

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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 19, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Lightning sparks fires across shire



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Scorcher for Alexandra Cup



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Alexandra Primary grade two camp



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Weekend sport



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The Alexandra Secondary College formal was held on Saturday, March 15, at Holmesglen at Eildon. -S

Team effort to save native fish from dry conditions

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) is part of a team effort to save native fish at risk of dying due to drying up waterways across the catchment.



Flathead galaxias, known as the 'ghost fish'. -S

The critically endangered Flathead Galaxias, affectionately known as the 'Ghost Fish', in the Molesworth billabongs and endangered Macquarie perch in the Hollands Creek near Benalla are the focus of current efforts.

GBCMA is working closely with Arthur Rylah Institute, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Taungurung Land and Waters, Parks Victoria and North Central Catchment Management Authority on the fish rescue work.

GBCMA Environmental Water and Wetlands Manager, Simon Casanelia, said approximately 100 Ghost Fish were collected from several drying-up billabongs in Molesworth.

"Saving these Ghost Fish is a priority due to the rarity of the species," Mr Casanelia said.

"Of the 100 collected, the majority went to two private dams with secure water levels and suitable habitat and some went to the Victorian Fisheries Authority Snobs Creek

Conservation Hatchery for captive breeding that will also assist with the species' recovery.

"A landholder, participating in the GBCMA's Fish in Farm Dams Project was able to take the Ghost Fish at short notice and they will stay in those two dams until conditions improve at Molesworth.

"While it's impossible to save all native fish and aquatic species impacted by the ongoing hot, dry conditions impacting the catchment's rivers, creeks and wetlands, it's so valuable we can take these actions."

Mr Casanelia said the effects of long spells of hot dry weather were being felt most in unregulated streams, or waterways without weirs and dams that rely on rain and natural run-off for flows.

This is a fantastic example of the community and local authorities working together to protect native fish in challenging, dry conditions.

Splashed it!

by Wayne, Taylah, Nicole, Clea and Mark from Murrindindi Respect

MURRINDINDI Respect has finished the Starlight Super Swim, and with fantastic support from the community we did a lot better than we thought. We expected to raise about \$750, but Nicole raised \$1000 on her own, with a team total of an amazing \$2934.

The community also gave encouragement for us to swim harder, with everyone stopping us in the street to talk about the swim, text messages and phone calls of encouragement and congratulations for personal bests with laps. We knew we had to try harder, and we did.

We only swam twice a week over February and thought we would swim about 10km as a team. We finished with 49.88km or 1995 laps of a 25 metre pool.

A huge thank you for all your support and helping us get fitter.

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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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

WEEKLY

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

Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas

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 SES, SES/CFA complex 7-10pm Ph 0418 576 666

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

Fri Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465

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

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2nd Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

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

3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 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.

Letters to the Editor

ANZAC Day

REGARDING Valerie Pallaoro's comparison between ANZACs at Gallipoli and the treatment of Aboriginals, I fail to understand how she draws this comparison. I recommend she investigate war records and those about European colonisation. In my opinion modern society is losing touch with reality and her comments along with those of Robyn Walsh are symptoms of this.

LJ (Jim) Wheelhouse, Eildon

Don't shoot the messenger

WHEN I say it's not your fault, I mean it's really not your fault. Everything that has happened to you, around you, in you, everything you have seen, felt, been a part of willingly or unwillingly, every trauma you have faced. All the joyful moments, the circumstances and situations that are part of your journey thus far has all led you to this moment, here and now.

Your own personal journey is the most valuable lesson in self-discovery and your soul's evolution. Embrace it. Treasure it. Gain wisdom from it. The process can be long and arduous. It cultivates inner strength and resilience. Patience is not passive but active.

This is my letter to you. I want you to step into your very powerful self. Do you even know how powerful you are? If only you let yourself go and surrender to the fact that you are your own superhero. By that I mean that you have everything inside of you that is needed to kick some serious butt in this game of life.

Name and address provided but withheld by request

Fruit fly

THERE would seem to be a lack of knowledge regarding the fruit fly problem in this shire, as I have seen fruit that has been donated lately and shown it to those distributing it. If council is unable to arrange an information gathering to explain this problem, then arrange someone to talk on the problem, as there are several fruit producers in this shire fighting to keep their produce clean but backyard gardeners are just breeding them.

If you ask your search engine, it will give you all that you need to know on how to help get on top of this pest. There is both insecticide and organic products to do the job. It's never too late to start.

Chris Petersen, Alexandra

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To the amazing 'angel' who rescued me from an impossible situation at the supermarket. You can be sure I will 'pass it on'. Thank you.

THUMBS UP: To Murrindindi Shire Council for the wonderful service and free entry to our swimming pools this season, from a grateful lap swimmer.

THUMBS UP: In last week's paper, Ruth Selover outlined what she was able to do to keep her house cool but the bit she said on her power bill seems a bit too good to be true. She quotes her service charge at \$34.12 as the service per day is \$1.33. Does Ruth get a monthly bill? If quarterly, could she please let everyone know what company she is with so we can all enjoy these great rates?

THUMBS DOWN: Can anyone make sense of what the CEO of fisheries is proposing to do? Dismissing all 73 fisheries officers in the state of Victoria and replacing them with 36 engagement officers focussed on community education. All five fisheries stations will close, leaving just nine staff to cover all of greater Melbourne. We do not have enough officers on the ground now. What will happen with our fisheries as they already have trouble protecting it. Illegal fishing will be open slather. I ask you to write to the Minister for Fisheries to stop this before it gets started. If he gets this though what will be next? Downgrading the hatcheries to liberate less fish into the waterways?

THUMBS UP: It was the best summer for swimming in our beautiful pool at Eildon. Thanks to council for the clean pool, to Eildon Opportunity Shop for all the new pool toys, and to the crew of lovely lifeguards.

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.

Weekly Weather

March 19 - March 25, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	18	30	Wednesday	18	31
Thursday	16	29	Thursday	16	29
Friday	14	25	Friday	14	25
Saturday	13	27	Saturday	13	27
Sunday	13	27	Sunday	13	26
Monday	16	28	Monday	16	28
Tuesday	17	28	Tuesday	17	28

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.62	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.49	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.25am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.47am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.19am Mon	0.49	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.20am Mon	0.19	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.52	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	3.00am Mon	-0.10	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.40	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	falling	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.49	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.59am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2025				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	10mm
Buxton.....	48mm
Eildon (AWS).....	8mm
Flowerdale.....	16mm
Jamieson.....	16mm
Kinglake.....	39mm
Lake Eildon.....	20mm
Mansfield.....	3mm
Taggerty	18mm
Yarck	10mm
Yea.....	10mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	280.12m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	68.6%
Metres below full supply.....	8.78m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release.....	9300ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	85%

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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



The Alexandra Primary School class of 2025. -S

Redgate Alexandra CWA Report

THE next monthly meeting for Redgate Alexandra CWA will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 1pm at the club rooms on Perkins Street in Alexandra. The hostesses are Maria and Gail with theme 'green' and the competitions are 'flower of the month' and 'an interesting tea towel, rug or hat'.

The guest speaker will be Lisa Nolte from the Alexandra Library Services. Everyone is welcome to attend at 2.30pm to hear Lisa's talk and ask questions.

The members are all busy baking for the cake stall and scone challenge which will be held on Saturday, March 29 at 9am outside FoodWorks supermarket in Alexandra.

During March, Redgate Alexandra will be celebrating its 64th birthday. CWA Craft Day is every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. There's a small cost of \$2 for tea or coffee, and bring your own lunch.

If you would like any more information, please call Sue on 0412 435 946 or Jane on 0412 653 647. The CWA state motto is 'care, empower and contribute'.

Flood markers in Molesworth

FLOOD depth indicator signs are placed in areas prone to flooding to show water levels at various locations. They are typically installed along roads, pathways or near water bodies to warn people of potential flood risks. Transport Victoria is responsible for the placement of these markers on roadsides they manage.

Murrindindi Shire Council welcomes the installation by Transport Victoria of 'Road Subject to Flooding' signs and 'Depth of Water' markers on the Goulburn Valley Highway near Cathkin, following long-standing advocacy to improve road safety in flood-prone areas.

These markers will help improve road safety by giving motorists and emergency services a clear indication of flood levels on the Highway. Road safety remains a priority for council and we're glad to see this outcome.

The placement of additional flood markers on the bridge crossing the Goulburn River towards Molesworth was determined by Transport Victoria, based on their assessments.

Council will continue to advocate for further flood markers for high-risk areas.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

A WELL-attended meeting this week was held in the clubroom and as well as the usual agenda items it was confirmed that the club members would be enjoying a coach trip to Healesville RSL for Morning Melodies on Tuesday, April 8. The coach will leave at 9am

and there are still two spots left.

Treasurer Dave had us chuckling with the Comedy Corner and three lucky members took home the chocolate. A big thank you to the members who brought in produce for the club members to share.

It would be nice to see some new members so if you fancy a game of cards, a chat and a cuppa or would like to join a planned trip, please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. The bridge players meet up on a Monday and Wednesday afternoons too. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Bitumen scam doing the rounds

THERE has been a report of a group of people, recently seen in Gobur and Yarck, which locals suspect to be conducting a bitumen scam.

The scam involves approaching rural private properties and claiming to have just finished a job nearby and have excess hotmix bitumen that they need to get rid of so they can clean the truck and head home. They offer to lay it on your property.

Once the resident agrees the rest of the team turn up almost immediately and lay the bitumen. Then they either give you a huge invoice or demand money on the spot. Some reports say they refuse to leave until you pay something, and sometimes they threaten to come back later.

If you are approached by someone in this way, please contact the police.

Local police advised that they have not received any reports from local people having been scammed in this way, but that's not to say that the scammers haven't been trying.

Police would like to remind people to give them a call to report any suspicious behaviour, either by contacting local police or via CrimeStoppers.

If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Alexandra man dies in Dandenong

HOMICIDE Squad detectives have released CCTV and are appealing for information to establish the circumstances which led to the death of a man in Dandenong last week.

The 52 year old Alexandra man had been staying at a motel in Dandenong with his partner, a 50 year old woman from Mordialloc.

In the first clip, he can be seen leaving the motel at 6.57pm on Thursday, February 27 to go for a walk, which was usual for him, returning around 7.43pm.

He walked with a noticeable limp and suffered from leg cramping, and often went for walks to alleviate the pain.

At around 2.03am on Friday, February 28, he left the motel for another walk, but did not return.

The man was found by a passerby on Fifth Avenue around 6.55am. He was conveyed to hospital to be treated for his injuries where he later died on Saturday, March 1.



The man seen on CCTV walking in Dandenong. -S

His partner reported him missing upon realising he had not returned.

Investigators have established that he died as a result of head injuries, but at this stage, have been unable to ascertain how he sustained those injuries.

Police have obtained CCTV which depicts the vast majority of the man's walk, and he is last captured on CCTV at 2.11am alive and well.

At this stage, detectives have not located CCTV which captures the man's final movements and the circumstances which led to his death.

They are particularly keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and saw anything, or who might have CCTV, ringcam or dashcam footage and is yet to speak to police.

There were also a number of passersby captured on CCTV around the 2am mark and who may have walked past the man. They are particularly keen for those witnesses to come forward.

Anyone who witnessed anything, has CCTV, dashcam footage or any other information that could assist investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

Detective Inspector Rob Nazaretian, Homicide Squad said, "At this point in time investigators have been unable to definitively establish the circumstances which led to this man's death not discounting the possibility of a physical assault or some other cause."

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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

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*.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
Alexandra Ladies Probus AGM will be held at 10.30am at the RSL hall.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22
Alexandra Speedway is on again. Racing starts at 4pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
Anything goes auction at Alexandra Show Grounds. Farm machinery, farm sundries, antiques, feeders and much more. Full list will be published at emblingrural.com.au

FRIDAY, MARCH 28
Murrindindi Little Aths AGM and presentation night will be held at 5.30pm at Rotary Park in the barbecue area.

MONDAY, MARCH 31
Alexandra Community Hub AGM will be held at 6pm at the Historic Court House at 38A Downey Street Alexandra.

You are invited to join Murrindindi Shire in developing a township structure plan to guide Yea's growth and preserve its unique character. Workshop will be held between 6.30-8pm at Yea Council Chamber. Register at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan. For more information or to get

involved phone 5772 0333 or visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
You are invited to join Murrindindi Shire in developing a township structure plan to guide Yea's growth and preserve its unique character. A drop in session will held between 3-5pm at Yea Library. For more information or to get involved phone 5772 0333 or visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan

Lightning sparks fires across the shire

A STORM crossed parts of the shire on the evening of Wednesday, March 12, leading to numerous fires being reported to emergency services during the following days. There was a fire on Mallets Track near Eildon on Thursday, March 13, initially fought from the air, with ground support from Forest Fire Management. The fire was contained

to one hectare. It was detected by the FFMVic fire tower network and reconnaissance aircraft. There was also a fire at the Cathedral Range and another on Marysville-Woods Point Road. These too were initially fought from the air. Well done to all of the firefighters involved in stamping out these fires.



Smoke from the fire at the Cathedral Range can be seen in the distance. -S



A firefighting aircraft at the Eildon fire. -AR



A firefighting helicopter heading towards the fire on Marysville-Woods Point Road. -AR



The planes refilled their water tanks from Lake Eildon to fight the fire at Mallets Track. -AR

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The community consultation about the Giro della Donna. -AR

Giro della Donna consultation

THE team behind Giro della Donna conducted a consultation in Marysville on Wednesday, March 12, to hear feedback from the community regarding the next race, set to be held on November 22 and 23 this year.

There were concerns about the amount of the town which was blocked off for last year's event, and about the lack of pedestrian crossings enabling access to various shops, as well as the supermarket. In addition, there were concerns about motorists being unable to access the petrol station during some parts of the race, and some were unable to even leave their home in their car.

Event director, Nathan Lorkin, was quick to address these issues, saying that they intend to reduce their footprint this year. They will be keeping the road clear until Saturday morning, and there will be better pedestrian access through crossings. There may also be a schedule board so people know what's happening.

There was general interest in creating more of an atmosphere at the event, perhaps with stalls and music.

Nathan said the organisers were also keen to hear from any members of the community who have concerns or ideas, and said that they could get in touch via the website.

Sue Gleeson from the Marysville Lolly Shop said that during the last event, it was "The worst weekend ever" in terms of her business, and that the town was like a ghost town due to the road closures. She noted that while local accommodation providers may have done well out of the event, it didn't benefit all businesses in the town. Some of these concerns were addressed by the changes to the race footprint.

Nathan said that the food vans which came to Marysville for the event wouldn't be returning for the next event, which should help more of the businesses in terms of custom.

It was also noted that the cyclists attended a dinner at Peppers on the Saturday night, meaning that local food businesses picked up little custom. It was suggested that creating more of a carnival feel may also encourage people to stay longer, and to bring their families. Trudi Elkington said that council potentially had some funds available for community groups seeking to hold events to bolster the weekend.

Nathan, and the group, also spoke about wanting more local children involved in the children's race. E-bikes will also be allowed in the race events.

Operation Arid catches harmful drivers in the region

POLICE have detected close to 5000 traffic offences during a major road safety blitz over the Labour Day long weekend in Victoria.

Operation Arid saw police targeting high-risk driving behaviour across the state over four days, in an effort to drive down road trauma.

Speeding offences made up almost half of all detections, with 75 per cent of drivers caught speeding between 10km/h and 25km/h over the speed limit.

Police conducted 69,166 preliminary breath tests, with one in every 455 motorists tested caught drink driving.

A further 197 drivers returned a positive roadside drug test, with 4266 roadside drug tests conducted.

Over 300 drivers who shouldn't be on the road because they were either unlicensed, disqualified or suspended from driving were caught over the four days.

Police also issued 227 infringements to motorists for disobeying traffic signs or signals, 145 for mobile offences, and 99 for seatbelt noncompliance.

In the Benalla Police Service Area, which includes the Murrindindi Shire, infringements were given to the following offences, three drink drivers, two drug drivers, one combined drink/drug, one disqualified drivers, three unlicensed drivers, 30 speeding offences, one disobey signs/signals, no seatbelt offences, no mobile phone offences, nine unregistered vehicles, one impoundments, and no cyclist offences.

A total 61 lives have been lost on Victorian roads this year, up from 58 at the same time last year.

Police are reminding motorists they will continue to be out enforcing anywhere, anytime across the state's roads this month, with March considered the most dangerous period on Victorian roads.

Injury collisions in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria have historically peaked during March, with 30 fatalities recorded during March 2024, the highest since 34 were recorded in 2011.

Operation Arid ran from 00:01 hours on Friday, March 7 until 23:59 hours on Monday, March 10.

Draft infrastructure strategy for Victoria released: Open for feedback

VICTORIA'S draft 30-year infrastructure strategy 2025-2055 was released recently by Infrastructure Victoria and provides a number of draft recommendations.

According to the Infrastructure Victoria website, "Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy provides a practical plan for the policies, reforms and projects that can deliver many benefits to Victoria's communities, economy and the environment over the coming decades."

The plan makes 43 draft recommendations in the areas of housing, energy, transport, health, social infrastructure and the environment, and provides seven future options for consideration.

Some of the recommendations could affect regional areas like Murrindindi Shire, especially in the energy section. However, none of the recommendations are concrete, and they are not designated to a select area in the plan, some are just marked as regional.

In the housing and transport sections, key recommendations that could affect the Murrindindi Shire area include building more social housing, investing in kindergarten infrastructure and running more bus and coach services in regional Victoria.

There is also a recommendation to lower the speed limit on streets that children frequent in the strategy.

"Make local streets safer for children and communities. Reduce speed limits to 30km/h on local streets, starting in places that children often visit including around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and kindergartens," the strategy reads.

In the energy portion of the plan, draft recommendations include reducing greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure, better preparing infrastructure for climate change, using new flood maps to revise planning schemes, improving environmental assessments and site selection for energy projects and developing regional energy plans, guiding transition from fossil gas and maintaining reliable gas supply.

The strategy lists a future option of "charging people fairly to use roads."

"Introduce road charges that help manage congestion and improve productivity. Consider options such as car parking levies, off-peak freeway tolls, congestion pricing trials, or road user charging for all motorists with lowered fixed road charges.



Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy proposes a number of recommendations and is currently open for feedback. -Mingyang Liu

Work with the Australian Government on road pricing options," the plan reads.

The six objectives that guided and structured the draft strategy include: Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities; Victorians are healthy and safe; Victoria has a thriving natural environment; Aboriginal people have self-determination and equal outcomes to other Victorians; Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks; and Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy.

This 30-year infrastructure strategy is updated every three to five years by Infrastructure Victoria, and the final strategy will be tabled in Victorian Parliament in late 2025.

In the meantime, Victorians can share their views on the draft recommendations and options by visiting the Engage Victoria website at engage.vic.gov.au/victorias30yearinfrastructurestrategy

The strategy is open for feedback until Monday, April 28.

The full strategy can be found at infrastructurevictoria.com.au/resources/draft-30-year-strategy

Eildon and Marysville will receive Neighbourhood Batteries

THE state government is providing more neighbourhood batteries to help lower power bills, get more solar on to Victorian rooftops and provide backup power for communities during extreme weather events.

The Eildon electorate will be home to four of 65 new battery locations being announced as part of round two of the \$42 million Neighbourhood Battery Program. Marysville Community Centre will also receive a battery to serve as a resilience hub with backup power to serve the community in the event of extreme weather events and power outages.

Neighbourhood batteries can soak up cheap, renewable energy from rooftop solar during the day and feed it back

into the homes or organisations they are connected to at night, when power usage is high.

These neighbourhood batteries can be paired with solar to provide back-up power to these buildings to act as community hubs for people to access power during prolonged outages.

These batteries will help Victoria go towards reaching its target of at least 2.6 GW of energy storage by 2030 and 6.3 GW by 2035, enough energy to power around half of Victoria's homes.

There are now 90 neighbourhood battery projects across metropolitan and regional Victoria. For a full list of neighbourhood battery locations visit energy.vic.gov.au/grants/neighbourhood-batteries

Proudly supporting Student of the week

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ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jozsef Towers

Jozsef has been working hard to show our school values. We are proud of how many strategies you have developed to assist you in becoming the best you can be. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Jozsef. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jake and Ellie displayed the school value of cooperation throughout their learning this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Joshua



For a wonderful start to the year. Joshua has settled into year 2 with ease. His attitude and commitment to learning is commendable. Joshua is a focused and supportive class member and gives everything a go. He enjoys learning and sharing his knowledge with the class. Congratulations.

Student of the Week

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Kinglake branch
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Penultimate Eildon Twilight Market features Royal Australian Navy Rock Band

ALL the ducks lined up for the Eildon Twilight Market. The great weather and long weekend attracted approximately 1600 visitors to the market. With almost 60 stalls including food and beverage vendors and artisan and craft suppliers there was lots to see and do.

The afternoon started with the *Royal Australian Navy Rock Band*, which was sensational. With Pete on drums, Vlad on keyboard, Sam on guitar, Lindsey on base, Andrew on trumpet, Jessie on saxophone and Obed and Kirsten on vocals. The audience certainly was in for a treat.

This was followed by Paul Ray Music Group and Maya O'Loughlin and Ashleigh Davon. It is great to see youth getting up on stage and gaining much needed experience and confidence. Organisers of the Eildon Twilight Market thank Murrindindi Shire Council for their support.

They are looking forward to the last market of the season on Saturday, April 19 from 4 to 8pm, the Eildon Easter Twilight Market incorporating the inaugural Boat Show and Shine. This is shaping up to be the largest market, by far.

The live music lineup will start with Maya O'Loughlin, followed by Tilly Rose thanks to Murrindindi Youth Services. Market organisers are thrilled to present *The Herberts*, a 60s concept band known for their lively dance hits of the decade. Get in the spirit of the day and dress up in the era.

There will be free face painting and an Easter Bonnet Parade, prizes for the best entries, thanks to Go Grocer Eildon.

To register for the Boat Show and Shine (free registration) email Tim at info@infernmarine.com

Registrations are essential for this event.

RSL will conduct their sausage/hamburger sizzle, Lions Club of Eildon will have their 50-year celebration raffle, and the Eildon CFA will have their wood raffle.

Go along for a great day of fun and activities. Pet friendly, dogs must be on a lead at all times. Entry is a gold coin donation.



The Royal Australian Navy Rock Band played at the event. -S



There were almost 60 stalls at the event, with more lined up for the final market of the season. -S

A scorcher for the 2025 Alexandra Cup



Passing the post in race four. -Alexandra Race Club



The horses coming home in race five. -Alexandra Race Club



The children who got their hats signed by Sophie Clayfield, pictured with jockey Sophie. -Wendy McCarthy



Jodie-Lee Riddle's birthday party at the races. -Wendy McCarthy



The Alexandra Lions Club at the sausage sizzle. -S



Guests from the Cathedral Golf Club. -Wendy McCarthy

Foundation Murrindindi launches Volunteer Grant Program

FOUNDATION Murrindindi proudly announces the launch of its new grant program initiative aimed at supporting the operations of volunteer driven, grass roots community organisations within the Murrindindi Shire.

The Volunteer Grant program will support projects to engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base, and strengthen volunteering in local communities within Murrindindi Shire. Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by reducing barrier for volunteers, increasing participation in volunteering and increases community capacity.

Robyn Hill, Executive Officer said, "We understand that volunteers are the heart and soul of our rural communities. Without the many dedicated and passionate volunteers who so generously give their time and talent, many community groups, events and even essential community services like the

SES and the CFA would not be possible. This grant program is designed to support these community organisations that rely on volunteers to operate. Investing in our volunteers means we see and value their ongoing contribution in creating the vibrant and thriving communities in which we live."

Grant funds can be used for activities such as (but not limited to): Training and upskilling of volunteers such as first aid, governance, mental health courses; purchasing of equipment to support volunteer engagement, items including computers, tablets, and radios; subscription fees for products to enhance volunteer organisational capacity such as cloud based online accounting, Canva Pro, and Dropbox; the purchase of electronic payment devices/equipment, costs associated with managing volunteers including software programs, databases, and uniforms; advertising and communication

material such as banners and brochures to promote and support volunteer recruitment, and undertaking background screening checks for volunteers.

Grants of up to \$1500 are available to eligible community organisations.

Grant applications open on Monday, March 31 and close on Wednesday, April 30. To find

out more about this grant opportunity please visit foundationmurrindindi.org.au

We strongly encourage all applicants to contact Foundation Murrindindi's Executive Officer Robyn Hill at robyn@foundationmurrindindi.org.au or 0488 007 688 to discuss your project proposal prior to submitting your application.

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For a community-led future

VOLUNTEER Grant Program

Grants are available to community organisations and groups for projects that engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base and strengthen volunteering in our local communities within Murrindindi Shire. These grants will assist local community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers by improving volunteer capability and capacity within an organisation. Individual projects up to \$1,500 per organisation will be considered.

Opens **31 March**
Closes **30 April**

For more information about the program visit our website at www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au
Or contact Foundation Murrindindi's Executive Officer, Robyn Hill at robyn@foundationmurrindindi.org.au or by telephone on **0488 007 688**.

VOLUNTEER Grant Program

Grants are available to community organisations and groups for projects that engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base and strengthen volunteering in our local communities within Murrindindi Shire. These grants will assist local community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers by improving volunteer capability and capacity within an organisation. Individual projects up to \$1,500 per organisation will be considered.

A scorcher for the 2025 Alexandra Cup



The third race saw Rob Kirkpatrick streak ahead of the field for his second win for the day, this time on Rocket Launcher, trained by Andrew Dale. -Alexandra Race Club



Jockey Rob Kirkpatrick. -Wendy McCarthy



Bernie and Robbo who move the barriers. -Alexandra Race Club



Children enjoying pony rides. -Alexandra Race Club



The ambulance officers at the event. -Alexandra Race Club



The vets at the Alexandra Cup on Saturday. -Alexandra Race Club



There was a very large crowd in attendance. -Alexandra Race Club\



Members of the Alexandra Timber Tramway. -S



The race club's favourite group comes from Carrum Downs every year to play golf and go to the races. -Alexandra Race Club



Wendy Brunson, Wendy McCarthy, Geoff Brunson, Robbo and Bernie. -Alex Race Club

Murrindindi Shire's lack of emergency housing

FAMILY Violence is a widespread issue that impacts individuals, families, and the community. Just because you don't see it firsthand doesn't mean it's not happening under your nose in the community. You don't really know what a person is going through unless you are told.

According to the Crime Statistics Agency, from 2023 to 2024 in the Murrindindi Shire, there were 187 cases of family violence recorded by Victoria Police, with 73 family violence cases involving children. Family violence happens mainly behind closed doors, with 12 of the cases occurring outside of the home and 175 in the home during 2023-4.

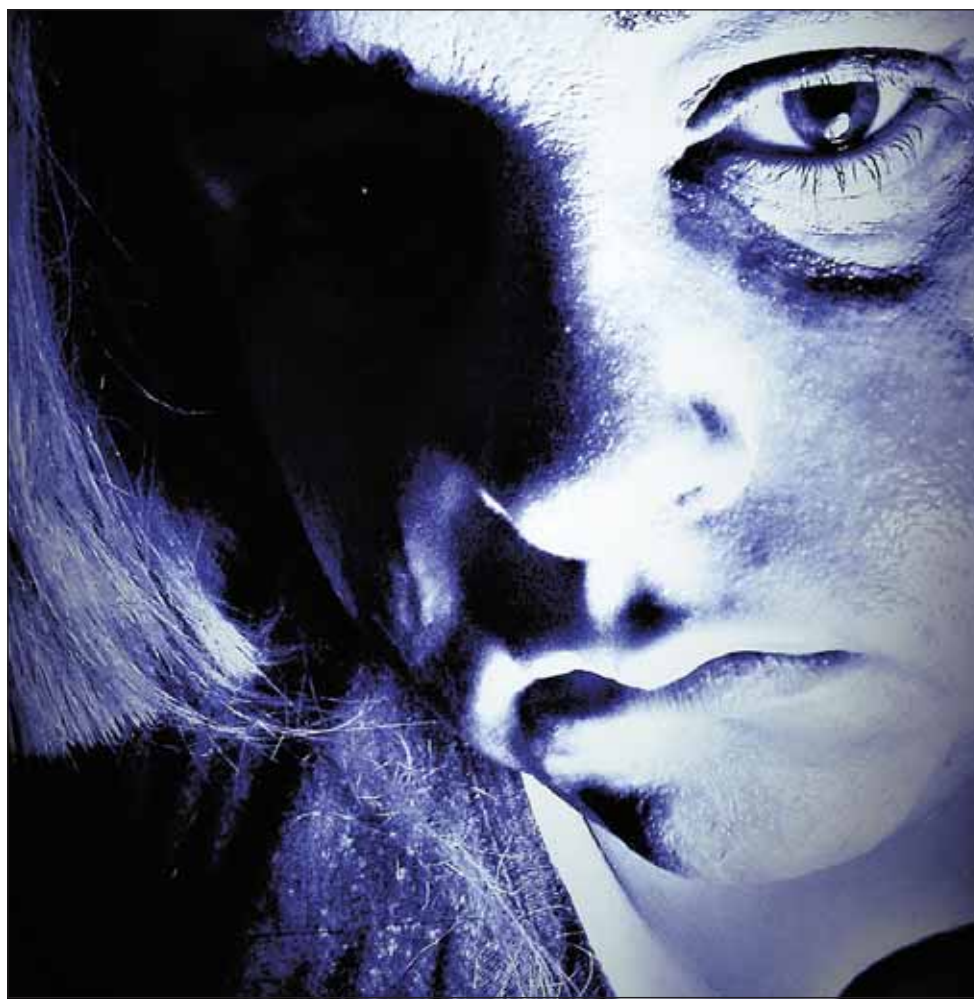
So where do you go in the Murrindindi Shire if you have to flee from a family violence situation?

Recently Alexandra Newspapers sat down with Geoff Proctor, Alexandra's Rotary Club president, to find out about the issue of lack of emergency housing in the shire and his vision of repurposing the old Alexandra Hospital into emergency housing.

"People don't know how many people, and predominantly women, who are living out of cars. We've got an issue, but nobody sees it you know, we've arranged now with the Alexandra Community Hub that we have access to some money to help people out in an emergency where they didn't have the funds...

"With domestic violence, one of the issues that came up at a meeting we had at the Hub was if police need to put somebody in another accommodation, there is nothing. The only way they can do it now is if the person has got access to some money, they can put them into a motel. That's overnight or a couple of nights, but if not, then they have to them in a cell. They have nowhere else to put them.

"So how do we deal with it?... The issue is that you've got a building that sits there (the old Alexandra Hospital) that does nothing. People tell me, 'Oh, it's got asbestos you can't do this, you can't do that.' I said, 'It's got an en-suite, yeah? All you need to do is put a lock on the door. You don't have to do



More services need to be available for victims fleeing domestic violence in the Murrindindi Shire. -S

anything. Don't have to touch it. They need a bed, and they need access to a toilet and a shower. You put a lock on the door."

Nearly two years ago Alexandra Newspapers reported on a meeting held at the Alexandra Community Hub with the providers of homeless support in Murrindindi Shire. The meeting focused on homelessness due to many factors such as the rental crisis,

the impact of the building industry collapse, the topic of emergency accommodation.

Sergeant Andrew Walker from the Alexandra Police said there is a need to have short term accommodation available in the shire, such as for when people have missed a bus or in situations of domestic violence.

"They work to find accommodation at locations such as caravan parks or at local

hotels, however this can be challenging if it is required late at night. In cases of family violence, the police have at times needed to transport people very long distances, such as to Wangaratta, and police may spend their whole shift on this task. Unfortunately, no funds are available to book a taxi for the people. He said that this can occur around once per month, as in family violence situations, people can often have family or friends who are able to help," Sergeant Walker said.

An option currently available for Murrindindi Shire residents who are experiencing family violence is reaching out to the Orange Door Network. This service helps people access family violence support.

The Orange Door works with local providers and services across Goulburn to support placements in emergency accommodation, as well as providing specialist family violence case management to ensure access to a range of legal, financial, and emotional supports

While The Orange Door is available during business hours, access to crisis accommodation statewide is also available 24 hours, seven days a week via Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre.

Goulburn Orange Door has a primary site in Shepparton, and an access point at Wallan responding to families and individuals based in Murrindindi Shire, Mitchell Shire, Strathbogie Shire, City of Greater Shepparton, and Moira Shire.

Goulburn Orange Door can be reached on 1800 634 245, Safe steps Family violence Response centre can be reached on 1800 015 188, and Beyond Housing can be reached at 1800 825 955.

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MADE FOR MORE



The value of keeping backyard chooks

Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer,
Northern Region

CHICKENS can be a great addition to your home, filling various roles such as producing eggs, fertilising gardens, eating your food scraps, plus being a pet and providing companionship for the family.

The most trouble-free chickens to purchase are vaccinated hens at the point of lay (16 to 18 weeks) from a reliable commercial source. You will need at least two as chickens are social animals.

Chickens need a well-drained and well-ventilated pen, with enough space to ensure they don't fight, and is functional and easy to clean.

A chicken house should give shade from direct sunlight plus water-proofing from rain, particularly where the chickens roost and lay. It works well if the chicken house is located under a tree for shade.

The chicken house should be north facing with an eave about a metre long to protect from the summer sun but let the light in during winter. Make sure the house is tall enough to stand up in. Cover the floor with sawdust to form a deep litter for the chicken's droppings.

Make sure the chicken house is fox proof and unless the sides are attached to a wooden or concrete floor, dig them into the soil to a depth of at least a half a metre.

Make sure there are no gaps that predators could get in, there are secured catches and locks, and consider using a fox light.

For chickens that are not allowed to roam outside their pen clip one wing, not both, to prevent them from flying. Always secure your chickens in the chicken house before the end of the day.

Nesting boxes need to be off the ground, be deep and fairly dark for seclusion, and

regularly add fresh straw. Ideally build the house with outside access to the nesting boxes.

Perches for roosting need to be wide enough for the chickens to comfortably stand on, at a jumping height and the right thickness for their feet.

Chickens are naturally omnivores, so they eat a variety of foods. Pellets are a satisfactory food source but can be supplemented with food scraps.

Don't feed more scraps than the chickens can consume or else the leftovers will attract vermin and create odours, don't give food scraps that are mouldy or have gone off otherwise you chickens may become sick. Give a source of calcium such as shell grit to help form their eggs.

Commercially available feeders and water dispensers work well, have them off the ground to keep them clean. A round feeder is good for the pecking order as the weaker chicken can be on the other side of the circle and not beside the dominant chicken.

Provide enough pellets for no more than one week to prevent them from becoming stale. Chickens also need continual access to clean, fresh water as they drink a lot.

Monitor your chickens daily for their health, egg production, and food and water availability, and collect their eggs daily. Regularly clean your chicken coop including feeders, drinkers and equipment, and frequently replace nesting materials.

Always wash your hands with warm water and soap after handling birds, eggs or other materials in the coop.

Agriculture Victoria is currently responding to an outbreak of H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu) on four Victorian poultry farms. A housing requirement is now in



Chickens make for easy backyard animals and have many benefits, but there are some rules and guidelines that should be followed to make sure they are well cared for. -Pixabay

place only for properties with 50 or more birds in the restricted area.

This disease detection serves as a reminder for all bird owners to routinely monitor the health of their birds. If you suspect your birds are sick, contact your local vet or call the all-hours Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

To avoid this happening to your flock avoid contact between poultry and wild birds, keep feed and water in a protected place where wild birds can't access, and keep your poultry away from water sources frequented by wild birds such as streams, dams, ponds and even puddles. Limit visitors to your birds and use clean footwear.

If you are planning to have more than 50 chickens, you are required to have a Property Identification Code, and either be

in a quality assurance program or complete and follow Agriculture Victoria's food safety management statement.

Also, check your local government requirements, as many have by-laws on flock size and housing, as well as prohibiting keeping roosters in metropolitan areas.

Chickens are an easy and enjoyable animal to keep. So, if you are thinking about it give it a go. For further information regarding keeping backyard poultry visit go.vic.gov.au/3FrSzz9

Avian influenza is a notifiable disease. If you suspect infection in your own poultry or wild birds you must notify Agriculture Victoria on the all-hours Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888. For further information regarding Avian Influenza visit go.vic.gov.au/3FrSoDZ

Rise in on-farm fatalities leads to calls for action around farm safety

THE latest data released by AgriFutures Australia and collated by the team at AgHealth Australia has revealed a sharp and deeply concerning rise in on-farm fatalities and serious injuries, with 72 lives lost and 133 serious injuries recorded in 2024.

Farmsafe Australia, the national peak body for farm safety, is calling for urgent action, declaring that it is time to draw a

line in the sand and make farm safety a non-negotiable priority.

"This is not just a wake-up call, it's an emergency," Felicity Richards, Chair of Farmsafe Australia, said.

"We cannot continue to accept farm fatalities and serious injuries as just part of life on the land. The data is clear: we need to change the culture around safety, and we need to do it now."

The 2024 figures more than double those recorded in 2023, with side by sides (14 deaths), quad bikes (10 deaths), and tractors (8 deaths) continuing to be leading causes of fatalities. Queensland alone saw an alarming jump in serious injuries, increasing from 11 to 61 cases. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent real people, farmers, workers, and family members, whose lives are forever changed.

AgriFutures Australia Senior Manager, Rural Futures, Ulicia Raufers emphasised the importance of data in identifying and addressing emerging safety risks.

"We cannot allow the rising trend of on-farm fatalities and serious injuries to persist," Ms. Raufers said.

"Every person who lives, works, or visits a farm has a role to play in prioritising safety and reversing these troubling figures."

AgHealth Australia's Farm Safety Research Manager, Kerri-Lynn Peachey, who monitors and collates the incidents each year, called the latest statistics a stark reminder to prioritise farm safety.

"With deaths and injuries more than doubling since 2023, we can't ignore the warning. While some fluctuation is expected, 72 fatalities far exceed the five-year average of 53," she said.

"We must stop treating these incidents as unfortunate accidents and start treating them as preventable tragedies," Ms Richards said.

"Farm safety isn't about red tape; it's about keeping people alive. If we don't act now, we will be having the same conversation in

another 12 months, only with more names added to the toll."

Farmsafe Australia is calling on industry, government, and corporate partners to step up and take responsibility by working with the organisation. Collaboration is key, and this moment must be seized to align policy, investment, and action towards a safer future for Australian farms.

"Farm safety isn't just the responsibility of individual farmers, it's a collective effort," she said.

"We must bring together industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to ensure that awareness of evidence-based solutions is consistently raised and that life saving habits are put into practice. Every farm, every worker, every family deserves better."

Farmsafe Australia is urging government and corporate partners to work alongside them and invest in long-term safety initiatives, including training programs, awareness campaigns, and technology-driven solutions. By leveraging data and insights from initiatives like the Ag Safety Data Net, the industry can make informed decisions that drive real change.

"We have the knowledge. We have the tools. Now, we need the commitment," Ms Richards said.

"This is our line in the sand. We cannot afford to let these numbers continue climbing, we must act, and we must act together."

More information about Farmsafe Australia can be found at their website, farmsafe.org.au

MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

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Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon March 28, 2025

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



Duck hunters plan ahead

WITH duck hunting season approaching, people are being encouraged to familiarise themselves with the rules for hunting at Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) lakes, dams and reservoirs.

The Victorian Government has announced the 2025 duck hunting season will run from March 19 to June 9.

Duck hunting is permitted at the following GMW storages: Cairn Curran Reservoir, Hume Reservoir (Victorian lakebed areas), Tullaroop Reservoir, Lake Eppalock, Laanecoorie Reservoir, Greens Lake, Lake Eildon, Lake Buffalo, Waranga Basin, Lake Charm, Kangaroo Lake, Racecourse, Lake Nillahcootie, and Lake Nagambie.

GMW Water Storage Services general manager Leonie Bourke said people visiting GMW storages during this time should be aware of where they can and can't hunt.

"Duck hunting is permitted at several of our lakes, dams and reservoirs, but there are still parts of these storages where hunting is prohibited," Ms Bourke said.

"It is important people learn which areas hunting is allowed in before they visit, as some of these areas have changed since previous seasons.

"Hunters will also need to get landholder consent to hunt or pass through private property that adjoins GMW land, waterways, and storages."

Duck hunters visiting GMW-managed storages must follow the arrangements laid out by the Victorian Government. This includes bag limits, what hours of the day

hunting can occur, which species can be hunted and wetland management actions.

"We ask everyone who visits our storages makes safety a priority, and respects both the environment and other members of the public," Ms Bourke said.

"If people have any questions about where they can hunt at our storages can phone us to get clarification."

Information on duck hunting at GMW storages, including maps specifying where duck hunting is permitted, can be found on the GMW website gmwater.com.au/duckhunting

Recreational game bird hunting is also prohibited in the Avian influenza control and restricted areas currently in place in Strathbogie Shire. This includes duck, stubble quail and introduced game bird hunting.

Moving game bird carcasses and any equipment associated with game bird hunting into or out of the restricted and control areas is prohibited unless under a movement permit.

Details on the arrangements for the 2025 duck hunting season can be found on the Game Management Authority website at gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/duck/duck-seasonarrangements

Hunters are reminded to regularly check the GMA website for updates on wetland management actions, including any wetlands that may be closed to hunting to protect significant concentrations of rare or threatened species. People with further questions on where they can hunt at GMW storages can phone 1800 013 357.

Monitoring and managing water

WATER is a precious commodity and with the current dry seasonal conditions it's a critical farm asset to manage and monitor.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Industry Development Officer Christopher Blore said having the right quality of stock, domestic and commercial water, where you need it, when you need it and, in the quantity you need, is critical for all farm businesses.

"There are some simple tools that you can use to monitor water supplies in dams and tanks across your farm," Mr Blore said.

"Tools can be as simple as a couple of floats and a bit of bar to give you an indication of the water left in your tank, or a DAMDEEP tool.

"A video of how to make a DAMDEEP measuring tool can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

"More advanced options such as ultrasonic or hydrostatic sensors to

measure the depth of tanks or dams or flow meters to measure water flow rates from pumps and tanks, can be set up to send automatic alerts like when a tank or dam is low.

"If you are looking to compare options, visit agtechfinder.com as this website has a large range of available AgTech solutions for water monitoring. Just search the term 'water' to browse a range of options," he said.

"Chat with your local rural store about options and the ongoing support available at a local level."

For further information on calculating livestock water needs and how much water you have on farm, refer to the Stock Water Resources page on the Feeding Livestock website or contact Chris at christopher.blore@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For more information about drought and dry seasonal conditions support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

More funding for Livestock Biosecurity

THE Victorian Government is supporting new projects that better control pests and disease that impact livestock. Recently the 2025 Livestock Biosecurity Funds program opened and eligible organisations are urged to apply.

The grants can be used by organisations to adopt emerging technologies and to respond to unsolved livestock biosecurity issues, encourage collaboration where possible, and provide measurable benefits to livestock and beekeeping industries.

Victoria will continue to face new and emerging biosecurity risks, driven by climate change and increasing trade and travel, so innovative solutions will be essential to help protect Victoria's agriculture industry.

Agriculture Victoria and the state's livestock advisory committees set up the grants program which is funded through duties generated by the sale of cattle, sheep, goat and pigs and their carcasses in Victoria, and beekeeper registration fees.

Last year the Cattle Compensation Fund awarded \$1.5 million to Veterinary Support Services to run the Victorian Livestock Veterinary Scholarship program, supporting eight early career veterinarians across regional Victoria, providing one-to-one clinical supervision and training from an experienced large animal veterinarian

To apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds Applications close on April 14.

ANYTHING GOES AUCTION

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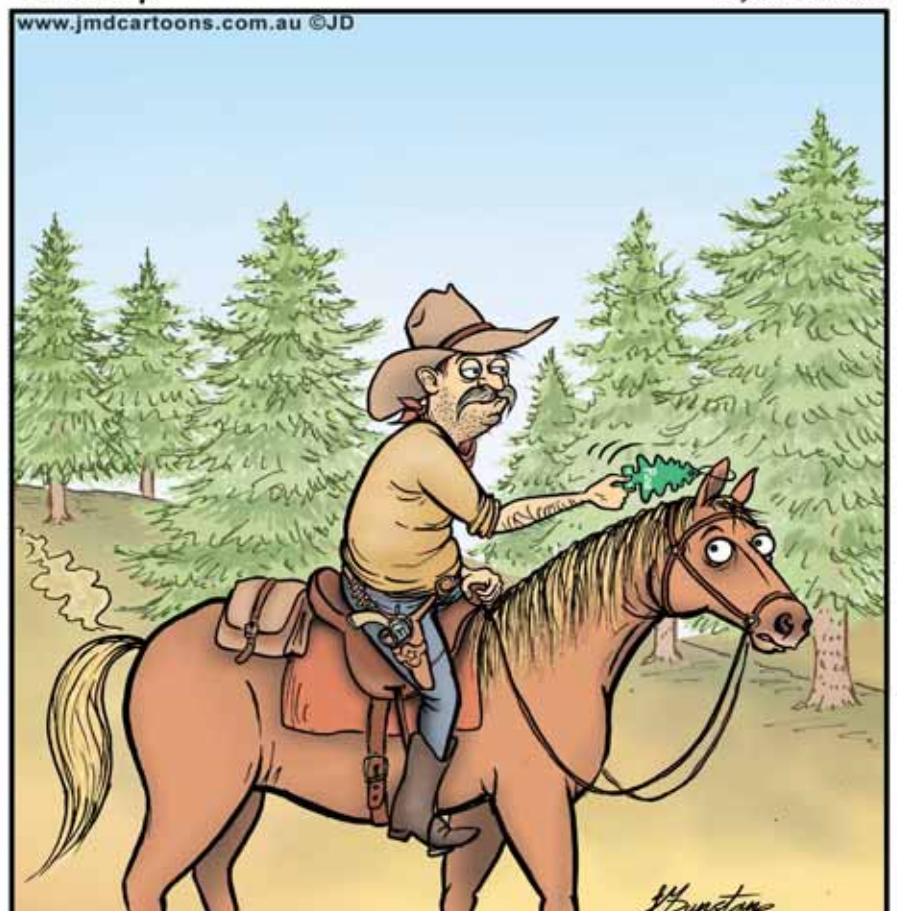


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The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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Place getters in the parent child race Levi Campbell and Charlie Irwin, Koa and Shane Parker, Millie and Phil Weeks. -S



Danielle Nadj and Millie Weeks. -S



Charlotte Boulton, Zoe Mullins, and Phoebe Kidd. -S



Charlie Irwin and Archie Gibson. -S

A huge success at the swimming club championships

AT 8am on Sunday, March 2, a dedicated group of volunteers started preparing the Alexandra Swimming Pool for the annual Alexandra Swimming Club Championships.

Being a non-competitive club, the club championships is a way for the club to celebrate the swimmers and the progress they have made throughout the year. The focus on the day is to give all swimmers an opportunity to experience a competition style event in a supportive and familiar environment. This is especially beneficial for younger swimmers who may be just starting their competitive swimming journeys at school.

Swimmers participate in time trials throughout the season, and the championships is the last opportunity to register times. With events ranging from under eight to open and over 35 years, the day is open to all swimmers as long as they can swim 25 metres.

As the minutes ticked by to the starting time of 9am, more and more swimmers began arriving and a great morning session was ensured.

The day started with freestyle events, with the youngest swimmers impressing everyone present with their stroke technique, speed and desire to swim in upper age groups so they could swim further. Encouragement from everyone present and it was amazing to hear with all participants being cheered on and supported.

All competitive strokes and events were covered for the day, with many parents swimming who possibly had not anticipated that at the start of the day. The men's open 25 metre butterfly had a full field which was amazing to see.

The last event of the day is always the most anticipated and this year was no exception. With five separate heats, the parent-child race, is open to all swimmers and there is no compulsion to swim with your parent or child. The race is simple, whatever stroke you want to swim, one of you swims 25 metres and then the other person takes over. This year, the event was taken out by Koa and Shane Parker, with Levi Campbell and Charlie Irwin teaming up to come second just pipping Millie and Phil Weeks in third.

Such an amazing day would not have been possible without the dedication of swimming coaches Lee, Toby and Lara, who have all overseen incredible improvements in swimmers and encouraged them throughout the season. Congratulations to all swimmers who participated and to their parents who are supporting their involvement in such an important skill.

The last event of the season for the swimming club is the presentation night which will be on Tuesday, March 18 starting at 5.30pm in Rotary Park in Alexandra. All swimmers and their families are encouraged to attend to celebrate achievements and participate in a free barbecue.



Asher Mullins, Zoe Coller, and Bella Lamaro. -S



Danielle Nadj, Lara Cann, and Emma Kidd. -S



Swimmer Evie Hutt. -S



Lara Cann, Emma Kidd, and Renee Drysdale. -S



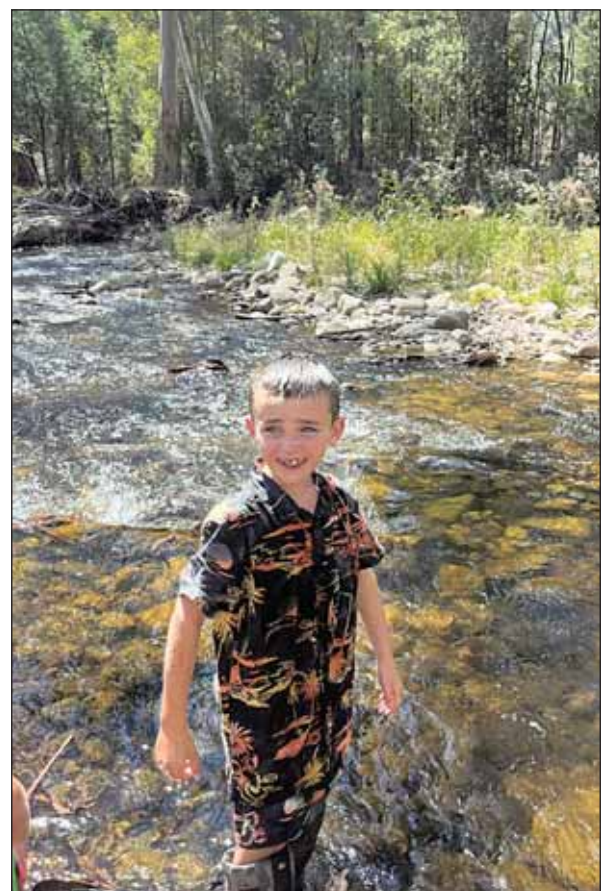
Justin Stevenson, Toby Prothero, and Declan Baker. -S



Tahj Parker, Baxter and River Lamaro, and Leo Jager. -S



Alexandra Primary School's grade two camp



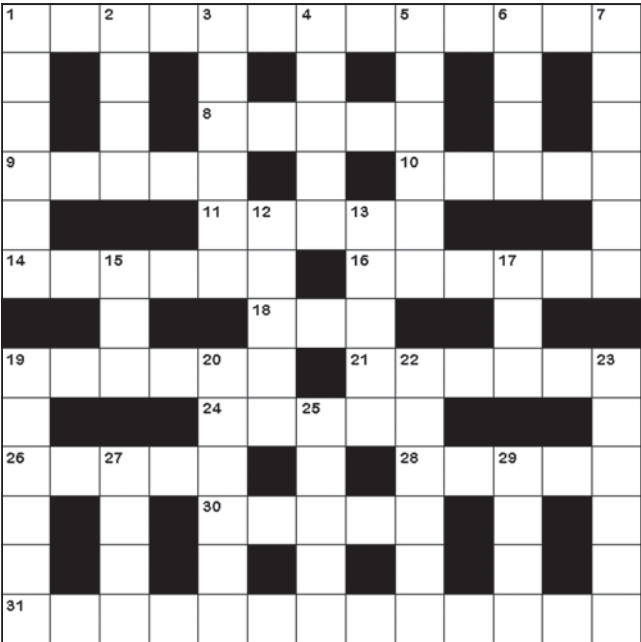
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 16

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Capable of being moved from one place to another.
- 8. Where sports events take place.
- 9. Juice pressed from apples.
- 10. Bring out an official document.
- 11. The rear part of a ship.
- 14. A way of acting or behaving.
- 16. A participant in a date.
- 18. A receptacle for the ashes of the dead.
- 19. Having beautiful views.
- 21. An even dozen.
- 24. In a state of physical or nervous tension.
- 26. Macaroni, spaghetti, ravioli, noodles, etc.
- 28. A small map set within a larger one.
- 30. Not telling the truth.
- 31. Diligent and scrupulous.



DOWN

- 1. Powder used after a bath.
- 2. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- 3. Occurring at widely spaced intervals.
- 4. Grossly overweight.
- 5. Prepares for a sport.
- 6. The one in charge.
- 7. Person who has specialised knowledge.
- 12. An agreement to stop fighting.
- 13. Hires out for an agreed fee.
- 15. Indicates the born or maiden name.
- 17. Nocturnal bird with large eyes.
- 19. Contaminated and festering.
- 20. Printing with the letters slanting to the right.
- 22. A measure of the heaviness of things.
- 23. A minor actor in crowd scenes.
- 25. Sound of any kind.
- 27. Deliberately avoid.
- 29. A musical composition for one performer.

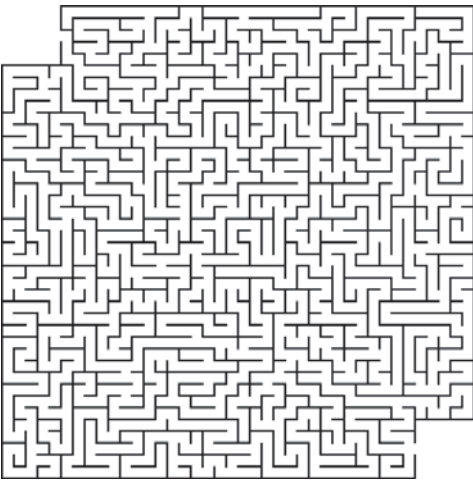
Word Search

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



Sudoku

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

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.

Math Square

	+		×	7	33
+		-		-	
	-	6	÷		6
+		÷		×	
	-		-		6
22		1		4	

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.



Matt Reddecliffe in a dirt modified. -S



Mitch Whiting in a compact speedcar. -S

Variety at Saturday's upcoming speedway event

by Dean Thompson

LADIES Standard Saloon competitors will be a highlight among a show packed with variety this Saturday at Alexandra Speedway with the Ladies Standard Saloon state title being one of a number of important features.

Dirt Modifieds with their 360ci engines, Compact Speedcars with their mostly 1000cc engines, Wingless Sprints with V6 engines, Junior Sedans, Standard Saloons and Junior Standard Saloons make for a packed program for race fans.

Competitors in the Ladies Standard Saloon title vying for the Victoria one roof plate include Alexandra club members Sarah Meakins, Courtney Meakins, and Maddy Capon. Sarah has won the state title numerous times and is once again amongst the favourites.

Visiting drivers with eyes on the title prize include Bree Walker and Caroline Allen the top two drivers in the state series currently part way through their season, two-time former champion Ally Morrison, former champion Jaimi Barber and the likes of Katie Meyer, Zoe Young, Kath George, Stacey Sheedy and Lea Judd.

Wingless Sprint entrants include Brad Warren who competes for Alexandra member Steve Garlick. Warren and Garlick have won the Victorian title together for Wingless this season and this weekend are looking for victory in a series round with \$1000 to win on offer.

Jordan Pegg grew up as a Junior racer at Alexandra and is looking for a strong showing while the likes of Ricky Mills, Jarrod Payne, Scott Irons, Jordyn Sinni, Jake Warren, Jack Regan, Ben Hodge, Evan O'Bryan, and Esther Thomson are others are in the mix.

Australian Compact Speedcar champion Justin Paull from Montrose leads competitors into this weekend's Compact Speedcar club round. Aston Rodriguez the Victorian champion, and Mitch Whiting the former Australian champion are all competitors to watch in the class.

Dirt Modified competitors should put on a terrific show at Alexandra. Dirt Modifieds are making their debut at the track and are capable of getting around the venue quicker than any class has. All eyes will be on the clocks this weekend with competitors like Daryl Hickson, Michael Ardley, Matt and Marcus Reddecliffe, and Shane Ardley come to Alexandra to compete for the first time in these big powerful machines.

Supporting all the feature action will be a strong line up of Junior Sedan competitors, Sports Sedan drivers fresh from their state title this past weekend, Standard Saloon Open Competitors and Junior Standard Saloon competitors.

This Saturday racing begins from 4pm on Gordon Street Alexandra with a planned 10.30pm finish, gates open to the public at 9.30am. Enquires can be communicated via Facebook messages to the club to race day up until 9.30pm.

Entrance will cost \$60 for a family of two adults and three kids aged 10 to 16. An adult ticket is \$25, Aged, and Invalid and children aged 10 to 16 is \$10 with all children under the age of 10, free.

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Round six for 2025 at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Espresso versus Latte

TYLER versus Collective: Everyone in Tyler's level was unavailable. Tyler played each game against a different opponent for some good practice.

James G versus Mick: James kept it close in the first half of the match. Stepping it up a notch in the second half, Mick showed no mercy to triumph with a 33 point lead. 74 to 41.

Justin versus Matt: A fabulous game to watch. Both players pulled out some powerful shots to heat the night up even more. Justin took an early lead and stayed ahead to win the match 78 to 50.

John versus Andrew: It was a slow start for Andrew, with John covering the court well. Andrew tried for a late comeback in the third game, but John was too strong across the court and claimed the victory. 68 to 47.

Affogato versus Cappuccino

LEE versus Sally: An excellent game by both players. Lee won points early in each game with Sally bringing it home strong to keep the scores almost even. A well round game but Lee just edged ahead in the end to win the match. 53 to 51.

Jared versus Michael M: Michael was lost in space during the first game allowing Jared to take a 17-point lead. In an attempt to reduce the deficit Michael drew the second game and won the third, however his efforts were unsuccessful, and Jared continued to reign supreme and claimed his victory. 61 to 53.

Thursday competition Chai versus Darjeeling

RANDY versus Beth: Busting out some tricks Randy took a 16-point lead in the first game. Beth pulled it together to keep the next two games close and won the final game by 11 points. It was a good effort, but Randy was still victorious. 71 to 62.

Sam versus Jodie (fill in): It was a close match, and both players were running around so much you could see the heat waves coming off them. Jodie has not lost her touch with continually amazing serves. She held out and didn't let Sam get a look in. 54 to 47.

Michael H (fill in) versus Phil: An entertaining match to watch. Phil lost his groove in game two, letting Micheal get further ahead. The tables turned in the third game and Phil claimed back most of the points he'd just lost. Michael still had enough of a lead to win the match. 62 to 52.

Earl Grey versus Oolong

CHRIS versus Jess: Jess looked good in the first game, but Chris was able to get his eye in and held a decent lead until the end to triumph. 67 to 41.

Travis versus Kristelle: At halftime it was one game each. Neither player was enjoying the sweltering heat on the court. Travis struggle with Kristelle's killer serves. With increased levels of frustration Travis couldn't return the serves and Kristelle served her way to victory. 71 to 55.

Daniel W versus Stuart: Both opponents took home two games. With neither willing to give in it was anyone's match. When the final buzzer went off Stuart was crowned the winner by only three points. 61 to 58.

Round one Telstra footy country grants announced

FOUR Football clubs have been successful in securing a Telstra Footy Country Grants, and local Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball club is one of the lucky recipients.

These grants allow local football clubs across Australia have the opportunity to share in an \$8 million funding boost from 2024 to 2028.

Round two is now open, for local clubs to apply visit play.afl/clubhelp/footy-country-grants

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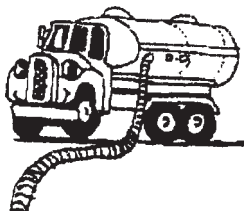


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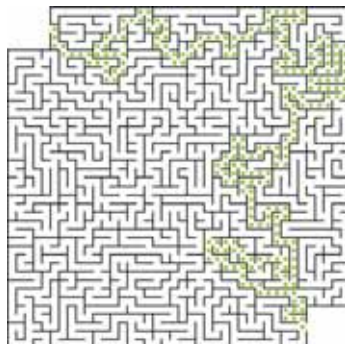
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

5	+	4	×	7	33
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8	-	6	÷	3	6
+		÷		×	
9	-	2	-	1	6
22		1		4	

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AGM for the Alexandra Ladies Probus Club will be held at 10.30am on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Alexandra RSL Hall.

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Please refer to <https://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/welcome/employment-opportunities/> for the role description and application requirements.
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SPORT



Merton cricketers played in Wangaratta. -S

Merton cricketers play Rovers in Wangaratta

MERTON cricketers travelled to Wangaratta to take on Rovers Bruck United in a qualifying final on a perfect outfield in hot conditions.

Rovers won the toss and batted making 6/175. Jeremy Aykroyd with a fine 70 and Vance Curran 25 the top scorers, Noah Whittall 2/18 off eight overs really stood up along with Harry Craddock 2/37 bowling well.

Luke Berriman and Jai Lerch-Mackinnon the other wicket takers. Merton's top order struggled for the first time with a steady fall of wickets and a rising run rate putting the pressure on. The middle order started finding the boundaries lead by top scorer Jarrod Mahoney 31 and some late runs from Harry Craddock 23 not out saw Merton unable to chase the runs down finishing 8/133 off 36 overs.

Luke Berriman and Daryl King both with 17 the other contributors for Merton. J Haddock 3/17 the top wicket taker for Rovers. With other results going Merton's way the side gets a second chance with a road trip to Mulwala to take on Yarrawonga for a place in the grand final with Rovers playing Benalla at the Rose Gardens oval.

Great turn out for Eildon Golfers

by Puttomatic

THIS week Eildon Golfers had 15 players including three visitors from Alexandra Golf Club competed for the honour of winning the first Par competition for the year. The course is still standing up well given the time of year and lack of rain and the greens are looking a picture, and massive thanks to all members who work so hard to maintain the course.

Our winner with an impressive +5 John Gisberts, in second Kerry Power +2, ball run down Marian Williamson and Phil Dally on +1, Wayne Kupke and Colin Long -1. Nearest the pins this week winners, second shot on the third Kerry Power, fifth Phil Dally, 11th Kerry power, 12th Trevor Biffin and 14th Kerry Power. There was no winner on the birdie holes, eighth and 15th. Other winners John Gysberts won the entry draw and Trevor Biffin had a win with the swindle.

A big thank you to our club volunteers who helped out with our veterans day last Thursday. Forty-eight players was a great turn up for the club and a special thanks to Mary Beale and Kaz for the great lunch.

Keep an eye on your emails for the the Solarhart information day which has been rescheduled for March 28. More information to come.

Next Saturday will be the March monthly medal. Hope to see you all there.

Until next time, take care and see you at the club.

SPORT



Clay hitting the mountains at the Boost Mobile Australian MTB Interschools at Thredbo. -S

Local student takes on MTB Interschools at Thredbo

FROM March 3 to 5, grade six student Clay Hilder represented St Mary's Primary School at the Boost Mobile Australian MTB Interschools at Thredbo.

It was an action-packed few days of riding, racing and good times with school students from far and wide. Riders compete in four events over the three days, these included Maxxis All Mountain, Fox Flow, Deity Pump Track, and the Rockshox Downhill.

Clay's best result came in the first race placing 21st out of 126 in his division. In his second race the Fox Flow Clay

came in 55th, then with no previous experience racing pump track Clay managed a 60th place, and in the final race the Rockshox Downhill on Thredbo's black trail called Cannonball Clay's courage brought him another great result of 37th. Completing all four races Clay secured an overall King of the mountain placing 34th.

The best three riders results from each school in each division provide the schools placing but with only Clay's as results St Mary's placed 41st in Division four out of 92 schools.

Alexandra Football Club Pre-Season Report

ON Saturday, March 15, Alexandra Football Club hosted Bonnie Doon in a six quarter practice match. Despite the high temperatures, reaching the mid-30s, both teams showed great resilience, providing an intense and competitive hit-out. The Rebels fielded over 30 players, including some of the club's Under 18 players, eager for the opportunity to get some match experience ahead of the season.

The practice match served as a valuable preparation for the Rebels, providing much needed game time before their first official match on Saturday, April 12, against Seville. The club is grateful to Campbell and the Bonnie Doon team for their support throughout the match and in the post-game gathering in the rooms.

The Rebels will next face Hawthorn Amateurs in another practice match on Saturday, March 29, with the game set to start at 12pm. In addition, the netballers will be hosting an intra-club match, making for an exciting day at the club. We encourage all members and supporters to come along and show their support.

Volunteer Opportunities for the 2025 Season

THE club is seeking volunteers for several important roles ahead of the 2025 season:

Auskick Coordinator: With the Auskick program set to begin in term two, the club is calling for a coordinator to ensure the program runs smoothly. Parents of children participating in the program are especially encouraged to reach out. Interested individuals should contact Luke Heard at 0418 376 176 for more details.

Canteen Manager: The club is looking for a Canteen Manager to oversee operations during



New player Charlie Boots. -S

Junior home games. This role could potentially be shared, and full training and assistance will be provided. If interested, please contact Kath Hedger at 0438 520 382.

Senior Trainer: The club is also in need of a Senior Trainer. Trainers play a vital role in ensuring the well-being of players during games and training sessions. If you are interested in this role, please contact President Kylie Cairns at 0409 932 761 for more information.

With the Rebels' first official game fast approaching, the club remains committed to providing opportunities for players, coaches, and volunteers to get involved. We thank everyone who has supported the club so far and look forward to a strong start to the season.

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



Ryan Lucas takes a mark. -S

Ongoing tradition for lakeside challenge

by Lesley Rundle

WHEN the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls club was damaged by the 2009 fires former Marysville member Andrew Wheeler and friend Don Read from Lakeside discussed the possibility of the Lakeside golfers raising some funds for the club. A golf challenge between the two clubs was instigated and 15 years later the challenge is still going strong. Last Saturday 55 golfers played a stableford round in hot but calm conditions. The ladies winner was Marysville member Lizzy Matthews (42) with an excellent 41 points followed closely by Gail Leigh (12) with 40 points. The winner of the men's section was Colin Davies (27) with 41 points. The runner up was Lakeside member Christian Numa (17) with 38 points on a countback from Bruce Holloway. The nearest the pins were won by Donal Sharkey, Michael Button and Ming Kuan (2). Special congratulations to Ross Green who had an Eagle on the Par four sixth hole. The winner of the Don Read trophy for the best score of the day came down to a countback between Colin Davies and Lizzy Matthews and members congratulated Colin for winning the countback. There is also a perpetual trophy awarded



Winners of the lakeside challenge from left to right Lizzy Matthews, Don Read, Richy Clark, and Colin Davies. -S

each year to the winning club by working out the aggregate score divided by the number of players from each club. This year Marysville won the teams event with 32.19 compared to Lakesides score of 29.56.

Lakeside have won the trophy eight times with Marysville now close behind with seven wins. Events such as these take a great amount of planning and organising and those people who were thanked for their contribution to the day included Don Read for organising the attendance of the Lakeside players, Heather Jenkins and Steve Coker and their assistants for coordinating the Marysville part of the challenge and The House of Golf and Peppers Hotel

for their sponsorship. All golfers enjoyed the lunch supplied by the Pavilion Bar and Grill and all those present look forward to next year's challenge.

The Lakeside Challenge on Saturday followed a very busy day and evening at the club with a superb wedding which was coordinated by Briony Hickey and Steve Coker. On Monday four ladies played in the Mansfield Ladies Bowl, and on Thursday the Inaugural Community Golf Day will be held while four ladies are playing in the Seymour Ladies Bowl.

Next Saturday the golfers will play stroke for the first round of the Summer Aggregate.

Alexandra golfers play on Sunday

by Dave Silverman

IT was Ross Thompson's day last Tuesday at Alexandra Golf Club, as he took a narrow one point win, scoring 37 points, just enough to see off Trevor Biffin in second on 36, and Graeme Emmerson in third also with 36 points.

Biffo snared the nearest the pin on seven, and Brad Newton was closest on both 17 and 18. Rundown vouchers went to John Greatorex and Bill Wind.

A stableford round for the ladies last Wednesday, with 11 players braving the heat. Sandra Morris blitzed the field with her 42 points, easily taking the win, with Deb Richardson in second on 37, Bron Howell in third also on 37 and Marg Fahey came in fourth with 35 points.

Donna Meggitt was the nine hole winner with nine points on the front nine, and nearest the pins went to Bron Howell on five, Deb Richardson on 12 and Barb Doyle on 18.

With only a couple of rounds to go in the Chook Run for this year, 10 players took on the Thursday night composite course. Dan Burns was the top scorer with a net 26, Dylan Jack was second with 29, and in equal third with 30 each, were Corey Jack, Luke Heard and Karl Davenport.

As a result of the races being held on Saturday, last weekend's



Deb Richardson on the ninth. -S

stableford round was played on Sunday, and what with that, and a bit of rain thrown in, it was a small field of 12 that teed it up.

It was a low scoring affair, with the winner, Michael Bossonnet, carding 32 points, and second placed Steve Darmody on 29.

The three nearest the pins that were claimed went to John Greatorex on five, Jared Sloane on seven and James Kidd on 12, and Todd Galloway was the winner of the raffle.

SPORT

Redbacks into the grand final after beating Tallarook

THE Alexandra Redbacks B-Grade team may have been expecting a hard contest against an experienced Tallarook team in semifinal number two. Instead, due to consistent bowling and aggressive batting, the hosts thrashed the visiting team.

On an uncomfortably hot afternoon, the Redback's captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and surprised Tallarook by electing to field. This decision was made to make the best use of Ben Geldart's talents.

Geldart had to leave early for his Year 12 formal. Fielding first would ensure that he could bowl all his overs and also open the batting in the second session. Moreover, Alexandra has a good recent record of chasing down targets.

Tallarook's batting line-up was below their best with their number one batsman, Ben Tresize, being promoted to A-Grade. The new opening batting pair of Dave McCullough and Hamish Melville proved to be difficult to dismiss but they struggled to score against the tight bowling of the Redbacks' Ben Geldart and Will Ellis. After beating the bat time after time, Geldart eventually dismissed McCullough for five

with an edge that was caught by Harrison Christie at first slip.

Levi Ronalds came on to bowl, kept the scoring rate low and soon claimed the wicket of Jason Rudge. Melville made the Tallarook's high score of 25 before miscuing a leg break from Thaya Sathisivam and hitting a reflex catch straight back to the bowler.

Two overs before the second drinks break, Thaya needed a rest and with Ben Broadway off the ground, the Redbacks were suddenly without a spin bowling option. Mawson solved this by bowling himself for his first over of the season. Amazingly, his slow, flighty rubbish induced miscues. Two Tallarook batters were easily caught by Thaya and Jordan Ferrier.

Ronalds claimed another wicket. Lucas Crane bowled an in-swinging peach that hit the off stump of Brendon O'Donnell who did not offer a shot. Tallarook were 8/71 and were looking at a dismal score. However, the visitors' two senior citizens Sam Watts and Ivan Munari put on a show of resistance and incrementally moved the score to 93. Eventually, the final breakthrough came

from Thaya's slow bowling when Watts spooned a catch to Banjo Fitzpatrick.

The Tallarook innings ended in some confusion. They were nine down at the end of 42 overs and everyone on the field believed this to be the end of the innings given that a team member called Cody Ball was travelling from Geelong and had not yet arrived. Ball had, in fact, just arrived but was not ready to bat in time. Given that the innings had already run over-time, the umpire declared the innings closed and penalised Alexandra for slow over rates by restricting the Redbacks' innings to 42 overs.

The Alexandra run-chase began with Mawson and Geldart opening. Mawson's lean run of scores continued with a highly unlucky dismissal. After scoring eight from four balls, he was called in to run a highly risky single by his teammate and was caught well short. To make matters more galling, the throw from cover missed the wicket and the wicketkeeper. However, the ball bounced off the keeper's toes and ricocheted to dislodge the bails, apparently.

Tallarook's Braedon Dundon then claimed three quick wickets with Geldart

being caught for seven. Jaidon Snyman went for zero after playing an elegant hook shot that picked out deep backward square-leg and then Harrison Christie was bowled for a duck.

The Redbacks' position was suddenly precarious at 4/24. Unfortunately for Tallarook, Levi Ronalds and Ben Broadway were at the crease. The pair delighted onlookers when they treated the bowling with disdain and smacked the ball to the boundary 13 times between them. They were helped along by some baffling decisions in the field. By the 12th over, Alexandra had drawn level.

Ronalds smacked a ball from Cody Ball that could have made the winning runs but was instead caught spectacularly by Sam Watts at mid-wicket.

Jordan Ferrier came in and had no need to do anything when the Tallarook bowler bowled a wide and moved the Redbacks score to 94.

This semi-final victory puts Alexandra in the grand final on Saturday. At 12.30pm, the Redbacks will have the formidable task of taking on ladder-leading Avenel in Avenel.



Runners Up were Blake Andrews, Matthew O'Brien, and Joshua Rennex. -S



Winners from left to right, Graham Winther, Ben Winther, and Brett Spurr. -S



Third place was Nathan Lynch, Brayden Ellis, and Riley Boxhall. -S



Fourth place was Mark Aylward, Matthew Creighton, and Shane Manifold. -S

Annual Murrindindi Classic Tournament brings players from all over state

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club welcomed sides from across the state and interstate for the Annual Murrindindi Classic Tournament. The tournament is held over two days and its major sponsor for many years and this year was the Reddrop Family FoodWorks.

Team players came from, Alexandra, Bundoora, Canberra, Clayton, Elsternwick, Heathmont, Keysborough, Kyabram, Lilydale, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Mulgrave, Seymour VRI, Shepparton Golf, Yarrawonga, Yarra Glen, and Yarra Valley.

Four games of 14 ends are played on Saturday and three games of 14 ends on Sunday. Sunday's games were interrupted by the down pour which meant only two games

were played. There were two standout sides who were only separated on shots up.

The winners on six winning games and 83 shots up were Ben Winther (Bundoora BC), Brett Spurr (Melbourne BC) and Graham Winther (Ben's dad). Ben and Brett have several wins at national and State level. Their most recent was their Gold Medal victory at the 2024 Australian Men's Pairs played at Broadbeach last October. Both play in the Metropolitan Premier Division. Graham is also a past Champion. A formidable side on any day. This was the third win for Ben at the Murrindindi winning in 2015 and 2019.

The runners-up were separated from victory by 21 shots. They are top bowlers. Matthew O'Brien, Blake Andrews and Joshua Rennex

all Metropolitan Premier Division players from Moonee Valley BC. They also won six games and had 62 shots up. Matthew began his bowls career at Alexandra many years ago. He has just been selected in the City VS Country Squad to be played at Bendigo East BC in April.

Third prize went to Nathan Lynch, Brayden Ellis and Riley Boxhall all Moonee Valley Metropolitan Premier Division players. Nathan has also been selected in the City Squad. They won five games and were 80 shots up. They lost their last game by one shot which put them out of contention for the top spots.

Fourth with five winning games and 52 shots up were Matthew Creighton (Yarra

Glen), Shane Manifold (Yarra Glen) Division 1 and Mark Aylward (Heathmont BC.) who plays in Premier Reserve Division. Matthew is a former Alexandra BC Champion and has played in the Murrindindi many times winning in 2001 and 2011.

The Best Performing rink not in the final four places were David Nicklos (Alex BC), Mal Gunner (Canberra), Steve Kirby (Alex BC) on Saturday and on Sunday Yarra Glen Division one players, Andrew Thurtle, Kirsten Day, and Ash Skillern.

President Greg Gilmore emphasised the importance of the many local sponsors who contributed to the weekend. It is a strength of our Community how businesses support sporting clubs.

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY
5 April 2025



Alexandra Country & Western Meeting

• Fun for all the family • Punting and ponies • C & W Fashions in the Field • Music, magic, photo booth, and much much more
• \$15pp or \$10pp for concession card holders • Children 16 and under FREE • Gates open at noon ~ first race at 1.15pm

Buses available from Eildon and Marysville
Book online

BUS TIMETABLE

Return Bus Ticket \$10 book online at country.racing.com/alexandra
Children 15 and under Free but must have a ticket. Patrons must have a ticket to catch the bus.

Route 1 Eildon Bus

11.00am Eildon Pondage Caravan Park
11.05am Eildon Town Bus Stop – Main St
11.15am Big 4 Holiday Park
11.20am Eildon Waters Holiday Park
11.30am Rubicon Hotel
11.45pm Alexandra Race Club

Route 2 Marysville Bus

11.00am Marysville – Open Area opp Foodworks (Ampol Service)
11.15am Buxton Bus Stop
11.30am Taggerty Holiday Park
11.40am Twin Rivers Caravan Park
12pm Alexandra Race Club

If bookings are heavy a second bus will depart approximately 1 hour after the first bus.

BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra

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A scorcher for the 2025 Alexandra Cup

by Robyn Walsh

DESPITE a debilitating, scorching, Indian Summer that goes on and on and on, the 2025 Alexandra Cup was very well attended. The meeting certainly provided some distraction from the heat. Patrons were treated to a great event, a great ladies' day and great demonstration of how, even a picnic race meeting, can run well in spite of the weather and stuff happening.

Cathedral Golf Club sponsored the Alexandra Cup. Alexandra Race Club is extremely grateful for this wonderful support and embraced golf for the day. Cathedral and Alexandra Golf Club members attended as guests and mini golf was a huge hit with the younger set.

The 2025 Alexandra Cup was won by Rushford carrying the heavy weight of 71 kg. Trained in Wangaratta by Andrew

Dale the horse was ridden to perfection by one of picnic racing's stars, Shaun Cooper. Cooper rode a double, winning the last on *Laststrikeyourout* trained by Nicole Dickson.

Four winners were trained by women, Smith, Walker and Dickson. Trainer Ashleigh Smith and rider Rob Kirkpatrick teamed up for a delightful double. They won the first, the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum 1830m with *Besson* and the third, the Rubicon Hotel Motel Thornton Maiden 1300m, with *Rocket Launcher*.

Our *Dawny* trained by Dani Walker, ridden by Sophie Clayfield won the EB Hadfield Contracting 1300m. Troy Kilgower brought a string of horses and won with *Sweet Swagger* ridden by top jock, Leigh Taylor in the Darlingford Boat Club Open 1300m.

All racing, even picnic racing, is overseen by Racing Victoria (RV) and the protocols were never more on show than on Saturday. The welfare of horses and riders is paramount.

Strict equine protocols are in force at every race meeting and are overseen by RV appointed vets. On Saturday, hot weather protocols were in place to protect the horses. More ice was sent to the horse stalls than went to the bar and the provision of water and hoses was a priority.

There is a doctor and private ambulances on course to follow each race in case of falls. Consequently, when a rider was hurt at the barrier, prior to the start of race three, and

had to be transferred to hospital, there was a one hour delay till a replacement ambulance arrived. Patrons were very understanding and concerned for the welfare of the young rider.

On Sunday the head steward said the rider has some facial injuries but no broken bones and was discharged from hospital on Saturday night. The stewards quickly made up time by running the remainder of the program like a greyhound meeting with rapid fire, 20 minute race intervals. There was no early mark for patrons but, thanks to the work of stewards, no one went home after dark.

It's been a very long season for the grounds men. They have done an exceptional job of keeping water up to the track and public areas to keep them spectacularly lush and green. Gardeners, farmers and track staff are all hanging out for the autumn break, let's hope it comes soon.

The final meeting of the season is on Saturday April 5. Come dressed in your Yee Ha Best for the Alexandra Country and Western Meeting. Please do yourselves a favour, and take the bus. Buses from Eildon and Marysville and will pick up at lots of stops. Book your entry and bus tickets online at country.racing.com/Alexandra and join in the fun.



A bucks party group at the races. More images on page 7 and 8 of this edition. -Alexandra Race Club

Will Fallon wins South Australia speedway title

ON the long weekend, Fallon Family Racing made the 18 hour round trip in scorching temperatures to Waikerie, South Australia for Will to compete in the SSA Junior Sedans South Australian State Title.

Will finished second in his first and second heats and third in his third heat (by .001 costing him five points) which qualified him out of position five for the 20 lap final.

In the thrilling final, Will overtook several cars early and had an enduring battle with Cruz Carlin who lead for most of the race, until Will overtook him on the last lap. A crash brought on the yellow

(caution) lights and the restart saw a green (go), white (last lap) chequered flag end to the final.

Each season SSA Junior Sedans run a National Title, which Will finished AUS4 in January and each state has a State Title, independent of each other. Will is now SA1 and NSW5. After qualifying fourth, unfortunately Will did not finish the Victorian State Title final in Wangaratta due to a flat tyre when in third with four laps to go. Will will return to Kingaroy, Queensland next month to compete in the SSA Junior Sedan Queensland State Title.

Will also races in the Junior Sedans Promotion Association (JSPA) which race at different tracks across Victoria for points. The series has Top Stars (for more experienced drivers) and New Stars (for learning and upcoming drivers) aged 10 to 16.

Will won the JSPA Top Stars series last year for the 2023-24 race season and is busy travelling the state trying to defend his title. Younger brother Charlie competes in New Stars, whilst Jack plays a leading role as pit crew helping both brothers.

The team travelled to Horsham on Saturday where Will won the 15 lap final gaining valuable series points. Charlie will complete in New Stars at home track Alexandra this coming weekend. Will's car is not setup to run at Alexandra but he may still have a run.

Will is amazed by the interest in his racing and is extremely grateful for all the local support he receives.

You can follow the Fallon Family Racing Facebook page to receive updates, watch live streamed racing and view races from the view past month.



Will Fallon won the South Australia state title for speedway despite tough competition. -S



Will Fallon with his car that took him to victory at the South Australia titles. -S