

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, April 2, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

New committee for open gardens



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ASC Debutante Ball



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Sustainable farming field day



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Weekend sport



Pages 17-20

Alexandra Debutante Ball



Back: Nazril Edmund, Ryan Goodman, Noah Upson, Samuel Harris, Stuart Thompson, Damon Snow, Matthew Waixel and Jaime Shawcross. Middle: Narinpat Chatmatasit, Alyce Olive, Max Young, Louis Matheson, Ashley Dean, Joshua Crane, Ollie Gelbert, Aiqha Mosquite and Azliah Salazar. Front: Billie Birmingham, Xanthe Campbell, Reese Stewart, Abi Morton, Ava Virtenan, Addison Hedger, Makenna Hedger, Mia Oostendorp and Talia Nash. They were trained by Lucy Whitehead and Jenny Brady. -The Occasion Studio

CFA serving Victoria for 80 years

by Jason Heffernan, CFA Chief Officer

THIS week CFA marks 80 years as an organisation, protecting and serving Victorians through the commitment and dedication of our volunteers over the decades.

The volunteer brigade movement has been around in Victoria for greater than 170 years.

The CFA was created following the findings of the 1939 Black Friday disaster, but our rich history mirrors that of the state, with the earliest brigades emerging on the goldfields in the 1850s.

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DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS: Don't forget that at 3am on Sunday, April 6, daylight saving ends. Clocks will need to be turned back by one hour. While many clocks make the changes automatically, you will have to change the time manually on wall clocks, oven clocks, analogue watches, microwaves, and many car clocks. -Ermell

EASTER OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 AND MONDAY, APRIL 21

**EARLY DEADLINES
APPLY FOR APRIL 23
EDITION**

NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17
★ DISPLAY ADS - BOOKING AND ARTWORK
★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES ★ TRADES

10AM MONDAY, APRIL 21
★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WILL REOPEN 9AM TUESDAY, APRIL 22



43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 5772 1002
email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS**



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Welcome ceremony

LAST week's letter from the person unhappy about the Welcome ceremony shows a disappointing lack of understanding. I challenge him to dig into history with his empathy pocket open.

A longtime resident, he enjoys raising cattle on river frontage and riding through the bush. He feels deep connection to the land, and I concur. We do live in a beautiful place, and our roots and sense of freedom is strong. Lucky us.

I challenge this man to imagine being forcibly removed from his land. His paddocks sold to others and no funds returned to him.

Imagine leaving with few clothes nor supplies. Not allowed to access his own food supply on his own land, unable to access his section of river to even catch a fish for tea. Law-makers prohibit his return. He argues with authorities that this isn't fair. Guns are pointed his way and he fears for his life. No chance to return to where he spread his loved one's ashes. He is both angry and bereft. As winter approaches he knows full well the death wish of frost.

That this happened to aboriginal people all over Australia, including in our valley, is a fact.

It is incredibly generous of current First Nations descendants to offer the ceremonial and symbolic Welcome to Country. They

could show us the finger instead, but they're bigger than that. They are offering a way forward. It's an olive branch.

I commend the shire for developing a Reconciliation Action Plan and I see the small steps taken to reconcile the past and build a positive future is based on empathy, fair-go and respect.

It is about fostering a mature and positive understanding and connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

I challenge people who are cross about Welcomes to dig into history with their empathy pocket open.

Dale Wakefield, Acheron

Mayor's Chair: My Country

by Cr Damien Gallagher

AS Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council, I'd like to share with you some of the reasoning and context behind my approach to Acknowledging Country.

When people come together as a community for discussions or meetings, I recognise that we have a complex history. I pay my respects to Elders of the past as the keepers of the traditions, knowledge and culture of this land. As often as possible, I explain *why* I offer an Acknowledgement.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* speaks of a type of sovereignty being the ancient and spiritual ties of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the land: To soil to which they will one day return, to be united with ancestors. It's this sovereignty that's never been ceded, and it *coexists* with Crown sovereignty. If you've had the opportunity to engage with local First Nations People, you would know first-hand that connection to Country is deep and mysterious, but closely resembles our own

instinctive relationship with a favourite picnic spot, or 4WD track, or quiet riverside getaway.

A Welcome to Country is offered by Traditional Owners as a special and very personal ceremonial invitation to visitors to enjoy safe passage on their journey on local lands. It's an invitation to experience that spiritual connection to place. As Mayor, the closest metaphor for a Welcome to Country is when I congratulate new citizens on behalf of all Australians immediately after their public commitment to Australia as they accept Australian citizenship.

An Acknowledgment of Country is a respectful recognition of the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the land. Anyone may offer such an expression of respect at a meeting or event.

Professionals, educators, councillors and council staff, community leaders, and young people offer an Acknowledgement of Country for a variety of reasons.

My own motivations are heartfelt and considered: For a long time, Traditional Owners were excluded from history books, from our national anthem, and sadly, from Australian democracy. Even a modest but sincere Acknowledgement recognises that truth; Our community has articulated an aspirational vision of cultural respect, inclusion, and participation for all. In response, council adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan making the inclusion of this symbolic but important gesture of offering an Acknowledgement council policy; My Acknowledgement gives. It takes from no person; I embrace my sworn duty to ensure that Murrindindi Shire Council gives effect to specific governance principles, including "achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations". Our municipal community is comprised of Traditional Owners, ratepayers, those who live or do business here, and those who visit.

Continued Page 3

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611

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 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

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

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 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 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.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.27	steady	below minor	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.53am Mon	0.42	steady	below minor	
Home Creek at Yarek	8.46am Mon	0.12	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.20am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor	
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.20am Mon	0.24	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.14	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor	
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	10.00am Mon	0.10	steady		
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.90	steady	below minor	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.11	steady	below minor	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.58am Mon	0.79	steady		
**ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025					

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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Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

April 2 - April 8, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

10

24

Wednesday

10

25

Thursday

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Thursday

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Sunday

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Monday

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Monday

8

18

Tuesday

8

19

Tuesday

8

19

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 9mm

Buxton..... 3mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 8mm

Flowerdale..... 8mm

Jamieson..... 5mm

Kinglake..... 11mm

Lake Eildon..... 16mm

Mansfield..... 15mm

Taggerty 3mm

Yarek 9mm

Yea..... 4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....279.20m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....65.8%

Metres below full supply.....9.7m

Daily inflow3500ML

Release..... 6500ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....90%

THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

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BICORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YAREK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

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

Building respect at more Victorian schools

THE Victorian Government's Respectful Relationships program is being expanded to even more non-government schools to help embed a culture of respect and gender equality, delivering on commitments made in the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll announced that a further 81 new Catholic and independent schools are ready to roll out the Respectful Relationships initiative.

More than 2000 government, Catholic and independent schools are now signed up, including more than 450 non-government schools. Expression of interests for non-government schools to join are open until May 15.

Schools signing up to the program will be supported with startup funding of up to \$20,000 over two years for eligible schools to implement Respectful Relationships in 2025.

Findings from a Respectful Relationships evaluation identified the most significant impact for students was improved social and emotional skills. Students reported having a better understanding of their feelings and emotions, improved coping strategies and their ability to articulate needs.

Since 2016, the Victorian Government has invested \$129 million to deliver training and support to roll out the Respectful Relationships program.

Respectful Relationships is part of a broader community approach to primary prevention of family violence. For more information please visit vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships

Working bee at Narbeview Wildlife Shelter

THE Melbourne Jeep Owners Club members were at Narbeview Wildlife Shelter over the weekend of March 29 and 30. Members volunteer twice a year helping Rod and Shelley with physical work at the shelter.

Members and some locals arrived early on Saturday morning and after a briefing from Rod on what work was planned, one of the large enclosures, that was damaged from a tree falling on it, was dismantled.

Another enclosure had to be relocated, and prior to this, mesh was laid down on the ground to discourage the wombats from escaping. With many hands the enclosure was lifted and moved to the new site and once secured then Rod got to work with the bobcat putting dirt over the mesh. Side panels of corrugated iron were secured to discourage visiting wombats fighting with the rehabilitating ones.

Mesh was then laid down for the new very large enclosure and a new system of mesh safety panels were put together which worked well. This enclosure was

divided in two giving Shelley more outside space for her wombats.

Shelley currently has over 35 wombats including three month old little ones with no fur, small ones enjoying doing zoomies, to adults all which must be fed on a regular basis with multiple milk bottle feeds each day for the young ones.

Rod and Shelley do a great job and obviously having people attend working bee's help, but they continue to need our financial help and any donation is appreciated.

Narbeview Wildlife Shelter is a self-funded, non-profit, animal rescue centre. All donations are tax deductible, and they can provide a receipt. The details are Narbeview Wildlife Shelter Inc. BSB: 633000 Acc: 193029428

They have also put out recycle bins at the front of their property, 1550 Maroondah Highway, Buxton for people to donate their cans etc so they can raise money to continue their work.



Volunteers at the working bee at Narbeview Wildlife Shelter. -S

Planned burns underway

AUTUMN is generally the best time of the year to undertake planned burns as the weather is more stable and fire behaviour is manageable and predictable.

In some cases, planned burns scheduled for year two or three of the Joint Fuel Management Program may be moved forward, depending on weather and forest conditions.

FFMVIC Deputy Chief Fire Officer Aaron Kennedy said, "This year more than 100 planned burns across an area of 46,300 hectares are prepared and ready for ignition in north east Victoria."

"In Murrindindi District, there are 32 planned burns scheduled, totalling 14,996 hectares."

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE bridge players got together on Wednesday for a few hands and on Friday the members gathered for a lively social meeting chaired by vice president Yvonne. The treasurer advised that we had sufficient money for the planned activities and had us in fits of laughter with his jokes (not at the same time).

The excursion to Healesville RSL is all set for Tuesday, April 8. There are still a couple of places on the coach so get your name on the list. Three lucky ladies won the chocolate bars and a big thank you to Brenda for providing a surprise prize won by Yvonne. It turned out to be a pair of lovely knitted foot warmers. The formalities ended with a rousing sing song before we retired to the tea room for refreshments and a chat. Two tables of 500 and a happy group around the circular UNO table rounded out the day.

A big thank you to John W for standing for me and writing last weeks report. Nice to have a touch of comedy every now and again. If you fancy a bit of company on a Friday afternoon please come and join us in the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Mayor's Chair: My Country

Continued from Page 2

I have aspirations for my country. I believe we are finding our way there. In my country, treaty and reconciliation is not about 'getting it out' and 'moving on', they're about 'letting it in', and 'moving together'. In my country, we have an annual, truly unified day of national celebration free of sadness, anxiety, or guilt for any Australian.

Am I'm optimistic or overly idealistic? Have I just overexplained a well-understood convention? Hopefully it's clear now that my Acknowledgement costs \$0 and yes, we can walk and chew gum: That is, council can respectfully acknowledge our past while looking forward with optimism, delivering services, engaging in meaningful advocacy, and providing infrastructure outcomes for our diverse, inclusive, resilient community.

For thousands of generations, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people were the custodians of the land, the air, and the water we now call Murrindindi Shire. In a spirit of reconciliation, on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Community, I respectfully acknowledge the First Nations leaders and Elders we live, work, and play alongside. I pay our respects to Elders of the past as the keepers of the traditions, knowledge and culture of this land.

I extend that respect to every reader, and I acknowledge your personal and evolving connection to this place.

Mayor, Murrindindi Shire Council



THUMBS UP: Congratulations to all those involved in the wonderful Cluster Sport Day at the oval on Tuesday. A huge thank you from a delighted great grandmother who thoroughly enjoyed seeing the young people competing, having fun and uniting with different schools.

THUMBS DOWN: With no seasonal rain and dirt dry paddocks, the sounds of bellowing, hungry cattle carry across the district 24/7. Thumbs down to those not supplementary feeding their hungry cattle or sending them to market.

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

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PP0205

May 3 for federal election

ON Friday, March 28, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Government House to call the federal election for Saturday, May 3. The campaigns will last for five weeks.

Get those sausages sizzling, and mark the date in your calendar.

Melba Highway landslip works

INTERIM safety works are currently underway on the Melba Highway at Dixons Creek, just south of the Healesville-Kinglake Road intersection. They commenced on Monday, March 31 and will be completed by Friday, April 4, from 7am to 7pm. The works will enable the reinstatement of the 80km/h speed limit.

The works include installing safety barriers, clearing drains and installing logs to stabilise the embankment and reduce further water impact. During works, one lane on the Melba Highway will remain open with reduced speed limits in place. Traffic controllers will be on-site to manage two-way traffic.

A reminder about our native wildlife

ALL wildlife is protected in Victoria under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, and it is illegal to hunt, take, destroy, injure, or interfere with wildlife without authorisation.

Offenders face maximum penalties of more than \$9,870 and/or six months imprisonment.

Further penalties under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* may also apply.

If you know or suspect someone is illegally harming or killing wildlife, you can make an anonymous report to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

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ALEXANDRA Speedway

Gordon Street, Alexandra

Saturday 5th April 2025

VSC Ladies Sport Sedan State Title,
Standard Saloons, SSA Top & New Star Juniors
& Sport Sedans (opens)

GATE PRICES

FAMILY (2 ADULTS & 3 CHILDREN)	\$60
ADULTS	\$25
AGED & DISABILITY PENSION	\$10
CHILDREN (10-16YRS)	\$10
CHILDREN (UNDER 10)	FREE

RACING STARTS AT 4PM

www.alexandraspeedway.org.au

Darren Gilbert open studio

An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat. 5 and Sun. 6 April
10.00am to 4.00pm each day
5 Giffard Street, Yea, VIC. 3717
or arrange another time 0421 378 451

Open the first weekend of every month.
Up to date Open Studio days & times on
www.monkeytaildesign.com

Church Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Country Press
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Out & About

WHAT'S
 ON?

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, APRIL 3

Alexandra Events and Murrindindi Shire are hosting a free breakfast and seminar for local farmers affected by current dry conditions. 8-10am at Alexandra Showgrounds Cattle Pavillion. You will have access to valuable information and resources designed to help you navigate current dry weather. Enjoy a free breakfast, tea or coffee and hear from a range of guest speakers. For more information contact council on 5772 0333.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Alexandra Race Club Country and Western meeting. Punting and ponies, Fashions in the Field, music, magic, and much more. Gates open at noon. First race 1.15pm. Children under 16 free. Bus available from Eildon and Marysville, book online at country.racing.com/alexandra

Darren Gilbert Open Studio Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm each day. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. Other times by appointment 0421 378 451.

Alexandra Speedway VSC ladies sport sedan state title, standard saloons and more. Racing starts at 4pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Beyond the Beats, live young, local music artists. A vibrant music event celebrating fresh talent and good vibes. 2-5.30pm at Pixies at the Billabong Eildon. Tickets via QR code in ad in this edition.



Jane, Julie, Helen, Barb, Jane, Anthea and Margaret. -AR

Murrindindi Carer's Coffee Group

THE Murrindindi Carer's Coffee Group gathered on Friday, March 28 at Grant Street Grocer for a coffee and catch up. Although numbers were down slightly this month, the group had a lovely meet-up.

The group welcomes all carers in the shire to attend their morning teas, held on the last Friday of each month at 10am at Grant Street Grocer. People are able to connect, share knowledge, and find out more about the supports available to carers, as well as listening to guest speakers. The group also holds two major activities each year, including a fun Christmas party. To find out more, contact Anthea Forbes on 0418 402 455 or email anthea.gary.forbes@bigpond.com

New committee for Alexandra and District Open Gardens

ALEXANDRA and District Open Gardens have elected a new committee to plan for the Open Gardens scheduled for the weekend of October 25 and 26.

Noel McIlwraith, who has been on the committee since 2019 and four years as president, has made the decision to retire to pursue other interests. Noel's garden was one of the beautiful open gardens open to the public in 2018 and 2024.

Noel took on the task of president with great enthusiasm, leading the committee during her term including, COVID-19 and another year when there were floods. Her leadership of the committee will be sorely missed.

Melinda Jackson has taken on the role of president after being on the committee since 2021. Melinda is an avid gardener and was a participant of the Open Gardens in 2017 at Downey Street, Alexandra.

Other committee members include Janene Simpson who was re-elected as treasurer. Leanne McCready, Secretary, Carol Naden, Jackie Ashe, Mandy Valsinger also join the committee. Mandy has previously been on the committee and is welcomed back.

After a very successful Open Gardens weekend in 2024, with over 4000 visits to the gardens, the committee is hoping to increase visitation in 2025 to highlight what a wonderful area that we live in.

This year's gardens will be open from Marysville through to Alexandra and some in between.

Melinda Jackson said, "We are just getting over a drought, and we are encouraged by the recent rainfall. Come spring, the gardens in October will be looking their very best and we encourage you to put the dates in your calendar now."

Alexandra and District Open Gardens started back in 1991 with profits from this event over the years going back to the local community. The committee recently visited Alexandra Sprouts who received funding of \$500 from the open garden gate fees. The children led by Lucy were very enthusiastic in showing the committee members their achievements.

Other recipients of recent funding include St Marys in Alexandra and Marysville Primary Schools which received \$500 each,



Melinda Jackson presenting gift to Noel McIlwraith on her retirement. -S

Alexandra Scouts \$2000, Kellock Lodge \$5000, Alexandra Fire Brigade, \$5000 and Murrindindi Community Food Share \$1000.

The committee are very excited to be bringing you another diverse range of gardens in October and look forward to seeing you at the Alexandra and District Open Gardens.

Rates increase under tabled ESVF legislation

THE Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) will replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) from July 1, 2025, with the legislation recently being tabled in Victorian Parliament.

According to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) website, the ESVF “will help support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).”

“The ESVF will fund up to 87.5 per cent of FRV’s budget, and up to 95 per cent of CFA’s budget.”

The DTF website also says that the ESVF will fund up to 95 per cent of the budgets for the organisations listed above.

Both the old and the new levy have a variety of categories to determine the amount charged for contribution to Victoria’s fire services, such as residential, non-residential, industrial and primary production, as well as a fixed charge and a variable component.

The fixed charge has increased by \$4 to \$9 across all categories under the new ESVF, while the variable rate has almost tripled in some categories.

For residential primary place of residence the variable rate has increased from 8.7 cents per \$1000 of capital improved value (CIV) to 17.3 cents per \$1000 of CIV. This is almost double.

In particular, the variable rate for the primary production category has increased from 28.7 cents per \$1000 of CIV to 83 cents per \$1000 of CIV for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Emergency service volunteers will be granted an exemption from paying the ESVF on their primary place of residence.

“That’s why, from July 1 2025, active volunteers and life members won’t have to pay the ESVF on their primary place of residence (such as a house or farm),” the DTF website reads.

“Further details regarding eligibility will be provided following consultation with affected organisations.”

There is also the potential that farmers with multiple properties that operate as a single enterprise may be eligible to pay a single fixed charge.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking spoke out against the proposed increase in the levy charges.

“This tax hike is just another cost farm businesses will be forced to pay and it’s time to go back to the drawing board and find a better solution,” Mr Hosking said.

“A one-size-fits-all approach clearly doesn’t work when you’ve got some farmers facing a hike of up to 400 per cent. There’s no way a rise of that much can be justified and for some, it could be the nail in the coffin for their farm business.

“Instead of placing a blanket levy on all property owners, the government should consider a more targeted approach that ensures the funds are distributed where they’re needed most.

“Rural Victorians are already bearing the brunt of many challenges, from droughts to fires. This levy will add insult to injury, making it even harder for farmers to recover and thrive.”

This newspaper contacted the CFA for comment and a spokesperson responded to say that the CFA is working out what the changes mean for their organisation.

“The government announced in December a \$250 million package and emergency service levy and changes to the Fire Service Levy, and CFA is working through what these changes mean,” the CFA spokesperson said.

“The government has indicated eligible CFA volunteers and life members will be able to access an exemption through a rebate system, and we are working on what that will mean for CFA volunteers.”

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish is critical of the increase in taxes and questions how the government decided on the figures.

“When the government runs out of money, they come after yours. This time they are unfairly targeting farmers with huge increases on the previous levy,” Ms McLeish said.

“This is another big fat Allan Labor Government tax grab who have lost control of their finances and are expecting to gain an extra \$2.1 billion from this tax.

“There has been no transparency about how the government arrived at these rates and the eligibility around volunteers is unclear with a messy rebate system.

“Farmers have been doing it tough with floods and now dams are drying up quickly. Many have mortgages and are not the wealthy land barons that the city centric Labor government think they are. For the government to use our farmers as their cash cow is just completely reckless and irresponsible,” Ms McLeish finished.

The Victorian Government defended the ESVF and explained how the rebates will work under the new levy.

“Our emergency service volunteers give so much to our state, protecting communities and saving lives,” a government spokesperson said.

“In recognition of their contribution, eligible VICSES and CFA volunteers and life members will be eligible for a rebate from the ESVF on their primary place of residence or farm.

“This is an added incentive for these community-minded volunteers, providing further benefits in addition to existing concessions that will still apply.”

Background provided by the DTF states that: “Eligible VICSES and CFA volunteers and life members will be eligible for a rebate from the ESVF on their primary place of residence or farm, with rebates on farmland capped to the value of a \$5 million farm.

“Responsibility for administration of this component will be undertaken by the state government; it will not be administered by councils. Rates notices will show the full ESVF liability before any rebate is claimed. Information will be provided to volunteers about the rebate and how to access it.”



Steve Bahlen installing a defibrillator. -S

New defibrillators for Eildon

EILDON Community Opportunity Shop Inc has funded and installed two more fully accessible defibrillators in strategic locations within the town.

One is on the front wall of Nanny Jan’s Emporium on Main Street, the other is on the exterior wall of the kitchen in the rotunda at the Lions Leisure Park, overlooking the Pondage.

The latest acquisitions boost to five the number of defibrillators the opportunity shop has purchased for Eildon.

The others are located in the Eildon Community Centre, on the front wall of Eildon Police Station, and at Eildon Pondage Park Run.

The decision to provide the fourth and fifth defibrillators was made unanimously by the Eildon Opportunity Shop’s seven-member committee.

They were meticulously installed late last week by op shop volunteer Steve Bahlen, a retired engineer.

“It was a bit tricky, but we got there,” Steve said with a characteristic broad grin after completing the second installation.

Op shop president Fay Crimeen said the committee had unhesitatingly funded the defibrillators because they saved lives.

“It is crucial that they are located so that the units can be immediately accessed at all times,” she added.

“If there is an emergency, and a defibrillator is needed, hopefully to save a heart attack victim’s life, a unit inside a locked building is useless.

“The locations we have chosen for the most recent installations are ideal, we believe.

“Main Street is busy with pedestrian traffic during the day, and the defibrillator cabinet is very visible.

“We believe it was equally important to install the unit in the rotunda because it is an extremely popular destination for local residents, groups and visitors, and it is very close to the frequently used public toilets,” she said.

The defibrillators will be listed on the Good SAM mobile app.

lakemountain

ALPINE RESORT

MARCH 2025

Scan the QR code to view our latest resort updates for March!

Available on the 'Resort News' section of the Lake Mountain website.

Our office will be closed Friday, April 25

Early deadlines will apply

Display booking and artwork noon, Thursday, April 24

We will reopen Monday, April 28, at 9am

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Hailey Fallon

Hailey is a quiet achiever who always shows the school values. Hailey has a great attitude to her learning and gives things her best even when it is hard. She is a kind and caring friend. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Hailey.
You are a star.

ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Marley V

Marley has made an amazing start to Foundation. She has shown kindness and respect to all of her classmates and is a determined learner. Marley has been inclusive when other students ask to play with her and has shown great leadership qualities when engaged in small group work. What an incredible start to school. Well done Marley.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank

Murrindindi Shire Council's March meeting

THE March Murrindindi Shire Council meeting took place last Wednesday, March 26. There were no apologies or requests for planned leave and no conflicts of interest.

Public participation

Dr Sean Mulcahy spoke in support of item 2.5.1, which proposes council establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee in Murrindindi Shire.

Charles Exton from 45-47 Carey Road, Killingworth, spoke about the ongoing challenge of working on a development plan for his property to be subdivided, which has taken him over six years. Civil works have been done on blocks five and six over the Melbourne pipeline, while he is still waiting for his planning to be approved, and he wanted to know why.

Gary Angus spoke in support of Charles Exton. He also presented council with an envelope containing documents that "concern matters that may relate to alleged government breaches or procedural concerns, potential conflicts of interest, sensitive information, that's why it's in a contained envelope, not appropriate for open discussion."

Tom Sheehan, the civil contractor who did the work on Carey Road, spoke about his experience working on blocks five and six. He claims that he did work of estimated value \$700,000 and that he has not been paid by the organisers for that work. He is involved in ongoing legal action.

Petitions

A petition from Rainbow Local Government signed electronically by 13 residents of Murrindindi Shire requesting an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee. Council voted to receive the petition, that the petition be considered for submission to council's Big Conversation

engagement and for the development of the council plan, and that the petition be referred to the Director of Community and Development for consideration and response.

Audit and Risk Committee report

Steve Schinck, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, spoke about the important processes being undertaken by the committee over the next six months, including auditing the annual financial accounts. They continue their work around risk management and cyber security. Council voted to receive the minutes of the March 13, 2025, Audit and Risk Committee meeting and accept the report.

Delegation

Cr Hildebrand presented a report that presents two instruments of delegation for council endorsement, with the first being a delegation from council to the CEO for more timely decision making and the ability to approve insurance contracts, and the second being a delegation from council to council officers for smoother day-to-day operations. Mr Chesworth explained in further detail what the changes mean. Council voted to accept the report and adopt the recommendations.

Asset and Environment Group reports

Cr Carpenter presented a report to award the contract for Snobs Creek Road landslip flood recovery works to Tenderer One for a total contract value of \$494,363.72, subject to approval by the Department of Transport and Planning.

Another report presented by Cr Carpenter suggested awarding the contract for Wilhelmina Falls Road reconstruction and sealing works to Tenderer One for the lump sum price of \$447,842.

Council voted to accept the reports and their recommendations.

Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Adams attended the Kinglake Community Consultation session for the council plan and is looking forward to attending the Community Planning session in Kinglake. She reminded people that dog registration renewals are due on April 10. Reminders have also been sent out in case people have forgotten to pay their rates. Cr Adams thanked everyone who submitted nominations for the 2024-25 Murrindindi Shire Community Awards, with the application period now closed.

Cr Carpenter walked the newly completed trail at the Yea Wetlands during the month. She is excited to advise residents that the new bins will be arriving soon, with the new service with the green and purple bins commencing in July. Council is also working towards planting more trees around the various towns of the shire.

Cr Macaulay spoke about council's support of businesses. Two more business breakfasts are being planned for later in the year after the success of the last one in Kinglake. Council will have hosted two community engagement sessions on concept plans for both the Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan by the time this edition goes into circulation.

Cr Lording met with Flowerdale residents who were affected by flooding and council's engineering department implemented fixes. Road grading continues, with some 270 kilometres completed so far. Cr Lording has been invited to join the new Flowerdale Sports Committee and has accepted.

Cr Hildebrand attended the Molesworth Community Planning meeting, with the meeting being well-received. He spoke to the large yarding at the March cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards, saying that "extra cattle were on offer due to the long dry spell. Despite the

dry conditions, prices remained decent." Last Friday Murrindindi Shire Council officers travelled around the northern parts of the shire by bus to gain better understanding.

Cr Carr attended an Eildon RSL social night that included barefoot bowls. The Eildon parkrun kicked off its first week, and Cr Carr congratulated the organisers. She acknowledged the hard work of the Thornton Eildon Women's Football Team in preparing for the upcoming season. Beyond the Beats, an all-ages music event, is being held at Pixies at the Billabong on April 13, from 2pm to 5.30pm. Tickets are available on TryBooking, with shuttle buses available for the local area.

Cr Gallagher attended a number of events, including the inaugural Dindi Daze, the final Yea Cruise Night of the year, and the annual Buxton Community Celebration. He spoke about the advocacy of council in the form of ministerial correspondence outlining the community dissatisfaction with 4G and 5G telecommunications at the Yea Saleyards following the 3G shutdown and the success of new roadside flood level markers in Molesworth.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi spoke about joining the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and other organisations in a meeting advocating for changes in how financial assistance grants are allocated across all councils. Ms Bonazzi shared that council has secured funding for battery storage and expanding solar power at the Marysville Community Centre. A new variable message sign will be installed on Buxton-Marysville Road from April 7 to discourage visitors from stopping on the road to view and photograph the poplars. The Department of Transport will also be implementing a temporary speed limit reduction to 80 kilometres per hour.

Annual Truck Drivers Memorial service on the calendar

THE Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial (VTDM) Committee is pleased to announce that the annual memorial service for 2025 is confirmed for Saturday, June 7. The service

will be held at Rotary Park, located at 36 Grant Street, Alexandra, beginning at 2pm. This year they are honouring 12 individuals by adding their names to the memorial wall.

Following the memorial service, attendees will be invited to join for afternoon tea and refreshments.

The Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial, situated in Alexandra, Victoria, stands as a poignant site for reflection and tribute. It serves as a solemn reminder for the families and friends of Victorians who lost their lives while working on the road or had a significant connection to the transport industry.

The memorial operates as a non-political, inclusive, and not-for-profit entity, welcoming all who seek to pay their respects. A lasting homage to the truck drivers it commemorates.

Craig Lloyd, President of the Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial Inc., shared his sentiments regarding the upcoming service.

"The Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial Committee will be holding our Annual

Memorial Service again on the King's Birthday weekend. Our Memorial Service recognises those who have served us through their role as truck drivers, but have paid the ultimate sacrifice," Mr Lloyd said.

"We remember those people, and bring together families, friends and colleagues to mark their sacrifice as we place a memorial plaque in their name on our Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial wall."

For further details regarding the memorial service, kindly reach out to Teagan or visit the Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial website at vtdm.asn.au or Facebook page.

The Victorian Truck Drivers Memorial is made possible through the generous contributions of businesses and individuals. For donation inquiries, please contact Teagan Wallace.



Members of the planning crew for Beyond the Beats with the stage set-up at Pixies at the Billabong. -S

All ages welcome at Beyond the Beats

BEYOND the Beats is happening on Sunday, April 13 from 2pm until 5.30pm at Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon. The event aims to showcase young, local talent, both on and off the stage.

Three young people from across Murrindindi Shire have attended fortnightly planning workshops to design the all-ages live music event (Tarni, Issy and Liv), with planning crew workshops having been held at council offices, online and at the event venue, Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon (with hot chips and visits to the new splash park).

The planning crew took the lead with the following tasks: Naming the event; designing and distributing advertising posters across the shire; discussing event logistics; drafting run sheets and online feedback forms; deciding on food and drink options; creating event signage; discussing important event safety measures (eg. where security would stand, child safety procedures, inclusive spaces, accessibility options, photography consent, alcohol/drug/smoke/vape/violence free, bag checks, no pass-outs, catastrophic weather events); designing venue decorations; communicating with venue managers; and much more.

Local artist line-up includes Lilah Galbraith, Alexis Farley, Samuel Harris, Tayla Anne Music, and Tacks Evasion, all of whom are young people living in Murrindindi Shire.

Two return bus routes are available for \$5 per seat, ensuring young people and their friends or families have access to safe transport options, to and from the event, from across the shire.

Bus Route West, stopping Kinglake, Flowerdale, Yea and Alexandra. Bus Route East, stopping Marysville, Buxton, Taggerty and Thornton. Buses are picking up from and dropping off to the Kinglake Library, Flowerdale House, the Yea Library, the Alexandra Library, MIRA Marysville, Buxton Primary School, Taggerty General Store and the Thornton General Store.

Event and bus tickets are available via Try Booking, with a QR code provided in the advertising poster. Can also be accessed via a link from council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/beyondthebeats

Adult 18 plus years: \$20; teen 12 to 17 years: \$15; youth five to 11 years: \$10; under four years-old are free. Return bus ticket is \$5 and is limited to 19 seats per bus route.

Planning crew and artists will be remunerated. This event will create opportunities for young people to get involved in community events, perform in a dedicated live music venue or enjoy an afternoon of live, local music. This event has been funded through *The Push All-Ages Grants Program* as part of the Victorian Government's 10,000 Gigs initiative and Murrindindi Shire Council.

BEYOND THE BEATS

Live Young, Local music artists

A vibrant music EVENT celebrating fresh talent & good vibes!

DATE:
Sunday 13 April, 2025

TIME:
2:00 – 5:30 PM

LOCATION:
Pixies at The Billabong,
Eildon



IMPORTANT EVENT information

All ages welcome, Transport available across the shire

SOFT drinks, water and snacks INCLUDED

a family-friendly event for everyone!

a safe, inclusive space - Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking AND Vaping FREE

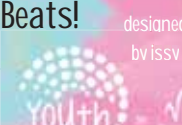
NO Pass Outs – once you enter, stay and enjoy the music!

Bag checks at entry – for safety, security, and a great experience

TICKETS via qr code
tickets available until sold out

Featuring... Tayla Anne Music
Lilah Galbraith Samuel Harris
Alexis Farley Tacks evasion

Music, vibes AND pure fun! Enjoy live performances, dance and celebrate local talent at Beyond the Beats!



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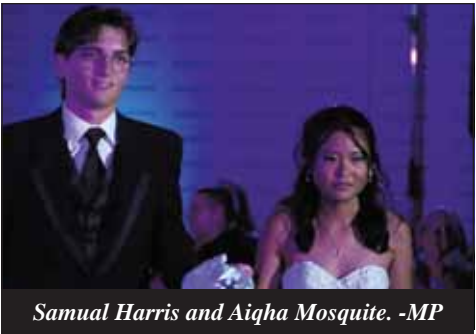
The Marysville Community Centre looked amazing on the night of the Debutante Ball. -MP



Xanthe Campbell and Ollie Gelbert. -MP



Makenna Hedger and Joshua Crane. -MP



Samual Harris and Aiqha Mosquite. -MP



Mia Oostendorp and Louis Matheson. -MP



Abi Morton and Nazril Edmund. -MP

Alexandra Secondary College Debutante Ball

ON Saturday March 29, 13 couples showcased their dancing skills at the Marysville Community Centre for Alexandra Secondary College's 2025 Debutante Ball.

Master of ceremonies Rebecca Van Lierop opened the evening and welcomed everyone to the special occasion. Assistant Principal Emma Kidd also had some special words to share, following which, Penelope Steuart presented the Debutantes and their partners.

The dances on the night included progressive dance, the waltz, the salsa, the girls dance, the boys dance, and the cha cha.



Billie Bermingham and Jaime Shawcross. -MP



Talia Nash and Ryan Goodman. -MP



Assistant Principal Emma Kidd spoke to the audience at the start. -MP



Waltzing. -MP



Narinpat Chatmatasit and Matthew Waixel. -MP



All the dancers moved with grace throughout their dances. -MP



Addison Hedger and Max Young. -MP



Rebecca Van Lierop was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. -MP



Azliah Salazar and Damon Snow. -MP

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Sunday, April 13, 2025 noon to 2pm

4 Barton Avenue Marysville Vic

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Thoughtfully appointed 13 suite tourist accommodation, catering for adults seeking a rejuvenating retreat.

scenicmarysville.com.au



Penelope Steuart presented the Debutantes and their partners. -MP



Ava Virtanen and Stuart Thompson. -MP



Alyce Olive and Noah Upson. -MP



Reece Stewart and Ashley Dean. -MP



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*zoo.org.au/kids-visit-free

**KYABRAM
FAUNA PARK**

Schools come together for great sporting event

LOCAL schools came together on Tuesday, March 25 for Cluster Athletics, held at Leckie Park in Alexandra.

Schools in attendance were Yea Primary School, Sacred Heart Primary School, Alexandra Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Eildon Primary School, Marysville

Primary School and Buxton Primary School.

The events included the 1500 metres, 800 metres, 200 metres and 100 metre, hurdles, high jump, long jump, discus, shot put, triple jump and the 100 metre relay.

All of the children showed great sportmanship on the day.



Marysville student Kaliya showed determination as she approached the jump. -MP



Some students took the jump in their stride as they tackled the high jump. -MP



Students gave it their all as they launched into the sand. -MP



The long jump event was well attended.



Lila from St Mary's primary launched to make an impressive jump. -MP



An Alexandra Primary Student in the high jump event. -MP



Students at the shot put event. -MP



Grade six student Bas from Marysville Primary School getting ready for his discus throw. -MP



Under 11 discus competition brought a lot of focus among the competitors. -MP



The students gave their best in all events. -MP



Grade six student Tess from St Mary's Primary School in the 1500 metre race. -MP



A student taking on the 1500 metre race. -MP



St Mary's student Harvey showed dedication on his run. -MP



Students from Alexandra Primary School and St Mary's School in the 1500 metre race. -MP



Let's eat, it's our treat

Eight months of flocking and frolicking at the Flowerdale Hotel

IN August, last year Evan, Andrew and Sarah were thrown into the deep end as Steve and Viv embarked on the next phase of their life and entrusted them to take care of the historic Flowerdale Hotel.

Evan and Andrew said that they have been blessed with amazing staff and a community full of awesome characters who have embraced and supported them as they learned the ropes and earned the right to be a part of this very special place.

They have had some terrific functions at the hotel, including bike clubs, car clubs, 18th to 80th birthday parties, and the community day where they cooked up an assortment of treats to share with locals.

They have had a chance to explore pulled pork and beef sliders, charcoal souvlakis and wood fired pizzas, while also keeping true to the tried and trusted favourites from the past, with a home-cooked pub-style standard menu. The feedback has been great, particularly around quality and portions.

The hotel is lucky to boast four very distinct spaces to accommodate everyone. They have the typical public bar with new air conditioning for the summer, a fire for the winter, the obligatory pool table and an authentic old school vibe. There the dining room, a traditional bistro style area with a new lounge and a kids area. Out the front, where there is often a sea of motorbikes or classic cars, it's often the busiest part of the pub. They also have a beer garden where they have had bands, spit roasts, barbecues and a bunch of child-friendly toys.

Over the last few months, they have been exploring a range of live music options from 70s punk, 60s to 80s rock, and they've even had an acoustic soloist on the back of a Bedford truck, a new addition to the pub. Feedback has been fantastic and they will keep trying to provide opportunities for local musicians to strut their stuff.



The Flowerdale Hotel. -S

The kitchen staff have been having a great time exploring new specials every week to the delight of the regulars. The bar staff have also been busy adding some new flavours to the spirit shelf and a new wine cabinet for the budding sommeliers out there.

Evan, Andrew and Sarah feel truly humbled to have been accepted into this community and privileged to be allowed to continue the tradition of this 120 year old piece of history.

Please visit. They would love to hear your stories from the past as the business continues to grow with the wonderful community.

Coming events

Saturday, April 12 - The Smash

Easter Saturday, April 19 - The Shaggy Soundlords

Anzac day, Friday, April 25 - Marty Monster Band

Monday Madness is every Monday - Kids eat free, Homework Club (Tuition) from 5pm, and Trivia from 7pm.

Wednesday's are the community day - Meat raffle and the darts competition.

About the team

Evan, Sarah and Andrew met more than 30 years ago, when they moved from various country towns to attend Melbourne for university. They all spent a great deal of time 'finding their feet' and experiencing life away from home. During these years, they worked in pubs and other jobs to earn some cash. They also worked together, organising events and functions for over 500 students in a university college, *The Student Village*. Even back then, they thought they'd love to own a pub.

Fast forward 30 years, Evan and Sarah are married with three great children and Andrew found himself a wonderful partner in Jacqui, who he married 14 years ago. They don't have children, but Andrew is (or was) a schoolteacher, and Jacqui is currently working as an archaeologist.



Sarah and Andrew. -S



The outdoor area. -S

Let's Eat winner

THE winner of the March Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Jillian Homan from Alexandra.

Jillian will be having a \$50 feed on us at Turbine Restaurant at Trawool Estate.

Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in this edition of *Let's Eat; It's our treat*.



Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Wednesday, April 23.

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Photocopies will not be
accepted.

**One entry per
household.**

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

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



COMING UP

Saturday, April 12

The Smash

Easter Saturday

The Shaggy Soundlords

Anzac Day

Marty Monster Band

Monday Madness

Every Monday - kids eat free and homework club (with tuition) from 5pm, and trivia from 7pm

Wednesday Community Day

Meat raffle and darts competition

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ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture



Farmers who attended the Paringa Livestock Sustainable Field Day were treated to a wide range of guest speakers with various invaluable perspectives. -Niche Perspectives



The day was a mixture of hearing from guest speakers and demonstrations of how sustainable practices can apply to the land. -Niche Perspectives



By looking at how Paringa Livestock have applied sustainable farming practices to their land, attendees were able to understand how they can apply these practices to their own farming. -Niche Perspectives

Sustainable farming field day at Paringa Livestock

ON March 14, Paringa Livestock welcomed 140 landholders, farmers, and soil advocates to their property in Murrindindi for a Sustainable Soils, Grazing and Enhancing Natural Capital Field Day.

The day was an opportunity for those in agriculture to learn and share around topics such as soil health, natural capital, and sustainable grazing. The key messages of the day were biodiversity, soil focus, plant diversity, and optimal grazing, which can help boost ecological health and provide profitable agriculture.

"Our sentiment was that it was extremely well-received. We had 140 RSVPs, so it was a sell-out. We were really happy. It was a day that we designed for farmers, as farmers, so it was designed to provide lots of practical insights," Olivia Lawson from Paringa Livestock said.

"A takeaway from the day is farmers sharing with other farmers, their own stories

and challenges and opportunities. Bringing farmers together, there is a lot of positivity in that peer-to-peer learning. And because farmers are often working solitary, or quite isolated, it's great to bring people together to share ideas."

Joel Williams of Integrated Soils spoke about the three essential pillars of soil health, being physical, chemical, and biological. Microbes and minerals must collaborate to create resilient, productive soils, and biodiversity plays a part in this process.

He suggested that by increasing plant diversity above ground, farmers can enhance microbial diversity below, leading to healthier soil. Grant Sims from Down Under Covers reinforced this message by talking about planting for biodiversity.

Hamish Webb from Precision Pastures outlined soil carbon projects for those in attendance, using his own personal carbon

project on his farm as an example of the possibilities.

In the heat of the day, paddock walks were undertaken, with attendees splitting into two groups, one guided by Courtney Young of Soils for Life and Joel Williams. This group learned to assess soil quality by looking at key factors such as aggregation, porosity, and compaction, and covered simple at-home soil tests.

The second paddock demonstration was led by Tom Lawson from Paringa, Grant Sims and Stuart Austin. This group looked at the diverse planting done at Paringa, seeing firsthand the role plant diversity plays in driving soil health and enhancing farm resilience.

Lunch was locally sourced beef steaks cooked by members of Yea Rotary Group.

Dom Walker of RCS presented after lunch, talking about sustainable grazing

management principles, and the importance of support and accountability in grazing.

Imogen Semler from Farming for the Future concluded the talks, sharing insights on how on-farm natural capital directly benefits business performance. She demonstrated a link between ecological health and farm profitability using the latest data.

The day focused on building healthier farming systems by understanding and nurturing the resources already available to farmers, rather than relying solely on external inputs. It was a great opportunity for bringing together farmers, experts, students and soil advocates, to drive agricultural practices into the future with more sustainable practices.

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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March competition winner is Con Appelman - Alexandra.

The APRIL theme is 'PETS' - Submit your photo entry to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon April 24, with your name, town and contact number for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

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



Drop the entry form into our office for your chance to win one of 10 weekend passes to the Off-Grid Living Festival 2025

April 12 and 13, Chiltern, Victoria.
Photocopied or emailed entries will not be accepted.
ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD

To go in the draw, this voucher must be received by
2pm, Wednesday, April 9
Alexandra Newspapers, 43 Grant Street, Alexandra, 3714

Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Children under 5 free entry. Winners will be notified by phone. Tickets will be emailed to winners.

Tickets can only be emailed to winners. Please ensure you provide an email address.

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Standard

The Yea Chronicle



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

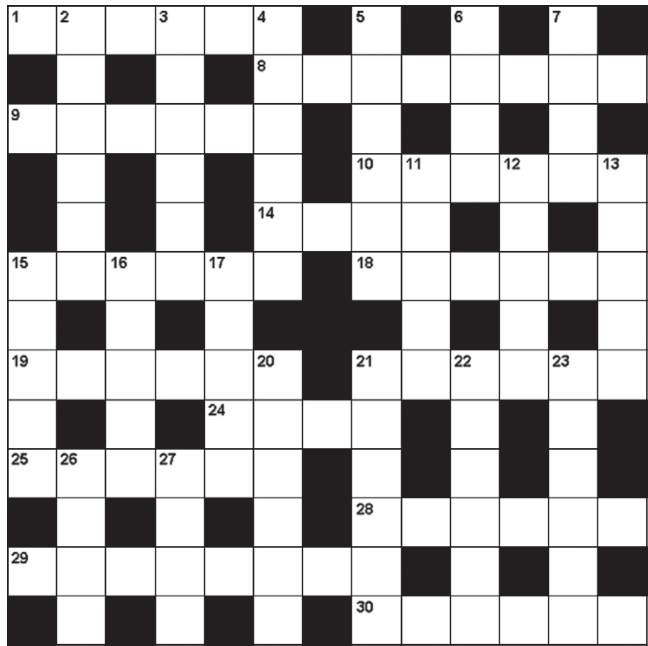
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Morally pure.
- 8. Inside the country.
- 9. Fit snugly into.
- 10. Japanese unarmed combat.
- 14. Layers one atop another.
- 15. Tempestuous weather.
- 18. Conventionally correct.
- 19. The earth's surface.
- 21. Cloth with a crisscross design.
- 24. State of prolonged unconsciousness.
- 25. Smelled badly.
- 28. A small hole for a cord.
- 29. Reject a formerly held belief.
- 30. Seen as necessary.

DOWN

- 2. Not deceptive.
- 3. A wooden or metal spike.
- 4. That which has its own existence.
- 5. Placed a bet on.
- 6. A journey.
- 7. Lager of high alcohol content.
- 11. A playing field.
- 12. Very attentive.
- 13. Taken a meal.
- 15. Used as a sweetener.



- 16. A gas in the stratosphere.
- 17. Cut into small pieces.
- 20. Tried to avoid.
- 21. A building licensed to sell alcohol.

- 22. Move back and away from.
- 23. Resist separation.
- 26. God of love.
- 27. Caress with the lips.

Word Search

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

Sudoku

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

Italian Food	
ARANCINI	MARINARA
CANNELLONI	MINISTRONE
CARBONARA	PIZZA
GELATO	RAGU
GNOCCHI	RISOTTO
LASAGNA	TIRAMISU

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.

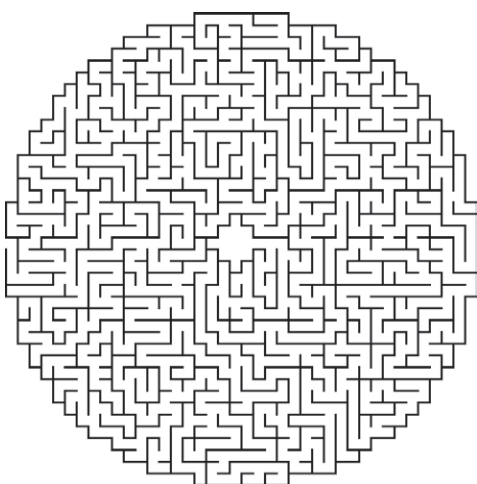
Math Square

	÷		×	9	36
-		+		+	
	+		-		9
+		÷		-	
	-		-	1	1
6		4		12	

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.

Maze



Moroka galaxias release. VFA scientist Brett Ingram and Tarmo Raadik from the Arthur Rylah Institute. -Tim Fernando

Local hatchery gives hope to endangered Galaxias

TWO critically endangered small-bodied native fish, Moroka galaxias and McDowall's galaxias, are getting help from the Victorian Government by stocking both species into the wild for the first time.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said the release of 50 Moroka galaxias and 50 McDowall's galaxias will help curb their risk of extinction and safeguard against increasing occurrences of climate driven emergencies.

Moroka galaxias survive in one isolated population in the headwaters of the Moroka River, within the Alpine National Park, while the last remaining McDowall's galaxias population inhabits the headwaters of the Rodger River in the Snowy River National Park.

The 100 galaxias were bred for the first time in late 2024 at the VFA's Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery, which was completed last year using \$2.725 million from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

"This is significant a milestone in the recovery of critically endangered species and the health of our freshwater ecosystems, where small-bodied native fish play an important role," Mr Dowling said.

"Moroka galaxias and McDowall's galaxias have never been bred or stocked for conservation before, so it's exciting to see the

collaborative 10 inTen plan delivering benefits in its early days."

Both galaxiids are nationally listed as Critically Endangered on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, having been identified as facing a high risk of extinction if no action was taken from threats including fire, drought, floods and predator invasion events.

The galaxiids are also part of the 10 inTen plan to restock and recover 10 aquatic native species in as many years, in partnership with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

Other species in the plan include catfish, Murray hardyhead, Glenelg freshwater mussel, South Gippsland spiny crayfish, southern purple-spotted gudgeon, south-western Victorian blackfish, Macquarie perch, and trout cod.

Entering its second calendar year, the VFA's Conservation Hatchery has made groundbreaking progress breeding blackfish in a hatchery environment for the first time, reintroducing the once-extinct olive perchlet into Victorian waters, and successfully producing Glenelg freshwater mussel offspring.

For more information visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au/10inTen

Packed schedule for Seymour Alternative Farming Expo

GET ready for an unforgettable experience as the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo returns for its 34th year.

Tickets are now on sale, and attendees can expect to see over 400 exhibitors showcasing the very best in farming innovations, agricultural practices, technology, and entertainment.

There is a jam-packed programming schedule filled with exciting attractions, live demonstrations, educational talks and hands-on experiences for all ages.

One of the event's major highlights is the Beloka Kelpies, renowned for their incredible working dog skills.

Watch these highly trained canines in action as they display their intelligence, agility, and natural herding instincts in thrilling demonstrations that will leave audiences in awe.

Adding to the excitement, whip cracking demonstrations will be a must-see attraction,

showcasing the artistry and skill behind this traditional practice.

Attendees will also have the chance to try their hand at whip cracking, with expert guidance available during interactive 'come and try' sessions, a fantastic opportunity for both beginners and enthusiasts to learn the craft firsthand.

"Seymour Expo has always been a good show with really great crowds, who love to get involved", said Kiera Buzza of K&M Whipcracking.

"Our sessions are a great way to learn something new".

With something for everyone, the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo promises to be a standout event. Don't miss your chance to be part of the action, secure your tickets.

Seymour Alternative Farming Expo runs from Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6, from 9am to 4pm each day at Kings Park Reserve, Tallarook St, Seymour.

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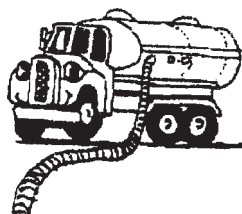


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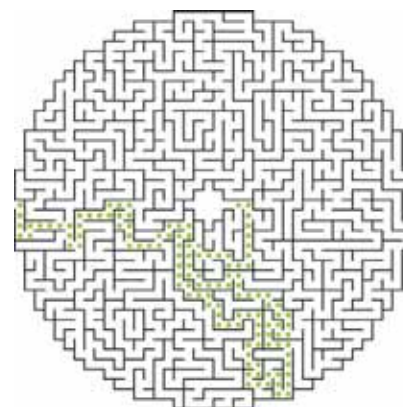
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MATH SQUARES

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5	-	3	-	1	1
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Refunds or credits

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

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Early classified deadlines for
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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17

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CFA serving Victoria for 80 years

Continued from Page 1

This milestone encompasses an immeasurable legacy of sacrifice, commitment and stories which go to the heart of the Australian psyche, exemplifying mateship and the principle of being there for others in their time of need.

The iconic 'yellows' are instantly recognisable and synonymous with selfless service and bravery in preparing and protecting communities across Victoria and beyond.

Members and brigades can be found in every part of Victoria, providing a deep and unparalleled connection with their communities.

The CFA has learned from the many devastating events throughout history and continue to evolve and improve our understanding of fire, while ensuring that frontline firefighters and the community are as safe as possible as they carry out their work.

Fire prevention and suppression techniques have advanced significantly, boosted by the use of aerial appliances, telecommunications, improved weather modelling and cutting-edge predictive fire behaviour tools, as well as a focus on planned burning and other fuel reduction methods.

While many Victorians associate CFA with bushfire, our members and the work they do is so much more than that. The CFA attended more than 37,000 incidents in the past year alone, in addition to the continuing community preparedness activities which help communities stay safe.

The roles of CFA members cover a broad range of skillsets, from specialist rope rescue, air observers, road crash rescue, mine rescue, alpine, forest and coastguard operations and frontline firefighting and structure firefighting to research, community education and incident management.

As one of the most fire-prone areas in the world, CFA has been at the forefront of research and innovation to provide our members with the best possible equipment, training, tools and resources for their critical mission.

CFA's work depends on a whole of emergency sector response and we thank our partner agencies for supporting us in the work that we do.

The CFA also acknowledges and appreciates the support of the many thousands of employers who understand that when a call comes in, a volunteer must turn out to protect their community.

In recent months, we have seen just how volatile a fire season can be, with thousands of volunteers and staff responding across the state.

Victoria is a safer place thanks to the millions of hours of dedicated service provided by CFA volunteers and staff, and we are excited and inspired to continue our work for another 80 years.

This week, take a moment to thank CFA volunteers for their service by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au and leaving your thoughts.



Under 12s Clay Hilder, Ethan Boulton, Jayde Stewart, Lila Friswell and Zoe Coller. -S



Most improved Jayde Stewart, Sonny Crouch, Chase Hilder, and Cheyanne Richards -S



Levi Campbell Best Regional representation and Attendance award -S

A night of celebration for local Little Athletes

LAST Friday night, families and members of the local Little Athletics club came together to celebrate a fantastic season of fun, teamwork, and achievements. The evening was filled with excitement as awards, certificates, and age group trophies were presented to acknowledge the efforts and progress of the young athletes.

The night kicked off with a delicious barbecue, expertly cooked by Phill and Stuart, before moving into the formal presentations. As always, the hardworking committee ensured the event ran smoothly, making sure every athlete was recognised for their dedication and improvement throughout the season.

Age Group Champions Boys

Under seven: Emerson Fraser, Under eight: Harry Armstrong, Under nine: Ardan Woo, Under 10: Maverick Clacy, Under 11: Ryder Clacy, Under 12: Ethan Boulton, Under 14: Levi Campbell

Girls

Under seven: Hazel Dalton, Under eight: Shiloh Clacy, Under 10: Alisha Abdullah, Under 11: Amelia Kociancic, Under 12: Zoe Coller, Under 14: Charlotte Boulton, Under 15: Cate Caswell

Special Awards

Best Regional Representation: Levi Campbell & Zoe Alldrick, Attendance Award: Levi Campbell, Encouragement Award: Cheyanne Richards, Committee Award: Ardan Woo, Most Improved Male Runner: Chase Hilder, Most Improved Female Runner: Cheyanne Richards, Most Improved Male Jumper: Sam Mawson, Most Improved Female Jumper: Jayde Stewart, Most Improved Male Thrower: Sonny Crouch, Most Improved Female Thrower: Matilda McCarthy.

The club also recognised the people who make a real difference behind the scenes. Elissa Page-Hilder was named *Club Person of the Season*, while Ally Crouch was celebrated as *Volunteer of the Season*. A special thank you was given to the outgoing committee members, particularly Kim Williams, for her incredible contribution as President.

With a new season on the horizon, the club is in great hands as Jess Clacy steps into the role of President, alongside a fresh committee ready to support the next generation of little athletes. Congratulations to all the award winners, volunteers, and families who make this club such a wonderful community



Age group champions Ryder Clacy and Amelia Kociancic. -S



Cate Caswell under 15 champion. -S



Alisha Abdullah with her certificate and trophy. -S



Tyler Cavil, Bennie Cavil, Bowe Nicholson, Josh Parth, Shiloh Clacy, Isaac Kociancic and Harry Armstrong -S



Under 14 mates Levi, Declan, Chase, Charlotte and Cheyanne. -S



Sonny Crouch, Emerson Fraser, and Hazel Dalton -S



Under nines Hamish Dalton, Darcy Simpson, Maverick Clacy, and Zara Crouch -S

SPORT

Great rallies in round eight of squash

by Kristelle Leary

Cappuccino versus Latte

LOCHLAN versus Jordan and Tyler (fill in): Extraordinary shots from both players. Tyler played the first game for Jordan, putting in a good effort but losing the game. Jordan took control of the match with his brilliant serves, winning him the match. 68 to 51.

Sally versus Mick: Coming out strong, Mick was winning at the halfway mark. Unfortunately, part way into game three Sally injured herself and the match was inconclusive.

Michael M versus Matt: Michael was in control after shooting to a nine point lead in the first game. The match evened out after that. Matt's extreme running couldn't overcome Michael's ability to shut down the rallies with precise hard shots. 69 to 57.

Jack versus Andrew: A strong match for Jack. Andrew fought back in the second half of the match, but it wasn't enough to defeat Jack. 58 to 43.

Affogato versus Mocha

ERIC versus Ethan: Great show of sportsmanship for these gents. Ethan was on his best game tonight with a fast, strong serve. Eric put in a valiant effort but had to concede defeat. 72 to 36.

Lee versus James G (fill in): A wonderful game by both with equal hitting and long rallies. James had some fast-paced shots, but Lee was consistent throughout. James came out the victor after a great match. 50 to 49.

Jared versus Simon: What a terrific game to watch. The lead was see-sawing with some amazing rallies. When the dust settled after the final game it was a tied match. 56 to 56.

Derrick versus Michael H: The first half was deadlock with 25 points each. There were some extraordinarily long rallies. Michael's ability to hit the ball out of the tight corners gave him a one-point lead after the third game. Derrick gathered himself, finding top gear and proceeding to toy with Michael, stealing the final game and the match. 51 to 43.

Darjeeling versus Oolong

ROB versus Kristelle: Rob looked in control with his swift court coverage until Kristelle turned it on with accurate serves that took Rob out of the match. Taking the last three games, Kristelle was triumphant. 66 to 60.

Phil versus Stuart: A very exciting first game. Stuart made a six-point comeback to draw. Moving forward, Stuart came out with some tight shots and boasts to win the second. Phil mustered some serious power to take game three. The final game went to Phil, securing the match. 54 to 48.

Chai versus Rooibos

RANDY (fill in) versus Jess (fill in): It was a match made of serves. There were some good rallies sprinkled in, but both opponents struggled with the others serves. Randy's powerful serves just edged him ahead over Jess's beautiful lobs. Randy won. 69 to 54.

Sam versus Blake: Blake put in the hard yards, chasing the ball wherever Sam placed it. Sam was in good form and didn't give Blake a chance. The victory went to Sam. 77 to 40.

Jim versus Daniel K: This match had some amazing plays with great lobs and finishers. Jim kept the ball in play as much as possible, but Daniel continued to shut him down. Daniel won all four games and the match. 64 to 45.



Mick Holohan on the ninth against Hidden Valley. -S

Early morning tee offs for Alexandra golfers

by Dave Silverman

WITH summer apparently very reluctant to give ground to autumn, both weekday competitions teed off early in the morning at Alexandra Golf Club.

There were 12 players in last Tuesday's competition, and it was Bruce Colville who came out on top with 36 points, closely followed by Steve Darmody on 35, with third place going to Dan Burns on 33.

Nearest the pins went to Nigel Waterhouse on seven, John Greatorex on 17 and Brad Newton on 18, and Nigel, Brad and Russell Purcell snared a rundown voucher each.

Wednesday saw 10 ladies tee off in the second and final round of the Foursomes Championship. The best score of the day went to Deb Richardson and Sue Greatorex who carded a 91 net 73.5, and the pairing of Donna Meggitt and Rita Mitchell came in second with a 99 net 76. Deb and Sue's score

was good enough to give them the overall victory in the championship.

Sandra Morris and Helen Findlay took the nearest the pin on five, and Marie Stace claimed 12.

With the overnight rain still hanging around, 14 players took part in Saturday's stableford round, which was sponsored by Alexandra Bricklaying. The winner, with 38 points, was Len Jenkins, closely followed by Trevor Biffin and Jan Petrzela, both on 37, with Dave Salomon two points further back.

Lenny also claimed the nearest the pin on two, with five going to Sharyn Petrzela, seven falling to Jarrod Williamson and 18 being taken by Frank DeVries.

In pennant news, the Alexandra Scratch team had a three to two win against Hidden Valley at Mt Macedon, while the handicap team played at home, hosting Eildon, and coming away with a four to one win. The club says well done to both teams.

A couple of reminders for all the golfers out there. Thursday, April 3 is the final Chook Run for the season, so be at the club and ready to tee off by 5pm for the Grand Finale.

On Saturday, April 5, there will be no golf at Alexandra due to the horse races, so if you want to play on the Sunday, you will have to tee off before 8am, as Alexandra is hosting the Scratch Pennant match at 11am.



Last Wednesday's foursomes champions Sue Greatorex and Deb Richardson. -S



Barb hit a good one on the 11th hole. -S

Sandy Wilson Memorial Bowl played at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

WITH a later tee off last Thursday due to the ladies' Sandy Wilson Memorial Bowl the nine holers at Marysville Golf Club played a stableford round on the front nine holes.

Keith Atwell (8) with an excellent 23 points won the competition followed by Geoff Ferguson (8) with 21 points. Amanda Rattay chipped onto the ninth green with her second shot which landed about 10 centimetres from the hole.

While she was quietly celebrating a possible nearest the pin her husband Glen sunk a 20 metre putt from the front of the green for a birdie thus claiming nearest the pin and a spousal victory. While this could have been a possibly marriage-damaging episode it was all taken in good spirits by players and witnesses.



The winners of the potatoes at Marysville Golf Club. -S

The annual ladies' Sandy Wilson Memorial Bowl was played last Thursday with 52 players from Dalhousie clubs and from further afield. Golfers who played were from Heritage, Kew, Mansfield, Nepean, RACV Healesville, Trentham, Romsey, Kilmore, Lancefield, Avenel, Seymour, Alexandra, Yea and of course Marysville.

In perfect conditions and on a beautifully prepared course golfers played a stableford round. All those present congratulated the Seymour ladies for winning the bowl. Marysville place getters were Jody Doran as A Grade runner up and two nearest the pins winners were Heather Jenkins and Gail Leigh.

As for all golfing events an enormous amount of work went into preparing for and running the bowl and the club thank profusely all those who contributed to a successful and fun day. Special thanks to Bicky and Radhika from the Pavilion Bar and Grill at the club for assisting with the catering and the bar.

There was a big demand for golf carts for this event and while the club has a number for hire, members would like to thank Brian Worcester and Ray Jones for allowing some ladies to borrow their carts. The three highly sought after buckets of Dobsons potatoes were won by ladies from Mansfield and Kew/Marysville.

Last Saturday the golfers played stroke for the second round of the summer aggregate. The ladies' daily winner was Gail Leigh (11) with nett 76 and Heather Jenkins (17) was the runner up with nett 79. Heather's round

included a gobble from 80 metres out into the Par four 16th hole for a birdie.

Gail was the summer aggregate winner with 152 over the two rounds followed by Margaret Blair with nett 167. The men's daily winner was Peter Lilley (14) with nett 68 followed by Alan Howard (16) with nett 72. The men's summer aggregate winner was Ken Whittingham with nett 150 followed closely by Peter Lilley with nett 151. The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Meredith Doery, Brian Worcester and Mark Bambery who also won the golden shot. Peter Lilley won the putting with 26 putts.

On Thursday five ladies will be travelling to Romsey to play in their annual bowl and next Saturday the April monthly medal will be played for with the ladies' round to include the second round of the Barton Shield. A reminder to members that the Tour Elephants Challenge is being played on Saturday, April 12 with an 8.30 arrival for a 9am tee off. Please contact Heather Jenkins for details and entries.

Hot off the press on Sunday night as this report was being written the results of the second round of the Dalhousie Sunday Pennant came through. Helen Howard, playing for the Marysville mixed team against Yea at Alexandra, had her first ever hole in one on the seventh hole. This was the highlight of the match and contributed to a three to two win for Marysville. Congratulations to Helen and the team for their victory. They next play Eildon at Yea.

SPORT

Season about to kick off for Alexandra footballers and netballers

by Michelle Jack

LAST Saturday, the Rebel footballers faced off against Hawthorn Amateur Football Club in two practice matches. The day kicked off with an intra-club netball match at 10am, providing a great final hit-out for the netballers and

allowing the coaches to finalize their teams.

The reserves game followed at 12pm, showcasing many returning players from last season, along with a few new faces and some familiar veterans like Ropsey and Kappa back on the field in red, white, and black.

Next, the seniors took to the field for a shortened three-quarter match. With a strong lineup, it was the first chance for both new and returning players to play together. It was an exciting game to watch, and it promises to be a thrilling season for both the reserves and seniors.

The club says a big thank you to Hawthorn Amateur Football Club for coming up to Rebel Park.

Round one of the senior competition kicks off this Saturday, April 5. The seniors, reserves, A, B, C, and D grade teams will have the bye, while the under 17 netballers will be facing off against Pakenham at 9.15am at Yea.

Thursday night dinners will continue as usual this week, and everyone is welcome to join. The club will also have Happy Hour from 5.30 to 6.30pm for all club members.

On Thursday, April 10, Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) will host their jumper presentations, starting at 5.30pm for the under nine, 10, and 12 football teams, followed by the under 14 and 16 footballers at 6pm, with dinner to follow.

This Thursday night, they'll also have the senior jumper presentations after training. It's a great opportunity for parents, supporters, and members to go along and see the footballers and netballers who will be representing the club this season.

Additionally, the club's new member draws will begin that night, so be sure to have your membership and be present to take part in this exciting draw.

The club is still seeking volunteers for several important roles ahead of the 2025 season: Junior Canteen Manager, the club is looking for a Canteen Manager to oversee operations during 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 or Melissa Crane on 0412 794 022; Netball Umpires, each year the club is required to provide umpires for the senior netball competition (under 17, D and C grades) for all home and away matches. If anyone is interested in umpiring, please reach out to Brodie Wheelhouse on 0400 154 458.

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



Seniors player Harry Correa. -S



Reserves players Jake Steyger, Lachlan Collard, Sam Kidd, Daniel Roper and Michael Coombs. -S



Reserves player Brandon Kapakoulakis charging with the ball. -S



Mitch Parker from the seniors team under heavy pressure from Hawthorn amateurs. -S

Last dance at the Alexandra Races this season

THIS Saturday is Alexandra Race Club's final picnic race meeting of the season and your last chance to join in the fun. Get ready for a rootin'-tootin' good time at the Alexandra Country and Western Races.

There is heaps happening. Enjoy boot-scooting music to get you moving by local C and W Duo, *Naturally Kerley*.

There is free face painting for all ages and pony rides for the little ones. Compete for prizes in the exciting competitions: best headwear for cowboy hat and cowgirl hat; best footwear for male boots and female boots.

And if that isn't enough, you can capture all your good gear in a free photo from the Magic Picture 'Photo Booth'.

The day will conclude with the end of season presentations of Geoff Purvis Leading Alexandra Rider's Award and Donate Life Alexandra Leading Trainer's Award. There is a real tussle between Shaun Cooper and Leigh Taylor for leading rider and Troy Kilgower, John Kean and Ashleigh Smith for leading trainer.

Gates open at 11am. General admission \$15, Concession \$10, children 15 and under are free.

Pack a picnic lunch, water and soft drinks or purchase vitals from Lions or the other vendors. Remember the club is now non-BYO so if you want hard liquor you'll have to buy it at the bar.

If you are coming from Eildon or Marysville or any place in between you can catch the bus for only \$10 return. Children 15 and under are free but everyone, including children, must book a seat.

For bookings visit country.racing.com/Alexandra

Lasso your friends and family and head along for a fantastic day of Country and Western fun.



Are you ready for the Alexandra Country and Western Races? -S

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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Alexandra and Yea Rotary working together to make lunch for the riders. -MP



Mark Bartlett, Bev Bartlett, and Tristan Gabb at the Cheviot Tunnel during Cycle Dindi. -MP



Rotarians from Yea and Alexandra putting on a great lunch for the riders. -MP

183 riders take part in Cycle Dindi

ON Saturday, March 29, Cycle Dindi was held again like a well-oiled machine thanks to local Rotary Clubs. The event covered the Great Victorian Rail Trail through the townships of Yea, Alexandra and Merton, with many exciting stops along the way.

The weather was cooler than previous years but it didn't stop 183 riders registering and taking on the great trails.

Riders experienced the historical Cheviot Tunnel, travelling to Nutfield farm for a Devonshire tea with a show of the kelpies rounding up the sheep and finishing off with lunch by the Goulburn River at Cathkin while listening to music and enjoying atmosphere the Murrindindi Shire has to offer.

The money raised from this event means that the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra have funds to put into supporting their youth programs, such as school bursaries and scholarships, and leadership programs such as RYLA and youth exchange.



Alexandra Rotarian Melinda Jackson making damper. -MP



Singer Julian Laucius putting on a great show at the lunch in Cathkin. -MP



The barbecue lunch was a hit for the hungry riders. -MP