

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, March 5, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Leigh Munro on defibrillators



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New vehicle for shire learner drivers



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Let's eat, it's our treat: \$50 voucher



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Weekend sport



Pages 14-16

Dindi Daze draws a crowd

THE inaugural Dindi Daze took place last Saturday in Rotary Park in Alexandra, designed to highlight all that is good in Murrindindi Shire.

Running from 10am to 6pm, the event saw market stalls, children's activities, a petting zoo, live music and business awards, making it a day-out for many families.

Local police and CFA were in attendance to show off their equipment, and a number of classic cars parked on Grant Street for people to admire.

Uncle Ian Hunter performed traditional Aboriginal music, stories and dance, much to the delight of the children in attendance.

Live music acts in the afternoon included Tayla Arnett, Backo, Szara Fox and Andrew Darling, and Steve Paix and James Whybrow.

Alexandra Rotary Club presented business awards to four Murrindindi businesses around midday, including Grant Street Grocer, CountryTech, Alexandra Newspapers, and Ann Friedel Publishing.

One of the main organisers of the event, Ian Smith from the Rotary Club of Alexandra, spoke about how the event was designed to give back to the Murrindindi Shire community.

"Business awards are at midday, and that's recognising local Murrindindi businesses. It's a very community focused event. We've got a raffle at 5pm, and we're selling tickets to support victims of domestic violence," Ian said.

"This is being supported by Rotary, and Rotary has put money into this event, as has the Murrindindi Shire Council. We're not looking at this as a fundraiser. This is to celebrate all that's good in Murrindindi.

"There's no gold coin entry, it's free entry. A petting zoo for all the kids, that's free. Face painting is all free. The music's all free. We're really celebrating everything that's good in the region. People that are doing it tough are not going to find a financial barrier to coming along," he finished.



Steve and Sam Collins enjoying the live music and food on offer at Dindi Daze. More images on page 14. -BD

Road maintenance and repair spend

THE long-awaited Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Freedom of Information request has finally been approved, with some surprising results.

We were seeking "The total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in the smallest increment (ie. region) which includes Murrindindi Shire, across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years."

We were provided with the following expenditure for the Hume region:

2014/15	- \$54.8m
2015/16	- \$49.4m
2016/17	- \$49.3m
2017/18	- \$78.3m
2018/19	- \$62.5m
2019/20	- \$89.1m
2020/21	- \$108.8m
2021/22	- \$103.5m
2022/23	- \$100.4m
2023/24	- \$164.2m

These results were particularly surprising, given the number of potholes on our roads.

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

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
 Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400
In an emergency dial 000

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

How to Save Money on Your Power Bill

MY January electricity bill was \$110. This included the service charge of \$34.12, so the power was only \$75.88. This is because I didn't need to turn my air conditioner on. I have an electric oven and an electric cook top. Instead, I planted trees, vines and understory plants all round my house, and its paying off in dollars.

Ruth Selover, Alexandra

Duck hunting awareness training

READING the new Victorian government's GMA Duck Hunting Training in the *Standard*, it looks like someone wearing a large White Guilt button badge has decided that it is so integral to hunting ducks that part of that requirement is an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness component.

It beggars the imagination on how Indigenous mythology relates to humane ways to harvest a duck.

Anyway its irrelevant as the wetlands will be drained, birdlife and wildlife scattered and pristine farmland and bushland destroyed by wind-driven electricity generator parks anyway despite cultural awareness. So sustainable duck hunting will drift into folklore among desecrated landscapes.

Malcolm Price, Alexandra

Anzac Day

I NEED to express my anger and disappointment after reading a Letter to the Editor that appeared in last week's *Standard*, written by Robyn Walsh of Yarck. I am a proud Australian whose grandfather fought and was injured in the Gallipoli campaign.

I am insulted by your comments Robyn, as would all the families of the 50,000 Australians who fought in Gallipoli which resulted in 26,111 casualties of which 8000 never returned to our shores. You want us not to continue to acknowledge and thank them on Anzac Day? Unbelievable.

Wayne Miller, Alexandra

Anzac Day

HOW dare you put down the Australians who fought for our country, and your comment about removing Anzac Day saying Gallipoli was far away from our shores. That maybe so but there have been many more closer to our shores since then. The comradeship and sacrifices set in Gallipoli still exist today. Aborigines also fought for this country too and some of them paid the supreme sacrifice. If not for this, we would not have the freedom that we have today. Many of us have had returned soldiers in our families and most of us are glad to remember their sacrifices on Anzac Day each year. So hands off Anzac Day.

Lest we forget.

Pat Collier, Alexandra



THUMBS UP: To council for the community consultation session on Tuesday, February 25, and especially to Ben for his leadership, sense of humour, understanding of the need for everyone to have a say, and his good listening skills. However, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating.

THUMBS DOWN: Not sure how Anzac Day is relevant to land theft. The Anzacs committed to protect the land with their lives for the benefit of the whole population not restricting access for all but some.

THUMBS UP: To Robyn and those who want to cancel Australia Day and Anzac Day. Let's just roll all our public holidays into one day that says it all, April the first.

THUMBS DOWN: To a local community member whose letter to the editor in last week's *Alexandra Standard* said in part, 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. Shame on you.

THUMBS UP: To Robyn Walsh of Yarck for her great letter of the February 26. It gave me a chuckle and pointed out that we should take back the word 'woke'. If being woke is caring for and cherishing others in our lives, society, history and around the world, then woke is one of the best things to be. I'm with her on Anzac Day too; you can't have it both ways. We either remember nothing of our past or everything, even if it's unsavoury.

THUMBS UP: To the front-of-house staff at The *Standard*. With willingness, efficiency and lots of polite smiles, they greatly assisted in helping to resolve an issue which needed promptness and cooperation. They did it. My gratitude.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

Tues	Art Group (Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun	Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun	Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Thu	7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri	Communitia 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1 st Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 st Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465
1 st Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 nd Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 nd Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 rd Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3 rd Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 rd Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 th Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri	Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455



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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	2.41	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.38	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.42am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.48am Mon	0.08	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	5.39am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	11.56am Mon	0.06	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	4.22	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.27	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	11.15am Mon	-0.01	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	2.00	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	2.18	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.79	steady	

****ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2025**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Weekly Weather

March 5 - March 11, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	15	33	Wednesday	16	34
Thursday	15	30	Thursday	15	29
Friday	15	31	Friday	15	31
Saturday	19	31	Saturday	19	32
Sunday	18	28	Sunday	19	29
Monday	17	29	Monday	16	29
Tuesday	14	26	Tuesday	13	26



DISTRICT RAINFALL

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

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	281.24m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	72.1%
Metres below full supply	7.66m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	7500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	66%



DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Leigh Munro speaks to Rotary about defibrillators

ALEXANDRA Rotary's most recent guest speaker was Leigh Munro. Leigh started as a volunteer with ADASS (Alexandra and District Ambulance Service) and transferred to Ambulance Victoria (AV), initially as an Ambulance Community Response Officer or First Responder where he served our community for 23 years. He stopped working in acute response when the required skill levels intensified and switched to teaching First Aid in workplaces such as council and schools.

He was keen to let people know that anyone can use an AED (automated electronic defibrillator). If you encounter someone who has stopped breathing, first assess the situation for any dangers, then commence chest compressions as soon as possible while help is sought from 000 or 112.

The cycle is 30 compressions to two breaths, but mouth to mouth is not expected. Use a mask if available. Clear the patient's

airway of blood, vomit, broken teeth before commencing compressions.

Maintaining compressions is essential. If the brain is deprived of oxygenated blood for longer than six or seven minutes, brain tissue starts to die. Swap with someone else if you get tired.

Familiarise yourself with where AEDs are located, for example at FoodWorks inside the front door, the library, golf club, Fawcett Hall to name a few. The Triple Zero operator will advise where the closest registered AED can be found.

Follow the spoken instructions from the AED unit and operator while staying on the line.

If patient is in cardiac arrest, the heart has stopped beating.

Applying a shock may restart heartbeat and breathing. If breathing restarts, calm



Ian Smith and Leigh Munro -S

the patient, and put in recovery position to protect airway.

The machine will not deliver a shock if the patient is in asystole, but you should continue CPR until paramedics arrive, or the first aider is exhausted. (Paramedics swap over every two minutes when doing compressions).

If a mask is not available, continue with compressions at rate of 100 to 120 per minute, depth 5cm for an adult patient.

Ensure that patient's skin is dry before attaching defibrillator pads, and that connecting cable is not under the pad.

Do not apply pads over an implanted pacemaker. This is usually but not always near left collarbone.

If the patient has a significant bleeding wound, locate the source and apply pressure bandage before starting CPR (reduces blood loss).

Once CPR has been started, do not stop. Every minute of delay in starting CPR decreases the chance of recovery by 10 per cent, so a 10 minute delay equals a zero per cent chance of recovery.

Batteries in the units last about five years, and cost \$300 to replace. Pads have a life of about 12 months.

Units cost about \$1500 (down from about \$3000 previously). If your community group or business purchases a unit, ensure that it is registered with 000. This assists GoodSam volunteers in the area to respond effectively

Do not be afraid to use the AED units. It is better to do something, than to do nothing.



Transportables for the next Alexandra childcare centre were brought to the site on Tuesday, February 25, meaning that the town will soon have more childcare options available. -S

Firewood fundraiser for Kellock



Wayne Miller with some of the pine offcuts. -KM

THE Friends of Kellock fundraising committee are again undertaking a major fundraiser with the sale of kiln dried pine offcuts for this winter.

Prices remain at \$10 per bag or \$100 for a ute or trailer load with all orders delivered.

All proceeds go to Kellock Lodge. Bags can be ordered by ringing Wayne Miller on 0409 965 329 or picked up from Embling Rural.

Alexandra Museum
& Steam Train Rides

Open Saturday March 9,
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)
 or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988

Firewood collection areas open in state forests from March 1

VICTORIANS will be able to collect free firewood for personal use from designated state forest firewood collection areas from March 1, 2025.

The autumn firewood season ends on June 30, 2025, but collectors are reminded individual collection areas may close earlier if there is no more firewood available.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Director of Forest and Fire Operations, Aaron Kennedy, urged collectors to play it safe and check local weather conditions as well as their planned route before heading into the forest.

"When collecting, please drive only on formed roads, be aware of the environment around you and the safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning," he said.

Mr Kennedy said people can collect up to two cubic metres per person per day with a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year. He encouraged people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to plan for their needs early. Collected firewood cannot be sold.

"Firewood needs at least eight to 12 months to cure and must be dry before use."

Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who need to buy firewood: ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support

Find your local collection area and information about collecting firewood at ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region

Maps will be live from midnight, Saturday, March 1. An interactive map includes details about vehicle access, while pdf maps include safety and other practical information.

Within designated collection areas, collectors can collect and cut wood that is on the ground due to natural fall or forest and fire management works. Heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a tree, living or dead.

Wood will be of varying sizes and may not be the same quality as the firewood sold by a commercial cutter. A wheelbarrow may be needed to transport wood to the vehicle as it cannot leave tracks.

"Most people do the right thing and stick to the collection limits, but people should know authorised officers from the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria will be patrolling to catch those who aren't," Mr Kennedy said.

Authorised Officers can issue fines of more than \$769 to those caught breaking the firewood collection rules. More serious offending can result in maximum penalties of \$9879 and/or 12 months in prison. Authorised Officers can also seize chainsaws, trailers, vehicles, and equipment that's used in the commission of offending.

Community members can find out more about collecting firewood and report any suspected illegal firewood collection by calling 136 186.

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5772 2649
54A Downey St, Alexandra

MARYSVILLE MARKET

Second Sunday of each month

Sunday March 9
9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls along with home made cakes, local honey, plants, jewellery and handcrafts. Community sausage sizzle and live music.

To book please call 0494 329 695 or email marysvillemarketinc@gmail.com

Church Services

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

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

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

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

**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY
 BAPTIST CHURCH**
 37 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Pastor Daniel Kriss
 Services 10am every Sunday
 Phone 0400 282 536
 mccbc.com.au

THE VINE
 A Christian community 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

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- Endeavour Alexandra
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- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
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- Yea Newsagency

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Out & About



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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Tarcombe Herefords 51st Annual Production Sale 1pm. Contact Tim Hayes on 0439 257 693 or email temagong@bigpond.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

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. Kinglake FoodWorks. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gmss for more details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Marysville Market is on from 9am-1pm. All your favourite stalls, home made cakes, local honey, plants and more.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Alexandra races is on again. 2025 Alexandra Cup. Fun for all the family. Mini golf, music, magic and more. Gates open at noon. First race at 1.15pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Murrindindi Little Aths AGM and presentation night will be held at 5.30pm at Rotary Park in the barbecue area.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THIS week the meeting was well attended and it was nice to see president Marg Hall back in control. The club welcomed new member, Mary Robb, and would be delighted to see more senior citizens come along and join us.

The usual agenda items were soon dealt with, but the club is still considering excursions for the year. Watch this space.

The members concluded the formalities with a sing song, led by Ian, with Dave on piano and my ukulele as accompaniment. After refreshments and a chat, the members settled down to the serious stuff, UNO and 500.

A big thank you to John Wainwright for writing last week's report in my absence.

As always a reminder, you will always be welcome at the meetings on Friday afternoons in the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.



The walking group having a debrief after their February walk. -S

Murrindindi East U3A introduces new classes

MURRINDINDI East U3A and their members have started the first term of 2025. They offer a variety of activities and classes for the over 50s in retirement. Regular weekly classes include things like singing, table tennis and Tai Chi. Others such as cycling, walking, art and craft are organised monthly or more often. These are just a few of the activities on offer.

Several new classes have been introduced into the program this year. One of the tutors is a retired geologist and so a geology class is offered. The how and why of rock formation is learned in a classroom setting with practical demonstrations and field trips. Any new student needs nothing more than a curiosity about the planet Earth to be engaged by this course.

The new ukelele class tutor has a different set of qualifications. Her skills are in teaching a group and allowing the learners to gain confidence and skill in a non-judgmental environment. The class is called 'Ukes for Fun', and the name says it all. Did you know that Murrindindi has many talented artists and some of them are U3A tutors? The Scribblers new art class has started and continues until April. This course, run by Anthea, teaches the principles of drawing, shading, perspective and colour. By the end of the course the students will take home at least three finished works.

A second, two-day water colour workshop run by Ron is offered in May. In October, Pam presents a workshop turning pressed flowers into art. More than this, the tiny



Anthea's art class. -S



David's geology class. -S

arrangements can be used to make cards and bookmarks just in time for Christmas.

U3A is offering a one-off session about Advanced Care Planning at St Johns Church Hall in Downey St on Thursday, March 6 at 2pm. In the interests of sharing health knowledge to all seniors, U3A is making this short presentation available to anyone. This session is given by a health professional from Alexandra District Health and includes afternoon tea. Guests will receive current information about how to write up a health directive to provide for their own ill health when they can't do it for themselves.

Pickleball is starting with U3A in April this year. Pickleball is a game which is played in teams and its popularity is spreading. Classes will be offered at varied venues on a weekly basis.

U3A is a recreational, educational and creative group for the over 50s. Seniors socialise while learning or just by being present. If you are interested in joining any of these groups for fun or for learning then you can enrol online at murrindindieastu3a.org.au

If you have any questions about courses, please phone Libby Longham on 0408 896 730.

Tree destroyed in Leckie Park

A SEMI-MATURE tree has been destroyed in Rotary Park, Alexandra. The tree was planted approximately two years ago by members of the Alexandra Rotary Club. The tree was purchased through funds raised by the Alexandra Rotary Club and planted by volunteers. The Brachychiton tree is not a tree which is common in the area.

The tree was last seen intact at about 8pm, on February 28. The damage was found at about 8am on March 1.

But it's pointless vandalism to something that has been funded by members of the community in an attempt at beautifying the town. If anyone knows anything, contact the Alexandra Police Station on 5772 1040.



The tree in Leckie Park. -S

New vehicle for Murrindindi Shire learner drivers



Sponsors, supporters, volunteers and members of the Alexandra Community Hub team at the launch event. -AR

LAST Wednesday various community organisations and members came together to celebrate Alexandra Community Hub's new L2P car.

The new car, a silver MG sports utility vehicle (SUV) adorned with the branding of Alexandra Community Hub (ACH) as well as the various organisations who supported the purchase, will provide learner drivers in Murrindindi Shire with an opportunity to develop their driving skills.

ACH Manager and Coordinator Sue Sedelies made a speech at the morning tea to those in attendance. She spoke about the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P program both as a whole and within Murrindindi Shire.

The L2P program was inherited by ACH from Berry Street and has seen 157 learner drivers participate from 2009 to February 2025. There have been 66 mentors locally, around 4382 hours of driving, and 83 learners that have successfully become P platers under the program.

Sue spoke about how Murrindindi Shire can be a challenging area for learner drivers to obtain the experience they require, but that the L2P program can help with that.

"The program helps shape young people into lifelong safe drivers," Sue said.

Part of the requirements for the L2P program is that the car used must be under 10 years old, have a manual handbrake, and have a certain ANCAP safety rating. This is the reason why ACH upgraded their L2P car to the new MG, as their old car had reached the age cut-off.

The community groups that helped fund the purchase of the new car alongside ACH were Alexandra Rotary, the Alexandra Country Women's Association, Foundation Murrindindi, and the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival. Murrindindi Shire Council supported the purchase with a grant as well.

If people are keen to find out more about the L2P program, or what else the Alexandra Community Hub offers, contact them on 5772 1238 or email admin@alexhub.com.au

Be aware, snakes are out

PARAMEDICS are urging Victorians to be safe through the rest of snake season after attending 129 suspected snakebites this summer. From December, 2024 to February 18, 2025, paramedics have responded to 28 incidents in Hume Region.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Director Emergency Management Dale Armstrong said of these cases, 125 people were transported to hospital.

"With hot weather continuing, the snakes are out, which means we need to be vigilant," Dale said.

"Bites can often be avoided simply by being observant in areas that are likely to attract snakes, such as near rivers, long grass or sheds. Victorians can also take preventative measures around their home by keeping their property clear of rocks, logs and building materials, and keeping grass short.

"Most snakes in Victoria are venomous and a bite can be life-threatening. If someone is suspected to have suffered a snake bite, even if you're not sure, you should call Triple Zero (000) immediately."

Snake bites may cause pain and swelling around the puncture wound, or there may be very few signs left on the skin. Symptoms that snake venom has entered your body may include dizziness, blurred vision, breathing difficulties, nausea, muscle weakness or paralysis.

Dale said there are some basic first aid steps people can take while waiting for an ambulance if they're with someone who suffers a bite.

"If a snake bite victim is unresponsive and not breathing normally, you should begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)," he said.

"If the patient is conscious, it is important to keep them still and reassured while waiting for help, only move them if it is too unsafe to stay put.

"Snake bites commonly occur on hands, feet or limbs, so applying a pressure immobilisation bandage to the affected limb can also make a big difference to the treatment and outcome of a snake bite incident."

The Australian Resuscitation Council recommends applying a pressure immobilisation bandage (snakebite bandage) starting at the fingers or toes and working up the arm or leg as far as possible, ensuring that the bite site is covered. If a bandage has already been applied to the bite, or if the bite is covered with clothing, the pressure immobilisation bandage should be applied over this.

If you don't have a pressure immobilisation bandage, use a firmly applied regular bandage or an item of clothing at least 10 to 15cm wide.

Keep the patient as still as possible and, if able, use a splint of some kind to prevent movement of the affected limb. Do not remove the pressure immobilisation bandage until the patient gets to hospital.

People should not wash the site of the bite, as venom left on the skin can be used to help identify the type of snake and the anti-venom required.



Sue Sedelies with the specially decorated cake, shared at the launch event. -AR

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INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

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helehaines.org.au

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lily, Shayla, Charlotte and Scarlette displayed Resilience and made a fantastic effort representing our school at Zone swimming this week.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

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Councillors pay tribute to former councillor Ilona Gerencser

AT the Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) meeting, held on Wednesday, February 26, councillors paid tribute to former councillor Ilona Gerencser, who passed away on January 18. Mayor Damien Gallagher suspended standing order for this to occur. He stated to Ms Gerencser's family, "On behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council and the Murrindindi Shire community, I offer our appreciation to you, Inga, for the life of your daughter, a passionate and dedicated servant of our community."

He spoke about meeting Ilona in 2020, at the start of COVID-19. He said of her four year term, "She demonstrated a keenness to be the voice of her beloved communities of Toolangi, Castella and Kinglake."

He also stated, "Ilona was a great listener, and to me a sounding board, an analyst, a joker, an inquirer, and to my wife and I, and many around this table, a friend."

Mayor Gallagher "encouraged everyone not to dwell on her absence, but to enjoy the solace of having known her."

Ilona's family were presented with a gift of a framed photograph of Ilona.

Public participation

David Carabot was keen to talk about the planning process that he had recently been through, and to share those experiences with councillors. He owns a family farm on Break O'Day Road, and is a practicing architect. He encountered issues working with the MSC planning department when seeking "a pretty simple permit." It took 12 months to achieve the permit for his wife, a marriage celebrant, to conduct wedding ceremonies (no reception) for up to 20 people at their property. They wanted to build a small chapel, but abandoned the idea due to the planning hurdles. Instead, they sought to change the land usage. He noted that it would have created both jobs and visitation in the area. There were no objections. It cost \$40,000 in reports and consulting fees. He said that one of the main challenges was the cultural heritage legislation interpretation. He wondered how many other applicants had given up or incurred unnecessary costs. He asked that council apply planning legislation "appropriately and efficiently."

Grants and contributions

Council endorsed the funding of the following Sponsorship Grants as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel:

Alexandra Community Shed approved for \$1500 for window block out, Alexandra Football Netball Club approved for \$2200 for the Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration, the Acheron Mechanics Institute Hall Committee approved for \$4800 for the removal of trees on the Acheron Tennis Court, and the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc was approved for \$3373 for the fifth Suicide Awareness Walk.

Council also noted the Quick Response Grants awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel during the November to January period. These were \$500 for Koori Kids' NAIDOC Week School Initiative, \$625 for Thornton Eildon District Football Club's playing bibs for off season community sports, \$2500 for Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism to retain governance design service to incorporate a new not-for-profit members association, and \$2400 for Yea Rotary for the 2025 art show.

Council endorsed funding for the following Community Project and Events Grants as recommended by the panel: Yea Bowls Club \$4846 for access and safety improvements, Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Inc \$2500 for Christmas Carols, Flowerdale Landcare Inc \$327 for Yarning for Unity, and Buxton Progress Association Inc \$500 for their annual celebration.

Councillors with conflicts of interest absented themselves during the vote.

Naming of the Eildon Splash Park

At its meeting on December 11, 2024, council resolved to seek community feedback on the proposed name 'Baanh ba Djila' (meaning 'water and play') for the Eildon Splash Park as a designated 'feature' within the reserve, while retaining the existing reserve name, Walter Moore Reserve.

Following the public consultation period, five submissions were received. Officers recommend proceeding with the name, given that there was minimal objection, with one objection appearing to misunderstand the intent, believing the reserve itself was being renamed rather than the Splash Park as a feature.

Councillors unanimously acknowledged the submission, endorsed the naming, and requested that submit the proposal to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and subsequent gazettal.

Mayor Gallagher noted that the naming does not take away from the recognition of former councillors, Walter Moore and Thomas Marr.

Signing of the Small Business Friendly Council charter

Councillors endorsed signing the Small Business Friendly Council charter. Signing the charter is a commitment for council to work with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner in supporting small businesses. There is minimal impact on council's current practices, but it will make further resources available. Cr Carr noted the importance of small business in Murrindindi Shire.

Audit and Risk Committee

Councillors noted the minutes of the committee.

Council Plan Quarterly Report December 2024

The Priority Action Plan contains 67 actions. Of these, 66 actions are 'on track' and one action is deferred subject to funding becoming available. Councillors noted the plan.

Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocols

The Local Government Authority (LGA) Reforms introduced a mandatory model Councillor Code of Conduct which establishes core behaviours for the local government sector. The Model Code of Conduct is designed to replace each council's Councillor Code of Conduct, although the reforms allow councils to develop complementary policies where needed. Councillors voted unanimously to adopt the protocols.

Review of Councillor Expenses, Professional Development and Support Policy

Council endorsed the Councillor Expenses, Professional Development and Support Policy (formerly titled the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy), which has been updated to include the mandatory professional development obligations.

CEO Remuneration and Employment Policy Review

The Chief Executive Office Employment and Remuneration Policy (policy) must be reviewed every two years and within six months of a general election. Since the last review in December

2022 there have been no changes in legislation or standards that require policy amendment. As a result, only minor changes are recommended to the policy to improve readability, with no changes to policies directions. The policy has also been reviewed by the council's Audit and Risk Committee, with no further recommendations for changes. It was endorsed by council.

MAV State Council Draft Motion

It was proposed that council submit a motion calling for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to urgently advocate to the Victorian Government to commit to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the recent Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, and to work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver these reforms, ensuring councils are financially sustainable and able to meet their communities' needs. Council endorsed the proposal.

Quarterly Financial Report to December 31, 2024

Forecast revenue for the year has risen by \$12.29 million, while forecast expenditure has increased by \$10 million. The increases in revenue are driven by increases in operating grants of \$8.7 million, primarily related to flood recovery and \$2.7 million in capital grants, including the first instalment of \$1.2 million for the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project and \$696,000 for the Roads to Recovery program. Additionally, user fees and charges have increased by \$430,000 for the Yea Saleyards and \$137,000 for Recycling and Waste Management. There is a forecast increase in expenditure of \$9.3 million for materials and services, partially offsetting the grant funding, \$8.2 million of which is related to funded flood recovery and repair works.

Overall, with these adjustments the operating surplus is expected to increase from \$2.9 million to \$5.2 million, while the underlying result, which removes capital grants from the calculation, remains relatively unchanged, with an underlying deficit of \$5.5 million. Council received the report and noted the budget adjustments.

Proposed Road Deviation and Land

Continued Page 9



Let's eat, it's our treat



An example of the type of delicacies created by chef Sam Wills. -S



The 'Turbine' restaurant at Trawool Estate. -S



An Electric Daisy cocktail created at 'Turbine', perfect for relaxing and enjoying a Friday evening. -S

Re-opening of award-winning restaurant 'Turbine' at Trawool Estate

TRAWOOL Estate is celebrating the re-opening of their restaurant *Turbine*, with Executive Chef Sam Wills creating Mediterranean inspired delicacies in the atmospheric space.

A speakeasy style restaurant, *Turbine* focuses on vibe and experience, pairing good company with traditional tapas and palatable beverages. It won an award for Best Regional Restaurant in 2022, and is now re-opening with fresh pizzazz.

"It's a decadent cocktail bar where whoever you are there with, you just want to spend time with them, eat great food, drink great drinks and have a wonderful time," Amanda Smith from Trawool Estate said.

"You can shut yourself off from the world and have a great dining experience, that is the kind of place it is."

Turbine is lamplit and classically styled with an elegant bar, and seats around 40 people. The restaurant is not designed for

young children but rather for adults to relax and enjoy themselves.

"It's amazing down there, very dark and different to the rest of Trawool Estate. It's a vibrant space, not the place you'd go for a quiet dinner, the vibe is more upbeat," Amanda said.

Speaking about the flair that Executive Chef Sam Wills brings to *Turbine*, Amanda said that "His history is Mediterranean. He's British, but he grew up in Spain, so that's where he started cooking and learnt about being a chef.

"The restaurant is a tapas restaurant. It's the perfect kind of food to have down there as well, when you're having cocktails, it can be nice to have a little bit or go full on and have everything on the menu."

The re-opening of *Turbine* means there are now four different areas to dine in Trawool Estate. *Wild Water Restaurant* features fine dining, while the *Granite Bar* is a more casual drinking and dining space where you can

even enjoy a game on the TV. The *Herb Garden* pizzeria is the outdoor section of Trawool Estate and is only open in summer.

Turbine is currently only open on Fridays, but this will change to Fridays and Saturdays once March concludes.

The menu itself will also change somewhat regularly, with the chef's selection being

an option and variety adding uniqueness to numerous visits. *Turbine* can also cater to dietary requirements and bookings are essential.

For full details about *Turbine*, visit the Trawool Estate website at trawoolestate.com.au/whatson/turbine

Congratulations Bruce

THE winner of our February Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Bruce Wilson from Alexandra. Bruce will be having a \$50 feed on us at Keppel Cafe in Marysville. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat.



Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....

(A business advertised on this page in this edition only)

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Thursday, March 27.

Alexandra Newspapers, PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household.

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month.

T&C: Only venues advertised in this edition are eligible to be chosen. Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.

OPEN FRIDAYS

Downstairs at The Trawool Estate
8150 Goulburn Valley Hwy, Trawool

TURBINE

RESTAURANT

TAPAS & COCKTAILS



T R A W O O L



Mobile coverage obligation a step forward for rural Australia

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomed the recent announcement that the Federal Government has committed to introducing a Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO).

If enshrined by legislation, the world-first proposal means telecommunications companies will be legally bound to guarantee basic, outdoor voice and text mobile coverage across every corner of Australia.

NFF President David Jochinke, who attended the announcement at the NSW Rural Fire Service HQ, said the obligation would both create and safeguard a right for every Australian to access basic calls and text services from any location.

users, and we're thrilled to see it becoming a reality. By locking in this satellite coverage, it becomes something people in the regions can rely upon, rather than a fortuitous benefit that may come and go in the future.

"The NFF applauds the Australian Government for introducing this policy, and urges all sides of politics to support this agenda to guarantee the safety and productivity of rural Australia," Mr Jochinke said.

The obligation would secure new mobile coverage across an estimated five million square kilometres of land, including more than 37,000 kilometres of regional roads.

The NFF warned however that this could not be seen as an excuse to reduce investment in the terrestrial mobile network.

"Land based coverage from mobile towers will still be the gold standard for years to come.

"Satellite based connectivity is just one piece of the puzzle, and the need for continued co-investment in mobile towers by telco providers and government isn't going away.

"We've still got a long way to go before the bush is on a level playing field with the city when it comes to connectivity. It's why in this election we are still seeking a commitment for a Regional Telecommunications Strategy and further funding for the *On Farm Connectivity Program*," Mr Jochinke concluded.

This announcement is made possible due to Low Earth Orbit Satellites (LEOSats) and the arrival of 'Direct to Device' technology.

"Mobile black spots are a huge source of frustration for people in the bush. Coverage gaps can compromise safety and make it harder to run a business," Mr Jochinke said.

"This new obligation will ensure that the safety of rural Australians, and their access to basic mobile services, cannot be put in the too-hard basket.

"This levels the playing field in a big way, making outdoor mobile coverage universally accessible, regardless of where you live, or which phone company you're with.

"Every Australian will feel safer knowing that with the right handset, they can call triple zero from anywhere they can see the sky."

The NFF has advocated for reliable and affordable mobile connectivity in the bush for decades, including as a founding member of the Rural, Regional and Remote Communications Coalition.

"Mobile has long been the next frontier in universal protections for telecommunications

Netting a good option for dam protection

CONSTRUCTING a netting fence above your dam can reduce the amount of organic material entering during and after a storm.

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturmfels said while thunderstorms can produce needed runoff, they can also result in large amounts of dry grass, manure, soil and other material being swept into your dam.

"If left unattended, these materials will sink to the bottom and decompose, impacting water quality.

"Netting fence sediment traps are quick and easy to erect and can be made using second-hand materials.

"Netting fences slow the speed of water and trap large organic materials. As the water slows, heavier sediments drop to the bottom while the organic materials trapped on the

fence act as a filter for finer materials," he said.

"To be most effective, the netting fence needs to be well supported with steel posts and follow the contour of the land.

"By making the base of the fence follow a level path, the water can spread out in both directions along the fence. The longer the fence, the more material that will get trapped. The ends of the fence need to be turned uphill to increase capture of materials.

"Commercial geo-fabric silt fences are great for trapping finer materials, however they transmit water very slowly and are not recommended for concentrated flows of water.

"Clean straw bales placed tightly together and pegged down with steel posts can also be used to create an effective sediment trap.

"Alternatives include synthetic silt fences, sediment ponds or a simple diversion bank with drop boards to manage flows into your dam.

"Regardless of design, all sediment traps should be regularly inspected, maintained and emptied following major storm events.

Mr Sturmfels said sediment traps can only do so much to prevent dam pollution, and the best strategy is to ensure you maintain good ground cover and fence out all larger dams.

"Stock access to water can be maintained using a hardened access ramp or by pumping to a tank and trough arrangement."

For more information, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Landcare grants for young Victorians

YOUNG Victorians are receiving more support to care for our great outdoors thanks to the Victorian Government.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos last week announced the opening of Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants totalling \$450,000 to get young people out in nature to care for and learn about Victoria's environment.

"We're supporting this next generation of Victorians to work together and protect our state's great outdoors," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"Young Victorians are champions of nature, and these youth led programs will help restore and improve native habitats across the state for our native plants and animals to thrive."

Victorian primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girl Guides, childcare centres,

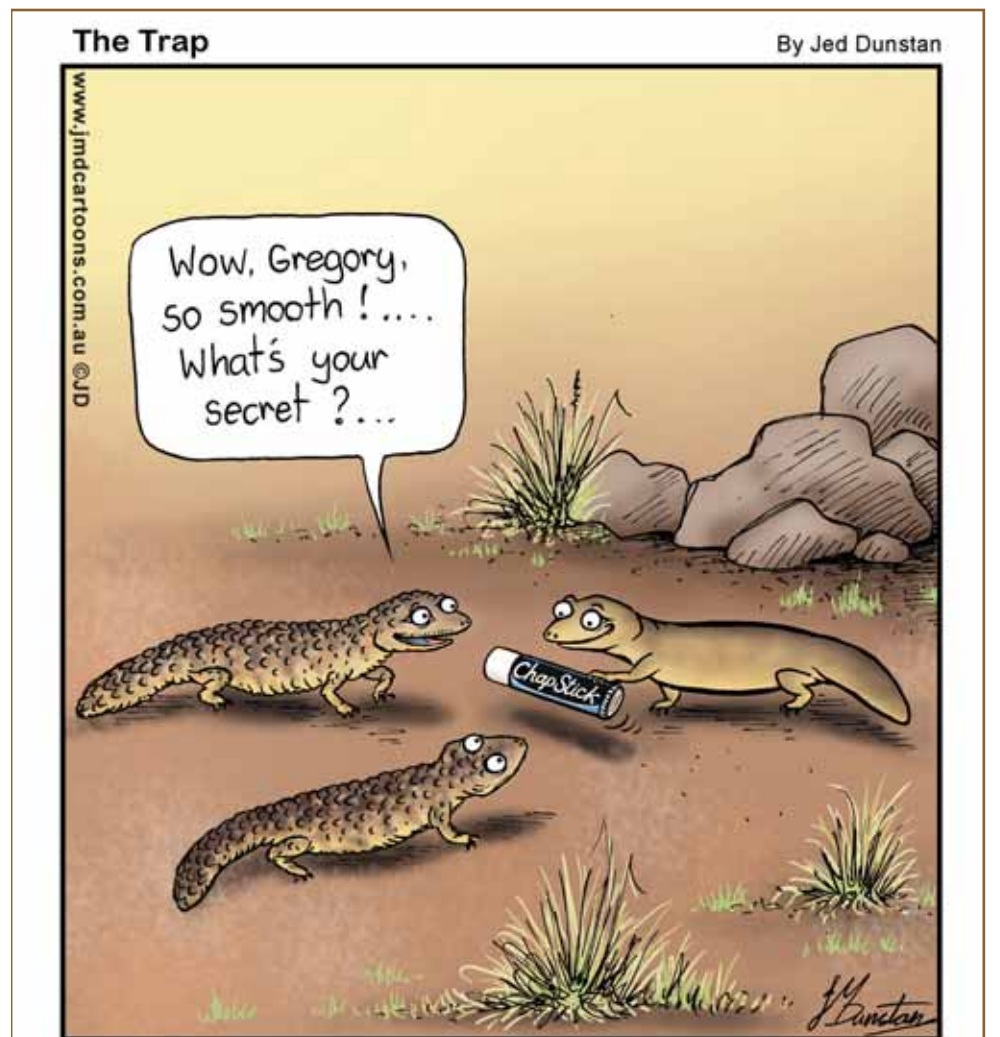
youth groups and Junior Landcare groups can apply for grants of up to \$5000.

Projects can focus on one of two areas, education activities to involve and engage young people and on the ground projects that focus on creating and restoring native habitats.

Last year, the state government provided grants to 103 recipients including planting native gardens, building habitat to attract native insects and birds and excursions to wildlife sanctuaries.

Over 47,000 young Victorians have taken part in Junior Landcare environmental projects since 2018, planting nearly 100,000 native plants, going on 1100 excursions and completing 270 biological surveys.

For more information on Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants



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FEBRUARY PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER

'Your veggie garden' February competition winner is Alison Walters - Eildon



\$50 voucher kindly sponsored by

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The MARCH theme is 'SUNSET'.

Submit your photo entry to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon March 27, with your name, town and contact number for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

T&Cs: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photo must be taken in the Murrindind shire and are not to be digitally altered or enhanced. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

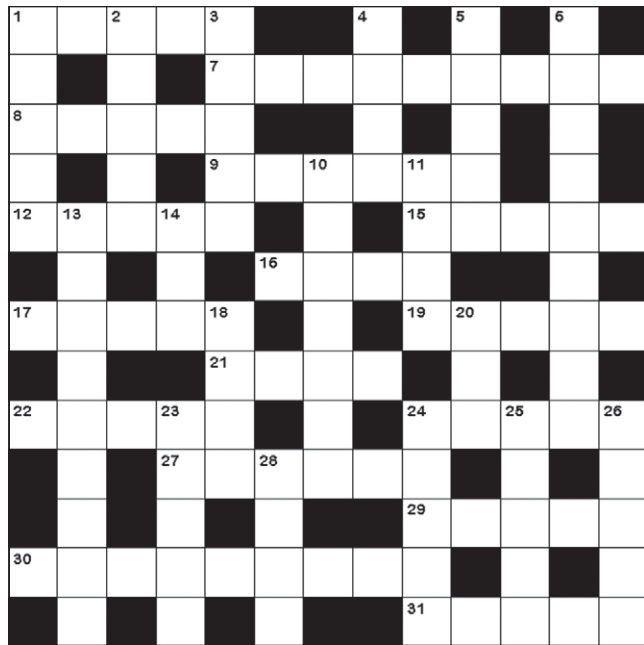
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11

Crossword

ACROSS

- Type of paper for plotting charts.
- The earliest known inhabitants of a region.
- An utter fool.
- The dead body of a human being.
- The soft moist part of a fruit.
- Acquire knowledge or skills.
- A complex system of paths or tunnels.
- Internal organs of a butchered animal.
- Consume alcohol.
- Too dry to support vegetation.
- Feel grief over a death.
- Let sit in boiling water to extract the flavour.
- A public promotion of a product.
- Rigorously strict and severe.
- A real or imagined cause for complaint.
- A raised mark on the skin.



DOWN

- Intense sorrow caused by loss.
- Moving quickly and lightly.
- Emerge from an egg.
- Miss a step and stumble or fall.
- Both hold a similar opinion.
- The ability to cope with hardship and stress.
- Come to understand.
- A vehicle for coasting over snow.
- Food remaining from a previous meal.
- A resort area having mineral springs.
- The solid part of the earth's surface.
- Stuck in a boring routine.
- Torn down and completely destroyed.
- Scatter around here and there.
- A large bird of prey.
- A lever that is operated with the foot.
- Meat from a calf.
- Something additional.

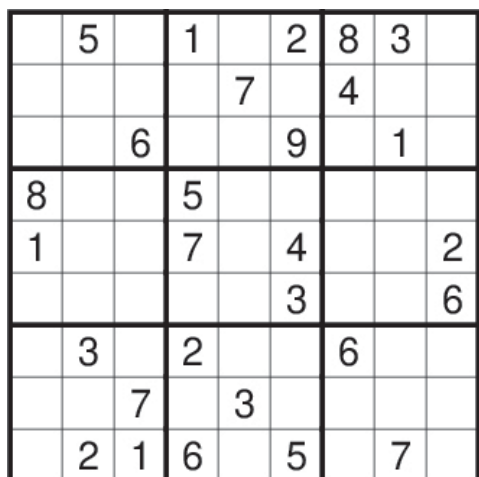
Word Search

H G O J S M D K G Q W V N S Q
Q A E X U O K A C H J P I S B
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AFL Nicknames

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| BLUES | KANGAROOS |
| BOMBERS | LIONS |
| CROWS | MAGPIES |
| DOCKERS | SAINTS |
| EAGLES | SWANS |
| HAWKS | TIGERS |

Sudoku



Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Cryptogram

AFL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
			14					

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
								7

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	24						

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$$\frac{R}{9} \frac{E}{4} \frac{E}{7} \frac{R}{14} \frac{R}{15} \frac{R}{5} \frac{R}{14} \frac{R}{7}$$

$$\frac{T}{24} \frac{T}{17} \frac{T}{24} \frac{E}{15} \frac{E}{23} \frac{E}{14} \frac{E}{15}$$

$$\frac{R}{26} \frac{E}{7} \frac{T}{14} \frac{T}{15} \frac{T}{24} \frac{R}{5} \frac{R}{15} \frac{R}{7} \frac{R}{23}$$

Math Square

2	-		+	3	1
-		+		+	
	-		+		-3
-		-		-	
	+		-		5
-5		6		0	

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.

Councillors pay tribute to former councillor Iona Gerencser

Continued from Page 6

Proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange - Cummins Road, Murrindindi

Statutory processes have commenced for the proposed deviation of part of an unused government road known as Cummins Road, Murrindindi. The deviated part of the government road will be exchanged for land owned by D Williams (Proponent) being crown allotment 18A, section B, Parish of Murrindindi, that will then be created as a road reserve and vested in council. Council voted to progress the exchange.

Capital Works Program Mid-Year Report - December 30, 2024

Key highlights for this period included the completion of the Eildon Splash Park, which was opened to the public just prior to the Australia Day long weekend with the entire project, including the regional playground, due for completion in early March; Completion of a majority of the sealed road resealing and gravel road resheeting programs; Commencement of the Kayigai Trail construction at the Yea Wetlands, which is nearing completion and; Bridge abutment repairs on Abes Bridge on Abes Lane in Molesworth. The bridge works expected to be complete by the end of February. Councillors were particularly pleased with the Eildon Splash Park.

Council received the report and approved the following additional projects: a. Flood studies for Yea River and King Parrot Creek (fully funded grant); Key worker housing in Eildon (grant and council Contribution, \$6,280,000); Motorcycle Road Safety Infrastructure design (grant \$50,000); Kinglake RAC operations centre \$105,000; Flowerdale closed landfill rehabilitation \$718,118; and purchase of an excavator for the new Alexandra landfill cells \$250,000.

Councillor reports

Anita Carr

Deputy Mayor Carr spoke about the Eildon CFA and Lions Club Christmas party, the success of the Tanglewood Festival, Eildon Bowls Club's Bingo with a Twist, the Murrindindi Shire citizenship ceremony in January with 13 new citizens, the Eildon Lions Club Australia Day Breakfast and congratulated former councillor Karine Haslam on her Lions Club award, Rubicon Hotel's Under the Elms Australia Day event, and the departure of popular Eildon pharmacist, Anphy. She also spoke about the visits to Eildon by the Economic Development team to discuss the Key Worker Housing project and other council plans and the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association meeting. She commented on the popularity of the new splash park, and noted that the pools close for the season on March 10.

Eric Lording

Cr Lording's report was read by Cr Gallagher. He commented on the upcoming Flowerdale meeting, the record resheeting works on unsealed roads, and the rescheduled closure of the Melba Highway, where there will be a one lane closure in the lead-up to the works, operated by automatic traffic lights.

Sandice McAulay

Cr McAulay spoke about the Business Breakfast Workshop and advisory service in Kinglake. Council also works with businesses at all stages and encouraged new and established businesses to contact council. She thanked people for the input into the Alexandra East Development Plan. The Yea Structure Plan has been funded via a grant, and there are engagement sessions planned for later in the year. Tourism North East date has shown a downturn in visitor numbers and spend of minus 14.06 per cent, similar to the rest of Victoria, however there has been a 25.61 per cent increase in international tourism. She spoke about the summer Discover Dindi campaign collaboration with Lisa's Travel Diary, reaching 38,000 Instagram accounts and 49,000 video plays. She also spoke about the economic benefit of the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, as well as the unfavourable weather faced by Eildon opera.

Jodi Adams

Cr Adams commented on her visit to the Kinglake Pub, where they had a nurse from the McGrath Foundation presenting about cancer care. She also spoke about the importance of Kinglake Rotary Club and encouraged people to join. Funds from the

gate at next Kinglake Market will be donated to the McGrath Foundation, in honour of Iona Gerencser. She asked that people submit nominations for the 2025 Murrindindi Community Awards celebrating the contributions of local volunteers and community groups, and said that she was looking forward to the upcoming community consultations in Kinglake to support council plans for the next four years.

Paul Hildebrand

Cr Hildebrand noted the Christmas and new year celebrations, including at Glenburn, and enjoyed the Yea Cruise Night 21st event celebration. He was also pleased with how well the Yea Sale Yards have been going, with a huge consignment of cattle sold in January. He thanked emergency service volunteers for everything they do, including fighting the large number of fires started by dry lightning during summer. He also spoke about the challenges during the brief closure of the Melba Highway and the rescheduling of the works. He said he was looking forward to the Molesworth Community Plan meeting.

Sue Carpenter

Cr Carpenter spoke about the various council assets and other public and business infrastructure, as well as its natural assets. She commented on the Yea pool temporary closure as a precautionary measure. She said that the Eildon Splash Park is due to be completed next week, and said that it is likely to be a popular destination. Long Gully Road in Flowerdale is receiving major improvements, and work continues on various council infrastructure and asset plans. Boundary Creek in Yea is to receive attention, including weed removal on the eastern side, with consultations to occur regarding the western side. She also spoke about the Yea Cruise Night and congratulated the organisers. The Big Conversation consultation in Yea was also successful, with much enthusiasm and discussion, and surveys are also available online.

Damien Gallagher

Mayor Gallagher spoke about the various activities across the holiday season, and commented on the successes of local students and educational organisations. He commented on the shire's communication with the Mayor of Los Angeles regarding their recent fires. He said of Australia Day, "It's important to reflect upon how acknowledging and reconciling our past unifies us and takes us closer to the vision of a single day of truly national celebration." He also talked about the citizenship ceremonies, and council's support of Australia Day celebrations in the shire and the Yea Rotary Art Show. Council's advocacy includes the postponement of Melba Highway works, road flood water gauges on Home Creek on the Goulburn Valley Highway, and pressing for the re-opening of the Fraser Park Campgrounds. There has also been discussion about the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy, and council is closely monitoring the issue and advocating for a fairer approach through MAV, including taking the responsibility for collecting the levy away from councils. There was a recent business event in Kinglake, and he commented on the record sales at the Yea Sale Yards, and the recent coverage in WIN News and on the ABC. In addition, he acknowledged the work of the Murrindindi Carer Support Group.

CEO Livia Bonazzi

Ms Bonazzi spoke about Big Conversations gathering community input into council's plans and vision. The draft federal government's report into the sustainability of local councils has been released, confirming that councils are under increasing financial strain due to cost shifting. There are no recommendations as yet. She also noted that the Victorian Government has released its report into the 2022 Food Event, outlining a range of measures. She said it addresses some key issues, but leaves some questions unanswered for Murrindindi. Council will be reviewing the details around flood mitigation infrastructure, planning controls and support for emergency relief and recovery. She acknowledged the business successful in the first round of the Forestry Transition Fund, and encouraged businesses and other organisations to explore the fund. Council is also active in encouraging correct rubbish disposal, including releasing a jingle. Staff have also been active in educating the community on the topic. There has recently been a 300 per cent increase in the correct disposal of batteries.

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9	1	2	3	7	8	4	6	5
3	8	6	4	5	9	2	1	7
8	7	9	5	2	6	1	4	3
1	6	3	7	8	4	9	5	2
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5	3	8	2	4	7	6	9	1
6	9	7	8	3	1	5	2	4
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-		+		+	
1	-	9	+	5	-3
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-5		6		0	



The Lake Mountain Sprint was held on the weekend of February 22 and 23. Unfortunately, due to the high fire danger, the racing was restricted on the Saturday, but they made up for it on the Sunday. There was a minor incident on Sunday when a vehicle left the track. One of the participants needed to be airlifted due to broken ribs. -AR

Local grants available

THE QBE Foundation has opened applications for its Australian Local Grants Program, offering charities and community organisations working in both climate resilience and inclusion with the opportunity to receive a \$50,000 grant.

These grants will support a selection of high-impact community initiatives led by Australian organisations operating in Australia, New Zealand, or parts of the Pacific, helping them drive meaningful change in these critical areas.

“Through our grants program, QBE is proud to support organisations that are making a real impact in areas of need. We’ve seen how previous grant recipients have created meaningful change, and we’re excited to continue that momentum.

By supporting initiatives that enhance climate resilience and foster inclusivity, we’re helping to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future,” said Julie Starley, QBE Foundation Co-Chair.

For eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the QBE Foundation webpage, qbe.com/au/about/sponsorship-community/the-qbe-foundation

Applications will be accepted until April 3 (5pm AEST), with the recipients to be announced later this year, subject to change.

Local schools receive planned maintenance funding

THE Minister for Education Ben Carroll announced last week that 158 schools would share in over \$47.9 million of funding from the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP) to undertake 162 maintenance projects between them. The program funds high-priority maintenance issues across Victoria’s government schools.

The funding enables schools undertake essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as fixing roofs and replacing windows, maintaining ramps, painting, and resurfacing floors, as well as some external works like improving pathways.

Locally, schools that were granted the funding was Marysville Primary School receiving \$516,201.00, Middle Kinglake Primary School receiving \$181,606.02, and Toolangi Primary School receiving \$106,456.00.

Works are determined by a rolling facilities evaluation process, which provides up-to-date information on the condition of schools to create a faster and more targeted allocation of funding.

For a list of schools receiving funding under the Planned Maintenance Program, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program

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MEETINGS

MURRINDINDI Little Athletics Club.
AGM/Presentation evening on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 5.30pm at Rotary Park Alexandra, barbecue area.

DEATH NOTICES

CASSEE, Jozina (Ineke).
27/05/1944 - 27/02/2025

Passed away peacefully aged 80 years. Dearly loved wife of John for 61 years. Beloved mother and mother in law of Shane and Tracey, Mark, Charlene and Scott, Jason. Adored Oma of Samuel, Isabella and Frankie.

Thank you for a lifetime of memories.

DEATH NOTICES

GRAHAM, Dorothy – 25/02/2025.
Rest in Peace dear friend. Your memory will never fade. From June and all your friends in Eildon.

GRAHAM, Dorothy – 28/05/1926 - 25/02/2025. Much loved sister of Frederick (dec) and loved aunty of Evelyn and friend of Helmut. My last aunty will be sadly missed. Rest peacefully, aunty Dot.

GRAHAM, Dot – 28/05/1926 - 25/02/2025. Mother of Diane and Wes. Grandmother and great grandmother. Sister of Harold, Fred, Alby, Jack, Maisie and Valda. Private ceremony and burial.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of intention to apply for a Licence to Construct Works (Bore) / Take and Use Licence for a Licensable Purpose

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refer to the Groundwater section or contact GMW to arrange a copy to be posted to you. Submissions must be lodged using the GMW template available by either mail or email to, licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au or PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616.

GRAHAM, Dorothy

28/05/1926 - 25/02/2025

Loving wife of Ross (dec).

Much loved mother of Diane and Wesley. Grandmother to Nicole, Simone, Nathan, Sarah and Shaun. Great grandmother to Andre, Elizabeth, Joseph, Jessica, James and Vanessa, Arthur and Daisy.

May you now Rest in Peace.

You will be in our hearts forever.



FUNERAL NOTICES

CASSEE, Jozina.

A funeral service for Jozina will be held at Murrindindi Chapel on Friday, March 7, 2025 commencing at 11am followed by a private cremation.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to MND. Envelopes will be available at the chapel.



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The crowd sought shelter in the shade to escape the heat of the sun. -BD



Ruben with his spider man face paint and mum Lena. -BD



Daniel from CountryTech receiving their business award. -BD

The sun shines on Dindi Daze



Karen from Alexandra Newspapers receiving a business award. -BD



Ian Smith, one of the main organisers of Dindi Daze, speaking at the event. -BD



The crowd in the children's activities area. -BD



Some of the market stalls set up for Dindi Daze. -BD



Lisa from Grant Street Grocer collecting their business award from Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher. -BD



Uncle Ian Hunter performing Indigenous music at the event. -BD



Tim collecting the award for Ann Friedel Publishing. -BD

SPORT

Squash's round four wasn't a bore

by Kristelle Leary

**Monday competition
Espresso versus Mocha**

TYLER versus Ethan: Both played very well, but Ethan held a solid lead through out to take home the win. 65 to 33.

Jess (fill in) versus Chris: The games see-sawed with both players taking two each. Neither opponent could get ahead and after the final buzzer went it was a draw. 55 to 55.

Justin versus Simon: Great placement by both players. It was a hard fought match with a close finish in the final seconds. Simon managed to get ahead to win the match. 61 to 59.

Affogato versus Latte

ERIC versus Jordan: Jordan had some great serves which Eric worked hard at to return. With his killer serve dominating the match, Jordan took home the win with an extensive lead. 99 to 35.

Lee versus Mick: Trying to keep in it, Lee had good court coverage and placement. But Mick was all over the ball and had a few tricks up his sleeve, earning him the victory. 57 to 47.

Jared versus Matt: Lots of long rallies. Matt pulled ahead with his nibble feet and ability to chase everything down, which made a difference in making him triumph. 74 to 54.

Derrick versus Andrew: Keeping consistent game throughout, Derrick steadily increased his lead with each game. Andrew couldn't manage to steal a game, despite his valiant efforts. 62 to 44.

**Thursday competition
Earl Grey versus Rooibos**

CHRIS versus James S: Chris got the jump on James in the first game, to open with a 10-point lead. James was hard-pressed trying to make up the difference to even out the score. Ending the match, Chris was still on top. 78 to 54.

Travis versus Blake: Blake was putting in a good effort up until game four where he appeared to conceded defeat allowing Travis to increase his lead and take home the win. 66 to 39.

Daniel W versus Daniel K: Showing burst of potential, Daniel W put in a good effort. But Daniel K likes to play with his prey before devouring it and went home with a commanding lead. 72 to 30.

Chai versus Oolong

RANDY versus Matthew (fill in): Coming back to squash for the night, Matthew ironed out the kinks in his game very quickly. At the end of the third game there was only four-points difference. Randy pulled out all the stops to keep ahead and went home triumphant. 69 to 55.

Sam versus Kristelle: Plenty of mishits an error on both sides. Kristelle had done a good job at keeping it close, only six-points behind after the third game. Sam kept the pressure on and watched as his opponent crumbled. Sam with the champion. 71 to 54.

Jim versus Justin (fill in): Justin was already demoralised going into the court, as he thought he had a different opponent. He had great court coverage and for most of the match he wasn't too far behind. Game three sealed his fate when Jim took it to another level to increase his lead and subsequent victory by 11 points. 67 to 43.

Marysville hosts final round of Murrindindi Masters

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday Marysville hosted the fourth and final round of the 2024/5 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters. The 80 players enjoyed perfect conditions for golf and some obviously played some perfect golf.

The title of Murrindindi Master is given to the man and lady who has accumulated the most stableford points over three of the four rounds. Marysville members were delighted when Sabrina Stow was named the 2024/5

Ladies Murrindindi Master with 118 points which was 11 points ahead of the lady in second place. The men's Master was Terry Chaplin from Yea with a total of 114 points. Congratulations to Sabrina and Terry on their great achievements.

While not every golfer going into the final round is in contention for the overall title the generous daily trophies donated by FoodWorks, as many golfers experienced last Saturday, are definitely worth winning. Maryville members were successful in a

number of categories with Jody Doran (13) winning the ladies A Grade with 37 points on a countback from Gail Leigh (12), Naomi Gist (29) winning B Grade with 30 points, and Margaret Blair was nearest the pin on the fourth hole. Special congratulations to Miranda Gill from Yea and Rob O'Halloran from Eildon for winning the Marysville Mini Master titles. Events such as these take an enormous amount of preparation and those involved number too many to mention.

At presentation Captain Richy Clark thanked all those members and friends who assisted in any way with the organisation of the day and emphasised that these events could simply not be held without these volunteers. Special thanks for their generosity were offered to FoodWorks via their representative Cathie Harper who attended the presentation. Cathie has spent many hours researching the winners of the Masters since its inception in 2010 and has had the names engraved on the perpetual trophies. A great project well done and the history of the event is now there for all to see. Golfers are already looking forward to the 2025/6 season and it is important for all four clubs to continue to have the support of all the Murrindindi golfing fraternity.

The Marysville golfers now have to focus on organising another two events to be held later in the month. The inaugural Marysville Community Golf Day on Thursday, March 20 supported by the Marysville Lions and the Ladies Sandy Wilson Bowl on Thursday, March 27. Details can be obtained from enquiries@marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au

The Lakeside Challenge is being held on Saturday, March 15. If members are intending to play in this annual challenge please sign the list at the club or contact Heather Jenkins as soon as possible. Numbers are required for catering and organisational purposes.

Next Saturday the golfers will be playing stroke for the March monthly medal.



Ladies' Final Masters winners for 2025. -S



Bill Wind putting for a par. -S

Small turnout for Alexandra Golf Club as players prepared for Murrindindi Masters

ONLY eight players signed up to play in the Tuesday round at Alexandra Golf Club, which was, you guessed it, stableford. Bruce Colville was the winner on 36 points, with runner-up Steve Darmody also on 36. Third place went to Graeme Emmerson, with a score of 33 points.

Leo Dynes claimed the nearest the pins on seven and 18, with 17 going to Brad Newton, who also snared a rundown voucher, along with John Greatorex.

Wednesday dawned clear and warm, just right for an early start for golf. Nine ladies tied it up in a four ball best ball competition, and it was a very tight tussle at the top, with Marg Fahey and Barb Doyle just squeaking in for the win after a countback from Donna Meggitt and Sandra Morris.

Both teams scored a very impressive 43 points. Deb Richardson and Bron Howell were the nine hole winners, and the nearest the pins went to Sue Greatorex and Marie Stace on five, and Donna and Sandra on 12.

Not a huge amount of information from the Chook Run this week, but what we do know is that the winner was Luke Lynch with a net 22, second was Eiwon(sic) Hammock with a 25, and Stephen Ronan came in third with a net 26.

There was no competition at Alexandra on Saturday, as many of the members were at Marysville for the final round of the

FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters. Only three members featured in the results, but they did very well.

Matt Richards won A Grade with 37 points, Jason Krijt was the runner up in B Grade with 36, and Greg Millard was runner up in the overall masters, missing out by just one point to the winner, Terry Chaplin from Yea. The club says well done to all the winners, and to the rest, well, there is always next year.



Bruce Colville on 10. -S



All the winners at Marysville for the Murrindindi Masters -S



Marysville winner Sabrina Stow Murrindindi Masters Ladies Overall Master Champion. -S

SPORT

Murrindindi Little Athletics Wraps Up a Fantastic Season of Saturdays

THE Murrindindi Little Athletics Club celebrated the final Saturday of its 2024-25 season with plenty of fun, competition, and camaraderie. While most athletes wrapped up their season, a select few will continue to the State Track and Field Championships over the March long weekend.

The day kicked off with a lively warm-up session, setting the stage for some impressive performances. Special presentations recognised athletes who broke club records, with Makaylah Reece setting a new mark in the under eight hurdles, Cheyanne Richards in the under 14 200 metre hurdles, and Levi Campbell claiming two records in the under 14 long jump and 90 metre hurdles. Some athletes were also awarded Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Blue ribbons for achieving up to 25 personal bests throughout the season.

Following the presentations, competitors participated in five events from the Program C timetable, showcasing the progress they had made in both technique and speed. It was evident that the hard work and dedication throughout the season had paid off, with some continuing to get personal bests.

Adding to the excitement, parents were invited to join the action, testing their skills in discus, standing long jump, and a 50 metre dash. The young athletes enthusiastically cheered on their parents, resulting in plenty of laughs and light hearted moments.

The highlight of the day was the 400 metre handicapped gift race, where every participant was a winner, receiving a delicious chocolate Easter egg as a reward for their efforts.

To cap off the day, a well-loved barbecue ensured that every member left with a smile and fond memories of a fantastic season filled with fun, fitness, and friendship.

The next event on the club's calendar is the much-anticipated presentation evening, set to take place on Friday, March 28 at 5.30pm at Rotary Park. It promises to be a wonderful evening to recognise achievements and reflect on another successful season of Murrindindi Little Athletics.



The parents having a blast in the 50 metre dash. -S



Recipients of Bronze, Silver and Gold personal best medals. -S



Recipients of up to 20 and 25 season personal bests Ethan, Levi, Chase, front Zoe, Charlotte, Cheyanne and Alisha. -S



Club records to Makaylah Reece, Levi Campbell, and Cheyanne Richards. -S

Novice Singles Championship at Alexandra Bowls Club

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club division four pennant players had Saturday off as they had won through to the Grand Final the previous week. However, a practice match was in order and players from all club pennant teams came to play.

On Sunday the Novice Singles Championship, a highly entertaining final was played in front of a good crowd. Preparations are in progress for the FoodWorks Murrindindi Tournament which is an annual two day highlight on the club's calendar.

The Novice Singles Championship is a new event at the Alexandra Bowls Club and was initiated in response to the many new bowlers who have joined and registered to play. The final was played over 18 ends, with each bowler delivering four bowls each end. The game was marked by club president Greg Gilmore.

The finalists, Malcolm Gill and Levi Ronalds played some excellent bowls throughout. Levi won the first end and picked

up two shots. Mal won the next three ends to lead five to two. It was six all on end eight with Mal leading eight to six on end 10. Not to be denied Levi was nine to eight up after a very good three shot pick up on end 11.

Mal went on to win the next three ends to lead 14 to nine. Levi continued to win shots and with one end to go it was Mal 15 to Levi 13. Mal won a single shot on the last end to win the Novice Championship 16 to 13. The quality of the bowls from both players was greatly appreciated by the spectators, and the club offers congratulations to both bowlers.

The Grand Final for all Goulburn Valley (GV) pennant divisions will be played next Saturday at several venues. Alexandra division four will play at Tatura Hilltop. Their opponents will be Euroa. Euroa defeated Shepparton Park in a very one-sided preliminary final, though Shepparton Park did pick up one rink. The final score was Euroa 107 to Shepparton Park 71.

All games will begin at 10.15am for roll up and a 10.30am start. This amended time according to the GV/Murray notification, is



Practice match players enjoyed the hit out and the barbecue that followed. -S



Malcolm Gill, winner of the Novice Singles Championship and runner-up Levi Ronalds. -S

to enable players to watch the division one final which is at 1pm at Euroa.

The final is between Tallygaroopna and Shepparton Golf. If you don't want to go to Euroa you can watch it on-line at Supayou. livestreaming Australia on Facebook. More likely though all other divisions will be celebrating their Grand Final win or consoling each other over their loss.

In other finals Yea division five will play Kyabram at Shepparton Park Club, Seymour VRI division two will play Shepparton Golf

at Euroa. Seymour VRI has also made the Grand final in Midweek division two where they play Shepparton Golf.

The Alexandra Bowls Club is once again holding its FoodWorks Murrindindi Tournament on March 15 and 16. This tournament is made possible by the continued sponsorship of the Reddrop Family. Players come from across the metropolitan and region clubs. Spectators are welcome and some excellent bowls are always guaranteed.

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	11.20am Eildon Waters Holiday Park	11.30am Taggerty Holiday Park
	11.30am Rubicon Hotel	11.40am Twin Rivers Caravan Park
	11.45pm Alexandra Race Club	12pm Alexandra Race Club

BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra

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Pre season underway at Alexandra Football Netball Club

by Michelle Jack

WITH just under six weeks until the start of the senior season, preparations are well underway, and there's plenty happening around the Alexandra Football Netball Club.

The senior footballers attended a football camp on Friday, February 21 to Sunday, February 23, which was run by seniors coach Nick Wall and Matt Dundas. The club gives a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the camp such a success, the players gained a lot from the experience, and it was a great way to set a positive tone for the season ahead.

Sunday, February 23 was the Junior Football Season launch, which was also the final day of camp for the senior players who ran drills for the under nine, 10, 12, 14 and 16 footballers. It was great to see so many juniors in attendance and all players benefited from the session.

Thursday, February 27 the club hosted Greg Heinrich from Inspire Netball Group who is working with the club as part of the Evolve Program which included all netballers, parents, volunteers and interested members. The session started with fun games on the netball court and then moved into the clubrooms where group discussions took place about the three C's, Culture, Community and Competitive. I'm sure all those in attendance took a great deal away from the night and watch this space for more information on what is to come for the netball group.

The ladies' committee held their AGM and are currently seeking a Canteen Manager for Sunday home games, this could be a shared role so if anyone is interested in this position, please contact Kath Hedger on 0438 520 382.

The senior league's competition starts on April 5 with Alexandra having the bye. The club will be fielding seniors, reserves and under 18 football as well as A, B, C, D Grade

and under 17 netball. The junior fixture is yet to be released by the league, but it is anticipated to come out shortly.

Junior football training will commence on Tuesdays and Thursdays for under 14 and under 16 from Tuesday, March 11 at 4.30pm to 6pm. Under 12, under nine and under 10s will start on Friday, March 14.

Junior Netball training dates are being confirmed with coaches and will be posted to the club's socials so keep an eye out.

The club is also seeking an Auskick Coordinator for the 2025 program. Please help spread the word within your networks so they

can continue offering this valuable program at the club. Anyone interested in the position please contact Luke Heard 0418376176.

The senior footballers have two upcoming practice matches with the first one scheduled for Saturday, March 15 at home against Bonnie Doon, and the second match on Saturday, March 29 at home against Hawthorn Amateurs.

Memberships and sponsorships are available, and anyone looking to purchase a membership ticket or sponsor the club please contact the club at their new email address alexandrafnc@outereastfn.com.au



The junior season launch at Alexandra Football Netball Club. -S



Wayne Miller, Daniel Kriss, Kylie Cairns and Jake Steyger with the new TV for the club. -S



Greg Heinrich and the AFNC Netball Evolve Group. -S

Avenel defeats Alexandra Redbacks B Grade

by Michael Mawson

THE Alexandra B-Grade team travelled to Avenel in a top-of-the-table clash. There were some fine individual performances among The Redbacks, however, the efficient Avenel team won convincingly.

The team captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and elected to bat, despite having misgivings about moisture in the pitch.

The opening bowlers of Avenel were in top form, getting plenty of swing through the air and deviation of the pitch. Mawson and Levi Ronald's were able to clout several fours and a six from the bowling of Oscar Valladares and move the score along rapidly. Mawson played a very combative stoush against Christian Papi and had to duck several bouncers from the young bowler. Papi had the last laugh when a ball unexpectedly skidded under the opener's bat and bowled him for 14. In a short time, the Redbacks' score collapsed from 1/40 to 6/53 as the next batters struggled with the lively pitch and Avenel's bowling.

Ben Geldart and Jaidon Snyman were dismissed by the spin bowling of Jamison Black and Ronalds was leg before wicket to an unexpected Papi yorker. Banjo Fitzpatrick was stumped while attempting to get off the mark by playing a baffling stroke that might be described as a charging, square-cut pirouette. When "Yobbo" Andrews was bowled by Jamie Kanters, the outlook for The Redbacks was diabolical.

Harrison Christie and Will Ellis saved Alexandra a great deal of embarrassment with a 36-run partnership. Ellis played a considered and careful innings and was not drawn into playing shots that he didn't need to. Christie was more aggressive and caused the Avenel team no end of frustration by hitting everything into the air and landing the ball just out of the reach of fielders until his luck ran out when he was caught on 25.

The remaining batters, Dusty Fitzpatrick, Thaya Sathisivam and Mitch Rowntree were all dismissed for zero. This left Ellis stranded on 13 runs, 87 short of his inevitable century. With a total of 93, The Redbacks faced a daunting task in the field against the batting skill of Avenel.

Will Ellis and Ben Geldart have been expert at keeping run rates low. However, this time Avenel's opening pair of J and S Black moved the score along quickly by taking advantage of anything that was even slightly loose. The pair put on 24 for the first wicket then S Black was caught by Thaya off Geldart's bowling. J Black followed soon after when he was caught by Christie for 21.

Geldart struck again when T Stefanos was caught behind for 12. Alexandra appreciated the batsman's sportsmanship in walking off and not requiring the umpire to decide. Geldart notched up his fourth wicket when he bowled out W Dowely for a duck. Despite Geldart's great figures, Avenel had been able to methodically advance their score with careful shots and taking runs from frequent Redbacks' misfielding.

When Ronalds chimed in with a wicket, Avenel were 5/62 and an epic victory to the visitors was becoming possible. Avenel's veteran sixth wicket pair were too cool under pressure to make mistakes, and they guided the home team to victory by the 19th over.

The B-Grade Redbacks will be looking for ways to get more runs out of the batting as well as keeping fielding standards high.

Next week is the final round of the regular season. Alexandra is currently in second place and take on bottom-placed Seymour. If the Redbacks win, a home final against Tallarook is assured. If Alexandra lose and Tallarook beat Pyalong, then the game is away.

A Grade cricket wrap

by Daniel Crane

ON a high after comfortably beating ladder leaders Tallarook at Leckie Park the week prior, the Alexandra A Grade cricketers made the trip to Puckapunyal last Saturday for their round 16 SDCA match.

As has been common place this year, particularly with away games, there were a number of changes in personnel (six in total) from last week to this. A cynic would think that maybe travel is a problem for some.

Security clearance was granted although there was a bit of hiccup for one of our players who forgot their ID. In a unique alternative to the toss, Puckapunyal captain Ciaran Fountain asked Alexandra skipper Tim Polson if he wanted to bat or bowl. Tim elected to bat.

James Meggitt and Tim opened the batting on a very dry pitch. In the fifth over Tim was dismissed for two caught behind off the bowling of opposing skipper Ciaran Fountain.

Brad Waixel came and went quickly, caught for one off Fountain. Matt Wal, who has had a pretty good year with the bat, stemmed the tide to a degree and with James put on a Partnership of 14. Matt was dismissed for three caught off J Vogt.

Josh Crane came in at five with the Redbacks in desperate need of a partnership and that's what we got. James and Josh batted really well putting on a partnership of 62. With the score on 86, James was bowled by L Smith for a well made 41. After hitting a nice cover drive through the infield, Josh tried to scamper back for a second run and was caught short thanks to a brilliant throw to the keeper from the deep. Josh run out for a nice 18.

Matt Waixel and Toby Ward were the new batters but unfortunately Matt didn't last too long, being caught for 0 off the bowling of Madison Albers. Luke Wal came in and was dismissed for one. Dan Crane was the next batter but he too didn't last long, dismissed for two bowled by L Smith. The Redbacks had collapsed from a great position of 3/86 to a disastrous 8/99.

Toby Ward and James Geldart steadied the ship with a Partnership of 20 before Toby was dismissed for 22 to a great catch at slip off the bowling of Mark Nipperess.

Playing his second game of A Grade cricket, Lucas Crane strode to the crease and much to the delight of his teammates, opened his account with a beautiful four along the ground through midwicket. With James batting superbly at the other end, they took the score to 9/152 off the allotted 45 overs. James finished up 24 not out and Lucas 12.

The Redbacks were pretty confident that 152 was a defensible score.

Joel Baker and Charles Davies opened the batting for Puckapunyal and James Geldart and Matt Wal the bowling for Alexandra. Matt Wal got the first break through bowling Baker for two.

James Vogt was the next batter but he didn't last too long being caught off Matt Wal for one. Ciaran Fountain and Davies took the score to 46 with Davies doing all the scoring before Fountain was well caught by James Meggitt at short cover for 0 off Matt Waixel.

A period of resistance and a partnership of 42 between Lachlan Deeble and Davies then ensued before Deeble was caught off the bowling of James Meggitt for seven.

Luke Smith came in and made a quick seven before being bowled by Jame Meggitt. Madison Albers then came and went quickly for two, Leg before wicket to a nice wrongun by Brad Waixel.

Dangerman Davies was still at the crease and with new batter Mark Nipperess took the score to 120 before Davies was dismissed to a brilliant catch by Matt Wal at deep long on off the bowling of Brad Waixel. Davies batted beautifully for his 89 runs in a dominant display of batting.

It was game on now that the dangerman was out. Nipperess and Peter Brennan took the score to 135 before Brennan was caught for seven off the bowling off Brad Waixel. Puckapunyal needed 17 to win with four overs to go and two wickets in hand.

Nipperess and the new batter Brew took the score to 146 after 44 overs. Matt Wal had just bowled a sensational 44th over with only two runs coming off it. Matt Waixel was given the unenviable task of bowling the last over with Puckapunyal needing six runs to win. With Puckapunyal needing one run to tie and two to win off the last ball, Matt struck with Brew spooning a catch to Dan Crane at mid-on. The Redbacks prevailed by a solitary run.

All the Redbacks bowlers bowled very well and their were some exceptional catches taken (along with a couple of butter fingers moments by yours truly).

The game was played in great spirit and you've gotta love the cheap beverages at Puckapunyal.

Next week the Redbacks take on Pyalong at Leckie Park in the final round of SDCA cricket.