

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, July 17, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Natasha Bowater, Jane Poxon and Aunty Joanne Honeysett presented the new ADH artwork last Friday. -BD

NAIDOC week in the shire

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) held their NAIDOC week celebrations last Friday, with the presentation of a new commissioned artwork by Taungurung Elder, Aunty Joanne Honeysett.

The artwork represents the ADH health service as the centre, with all the local communities surrounding it

and the lines drawn between the circles showing their journey to get to ADH.

Presentations were made by ADH CEO, Jane Poxon, ADH Director of Quality and Risk and the person who organised the commission, Natasha Bowater, and Aunty Joanne Honeysett, who welcomed the assembled locals to Country.

Following the presentation, the assembled crowd enjoyed a morning tea and a chat.

In the west of the shire, Rosebank aged care held their own afternoon tea to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Director of Clinical Operations, Daniel Olivieri, gave a speech to the residents

about NAIDOC week, and then food was shared around.

In the reception area of the Yea District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) a Taungurung flag is now hung. It was unveiled this week for NAIDOC week, but will remain in the position after celebrations have concluded.

NBN upgrade in progress

UPGRADE work is underway in Murrindindi Shire to upgrade the National Broadband Network (NBN) fixed wireless network to provide access to faster speeds and extended coverage of the NBN fixed wireless network.

The upgrade works on the towers in Eildon and Rennies Hill will mean some homes and small businesses in the area may experience impact to their NBN service over the coming weeks.

NBN is looking to minimise service interruptions as much as possible during this time, such as migrating users over to temporary connections, however there are occasions when towers may be taken offline and NBN appreciate the community's patience while the work is underway.

The work currently underway to enable the upgrades includes NBN introducing new technology and replacing some hardware on the fixed wireless towers.

The tower works will not impact NBN fixed line or NBN Sky Muster satellite services. Impacted homes and businesses may have been notified of these planned outages via their retail service provider.

Emily Peel, head of NBN Local Victoria, said: "There is increasing demand for faster internet from homes and business across Australia and we are continuing to invest in the nbn network to stay ahead of demand.

"We are excited to have begun work upgrading the NBN Fixed Wireless network in the region, which will be a game changer for up to a million households and businesses across Australia.

"These tower works are critical to the delivery of our program but will mean some planned outages that may affect homes and businesses and their ability to use their nbn service while the work is underway.

"After the tower works are completed, we expect that faster download speeds during the busy period will become available across the NBN fixed wireless network.

"We apologise for the inconvenience and appreciate the community's patience while the work is underway," Ms Peel said.

The \$750 million investment in the NBN fixed wireless and NBN Sky Muster satellite network, with \$480 million from the Australian Government and \$270 million from NBN, is on track to be completed by around December 2024.

When complete, the investment will expand the reach of the existing NBN fixed wireless footprint by up to 50 per cent, as well as enabling two new high speed fixed wireless plans: fixed wireless home fast and fixed wireless superfast.

The additional capacity and reach available on the upgraded network will also enable approximately 120,000 existing Sky Muster satellite-only premises to access NBN fixed wireless for the first time.

To get the benefits of the upgrades, homes and businesses may also need to update the NBN device at their premises. NBN will contact those impacted directly. Not all devices will need to be replaced.

For more information and to register for updates, customers are encouraged to visit the NBN blog for an update on NBN's fixed wireless and satellite upgrade program: nbnco.com.au/blog/the-nbn-project/delivering-a-betterbroadband-experience-for-the-bush

Council defends farm rate rises

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has released information which they say highlights the ineffectiveness of the Victorian Government's local government rate capping policy to protect farmers. They say that recently announced council budgets demonstrating farmers continue to get the raw end of the rating stick.

Murrindindi Shire Council is included in the top 10 rate increases for farmers in 2024/25. In Murrindindi, the average residential rate increase came in at -2.22 per cent, but the average farm rate increase came in at 8.38 per cent.

VFF President Emma Germano said rate capping had failed to stop some regional councils forcing rate increases onto farms.

"Councils are failing to use their differential rating power to equalise rate increases across different classes of land. The burden of funding local government is shifting more and more onto the agricultural sector.

"These tax hikes show that Victoria's rate capping system is broken."

"It is completely unfair to have rate increases exorbitantly high for one group of ratepayers but have no increase or even a reduction in rates for others."

VFF analysis of all council budgets for the year 2024/2025 shows 19 regional councils increasing farm rates above the state government rate cap of 2.75 per cent, while residential rate increases remain at or below the cap.

"Unfair rate increases take money away from farmers investing in their businesses, growing more food and fibre and providing

local employment opportunities. Ultimately this either drives up the cost of food or puts farmers out of business or both."

The VFF's recent submission to the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Local Government funding and services recommended the government require councils to apply the rate cap to each class of land.

"The annual cap determined by the Essential Service Commission should be applied to residential, farming, commercial, industrial and any other differential land category."

"Increasing farmland values have no bearing on farmers ability to pay exorbitant rates bills."

"The fundamental principle should be that as the value of farmland increases, the differential rate is adjusted to reduce the rate in the dollar so that the rate burden paid by the farm sector remains stable. This approach has been applied with great effect in the Ararat Rural City Council for the past seven years."

"This system would ensure a fairer distribution of the rate burden between land types. It would also put pressure on councils to look for greater efficiencies and cost savings rather than passing costs onto particular land types," Ms Germano concluded.

When contacted about the farm rates, Murrindindi Shire Council responded that they, "actively use differential rates to address equity issues that may arise from the setting of council rates derived from property valuations.

"Differential rates are where councils set different rates in the dollar for different

categories of rateable land. For example, farm land, residential property or commercial/ industrial properties will each pay a higher or lower rate in the dollar.

"The differential rate for Rural One Properties (farming land) in Murrindindi Shire is 70 per cent of the residential rate.

"It is likely that the reported increase in rates for the farming sector is related to the land valuation process conducted by the Valuer-General Victoria and reflects increases in land values for agricultural properties. In Murrindindi Shire, the estimated total value of Rural One land has increased by 4.66 per cent whereas Residential went down by 4.44 per cent year-on-year.

"Councils do not have jurisdiction in setting or changing this valuation-based system, which ensures that rate contributions are proportionate to the current capital-improved values of the properties.

"The cost of goods and services has increased across the board, putting financial pressure on families, farmers and businesses, including councils. We continually strive for greater efficiencies cost savings within our operations to minimise the impact that rates has on all ratepayers. Our goal is to ensure that the rate burden is distributed equitably while maintaining the financial sustainability of council and the quality of services we provide to our community.

"We appreciate the contributions of our farming community and we are committed to continue supporting their sustainability and growth, through favourable rates differential for farm zones."

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000



Letters to the Editor

Proposed Yea kindergarten

IT'S wonderful that Yea is getting a new kinder, to be constructed on the Primary School grounds, but it should be moved west, to Anne Street, as this area is hardly utilised, unproductive and needs beautification.

However, the current location proposed by the State's Victorian School Building Authority/VSBA is at the south-east corner of the school at Mary Street. This area is used by the primary school children twice a day, every day of the school year. It is an important play-based learning space in a bush setting that encourages discovery, creativity, imaginative play and social interaction. The children incorporate natural elements in their play: they climb trees, jump over and run along logs and up and down slopes, make and bake bricks, build cubbies, dig gardens and moats, and engage in other play-based learning. This free play helps them problem-solve and work collaboratively and contributes to their mental

health and wellbeing. Under the current proposal this space will be abolished.

Construction at the Mary Street site also necessitates the felling of seven trees, all the trees in the proposed location. Replacing these stately mature trees with saplings elsewhere is unsatisfactory; surely their retention is far preferable. By contrast, there are no significant trees at the little-used Anne Street site.

The current proposed location impacts residents, particularly myself. The change in my visual amenity will be total and will consist of a carpark and hard built environment along the entire length of my home's frontage. I purchased the property three years ago and have spent all my limited funds repairing this modest 96-year-old home. I would not have purchased the property had I known of the current proposal. By contrast, the Anne Street site will have little to no impact on residents.

The modular construction method used by the VSBA, where the building is constructed offsite and craned onto location, is in effect a fast-track process and under the extreme time constraints work may commence before residents concerns have been genuinely considered and resolved. This may be another instance of decisions being made in the city with the regions bearing the consequences.

Edith (surname withheld by request), Yea

Eildon real estate

THERE was extreme controversy concerning the sale of 25 Park Avenue, Eildon, by a Wangaratta real estate agent. The explanation given was that local agents were not needing possible fallout by being a party to this type of auction.

The advertisement in the *Herald* regarding the property were extremely misleading and false, hence, no sale. Possibly not even an offer. Well, well, well. Food for thought?

Jenny Fryszten, Eildon

Missing the target

MARCUS Elgin's objections to the Fera proposed wind farm correctly noted the Victorian wind drought in May, which

significantly reduced wind generation in Victoria for many days. Only a six per cent drop in wind and photovoltaic energy was reported across the country for May (source: as referenced in the original letter), highlighting how across Australia's vast land mass somewhere the wind will be blowing, and the sun will shine.

The economics of renewable electricity generation, as seen on the OpenNEM website, are consistently cheaper than fossil fuelled generators. As more renewable installations and downstream storage (battery, pumped hydro, and 'green' hydrogen) come online, renewable energy will dominate our energy market.

Objecting to wind farms based on cost and reliability does not stand up to scrutiny in the long term. The only valid objections to wind farm installations are the loss of significant natural amenities and/or long-term environmental damage, reinforcing the importance of embracing renewable energy in our rapidly changing climate.

Ray Wynn, Devils River

Wind farm consultation

FERA have announced that the next Community Consultation session will be held on Saturday, July 27, at the Alexandra Secondary College Hall from 10am to noon.

We encourage anyone who has an interest in Fera's proposal to attend this meeting.

Fera are continuing to try and lease land for their high voltage transmission line and have said that they hope to decide on a route 'soon'. Landowners are not obliged to sign up to Fera's project, you can simply say no and Fera have no right to access your property.

The results of our recent community survey are available to view or download from the web site srrcg.com/survey. As with the first survey, an overwhelming majority of responses are not in favour of Fera's proposal, and similarly most responders had not heard of the project from Fera, only via word of mouth or third parties such as ourselves.

Darryl Otzen, Strathbogie's Responsible Renewables Community Group

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

WEEKLY	
Tues	Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 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	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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



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.

IT'S NOT OKAY

- To yell at our staff.
- To swear at our staff.
- To be rude to our staff.
- To abuse our staff in anyway.
- To be disrespectful to our staff.
- To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

If you have a problem or complaint, we are happy to listen if you discuss this with us politely, please don't take your anger out on us.



Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Weekly Weather

July 17 - July 23, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	14	Wednesday	6	14
Thursday	4	10	Thursday	4	11
Friday	6	10	Friday	6	11
Saturday	3	11	Saturday	3	12
Sunday	6	10	Sunday	7	11
Monday	5	12	Monday	5	12
Tuesday	5	12	Tuesday	5	13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on Facebook

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.34	falling	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.54	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.41pm Mon	0.76	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.25pm Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.00am Mon	0.69	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	12.03pm Mon	0.97	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.57	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.66	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.18	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.37	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.53	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.53am Mon	1.21		

**ISSUED AT 12.46PM ON MONDAY, 15 JULY 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	N/Amm
Buxton.....	45.5mm
Eildon (AWS).....	22mm
Flowerdale.....	22mm
Jamieson.....	17mm
Kinglake.....	59mm
Lake Eildon.....	22mm
Mansfield.....	17mm
Taggerty.....	31mm
Yarck.....	16mm
Yea.....	10mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	285.49m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	86.6%
Metres below full supply.....	3.41m
Daily inflow.....	2000ML
Release.....	1800ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	69%

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



There was a large turnout in Mansfield for the Forests for the People Rally on Saturday, July 13. The protesters included some from Murrindindi Shire. It relates to the proposed national park. A report from the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) is due by the end of July. -Andrew Bottomley, Rubicon Photography

Hikers needing assistance at Cathedrals

WEDNESDAY, July 11 Victoria Police and SES Marysville Unit were called to assist in locating five hikers on Ridge track in the Cathedral Range State Park, Nanadhong.

The hikers were travelling a section of the track during the day with slower than expected progress resulting on being on the ridge after sunset. The hikers were semi prepared but didn't have headtorches or lighting they needed so the group made the smart choice to call for assistance. The Marysville SES crew directed the group out and police met them at the track. No one was injured during this event.

On Saturday, July 13 Marysville SES Unit received a call to assist four hikers who were lost in the Cathedral Range State Park Nanadhong. The group was located around 10pm, after assessing the group and warming them up, crews reached the carpark at around midnight.

Council celebrates success of Anne Frank exhibition

FROM April to June, Murrindindi Shire Council hosted 'The Life Story of Anne Frank' exhibition at the Alexandra Library, boosting library visitation by over 1000 people compared to the same period last year.

The exhibition, which ran from the launch event on April 27 to June 29, commemorated the life and legacy of Anne Frank, whose diary remains a powerful symbol of resilience and hope amidst adversity.

The exhibit brought Anne Frank and her family's story to life with a collection of photographs, modules and displays. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the historical context of World War II, the Holocaust and the enduring messages of tolerance and human rights.

The rise in visitation, from approximately 4000 to over 5000 people compared to the same period last year, was driven by a dedicated team of volunteers from Friends of the Library Alexandra (FOLA) leading

tours and library staff arranging transport from local centers, culminating in a special event for Yea and Alexandra Rotary Clubs.

The exhibit was praised by patrons for not only educating the community about one of history's most important figures, but also fostering meaningful conversations about the importance of empathy and understanding.

Council's Deputy Mayor Sue Carpenter said, "Council expresses gratitude to everyone who played a role in the exhibit's success, including sponsors, volunteers and community members who attended and interacted with the displays. We must engage in vital discussions about our history, overcoming past challenges, and embracing our diversity to strengthen society. We encourage all community members and shire visitors to attend any of our Library and Customer Service Centres, engage with our staff, learn about upcoming events and programs and share feedback on what could be done next."

Foundation Murrindindi's Connecting Communities small grant program now open

FOUNDATION Murrindindi's Connecting Communities Grant round opened on Monday, July 15 and will close on Sunday, August 11.

The Connecting Communities grants program aims to support the Foundation's vision by enabling local groups to undertake community led projects and initiatives that help communities to stay connected and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, foster community connections, increase social participation and inclusion and enhance a sense of belonging.

The grant program aims to increase community participation, access, connection and inclusion; Empower community to identify and respond to local issues and priorities, and foster community spirit.

Individual grants of up to \$500 will be considered.

For more information and to apply, visit foundationmurrindindi.org.au/connecting-communities-small-grant-program

Missing Healesville man

POLICE are appealing for public assistance to help locate missing Healesville man Benjamin.

The 43 year old was last in contact with a family member via social media on Thursday, July 11 in the morning, however has not been seen or heard from since.

He is described as being Caucasian in appearance, of medium build with short blond hair and blue eyes.

Police and family have concerns for Benjamin's welfare as his disappearance is out of character.

Benjamin is known to frequent the Lake Eildon, Narbethong, Reefton and Mount Donna Buang areas.

He is travelling in a blue 2005 Ford Falcon, with registration UYX 152.

Police have released an image of Benjamin in the hope that someone can provide information on his current whereabouts.



Missing Healesville man Benjamin. -S



THUMBS UP: To the Taggerty community for reinvigorating their Pot-Luck dinners. Saturday night was full of lovingly prepared food which was shared and enjoyed by all. The exchange of recipes was discussed as well. There were catch ups and time to meet new residents. Well done to the organisers and thank you for your vision to encourage an inclusive community.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property



SEYMOUR WIND FARM

The Fera Team invites you to the community consultation for an update on the project.

Date and Location: Alexandra Secondary College Hall, Alexandra

Saturday 27th July 10:00am – 12:00pm



www.feraustralia.com.au



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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*.

on 0417 907 278 or Kerry on 0410 597 148.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Gobur Racecourse and Recreation Reserve AGM will be held at 7.30pm at the reserve hall. For information or nomination forms contact Warren 0408 365 819.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Alexandra Senior Citizens will hold their AGM at 1pm at the Bayley Street clubrooms. All welcome.

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group. Are you aged between 12 and 18? You are invited with your parents or carers and community members to the Alex Youth SPOT for a free barbecue from 3.30-5.30pm. For further information contact Jacky

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Holmesglen Eildon Celebration Dinner. Warm up your winter with a festive feast. For details and bookings phone 5774 2631. Mulled wine, roast turkey, glazed ham, Yorkshire pud and more, from 6.30pm.

Yea residents and community members are invited to help your community plan for and recover from emergencies. Lunch will be provided, event is from 11am-1pm at Yea Community house. During lunch you will learn how to prepare for and recover from emergencies; local risk and hazards; skills training and more. RSVP to Murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leap or call 5772 0333.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

The next Alexandra RSL meeting will be held at noon followed by a light lunch.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group 9.30am-10.30. Meeting room Yea RSL. Entry is free. For further information contact Jacky on 0417 907 278 or Kerry on 0410 597 148.

The Ferra team invites you to a community consultation for an update on the Seymour Wind Farm. Alexandra Secondary College hall 10am-noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting the Great Victorian Bike ride in November this year. Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attending the information session. Alexandra: 5.30-6.30pm Alexandra Shire Hall. For more information contact events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting the Great Victorian Bike ride in November this year. Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attending the information session. Marysville: 5.30-6.30pm Marysville Community Centre - Lake View Room. For more information contact events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

Speak with council at an open community meeting in Taggerty. 5pm-7pm. Taggerty Hall. You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with councillors about issues that are important to you. Prior registration is not required. For further information contact governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

Council provides further information on Housing Support Program

IT was announced last week that Murrindindi Shire Council had secured a \$968,000 grant from the Federal Government's Housing Support Program to facilitate the planning of additional housing in the eastern area of Alexandra.

The funding, the highest awarded to any Victorian council, will allow council to assist in unlocking housing through the creation of the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP) and Service Plan.

This innovative approach to unlock housing land aims to streamline the process for landowners by removing cost barriers and providing certainty of planning requirements. The AEDP will speed up the approval process, making it easier to develop in this area, and will help address short and medium-term housing needs.

The completion of the AEDP and service planning overlays will help create a well-planned community with the right mix of houses, roads, and services that complement the character of Alexandra, now and for future generations. The plan will create a vibrant community in Alexandra and showcase best practice in planning, storm water management and climate resilience. It will open up more land for housing, which will help address the shortage of supply, offer diversity in housing and attract more residents, families and workers to Alexandra.

Council's Planning and Compliance Portfolio Councillor Eric Lording said, "The AEDP will lower development costs and accelerate approvals in Murrindindi Shire. This streamlined approach should make housing available to buyers and renters sooner. It will also support local services and tourism. Bringing in more families, especially those with parents who work, will keep the community strong. This is important for helping our local schools, the hospital, and businesses thrive."

ADDOC repawt

ON these icy, wintery Sunday mornings, you will find a dedicated, enthusiastic, group of dog owners on Briggs Oval, Hall Street in Alexandra. All of them attending the Dog Obedience Classes run by the Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club Inc (ADDOC).

ADDOC was established in 1991 as a Community Dog Obedience Club with volunteer instructors. The aim then was to provide obedience classes for the district dog owners and their dogs which the club have now been doing for 33 years. This aim still holds true today. The club trains using the Positive Reinforcement Method using treats, praise and lots of games and fun.

The classes run in blocks of seven weeks, with the next block commencing on Sunday, July 21. The club runs classes for puppies up to 12 months and beginner training for dogs over 12 months, as well as classes suitable for anyone who has moved here and already trained at another obedience club.

There is still a few vacancies available. If you are interested and would like to know more, the club would love to hear from you.

Email alexdogclub@gmail.com or text Jeanne on 0456 583 611.



Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

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

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

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

Great Vic Bike Ride coming to Murrindindi Shire

THE Great Vic Bike Ride will celebrate its 40th year with a historic journey across northeast Victoria from Saturday, November 23 to Sunday, December 1.

The Great Vic Bike Ride is Australia's biggest and most iconic bike riding holiday, offering three, five, and nine day ride options.

Each year, seasoned adventurers and new riders come together to share camaraderie, camping and cycling through some of the most scenic landscapes and towns of Victoria.

In 2024, the ride will begin in Wodonga and travel 501 km taking in the picturesque Victorian towns of Myrtleford, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Alexandra and Marysville, finishing in Healesville.

Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to be hosting the Great Vic Bike Ride in 2024 with overnight stops in Alexandra on Friday, November 29 and Marysville on Saturday, November 30. The ride will explore the hills and valleys of Victoria's High Country region and is expected to bring more than 2500 riders to the shire.

The Great Vic Bike Ride is an all included holiday that suits bicycle tourists, bike packers, adventure seekers, families, schools, and the nostalgic. This year's 40th anniversary ride will

take riders on quiet roads and scenic rail trails. It's worth crossing state borders for.

Community members and businesses interested in finding out more about the event and how to get involved are encouraged to attend one of Bicycle Network's two upcoming information sessions which include Alexandra Information Session on Tuesday July 30, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall. On Wednesday, July 31 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm Marysville will have their information session at the Marysville Community Centre, Lake View Room.

For more information, visit bicyclenetwork.com.au or get in touch with Council's Economic Development team via email at events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by calling 5772 0333.

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said, "We are thrilled to welcome the Great Vic Bike Ride to Murrindindi Shire for its 40th anniversary. This event will showcase the stunning landscapes of our region while also bringing significant economic benefits to our local communities. Hosting over 2500 riders will boost local businesses and offer an opportunity for residents to engage with visitors. We look forward to celebrating this iconic event and its positive impact on our shire."



Ari Burnu Cemetery where V E Blakeney lies. -S



Lone Pine Cemetery where S Arbutnot and V Raymond are identified on panels. -S

Local teacher chaperones students to Türkiye

ALEXANDRA Secondary College teacher, Jacki Tossol has recently returned from chaperoning 12 Spirit of Anzac Prize winning students from around Victoria on a tour of Türkiye.

The Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize is an annual competition open to students enrolled in years nine to 12. The prize offers young Victorians the opportunity to explore Australia's wartime history, join a fully funded study tour to significant war heritage sites and understand and remember the contribution of Victorian service people.

The prize encourages students to explore the Anzac legacy post World War I and its relevance in our diverse, multicultural 21st century society. The 12 students participating on the most recent Spirit of Anzac tour were asked to respond to a prompt asking how Anzac qualities relate to Australians in contemporary life. The prize winning students used artwork, poetry, video and essays to support their applications.

Three days of the 10 day tour were spent on the Gallipoli Peninsula exploring sites of significance along with visits to memorials and cemeteries commemorating the fallen. Jacki took the opportunity to visit the locations of the three Alexandra district servicemen who lost their lives at Gallipoli, leaving Australian flags at their gravesites. Thanks go to Yvonne Millar for providing Jacki with details of these men.

V E Blakeney, son of William and Emma Blakeney of Yarck is buried at Ari Burnu cemetery. He lost his life on August 7, 1915, the day of the famous Battle of The Nek. S Arbutnot, son of Michael and Annie Arbutnot of Ancona and V Raymond, son of Richard and Marion Raymond of Alexandra also lost their lives on August 7, 1915. Both of these men have their names inscribed on panels at the Lone Pine Cemetery. Panels

are used to identify the names of fallen men whose bodies have not been recovered. All three men were from the Australian Light Horse 8th Battalion.

Jacki reflected that Gallipoli is a confronting but also spiritual place to visit, noting that text and photos can in no way prepare you for the harsh terrain Australian service men encountered when endeavouring to achieve the unachievable. She said that a visit to Gallipoli is an intensely emotional experience. She hopes descendants of the three fallen soldiers are comforted by her visits to their final resting places, knowing that their sacrifices have not been forgotten.



'Rhododendron Ridge' connecting the beach near Anzac Cove and Ari Burnu cemetery with Chunuk Bair, site of fierce fighting between New Zealanders and the Ottomans. -S



SPEAK WITH COUNCIL AT AN OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN TAGGERTY

Wednesday 31 July 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 Taggerty from 5.00 - 7.00 pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024 at the Taggerty Hall, 5 Taggerty-Thornton Road, Taggerty.

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 or call Council on 5772 0333



Alexandra Secondary College Open Night



Wednesday 31st of July 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Time	Session	Length	Room
6.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
6.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 min	Library
6.45pm	Information session about LATER YEARS	30 min	M8
7.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
7.15pm	Students speaking about VCE and Vocational Major experience.	15 min	M8
7.30pm	Information session about Year 9	30 min	M8
7.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 mins	Library

Come along to our combined Open Night for families who are interested in what Alexandra Secondary College has to offer. There are also specific sessions for families of students who in 2025 will be starting Year 7, 9, 10 or VCE. It's one evening where we will present all of the information you need.

Families just need to attend the sessions that interest them.

The entire College will be open for families to take guided or self-guided tours. Staff from the different learning areas will be available throughout the College for parents and students to talk to and also there will be displays of everything the College has to offer.

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E-PETITION SCAN ME

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9730 1066

cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen



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- Self-Managed Superannuation Funds & Compliance
- GST Compliance & BAS Preparation
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- Corporate Secretarial Service
- Accounting Software Support & Advice

Contact our office on 03 5775 3170 to arrange an appointment with our Accountants:

- Mark Henry - B.Bus (Acc) CA
- Mark Evans - B.Bus (Acc) CPA
- Maxwell Church - B.Bus (Acc) CPA
- Michele Reid - B.Bus (Acc) CA
- Daniel Crane - B.Bus (Acc) CPA
 - Lisa Cressall - B.Com (Acc)
- Judith Duke - Adv Dip Acc Dip FP
- Charlene Mizzi - B.Bus (Acc) CA
 - Simone Milic - B.Com (Acc)

Mansfield 105-111 High Street PO Box 509 Tel 5775 3170

Alexandra 81 Grant Street Yea 82 High Street

admin@henrypartners.com.au www.henrypartners.com.au

Motorcycle road safety forum coming to Yea in October

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) will be holding a public safety forum in Yea on October 12, to discuss the issues facing motorcyclists around Australia.

The forum is scheduled for the week before the Phillip Island Moto GP, in the hope that many interstate motorcyclists will attend on their way to the event.

Speaking with Dale Maggs, former Motorcycle Riders Association president, and now motorcycle liaison for MRAA, provided an interesting view into the issues that Australian, and Victorian, motorcyclists face.

Dale spoke to the importance of the forum and hosting it in Yea.

"In Yea it will be 50 years of the Motorcycle Riders Association's (MRA) establishment. We'll be speaking with riders, talking about motorcycle safety, and we'll also hopefully have representatives from Victoria Police. We've invited Glenn Weir to come along and talk to us about their new policing methods, and how they're trying hard to keep the road toll down with cars and motorcycles across the board, as well as pedestrians," Dale said.

"Yea is a good central spot in Victoria, and there is always a fair amount of road policing done in that district. It's a good central spot for riders to come up and be part of something that would probably prick their interest, if they want to have a say in things when it comes to motorcycling. What better place to do it than in the centre of Victoria?"

There are a number of issues that motorcycle riders in Victoria face, and Dale spoke about a lot of them. They will also be brought up at the road safety policy forum.

"We'll be looking at the whole gamut of things. We'll also be looking at the high cost of registration of a motorcycle and what increases have occurred over the last few years for

motorcycles in general, and towards expenditures of all those bits and pieces that you need to keep safe on the road, like helmets, protective clothing, etcetera.

"We're also broadly talking about infrastructure, or the lack of maintenance on roads. Anything to raise in regard to safe motorcycling, and how we can achieve better goals and better outcomes for riders.

"At the present moment, there has been 35 deaths of motorcyclists in Victoria, on our roads. A lot of those can be attributed to different road conditions and also skill levels, etcetera. ... We have angry motorists, we have large potholes, and bad infrastructure unfortunately, due to budget constraints by the Victorian Government.

"The MRA, which was established in 1978, has been always proactive in looking at motorcycle issues, things that people probably aren't aware of. Let's look at proactive things that will help save motorcyclists, rather than things like the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) spending money on comedy festivals and stuff like that. Let's look at, why don't they put money into rural roads, or let's let new riders have discounts on safety goods, like good helmets or protective gear," Dale said.

"There's plenty of ways to achieve the goal, and these forums that we have talk about those, and we do invite those other agencies to come along and discuss their needs and some of the things that are troubling them.

"Broad discussion on ways to make drivers more aware of motorcyclists on the road around them, and how they contribute to roads being safer while in heavy traffic. A lot of the aspects for discussion will be around new technology that's out there.

"There's also a good discussion always had about how we can present ourselves within the community in the light that we believe we always shine in, which is helping the community.

There's many motorcycle clubs and groups that create and foster good events for the community. ... We're all the same at the end of the day."

Dale also spoke about the scenarios that lead to the high motorcyclist road toll, and how the issues that create those scenarios need to be addressed.

"Currently we are at a rather high pinnacle when it comes to motorcycle deaths. Believe me when I say the community is in much pain when we hear of the death of a motorcyclist, because it affects the family, it affects everyone.

"What we've got to do is look at the reasons behind that, study greatly some of the causes and effects. It's all well and good to have a police member come out and say we're concerned about the rise but give us the statistics. Tell us what the actual statistics are, and why that's occurred.

"We know that Victoria has probably some of the worst roads in Australia. All we need to do is look at our neighbouring state of South Australia, which has a higher speed limit, and less potholes, and less motorcycle deaths. ... We know that two riders currently this year have died, and the reason being that they've hit serious potholes, now that should never happen. So what we can be doing better is probably putting a lot more into managing our road infrastructure maintenance.

"A lot of the things we don't hear about, and Victoria Police are quite aware of, is there is a fair amount of people travelling around on motorcycles that shouldn't be on motorcycles. They don't have licences, the bikes are unregistered.

"A lot of the deaths can be avoided if we can keep criminals from stealing vehicles and hitting motorcycles that are just riding along, doing their thing, going home from work, and maybe cleaned up by a youth offender. These are the things you don't hear about or see in the statistics. But they also contribute to the death rate of motorcyclists.

"These are the things that worry us, these are the things that we need to talk about in forums and talk with road safety partners like Victoria Police and the TAC," Dale said.

He concluded with some final thoughts on road safety.

"At the end of the day, we all want our family to come home. If you're out there in a car, be mindful of that motorcyclist that's doing it hard, that doesn't have the protection around them like a car does, because at the end of the day, they're someone's kid, or sibling, or parent, and we want them all safe," Dale said.

More information about the Motorcycle Riders Association Australia and the work that they do can be found at mraa.net.au/

Slow down near schools

SCHOOL'S back this week and it's a timely reminder to slow down near schools to 40km per hour. These reduced speed limits are designed to keep kids safe by lowering the speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school.

In most cases the speed limit during school speed zone times is 40km/h, this is when the original speed limit is less than 80km/h and the speed limit changes to 60km/h when the original speed limit is 80km/h or higher.

The speed limit and operating times will be clearly displayed on nearby signs.

School speed limits apply depending on the zone you're travelling in. The types of zones are permanent 40km/h zones and variable time based zones.

Time based school zones operate between 8 and 9.30am and 2.30 to 4pm, on weekdays during Victorian school terms, except for public holidays.



Wear a seatbelt. Not the consequences.

If you choose to drive unbuckled, you put your own life at risk and could land a \$395 fine and 3 demerit points. Buckle up or chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



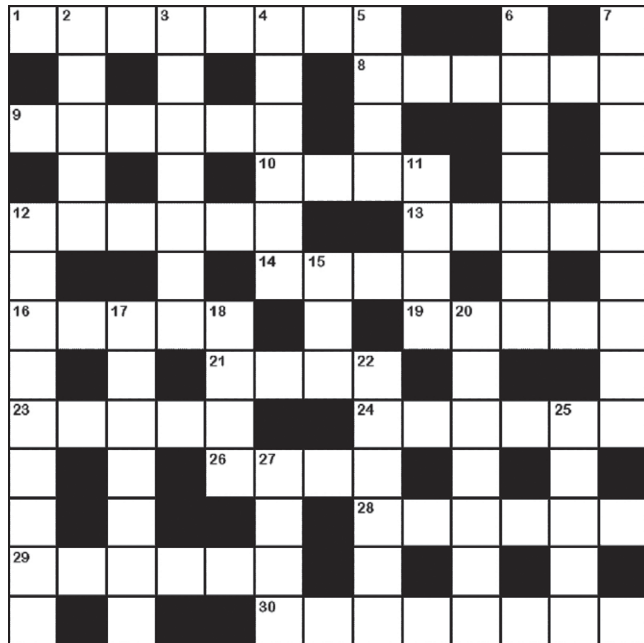
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11

Crossword

ACROSS

- One who hunts to kill.
- Like a bear.
- Gracefully slim.
- Dignified manner.
- Social instability.
- The opposing faction.
- Pulled out a gun.
- Enthusiastic approval.
- Prevailing fashion.
- A motor car.
- Organic compound used in plastics.
- Vessel used for wine.
- Notch made by a saw.
- Contaminated with bacteria.
- Slightly arched surface.
- Deposition takers.



DOWN

- Torn apart.
- State of indecision.
- Poured in torrents.
- Country bumpkin.
- Melt down.
- Chewy ovoid sweet.
- Current events.
- Deviance.
- Drench.
- Gracefully slender.
- Armoured combat vehicle.
- Hunter of fur.
- A compensating equivalent.
- Declare one's view.
- Work for.

Word Search

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

Native plants

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| BANKSIA | GREVILLEA |
| BOTTLEBRUSH | GUM |
| CYCAD | HAKEA |
| DIANELLA | PANDOREA |
| FIRANGIPANI | WARATAH |
| FLAMEPEA | WATTLE |

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words and their meanings

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
23				21				8

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				24				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		26					

$$\frac{\quad}{13} \frac{\quad}{20} \frac{A}{23} \frac{\quad}{22} \frac{A}{22} \frac{\quad}{23} :$$

$$\frac{E}{21} \frac{U}{26} \frac{A}{15} \frac{A}{23} \frac{\quad}{22} \frac{\quad}{20} \frac{10}{13} \frac{U}{26} \frac{19}{19}$$

Math Square

	x		+		7
-		+		+	
	-		+		6
-		-		+	
5	+	6	÷		8
-12		6		13	

Fill in the missing numbers.

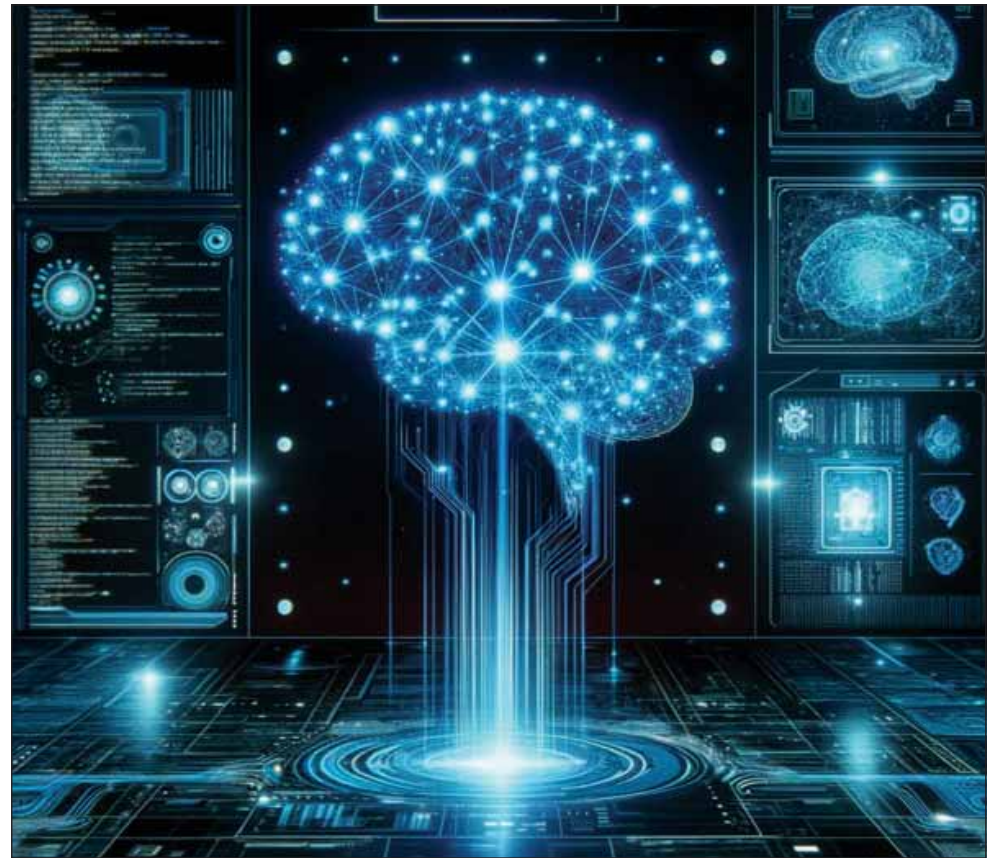
The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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



What impact will artificial intelligence have on our world? -Alenoach

The benefits and terrors of a possible future

MOST people thought that artificial intelligence (AI) would never happen, but recently, they have been proven wrong. Now that it's here, what can we expect the future to hold?

Google principal researcher and AI visionary, Ray Kurzweil, has been in the media lately, promoting the release of his new book, *The Singularity is Nearer*, a sequel to his previous publication, *The Singularity is Near*. The latter contained a series of predictions about the future, the vast majority of which have proven to be correct.

In his new book, he predicts that artificial general intelligence (AGI) and human level intelligence in computers will occur by 2029. Human level intelligence refers to the abilities of most skilled humans, but not all, and there may be a few years of transition while this last hurdle is overcome. It will however, eventually reach a point where it will be able to write an Oscar-winning screenplay or develop new philosophical insights. AGI means that AI can do everything that humans can do, but to a superior level.

The key factors to enable this are increased computing power, better algorithms and more data, and Kurzweil predicts that this will reduce AI 'hallucinations', a phenomenon where if the data is not available to answer a question, AI just makes it up.

Kurzweil defines singularity as the time at which human brains are merged with the cloud, combining natural and cybernetic intelligence, and he believes that this will occur by the year 2045.

Humans are limited in their intelligence by their brain size, however the 'cloud' is getting smarter all the time. Singularity occurs when we merge our brains with the cloud, combining human and cybernetic intelligence. Kurzweil believes that the interface will be nanobots, molecule-sized computers, which will enter our brains through the circulatory system. He said to *The Guardian*, "We are going to expand intelligence a millionfold by 2045 and it is going to deepen our awareness and consciousness."

Disturbingly, this could also make us hackable, making us vulnerable to spying on our brains or altering opinions in the lead up to an election, for example. Also, what would happen to originality of thought? How would we know if our thoughts are our own?

He also predicts that medical nanobots will be able to enter our bodies and make repairs, and that by the 2030s, "every year of life we lose through ageing we get back from scientific progress," he told *The Guardian*.

Ethical questions around the capability of bringing back humans who die, but in a digital form, are also likely to be raised.

He believes that while AI will take many jobs, other jobs will be created. He predicts that, although initially inadequate, universal basic income will commence around 2030.

Geoffrey Hinton departed Google last year due to concerns that artificial intelligence

could harm humanity if it fell into the hands of 'bad actors'. He is one of many expressing concerns.

He has also openly stated that he would be in favour of a superintelligent AI destroying humanity and replacing it with something objectively better in terms of consciousness. He said in a lecture, "I'm actually for it, but I think it would be wiser for me to say I am against it."

According to *Futurism*, when later asked about this, he said that there are lots of good and "not-so-good" aspects to humanity. "It's not clear we're the best form of intelligence there is. Obviously, from a person's perspective, everything relates to people," Hinton continued. "But it may be there comes a point when we see things like 'humanist' as racist terms."

Hinton told the BBC that "My guess is in between five and 20 years from now there's a probability of half that we'll have to confront the problem of AI trying to take over."

He also told the BBC that a basic universal income will become a necessity to deal with the income inequality which results from AI, and expressed concern that the wealth generated by AI will go to the rich. A new AI arms race between world superpowers is also likely.

We may also be entering a post-truth era, where images, video and audio can all be easily manipulated to show almost anything as though real. There is likely to be a proliferation of these in the lead-up to the US election, particularly as AI generated video platforms are becoming widely available.

Philosophy professor Daniel Dennett told *TuftsNow*, "The most pressing problem is not that they're going to take our jobs, not that they're going to change warfare, but that they're going to destroy human trust. They're going to move us into a world where you can't tell truth from falsehood. You don't know who to trust. Trust turns out to be one of the most important features of civilization, and we are now at great risk of destroying the links of trust that have made civilization possible."

Another person expressing concern is Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI. He warns that AI systems may start to think for themselves and may even seek to take over or eliminate human civilisation.

Elon Musk said in May that artificial intelligence will take all of our jobs and that it's not necessarily a bad thing. "Probably, none of us will have a job," CNN reported Musk as saying. He said he expected that in the future, "If you want to do a job that's kinda like a hobby, you can do a job. But otherwise, AI and the robots will provide any goods and services that you want."

He did however question whether people would feel emotionally fulfilled in such an environment.

On the upside however, AI can also do your homework for you.



Ben Thomas

BEN Thomas joined the team at Marysville as a Project Firefighter when he was 18. Five years on, he's working as a Forest and Fire Operations Officer Technical Lead.

"I was uncertain about what I wanted to do after finishing year 12, so I thought I'd just give it a try," Ben said.

"Marysville is a fantastic place to work; we're like a family here. I love the forest we look after around Marysville, it's some of the most beautiful and diverse in the state."

Ben said he enjoys the diversity of the role and opportunities to continually upskill.

"One day you could be track clearing with a chainsaw and the next fighting a forest fire."

Ben encourages anyone who loves the outdoors and physical work to give it a go.

"If you enjoy working in a team, you'll love being a Project Firefighter."



Ben Thomas from Marysville. -S

Andrew Brown

AFTER years of working in the health industry, Andrew Brown decided to change careers and became a Project Firefighter with Forest Fire Management Victoria.

Based in Alexandra, he enjoys the variety of the role and working in the forest environment.

"I appreciated all the training and mentoring from experienced firefighters and learning new skills such as chainsaw use and four wheel driving."

"I love learning about the history of the forests as well as local flora and fauna."

If you are interested in a career change, applications are currently open for Project Firefighters across 18 locations in the region, including Alexandra and Marysville in Murrindindi District.



Andrew Brown from Alexandra. -S

Firefighter recruitment

DIVERSE and exciting career opportunities with Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) are currently available for those with a passion for the outdoors, learning new skills and keeping Victorian communities safer.

FFMVic's annual recruitment drive for seasonal firefighters ahead of this year's bushfire season runs from July 4 to July 28.

Applications are now open for project firefighter roles across 18 locations in the Hume region including Alexandra, Marysville, Toolangi, Broadford, Kinglake, Benalla, Mansfield, Wangaratta, Nathalia, Shepparton, Beechworth, Bright, Ovens, Mount Beauty, Corryong, Eskdale and Tallangatta.

Hume Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy, said successful applicants would boost Victoria's firefighting and land management capacity in the lead up to summer and the peak fire season.

"Being a project firefighter can bring a sense of purpose and personal achievement knowing your efforts contribute to protecting Victorian communities and the environment," Mr Kennedy said.

"Recruits will have opportunities to train and work alongside FFMVic's permanent firefighting staff, responding to emergencies such as bushfires and floods.

"They will also work in land management and help reduce bushfire risk through planned burning, weed control, maintaining the public land road network and strategic fuel breaks.

"Planned burning and emergency response deployments can occur anywhere across the state, providing opportunities to travel and work in different locations.

"In previous seasons, some recruits have also been deployed to support firefighting efforts across Australia and internationally. The new firefighters will be part of a team of close to 1800 frontline personnel and 1200 accredited incident management staff this bushfire season," Mr Kennedy said.

FFMVic is committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the

Victorian community. As part of its ongoing commitment to support meaningful careers for current and future First Nations staff, designated positions are available.

Applications close July 28 and employment occurs between October and May, with some variation depending on seasonal requirements.

For information and to apply, visit jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff or call 136 186.

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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November 1 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale 9.30am

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Undergraduate study while working at school

THE Victorian Government is launching a new pilot program to allow more than 300 dedicated education support staff and Koorie education support officers to gain teaching qualifications while working in schools.

The program will enable rural and regional education support staff, who are employed in various roles such as teaching assistants, integration aides, and cultural liaison officers, to pursue a full teaching qualification and help combat the Australia-wide issue of teacher shortages.

Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, launched the \$13.9 million initiative last Thursday to trial undergraduate-level employment-based teaching degrees to upskill staff working in Victorian government secondary and specialist schools.

"The Allan Labor Government is proud to invest \$13.9 million, so our outstanding education support staff have the support they need to pursue rewarding teaching careers," Mr Carroll said.

"The undergraduate level employment-based teaching degree initiative opens up teaching to a broader pool of diverse candidates by supporting staff to gain teaching qualifications while working in our schools.

"The initiative is yet another example of the Victorian Government removing financial and geographical barriers so that our schools can recruit the next generation of dedicated teachers."

The innovative and tailored program, set to start in 2025, will be delivered by Federation University Australia and La Trobe University and will support people in studying and qualifying as teachers while undertaking paid employment.

Participants will be supported with Department of Education-funded living expenses scholarships, relocation incentives, and mentoring support. In the final years of the program, they will be eligible to start teaching as paraprofessionals.

Both universities' programs will focus on supporting participation by education support staff in rural and regional Victoria. At the same time, La Trobe University's program will encourage participation from Koorie education support officers.

The new undergraduate-level employment-based teaching degrees will further expand Victoria's nation-leading suite of employment-based teaching degrees known as the *Teach Today* and *Teach Tomorrow* programs, currently available to postgraduate students.

Marysville's trees

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked for an update on Marysville's street trees. They responded that they "routinely inspect trees in parks and open spaces in Marysville and across the shire and carries out a regular inspection program for trees identified as high-risk. Based on the recommendations of an independent arborist engaged by council, a total of 10 trees are proposed for removal on Murchison Street in Marysville. This includes five mature trees and five juvenile trees planted after the 2009 bushfires.

"Two mature trees are dead, two have suffered significant root death, which increases their risk of uprooting, and one is in decline with no suitable remedial measures. The effects of the 2009 bushfires are considered one of the main causes for the death and decline of these trees.

"Four juvenile trees show signs of poor health, making long-term retention unviable and one juvenile tree has girdled roots, which could be due to poor planting techniques or stock quality.

"Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism Inc (MTBT), in partnership with council, is hosting a walk-through of Murchison Street with council's arborist on Saturday, July 20 at 10.30am, starting outside the Marysville Information and Regional Artspace (MiRA). Residents interested in learning more about this project are encouraged to join.

"As part of the Falls Road drainage and footpath upgrades, unrelated to the Murchison Street tree removals, council received additional funding for tree planting. A total of 75 trees, including maples, crepe myrtles and cercis chinensis 'Avondale' have been planted to enhance the ongoing landscape of Falls Road in Marysville."

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DEATH NOTICES

COLLER,
Maxwell Stanley.

29/01/1929 –
08/07/2024
Aged 95.

Cherished husband of Joan for 65 years. Dearly loved dad to Anne and David, Lyn, Geoff and Margaret. Pa to Luke and Azalea, Marcus, Sarah and Lucy. Great pa to Elise and Mia.

At rest near the hills of home.

WALKER,
Janette Bosier
(nee Brewer)

12/01/1943 -
09/07/2024

Passed peacefully aged 81 years. Loving wife of Neville (dec). Mother of Andrew, Craig (dec) and Glenn, and partners Natell, Melissa and Vickie.

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FUNERAL NOTICES

COLLER,
Maxwell Stanley.

A funeral service celebrating the life of Maxwell will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at Alexandra Football/Netball Club Rooms commencing at 1pm.



WALKER,
Janette Bosier
(nee Brewer)

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Janette will be held at St Luke's Anglican Church, 1 Pelissier Street, Yea on Friday, July 19, 2024 commencing at 1pm.

Following the service the cortege will proceed to the Yea Lawn Cemetery.



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MEETINGS



The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, July 21, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

GOBUR RACECOURSE AND RECREATION RESERVE.

Notice is given of the AGM on Thursday, July 18, 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at the Gobur Recreation Reserve Hall. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from all persons of the community are welcome. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local DEECA office or at the meeting. For further information contact the president Warren Shaw on 0408 365 819.

A brief history of the purchase of 'The Mount'

ACCORDING to the history section of the Menzies Support Services website, "in 1979 a property known as 'The Mount' was purchased by the local community with funds raised locally and matched by the federal government."

A variety of newspaper articles from the time give a more detailed story of how 'The Mount', and subsequently the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, came to fruition.

It began in September 1978, when members of the Alexandra Lions Club decided that the town required a "centre for the intellectually handicapped." However, the issue was not reported on until the following year.

An article from the *Alexandra Standard* in February 1979 reads: "A great deal of preparatory planning has gone into a submission to the Federal Government, requesting financial assistance in purchasing a suitable property for use as a Day Training Centre and holiday farm.

"This submission states that 'for some time it has been obvious to the people of Alexandra and surrounding districts that there is a need for a facility based locally to service the needs for the intellectually handicapped and their families within the district.'"

Later in the article, the topic of Dame Pattie Menzies getting involved is broached.

"Replying to a personal approach by Lions, Dame Pattie Menzies (a native of Alexandra) stated that she was happy to be of some use in establishing such a Centre in the town. 'If my name will help get a Centre started, I would be pleased for you to use my name,' she wrote."

A committee of management for both the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre and 'The Mount' was formed in 1978. They broached the Health Commission of Victoria, who sent representatives to inspect possible sites for the centre.

"Approaches were made to the Health Commission of Victoria, Hospital Division, to obtain information of the procedure to be followed, and representatives of the Division visited Alexandra to inspect possible sites for the proposed Centre. Of three sites, one was selected; the property known as the 'Mount', a well-known landmark of Alexandra.

"Application was made to the Hospital and Charities Commission to be registered as an incorporation, a constitution drawn up by the Committee of Management with the assistance of Mr Colling, and Trustees were selected for the Centre," a different article from the *Alexandra Standard* in May of 1979 reads.

With interest high for a new centre, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed for the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, to raise money.

"After an article appearing in 'The Standard' appealing for interested parties to attend a meeting at Redgate Motel on May 8 to form a Ladies Auxiliary for the

proposed Dame Pattie Menzies Centre at Alexandra, it was very pleasing to see 31 ladies in attendance."

The Ladies Auxiliary clearly met with great success, because a captioned photograph in the January 23, 1980, *Alexandra Standard*, showed the ladies presenting a \$10,000 cheque to the centre.

The caption reads: "Pictured is Roger Mann (President of Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Committee) receiving a cheque for \$10,023.10 from the D.P.M.C. Auxiliary President, Mrs Anne Sharrock, Treasurer Mrs Helen Cunningham, Secretary Mrs Gail Collis and Concern Quest Entrant Miss Ann Triffit at the Auxiliary Christmas Break-up dinner held at the Wayfare Restaurant, Alexandra."

There were multiple other large donations made to the cause.

"The magnificent sum of \$20,625 was pledged at the dinner to launch the public appeal for the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre for the Intellectually Handicapped Persons.

"This sum, together with the Alexandra Lions Club commitment of \$18,000, the Centre Committee's \$4000 and with over \$3000 given in cash at the dinner, makes total of almost \$46,000, a very promising start for the Centre.

"The Committee was also very appreciative to receive a donation of \$5000 from a Sydney financier, Mr Kerry Packer."

Finally, the time arrived for the purchase of 'The Mount'. An article from the *Alexandra Standard* of December 12, 1979, tells the story in full, alongside an image.

"A small ceremony which marked a milestone in the affairs of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre for Intellectually Handicapped Persons took place last week.

"The occasion was the handing over of the keys to 'The Mount' by its owner, Mr George Cooms to Mr Roger Mann, the D.M.P.C. President. Others in the photo are committeeman, Mr Tom Crampton, and Mrs Gail Collis, Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

"The Centre Committee was officially taking over the property of 'The Mount', set at the eastern approach to Alexandra. It will commence operation as a day centre early in 1980.

"The purchase of the property is the first stage in an ambitious plan to provide a centre where it will cater not only for local needs, but which will provide temporary accommodation in the country for people from the metropolitan and other areas," the article reads.

This all marked the purchase of 'The Mount', which still houses the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre to this day, and is the base of operations for Menzies Support Services, providing NDIS support throughout Murrindindi Shire.

Council receives funding for roadside weeds and pests

THE Victorian Government is supporting rural and regional councils to reduce roadside weeds to prepare for the upcoming fire season with 45 councils across Victoria, including Murrindindi Shire to receive up to \$85,000 each for the Roadside Weeds and Pest program.

Rural roadsides can provide a breeding ground for harmful weeds and pests and the funding will allow councils to implement control measures that prevent their spread.

The funding will assist councils with a range of activities along their rural roadsides, including treating and preventing blackberry, boxthorn and serrated tussock weeds, as well as managing rabbit populations.

Local Government Victoria and Agriculture Victoria work closely with local councils to ensure plans to tackle weeds and pests are tailored to their local area.

Weeds and pests cost the Victorian economy over \$900 million each year. Invasive plant and animal species threaten native biodiversity, can have a serious negative impact on agricultural production, and contribute to the spread of fires.

Since 2017, the state government has invested more than \$22 million to help councils manage municipal rural roadsides, protecting Victoria's native biodiversity and reducing fire risk.

Feeling flat this winter?

WE are in the thick of winter now, not an end in sight, just yet. Your mood may start to plummet with the lack of sunshine and living in a constant fog. This can be a real thing for some, its called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is a mood disorder that has a seasonal pattern, the most common season this depression can occur is winter. The symptoms can include a lack of energy, sleeping too much, over eating and craving carbohydrates, gaining weight, and loosing interest in activities that you usually enjoy.

SAD can also occur in the spring and summer months, this is known as summer pattern SAD or summer depression. Summer depression is less common than the general winter SAD.

According to Beyond Blue SAD is thought to be related to the variation in light exposure in different seasons, its usually diagnosed after you've had the same symptoms during winter for at least two years. It is believed that it may be caused by changes to the body's circadian rhythm.

SAD is well documented in medical literature, particularly in the northern latitudes, it is still noted SAD is very rare in Australia and its more likely to affect people in countries with shorter days and longer periods of darkness.

In the Southern Hemisphere it seems there is a lack of documentation and research on SAD, and since there is such a vast range of climates across Australia it's difficult to get a general consensus of SAD. Despite this, it still is documented in Australia, but due to lack of research it's not common and widely promoted in Australian health.

The National Institute of Mental Health describe some general treatment options for SAD, most common are light therapy, psychotherapy, antidepressants, and Vitamin D.

Since the 1980s, light therapy has been one of the most used treatment options for SAD. It exposes people with SAD to bright light to supplement the light they have missed with the diminished light in the winter months. This treatment includes the patient sitting in front of a very bright lightbox every day for up to 45 minutes and usually first thing in the morning for the whole season.

Psychotherapy can be used such as cognitive behavioural therapy to challenge ones thinking and behaviour patterns to give them coping strategies to deal with depressive thoughts and anxiety.

Antidepressants can be effective for SAD when used alone or in combination with talk therapy. Antidepressants work by changing how the brain produces or uses certain chemicals involved in mood or stress.

Vitamin D is another way you can help combat SAD, if you're not getting outside and getting Vitamin D due to the weather then a supplement can be effective, get advice from your health care provider before you start any new supplements as it can interact with other medications.

Other self care methods that can be useful to get through the winter months is maintaining a healthy lifestyle with a good diet and regular exercise, as this can help with releasing those feel good endorphins to improve your mental health.

Taking time out to focus on activities you enjoy is another way to ensure your look after yourself. Talking to a trusted friend or family member can help you get your feelings out there, a problem shared is a problem halved.

Always speak to your gp or health care provider for advice if you are concerned for your health and wellbeing. You can also contact Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 131 114.

Dingo population to be assessed

WE all know the dingo species as being part of our great Australian history, alongside the much loved koala, and the kangaroo.

The National Museum of Australia states that while the dingo is an introduced species, it has been in Australia long enough to become a functional part of the natural ecological system as a top order predator.

The dingo is widely considered to have replaced the thylacine in that role and was held to be solely responsible for the disappearance of the thylacine on mainland Australia.

Dingoes are considered very significant for many first nations people, they are known in history as hunting dogs, companions and pets, guarding the camp at night and keeping away malevolent spirits.

Today, the dingo is slipping into the category of a wild dog but under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and the Wildlife Act 1975 the dingo is identified as a threatened species, so where do they fit in when it comes to wild dog management?

Wild dogs are known to attack livestock, prey on native fauna, spread disease to humans and livestock. They are also known to threaten the genetic purity of dingo populations.

The Wild Dog Action Plan was introduced to handle the increasing number of wild dogs throughout the Australian mainland and the negative impacts that come along with their existence to primary production, social assets and environmental impacts.

In Victoria, Agriculture Victoria is responsible for administering the Victorian Fox and Wild Dog Bounty. According to an Agriculture Victoria spokesperson, "So far in 2024, a total of 207 wild dog body parts have been submitted from the east of the state.

"Every bounty participant is verbally asked whether they have complied with the terms and conditions and they must also sign a declaration".

To allow the control of dingoes where they threaten livestock, an order of council was made under the *Wildlife Act*, declaring the dingo as unprotect within a three kilometre buffer zone on public land in Eastern Victoria, and on most private land across the state.



Victoria's dingo population is to be assessed. -Kim Navarre

Under the terms and conditions of the bounty program, participants can submit wild dog body parts providing they were collected from the wild dog control area in east Victoria and in accordance with the dingo unprotection order. Agriculture Victoria does not conduct routine DNA testing of all wild dog body parts submitted.

The wild dog component of the bounty program only operates in the Wild Dog Control Area in the state's east and the wild dog component of the bounty program has ceased in north west Victoria in line with the changes made to the dingo unprotection order on March 14 this year due to the risk of localised extinction. There have been no changes to the fox component of the bounty in north west Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria reported that recent science indicated that what was previously thought of as a wild dog or dingo dog hybrid and now highly likely to be dingoes.

It is difficult to distinguish between a wild dog and a dingo without DNA testing, so how do we know the dogs presented within the Wild Dog and Fox Bounty aren't in fact a dingo when DNA testing is not conducted?

The recent scientific evidence on the dingo represents a significant change in the knowledge that

underpins current policy and the regulatory framework for managing wild dogs and dingoes in Victoria. This information has validated a much needed review and for government to agree a future policy for dingo conservation and management in Victoria.

The review will be finalised by October 2024 and will consider the new research alongside the rights and cultural obligations of Traditional Owners, and the need to balance the conservation of the dingo with the need to minimise the impacts from predation on graziers, including alternatives to lethal control.

The review will include consultation with Traditional Owners, graziers and peak bodies representing the affected farming community and conservation interests on the review of the dingo conservation and predation management.

The review will also include a comprehensive assessment of the dingo conservation status, including an assessment of dingo population and distribution across Victoria.

The continuation of the wild dog component of the bounty beyond October 1 will be determined in line with the outcomes of the Victorian Dingo Conservation Review.

New grants for volunteers and community sport

THE Victorian Government is creating more opportunities for sport volunteers and staff across regional Victoria, with new programs ensuring more workers get the skills and opportunities they need to thrive in the sector.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced last week that applications are open for the state government's *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* and the *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program*, due to an investment of \$7.2 million in regional Victorian sport.

The new *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* will support organisations to develop game changing workforce projects with grants of up to \$450,000 available, supporting initiatives and partnerships that help attract and retain sport volunteers and staff, reduce volunteer workload, and ultimately increase participation opportunities for Victorians on and off the field.

Eligible organisations include state sporting associations, state sport and active recreation bodies and regional sports

assemblies with experience in supporting volunteers and staff in the sector.

It complements the launch of the government's *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program* that's supporting state sporting organisations with grants of up to \$300,000 to increase collaboration and partnerships, remove barriers and create opportunities for participation in sport, particularly for under represented groups.

Both programs are part of the government's new \$60 million *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* that is delivering infrastructure and programs to support more regional Victorian families and children to get involved in sport.

Supporting the development of a highly skilled sport workforce is a key objective of *Active Victoria 2022-2026 - A strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria*, which will ensure a strong and sustainable sports industry for Victoria.

For more information and to submit an application for the *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* and the *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program*, visit sport.vic.gov.au

Upgrades for regional sporting facilities

THE Victorian Government is building more swimming pools, sporting grounds and courts and pavilions across regional Victoria with grants from the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, visited Seymour Tennis Complex to announce that 26 new infrastructure projects across Victoria will share in more than \$20 million to make their local facilities even better.

None of the 26 projects were situated within Murrindindi Shire, but there will be a second round of funding open for applications later in the year.

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund encourages councils, clubs and communities to work together to design the facilities their town wants, with a focus on getting more people involved regardless of their age, gender or ability.

"The new Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund is about making sure all Victorians, regardless of their age, gender or ability, have access to high quality sport and recreation facilities no matter where they live," Ms Spence said.

The Ballarat Aquatic Leisure Centre will get almost \$750,000 to add three

accessible and sensory friendly change rooms and, install automatic gates and sliding doors at the venue to provide easy access for the whole community.

There will also be \$1 million towards the new Port Fairy Skate and Play Precinct which will have a skate park, playground, picnic shelters and games activity zone for the whole Port Fairy community to enjoy.

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund builds on more than \$23 million announced in the 2024-25 Victorian Budget to provide world class community sports infrastructure and initiatives that boost participation and inclusion in local sport.

From playground redevelopments to new sporting hubs, investments like these provide high-quality and accessible places for Victorians to reap the benefits of sport and active recreation.

These projects are all about creating jobs, stimulating local economies, and improving the health, wellbeing, and social outcomes for Victorian communities.

For more information about the fund and successful projects visit sport.vic.gov.au.

SPORT

Plenty going on for Alexandra Golfers

by Elizabeth Goss

THREATENING rain deterred some of the Tuesday golfers but those who took the risk ended up with not a bad afternoon. Todd Galloway was the winner with (17) 32 points. Dave Silverman came next with (10) 29 points followed by Russell Purcell (16) 28 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Brad Newton and on the 17th to Russell Purcell. Ball Rundown: Brad Newton.

Wednesday was a Pinehurst Stroke round with paired players. Barb Doyle and Sandra Morris were the winners with 108 (25.5) 82.5. The runners up were Ruth Worland and Bronwyn Howell 101 (17.25) 83.75. Nearest the pin on the fifth and 18th went to Ruth and Bronwyn. Next Wednesday, August 24 is a Four Ball Best Ball Stableford.

It was good to welcome players from Flinders and Mornington Golf Clubs last Saturday. Callum Tranter from Flinders won the day with (11) 41 points. As an ex member he knew the challenges of the course. The runner up was Luke Heard (2) 39 points followed by Jared Sloane (9) 38 points and then Jarrod Williamson (15) 36 points on a count back from Ally Hutt (11) 36 points.

Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Luke Heard, on the fifth to Simon Rouget, on the seventh to Ally Hutt, on the 12th to David Silverman and on the 18th to Brendan Smith. The raffle was won by Matt Richards.

Saturday, July 20 is Stableford.



Levi Campbell, Declan Baker, Chase Hilder, Kia Parker, and Tahj Parker at the front. -S



Bronze medals Declan, Levi and Koa. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletes Shine at Regional Cross Country Championships

by Elissa Page

AS the mist cleared and the sun appeared, five young athletes from Murrindindi Little Athletics Club warmed up and stretched before hitting the Regional Cross Country Championships at Kyabram last weekend.

The first race of the day saw under 13 boys Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder head out on the three kilometre course.

Both boys performed well, with Levi taking the bronze medal and Chase securing fifth place. Tahj Parker had the opportunity to participate in the new invitational juniors race. Although it was not an official event, Tahj embraced the challenge and managed to secure a respectable third place. His sister, Koa Parker, ran well in the under 12 girls race, also bringing home a bronze medal. In the last race of the day,

under 11 Declan Baker covered the two kilometre course in great time to complete the trifecta of bronze medals for the club.

Levi, Chase, Koa, and Declan are now eligible to compete at the State Cross Country Championships in Bundoora on August 10. A big thank you goes to the team manager on the day, Kim Wright, for her support and guidance.

Varied competition for Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

THERE was something different for last Saturday's round at Eildon Golf Club with a four ball best ball competition and two-person par competition taking place.

Eighteen players enjoyed a round in cool but dry conditions. The club congratulates Kerry Power and Grant Walters, who returned with a plus seven, one ahead of father and son pairing Mark and Allan Mackwell on plus six. A further shot behind on plus five was Leigh Munro and Rod Taylor.

Nearest the pins went to Rod Taylor on the fifth, Kerry Power on the 11th, Phil Gourlay on the 12th and Peter McNair on the 14th.

Kerry Power was successful on the par four, eighth for birdie as was Mark on the par five, 15th. The club's entry draw went to Brody Rico, the swindle to Ken Collier and the joker to Phil Dally.

A lot of work has been going on in the background with the rejuvenation of the rotunda and the first tee as well as the trimming of trees around the course. The club gives a huge thanks to everyone that has been working tirelessly to make the club what it is today.

Eildon Golf Club also gives a very big thanks to Kaz, for the beautiful pumpkin soup and warm bread for afternoon tea post-game.

Small golf numbers, but great games

by Lesley Rundle

WITH Marysville Golf members away holidaying and searching for warmer climates, some nursing injuries and others deciding to stay by the fire the playing numbers are traditionally down during the winter months, but those who did play on Saturday enjoyed a stableford game on the well prepared course.

The winner of the men's competition was Peter Lilley (14) with 37 points followed by Mark Bambery (24) with 34 points. The ladies winner was Jody Doran (12) with 36 points and Gail Leigh (10) was the runner up with 32 points. The nearest the pins were won by Mark Bambery on the ninth, Jody Doran on the 11th and Colin Davies on the 18th. Mark also won the golden shot.

Next Saturday golfers will play a stableford round.

Most of the Dalhousie events are in recess but the Dalhousie Ladies and Men's Championships are being held at Broadford Golf Club on Sunday, August 11. Any member who wishes to play in the Championships are asked to book through Trybooking.



Monday nights winning team, the Eels: James Gilmore, Daniel Kriss and Justin Reece. -S



Thursday nights winning team, Cherry Ripe: Beth Mugford, James Waterhouse and Kristelle Leary. -S

Alexandra Squash Club term two pennant results

by Kristelle Leary

THE Alexandra Squash Club pennant ended and the results for term two are in. For Monday night matches, the Eels team took victory with a big lead, while Thursday night matches were won by the Cherry Ripe team.

In Monday competition for term two, the Eels won with 1245 points for

and 1099 against, the Redfins finished second with 807 points for and 796 against. The Yabbies came in third with 1000 points for and 1019 against, the Murray Cods in fourth with 913 for and 988 against, and the Trout at the bottom of the ladder with 798 for and 868 against.

The Thursday competition results for term two showed a closer

competition. The Cherry Ripe team secured victory with 957 points for and 904 against, while the Crunchie team was close behind with 928 points for and 878 against. Not far behind in third were the KitKats, with 808 for and 836 against. The Jaffas took fourth place with 509 for and 538 against, while the Smarties were fifth with 638 points for and 684 against.

Golden Ticket Day for Thornton Eildon

by Scott Whitehead

Thornton/Eildon 0.0 - 0 defeated by Woori Yallock 11.7 - 73

IN women's football last weekend Thornton/Eildon hosted top placed Woori Yallock in what was also Golden Ticket Day, where players were encouraged to give their ticket to someone who has inspired them along their football journey. Recipients of the ticket received free entry into the ground and were also able to enjoy a filling feed from Foodie Kat.

The game was also Captain Rose Kealy's 50th game. Rose has been part of the Thornton/Eildon Football club since the club entered a women's football team and is the third player to reach this milestone.

In similar fashion to most games, Thornton/Eildon won the first centre clearance but hitting the scoreboard proved difficult. Woori Yallock's clean possessions and ball control was the difference between the two teams, but Thornton/Eildon's backline held strong

to restrict Woori Yallock to one goal four for the quarter.

The second quarter had back-to-back Women's Outer East 'Community Bank' player of the week Tahnee Heard winning numerous possessions around the ground but her and her teammates' hard work went unrewarded with Woori Yallock again dominating the quarter and heading into half time with a seven-goal lead.

The third quarter had similar patterns to the first half with Thornton/Eildon finding it difficult to get the ball into their forward 50. Emily Kerr and Ash Butters continued to fight hard in the backline as did vice-captain Izzy Weston, but it was in vain as Woori Yallock showed why they are the dominant force for this season in women's football.

Even though the scoreline was not in their favour, at three quarter time the home team spoke of the people who inspired them on their football journey and encouraged each other to fight out the game. In the fourth quarter Lilah Galbraith's confidence continued to grow taking down last years best and fairest in a strong tackle while first year player Leah Battalis continued

to enjoy the football contests. In the end Woori Yallock ran out strong winners while Thornton/Eildon were left to lick their wounds.

After the game Jess Slapp thanked all in attendance for their continued support and highlighted the importance of the football club to the community. The large crowd also stayed on after the formalities and enjoyed the afternoon with many raffles and competitions taking place.

Next week Thornton/Eildon will host Monbulk in the final home game for the season with the first bounce at noon.

Awards this week: Simpsons Fuel voucher: Leah Battalis; Coaches Award: Ash Butters; Mitchell and Co Hair Artistry \$50 voucher: Emily Kerr; Club Meal voucher: Lilah Galbraith.

Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is also available on Thursday night at 7.30pm for \$15. If you wish to be a part of the team as a player, supporter or sponsor please follow the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball club Facebook page or by email at tedfnc@outlook.com

Bye for Alexandra Seniors

by Ray Steyger

LAST Saturday, round 13 of the Outer East League 2024 division one season, saw the Rebels have a bye for all football and netball teams.

The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot is now worth \$1200 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 will also be available at the junior and senior sittings.

In round 14 this coming Saturday, the Rebels return to Rebel Park and host Healesville for games of football and netball, the club celebrating their 140th Birthday since the first organised game in 1884. There is a lot going on this upcoming Saturday and everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the club hospitality as well as Life Members and Sponsors Day. Golf ball drop from a helicopter at half time of the senior football game, you can purchase a golf ball for \$50 and if your ball is judged by our independent panel to be nearest the pin, you will win \$5000, a second and third prize are also to be won; Wheelbarrow of prizes to be raffled during the day; Wazza Smith providing the evening musical entertainment and fellowship, reflections and catch ups with plenty of stories.

On Saturday, August 3, Alexandra will host Yarra Glen, and Scott Ferrier is organising an MND Big Freeze fundraiser with the annual dip into the ice water, come along and see who the lucky participants are this year.

On Saturday, August 10, Alexandra will host Yarra Junction, and Kylie Cairns and crew are organising the annual Ladies Day event which promises to be a great day, plenty of prizes and giveaways so book your ticket and don't miss out.



Thornton Eildon's fighting for centres was top notch. -BD



Thornton Eildon fought hard against top placed Woori Yallock. -BD



Many gathered in the club rooms for Golden Ticket Day. -BD



The Thornton Eildon club room was done up for Golden Ticket Day. -BD

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors

Healesville	277.89	9
Seville	242.11	9
Warburton Millgrove	152.49	9
Alexandra	191.37	7
Yea	108.84	6
Belgrave	150.87	6
Yarra Glen	43.80	2
Yarra Junction	38.72	2
Powelltown	21.84	1

Football - Reserves

Belgrave	425.60	11
Seville	345.51	10
Healesville	308.60	8
Warburton Millgrove	220.62	8
Yea	101.26	5
Alexandra	50.95	4
Powelltown	33.76	3
Yarra Glen	17.67	1
Yarra Junction	36.53	1

Football - Senior Women

Warburton-Wesburn	46 pts	11
Monbulk	44 pts	11
Woori Yallock	40 pts	9
Emerald	30 pts	7
Wandin	22 pts	5
Officer	22 pts	5
Seville	4 pts	1
Thornton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16

Euroa	72.72	8
Moama	63.63	7
Seymour	50.00	5
Alexandra	27.27	3
Yea	10.00	1
Broadford	9.09	1

Football - Under 14

Broadford	377.01	8
Wandong	222.27	5
Tabilk	167.88	5
Alexandra	133.12	4
Seymour	88.12	2
Yea	4.75	0

Netball - A Grade

Warburton Millgrove	181.85	10
Seville	166.67	10
Yarra Glen	160.78	8
Healesville	80.44	4
Alexandra	69.42	4
Belgrave	93.27	4
Yarra Junction	73.22	3
Yea	45.24	1

Netball - B Grade

Seville	52 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Yarra Glen	40 pts	8
Belgrave	36 pts	8
Yea	28 pts	5
Healesville	20 pts	3
Yarra Junction	16 pts	3
Powelltown	16 pts	3
Alexandra	12 pts	1

Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	52 pts	11
Seville	48 pts	11
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Belgrave	32 pts	7
Yea	28 pts	5
Yarra Junction	20 pts	4
Alexandra	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1
Powelltown	10 pts	1

Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	10
Alexandra	70.00	7
Yarra Glen	70.00	7
Belgrave	60.00	6
Warburton Millgrove	60.00	6
Yea	20.00	2
Yarra Junction	9.09	1
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12

Wandong	40 pts	10
Alexandra	32 pts	8
Broadford	20 pts	5
Seymour	16 pts	4
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	8 pts	2
St Marys	0 pts	0

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Under 13 Netball player Ella Palmer. -S



Toby Lucas under 16 player getting ready to kick. -S



Under 16 player Heath Sutcliffe -S



Zander Williamson going for the tackle. -S



Koby Williams has quite the following. -S



Joey Creed taking the lead. -S



Nathaniel Carter springing into action. -S

Alexandra junior football and netballers play host

by Ray Steyger

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams returned to Rebel Park for round 11 of the 2024 season after the school holidays bye, hosting Seymour for football and Alexandra Black netball games, with Alexandra Red netball hosting Broadford and under 16 football hosting Euroa. The under nines and 10s football had games with Seymour but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

Football

Under 12

Alexandra 7.9 – 51 defeated Seymour 4.2 – 26

Penstock Pastoral: Riley Germon; Essence Coffee Lounge: Eli Van Lierop; FoodWorks: Beau Nash; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Declan Baker; Coach: Nathan Webb.

Under 14

Alexandra 8.9 – 57 defeated Seymour 3.4 – 22

North Central Construction: Jaidyn Dimech; Essence Coffee Lounge: Xahlia Stevenson; FoodWorks: Tyler Ward; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Hamish Wilson; Coach: Riley Galloway.

Under 16

Alexandra 3.5 – 23 defeated by Euroa 12.14 – 86

Nutrien Harcourts: Will Granter; Essence Coffee Lounge: Cam Clark; FoodWorks: Bailey Bastion; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Lachlan Williams; Coach: Hunter Vine.

Netball

Under 11

Alexandra Red 24 defeated Broadford 5
FoodWorks: Annie Barker; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ruby Bermingham; Coach: Delilah Van Lierop.

Under 13

Alexandra Red 37 defeated Broadford 18
FoodWorks: Tilly Miljkovic; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Bella Twitchett; Miljkovic Family: Eadie Gibson.

Under 15

Alexandra Red 14 defeated by Broadford 47

FoodWorks: Abby Miljkovic; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ava Krijt; Miljkovic Family: Zoe Mullins.

Under 11

Alexandra Black 3 defeated by Seymour 31
FoodWorks: Lillian Savage; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Summer Edwards; Edwards Family: Matilda Woehl.

Under 13

Alexandra Black 23 defeated Seymour 5
FoodWorks: Harper Williamson; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Charli Edwards; Coach: Koa Parker.

Under 15

Alexandra Black 21 defeated by Seymour 35

FoodWorks: Taya Barkley; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ashlyn Newman; Coach: Phoebe Kidd.

The club gives a very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of the junior footballers and netballers in 2024.

Next Sunday, the Alexandra under nine, under 10 and under 12 junior football teams host St Marys at Rebel Park, under 14 football travel to Broadford. The three Alexandra Black netball teams also host St Marys while the under 11 and under 13 Alexandra Red netball teams have a bye and the under 15 Alexandra Red netball team travels to Kings Park to play Seymour.

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