

Bomb scare in Alexandra

ON the afternoon of Sunday, April 14, just after noon, a member of the public located a suspicious device near Vickery Street in Alexandra.

Victoria Police cordoned off a small area of Leckie Park, near the cenotaph, where a suspicious package had been found.

The Bomb Response Unit attended the scene, and the Alexandra SES delivered sandbags to assist Police with the operation, as well as assisting with the diverting of traffic.

People were asked to avoid the area while the investigations were underway.

The Bomb Response Unit attended and deemed the area safe about 4pm.

Police media were asked whether the incident was a deliberate act, or whether it was a misplaced item. They advised on Monday morning that it was unclear at this stage.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au



The bomb disposal robot in Leckie Park on Sunday, April 14. -S

Princess Alexandra statue update

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked for an update regarding the Princess Alexandra statue. The statue, located in Jack Shiel Gardens, opposite the council chambers, was damaged in February. The head of the statue was removed and has not been located.

Council advised that they are working with their insurer to facilitate the repairs to the statue.

They stated, "We understand the public's concern about the statue, especially given its historical significance. However, it's important to understand that this is a complex issue that requires time and expertise to resolve.

"The statue's head has not been found, and sourcing a stone mason with the expertise in the style of the statue will take some time, as will sourcing the marble. The statue is insured, and a claim has been submitted.

We are working closely with our insurer to manage the claim.

"A conservator has been appointed and is currently compiling a report with repair options and costings. Repairs will be conducted with assistance and guidance from the conservator and insurer.

"Given the complexity of these tasks, repairs may not commence for a number of months and may take considerable time once they do start. We appreciate the patience and understanding of the community during this process."

Council urged anyone with information relating to the incident to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The National Gallery of Victoria have confirmed that the ownership of the statue was transferred to the Shire of Alexandra in October 1940.

Local session on the future of the Central Highlands forests

ENGAGE Victoria is asking people to provide their views on the future of state forest areas of the Central Highlands, following the end of native timber harvesting.

The consultation follows the Interim Report on the region by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council.

The panel was set up specifically to talk with people and organisations to understand values and priorities

for forests in the Central Highlands. This includes talking with local communities about forests in their local area. These conversations will inform recommendations to the Victorian Government on future use and management of state forests.

The panel is keen to hear from a wide range of voices from communities, stakeholders and peak bodies interested in these forests.

A consultation session will be held in Marysville on Tuesday, April 23 from 5.30 to 8pm at the Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road, Marysville. This is the only session in Murrindindi Shire which has been announced.

For more information, visit engage.vic.gov.au/central-highlands-forests

Our office will be closed Thursday, April 25.

Early display advertising deadlines will apply. Bookings and artwork deadline is 5pm Wednesday, April 24.

All other deadlines remain the same.

We will reopen Friday, April 26, at 9am.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

The Era Chronicle



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Sunday 12 May 2024
12.30pm - 4pm

\$90 per adult, 3 courses and canapés
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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 0402 428 086

Sun Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 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 Probud 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 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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.

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: Thank you for the ‘history of’ sections in the newspaper. It’s a joy to read, and helps a newbie, like me, to get more out of the sights and sites of Alexandra. Very much appreciated.

THUMBS UP: I got to have a look at Dove Cottage the other day with the Alexandra historians, Jan Radford and Brenda Lopez, and was very impressed with the shire holding on to a home that has stood the test of time.

THUMBS UP: The photographs of events for the Deb Ball and the little athletics were just charming. This paper is amazing.

THUMBS UP: Thanks to the wonderful people of Alexandra and district who attended the Rotary Easter Art Show and also purchased paintings or provided sponsorships. It was a great cultural event and attracted many visitors to the area.

THUMBS UP: To Foundation Murrindindi members for their great initiatives and contributions to our shire. Let’s all get behind these wonderful new projects; Murrindindi Community Food Share and ‘The Dame’. Three cheers for their brilliance.

THUMBS UP: To the small team of ladies who organised the beautiful high tea to raise money for breast cancer. Amazing venue, amazing food and a very enjoyable day had by all. A massive congratulations on a very successful fundraiser.

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



The RSL would like to thank the Murrindindi Shire Council for the restoration of the cenotaph at Leckie Park. -BD

Anzac Day services across the shire

MURRINDINDI Shire’s ANZAC Day Services will be held on Thursday, April 25. Alexandra will be commencing its dawn service at 6am in Leckie Park, with its memorial service at 11am at Leckie Park, and marchers forming up at the bridge at 10.30am. Wreath layers should notify Bob Binghamy on 0409 950 913.

Following the service there will be a light luncheon and refreshments at the RSL sub branch. Please note there is a requirement for entry to the RSL to be vaccinated. The RSL would like to thank the Murrindindi Shire for their restoration of the Leckie Park Memorial.

Other ANZAC Day Services include: the Yarck service at 10am at the war memorial; the Eildon service at 11am, with assembly at 10.50am, at Cenotaph, Utah Place; the Flowerdale service at 11am, assembly at 10.45am, at the Flowerdale Community Hall; the Glenburn service at 6am, assembly at 5.45am, at the Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall); the Kinglake dawn service at 5.30am, followed by a traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter’s Community World War One Memorial Church, followed by another service at 10am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial; the Marysville service at 11am, with assembly at 10.30am and a march at 10.40am, held at the Marysville Cenotaph; the Strath Creek service at 9am, assembly at 8.45am, at the Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial; the Yea service at 11am, with 10.45am assembly, at the Yea Cenotaph.

There are several private services occurring throughout the shire also, with Kellock Lodge providing a private service for residents at 10.30am on Wednesday, April 24, the Darlingford Nursing Home running a private service at 10.15am on Thursday, April 25, for residents, and the Yea Memorial Hospital running a private service for Rosebank Nursing Home residents and family at 9.45am on the Thursday.

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Weekly Weather

April 17 - April 23, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
	Wednesday	6	19		Wednesday	7	18	
	Thursday	10	17		Thursday	11	17	
	Friday	6	19		Friday	6	18	
	Saturday	6	20		Saturday	6	20	
	Sunday	8	20		Sunday	7	20	
	Monday	8	20		Monday	8	21	
	Tuesday	7	19		Tuesday	7	20	

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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.

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	1.46	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.51	rising	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.03am Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.52am Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.25am Mon	0.51	falling	below minor
Yea River at Yea	8.22am Mon	0.62	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.58	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.11	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.43	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	6.59am Mon	1.17	steady	

**ISSUED AT 9.45AM ON MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	3.2mm
Buxton.....	0mm
Eildon (AWS).....	9mm
Flowerdale.....	18mm
Jamieson.....	9mm
Kinglake.....	39mm
Lake Eildon.....	7mm
Mansfield.....	4mm
Taggerty	15mm
Yarck	6mm
Yea.....	8mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	296.88m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	92%
Metres below full supply.....	2.20m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release.....	2200ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	92%

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

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

IT was a quiet week at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizen's clubroom, with the bridge players in action before the social meeting on Friday.

Members enjoyed the usual agenda items and added a quiz section where Barbara asked the quiz questions and a number of members showed they could be contenders for the television program, *The Chase*. After the usual refreshments members enjoyed the customary games of 500 and UNO.

Thanks to John Rouget, some of us will be making cumquat marmalade this week. I hope I can get mine to thicken properly this time.

In some good news, Ron has moved from Shepparton Hospital to Yea Hospital, and the members hope to see him back at the clubroom soon. It is surprising how much you miss someone who does the little jobs unnoticed when they are not there. Get well soon mate.

The coach and Barry the driver are booked for the Morning Melodies show at Lilydale International Hotel on Wednesday, May 1, so if you want to go, get your name on the list now so the organisers can book a suitable table.

If you need to contact the club, call 0456 456 263 or email secretaryadscc@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay safe and keep smiling.

The Harvest Festival

THE Harvest Festival is a traditional celebration of the harvest from the Murrundindi Community Garden. The celebration having activities of traditional community involvement, with fun and games for all centered on the garden.

The event starts at 10am and ends between noon and 1pm with a community barbecue lunch, facilitated by the Yea Rotary Club with the support of the Yea Presbyterian Church.

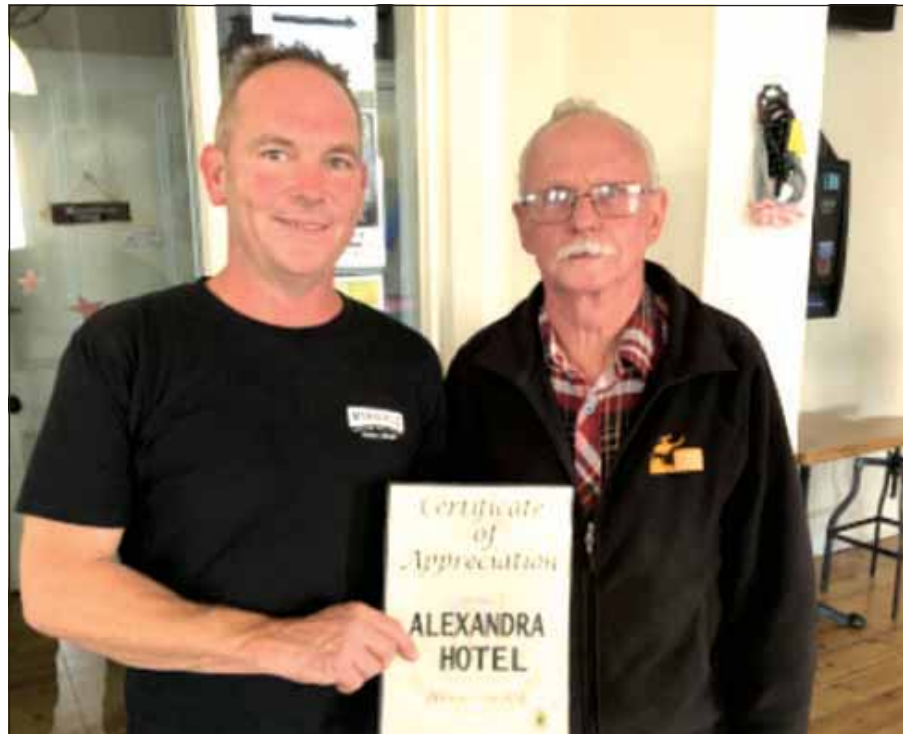
The Murrundindi Community Garden was opened in May 2023. It was an initiative of Scripture Union in partnership with Graham Veal, the Murrundindi community and Yea Primary School Chaplain, to support families during COVID-19 who were struggling to obtain fresh produce. There is an ongoing need in the communities of Murrundindi.

It was initially funded by a generous donation from the Welsh Church in Melbourne who were keen to support the community initiative and established it on land provided by the Yea Presbyterian Church.

It is generously supported by the Yea Garden Centre and Scottsburn Nurseries. A small team of volunteers provide labour to maintain and help with ongoing additional funding.

The garden exists for the community, and the future plans and development aim to explore how the garden and its produce may assist other community needs in the area.

Come along and bring the family to enjoy and see what is happening at this worthwhile community project.



The Alexandra Hotel has had a donation tin on the bar, collecting funds for the RSL. Henry Andrews from the Alexandra RSL presented the hotel owner, Chris Oostendorp, with a certificate on behalf of the RSL last Friday, April 5. -S

Friends of Kellock report

Friends of Kellock Inc have said that they are thrilled with the results of the sales at the Easter Saturday *Make It, Bake It, Grow It* stalls.

The wood raffle, quilt raffle, cakes, biscuits, preserves, plants, and sausage sizzle all did very well because the local community is the best, rallying around the elderly people of the town and district, and doing what they can to make their lives so much better.

All money raised go directly to buy items on the wish-lists devised by the residents and staff of Kellock Lodge Aged Care. Those funds are used to buy the things

that government grants and payments and residents' fees do not cover. It would be a very plain existence for the residents of Kellock Lodge if Friends of Kellock Inc was not so well supported by the local community.

This year the wish-list includes, but is not limited to, a barbecue, portable CD player, bluetooth speaker, mobile whiteboard, and new tablecloths for the dining room tables. There are likely to be more items on the wish-list in the near future.

Friends of Kellock Inc would like to thank the following people and organisations who supported them: Alexandra Apparel, Alexandra Library, Alexandra Quilters, Visitor Information Centre, FoodWorks, Alexandra Newspapers, Glencoe Roof Trusses, Friends of Kellock members who baked like crazy things again, and everyone who bought a raffle ticket, sausage, plant, jar of relish or jam, cake or packet of biscuits.

Craig won the excellent quality wood in the raffle, and Sonia won the magnificent king bed quilt. Friends of Kellock Inc hope that both enjoy the warmth provided.

The next wood raffle is to be held in May and another in July.

Correction

IN last week's article on the Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club, Jeanie Roberts was incorrectly listed as the club president. She is in fact the Obedience Program Coordinator with the club, and the president is Barbara Tanner. Our apologies for the error.

Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea
and cake stall
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Harvest Festival
Saturday, April 20, 2024
From 10am to 1pm
The Murrundindi Garden
@Yea Presbyterian
31 Station street, Yea
Barbecue lunch \$5
Profits to garden fund
Come and celebrate
Fun and games, puppet show,
Guess the weight competition
Garden bed sponsorship
Ph Colin 0457 340 525

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Standard

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Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St Andrews, Downey Street,
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Sharing the transforming love of
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OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Loving Life
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

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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

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.

DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE IS FREE DURING APRIL; Domestic quantities of garden waste, if not mixed up with other materials, needs to be no longer than 1.5m and less than 25cm in diameter. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Buxton CFA is turning 80. They would like you to help them celebrate at their open day 11am-3pm. Trucks and demos, kids activities, memorabilia, barbecue lunch, and much more.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Join in on information sessions to learn more about Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project and see how you can get involved in the next stage. Noon-2pm at Taggerty Hall or 3.30 to 6.30pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall. For more information contact Allisha Milestone 0458 758 379 or email amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au, or visit shapingmurrindindifuture.com.au

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Join in on information sessions to learn more about Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project and see how you can get involved in the next stage. 10am-1pm at MiRA Marysville. For more information contact

Allisha Milestone 0458 758 379 or email amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au, or visit shapingmurrindindifuture.com.au

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

You are invited to the open of *The Life of Anne Frank* at the Alexandra Library, at 11am. RSVP by visiting murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank or call 5772 0333.

Murrindindi Jobs Expo is on again. 11am-5pm at the Alexandra Football Club. Skill development, networking, resource sharing and plenty more. Free business booths and spaces available. Locally catered event. murrindindifoodandwine.org.au

Murrindindi Shire set to take a ride

RIDE Marysville, a group which formed out of the Marysville Community Planning initiative in 2019, has been actively pursuing the implementation of more mountain biking tracks in the Marysville area.

Adam Johnston, co-ordinator of Ride Marysville, explained that they received some funding to develop the concept master plan. It was presented to the community and engendered a lot of interest, including additional committee members.

The next stage is applying for funding to develop the feasibility study. They'll be looking at the business case and the business structure, as well as the viability and benefits. These have been touched on in the concept master plan, but will be delved into in greater detail in the feasibility study.

It's estimated in the concept plan that the 24 tracks will cost around \$9 million, however these costs may increase as time passes. Adam suggested that these could be constructed in three stages, so there are people coming in during the development.

Asked whether there have been concerns about the mountain biking sector becoming over-saturated as ski mountains and small towns all look to develop tracks, Adam responded, "It's an exploding market."

He added that Marysville has "a population of five or six million just down the road, and the numbers that are coming just to ride Cascades has been between 300 to 500 people in a weekend."

One of the concerns is, "Yes, there will be a lot of day trippers. How do we get people to stay? You do that by building a plethora of trails where people have to go, 'well, we can't do that in a day. I want to ride Buxton and Eildon so we'll have to stay somewhere,'" Adam said.

The challenge is that the majority of the spend is likely to come in through food and accommodation services, as well as non-riding companions making the most of the other attractions in the area.

Ride Marysville has built a strong relationship with the Tasmanian town of Derby, which has had significant success with mountain biking, and have been able to learn from them.

Adam said that one of main differences is that "Derby is just a cycling town, whereas in Marysville, if you didn't build them [the tracks], the people would still come. It's not just solely relying on the mountain bike track. The people will come for the mountain bike track, but then they'll go, what else is there to do? You've got Steavenson Falls, Bruno's Sculpture Garden, a plethora of ex-logging roads. There are other things to do."

Although they're not planning to charge for the trails, Adam said that a particular concept has been proven to work in some USA communities. "We rely on the community to recognise this as an asset that's making them money and as a result of that, if you need to maintain your asset, you need to contribute to it," he said.

In Derby, the shuttles were privatised, with the operators making six figures per year. Ride Marysville will look at owning and operating their own buses, providing a high percentage of the income required to maintain the trails.

Asked about the proposed Great Forest National Park and how this might impact the trails, Adam said that Ride Marysville has registered as an interest group for the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement. They'll be providing feedback.

His understanding is that something like a mountain bike track would still be acceptable even if the area were to become a national park, however the details would still need to be worked through in terms of logistics.

Following the feasibility study, the next step would be seeking funding for trail alignment and the full report, as well as a Cultural Heritage Management plan from the Taungurung Land and Waters Council. They will then go to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

They are planning to sub-contract the maintenance work to, say, Lake Mountain, so they can keep more people on to do the work.

They're unsure at this stage whether they'll require environmental impact statements, such as those which slowed down the Warburton trails proposal, however their plan is to build in state forests and not currently in Parks Victoria land.

They're aiming to be at the point of starting construction by the summer of 2025-2026, but much depends on funding.

He also expects that Ride Marysville will need to employ two to three people to keep things running.

They're planning to provide an in depth information session with the community, so they can have the chance to ask questions and explore the new industries which could be created in association with the tracks.

He said, "all the decisions we're making are focused on making sure that the community benefit from it... Whatever money is made is going to be put back into the trails."

Adam believes that businesses from Alexandra down to Marysville will benefit from the infrastructure being installed. In the longer terms, they're also looking to help council to extend the rail trail.

He expects that the trails may reinvigorate Marysville, but is aware of the challenges around worker accommodation, and is of the view that this would need to be addressed. In Derby, there's no room for the staff due to the proliferation of B&B accommodation, and as a result, the Derby Foundation is looking at building staff accommodation.

He noted that the trails may also provide options for the skills or the reskilling of forestry workers.

It's expected that there will be lots of beginner and intermediate trails, as well as multi-use tracks and tracks for the disability market. They're also looking at building a pump track as a meeting point, as well as a dirt jumps line for the older children.

Derby also charges \$2 for a shower, and have been earning over \$200,000 each year from this service. There are however some overheads costs involved.

Ride Marysville is associated with and auspiced by the Murrindindi Cycling Club, and Tourism North East are supportive of the current grant. Adam was very complimentary regarding Tourism North East and council's support for the project.

They'll need to seek advice on the eventual structure of the organisation, but it will be a not-for-profit.

Council's support for mountain biking

MURRINDINDI Shire Council were asked how they are promoting mountain biking in the region to visitors, and how they are supporting the expansion and betterment of mountain biking attractions in the shire. They were also asked to comment on Ride Marysville's Trail Master Plan.

They responded, "Murrindindi Shire Council actively promotes mountain biking through its partnership with Tourism North East. Under the Ride High Country brand, a variety of promotion and marketing activities are carried out to attract visitors. You can find more information about mountain biking in the region on the Ride High Country website at ridehighcountry.com.au

"Murrindindi Shire Council is fully supportive of [the Ride Marysville] project

and collaborates closely with the Ride Marysville Working Group. Recently, council is acting as the auspice organisation for a grant application through the Victorian Government's Enabling Tourism Fund. For further details, please visit the Ride Marysville website at ridemarysville.com

"Cycling is one of the key product pillars in the Tourism North East (TNE) Destination Management Plan 2023-2033. Within this framework, both the Eildon Bike Park and the Marysville Mountain Bike Trail are identified as priority projects. For more information and to read the Destination Management Plan, visit the TNE website at tourismlnortheast.com.au/industry-resources/destination-management-plan

"Council has recently supported the Joyride Mountain Bike Competition through the Grants and Sponsorships Program which will see hundreds of riders and supporters visit Eildon over three days, elevating the profile of Eildon as a mountain bike and tourism destination.

"Council's Draft Economic Development Strategy also emphasises 'Increased investment in visitor-generating infrastructure' as a crucial outcome under the category of Visitor Economy. For more detailed information, you can explore the Draft Economic Development Strategy on council's engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy

WHAT'S
ON?

New committee for Alexandra and District Open Gardens

ALEXANDRA and District Open Gardens have elected a new committee to plan for the Open Gardens scheduled for the weekend of October 26 and 27.

Noel McIlwraith has been re-elected as president, Janene Simpson re-elected as treasurer, and Melinda Jackson as secretary. Carol Naden, Maxine Lopez and Leanne McCready were also elected as committee members.

Noel McIlwraith said, "We are looking for Mother Nature to be kind to us again this year with Alexandra and District Open Gardens showcasing gardens from Buxton to Thornton and some in between. It is looking very exciting with the line-up of gardens which will inspire you when you visit."

"It is amazing how many people in the community have been generous in welcoming visitors and locals to the many gardens over the years. One year there were over 23 gardens on display. We now only have up to 10 gardens a year so that people can get around all the gardens and spend time at each one."

Alexandra and District Open Gardens started back in 1991 with profits from the event over the years going back to the local community. Two recent projects include the sensory garden at Alexandra Primary School and the deciduous avenue of trees at the entrance to Alexandra on Maroondah Highway near the Alexandra Secondary College.

The avenue was part of the Planting Trees for the Queens Jubilee project. On the high side of Maroondah Highway, the trees are *acer rubrum* 'bowhall' (lower growing to fit under the powerlines) and on the other side are *acer x freemanii* 'Jeffers red' autumn blaze.

Additionally, there was planting of a red oak (*quercus rubrum*) in Jack Shiel Gardens and a *brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra flame tree) in Rotary Park.

The committee are very excited to be bringing people another diverse range of gardens in October and look forward to seeing you at Alexandra and District Open Gardens.

For more information, visit alexandraopengardens.com.au



Leanne McCready, Noel McIlwraith, Janene Simpson, Carol Naden and Melinda Jackson. -S

Fish net stockings

THE Victorian Government's fish stocking program has hit a high water mark with 10 million fish stocked this year, so more recreational fishers can wet a line close to home across the state.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos recently stocked more brown trout at Lake Wendouree in Ballarat and announced the major milestone for Victorians.

More fish are stocked in Victoria than every other state and territory in Australia combined, with Murray cod, golden perch, brown and rainbow trout, threatened Macquarie perch, dusky flathead, Australian bass and more bolstering world class fishing experiences that are easy and accessible for every Victorian to enjoy.

The government's \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Plan has backed the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) to stock more than 26 million fish since 2021.

This year, more than 1.4 million brown and rainbow trout have been stocked in waterways across the state while 7.4 million native Murray cod and golden perch fingerlings are also now in waters for recreational fishers to enjoy. They have also stocked 460,000 Australian bass and 300,000 silver perch in every corner of Victoria.

The government is making sure the future of the endangered Macquarie perch continues to shine brighter with nearly 80,000 fingerlings stocked into Victorian waters to re-establish wild populations across the state, fast-tracking the recovery of the once prominent native fish.

The recovery of Macquarie perch is also supported by significant upgrades at the VFA's Snobs Creek and Arcadia fish hatcheries, with \$15 million invested in world-class infrastructure. Snobs Creek now features a new captive breeding centre with leading aquaculture technology.

More Victorians can now also play a part in boosting fish populations across Victoria, with the Labor Government's Fish Habitat Improvement Fund program helping recreational fishing groups and larger organisations create better fish habitats in freshwater, marine and estuarine fisheries.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos said, "Our fish stocking program continues to deliver record breaking results for Victorian anglers and another year of 10 million fish being stocked means great fishing for future generations and attracting more families and friends to every corner of Victoria to enjoy this great activity."

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Enrolments for 2025



St Mary's Catholic Primary School welcomes enrolments for Foundation 2025 during Term 2 2024.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Alexandra, offers the richness of Catholic Education and tradition to the growing child in a safe and engaging environment.

At St Mary's School we experience and promote the gospel values of love, empathy, trust, respect, honesty and fairness.

We aim to develop the whole child spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

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Email: admin@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
Times are available Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 3:30pm.

During your tour you will meet with our staff, see our classes, playground, learn about our curriculum and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Enrolment packs and information can be collected from our office, emailed or posted to you by request.

Enrolments close June 2024.

Please call or email to register your interest and to make an appointment for an enrolment tour.

10 Myrtle St (PO Box 151) Alexandra Vic 3714
Phone: 03 5772 1500
E-mail: principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
Web: www.smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project

Come along to the following information sessions to learn more about the Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project and how you can get involved in the next stage.

- Tuesday 23 April from 12 noon - 2.00 pm at the Taggerty Hall
- Tuesday 23 April from 3.30 - 6.30 pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall
- Wednesday 24 April from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm at MIRA Marysville

This Project is focused on assisting communities who are directly affected by the transition away from native timber harvesting, particularly the areas of Marysville, Taggerty, Buxton and Alexandra, to identify and develop opportunities for economic diversification.

A representative from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) will be at each of the sessions to provide information on access to the Forestry Transition Fund.

This project is made possible through funding from the State Government's Victorian Forestry Plan and is supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, DEECA and RMIT University.

For more information, please contact:

Allisha Milestone – Project Manager
M: 0458 758 379 E: amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
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80 years of serving the Buxton community

THE Buxton Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade will soon celebrate its 80th birthday, creating the perfect time for a look back at their past.

The Buxton Fire Brigade formed in 1944, being mentioned in passing and an advert in the *Alexandra and Yea Standard*.

"Buxton Bush Fire Brigade, requesting council to have fireplace at Cerberus Creek removed. Fireplace considered a safety measure," one article from the newspaper said.

"Buxton Bush Fire Brigade – Dance at Buxton. Friday, Dec 1. Zig Zag Orchestra. Admission 3/," another advert read.

These short snippets show that the Buxton Fire Brigade was in operation at the time, and was both recognised by, and involved with, the local community.

The Bush Fire Brigades Committee of Victoria issued certificate of registration

number 588 to the Buxton Bush Fire Brigade on February 25, 1944, marking the official start of the brigade.

Following a Royal Commission in 1939 that recommended a single firefighting entity for country Victoria, the Buxton brigade joined the CFA, with the Bush Fire Brigades, Country Fire Brigades, and Forest Commission, all merging together under the one banner on April 2, 1945.

Maurice Keppel was elected captain, and held this position for 19 years, until his untimely passing.

Despite the brigade being situated in the Healesville Shire, firefighting region 13, they participated in a group training meeting with other brigades from across Victoria.

"Conducted by rural fire brigades of No. 12 region, a school of instruction for members was held at the fire station, Alexandra, on October 9. The following brigades were represented: Glenburn, Thornton, Terip, Highlands-Caveat, Bonnie Doon, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Alexandra, Yea, Buxton, Koriella, Yarck, Maingam, Boorolite and Homewood," the article from the *Alexandra and Yea Standard* said..

Following the passing of Maurice Keppel, Roly Fiske was elected captain.

In October 1963, the Buxton CFA transferred from the Healesville Shire to the Alexandra Shire, becoming members of region 12.

The brigade petitioned for their own firetruck, and were eventually provided a Willys Jeep, license plate GSK-016, in 1966. They were granted the truck on the condition that they had somewhere to store it, and the brigade built a wonky shed on the old highway, following the Maroondah Highway realignment.

Graham Fiske was elected captain, and Jack Jones as secretary, in 1967. The pair would hold these positions for 27 years, the longest stretch in the brigade's history.

The brigade set up a mobile radio in their Willys Jeep, with the callsign 'UX22'. Though innovative at the time, this would

become standard practice for fire brigades as the years rolled on.

In 1976 and 1986 the brigade replaced their fire trucks with newer models, fitted with more equipment, making them more capable of fighting fires. To accompany this, the old shed was replaced in 1993 by a standardized CFA fire station, built in front of the old shed.

Max Leslie was elected captain of the brigade in 1994, being replaced as captain by Stan Lerner in 2002. The new fire station was expanded twice, both in 1996 and 2005, to provide a meeting room and further facilities.

November 2004 saw the Outstanding Service Award, the second highest recognition of service in the CFA, granted to Graham Fiske (posthumously) and Jack Jones.

The devastating Black Saturday fires of February 2009 raged through Buxton, with 35 per cent of houses in the town being lost to the fire, despite the brigade's valiant efforts.

Following this, Mark Somers was elected captain a year later, in 2010. Under his watch, the brigade deployed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in July 2011, becoming the first CFA brigade to do so. A junior brigade was created in 2012, consisting of members between 11 and 15 years old from Buxton, Narbethong, and Marysville.

In more recent years, Graham Eddy was elected captain in 2014, and the fire station was again extended in the same year. Shanon Frith was elected captain in 2015, followed by Matt Carlton in 2017.

For a more detailed description of the Buxton CFA's history, a chapter written by former captain, Graham Eddy, can be found in the book *Buxton – its past, present, people and places*, edited and compiled by Julia Foletta and published in 2023.

The Buxton CFA will be holding an open day on Sunday, April 21, to celebrate the brigade's 80th birthday. The day will commence at 11am, and run until 3pm. It will include trucks and demonstrations, children's activities, memorabilia, a barbecue lunch, displays, birthday cake, and more. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Pointing down a step up for night sky preservation

AS the world steadily trundles forward with technology, there are increasing concerns about humanities' impact on the environment. The Australasian Dark Sky Alliance (ADSA) provides advice and guidelines for environmentally friendly outdoor lighting, with a focus on decreasing light pollution in the southern hemisphere.

The organisation was established in 2019 and is dedicated to reducing light pollution by bringing awareness to the unnecessary extravagance of outdoor lighting.

They recommend that outdoor lighting, especially street lighting, be pointed downwards, and shielded if possible, so that it only illuminates where people walk or drive. This could include positioning lighting on handrails, or the edges of boardwalks, or other low places where very little light is projected into the night sky.

To work towards their goal, ADSA created a set of guidelines for Dark Sky Approved lighting, that councils, designers, or even the community, can refer to in order to decrease their impact on the night sky.

ADSA approves lighting based on its upward waste of light, correlated colour temperature (CCT) value, time turned on, number of lights, and other factors.

As it stands, light pollution disrupts animal breeding and migration habits, can have a negative impact on people's health, as well as their sleeping habits, and restrict the ability of observatories, and people, to study the night sky.

To find out more about the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance and their mission to preserve the night sky, visit australasiandarkskyalliance.org

Warm winter predicted by Bureau of Meteorology

THE Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has released its latest long-range forecast overview, predicting a warmer than usual winter for Australia.

According to the report, both minimum and maximum temperatures are very likely to be above average for most of Australia from May to July.

They have a greater than 50 per cent chance of being unusually warm for most of Australia from May to July.

The bureau also predicts that the rainfall from May to July is likely to be below average for parts of northern Australia and small areas of the southern mainland.

More information can be found at bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

How much does tobogganing cost?

THERE has been much discussion locally about the decision by Lake Mountain management to charge \$20 per person for access to the toboggan area (children aged under five are free), in addition to the \$64 gate entry fee.

Dean De Santis, general manager at Lake Mountain, said in an interview published in the *Alexandra Standard* on March 27, "The \$20 charge puts us in line with all the other mountains and operations in Victoria.

All the other mountains are all charging \$20 to toboggan." This includes charging both the children and parent/s separately.

There are five alpine resorts in Victoria. Lake Mountain, Mount Baw Baw, Mount Buller, Falls Creek and Mount Hotham all charge \$64 per car for resort entry, per day.

At Mount Baw Baw, \$20 is payable if people wish to toboggan at the resort. Toboggan hire is not included.

At Mount Buller, a toboggan pass is \$15 and includes the cost of toboggan hire. Children under one metre tall slide for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

At Falls Creek, access to the toboggan field and magic carpet are free. Toboggan hire is not included.

At Mount Hotham, tobogganing is free. Toboggan hire is not included.

We're proud to support our local communities

Each year, our AGL Hydro Community Fund awards grants to community-based initiatives, projects and events in and around Mount Beauty and Eildon.

To see if you are eligible for one of our grants, download our guidelines or call us, then submit your application between 1 April 2024 and 30 April 2024.

agl.com.au/hydro

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 Join the change

Buxton CFA is turning 80
we'd love to celebrate with you
at the station
Open Day Sunday April 21
11am - 3pm

FREE

1944 - 2024

- Trucks & Demos
- Kids activities
- Memorabilia
- BBQ Lunch
- Home Fire Safety Demo at 12 noon
- Juniors Demos
- Displays
- Little Pat firetruck
- Birthday Cake
- UGFM live broadcast



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Flowerdale bakery and retail open for business

BOOTS 'N Bobs Brew 'N Bakes is a bakery and takeaway and retail space located in the small community of Flowerdale, selling a little bit of everything, according to owner Natasha Conforto.

Boots 'N Bobs sells "bakery items, great toasties with quirky names, coffee, honey, Yarra Valley Gourmet products, a big range of country and western, sourdough bread, candles, a bit of everything," Natasha said.

Natasha started the business five years ago as a side project from working full-time, beginning with attending car shows and rodeos for the merchandising side, and then moving to hosting a market stall for her baked goods once a month.

"Through winter, about a year and a half ago, I decided not to do the bakery part of it. It was wet and cold. So then I continued on with the country and western side at car shows etcetera. Then I got sick of doing office work, and decided to do a little combined bakery slash retail space," Natasha said.

Natasha also spoke about the great community reception to her new business.

"It was fantastic. We had huge support from locals, because we put it out there and advertised it prior to opening. We had UGFM, the radio station for Murrindindi Shire, and we had the banner up the front and then social media.

"My partner has old cars, so he spread the word through the car clubs, etcetera, and the bikie clubs. We've had people from far and wide."

Open four days a week, Boots 'N Bobs is the first time Natasha has worked for herself, and not some other boss.

"This is the first time that I haven't worked for somebody else in my whole life, and it's really nice. It's five minutes from home, we're open four days a week, and it's perfect. It's a great work-life balance.

"It's a gorgeous little space, and very unexpected when people turn up to see the way it is and go wow, this is amazing and very different," Natasha said.

She invites everyone to visit Boots 'N Bobs in Flowerdale, and more information can be found via the business' Instagram account.



We have something for everyone

Bakery items, fresh brew and our must try raved about selection of toasties with quirky names, a great range of sourdough breads, pastries, take home meals, honey, Yarra Valley gourmet products, a fantastic range of Country and Western, dog and horse treats, candles etc, all packed into

'a little space with big character'

3380 Whittlesea – Yea Road, Flowerdale, VIC, 3717

bootsnbobs@gmail.com

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PO Box 490, Whittlesea, VIC, 3757

@bootsnbobs

ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2024



The following services will be held across Murrindindi Shire to commemorate ANZAC Day on Thursday 25 April 2024.

Wednesday 24 April

Kellock Lodge

Private service for residents at 10.30 am.

Thursday 25 April

Alexandra

Dawn service at 6.00 am at Leckie Park Memorial.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the RSL Hall for a march to Leckie Park Memorial, Vickery Street for 11.00 am service.

Eildon

Private service at 10.15 am for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home.

Assemble at 10.50 am for 11.00 am service at Cenotaph, Utah Place

Flowerdale

Assemble at 10.45 am for 11.00 am service at Flowerdale Community Hall, 3380 Yea-Whittlesea Road, Flowerdale. Refreshments to follow.

Glenburn

Assemble at 5.45 am for 6.00 am dawn service at Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall, 3876 Melba Highway Glenburn).

Kinglake

Dawn service at 5.30 am, followed by traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter's Community WW1 Memorial Church, Kinglake.

Service at 10.00 am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial, Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake (entry via Extons Road).

Marysville

Assemble at 10.30 am at corner Murchison Street and Lyell Street for a march at 10.40 am to the Marysville Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.

Strath Creek

Assemble at 8.45 am for 9.00 am service at Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial, Glover Street, Strath Creek.

Yarck

Wreath laying service at 10.00 am at the Yarck War Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway, Yarck.

Yea

Private service at 9:45 am at Yea Memorial Hospital for Rosebank Nursing Home residents and family.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the Yea Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.



Drumming workshops a key part of community recovery

THURSDAY, May 9, will see two African drumming workshops hosted by Murrindindi Shire Council.

One will be held at the Yea Wetlands from 10.45am until 11.15am, and the other at the Alexandra Shire Hall from 5.30pm until 6pm.

They will be followed by lunch and a barbecue dinner respectively, and registration is required for catering purposes.

Director of Community and Development, Andrew Paxton, spoke about how the African drumming workshops help people to recover from natural disasters by connecting them with community, as well as support services that can provide them with necessary help.

"We know from disasters, whether it's fire or flood, that the impact on people is long term, and that a fast way to recover is through connections with people.

"So the state and federal government now fund, as part of flood recovery, money that

helps us to fix up assets, and we also get support for staff members to help coordinate it, and we get some funding also around hubs, and how you connect with different community groups; how we help build resilient communities, and how we help individuals recover, or communities recover," Andrew said.

"We've taken the approach of having a series of events and opportunities that pop up across the shire. But then we'll have other

support services there to help people, so that if an issue comes up, we can point them to where they go. So the drumming is just another way of engaging a different cohort."

Speaking about the activity itself, Andrew mentioned how drumming brings a positive feeling, and connects people with the community around them.

"It's an activity where you hear one drum by itself, it has a tone or tune, but when you hear

a whole cohort drum, it actually changes how your heartbeat works, so it connects people in that way. It's really popular. The whole hub funding is how do we connect with people to help them connect with their communities and feel they're part of something, and it helps their recovery journey," he said.

For more information, call the council on 5772 0333, or visit the council website, murrindindi.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 in australia oral history project

THE National Library is recording interviews with a diverse range of Australians to ensure that stories of the COVID-19 pandemic are captured for present and future generations.

The National Library will record up to 300 interviews, exploring how Australians have responded to and continue to respond to this extraordinary health crisis.

The COVID-19 virus was first identified in December 2019 with the first Australian case recorded January 20, 2020. By the end of October 2023, Australia had officially recorded 23,289 deaths and 11,623,332 cases of the virus, with unreported figures thought to be higher still.

The pandemic's effects in Australia and across the globe continue to be profound. Lockdown restrictions, social constraints, financial disruptions, and resource shortages have changed the way Australians engage with one another and their environments.

Senior Advisor for Curatorial and Collection Research at the National Library, Scott McKinnon, said 'This will be one of the Library's largest oral history projects to date, ensuring we capture the diversity of Australian responses to the pandemic.'

The National Library will record interviews with people in each state and territory, across urban, regional, rural and remote areas. They will speak to people of diverse cultural backgrounds, ages, genders

and abilities. The project will also capture diverse perspectives on public health issues and policies, and will create a record of policy decisions, debates and medical advances that shaped Australian COVID-19 experiences.

The COVID-19 oral history project will become part of the National Library's oral history collection, so that future generations will be able to understand the impact and significance of the COVID-19 pandemic as a major global event.

Learn more about the COVID-19 oral history project online at nla.gov.au/collections/building-our-collections/current-collecting-priorities/responses-covid-19-australia

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Quizzing Glenn Ridge

GLENN Ridge was the host of the quiz show, *Sale of the Century*, for 11 years and became well known as a media personality in Australia.

Around 30 years ago, he bought a houseboat at Lake Eildon, and greatly enjoyed spending the ensuing years with his family on the lake.

It instilled a love of the area, and for the past 17 years, he's spent a large part of his time in the Murrindindi Shire, where he currently owns a property with his wife between Buxton and Taggerty. "It's a great lifestyle and I love the area," he said.

The property is famous for its red maples, and was the location for the recent Highball

Cars and Coffee event. Asked about the red trees, he said, "I had no involvement with the creativity of the place, but like everyone else, we love it."

Glenn grew up in Adelaide, and spent seven years in the public service, working for the engineering department of the Housing Trust. He was involved in road and drainage design, with the organisation involved in the creation of broad acre housing estates in South Australia. He worked there until he found that "the public service and I didn't mix."

Glenn's career path took him into radio, a far cry from the public service. He started work at 3CV in Bendigo in 1979, followed by various roles in radio and regional television

in Ballarat. This included hosting children's television shows at Channel Six in Ballarat for about four years. He did this until he "got involved with a pub for a while, up in Mildura."

In the meantime, he had sent out an audition tape, "which everyone does," he said. "Hoping that I might get a television ad or something. Funnily enough, it ended up with the producers at Grundy."

They asked him to come in for a couple of auditions. As a result, he was fortunate to be chosen as the host of the quiz show, *Sale of the Century*. He was in the role for 11 years from 1990 to 2001.

He commented, "I'm a better quizmaster than I am a contestant, put it that way."

He still flexes his skills on occasion, including being the quizmaster at the Buxton History Book Trivia Night fundraiser at the Buxton Hotel in July 2023.

His family has a production company, in which all of his children have been involved at various times, "whether they like it or not."

The production company has made a range of documentaries including an outback Australia show for Channel Nine. They also had a series called *The Car Show* and a series called *The Boat Show*. They did a number of one-off documentaries until three years ago. They were working on a series called *Garage 41* for the 7Mate network, but unfortunately, COVID-19 wreaked havoc with it.

While he is still involved in making television productions to a small degree, farming is one of their priorities now and he loves it. He also does corporate consulting here and there, and helps others with their shows.

In terms of cars, Glenn described himself as "a bit of a tragic."

He enjoys taking part in tarmac rallies and racing, and has always had an interest in cars.

Asked about his favourite car, Glenn joked, "Someone else's." He then added, "I've got a little Mazda RX7 SP we go racing in. That would probably be one of my favourites. We do a lot of tarmac rallies in that. It's a 1995 car. Old car, old driver, every excuse for having a slow time."

He's been a regular participant in the Australian Tarmac Rally (ATR) which is based out of Marysville.

"I've been rallying up there when they used to have a thing called the Lake Mountain Sprint, so for 25 years I reckon I've been racing up Lake Mountain and all around there. When you get the opportunity to drive up the Black Spur as often as I do, it's a road I never get tired of. It's pretty special," he said.



Glenn Ridge. -S

WORK LOCAL

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Changes to the Fair Work Commission's functions

A NUMBER of changes to the functions of the Fair Work Commission (FWC) have come into operation.

Prohibiting sexual harassment in connection with work

The *Fair Work Act 2009* now includes a prohibition against sexual harassment in connection with work. The commission can deal with sexual harassment disputes by making a stop sexual harassment order, otherwise dealing with the dispute, or both.

The FWC have published application forms for the new sexual harassment jurisdiction.

Detailed information on the FWC's role in dealing with sexual harassment in connection with work is now available on their website. A number of changes have been made to materials following the consultations, and they will continue

to review the feedback that has been provided and update material as the jurisdiction develops.

Expert Panels for pay equity and the care and community sector

An Expert Panel will be required when the commission is considering changes to modern awards which relate to gender pay equity or the care and community sector and when deciding whether to make an equal remuneration order.

A newly created Pay Equity and Awards Team within the commission will support the work of the Expert Panels. The team can be contacted at awards@fwc.gov.au

Information about gender pay equity, the work of the expert panels and *equal remuneration orders* have also been added to their website.

Absorbing the functions of the Registered Organisations Commission

The functions of the Registered Organisations Commissioner have now transferred to the general manager of the Commission.

The obligations of registered organisations do not change.

All ongoing investigations, inquiries and litigation will transfer to the general manager who will be assisted by staff transferring from the Registered Organisations Commission into the newly formed Registered Organisations Governance and Advice Branch. Conduct that occurred prior to the transfer of these functions may be subject to a potential inquiry, investigation or proceeding by the general manager.

A new email address has been established for all registered organisations matters, regorgs@fwc.gov.au

Staff in the registered organisations teams at the Fair Work Commission can be contacted on 1300 341 665.

FWC have also established a Registered Organisations Advisory Committee who will play an important advisory role over the coming months.

For further information, visit fwc.gov.au

Murrindindi Jobs Expo returning in May

THE Murrindindi Jobs Expo returns to Alexandra on May 6, offering a free event for job seekers, career changers, and businesses. This is your chance to connect, explore, and learn.

Job seekers can meet potential employers from various industries, discover open positions, and network with industry leaders. The popular Q and A panels featuring regional experts will provide valuable insights for small businesses looking to hire and job seekers seeking options and inspiration for roles and future careers.

Businesses can showcase their company culture and open positions to attract top regional talent. The expo offers both in-person and online opportunities to connect with potential employees, fostering connections and building partnerships. Businesses can also connect with service providers to support their needs and explore knowledge-sharing and resource collaboration opportunities.

The Murrindindi Jobs Expo will feature online job postings from participating businesses on the day, further expanding accessibility for both job seekers and employers.

The event is open to all ages and businesses so don't miss out. Book as an attendee, or book a space to show your business for an afternoon of connecting and industry trend discovery.

To book, visit murrindindifoodandwine.org.au or scan the QR code in the advertisement on this page.

Helping veterans gain employment

WITH its target to employ 1500 veterans met a year ahead of schedule, the Victorian Government is now helping even more veterans transition to civilian life and find meaningful employment in the public sector.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman announced that the government will further expand the target, offering 300 additional public sector roles.

The expanded target will now support 1800 veterans to secure a role in the public sector by June 2025, as part of the *Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy*.

Since 2017, the government has recruited 1541 veterans into public sector roles with 537 becoming sworn members of Victoria Police and a further 164 taking up jobs in Corrections and Youth Justice.

While many veterans successfully transition out of the Defence Force to civilian life, some experience challenges finding employment, in part, because of the need to navigate new systems and processes.

The strategy supports veterans who may face barriers or challenges with skills recognition and translation, lack of mentorship and professional networks, and resume writing and interview experience.

It is designed to assist veterans into employment through a range of initiatives, including Veteran Employment Workshops, the Veteran Employment Network and the Veteran Mentor Program, which pairs current and former Australian Defence Force members with mentors to help with job applications and career advancement.

These initiatives create networks, allow veterans to learn about job opportunities, and translate the skills acquired during their defence service into nationally recognised civilian qualifications.

The Labor Government has also invested \$220,000 to deliver a landmark Recognition of Prior Learning for Veterans Pilot Program, so the skills and knowledge earned during their service is reflected in nationally recognised civilian qualifications and skill sets.

This includes a specialised Veteran Liaison Officer who works closely with TAFEs and Skills and Jobs Centres across Victoria to ensure all veterans, no matter where they live, can have their skills recognised.

For more information of the Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy visit veterans.vic.gov.au/employment

Premier Jacinta Allan said, "Victorian veterans are some of the most qualified, skilled and talented people in our state, and that's why we want more of them working in the public sector."

"We are proud to honour the contribution of the ex-service community, and support veterans and their families."


Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman added, "We've already recruited more than 1500 highly skilled veterans and now we want an additional 300 service men and women to take up secure and well-paid jobs, working for Victoria."



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You will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of our outdoor education programs by providing high-quality equipment, food, vehicles, and trailers on time and as ordered.

This role requires collaboration, initiative, and a commitment to the values of outdoor education and environmental responsibility.

Enquire at careers@oeg.edu.au or call Matilda on 0417 635 231.

Murrindindi Jobs Expo

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Concerns over live cattle exports

THE Leader of The Nationals, David Littleproud, has urged the government to move past legal delays and reach a settlement with cattle producers impacted by the government's ban on the live cattle industry in 2011.

Recently, the government was due to respond to evidence submitted by the legal counsel representing the producers impacted by the ban.

However, despite having six months to respond, the government recently requested a further three month delay in legal proceedings in the *Brett Cattle Case*, taking the total time the government has had to respond to nine months.

This request was rejected by industry's legal representatives, which means the

government will today ask the court for a three month extension.

Mr Littleproud said further delays only stood to prolong the hurt felt by the cattle producers involved.

"The live cattle export ban of 2011 rocked the industry to its core and not only had a major financial impact on the live export industry but also on the related industries that rely upon it," Mr Littleproud said.

"This government is continuing to try and kick this issue down the road further, which considering this has now been going on for more than 12 years, is just shameful.

"A resolution for this case is well overdue and I urge the government to stop playing

politics and reach a satisfactory conclusion for everyone involved."

Mr Littleproud's calls come after the federal government offered the claimants a \$215 million settlement late last year.

However, Mr Littleproud said the counteroffer was disappointing. Industry has proposed compensation of \$510 million plus interest plus costs which would likely see a settlement to those affected of between \$800 million and \$900 million.

"Frankly, the government's offer was insulting to everyone involved," Mr Littleproud said.

"The time has come for this government to come to the table with a meaningful offer and finally put this sad chapter in the Labor Government's history to rest."

Support for communities to tackle pests

THE Victorian Government is empowering local community groups to help protect their farms, local environment and the community from the threat of weeds and pests.

The *Partnership Against Pests Program* delivers industry and community-led actions that target weeds and pests in key agricultural areas.

Established weeds and pest animals damage our landscapes, impact agricultural production, are a risk to international market access and damage culturally sensitive sites. They are estimated to cost Victorian farmers \$869 million every year in management and lost production costs.

Grants delivered through the *Partnership Against Pests Program* will ensure the people most affected by widely established invasive species are central to identifying problems, creating strategies and solutions that help limit their spread and reduce their impact.

Projects being funded will improve local knowledge, capability and encourage collective efforts to manage local established weeds and pests.

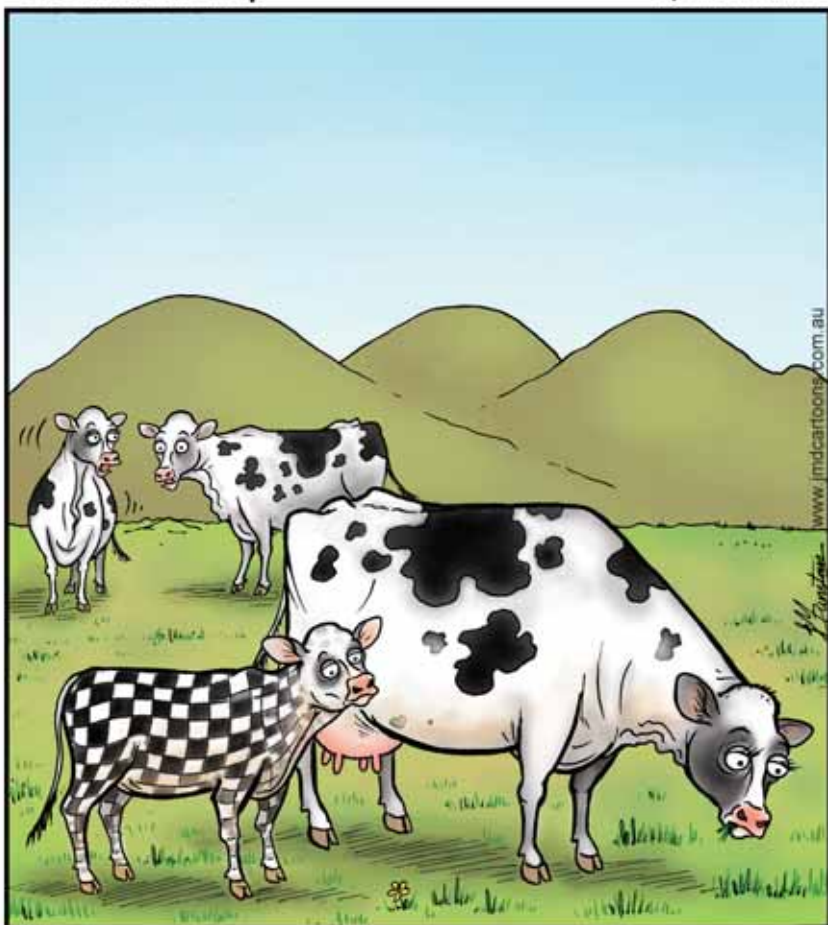
For more information about the *Partnership Against Pests Grants Program*, including a full list of Round Two grant recipients, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

Victorian Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence said, "Weeds and pests threaten our agriculture industries, environment and communities. It's crucial we empower people to identify, develop and deliver projects that will protect their communities from these threats.

"The grants will support communities to reduce the impacts of established weeds and pests through local action and by bringing together all the local players to achieve sustainable, long term changes."

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



"The neighbour's bull has a checkered past."

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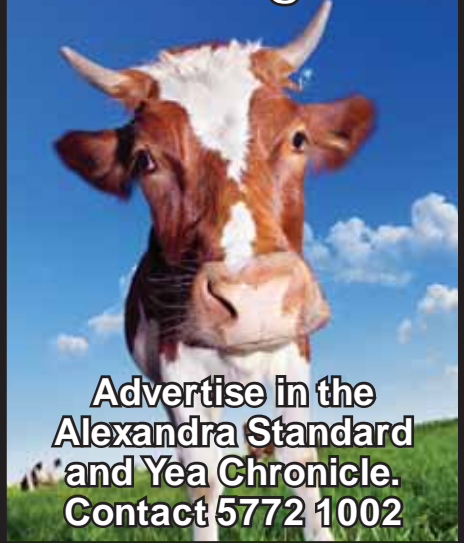


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Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

Real Estate GUIDE

More focus on renter's rights

THE government is raising awareness of minimum standards in rentals as the renting taskforce starts to ramp up, targeting and cracking down on dodgy rentals.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gabrielle Williams, today joined Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria, Nicole Rich, to remind rental providers, agents and renters of their rights and obligations ahead of the taskforce's crackdown on rental law breaches, including breaches of the minimum standards.

"We are delivering a targeted campaign across Victoria to ensure renters know their rights and rental providers know their legal obligations," Ms Williams said.

"Every Victorian renter has the right to live in a safe and secure home. That's why we introduced the minimum standards back in 2021 and it's why we established the renting taskforce to crack down on rental law breaches."

A statewide campaign will kick off today giving easy to understand information to Victorian rental providers about their obligations to deliver a safer and secure home, and to renters about their rights while renting.

The campaign will run across multiple platforms over the coming months and will be visible on key real estate websites. Translations will also help get the message out to people who don't speak English.

Rental properties in Victoria must meet minimum safety and quality standards and include things that people would reasonably

expect of a home like a functional kitchen, lockable external doors, and being structurally sound and weatherproof.

Letting a new renter move into a rental property that doesn't meet these standards is a criminal offence, with maximum penalties of more than \$11,000 for individuals and \$57,000 for companies.

There has been an increase in reports of poorly maintained rentals, with repairs and maintenance in the top five issues that people contacted Consumer Affairs Victoria about last financial year.

The government recently announced a dedicated renting taskforce, backed by a \$4 million investment, to crack down on offences like renting out properties that don't meet the minimum standards.

"We are making sure rental providers do the right thing and renters know their rights, so every rental property can be called a home," Member for Albert Park, Nina Taylor, said.

The renting taskforce builds on work being done through the government's *Housing Statement*, including banning all types of rental bidding, restricting rent increases between successive fixed term rental agreements, and extending the notice of rent increase and notice to vacate periods to 90 days.

The government is also establishing Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria and delivering a Rental Stress Support Package to support tenants doing it tough.

Australia not nailing building targets

DESPITE a myriad of Federal Government housing initiatives, Australia is on track to fall over 110,000 homes short of its National Housing Accord target.

Master Builders Australia has today released its 2024 building and construction industry forecasts which, for the first time, cover the full five year period of the accord.



Master Builders have said that Australia is on track to fall over 110,000 homes short of its National Housing Accord target. -Friedrich Haag

From July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2029, Master Builders forecasts 1,087,325 new home starts.

"We're seeing inflation starting to near its target range and expect a fall in interest rates which will lead to a more favourable investment market," CEO Denita Wawn said.

"The Federal Government has also announced a number of significant housing measures that focus on increasing supply in social and affordable housing and the rental market.

"However, constraints on the supply side like workforce shortages, industrial relations changes and a poor planning system counter the full effectiveness of these measures.

"Productivity in the industry has fallen 18 per cent over the last decade. It's clear that governments need to expedite the rollout of planning reforms to reduce the high costs and time it takes to build.

"Concerningly, the full impact of the *Closing Loopholes Bills* and union pattern bargaining negotiations underway in several states has not been factored into these forecasts.

"Workforce shortages continue to be the biggest challenge for the industry across all sectors.

"At a federal level, the government's priority should be growing the building and construction workforce.

"We heard only recently from BuildSkills Australia that the industry needs 90,000 workers in the next 90 days.

"Domestically, we cannot fill this gap. We need to think outside of the box with better apprenticeship incentives, reskilling migrants already in Australia, and a targeted international campaign to bring in skilled migrants.

"Investment and support in the whole build environment is important. While the commercial and civil construction sectors have helped shield the economy from periods of negative economic growth, this is coming to an end.

"We can't build the homes we need without the appropriate commercial and civil infrastructure to support it. This includes critical infrastructure such as utilities.

"Builders are up to the challenge to reach these targets but the barriers on the road need to be cleared to get the job done," Ms Wawn said.

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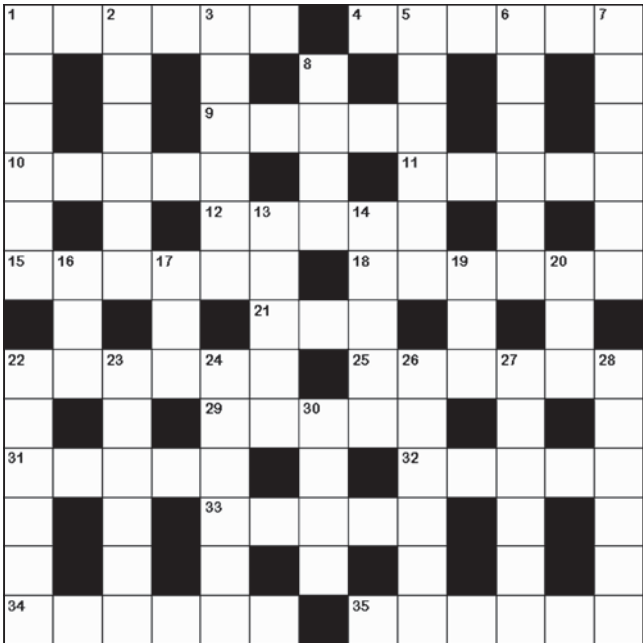
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 17

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Something unusual.
- 4. Plug for a bunghole.
- 9. Ship of the desert.
- 10. Physically unsound.
- 11. Spiritual being.
- 12. A block of gold.
- 15. Mural done with watercolours.
- 18. He joins pieces of metal.
- 21. A hotel.
- 22. An alternate route.
- 25. Needed for vigorous activity.
- 29. Earth or land.
- 31. Australia's Dame Nellie.
- 32. Large vertical steel tower.
- 33. Dyed fabric made using wax.
- 34. Convert into cash.
- 35. Used to secure a boat.



DOWN

- 1. Reject outright.
- 2. A lottery for goods instead of money.
- 3. A plan of action.
- 5. Roof of the mouth.
- 6. Fed beyond capacity.
- 7. A maker of suits.
- 8. Self-satisfied.
- 13. Sound of any kind.
- 14. The proprietor.
- 16. A column of light.
- 17. The ocean.
- 19. Caustic solution.
- 20. Common breakfast food.
- 22. Bar at both ends of a car.
- 23. Lacking in vitality.
- 24. Firm and dependable.
- 26. Serviette.
- 27. Take pleasure in.
- 28. Distant but within sight.
- 30. Learn by repetition.

Word Search

EARTH DAY

EARTH

PLANT

ENERGY

REUSE

GREEN

REUSE

NATURE

SOIL

OZONE

TREES

PLANET

WATER

R

U

E

T

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J

J

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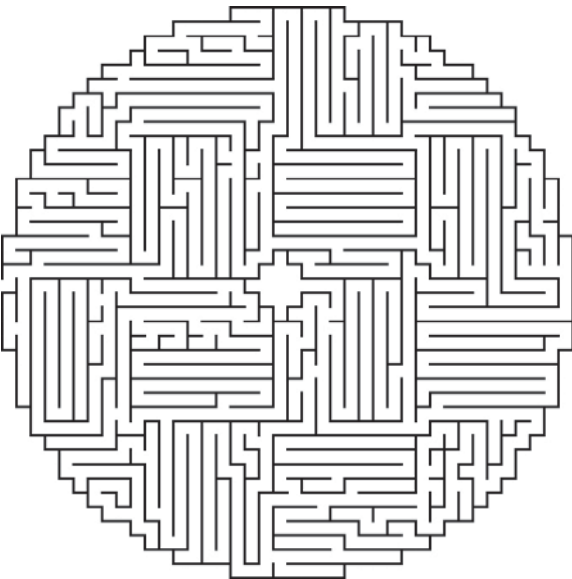
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Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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.

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words and meaning

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3				10				7							26					15					

I A E E A . E O E
6 7 5 3 6 8 10 10 23 3 18 10 1 4 26 6 10



A death cap mushroom. -S



A yellow staining mushroom. -S

Beware of foraging for wild mushrooms

POISONOUS mushrooms, including death cap mushrooms and yellow-staining mushrooms, occur in Victoria during autumn as the weather becomes wetter and cooler.

Consuming a death cap mushroom may result in death. Cooking, peeling or drying these mushrooms does not remove or inactivate the poison. There is no home test available to distinguish safe and edible mushrooms from poisonous mushrooms.

Mushrooms purchased from a supermarket, greengrocer or other reputable source are safe to eat.

It is recommended that people remove any mushrooms growing in home gardens as young children and pets can easily eat them.

What is the issue?

Death cap mushrooms

Death cap mushrooms (*amanita phalloides*) are extremely poisonous. Consuming just one mushroom can kill an adult. Symptoms of poisoning by death cap mushrooms can include violent stomach pains, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Even if initial symptoms subside serious liver damage may have occurred that may result in death.

These mushrooms grow under oak trees and the caps are 40 to 160mm in diameter. The cap ranges in colour from pale yellow-green to olive brown and the ridges on the underside of the cap are white. The base of the stem has a membrane 'cup'.

Yellow-staining mushrooms

The yellow-staining mushroom (*agaricus xanthodermus*) is the cause of most poisonings due to ingestion of wild fungi in Victoria. Consuming yellow-staining mushrooms causes nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhoea and vomiting. The severity of symptoms varies with the amount eaten.

This mushroom looks very similar to regular purchased mushrooms or 'cultivated mushrooms' (*agaricus bisporus*) and to edible wild mushrooms such as the field mushroom (*agaricus campestris*). In urban

areas the yellow-staining mushroom is unfortunately much more common than edible mushrooms. It can grow in large troops in lawns and gardens.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who collects and consumes wild mushrooms of unknown species is putting themselves at risk of potential poisoning and serious illness. Consuming a death cap mushroom may result in death.

Children should not touch wild mushrooms with their bare hands and animals should be kept away from them.

Pets can develop a range of illnesses from eating wild mushrooms, including gastroenteritis-type syndrome to severe life-threatening disease and death. Dogs are more likely than cats to ingest mushrooms.

Recommendations

Unless you are an expert, do not pick and eat wild mushrooms in Victoria.

People should urgently attend an emergency department if they believe they've eaten a poisonous mushroom. They should also take any remaining mushrooms with them for identification.

In most cases, the sooner treatment can begin, the better the outcome. Do not wait for symptoms to occur before seeking medical attention.

Contact the Victorian Poisons Information Centre immediately on 131 126 (open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Australia wide). Keep and photograph a sample of the mushroom that was consumed to share with the Victorian Poisons Information Centre for expert identification of the mushroom.

Pet owners should take particular care in areas where mushrooms may grow and where possible, remove any mushrooms from your garden before pets have a chance to eat them.

Remove any mushrooms growing in home gardens by wearing gloves and carefully place in a bag and dispose of them in a closed rubbish bin.



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Spectators sat on hay bales to watch the drovers perform. -BD

All ages at Merton campdraft

OVER 700 entries attended the Merton Campdraft last weekend in pristine weather.

The two day competition included a ladies' event on Saturday morning, followed by a maiden event, junior, juvenile, and open event. Sunday morning saw the 'Alan Fox Memorial Novice' event contested, and the encouragement event.

Merton Campdraft Club secretary, Lisa Smith, spoke about the event.

"Our Junior and Juvenile events are a great way of giving kids a chance to be part of the action. And many of

them give the adults a run for their money. Campdrafting is a great sport for the whole family to enjoy.

"On Sunday, we'll be starting with the 'Alan Fox Memorial Novice' event, followed by the Encouragement event to round out the weekend.

"The Encouragement event is designed to provide an entry level competition to riders starting out in campdrafting. As a club, we think it's important to give people an opportunity to give campdrafting a go."

More details can be found on the Merton Campdraft Club Facebook page.



Competitors drove the cows around an enclosed course to earn points. -BD



A flatbed truck trailer proved handy seating for spectators on the day. -BD



-photos by BD



Alexandra ladies Lynne and Ros, with Belinda from Mansfield, spectated the event. -BD



Spectators watched competitors round up cattle in the camp. -BD



Dust flew as cows were guided around the arena. -Photos by BD

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Australia is the only continent with no recorded cases of bird flu. It's even been found in Antarctica. -Sardaka

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Australia the last continent free from bird flu

AUSTRALIA remains the last continent in the world not affected by high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), or more commonly, bird flu. The discovery of bird flu in cows in the USA earlier this year has sparked fresh concerns about the spread of the virus, and its effect on global production.

High pathogenicity bird flu is found in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America, as well as Antarctica more recently. Australia has experienced cases of domestic low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) but has yet to receive the more deadly variant.

The pathogenicity level indicates the viruses' potential to kill poultry, not its infection rate.

The first herd of cows infected with HPAI was discovered in Texas in March, and within a week three other herds in separate states had been diagnosed. This sparks concerns that if the virus were to make its way to Australia it could effect cattle producers, and the meat industry.

The risk of infection in Australian wild birds is high, according to a December risk assessment by the Department of Agriculture.

Scientists have said it is inevitable that HPAI will reach Australia, and that it is just a matter of time before wild birds return from their summer spent in the northern hemisphere. Spring is the time of highest risk for the viruses' spread in Australia.

Despite this, the Australian Government has a number of prevention measures in place. The National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Surveillance program was launched in 2006, and is managed by Wildlife Health Australia. It seeks to prevent the outbreak of the disease by testing samples from wild birds, both healthy and sick or dead, to detect any instances of HPAI. On top of that, poultry producers have monitoring systems to detect the virus, and allow them to get in touch with the necessary authorities.

Australia also has a number of biosecurity measures in place to prevent bird flu, with people entering the country being obligated to declare any poultry meat or products, as well as x-rays, inspections, and detector dogs.

These are strong measures that have worked well so far, but there is no way to protect against wild birds migrating, who may carry the disease. Instead, people are urged to restrict the contact between poultry under their care, and wild birds, in a bid to stop transmission of the disease to local livestock.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	8	4	11	10	16	24	2	7	19	9	1	6	23	26	12	20	5	22	13	15	17	18	21	25	14

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R	A	R	I	T	Y	S	P	I	G	O	T
E	A	A	S	A	O	A					
B	F	C	A	M	E	L	R	I			
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MAZE

SUDOKU

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



Banksia Award Brolga at Moodie Swamp. -S

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority awarded

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has shared in a national award that recognises trailblazers in environmental and social sustainability.

Goulburn Broken CMA, as part of Victoria's 10 CMAs collectively known as Vic Catchments, won the Nature Positive category of the 35th National Banksia Sustainability Awards this month.

The award celebrates achievements in conservation, habitat restoration and species protection and highlights contributions to safeguarding and promoting the richness of nature.

Goulburn Broken CMA Chief Executive Officer, Chris Cumming, said the Vic Catchments award submission focused on CMA achievements over 25 years.

"I am extremely proud of the Goulburn Broken CMA's part in being changemakers for nature for more than 25 years, achieved through genuine collaboration with Traditional Owners, Landcare, community, government and stakeholders, to improve the health of our waterways and biodiversity from our alpine areas to our extensive floodplain environment," Ms Cumming said.

"The Goulburn Broken CMA team works across the catchment, which stretches from close to the outskirts of Melbourne in the south, the alps including Mt Buller, to the Murray River in the north, and the Campaspe River to the west. Our team brings so much regional knowledge, passion and connection to the community to deliver projects in our natural environment.

"Our work includes protecting the natural assets that underpin irrigation, river and wetland health, flood planning, soil management, landscape restoration and biodiversity protection."

Ms Cumming said that this year the Goulburn Broken CMA was renewing the community-led 30 year Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan, with the initial plan having guided significant protection of soil, water and biodiversity in the irrigation district.

"We have also supported our communities through the October 2022, 2023 and January 2024 floods where our incident response, community flood information portal, river restoration, drain repair works and blackwater management were invaluable," she said.

"Recent biodiversity projects include a partnership with Traditional Owners and Alpine Resorts to improve the trajectory of the endangered mountain pygmy possum on Mount Buller.

"We are very excited about the state of our wetlands and the return of birds, including at those waterways that are part of our environmental watering program such as Moodie Swamp, south of Katamatite, and Barmah Forest."

Ms Cumming said while there was a lot of work to be done to protect and improve the health of our natural environment, it was encouraging that CMA efforts, in partnership with the catchment community to date, had been recognised through this award.



Banksia Award Mountain Pygmy-possum at Mt Buller. -S



Banksia Award CEO Chris Cumming. -S

Positions open for Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council

THE Victorian Government is inviting Victorian Traditional Owners to apply for positions on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council and play a key role protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage for all Victorians.

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins recently announced applications are open for four positions on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, which oversees management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage across Victoria.

The council's principal functions include advising the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples on Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria, making decisions about applications from Traditional Owners to become Registered Aboriginal Parties, overseeing the reporting and return of Ancestral Remains and Secret or

Sacred Objects, and promoting public awareness and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The eleven person council comprises Traditional Owners, ensuring Aboriginal people are making decisions about their own heritage in line with the principle of self determination.

Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage is a vital part of our history and identity, and ensuring its protection for all Victorians is a priority for the Victorian Government.

Victorian Traditional Owners who live in Victoria, who have extensive knowledge of Aboriginal cultural heritage, and who have time to commit to council duties are encouraged to apply. For more information or to apply, please visit aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/become-member-aboriginal-heritage-council

Truck rollover

ON Sunday, April 14, a truck rolled over on the Goulburn Valley Highway at Homewood, near Dairy Creek Road.

Emergency services attended the scene and the highway was closed between Yea and King Parrot Creek Road. Motorists were advised to detour via Flowerdale, King Parrot Creek Road and Strath Creek.

The B-double was loaded with 609 sheep. It rolled over and landed upside down in Dairy Creek. The driver was able to extract himself

from the vehicle with minor injuries. He was taken to hospital for observation.

The bridge damaged in the incident is expected to be assessed by VicRoads. Sadly, all but 136 of the sheep had to be euthanised due to their injuries, with the local vet, local farmers and Agriculture Victoria attending.

The Goulburn Valley Highway remained closed at Homewood until late in the evening. One lane is now open while repairs are carried out, so expect delays.

Rya Roberts: karting on track



Rya Roberts on the track. -S

LOCAL Yea High School student Rya Roberts is on track for his first Nationals start next weekend at round two of the Australian Karting Championships at Eastern Lions Kart Club in Puckapunyal.

With over 400 entries heading to the track, Rya will be amongst the 77 elite drivers competing in the KA3 Junior class from Thursday, April 18 onwards.

Coming off the back of a successful weekend at round two of the Golden Power series in Gippsland last week with a win in heat one and two, Rya will be pushing on track for a strong result.

“With this being my home club I’ve managed to have a decent amount of track time this year to work hard on my racing,” Rya said.

“I’ve also been working hard on my fitness, getting a good push from Jess and the team at Progression Physiotherapy and Performance, be it in their Condition classes or the local run club.”

Rya’s 2024 program will see him at various state rounds as well as the Golden Power Series that runs over five events throughout Victoria.

“Unfortunately, the budget doesn’t quite reach competing at all the Australian Karting Championship rounds around Australia this year, especially being a stand-alone karter, working with dad as the mechanic as well as mum and my two younger brothers supporting me.

“I’m extremely fortunate to have some great backers that have helped from buying my upgraded chassis, an engine, tyres and even entry fees paid for next week’s attack on Nationals. Without their support I wouldn’t be rocking up to the track as much as I am,” Rya said.

The Eastern Lions track is located at 1005 Seymour-Tooborac Road, Hilldene, 10km from Seymour. Admission is free for all spectators and all of the racing will also be streamed live on Saturday and Sunday on [watchmysportlive.tv](#)

Career overview

Rya started his go karting career back in 2019 at a local indoor karting facility in Chirnside Park. The obsession grew and he was there every week competing at the age of nine against 12 year olds in hire karts. But he wanted more.

2020 was the year to step up and he was fortunate, with the support of his parents, to purchase a second hand Cadet 12 Kosmic kart. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit and all tracks had to close. He managed to complete his practice hours to fulfill his licence requirements during the gaps in 2020 and compete in two club day rounds. He hasn’t looked back.

When 2021 started, the P plates were on. A strong start to the year saw him place fifth overall at one of Oakleigh Go Kart Tracks prestigious events, ‘Top Guns’. The \$100 prize



Rya heading to the track. -S

money almost covered the cost of the entry and was an amazing experience.

A solid 2022 allowed for more consistent track time to build up to an extremely busy 2023 in which he competed in the Golden Power Series, Eastern Lions Club Championship and various state specialty plate races. He competed in 20 race meetings in total in 2023 and upgraded to a new Kart Republic chassis thanks to his generous sponsors.

2023 achievements

Third place in Club Championship overall. Competed in all nine rounds.

Seventh place in the Golden Power series. Competed in all six rounds. Best result: third at Bendigo round two. Over 40 competitors in the competition. Australian Karting Championship top five compete in this championship as well.

2024 and beyond

Repping the Kart Republic chassis this year, they are aiming to approach the year a little differently, with a focus on the Golden Power series in the KA3 Junior Heavy Division. They hope to also get a spot at the two Victorian rounds of the Australian Karting Championship.

Rya’s focus is on improving his fitness this year and to work on his race craft with some driver coaching.



Rya will be competing in round two of the Australian Karting Championships at Eastern Lions Club in Puckapunyal. -S

Childhood friends from Flowerdale win gold at the Olympics

Lawrence Morgan

BILL Roycroft's childhood friend from Flowerdale, Lawrence Morgan (1915-1997), played football for Fitzroy Football Club as a young man. He started with the club in 1937, playing on the same side as the famed Haydn Bunton. Lawrence played two seasons (34 games) with the team as a ruckman, before leaving.

He was also the Victorian amateur junior heavyweight boxing champion.

In 1960, he competed in the Australian Equestrian team at the Rome Olympics. He won the gold medal ahead of fellow Australian Neale Lavis in the Individual Three-Day Event, becoming the first Australian to win an equestrian gold medal. He became the first rider in Olympic history to receive maximum bonus points for cross-country and endurance.

He then teamed up with Lavis and Bill Roycroft to win gold in the Team Event in the same year.

Despite the Australian Olympic team for that year containing legends such as Herb Elliott, Dawn Fraser and Murray Rose, Lawrence was Australia's only dual gold medallist.

Following his Olympic success, Lawrence pursued steeplechasing, competing in many British races, including winning the Aintree Fox Hunter's Cup on the Grand National course. He won 22 out of 33 starts in amateur steeplechase races in the UK. He also won the 1961 Badminton dressage title, the second Australian to do so after Bill Roycroft.

In addition, Lawrence was a polo player, and won numerous trophies in the sport, and was a successful horse breeder.



Lawrence Morgan on horse, Salad Days. -S

Bill Roycroft

OLYMPIC equestrian champion, Bill Roycroft (1915-2011), was one of seven children and grew up on a dairy farm in Flowerdale. Young Bill rode throughout his childhood, racing over tree branches with his friend Lawrence Morgan. Lawrence was also an Olympic equestrian competitor.

According to an interview with Ian F Jobling on Trove, Bill attended school at Break O'Day, riding ponies to and from the school. It was three miles from the house to the school.

He told the interviewer, "Those days it was just a track through the timber. And of course there was plenty of fallen timber to jump and gutters to ride over. So I suppose if you go back through the years, that's where I got my riding experience... We couldn't afford a saddle. I think I was well into 16 or 17 before I had a saddle, yeah. I used to go do my flag racing and that bareback and ... oh, well that was a different age."

He added, "That was still at Break O'Day. Yep. That school today has moved down close to the hotel, and that would have been only half a mile from where we originally lived."

Bill left school aged 14 and moved with his mother to New South Wales, where he became a pushbike messenger for the Water Commission and then a share cropper in the area. Afterwards, he returned to Flowerdale and did odd jobs on local farms while competing as a rider.

He met his future wife, Mavis Jones, a show jumper, in Flowerdale. Bill signed up to become a soldier when World War II broke out, and he married Mavis during his first substantial leave from duty. The couple, along with their young son, moved to a soldier's block near Camperdown following the war, where they set up a dairy farm. They eventually had three sons, Barry, Wayne and Clarke.

All three children were trained by their father in the equestrian arts, with their mother choosing their horses. All three went on to compete in the Olympics, alongside their father.

Barry competed in 1964 (reserve rider), 1976 and 1988. Wayne competed in 1968, 1976 and 1984. Clarke competed in 1972. Wayne's wife Vicki also competed in the Olympics in 1984, 1988 and 1996.

At the 1996 Rome games, Bill was thrown from his horse and suffered a concussion, as well as a broken shoulder and dislocated collarbone. Despite this, he competed in the cross-country section before being airlifted to hospital.

The eventing team required three riders, but only had two remaining, as Bill was in hospital. Bill left his hospital bed, against the advice of doctors, to finish the event. This allowed his team to win the gold medal.



Bill Roycroft on horse, Our Solo. -S

Bill also won bronze medals in the teams event at the 1968 and 1976 games, alongside son Wayne. They were the first father and son combination to win an Olympic medal together. Also in 1976, he became Australia's oldest Olympic competitor, aged 61.

Bill was the Australian flag bearer at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, and his son Wayne had the same role 16 years later.

Bill was also the equestrian team manager at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and later the national coach of the Australian eventing team. Wayne later succeeded him in the role.

He was one of eight Australian flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

He was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1969, received an Order of Merit from the Australian Olympic Committee in 1978, inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985 and later upgraded to legend status, received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 and a Centenary Medal in 2001, and in 2011, he was inducted into the Equestrian Australia Hall of Fame.

He died aged 96 at hospital in Camperdown on May 29, 2011.

SPORT



Zander Williamson in under nine football. -S



Summer Edwards in under 11 netball. -S

Mixed results by junior teams

by Ray Steyger

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams kicked off the 2024 season and hosted Broadford for four games of football and three games of netball, as well as Yea for three games of netball. A number of new coaches, players and excited parents and grandparents all enjoyed the return of junior sport on a warm autumn day with a large crowd in attendance.

The under nines and 10s football had a game, but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring, so there is no win or loss for that competition. Due to the increase in junior netball players keen to represent the club, the Rebels are fielding two teams in each of the three grades this season, Alexandra Black and Alexandra Red.

Football

Under 12
Alexandra 6.6 – 24 defeated
Broadford 2.6 – 18

Penstock Pastoral: Eli Van Lierop. Essence Coffee Lounge: Nathan Webb. FoodWorks: Harish Balansag. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Hudson Brooks. Coach: Clay Hilder.

Under 14
Alexandra 4.5 – 29 defeated
by Broadford 9.12 – 66

North Central Construction: Aiden Campbell. Essence Coffee Lounge: Jaidyn Dimech. FoodWorks: Tybar Reid. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Declan Armstrong. Coach: Josh Northmore.

Under 16
Alexandra 11.12 – 78 defeated
Broadford 5.8 – 38

Nutrien Harcourts: Mitchell Cabban. Essence Coffee Lounge: Heath Sutcliffe. FoodWorks: Jesse Winch. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Jaime Shawcross. Coach: Matthew Waixel.

Netball

Under 11
Alexandra Black 2 defeated
by Broadford 5

FoodWorks: Amelia Koci. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Matilda Woehl.

Under 13
Alexandra Black 43 defeated Broadford 8
FoodWorks: Chloe Woehl. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Charli Edwards.

Under 15
Alexandra Black 22 defeated
by Broadford 35
FoodWorks: Harley Olive. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ashlee Collett.

Under 11
Alexandra Red 14 defeated Yea 12
FoodWorks: Ruby Bermingham. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Kaliya Stewart.



Harvey Ware in under nine football. -S



Ruby Bermingham in under 11s. -S



Heath Sutcliffe in the under 16s. -S

Under 13
Alexandra Red 22 defeated by Yea 36
FoodWorks: Eadie Gibson. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ivy Miljkovic. Miljkovic Family Award: Bella Twitchett.

Under 15
Alexandra Red 12 defeated by Yea 27
FoodWorks: Marli Collier. Alexandra Bakery and Café: Eva Twitchett. Miljkovic Family Award: Brianna Golland.



Ella Palmer in the under 13s. -S

Well done to everyone last Sunday for getting through round one of the season. A very big day but all worthwhile when you see the little people active and happy. The club thanks the above award sponsors for their continued support of the junior footballers and netballers in 2024.

Next Sunday, the Alexandra junior teams play away as follows: under 16s football travel to Deakin Reserve in Shepparton to play Shepparton Notre Bears Maroon; the



Nathan Webb in under 14 football. -S

under nines and 10s, under 12s and under 14s football teams travel to Yea; the three Alexandra Black netball teams play at Yea; the under 11 and 13 Alexandra Red teams play Tabilk at Nagambie; the under 15 Alexandra Red team plays St Marys at Kings Park in Seymour.

If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season please speak to Melissa Crane to go on the roster.

SPORT



The Thornton Eildon Women's football team. -S

Opening game for women's football

by Scott Whitehead

ON a warm sunny Saturday afternoon the Thornton Eildon women's football club welcomed the Wandin Womens football club to the Thornton Recreation reserve for their first match of the 2024 season.

After a three month pre season the girls were keen to finally put their skills to the test on game day. Numbers were amazing with 23 of the 29 registered players available on the day which also included seven debutants. The message from the coach, Tash Hay, was clear, asking for the team to be strong in communication, to protect each other and most of all to have fun. Returning Captain Rose Kealy led the girls out followed by newly

appointed vice captain Issy Weston who both had great games.

Wandin started strongly, kicking four goals in the first quarter as Thornton were unable to match the speed and skill of their opposition. The girls regrouped at quarter time and with the bench completing some quick rotations the second quarter saw Wandin kick two more goals but again their defence was too strong and restricted Thornton to no score.

Suade Croad and Amy Campbell continued their good form from training and new player Leah Battalis showed strong commitment in defence.

The third quarter saw Thornton begin to work the ball around and a more physical

presence from Teneille Collins and Kelly Fitzpatrick had Wandin second guessing themselves. Thornton scored late in the quarter and some strong team defence kept Wandin to only one goal in the third.

With the heat of the day really setting in and a deficit of seven goals leading into the last quarter the coaches asked for extra effort and pleaded to slow the game down and to control the football. Tahnee Heard, Emma Whitehead, Emily Kerr and Daphne Tripodi led the way in the last quarter showing amazing endurance in the back half, again restricting Wandin to one goal for the quarter.

While the scoreline was not in favour of Thornton the game was played in great spirit with some good numbers in the crowd

showing support. The Wandin girls were welcomed into the club rooms after the game for the presentation of awards which went to Issy Weston; Simpsons fuel voucher. Tahnee Heard; Club dinner voucher. Daphne Tripodi; \$20 and Leah Battalis; club training pack.

Next week the women will travel to Woori Yallock for the late game at 4.45pm. Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is also available on Thursday night at 7.30pm for \$15.

If you wish to be a part of the team as a player, supporter or sponsor please follow the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball club facebook page or by email at tedfnc@outlook.com

Perfect autumn conditions for golfing

by Elizabeth Goss

THERE were 14 players for Alexandra Golf Club's Tuesday golf last week with Nigel Waterhouse still playing well to win with (17) 40 points on a count back from Russell Purcell (17) 40 points.

Nick Emmerson came next with (21) 38 points on a count back from John Greatorox (20) 34 points. Nearest to the pin on

the 17th went to Nick Emmerson and on the 18th to Graeme Emmerson. Ball run down went to Dave Silverman, Greg Millard and Jeff Andrew.

A perfect autumn day on Wednesday, April 10 for a 4BBB round. Donna Meggitt and Julie Lyon won with 44 points and on a count back the runners were Sue Greatorox and Ruth Worland with 40 points. Marg Fahey and Sandra Morris won

the nine holes with 23 points. Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Ruth Worland on the seventh to Julie Lyon and on the 18th to Deb Richardson. Wednesday, April 24 is Anti Cancer Day (Pink Day) with a Par round.

The lovely weather held for last Saturday's Stableford round. The winner was Dylan Jack (4) 39 points and the runner up was Jarrod Williamson (17) 38 points on a three way count back

from Corey Jack (8) 38 points and Michael Bossonnet (12) 38 points. Next came Greg Millard (17) 37 points. Nearest the pin on the second went to Corey Jack, on the fifth to Dave Silverman, on the seventh to Jared Sloane, on the 12th to Michael Bossonnet and on the 18th to Trevor Biffin.

Saturday, April 20, is Stroke and the final round of the Summer Cup and Golden Putter.

Eildon golf report

by Puttomatic

AN absolute stunning day attracted 16 players in a Stableford competition at Eildon Golf Club last Saturday.

Incorporated into the competition was also a four person team's event with players hitting a alternative ball to record both their individual and a team score.

Colin Carnegie came up trumps in a five-way tie and subsequent count back to secure first prize with 34 points. Joining Colin with 34 points were Kerry Power (runner up), Leigh Munro, Ken Collier and Rod Taylor all securing a ball run.

Nearest the pins went to Leigh on the par four third (second shot), Ian Lakeland on the 12th and Phil Dally the 14th. Both the fifth and 11th went unclaimed.

Rod recorded a birdie on the eighth while no one could find the cup in four on the par five on the 15th.

The team's event went to John Monteath, Denis Seamer, Wayne Kupke and Kerry Power.

John Montheath was the fortunate entry draw and swindle recipient with Kevin King the Joker draw winner.

Bowl and the Kilmore Bowl, and thank Romsey and Kilmore for their hospitality.

On Monday this week, three ladies played in the Heritage Golf Club Bowl and others will travel on Thursday to Lancefield to play in their tournament.

When playing golf at Marysville on Easter Saturday Mim Page played a hole in one on the 18th hole. Congratulations to Mim on this achievement and on her victory dance.

Next Saturday both the men and ladies will play a stroke round and a reminder that play now is a 9.30am arrival for a 10am tee off.

Marysville golfers play by the book

by Lesley Rundle

THE Marysville Golf Club Saturday competitions have been held as written in the 2024 Syllabus.

Last Saturday the men played a stableford game for the first round of the Barton Cup while the ladies also played stableford.

The men's winner was Ross Ansell (10) with 36 points and the runner up was Richie Clark (15) with 33 points on a countback from Colin Davies. The ladies result also involved a countback with Helen Howard (23) winning with 32 points on a countback from Gail Leigh. The nearest the pins were won by Brian Worcester, Mark Bambery, Ross Ansell and Keith Atwell. The qualifiers for the Barton Cup final played later in the year are Ross Ansell, Richie Clark, Colin Davies and Mark Bambery.

The Marysville golfers have spent time travelling around the Dalhousie District playing pennant and taking part in the ladies Bowls.

The men's Pennant team have played two rounds of their Sunday competition. They were beaten by Yea four to one at Eildon in round one and by Eildon at Alexandra three to two in round two.

Unfortunately, two of the team were involved in a car accident on their way to Alexandra and while they had to forfeit the two games, members were very relieved that neither of the men sustained any injuries.

Last Sunday Marysville had a bye but hosted the third round.

The ladies pennant competition is held on Mondays, and Marysville recently played Strathbogie at Yea in the first round.

Marysville won three to two and members thank Jody Doran, Heather Jenkins, Jenny Coleman, Helen Howard and Margaret Blair for playing.

The Marysville Golfers next play Seymour/Trentham at Broadford on April 29. The ladies have also represented the club at the Romsey



Mim at the 18th hole, where she got a hole in one. -S

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Football and netball are back for Alexandra

by Ray Steyger

AFTER two practice matches and then a break for Easter, the Outer East League 2024 Division One season commenced with the Rebels hosting Yea for two games of football and four games of netball.

Football Reserves

Alexandra 14.9 – 93 defeated Yea 0.6 – 6

THE reserves got the football day started, led out by Tom McKinlay in his 100th game, with two goals in the first quarter, then adding five in the second quarter to hold a handy lead at half time. The Rebels new and returning players worked in well with their team mates and enjoyed their first win of the season.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen: Tom Halligan. Ampol fuel card: Luke Wal. Alexandra Hotel: Jordan Rice. Buxton Hotel: Tom McKinlay. Sportspower: Nathan Georgiadis.

Seniors Alexandra 22.9 – 141 defeated Yea 10.5 – 65

THE seniors welcomed Lachlan Aikman, Josh Edwards and Luke Spence to the club and started with seven goals to two before adding eight goals to one in the second quarter, but the visitors continued to work hard in the second half, rewarded with six goals to two in the last quarter.

Awards: Incentives: Will Stewart, Ted Watkin, Mitch Parker and Ryan Lucas. Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award:

Alan / Jenny Church. Gate raffle was won by Darren Gregg; meat tray: Brodie Wheelhouse; wine: Luke Spence.

A large crowd enjoyed excellent weather, the ground in terrific condition and games of football and netball played in great spirit. The social rooms were a hive of activity and thank you to all the Yea players and supporters that came in to join us. Local State Member, Cindy McLeish, catching up with locals and presenting the Hedger Ivey Cup to Kath Hedger, the club trivia function well attended and very entertaining.

Netball

A GRADE won 52–38: Incentive: Teagan Halligan; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Ruby Livesy.

B GRADE lost 31–45: Incentive: Sarah Skehan; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Ash Peers.

C GRADE lost 18–27: Incentive: Mikaela Krijt; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Tamika Poustie.

D GRADE won 37–11: Incentive: Maddy Northmore; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Reagan O'Toole.

THURSDAY'S Rebel Raffles started last Thursday and the club thanks its sponsors. The winners were Steve Hedger, Anne Binghamy, Andrew Wood, Len Jenkins, Kath Hedger and Nick Wal. The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot will be worth \$300 this week so head along and buy some tickets at \$1 each at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw. Meals will also be available at the junior and senior sittings. A comedy night was organised for Thursday this week but due to circumstances beyond their control, the comedians are no longer able to attend, the event to be rescheduled to later in the season.

In round two this coming Saturday Alexandra will travel to Warburton Millgrove for games of football and netball, awards at a venue to be advised.

In round three on Saturday, April 27, the club is very proud to work with the Alexandra RSL to celebrate the ANZAC spirit as they host Powelltown for games of football and netball, all entry fees collected and money raised at the gate go to the Alexandra RSL to support their important work within the community. There will be a line up of players and officials between the reserves and seniors football matches with the Alexandra RSL members acknowledging the ANZAC spirit. The club also thanks its sponsors, Murrindindi Shire Council and *Alexandra Newspapers* for their support. After the games the 'Dream Team' auction will be held, lists will be available on the day with the auction to commence around 7pm, open age football and netball players are grouped, all earning points during the season and at the club and league presentation functions. The group with the most points earns their owner 50 per cent of the pool raised at the auction, the second group earns their owner 30 per cent of the pool with the winners announced at the club senior presentation function on Saturday, October 5. It is worth studying the form guide especially with a number of new players in all grades of football and netball.

The club is seeking assistance and needs volunteers so if you would like to help with home game tasks including scoreboard, canteen, bar work and maintenance among other things, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.



Tom McKinlay getting chaired off in his 100th game for the club. -S



Gus Smith in the Reserves. -S



Taylor Kleinschmidt in the Seniors. -S



Will Stewart in the Seniors. -S

Netball winter 2024 competitions

by Cassandra Fraser

FOUNDED in 1962 the Alexandra and District Netball Association (ADNA) continues to provide netball competitions for local primary and secondary aged children and adults.

This year the small ADNA committee hope to run three levels of competition: Open Ladies, youth (year seven to nine) and junior (grades four to six), along with the popular Net Set Go for kids to learn the skills of netball in a fun and inclusive environment.

Players come from Marysville, Buxton, Eildon, Yea and surrounds to join Alexandra players in the competitions. Also planned is

a netball clinic for local players in the winter school holidays.

Open ladies will be played Monday nights. The games are scored but are played in a very social fashion, teams are made up to be even to ensure fair competition without dominance of a single team, with groups of friends also requesting to play together.

Mid season social night out at one of the local hotels was well attended and enjoyed by all last year, this will be on this year's calendar also. ADNA would love to see more ladies pull on some sneakers and join this great fun social game.

The youth competition will be running for the first time in a few years. At this stage

numbers are low but will be enough to create a decent competition over the winter months and promote sport and general health for girls from year seven to nine. Games will be held on Wednesday nights.

Junior competition is also needing some more numbers to expand the draw. The competition will be held Tuesday nights, times to be confirmed with release of the draw.

Net Set Go is commencing April 22, for young players to learn the game.

It would be great to see some more parents join the committee and take on some roles on game night. If the committee does not expand in the coming years the future of

Association Netball will be threatened. The old saying 'many hands make light work.'

Registration links will be distributed this week via school newsletters, Facebook posts which are usually on community news sites, and those training with Alexandra Rebels and Yea Tigers will be given a flyer with the link to registration. Any questions please email to juniorb.netball@gmail.com

Any past or present netballers who would like to get involved in umpiring you would be very welcome, come along to any of the comp nights or email us.