

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 23, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Planter box project completed



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Fun at the Alexandra Easter Fair



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Eildon was buzzing on Easter Saturday



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Weekend sport



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A very well attended Alexandra Rotary Art Show opening on Good Friday. More on page 5. -S

Innovative plans for Murrindindi's future

THE Victorian Government has announced further funding for the Alexandra, Taggerty, Buxton and Marysville communities through the Forestry Transition Program's Community Development Fund.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced \$320,000 in funding for Murrindindi Shire Council to deliver on new projects that will help boost the local economy.

The \$200,000 of the funding will progress four 'innovation areas' identified through the Shaping Murrindindi's Future Local Development Strategy project. This includes farm forestry, renewable energy and the circular economy, health, aged care and social assistance, and tourism.

The project will use \$120,000 of the funding to deliver a health and aged care workforce strategy that explores the challenges for the region to meet health and aged care needs including skills and employment attraction, as well as patient transport.

The Shaping Murrindindi's Future project has previously received a \$300,000 Community Development Fund grant to provide capacity building and upskilling for locals to develop the skills needed to deliver their projects.

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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

Standard

The Age Chronicle

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday 11 May 2025

Treat your Mum to a special Mother's Day celebration with a complimentary glass of sparkling on arrival. Indulge in a delicious three-course luncheon showcasing the finest local produce.

With breathtaking views, exquisite wines, and live music, it's the perfect way to show Mum just how much she's appreciated.

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In an emergency dial
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The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Letters to the Editor

Kerbside collection

I have recently received paperwork from our shire telling me that I will need to pay \$430 for a kerbside collection that I have never had and don't want. I currently manage the small amount of waste and recycling I generate by taking it to the CDES Centre or the Resource Recovery Centre every couple of months, a very simple process that I am happy to pay for.

We live in a diverse shire, where not everyone lives in a town. Living outside of a township, on roads with no streetlights, and unpaved, rocky driveways means that it will be very difficult for older people to get their bins to the road each week.

It would be common sense for the council to allow people in such a position to elect not to receive the service, which by the way is not made compulsory by the state government, but left up to individual councils to manage. So far I have been met with resistance to this request.

I hope that common sense can prevail, and kerbside collection not be compulsory for those who will not benefit from the service, and for whom it would be difficult to use.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Don't shoot the messenger
TO be here and now, in this human form, is

such a gift. This gift you bestowed on yourself to be here and now and in this form you just don't remember.

We all have a soul mission. Some accept and yet still, so many fail to see their true purpose and their soul's mission. What did you come here to do? I mean it. What did you agree to?

Was it, a soul contract finalisation/s, life circumstances to learn and grow from or should I dare say evolve from? Lessons in life essential for the soul's evolution.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Car Classic
on the
Goulburn

FRIENDS of Kellock are holding a fundraiser on Sunday, April 27 from 11am to 3pm. The Car Classic on the Goulburn Show and Shine will be at 740 Whanregarwen Road.

People are invited to picnic in the beautifully manicured garden and to browse the beautiful cars on display. There will be a food and coffee van onsite.

All car clubs and members are invited to display their classic cars at this inaugural event. To register your car, please contact Larry on 0418 576 167 or email larry@fallons.com.au

Spectator entry is \$10 per person. There is also a \$10 entry per display car.



The new planter box outside the Alexandra Standard office. -BD

Planter box project completed

THE planter box project is now complete, with eight planter boxes now in situ in Grant Street.

The planter boxes are located at the Standard Newspaper Office (43 Grant Street), The Dame (88 Grant Street), Dindi Country Clothing (79 Grant Street), Nanna Jan's soon to return (77 Grant Street), Mensland (86 Grant Street - soon to be installed), Alexandra Community Pharmacy (101 Grant Street), Cafe Alex (109 Grant Street), O'Brien Real Estate (104a Grant Street) and SportsPower (76 Grant Street).

Each participating business will be supplied with a bright green watering can to assist with the care of the plants.

Very special thanks go to the Alexandra Community Shed / Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild (also known as the Woodies) for their beautifully crafted boxes, Yencens Hardware for the bins and plants and David Leary from Bedrock for the super soil. Thanks also to Gary Papworth and Ross Thompson who have assisted with the installation and securing the planter boxes to the pavement.

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 Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

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

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th 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.

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN: To the dog owners who let their dog bark through the night, not to mention everything that goes past their place. Surely there is something they can do about it. You can't tell me that they don't hear the ruckus. It's your dog. Take some responsibility.

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

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

Weekly Weather

April 23 - April 29, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	22	Wednesday	10	22
Thursday	9	20	Thursday	9	20
Friday	9	16	Friday	9	17
Saturday	9	18	Saturday	9	19
Sunday	8	18	Sunday	8	19
Monday	9	19	Monday	9	20
Tuesday	9	19	Tuesday	9	20

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

BICORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES · THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERY, 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

Federal Election 2025 A Fair Go for Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has launched an advocacy campaign ahead of the 2025 Federal Election to ensure the needs of our rural communities are clearly heard by all candidates.

The campaign is Murrindindi Shire Council calling on the next Federal Government to commit to supporting nine priority projects that will make a big difference for the people who live, work, and visit Murrindindi Shire.

Council has named the campaign, A Fair Go for Murrindindi. This is council not asking for more than other regions, they are asking for a fair go.

The shire is a beautiful, diverse and a growing

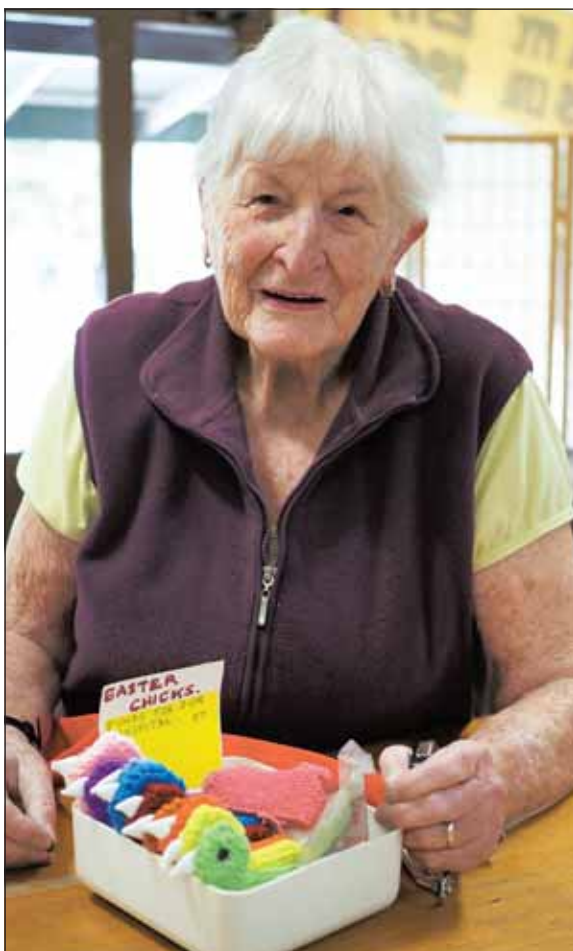
place. But we face unique challenges, we're geographically large, the population is spread out, and we experience more frequent natural disasters. There is limited access to health services, poor phone coverage in many areas, and fewer options for further education and training.

Council has developed this campaign to highlight what support we need from the Federal Government to improve our roads, services, infrastructure and opportunities, not just for today, but for generations to come.

Murrindindi Shire Council has identified key priorities that need federal funding or policy change.

These are: \$49 million for Lake Eildon tourism activation, through infrastructure upgrades and precinct development that will drive long-term regional economic growth. \$40 million for safer, more accessible visitor infrastructure to improve safety, inclusivity, and economic outcomes along key tourism routes and townships. \$10 million for resilient road infrastructure to restore and upgrade our 720 km unsealed road network, critical to reducing some of the highest rates of road trauma in Victoria. \$8.8 million for Enabling infrastructure in Yea and Alexandra, to unlock hundreds of hectares of land for residential and industrial development, stimulating local jobs and housing supply. Fair and sustainable funding for rural councils like Murrindindi, including a rebalanced Financial Assistance Grants model that reflects our high service costs, low revenue base, and the scale and complexity of rural service delivery. Tailored health funding and service models, to address the major gaps in aged care, mental health, and primary health services across Murrindindi. Our population is ageing, our young people are isolated, and our services are stretched beyond capacity. A Regional University Study Hub in Murrindindi to lift tertiary participation, tackle skills shortages, and keep our young people connected to opportunity. Strengthening Telecommunications for Safety, Resilience and Growth to remove vulnerabilities for residents, businesses and visitors in Murrindindi Shire posed by poor internet connectivity and mobile blackspots.

Each of these projects is supported by data, clear business cases, and strong community backing.



Elvie Thompson was busy in the lead-up to Easter, making and selling Easter egg covers, with the benefits going to the Alexandra hospital. Well done Elvie. -AR



An SES member on the way to the rescue. -S

Family stranded on the Goulburn River

ON Saturday, April 12 Alexandra Police and SES were called to assist a family of four people who became stranded while travelling in kayaks on the Goulburn River between Acheron and Alexandra.

With the Goulburn River flowing at around 6000 ML/day, the river is quite high, cold and flowing very fast. There was initially grave concern that the family was trapped in the water by the trees until police made phone contact confirming they were okay.

The two adults and their two children took a wrong turn travelling down the river in separate kayaks, became entangled in trees in the fast flowing current and overturned in the water. They were very lucky to survive making their way to an island in the middle of the river, surviving most likely because they were all wearing life jackets.

The Alexandra SES crew and a police member made their way upstream after launching the SES jet rescue boat at the Goulburn River bridge at Alexandra. Luckily, they found the stranded family safe and well stranded on a small section of the island about five kilometres upstream. The family were very relieved to see the rescue boat and crew after their ordeal.

The SES and police rescue crew moved the kayaks to the nearby bank for later collection and transported the family back to the Alexandra bridge, pointing out many of the dangers along the way.

The Alexandra SES rescue boat was recently upgraded, last year, from the previous rescue boat, that was also powered by a jet outboard motor, that is especially suited to the Goulburn River and floodwater operations, it is the only jet outboard boat in the Victorian SES fleet.

The Alexandra SES rescue boat crew members have helped to save many lives over the life of both boats, mostly on the Goulburn River. Unfortunately, there has also been a number of drownings during that time as well.

Police and SES would like to remind anyone using the Goulburn River to be prepared and be aware of the many dangers along the river, especially in fast and cold flowing water, and the danger of entanglement in trees along the river especially, when negotiating bends and corners of the river, and to always wear life jackets.

Innovative plans for Murrindindi's future

Continued from Page 1

This work is underway through the support of a Community Capacity Building Officer who is coordinating activities such as workshops, events and short courses for local community members supporting the project.

The Forestry Transition Program has provided almost \$3 million in the Murrindindi region to support native timber businesses to transition their operations and other local businesses to expand their operations, creating and retaining 40 jobs.

Ms Spence said, "This funding will give Murrindindi Shire Council the support it

needs to continue progressing new ideas that will help boost employment in the region."

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes added, "There are a lot of positive things coming out of Murrindindi thanks to all the investment in the local community and businesses. I'm looking forward to seeing what the Shaping Murrindindi's Future project does next."

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said, "The collaboration and dedication of our community and Council has been commendable and exemplifies the spirit of Murrindindi Shire. I extend my appreciation to everyone who has participated in Shaping Murrindindi's Future. This

additional funding will help us continue to innovate and strengthen the economic foundations of our region."

Mayor Damien Gallagher added that the funding builds on the strong foundations already laid by the community through the Innovation Working Groups. It also builds on the collaborative work of Council, the local hospitals, and the aged and disability care providers through the Murrindindi Health Network.

"This grant allows us to keep the momentum going on projects that create long-term secure jobs in our shire. It's about backing local ideas, strengthening local economies, and ensuring our communities

have the services and opportunities they deserve," Cr Gallagher said.

"We're particularly pleased to be investing in the future of healthcare in our region. This work will help our residents get the care they need, when and where they need it, and that we're creating local pathways for skilled employment."

The Shaping Murrindindi's Future initiative previously received \$300,000 in funding, which has supported skill-building activities, community workshops, and the appointment of a dedicated Community Capacity Building Officer.

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

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Loving Life
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Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

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Pastor Daniel Kriss
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Phone 0400 282 536
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THE VINE
A Christian community part of the Baptist
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Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

Out&About

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, April 28 at noon. Inspection day April 24 from 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Anzac Day services throughout the shire are published in this edition.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum are offering steam train rides from 10am to 3.30pm at 7 Station Street in Alexandra.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Eildon Bowling Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

Friends of Kellock Fundraiser 11am-3pm at 740 Whanregarwen Road, Alexandra. Picnic

on the beautifully manicured garden and browse the classic cars on display. \$10 entry per person. Food and coffee van onsite.

Maintongoon Road, Alexandra, clearing sale from 10am. Farm machinery, sundries, firewood, trailers, horse gear and more. Approximately 450 lots. Contact Embling Rural for further details 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

Alexandra Indi Candidates Forum at the Alexandra Shire Hall from 2-4pm. This is a free event that provides the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates before the upcoming election.

Yea Indi Candidates Forum at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre from 6pm. An opportunity to meet the candidates before the upcoming election.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Free flu vaccinations at the Yea Saleyards, organised by Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

Movie screening of *Just a Farmer* at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm, with the movie starting at 6.30pm. The movie explores themes of love, loss

and the undeniable resilience of the farming community. After the film there will be a discussion with film producer and lead actor Leila McDougall and guest Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer. Supper and a cuppa provided. Contact Sasha to register on 0422 225 801.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Election day. All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required to vote in the federal election.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Yea Arts Inc are running a free Business of Art workshop in Alexandra. The first workshops in the series include photo and video essentials and social media and brand building for creatives and are led by Sam Hicks. Spaces are limited. To book a spot visit yeaartsinc.org

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Mother's Day Luncheon at Holmesglen at Eildon. Bookings are essential for this three-course luncheon showcasing the finest local produce, and a complimentary glass of sparkling on arrival. Visit the website at holmesglenateildon.com.au or call 5774 2631 to book.

POLICE REPORT

POLICE are taking action to address hooning across the shire, and will be very active in policing poor driving. People will be held to account. The police have asked that anyone witnessing such behaviour on our roads contact Triple Zero, and police will attend. Police members are also out patrolling roads.

OPERATION Compass is currently underway, with a focus on drug and alcohol-affected drivers. Analysis of collision data has uncovered that impaired drivers with passengers on board were involved in 385 collisions causing injury and a further 18 causing death over the past two years. Operation Compass concludes on Sunday, April 27.

Parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrikes

THE Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is holding a new parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrike incidents and investigating the current legislative and regulatory frameworks that exist and examining their application and enforcement.

Increased urban development, decreased efficiency of current measures and a lack of wildlife prioritisation have prompted the committee's inquiry.

Exploring preventive measures and establishing proper incident reporting services are another key focus.

Committee Chair Georgie Purcell outlined the need for new measures to protect wildlife due to increased overlap of urban and natural environments.

"The rapid destruction of their habitat is moving them closer to areas that are populated, and in Victoria they are hit by vehicles at alarming rates," she said.

The true toll of this issue is unknown in Victoria, with currently no established mechanism for reporting incidents when an animal is struck by a motor vehicle.

"Part of the reason for this inquiry is because there is no set reporting on incidents of roadstrikes," Committee Chair Georgie Purcell said.

"Currently our response to wildlife is an afterthought at best, but with careful

consideration at the early stages we have the ability to heavily reduce the road toll."

The inquiry is also looking at both paid and volunteer organisations' contributions to animal rescue and rehabilitation and examining their involvement, training and expenditure.

"The majority of people who dedicate their time to care for native animals in Victoria do so voluntarily," Ms Purcell said.

"The overworked wildlife sector is burnt out and many volunteers are forced to work multiple jobs to self-fund their transport and rescue equipment in order to perform the work."

The Committee is searching for new strategies to implement, in addition to current preventative measures such as yellow road warning signs.

"There is a lot we can learn from experts both locally and internationally through this inquiry process," Ms Purcell said.

The impact of roadstrike incidents on motorists, including major traumas and vehicle damage is also being considered by the inquiry.

The Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is accepting public submissions until May 30. Visit parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/WildlifeRoadstrike/submissions/

Ceiling insulation discounts to lower energy bills

THE Victorian Government is lowering the cost of installing insulation in Victorian homes, to help families reduce their energy bills by approximately \$400 a year.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced that from early 2026, Victorians can access discounts on ceiling insulation through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program.

The VEU discount will halve the average ceiling insulation install costs of \$3000 to \$1500, based on current certificate prices.

Almost 60 percent of homes in Victoria either have no ceiling insulation or are under-insulated. These households are missing energy bill savings of more than \$400 per year on average.

The estimated 200,000 households with no insulation will be eligible for the first stage of the discount, with those wanting to top-up becoming eligible later.

New safety and quality standards for installation were also announced with the aim to prioritise safety. The program will include an insulation safety and quality assurance regime including audits and oversight requirements. This will make sure that only high-quality products are used, including Victorian-made insulation, and well-trained installers.

Solar Victoria will work with industry, unions, training organisations and safety regulators on the implementation, with consultation kicking off today. Solar Victoria will also work with the Energy Efficiency Council to train, certify and expand the insulation installer workforce.

To date, the VEU program has helped more than 170,000 businesses and 2.4 million households upgrade their appliances and equipment, slashing more than \$440 million dollars off energy bills. The addition of insulation will help reduce emissions, support local manufacturing, and improve the energy efficiency of homes.

Insulation works by acting as a barrier to heat flow, making homes more comfortable year-round, reducing energy consumption, and lowering heating and cooling costs.

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Councillor Eric Lording at the art show opening. -S



Some great landscape works. -MP



A very happy birthday to local John Sharwood who turned 91 on Thursday. -S

Alexandra Easter Art Show celebrates 55 years

THE 55TH Alexandra Easter Art Show opened on Good Friday evening with a good crowd in attendance, food and drinks enjoyed, and great music from Steve Paix to set the mood.

Judge Greg Allen cast his educated eyes over the assembled works and decided the winning works were as follows: Gold Medal, Best in Show, Julian Bruere, 'Wet Sands, Cornwall UK.'; Section One, Oil or Acrylic, Maxwell Wilks, 'Breakaway'; Section Two, Work on Paper, Ron Muller, 'French Homestead'; Section Three, Any medium, price up to \$750, John Whitelaw, 'Alexandra Shadows'; Section Four, Woodwork, Barry Kerr, Rio Rosewood OM Guitar; Section Five, Emerging Artist, Maddysen Nation, 'Western Saddle'; Section Six, Photography, Vida Pearson, 'Good Morning'; Section Seven, Peoples Choice Most Popular Artwork, Brad Trembath 'Dawn Delights'; Section Eight, Junior Artist, secondary or younger,

Ben Geldart 'Short-Tailed Pygmy Monitor, Alice Springs.

The show this year celebrated its 55th year, and with the venue being 55 Grant St, guests were invited to dress in their best 50s attire.

The show was opened by Cr Eric Lording, followed by an address from Jackie Gilbee of Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group, which is a major beneficiary this year.

Sales of art works have been encouraging, 40 sales at time of preparation of this report. A number of the successful artists were exhibiting for the first time or showing works in a different medium to their previous works. Visitor numbers to the show were also very healthy over the Easter weekend.

The winners of the Alexandra Rotary Easter art show raffle were: first prize Amanda Dean who won a painting by Julian Bruere, second prize was Karen Jarvis who

won accommodation at Summerlands, third prize was Libby Gobbart who won a hamper donated by Cindy Mcleish, and fourth prize was Sharon Hedger who won a hamper donated by Helen Haines.

Rotary also invited visitors to attend other local venues with a reciprocal ticket arrangement with Marion Rennie Gallery, Alexandra Community Shed/Eildon District Woodworkers Guild, Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club, and Alexandra Community Hub.

Sincere thanks to the artists who support the show year after year, to local sponsors and advertisers for their ongoing support, our many visitors, and of course the team of Rotary members, friends of Rotary, Alexandra Football/Netball Club, Alexandra Secondary College hospitality students who come together to stage the show. Without all of you, there would be no art show.



Charcoal and water painting called 'Tang'. -MP



The 2025 Excellence Gold Medal award was 'Wet sands Cornwall UK' by Julian Bruere. -MP



Maxwell Wilks' painting 'Breakaway' was best oil or acrylic painting. -MP



There was a great assortment of animal genre art. -MP

ADVERTISEMENT

ANZAC DAY



Remembering those who have served and fallen for our country

Cindy McLEISH MP

STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

03 9730 1066

CindyMcLeish.com.au



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



Local history and Alexandra Secondary College photos on display in the hall, all collated by Ian Newman. -MP



Past students from Alexandra Secondary College. -MP



Fawcett history was on display, with a lot of information on well known families and the rural fire brigade. -MP



Sandra and Sam getting into the Easter spirit. -MP

Step back in time at Fawcett Hall

FAWCETT Hall was a historical dream on Easter Sunday as the carboot sale was on with some fantastic history to discover inside the hall.

There were Fawcett Hall history booklets, Alexandra Secondary College class photos from the 80s to the 2000s, and some detailed history from Fawcett and Koriella.



A visitor taking in all the history. -MP



Some people browsing through the carboot sale. -MP



It was quite a busy morning at Fawcett Hall. -MP

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Enrolments for 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School welcomes enrolments for Foundation 2026 during Term 2 2025.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Alexandra, offers the richness of Catholic Education and tradition to the growing child in a safe and engaging environment.

At St Mary's School we experience and promote the gospel values of love, empathy, trust, respect, honesty and fairness.

We aim to develop the whole child spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

School Tours can be arranged by
In person at our front office
Phone call 5772 1500

Email reception@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
Times are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 2:30pm.

During your tour you will meet with our staff, see our classes, playground, learn about our curriculum and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Enrolment packs and information can be collected from our office, emailed or posted to you by request.

Enrolments close June 2025.

Please call or email to register your interest and to make an appointment for an enrolment tour.

10 Myrtle St (PO Box 151) Alexandra Vic 3714
Phone 03 5772 1500

E-mail principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
Web smalexandra.catholic.edu.au



OUR VISION STATEMENT
At St Mary's school we encourage an inclusive, learning community that values safety, love and faith.



Just a Farmer: a film about the challenges and triumphs of rural life

Just a Farmer is set to screen in Alexandra. It's described as "a heartfelt and powerful film that captures the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of rural life. Through an emotional yet inspiring narrative, the film sheds light on the challenges faced by farmers and their families, exploring themes of mental health, community support, and the unbreakable bond between people and the land they work on."

Producer, writer and actor Leila McDougall and *The Unbreakable Farmer* Warren Davies will both be attending the Q&A session after the screening.

Leila McDougall explained that she and her husband, Sean, started a not-for-profit about 10 years ago in their community of Tatyoon, near Ararat. The focus was on raising funds to support mental health and health of the community. Their main event was called *Mellow in the Yellow*, an event held in the middle of a canola crop which brought people together to celebrate farming and to talk about mental health. She said that at the time, mental health was very much a taboo topic, but it's now come a long way.

Their organisation also supports community initiatives such as mental health first aid workshops or farmer health checks, and they have donated money to resilience projects.

Leila said that during COVID-19, they were unable to run the events. They were watching television, as everyone was doing, and were trying to come up with new ways to reach a wider audience, to educate them about farmers and the sacrifices they make. They decided that making a movie would be the way to go.

She had no background in filmmaking at the time, "But we just sort of learned as we went," she said.

Unfortunately, they weren't able to get any experienced people to help them, but they decided to keep fighting and do it themselves.

She added, "I guess that as people say, or even Tarantino says, there's no better way to learn how to make a film than to make it yourself on a very low budget."

They went through the baptism of fire. "We definitely found out how to make a movie and made many mistakes along the way... It may sometimes look like it's a really big success, but we've had our fair share of battles along the way and still having them," she said.

Simon Lyndon directed the film, and Leila's husband Sean also provided significant help along the way, focused on authenticity and

continuity, as well as organising crew. He also plays young Owen in the flashback scene. Leila's background is in fashion design, so the authenticity of the clothing was also an important element in the film.

Leila added, "We learned lessons as we went along and, it's a little bit like farming, when it's just problem solving the whole time."

They made sure that they had good cameras to shoot the film, and it's therefore of cinema quality.

She hopes that the film will be watched by "Everybody. We're trying to get it to as many people as possible. It's not really just a story for farmers, it's a universal story told through the eyes of a farmer, but it does also give people the understanding of what goes on a farm, the pressures of farming and what the toll is for providing the world with food. I think anyone who eats food needs to see it.

"...It's just a film that hopefully starts a lot of conversations... And actually have those deep conversations about how the film made them feel, or what it brought up for them because that was what it was designed to do... I want it to be a film that sits with people for a very long time."

Kelly Wandel, the community screening liaison manager for Just a Farmer, said she got involved after watching the *Australian Story* episode about Leila and Sean and reached out to them for a screening. She quickly became more involved.

She now helps to share the story across Australia and helps community groups to curate an event, as each community is different. She found that cinemas said no one's going to watch a film about farming, and it's really hard to market a story that is based around mental health and suicide, so it was a really hard story to market, but they also knew that there is demand for it in community. They now have an expression of interest list with over 330 inquiries.

She said, "There are two key things that we encourage the host to do. Sometimes the hosts are a farmer and sometimes the hosts are a neighbourhood or community house. The hosts all come from different backgrounds as well, but we teach them all that this movie was made to start conversations, so we encourage all community groups to hold a Q&A panel after the movie.

People are also encouraged to watch the episode on *Australian Story* featuring Leila and Sean as it takes people through the full story of how the film was made.



Leila McDougall. -S

Screening information

Everyone is invited to a special screening of the movie, *Just a Farmer*.

This is a free community event inviting everyone to come together to celebrate the strength of rural communities and importantly brings awareness and spark important conversations about mental health.

Just a Farmer is a heartfelt and powerful film that captures the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of rural life. Through an emotional yet inspiring narrative, the film sheds light on the challenges faced by farmers and their families, exploring themes of mental health, community support, and the unbreakable bond between people and the land they work on.

Mental health in rural communities is often overlooked, and starting conversations can be tough. *Just a Farmer* movie screenings provide a safe space to bring these issues to light and foster real connections.

This event is not just for farmers, this movie is for everyone.

The screening will be held on Friday, May 2 at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at

5.45pm. People are invited to enjoy a cup of soup and a bread roll before the film.

The movie starts at 6.30pm. At the conclusion of the film there will be a discussion with special guest Leila McDougall (*Just a Farmer* film producer, writer and lead actor) and Warren Davies, *The Unbreakable Farmer*. Supper and a cuppa will be provided after the discussion with time to connect as a community.

Booking is essential for catering purposes. Book online at events.humanitix.com/just-a-farmer-free-community-event or call Sasha on 0422 225 801. The film is suitable for people aged over 15 years.

Funding for this event was made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), with support from Murrindindi Shire Council, Embassy of Ideas, Alexandra Events, Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital and Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

JUST A FARMER
A Community Event

YAM PARDOCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

JUST A FARMER

LEILA M'DOUGALL

JOEL JACKSON

Mature themes, suicide themes and coarse language

Friday 2 May
ALEXANDRA SHIRE HALL
DOORS OPEN 5.45PM
MOVIE STARTS 6.30 PM

This is a **FREE** community event inviting everyone to come together for a special movie screening that celebrates the strength of rural communities and importantly brings awareness and spark important conversations about mental health. This event is not just for farmers, this movie is for everyone.

Booking is essential for catering purposes. Scan the QR code to register or contact Sasha 0422 225 801

<p>Refreshments</p> <p>Come eat before the film! Enjoy a cup of soup & bread from 5.45pm.</p>	<p>Movie</p> <p>Just a Farmer is an award winning film shot in Western Victoria. This inspiring movie explores themes of love, loss and the undeniable resilience of a farming community in the face of tragedy.</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Join us for a discussion after the film with special guest Leila McDougall (<i>Just a Farmer</i> film producer & lead actor) and guest Warren Davies - <i>The Unbreakable Farmer</i>.</p>
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This event is made possible with support from



It was chilly morning but it didn't stop people from enjoying themselves. -MP



Alexandra Lions Club put on a great feed. -MP



Garden art and sculptures were very popular at the market. -MP

Fun at the Alexandra Easter Fair

THE Alexandra Easter Fair was held at Rotary Park in Alexandra on Sunday, April 20.

There was an impressive crowd wandering through the market and enjoying the entertainment and childrens activities on offer. These included local and visiting stalls, local food stalls run by community groups, live music and some great children's amusement such as jumping castles, and harnessed bungee activities.

It was a great day out for anyone who wanted to enjoy their Easter Sunday with friends and family.



The sounds of live music echoed through the park which gave the event a great atmosphere. -MP



The Alexandra Easter fair was a great place to meet up with friends and family. -MP



Paul Ray Music Group did the rounds around town over the long weekend entertaining everyone. -MP



Some great vehicles on display from the Murrindindi Historic Vehicle Register. -MP



Jake came all the way from Sydney and loved the entertainment at the market. -MP



There was an impressive crowd on Easter Sunday morning. -MP



Some jumping castle fun for the children. -MP



A beautiful vintage car that took people back in time. -MP



These cars were front and centre of the great car display. -MP

Mayors chair: Four streams for the circular economy

by Murrindindi Shire Mayor
Damien Gallagher

CHANGES are coming for waste collection, and they're as effective as possible for Murrindindi in a highly prescribed regulatory environment.

You see, a few years ago, the Victorian Government enacted the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021. Fundamentally, this law drives communities to make better use of resources, by separating waste into four key streams.

The circular economy is about giving valuable resources a second or third, or better life, recognising that virgin resources are finite, and that landfills across the state are approaching capacity. For example, glass can be made into new containers or crushed and reused in roads and construction; cardboard and metal get to be used again; and organic material can return to the soil to enrich it.

The four streams of waste defined by the government are: Green bin (food and garden organics, known as FOGO, collected weekly), Yellow bin (co-mingle recycling such as paper, cardboard and cans, collected fortnightly), Purple bin (glass, collected monthly), and Red bin (general rubbish ie. landfill, collected fortnightly).

Murrindindi Shire Council, and by extension, the Murrindindi community has been 'encouraged' to support the new Act with sizeable increases in EPA levies over the past few years to between \$68 and \$147 per tonne next year for rural shires. That's the tax payable by council (ie. the community) on all waste deposited into the Alexandra landfill including from kerbside collection and collections at Resource Recovery Centres.

The good news is, the Murrindindi Resource Recovery Team has found a way to introduce the four-bin system without increasing costs for residents who already receive kerbside collection.

The savings come from diverting more material away from landfill avoiding the levy and the cost of maintaining an expensive landfill site, for example glass (\$9/tonne), costs \$0 per tonne to process, compared to \$67 per tonne for recycling in the yellow bin. Plus, council's analysis has found that around 60 per cent of our landfill waste is

currently food and garden matter which will now be put to better use. What's more, the current co-mingle recycling system isn't ideal because when broken glass is embedded in paper or cardboard, the valuable recyclable material is considered contaminated and must be diverted to landfill.

And so, the implementation of a purple-lidded glass bin and the diversion of organic waste equates to savings.

The government has decreed that the four streams of waste be implemented wherever practical and so some residents in remote parts of the shire will be receiving a kerbside collection service for the first time. Those residents will see an increase in their waste charge as part of their rates notice, reflecting the cost of the expanded service. However, recognising that properties outside townships generally have systems to process organic food and garden material with compost and mulching, their green bin will be provided

on an opt-in basis. That is, if you live outside a township, please contact council (tinyurl.com/fogo-opt-in) by May 15 if you intend to receive an organic bin collection service.

We've heard reports from other parts of Victoria where the rollout of the four-bin system hasn't gone as smoothly, including confusion about whether compostable kitchen caddy liners can be processed. In Murrindindi, our contractor Solo, can accept organic and starch-based bags, so you're good to go.

Some residents have asked why kitchen caddies (the small, bench-top kitchen bin) are being provided. These small bins are proven to help people get into the habit of separating food scraps. Others have asked why bags aren't provided and the simple answer is that nothing comes for free, and council has sought to minimise the cost of new kerbside services.

Given our small population, council's buying power is no greater than that of the individual consumer. Caddy liners are not mandatory so it is up to the individual household to choose organic, compostable bags which will be available from supermarkets, or some newspaper or paper towels to line their kitchen caddy. Council will work with local retailers to ensure they're aware of certified, compostable liners.

Council is pleased with the level of engagement from our community during this process. Resident and business feedback has shaped a system that is practical, cost-effective and ready to launch on June 30.

If you have any questions about the new waste collection services, or what goes where, then the following is a valuable resource: tinyurl.com/msc-kerbside

Consulting on consultations

THE Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee have announced an *Inquiry into Community Consultation Practices*, which is wonderfully meta but also much needed given some of the consultations which have been conducted about important issues in the last year, including the future of the Central Highlands forests.

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee is accepting submissions until Friday, June 6.

The aim is to inquire into, consider and report by February 28, 2026 on:

(a) Community consultation practices done by, and on behalf of, state and local government and statutory authorities, and providers of essential services such as utilities, in Victoria.

(b) The use of non-government providers to do consultations on behalf of government agencies.

(c) Standards of conduct, including preparedness, to be expected in community consultations.

(d) Groups or regions who are underrepresented by existing consultation practices, and options to improve their engagement.

(e) The Engage Victoria platform, its use and effectiveness, and areas for improvement, and

(f) Best practice community consultation in other jurisdictions in Australia and other comparable countries.

Further information can be found at parliament.vic.gov.au/consultationinquiry

People are invited to make submissions.

Can't make it on Election Day?



If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit aec.gov.au/early

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
aec.gov.au/early
13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.



The many people explored everything the market had to offer. -MP



Performer Tilly Rose before she went on stage to entertain. -MP



Taylah and Ella with their matching face paintings. -MP



Grace had her face painted by one of the talented face painters. -MP



Maya O'Loughlin entertaining the crowd. -MP



Tiny boats also were on display. -MP



An impressive engine in one of the boats. -MP

Eildon was buzzing on Easter Saturday

AN incredible way to wrap up the season, with the ultimate Eildon Easter Twilight Market, combined with the inaugural Boat Show and Shine, being a resounding success, drawing an estimated 5000 visitors.

The event marked the largest market ever hosted by Eildon Events, boasting a record number of food, beverage, artisan, and craft vendors. The attractions catered to all ages, with younger visitors especially enjoying the free face painting station and the 'Build Your Own Easter Bonnet' craft stall.

The information stall about the iconic Golden Trout site was a major highlight, showcasing the vision for an exciting future for Eildon, captivating both locals and visitors alike.

Community groups added to the lively atmosphere, including the Lions Club with their 50th anniversary raffle, the traditional CFA wood raffle, the RSL sausage sizzle, and the Eildon Primary School's bulbs and flowers fundraiser.

Live music brought the event to life, led by the talented Paul Ray Music Group featuring Maya O'Loughlin and Tilly Rose. The night concluded with an outstanding performance by *The Herberts*, whose 60s covers inspired dancing and created an electric atmosphere, elevating the event's energy.

The Boat Show and Shine also proved to be a hit, showcasing an impressive variety of boats across categories like ski, wake, race, drag, hoon, and classic. Cash prizes and giveaways were awarded, and the People's Choice category provided a thrilling close to the event.

Eildon Events Inc extends heartfelt thanks to AGL for their support of live music at the Twilight Markets and to Murrindindi Shire Council for fostering opportunities for youth to gain vital experience and confidence. Special thanks go to Paul Ray for his dedication and encouragement of talented young performers, as well as Eildon Grocer for sponsoring the free face painting and Easter Bonnet Parade.

Events of this magnitude require tremendous effort in planning, management, logistics, and execution. Organisers express their deepest gratitude to the amazing volunteers who made it all possible, from sound and lighting engineers to traffic marshals, gatekeepers, and the ground crew. You all exemplify what can be achieved through collaboration and dedication.

The Eildon Twilight Market is set to return in November.



Eildon RSL sub branch has some delicious food to purchase. -MP



Eildon's Lion Club members Nigel and Keith selling raffle tickets with some great prizes. -MP



Many locals and tourists enjoyed local produce and beverages. -MP



Easter craft was available for the children to enjoy. -MP



Eildon CFA members Dee, Joan, Kim, Nicki and Foz. -MP



There were some gorgeous boats on display. -MP



An old project boat on display at the Boat Show and Shine. -MP

Pencil, Porcelain and Paint launch

ON Saturday, April 5, the exhibition *Pencil, Porcelain and Paint* launched at MiRa in Marysville. The show exhibits works by Glenys Hazelman, Heather Cowie and Edward Cowie.

Their works all resonate deeply with the essence of nature, and each artist draws inspiration from their unique experiences in the natural world. Their art reflects that connection in a myriad of forms.

The exhibition is on display until April 30.



Heather Cowie and Glenys Hazelman. -S



Artists Edward Cowie, Heather Cowie and Glenys Hazelman with Q&A host Bev Dick. -S

Election forum

FOR the upcoming federal election, it's crucial that voters meet candidates in person to understand their policies.

Rural Australians for Refugees and Murrindindi Climate Network are hosting a free Candidates' Forum for Indi on Sunday, April 27, 2 to 4pm at Alexandra Shire Hall.

Each candidate will present their views on energy, youth issues and then take questions from the floor and UGFM listeners.

This is your opportunity to ask candidates questions about things that matter to you. Refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome to attend.

ELECTION 2025

INDI CANDIDATES' FORUM Alexandra Town Hall Sunday, April 27, 2 - 4pm

CANDIDATES INVITED

Meet them Mitch Bridges (ALP)
Helen Haines (IND)
Ben Howman - Legalise Cannabis Australia

Hear them Mark McFarlane (IND)
Tim Quilty (Libertarian)
Alysia Regan (GR)

Ask them Athol Thomas (ON)
James Trenery (LIB)
Michael White (FF)

Your chance to ask questions of our candidates

What interests you?

- Cost of living
- Youth
- Education
- Social housing
- Climate change
- Refugees
- Internet access
- Political integrity
- Local issues

FREE EVENT

Authorised by Alexandra RAR & Murrindindi Climate Network | Enquiries contact: bevdict3903@gmail.com

Explore your artistic journey with free workshops

ARE you a visual artist looking to take your skills to the next level and share your passion with a wider audience? We have some exciting news just for you. Yea Arts Inc is thrilled to announce a series of free workshops called *The Business of Art*, designed to help you navigate the art world with confidence and creativity.

Thanks to the support from the Murrindindi Shire Council, along with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, Yea Arts is able to offer these workshops at no cost to you.

Their aim is to supporting local artists, and want to see your profile soar. Over the next eight months, they'll be hosting 16 workshops in lovely spots like Marysville, Alexandra, Yea, and Kinglake. So, whether you're a seasoned artist or just starting out, there's something for everyone.

Here's a sneak peek at what will be covered.

Framing Your Art: Photo and Video Essentials. Join this hands-on session where you'll learn how to capture stunning images and videos of your artwork. Whether you're using a smartphone or an SLR camera, they'll help you create eye-catching content that's perfect for social media and marketing.

Social Media and Brand Building for Creatives. Let's dive into the world of social media. In this workshop, you'll discover how to grow your audience, build your unique artistic brand, and create engaging content that resonates with your followers.

Crafting Your Creative Future: Mini Business Planning for Artists. Ready to set some goals? This workshop will guide you in

defining clear objectives and creating a simple one-page plan to keep your art business focused and flourishing over the next year.

The Art of Selling: Monetising Your Creativity Online. Explore strategies for selling your art and turning your passion into a sustainable business. They'll share tips and tricks to help you navigate the online marketplace with ease.

Leading these workshops is the wonderful Sam Hicks, a business development, marketing, and photography consultant with a wealth of experience. With over 25 years in small business and community art, Sam is passionate about helping creatives thrive. She's worked on exciting projects, including the first public art initiative in Murrindindi Shire.

Yea Arts is so excited to offer these workshops as a way to support and uplift our artistic community.

Book your seat at the table by going to trybooking.com and search for Yea Arts Inc and get ready to learn, connect, and grow. Keep an eye out for a workshop near you and don't forget to book your spot. Let's embark on this creative journey together and unlock the full potential of your art.

Yea Arts Inc gratefully acknowledges that through Murrindindi Shire Council this project was made possible through funding which was jointly provided by the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster recovery funding arrangements (DRFA.)

YEARTS INC

Presents

The Business of Art Workshops.

Are you an artist looking to elevate your skills and connect with a wider audience?

Yea Arts Inc. is excited to offer a series of FREE workshops designed just for you!

The first in this series is:

Photo & Video Essentials -
Capture stunning images and videos of your artwork to showcase your talent!

Social Media & Brand Building for Creatives -
Grow your audience and build your unique artistic brand on social media!

Led by Sam Hicks, a seasoned business development and marketing consultant with over 25 years of experience. These workshops are designed to empower artists at all levels.

Connect with fellow creatives, gain valuable insights, and take your art to the next level!

Spaces are Limited!
Alexandra Thursday May 8 and Marysville Saturday June 21
Follow Yea Arts Inc to find a workshop near you.

yeaartsinc.org [yeaartsinc](https://www.facebook.com/yeaartsinc)

Bookings for each workshop are open, and tickets are available at trybooking.com

Yea Arts Inc. Supporting our local artists and fostering creativity in the community! Let's embark on this creative journey together!

Yea Arts Inc gratefully acknowledges that this project was made possible through Murrindindi Shire Council with funding which was jointly provided by the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster recovery funding arrangements (DRFA.)

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

KID'S PUZZLES

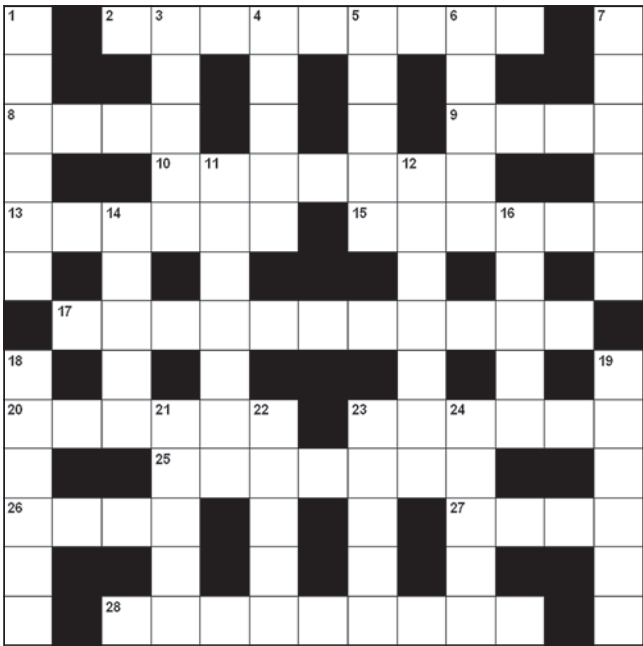
Crossword

ACROSS

- 2. Change from a liquid to a semisolid.
- 8. Diameter of a gun barrel.
- 9. A lecherous man.
- 10. Fixed regular allowance.
- 13. Deep, covered serving dish.
- 15. Stags with twelve antler branches.
- 17. Set apart from others.
- 20. Easily understood.
- 23. Largest state of the USA.
- 25. Saw worked by one hand.
- 26. Molten rock from a volcano.
- 27. Sheet of floating ice.
- 28. Part of a bride.

DOWN

- 1. Ruffles and frills on shirts.
- 3. Excessively fat.
- 4. A small hard particle.
- 5. The bile-secreting organ.
- 6. Slow in progress.
- 7. Metamorphic rock similar to granite.
- 11. Mexican liquor.
- 12. A short novel.
- 14. Watery discharge from the eyes.
- 16. Affirms as true.
- 18. A shelter from danger.
- 19. The movements of a trained horse.
- 21. A stage of development.
- 22. Brought to a conclusion.
- 23. A useful or valuable quality.
- 24. Exceptionally bad.



Word Search

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

ANZAC Day

- AUSTRALIA
- POPPY
- GALLIPOLI
- RESPECT
- HEROES
- RISINGSUN
- NEWZEALAND
- SACRIFICE
- PARADE
- SOLDIERS
- PEACE
- WREATH

Cryptogram

ANZAC Day

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				15				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
		23						

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	3						

$\frac{E}{17\ 15}$ $\frac{L\ L}{17\ 14\ 23\ 23}$

$\frac{E}{26\ 15}\ \frac{E}{2\ 15}\ \frac{E}{2\ 11\ 15\ 26}$ $\frac{T\ E}{3\ 18\ 15\ 2}$;

$\frac{L\ E\ T}{23\ 15\ 20\ 3}$ $\frac{E}{17\ 15}$ $\frac{E\ T}{1\ 22\ 26\ 8\ 15\ 3}$

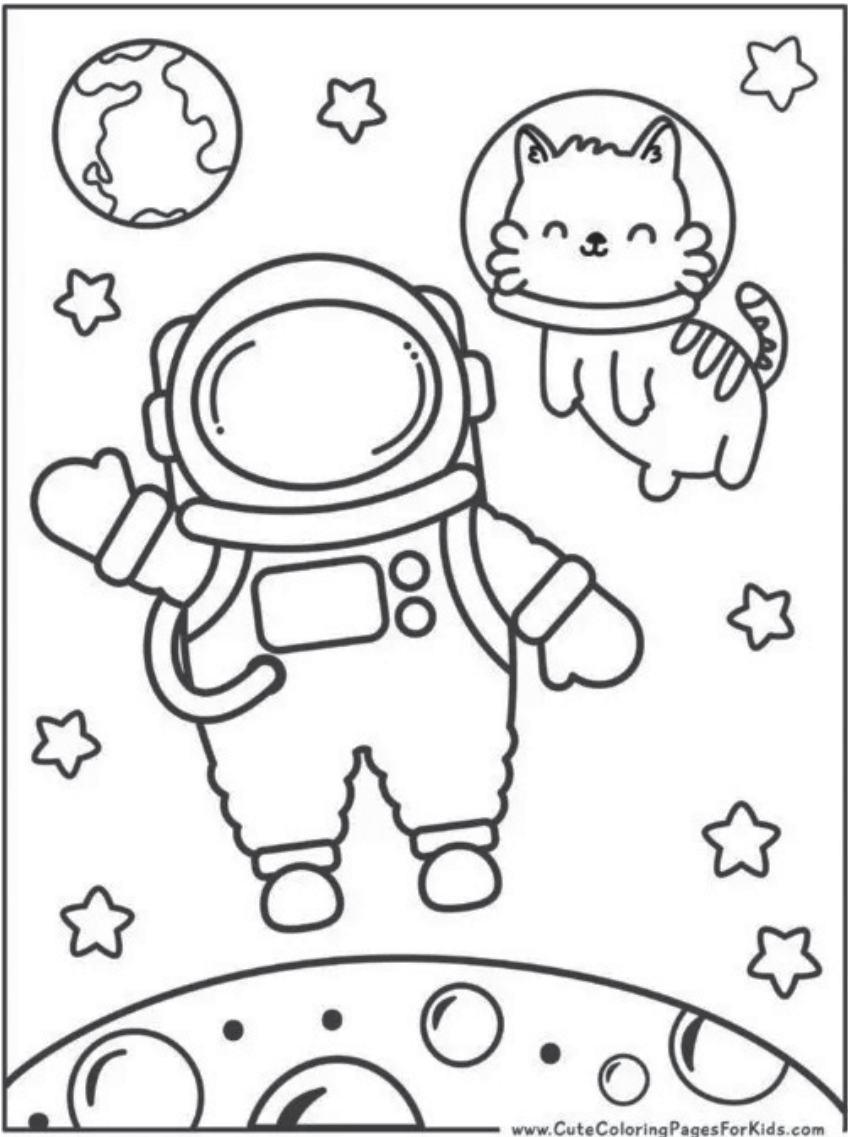
Math Square

	-	6	+		7
+		÷		-	
	+		+		8
-		+		+	
3	-		-		-12
6		11		15	

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.

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Word Search:
Words starting
with "A"

- ABOUT
- ANDREW
- ABOVE
- ANGEL
- ACTION
- ANIMAL
- AGAIN
- ANSWERS
- ALLIGATOR
- APPLE
- ALLOWED
- AROUND
- ALPHABET
- ART

Math Square

2	-		-	8	-13
-		+		-	
	-	4	-		-10
+		-		+	
	+		+		12
5		10		4	

Fill in the missing
numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

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.

Jokes

Q: What do you call a Bear with no ears?
A: B

Q: Why didn't the dog want to wrestle?
A: Because he was a Boxer

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H7N8 avian influenza update

AGRICULTURE Victoria has stated that the response to an outbreak of H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu) continues on four poultry properties near Euroa, and are continuing to warn all bird owners including poultry producers, bird keepers and pet bird owners, as well as recreational game bird hunters.

A restricted area with a radius of about five kilometres has been in place around the infected properties, and includes Euroa and parts of Longwood. This is part of a larger control area.

The control area spans about 40 kilometres from east to west, and 30 kilometres from north to south. Mandatory movement restrictions for birds and game no longer apply to Violet Town, Ruffy, Avenel or Strathbogie.

All bird owners should regularly check their birds. Unexplained illness or deaths of birds should be notified to your local vet or by calling the VicEmergency hotline on 1800 226 226 or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

If you are located within the warning area and you own birds, you must follow all movement controls. These are: if you own birds, do not move your birds, eggs, chicken manure or poultry equipment into, within, or out of the control or restricted areas without an Agriculture Victoria issued permit.

Follow the updated movement controls, check the Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza - or call 1800 226 226 for detailed information on what you can and can't do in the restricted and control areas.

It is no longer mandatory for premises with 50 or more birds in the restricted area to house birds, however voluntary housing of birds is still encouraged. Recreational game bird hunting is not allowed in the restricted or control areas. This includes the hunting of duck, stubble quail and introduced game birds. Moving game bird carcasses and any equipment associated with game bird hunting into, out of or through the restricted and control areas is prohibited unless under an Agriculture Victoria issued movement permit.

H7 bird flu can be spread to other animals by movement of eggs, birds, people handling birds, vehicles and equipment between farms, and by clothing, footwear, aerosols, water, feed, litter, wild birds, biting insects and vermin.

To help prevent the spread of disease to your birds you should restrict contact between pet birds, poultry and wild birds, prevent access by wild birds to food and water sources for your birds, keep equipment and yards or aviaries clean, limit visitors to your birds, and bird owners should wash their hands before and after handling birds.

Check for signs of H7 bird flu in your birds, these can include sudden death, birds with difficulties breathing, such as coughing, sneezing, or rasping, Swelling of the head, purple discolouration of the comb and wattles, rapid drop in eating, drinking and egg production. Ruffled feathers, dopiness, closed eyes, diarrhea, and occasionally nervous symptoms.

Farmers call for serious investments in various areas this election

POTHOLED roads, inefficient supply chains and growing pressure on regional housing and services remain top concerns for farmers and regional communities heading into the Federal election.

National Farmers' Federation President David Jochinke acknowledged that while major parties and some independents had made funding commitments for supply chain infrastructure, too many crumbling regional roads remain ignored. He said the election was an opportunity to lock in a more sustainable pipeline of funding.

"The number one topic at any backyard barbecue is the state of regional roads," Mr Jochinke said.

"Potholes, blown tyres and detours aren't just annoying, they're slowing freight down and costing farmers time and money. We need reliable road and rail networks that keep supply chains moving and businesses productive.

"We deserve roads that get our food, fibre and people to their destination safely and efficiently.

"This isn't just about roads. It's about investing in the entire supply chain, from paddock to port, to keep Australian agriculture productive and competitive."

The NFF and its members are calling for continued investment in key programs, including, a further \$1 billion annually for Roads to Recovery, \$4 billion to reinstate the Roads of Strategic Importance to target key freight corridors through road sealing, flood proofing and pavement rehabilitation, one per cent of Commonwealth Tax Revenue to be allocated to Financial Assistance Grants for local government road repair and maintenance.

Mr Jochinke said the need for investment extended well beyond roads.

"Our regions are transforming rapidly. Internal migration is accelerating, and infrastructure, housing and services are struggling to keep up.

"As regional populations grow, we need investment that matches the demand and set communities up for success."

Continued Page 16

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The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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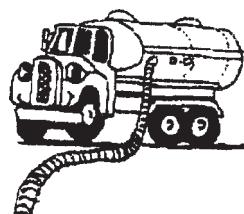
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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEATH NOTICES

Carr, Phyllis Jean
Phyllis passed away peacefully at 90 years old on April 13, 2025 at Rosebank Nursing Home, Yea. Beloved wife of Leslie Donald (dec). Sister to Fred (dec) and Betty (dec). Mother to Peter and Robyn. Mother in law to Regina and Peter. Nanna to Megan, Raymond, Cameron, Bronwyn and Nikolas and partners John, Kerrie and Kylie Great Nanna to Owen, Heath, Wren and Percy. She was greatly loved and will be truly missed.

A private funeral service for Phyllis Jean Carr will be held at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

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MEADOWS - nee Cadge Beverley
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Passed away peacefully. Wife of Frank Towers (dec) and Garry Meadows (dec).

Mother of Michelle, Russell and Julie. Grandmother of Callum, Joshua, Alice, Imogen, Jemima. Great Grandmother of four. May you find peace and love.

FUNERAL NOTICES

MEADOWS - nee Cadge Beverley
A graveside service for Beverley will be held at Alexandra Cemetery on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 commencing at 11am

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MEETINGS

Notice given of a Public Meeting
to be held at Yea Racecourse and Recreation Reserve on Monday, May 5 commencing at 7pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three or more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on June 30, 2025. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries, please contact the secretary, John Quinlan on 0428 576 543.

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Part of the 1947 fleet, an Austin series one tanker. -S

CFA's fleet evolution over 80 years

THE early days of fighting fires with beaters, buckets and knapsacks are long gone and while slipping a tank onto the back of a tray truck was the popular choice for many years, CFA's fleet has evolved dramatically over the past 80 years.

When CFA formed, the organisation inherited a mixed range of former war surplus trucks but most firefighting trucks in 1950s were Austins, the tankers being the work horse of the rural fleet for many years holding 400 gallons (1800 litres). The Austin pumper followed for urban brigades, which had a front-mounted pump and 350 gallons (1592 litres) per minute capacity.

CFA's Head of Fleet and Protective Equipment Danny Jones said CFA's financial focus in the 1950s was purchasing trucks and trailer units.

"By 1960, CFA had 773 vehicles in its fleet, 516 of them in rural brigades," Danny said.

"Small pumpers were then built which included more ladders, hoses, and larger pumps."

Small 4WD, agile Willys trucks were the forerunners to the current ultralights and slip-ons. The small 4WD tankers enabled crews to get in ahead of the larger tankers to bushfires to help knock the fire down quickly.

Danny said the size of our tankers and pumpers grew in capacity as new trucks

became available, including those with diesel engines.

"CFA soon realised more types of vehicles were required for the variety of fire calls being attended," he said.

"CFA started to manufacture a range of specialised vehicles to suit our diverse needs which have continued to evolve over the years."

These included radio communication vans, hazmats, road accident rescue, high angle rescue, mine rescue, protective equipment, rehabilitation, salvage, lighting, telebooms, ladder platforms, aerial pumpers, alpine and tracked vehicles, sand tankers, breathing apparatus vans, field operations vehicles, hose layers and educational units.

Today, most vehicles are twin cabbed, air conditioned and have comfortable seating compared to earlier vehicles. Safety features such as rollover protection systems, heat shields, vehicle sprinklers, window curtains, and remote-control monitors are common.

Crew protection systems installed into CFA's fleet was a major step in enhancing firefighter safety from 2006. Between 2011 and 2013, CFA also retrofitted the same crew protection systems to all existing pre-2006 tankers.

"This has been further extended over the years with all of CFA's ultralight tanker fleet currently undergoing and retrofit program to install crew protection," Danny said.

"This technology received significant laboratory, simulation and real fire exposure testing.

"Retrofitting all our vehicles gives our members the best possible chance of survival in a burnover."

The latest truck to join CFA's firefighting fleet is the Ultra Heavy tanker which has the capacity to carry 10,000 litres of water, more than some of our water bombing fleet. These trucks will greatly boost our ability to fight fires in remote rural areas with open grasslands.

CFA's progressive fleet department is always looking into new technology and prototypes to ensure CFA has the most advanced and safest vehicles for its firefighters.

Hit and run in the high country

A YOUNG man has been flown to hospital after a shocking hit-run at a campground in Victoria's east. The man was struck by a white Toyota HiLux at 7.40pm on Easter Sunday near the Noble Spur Track at Woods Point. The driver of the HiLux then fled the scene, before the victim, a 22 year old man, was flown to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, has CCTV or dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a report online.

Farmers call for serious investments in various areas this election

Continued from Page 13

The NFF is also calling for a New program for farmworker accommodation. This includes \$175 million over four years for a farmworker accommodation stimulus package, with tax concessions and incentives to accelerate new builds and upgrades of farmworker accommodation.

"This idea will help attract and retain a skilled workforce and contribute to the overall growth of regional communities," Mr Jochinke said.

There is also a call for reliable connectivity and for the government to commit to the recommendations from the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, and provide \$20 million annually for the highly successful *On Farm Connectivity*

Program. "Reliable phone and internet access is fast becoming the ballot-box issue for farmers and regional Australians. They're fed up with second-rate service compared to the cities."

There is a request to renew the National Water Grid Program, as northern Australia continues to develop and diversify, sustainable water infrastructure will be critical.

"Sustainable water projects will unlock the growth in the north and directly drive agricultural expansion."

There is a call to invest in new regional childcare centres, the NFF believes all parties should commit to the \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund to build more than 160 new childcare centres. "Building childcare centres alone won't fix this problem, but it's a big step in the right direction for regional families."

CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

CANDIDATES for the House of Representatives in the upcoming Federal election, set for May 3, were asked a series of questions on key topics, so readers can work out which candidate’s views best match their own. They have been included here in the order in which they were received. Unfortunately, no responses were received from Tim Quilty (Libertarian), Mitch Bridges (Labor) and Ben Howman (Legalise Cannabis Party).

The questions were:

1. Are you able to provide a short biography outlining why people should vote for you?
2. What is your vision for Indi in the next Federal Parliamentary term? [and specifically Murrindindi Shire].
3. Are you able to outline some of the major challenges Australia faces in the next 20 years, and how they can be addressed?
4. What are your thoughts on Australia’s defence?
5. What are your thoughts on renewable energy?
6. What are your thoughts on immigration and refugee levels?
7. What are your thoughts regarding the level of JobSeeker, pensions and disability payments?
8. Do you have any other major policies you would like to share?

Alysia Regan - Greens

1. In a wealthy country like ours, everyone should be able to afford the basics: a home, food, and have access to world class health and education. Right now, one in three big corporations pays zero tax. We can’t keep voting for the same two parties and expecting a different result. We should tax big corporations and billionaires to fund things we all need: Dental and mental health into Medicare, cap rent increases and regulate the banks to lower mortgages, see the GP for free, wipe all student debt and bring back free university, make supermarket price gouging illegal, free childcare for every family, and stop the major party’s new coal and gas.

2. Strong Sustainable Local Economy: Financial incentives and advisory services for primary producers and regional processors to form cooperatives. The direct economic benefits of the conversion of rural land to

renewable energy generation are fairly shared with farmers and regional communities. Increased support for new locally developed, owned and operated industries that are socially useful, support a healthy environment and provide fulfilling work. The development and implementation of strategies to attract new residents and retain existing residents, through the provision of appropriate financial incentives, housing, community services, and cultural engagement. Increased support for rural and regional arts, festivals and sporting fixtures.

3. Environment and climate crisis: No more coal, oil and gas, no nuclear. End native forest logging. A massive expansion of publicly owned renewables. Save koalas and our wildlife from extinction. End the billions in handouts to coal, oil and gas corporations. Environmental laws that actually protect the

environment. And tax big corporations to pay for it. Housing crisis: Stop unlimited rent increases. Regulate the banks to deliver lower mortgages. Scrap the tax handouts to wealthy property investors with more than two properties, including negative gearing. Invest in a government build of good quality homes sold and rented at prices first home buyers can actually afford.

4. The Australian Greens are committed to building a peaceful and just world, seeking nonviolent means for resolving conflict when it arises. Where violence and militarism does arise, we are committed to using the resources Australia has to minimise and reduce the incidences of armed conflict and violence. We must also ensure that current and former defence and military personnel are treated fairly, appropriately and with the respect they are due.

5. The climate crisis is negatively impacting all aspects of modern life, contributing to disruption of ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies through sea level rise, extreme weather events, desertification and changing weather patterns, and threatening food security, water, the economy, social cohesion and the well-being of humans and other living things. Australia needs just transition to a net negative greenhouse gas economy through a range of mechanisms including a plan to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy through strong regulatory intervention and a strong effective price on carbon.

6. Australia has humanitarian and legal obligations to accept refugees and reunite families. Australian society benefits from immigration. Australia’s cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity should be celebrated for greatly enriching our society and economy, and this diversity is enhanced by the immigration of people to Australia. Australia must uphold its humanitarian

and legal obligations to people seeking asylum and refugees, grant refugees protection and reunite families as required by international human rights law and the Refugee Convention 1951 and its Protocol.

6. Poverty is a political choice. Over five million Australians are barely scraping by on Centrelink payment rates below the poverty line, and millions more are struggling with the cost of living. Young people are barely scraping by on Youth Allowance, older people are increasingly becoming homeless, and it’s harder than ever to access the Disability Support Pension. The system is deeply broken. But it doesn’t have to be this way. The Greens have a plan to end poverty in Australia and ensure support is there for everyone who needs it, no matter what. This starts with raising the rate of all Centrelink income support payments above the poverty line.

7. Greens pressure works. We’ve secured billions for housing and clean energy and last time there



Alysia Regan. -S

was a minority government, we got dental into Medicare for kids. This is our chance to deliver it for everyone. We’ve been very clear that the Greens will never use our numbers to support Dutton becoming Prime Minister. That is a guarantee. We’re doing everything we can to stop Dutton bringing Trump-style politics to Australia. The Greens are taking on the Liberals in every seat across the country. Last election, we won two Liberal seats, and this time, we’re within reach of winning more.

Mark McFarlane - Independent

1. I believe I am the right candidate for the seat of Indi because I am one of you. I represent no biased climate agenda, no corporation, and no one donor. I am the grassroots underdog in this race, on a shoestring budget, like most of us. I am a tradesman with extensive building experience and know how to get a job done. I have served in the military and helped to protect our country by helping bolster defence force numbers for nine years. I have been very involved in standing up for the rights of an individual, when it comes to government overreach and draconian laws that only do harm, and save no one. I feel it is time for a fresh start in Indi, and I am just the man to do it.

2. I want to see Indi become much more united in it’s stance to protect our farmers, and our rights and freedoms. For too

long now people have felt pushed by bureaucrats to do what they don’t need to do. This damage is far reaching, but I will stand for those hurting silently. I will fight to bring income tax reform to ease the cost of government overreach, overspending and overbearing policies. Freedom to speak, choose, and live is what I am about, and the only way to do that is to have a true independent that serves you.

3. The future sure looks bleak when it comes to a top heavy government that only serves itself, and its own goals. Monetary waste of overseas projects and wars that have nothing to do with us needs to end. It is time for the people of Indi to prosper more from our own resources, and not have them sold off cheap. We are at a precipice of walking into a socialist nightmare, spurred on by evil intent. We

also need a Bill of Rights, to protect and prosper individual constituents, that would serve to protect humanity.

4. Our defence force has been run down to a trickle by a government who would rather defend another sovereign countries, than our own. It is unconscionable that we have been left so vulnerable and weak, through the weak leadership of Albanese. We need battle destroyers added to our navy, more tradesmen and women in the army, as well as a doubling of our air defences, at a minimum. The defence forces have been turned into a civilian contracting, and woke idealistic nightmare. Double defence spending for three years would be a great start.

5. There is nothing renewable about solar panel, wind turbine and nuclear waste. There are

so many other alternatives that don’t do the harm of exploding lithium batteries and large solar array radiation. Leave smaller panel projects on roofs, and stop the rebate rip offs to domestic solar customers. Keep clean coal and gas plants for base load, that only greens the earth, while looking into ocean wave/tidal power generators that are out of sight and silent. I would like to see thorium also explored, along with magnet technologies.

6. Refugee levels are unsustainable under this Green, Labor and Orange/Teal consortium. It is putting this next generation on the streets, and under stress, while facilitating a freeloading refugee tsunami of many who have no loyalty to Australia. The immigration levels must be paused for at least two years while we recalibrate our housing, medical and education systems, before it is too late. Refugees are still welcome

during that two years in situations of impending danger and death if they are returned, but must be fully vetted and background checked.

7. I believe that JobSeeker and disability payments are well funded already. I want to see reductions in the areas of the NDIS, where roting is occurring, while leaving more for those who really need it. Basic old age pensions need to be available to all of the elderly who have paid taxes all their lives, but can’t get the basic pension after retirement due to assets. They have earned their assets over their lifetime, and they deserve the pension, unlike many bureaucrats who retire on huge pensions like \$300,000 per year, while sucking off the little guy.

8. My first major policy would be to halve income tax while reigning in government spending to more acceptable levels. Imagine what that would do for an ailing economy, by



Mark McFarlane. -S

having more people with more to spend on what these hard workers want. We need to put the people of Indi first, and not rorts disguised as climate change projects, for overseas beneficiaries. We need more long stay mental accomodation and help for the vulnerable. We also need removal of draconian medical mandates, so as many trained and experienced Aussies can return to work in their many medical fields.

CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

James Trenery - Liberal

1. I'm running for parliament because I believe it's time for change in Indi, to get Australia back on track. My wife Amanda and I own and operate a small business, run a farm at Talgarno, and like so many people across the North East, pay a mortgage and support our family. Just like you, we're feeling the cost of living pinch. Everything is so much more expensive now than it was three years ago, when Albanese and Labor came to government - that's why I believe it's time for change. Peter Dutton and our Liberal Plan will lower inflation, create cheaper energy, build affordable homes, create safer communities, and deliver quality health care. This is why people should vote for me, because it's time for change in Indi to get Australia back on track.

2. We need to get inflation under control and support our communities through this cost of living crisis, make housing more affordable, and create cheaper and more reliable energy. My main focus is going to be addressing cost of living and delivering support. We've been neglected for three years by Labor and Helen Haines. Only the Liberals will have a plan for immediate cost of living relief and long-term measures to bring down inflation. The Liberals will cut the fuel tax in half, and deliver a Cost of Living Tax Offset of \$1200 when tax returns are lodged for the upcoming financial year.

3. One of the biggest challenges we're going to face over the next 20 years is energy security. Under Labor and Helen Haines' 'renewables only' approach, the cost of energy has gone through the roof. Reliability is down.

The use of fossil fuels, like coal, is up in Victoria. Energy is so important, because it underpins industry and the cost of everything we do. Only the Liberals have a plan to establish an East Coast Reservation to keep more Australian gas for Australians, and drive prices down, and invest in seven zero-emissions nuclear energy generators to replace decommissioning coal plants and to provide reliable energy for generations to come.

4. We need to invest in our defence force and in programs that strengthen Australia's position and partnerships as global challenges evolve. This includes continuing our investment and partnership through AUKUS, that will better defend Australia. This is something Helen Haines does not support.

5. Labor and Helen Haines' 'renewables only' approach to our energy system is resulting in high prices and a grid that is increasingly reliant on weather-dependent and unreliable energy sources. Labor promised to reduce annual electricity bills by \$275 by 2025. Yet for many Australians, electricity bills are increasing by up to \$1300 more than promised. Australia is the only country in the top 20 economies that is not using zero-emissions nuclear power, or taking steps to put it in the mix. Only the Liberals will deliver a balanced energy mix with renewables, gas, storage and zero-emissions nuclear, that will bring down prices.

6. Australia is the greatest multicultural nation in the world, something all Australians should be proud of. However, Labor has created an unsustainable migration program with significant consequences. Net migration to Australia reached almost 1

million people in Labor's first two years, 70 per cent higher than in any previous two-year period. A new person is migrating to Australia every 44 seconds. This is unsustainable and is severely impacting our social and economic infrastructure. We will rebalance our migration program to restore confidence and integrity, and to relieve pressure on housing and community services.

7. The Liberals will increase the amount older Australians and veterans can work without reducing pension payments, better supporting them and enabling more choice. We will also guarantee NDIS funding to support those with permanent and significant disabilities. Providing practical support to help those living with a disability overcome barriers and enable them to find and keep employment.



James Trenery. -S

8. Australians are suffering from the worst cost of living crisis in a generation. Our living standards have collapsed. Australia has also recorded the longest per-capita recession on record. Australia has experienced the biggest fall in household disposable incomes of any developed country in the past two years. Only the Liberals will fight cost of living pressures. By getting inflation down and alleviating household cost pressures, our standard of living can be restored and Australians can get ahead.

Athol Thomas - One Nation

1. As a local mechanic and farmer from the Kiowa Valley, I am tired of Canberra's neglect. Indi's challenges include, housing shortages, farmland threats, economic and cost of living pressures. As your elected representative, I will genuinely listen to your concerns, ensuring true representation. One Nation's bold vision to protect agriculture, boost housing, and ease financial burdens will support farmers, cut red tape, provide immediate cost of living relief and boost Australia's economic future without reliance on hard working Australians to fund it. I'll fight for Indi's unique needs, safeguarding water resources, stopping unwanted renewable projects and increasing housing availability and affordability, while delivering prosperity. Vote for me to put Indi first with One Nation's practical, common-sense solutions.

2. One Nation is committed to slashing wasteful government spending and implementing significant federal budget savings of up to \$90 billion per year. I will advocate for some of these funds to boost the Financial Assistance Grants for rural councils. Working in conjunction with One Nation's state representative, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, we would ensure that these funds are directed where needed most and assist in getting funds allocated for projects in the Murrindindi shire like a regional university study hub and the Lake Eildon tourism activation plan.

3. Without common sense and practical policy Australia will face significant threats to our national sovereignty through the existing agreements with the UN, WHO and WEF in addition to the exacerbation of existing rising energy costs and unreliability, increased building costs and housing shortages, reliance on foreign fuel supplies and

a crippling national debt that all, ultimately, increase cost of living pressures. The solutions for these issues have been addressed in One Nation's policy package that will bring industry back to Indi, reinstate coal and gas baseload power resources and supply, end mass immigration and cease excess government spending.

4. Australia's defence force plays a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's way of life and freedom. It is important to ensure that the defence force receives sufficient funding and support to always maintain a state of preparedness. The government should prioritise future military needs and avoid inefficiencies, such as those seen with cancelled submarine contracts.

5. While renewables have a place within the energy mix it is not the solution for Australia's long term energy needs. Wind and solar are

intermittent and do not provide reliable and constant base load power supply. The shift to renewables has significantly increased electricity costs whilst also creating an increase in electricity shortages and blackouts. Clean coal (HELE) and gas whilst developing into nuclear power are the cheapest and most reliable solutions to our base load power needs with renewables making up peak demands. Grid scale solar should also not be placed on prime farmland, further impacting our food supply.

6. One Nation's immigration policy prioritises Australia's interests. We will cap net immigration at 130,000 yearly, focusing on skilled migrants who embrace Australian values. We will deport 75,000 illegal immigrants (those that have overstayed their visas, illegal workers and unlawful non-residents that undermine national security) who drive down wages and take advantage of public services meant for Australians. We will withdraw Australia from the UN Refugee Convention so

we can decide who we take in and reintroduce Temporary Protection Visas as a proven, effective policy that prevents permanent residency through the back door and deters illegal arrivals.

7. JobSeeker, an essential tool to assist out-of-work Australians, must also be managed responsibly to avoid welfare dependency. Reducing net migration will enable more Australians to get back into the workforce quicker and One Nation will fight to allow both age and disability pensioners to be able to work (up to) full time without losing their pension, encouraging up to 600,000 experienced, qualified workers back into the workforce to help with skills shortages. Self-funded retirees will also be better off under One Nation by being able to earn up to \$35,000 before paying tax.

8. One Nation has sensible policies offering immediate cost of living relief. By halving fuel excise which will cut 26 cents per litre off fuel costs,



Athol Thomas. -S

Indi residents will be saving money at the pump, on travel and at the supermarket. Cutting electricity bills by 20 per cent and allowing couples with dependent children to file joint, income splitting, tax returns will mean significant savings for struggling families. One Nation have also committed to reducing housing costs by removing GST from building materials and supporting the continuation of the native hardwood timber industry in Australia making achieving the Australian dream possible again.

Michael White - Family First

1. I live in Beechworth with my wife Alison and two teenagers Tyson and Becca. We moved to Beechworth eight years ago from Sydney. We love the character of Victorian towns like Beechworth, which we like to add to by ringing the local church bells. Indi is a great area to live in. In some ways Alison and I are an everyday couple, we care about the right schools for our kids, we take them all over to weekend sport and we help out our elderly parents. We have almost finished building our own stone cottage, perhaps not so everyday. We take the practice of our Christian faith seriously. I have worked as a gardener for many years and care about the world being that bit more beautiful. I've had a long interest in politics but was never inspired to run for a party until the better political story of Family First came along.

2. As well as caring about big issues for Australia, I'm also practically minded and understand the value of the everyday services that get delivered at the LGA and community level. The demand for services is incessant, but the money to fund them is not. We have to be efficient. As an MP I would make it my business to examine services throughout Indi to find the cost per hour of service delivered. If the elderly getting their lawns mowed is costing north of \$100 per hour, something needs to get more efficient. I want to see careful planning for growth so that the character of our rural towns is maintained.

3. I'll name three. How we look after our kids. Do we want more babies and children in care, or do we want more parental time with our young? If the latter we need the right housing and family taxation

policies and a renewed respect for motherhood. Getting the energy transition right. We need sensible policy. This means focusing on grid stability and affordability ahead of arbitrary dates for zero emissions. Defence. Australia is an extremely vulnerable part of the world that's a long way from allies. We can't continue to sleepwalk on this.

4. Australia needs to dramatically increase the pace of new defence acquisition. This should be a full range of platforms, both traditional and asymmetric (drones). We need to be efficient with how we spend. There's too many generals, not enough missiles. We have one experience from our history where our defence situation changed overnight (Fall of Singapore); there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. Most of all we need to believe that we have something

here worth defending. Not to love our country is a luxury we can't afford.

5. I see that Australia has great opportunities with solar power. I have an off grid system myself, but we need to get sensible with what we are doing with our grid. New gas power is urgently needed to ensure grid stability. Renewables are useful for reducing the demand on our gas supplies as coal closes but are not the answer on their own. The sensible future both environmentally and economically is a gas/solar grid (with a bit of wind and hydro). We don't need solar farms in sensitive areas, there's plenty of room for solar within urban boundaries.

6. Our high immigration levels may not be having much effect on Indi, but it should be the focus of a Federal candidate to care about the major issues in Australia, not just what affects his or her electorate. Immigration has been too high and is causing strain on

housing supply and transport in our cities. Governments of both sides use immigration as a mask for low per capita economic growth. We should be generous to refugees where we can, but choose carefully. It has been a major multicultural fail that we now have people who hate Jews in Australia.

7. The levels, probably about right. Efficiency of delivery is another thing. For instance, I would consider making the aged care pension universal and paying for it by less tax concession on super. It would work out cost neutral for most, but we could get rid of the need for the complex arrangements people make to get the pension and the need for bureaucracy to check on compliance. Even in times of abundant jobs there are people who need one on one help to get into the work force. We need to help people get the confidence to participate in society rather than assign them to long term welfare dependency.



Michael White. -S

8. Family First is a party that builds its policy from Christian foundations. We believe in the sanctity of human life and the biological truth about gender. We support free speech so that important issues can be discussed without lawfare and cancel culture. Your freedom of conscience is important to us as is your right to educate your children in a faith if you so wish. We are economically centrist, and approach policy with the commonsense objective of what will make Australian families, and hence our nation, thrive.

CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

Helen Haines - Independent

1. As Indi's federal independent MP, I have a track record working with both the Coalition and Labor in government. We set our priorities here in Indi and I develop solutions in consultation with our community and with the experts. It's how we do politics differently in Indi and what sets us apart from the major parties. My decision making is based on common sense, accountability, transparency, and fighting for a fair go for Indi and regional Australia. Whether that's fighting for stranded communities during the pandemic, relief after bushfires, shaping national housing solutions, or securing a National Anti-Corruption Commission, I've had local impact and national influence. I'll keep working for the infrastructure we need to unlock housing and improve health services, for access to childcare and better telecommunications. I'll keep working to hold the government to account, to restore integrity

and stamp out corruption. I'll keep fighting for Indi.

2. The next parliament is on the cusp of a great opportunity to deliver governance that is more transparent and accountable to the people than ever before. My vision for Indi is one where living in regional Australia means you get a fair share of funding - where our healthcare, our education opportunities, our connectivity, our roads and infrastructure supports us to thrive and excel. In Murrindindi I continue to work closely with the shire, local community groups and residents on issues that are important to the region, like housing affordability, telecommunications, home care services and higher education.

3. Cost of living, the energy transition and affordable housing are pressing challenges. In Indi, we play an active role in taking solutions for these issues to Canberra. Global instability underscores the need for cool heads, a clear focus and steady,

principled diplomacy. As people feel the challenges are stacking up, people seek leadership that listens and plans for their future. Investment must be fair, considered, and transparent to ensure responsible spending of public money. Underpinning all of this is governance that serves the national interest, not vested interests, and delivers a fair share for regional Australia.

4. I support strengthening the Australia Defence Force and ensuring all three services are appropriately equipped to defend and protect Australia. As your Independent MP, I receive briefings from military leaders and the Defence Minister about shifting geopolitical situations that present fundamental challenges and opportunities to Australia. We must protect our economic prosperity, our national security and most importantly our sovereignty and democratic institutions. It is important that Australia is not overly reliant on any single international partner and continues to forge and

maintain an array of alliances and partnerships that serve our strategic interests.

5. As our coal-fired power stations close, we must put more renewable energy into the grid to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy. However, I share the feelings of many regional Australians that the renewable energy rollout is happening to us and not with us. I understand the many legitimate concerns Indi communities have about renewable energy, about bushfires and risks to biosecurity, insurance and visual amenity. We must have a system where community engagement and benefit are at the start, middle and end of every conversation about the renewable energy transition. We must also map suitable land for renewables and establish appropriate 'no-go' zones.

6. Australia needs a robust and effective immigration policy, but we also have obligations to ensure humanity and fairness, and we should be mindful and respectful of the extraordinary contribution of refugees and immigrants to

Australia's social, economic and cultural development. I am concerned at the politicisation of immigration, the potential for misinformation, and the impact on social cohesion in our communities. I am also very alive to the importance of international workers to fill critical workforce shortages in industries like healthcare, aged care and construction.

6. Since I was first elected, the shockingly low rate of the JobSeeker payment has been consistently raised as a key concern of my constituents. It pushes people into poverty just when they need support the most, and it's why I have consistently called to raise the rate of JobSeeker. In a country like ours I do not accept that when people lose their jobs or fall on hard times that they should have to choose between putting dinner on the table or switching on the heating. If re-elected I will keep fighting for increases to JobSeeker and other social security payments.

7. I'm working to establish a dedicated \$2 billion Building Rural Hospitals Fund, providing



Helen Haines. -S

competitive and needs-based investment for new buildings, equipment and planning. I want more doctors, nurses and allied health workers to train in rural hospitals and support for placement payments for medical and allied health students. My childcare policy seeks to increase access to childcare in regional communities and ensure sustainable outside school hours care services for small rural schools. My regional development policies will support regional councils that struggle to maintain local roads and help communities build energy and telecommunications resilience against power outages.

Annual duck race to raise money for Marysville Pre School

THE annual Marysville Duck Race was the place to be on Easter Sunday at the Steavenson River located next to the park in Marysville.

First prize was \$500 which went to a tourist visiting the area, second prize was a dinner voucher that a lady from Alexandra won, third prize was a local produce hamper that was won by a lucky tourist, and fourth prize went to a young Marysville child.

The event raised over \$4000 to go towards an upgrade to a sensory garden at Marysville Pre-School.



The vibrant ducks travelling down the river. -MP



Even the dogs were interested in the ducks going down the river. -MP



Everyone loved watching the ducks making their way down the shallow river. -MP



The winning duck on its journey to the finish line. -MP

Great local totals for Good Friday appeal

VICTORIANS have dug deep this year in support of the Good Friday Appeal, raising a grand total of \$23,822,792 in the 2025 appeal.

Local CFA and SES units have certainly put in the hard yards towards this total, but they are certainly not the only ones who should be thanked. There has also been terrific support from the community.

The money raised for The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal will be used to ensure kids are provided with the best possible treatment and care.

The Alexandra and Eildon district raised \$12,834, Kinglake Ranges raised \$7742, Marysville raised \$8462 and Ruffy raised \$4309.

Congratulations to all involved.



Local emergency services collecting for the Good Friday Appeal. -S

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John Mosley chips in on 14. -S



Leo Dynes on the 15th tee. -S

Annual Ladies' Pink Ball Day at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

ONCE again the weather was fine, warm and mainly sunny for all golfers last week at Alexandra Golf Club.

Twelve players teed it up for last Tuesday's stableford round, and once again it was Bill Wind who came out on top, his 37 points just enough to give him the win, with Bruce Colville second, also on 37. Brad Newton was third with 35.

Graeme Emmerson took the nearest the pin on seven, Steve Darmody claimed 17 and 18 went to John Mosley. Darms and Emmo also won a rundown voucher, along with John Greateorex.

Last Wednesday was the Annual Ladies' Pink Ball Day, which involves a system of scoring that no mere male could ever comprehend, so I'll make no attempt to explain.

Suffice to say that the Pink Ball winners were Helen Findlay, Marg Fahey and Bron Howell. The best individual score of the day belonged to Marg, who had 38 points. Donna Meggitt was second and Helen third, both with 34 points.

Nearest the pins went to Marg on five, and to Donna on 12 and 18, and the winner of the nine-hole competition was Barb Doyle with 17.

As is traditional at Easter time, last Saturday's competition was a two-person ambrose. Sponsored by Burnsie's Pizza, and attracting a field of 20, the event teed off at 11am. Fittingly, the winning team was made up of Dan Burns and Jarrod Williamson, who carded a 72 net 63.75.

Second place went to Ashley Chapple and Marc Langewee with a net 64.5, third was the team of Gregory Murphy and David Dowling with 64.75, Mick Holohan and Jared Sloane were fourth with 65, and fifth place went to John and Sue Greateorex with a 67.5.

Nearest the pins went to Marc Langewee on two, Jared Sloane on five, David Dowling on seven, Steve Darmody on 12 and Mick Holohan on 18. The winner of the raffle for the week was Scott Hill.



The Pink Ball winners were Helen, Marg and Bron. -S