

## Pride flag raised for IDAHOBIT

LAST Friday, Murrindindi Shire Council celebrated IDAHOBIT, the International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination, by raising the Pride Flag at their council offices in Alexandra, Yea, and Kinglake.

They also raised awareness by handing out information about IDAHOBIT at pop-up stands in Alexandra and Yea, and by keeping the Pride Flag raised until the end of June to celebrate Pride month.

The council Facebook post stated, "Why is it important to celebrate this day, not just today, but every day? Because LGBTQIA+ people in Australia still experience disproportionate rates of bullying, harassment and discrimination.

"As part of the shared community vision, council strive to create an inclusive community, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all.

"IDAHOBIT is a day for the communities to go rainbow and stand up against discrimination. Whether you're part of the LGTBQIA+ community or you're an ally, today we stand together."



The Pride flag outside the Murrindindi Shire Council office. -S



Cr Sandice McAulay raising the Pride flag in Alexandra. -S

## Consultation opens for Murray Darling Basin Plan

THE Victorian Government is aiming to protect the nation's food bowl and the future of regional communities while also meeting Victoria's obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Minister for Water Harriet Shing has published *Planning Our Basin Future Together: A prospectus to safeguard Victoria's environments and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin*.

The prospectus has been developed following extensive and meaningful engagement by, with, and for, Victoria's basin communities. It details the next steps Victoria will take following the Australian Government's decision to buy back up to 450 GL of additional water.

Following the release of the prospectus, community engagement will continue across Victorian basin towns, with industries and stakeholders to identify new alternatives to open tender water purchases, projects and outcomes that deliver healthy waterways and resilient environments, without causing harm to communities.

These community-driven options will then form the basis of negotiations with the Australian Government on delivery, to ensure Victorian basin communities' priorities are front and centre in the Commonwealth's delivery of the Basin Plan.

The prospectus follows the Australian Government's long-awaited agreement that funding for Victorian environmental projects is essential to the delivery of the Basin Plan.

Victoria remains opposed to buybacks and has not signed any agreement with the Commonwealth Government in exchange for this funding.

Victoria continues to negotiate for a fair share of Australian Government funding for vital water recovery projects and confirms support for outcomes that do not create disadvantage.

Minister for Water, Harriet Shing, said, "We've done more than any jurisdiction to return water to the environment, improve the efficient use of water, and crack down on water theft.

"Our communities know better than anyone that healthy waterways mean healthy communities and productive crops, and we will continue to work with the Commonwealth and all basin states to innovate, collaborate, and deliver better outcomes for the entire basin.

"We will continue our advocacy with and for Victorian communities and the environments they depend upon, while protecting households from avoidable increases to the cost of living."

For more information about the next steps and where to get involved visit, [water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/murray-darling-basin/planning-our-basin-future-together](http://water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/murray-darling-basin/planning-our-basin-future-together).

You can have your say at [engage.vic.gov.au/planning-our-basin-future-together](http://engage.vic.gov.au/planning-our-basin-future-together). The consultation closes on June 16.

## Wind farm opposition group responds to Fera article

STRATHBOGIES Responsible Renewables Community Group has provided a response to the comments from Fera representatives in the May 8 edition, regarding the proposed wind farm in Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires.

### Landholder rights

The Fera article stated: *Regarding public opposition to the windfarm project, Mr Lawson said, "First and foremost, if people don't want the wind farm on their property, we're respecting that, we're saying that's okay. We still want to talk to you and explain what's going on, but that is absolutely your right to dictate what happens on your property."*

SRRCG response: "This statement is completely misleading and is at the core of the community's objection to this proposal. While host landholders will receive financial compensation for allowing wind turbines and transmission towers or lines on their properties, several hundred neighbouring landholders face the prospect of decreased property values, diminished amenity and well-being, and damage to the unique landscape and its biodiversity. This business model creates an inequitable and divisive situation, where non-participating landholders bear the negative consequences and participating landholders and the international development company are financially rewarded. Furthermore, the Victorian Government's new Development Facilitation Program exacerbates the issue by expediting the approval process and limiting the community's ability to challenge these renewable energy projects, effectively undermining the rights of landholders to have a say in what happens on their properties."

### Community engagement and misleading information

The Fera article said: *Mr Lawson states that "We're looking at providing information to the public. We try and keep all of our reports and everything updated on the website, so as we do an environment report, all of our presentations will be on the website. We certainly make ourselves available to anyone, whenever we receive any communications, and we're proactively going out to try and meet with people," Mr Lawson said. "We are constantly told of incorrect information*

*that is going out into the public and we find that really disappointing. One side has a genuine intent, and is providing information based on the facts and what we're actually doing, and the other side is providing misinformation to people about the height of the turbines, the location of powerlines, the height of the powerlines. There's lots and lots of incorrect information. Obviously we're trying to make sure that people have access to the information, and we're able to provide to people in a very transparent way, what's going on."*

SRRCG response: "Fera's approach to community engagement lacks transparency and consistency and fails to provide critical information about the project's progress, scope, infrastructure locations, and potential impacts on landholders. Despite commitments to disclose turbine and transmission line locations by the end of 2023, this information remains unavailable, leaving many in the potentially affected community unaware of the project and its potential impacts. Contrary to their assertion that they "keep everything updated on their website," the most recent information dates back to their presentation from August 2023 and this lacks any information about infrastructure placement.

"Mr Lawson has made allegations of misinformation being spread in the community in several forums. If this is the case, he has had ample opportunity to correct the record in numerous ways but has chosen not to do so. The most obvious way to do this would be to uphold Fera's own breached commitment to provide regular project updates and quarterly community meetings with the whole impacted community. The last community meeting held by Fera was in August 2023, some nine months ago. At this meeting Mr Lawson committed to providing information on locations of project infrastructure and this has still not occurred.

"The Strathbogie Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) has stepped in and endeavoured to source accurate and up-to-date information, disseminating this through meetings, their website ([srrcg.com](http://srrcg.com)), and email updates. If accused of spreading misinformation, this has never been directly advised by Fera. SRRCG asserts their commitment to a respectful, inclusive process based on publicly available information. The group welcomes feedback to improve accuracy and fill Fera's persistent information vacuum."



Alexandra District Health

5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital

5736 0400

In an emergency dial

000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison

manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au

accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Vasu

1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au

(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS

sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714

Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603

Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

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Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Tues Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306

Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm

Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150

Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427

Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm

Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 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

1<sup>st</sup> Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1<sup>st</sup> Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257

1<sup>st</sup> Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas

2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946

3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4<sup>th</sup> Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.

4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Letters to the Editor

Wind farm

BACK in 2012-13, Infigen Energy took Mitchell Shire Council and other objectors to VCAT regarding the proposal of a wind farm on Cherry Tree Range, which was part of the historically listed Trawool Valley. The two VCAT Chairman approved Cherry Tree Wind Farm in November 2013.

Infigen Energy made modifications to the Planning Permit Development for Cherry Tree Wind farm in November 2018 at the 11th hour when the planning permit was nearing its expiry date. Cherry Tree Wind Farm started construction in January 2019 and was operating in July 2020.

Three different owners have now owned this industrial wind turbine farm within three years. Infigen Energy off-loaded Cherry Tree Wind Farm before they had even had it a year to Iberdrola who have now off-loaded it to Atmos Renewables.

The two VCAT Chairmen thought that planting a few trees in front of the turbines was the answer to the visual impacts the turbines would cause to the environment and landscape. You can now see the wind turbines from Anzac Avenue in Seymour, on the way home from Nagambie, Puckapunyal, and then as far as Strath Creek. You can't get away from the sight of them.

Another objection put forward to the two VCAT Chairmen by the objectors to the wind farm proposal was that granite attracts lightning strikes and granite is all over the place on Cherry Tree Range and guess what, a blade on one of the turbines was hit by lightning last year and the blade had to be replaced. The new owners must shudder whenever there is an electrical storm.

The two VCAT Chairmen and Infigen Energy were also told many other valid

reasons why the Cherry Tree Wind Farm Development was inappropriate on Cherry Tree Range.

Surely, one has to wonder why three owners in three years.

Lola Puddy, Whiteheads Creek

Donation to Legacy

ALEXANDRA, Yea, Mansfield Legacy Group thank the Yea Show Society and their competitors for their donation to Legacy following the Fleece Competition and the sale of the donated wool. It is much appreciated.

Legatee Clare Sinclair for AYM Legacy Group

Bus 684

THE future of the Central Highlands Forrests, 'consultation' smacks of the same process that was used to decide the fate of the daily 684 bus into Southern Cross Station. Those of us who use the bus are acutely aware of how those 'consultations' ended. We endure them every time we need to go into the city, losing about 90 mins of valuable time for medical appointments, visiting family, etcetera.

The cynic in me sees a repeat of the consultations, for the Central Highlands Forrests, 'quasi' comes to mind.

What was pleasing to read was that the government representatives were actually willing to identify themselves. Not so for the 684 process at Healesville outside of Coles. I personally introduced myself and asked for a name and was refused this courtesy, under the guise of not being a necessity. When I challenged this, the lead person acquiesced. In reality this reinforced, to me, that the exercise was purposefully meant to be coercive.

Continued Page 8

Weekly Weather

May 22 - May 28, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	3	15	Wednesday	3	15
Thursday	4	15	Thursday	3	16
Friday	5	15	Friday	5	16
Saturday	5	17	Saturday	4	17
Sunday	4	16	Sunday	4	16
Monday	5	16	Monday	5	16
Tuesday	6	16	Tuesday	5	16

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.11	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.48	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.01pm Mon	0.60	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.50am Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.25am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	0.58	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.37	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.48	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	0.85	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.16	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.56am Mon	1.16	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.45PM ON MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra..... N/Amm

Buxton..... 6mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 2mm

Flowerdale..... 5mm

Jamieson..... 3mm

Kinglake ..... 15mm

Lake Eildon ..... 2mm

Mansfield..... 1mm

Taggerty ..... 3mm

Yarck ..... 2mm

Yea.....2mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....286.42m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....90.3%

Metres below full supply.....2.48m

Daily inflow .....500ML

Release.....1000ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....72%

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



## Menzies responds to plan management concerns

IN last week's edition, there was an article about Menzies Support Services moving away from NDIS plan management.

CEO Karina Hogan explained the situation. She said, "The decision to cease providing NDIS Plan Management was in order to allow Menzies to concentrate on the core business of meeting and providing quality support services to people in our community. This also aligns with Menzies' Mission, Vision and Statement of Purpose.

"A plan management service provides management and monitoring of NDIS funds within participant budgets, NDIS claims and disbursement of funds to providers for services delivered.

"With a direction towards developing exciting new programs and initiatives such as the implementation of 'The Dame', plan management was considered not to be a core support service option."

When asked whether people would be reimbursed pro-rata for the annual amount paid for plan management, Ms Hogan replied, "Plan management providers do not 'hold' any participant funding and funds are 'held' by NDIS. Menzies process monthly invoices

for plan management services and this is done directly through the NDIS portal and only if a participant has funding available within their plan. As a goodwill gesture, Menzies has not billed participants for plan management services for the month of May. As Menzies do not hold plan management funds, there will be no reimbursements."

She also said that the two weeks' notice that people were given was in "accordance with plan management rules and within the Menzies service agreement."

Ms Hogan added, "Menzies provided a significant listing of alternative plan managers to all participants and within the listing alternative plan management services exist that cover the area of Murrindindi, however, may not be based in the area. Plan management services are not required to provide services within a targeted geographical area and are not place based. Menzies provided plan management services to a small number of participants within the local area with the majority of participants residing in the metro and inner city areas."

Ms Hogan said that there would be no other changes to Menzies services.

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THIS week's social meeting was well attended and the members welcomed Ron Huggard back after his stay in hospital. General business consisted of a discussion about future activities and ways to attract new members. This area is blessed with a choice of social groups such as Probus, Rotary, U3A and Embassy of Ideas, who run activities, along with the Murrindindi Library, so we are always competing for members.

Suggestions of chess, Scrabble and mahjong got a mention as did future excursions to Morning Melodies at RSL clubs and hotels in the area. Watch this space for news of what the committee decide. Don't

forget the club's usual activities of bridge on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and carpet bowls on Tuesdays.

Treasurer Dave had everyone smiling with Comedy Corner and Steph spun the wheel for the Chocolate Raffle, with Roma, Joan and Val the lucky winners. With the formalities over we retired to the tearoom for refreshments and the usual chatter before playing 500 and UNO.

As always, a reminder that if you are sitting at home on a Friday afternoon and feel like some company, please come along to the meeting or if you want information about the club's activities, please email [secretaryadsc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryadsc@gmail.com)

In the meantime, stay safe and keep smiling.

## RSPCA Million Paws Walk is coming soon

THE countdown is on for the Eildon Million Paws Walk with locals and their furry friends expected to hit the Lions Rotunda Eildon on Sunday, May 26.

Walkers can enter a raffle to win a fabulous KONG prize pack at the event to raise vital funds to help end animal cruelty.

Speaking about the walk, Event Manager, Wendy Dare said they couldn't wait to see plenty of wagging tails this weekend.

"The Eildon Million Paws Walk is such a fun day for people and their dogs, and it makes such a difference to help RSPCA Victoria end animal cruelty," Ms Dare said.

"We'd love for more locals to join us this weekend at the Lions Rotunda Eildon, people can register online in advance to make the most of any discounts on offer, or come along

and register on the day, every person, and paw counts.

Registrations for the 30th Annual Million Paws Walk are now open at [millionpawswalk.com.au/eildon](http://millionpawswalk.com.au/eildon), those booking online will automatically receive a 40 per cent ticket discount by May 24.

The Eildon Million Paws Walk will be at the Lions Rotunda Eildon, on Sunday, May 26. The event will start at 11am with the Walk occurring at the walker's leisure and the event concluding at 2pm.

There will also be a visit from three dingoes, with lots on information about them. A light lunch will be available, as well as tea and coffee.

This will be the 30th Million Paws Walk at the Eildon Pondage.

## Lions Club of Marysville donates to good causes



Neil Guscott with Jackie Torcello and Louise Renouf for Dolly's Dream. -S

LAST Wednesday the Lions Club of Marysville and District held a dinner meeting, during which they presented several donations to various community groups.

Neil Guscott, President of the Lions Club of Marysville, presented the donations and spoke a little bit about them. The club presented \$10,000 to the Marysville Golf Club, to assist in replacing stolen tools.

"The Lions Club received a letter from the golf and bowls club, regarding the fact that they'd lost a lot of valuable equipment in a break in. They were seeing if there was calling for any support that might be available, and the Lions Club considered it and felt that because it is a community golf and bowls club, not a private golf club, and they put on lots of things for community groups, they have their barefoot bowls night and barbecues and things like that.

"So the Lions Club considered that they were worthy of support. And in view of their circumstances, significant support. They resolved to donate \$10,000," Neil said.



Lions Club President Neil Guscott with Steve Coker, President of the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club. -S

The Lions Club of Marysville also donated \$1500 to the Marysville Saddle Tramps Club's fundraising efforts that are going to Dolly's Dream, a group raising awareness of bullying and youth suicide.

"We made a \$1500 donation to that, again because it's a local club, and over the last few years we've been losing a few younger people for various reasons, and we thought it was worthy of supporting them."

Neil spoke too about the Lions Club prostate cancer research, and how they support that.

"They were worthy causes, both of them. We also made a contribution of \$5000 to Lions prostate cancer research.

"The Lions Prostate Research Foundation is a pretty important one, because a lot of people around Marysville and various organisations are getting a bit long in the tooth, and there is a significant amount of [prostate cancer] in the community at the moment. The club decided to support that," he said.

## Junior Landcare and Biodiversity grants now open

THE Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants are now open, with \$450,000 available for projects that involve young people actively caring for Victoria's biodiversity and natural environment.

Schools, kindergartens, childcare centres and youth groups can all apply for grants of up to \$5000 for projects that encourage young Victorians to learn more about the state's plants, wildlife and nature through hands on activities or classroom learning.

More than 47,000 young people have been a part of the program involved in 1100 nature based excursions and conducting 270 biological surveys through biodiversity focused learning activities.

Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grant recipients have also planted an incredible 99,000 indigenous plants across numerous landscapes to help maintain ecosystem health.

All initiatives funded as part of the grants program assist the state governments long term plan to protect Victoria's native plants and animals through the landmark Biodiversity 2037 plan, backed by record investment of \$582 million since 2014 to safeguard our natural environment.

Applications for the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will close at 3pm on Friday, June 14. For more information and to apply, visit [environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants](http://environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants)

## Native timber support available now

Native timber harvesting has ended in Victoria but support is still available.

Native timber businesses, workers and communities can continue to access a range of support including:

- **The Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program** – including payments and training, 1:1 case management, employment services, health and wellbeing support.
- **Business support** – including exit packages and funding to help diversify.
- **Community support** – health and wellbeing services and community development planning and funding.

For more information:

- Forestry Transition hotline - 1800 318 182
- Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program - 1800 122 001 [vic.gov.au/forestry](http://vic.gov.au/forestry)



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# Out & About



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

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all our entrants into the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Winton ticket giveaway. We have many more entries than tickets. The winners were: Iain McPherson, Glenburn. Gusty Gale, Alexandra. Lucas Magor, Alexandra. Rod Lester, Goornong. Rod Hanscomb, Alexandra. Helen Bonsema, Acheron. Andrew Edwards, Alexandra. Dot Kelly, Whanregarwen. R Symons, Buxton. John Larson, Alexandra. Congratulations to all the lucky winners.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, MAY 23

Yea Water Tigers AGM will be held at Yea Community House at 6pm. General meeting will follow at 7pm. Enquiries to the secretary [yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com) or phone 0459 248 488.

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### SATURDAY, MAY 25

Alexandra Community Wood Auction, from 10am Bayley Street, behind Embling Rural. For any details contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038.

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### SUNDAY, MAY 26

Molesworth Rural Fire Brigade AGM will be held at the community hall at 9am. All welcome.

Whanregarwen Rural Fire Brigade Biennial General Meeting and Election meeting will be held at the fire station at 11am. All enquiries to David Roberts 0456 583 806.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Speak with council at an open community meeting in Fawcett. 5-7pm. For more information phone 5772 0333 or email [governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

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### THURSDAY, MAY 30

You are invited to National Reconciliation Week at Buxton Primary School from 10.30am – noon. The event will include a message from the principal, Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, song in language and a guided tour. Contact council on 5772 0333 for further information.

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### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Ambulance Community Officer Recruitment Information Session at Eildon. Ever thought about becoming an ambo? Learn about the role, demonstrations, everyone is welcome. Eildon Community Centre, 45 High Street from 2pm.



**THUMBS UP:** To the staff at Reddrops FoodWorks. We are so lucky to have them, especially our home delivery people, lovely friendly delivery people Daniel and Rod and sometimes Scott and also Sharon and others. We appreciate them so much for when the going gets tough and shopping is a problem. Many cheers to Reddrops FoodWorks and staff. You are wonderful. Not forgetting Reddrops often invisible sponsorships for our community.

**THUMBS UP:** To Branko Bektas for his window cleaning business. Such a happy bloke and does a marvellous job. My windows are sparkling. Thanks Branko.

**THUMBS UP:** To Alexandra District Health, Dr David and nurses. Very professional, caring and compassionate. Thank you for looking after me in the Emergency Department, and follow up phone calls to make sure I'm okay. You are all amazing. Thank you.

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](mailto: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

# Redgate Bazaar celebrates 10 years

THE 10th birthday of Redgate Bazaar was celebrated on Tuesday, May 14, with past and present volunteers invited to an afternoon tea.

The store is a well stocked treasure trove for locals and tourists alike as they find pre-loved items in need of a new home.

The store is an important part of the town, so if you haven't visited the store lately, pop in and have a look.



Helen, Joy, Jan, Ruth, Jenny, Marion and Leanne at the afternoon tea. -VG



Redgate Bazaar. -VG

## Church Services

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

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

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**UNITING CHURCH In Australia**  
St Andrews, Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Worshipping, Welcoming  
Sharing the transforming love of  
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday  
Contact 5772 2362

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

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**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
37 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Pastor Daniel Kriss  
Services 10am every Sunday  
Phone 0400 282 536  
[mccbc.com.au](http://mccbc.com.au)

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



# Agriculture scholarship awarded to James Meggitt

ALEXANDRA local, James Meggitt, has been awarded the AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship, which provides students in the field of agriculture with an opportunity to

network and funds to support their studies.

James is studying a Bachelor of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics) at the University

of Melbourne, and has a keen interest in aquaculture, having grown up on a rainbow trout and cattle farm near Alexandra. He is sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

“With a keen interest in aquaculture, as well as livestock and supply chain operations, I am excited about the prospects of working in these areas upon completing my degree,” James said.

Having enrolled in the Bachelor of Agriculture in 2023, James took the opportunity to apply for the scholarship in March. He was then asked for a follow-up interview.

Talking about the interview, James said, “We discussed my degree as well as aquaculture prospects and the future of aquaculture in Australia. ... This was after being shortlisted from my written application.”

The Horizon Scholarship provides recipients with funds to get out and about in the agriculture industry around Australia.

“Largely the scholarship is put towards work experience and industry placements, so I hope to use the money to be put into that aquaculture field, and maybe travel around Australia to see different operations, whether that’s oyster farming in the southern parts of Australia, to salmon farming in Tasmania or barramundi farming in Queensland or the Northern Territory,” James said.

“I’m very thankful, and am fortunate to be given the opportunity, and am looking forward to meeting some of my peers and attending some of the conferences that AgriFutures hold around the country.”



James Meggitt. -S

## Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism conversations

NEW Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism (MTBT) president Maureen Thurston is inviting all local Triangle entrepreneurs and owners to join in co-creating a business community-led approach to designing collective success.

There are 433 established businesses, across 20 diverse sectors within the Triangle.

Maureen explained that when established in 2015, MTBT served an important purpose, however it’s 2024 and time to rethink MTBT’s role and relevance in advocating businesses across the Triangle.

She is proposing a series of conversations hosted by local businesses in Taggerty, Narbethong, Buxton and Marysville to design a pragmatic program that creates the path towards competitive advantage.

Conversations are proposed for Taggerty, at the Taggerty General Store on Thursday, May 23, from 4 to 5.45pm; Narbethong at the Black Spur Inn on Thursday, June 6 from 4 to 5.45pm; and Buxton’s session will be held on Thursday, July 1, with the venue to be confirmed.

## AusNet extends grants from the February storms

AUSNET has extended the application deadline for financial hardship grants for Victorians impacted by the catastrophic storms which went thorough Victoria on Tuesday 13 and Thursday, February 22 this year, which caused unprecedented damage to the energy network.

Following the storms AusNet announced the establishment of a \$10 million Energy Resilience Community Fund. The fund has subsequently been increased to \$12 million. The Fund was created to support communities impacted by storms, with a focus in the short term on supporting local recovery efforts and in the longer term, helping communities become more energy resilient.

AusNet Chief Executive Officer, David Smales, said AusNet has been working closely with local government and the community to identify opportunities to strengthen infrastructure and help ensure they are better prepared to withstand future weather events.

The Community Fund has provided immediate support to individuals and small businesses most impacted by the storm related power outages who were not eligible for other relief payments.

“The Fund has already provided more than half a million dollars in hardship grants to

over one thousand residents and businesses most impacted by these storm events.

“We know many of our customers are struggling with cost of living pressures, so we’ve extended the timeframe to apply for financial hardship grants until June 30, to give households and businesses more time to apply,” said Mr Smales.

AusNet is also in the process of establishing an Advisory Panel for the Community Fund, which will be chaired by former Energy Networks Australia CEO, Andrew Dillon. The Panel will help to guide the management of the Fund ahead of the first community grants round which we anticipate opening in July.

“The Community Fund has an important role to play investing in local resilience infrastructure to help communities better manage the challenges of severe storms, fires and flood, which often cause extended interruptions to local power supplies,” said Mr Dillon.

For more information on the hardship grants please visit [ausnetservices.com.au/about/community/energy-resilience-community-fund](https://ausnetservices.com.au/about/community/energy-resilience-community-fund)

## Helping tourism infrastructure projects take off

THE Victorian Government is aiming to support Victorian tourism operators by providing a new grant round of the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund*.

The fund provides grants of up to \$5 million for small and large scale projects and accommodation improvement projects, with the state government’s investment of up to \$62 million to create more jobs and a strong pipeline of demand driven tourism infrastructure projects across the state.

Grants between \$100,000 and \$5 million are open to tourism businesses, not-for-profit, and Traditional Owner organisations.

The grants will be delivered in three streams, between \$100,000 and \$1 million for small scale projects, grants between \$1 million and \$5 million for large scale projects, and grants between \$500,000 and \$2 million for accommodation improvement projects.

The Fund is guided by the five priorities identified in the *Experience Victoria 2033* strategic plan, which includes First People’s led experiences, wellness, arts and culture, food and drink, and nature.

Applications for the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* are open from Thursday, May 16 until Friday, July 19. To learn more about the Fund visit [tourism.vic.gov.au](https://tourism.vic.gov.au)

Affected by a recent major emergency?

You may be eligible for recovery support.

For more information  
[vic.gov.au/recovery](https://vic.gov.au/recovery)





## Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



### ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Mav Fereday - 1/2B**

For doing his best and trying his hardest at his learning this week. It is amazing seeing you reach your goals when you put your mind to it. Mav, we are proud to have you in our learning community.  
You are a star.

### BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Elise** is building her resilience and is a good friend who helps others in need.

Congratulations Elise.

### EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Shannon and Brooklynn** displayed Integrity and Respect throughout their week.

### ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Tahli**

**Tahli** is a conscientious student who is always ready to learn and do her best. She is willing to help others and is polite and respectful to everyone in the school community.

Congratulations Tahli.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



# Great achievement for man and dog

FAWCETT resident Aoidh Doyle and his Kelpie Whisper Snip have made some significant achievements in recent months.

Current achievements to date include, first in Cobber Supreme Stock Dog Challenge (SSD), first in the Cattle section, and highest scoring bitch at the SSD. They also came first in the Australian Yard Dog Championship 2024, first in National Kelpie Field Trial 2024 and first in Open and the Championship at Victorian State Utility Championships in 2024.

Aoidh Doyle is originally from Gorey in County Wexford, Ireland, and now lives with his wife Darcy and their children in Fawcett. Aoidh and Darcy both grew up on farms and have learnt first hand the value of a working dog. Aoidh is a shearing contractor and the operator of Whisper Kelpies and Livestock Services.

Darcy occasionally helps out and works as a shed hand, helping with the wool and penning up and sometimes getting the chance to muster. On any given day they can take up to eight dogs to work to help move and muster stock. They also own cattle and sheep of their own, which they run locally. This is usually when the dogs get to help muster longer distances.

Aoidh has been trialling working dogs for the past five years. In his first ever trial he was disqualified. Given his stubborn nature he was very determined to become the best he could become.

In Tasmania in 2022, Aoidh got his first taste of an Australian national title. Again, he couldn't settle and this time wanted to see if he could try and win the double, both the Australian yard and kelpie field trial.

The formidable winning streak kicked off on March 10 this year, after winning the cattle section, the highest scoring bitch and the overall 2024 Cobber Supreme Stock Dog Challenge in Mansfield. They then set off for the Australian Championship Dog Trials. This year it was Western Australia's

turn. A small town in the south-west called Mobrup held the 2024 Australian Yard Dog Championship. This event reflects the work done in the yard and shearing shed on the farm. The challenging sheep and heat took

their toll on a lot of dogs however, Aoidh and Snip had a solid first round score of 82 and in the final scored a 84.5 (two highest scores of the event) taking out the win with 12.5 points to spare.



Aoidh Doyle with Whisper Snip. -S

Next was the Australian National Kelpie Field Trial. This trial dates back to 1969 with handlers showing off their stockmanship alongside their trusted kelpie. It includes a paddock section where the dog is casted out to three sheep. The dog then guides the sheep directly to the stockperson before heading into a small yard section. This is followed by a final paddock section completing obstacles and finishing with the sheep in a small pen.

Snip had a good first round score going into the final. However, the competition was hot and the sheep were very challenging out in the paddock. Aoidh used both whistle and voice commands to complete the course and Snip tried her absolute best to be as accurate as possible. They came away with the win on a combined score of 122. Aoidh and Whisper Snip made history as they are the only handler and dog team that has ever won both the Australian Yard and Field Trials in the same year.

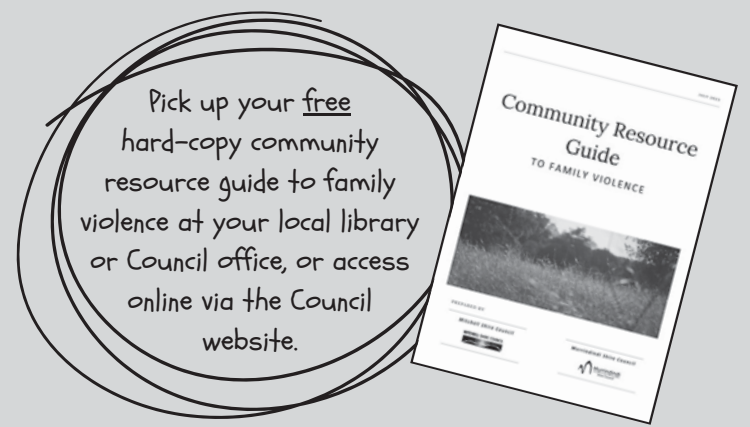
At the end of the journey stretching across almost 10,000km and venturing back into Victoria it was the state championship at Pigeon Ponds. The pressure was on for the extraordinary team to perform again. It was a chance to solidify the win and prove that this dog is a true champion. They showed patience, skill and teamwork and were awarded the best cast for the championship. Aoidh and Snip came away with the Victorian Championship win with a 21 point lead.

At this point Aoidh explained the wins like Hugh Bowman riding Winx, as their achievement is that once in a lifetime experience that he will remember forever. He isn't sure how much longer he will get to trial her, as Snip is Darcy's dog and she is becoming more and more interested in dog trialling. Snip is not just the ultimate working dog that can move any type of stock for more than one person, but she is part of their family and has taught Aoidh and Darcy more about stockmanship than they could have ever imagined.



# A Little Respect

*Creating space for conversations in our community about important topics related to relationships, gender equality and family violence prevention.*



Lee has worked in a variety of fields spanning multi-national corporations, social non-profits and Local Government. She is passionate about raising awareness of important issues in the local community, particularly related to gender equality and family violence. Lee operates with curiosity over conflict and believes we all have something to learn from one another. Lee's work aligns with her studies in law and criminology, but mostly with her lived experience as Victim-Survivor. She recently spoke at a state-wide Local Government Forum headlined by Grace Tame, and is currently the Free From Violence and Gender and Diversity Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council.

## Topic of the month: IDAHOBIT Day

On 17 May 1990, the World Health Organisation (WHO) removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases. Yes, you read that right. 1990 really isn't that long ago. The first official International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) was held on 17 May 2005 and is now acknowledged every year by millions of people around the world. IDAHOBIT celebrates the progress we have made whilst recognising the discrimination that LGBTQIA+ people still face. For example, 35% of LGBTQIA+ Australians have experienced verbal abuse in the past 12 months. There's more we can do as a collective to make our communities feel safe and welcoming for everyone, beyond IDAHOBIT last week.

## In Conversation with Amy

*Murrindindi Shire Local & Rainbow Community Member*

## What does IDAHOBIT mean to you?

I consider IDAHOBIT a time to acknowledge the struggles and challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ people everywhere. It is a time to reaffirm our commitment to equality and inclusivity as a community. It is also a reminder of the importance of understanding and empathy, just as much as it is about being courageous in standing up against discrimination in all its forms.

## As part of a same-sex couple, what worries you when you're in public that people in heterosexual couples might take for granted?

Something as simple as holding hands requires careful consideration of the environment. We must assess whether this seemingly innocent act might provoke a negative reaction from others or potentially place us in an unsafe situation. It just means there we have be hypervigilant in a way that others might not. Also, upon entering a new workplace, I'm cautious about discussing my partner. I often opt for gender-neutral pronouns when mentioning them until I feel it's safe to reveal that I'm in a same-sex relationship. Most LGBTQIA+ employees aren't fully 'out' at their workplace and it can feel lonely for many in the LGBTQIA+ community. However, I want to acknowledge that the experiences I've described only scratch the surface of the discrimination that many individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community experience. I recognise that I hold a certain level of privilege as someone who outwardly conforms to societal expectations of how a woman 'should' appear, and the safety net this affords me. It is far simpler to brush off assumptions that my partner is my sister than to potentially endure objectification or even abuse for whom I choose to date.

## What is a common misconception about queerness?

I think the most common misconception is that people choose their sexuality. This is untrue. Sexuality is not a choice. I am fortunate to have supportive family and friends around me, and so, being queer is a non-issue. The only thing that matters to my loved ones, is that my partner is respectful and makes me happy. I know others are not as fortunate. It really concerns me when I hear people say that sexuality is a 'lifestyle choice.' This perpetuates outdated and harmful stereotypes. And, it can be pretty hurtful.

## What are some visual signals that make you feel welcomed and safe when you're out and about?

It is the little things that make the biggest difference. For me, shops or eateries displaying signs in their windows saying 'all genders, sexualities, identities, and cultures welcome' is an immediate green flag. Having rainbow stickers on entry doors and staff wearing rainbow and/or pronoun badges also helps put me at ease. However, for spaces to feel truly safe, these demonstrations of allyship should be coupled with zero-tolerance policies (towards derogatory remarks based on identity, sexuality, gender, or culture) for establishments promoting inclusion.

## What are people are afraid of when they protest against equality, queerness or gender diversity?

The belief that acknowledging and celebrating LGBTQIA+ diversity somehow divides communities instead of unifying them. This was starkly evident at last year's pride flag raising in Murrindindi Shire. These protests weren't surprising but were still upsetting. IDAHOBIT does not divide, it promotes inclusion. If you identify as a straight person, challenge yourself to imagine an alternate reality. In this reality, you face repeated discrimination for being straight, and you seek to be recognised as equal to same-sex/queer couples. In your valid fight for equality, you are told your sexuality is an immoral 'choice' and that you don't deserve even one day a year to raise awareness about this injustice. It's awful to think about. So, if someone being heterosexual doesn't bother you or impact your life, neither should the sexuality of anyone else concern you. Celebrating diversity is proven to strengthen communities. It is my hope we can hold this close as we look to the future.

## Let's Talk: A Space for Men

*Thursday 20 June, Yea Shire Hall  
12 noon - 2.00 pm then networking until 3.00 pm*

Men's mental health is vitally important. Men and boys need more spaces to talk about the things that impact them. Nobody gets everything right all the time and that's okay! We invite men, boys (and anyone with an interest in the issues facing men and boys) to join together for this exciting event and FREE leadership opportunity, headlined by keynote speaker Tarang Chawla. Guests include Cr Damien Gallagher, Murrindindi Shire Mayor, an expert from the Men's Project, Ray Steyger, Alexandra Football Club President, and some other local blokes you might know, will also be part of the panel. Scan the QR code to secure your place.



## Next time: is family violence a men's issue?

*How can men help prevent violence against women?*

More and more, men are being called upon to get involved and speak up about violence against women. But what does this really look like? And why is it a men's issue anyway? We'd love to hear what you think! Do you have any thoughts/suggestions? Simply email [communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) to get in touch. Your identity will remain anonymous.

## Getting support

Call 000 in an emergency or if you are in immediate danger.

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732
- Minus 18: Resources help & guidance for Australia's LGBTQIA+ youth. Visit the website below: [www.minus18.org.au](http://www.minus18.org.au)
- Rainbow Door: A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians. Phone: 1800 729 367 or visit [www.rainbowdoor.org.au](http://www.rainbowdoor.org.au)
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 737 732
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?' website: [areyousafeathome.org.au](http://areyousafeathome.org.au)



# Men’s Shed broadens horizons

AT a recent meeting of the Marysville Men’s Shed, members voted to broaden the geographic area the shed draws membership from, to include the greater Triangle area, Narbethong, Buxton and Taggerty, together with Marysville.

This change has been implemented in recognition that the only Men’s Shed in the Triangle is in Marysville and that the other towns do not have a similar focal point for men and women.

The members agreed that people from these places should be encouraged to share the camaraderie and facilities the shed has available.

From now on the shed will be renamed The Triangle Men’s Shed.

If you’d like to meet new people, and share access to well equipped woodworking and metalworking workshops, feel free to drop in for a cuppa and ask any questions

you might have about membership. Members have access to the shed seven days a week, but must be in the shed with another member if using machinery.

The drop in times are Wednesdays 10am to noon (in keeping with the tradition of the shed, this is the men’s only time at the shed), and Fridays noon to 4pm. Members come to work on community or private projects together in the shed, have a cuppa and bring your own lunch. If you can’t

make these times, you are welcome to call secretary Barry Dovey on 0434 979 630 to arrange another time. The address is 23 Pack Road, Marysville

New members each receive a personal induction to ensure they are safe and comfortable with any machinery they might like to use. Training courses will be available throughout the year. Men and women are welcome.

## McLeish comments on lack of SES funding

IN what has been one of the busiest years on record for the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES), Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the state budget has chosen not to guarantee future funding for new capital works, vehicles or equipment.

She added that local units had been under significant pressure in recent months, with volunteers being called out for incredibly difficult situations.

“In towns across my electorate, the local SES units have been at the forefront of all recovery efforts, from floods, storms, power outages, and car accidents.

“These are men and women who volunteer their time, often, in small towns they are the first responders to accidents involving neighbours,

family, friends. This is an incredibly tough role for these volunteers.”

Ms McLeish spoke to the necessity of the SES. “Our SES volunteers show incredible courage, composure and expertise in challenging circumstances, they are an essential part of regional emergency services.

“The SES provide an essential emergency service for our communities; it is vital that they have ongoing funding to maintain and support their assets and to ensure that they can continue to support our communities.

“You would think that with a Premier who lives in a regional area, that maybe she would have some understanding of the importance of the SES, but clearly not,” Ms McLeish said.

## Police arrest locals in Yea

POLICE have charged two men and a woman following an affray near a hotel in Yea on Friday, May 17.

Police were called to High Street in Yea following reports of a fight between a group of people at about 10.10pm.

The first police to arrive on scene were outnumbered. They confronted with a highly dynamic scene and had to deploy OC spray (oleoresin capsicum spray, also known as pepper spray) to separate those involved in the fight.

As police were attempting to offer aftercare, one of the men involved allegedly attempted to assault one of the officers by kicking out and punching.

While police were attempting to subdue the man, a woman has allegedly jumped on the back of a police officer while the second man attempted to grab the officer’s firearm.

OC spray was again deployed and all three were taken into custody.

A 27 year old Yea woman and 29 year old Taggerty man were charged

with affray, assaulting police and failing to leave licenced premises.

A 26 year old Glenburn man has been charged with affray and failing to leave licenced premises.

They were all bailed to appear before Mansfield Magistrates’ Court on September 18.

Victoria Police have become aware of footage which shows the conduct of one officer in the latter stages of this incident. The matter has been referred to Professional Standards Command for review.

Footage purporting to show the incident has been hosted by a range of news sites. In the video, a police officer is shown repeatedly striking a man with a baton while the man appears to be following police instructions.

In another video, footage appears to show a man being tasered by police as he sits on the ground. Police reviewed the body-worn camera footage and advised that a taser was not deployed. The taser was instead activated and a ‘warning arc’ was used as a warning.

## Vale Laurance Alan Cassell

by Laurance’s family

LAURANCE Alan Cassell was born in Yea on January 8, 1934, to Myrtle and Allan Cassell. His sister Marion was born two years later.

Laurance developed mild polio during his first year of school, causing him to repeat the year. A very good student, he received many achievement awards at both levels of schooling.

In 1950, he became an apprentice at his father’s garage, again receiving achievement awards. Cassell’s Garage had been established in the 1920s, close to the Yea Shire Hall.

The business was one of the first RACV depots in Victoria through the 50s. They also had taxis and a tow truck. Laurance worked most nights with lots of taxi trips required by those working on the Eildon Weir project and other trips up to the Murrindindi Timber Mill.



Laurance Cassell on his 75th birthday. -S

numerous other emergencies. On these trips Laurance would be met by a police escort on the outskirts of the city.

Laurance married Lesley Wright on November 23, 1957. His close friend, Donald Nash, was his best man and his sister the Matron of Honor. Laurance formed a close bond with Rita and Alec Wright, his in-laws. Laurance and Lesley had three children, Leanne, Sharyn and Alan.

In 1972, Laurance and Lesley purchased R A Cassell Pty Ltd from the rest of the family. An accomplished mechanic, panel beater, spray painter and auto electrician, Laurance could turn his hand to most things. He was a very capable businessman, selling many Chrysler vehicles through the 60s and 70s. His dealership stretched from Bundoora to Mansfield. In 1980 when Mitsubishi took over Chrysler in Australia, R A Cassell became a Mitsubishi dealership.

In 1982, after the sale of the business Laurance enjoyed farming with Lesley on their land at Killingworth. Going to cattle sales, slashing on the tractor, irrigating and many hours with the chainsaw cutting wood. Laurance

did miss his mechanical work and eventually set up a smaller business at Anne Street where he worked for another 35 years.

Despite various problems with his health, it was always a priority for him to get to his workshop each day. This he managed, eventually with a walker and later a scooter. The garage served the people of Yea for close to a century.

On June 1, 2021, aged 87 years, after looking after his customers for his entire working life, Laurance retired.

Laurance had a great love, not to mention ability, for ballroom dancing. Yea Dance Group was originally formed to raise money for the new Accident and Emergency Department at Yea and District Memorial Hospital. Instead of the dances ending it was decided to keep the monthly charity dances in the Yea Shire Hall going. Many weekends were spent travelling throughout Victoria and NSW to attend gala balls, occasionally giving demonstrations of new dances at Seymour Gala weekends.

In 2012 when the regular debutante instructor, Bruce Kindred, was unable to continue, Laurance and Lesley stepped in and with the support of many special members of the Yea Dance Group continued to do this for the next four years. Over 25 years were spent both running and teaching dances in the Yea Shire Hall. Many learnt the finer art of social ballroom dancing from Laurance and Lesley.

Laurance’s final years were spent at Rosebank where he was very involved in the resident’s meetings. He enjoyed socialising and participating in most activities on offer. He formed great friendships with both staff and residents.

He was a wonderful husband for 66 years, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather and friend. He will be loved and remembered always.



## Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

Ben Carroll, the then Minister for Public Transport and now our Deputy Premier, refused invitations by the 684 ‘Save the Bus group’ to travel the route, engage with us, to fully understand how his decision disadvantaged us, as did Dan Andrews, the then Premier, who I personally spoke with on two separate occasions and handed him 15 testimonials of how that short-sighted decision would affect us. We were never given the courtesy of a response to the ‘Save the Bus group’. It is too important to our communities to be ‘brow beaten into submission’ yet again.

Going forward, the 600+ people who presented at the Alexendra Shire Hall on

May 6 are a testament to the feelings of our community. ‘Dig your heels in’ and ensure that those ‘sticky notes’ are discussed going forward, and more importantly digested and taken into account. This can and must not become yet another faux consultation.

Finishing as I started, the ‘cynic in me’ will challenge the processes that our ‘elected government’ utilises for consulting as. So far they have been left wanting throughout Murrindindi and rural Victoria.

Don’t waver from your convictions, hold them to account otherwise this exercise will be a repeat of the 684 Southern Cross bus saga which is now ‘RIP’.

Carmel Denham, Buxton

**Four bin system**

MURRINDINDI Shire has a draft kerbside and recycling waste services policy up and running. Well, it’s over now. Submissions closed Sunday, May 19.

Though it was advertised in *The Standard* (for the last two weeks that I know of) I was unaware of the urgency. That’s on me. But I do have concerns.

1. Four bins collected on different days? Heck, I can’t remember when the yellow bin goes out.
2. Businesses get to opt out? Nope. That’s where most of the mixed recyclables come from, bottles, food waste. If we’re going to require households to separate these, then high use places should have this cemented

in. That’s only reasonable. And supports the government policy.

3. If you miss putting the food waste bin out you have to wait another week for collection. In summer that’s certainly untenable.
4. Where do I put the bins? Is the shire okay with ‘on the kerb’? That would solve the space issue as well as the forgettery issue. Bins would be out for collection on the right day all the time. Can’t imagine how that helps us look like a tourist town though.

So I did do the survey. Hope you all managed to as well.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandra





## THORNTON RECREATION RESERVE TREE WORKS

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Works are scheduled to remove a stand of pine trees in the north-east corner of the Thornton Recreation Reserve.

Based on expert arborist advice, many of the pine trees are in poor condition and several require urgent removal. We have also received advice that the condition of any remaining trees will likely deteriorate causing further safety issues for residents and visitors.

While these works need to be completed, we are seeking your help in understanding any local history or significance associated with this stand of trees which we may not be aware of. If there is any significance, we will work with the community establish an alternative way of celebrating or commemorating that significance.

All feedback will be considered and used to refine the scope of the works, if applicable. Depending on suitable weather conditions, works are set to commence during June.

To contribute to the process, you can:

- Attend our 'pop up kiosk' on Saturday 1 June at the Thornton Recreation Reserve between 11.30 am - 12.30 pm
- Email us at [communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)
- Contact the Community Development team on (03) 5772 0333

**Feedback closes Friday 7 June 2024.**



# Volunteering at Yea CFA Brigade

THIS week is National Volunteer Week, and Captain Emery McCarthy from the Yea CFA Brigade took the opportunity to discuss volunteering opportunities at the CFA.

The brigade, which is 15 members strong, is currently bringing on board two new recruits, and are looking for more interested people.

"Yea has 15 active members at the moment, and we respond to a wide range of incidents from structural fires to grass fires as well as road crash rescue. So we're a pretty strong brigade," Captain McCarthy said.

"We're currently recruiting, and we have two new members going through the recruitment process. We're definitely looking for more, just given our response and the different incidents we respond to, it would

be great to have more numbers and we're looking in the wider community."

If anyone is available to come down and volunteer some of their time, that would be great. Full training is provided, and even if you are only able to volunteer for a couple of hours a week, it would be appreciated, not just by us, but by the wider community."

In terms of what Yea Fire Brigade is looking for, they need both operational and non-operational personnel, as well as various volunteering times throughout the day.

"We are recruiting operational as well as non-operational members. So non-operational members can assist us around the station with fundraising, community events, anything that isn't emergency response related."

But then we're also recruiting operational firefighters, so when you start out as a basic firefighter, you do your general firefighting training. From there we can train you up into which path you want to go, whether you want to stay as a wildfire firefighter or move into the structure side, or road crash rescue side," Captain McCarthy said.

"But we're looking for anyone, all times of the day. Preferably daytime response. That's where we need stronger recruitment for daytime responders. Say you're a parent, and you've got kids at school, and you're available during the day, that would be great.

"Or if you work in town during the day and are able to leave work and assist during the day, that would be great. But we're recruiting for whenever anyone is available really," Captain McCarthy said.

Those interested in volunteering for the CFA can either go to the CFA website, or call Captain McCarthy personally on 0429 151 534.

"They can go on the CFA website, and navigate to the recruitment hub and put in an expression of interest. Or they can contact me on my mobile number, and I'm more than happy to have a chat about different opportunities and what is available to them," Captain McCarthy said.

"The door's always open. If you're walking past and see us at the fire station and want to drop in and say hi, you're more than welcome. Even, bring the kids in and we can show them the trucks. Just feel free to drop in and say hi."

## Melbourne students lend a hand to Landcare groups

STUDENTS from the Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne recently took time out of their school camp at the Rubicon Outdoor Centre to help the Eildon and Cathedral Landcare Groups with their projects at the Eildon Pondage and Andrews Creek.

With the guidance of Eildon Landcare Group volunteers the students planted at least 150 trees, sedges and lilies around the Eildon Pondage, and also installed six nesting boxes onto trees throughout the reserve to

provide nesting sites for ringtail possums and sugar gliders.

Over at Taggerty, the students helped the Cathedral Landcare Group with their rehabilitation project along Andrews Creek and planted 50 of the rare Buxton gum and over 100 rushes and lilies.

The students enjoyed checking the nesting boxes along the creek, and were very excited when they found two ringtail possums using the boxes.



Mass planting effort at Andrews Creek. -S



Students from the Presbyterian Ladies College at Eildon Pondage installing six nesting boxes for our local wildlife. -S

### Have your say REFCL draft guidelines community feedback

Energy Safe Victoria invites community feedback on draft guidelines for the safe operation of Victoria's rapid earth fault current limiters (REFCLs).

REFCLs help to prevent fire and electrocution by quickly detecting faults on 22 kilovolt distribution powerlines and reducing the energy flowing through the affected line.

#### Register for an online information session

Find out how REFCLs are protecting your community and how you can contribute to the consultation at an online info session:

- Sunday 26 May, 2pm
- Monday 27 May, 7pm
- Thursday 30 May, 12pm.

Register online: [esv.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://esv.vic.gov.au/consultations)

#### Have your say

Feedback on the draft guidelines is open until Monday 8 July 2024.

More info: [esv.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://esv.vic.gov.au/consultations)

To have a consultation pack posted to you call, 03 9203 9700.

## National Volunteer Week for the CFA

THIS National Volunteer Week (NVW) the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and their partner emergency service volunteer organisations, acknowledge and thank the tens of thousands of Victorians for their unpaid contributions to their communities.

This year's NVW theme "Something for Everyone" is particularly relevant to CFA, the state's largest volunteer organisation, where they provide many opportunities for members to play a role which suits them, gain skills and qualifications, and reach their potential.

Not only is the organisation a core part of Victoria's emergency service network, but members also gain social connections and build a greater sense of inclusion within their local town.

CFA thanks and celebrates its 52,000 volunteers for their ongoing dedication in protecting Victorian communities.

The 'Give Us a Hand' recruitment campaign, launched last year, proved a huge success with more than 1800 highly skilled and professional new members recruited across Victoria.

Acting Chief Officer, Garry Cook, said it was extremely encouraging to see so many Victorians sign up to be a volunteer and be part of something bigger in their local community.

"CFA recruited 1844 new members since the campaign launched in August last year and we continue to grow," Garry said.

"Across Victoria brigades have recruited members and continue to, but there are some areas still in need."

Our organisation is unique in offering volunteers the opportunity to gain

leadership skills, training and experience while serving their communities. It's also a great place to meet and work with people from all walks of life."

The push for more volunteers to join CFA is an investment in the future of Victoria's emergency response and recruitment is ongoing.

Regional and rural communities are still very much in need of more volunteers particularly daytime responders and young members.

"We are looking to recruit from all of the community to ensure CFA brigades are truly reflective of the communities they serve and protect," Garry said.

"Anyone interested in taking on a new challenge should get in touch with their local CFA brigade or go to the CFA website."

There is something for everyone at CFA whether you want to train up as a firefighter or take on a support role at the brigade."

Some of the types of incidents CFA volunteers respond to include road crash rescues, structure, grass and scrub fires and hazmat incidents.

"Our volunteers are some of Victoria's greatest assets and we are grateful to each and every one of you who has put up your hand to join CFA."

If you're interested in joining CFA or learning more about volunteering, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteer)

Once you've submitted your expression of interest online, your local brigade will contact you regarding the next steps.



# Bill and then the flower pot men

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is backing a private members bill that would remove regulations stopping farmers from growing industrial hemp.

VFF President Emma Germano said the Hemp Industry Bill 2024 introduced into the Victorian Parliament by the Legalise Cannabis Party provided an exciting opportunity for Victorian farmers and industry to unlock the benefits of hemp.

“Victorian farmers want to be able to invest in industrial hemp, but the regulatory burden is simply too heavy. We commend the Legalise Cannabis party for their leadership on this opportunity for Victoria.

“We know hemp holds vast potential for various applications, including sustainable agriculture and construction materials.

Removing government barriers, particularly those that are onerous or confusing, will unlock hemp’s full benefits, including the potential for secondary processing and manufacturing.

“We need government to get out of the way and give farmers the opportunity to harness the full potential of hemp cultivation and create new opportunities for our regional communities,” Ms Germano said.

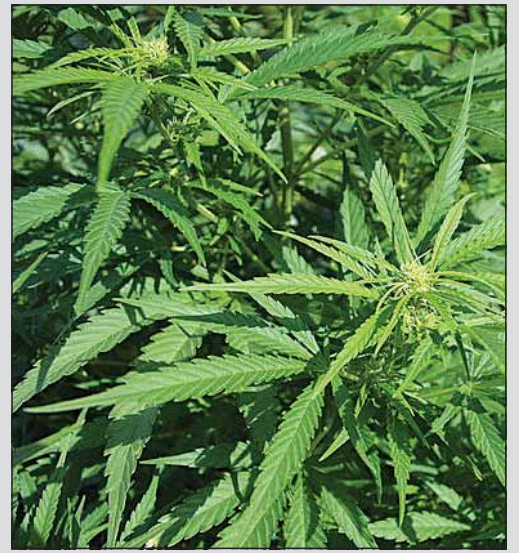
The introduction of the bill follows the 2023 parliamentary inquiry into industrial hemp where the VFF had called for removing unnecessary regulatory barriers.

“The laws regarding industrial hemp are not fit for purpose and create an ongoing stigma that links the crop with illicit drugs. Industrial hemp has been allowed to grow

in Victoria since 1998, but the stigma and onerous regulations that require licences and expensive testing has made it too difficult for farmers and industry to invest. Industrial Hemp has the potential to provide Victoria with sustainable building materials, which we know are in increasingly short supply,” Ms Germano said.

Hemp can be used in the production of a wide range of products, including textiles, paper, building materials, abrasive chemicals, oils, food, inks, cosmetics and more.

“I encourage Premier Jacinta Allan and her government to look at the opportunities that industrial hemp production will bring to Victorian farmers and support this bill through the Parliament,” Ms Germano added.



*The Victorian Farmers’ Federation are backing a bill to remove regulations around farmers growing hemp. -Chmee2*

## Training for drone safety surveillance at GMW

DRONES are playing an increasingly significant role in keeping Goulburn-Murray Water’s (GMW) lakes, dams, and reservoirs safe and secure.

GMW recently rolled out drone competency and mission plan training to about 25 of its storage officers spread across northern Victoria. In addition to these staff obtaining their drone operator accreditation, the training helped show them how drone use could create efficiencies in their daily work.

GMW Storage Operations South Manager, Paul Beard, said the expanded use of drones had the potential to be highly beneficial.

“Our storages are crucial pieces of infrastructure, and we undertake regular inspections of all of them to ensure they are safe and in prime operating condition,” he said.

“A lot of these inspections have been done in person, but we have

recently trialled inspecting several of them using drones.”

The embankment at Lake Eppalock is one of the first areas where GMW trialled the drone inspections. Mr Beard said these flights had shown a lot of promise.

“Usually, we would have someone walk the embankment and look for any cracks, movement, or changes,” he said.

“Staff would walk across a narrow gravel track midway up the spillway, and the path was a little hazardous in some areas.

“Using a drone has helped us complete these inspections more efficiently and safely. The data we get from them is also more consistent, which is important for our dam safety responsibilities.”

Storage officers are also investigating the usage of drones as

a compliance measure, such as using them to monitor five knot zones at GMW storages and capture the licence plates of any offending vessels.

GMW Survey Services Manager, Avni Bekirofski, said there was plenty to be gained from expanding the corporation’s drone fleet.

“In recent years the Surveying Services Team has benefited greatly from the use of drones, by way of data capture and remote access,” he said.

“We’re a relatively small team that covers a massive region, so having more people trained and confident in using technology like drones will create significant efficiencies in other areas of our business.

“It is great to see our storage staff already finding new uses for the drones that support GMW operations, so we are eager to see and benefit from more innovation in this area.”



*Undertaking drone flight training so they can be used for GMW storage safety monitoring. -S*



## SPEAK WITH COUNCIL AT AN OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN FAWCETT

**Wednesday 29 May from 5.00 - 7.00 pm**

Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community?

Council is hosting an Open Community Meeting in Fawcett from 5.00 - 7.00 pm on Wednesday 29 May 2024 at the Fawcett Hall and Mechanics Institute, 655 Spring Creek Rd, Fawcett.

You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you and your community, and you may be speaking in front of members of the public, as well as Council officers.

If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. Prior registration is not required, we'll greet you and collect your details on the evening.

For more information, email [governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or call Council on 5772 0333



## National Reconciliation Week at Buxton Primary School

Council and Buxton Primary School have collaborated to host an event to celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2024.

You're invited to attend the National Reconciliation Week event at Buxton Primary School, where you can immerse yourself in Taungurung culture and learn more about reconciliation.

**Thursday 30 May 10.30 am - 12 noon**  
**Buxton Primary School**

2208 Maroondah Highway, Buxton VIC 3711

The event will include a:

- message from Principal Sarah Irving
- Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony
- song performed in language by students
- guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail

**Morning tea provided.**

Please call Council on 5772 0333 and ask to speak with Izzy from the Community Wellbeing team for further information.





MURRINDINDI Shire Council is getting set to hold a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to celebrate the 39 individuals and community groups nominated for having made an outstanding contribution to the shire. The event will be held on May 25 from 6pm in the Alexandra Shire Hall, and can be livestreamed via the council Facebook page or heard on UGFM radio.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, “Our nominees are the embodiment of the vibrant community spirit of our shire. They are active, approachable, and inspirational. They are hardworking team players, mentors, and problem solvers who invest time and effort, displaying empathy, effective communication, and conflict resolution skills. Their recognition is a testament to their partnership with other volunteers, working towards the best outcomes for our community. As we proudly announce the nominees, remember that everyone is a winner and deserves to be celebrated.”

The nominees for this year’s awards are listed below.

Volunteer of the Year

- Naomi ‘Nomes’ Booker:** Nomes volunteers at UGFM radio, chatting with the wider community in her own unique way. She was also influential as a core member of the Thornton / Rubicon Community Plan Program.

**Tamara Fowkes:** As well as running a protea farm, Tamara is a Rotarian and heavily involved in Kinglake Market’s success. She also volunteers with local clubs, including Net Set Go, the Kinglake Country Fair, Foggy Mountain Music Festival and Kinglake Library. She uses her social media skills to help community groups, including the Kinglake Art Show. Tamara also helps decorate the town with CWA and has a soft spot for animals and local wildlife rescues.

**Sarah Hopkins:** Sarah volunteered as the secretary of Flowerdale Community House for three years, volunteers and fundraises for Flowerdale Primary School and is an integral part of the BMX Feasibility Study team. She is currently part of the Flowerdale Community Planning core team.

**Ursula Jenkins:** Ursula manages Boomerang Bags in the Kinglake Ranges, running weekly sewing sessions to make the bags, at the same time providing a much-needed opportunity for social interaction. She has assisted with grant funding for the local primary school, volunteers at the school and puts time and effort into getting community initiatives up and going.

**Peter ‘Scott’ Kerr:** Scott has an overall willingness to volunteer whenever needed, he ensures that essential medical appointments and social events are accessible to all members of the Acheron community.

**Darryl King:** Darryl volunteers with Rotary (any way he can), Murrindindi Woodbourne Hub, Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group and holds a Yea Community Cancer Charity event, and Open Gardens program. He is also an important part of the brigade management team for the Murrindindi CFA.

**William Koster:** William has started many youth groups in the Taggerty area from Lego club to the Triangle Junior CFA. He is involved in many of the local events in an effort to help grow the Taggerty community.

**Jessica Slapp:** Jess is part of the Thornton Eildon Football Netball Club executive team and played a pivotal role in the Thornton Community Planning project, the Thornton History Society, and spearheaded the efforts to create the Thornton Trike Track.

**Jared Sloane:** Jared volunteers at the Thornton Football Club, Alexandra Golf Club and contributes to the successful Thornton Trike Track.

**Darren Thomas:** Darren has served the Thornton community for many years. In the local CFA, he was instrumental in bringing the Tour De Cure (national fund-raiser) through Thornton.

Young Volunteer of the Year

- Layla Calder:** Layla volunteers at the Flowerdale Opportunity shop, managing their social media. She always helps the older generation of volunteers with any struggles they may have. Layla even took on the role of assistant coordinator last year for three weeks.

**Alexis Holder:** Alexis is a junior member with the Kinglake CWA, she also volunteers time at Kinglake Market, library and neighbourhood house as well as studying for her VCE.

**Tara Jane Nieuwhof:** Tara is a volunteer member of the Alexandra Unit of VicSES, attending various emergencies and rescues, including the recent flood and storm events.

Senior Volunteer of the Year

- Barb Guttridge, Sandra Hanley and Diane Quick:** Nominated together as leaders of the Yea Strength Training Group, for many years Barb, Sandra and Diane have been running weekly classes for the over 50s as a preventative health program. They gently encourage the fitness of older people to enable a better quality of life.

**Bob Burns:** Bob is president of the Kinglake Ranges Rotary Club and has been a volunteer member since 2011, leading the youth sports program and clubs in Kinglake. Ensuring the safety of volunteers at the Kinglake Market is his top priority. He also volunteers at sport facility working bees, a 4WD trip raising funds to send 20 young drivers to Murcotts Defence Driving Course, and serves breakfast at the Anzac Day service and the Foggy Mountain Music Festival.

**John Cannon:** John has been a board member of CEACA, now Alexandra Community Hub (ACH), for the past 23 years, 10 of those years as chair. He works with other volunteers ensuring the organisation runs well at an operational level, including supporting the transition for ACH funding away from training activities. John has also been a member of Rotary and involved with the Alexandra Art Show.

**Ron Cooper:** Ron has been actively volunteering for approximately 20 years, managing the Goulburn Valley Book Shop, which is run by Friends of the Library. The Alexandra Bookshop is well regarded by the community with people coming from all over the state, especially from Melbourne to find specialty books. Ron is legally blind and deaf and will be 80 years old in August 2024.

**Gail ‘Dolli’ Dollimore:** When the Marysville Gym closed, Dolli saw an urgent need and formed a small committee and set about fund raising, establishing a not-for-profit incorporation of the community group. Dolli and the team overcame many challenges and the Tri Active Life Gym finally opened in 2022 at Marysville Community Centre. She is a strong advocate for health and fitness and active aging, including diabetes awareness. Dolli said, “It’s a place for all to exercise safely.”

**Christine Exton:** Christine began volunteering for Kinglake Ranges Inner Wheel Club in 2018 and has undertaken many roles including secretary and is currently in her second year as president. As well as increasing the volunteer base by almost 30 per cent, she has picked over 4000 daffodils for Daffodil Day, and runs the barbecue at Kinglake Market which raises funds for important medical research. Christine is the current membership officer for the Kinglake Historical Society.

**Sharon Fox:** Sharon volunteers for numerous organisations of which she is a member and/or office bearer including over 25 years with Yarck Fire Brigade, secretary with Yarck Hall Committee including the monthly market, Alexandra Golf Club/ Racecourse committee member, Rotary, CWA and long-term member with the local Landcare group.

- Heather Joblin:** For 27 years, Heather has volunteered on all types of conservation and revegetating activities with Flowerdale and Strath Creek Landcare. Other volunteer work includes Flowerdale Primary school, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, Corryong fence restoration, Christmas carols and the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group, including the Blue Tree initiative.

**Julie Lynch:** As Youth Service Director at the Rotary Club of Yea, Julie has overseen and implemented the Schools Bursary program. She was president of the Rotary Club of Yea in 2011-12 and is the inspiration behind Cycle Dindi, which has been running for eight years, bringing 150 riders annually to Murrindindi Shire with fundraising to support the youth of the Shire.

**Patricia Maxfield:** ‘Tricia’ has transferred her skills as an activity group coordinator in aged care to leading several line dancing groups each week. The classes support community connection especially for senior community members.

**Graeme Robb:** Graeme has contributed exceptional volunteer service in Eildon and surrounds for over 50 years. He has served in the Thornton CFA since 1966 where he is currently treasurer. He has occupied most positions, including captain. Graeme served as an Ambulance Community Officer for 52 years, the majority of which was as a volunteer. He was instrumental in the development of Eildon Tennis Club and more recently a member of the Thornton Community Planning core team.

**John Sharwood:** John moved to Murrindindi Shire in 1991 and joined the CFA, Rotary Alexandra and the Cathkin Cemetery Trust. John joined the Kellock Lodge board in 2002 and was chair in 2011-13. He is a member of the Alexandra Library Committee and was a key driver behind building the new section of the Alexandra Library. He is also a generous supporter of Kellock Lodge, the Opportunity Shop and Rotary. The fact that John is still so actively volunteering at 90 is an inspiration to us all.

**Geoff Walker:** There is hardly a snag cooked in the Taggerty area has not been cooked by Geoff Walker. He volunteers with the Community Hub, regularly drives for the Red Cross and works tirelessly assisting community members with their mowing, pruning and cleaning. Geoff is heavily involved with the band *Pans on Fire* as a musician and a contributor.

**David Web Ware:** David has a rich service history with the CFA, and since the late 1970s has played an active role in helping to keep the community safe from fire. He has responded to hundreds of emergencies including the Black Saturday 2009 fires, and more recently the 2022 floods and the 2023 Flowerdale fire. In addition to the fire and flood emergency responses, he has responded to many call-outs such as road vehicle accidents and fallen trees following storms.

Community Group / Initiative of the Year

- Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival:** For over the 10 years the committee have been hosting the well organised community arts event, the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival in Alexandra, an event created by the community, for the community. Anyone can participate by knitting, crocheting beanies or winter warming items, or by creating fibre art, which is donated by the artists and available for sale with funds going toward Alexandra Rotary providing firewood for the elderly and disadvantaged people to warm their homes in winter.

- Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival:** For the last 10 years the Alexandra Shire Hall has been transformed each December into a forest of beautiful Christmas trees and twinkling lights, bringing the spirit of Christmas. This includes street decorations and the beautiful tree which adorned the main street. The Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival is organised by a small group of community minded, very hard-working organisers supported by a bevy of volunteers.

**Yea Community House:** The team host the popular Yea Cruise Night for car enthusiasts, meeting in the main street of Yea to support traders and accommodation providers. The monthly event brings people together from across the state on the grassy strip in Yea. There is nothing better than getting some local food, drink, or ice cream whilst sitting, talking and enjoying the atmosphere of the Yea township.

**Boomerang Bags Group from Kinglake:** The group saw an issue with waste, single-use plastic bags and increasing pressure on landfill. The aim of the project is to divert waste fabric from landfill by recycling material, cutting it up and sewing it into reusable shopping bags. The group firmly believes in the inherent value of each volunteer and their contribution.

**Eildon Visitor Information and Resource Centre:** This facility was re-opened after COVID-19 by Jenni Shaw in December 2023. Since then, with the help of Eildon Action Inc, volunteers have kept the Eildon Visitor Information Centre well maintained and open five plus days per week, benefitting local community and visitors seeking guidance about Eildon and surrounds. The big bookshelf offers second-hand books free of charge and local groups access the space regularly. Fundraising includes selling of Eildon souvenirs, produce and local artwork.

**Murrindindi Shire Council’s Road Advisory Group (CRAG):** This is a group of 16 community members that meet voluntarily to provide community views and create positive outcomes for the local community. They assist council’s road asset management team to determine acceptable levels of maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal, and decommissioning of road assets under the control of council.

**Tri Active Life:** This group is run by a committee of management that is supported by a number of volunteers who run the day-to-day activities. A Not-for-Profit group located in the Triangle area providing a low-cost opportunity for residents of all abilities to connect and improve their health and wellbeing.

**UGFM Radio Murrindindi:** UGFM is the shire’s community radio station, and is operated by volunteer broadcasters trained by the station. With studios located in Alexandra, Kinglake, Marysville and Yea, UGFM updates the community with safety information, local news and broadcasting community announcements free for not-for-profit community groups, clubs and organisations.

**Glenburn Hall Friday Night Dinners:** These dinners create a welcoming space for local people to socialize, connect, share a meal, and support their mental and emotional health. The team members (hosts) show leadership and are dedicated to preparing meals, building community and through their culinary skills, they nourish not only bodies but also hearts. Their impact resonates far beyond the Friday night meal.

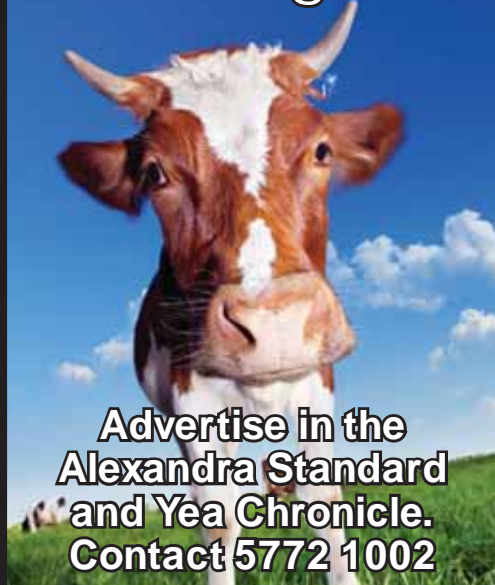
**Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre:** The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre has been staffed by volunteers 7 days a week since it opened almost 10 years ago. This achievement is due mainly to the 57 wonderful volunteers who staff the reception and run tours for visitors, locals, seniors groups and school students. They ensure visitors and locals have the best possible experience. The retention rate of volunteers at the centre has continued to go against the national trend of shedding volunteers post-COVID-19. In fact, 19 new volunteers have joined the cohort since January 2021.



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## PHOTO COMPETITION

**APRIL WINNER PUBLISHED IN MAY 8 EDITION**  
Submit your photo competition entry for May, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

The May theme is OPEN: 'on the land'.  
Sponsored by



5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra  
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com  
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/  
Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

## SAVE THE DATE

**May 24 - Yea Saleyards**

**Free flu vaccination**

**Weaner Sale 9.30am**

Combined Agents Store Sale

**May 31 - Yea Saleyards**

**Autumn Store Sale 9.30am**

**June 7 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents Store Sale **10.30am**

**July 5 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents Store Sale **11.30am**

**Get in touch**

Phone 0419 722 570

Email: [saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)



## Your favourite recipe

Do you have something you love to cook for your family, something you cook all the time, or grandma's family recipe? Send it into us and we will publish it to share with our readers.

Attach a photo (if you have one); send your name and if you have a little 20 word description about your recipe, share that with us too.



Send recipes to  
[manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

## DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE?

Expression of interest (EOIs) are sought from individuals with a passion and interest in growing the agricultural sector in Murrindindi Shire.

Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project is now looking for members to form part of the Innovation Working Group in Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture and Horticulture to help deliver projects that will create jobs within the region.

We are looking for people to who are:

- knowledgeable industry experts
- local farmers
- business owners
- interested community members

Being part of this project, you will be supporting opportunities in regenerative agricultural practises that produce quality products, support and expand local agricultural education programs, and identify projects that will continue to support the economic and social wellbeing benefits of environmental stewardship.

For more information, and if you are interested and want to be involved, please contact Allisha Milestone on [amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au), or fill in the online contact form at [shapingmurrindindisfuture.com.au](http://shapingmurrindindisfuture.com.au)

EOIs close 23 June 2024.



SHAPING  
MURRINDINDI'S  
FUTURE

## The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



"When I said 'Doggies 12, Pies 15'  
I meant the score!"

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Crossword

ACROSS

1. An unmarried woman.

8. Lure with desire.

9. Comes close to.

10. Expresses in words.

12. Small, black creepy crawly.

13. A feather on a helmet.

14. Run with an easy stride.

16. Common noxious weed.

19. The most worthless parts.

21. Primitive and untamed.

23. Lacking experience of life.

24. Ran one car into the back of another.

26. Traditional dress worn by Indian women.

28. Spoken aloud.

29. A ribbon-like strip of pasta.

30. Give a task to another person.

DOWN

2. An annoyance.

3. Shows to be false.

4. Tuft of loose threads secured by a knot

5. Depend on.

6. Something fastened in position.

7. Extremely unhappy and dispirited.

11. Moved very fast.

12. The first stage.

15. Lubricating substance.

17. Arc of coloured lights in the sky.

18. Female sheep.

20. Playing about boisterously.

22. Stupid or childish talk.

25. Make a strenuous effort.

27. Succeeded at easily.

Word Search

ENDANGERED SPECIES

BILBY

PANDA

BLUEWHALE

POSSUM

BONOBO

QUOLL

BOODIE

SKINK

KOALA

VAQUITA

NUMBAT

WOYLIE

PAGJANSJXONYEMB

QATVPLISEUUIIKD

UDNISCKDMGYHDEL

OKODUCOBONBOYV

LKANAAQAICPNPOYI

LYOFATAHMITWBMU

RWCACAACVFRELLGF

BOORLFQZLZIENTRV

VYXUXAVNWB ERZGQ

ZLCSUPOSSUMTQPS

QIXVWLPKJQDLAWH

DEJULFIKKMDFXS R

ICQJHNDKDCOZXIE

ORSHKLWNPF SHIHM

BLUEWHALEKVI B D

Maze

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

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
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Anna Kennedy-Borissow. -S

Role of the arts in disaster recovery

ANNA Kennedy-Borissow, a PhD candidate for the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne, took the time to discuss the findings of her research on the creative arts in relation to disaster recovery.

The research Ms Kennedy-Borissow conducted last year for her PhD focused on “creative recovery, which is a term used in Australia specifically, to describe community engaged arts programs that typically aim to support the social and psychological recovery of disaster affected community members.”

“My research has involved interviews with creative recovery facilitators stretching across the country, and five focus groups with community members that have participated in creative recovery programs, in different states, and also four observations of different projects. That was all conducted last year,” Ms Kennedy-Borissow said.

“My findings have been focused on trying to identify some of the benefits and challenges to community members engaging with these programs, and also to understand the working conditions for the artists and other creative workers that are delivering these projects on the ground.”

Ms Kennedy-Borissow said the response to creative programs in disaster recovery was positive, and that people felt they provided a safe space for community members.

“Pretty consistently the community members have talked about the benefits of these projects for helping their communities come together after these disasters. This has helped improve their cohesion, their community cohesion, it’s been a way of developing or maintaining friendships, which have been really valuable as a source of social support for people after experiencing disasters.

“It’s also been an emotionally regulating experience for a lot of people, by doing arts and crafts activities with their hands, or participating in a choir, for example, those different activities have been quite emotionally calming and regulating for people.

“Community members have also talked about how creative spaces are really safe spaces for them, to come as they are, but also to eventually over time feel comfortable with sharing parts of their story with other community members, and hearing about the experiences of other people and feeling less alone,” Ms Kennedy-Borissow said.

She added that her research hadn’t specifically covered comparing different art forms and the benefits received by each, but that she felt that the benefits come from creative activities that the community is excited about.

“There are some effects that are received in particular art forms that aren’t in others. So for example, in arts and crafts, they’re activities where the focus is on doing with your hands, and people have talked about that being a great environment to promote conversations.”

So having a clear task and that kind of structure, and also the ability to not have to make eye contact is really helpful for people to be able to share their stories.”

But really it’s about what types of activities resonate with particular community members, and their ability to make their own meaning or get what they want out of participation.”

Asked about public output and how it can aid in the promotion of creative programs and thus, disaster recovery, Ms Kennedy-Borissow said that it was a good source of pride for participants and a good way of getting the wider community engaged.

“I think that public output is often really valued by participants, because it gives them a source of pride in what they’ve created with the support and collaboration of others. It also offers the opportunity for the wider community to connect with the project, so for someone who might not feel that they’re up to directly participating in creative activities, they might feel more comfortable being an audience member, or seeing someone they know do a performance, or exhibit part of a visual arts exhibition, and that can be really meaningful for people as well, to feel like their experiences are being reflected. It can still have that effect of helping people feel like they’re not alone in their experience.”

For example, in Lismore after the floods, there was an exhibition called Rescue, which was a photographic exhibition with transcripts of interviews with civilian rescuers there. I think there was about 50 people in the Northern Rivers used their own jet skis and boats and other vessels to rescue 1000 fellow community members from rooftops, and this rescue project was interviewing those civilian rescuers and then exhibiting their portraits and their stories in a community run gallery.”

And in that example, there were so many benefits to those people attending. Firstly, for some people it was about them being able to identify who had rescued them. It was also an opportunity to honour the efforts and work of their fellow community members, and celebrate and feel proud of those community members, and really honour those experiences, and feel like what they’ve been through has been remembered and acknowledged.”

Speaking to recognition of the arts as a positive source of disaster recovery, Ms Kennedy-Borissow added that she would like to see more actions taken to make creative programs a more viable option in disaster recovery.

“Often funding will only become available for projects after disasters occur, and that can delay the timeframe for artists becoming imbedded in communities and really understanding what they would find meaningful, and then artistic experience. And then being able to make sure that those projects are done really safely and sustainably.

“I would like there to be more public awareness and advocacy for the value of the arts in disaster recovery.”

“Regional Arts Victoria is the peak not-for-profit organisation for regional arts and has been administering funding on behalf of the state government for more than 10 years, following on from Black Saturday. This is always in response to a specific disaster event, so there is a legacy of these kinds of programs being funded.

“I would argue that it’s clear that government do recognise the value, but they’re yet to take the step of including any actions in policy and recognising that these kinds of programs require expertise and resources, that benefit from advanced planning and preparation,” Ms Kennedy-Borissow concluded.





*The second Catheral Side Hotel in Taggerty. Sadly, this hotel burnt down in 1933. -S*



*The oldest photo of the original first Cathedral Side Hotel. -S*



*Thomas Burchell Williams and Harriet Bush Webb. Standing in doorway was Marion (Davey) Burchell. Taken at Cathedral Side Hotel Taggerty between 1900 to 1907. -S*



*The interior of the Cathedral Side Hotel. Pictured from left to right, Frances, Marion Arminell (mother), Alexandra and Victoria. -S*



*The Burchell family on the verandah with a walking group. This photo was taken in the 1920s. -S*

## Remembering the Cathedral Side Hotel

IN the early days, along the Maroondah Highway in Taggerty stood the Cathedral Side Hotel. This establishment had its fair share of historical moments, which is hard to fathom as you travel past the land where it used to stand during your travels.

Information and photos from descendants Trevor and Joy Burchall/ell on times from the Cathedral Side Hotel were provided to shine a light on this fascinating history.

### *The Burchalls 'Cathedral-Side Hotel'*

The first Burchell family, Thomas and Harriet, came to Australia on the ship *British Empire*, arriving in 1850 in Adelaide, South Australia. They brought with them three children, Elizabeth, William and John. They purchased land at Mount Barker in South Australia, and later Majorca in Victoria when they moved to be near the goldfields.

Seeing land coming up for selection in the Acheron and Taggerty area they were able to apply for their choice of land on the Acheron River.

Thomas Burchell Senior selected in 1876 on the Acheron River at Taggerty his property, known as "Hilmartin", named after a town they had come from in England.

His son William, selected next door, his property known as "Cathedral Side", Taggerty. Daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Webb and selected a property at Glendale Lane known as "Bridglea." Daughter Sarah married James McCarthy, their property being Swamp Creek Road, Taggerty. Daughter Annie married Jobe James, a Welshman who came as a tutor to the Popple family and was later a headmaster at Taggerty and Buxton Schools. The schools were worked part time to begin with. Their property was "The Mohican", part of the original Mohican Station.

### *William and his wife*

The family lived in wagons and under canvas while the hotel was being built, which was no mean feat with five children.

William Senior and his son William Junior built both Buxton and 'Cathedral Side' Hotel, licensing the Burchall Hotel six weeks earlier than Buxton.

The first hotel was built in approximately 1876 and licensed under a roadside licence. A blacksmith shop adjoined the hotel, catering to the horses and horse drawn carriage transports on the roads at the time.

Copies of the title show Mrs M A Burchall having the property transferred into her name in 1882. An advertisement was listed in 1890/91 in the "Country Hotel and Guest Guides" published by Victoria Railways, showing the "Cathedral Side Hotel" as having accommodation for 12 people, eight shillings a day or 60 shillings a week.

An advertisement for "W Burchall's line of coaches," was put in the Alexandra and Yea Standard, in August 1892.

William Burchall Senior had the Royal Mail contract under a "Contract for the conveyance of inland mail." The contract was for three days a week in 1890-91 to June 1892.

William Burchall Senior would leave Taggerty to do a run to Marysville, calling in at Buxton. An overnight at a hotel to change horses and be in Alexandra on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays by 10.15am. The contract was for 88 pounds a year. The horses and coach being driven was "six in hand."

The contract for the Royal Mail, 1914, July 1, shown as, William Burchell Senior Taggerty to Marysville, 27 miles, Alexandra via Buxton, Taggerty and Acheron, six times a week, coach 230.0.0 pounds a year for three years to 1917.

Contract William Burchell Senior, 1914 to 1920, then son Alfred Burchall with mail run on his return.

Mrs Marion Arminell Burchall, the proprietress of the hotel, moved with the times and had 'Gloria' gas lighting installed throughout the hotel and the phone number M.4 was connected in 1910.

In 1923/26 William Senior's son Thomas Frederick also was listed as mail conveyancer along with Alfred Burchall on his return from the war.

Alfred related how gold was collected from the "Golden Bower" mine at Marysville and taken to Alexandra, returning the next day with cash to pay the miners.

In the 1950's Gordon Alfred Burchall, son of Alfred, had the mail run for several years until his death in 1958.

Thus, three generations of the Burchell/all family had the same "Royal Mail" run in the district.

### *Events at the Hotel*

The matriarch of the family, Marion Arminell Burchall, was known as a shrewd businesswoman, owner of the hotel, a

wonderful hostess, dressmaker and competent manager of affairs and of raising their family of 12 children.

Many meetings, petitions for schools, education, etcetera bear her signature. The women in the family being "ladies", and not allowed in the bar at any time.

The Taggerty sports for the district were held yearly at the hotel, many weddings and receptions too. Tours and picnics up the 'Cathedral Mountain' were popular walks for Melbourne visitors. The family events of singing, dancing, music, and stories of the hotel were handed down over the years. Many a mateship yarn was told over the bar by 'Pa' Burchall.

Great celebrations were held when Alfred Burchall returned from World War One after three years away. His nieces and nephews related stories of his homecoming of them waiting excitedly for him to appear on a horse from Taggerty to the pub, a distance of 3.5 miles. They recounted the happiness of the family who had sent many letters and parcels to him when on the western front. Treasured postcards are kept today.

After the fire that destroyed the first Burchell Hotel the second hotel was built immediately as the property had been insured. William, Marion's daughter Margaretta, were to be married and her fiancée William Lucas had left gold sovereigns with her for the future. The coins were later discovered in the ruins of the building. The bride's wedding dress and heirloom bedspread (still in the family today) were saved. Mr William Burchall Senior was lucky to be brought out, and they married in 1901.

A huge diamond wedding celebration was held for William Burchall and his wife Marion with the occasion of a wedding breakfast and a dance at the Taggerty Hall for 200 guests.

The licence for the hotel was surrendered by Marion A Burchall on December 5, 1930 for a sum of 1.000.0.0 pounds. At the time Marion Burchall was the oldest holder of a Victuallers licence for a period of 52 years. The hotel was sold to their son Alfred Burchall in 1931. Unfortunately it burnt to the ground in November 1933.

In the *Argus Newspaper* on Nov 28, 1933, an article titled 'Delicensed Hotel Destroyed' said the following:

"ALEXANDRA, Monday, The Cathedral Side Hotel building, midway between Buxton and Taggerty, was destroyed by fire at 9pm.



*William Burchall and Marion Arminell Burchall. -S*

yesterday. The hotel was delicensed about two years ago. The occupants had a narrow escape. Some of them had to leave the building' in their night attire. Mrs. A. G. Burchell, the wife of the owner of the premises, had her hair burned while she was rescuing some of the seven children who were asleep in different parts of the house. The cause of the fire is unknown. The building was not Insured."

Trevor Burchall, one of Alfred's children, wasn't born when second fire took place at the Cathedral Side Hotel.

Trevor said, "My father Alf Burchall owned it in the finish, he brought it off his mother after the old boy died, William was my grandfather.

"When it came to the fire some family members remembered it clearly. Mum took the kids on the other side of the road, and they all had to sit up on the bank and watch it all burn. It was only a dirt road of course and no transport was about. No one knew it had burnt down until the next morning."

Trevor said, "The hotel was located well opposite Torbreck Street in Taggerty, there was a row of old pear trees, and a big orchard was there behind the hotel. I remember the Orchard when I was younger."

The Cathedral Side Property is still in the family today and the seventh generation Burchall descendants are in the district.



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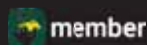


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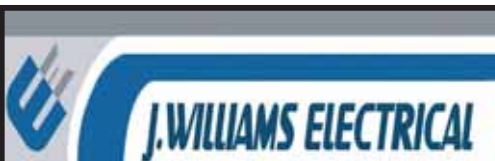
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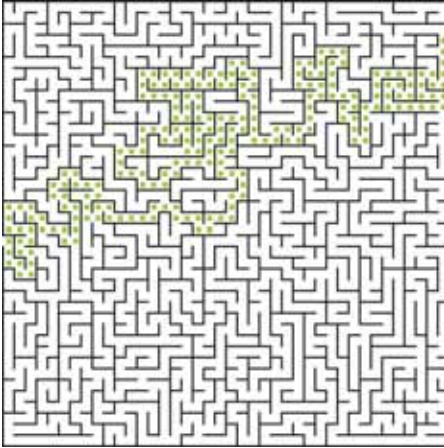
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### CRYPTOGRAM

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# New changes for victim-survivors to report violence

THE Victorian Government is making it easier for victim-survivors' to report crimes including sexual harassment and assault, and making sure body worn camera evidence can be used in family violence matters.

Recently introduced into Parliament, the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Integrity, Defamation and Other Matters) Bill 2024* will remove barriers that some victim-survivors face in coming forward and will include other improvements to modernise Victoria's justice and integrity system.

The current defamation laws can have a chilling effect on reporting sexual abuse or harassment, with some victim-survivors not reporting the crime due to fear of being subjected to potential defamation proceedings.

The Bill will extend the defence of absolute privilege to reports made to police. This will protect all Victorians, including victim-survivors, who make a report to police, granting them complete immunity if their alleged perpetrator tries to bring a defamation suit against them.

This reform continues the government's work to remove barriers on reporting crime and improves the way the justice system responds to serious offences, especially for sexual and family violence matters.

Victoria's defamation laws will also be strengthened to respond to the ever evolving online landscape. The Bill will clarify the liability and responsibility of digital intermediaries like search engines and social media platforms when a third party uses their online service to publish defamatory content.

The reforms will also ensure police issued body worn camera footage can continue to be used as evidence in court cases involving a family violence offence or family violence intervention order. This evidence can replace the need for victims to make a formal written statement, but victims will still be able to provide one if they wish.

This form of evidence has been trialled following the *Royal Commission into Family Violence*, and has allowed victim-survivors to provide a statement in their own words immediately following an incident, reducing the burden on frontline police and better holding perpetrators to account.

Changes to integrity and justice legislation will also ensure agencies have what they need to do their important jobs more effectively. The Victorian Inspectorate will be renamed *Integrity Oversight Victoria*, led by the Chief Integrity Inspector to better reflect the important role this office has overseeing Victoria's integrity agencies.

The Bill will provide the Chief Statistician with better access to court data to support more accurate reporting on criminal justice issues and trends, complementing existing access to Victoria Police data.

The reforms also make it clear that electronic signatures are valid in criminal proceedings, reducing uncertainty around what signatures are admissible.

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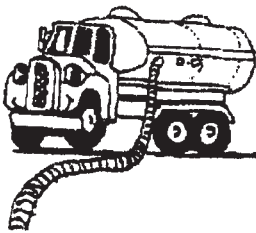
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Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

#### Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the microchip identification number and a source number of the animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

#### Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared numerous times and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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#### FOR HIRE

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#### MEETINGS

**MOLESWORTH Rural**  
Fire Brigade AGM and election will be held on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 9am at the Molesworth Community Hall. All welcome.

**YEA Water Tigers**  
AGM will be held at Yea Community House. Thursday, May 23 at 6pm. All positions declared vacant. General meeting will follow at 7pm. Enquiries to the secretary: [yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com) or 0459 248 488

#### DEATH NOTICES

**MURIEL, Perry.**  
The Yea and District Historical Society were saddened to learn of the passing of our esteemed member and strong supporter. Muriel will be sadly missed by us all. Our sincere condolences to the family.

**RIGG, Christopher (Chris) APM**  
25/09/1946-  
16/05/2024

Loved husband of Kay, loving father and father in law to Graeme and Nerida, Wayne and Marcia, and Andrew and Michelle. Proud and adored pa of Jackson, Emily, Charlie, Sienna, Mikayla and Kai.

**TATE, Peter**  
1968 - 2024

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Peter. He is dearly missed by his family, friends and loved ones.

A private memorial service will be held.



#### TENDERS

Yea Cemetery Trust is seeking tenders to provide grounds maintenance services at both Yea Lawn Cemetery (Meadow Road, Yea) and Yea Old Cemetery (Moyle Street, Yea).

Tasks required, but not limited to:

- Mowing and lawn maintenance
- Edge trimming – whipper snipping
- Weed control
- Watering
- Grave site maintenance
- Installation of plaques
- Placement of ashes
- Removal of trees fallen/trimmed
- Garden maintenance around Shelter (Lawn Cemetery)

Interested parties are asked to contact the Yea Cemetery Trust Secretary on 5772 0333 to obtain a scope of works.

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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## Children's Week Grants now open

THE Victorian Government is supporting a week of free community events and activities for young children and their families, helping them celebrate childhood and education through the joys of play this Children's Week.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn has invited eligible organisations to apply for grants of up to \$1000 to help them host fun activities and events for children and families during Children's Week to be held later this year

The grants support free events or activities such as storytelling, art exhibitions, dance workshops, cooking sessions, musical performances, picnics and outdoor or messy play.

This year's theme is *Children have the right to a clean and safe environment*, based on Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children's Week is a national campaign that celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It showcases their achievements while providing educational experiences for them and their families.

More than 45,000 children and families took part in

Children's Week activities across the state in 2023, with the Victorian Government supporting more than 200 events through grant funding.

During Children's Week, community organisations, sports clubs, neighbourhood associations and local councils organise a variety of events, including open days, special events, displays and online activities. The events celebrate children and childhood and showcase their achievements.

Children's Week runs from Saturday, October 19 to Sunday, October 27 this year.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn said, "Children's Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the talent, skills and achievements of Victoria's children while providing free and engaging activities for them and their families.

"These grants will help local organisations host fun and exciting events that celebrate children, childhood and learning through play."

Applications for Children's Week grants close on June 16. To apply, visit [vic.gov.au/childrens-week-grants-program](http://vic.gov.au/childrens-week-grants-program)

## Victorian Early Years Awards Nominations open

NOMINATIONS for the Victorian Early Years Awards are now open, and it's time for Victorians to nominate their most innovative, inspiring and dedicated early years teachers, educators, organisations and programs.

The awards are now in their 19th year and celebrate the outstanding work of early childhood professionals and services, recognising their roles in improving the health, wellbeing, learning and development of children from birth to eight years.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn encouraged early childhood professionals and organisations, families and members of the community to submit their nominations.

This year, the awards will celebrate leadership, outstanding achievements, dedication and innovation across nine categories.

This includes creating collaborative community partnerships, improving access and participation, and promoting children's health and wellbeing.

Outstanding individual contributions to early childhood outcomes will be recognised through the prestigious Early Childhood Teacher and Early Childhood Educator of the Year awards, while outstanding educational leadership will be celebrated through the Emeritus Professor Collette Tayler Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.

Early childhood services that incorporate Aboriginal perspectives and support Aboriginal children and families will also be recognised through

the Aunty Rose Bamblett Koorie Early Years Legacy Award.

All winners will receive \$15,000 to further develop their initiatives and share the learnings of their approaches, or to support their professional development. Finalists from the nine categories will also be considered for the prestigious Minister's Award, selected by Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn.

Ms Blandthorn said, "It's time to recognise the incredible work of Victoria's early childhood teachers, educators and leaders. Show your support by nominating them for the Victorian Early Years Awards."

"The Victorian Early Years Awards celebrate the early childhood professionals, services and initiatives that are dedicated to improving the lives of Victorian children and their families."

"Early childhood education and care sits at the heart of Victoria's education system – these awards recognise the dedication and professionalism of the ECEC sector in supporting Victorian children and families."

"If you know a dedicated early childhood teacher, educator or educational leader making a difference to Victorian children and families, nominate them for the Victorian Early Years Awards."

Nominations for the Victorian Early Years Awards close on Thursday, June 13, with finalists announced in August. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards](http://vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards)



# No seedy equipment in Victoria

IMPORTING second hand farm machinery such as tractors, seeders, sprayers, harvesters, baling or storage equipment from interstate can provide an alternative to buying brand new.

However, there are a few matters to consider before you buy.

Besides the costs of the machine and its transport, there are other costs involved in ensuring the machine meets Victorian biosecurity legislation (*Plant Biosecurity Act 2010*) and the conditions of entry described in the Victorian Plant Biosecurity Manual.

Used agricultural equipment and spare parts could pose a high risk to Victoria’s unique environment and agricultural industries.

Given the nature of their work, there is a high possibility used machinery could harbor weeds, pests and diseases that isn’t wanted in Victoria.

Therefore, unless they meet specific conditions of entry outlined in the Plant Quarantine Manual (PQM), they are prohibited from entry.

For example, Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (ARGT) is not in Victoria. ARGT host material includes cereal crops, first cut lucerne, pasture hay, stock feed or plant waste and could be located anywhere in Western Australia, South Australia or New South Wales.

Any machinery from these states must meet the specific conditions of entry to minimise any risk of introducing ARGT into Victoria.

Equally, Victoria is free from the fungal disease, Lupin Anthracnose (LA). Important lupin growing states like SA and WA don’t have area freedom from LA and therefore, restrictions apply to the importation of machinery into Victoria from there.

These (and other) biosecurity risks are carried in soil, animal or plant material found on or inside used farm machinery.

Therefore, they must be thoroughly cleaned, free of plant material and visible soil, and inspected by a government officer.

A Plant Health Certificate must then be issued before movement into Victoria.

There are costs and time involved with such a thorough clean, often requiring the partial

dismantling of the machine or equipment to access all the hidden away, hard to get at areas.

For example, debris is commonly found collecting in the driver’s cabin, on the chassis, in the grain bin, augers, belts, elevators, spreaders, choppers, tyres, rims, sieves, radiator and under any guards.

Always check early with an Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officer before you sign up to import a used farm machine into Victoria.

The import prohibition doesn’t apply if the host material is grown on, sourced from, or last used on a property that is located in a state or territory for which area freedom exists.

In the case of LA, this exemption currently applies for Queensland, NSW, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, meaning the unrestricted importation of LA host material from these locations is allowed (provided no other quarantine restrictions apply).

Currently Queensland, Tasmania and NT have state freedom for ARGT so no permit or PHC is required for machinery from these states.

Tips for buyers: It’s the importer’s responsibility to ensure all imported, used agricultural equipment is thoroughly clean prior to export and a PHC is obtained. The cost of dismantling, cleaning, and certifying a grain harvester sometimes totalling over \$10,000; used agricultural equipment found to be unacceptably contaminated on arrival will be re-exported or subjected to an expensive cleaning process at the expense of the new owner; use an experienced machinery dealer who regularly imports from other states. Different dealers offer varying support and services in the price they quote; don’t get stuck with a dirty machine. It’s a massive biosecurity risk to your farm and the grains industry. If it doesn’t arrive clean, you will have to clean it before using it.

Practical and inexpensive farm biosecurity tactics are found at [farmbiosecurity.com.au](http://farmbiosecurity.com.au) and [agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity)

Please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 for any biosecurity related matters.

## RE-Alliance welcomes Helen Haines MP backing

RE-ALLIANCE welcomes new independent MP Helen Haines, who has backed ‘Local Energy Hubs’ as a way to deliver accurate information about the energy shift to local communities.

RE-Alliance, which works with regional communities as they navigate the energy shift, said ‘Local Energy Hubs’ would be physical information centres staffed by experienced local experts. They could inform local people about local renewables and transmission projects, household and farm business electrification and battery storage, electric vehicles, offshore wind projects, and more.

RE-Alliance National Director, Andrew Bray, said local experts relaying accurate information to their communities was the best way to get out in front of misinformation.

“We’re delighted to see a federal member of Parliament using their role to champion policy ideas that benefit regional communities,” Mr Bray said.

“Getting accurate information about local projects into local communities is key to the energy shift, and who better

to deliver this information, than trusted local faces.

“Local Energy Hubs will help make the energy shift smoother in regional communities.”

RE-Alliance has been speaking to government MPs and Ministers with a coalition of partners including the Community Power Agency and Yes2Renewables over the past six months to ensure every step is being taken to support regional communities hosting the clean energy shift. A shift that needs to accelerate rapidly this decade to secure a safe climate future.

One of the measures proposed is a federally funded network of 50 independent ‘Local Energy Hubs’ in regions with large amounts of current or proposed renewable energy developments and transmission lines.

This was not funded in last week’s budget. RE-Alliance estimates that to fund 50 ‘Local Energy Hubs’, it would cost the federal government \$150 million annually, for a period of 10 to 15 years. This would cover staffing as well as money for grants and engagement activities.

## No more stamp duty for commercial and industrial properties

THIS week the state government’s landmark tax reform for Victorian businesses has passed Parliament, transitioning commercial and industrial properties away from stamp duty from July 1.

The commercial and industrial property tax reform will progressively abolish stamp duty and replace it with a more efficient commercial and industrial property tax. This transformational reform will help Victorian businesses set up, invest in new land and buildings, and employ more workers.

The reforms amount to a \$266 million tax cut in the first four years, adding 12,600 jobs and benefiting Victoria’s economy by up to \$50 billion over the next 40 years in cumulative net present value terms.

Since announcing the development of this reform, the state government has worked closely with industry and the property sector to finalise the

design which was confirmed in the *Victorian Budget 2024/25*.

From July 1, stamp duty will be payable one final time on commercial and industrial properties as they are transacted, with no stamp duty applicable to any future sale of those properties.

The commercial and industrial property tax will apply 10 years after the next transaction and will be set at a flat rate of one per cent of a property’s unimproved land value per annum.

As part of the transition, eligible purchasers will have the option of accessing a government transition loan for the final stamp duty payment, allowing them to avoid any up front lump sum payment.

The Victorian Government will provide educational support to help industry and taxpayers transition to the new scheme.

Further details are available at [dtf.vic.gov.au/funds-programs-and-policies](http://dtf.vic.gov.au/funds-programs-and-policies)

## COVID-19 numbers on the rise

ON May 10, according to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Clare Looker an increase in Covid-19 activity is seen in Victoria resulting in a surge of people being hospitalised with COVID-19. At the same time an increase in influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is present as winter is getting closer.

It is advised that those at greatest risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses are protected, this also includes people aged over 65, people with a disability or chronic medical condition and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Younger children aged six months to five years and pregnant women are also at greater risk of influenza and RSV.

Steps you can take to stay ahead of COVID-19 include, wearing a high quality and fitted mask, get vaccinated, if you re over

75 you should get a booster if you haven’t had one for six months. Vaccines are available at your GP or local pharmacy.

Increasing the airflow in the environment by opening windows and doors to reduce the spread of the virus and meet outside with people in fresh air if possible.

If you have symptoms, get tested and if you test positive and are eligible for antivirals take them as soon as possible to increase effectiveness, they must be taken within five days of developing symptoms. If you are positive to COVID-19 you should stay home for at least five days and until you have no symptoms.

Yearly flu vaccination is also recommended for everyone aged six months and over, and free for eligible priority groups.

## Driving tired? Wake up to yourself

A NEW hard hitting road safety campaign targeting drowsy drivers is backed by research showing drivers are four times more likely to crash if they’ve had less than five hours sleep.

The campaign ‘*Driving tired? Wake up to yourself*’, launched by the Victorian Government and Transport Accident Commission (TAC), reminds drivers that being tired behind the wheel not only makes them a danger to themselves, but a danger to everyone on the roads.

Central to the campaign is a confronting new television ad showing a serious crash caused by a tired driver crashing into another car with a mother and her young daughter.

Tired drivers contribute 16 to 20 per cent of fatal crashes on Victorian roads each year, while accounting for approximately 25 per cent of road trauma injuries at The Alfred and Royal Melbourne hospitals.

The campaign is backed by research by Monash University and the TAC, which found participants in an impaired driving assessment track trial were four times more likely to crash if they had only four to five hours sleep.

A second study found most respondents understood the risks of driving while tired and could identify the signs and symptoms, while young men reported a greater risk of falling asleep at the wheel.

The campaign comes as this year’s Victorian road toll surpasses 100, a total of 106 people have lost their lives on the state’s roads in 2024.

Victorians will see and hear the new campaign across TV, online, radio, music streaming platforms, cinemas, regional press, social media, outdoor advertising, and billboards, from May 19 until June 30.

## Drive to conditions and remember school speed zones

SCHOOL speed zones are the 40 kilometre per hour areas that operate near schools. These reduced speed changes are to keep children safe during peak times. Speed limit times are clearly displayed on nearby signs.

There are two types of school speed zones, these include permanent 40 kilometre per hour zone and variable time based zones. The time based zones are from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm, only on weekdays and during the Victorian school terms, except for public holidays. Please obey these speed limits.

Fog is increasing as the days become cooler. If driving in the fog, ensure that you switch on your low beam lights to be visible to oncoming traffic. If you are riding a bike in the fog, make sure you are wearing high visibility clothing and that your bike has flashing lights.

According to RACV, lights and reflectors on bikes are required at night or in conditions of reduced visibility. Lights must be visible from at least 200 metres away. This includes a flashing or steady white light at the front, a flashing or steady red light at the back and a red reflector clearly visible at the back of the bike from 50 metres.



*Scams are reducing, but don't be complacent. -Microbiz Mag*

# Progress made in combating scams

THE National Anti-Scam Centre has recently released the *Targeting Scams* report on scam activity that occurred through the calendar year of 2023 with some very surprising results. The report highlighted the scams that Australians are reporting and what government and private sector initiatives are doing to combat these scams.

The report says "In early 2023, it was anticipated Australians would report losing significantly more than the \$3.15 billion reported in 2021, given the year on year growth in financial losses and increasing scam activity globally. However, based on data from Scamwatch, ReportCyber, the Australian Financial Crimes Exchange, IDCARE, and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) the combined losses reported in 2023 were \$2.74 billion, a 13 per cent decrease in losses.

"In 2023, Australians made over 601,000 scam reports compared to the 507,000 in 2022, an 18.5 per cent increase in reports. It is encouraging to see the amount of financial loss decreased despite the increase in scam reports. These results demonstrate that coordinated scams prevention, detection and response initiatives can stem the flow of funds to criminals and protect Australians."

With the reported losses the report showed the top five scams by loss included \$1.3 billion in investments, \$256.0 million in remote access scams, \$201.1 million in romance scams, \$137.4 million in phishing scams and 91.6 million in payment redirection.

Even though the report is showing promising results that Australians are getting less affected by scams, there are also unreported losses that do take place that also need to be considered.

The report states, "We know the extent and impact of scams is under reported and some cohorts are markedly underrepresented in official reporting figures. The National Anti-Scam Centre is conducting more work to encourage reporting from all communities, and to reduce the stigma of scams so that more people are comfortable to report them.

"The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Fraud data shows that in the 2022-23 financial year, 2.5 per cent of Australians (514,300) experienced a scam. A person is considered to have experienced a scam if they have responded to a scam and sought further information, provided money or personal information, or accessed links associated with the scam. Sixty nine per cent of people who experienced a scam notified or were notified by an authority. This means that approximately 30 per cent of people who experienced a scam did not report it. It is likely many of those who did not report incurred a small or no direct financial loss and consequently this under reporting does not mean the \$2.74 billion in reported losses would be 30 per cent higher of those people reported.

"There are also Australians who lost money to a scam in 2023 and did not know they were being scammed. Investment and romance scams are long term scams where scammers maintain relationships for months or years before the person is aware it is a scam. They may be detected only after a bank account is identified as containing scam funds and banks or law enforcement identify victims who have sent money to the scam bank account."

In the last half of 2023 a significant decrease in financial losses occurred, 21 per cent compared to the first half of the

year. Several scam reporting organisations observed a downward trend, despite some fluctuations in reported losses.

Initiatives that were introduced last year that would have contributed to the reduction of reported losses was the launch of the National Anti-Scam Centre. The key aim of the National Anti-Scam Centre was to enable the sharing of scams intelligence across government, law enforcement and the private sector to enable near real time identification of scam phone numbers, bank accounts and social media accounts, leading to timely intervention when scammers try to contact potential victims, or when victims unknowingly attempt to make payments to scammers.

In late 2023 there was an introduction by the government of a consultation for a mandatory scams code framework, this has likely motivated businesses to address underlying risks and may have led to an increased focus by potential regulated entities on scam prevention initiatives.

Banks also took a stance with cryptocurrency exchanges, with Westpac, CBA, NAB, ANZ, and other banks taken steps to limit transactions to high risk cryptocurrency exchanges.

ASIC introduced a scam website removal capability for websites that hosted malicious phishing and investment scam information. Over 3500 websites were taken down or made inaccessible to Australians.

A call stop initiative has been introduced to counter bank impersonation SMS scams by diverting Australians who call back a number in a scam SMS message to a scam warning message.

Telstra and CBA announced a pilot program to help detect and prevent phone scams for joint customers. Scam Indicator enables CBA to confirm if a customer is on a phone call while transacting with the CBA which is an indicator that a scam could be occurring, potentially doubling the bank's success rate of phone scam detection. The NAB also introduced payment prompts in digital banking to help customers see potential red flags.

Some telecommunication initiatives saw the introduction of a SMS sender ID registry from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The aim of this was to protect alphanumeric message headers such as 'ATO', 'MyGov' or 'NAB', brands and government agencies from SMS impersonation. In December 2023, the ACMA commenced a pilot phase of the registry, which will consolidate existing sender ID protections with some well known brands and agencies. Pursuant to the Telco Code between October and December 2023, telecommunications providers reported blocking over 246.7 million scam calls and over 106.7 million scam SMS.

And finally, the introduction of new payee verification technology, this technology ensures people are transferring money to the people they intend to. This can reduce the number of people impacted by payment redirection scams and impersonation scams.

With the results from the report showing that there is a reduction in Australians affected by scams since mid 2023, it doesn't mean to say we should become complacent as there is always a new scam around the corner.

## Last chance to contribute to the draft budget

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has released their draft budget for public consultation. This is your last chance to have your say, particularly if you have ideas which you believe need to be considered in the budget. Submissions are due by Friday, May 24.

In the draft budget for 2024/25, 15 per cent of the budget is being spent on recreation and open spaces, 20 per cent on community, health, planning and safety, 18 per cent on waste and recycling, 33 per cent on roads and infrastructure, and 14 per cent on other items.

Fifty-seven per cent of the shire's funding is expected to come from rates and charges, 18 per cent from operating grants, 13 per cent from capital grants, seven per cent from statutory fees and user charges, and five per cent from other income.

The shire's forecast underlying operating surplus for 2023/24 is \$3,464,000 in deficit and is forecast to be \$3,634,000 in deficit in 2024/25. Their liquidity is reducing, with their operating income insufficient to cover their operating expenses.

They noted that they are constrained in their income, with their main sources of regular income, such as rates, capped below inflation. Their ability to fund the renewal and replacement of assets is also not keeping pace with the rate of asset deterioration.

Like many local government areas (LGAs), Murrindindi Shire has expressed concern about the state government's cost shifting, whereby the

state government is requiring councils to take on more responsibility for providing services and infrastructure without providing adequate funding.

The shire noted that Federal Government grants don't cover recreation in their disaster funding, creating an impost on the budget, and that small rural councils are experiencing a disproportionately higher share of, and impact from, natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Victorian Grants Commission (VGC) grants have also remained consistently below \$5 million since 2010/11.

*The State of Victoria Local Government Finance* report from October 2022 shows that small rural shires, such as Murrindindi, have significantly lower performance on financial sustainability compared to other LGA types. Only metropolitan and interface councils were shown to be in surplus.

Murrindindi Shire Council is aiming to identify further efficiencies through services reviews, digital transformations and sharing services with other councils. There is also expenditure which is expected to save the shire money, such as energy efficient street lighting, residual carbon offsets and special charge schemes, and are working to facilitate growth in the shire through partnering for key worker housing and looking to encourage the development of vacant land through increasing the differential to 200 per cent, up from 150 per cent. They will also work with the community to rationalise assets.

For further information, visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget)

## Don't let tailgaters get the better of you

AFTER a recent poll asking Victorians what type of road rage behaviour they see most, RACV is reminding Victorian motorists to refrain from, and remain aware of dangerous road behaviours.

Results from the more than 4400 respondents to the poll showed that 38 per cent saw or experienced tailgating, followed by aggressive driving, abusive behaviour and excessive use of the horn.

Road rage can include dangerous driving or abusive behaviour targeted at other motorists, and the impacts can be fatal if a collision were to occur.

RACV's Head of Policy James Williams said tailgating is more dangerous than what motorists might expect.

"Tailgating is a reckless behaviour and in a split second an incident could cause the front driver to brake suddenly, resulting in a potentially significant crash between the tailgater and driver in front," Mr Williams said.

"Additionally, extreme tailgating behaviour can divert the front driver's concentration and impact their driving confidence, resulting in collisions or unsafe driving speeds."

Motorists should be aware that in Victoria, tailgating is illegal. Failing to drive a safe distance behind a vehicle, or tailgating, can see offenders fined up to \$248 and one demerit point.

"It's just not worth the risk to tailgate. Always provide a safe enough distance from the car in front of you.

"That safe distance is dependent on factors including speed limits, road infrastructure and weather conditions, however a rule of thumb is to keep at least a two second gap between you and the car in front," Mr Williams said.

RACV provides the following suggestions for motorists who experience road rage., remember to stay calm and maintain a safe speed. Don't accelerate to increase the distance between you and the tailgater. Prioritise safety and focus on the road ahead. Don't let yourself become distracted by other occurrences inside the car. Change lanes, if your on a highway or freeway, or allow the tailgater to pass when safe. When safe to do so, report the incident to the police, noting the car's make, model and registration number, if captured, as well as the area it occurred.





## Athletics day at Alexandra Secondary College

ALEXANDRA Secondary College held their annual College Athletics earlier this month. The event highlighted not only strong individual performances for ribbons, but also those students who competed and earned points as part of a team for their house. The school would like to thank Mrs Crouch, Mr Francis and Mr Nadj as well as all of the other staff who helped out on the day.





# Positive results for junior football and netball

by Ray Steyger

## FOOTBALL

### Juniors

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams headed off for round five of the season, travelling to Seymour to play St Marys, under 16 football to Yea with the under 15 Red netball team hosting Seymour at Rebel Park, and under 14 football had a bye. The under nines and 10s football had games

with St Marys but theirs is non competitive and non scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

:Heath Sutcliffe; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Jayden Valentine; Coach was Sam Harris.

## NETBALL

### Under 11

#### Alexandra Black 10 defeated St Marys 7

FoodWorks: Ava Hill; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Summer Edwards; Edwards Family: Charli Stephens.

### Under 13

#### Alexandra Black 30 defeated St Marys 19

FoodWorks: Indi Hoornweg; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Charli Edwards; Edwards Family: Asha Vine.

### Under 15

#### Alexandra Black 73 defeated St Marys 7

FoodWorks: Chelsea Webb; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ashlee Collett; Coach was Hannah Weeks.

### Under 15

#### Alexandra Red 50 defeated Seymour 29

FoodWorks: Brianna Golland; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ava Krijt; Miljkovic Family: Ava Carr.

A very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2024.

Next Sunday, the Alexandra junior football and netball teams return to Rebel Park and host Wandong in the football, the under 16 football hosting Euroa and the Alexandra Black and Alexandra Red teams playing each other.

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

## Close matches in winter tennis round five

by Rhonda Carpenter

EVERY match was in the balance in the Euroa and District Winter Tennis Competition last Monday week. Only one or two games separated the teams playing in Euroa, Mansfield and Terip.

In Euroa, Marja Wondergem, Sue Vaughan, Gayle Furphy, and Lisa Krepp took a slight edge for Creighton’s Creek against Moglonemby in the opening sets, winning one eight to five and losing a tiebreak set. Sets were shared throughout the day, scores mirroring each other till the end.

Judy Sands, Marlene Hanrahan, Robyn Johnson, and Lyn Johnston were up to the task, winning the tiebreak set and taking two more eight to four. When scores were tallied Creighton’s Creek had won the match by merely two games, 3/39 to 3/37.

In Mansfield, Delatite played Seven Creeks, and Mansfield met Euroa. Delatite’s Karyn Fraser, Jo O’Brien, Loretta Armitage, Deb McCormack, and Deb Mims combined well, against the visitors. Rowena Ellis, Rosie Cameron, Genevieve Calvert, and Jill Hayes were supported by Euroa’s Jenny Tehan who stepped in after an injured player couldn’t continue in the first set.

In her first match of the season Jenny’s experience helped Seven Creek’s to get over the line in a tough contest. Rowena and Jenny won a tiebreak set against Karyn and Deb Mims, who were unable to close it out this week.

Seven Creeks won 4/41 to 2/29. Loretta Armitage was player of the day.

Mansfield’s Michelle Pigdon, Peta Kelly, Keira McDonagh, and Sophie Yencken were up for a long battle against Euroa’s Chris Ellis, Faye Mollison, Ruth Nolan, and Julie Harrington in their match. Sets were split evenly with Mansfield edging out Euroa by one game to win the day 3/34 to 3/33.

In Terip, Cindy Hayes and Frances Lawrence were up and about in their opener against Wappan’s Anna Speirs and Liza Karras defeating them eight to one. Phoebe Mcdermid and Jenny Martin were in for a much longer tussle with crosscourt rallies against Wappan’s Jenny Bell and Rhonda Carpenter. The Terip pair eventually took the even set eight to six while teammates watched on.

Anna and Jenny combined superbly to win their set eight to five, and both were strong in the third set with partners Rhonda and Liza winning eight to two and eight to six respectively. Wappan had warmed up as the sun shone brilliantly on the Strathbogie plateau.

Scores were tallied and Terip had won the day by two games, 3/37, to 3/35, to take top spot on the ladder for the first time this season.

Ladder: Terip 32, Euroa 30, Seven Creeks 30, Benalla 27, Creighton’s Creek 23, Mansfield 22, Wappan 19, Moglonemby 15, Delatite 2.



lee plays at a high ball against Mick. -S

## Single point wins at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday Comp

#### MURRAY Cods v Redfins

James G (fill in) v Charlie: A good match throughout, closer than the final score indicated. Both players were using good court position with Charlie taking each game and the match. 70 to 47.

Justin (fill in) v Daniel W: Both players fought all the way to the final point in this magnificent match. Daniel played some great power shots while Justin tried some loopy serves to make his opponent rush his shots. Despite making numerous errors, Daniel still came out on top. 60 to 59.

Jim v John: Another close match for the night. Jim fought back, only to lose by one point. Some early error in the first game proved costly for Jim and allowed John to take the win. 52 to 51.

#### Trouts v Yabbies

Mick v Lee: A close match with Lee holding the upper hand through until game three. Mick started to find the middle of the racquet and with a big final game he came from behind to win by four. 54 to 50.

Oli v Pep: Two games each with players taking alternating games. Pep accumulated some extra points to take the match. 64 to 58.

Derrick v Andrew: Great rallies and brilliant shots played by both, very

enjoyable to watch. Derrick managed to snag a couple more points than Andrew to take the victory. 52 to 50.

### Thursday Comp

#### Cherry Ripe v Smarties

Beth v Sam: The match started close with only a few points in it. Sam found his groove and annihilated Beth in the second half to take a good lead. 76 to 50.

Kristelle v Lucas (fill in): Lucas started off strong racking up points. Kristelle managed to claw back a game from Lucas and tie the final game. When the curtains closed Lucas took home more points for the win. 63 to 54.

James W v Stuart: Attempting to keep in the match, Stuart kept fighting. Sadly for him, James won each game with an enormous lead. James won, with more than double the points. 92 to 45.

#### Jaffas v KitKats

Blake v Aiden (fill in): Blake was on the move this week. Aiden found his form by the last game, but Blake had already done the damage. 73 to 53.

Jodie v Rob: Jodie started like a house on fire. After some coaching, Rob pulled it together to come out on top. 59 to 55.

Michael H (fill in) v Phil: Taking the first and third game, Phil was here to win. Michael took the second and drew the fourth, but it was too late. Phil was triumphant. 56 to 53

## Tough day for Marysville golfers

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday it was a tough day for all the golfers who played at Marysville Golf Club par round as they found good scores hard to come by.

Heather Jenkins (19) with plus two was the only player to register a plus score. The ladies runner-up with minus one was Mim Page (21), the men’s winner was Keith Atwell (18) with square followed by Richie Clark (15) with minus one. The men’s round was the first round of the Par Shield with Colin Davies, Richie Clark, Keith Atwell and Alan Howard qualifying for the final later in the year.

The nearest the pins were won by Steve Coker, Ming Kuan, Heather Jenkins, and Ray Jones, who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday both the men and ladies will play a stableford round with all entry fees and raffle takings donated to a local charity.

On Monday, May 13, in the final qualifying round of the 2024 Dalhousie Pennant season, the ladies team played Kilmore at Seymour. Marysville lost 4.5 - .5, which meant that Kilmore reached the final of Division One. Congratulations to Kilmore who will play Seymour/Trentham in the final with Romsey and The Dalhousie Veterans playing in the division two final. The finals will be played at Lancefield. Members would like to thank Jody Doran, Heather Jenkins, Mim Page, Helen Howard, Jenny Coleman, Lesley Rundle and Margaret Blair for playing pennant throughout the season.

The ladies Dalhousie event last week was the Alexandra Tournament in which five Marysville ladies played. Beverley Bellman (38) won C Grade with nett 71, which was the best net score of the day. Heather Jenkins, Helen Howard and Bev Bellman each received player of the year points. The club thanks the Alexandra ladies for their hospitality. This week ladies will travel to Strathbogie to play in their annual bowl.





Gus Smith playing on the very green field. -S



Andrew Wood and Tim Poulson chasing the ball. -S



Robert Andrews taking down the competition. -S



Ben Cooper moving with the ball. -S

# Alexandra Seniors had a great win

**Football  
Reserves**

**Belgrave 26.18-174 defeated  
Alexandra 3.2-20**

by Ray Steyger

ALEXANDRA returned to Rebel Park and hosted Belgrave last Saturday for round six of the Outer East League 2024 Division One season, the Reserves taking to the field with a number of changes to take on the undefeated Magpies who stamped their authority on the game with six goals to one in each of the first two quarter.

The visitors added another 14 goals to one after half time to show a clean pair of heels whilst the Rebels maintained their effort until the final siren.

**Awards:** Shepparton Volkswagen, Levi Ronalds; Ampol fuel card, Dylan Jack; Alexandra Hotel, Tom McKinlay; Buxton Hotel, Robert Andrews; Sportspower, Tyson Pedlar;

**Seniors**

**Alexandra 19.13 – 127 defeated  
Belgrave 4.7 – 31**

THE Seniors faced another top five team and finals contender with one change from last week and then two late withdrawals due to the flu, Michael Coombs also doubling up after a game in the reserves.

The Rebels managed two unanswered goals in the first quarter before adding three goals to two in the second quarter, a tight and entertaining contest. The second half opened up and the Rebels controlled the game kicking seven goals to one in each of the two quarters, a great team effort across the ground with everyone getting involved,

**Awards:** Incentives: Mitch Parker, Harry Reed, Charlie Millar and Ted Watkin; Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award,

Katherine Quinsee; Gate raffle, Darren Gregg; Meat tray, Alan Church; Wine, Michael Rule.

The Club Ball last Saturday was well attended and everyone had a good time, well done to the organisers and we look forward to further events during the season including the Truck Show, First Nations round, Club’s 140 year celebration and Ladies Day.

**Netball**

A grade lost 40 to 56: Incentive: Caitlan Haggis (congratulations on 100 game milestone), Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Ellie Hedger; Alpine Butchery: Stef Jager;

**B grade lost 27 to 84:** Incentive: Louise Hurrey; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Aleesha Kerr; Alpine Butchery: Fiona Stephens;

**C grade lost 12 to 66:** Incentive: Emiliiah Del Conte; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Taylah Dean; Alpine Butchery: Hollie Wheelhouse;

**D grade lost 28 to 34:** Incentive: Caeley Palmer; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Reagan O’Toole;

Thursday’s Rebel Raffles started last Thursday. The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot will be worth \$600 this week so go along and buy some tickets at \$1 each but you need to be at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw, meals available at the junior and senior sittings.

In round seven this week Alexandra will travel to Yarra Glen for two games of football and four games of netball, everyone invited back to the Alexandra Hotel for the awards.

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.



A Grade netballer Caitlan Haggis. -S



B Grade netballer Ashleigh Peers contesting the ball. -S



THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

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## Alexandra wins Club of the Year

COUNTRY Racing Victoria has awarded the Alexandra Race Club as the winner of the Club of the Year in the 'one to three meetings' category at an event on Friday night, May 17.

The trophy is dedicated to Neville and Bev Seymour, who ran the Dederang Race Club for over 20 years, building it up from a small, isolated meeting to a wonderful, active meeting.

Robyn Walsh from the Alexandra Race Club went to Dederang a

number of years ago to explore how the club achieved their success. She commented that it's so important for volunteer groups and clubs to evolve.

She said that they based a lot in Alexandra on what was done in Dederang, as well as adding local flavour.

The Alexandra Race Club has faced challenges, including COVID-19 and cancellations due to wet tracks, but lately everything has been running very well.

Robyn would like to thank the club's wonderful sponsors, and the community for their support. She noted that the attendance has been up since COVID-19.

The club will celebrate with a dinner for the committee in coming weeks.

Robyn said of the committee that they "All pull together and get the job done."

## More positive form for Thornton Eildon

by Scott Whitehead

### Thornton Eildon 2.6 - 18 defeated by Monbulk 10.5 - 65

LAST week the Thornton/Eildon Women's Football Team took to the road to play the undefeated Monbulk Women's football team in Pride round. In beautiful conditions for football, the girls got off to a great start winning the ball out of the centre thanks to some great play from Tahnee Heard and returning captain Rose Kealy. Thornton/Eildon scored first but neither team could finish off their forward work and at quarter time Monbulk was leading three behinds to Thornton/Eildon's two.

Unfortunately for Thornton/Eildon they lost the inform and newly capped member of the Outer East 'Community Bank team of the week', Suede Croad, to a hamstring injury leaving them a key player short for the start of the second quarter. This didn't deter the rest of the team who continued to take the game up to Monbulk, but again despite many forward entries couldn't kick a major for the quarter.

At half time the clear message from the coaching staff was to take the game on and to keep focusing on the little wins and individual goals set prior to the game.

From this inspiring half time message, Rose Kealy kicked Thornton/Eildon's first goal for the game generating some wild celebrations from the players. Lilah Galbraith returned from injury and showed her youthfulness with plenty of runs and was well supported on the opposite wing by Lilly Bossonnet who also returned from a long-term injury. The good work continued with Rose

kicking her second goal for the quarter which had Thornton/Eildon outscore their opposition by two points.

Monbulk, coming home with the wind and downhill to the scoring end, and with a couple more injuries to Thornton/Eildon's backline, the last quarter was always going to be a battle. Issy Western continued her career best form and first year player Leah Battalis continued to improve with both players laying some bone crunching tackles on their opponents. This slowed Monbulk's attack on the goals, but it wasn't enough with the home team scoring three majors for the quarter while restricting Thornton to one behind.

Again, despite the loss to Thornton/Eildon the game was played in amazing spirit and the improvements made will soon have the girls on the winners list.

**Awards:** Simpsons fuel voucher: Tahnee Heard; Coaches Award: Rose Kealy; Club Sport award: Lilah Galbraith; Club Meal voucher: Issy Western.

Next week Thornton/Eildon play at home against Warbuton with the first bounce at noon. The game will also see the team wear a splash of orange, symbolising their commitment to a future where every woman and girl is safe from violence.

Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is also available on Thursday night at 7.30 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](mailto:tedfnc@outlook.com)



The trophy awarded to the Alexandra Race Club. -S

## An impressive Alexandra Ladies Golf Tournament

by Elizabeth Goss

ONE of Alexandra's foggy mornings greeted the players when they arrived for the ladies tournament on last Thursday but fairly quickly the fog lifted for a bright sunny day. The course was looking its best and in spectacular condition thanks to all the work our wonderful grounds volunteers do.

It was certainly a good day for Alexandra's Donna Meggitt taking out the Ross Stillman Perpetual Scratch Trophy, the A Grade scratch winner, the teams event and the first raffle draw. Donna won the Scratch Trophy and A Grade with 86. The B Grade Scratch winner was Marg Fahey 95 and the C Grade Scratch winner Jill Boucher 103.

The Handicap winners were, A Grade Kerry Hewlitt 91(19) 73 on a count back from Lyn

Carracher 87(14) 7, B Grade Sue Greatorex 96(23) 73 and C Grade Bev Bellman 109(38) 73. Bev also won the Vets. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Lisa Caines, on the 12th to Donna Meggitt and on the 18th to Lyn Carracher. It was a very successful day thanks to Captain Helen Findlay and her team of helpers.

The winner on Tuesday was Nigel Waterhouse with (17) 40 points. The runner up was John Greatorex (20) 38 points followed by Russell Purcell (18) 35 points. Nearest to the pin on the 7th went to Bruce Colville and on the 17th and 18th Nigel Waterhouse. The ball run down was Steve Darmody, Dave Silverman and Brad Newton.

It was Par for the ladies last Wednesday. The winner was Sandy Wetenhall (26) square on a

count back with the runner up Sue Greatorex (22) square. Next came Brenda Lopez (26) -1 followed by Julie Lyon -2. Nearest the pin on the fifth and seventh went to Ruth Worland and on the 18th to Julie Lyon. Ruth also won the nine holes with -2 on a count back from Julie Lyon.

Next Wednesday, May 29 is Flag Day.

The Par round on Saturday was won by Greg Millard (16) +2 on a count back from Alan Kirkpatrick (26) +2. Next came Shane McGorlick (12) -1, followed by Corey Jack (7) -2 then Trevor Biffin (15) -2. Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Mick Holohan, on the seventh to James Kidd and on the 12th to Corey Jack.

This Saturday, May 25 is a Stableford round.



A cold start to the morning for the Alexandra Golfers last Saturday. -S