was quite low in Murrindindi Shire with 39.8 per cent. In Alpine Shire it was 48.8 per cent, Mansfield Shire 82.4 per cent and Strathbogie Shire 67.9 per cent.

Murrindindi Shire did better with re-homing animals with 26.3 per cent compared to the other the shires. Alpine was 33.8 per cent, Mansfield 17.6 per cent and Strathbogie 6.3 per cent. The Murrindindi result was also better than 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The cost for rehoming animals was \$12.17 for Murrindindi, \$9.98 for Alpine, \$20.01 for Mansfield and \$11.02 for Strathbogie. Murrindindi’s result was on par with prior years. Murrindindi was 100 per cent successful with its animal management prosecutions this year, but it is not known how many people were prosecuted.

On average, Murrindindi Shire took two days to action animal management requests. In Alpine Shire, it was 2.5 days, in Mansfield Shire 1.2 days and Alpine 1.5 days.

Aquatic facilities

The cost of aquatic facilities per visit was \$21.91 in the last financial year, with council stating that the increase was due to lower attendances as a result of cooler weather. In Alpine, the cost was \$19.04, Mansfield \$21.40 and Strathbogie \$37.21.

Murrindindi Shire had one heath inspection of aquatic facilities, as did Mansfield Shire, while Alpine and Strathbogie had none.

The number of visits to pools per head of municipal population was 1.6 for Murrindindi, 2.4 for Alpine, 0.9 for Mansfield, and 0.7 for Strathbogie.

Financial performance

Murrindindi Shire has an adjusted deficit as a percentage of underlying revenue of 7.7 per cent, while the other three shires all had surpluses, Alpine with 10.6 per cent, Mansfield with 2.7 per cent and Strathbogie with 0.8 per cent.

In asset renewals and upgrades as a percentage of depreciation, Murrindindi Shire was at 124.9 per cent, Alpine at 158.5 per cent, Mansfield at 183.1 per cent, and Strathbogie at 135.4 per cent.

The average rate per property assessment was \$1850 for Murrindindi, \$1850 for Alpine, \$1640 for Mansfield and \$2250 for Strathbogie.

In current assets as a percentage of liabilities, Murrindindi was at 319.5 per cent, Alpine at 220.2 per cent, Mansfield at 192.2 per cent, and Strathbogie Shire at 230.8 per cent.

The expenses per property assessment were \$4000 for Murrindindi, \$3740 for Alpine, \$3330 for Mansfield and \$4920 for Strathbogie. Murrindindi Shire had no loans or borrowings during the financial year.

Food safety

The cost of food safety per premises was markedly higher than the comparable shires with an average cost of \$782.48. In Alpine, the cost was \$264.09, Mansfield \$371.06 and Strathbogie \$540.45.

Murrindindi Shire followed up on 100 per cent of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications.

Murrindindi Shire also undertook 111.4 per cent of required food assessments. This was well above the other three shires, with Alpine on 78.3 per cent, Mansfield on 85.5 per cent, and Strathbogie on 32.4 per cent.

It took Murrindindi Shire an average of three days to action food complaints. In Alpine Shire, it was 3.7 days, Mansfield Shire 2.4 days and Strathbogie Shire 4.3 days.

Governance

The level of community satisfaction with Murrindindi Shire’s community consultation and engagement was on par with previous years, with 55 per cent. In April it was 50 per cent, Mansfield Shire 60 per cent, and Strathbogie Shire 50 per cent.

Fifty-two per cent of residents were satisfied with council decisions. In Alpine, it was 51 per cent, Mansfield 54 per cent and Strathbogie 47 per cent.

The cost of elected representation in Murrindindi also seems reasonable in comparison. For Murrindindi, it was \$44,960, Alpine \$40,180, Mansfield \$52,220 and Strathbogie \$59,350.

Only 0.6 per cent of Murrindindi Shire decisions were made behind closed doors. In Alpine it was 2.1 per cent and Strathbogie 0.5 per cent. Mansfield had a whopping 14.3 per cent.

Murrindindi also shone in councillor attendance at council meetings on 94.3 per cent. In Alpine Shire it was 91.8 per cent, Mansfield 92.5 per cent and Strathbogie 88.9 per cent.

Libraries

14.3 per cent of Murrindindi Shire’s population were active library users. In Alpine Shire it was 13.9 per cent, Mansfield 12.5 per cent, and Strathbogie an impressive 22.8 per cent.

The cost of the library service per population was \$38.66 for Murrindindi, \$32.30 for Alpine, \$37.67 for Mansfield, and \$24.44 for Strathbogie Shire.

The number of loans per collection item was 1.5 in Murrindindi, 2.4 in Alpine, 2.3 in Mansfield and 1.8 in Strathbogie.

57.9 per cent of Murrindindi’s library resources are less than five years old.

Maternal and child health

The cost of maternal and child health (MCH) per hour of service delivered is \$81.35 in Murrindindi. In Alpine Shire is \$73.44, Mansfield \$76.40 and Strathbogie \$88.83.

99.2 per cent of the shire’s infants are enrolled in the MCH service. In Alpine Shire it’s 101.9 per cent, Mansfield 104.1 per cent and Strathbogie 100 per cent. The data includes children who have migrated into the area.

Roads

The roads comparison was published previously.

Next week: Statutory Planning, Sustainable Capacity and Waste Collection.

Statue of Queen Alexandra unveiled at Alexandra

Alexandra and Yea Standard, Friday, August 4, 1939

THE statute of Queen Alexandra was unveiled on Friday afternoon last in the presence of a large gathering of residents and the children attending the school. The statue has been erected in the small park created by the CWA on a portion of the library block.

Cr W A Murray, shire president, opened the proceedings, and said the statue had been received on permanent loan from the Trustees of the National Gallery. Mr Elliott was instrumental in having it sent to Alexandra.

Thanks were due to the committee of the local library for permission to place the statue on their land, and he would also like to mention the assistance given by the local branch of the CWA. Later on the CWA hoped to erect a building to serve as a baby health centre.

Cr Murray then asked Mr Elliott to unveil the statue.

Mr R D Elliott said he was very pleased to be present. He thought the action of the Trustees indicated a wider outlook, and showed that the National Gallery was a national institution not a Melbourne one.

There was no fitter site for the statue than Alexandra. It was 'lent' to Alexandra, and would never be returned. The statue, the work of Charles Somers, was a permanent monument of that artist's work.

He was born in 1825, and as a boy received 1/ a week for scaring crows from the field. Later on he attended the Royal Academy School. He arrived in Melbourne in 1853. When at Tarnagulla goldfields he saw an advertisement for modellers at Parliament House, and disposed of his claim (the purchasers of which afterwards struck a patch that netted £20,000.) He modelled figures in the Legislative Council Chamber,

and was responsible for the statue of Burke and Wills. He went to Rome, and died in 1878.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Elliott said, "The life of an English King (or Queen) is one of complete devotion to duty and personal sacrifice. More than a man in position and less than a man in human liberty. Monarch and servant in one. Trustee of the rich heritage of the past and guarantor of the immeasurable future. Above the law, yet the assurance that justice will be done. The ruler of the people, the slave of the people, and the embodiment of the people's immortality. One holiday time when the royal family were all at Sandringham, the late King George V (son of the Queen) was checking up on church attendance and found that his three elder sons were missing. Sending for Sir Louis Greig, the King banged the table with his fist and roared, 'I'll take no excuses as long as I am the King and their father, these young rascals have damned well got to go to church every Sunday morning.' In regard to the international situation today it must be remembered that Britain is strong, and Germany knows it. Therefore, in spite of all the massing of troops, the fiery speeches and the rattling of the sabre, and because of the strength of Britain, there will be no war. But there is one very great danger, the war of nerves. The campaign is become intense all the time. It is being conducted from Berlin, with Goebbels in command. Tientsin is part of the campaign. Goebbels' army extends beyond the frontiers of Germany to international financiers who spread rumours to the stock markets of the world, so that confidence is destroyed.

"Nor does it stop there. There are the unpaid, unwitting agents here in Australia, Melbourne (even Alexandra) who spread the news to their fellow townspeople that the war is coming in September. Goebbels

and Hitler believe that by rumours, alarms and excursions they can create such a state of nerves that to end the intolerable strain we shall give the Nazis what they want. Denounce the prophets of war! Criticise the people who go about saying war is inevitable. They are enemies of the public. They spread unemployment, driving many out of work. They breed in every class of the community anxiety and fear. Fear can do much mischief. It is an active force for harm. Have no fear of war in the Far East. Have no fear of war in Europe. The war that can be lost is the one of nerves which has for its battle cry the foolish bleating of 'it's coming in September.' Kill the bogey; don't believe it; develop our own industries -develop Australia."

Mr Elliot, then unveiled the statue, which had been covered with the national flag. He also intimated that he would pay for the cutting in of the lettering on the base of the statue.

The Hon. E J Mackrell said he was delighted to be present at the unveiling of the monument by Mr Elliott, whom he hoped would be a Senator again. He was not so optimistic as Mr Elliott in regard to the war rumblings, but sincerely hoped there would be no war. They must, however, buckle on the armour, and endeavour to be prepared.

Mr Mackrell then spoke of the various forms of government in the world, and the great freedom enjoyed under the British flag.

Mr C R Long was the next speaker. He said, "I esteem it a great privilege to be present and to speak at this ceremony today. I should be thankful; it is a unique experience. Just think of it. To be on this spot where we are standing before there were any houses in sight, and to be so circumstanced as to be able to return and find around me

a prosperous community and a thriving town. I was driven in a waggonette with my father, mother, and a sister along a bullock dray track, which led from the Josephine cutting to the recreation reserve, crossed the creek, came down this side of it, turned into Grant Street, and then went in the direction of Thornton, at a time when there was not a house to be seen from the vehicle. That was in the summer of 1865, 74 years ago.

"Gold was discovered in the neighbourhood in June of the next year, 1866, and a township speedily came into being. Most of the houses were placed along the bullock-dray track. Gold was being got in plenty, both from quartz and from alluvial. The government decided, therefore, to have a town and parish surveyed. John Downey, surveying in the district, was given the work to do. Most of the town was laid out in January, 1867, commencing from about where we are now. The Shire Hall is on Allotment 1 of Section 1.

"Downey named the town 'Eglinton' after Henry Johnson's 'run,' which had been called that after a town in Scotland by Archibald Thom, who had occupied it in the late forties, before he went to Eildon. Most of the streets were named by Downey after prominent pioneers of the town, Grant Street was in honour of the head of the Lands Department, J Macpherson Grant, a great land legislator, and the other chief street after Downey himself. In the Melbourne office, however, a slip with 'Alexandra' on it was gummed over Downey's 'Eglinton'.

Princess Alexandra, of Denmark, became the wife of Edward Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII.

She had been married to him for about four years when her name was bestowed upon the town and the parish. She was an exceedingly handsome woman and amicable. She was therefore much liked, and the change of the name of the town was a graceful act, and a wise one. We who are interested in the town should be grateful to the Trustees of the National Gallery in Melbourne, of which body Mr R D Elliott is treasurer, for such an attractive and valuable gift.

Mr C R Long concluded his remarks with an earnest request that the statue should never be defaced or damaged in any way.

Mr H Buxton (headmaster of the school) called for three cheers, and under his direction the children sang God Save the King.



The statue of Queen Alexandra. -Melburnian



The image of the statue which appeared alongside the article in 1939. -S

SPORT

Mim wins Masters for the ladies

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday was the fourth and final round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters which was completed at Yea where an excellent field of around 107 players played a stableford round.

The Marysville players had some very pleasing results and are to be congratulated by all club members. Jenny Coleman (30) with 41 points was the ladies Yea Mini Master and Trevor Connell from Yea won the men's Mini Master title.

The ladies A Grade was won by Sabrina Stow (21) with 39 points and the runner up was Jody Doran (10) with 37 points. The B grade winner was Naomi Gist (37) with 37 points, Travers Stow (17) with 38 points was the runner up in B grade, and Alan Howard won a nearest the pin. Prior to the presentation there was great anticipation to find out who had won the major titles of the 2024 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters series. Each golfers' three best scores from the four rounds were totalled and it was with great excitement that Mim Page from Marysville with 108 points was declared the ladies winner.

The men's winner was Jared Sloane from Alexandra with 110 points. Congratulations to Mim and Jared. At the presentation all the Yea club members were thanked for preparing the course so beautifully and for the organisation of the event. The 2023/4 season of the masters was a great success mainly due to the hard work and commitment of all the volunteers at each club. The ongoing sponsorship from FoodWorks is highly valued and Cathie Harper from FoodWorks was thanked for attending two of the rounds and for presenting the trophies to the winners.

Next Saturday all Murrindindi golfers will be back playing at their home clubs. The Marysville golfers will be playing a stroke round for the February monthly medal and the ladies round will include round one of the Barton Shield. On February 24, a 4BBB stableford game will be played for the Liesfield Trophy.

Jared Sloane takes out Master of Masters

by Elizabeth Goss

THE best news last week for Alexandra Golf Club was that Jared Sloane from Alexandra, won the men's 2024 Foodworks Murrindindi Master of Masters. Congratulations Jared. Also to Mim Page from Marysville who was the ladies Master of Masters.

With ideal weather, there were some good scores on Tuesday, February 6. The winner was John Greateorex (20) 37 points and runner up was Dave Silverman (9) 36 points. Next came Ross Thompson (22) 35 points. Dave Silverman cleaned up the nearest the pins on the seventh and 17th. Ball run down; Todd Gallaway, Leo Dynes and John McDonald.

On Wednesday, February 8, the 2024 golf program stated with February's Monthly Madal. The A grade winner was Deb Richardson (13) 36 points and the runner up Julie Lyon (23) 31 points.

The B grade winner was Helen Findlay (27) 34 points and the runner up Judy Pearson (26) 33 points.

The C grade winner was Anne Gunton (45) 29 points and the runner up Pauline Brooks (33) 26 points. Brenda Lopez won the nine holes with 27 points. Nearest the pin on the second was Marg Fahey, on the seventh Sue Greateorex and on the 18th Helen Findlay. Next Thursday, February 22, is The Alexandra Bowl and, Wednesday February 21, is Stroke, Monthly Medal and count your putts.

No luck for Merton against Beechworth

by Rohan Berriman

B grade
Merton 6/162 defeated
by Beechworth
Wanderers 9/172

Merton cricketers hosted Beechworth Wanderers at the MCG at the weekend. Both sides have had similar seasons getting close to victory in a number of games this year, but just missing out. Saturdays game was no exception, with the Wanderers just taking the points eight wickets down in the second last over against a depleted Merton side.

Merton batted first making 6/162 lead by Ross MacKinnon with 68; he and son Jai 36 put on a solid partnership to set up Merton's total, along with young James Benton making 45 not out in a mature batting display.

B Fitzpatrick 2/20 and J Dart 2/14 the best bowlers for the visitors. The Beechworth side started strongly making quick runs early off the Merton openers, as in previous weeks, the combination of Jai Lerch-MacKinnon and Henry Berriman slowed the run rate with Berriman again swinging the game back to an even contest taking 3/29 off eight overs.

Merton struggled to break a few middle order partnerships with top scorers D Poole 34 and G



Ross Mackinnon bowling. -S

Cull 37 moving the score along. Both sides were always in the game in a tight last 10 overs but the Beechworth boys just did enough to pass Merton's total in the second last over.

R Berriman 2/19 and single wickets to the Benton brothers, Lerch-MacKinnon and a gutsy effort from Noah Whittall who bowled and fielded with what turned out to be a fractured hand. Losing two in the field in the last eight overs made it tough for the home side, but that's cricket. Merton travel to Wangaratta next Saturday

to take on the Rovers at South Wangaratta.

MERTON BATTERS: Daryl King; b; Brandon Fitzpatrick; 0. Ross MacKinnon; c; Brandon Fitzpatrick; b; James Dart; 68. Jai Lerch-MacKinnon; c; Rama Schultz; b; Chris Beatson

36. James Benton; not out; 45*. Noah Whitta; run out; Lachlan Fitzpatrick; 2. Henry Berriman; c; Gerard Cull; b; James Dart; 0. William Benton; b; Brandon Fitzpatrick; 1. Rohan Berriman; c; not out; 0*. **Extras** 10 3WD 6NB 0LB 1B 0P

Total 6 / 162(36 Overs)



James Benton batting. -S

Squash club term one pennant results

by Kristelle Leary and Jim Anderson

SQUASH has returned, and competitions are split across two nights.

Monday

Antipasto v Croquettes

TRAVIS v Mick: Travis won the first three games, but only had a six point lead. Mick managed to be six points up late in the fourth game to level the overall score, but Travis managed to claw a few points back to win 58 to 54.

OLI v Jared: Oli gained the early lead in an unorthodox match with both players striking the ball well at times. Jared had a big final game to reverse a five point deficit into a five point victory 54 to 59.

DANIEL v Jim: A very even contest, Daniel had the better shots, but Jim was able to run down a hot bouncy ball to stay in the game. Daniel made some errors late in the match to give Jim a one point win 51 to 52.

Bruschetta v Spring Rolls

SAM (fill-in) v James G: The first two games were close as both players rose to the contest. Sam was then able to settle his game to win 70 to 58.

JUSTIN v Ruth (fill-in): Ruth was a class above; her tricky serves and precise placement was too much for Justin. Ruth won 51 to 79.

MICHAEL M v Michael H: Mawso rushed his shots trying to match Heyesy's game and made errors as a result. With an unassailable deficit, Mawso relaxed in the final game and played his natural style to take one back. Heysey held onto the win 44 to 56.

DUMPLINGS had a bye.

Thursday

Cheesecake v Gelati

ELI v Aiden: Being the more experienced player, Aiden took the first game. Eli got his eye in to take two games and draw a third, but Aiden took enough points win the match 58 to 53.

KRISTELLE v Dean: Playing his first ever pennant match, Dean took out the first three games without a problem. Kristelle pulled herself together to take the last game but lost the match to the newbie 78 to 55.

DERRICK v John: Derrick had forgotten that the pennant was starting, but once he arrived, he tried to push

John to his limit. John was as calm and collected as ever. Only losing one game, John took the match with a decent lead 63 to 46.

Lamington v Pavlova

SAM v Beth: Playing his first pennant match, Sam brought his A game. Beth couldn't manage to take a game from her opponent. Sam won with a resounding lead 82 to 39.

JAMES W v Stuart: A fast passed game with both players running down the ball. Stuart attempted to keep up with James, but to no prevail. James was victorious 82 to 43.

Trifle had a bye this week.



Oli stretches for a ball on the left wall. -S

No win for A and B grade



Ben Geldart rockets down an effort ball in B grade.

by Tim Poulson

A grade

Yea 5/48 defeated Alexandra 10/46

On Saturday, February 10 Alexandra A grade cricketers took on Yea at Yea. The home side won the toss and elected to bowl.

Yea did not muck around with the ball with opener M Steiner taking the early wicket of W Ellis. S Whitehead offered some resistance at the top of the order until he was bowled out for six by D Thompson.

From there on, the middle order crumbled which saw the Redbacks slump to 8/18. Matt Wal and Matt Waixel showed some resistance at the end putting on a partnership of 25, but Yea we're just too strong having Alexandra all out for 45 with M Steiner 4/11 and D Thompson 4/10 the pick of the bowlers.

The change of innings saw Will Ashton take the new ball who draw early blood bowling yea opener C Sutherland in the first over. With this brought some momentum and James Meggit claimed a wicket on the first ball of the second over. A run out from Matt Waixel saw Yea 3/13 and the pressure started to build for them.

Will Ashton went on to take another two great wickets and Yea were suddenly 5/23. But with some late slogging from Yea's R Francombe and the low score to chase, Yea took three win in the ninth over.

ALEXANDRA BATTING: Scott Whitehead; b; Dylan Thompson; 6. Will Ellis; c: Jake Fish b: Fill-in; 0. Jordan Ferrier; lbw: Fill-in. 0. James Meggitt; lbw; Fill-in; 1. William Ashton; b; Dylan Thompson; 2. Jason Reynolds; c; Jake Fish; b; Dylan Thompson; 0. Tim Polson; b; Fill-in; 0. Joshua Crane; caught; 0. Matthew Wal; not out; 8*. Matthew Waixel; b; Will Dalton; 11. Banjo Fitzpatrick; c; Jake Fish; b; Toby Ward 2. **Extras:**16 12WD 1NB 2LB 1B 0P.

B grade

Alexandra 10/115 defeated by Eastern Hill One 6/120

by Michael Mawson

On a perfect afternoon for cricket, the Alexandra Redbacks B grade team hosted Eastern Hill One at Rebel Park on a pitch that was curated to provide a fair contest between bat and ball.

Nominal captain Michael Mawson won the toss (for the first time this season) and elected to bat. The start to the innings was a tense affair with Riley Graham from Eastern Hill in his best bowling form.

The opening batsmen, duelled with the Eastern Hill bowlers until Graham drew a leading edge and catch from Darren Waixel for 13 and then got through Mawson's defenses on nine. Ben Geldart and Harrison Christie stayed in and steadily accumulated runs. When Geldart fell, three wickets followed in three balls. This mini-collapse included an inexplicable run out of Terry

Hall, who attempted the most audacious stroll for a single in living memory.

The innings was in dire straits. However, the younger tail-end saved the veteran players blushes with some handy cameo knocks from Nathan Hendricks, Brett Christie and Lucas Crane. Eastern Hills' Tyler Corboy and Richard Grant's flighty bowling leaked runs but also purchased four wickets between them.

After it seemed that the Redbacks would struggle to make 60 runs, the team was bowled out for 115 after 38 overs. Not a large score, but something that could be defended.

When Eastern Hill One were starting the innings, The Redbacks were playing in front of a growing crowd of spectators out to enjoy the good weather and the A grade team returning from a short match.

If the visitors were expecting to complete an easy rout over the inexperienced home team, they were soon disabused of that notion. The naturally aggressive Eastern Hill top-order were restricted by tight bowling from Hendricks and Geldart working with a well-placed field. Jamie Shawcross's wicketkeeping also saved many byes.

Brendan Page, Hayden Szczykowski, Riley Graham and Richard Grant all holed-out by playing rash shots and the visitors were in trouble at four for 41. Robert (Yobbo) Andrews bowled Jack Kennedy and then he took an outfield catch off Terry Hall's off-spin bowling to have the visitors at a vulnerable six for 64. A surprise victory to Alexandra now looked probable.

Regrettably for the home team, the seventh wicket partnership could not be broken. Despite Darren Waixel's accurate spell of bowling and a great team effort in the field, the Redbacks could not find that one vital breakthrough.

Tyler Peacock played a thoughtful, conservative and methodical innings of 39. He slowly accumulated enough runs to pass the target score while causing the fielders to die of boredom.

Although they did not win the match, the young Alexandra players should hold their heads high knowing that they can compete with the league's best and, but for a few crucial moments, losses could be victories.

ALEXANDRA BATTING: Darren Waixel; c; b; Riley Graham; 13. Michael Mawson; b; Riley Graham; 9. Benjamin Geldart; c; b; Tayler Corboy; 14. Harrison Christie; b; Tayler Corboy;

16. Robert Andrews; c; Jack Kennedy; b; Tim Rudd-Schmidt; 0. Kelly-Anne Fitzpatrick; c; b; Tayler Corboy ;0. Jaime Shawcross; c; Riley Graham; b; Richard Grant. 0. Terry Hall; run out; 0. Nathan Hendricks; not out; 13*. Brett Christie; c; Riley Graham; b; Tyler Peacock; 19. Lucas Crane; c; b; Tyler Peacock; 5. **Extras:**26 18WD 2NB 2LB 4B 0P.



Nathan H beats the bat, well taken by Jamie S in B grade. -photos by Peter G



Brett (Fraser-McGurk) Christie smoking another ball in B grade. -S

Good win for under 13 cricketers

Under 13

Alexandra 4/107 defeated Seymour 8/66

by David Dimech

ALEXANDRA under 13 cricketers hosted Seymour at home at Leckie Park on Saturday, February 10, with a beautiful morning for cricket.

Seymour elected to bat first. Lucas Crane opened the bowling and bowled three overs for 11 runs. Aiden Campbell bowled in tandem and secured two wickets for nine runs. Harrison Christie and Dusty Fitzpatrick pitched in with a wicket each. Jaidyn Dimech had a spell keeping and then came out to bowl. He bowled three overs and took three wickets for eight runs, great effort.

Logan Conway, Charlie Broadway, Riley Cole and Will Donahue bowled good overs and eventually bowled Seymour out for 66 runs.

Alexandra came into bat with Will Donahue and Logan Conway opening making a collective 13 runs. Lucas Crane and Harrison Christie contributed with the bat with Harrison making 28 runs and retired not out. Charlie Broadway had a bat and retired not out with a handy nine runs for the team. Jaidyn Dimech went in swinging and retired not out on 26 runs. Aiden Campbell and Riley Cole contributed as the score to be chased was reached comfortably. Dusty Fitzpatrick did not bat as the match was won. Great team effort leading into the finals.

On Saturday, Alexandra host Tallarook at home at Rebel Park, 8.30am start.

ALEXANDRA BATTING: William Donohue; b; 1. Logan Conway; b; 12. Lucas Crane; c; 0. Harrison Christie; retired not out 28. Charlie Broadway; not out; 9*. Jaidyn Dimech; retired not out; 26. Aiden Campbell; c; 2. Dusty Fitzpatrick; DNB. Riley Cole; not out; 3*. Nathan Webb; -. **Extras** 26 20WD 5NB 0LB 1B 0P.

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Alexandra bowlers head to the finals

by Marie Evans

THE final four for division four is set. Alexandra will make the finals. Midweek division three played at home against Nagambie and had a good win. Saturday division six had a walkover from Shepparton Golf and division four lost to Dookie. With only one round to go, all divisions are looking for a last game win.

Goulburn Valley Playing area Champion of Champion Singles were played on Sunday.

The women played at Tatura. Alexandra's Champion Lauren Gilchrist (after a re-draw) played Dot Best who was playing on her home green. Lauren lost but played an excellent game against a very experienced bowler, who is playing in the last four next Sunday. The men's games were played at Shepparton Golf. Bob Mayfield played Brendan Challis from Seymour VRI in round one and won 25 to 14. In the second round he played Jason Carter from Tatura in

a close game but lost 20 to 25. Jason Carter is also playing in the last four next Sunday. The club congratulates both champions.

Midweek pennant division three played at home against Nagambie. Alexandra won two rinks and the overall 65 to 57. The best winning rink was Ray Mathieson (skip), John Blamey, Pauline Gilmore and Terry Livy. They won 15 out of the 25 ends and led for the entire game to win 22-15.

David Nicklos (skip), Dougie Cooper, Christine Murphy and Denice Chisholm were eight all on end 11. Alexandra won the next seven ends to lead 20-eight on end 18. Nagambie had reduced that to 20 - 15 on end 21. Despite losing the last three ends Alexandra saw off the challenge to win 23 to 19.

Bob Mayfield (skip), Trevor Stewart, Coby Petersen, Christine Mayfield had a close game. It was 15 all on end 17, but Nagambie won five out of the last eight ends to win 23 to 20.

The last game is away to Avenel who are in third spot on the ladder.

Division four travelled to Dookie and had only one winning rink. John Cujic (skip), Dougie Cooper, Bob Benghamy and Scott Ferrier. Scott was a late call up as Ben Gilchrist had injured his knee. Alexandra won 12 ends including five shots on end nine. They were 28 to 14 on end 18 and though Dookie won six out of the last seven ends Alexandra won 30 to 21.

David Nicklos (skip), Bob Mayfield, Andy Tobias, Christine Mayfield trailed five to 15 on end 11 but had a much better second half. It was 15 all on end 17, but Dookie had a 15 to 21 lead by end 19. Alexandra won five out of the last six ends to only lose 21 to 22. A great effort.

Graeme Matthews (skip), Ken Argent, Anne Argent, and Denice Chisholm were six all on end seven, nine all on end 11, 11 all on end 13. Dookie won eight of the last 12 ends to win 25 to Alex 17.

Meanwhile, Greg Gilmore (skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans, Lauren Gilchrist won only 10 ends and trailed seven to 21 on end 20. Six shots over the next two ends improved the score, 13 to 21. However, Dookie's Skip played some excellent shots and the game finished 14 to 24.

Dookie won 92 to 82 and took third spot on the ladder. The ladder is Eildon 193, Euroa 173, Dookie 155 Alexandra 148, Tallygaroopna 125, Seymour 122, Shepparton Park 107, Tatura Hilltop 102 and East Shepparton 99. Alexandra plays at home against Seymour in the last game. With a maximum of 18 points for a win and four rinks up, Alexandra cannot lose a place in the finals.

Division six were to play Shepparton Golf but were given a forfeit. This is disappointing for the Alexandra players as they have been consistently improving throughout the season and were looking forward to playing on their home green. Earlier in the year they received a forfeit from Shepparton Park, another game they were to play at home. The final game is against Yea at home.

The Draws for Mixed Pairs and Mixed Triples are on the Board. Check the Board as some minor changes have been made to these games. President's Handicap and 100 up have begun and players should organise their next round.



Midweek Best Winning Rink, Ray Mathieson, Terry Livy, Pauline Gilmore and John Blamey. -S



Division Four Winning Rink, Bob Benghamy, Doug Cooper, Scott Ferrier and John Cujic. -S



Bob Mayfield plays a winning shot in Round One Champion of Champions. -S