

# Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, February 26, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Katelyn Whittaker joins St Mary's



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Thornton Gem Fair sparkles



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CFA stop Buxton grass fire



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Weekend sport



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# Rescue on the Cathedral Range

EMERGENCY services received a call shortly after 1pm on Saturday, February 22, for a hiker injured on the Razorback Track in Cathedral Range State Park Nanadhong.

The Marysville SES crew responded quickly, with two members hiking in to assist, while an Ambulance Victoria helicopter worked to winch a MICA Flight Paramedic to the difficult scene.

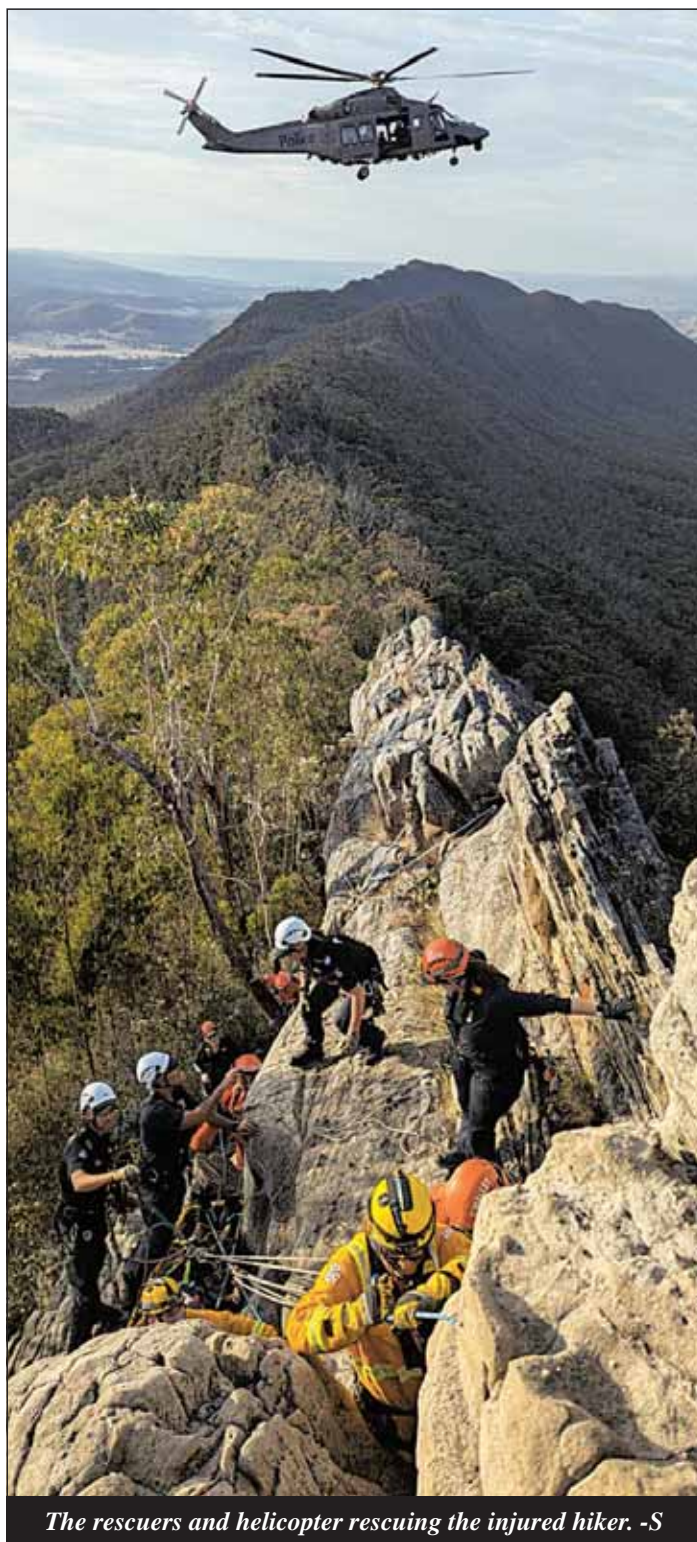
Crews determined that a high angle rescue system would be required to rope the patient to a possible helicopter winch point.

Local high angle crews were joined by SES Alexandra Unit, SES Nillumbik Unit, Monbulk Fire and Rescue (CFA), Wandin Fire Brigade and Wilderness Paramedics with crews beginning the long hike in carrying rescue equipment.

At the same time, Victoria Police Search and Rescue specialists were winched close to the scene via a Police helicopter to meet the rapid access team. Alexandra Fire Brigade also provided assistance at the staging area, and with ferrying gear to rope rescue members on the track.

With the patient being cared for and packaged into a stretcher, the combined multi-agency team worked together to set up the rope system and safely move the stretcher to a high point. A successful winch into the helicopter was a welcome sight for crews after a long job in very warm conditions, and prevented a potential camp out pending issues with the weather.

Best wishes to the patient for a speedy recovery.



The rescuers and helicopter rescuing the injured hiker. -S

## Alexandra Lions Club in desperate need of members

THE Alexandra Lions Club is teetering on the brink. They are in desperate need of new members, and if they are not found then the club is likely to close within weeks or merge with the Eildon club, which is also in need of new members.

The vote to dissolve the club has been conducted, however this can be rescinded if more members join. They are particularly keen on having younger members join as the average age of current members is over 70.

At a public meeting at the Alexandra RSL Hall on the evening of Wednesday, February 19, officeholders, members and special guests spoke about the value of the organisation and the huge amount of money that they have raised for the community.

John Beale said that the club provides both social and learning opportunities, and costs just \$50 per year to join.

Since the Alexandra Lions Club started on August 22, 1972, \$750,000 has been raised and distributed by the club, a wonderful effort. 70 per cent of this has gone to the local community, and 30 per cent to support for people in disasters, such as fire and floods.

Their funds have helped organisations including Alexandra Secondary College, Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism, Alexandra Kindergarten, Kellock Lodge, the Alexandra Football Netball Club, CFA, SES, UGFM, Alexandra

District Health and a variety of other local groups. They have also provided support for Dolly's Dream, Kid Dogs, cancer research, prostate research and eye health. They collect pairs of glasses for distribution in low income countries and support Heartwalkers for children, and of course sell Christmas cakes.

One of their large projects was to install a road at the Alexandra Cemetery, providing donations and work. It was much appreciated by the Alexandra Cemetery Trust.

They have also run a number of programs with schools, including primary school public speaking events, and the leadership programs Youth of the Year and Leo of the Year.

Their chief method for fundraising is to hold barbecues at large events.

Former District Governor, Bob Cooper, a relatively new Alexandra resident, said that the Lions Club provides self-fulfilment, confidence and public speaking skills. He added, "If you're thinking about joining, please do."

At the close of the meeting, it was decided that a Special General Meeting be called to dissolve the club in three weeks' time, unless more members can be found. There was certainly hope that the club could be saved, but plans are being put in place in case this is not possible.

To find out how to join, visit [lions201v5.org.au/alexandra/](http://lions201v5.org.au/alexandra/) or call 5772 2362.

## CLOSED LABOUR DAY - MONDAY, MARCH 10

## EARLY DEADLINES APPLY

★ **EGN BOOKINGS AND ARTWORK** - NOON TUESDAY, MARCH 4

★ **TRADES** WILL REMAIN THE SAME - NOON THURSDAY, MARCH 6

★ **CLASSIFIEDS** - FOR SALE, MEETINGS ETC INC DEATH NOTICES - 2PM FRIDAY, MARCH 7

★ **EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** - 10AM MONDAY, MARCH 10



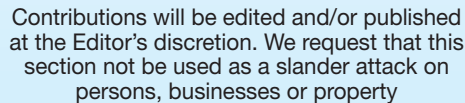



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For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet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



I SUPPORT Tom Collins's right to speak and might I say I think he is becoming woker and woker the older he gets. He cares for

*Robyn Walsh, Yarck*

He doesn't want to be defined by what happened to local Aborigines so long ago. It is a burden Tom and others do not want to bare. To that end, I'd like him to support my movement to get rid of ANZAC Day. I don't want my Aussieness defined by some old war campaign we lost. What did Gallipoli ever do for me. Nothing. Let's get rid of it.

“As a precautionary measure, and in line with our commitment to community health and safety, we have temporarily closed the pool to allow for thorough testing and additional cleaning. Initial routine water quality tests indicated that all chemical levels were within the safe range for pools. Further testing has confirmed that chemical levels remain















“We would like to thank the community members who contacted us and look forward to welcoming the community back to the Yea Swimming Pool when it is safe to do so.”



Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication



## Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	15	33 	Wednesday	15	34 
Thursday	18	33 	Thursday	17	33 
Friday	12	29 	Friday	12	29 
Saturday	13	30 	Saturday	14	31 
Sunday	12	26 	Sunday	12	25 
Monday	17	31 	Monday	16	31 
Tuesday	17	33 	Tuesday	17	34 



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.



Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	2.12	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.44	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.43am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.48am Mon	0.07	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	5.19am Mon	0.38	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.15	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	4.03	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.29	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	9.00am Mon	0.09	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.76	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.99	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	7.00am Mon	0.79	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 9.45AM ON MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025**

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

Height above sea level this week.....	281.66m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	73.5%
Metres below full supply.....	7.24m
Daily inflow .....	500ML
Release.....	5500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	91%



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

*reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au*

We thank you for your continued support



# Alpine Resorts Victoria comments on leasing policy

ALPINE Resorts Victoria (ARV) have finally answered the question of whether the Alpine Resorts Leasing Policy applies to the tenders for the 99 year leases being offered for Lake Mountain and/or Mount Baw Baw.

They provided the following information on Monday, February 24.

“The opportunity at Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw has been taken to market via an open EOI process. In alignment with probity

practices, we are unable to comment about the nature of associated submissions until they have been formally assessed and considered. If there is a concept that we are looking to move forward with, then we will engage with staff and stakeholders accordingly.

“The purpose of the current Alpine Leasing Policy is to provide a consistent framework for the leasing of Crown land in Victoria’s alpine resort and to provide every lessee with the opportunity to enter a new lease that

reflects contemporary practices and what was then (2002) the new leasing policy initiatives.

“The principles of the [Alpine Resorts Leasing] Policy are being applied in relation to this EOI, being: demonstrated public and economic benefit, approval in principle requirement, transparent lease allocation and process, appropriate lease terms and conditions, and consistent lease documentation.”

The Alpine Resorts Leasing Policy states that for leases longer than 51 years, the following conditions must be met for existing developments and current use: the value of the current development on site plus capital outlay for refurbishment / redevelopment is in excess of \$8 million, development to an optimum level, detailed business case and financial evaluation required, exceptional circumstances must exist, public notification process, and the consideration of past performance of lessee / Standards of Occupancy.

For new developments and/or use, the conditions are: Capital outlay in excess of \$8 million, development to an optimum level, detailed business case and financial evaluation required, exceptional circumstances must exist, and land allocation subject to a public competition process.

## Police raid in Alexandra

ON Friday, February 14, Seymour Divisional Response Unit investigators and Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit detectives, Victoria Police K-9 unit and members from the Australian Federal Police executed two search warrants in Alexandra.

During the search of the premises, police will allege that a quantity of methylamphetamine was retrieved from a toilet from the address in Alexandra shortly after police forced entry to the property.

Police will also allege that firearms, silencers, ammunition, and other firearm related components were seized from the premises during the searches.

A 44 year old man from Alexandra was arrested, charged with multiple offences, and remanded in custody.

He appeared at the Shepparton Magistrates’ Court on Tuesday, February 18. He was remanded in custody.

Victoria Police continues to encourage any members of the public to provide any information relating to criminal activity via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 where their identity can remain anonymous.

## Road Closure on Molesworth-Dropmore Road

COUNCIL’S contractors will be conducting flood recovery works on Molesworth-Dropmore Road, Molesworth, to reconstruct collapsed culverts and damaged roadway sustained in the October 2022 Floods.

Works will commence Wednesday, February 26 and are expected to be completed by Wednesday, March 12, weather permitting.

These works will require the closure of Molesworth-Dropmore Road to all through

traffic between Goulburn Valley Highway and Highlands Road. Access will be provided for local traffic only to properties and residences to the north and south of the work site, which is situated approximately 10 km from Goulburn Valley Highway.

Please seek alternate routes via Highlands Road, Goulburn Valley Highway and Caveat-Dropmore Road.

If you have any questions, please call council on 5772 0333.

## The colour of autumn leaves

THE vibrant colours of autumn are one of nature’s most striking spectacles, but the science behind why leaves change colour is both fascinating and complex. As summer fades into autumn, plants prepare for the colder months, and a series of biological processes leads to the stunning transformation of foliage.

The key player in this transformation is chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the green colour in leaves and their ability to perform photosynthesis. During the growing season, chlorophyll absorbs sunlight to create food for the plant, but as daylight hours shorten and temperatures cool in autumn, plants start to shut down this process in preparation for winter. As the chlorophyll breaks down and is not replenished, other pigments within the leaf become more visible.

One of the most prominent of these pigments is carotenoids, which produce yellow and orange colours. These pigments are always present in the leaf, but the green chlorophyll typically masks them throughout the warmer months.



*Do you know why autumn leaves change colour? -S*

As chlorophyll fades, the yellow and orange hues emerge, creating a golden autumn landscape.

In addition to carotenoids, anthocyanins play a crucial role in producing the rich reds and purples seen in some tree species. Unlike carotenoids, anthocyanins are not present in the leaf throughout the growing season. They are produced in response to the changes in temperature and light, with cooler nights and bright

sunny days stimulating their production. Anthocyanins may also serve as a protective mechanism, helping to shield the plant from damage caused by excess sunlight or colder temperatures.

The interplay of light, temperature, and pigment activity culminates in the beautiful array of colours we associate with autumn, making it not only a time of transition but also one of nature’s most visually captivating phenomena.

## Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. celebrates a Year of Success and Growth

MURRINDINDI Food and Wine Inc. (MFW Inc.) has wrapped up its most successful year yet, with the 2024 Annual General Meeting reflecting on major achievements that have put the region’s food and wine industry in the spotlight.

One of the standout highlights was the *Murrindindi Harvest Celebration*, held in Yea, which brought together local producers and winemakers alongside celebrity chefs.

The event showcased the region’s finest produce, allowing visitors to “Meet the Makers” and experience the best of Murrindindi’s food and wine.

Over the past year, MFW Inc. has secured more than \$130,000 in funding to promote the region’s producers and support local businesses.

This funding enabled key initiatives, including the Buy Local Campaign, encouraging residents to ‘Put Murrindindi on

Your Table’, as well as a business training series featuring digital marketing expert Jenn Donovan.

The group also hosted its second Mini Jobs Expo, strengthening connections between local businesses, job seekers, and education providers.

In addition, the *Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants Program*, under the Murrindindi Resilience Program, supported successful business breakfasts, which fostered collaboration

and growth within the local business community.

As the team takes a well-earned break, planning is already underway for 2025, with exciting initiatives on the horizon.

Keep an eye out for the updated Supplier’s Guide, the Murrindindi Winemakers Wine Weekend in May, and the return of the successful Buy Local Campaign later in the year.

For more information, contact *Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc.*

## SMS Rates Overdue Phishing Scam

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is aware of a SMS Phishing scam targeting Murrindindi Shire residents. The message states that their rates are now overdue and demand payment through a link. Do not click on this link. Council will never send a SMS message demanding payment for overdue rates.

If you are unsure of whether a text or phone call is legitimate, we encourage you to contact our customer service team on 5772 0333.

## Optus outage impacting customers

OPTUS users have faced connectivity challenges in the last week, but there is good news on the horizon.

An Optus spokesperson advised, “Optus is committed to improving coverage for locals in Alexandra, Murrindindi Shire and surrounding suburbs in Victoria.

“This involves upgrading existing sites to bring a heightened level of network performance and reliability to the region.

“Optus took steps to notify customers in the area ahead of time that the planned maintenance may result in intermittent disruptions to some mobile services. We are working hard to minimise disruptions, but some customers may experience intermittent service impacts during this period.

“We thank our customers for their patience at this time and we look forward to bringing improved coverage to the Alexandra area from March 1.

Customers can stay updated via *optus.com.au/living-network/service-status* or contact their customer support team for further assistance.

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EM4920

### Alexandra Museum

**& Steam Train Rides**



Open Saturday March 1,

10am to 3.30pm

7 S tation S treet Alexandra

All information can be found at:

ale xandra tram way.org.au

/ale xandra museum

or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988



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Standard

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Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

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CATHOLIC

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

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UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

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OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist  
Union of Victoria  
Sunday 4.30pm service  
Kids program during school term  
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Contact - 0438 642 559

WHAT'S ON?

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*.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Pop up information sessions to save energy and save money. You are invited to attend one of the pop up sessions and chat about solar energy, batteries, heat pumps and split systems. Learn how they work and more. Marysville Grocer 3-5pm. See below for further dates and times. Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gmss](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gmss) for more details.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Pop up information sessions to save energy and save money. You are invited to attend

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Dindi Daze at Rotary Park, Alexandra. A festival to celebrate all that is good in Murrindindi. Great food, kids activities, cocktails, live music, craft beer, face painting and much more. 10am-6pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Tarcombe Herefords 51st Annual Production Sale 1pm. Contact Tim Hayes on 0439 257 693 or email [temagong@bigpond.com](mailto:temagong@bigpond.com)

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THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Pop up information sessions to save energy and save money. You are invited to attend

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Notice of Tuangurung Native Title Meeting at Broadford Town Hall 10am-3pm to provide information about the process of making a native title determination application to the Federal Court under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). Full details can be obtained by calling 0434 632 875 or by emailing [Tobylee.Kirby@fnlrs.com.au](mailto:Tobylee.Kirby@fnlrs.com.au) RSVP by February 28.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Cathkin Molesworth Cemetery Trust AGM will be held at 11am at the Molesworth Hall.

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New rules to protect worker mental health planned

THE Victorian Government is providing new protections for mental health. They will introduce new regulations strengthening how psychosocial hazards are managed by the end of the year, recognising psychosocial hazards to be as important as physical hazards and creating new obligations for employers to identify and control them in their workplaces.

Psychosocial hazards are work-related factors with a potential to cause harm, such as bullying, sexual harassment, aggression or violence and exposure to traumatic events.

These changes are in response to recommendations made by the *Boland Review*, the *Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System* and the *Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health*.

They aim to strengthen workplace health and safety laws to better address mental health and align with regulations introduced in other Australian states and territories.

It's anticipated the regulations will be made in October and take effect on December 1 this year.

A Compliance Code will be made to guide employers on how to meet their duties under the proposed regulations. Extra guidance will also be provided on how prevention plans can help identify actions they'll take to control psychosocial hazards.

Victoria has experienced an increase in work-related mental injuries, which represented 18 per cent of all new WorkCover claims in 2023-24, up from 16 per cent the previous year and nine per cent before 2009.

WorkSafe provides support and guidance to Victorian employers to reduce work-related risks to mental health through the WorkWell program, which has engaged with more than 16,000 workplaces since its 2017 launch, through grants, learning networks and resources.

Making a difference at Kellock Lodge

FRIENDS of Kellock and the Alexandra Quilters have joined forces to make a difference for Kellock Lodge residents.

The idea was born out of Kellock Lodge CEO Tania Hunter's desire to aesthetically enhance the look and feel of each resident's ensuite and at the same time continue to minimise the impact of plastic on the planet by continuing to minimise Kellock Lodge's use of plastic bags.

The Friends of Kellock and Alexandra Quilters Association answered the call and joined together to make 62 individual sturdy cloth laundry hamper bags for the residents of Kellock Lodge.

Over two Saturdays, 20 ladies got together, cutting, sewing, threading cord and embroidering room numbers on each laundry hamper bag, finishing with a quality control check of each bag.

Thanks go to Jan Fallon, President, and Veronica Hendrickson, Friends of Kellock for their co-ordination

of the exercise, also to Penny Jungalwalla from the Friends of Kellock and Rosemary Magor from the Alexandra Quilters Association who spear headed the exercise.

Rosemary Magor designed the laundry hamper bag, and Friends of Kellock donated and purchased the fabric and cord. Rosemary machine embroidered resident room numbers using variegated thread on each laundry hamper bag. A huge thank you to Rosemary Magor for her knowledge, planning and executing this mammoth task. Thanks also go to Marlene Answer-Lewis from Redgate Quilting for donation the variegated thread.

Kellock Lodge gave a special thanks to the Friends of Kellock and the Alexandra Quilters Association for their ongoing support, partnering with Kellock Lodge where every person feels valued and supported in ways that matter to them.

Director of Nursing at Kellock Lodge Daniel Oliveri (DON), Kellock CEO Tania Hunter, Rosemary Magor from the Alexandra Quilters Association, Penny Jungalwalla from Friends of Kellock and Kellock Manager of Corporate Service Maria Price. -S



# Best Start Best Life

## Financial incentives for kindergarten teachers and educators.

Giving Victorian children the best start means more qualified teachers and educators are needed across the state.

Get up to \$50,000\* on top of your salary for positions at a priority service.

Relocation support is also available.

Search for a position with a financial incentive through the Early Childhood Jobs website at [vic.gov.au/kinder](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)



\*Terms and conditions apply, visit [vic.gov.au/kinder](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)





A decent crowd was in attendance at the Merton Skate Park open day, including Mansfield Shire Council and a DJ providing music. -S



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish with Mansfield Shire Council Deputy Mayor James Tehan cutting the ribbon to officially open the Merton Skate Park. -S

## Open day to celebrate new Merton Skate Park

THE Merton Skate Park was officially opened last Sunday with an open day for skaters to celebrate and demonstrate their skills.

After lots of hard work to bring the project to fruition from various parties and the community, the day provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievement.

Officials in attendance included Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Mansfield Shire Council Deputy Mayor James Tehan, representatives of the other businesses that brought the skate park into existence, and community volunteers that worked on the project.

Catriona and James Wilson, the parents of Mansfield Olympic skateboarder Hayley Wilson, also attended and awarded one lucky young skater with one of Hayley’s professional skateboards.

The Merton Community Skate Park project group successfully applied for funding from Mansfield Shire Council’s 2022-23 *Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund*, and the skate park was constructed by Mansfield construction company Tectonic Civil.

The open day was hosted by the Merton Recreation and Memorial Hall Reserves Committee and Mansfield Shire Youth.

Mansfield Shire Mayor Steve Rabie detailed how Mansfield Shire Council was proud to support the community-led initiative to construct the skate park.

“We’re really grateful to our community members who came together to drive the Merton Community Skate Park project,” Mr Rabie said.

“By contributing funding through our *Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund*, council was able to get the best bang for its buck by supporting a community-led project.

“We want to make sure our growing communities have the facilities they need to support a healthy, active and connected lifestyle.

“It’s fantastic that Merton now has a new local space where young people can get out and have a fun time with their friends,” he finished.



The lucky young skater from Bonnie Doon, Arlington, who won Hayley Wilson’s skateboard deck. Pictured with him are Hayley Wilson’s parents, James and Catriona, and his mum Bec. -S



The new Merton Skate Park at the Merton Recreation Reserve provides a great space for community skaters to enjoy. -S

## Fatal crash in Kinglake

GREENSBOROUGH Highway Patrol officers are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal crash in Kinglake on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 18.

It is understood a blue Mercedes Benz sedan left the roadway and crashed into a tree on Heidelberg-Kinglake Road just after 1pm.

Emergency services worked on the driver, a 50 year old Heidelberg Heights man, but he could not be revived.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or with dashcam footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](https://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson said, “Any death on our roads is a tragedy and our thoughts are with all those who have been impacted.

“We’ll work with Victoria Police to understand the circumstances and to provide support to the investigation where required.”

## Melba Highway re-opens

THE Melba Highway has re-opened following concerns expressed by the community. During the planned six week road closure from February 17, traffic was diverted, with many trucks taking narrow regional roads including the Black Spur, Healesville-Kinglake Road and Kinglake-Yarra Glen Road, instead of the long diversion via the Hume Highway.

Footage and images of near-misses received wide media and social media coverage, with many also commenting on their own experiences.

There were also concerns about the lack of signage to warn truck drivers well prior to the closure locations.

The Department of Transport said, “We have heard the communities’ concerns about safety during landslip repair works on the Melba Highway.

“Despite these mitigations we have continued to see incidents in the area, and a decision has been made to pause the works while we undertake a review.

“In response to this, the project will be paused.”

The Melba Highway reopened on Saturday, February 22 at noon.

The department added, “We will keep the community informed of next steps and any changes to traffic management.”

The works to repair the landslips on the Melba Highway between Healesville-Kinglake Road and Hunts Lane are now expected to re-commence in September, after re-engineering.

The landslip work is expected to involve excavating and removing the damaged road pavement, building retaining walls, reinstating and stabilising the road asphalt layers, improving drainage, and reinstating safety barriers, signs and line marking.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said in a Facebook post, “For around six weeks now, council has been suggesting to the Department of Transport and Planning that more effective communications was required to inform the community of impacts of important road infrastructure works on the Melba Highway down the ‘Slide’.

“This week council was closely engaged with Minister Melissa Horne MP who acknowledged our request for a ‘pause’ on road works while more program and communications planning could take place.

“It’s been great that Minister Melissa Horne MP, our local member, Cindy McLeish MP, Murrindindi Shire Council, and our community have worked so effectively with the united purpose of achieving this outcome. I look forward to similarly fruitful discussions guiding the next stage of the roadworks.”

## Road safety grants now open

THE Victorian Government has now opened the 2025 round of grants for organisations and community groups to develop and implement community-based road safety projects. This year a total of \$600,000 through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) grant will be awarded to recipients to help make roads in the community safer.

There are two categories including a Road Safety Support Grant of up to \$50,000 and Road Safety Collaboration Grant of up to \$150,000.

In 2024, six Victorian community groups and organisations received funding,

sharing in \$350,000 to support local road safety projects.

These programs support the goals of the government’s *Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030*, which aims to halve deaths and reduce serious injuries on roads by 2030.

Applications for the 2025 *TAC Road Safety Grant Program* are now open and will close on Wednesday, April 2 at 3pm. To find out more, visit [tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants](https://tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants)



# Katelyn Whittaker joins St Mary's Primary

ST Mary's Primary School's new grade five and six teacher, Katelyn Whittaker, is calling Alexandra home after many adventures.

Katelyn grew up on Chatham Island in New Zealand. The small island was so remote that they didn't have a high school, so children had travel via plane to get to school.

Katelyn explained, "The ministry of education paid for your flight to go to high school on New Zealand's mainland, then they would fly you home to see your parents every holiday. It was like a boarding school situation, but I was lucky enough to be able to stay with my grandparents."

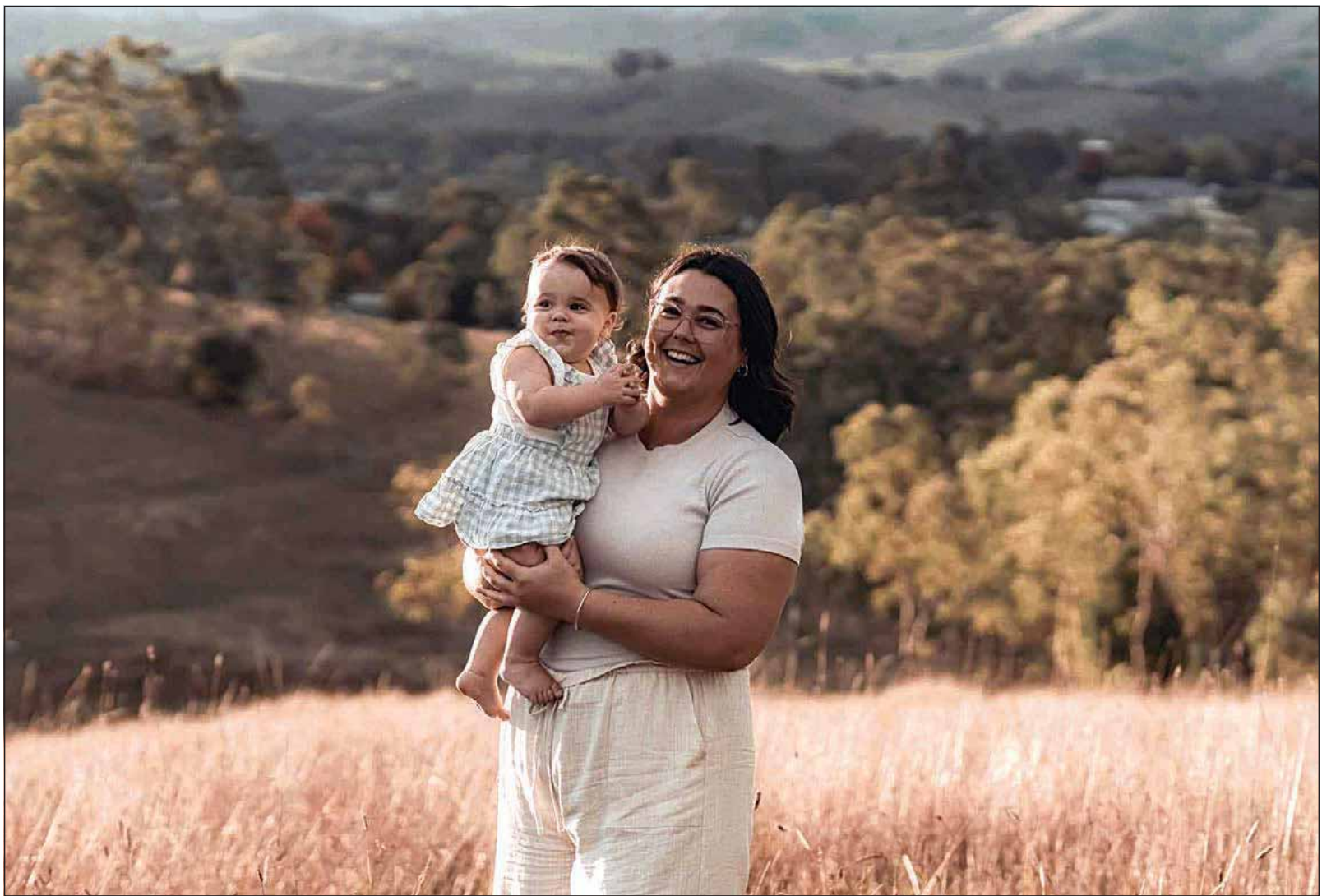
After high school, Katelyn set off to do some travelling and ended up in Alexandra in mid-2018. Katelyn headed home the day New Zealand went into level four lockdown with COVID-19. This was the last flight back into New Zealand.

Katelyn said, "I had big decisions to make. I pretty much had five days to decide if I was staying or going.

"Mum and dad still live on Chatham and my mum and dad's family are spread all over New Zealand. So I lived with one of my dad's sisters on a farm. Back then quarantine wasn't sorted so I lived in a caravan for two weeks by myself on my aunty's farm.

"After the two week quarantine we were quite lucky because there were three households on one farm and I could mingle. When we went to level three, I worked in the fish factory, then a teacher's aide job turned up on a smaller island called Pitt Island. That was a community of 60 to 70 people and 11 students at the school. I applied for the teacher aiding job and I got it in September 2020.

"Teacher aiding on Pitt Island inspired me to become a teacher. I've always worked with children mainly early childhood but this gave



*Katelyn is back in Alexandra and thoroughly enjoying spending time with niece, Addison. -S*

me the confidence and the push to develop my skills to be a primary school teacher," she said.

Before Katelyn's teaching journey really kicked off she had a year contract as a ranger with Department of Conservation and spent a lot of time on islands around Chatham Island and translocation of native birds.

"I loved this role but the goal of being a teacher was still in the background. So, thanks to close family friends I applied to University of Canterbury and 2022 started the teacher journey," Katelyn said.

Speaking of family, Katelyn's sister Shannon lives here locally with her partner Conor and her niece Addison.

"During my studies I just felt I missed out on so much, and main reason for coming back is to be with my family and to help support and take on the fun aunty duties," she said.

"I had to do two years registration, so I thought if I get a job in Alexandra as a graduate teacher, it would all fall into place, like it's meant to be.

"It's good to be back and seeing all the familiar faces. It's amazing to be away from

a place where everything looks the same but everything's changed. When I left, all my friends hadn't had kids or been married and now they have children. This was in a five year gap, but it's a nice change.

"It's quite nice here. If you need to get away you can go to Melbourne, whereas on Chatham, being a little island, if you want to get away you just go to the top end. It's the same kind of country living, that's why I love the place. I love Alexandra, looking out and seeing all the hills. It's not green at the moment but I know it's coming."

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## ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Brooklynn Denyer 3/4 B

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Brooke strives to achieve her goals by being a confident learner with a 'can do' attitude.

We are proud to have you in our learning community, Brooke.

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## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by John Wainright

THERE were quite a few apologies at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club owing to various commitments of some of the members. The meeting got off after a slight delay due to the queue trying to get into the meeting. Barbara Mills conducted the meeting in her usual proficient manner. After the meeting finished, members took refreshments put on by the ladies. They do this every week without any acknowledgment and they do a top job. Well done.

I'm told the bridge contingent was reduced to just four on Wednesday. However, the same cannot be said for the Friday's five hundred card game, where there were seven. Ian Weeks was good enough to bow out. The two teams of three ended one a piece.

Several ladies and Ian played UNO while David serenaded them on the piano which was appreciated. He is no Alfred Brendel, but he is working on it. Because the piano it is out of tune it sounds more like a forte piano. Keep it up David, very enjoyable.

There were no birthdays to announce but apparently, we missed Ian's birthday last week, so we sang happy birthday twice so that he is covered for this year as well.

The club could and should have more activities if we had the numbers, however as it currently stands, they don't. If there were more, they could bring indoor bowls back, for a start. The old saying is, 'use it or lose it', so what are you waiting for?

Hopefully Mike will be back on-board next week.

## A fresh new angle for Alexandra Rotary

ALEXANDRA Rotary is shaking things up with a fresh new perspective to gain younger members. They also have more exciting projects and events coming to the community.

Dindi Daze on Saturday, March 1, is one of these new and exciting events. It will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Alexandra Newspapers spoke to Alexandra Rotary Club President Geoff Proctor about what Alexandra Rotary are up to, and their vision for the future.

Geoff said, "Like every other volunteer organisation, our average age is 79. A lot of that comes down to the majority of our members are retirees. So, yes, we are looking for more younger people, but part of that is the things that we do are not necessarily the things that attract new members, younger members. It's also we've got to have a look at the way that the club operates, the whole of rotary is doing exactly that."

In this current climate where volunteering is out of reach for some, there is an option to become a Friend of Rotary. This means you don't have to turn up to every meeting every fortnight.

"Some clubs have started to look at projects. Sometimes they'll look at a community project and that attracts younger people as it interests them, and they come in to do that project... If you're a friend with Rotary, you're registered and your covered by insurance," Geoff said.

With the upcoming Dindi Daze event this week, Geoff explained the concept behind the idea.

"We've taken part of what we did on Australia Day. So early morning, we always focused on the children. So, we've taken that component... We used to have

a business awards, that faded. We said, well, let's use this as a celebration, let's celebrate our local businesses. Then we use to have music in the park, the lady who ran it had done it for eight years, she wanted a change. Nobody put their hand up for it... then we had one member Ian Smith, he put his hand up and he said, why don't we combine it? So that's the breeding ground for Dindi Daze. Purely by the support that we've been getting and the comments, it'll be a success, but it's been a success already purely because of the way that people have talked about it.

"The idea of it is to predominantly try to use local in everything that we do, so we've got local artists, but we also have artists and musicians that are coming in from elsewhere. We've got an Indigenous artist who's going to come, and he'll do the Welcome to Country. And then it'll be Indigenous music and dance. This is for the kids predominantly.

"So, we're trying to make it a bigger and a better event. We'd love it to be multi-day, but we'll wait and see whether it grows into that. We're getting a lot of support for it.

"We've spoken to local venues and the concept is that we finish at 6pm and then we're going to encourage the local venues to continue the music component in their places. Anybody who wants to. Ideally, they would pick up the musicians that we've got and would then go into their venues. We want it to be a celebration of Murrindindi."

Kinglake Rotary will also be taking part of Dindi Daze, Geoff said. "We didn't have enough members to do everything so they're going to come down and help, and the second part is I want them to see what it is we're doing for the marketing... If these guys really like what we've done and they see it as a success, we could have

two Dindi Dazes next year... And then they've got equipment that we don't have. We've got equipment that they don't have... So again, that's the broader thinking of where we are."

Geoff spoke about his personal vision and the club's vision of what projects could be done in the community that will make a difference.

"I'm trying to find another iconic project for Rotary. If you look at Rotary Park, it's exceptionally well known... My view of it is, we need another one. So, what do we put out there for people to see what Rotary are working towards? I would really have liked, and I still would like, to get my hands on the old hospital. I'd love to turn that into emergency housing. It's something that we desperately need. It's a project that we could get behind, and that's the beauty of what we're trying to achieve.

"One of the projects that we got in our plans at the moment is to put in a disabled swing or flying fox, something that a person in a wheelchair can be put in, and a wet changing room in Rotary Park.

"These are only the things that we know about. What are the other things that haven't been brought to our attention? It's the opportunities that are there and to me they're the opportunities that will generate new membership," Geoff said.

If you want to become a member or friend of Alexandra Rotary Club, visit the Alexandra Rotary Club website, "Or drop us an email. You're more than welcome to come along to a meeting and just see what happens. Meetings are fortnightly and predominantly at the golf club, but we do move around. We would love new members because new members, bring new ideas," Geoff said.



# Avian influenza detected at third neighbouring property

AGRICULTURE Victoria has confirmed H7N8 high pathogenicity avian influenza (bird flu) on a third poultry farm in Euroa. This new detection is in close proximity to the two other infected properties.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Cameron Bell said given the close proximity of these properties, this new detection is not unexpected, and that Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground working closely with industry to contain and eradicate the virus.

Control orders have been in place since H7 was first detected on a poultry farm on February 8, restricting the movement of poultry, poultry products, equipment, and vehicles on or off properties in designated zones around the infected properties to prevent disease spread.

These zones include a restricted area covering a five kilometre radius around the farms, with a broader control area spanning east of the Goulburn Valley Freeway, and including the townships of Euroa, Violet Town, Longwood, Ruffy, Avenel and Strathbogie.

"If you are in the control or restricted areas, you cannot move birds, products (including eggs and manure) or equipment into, out of, or within the area without permit," Dr Bell said.

"This includes selling or giving away eggs from your poultry. These must not leave your property."

With the confirmation of H7N8 on a third property, a housing requirement remains in place for properties with 50 or more poultry in the restricted area. This includes Euroa and extends approximately five kilometres from the affected properties in all directions.

To reduce the risk of further disease, birds on these properties must be kept in cages or sheds to avoid contact with other birds. This is a proven method to minimise direct contact between poultry and wild birds.

Poultry and bird owners are reminded to keep sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean, and to restrict contact with wild birds. They should ensure their footwear is clean and wash hands before and after

handling birds or eggs. New birds should be quarantined before being integrated with existing ones.

"A strong biosecurity system relies on everyone playing their part," he said.

"Immediate notification from poultry owners when they notice their poultry are unwell is crucial to us getting on top of this outbreak."

Community members must report suspected disease and sudden poultry death

by calling the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Dr Bell thanked the impacted properties for their cooperation and reassured Victorians that supermarket eggs and poultry products remain safe to consume.

For more information, including checking whether you are in the restricted area or control area, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza)

## Fishery compliance staff cut

ACCORDING to Sam Groth, the Shadow Minister for Outdoor Recreation, the Victorian Government is gutting frontline fisheries compliance, dramatically weakening enforcement efforts, leaving marine environments, recreational fishers and boaters at greater risk.

Mr Groth says it has slashed the number of Fisheries Officer positions from 27 to just nine across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, bringing staffing from 192 to 157.

Fisheries officers are already carrying a vacancy rate close to 30 per cent across the state and under the restructure some of these vacancies won't be filled.

There are just over 50 fisheries officers in Victoria. Twenty years ago, there were 72.

The five stations impacted make up more than 50 per cent the state's Fisheries Officers, with the central region producing the bulk of the state's offence briefs, tickets and warnings as a result of the higher number of inspections and more offenders than other regions.

"With more Victorians fishing and boating than ever before, now is the time to strengthen enforcement, not cut it to the bone," Mr Groth said.

It's understood that the changes will not have a major impact on the operations of the Snobs Creek Hatchery.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) responded in defence of the changes, stating that there is currently 90 per cent compliance in the community and that under the proposed changes, a Major Fisheries Crime unit will target organised illegal fishing.

This unit will be given additional resources so they can focus on those deliberately doing the wrong thing. The Victorian Fisheries Authority will continue to provide the resources, services and education the fishing community needs, as required by legislation.

"Going forward we will be more focused on education and engaging the community with fishing, and we have proposed workforce changes to reflect this," a VFA spokesperson said.

"Our workforce will focus on keeping compliance levels high, and on major fishing crime, while working closely with the community to provide them the education and resources they need to fish responsibly. We're confident our proposed operating model means fishing in Victoria will be as good into the future as it is today. We are consulting with employees and the union on workforce changes, and will provide all staff will with the support they need through this period."

## History-making petition calls for no more national parks

THE Liberals and Nationals on Wednesday, February 19, tabled the largest petition in Legislative Council history, with concerns growing that the Victorian Government is pushing ahead with the expansion of national parks.

More than 40,000 signatures have been received for the *No New National Parks* petition.

Almost 34,000 concerned bush users signed up on-line, making it the largest e-petition in Victorian history for both houses of parliament.

Many concerned bush user groups gathered on the steps of parliament last Wednesday to raise awareness of their fight against new National Parks being declared.

The Nationals believe that Victoria does "not need more pad-locked national parks, which are poorly maintained and a fire risk."

They also say that "neglecting public land leads to overgrown tracks and, the proliferation of invasive weeds and feral pests, which degrade the environment and pose a threat to native flora and fauna."

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, tabled the petition.

"Labor's flawed policies are not saving vulnerable species, through neglect and mismanagement it is placing them and Victorians at a greater risk of bushfire," Ms Bath said.

"The Liberals and Nationals will actively manage our public land for better environmental and recreational outcomes.

"Our historic petition is a voice for Victorians who cherish our bush and immerse themselves in nature through the traditional outdoor activities of dispersed camping, hunting, four-wheel driving, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, prospecting and fishing."

No decision has been announced regarding the creation of any new National Parks.



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# Thornton Gem Fair sparkles



Attendees at the Thornton Gem Fair, organised by the Alexandra/ Eildon Lapidary Club, held on Saturday, February 22, were given the opportunity to try panning for gold. -AR



Following the early rain, the day was bright and sunny for the gem show. -AR



There were some terrific displays, and lots for people to choose from. -AR



Robert, Mia, Donna and Jon. -AR



Shopper Jenny with John, Jan and Ray from the Waverley Gem Club. -AR



Mario at his stall, enjoying the sunshine. -AR



Nicole with her gem display. -S



Some of the remarkable rocks. -AR



An ammonite fossil. -AR



Some of the beautiful items at one of the stalls. -AR



# Hello Autumn

**ALEXANDRA**  
NEWSPAPERS



**Standard**  
INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE THIRDS, GOSNELL, THORNTON, AND ACHESON EXPRESS

*The Yea Chronicle*

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f i

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April 5 - VSC Ladies Sports Sedan State Title, Sports Sedans, Standard Saloons and SSA Juniors

May 10 - Crash N Bash Open State Title, Sports Sedans, Division II's, SSA Juniors, Standard Saloons Open and Standard Saloons Ladies

June 7 and 8 - The 100 Lap Derby and Standard Saloons

August 2 - 3 Hour Enduro and the Crash N Bash Mick Corbett Memorial

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# Go chasing waterfalls in autumn

## Wilhelmina Falls

THE Wilhelmina Falls, cascading 75 metres down a steep granite rock face, is located at the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve at the northern end of the Toolangi State Forest. The walk is a six kilometre return trip that can take one to four hours, depending on your skills. The track is known to be very steep and is a good challenge for experienced bushwalkers.

The Wilhelmina track begins at Water Gauge Camp and heads over the suspension bridge along the Murrindindi River Walk. Enjoy the majestic view to the lookout at the top of the falls. The views boasts of the beautiful mountain range, Mount Despair.

To get there, drive south along Murrindindi Road for approximately three kilometres until you reach the Water Gauge camping area.

The walk has slow inclines, with short and steep sections to keep you on your toes.

## Steavenson Falls Walk

ONE of Victoria's Highest waterfalls is in the Murrindindi Shire and is a real treat to experience. You can wander along the gravel path, with tall trees and lush ferns that lead you to a breathtaking experience. It is a must-do when visiting Murrindindi Shire.

The easy 700 metre return walk takes you to the 84 metre cascading falls. If you're feeling more adventurous, you can do the walk that takes you up to the top of the Steavenson Falls, following the stone steps and walking track to a magnificent viewing platform.

You can also enjoy the Steavenson Falls in the evening when it is flood lit between dusk and midnight.

## Snobs Banyarmbite Falls

SNOBS Banyarmbite Falls is located in the Rubicon State Forest, this stunning waterfall drops over 100 metres and is a sight not to be missed.

The short 300 metre return trip has many steps and short steep hills and is for any walker, no extra abilities required.

The waters of these falls are an important supply to the nearby Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery that is located six kilometres below.

It was upgraded in 2022 to include a new viewing platform, upgraded car park and handrails and steps.

To get to this hidden beauty travel along the Goulburn Valley Highway towards Eildon, turn right onto Snobs Creek Road and drive for 5.7 kilometres.

## Strath Creek Falls

STRATH Creek Falls is located in Mt Disappointment State Forest, starting from a quiet picnic spot you can take a short stroll along the walking trail to a beautiful waterfall.

The one kilometre return trip is signposted, with many steps and short steep hills to get you to your destination.

This historical waterfall has been popular with tourists for over 150 years, it is recommended on [exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au](https://exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au) that the falls are best viewed after heavy rain.

It is also advised that while in the forest, make sure to check out other recreation opportunities including bushwalking, mountain biking and horse riding.

Mount Disappointment State Forest is the traditional land of the Kulin nation. The Wurundjeri tribe looked after the land in the south and the Taungurung tribe looked after the land in the north.

## The Great Victorian Rail Trail

If you've already been to all of the waterfalls, then check out the art on the rail trail. In 2023, the Art of the Great Victorian Rail Trail Project was officially opened as large scale artworks

and smaller works were placed along 134 km of the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

The trail was created along the historic railway line that operated between Tallarook and Mansfield, with an additional spur line linking the trail to Alexandra.

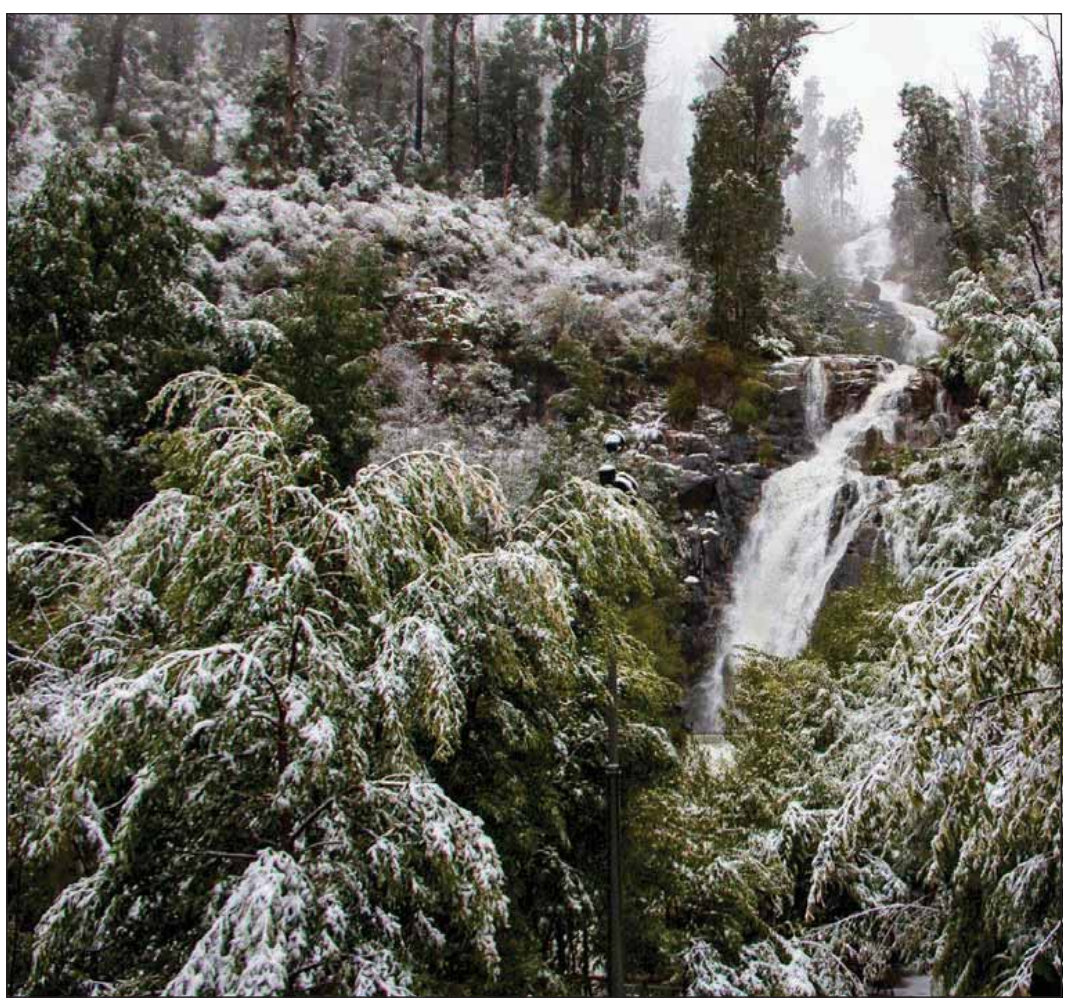
The artworks were a joint initiative between Murrindindi, Mansfield and Mitchell Shire Councils, aiming to improve the rail trail experience.

As the Rail Trail is in beautiful Taungurung Country, you will find many scar trees on your travels. According to [greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au](https://greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au), "We, the Taungurung people of this Biik (Country), have been removing the bark from trees to use for various purposes, such as baby carriers, food collection vessels, bark canoes and thatching for our dwellings, for at least 2000 generations..."

"Along the length of the Great Victorian Rail Trail (GVRT), we have removed the bark from healthy eucalypts, and then carved a message in the sapwood.

"Each tree we have scarred has marks at the top that represent how our old people cut and scarred their bodies. This is how they demonstrated their relationships to one another. Underneath these marks, are the designs that tell different aspects of our connection to our Biik and each other."

You can see these scar trees starting from Tallarook all the way to Mansfield, as well as some incredible installations.



Steavenson Falls in all its glory. -AR

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Take a look and follow the society's Facebook page for a huge range of interesting stories and photos.



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Historical Society Inc

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Drop by your local branch to pick up a flyer with all the exciting events and activities happening this autumn or visit us online at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries)



## PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH EASE

Council's online events listing for tourism and community events



### Do you have a local event to promote this autumn?

Promote your events on Council's website in two ways:

**Community Events:** For smaller, local events like meetings, sports, and workshops. Easily add and manage these on our enhanced platform. Just register an account and start listing!

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Connect with more people and get the attention your events deserve.

Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events) to start promoting today!




### MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

**Sunday 11 May 2025**  
**12.30pm - 4pm**

Let us spoil your mum this Mother's Day when she enjoys a complimentary glass of sparkling upon arrival. Savour a three course luncheon featuring beautiful local produce. Accompanied with spectacular views, great wines and live music.



### CHRISTMAS IN JULY DINNER

**Saturday 26 July 2025**  
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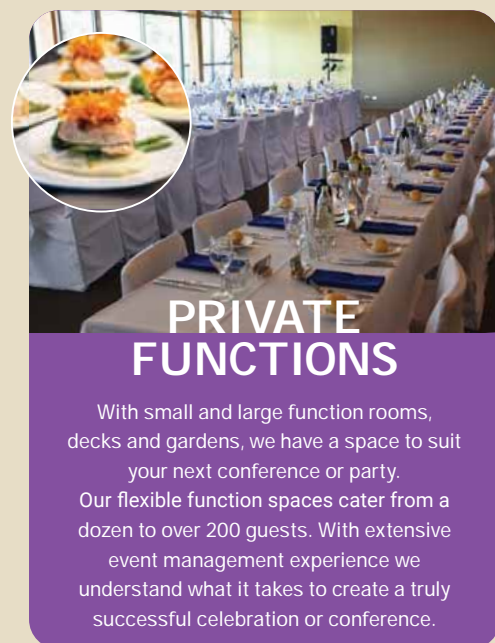
Bring your family and friends and join us for a celebration dinner with all the trimmings: mulled wine, roast turkey, glazed ham and more. With a roving magician, Santa and music, this will be a truly magical event! Accommodation available.



### GRAND ITALIAN FEAST

**Sunday 23 November 2025**  
**12.00pm - 4pm**

A long lazy afternoon of feasting with traditional Italian fare including a welcome Aperol spritz, wood fired pizzas, house made pastas and dishes including osso bucco, scallopine, cacciatore, calabrese salad, tiramisu, cannoli and more.



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f i







Crews patrolling the northern side of the fire ground. -AR

# Local CFA units stop Buxton grass fire

JUST before 2.15pm on Wednesday, February 19, local CFA brigades responded to a report of a grass fire along the Buxton-Marysville Rd between Mount Margaret Road and Eagles Nest Road.

Buxton, Marysville, Narbethong and Taggerty fire brigades were all paged as part of the initial response.

At the time, the temperature was around 20 degrees but the wind was gusting in excess of 25km/h out of the west. FireCom advised that multiple calls were being received, so the Buxton CFA Captain requested additional resources before arriving at the fire station.

Additional appliances came from Alexandra, Acheron, Badger Creek, Eildon, Healesville, Koriella and Whanregarwen along with Forward Command Vehicles from Alexandra, Alexandra Group, Eildon and Marysville. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) crews from Marysville and Alexandra also attended with a FFMV crew heading to Marysville being first unit on scene.

With the strong winds, the fire had already crossed the Buxton-Marysville Road when the first appliances arrived on scene. The Marysville crew managed to pull up the fire on the eastern side of the road while the first

Buxton appliance tackled the northern flank on the western side of the road. The FFMV crew had their hands full pulling up the fire along the road. The land holder assisted with a private fire fighting unit.

As the additional resources arrived they were deployed to the eastern and western sides of the road. Thanks to the good work of the initial crews, the fire was contained to a relatively small area compared to what may have resulted under the strong winds which continued most of the afternoon.

FFMV Tree Hazard inspectors assessed the fireground and a dozer was brought down from Marysville to deal with a large stump. At least four thermal imaging cameras were utilised around the fire ground to determine where resources were best deployed.

Victoria Police units established traffic management points at Mount Margaret Road and Eagles Nest Road.

The last appliances departed after 5.30pm and crews patrolled the area that evening and the following morning.

It was a great combined effort from the local brigades, FFMV and Victoria Police.

CFA media advised that the fire was accidental and not deemed suspicious.



The Koriella truck on the fire ground. -AR



FFMV workers inspecting a fire-damaged tree. -AR



The fire jumped Buxton-Marysville Road before the fire crews arrived. -AR

## Short stay levy affects family violence victims

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP, has slammed the Victorian Government's law to put a 7.5 per cent tax on those fleeing family violence who stay in short stay accommodation, including Airbnb's.

The organisations working with family violence victims, and the police, are often looking for temporary accommodation immediately available and Airbnb is one of those options.

Ms McLeish as Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence said, "These services are doing their best to help the growing number of domestic violence victims, and they can't afford to be paying an extra tax. The victims fleeing by themselves

often have very little and need all the help they can get getting back on their feet.

"Victims of family violence are certainly not having a holiday, they are looking to find somewhere safe. I'm always hearing stories of those fleeing family violence who can't find accommodation and too often end up in motels.

"This was predictable and avoidable. The Coalition put up an amendment last year about waiving the tax in this situation, and the Labor government voted against it."

The Coalition will repeal this tax if elected in the 2026 election.

The Attorney-General at the time, Jaclyn Symes, made damning comments during the parliamentary debate, stating the proposed changes, "are not able to be implemented in a workable way because anyone could claim that they meet one of the exemption criteria and it would be therefore impossible to verify that.

"...In fact if we were to agree to this amendment it would completely undermine the purpose of the bill in trying to have the effect of bringing more homes onto the market and supporting more social and affordable housing."

This is despite the Victorian Tourism Industry Council confirming that 40 per

cent of short-stays are booked for purposes other than a holiday.

Ms McLeish continues, "We have a government that, on the one hand, pretends to care about the most vulnerable members of the community, those escaping domestic violence, but in reality, they are happy to tax everyone to fill budget black holes.

"Accommodation is a key factor in women's decision to flee family violence. They should not have to choose between a family violence crisis and homelessness crisis."

The Victorian Government's 55th new or increased tax, came into effect in January 2025.



# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Pause proposed for caged egg phaseout

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the state and Federal Governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages by 2036 until a reliable supply of eggs can be guaranteed.

VFF Egg Group President Meg Parkinson said ongoing impacts of avian influenza is severely hampering the supply of eggs to consumers and all forms of egg production must be utilised to maintain future supply.

"Recurring avian influenza outbreaks have demonstrated the need for a robust and resilient egg industry. We need a supply chain that is designed with consumers in mind and their needs. This includes eggs from all production systems such as barn laid, cage, and free range, and enables consumers to choose how their eggs are produced and at the same time ensuring supply of eggs is as resilient as possible.

"Caged egg systems provide a safer internal environment, significantly reducing the risk of avian influenza transmission through contact with wild birds. The impending phaseout

of conventional cages, coupled with a lack of clear transition planning from governments, has created uncertainty within the industry.

"Australian egg farmers invest considerably in strict biosecurity protocols and uphold world-leading animal welfare standards, ensuring consumers have access to the best possible eggs," Ms Parkinson said.

Ms Parkinson added that action was needed to ensure a steady and reliable future supply of eggs.

"We're calling for the state and federal governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages. If not, future shortages will also drive-up egg prices, placing additional financial strain on Australian families.

"The VFF urges governments to work closely with industry to develop a practical transition plan that ensures egg supply remains stable and affordable for all Australians. Until such a plan is in place, the proposed phaseout must be paused to avoid unintended consequences for food security and local farmers."

## Largest annual sheep and lamb slaughter in decades

THE latest quarterly statistics on livestock slaughter and meat production from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have shown that 2024 was the largest year for lamb and sheep slaughter in decades.

Numbers analysed by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) show that 26.6 million lambs were slaughtered in calendar year 2024, which is the largest number ever. Sheep slaughter also reached 11.7 million head, the largest since 2006.

According to Market Information Manager at MLA, Stephen Bignell, the record slaughter rates are significant for a number of reasons.

"These elevated slaughter rates seen in 2024 are due to a combination of a large national sheep flock with higher percentages of sheepmeat breeds being processed, and generally drier conditions seen in South Australia and Victoria," Mr Bignell said.

### Cattle

For quarter four last year, adult cattle slaughter reached 2.13 million head, which was 16 per cent above the same quarter in 2023.

Over the whole year, 8.3 million cattle were processed, which was the largest throughput since 2019 and 18 per cent higher than 2023.

All states lifted on the previous year, with Tasmania's rate lifting four per cent and Western Australia at 10 per cent. New South Wales and Queensland had similar lifts at 15 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

"The largest lifts were seen in Victoria which had a 27 per cent increase and South Australia which had a 56 per cent higher slaughter rate compared to 2023," Mr Bignell said.

"Dry conditions across the southern band of the country have forced stronger turnoff across those states as producers move to destock by selling interstate or processing excess cattle."

Despite 2024 slaughter being 10 per cent below the previous slaughter record, production last year reached record volumes. Over 2.57 tonnes of beef was produced, up 16 per cent on 2023, and enabling the record exports seen last year.

The average adult carcass weight (cwt) lifted 2.6 kilograms from the previous quarter to 310.8 kilogram cwt, although this was 2.8 kilogram below December 2023.

A reduction in female turnoff is the reason for these lighter weights with female slaughter reduced six per cent and the female slaughter rate (FSR) down 52.2 per cent to 51.8 per cent.

The industry uses 47 per cent FSR as a benchmark as to whether the industry is in a restock, steady or destocking phase. A quarterly FSR of 51.8 per cent is the third consecutive quarter above this benchmark, which indicates the cattle herd has entered a destocking period.

### Sheep

Total lamb production for the year reached 634,706 tonnes. This makes 2024 the largest lamb production year on record, six per cent above 2023 lamb production figures.

"In the past two years production has lifted by 18 per cent. This is due to genetic improvements in the flock but also the demographic shift towards sheepmeat and shedding breeds, which is driving fertility and thus leading to productivity gains in the national flock," Mr Bignell said.

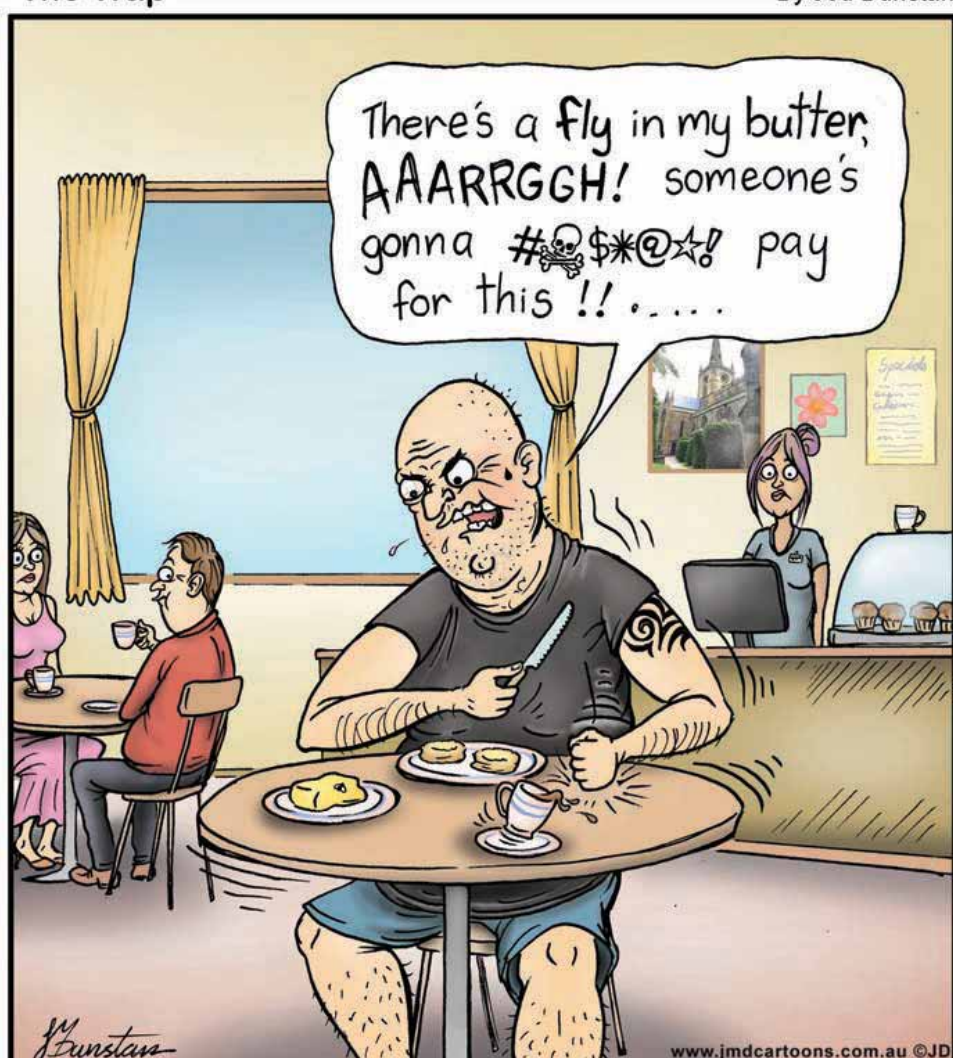
For the previous quarter to December 2024, mutton production hit 90,847 tonnes, which was the largest quarterly sheep production since 1997.

"Across the country towards the end of last year we saw mutton production soar," Mr Bignell said.

"Favourable prices at the end of the year drove this increase. Lamb prices reached \$10 per kilogram while mutton was at 300 to 440 cents per kilogram, making it more desirable to process mutton as opposed to lambs for many producers."

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire



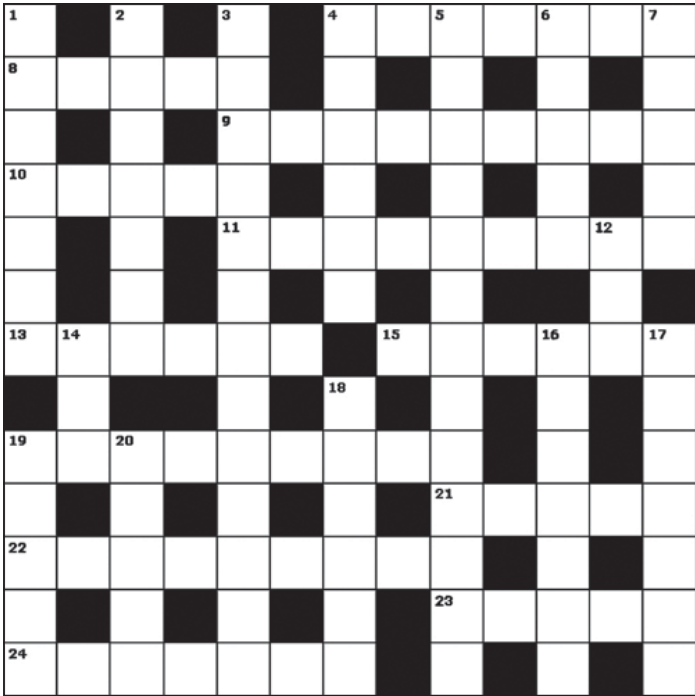
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 19

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 4. Sweet mixture poured over desserts.
  - 8. Doglike African mammal.
  - 9. Creating clothes from cloth.
  - 10. Farm consisting of a large tract of land.
  - 11. A means to an end.
  - 13. A fine cord used in sewing.
  - 15. Small cold-water silvery fish.
  - 19. Strict accuracy.
  - 21. Travels by ship.
  - 22. The male head of a family.
  - 23. Religious paintings in oil on a small wooden panels.
  - 24. A person who is being taught a skill.

- DOWN
- 1. A horse-drawn battle vehicle.
  - 2. A curve in a stream.
  - 3. Person skilled in the science of numbers.
  - 4. Curls tightly.
  - 5. Skill in fencing.
  - 6. Moving quickly and lightly.
  - 7. A finger or toe.
  - 12. A hard-shelled seed.
  - 14. Of a female.



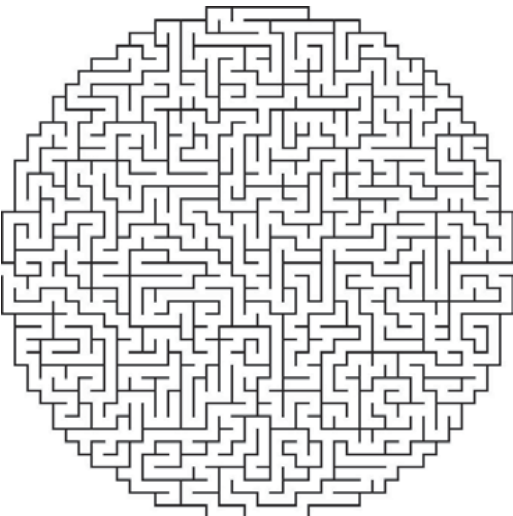
- 16. Reference book containing an alphabetical list of words.
- 17. Support oneself.
- 18. Ruthless in competition.
- 19. Small songbird.
- 20. Something additional.

Word Search

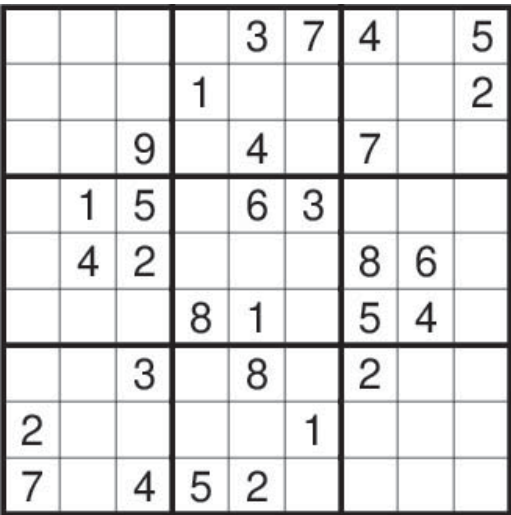
C W M J Y W J B G Q C K Q K B  
D E C K C H A I R J I K J H X  
T E K C I R C D R A Y K C A B  
T D T R B M A M Y K D T U X U  
N G L E L J N R Z M X H J N C  
D E Q L O O P G N I M M I W S  
S U E U A A W E K L E N N L U  
E C V R M Q R V L P R R U R N  
I X I M C U V A H H I K F I S  
E E U N T S B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

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- ALFRESCO
  - FAMILYFUN
  - BACKYARDCRICKET
  - NATURE
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  - PICNICS
  - BEACHBALL
  - SUNSCREEN
  - CAMPFIRE
  - SUNSHINE
  - DECKCHAIR
  - SWIMMINGPOOL

Maze



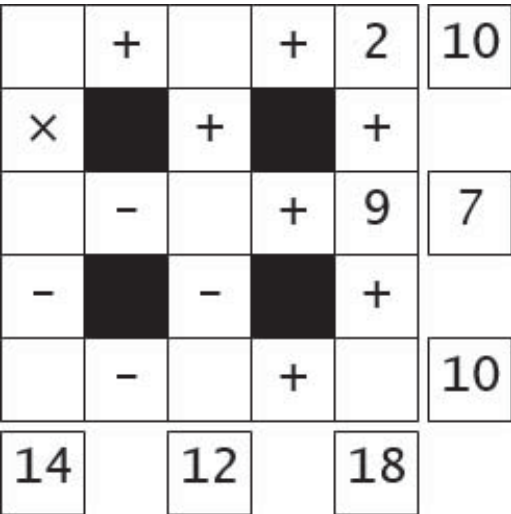
Sudoku



Difficulty: Easy

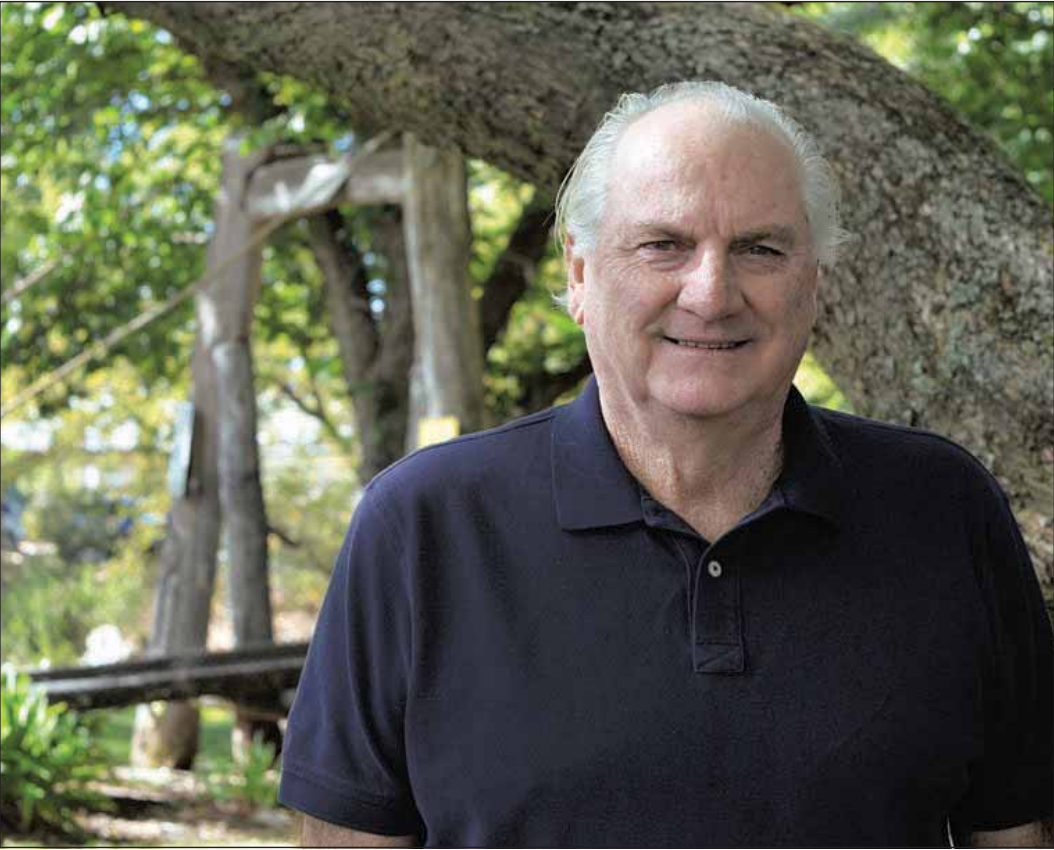
Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9. Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

Math Square



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.



Former test cricketer Ian Callen, who spent his early years living in Yarck. -BD

The story of Yarck test cricketer Ian Callen

by Bailey Dixon

FORMER test-cricketer Ian Callen’s story is a loop, which begins at the Yarck Primary School, and loops back around to Yarck now in the form of the book he has written about playing cricket in the country.

Ian originally attended Yarck Primary School for the first several years of his education, before his parents moved with him to Melbourne in 1963. He was in grade two at the time.

“If my parents hadn’t made the move to Melbourne, I never would have had the opportunity to play for Australia, I don’t believe,” Ian said.

He played in Heathmont while finishing his schooling, before becoming part of the Carlton Cricket Club. This path took him to playing in one singular test match, before injuries affected his career path.

“I went to Carlton. I did my back during the test match in Adelaide. Fractured vertebrates,” Ian said.

“I toured the West Indies with the fractures and tried to play and made it worse. So I spent two years out of the game. Fought my way back, got to tour Pakistan, and then I did my knee. That was the end of test cricket.”

Ian’s passion for cricket was not quenched despite the setback.

“I came back and played first class cricket again in South Africa, and then I coached. I coached Carlton for a number of years. In my book it says, ‘at one stage we had one metropolitan player on our team at Carlton, and we had 10 cricketers from the country region,’” he said.

“Trying to get them to training was impossible, and that’s where I realised the problems young cricketers have trying to make it to the highest levels.”

Aside from playing cricket, Ian has been involved in making cricket bats for over three decades, including his own bat-making company, Callen Cricket. This newspaper asked him about the process of making bats.

“You start with a tree, you’ve got to cut it down and process it and produce the clefts, and you’ve got to cut it into shape, and use your hand tools to carve it out. It’s a bit like sculpting,” he said.

“You’ve got to be able to balance it, so the pickup is good. There’s a lot of work involved. That sort of led me to getting some land and putting some trees in the ground. I nurtured them for years before I got anything out of them.”

From all of his experience in the world of cricket, Ian decided to write a book about the sport in country areas, specifically the area around Yarck from which he originated. It is called ‘The Legend of Mason Ironside’ and includes cricket tips and strategies as well as the fictional story.

“I’ve written this book based on the fact that I came from Yarck, a country town. We had a Yarck Cricket Club, a Yarck Football Club, which folded. My dad was captain of the cricket club, and I dragged his cricket bat around all over the place,” Ian said.

“It’s fiction of course, because there is no longer a Yarck Primary School, but I’m saying there is. There’s a new residential area, new zoning allotments put in Yarck. You never know, they might get enough kids there to open up a new school again.

“That’s what this book is about. Once there was a Terip Terip school, a Ruffy school, a Gooram school, a Strathbogie school, a Merton school, and Yarck. They used to play cricket against each other, and so I’ve used my imagination to create this story.”

Michael Lynch claimed the Medal of Medallist

by Puttamic

IN fine warm conditions, 19 players participated in a stroke round for February’s Monthly Medal which also included eight players that were eligible to fight out the Medal of Medallist.

Congratulations Michael Lynch who finished with a nett 65 to claim both the Medal of Medallist and Monthly Medal honours and just one stroke clear of Ken Collier who secured runner-up in the Monthly Medal. The ball run down went to Phil Gourlay, Dennis Seamer, John Monteath, and Leigh Munro.

Allison Southwell was nearest the pin on the par four-third (second shot), John Monteath claimed the 12th and John

Beale was successful on the 14th. Both the fifth and 11th went unclaimed as did the eighth on the birdie holes. Rod Taylor and Ken Collier however were successful on the 15th.

Ian Lakeland was the entry draw winner, Denis McDonald the swindle recipient and Marian Williamson tried her luck at the elusive joker.

At plays end, all players were treated to a beautiful lunch and dessert thanks to Wayne Kupke and Kaz. Thank you guys.

Don’t forget that there is no competition on next week at Eildon as Marysville will be hosting the fourth and final round of the Murrindindi Masters. Good luck to everyone that is in contention.



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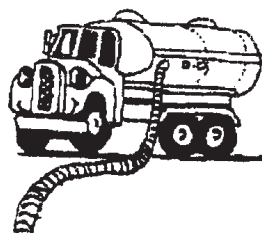
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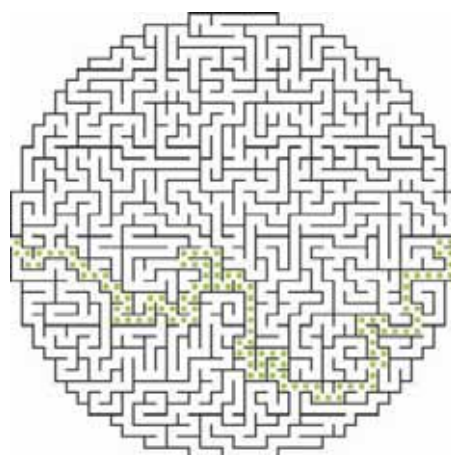
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### FUNERAL NOTICES

#### HULL, Daryl.

A celebration of the life of Daryl Hull will be held at the Lakeview Room, Marysville Community Centre, on Sunday, March 16 at 2pm. All welcome.

### MEETINGS

#### CATHKIN (Molesworth) Cemetery Trust.

Notice of AGM meeting. Sunday, March 16 at 11am. Molesworth Hall. All welcome.

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### MEETINGS

## ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT OPEN GARDENS

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Enquiries to Melinda Jackson at 0418 378 806 or email [melinda.louise.jackson@gmail.com](mailto:melinda.louise.jackson@gmail.com). Light refreshments will be available. All welcome.

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# Murrindindi Little Athletics nears season finish

WITH just one week left in the 2024/25 Murrindindi Little Athletics season, it's been an action-packed journey filled with achievements, personal bests, and plenty of community spirit.

A huge congratulations to Declan Baker, Declan Armstrong, Charlotte Boulton, Levi Campbell, Chase Hilder, Clay Hilder, and Zoe Collier for qualifying for the State Track and Field Championship at Casey in Melbourne. Their dedication and hard work have paid off, and we wish them all the best as they compete at the next level on the March long weekend.

Last Saturday saw another round of Personal Best medallions handed out, with athletes pushing themselves to the limit in hopes of securing more before the season wraps up. Club records were awarded too, well done to Maverick Clacy in the 700 metre race walk, Alisha Abdulla in the 70 metre sprint, and Makayla Reece in the 60 metre hurdles.

A big shout out goes to the senior athletes for leading the warm up and demonstrating great sportsmanship and leadership for the younger kids. And, of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated parents who arrive early to set up, stay late to pack up, and keep the club running smoothly. Special thanks to the barbecue crew, whose efforts are always appreciated by athletes and families alike.

As we head into the final week, let's finish strong and celebrate another fantastic season of Little Athletics in Murrindindi.



Gold, Silver and Bronze Personal Best medallion recipients. -S



Maverick Clacy with his club record for the 700 metre race walk. -S



New Hurdles Club record holder Malaya Reece. -S



Congratulations to Chase Hilder and Levi Campbell for breaking the Club Hurdles record last Saturday. -S



New club record-holder for the 70 metre Sprint is Alisha Abdulla. -S

## ASC Swimming Carnival 2025 report

by Ally Crouch, Sports Coordinator for Alexandra Secondary College

ON Friday, February 14, Alexandra Secondary College (ASC) hosted its annual Inter-house Swimming Carnival.

The day kicked off with students gathering at the college, before marching to the swimming pool via Leckie Park, all while chanting their house cheers and showcasing their creative costumes.

The races came thick and fast, with numerous students setting new personal bests, a feat highlighted by the breaking of 12 college records.

Despite fierce competition, Long house extended its winning streak and emerged victorious once again. The school congratulates Cumming House for clinching the 'Novelty Cup' in the water volleyball competition.

This year, they also introduced the 'Monster House Relay,' where both students and staff came together to swim for their houses, earning valuable points.

The students awarded age champion titles for 2025 are as follows:

The 12- to 13-year-old female winner was Koa Parker, with runner-up Zoe Collier; the 12- to 13-year-old male winner was Riley Cole, with runner-up Eli Weeks.

The 14-year-old female winner was Charlotte Boulton, with runner-up Mia Heard; the 14-year-old male winner was Levi Campbell, with runner-up Chase Hilder.

The 15-year-old female winner was Zoe Mullins, with runner-up Cassie Kidd; the 15-year-old male winner was Charlie Irwin, with runner-up Riley Galloway.

The 16-year-old female winner was Phoebe Kidd, with runner-up Hannah Weeks.

The 17-year-old female winner was Xanthe Campbell; the 17-year-old male winner was Archie Gibson, with runner-up Louie Matheson.

The 18- to 20-year-old female winner was Danielle Nadj, with runner-up Mia Creighton; the 18- to 20-year-old male winner was Casey Collett, with runner-up Drew Collier.

Multi class open age group winner was Keira Snyman.

Koa Parker set a new record for each individual event that she competed in: 40.87 seconds for the 12 to 13 50 metre breaststroke; 35.22 seconds for the 12 to 13 50 metre butterfly; 32.40 seconds for the 12 to 13 50 metre freestyle; 37.56 seconds for the 12 to 13 50 metre backstroke; one minute, 18.25 seconds for the 12 to 20 100 metre butterfly.

Charlotte Boulton set a record of 43.89 seconds for 14-year-old 50 metre breaststroke.

Danielle Nadj set a record of three minutes, 32.02 seconds for the 16- to 20-year-old 200 metre individual medley.

Long house dominated the relays with an impressive three new records:

The 12 to 20 100 metre medley with a time of one minute, 22.39 seconds (Danielle Nadj, Milly Weeks, Xanthe Campbell and Rose Hurrey); men's 15 to 16 freestyle with a time of one minute, 10.53 seconds (Archie Gibson, Tyler Ward, Jordan Carr and Levi Campbell); women's 17 to 20 freestyle with a time of one minute, 08.63 seconds (Danielle Nadj, Milly Weeks, Xanthe Campbell and Rose Hurrey).

Bainbridge house set a record for the 12 to 20 medley relay of one minute, 15.87 seconds (Ash Dean, Noah Campbell, Aiden Campbell and Charlie Irwin).

Weinberg house set a record for the 12 to 14 freestyle relay of one minute, 15.21 seconds (Koa Parker, Tilly Miljkovic, Xahlia Sutton-Stevenson and Bella Twitchett).

The all-important year 12's versus staff relay was again a highlight this year. Although the staff put up a good fight, their speed and determination to win didn't allow them to come home with the all-important trophy.

ASC highlights that this day is not possible without the students and parents. They thank all those parents who assisted on the day with timekeeping, it was lovely to see so many parents and caregivers come to watch students race. ASC says a special thanks also to the staff who put together a fantastic day and one that hopefully will be talked about for years to come.



## SPORT

# Merton hosts City Colts

MERTON cricketers hosted City Colts from Wangaratta last Saturday in hot dry and windy conditions at the Merton Cricket Ground. Merton won the toss and batted making 7/168 with a solid 72 run opening partnership between top scorer Luke Berriman 49 and Daryl King 25 getting their team off to a good start.

City Colts bounced back restricting the Merton middle order and taking wickets in the process. A sixth wicket partnership in the latter overs of 58 between Ross Mackinnon 29 and Josh Johnson also 29 saw a competitive score achieved by the home side although maybe a little under par on a quick dry outfield. Kent Braden 3/36 and Darcy Sanders 2/8 the Colts' better bowlers. City Colts had a few ex A graders on the team bus to Merton with opener Kent Braden taking the game away from Merton with a fine 92 with opening partner

Ross Moore 28 the pair put on 77 for the first wicket. The home side bounced back taking 3/3 with Noah Whittall 3/29 and all rounder Luke Berriman 2/16 giving their team some hope for victory, however the experience of Nick Norris 35 not out saw the Colts pass Merton's total in the 34th over. Jai Lerch-Mackinnon 1/33 the other consistent bowler for the home side. Probably not quite enough runs and a few costly overs against an experienced batting side the lesson learnt for the Merton side.

Merton have the bye next Saturday and then host the in form Rovers in the last round in the WDCA b grade competition.

Merton sit fifth on the ladder and will be hoping a few results go their way to ensure a top six finish to the season and the opportunity to play finals.



Some fast bowling action with the Merton Cricket game. -S

# Squash players charged on caffeine

by Kristelle Leary

## Monday Competition

### Affogato versus Mocha

ERIC versus Ethan: Eric's returns and play have improved to create some points and rallies. However, Ethan's strong serve won him the match. 74 to 31.

Lee versus Chris: An even contest. Both players had good placement, but Lee edged ahead in the final game to take the match. 56 to 52.

Jared versus Simon: The majority of the match was tight, but a blow out in game two saw Jared behind by twenty points. This was unrecoverable and Simon stayed in front to win the match. 67 to 53.

Derrick versus Jim (fill in): Derrick was hitting shots between the legs often for the point of the pennant. Jim never gave in, but Derrick still claimed the victory. 58 to 50.

## Cappuccino versus Latte

LOCHLAN versus Jordan: Lochlan has been improving his strokes and gave his opponent a scare. After taking a five point lead at the halfway point, Jordan lost the third and only just managed to claw back the win in the fourth game. 55 to 53.

James G (fill in) versus Jess (fill in): An evenly matched game with great hitting, consistent shots and good rallies

all round. Jess nudged ahead in the end to take victory by a mere two points.

Michael M versus Justin (fill in): A fiercely frenetic fight. Both players missed targets early on and the score was deadlocked after two games. Michael rediscovered some long lost form and applied relentless pressure causing mistakes in Justins game. This was more evident in the final game and saw Michael take home the match with a twenty point lead. 68 to 48

## Thursday Competition

### Chai versus Rooibos

RANDY versus James S: The first game was quite close as the players warmed up. James came out firing on all cylinder in the second game to win with a good lead and continued his good form to the end of the match. James was victorious. 77 to 49.

Sam versus Blake: Blake fought hard throughout the match. But Sam's placement was just too good and earnt him a commanding victory. 90 to 33

Jim versus Daniel K: Daniel toyed with Jim for the first three games. Firing up to take final game by sixteen points, Daniel went home with a resounding win. 57 to 30.

## Darjeeling versus Oolong

BETH versus Jess: Both players had beautiful serves into the back corners. Jess had a bit more spring in her step carrying



Simon lines up his backhand to return Jared's shot -S

her around the court to take the win. 64 to 50.

Rob versus Kristelle: A close game to start was instantly followed by a land slide for Rob, winning the second game with a thirteen-point win. Kristelle kept the next two games close, but her flat feet in the second game secured her loss. Rob won. 70 to 53.

Phil versus Daniel W (fill in): A competitive match. Daniel won the first and fourth games, while Phil took the second and third games. Neither wanted to lose but only one could prevail. Phil was the victor. 59 to 56.

## Sport grants to get more people involved

A NEW round of grants to upskill staff and volunteers for sports clubs are now open under the new *Sporting Club Grants Program*.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, as well as grants of up to \$4000 to help clubs deliver new programs to the community.

Clubs can also apply for grants of up to \$1000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are also available to participate in competitions away from home.

Since 2014, the *Sporting Club Grants Program* has injected almost \$18.4 million into the community and supported thousands of clubs across the state, improving the experience of local community sport for everyone involved.

The program is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* that is delivering infrastructure upgrades as well as the *Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund* to help more regional Victorians get active and be part of their local sporting club.

Applications for this round close Thursday, March 27. For more information and to apply visit [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au)

# Alexandra Race Club's 2025 Cathedral Cup is coming

RECORD prize money of \$10,000 is offered for the 2025 Alexandra Cup on Saturday, March 15. As the Victorian Picnic Season draws to a close and horse vie for a win, every race will be very keen and exciting.

The Alexandra Race Club is very grateful to Cathedral Golf Club for sponsoring the Cup again this year. In celebration of golf, between races, kids of all ages, can test their skill on a mini golf course. Members of several local public golf clubs will attend as guests of the club.

Other sponsors include E. Hadfield Contracting, Rubicon Hotel Motel, ATTA, Darlingford Waters Boat Club and Bet 365.

In addition to big horse racing there will be pony rides for little people as well as face painting and the wonder of Marqo the Magician. There is fun for all the family and everyone can enjoy the beautiful R & B music of Soloman and Lacey.

In recognition of current economic conditions, Racing Victoria is providing a free \$10 food voucher as part of its "Lunch is on Us" Campaign to the first 100 people

to book their entry online through [country.racing.com](http://country.racing.com)

Those lucky people will receive their voucher on entry. Several vendors will be present to accepted the voucher.

Please be aware that a No BYO policy was introduced at Alexandra Race Club this season. Year by year the liquor licensing rules around BYO tightened till it became too difficult for volunteers to oversee. The club decided that No BYO was the only way we could comply. The bar is reasonably priced, the range of drinks is good and the profits are ploughed back into the club. BYO can still be arranged by group organisers who must speak to the secretary six weeks prior to race day and apply for a temporary liquor licence. Such groups must then locate in the marquee area, obtain a \$90 licence and have an RSA bar person serving.

Again TAC and the club are providing buses to the races from Eildon and Marysville. The routes are designed so everyone in major towns and caravan parks can be picked up conveniently. Bookings are essential and there is a \$10 fee for a return ticket. Children 15 and under ride free but they need a ticket too. Book online via [country.racing.com](http://country.racing.com) and see the pick up points and times. To ensure your arrive at the races and home again safely, book your bus ticket. Expect this service every meeting, every season from now on.

Gate open at 11am. General admission is \$20, Concession is \$15, Children 15 and under are free.



Racegoers at last year's event. -S



# Alexandra Bowlers into the grand final

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club's win against Euroa last Saturday, means Alexandra is straight through to the grand final. A Total Fire ban and an extreme weather warning doesn't stop a game of bowls. Saturday was an extremely hot day coupled with strong winds on a fast carpet green made for a particularly challenging Semi-final. Nagambie hosted the semi finals.

Alexandra had two winning rinks both with 12 shots up. David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier, and Saxon Langmead won 14 out of 21 ends and were seven to zero up on end five before Euroa had their first win. It was seven to two on end six. Alexandra had increased that lead to 10 to three by end nine. They won the next six ends, including six shots on end 14 to lead 24 to three. It seemed it was a matter of, how far? However, Euroa was back in the game over the next five ends. They won 11 shots including a five shot pick up on end 20f but still trailed 24 to

14. Alexandra won the last end to finish the game 26 to 14.

Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans, Lauren Gilchrist were two to five down on end four but won the next three ends to lead 10 to five. Euroa were only one shot down by end ten, 10 to nine. Alex had increased that lead to be 18 to nine by end 13. End 15 and Euroa trailed by five shots 18 to 14. Alexandra won five out of the last six ends to finish comfortable winners 28 to 16. They won 12 ends out of 21.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias, and Denice Chisholm had the closest game. They trailed eight to three on end six but won the next five ends to lead 11 to eight on end 11. Euroa had Alexandra trailing by four shots 11 to 15 on end 15. A handy four shot pick up on end 16 and the game was all tied up 15 all. Euroa won the next end to lead 18 to 15. It was 17 to 18 after end 18. Euroa led 19 to 17 on end 19 but Alexandra won the last two ends and the game finished a draw

19 all. Alexandra won 11 ends overall in a close game that could have gone either way.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ian Harper, Ken Argent, and Christine Mayfield began well and led six to two on end seven. Euroa overtook that lead to be nine to six up on end 10. It was nine all on end 11. But a five shot win on end 12 gave Euroa a handy 14 to nine lead. It was all Euroa's way for the remainder of the game. Alexandra won three out of the last nine ends to lose 12 to 26. They won nine ends overall.

The overall final score was Alexandra 85 to Euroa 75. The win means a week off for Alexandra and Euroa will play Shepparton Park who defeated Dookie in a very close elimination final 76 to 73. The Preliminary Final will be played at Shepparton Golf Bowling Club.

Other finals played on Saturday saw Seymour VRI Division two defeated 81 to 75 by Shepparton Golf and will play Shepparton Park in the Preliminary Final. Colbinabbin was defeated by Yea 58 to 55 in the Division five final. Yea will play the winner of the Preliminary Final between Colbinabbin and Kyabram. In Division seven Rushworth defeated Seymour 48 to 30 and will play Eildon next week. Eildon lost to Kyabram 37 to 42.

A bowling fun day/practice game for Midweek and Saturday Divisions is on next Saturday. The games to begin at 10am and there will be a barbecue after.

Club games have continued and the novice singles are down to the final. Malcolm Gill will play Levi Ronalds. Levi defeated Andy Tobias to move into the final and Mal defeated Marty Manning. The game will be played next Sunday at 11am. Spectators are encouraged to come along and watch our new bowlers.



Ryley McDonald strides towards the 11th. -S

## All the seasons in one week for Yea golfers

by Dave Silverman

FIRST order of business this week, an apology. Last week, I failed spectacularly to meet Elizabeth's lofty standards. I mentioned in my first golf report that Elizabeth got her copy to the paper even when she was in hospital, a feat that I was unable to emulate. I'll need to lift my game.

With the weather more like autumn than summer, 12 men rugged up and teed off in the Tuesday Stableford round. The result proved to be a welcome return to form for Steve Darmody, who took the win with an impressive 42 points. His nearest rival was Bill Wind, who came in second on 37, with Lenny Jenkins in third on 36.

Steve and Bill also claimed a nearest the pin, on seven and 18 respectively, with 17 going to Dan Burns. Bruce Colville, Jared Sloane, and Frank DeVries claimed the rundown vouchers.

Last Wednesday also dawned fine, cool and clear for the ladies' competition, which last week was a Par round. God knows why, but it was, and 10 players participated. Rita Mitchell took the win with +3, Sue Greatorex was second on +2, and third went to Bron Howell on -1.

Marg Fahey was the nine hole winner, and nearest the pins went to Judy Pearson on two, Donna Meggitt on seven and Barb Doyle on 18.

Saturday saw a return to summer, and it was a small field of 10 for a Stableford round, sponsored by Hunted Engineering. The reason for the lack of entrants was due to the fact that a large group of our golfers were swanning about in the fleshpots of Queensland, playing golf at some of Queensland's finest courses.

The best score of the day was 36 points, recorded by Todd Galloway. Steve Darmody, and John Greatorex were not far behind him, with 34 points each, in second and third respectively. Greateo also claimed nearest the pin on 12, while Ryley McDonald picked up two and seven, Greg Millard took five and 18 went to Bill Wind.



Division Four best winning rinks players David Nicklos, Larry Scott, Marie Evans, Bob Mayfield, Greg Gilmore, Saxon Langmead, Lauren Gilchrist, and Scott Ferrier. -S

# Marysville Golfers welcome Yea Players

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday four Marysville ladies played in the Alexandra Bowl and enjoyed the course and the hospitality. The Seymour team won the bowl but Marysville member Margaret Blair had a very successful day. Off a handicap of 33 Margaret scored 40 points

which was the best score of the day. She won C Grade, was a member of the winning small teams, won the Veterans section and gained five Dalhousie Player of the Year points. Well played Margaret, and members thank Alexandra golfers for their hospitality.

On Saturday the Yea golfers were unable to play on their course as it was being prepared for the picnic races but Marysville members were delighted to welcome a number of Yea golfers to the Saturday competition. Both the men and the ladies played a stableford round. The ladies winner was Lesley Rundle (33) with 35 points followed by Christine Simmons (25) from Yea with 33 points. Peter Lilley (14) won the men's section with 36 points and Alan Howard (15) was the runner up with 35 points. The nearest the pins were won by Steve Berry, Richy Clark, Alan Pell (Yea) and Gail Leigh who also won the Golden Shot. The Yea players enjoyed the day, with one lady commenting that her golf could have been better but she enjoyed the scenery.

Next Saturday the fourth and final round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters will be held at Marysville. Marysville members are reminded to please sign the list in the clubrooms as soon as possible if they wish to play in this event. Preparations will be happening all week and information regarding participants is essential.

On Saturday, March 15, the 15th annual Don Read Lakeside Challenge will be played. This is a major event on the syllabus and the ongoing generous support of the Lakeside golfers is very much appreciated. Please register with [heatherjenkins2008@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherjenkins2008@hotmail.com) or 0429 146 763.

The Inaugural Marysville Community Golf Day supported by the Lions Club of Marysville is being held on Thursday, March 20. Details of this event can be found on the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club Facebook page or [enquiries@marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au](mailto:enquiries@marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au)



Marysville and Yea Golfers have a good catch up after the day's game. -S

## ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY  
15 March 2025

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11.15am Big 4 Holiday Park  
11.20am Eildon Waters Holiday Park  
11.30am Rubicon Hotel  
11.45pm Alexandra Race Club

### Route 2 Marysville Bus

11.00am Marysville – Open Area opp  
Foodworks (Ampol Service)  
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11.30am Taggerty Holiday Park  
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# Standard Sport

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## A day to remember a great lady

by Michael Mawson

LAST Saturday was special day on the Redbacks calendar with it being the third Kellie Snyman Ladies' day. As well as having a couple of games of cricket, the day is about acknowledging the contribution of the women of the club. It is named in honour of Kellie Snyman who was the mother of current player, Jaidon Snyman and she was a pivotal member of the club's committee until her sudden and unexpected passing from an asthma attack. In keeping with Snyman's role in running social events, the club organised music, face painting, and some delicious food.

This was going to be another day with both the A and B grade playing at home. However, the B-Grade match was cancelled by Yea forfeiting due to not having the numbers to provide a team. Yea are currently in a red-hot forfeiting streak with last weeks A-Grade match abandoned due to ground staff forgetting to cover the pitch ahead of a downpour.

Yea's B-Grade forfeit gives Alexandra an assured finals berth and should the Redbacks win one game out of the next two, they will earn a home final by finishing second on the ladder, without having to rely on the results in other games.

The A-Grade match was a dead rubber with The Redbacks out of finals contention and playing just for pride against top-of-the-table Tallarook. There were plenty of line up changes with Vinu Hewage, Ben Broadway, Banjo Fitzpatrick, Levi Ronalds, and Will Ellis coming into the side. Andrew Wood, MJ Hendricks, Harrison Christie had the week off.

Tallarook also had several personnel changes, and their side was not at full strength. Alexandra's captain, Will Ashton won the toss and elected to bat. Tallarook's opening bowlers proved effective by dismissing Vinu Hewage caught behind for four and then keeping the run-rate down. Mat Wal eked out 16 runs before being LBW to the bowling of Sam Manchester. Levi Ronalds was run out before he could build an innings. Ashton and Josh Crane then built a partnership full of singles and twos that moved the score along.

Tallarook made a decisive bowling change by giving their wicketkeeper, Joshua Rudge a turn with the ball. Rudge's slower bowling caused Ashton to mistime a shot and be caught for 46. Ben Broadway was similarly caught for five, as was Josh Crane for a well-made 32. Rudge then tore through the lower order with an leg before wicket and three batters being bowled.

Matt Waixel was left stranded on eight as Alexandra collapsed to 125 of 42 overs. This



The Alexandra Redbacks seniors team. -AR

would normally be considered below-par against Tallarook.

Tallarook began their run chase with their bowling hero, Joshua Rudge opening the batting with Leigh Irving. James Geldart and Nathan Hendricks put in a huge effort with their bowling and kept Irving from scoring quickly until he was caught by Matt Waixel off Geldart's bowling for five. Rudge, however, was able to punish any loose deliveries and he sped to 28 runs before being bowled by Hendricks. Geldart then got through the defences of two more batsmen before a bowling change brought on the slow bowling of Levi Ronalds and Vinu Hewage. Ronalds claimed four cheap wickets and every spinner that Hewage bowled had the batters looking perplexed. He claimed two wickets.

To the elation of the Redback's and the increasingly colourful home crowd, Tallarook was dismissed for 85 in under 29 overs.

After the match, the mums of many Under-13 Redback players took to the field and had a hit of cricket. A dinner of roast meat rolls followed soon after.

Almost to a person, the Alexandra and Tallarook communities honoured Kellie Snyman with their jovial spirits and the cooperation that they showed. An incomplete list of thanks goes to, Bronwyn Leary for scoring, Lottie Weisse for her face-painting artistry, Scott Whitehead, the Christie Family for food prep and music, the Geldarts and Melissa Crane for making things run well.



Happy Alexandra players after winning the seniors match. -AR



President Scott Whitehead, captain Will Ashton and secretary Kelly Fitzpatrick. -AR



Reg and Mario enjoying watching the match. -AR



Vicky having her face painted by Lottie. -AR