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New Alexandra SES Controller



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Murrindindi Shire Council and guests celebrated IDAHOBIT Day with a flag raising and morning tea on Saturday, May 17. IDAHOBIT is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia. The event was an opportunity to show our support for the LGBTQIA+ members of our community. LGBTQIA+ people in Australia still experience disproportionate rates of bullying, harassment and discrimination. As part of our shared community vision, we strive to create an inclusive community, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all. -S

Mayor comments on ESVF and support for farmers

by Mayor Damien Gallagher

MURRINDINDI Shire Council remains deeply concerned about the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) and the impact this new levy will have on rural communities, particularly our farmers who are already under significant financial pressure.

While we acknowledge that recent changes to the levy, including a reduction in the rate for Primary Production Land and rebates for eligible CFA and SES volunteers, reflect the outcome of strong advocacy by Murrindindi and other rural councils, these measures do not go far enough.

This additional tax compounds the burden on farmers who are already contending with rising costs, dry conditions, and limited feed availability. For those not eligible for infrastructure grants or volunteer rebates, there is little relief. The timing of this levy could not be more difficult.

Council has consistently raised concerns about the design and fairness of the levy. While all communities rely on emergency services, the current funding model places a disproportionate burden on rural communities, particularly small to medium primary producers with multiple land titles. The exemption for emergency service volunteers on their primary place of residence offers limited relief and does little to address the broader impact on farming families.

We acknowledge the importance of properly resourced emergency services and the extraordinary efforts of our local volunteers. But this must not come at the expense of the viability of farming and rural life.

Council will continue to advocate for a fairer and more sustainable approach, one that supports both our emergency services and our communities to thrive.

We just need some rain

THE most common phrase, heard right across the shire at the moment, is "We need some rain," but what does the data say?

When reading the following data, bear in mind that the March rainfall totals are largely the result of one significant rainfall event, rather than consistent rainfall across the month.

Eildon fire tower

In January, the Eildon Fire Tower recorded 11mm, February 19.2mm, March 91.6mm and April 13.6mm. Total 135.4mm. Mean 175mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest for that month since 2013, when 0.2mm was recorded. The January mean is 46.2mm.

The February total was higher than last year, when 9mm was recorded. The January mean is 36.6mm.

The March total was the highest for that month since 2012, when 112.6mm was recorded. The March mean is 42.2mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2013 when 8mm was recorded, however the data for 2023 and 2019 are missing from the dataset. The April mean is 50mm.

The mean for May is 54.9mm. By May 14, only 0.8mm had been recorded.

Yea

In January, Yea recorded 43.3mm, February 28.2mm, March 25.5mm and April 22.1mm. Total 119.1mm. Mean 171.1mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2023 when 8.4mm was

recorded. In 2024, January's total was 185mm. The mean for January is 42.2mm.

The February total was the highest since 202 when 54.9mm was recorded. The February mean is 37.5mm.

The March total was higher than last year's 11.6mm but down from 2023 when 79.5mm was recorded. The March mean is 49.8.

The April total was the lowest since 2021 when 18.7mm was recorded. The April mean is 49.8mm.

The mean for May is 56.4mm. By May 14 this year, 3.6mm had been recorded.

Marysville Post Office

In January, Marysville recorded 23.6mm, February 34.6mm, March 114.8mm and April 26.5mm. Total 209.5mm. Mean 286.2mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2013 when 15.8mm was recorded. The January mean is 64.9mm.

The February total was the highest since 2023 when 43.4mm was recorded. The February mean is 55.9.

The March total was the highest since 1989 when 131.2 was recorded. The March mean is 96.8mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2007 when 24.1mm was recorded. The April mean is 96.8mm.

The mean for May is 133.5mm. No May data was available from the Marysville post office, but the golf course recorded 5.8mm for the month by May 14.

Alexandra Post Office

In January, Alexandra recorded 12.3mm, February 14.5mm, March 94.9mm and April 11.9mm. Total 133.6mm. Mean 182.9mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2013 when zero rainfall was recorded for the month (2022 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The January mean is 43.1mm.

The February total was the lowest since 2018 when 4.3mm was recorded (2022 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The February mean is 38.5mm.

The March total was the highest since 2012 when 128.4mm was recorded (2021 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The March mean is 48.5mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2019 when 7.2mm was recorded (2021 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The April mean is 52.8mm.

The May mean is 63.4mm. By May 14 this year, 0.3mm had been recorded.

Lake Eildon storage

Lake Eildon's storage level has dropped from 63.2 per cent full on April 14 to 59.6 per cent on May 14.

Around the Goulburn Murray Water region, the storages on May 13 were 54.01 per cent full. Storage levels are particularly low in the Bullarook Creek areas, near Clunes and Newlyn, sitting at under 20 per cent.

Consider taking shorter showers and avoid using the sprinkler on the garden. We don't know when the rain will arrive.

ESVF questions

THE Victorian Government was asked a series of questions regarding the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy. Unfortunately, answers were not provided before our newspaper went to print but will be included in an upcoming edition. The questions are listed below.

What is an active CFA or SES member? How is it defined?

What is a CFA or SES life member? How is it defined? My understanding is that this varies from brigade to brigade.

Who determines the eligibility for the rebate?

Where is the administrative burden for processing the rebate placed? On the individual, brigade, CFA/SES district office or head office?

Given that only seven cents in the dollar raised through the ESVF is going to the volunteer services, why is the word 'volunteer' included in the name of the levy?

Given that various organisations to be funded through the new levy were previously funded via consolidated revenue (including Triple Zero Victoria,

the State Control Centre, Emergency Management Victoria, Emergency Recovery Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria and Fire Rescue Victoria), and given that Victoria has received a windfall increase in its share of GST revenue this year (up \$3.7 billion), will tax-payers be paying a reduced amount of tax (as this is now being paid for through the levy)? Or is this a double-dip on tax payers?

How will the ESVF solve the issue of the 700 plus single cab tankers in the CFA, where volunteers are exposed to the conditions (including mid-winter snow, rain, and extreme heat) and have limited safety should there be a rollover or a burn over? How many of these will be replaced in the next year? (Noting that a new heavy tanker costs around \$460,000).

Will any low quality CFA stations be replaced through the levy?

Given that there is a rebate reduction for people in drought declared areas, will people who also volunteer with the CFA or SES be able to apply for the rebate twice? How will this be handled?

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Alexandra Newspapers

NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Volunteers dinner

ON behalf of U3A Murrindindi, I would like to express my thanks to Murrindindi Shire Council. I attended the presentation dinner for volunteers in Yea on Friday evening, May 16, and was struck by the manner in which the mayor and councillors were present at the event.

They were at the door to welcome each guest by name. They were the ones who picked up the plates and took them to the kitchen. They were the ones who walked around with desserts, and the ones who visited each table to ensure that people were enjoying the evening.

The mayor and councillors witnessed their role of service to the community. They were there to serve rather than be served. It is heartening to see leadership that is aware and so engaged with the community in which they work.

My congratulations to the many people nominated in each volunteer category and to those who received an award. The generosity of volunteers is admirable.

Deirdre Penhale, Alexandra

Wind farms

THERE has not been any news on the FERA wind farm proposal for many months, but today the state government, through VicGrid, have released the draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, and the Strathbogie Ranges are not included in the draft Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

This is good news and we thank everyone who made a submission to the VicGrid consultation.

While the absence of an REZ does not prevent a developer from making a proposal in this area, it does add conditions that make it much harder to proceed.

Our team will work to find out more on the limitations that FERA may face with their proposal and keep you updated on any new developments.

You can access all of the documents related to the Victorian Transmission Plan directly

from the VicGrid web site, engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

Darryl Otzen, secretary,
Strathbogies Responsible Renewables
Community Group

Jumping the Gun

AS evidenced by many letters to this paper it has been a rude shock for many rural residents to now being forced to into kerbside waste collection at significant additional cost. Council state the change is forced on them due to new state government policy. They also claim a community consultation process has justified it. The first reason is actually wrong. Council appears to have acted on ambiguous wording in draft service standards and regulations associated with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. These have not yet been finally issued. Hence there is no current legal requirement to make this change. Based on my recent correspondence with the responsible state government department it is highly likely the final issue will not force councils to impose mandatory collection services.

Clearly the community consultation process on the issue of compulsory waste collection with rural residents has been inadequate. Virtually everyone without kerbside collection found the delivery of the new bins a surprise. If a consultation process was run how many rural residents out of the total affected were actually involved? And why should views of those unaffected by this change have any weight in this process?

I suggest council suspend the changes to compulsory kerbside collection until the actual requirements are known. If there is no requirement for mandatory collection I see no reason to do this as a blanket change. Compulsory kerbside collection for rural residents should only be made with proper justification and overwhelming demand on a route by route basis. This process should be the same as say that of upgrading a common access road at cost to affected residents.

Murray Ross, Acheron



THUMBS DOWN: To Molesworth Recreation Reserve Committee of Management for not advertising their upcoming elections within the correct time frame to allow fair process to all local communities as well as users of the park.

THUMBS UP: To the Eildon Bowling Club for hosting the first Pot Luck dinner in Eildon. This was a fun night enjoyed by all. Well done Eildon Events for the idea to bring the community together when we tend to hibernate in the colder months. The Eildon Bowling Club was warm, friendly and inviting.

THUMBS UP: To the gents at Yenckens. They are always so helpful, giving advice on tools and how to finish my projects.

THUMBS UP: Congratulations Koa. What a fantastic effort collecting a silver and bronze medal at the Victorian State Swimming Championships in Melbourne recently. So proud of you.

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra District Health palliative care unit and all of those who staff it with such skill and compassion.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
Fri Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

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

Alexandra Newspapers

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.

Weekly Weather

May 21 - May 27, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	16	Wednesday	3	17
Thursday	5	17	Thursday	4	17
Friday	9	19	Friday	9	19
Saturday	9	16	Saturday	8	16
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	8	16
Monday	7	14	Monday	7	14
Tuesday	6	13	Tuesday	7	13

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.25	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.21am Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.44am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.21am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.20am Mon	0.17	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.32	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.78	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.09	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	7.09am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	0.1mm
Buxton.....	1mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0.4mm
Flowerdale.....	0.6mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake.....	14mm
Lake Eildon.....	3mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty.....	0.2mm
Yarck.....	0.2mm
Yea.....	0.4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	277m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	59.3%
Metres below full supply.....	11.9m
Daily inflow.....	200ML
Release.....	1100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	55%

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

One year milestone for digital driver licences

MORE than 1.8 million Victorians have downloaded their digital driver licence since it was launched by the Victorian Government one year ago.

Since the launch, 1.5 million full licence holders and 323,000 learner and probationary licence holders have downloaded the technology.

More than one third of eligible licence holders have accessed their driver, motorcycle, and heavy vehicle licences safely and securely via the myVicRoads and Service Victoria apps.

An average of almost 35,000 digital driver licences per week have been activated by Victorians since they were introduced one year ago.

Feedback from Victorians has been overwhelmingly positive, with ease of use and convenience being the most common reasons for people embracing the technology.

Physical licences are still being issued for all Victorian drivers and can continue to be used for identification purposes, with the digital driver licence being optional.

Drivers can add their digital licence to the Service Victoria app or myVicRoads app on their smartphone.

The digital driver licence has a highly secure, timed QR code that can be scanned by businesses and other authorities to verify authenticity and prevent fraudulent use. Digital licences also detail when a licence has been cancelled or suspended.

The licences can also be updated in real-time if there are changes to licence conditions or personal information like home addresses.

Visit the VicRoads or Service Victoria websites to find out more about the digital driver licence.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne praised the program.

“We are thrilled that more than 1.8 million Victorians have downloaded the digital driver licence in its first year, an average of almost 35,000 people each week,” Ms Horne said.

“Whether it’s collecting a parcel, going to a gig or driving a vehicle, the digital driver licence provides Victorians with a convenient alternative to the physical card.”

Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins added that there are a range of digital services available.

“We want to ensure Victorians can safely transition into the digital age, with more than 130 government services already available on the Service Victoria app and website,” Ms Hutchins said.

“Along with the new Parent’s Portal, Cost of Living relief and vehicle rego, Digital Driver licenses just make sense and ensure Victorians can quickly access the services they need, when they need them.”

Lake Eildon Airways

IN last week’s article about Allan Weeks, it should be noted that Geoff Sharrock was the chief pilot for Lake Eildon Airways Pty Ltd, but was not shown in the photo. The aircraft was kept at his property in Taggerty.

Yea and Taggerty receive Energy Resilience Community funds

TWENTY-EIGHT councils and community groups across Victoria will receive close to \$1 million from the second round of *AusNet’s Energy Resilience Community Fund*.

Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the Energy Resilience Community Fund, which provides Energy Resilience and Education and Literacy Grants, supports projects that will help build long-term community energy resilience and provide support to communities during severe weather events.

“We know how important energy is to our communities’ and customers’ lives. When severe weather or other emergencies happen, this becomes even more important,” said Mr Linnie.

“We are actively investing in our network to improve reliability and resilience. Through these grants, we’re pleased to contribute further to help build community energy resilience and assist people to stay connected and safe during prolonged outages and emergencies,” he said.

AusNet established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support projects across AusNet’s electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne’s north and east.

The round two recipients include the Taggerty Community Progress Group who received \$49,800 for a Solar Hybrid Microgrid at the Community Hub which will act as an emergency hub for community members. The microgrid will give community members access to refrigerators for medication and food storage, electricity for individual medical appliances and mobile device charging. Yea Community House also received \$49,300 to purchase a self-contained commercial food trailer, to enable preparation, cooking and the transport of meals during emergency events.

Grants for the next round open on Monday, May 26. For further information go to ausnet.com.au/erfcf



Peter Weeks congratulating Trevor Evans (centre) with VICSES Goulburn Broken Unit Support Team Operations Manager Chris Brockwell. -S

Trevor Evans appointed new controller of Alexandra SES

THE Alexandra State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has officially welcomed Trevor Evans as its new Unit Controller, taking over from long-standing leader Peter Weeks.

Trevor brings with him over 12 years of SES experience and more than two decades of service with the CFA, where he served as both a strike team leader and crew leader.

His SES operational experience includes responding to numerous road crash rescues, requests for storm assistance and both the 2019 and 2022 flooding events.

Originally from Balmoral SES in the Western District, Trevor joined Alexandra SES in 2016 and became Deputy Controller in November 2024.

He now steps into the top role following Peter Weeks, who held the position for an impressive 11 years.

Peter, one of Victoria’s SES most dedicated volunteers, has been a member of the Alexandra Unit since its early days as the Civil Defence Service more than 50 years ago.

He was recently awarded the prestigious Emergency Services Medal in recognition of his service.

“I’m incredibly humbled to be handing over the reins to Trevor,” Peter said.

“He’s got the experience, the humour, and the heart to lead the team, I know the unit will continue to thrive in his hands.”

Trevor, who is a chef by trade and also works in maintenance, is also a proud father of three. His son recently joined as a CFA volunteer and his daughter is in the Army Cadets.

“A lot of what we do comes down to teamwork and community,” Trevor said.

“There’s serious work involved, but there’s always room for a laugh, and that’s what keeps us going.”

The Alexandra SES Unit is looking forward to this new chapter under Trevor’s leadership, while celebrating the incredible legacy of Peter’s service.

Peter now holds one of the deputy controller positions, alongside Judith Blakeney and Shannon Mitrow.

A remarkable fossil found

THE Yea area is famed for its baragwanathia fossils, fossils of the earliest vascular land plant found in the world, dated to around 415 million years ago. The site is recognised as being of international significance.

Mansfield Shire is now getting in on the action, with local fossil hunters finding evidence of amniotes, dating to 354 million to 358 million years ago. The fossil footprints show that the lizard-like amniotes evolved at least 40 million years earlier than first thought, in the early carboniferous period. At the time, swamps were full of amphibious

animals including sharks, and bony fish started appearing.

Amniotes are the ancestors of birds, reptiles and mammals. It raises the possibility that amniotes emerged in Gondwana rather than in the northern hemisphere. The land mass of Gondwana included South America, Africa, Antarctica, Australia, Zealandia, Arabia, and the Indian subcontinent.

For a time, amniotes were the dominant land vertebrates, quickly diverging into two groups, sauropsids (including all reptiles and birds) and synapsids (monotremes,

marsupials and placental mammals including humans).

The fossil footprints were found on the banks of the Broken River (known as Berrepet, in the local Taungurung language) by Craig Eury and John Eason, both of Jamieson. They emailed a photo of it to Flinders University palaeontologist Professor John Long, who conducted significant research and recently published an article in the journal, *Nature*.

The hunt is now on to find the bones of an amniote.

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Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

Alexandra Museum
and Steam Train Rides
OPEN this
Sunday May 25
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street,
Alexandra
All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
/alexandramuseum
or by contacting 0427 509 988

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Church Services

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

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

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

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

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

Out&About

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Yarck Rural Fire Brigade AGM will be held at 6.30pm at the Yarck Hall. All welcome.

MONDAY, MAY 26

Yea Water Tigers AGM will be held at 6pm at the Yea Community House. General meeting will follow at 6.30pm. enquiries to secretary at yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com or

phone 0459 248 488, new members welcome.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Molesworth Caravan Park will hold a public meeting at the community hall at 7pm for the purpose of nominating a Committee of Management for the next three years. For further information, nomination forms and declaration forms can be obtained from Helen Willard on 0435 320 317 or via email secretary@molesworthreserve.com.au

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Friends of the Library Alexandra and District Inc AGM will be held at 6pm at the Alexandra

Library. Nomination forms for committee positions are available from the library or from the secretary proctor@virtual.net.au. For more information contact 0423 043 564.

Kellock's sensory garden

IN last week's edition, there was an article on the new sensory garden at Kellock Lodge. Alexandra Rotary was also involved on the day with the planting of the garden. Their help was invaluable.

Emergency Services Volunteer Fund levy to go ahead

THE Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) legislation was passed in Victorian Parliament last Friday in a late sitting of parliament after gaining the crossbench support of the Greens, the Legalise Cannabis Party and the Animal Justice Party.

The legislation was heavily opposed, with emergency services and volunteers gathering in protest on the steps outside parliament.

The legislation will come into effect from July 1, in the form of a rates increase for all Victorians. It replaces the outgoing Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL).

Under the new legislation, the variable rate for residential primary place of residence is 17.3 cents per \$1000 of capital improved value (CIV). This is up from 8.7 cents per \$1000 CIV under the FSPL.

Primary producers will have to pay 71.8 cents per \$1000 CIV, up from 28.7 cents per \$1000 CIV under the previous levy.

With questions around where the money will be going, and how much of the funds will actually make their way back to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), the state government has made guarantees.

A Victorian Government press release reads "After consultation with councils, emergency services and the Victorian Farmers Federation the Labor Government will also: Reduce the variable rate for Primary Production Land from 83c/\$1,000 Capital Improved Value (CIV) to 71.8c/\$1,000 CIV, reducing the liability payable by farmers; guarantee in legislation that 95 per cent of VICSES and CFA funding will come from ESVF and 90 per cent of Fire Rescue Victoria's (FRV) annual funding will come from the levy.

"Legislate to make it clear that every single dollar collected from the levy must be spent on emergency services; boost transparency by reporting annually how much money has been collected by the ESVF and how that money will be spent; commit to working on an implementation package for local councils, including funding for the Municipal Association of Victoria; provide partial rebates of the ESVF for farmers eligible for the infrastructure grants program in the government's drought support package."

The press release also provides details around volunteer rebates.

"Because our emergency services volunteers give our state so much, eligible CFA and VICSES volunteers and life members will be able to access a rebate, administered by the Department of Government Services," the press release reads.

"Eligible volunteers include all active VICSES and CFA Operational and Support

Volunteers. To be eligible for the rebate, volunteers will need to have served for at least 12 months, have passed probation, and not be suspended on disciplinary grounds or have taken a leave of absence for the duration of the preceding 12 months."

With the help of this new levy, the Victorian Government has pledged to invest money into a rolling fleet replacement program.

"Through the ESVF, the Labor Government will invest \$110 million to deliver a rolling fleet replacement program for VICSES and the CFA, and now Fire Rescue Victoria," the press release reads.

Included in the first round of new Next Generation Medium Rescue Trucks for VICSES are the townships of Alexandra and Kinglake.

Opposition to this new levy has been well documented. "Instead of hitting our farmers with higher bills through the Emergency Services Tax, the Allan Labor Government must provide them with support," Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) State Councillor Paul Denham voiced the concerns of emergency services.

"The new levy will collect an extra \$610.9 million in 2025-26 financial year, jumping to an extra \$765 million from 2026-27," Paul said.

"Of that, only \$50 million in new spending has been included in the budget. That equals eight per cent of the extra money in year one, and just 6.5 per cent in year two. In other words, in the first year of the new tax, only eight cents from every extra dollar raised is going to volunteer emergency services, dropping to just seven cents in the future.

"There has been no other uplift to CFA budget, which has gone down every year for the past five years. In other words, taxes are going up, but CFA's budget has been going down. Ninety-five per cent of CFA's 2024-25 budget is \$320 million, 95 per cent of SES's budget is \$71 million.

"Therefore, after factoring in the extra \$50 million, CFA and SES expenditure will represent just 27 per cent of the total revenue collected by the new levy in year one, and just 25 per cent of the total from year two onwards. In other words volunteer agencies will represent only one quarter of the levy being collected, so don't say it's for volunteers."

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher has expressed his concerns about the new tax, which can be found on page ... and the VFF have also voiced their objections, found on page ...

Local business owner expresses support for CFA and farmers

Roslyn Bowd from Alexandra Motorcycles and Machinery in Alexandra, a long term business owner in the district, was keen to have her say on the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy (ESVF), and the response of the CFA and farmers.

She said, "I'm putting my support behind the CFA and our farmers because I think this is a very wrong move by the government, and I can't see that it will be helping any of our community into the future. It's taking more money away from the services that we rely on, and also making the people who are there when we need them, in road accidents and fire situations, as if they have no worth.

She added, "I support them to the hilt. It's ridiculous. Why would people think that the farmers and CFA would support this. The CFA supports farmers and vice versa. The decision is immoral.

"I've been saying since November last year that we were going to go into a dry and very fire prone season. I've sold a pallet load of firefighting pumps in a week. In January, I had to get in another shipment so that I had some on the floor. People realised what the season was bringing for us and I believe we're going to go into a dry winter."

There are 20 firefighting pumps per pallet. She had to order more. Usually, she'll only sell one pallet in a season.

"We know what's happening out there, but I don't think the government get out those doors very often," she said. "And when I saw them on the steps of Parliament, I thought good on you, you know, this all helps. They'll realise that they're doing the wrong thing. But they're going to do it anyway. It's not fairly based.

"If a fire starts, I know I've got to get out there and fight it myself because I'm not going to begrudge the CFA trying to get some sense out of the government. If they go on strike, then I will protect myself as good as I can. But I imagine that they'd be here before I even got the hoses out, because they're just like that. It's in them to help their community," she said. "But I can certainly understand the stance."

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Batteries set to change home energy and bring wholesale benefits

HOME batteries are set to change the energy landscape with household subsidies to solar and storage systems to deliver benefits to household power bills and take strain off the energy grid, Member for Indi Helen Haines said.

Dr Haines, re-elected Independent Federal Member for Indi, said her home batteries policy, which was adopted by the Labor Government during the election, will

transform how households benefit from their rooftop solar and substantially reduce their annual energy bills.

“The scheme starts on July 1 but batteries can be purchased and installed now and be eligible for the subsidy in the new financial year,” Dr Haines said.

“I spent two years prosecuting this policy to the government, knowing the potential for households to substantially reduce their energy bills if we could increase their access to home batteries.

“I was thrilled when Labor committed to my policy so that home battery subsidies will be available to people across Indi and the nation to benefit from energy generated by their home solar to store and use during peak periods.

“Home batteries will deliver immediate bill relief for households and community groups, and over time we will see this benefit extend to all consumers by reducing overall pressure on the grid.

“Batteries allow households with solar to store energy generated by the sun, then use it at times when the sun isn’t shining, like at night time. It can also help even out the amount of energy in the grid when household

solar is producing more energy than the grid needs.”

Government modelling shows households could save \$1100 every year on their power bill by adding a home battery to their solar energy system.

The Smart Energy Council has predicted \$1.3 billion would be saved on wholesale power prices each year if one million batteries were installed in Australia, delivering benefit to all consumers.

Dr Haines said in addition to her home battery policy, she would extend her focus to micro-grids and community energy to help towns that experience repeat power outages in extreme weather and at edge-of-grid.

“Regional, edge-of-grid towns deserve reliable and secure power supply and there are communities in Indi and across Australia that suffer from repeat outages.

“These communities have been firmly on my mind in developing policy for microgrids to help shore up their energy security.

“Microgrids are a tangible, practical way to respond to regional community needs to keep the lights on and I will be pursuing this solution in this next term of Parliament,” Dr Haines said.

CFA protest at Spring Street

BY the time this newspaper goes to print, local CFA brigades will have taken part in the rally against the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) at Parliament House. There will be extensive coverage of this in the next edition.

In the lead-up, members from three brigades indicated their plan to attend, including Terip Terip, Yarck and Acheron, however there are also likely to be attendees from other brigades.

A Facebook post from Yarck CFA states, “now is the final chance to have this levy reversed, and it is going to take every single one of us volunteer or not. Numbers are the Key. Even if you’re optimistic, back your mate like we do on the fire ground support each other and make the trip. We give up so much time during the fire season, let’s find one more day on Tuesday and make a stand together, side by side shoulder to shoulder and get this disgracefully fire service levy reversed not only for ourselves but for all Victorians. It’s a multi agency protest so let’s fill the streets with red and yellow alongside the people that give so much to this state but get so little in return. It’s one day everyone, it’s a big ask considering the challenges we all currently face but enough is enough and we have to do something big.”

Acheron CFA announced, “Acheron CFA members have decided to attend the protest rally on Tuesday against the Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy in support of farmers and our fellow CFA members. As such, Acheron Fire Brigade will be taken offline. I want to assure the community that arrangements have been put in place to ensure sufficient coverage of our patch. Extra resources will be responded if required. With that said, the majority of CFA members across Victoria are farmers and without them, CFA will be a toothless tiger, if CFA survives. This is dire for the farmers and dire for the future of CFA. My brigade decided that we need, must, and want to stand shoulder to shoulder and say we are here for you, to our farmers and fellow CFA members, just like they were all here for us when we needed them on Black Saturday.”

Buxton CFA posed a series of questions to government and stated, “Should any members of our brigade choose to participate in protest actions, in support of farmers or others, the brigade will endeavour to maintain our response capability, bearing in mind that, as a volunteer brigade, any response to emergencies is subject to the availability of our members who also have lives to live.”

Row row row your boat safely down the stream

WITH some reports of recreational kayak and canoe users being spotted travelling down the Goulburn River without the required safety equipment, it is a timely reminder to be aware of the rules and regulations before you hop aboard.

Life Jackets are to be used when paddling on the water. Children under 12 are required to wear a life jacket at all times when they are on a vessel that’s moving. For children, the use of lifejackets with crotch straps are crucial as they prevent the lifejacket from slipping off and stay securely in place. This is especially important travelling along the Goulburn river as people can get tangled in reeds. With the conditions of our local rivers they can be unpredictable when it’s travelling with high levels and flowing fast, you need to have a life jacket that can be quickly released if you run into trouble on your travels.

According to Victoria Police life jacket laws are enforced by marine authorities. Penalties apply if occupants are not wearing life jackets when required. Penalties can also apply to the owner and masters of vessels.

Adhere to life jacket laws by ensuring you are wearing the correct life jacket type at all times, your life jacket meets the required standards, and you have enough life jackets for everyone on board, and they are correctly maintained.

If you are new to kayaking you need to be aware how conditions change quickly, apart from wearing life jackets

other safety measures you can take is to make sure your kayak or canoe is fit for purpose, be aware of the vessels limitations and your own.

Make sure your kayak has hand toggles, bulkheads, a pump, compass/map, spare paddle, deck lines and a firm-fitting spray skirt. You also need a way to remove any water entering vessel, such as a small bucket.

Making up an offshore paddling kit for your travels is a great idea to ensure your safety and any passengers. These kits include a way to call for help, this can be a mobile phone in a water proof bag or a VHF marine radio, or personal locator beacon. A first aid kit, some water and food, warm and dry clothing in a waterproof bag and items to repair your vessel if need be. A tow rope is also a gret idea for your off shore kit, usually around the length of 15 metres is recommended, however you need to practice these methods of trying to resue and being rescued before entering your vessel and starting your adventure.

When you start learning to kayak and canoe its best to understand capsiz prevention skills, this includes support and bracing strokes, it is advised if you fall out stay with the kayak. Some methods to help your self if you fall out is the paddle float rescue, roll or re enter and roll, and the eskimo roll. You can research these methods online or ask people with kayak knowledge that may be able to teach you these methods.

Rural Aid launches urgent appeal to support farmer mental health

THIS tax time, Rural Aid is calling on every Australian to take action, because no farmer should stand alone.

Right now, in the heart of rural Australia, farmers are silently battling mental health struggles. Behind every fence line and machinery shed are men and women carrying the crushing weight of droughts, floods, skyrocketing costs, and isolation. The reality is stark, Australian farmers are dying by suicide at rates 59 per cent higher than the national average. These aren’t just statistics, they are lives lost, families shattered, and communities forever changed. Nearly half of all farmers have experienced thoughts of self-harm or suicide. Yet many suffer in silence, unable or unwilling to ask for help.

Rural Aid is asking Australians to stand up and take action for our farmers. Your support can help to fund critical ongoing mental health services, offer crisis counselling, and ensure farmers have someone to turn to when it matters most. This isn’t just about farming, it’s about securing a future where farmers and their families feel supported through challenging times.

“Access to mental healthcare in rural areas is often limited or non-existent,” said Rural Aid CEO Mr John Warlters.

“Many farmers simply don’t have the support they need to cope with the challenges they face daily. We need to address this critical gap.”

While 75 per cent of farmers say they would reach out to a counsellor, 38 per cent report difficulty accessing services. Rural Aid’s mental health team is working to close that gap, but we need the public’s support to help more farmers.

“We’re asking Australians to stand up to help ensure No Farmer Stands Alone. A donation this tax time will help to deliver free, professional mental health support to rural Australians who need it most,” said Warlters.

“It’s a chance to show our farmers that they’re not alone.”

Rural Aid’s free mental health programs make a critical difference for farmers and their families. Rural Aid delivers one-on-one professional counselling via on-farm visits and regular check-in calls, community mental health workshops that open up conversations and reduce stigma around talking about personal wellbeing, and school programs that build resilience in rural children and teens.

To support mental health in rural Australia and make sure No Farmer Stands Alone, please donate at taxtime.ruralaid.org.au

P-plate petition extended

A PETITION calling on the Victorian Government to reduce the minimum probationary drivers’ licence age from 18 to 17, in line with every other Australian state, has been extended to October 1.

The Nationals’ Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad said the extension was timely, given it is National Road Safety Week this week.

“I have heard from many frustrated families who are keen to see the law changed, especially in regional areas where there is limited or no public transport available, and not everyone has someone to act as a taxi service,” Ms Broad said.

“I have heard from young people who had to pass up valuable apprenticeships simply because they did not have their licence. Some are using NSW addresses so they can get their licence at 17.”

Ms Broad raised the issue in Parliament last year, and again this year, but the change has not been supported by Labor.

“The Minister believes it is not in the community’s best interests and has cited safety concerns.

“There is no doubt we want safe drivers. In NSW there are special driver training programs and incentives focused on safety, which could easily be replicated in Victoria,” Ms Broad said.

Victoria is the only state in Australia that requires probationary drivers to be 18.

A petition which combines online and hard copy signatures must have 10,000 signatures to qualify for debate in Parliament. You can sign the petition at parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/reduce-probationary-driving-age/

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Liam

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Lucy and Tilli

Lucy worked well to find information,
when researching Lake Eildon

Tilli worked independently and came up
with some great answers.

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Nominations now open for the 2025 Senior of the Year Awards

THE Victorian Government is encouraging all Victorians to recognise the valuable contributions of older members of our community by nominating them for the *2025 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards*.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt announced that nominations are now open for this year's awards, which celebrate older Victorians who generously share their time, skills, and experience to benefit their communities.

For more than three decades, the awards have highlighted the important role older Victorians play in strengthening Victoria, from supporting local communities to leading organisations that drive statewide change.

There are six categories of awards in 2025, including:

The *Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year* for outstanding and lasting contribution to their community and Victoria.

The *Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Award* for significant contribution to local communities.

The *Emerging Impact Award* recognising new volunteers that are already making an impact in their community.

The *Positive Ageing Award* for promoting wellbeing and active ageing.

The *Promotion of Multiculturalism Award* for advancing cultural diversity.

The *Veteran Community Award* for service to the veteran community.

The awards will be presented in October, at a ceremony as part of the annual Victorian Seniors Festival. All eligible nominees will receive a certificate of recognition for their contributions.

Nominations are open online until Sunday, June 1 and nominees must be aged 60 years or older, or 50 years or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.

To nominate a deserving older Victorian, visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

Break Bail, Face Jail plan

THE Liberals and Nationals have said that they will restore accountability to Victoria's bail system with a new policy that reinstates consequences for repeat and youth offenders, and puts community safety first.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that Labor's broken bail laws are fuelling a crime crisis across the state. Offenders who breach bail or reoffend while on bail are walking free, and youth offenders remain exempt from any penalty for ignoring their bail conditions.

Ms McLeish said, "Under Labor, you can break bail and walk free. That's not justice, that's a joke. Crime in Victoria has risen in the past 10 years under Labor's watch, with overall offences up 32 per cent. Youth offenders has increased by 39 per cent, and up a staggering 16 per cent in just the past year alone. Locals deserve the right to be and feel safe in their own homes and on the streets. Labor's bail laws have failed. It's time to fix them."

The Liberals and Nationals' *Break Bail, Face Jail* plan will reinstate the offence of committing an indictable offence while on bail as a Schedule Two offence triggering a bail uplift, reinstate the offence of breaching bail conditions as a Schedule Two offence requiring offenders to show compelling reasons to be granted bail again, remove the current exemption for youth offenders who breach bail ending the free pass for under-18s, List robbery and burglary as Schedule Two offences meaning tougher bail tests apply.

She said that the policy is a legislative change and does not require new funding.

Don't burn toxic treated wood in your fireplace

THE weather is cooling rapidly and the draw towards woodfire heating grows stronger, yet it's important to remember to be careful of what you burn.

All wood will burn, but some treated wood can prove toxic to humans when burnt, as chemical fumes are released when it heats up.

This scenario is especially dangerous with open fires, chimineas or when treated timber is used as barbecue fuel, as smoke inhalation is more likely to occur.

The preservative copper chrome arsenate (CCA) contains copper, chromium and arsenic, and was commonly used to treat timber for preservation from 1933 onwards.

Copper and arsenic in the preservative protect the timber from insects and fungi, while the chromium reduces the risk of the chemicals leeching out.

According to the BetterHealth website, "The ash from burnt CCA-treated timber can contain up to 10 per cent (by weight) arsenic, chromium and copper.



Treated wood. -TS Eriksson

"Swallowing only a few grams of this ash can be harmful. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and a 'pins and needles' feeling in the skin."

Identifying treated timber, whether it is treated with preservatives or has merely been contaminated by other substances or chemicals such as paint, can be difficult.

A common source of treated timber is wood that has been used for some form of industrial project, such as timber used in the building of a house, fence materials, sleepers, etcetera.

Softwoods like pine that have been out in the weather for more than a year and haven't rotted will have been treated with life-extending preservatives.

It's not just wood that has been treated with preservatives that you have to be cautious of. Timber can be untreated but still be contaminated by outside sources.

Railway sleepers are more than likely contaminated by oil and grease dripping onto them from the trains that run along them, and wood that is laying around in yards may have accidentally been coated with insecticides.

According to the Firewood Association of Australia (FAA) "as a general rule you should be suspicious of any old or waste timber that you cannot confirm as being untreated.

"While the lure of free firewood from old building material, or cheap firewood from old rail sleepers might be appealing, it is not worth risking you own health or that of your family and neighbours, just to save a few dollars.

"If you are not certain whether a piece of wood has been treated or contaminated do not burn it. Never ever burn old rail sleepers as firewood," the FAA says.

It is best to stick to firewood that you know is safe to burn, as cheap alternatives with unknown previous use can prove to be a health risk.

Red Cross offering a new service in the shire

NATHAN Brown, Red Cross Manager Community and Business Operations (Victoria and Tasmania) spoke about their operations in Murrindindi Shire.

Unfortunately, the Red Cross vehicle was taken from Murrindindi Shire due to financial considerations. Nathan said, "That was a really hard decision for us because that was, from the Red Cross perspective, our only real service within the wider community, but

the thinking was that it could be serviced by other areas, on trips through to Melbourne or vice versa."

He added that there's a focus on regaining funding for the service. "We'd love to get that program back up and running," Nathan said, and they are actively advocating in that area.

He added, "While transport is gone, we do have the opportunity now of the Visiting Volunteer program in the aged care space as

well. What we've been able to do is to transfer those volunteers who were patient transport drivers into becoming visiting volunteers, providing that social and emotional support to people, particularly for those sitting in My Aged Care package program, the Commonwealth Home Support Package."

They currently have six volunteers ready to go within Alexandra and are looking to place them with clients.

They're looking for people who just need a bit of social contact, who want to sit down and have a cup of tea with somebody and have a chat.

All of the costs for the volunteers are covered, including petrol and public liability. They try to match volunteers with people who live nearby. They're looking to expand the program across the shire, and would be more than willing to take on volunteers in Yea or beyond and to match them with people locally.

Nathan said, "You really do strike up some beautiful relationships and friendships."

They are looking for a broad array of volunteers, both male and female, as they have a diverse client base. They are particularly keen to find people who can commit to three to 12 months or more.

If people would like to receive visits and they live in an aged care home, they can talk to the staff. The staff can then contact redcross.org.au/visitor

It can also be arranged via a case manager for their Home Package. It's all free of charge.

The Red Cross are also looking to expand their emergency services capabilities in Murrindindi. He said, "It's the one area within Victoria that we don't actually have a dedicated emergency services team. They're doing a bulk recruitment campaign in May, during the National Volunteer Week. There are half a dozen opportunities to attend an information session online and learn more and then apply to become an emergency services volunteers.

"As Red Cross volunteers we attend relief centres, in the case of an emergency, and provide psychosocial first aid and post emergency support, doing checks and those sorts of things afterwards."

To find out more about Red Cross, visit redcross.org.au or to volunteer, email volunteer@redcross.org.au, or phone 1800 733 276.



The team at FoodWorks Alexandra wore grey clothes to work last Friday and hosted a cake stall out front of the store for Go Grey in May. Go Grey in May is an appeal that collects money for brain tumor research, which is where the money from the cake stall was going. Pictured are members of the Alexandra FoodWorks team. -BD

Remembering those lost to family and domestic violence

THOSE who lost their lives to family and domestic violence are being remembered during May's Domestic Violence Prevention Month with services and rallies held across the state.

On May 7, National Family Violence Remembrance Day, the annual 2025 Safe Steps Candlelight Vigil was held. The vigil acknowledges victim-survivors of family and domestic violence and provides a platform for survivors to share their stories and remember those lost.

State Liberal Leader, Brad Battin, and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Cindy McLeish, attended the vigil with fellow colleagues, David Southwick and Renee Heath, alongside survivors to pay their respects and reflect.

Crime Statistics Victoria reported 98,816 family violence incidents were made to police in 2023-24, increasing from 93,111 cases in 2022-23.

Troublingly, 62.4 per cent of youth victims is the child of a perpetrator, with the average age of the youth victim being 12 years old.

In Murrindindi Shire 187 family violence incidents were reported in 2023-24. Sixty-three clients received homelessness services, while 10 were emergency department patients as a result of family violence.

It was also reported that 16,571 victims of domestic violence were women aged between 25 and 39, and 15,717 women aged between 40 and 64.

Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Cindy McLeish, said, "Women are being killed in horrific circumstances. As a community, we need to strive to do better. Despite investment from the state government, things aren't turning around.

"Families fleeing domestic violence too often have nowhere safe to go due to the lack of emergency accommodation available. Young people are trying to escape a rough homelife with limited resources to turn to because many services are exhausted.

"We honour the memory of those we lost as a result of domestic or family violence," Ms McLeish said.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN



In accordance with section 54 of the Road Management Act 2004 and part 3 of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016, Murrindindi Shire Council will be conducting a review of its Road Management Plan which applies to all municipal roads within the Shire.

The purpose of the review is to ensure the standards and priorities related to the inspection, maintenance, and repair of Council managed roads remain appropriate, considering Council's operational budgets, community expectations, and service delivery priorities.

For more information, to make a submission, and to read the current Road Management Plan 2021 and draft Road Management Plan 2025, you can:

- visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/rmp
- email to assets@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
- addressed post to Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra VIC 3714 Australia
- visit one of Council's Library and Customer Service Centres

Submissions must be received by 5.00 pm on Thursday 12 June 2025.

Renewable Energy Zones

THE Victorian Government has released draft plans and maps for the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The plan identifies seven regions as being suitable for wind, solar farm and battery storage development over the next 15 years.

There are areas titled Central Highlands and Central North among the seven regions identified, covering seven per cent of Victoria, however these are unrelated to Murrindindi Shire. The Central Highlands area is to the west of Ballarat and the North Central area is between Bendigo and Shepparton.

There may however be an upgrade to the transmission line running from Eildon to Bright, to be known as the Eastern Victoria Reinforcement Program.

To provide feedback on the Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, visit engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

Some drought resilience support announced

THE Victorian Government is providing some funding to farmers impacted by drought and dry conditions, including support to deliver on-farm infrastructure grants and increase resilience into the future.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced a further \$15.9 million to help more farmers and communities over winter, expanding support to farmers in 13 more Local Government Areas (LGA) on top of those backed as part of the \$13.5 million drought support package announced in September. Unfortunately, Murrindindi Shire is not included in the list of LGAs to be supported, but all they will get is access to a Small Business Financial Counsellor, a mental health program, access to Agriculture

Victoria’s farm business technical and decision-making support, and further funding for the National Centre for Farmer Health.

The package will continue for the existing 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across south west Victoria and expand it to all West Wimmera, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians, Hepburn, Moorabool, Ballarat, Towong, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, Cardinia, Baw Baw, Casey, South Gippsland, and French Island.

The press release states, “This drought package will support small businesses in impacted LGAs through the appointment of a Small Business Financial Counsellor.

“Acknowledging the impacts of the dry conditions across Victoria on farmer mental

health, a new program will be made available state wide to help communities come together and support farmers under stress.

“The government will extend its partnership with the National Centre for Farmer Health by investing \$900,000 through the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* to deliver ongoing services and resources to the farming community.

“Agriculture Victoria’s farm business technical and decision-making support will also be made available state wide, supporting farmers to manage the impacts of increasingly difficult seasonal conditions.”

The press release also states, “This package brings the government’s direct drought support to \$29.4 million, on top of the \$10.2 million investment through the Future

Drought Fund program, and \$4.1 million for the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

“Agriculture Victoria will continue to monitor conditions in the critical period leading up to spring, ensuring support is getting to farmers who need it most.

“This follows from the Labor Government’s announcement of partial rebates on the ESVF for farmers eligible for the infrastructure grants program in the government’s drought support package.”

For further information on the range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available to drought impacted farmers, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or phone 136 186.

Bureau of Meteorology provide forecast information

SENIOR Climatology Specialist at the Bureau of Meteorology, Dr Zhi-Weng Chua, provided the following information about recent and expected rainfall in Murrindindi Shire.

Recent rainfall

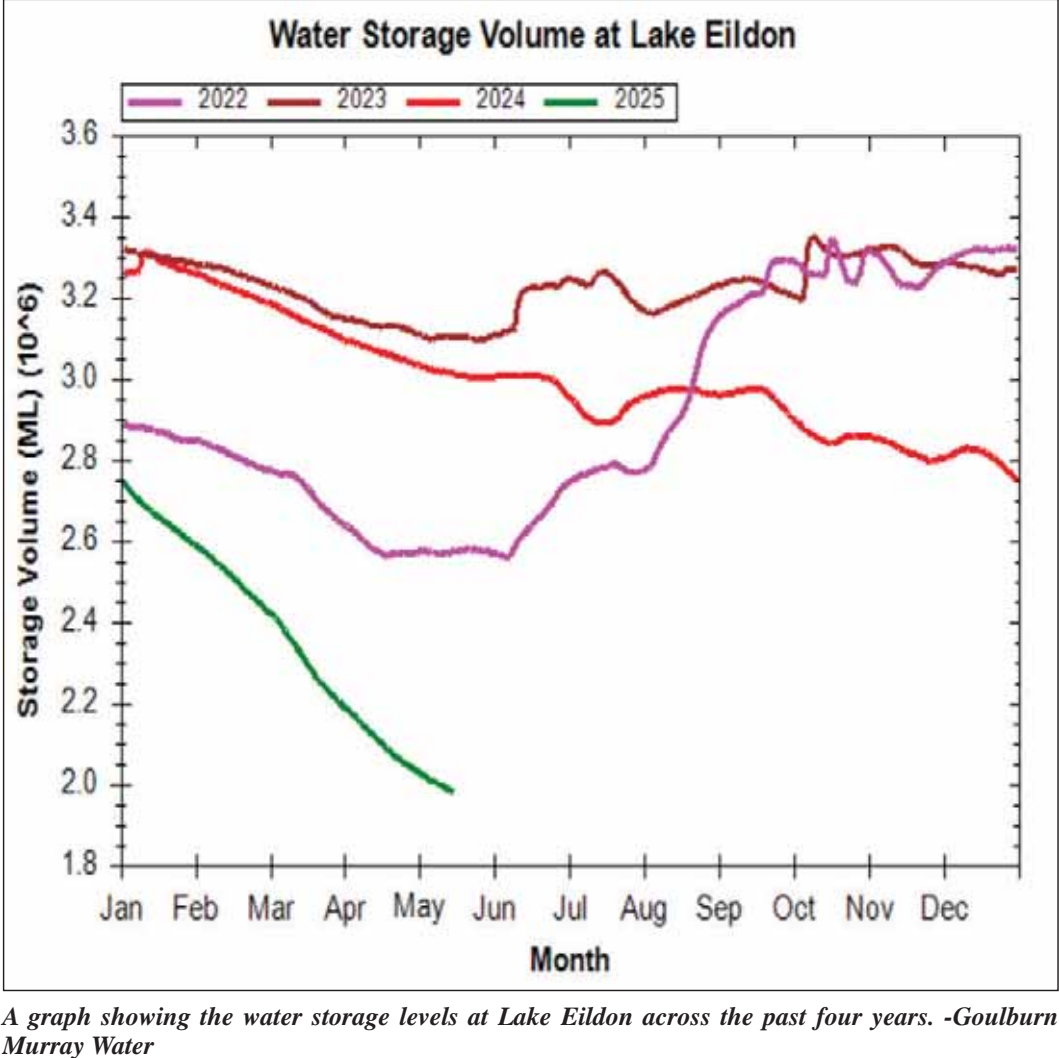
Rainfall has been below to very much below average for the last 24 months for Murrindindi and surrounds. Deficiencies are most severe over the last one to 12 month periods.

The last time a May to April (12 month) period was this dry for the Central North district was in 2018 to 2019.

May-to-date has also been very dry, and weather forecasts suggest the remainder of May is likely to observe below average rainfall. Current year-to-date rainfall has been only around 40 to 60 per cent of the expected average.

Long-range forecasts

Looking further ahead, for June to August, rainfall is likely to be within the typical range for Murrindindi and surrounds. This means that a range of outcomes are equally possible, including above, below or near-average rainfall. Long-range forecasts are updated every Thursday on bom.gov.au/climate/ahead



Drought support urgently needed in State Budget

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has told Parliament the state government must commit to urgent and comprehensive drought support measures in the state budget.

Ms Broad said the extended dry conditions are putting immense pressure on farming families and rural communities.

“Many farmers are struggling to access basic necessities to keep their operations going. They are experiencing dwindling

water supplies and financial stress and facing emotional exhaustion,” Ms Broad said.

“I have heard from farmers and residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase hay and feed for their livestock. Prices have skyrocketed and supplies are becoming scarce. Without adequate feed, farmers face heartbreaking decisions about destocking or reducing herds.

“Water security is a critical issue. Families are having to purchase truckloads of water just to keep their homes and farms functioning.

“Many are juggling mounting debts while their incomes dwindle. They are also fearful of the government’s proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. The new charges will mean thousands of dollars to some families.”

Ms Broad said farmers protested on the steps of Parliament and outside Premier

Jacinta Allan’s Bendigo office in a desperate bid to highlight their opposition to the levy.

“I acknowledge that some assistance measures are currently in place, but this is simply not enough given the scale of this crisis. Last September the government announced a \$13 million package to help farmers, while South Australia is providing \$73 million in freight subsidies, mental health support and emergency tax rebates. We need a comprehensive package of support.”

Ms Broad said, “Farmers are the backbone of our state’s food production and a vital part of our economy. When farmers suffer, so does the rest of our state. The action I seek is for the minister to provide immediate targeted help to drought affected areas, including but not limited to subsidised fodder and feed supplies for livestock, subsidised water supply for agriculture purposes and financial assistance with fodder and water delivery.”

McLeish seeking drought support for farmers

MEMBER for Eildon released a video on Facebook on May 15, outlining her concerns over the drought conditions and the lack of support for farmers.

She stated, “It hasn’t rained for ages. Victoria is in a heightened state of drought. There’s no water. There’s no feed. Farmers are offloading cattle. And what’s the government doing? Not much. South Australia have a \$73 million package. Victoria’s? \$13.5 million, and so many farmers aren’t even eligible, particularly those in my electorate, north east Victoria.

“This week, there’s been 4500 cattle through the saleyards at Yea. Probably could have had 5000 if they had capacity. People are offloading stock,” she said.

“We need to know from the government, what are you doing about this? What is the support package there for farmers who are really devastated by the conditions at the moment? When are you going to announce it? And really, please Minister, support our farmers.”

Governments juggle to distribute drinking water

ANNOUNCED on April 4, Minister for Water Gayle Tierney placed an order for 50 gegalitres of water from the Victorian Desalination Plant, based on independent advice from Victorian water corporations, which takes into account water storages levels, future demands and forecast climate conditions.

This decision follows Geelong storages hitting a six year low of 42.2 per cent and the first double digit annual decline in Melbourne’s water storage levels since the Millenium Drought.

Melbourne’s water storages are at 78.1 per cent compared with 91.5 per cent at the same time last year, a difference of 230 billion litres.This decline is due to below average rainfall in Victoria over the past 12 months.

Melbourne’s population grew by 140,000 last year, putting pressure on water supplies. Melbourne uses 50 to 70 gegalitres more water than what is captured in reservoirs from rainfall each year.

The decision to order desalinated water is made each year based on yearly weather changes and expert advice from our water authorities.

Regular desalinated water orders are a normal part of Melbourne’s drinking water supply, helping to top up storages and provide a buffer in the event of severe drought. They also support surrounding regions including South Gippsland and Geelong.

The recent hot and dry conditions, including Victoria’s driest summer in more than a

decade, are expected to continue through autumn increasing our reliance on stored and desalinated water.

The Victorian Desalination Plant can provide up to one-third of the Melbourne’s annual water demand, underpinning supply not just for Melbourne but also surrounding areas including Geelong and parts of Gippsland.

To date, the Victorian Desalination Plant has produced 455 billion litres of fresh drinking water for Greater Melbourne and regional areas.

Even with the desalination order, Melbourne’s household water bills will remain among the cheapest in Australia.

Massive yarding for Autumn Feature Sale

by Bailey Dixon

THE Elders Autumn Feature Store Sale took place last Wednesday at the Yea Saleyards, with an enormous yarding of over 4500 cattle.

Prices remained strong despite the large number of cattle being sold, potentially due to the looming drought conditions and farmers reducing their herds to survive.

Average price per head for the day was \$1167, with an average weight per head of 310.4 kilograms. Doing the maths reveals an average price of 376 cents per kilogram (c/kg).

There were some 2794 steers sold on the day, with over 2500 of that being Angus. Top price per head was \$2400 with the top weight of 638 kilograms, making for 376c/kg.

The top heifers out of over 1700 female cattle sold for \$1830 with a top weight of 480.9 kilograms. This was slightly above both the average price per head, and the top price for steers, sitting four cents per kilogram higher at 381c/kg.

The Yea Saleyards turned over \$5.3 million at the Autumn Feature Sale.

The next sales in Yea are the Elders and Nutrien Store Sale on Friday, June 6, and the Alex Scott and Staff Store Sale on Friday, June 13.

Benefits of stock containment in dry conditions

AGRICULTURE Victoria is encouraging livestock producers to consider effective stock containment strategies to help maintain core herd or flock numbers and support pasture recovery.

Agriculture Victoria's Land Management Extension Officer Kerri Goschnick said dry seasonal conditions and limited rainfall continue to place pressure on grazing operations, impacting pasture growth and causing bare ground across many paddocks.

"Stock containment refers to confining livestock in designated areas, where farmers can effectively manage feed, water and shelter," Ms Goschnick said.

"This allows farm paddocks to rest until an autumn break causes pastures to recover and withstand livestock grazing.

"Stock containment doesn't necessarily require a complicated system; it can be as simple as a sacrifice paddock with good quality water and access for feeding.

"Farmers should be aware that there is a higher risk of weed infestation when importing feed to supplementary feed livestock.

"Establishing a stock containment area to use supplementary feed will contain the weed seeds to a manageable area. Weeds to look out for include parthenium weed, particularly in fodder sourced from parts of Queensland and New South Wales.

"It is important that animals in containment have their nutritional, water and shelter needs met."

Agriculture Victoria can assist in planning feed budgets and stock containment area design and management.

Further information can be found by searching for these items on the Agriculture Victoria website. For more information about drought and dry seasonal conditions support head to agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

VFF slams government over new levy

DESPITE strong opposition from the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and farmers from all corners of Victoria, the Victorian Government's proposed Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) last Friday passed a vote in Parliament.

The VFF is deeply disappointed by this outcome and remains gravely concerned about the impact this levy will have on farmers, who are already under significant pressure from drought conditions and broader economic challenges.

While the government has announced a 16 per cent reduction in the levy for farmers and a temporary pause for those in drought-declared areas, these concessions do little to ease the broader burden that will be felt across regional and rural Victoria.

"The sheer reality is that this levy will create a crippling financial burden to farmers," VFF President Brett Hosking said.

"This decision shows a clear disconnect between our state government and the day-to-day realities faced by those on the land.

"It almost feels like the worse this drought gets, the harder the government pushes to take more from farmers," he added.

The VFF will continue to advocate for a fairer, more sustainable approach to funding emergency services, one that doesn't disproportionately penalise the very communities that rely on them most.

STOCK REPORT 14 MAY 2025			
Elders Autumn Feature Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	4,551		
Average \$ per head	\$1,167		
Average weight per head	310.4 kg		
Top price per head		\$2,400	\$1,830
Top weight		638 kg	480.9 kg
Turnover	\$5.3 million		

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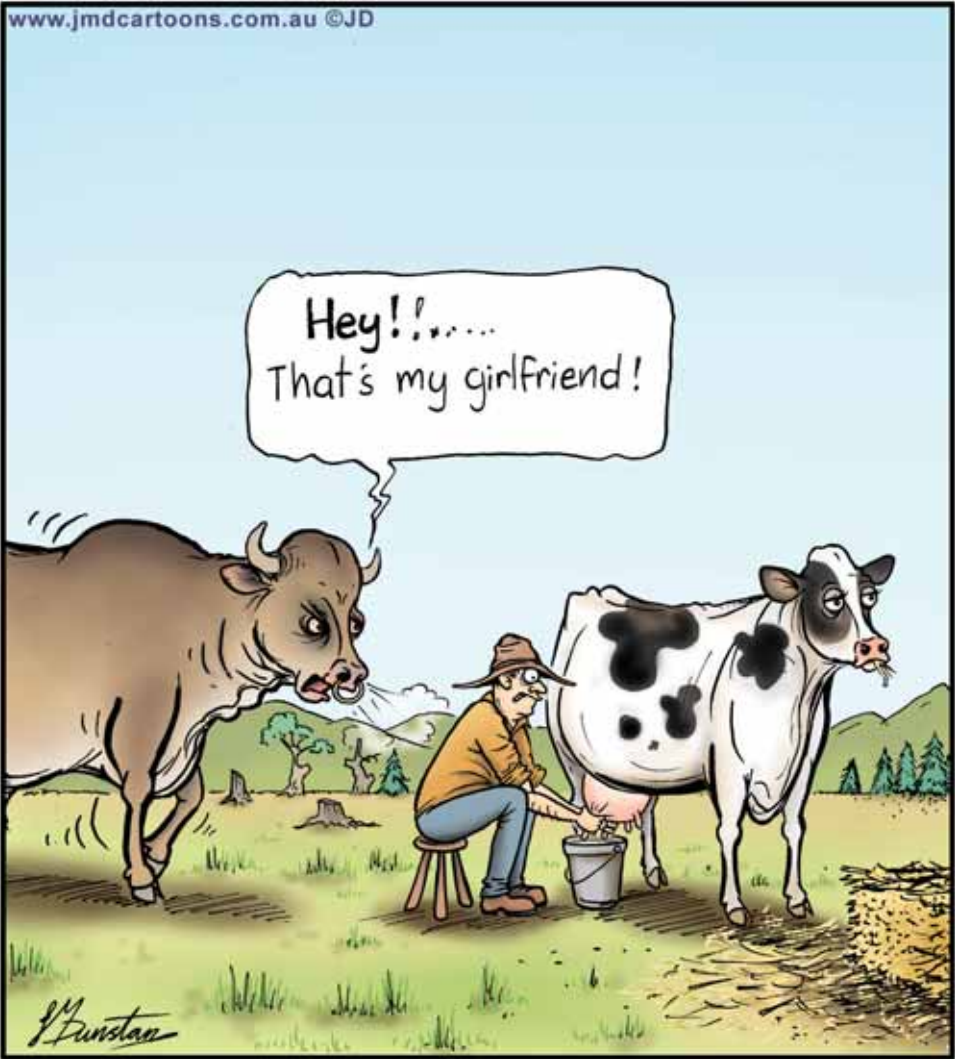


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The Trap

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Cr Sandice McAulay presenting nominee certificate to Robert Burns. -S



Mayor Damien Gallagher presenting the 2025 Community Awards. -S



Lilah Galbraith performing. -S



Community Group of the Year, UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc. More information on page 13. -S

Murrindindi Shire 2025 Community Award recipients

THE 2025 Community Award winners were officially announced at a special volunteer appreciation event in Yea on Saturday, May 17. More than 120 volunteers and representatives from volunteer-led groups across the shire gathered to celebrate the spirit of volunteering and recognise this year's nominees.

Mayor Damien Gallagher presented the awards to this year's recipients, acknowledging their dedication and contributions to the community. Guests shared a meal prepared by Blue Ribbon Catering, with refreshments from local producers.

The evening featured live music, with young musician Lilah Galbraith performing as guests arrived, followed by a set from Solomon and Lacey. The event also included an address from Kylie Cairns, president of the Alexandra Football and Netball Club, who shared her experiences and reflections on the impact of volunteering.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher spoke with heartfelt appreciation on the night. "Our volunteers are the embodiment

of the vibrant community spirit of our shire," he said. "All our Community Award nominees are active, approachable, and inspirational. They are hardworking team players, mentors, and problem solvers who invest time and effort, displaying empathy, effective communication, and conflict resolution skills. Their recognition is a testament to their partnership with other volunteers, working towards the best outcomes for our community. As we proudly announce the winners, remember that every volunteer is a winner and deserves to be celebrated."

Volunteer of the Year – Ron Litjens

Ron is a dedicated community leader whose expertise and kindness have significantly improved various initiatives across Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Yea, Alexandra, and beyond. His roles include modernising processes at the Flowerdale Community House, leading 2030Yea, contributing to Landcare and the Yea Wetlands, and performing quiet acts of kindness, making him an invaluable resource

and role model.

Senior Volunteer of the Year – Margaret O'Connell

Margaret has been a pivotal figure at the Toolangi Castella Community House since 2003, leading numerous volunteer initiatives and recovery efforts after the 2009 fires. She has also launched the nationally recognised Nifty Fifty fitness program, spearheaded the Community Garden, and organised the Toolangi Festival, fostering community pride and resilience.

Young Volunteer of the Year – Layla Calder

Layla has been a dedicated volunteer at the Flowerdale Opportunity Shop for five years, managing social media, providing tech support, and assisting with shop operations. Her commitment, leadership, and positive attitude have made her a role model and an invaluable asset to the community.

Community Group or Initiative of the Year – UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc

UGFM has been a vital community radio station for 30 years, providing local broadcasts, supporting artists, and delivering essential news and emergency information across Murrindindi Shire. Their dedication to community service, especially during crises, and their efforts to foster community spirit through events and training, make them invaluable to the region.

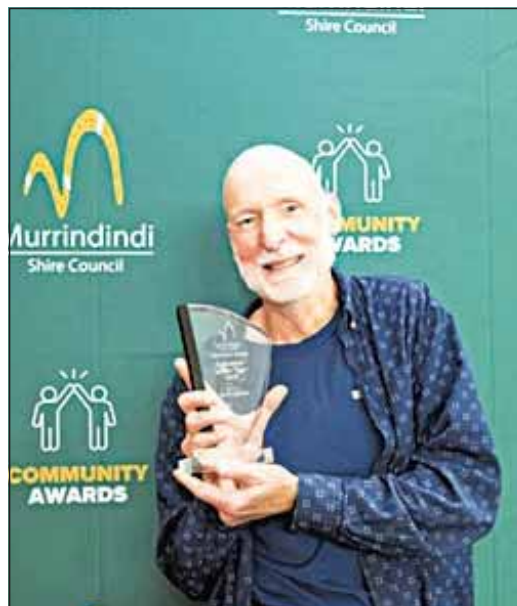
Council also recognised Dawn Sundblom and Kath Hedger, who each received a certificate of special commendation in honour of their lifetime of achievement in volunteering.

A special mention to Gail Dollimore, who was recognised as a nominee in two categories (Senior Volunteer of the Year and as part of the nominated group Tri Active Life), a testament to her outstanding commitment across the community.

Read more about this year's recipients at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityawards



Soloman and Lacey. -S



Volunteer of the Year Ron Litjens. -S



Senior Volunteer of the Year Margaret O'Connell. -S



Young Volunteer of the Year Layla Calder. -S

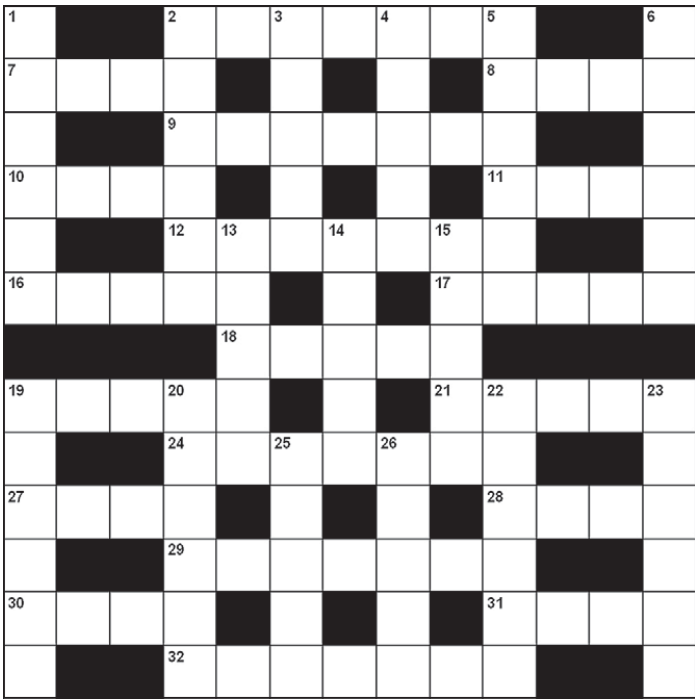
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 2. Lures with rewards.
 - 7. A position of leadership.
 - 8. Make a portrait of.
 - 9. French for white.
 - 10. Crazy!
 - 11. A personal view.
 - 12. Trapping and capturing.
 - 16. Brief and concise.
 - 17. Having the leading position.
 - 18. Small three-masted sailboat.
 - 19. Artistic quality.
 - 21. Ranked in a certain class.
 - 24. Had an ambitious plan.
 - 27. Squeeze the juice from.
 - 28. Choose at random.
 - 29. Spread through.
 - 30. Feel great anger.
 - 31. Christmas season.
 - 32. Began again.

- DOWN**
- 1. A Swiss house.
 - 2. Decorate with raised design.
 - 3. Jewelled headdress.
 - 4. Desert plants.
 - 5. Snow vehicle.
 - 6. Towards the middle of.
 - 13. A connected series.



- 14. One trained in Jewish law.
- 15. Mother-of-pearl.
- 19. Confirm the truth.
- 20. Meddle with.
- 22. Set of numbers to be added.
- 23. Lag behind.
- 25. Incidental benefits of the job.
- 26. A kingdom.

Math Square

	x		+		11
-		x		-	
	-		x	9	-70
-		-		÷	
	-	6	÷		3
-6		50		1	

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

Difficulty: Medium

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.

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

Cryptogram

Girls names

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7													11					20							

S A A N S A N A N S

20 19 5 7 15 7 11 3 20 24 23 18 22 7 11 3 7 26 26 25 14 23 11 5 20

N

11 23 18 22

Word Search

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

- Girls names**
- BELINDA
 - DANIELLE
 - ELIZABETH
 - ETHEL
 - ISABELLE
 - JANE
 - KAREN
 - MARIE
 - ROSEMARY
 - RUBY
 - SALLY
 - SUZANNE

Opposition to fisheries cuts

THE Victorian Opposition has tabled a petition in Parliament, signed by more than 21,000 Victorians, demanding that the Victorian Government “scrap its planned gutting of fisheries compliance and enforcement.”

The government is planning to reduce the number of fisheries officer positions. Locally, this could impact the Northern Region, including Snobs Creek where fisheries oversee Lake Eildon. Statewide, 35 roles will be cut, reducing overall staffing from 192 to 157.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish MP said, “Recreational fishing and boating are enjoyed regularly at Lake Eildon, the Goulburn Valley River and surrounds. The majority of recreational anglers comply with regulations which is largely due to the presence of officers who enforce and educate.

“Instead of protecting Victoria’s precious marine environments, Labor is rebranding

fisheries officers as ‘engagement officers’ in an attempt to conceal cost-cutting measures.

“Without inspections and oversight, it opens the gates for illegal fishing and environmental damage. It is a slap in the face to responsible anglers who do the right thing.”

More than 50 fisheries officers and industry stakeholders gathered on the steps of Parliament House to protest the decision to reduce funding and staffing in an already under-resourced and overburdened sector.

There are expected to be 35 jobs cut statewide, dropping staffing from 192 to 157. Current vacancies in key regions won’t be filled. All fisheries officers will be reclassified as ‘fisheries engagement officers’. There are currently just over 50 active officers, down from 72, 20 years ago. The Central region accounts for over 50 per cent of enforcement activity in Victoria.

Little drought support for Murrindindi

THE Victorian Government was asked the following questions about the drought conditions. Will Murrindindi Shire will soon be listed as being under drought conditions? What direct supports available to farmers under the current drought conditions in Murrindindi? What resilience grants are available to farmers in Murrindindi? Which organisation formally declares drought areas? Is it DEECA, BOM, or another organisation?

An Agriculture Victoria spokesperson responded, “In response to the deteriorating seasonal conditions across the state, the government is providing additional support for farmers and communities with a further \$15.95 million in drought support.

“Farm business technical and decision-making and wellbeing support will be made available statewide, supporting farmers to manage the impacts of increasingly difficult seasonal conditions.

“Victoria does not make formal declarations of drought and it is not required for drought support for farmers when facing prolonged dry conditions, allowing earlier intervention to ease the impacts of droughts, Agriculture Victoria continues to monitor seasonal, economic and social conditions across the state.”

The package is for the existing 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across south west Victoria and expand it to West Wimmera, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians, Hepburn, Moorabool, Ballarat, Towong, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, Cardinia, Baw Baw, Casey, South Gippsland, and French Island.

Acknowledging the impacts of the dry conditions across Victoria on farmer mental health, a new program will be made available statewide to help communities come together and support one another during this difficult time.

Council responds to bin concerns

by Murrindindi Shire Council

THANK you for the opportunity to provide clarification in response to the recent Letter to the Editor, ‘New Bins’. We understand that changes to waste services can prompt questions, especially in rural areas where different systems have worked well in the past. Council is committed to supporting our community through this transition with clear and accurate information.

like our Resource Recovery Centres will remain available.

About exemptions

While Section 23 of the *Circular Economy Act* does allow for limited exemptions, these are only granted in very specific circumstances, such as where a property is not within the compulsory collection zone. This provision is not intended for individuals to opt out of receiving council services they do not wish to use.

Why the service is changing

The updated kerbside service aligns with the Victorian Government’s *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. While the new statewide standards are not mandatory until 2027, councils are already expected to provide separate streams for general rubbish, recycling, glass, and food and garden organics (FOGO) where it is reasonably practicable.

Murrindindi Shire Council has taken a proactive approach by aligning its new service contract (beginning June 30) with these upcoming requirements. This helps reduce future transition costs and ensures value for ratepayers by securing more favourable processing rates particularly as recycling and organic waste are significantly cheaper to process than landfill.

Who is required to receive the service

From June 30, any properties with a dwelling located along an established collection route will be required to receive a kerbside collection service. This is not a local decision, it is a requirement under state legislation. Where kerbside collection is not reasonably practicable, such as in more remote or inaccessible locations, alternative options

Council has already included these exempt groups (as they exist) in council’s policy. Council has excluded properties and individuals that we cannot viably reach with a kerbside service, and there are exemptions or alternate arrangements for multi-dwelling properties. For more information visit council’s kerbside collection service policy page.

We’re here to help

We know that changes like this effect people differently. Detailed information about both the current waste services and the upcoming four-bin model is available on council’s website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Our-four-bin-kerbside-service

Council’s approach has been guided by state legislation, expert advice from Recycling Victoria, and feedback from the community. Council remain focused on delivering a kerbside collection service that is environmentally responsible, cost-effective, and designed to meet the future needs of the shire.

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify this and thank the community for their ongoing engagement.



The dinner also provided a good opportunity for a chat. -S



Three happy attendees waiting for the dinner to commence. -S



A table of diners. -S



Dishing up a fine feast. -S



People were very happy with the quality of the food. -S



Fun at the bar. -S



Karine Haslam speaking with the attendees. -S



Anita Carr and Karine Haslam serving the food. -S

Pot luck dinner in Eildon

MORE than 20 trail-blazing Eildon diners took pot luck with a new gourmet experience last week, and two hours later lavished praise on what they had just enjoyed.

The event was the inaugural Eildon Pot Luck dinner, organised and hosted by tireless volunteers Karine Haslam and Kerrie Malley.

The concept is that attendees provide, totally at their own choice, a variety of buffet dishes to be shared by the entire group.

Last Tuesday night, at the spacious and comfortable Eildon Bowling Club, the offerings included delicious potato and leek soup, a variety of yummy casseroles, grilled chipolatas, quiches, curries, pasta salads, bread and rolls, and for those with a

sweet tooth, a superb fruit crumble, plus tea and coffee.

The bowling club generously donated the use of the venue for free.

"We are having a three month trial, in the hope that Pot Luck will become a permanent fixture on Eildon's social calendar," Karine Haslam said.

"We acknowledge that winter is just about upon us, and temperatures have dropped, but we hope the 6pm to 8pm time-slot might encourage people to leave the comfort of home to enjoy what is a terrific concept.

"Food wise, the unexpected can be very exciting, and that certainly was the case with our first gathering.

"In addition to the food, a key aspect of what we are trying to achieve is the opportunity for people to socialise in a wonderful precinct with friends and others perhaps unfamiliar to them," Ms Haslam said.

The remaining Tuesday night trial Pot Luck dinners will be on June 10 and July 8.

Eildon's annual Biggest Morning Tea, to aid the ongoing fight against cancer, will be held on Friday, May 23, beginning 10am, at Eildon Bowling Club. Everyone welcome.

Grants to manage invasive species

THE Victorian Government has announced the opening of round four of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program, which will help community led organisations build the skills and resources to manage invasive species in their area.

Grants of \$10,000 up to \$50,000 are available for projects focused on managing established weeds and pest animals.

This new round of funding totaling \$637,000 will allow groups to develop and deliver community education programs and action for up to two years

and can include up to \$10,000 for capital items.

Capital items can include monitoring technology and weed and pest management equipment, such as monitoring cameras to track feral pigs, hoes to eradicate serrated tussock or bait laying equipment to manage rabbits. Equipment for demonstration and education such as projector screens may also be eligible for funding.

Applications for this grant round will close on Friday, July 4. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

EPA says to be careful what you burn

AS the weather cools and conditions for burn offs in regional areas improve, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria is alerting the agricultural sector in particular, not to mix their prunings and felled timber with other forms of waste.

"We issued several reminders last year after receiving reports of farms, orchards and vineyards mixing their legitimate burn off materials with waste like treated timbers, plastics and other common farm waste that should have gone to a licensed landfill or recycling facility," EPA Regional Operations Director Martha-Rose Loughnane said.

"Disposal of waste by burning is illegal. Common farm waste, like

treated pine posts, agricultural plastics, hessian, concrete, metal, waste tyres and mattresses, must be disposed of lawfully and at a place that is licensed to accept it," she said.

EPA has a handy guide available from its website on farm waste management, just visit epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1

"Everyone has a duty to protect the environment. That means that if we find anyone mixing waste into their legitimate burn off material, EPA can take action, and we can issue fines of more than \$9000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble," Ms Loughnane said.

"No smoke is good for you, but smoke from burning farm waste like old tyres and treated timber can lead to harmful effects on human health, particularly for people with asthma or other lung conditions, older people, pregnant women, babies and young children," she said.

Learn what can and can't be burnt from EPA's farm waste guide to avoid being a nuisance to your neighbours, causing a hazard to the environment or getting a fine from EPA.

You can report pollution to EPA's 24 hour pollution hotline at 1300 372 842 or online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution

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

MATH SQUARES

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2	-	8	x	9	-70
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CRYPTOGRAM

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S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
20	25	19	10	16	21	6	8	

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all things nice

KIDS MATH SQUARES

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

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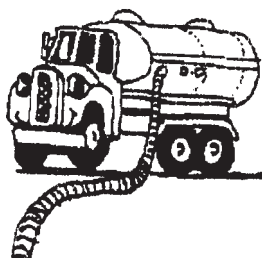
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Exhibition of Development Plan – SMITH STREET YEA

Land:
6489 Melba Highway, Yea – Lot 1 TP 558411

Proposal:
A draft development plan has been prepared for land located at 6489 Melba Highway, Yea.

The plan has been prepared by the applicant to indicate the site assessment, layout, servicing and conditions for the future use and development of the land.

Planning controls:
Zoning: Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)
Overlays: Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 2 (DPO2)

The Development Plan Overlay requires that Murrindindi Shire Council approve a development plan before any planning permit is granted for any use, development or subdivision of the land.

Where the development plan is available for inspection:
The draft development plan can be viewed online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/developmentplans or in person at Murrindindi Shire Council offices in Yea, Alexandra, and Kinglake.

Date for submissions:
Submissions to the draft development plan must be in writing and sent to Murrindindi Shire Council by Friday, June 20, 2025
Email to: planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
Post: PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714

Enquiries:
Planning Unit, Murrindindi Shire Council (03) 5772 0333.

DEATH NOTICES



ELENIUS, Leif

23/01/1934 –
01/05/2025

Sincere sympathies are extended to Judy from members of the Yea Bowls Club on the sad loss of her husband.

Leif was the immediate past President and an esteemed member of the YBC.

SELOVER, Wendy Lee (Jacobs). 20/08/1924 – 13/05/2025. Our dearest Wendy left the stage for the final time after more than 100 years of fun, shared experiences and love. She was a pivotal part of our family and will be greatly missed by us all. Warmest thanks to ADH Palliative Care and Kellock Lodge for their care and compassion. Louise, Ruth, Cornelia and our families.

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MEETINGS

MOLESWORTH CARAVAN PARK.

Notice is given of a Public Meeting to be held at 7pm on May 27, 2025 commencing at the Molesworth Community Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three and no more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Molesworth Caravan Park 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 and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting the secretary, Helen Willard 0435 320 317 or via email at secretary@molesworthreserve.com.au.

YEA Water Tigers Amateur Swimming Club AGM. Meeting will be held at Yea Community House. Monday, May 26 at 6 pm. All positions declared vacant. General meeting will follow at 6.30 pm. Enquiries to the secretary: yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com, 0459 248 488. New members welcome.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

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MEETINGS



Friends of the Library Alexandra & District Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6pm at
Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra.
New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee positions available from the library or from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au.
For more information please phone 0423 043 564.

SITUATION VACANT



Local Producer, HIGH VOLTAGE

Are you a natural organiser with a love for the arts and community?

We're looking for a Local Producer to help deliver HIGH VOLTAGE—a large-scale, high-energy community music performance happening on Sunday, September 7 in Yea.

This unique event, led by artist Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) in collaboration with Yea Arts and the Murrindindi Shire Council, will unite guitarists, singers, dancers, choirs, and creative groups across the region in a joyful celebration of local talent.

We're seeking someone who is:

- Organised, calm, and friendly
- Comfortable managing schedules, venues, and communications
- Confident speaking with participants and stakeholders
- Skilled with spreadsheets, emails, and basic digital tools
- Available in the lead-up to September and for key rehearsals

Contract fee: \$4,000, Part-time, flexible hours

You'll be the go-to person on the ground—connecting people, smoothing logistics, and helping to make this unforgettable performance shine. Email yeaartsinc@gmail.com to receive a Position Description or access via our website yeaartsinc.org

To express your interest, please send an application in one PDF addressing the Key Selection Criteria in the position description outlining your experience and why the role excites you to yeaartsinc@gmail.com

Deadline Friday, June 13, 2025

Inspire grants support local schools

SKYLINE Education Foundation, which provides support for VCE students across Victoria, has received a \$150,000 Inspire Grant from the Bank of Melbourne Foundation.

The foundation supports students from a variety of schools around metropolitan, regional and remote communities, including Alexandra and Yea.

The funding will be used by Skyline Education Foundation to empower high-potential students facing social and economic adversity to complete their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) by providing educational, emotional, and practical support, including payment of school fees and transformative learning experiences.

Skyline CEO Samantha MacRae said the grant would be transformative for students often facing generational disadvantage.

"This grant helps ensure that a young person in regional Victoria, Melbourne's outer suburbs, or a remote town has the same opportunity to succeed, graduate, and shape their future filled with hope and opportunity, regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances," Ms MacRae said.

St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations jointly announced the recipients of these 2025 Inspire Grants, awarding a total of \$1.2 million to five exceptional charities dedicated to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged young Australians.

The grants aim to support innovative programs that enhance educational achievement among young people facing challenges such as low socio-economic status, geographic isolation, and systemic barriers, including those from First Nations communities.

"Funding to address educational inequity in Australia is essential to help ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to thrive," Sally-Anne O'Brien, CEO of the St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations said.

"Disadvantage can significantly impact a student's educational outcomes from an early age, and without intervention, the gap continues to grow."

Men's shed grants out now

THE Victorian Government is providing new grants to strengthen men's sheds across the state.

Last week the Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence announced that applications are open for the 2025–26 Men's Shed Funding Program.

More than \$860,000 is available to build new sheds, upgrade or extend existing facilities, and purchase machinery and equipment to help sheds grow and thrive.

The program prioritises projects that tackle social isolation and deliver real value for local communities, especially in areas with limited spaces for people to come together.

With more than 360 men's sheds across Victoria, these spaces continue to provide connection, inclusion and support for men who might otherwise be at risk of isolation.

The state government's Men's Shed Funding Program has provided more than 500 grants to support sheds and support the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

For more information or to apply, visit providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting the community to provide feedback on the draft Road Management Plan 2025, now open for public consultation.

The plan outlines how council maintains and manages the local road network it is responsible for, including how we prioritise inspections, respond to maintenance requests, and manage repairs. It also sets clear performance standards that guide a safe, consistent, and transparent approach to road management. Roads managed by the state government are covered under the

Department of Transport and Planning’s separate Road Management Plan.

The council’s Road Advisory Group (CRAG) was established to support the development of the draft Road Management Plan (RMP) by providing valuable community input. The goal is to address the diverse needs of the Murrindindi Shire community in an affordable and sustainable manner. CRAG members undertook a detailed review of the current service levels set out in the RMP and provided important feedback on how well these levels reflect community expectations and priorities. Their insights have helped shape the draft plan, including consideration of where service levels may remain unchanged or be adjusted.

The draft plan is available online, along with a short survey and options for written submission. Feedback closes 5pm on Thursday, June 12. You can also chat with council officers at pop-up sessions across the shire

Murrindindi Shire Council’s Infrastructure and Road Care Portfolio Councillor Eric Lording said the plan is an important document that helps council meet its legal

obligations and manage the local road network responsibly.

“Our local roads are a critical part of everyday life for residents, businesses, and visitors. This plan ensures we’re managing our roads with safety, service, and sustainability in mind,” Cr Lording said.

“We’re seeking community feedback to make sure the plan reflects the needs and expectations of our road users.”

To learn more and make a submission, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/RMP or drop into one of council’s Library and Customer Service Centres.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club Report

For and on behalf of Mike Jennings who was keeping the medical profession on their toes

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club social meeting on Friday got off to a prompt start at 1pm under the auspices of vice president Yvonne, returning after her successful conclusion of an Advanced Bus Driving course. President Marj has not be able to attend recent meetings, also due to continuing ill health, and we wish her well. Luckily the club has been well served by the excellent ‘stand-in’ service provided by ex-president Barb, and Yvonne.

Members were down a little due to the weather and various illnesses. The raffle was won by the three J’s, so the tip is to find a seat next to them next week or alternatively try and bribe the wheel spinner.

A reminder from secretary Mike that he has arranged for a bus trip to visit the Healesville RSL on June 10 where the entertainment will be an Elvis impersonator. Barry will be driving the bus, leaving the Senior Citizens Hall at 9am sharp. There are still a few seats left so there’s still time to book. There is also the opportunity to stock up at Aldi and who knows, perhaps a chance to visit the pokies.

Afterwards members retired for refreshments, where as usual the ladies put on a good spread. Then some members played UNO while others turned their hand to 500.

Diary Notes: Social meeting with singalong on Friday, May 23; Social meeting on Friday, May 30; Committee meeting Friday, June 6 at 10.30am; Business meeting on Friday, June 6 at 1pm.

Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Question: Name two sports in which the team has to move backwards to win?

Buxton supports Murrindindi Food Share

THE Buxton 3711 Community Fund has made a \$500 contribution to Foundation Murrindindi in support of their Murrindindi Community Food Share initiative. This is in recognition of the support provided to families in Buxton who access the food share service.

Last Thursday, BPA member Carmel Denham presented Foundation Murrindindi CEO Robyn Hill with a letter, from the association, confirming the contribution from the Buxton community.

The philosophy behind Murrindindi Community Food Share is “Share what you can, take what you need,” which is a good fit with the Buxton 3711 Community

Fund. The fund earns revenue through community members donating their eligible CDS containers to benefit the Buxton community. 5000 containers donated by the Buxton community will go towards growing fresh vegetables for patrons of the food share initiative, according to coordinator Sasha Barrow.

The initiative is a tangible way that community can support community in addressing food insecurity and currently operates, in Alexandra, on a monthly basis. It is open on the first Thursday of every month, from 9am to noon at the rear of 88a Grant Street, Alexandra accessed via Bayley Street.

Sasha says no appointments are necessary, simply drop in to the Community Food Share and bring your own bag if possible. They gratefully accept donations of fresh fruit and vegetables during opening hours on the day the Food Share is open.

This free initiative aims to complement the existing service providers addressing the increasing demand for food relief in the community.

In accepting the letter from Carmel, Robyn said, “We are extremely grateful for the support from the people of Buxton and the funds will be used to grow more vegetables for everyone to enjoy”.



Carmel Denham presents contribution letter to Robyn Hill. -S

Transport announcement falls flat

THE Victorian Government has announced that they are “focused on what matters most, real help for regional Victorian families to ease the cost-of-living. The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* will make public transport free for everyone under 18, everywhere in Victoria.”

It’s understood that school buses are free in the region, if attending the nearest school, so this announcement will have no impact. In terms of other free public transport for children, Murrindindi is a virtual desert in terms of public transport, so the difference here will be negligible. A better way to ease the cost-of-living in the area would be to abolish the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy and to provide significant drought support for farmers.

The government’s press release states, “We’ve been putting money back into the pockets of Victorians with our regional fare cap, which has already saved Victorians more than \$132 million in its first two years. Now we’re going further. Families right across Victoria doing it tough, every dollar counts. From January 1, 2026, hundreds of thousands of families will save up to \$755 a year per child. It’s a massive investment to put money back in the pocket of families who are doing it tough. A yearly student pass currently costs \$755, but from next year children aged under 18 can travel for free. For a family with three children under 18, that’s a saving of \$2265 each year. Two years ago, it would cost kids \$15.96 to travel a return trip from Ballarat to the MCG, from next year it will be free. A return trip from Bendigo to Melbourne would cost kids \$24.08, from next year it will be free. More than one million young Victorians and their families can benefit from the new youth myki from 1 January 2026. Cards will cost \$5 and will be valid until the child turns 18.”

None of this makes any difference in our area.

Apparently with no sense of irony, Minister for Public Transport Gabrielle Williams stated, “This will save so many struggling families thousands of dollars a year. Labor will cut public transport prices. Liberals will cut public transport projects.”

The people of Murrindindi Shire still miss the former 684 bus service which used to take people on the eastern side of the shire to the Melbourne CBD. It was truncated by the Labor Government and is now only available to Chirnside and Lilydale, once a day.

Tender awarded for Snobs Creek Road landslip works

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has awarded a tender for repair works on a significant landslip site on Snobs Creek Road, Eildon. The total contract value is \$494,363.72, subject to funding approval from the state’s Department of Transport and Planning through the Commonwealth and Victorian government’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

These works will address damage caused by the October 2022 floods. The scope includes remediation of the landslip site, construction of retaining walls and reinstatement of the road pavement. Preliminary works are already under way, with full construction expected to commence in early June.

Repairing roads after flood damage is a complex process that involves detailed

assessments and documentation of initial, consequential and compounding damage. The payment approval process requires comprehensive submissions to state and federal recovery agencies, including evidence, justifications, quotations and tender evaluations. Not all proposed works are guaranteed approval, but the process helps ensure the most urgent and essential repairs receive funding.

Council is also seeking quotations and tenders for other flood recovery projects, in readiness for future funding DRFA approvals.

Murrindindi Shire Council’s Infrastructure and Road Care Portfolio Councillor Eric Lording said, “It’s encouraging to see this project progressing. Securing funding for these works can be complex, particularly for smaller councils. This tender award is an important step in restoring our road network following the 2022 floods.

We look forward to the completion of these works and continuing recovery efforts across the shire.”

For further information, please contact council on 5772 0333.



The Snobs Creek Road landslip. -S

The birds and the lizards: Alexandra Squash Club report

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Falcons versus Kestrels

ERIC versus Jordan: A good match but Jordan dominated, taking home all four games and the match with a commanding lead. 105 to 40.

Jess versus James G: Some good shots from both players. James had the upper hand with his speed around the court, but the match was called off after game three with an injury.

Simon versus Justin: A great contest with four even games. Both players were playing their shots well and using all the corners of the court. Justin managed to hold on by two points and in his excitement tossed his racquet up in celebration. 60 to 58.

Jack versus Jim: The opening game was tight with each player boasting well. Jack took

control in the second game with deep shots, forcing errors from his opponent. Jim rallied to tie the third, setting up an interesting final game. There was no entertaining a comeback from Jim as Jack dominated the last game to clinch the match. 57 to 43.

Eagles versus Owls

LOCHLAN versus Tyler: Close at the start with some slow controlled rallies. Tyler ran away in the middle to take home the match. 67 to 50.

Chris T (fill in) versus Mick: Chris played some extraordinary wrist-flick shots to keep Mick busy. Picking off Mick's boasts, Chris cruised to victory. 69 to 48.

Michael M versus Jared (fill in): An entertaining match. Jared dominated the first half of the match. In his final hour, Michael

made a grand attempt at a comeback but Jared was too far ahead. 55 to 50.

Derrick versus John: It was a gentleman's game with this pair on the court. The match was consistently close with neither willing to concede. Derrick managed to close out the match on top. 52 to 49.

Thursday competition Blue tongues versus Skinks

BETH versus Matt J: Matt put in a great effort, but Beth was consistently ahead. Beth took the match in a landslide. 71 to 45.

Sam versus Lucas: Taking an early lead, Lucas claimed the first game with a good buffer. Sam flipped the script to take the second game. The half of the match was close with Sam claiming the victory. 59 to 55.

Daniel W versus Michael M (fill in): It was a battle down to the last point. In the last

seconds of the game Michael stole the final point to win him the game and match for a glorious victory. 58 to 57.

Dragons versus Geckos

LIANE versus James G: The match was closer than the score suggests with some long rallies. James's overhead smash made all the difference and helped him greatly on the road to triumph. 67 to 47.

Travis versus Jodie: There were some great rallies in this match. Travis got all the shots at the front, Jodie didn't get to a few which lost her a few points and the match. 58 to 53.

Michael H versus Phil: Michael had Phil's measure from the beginning. Phil got a good start in the final game and did well to win it. But it was too late with Michael having won the first three to take home the win. 66 to 46.



Deirdre and Elizabeth enjoying a game. -S



Jeanne and Janet. -S

Three venues for pickleball in the shire

MURRINDINDI East U3A is very pleased to introduce a new fitness class for members. Pickleball is fast becoming one of the most popular sports and the game is now playing at three venues, St. John's Hall and The Community Gym in Alexandra, and the Thornton Hall in Thornton.

U3A is very grateful to Murrindindi Shire Council for enabling these courses to run. Together with additional funds from their own fundraising, enough money was available to buy four complete sets of equipment.

Pickleball is played using a paddle (racquet) by two or four players to hit a perforated hollow plastic ball over a net. The game continues until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction. Court measurement is the same size as a doubles badminton court and the game can be addictive.

Tutors are quickly learning how to score the game, no easy task. Pickleball playing members are enjoying the challenge of trying to hit a ball that is less bouncy than a tennis ball and with an unfamiliar paddle. The game encourages physical fitness as well as the opportunity for enjoyable social contact.

New players are welcome, so come along and test out your skills with this new sport. Learning something unfamiliar, while remaining physically active, is key to a healthy retirement. So, if you are a senior and you are interested in joining a pickleball group, then you can enrol online at murrindindieastu3a.org.au

If you have any questions about pickleball or any other classes, please phone Libby Longham on 0408 896 730.

Senior netball results and awards

by Michelle Jack

A GRADE: Warby/Milgrove 68 defeated Alexandra 16. Incentive: Teagan Halligan, Corner Hotel: Ash Peers.

B Grade: Warby/Milgrove 58 defeated Alexandra 20. Incentive: Emily Irwin, Corner Hotel: Maddy Northmore.

C Grade: Warby/Milgrove 51 defeated Alexandra 27. Incentive: Alexandra Hotel: Aleesha Kerr; Corner Hotel: Christelle Cartledge.

D Grade: Warby/Milgrove 37 defeated Alexandra 14. Incentive: Corner Hotel: Hollie Wheelhouse; AFNC Voucher: Katelyn Prenderville

Under 17's: Warby/Milgrove 24 defeated Alexandra 22. Incentive: Koala Cherries: Ashlee Collett; AFNC Voucher: Samantha Fraser.

Supporting more women and girls and sport

THE Victorian government is supporting more women and girls across Victoria to get involved in sports with a new round of grants announced for community sports clubs.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced more than 130 grants as part of *The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program, benefitting more than 11,500 individuals.

The program delivers grants of up to \$10,000 to community sport and recreation clubs to help inspire women and girls to take part, including new women's programs, opportunities for club leadership roles and other on and off field options.

Since 2018, *The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program has provided more than 700 grants totaling more than \$3.7 million for community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

For more information about Change Our Game programs, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

Round three blue sky day for winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

IN weather more like summer than winter, clear blue skies and glorious sunshine, teams across the district met for their round three matches in Euroa, Benalla and Mansfield last Monday.

Wappan welcomed Mansfield on their home courts and Wappan's Anna Speirs, Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter and Carol Watts found their range in the opening sets.

Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Natalie Bergsma and Sophie Yencken matched them with high quality hitting and the sets went one each way, with one game the difference.

Wappan gained control in the next pairings as players tired in the hot sun. Mansfield were set a task needing to win both final sets, however Wappan found their best form to take both, including the shortest and the longest set of the day eventually resolved in a tiebreaker.

Wappan won 5/45 to Mansfield 1/29 propelling them into second spot on the EDLWTA ladder.

Euroa met Terip for their contest and Kristen Darcy, Lyndall Bigland, Judy Sands and Faye Mollison had all the answers against Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe Macdermid and Kass Thomas.

Euroa won 6/48 to 0/22 to take top spot on the ladder.

Creighton's Creek and Delatite also enjoyed the Euroa grass courts and Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Jo O'Brien, Deb Mims and Loretta Armitage combined well in lengthy rallies. Both teams hit low hard balls.

Chris Ellis, Deb Seach, Sue Vaughan and Lyn Johnson took the first three sets for Creighton's Creek, but Delatite hit back hard taking the next two with Deb gaining movement and timing the ball superbly to finish her day with an ace.

Creighton's Creek 4/40 defeated Delatite 2/27 for a top three finish.

Benalla hosted Seven Creeks in a hard-fought match which included two tiebreakers and two eight to six contests going each way. Seven Creeks' Rowena Ellis, Nicola Enright, Gayle Furphy and Mary Kelly had the edge against Benalla's Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell, Julie Brook, and Wendy Maxwell on their home turf winning 4/45 to Benalla's 2/35.

Round three ladder: Euroa 26, Wappan 19. Creighton's Creek 18, Terip 17, Moglonemby 16, Seven Creeks 11, Mansfield seven, Delatite four, and Benalla two.

SPORT

Three on the trot for James

by Dave Silverman

HO hum. For the third Tuesday in a row, James Fulton took the win. A field of 18 turned out to compete in the regular stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, but once again their hopes were dashed as James returned a score of 39 points, just one clear of second placed Bill Wind, with Brad Newton in third on 36.

Bruce Colville took nearest the pin on seven, 17 went to Dave Silverman and Dan Burns claimed 18. Rundown vouchers went to Nigel Waterhouse, Greg Ebinger, Bruce Colville and Greg Millard.

The 10 ladies who teed off in the fog on Wednesday also played stableford, and, as visibility improved, so did the scores. Sue Greatorex won the day on 37 points, with Judy Pearson in second on 35, and Marg Fahey in third on 34.

On her way to second spot, Judy pitched in on 12 for a par, and it never touched the sides. Marie Stace was the nine hole winner with 17 points, and nearest the pins went to Barb Doyle on two and Ruth Worland on both seven and 18.

Saturday's game, a four ball best ball stableford round, was sponsored by Koala Cherries, and once again it was Simon Rouget, making sure that at least some of his sponsorship dollars are well spent by taking the win with partner, Mick Holohan, their 46 points two clear of the second-placed team of Leo Dynes and Bill Wind. Scott Hill and Jared Sloane took third, also with 44.

Four of the five available nearest the pins went off, with two going to John Steer, five to Russell Purcell, seven to Mick Holohan and 18 to Dave Silverman.

The matchplay competition, which has been going on in the background for some weeks, came to its climax this week when Dan Burns beat Greg Millard in the final.

Just some advance notice in relation to the 2025 Ladies' Tournament. The event will now be held on Thursday, June 5, and is open to all ladies who have a GA handicap. Any enquiries should be directed to Helen Findlay at handg85@bigpond.com



Sue Greatorex and Judy Pearson. -S



Biffo chips up on 15. -S



Russell Purcell tees off. -S

Final round of Dalhousie District event

by Lesley Rundle

ON Monday, May 12 the ladies pennant team played in the final round of the Dalhousie District event. They played Woodend at Lancefield and the team of Heather Jenkins, Helen Howard, Miriam Page, Naomi Gist and Lesley Rundle played Woodend at Lancefield and won the match four to one. As Woodend and Marysville finished on top of the ladder they met again in the final last Monday at Euroa. Results will be given next week.

The Thursday golfers played stroke on the front nine holes and Gail Leigh (4) with an excellent nett 34 won the competition. Colin Davies (11) was the runner up with nett 35 on a countback. Gail also won the putting with 12 putts on a countback from Ray Jones and she also won the nearest the pin on the fourth hole. Brian Worcester won the nearest the pin on the ninth hole.

Also on Thursday, some Marysville members played in the Dalhousie Veterans event at Euroa, Beverley Bellman (32) won C Grade with 36 points and Steve Coker won a nearest the pin.

On Saturday, in wet conditions which they haven't encountered for a few months, both the men and the ladies played a stableford round. The ladies round was for the Mavis Hadfield Trophy and the men played the third round of the Barton Cup. The members were thrilled when new member Michele Mansfield (24) won with 32 points on a countback from Heather Jenkins. The men's winner was Pat Orwin (29) with an excellent 44 points followed by Richy Clark (14) with 38 points. The round three qualifiers for the Barton Cup were Pat, Keith Atwell, Brian Worcester and Adam Littlejohn. The nearest the pins were won by Richy Clark (2) Brett Mansfield and Peter Lilley who also won the Golden Shot.

Next Saturday the men will play the second round of the Par Shield and the ladies will play stableford.

This week is National Volunteers week and members would like to honour all the volunteers who contribute so much to society particularly those within the Triangle area and throughout the Murrindindi Shire. Closer to home members sincerely thank all the volunteers who contribute to the upkeep of the great Marysville Community Golf Club. Whether it be maintaining the course, gardens and clubhouse, governing the club, organising golf events and competitions, coordinating and administering the new memberships, and the numerous other tasks which the Marysville members willingly volunteer to do.

Rain and cold conditions test Thornton Eildon players

by Scott Whitehead

Wandin 3.8-26 defeated Thornton/Eildon 2.7-19

IN a game that would see the winner remain in second position on the ladder, the Thornton/Eildon women's football team took on Wandin at the Wandin Recreation reserve in the early time slot of 9.10am.

In contrasting conditions from the previous week, the rain and cold would test both team's skill and application.

In a fierce first quarter both teams found the going tough with a wet and greasy ball. This limited scoring opportunities, but it was Wandin who handled the first quarter

conditions better and took an eight-point lead into quarter time.

With the sleep now out of their eyes, Thornton/Eildon turned on the heat to dominate the second quarter. An early goal to Tahnee Heard returning from an ankle injury had away team "up and about" and a follow up goal to Katie Crothers saw the visiting side lead by five points at half time.

Early injuries to backline players Leah Battalis and a game ending calf injury to Amy Campbell early into the third quarter had the coaches rapidly flipping magnets on the whiteboard. The unscheduled interchanges gave Wandin scoring opportunities which saw them regain the lead while restricting Thornton/Eildon's third quarter score to zero.

With the game on the line and facing a 10-point deficit Thornton/Eildon's first season player Jevitha Jeeva Kumar listened to the coaches' directions and with some light-footed soccer skills was able to move the ball rapidly out of defence.

Leah Battalis returned to the field and had immediate impact while best on ground Imogen Paine at half back continued to dominate around the ground. With four scoring shots to one during the final quarter it was Thornton/Eildon who dominated but it would be inaccuracy under pressure that would see Wandin win in a tight final quarter contest.

Goals: Tahnee Heard, Katie Crothers one each.

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General store: Tahnee Heard; Café Alex: Amy Campbell; Murrindindi Aged and Home care: Imogen Paine; Snobs Creek Hotel: Jevitha Jeeva Kumar.

Next week Thornton/Eildon have the bye and would be looking to refresh before taking on Officer the following week at the Thornton Recreation reserve.

Training is every Monday and Thursday starting at 6pm with meals available on Thursday nights for \$15. If you are interested in being a player, supporter or a sponsor you can find details on the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball Club's Facebook page or by email at tedfnc@outlook.com

Great effort by all Seniors

by Michelle Jack

ON Saturday, May 17, the Alexandra Senior teams made the trip to Warburton to take on the Burras in five games of netball and three hard-fought games of football.

Seniors **Warburton/Millgrove 15.13-103** **defeated Alexandra 8.10-58**

THE Senior side entered Saturday's match against Warburton/Millgrove full of confidence and determination, but with a long list of injuries still lingering from the previous round against Yarra Glen, the team was once again forced to go in undermanned.

A late omission of Josh Edwards meant extra work for Scott Heveren, Jake Steyger, and Michael Coombs, who all doubled up after playing in the Reserves earlier in the day. Despite the challenges, the Rebels started with intent but struggled to convert early opportunities, trailing 1.2 to the Burras' 2.6 at quarter time.

The second quarter saw a slight improvement, with the Rebels slotting two goals to the Burras' four. Heading into halftime 21 points down, the boys knew they had a tough climb ahead.

The third quarter was one of the Rebels' best, kicking 3.2 to the Burras' 4.1 and

showing real fight. However, the physical toll of the day began to show, especially as further injuries forced the trio of doubled-up players to shoulder more of the load.

In the final term, the Burras capitalised on tired legs and pushed ahead with five goals to two, sealing the match despite the Rebels' gallant efforts.

Awards

Kervale Incentive: Harry Prendergast; O'Briens Real Estate: Sam Boots; Alexandra Hotel: Scott Heveren; Buxton Hotel: Sam Turner.

Reserves **Warburton/ Millgrove 7.6-48** **defeated Alexandra 4.6-30**

THE Reserves side saw a few changes last week, with the welcome return of Jarvis Matuschka adding strength to the lineup. Full of confidence, the Rebels got off to a solid start and trailed by just seven points at quarter time.

In the second quarter, the Rebels lifted their intensity and went goal-for-goal with the Burras. Heading into halftime, the boys were only a goal behind and well in the contest.

Inspired by strong words during the halftime break, the third quarter was the Rebels' best of the match. Their defensive pressure was outstanding, holding the Burras goalless while adding one goal and three behinds themselves to take a slender one-point lead into the final term.

Unfortunately, the Rebels couldn't maintain the momentum in the last quarter. Warburton/Millgrove finished strong, kicking three unanswered goals and holding the Rebels scoreless to secure the win.

Awards

NP on the Run: Will Goonan, Future Fit Finance: Brandon Kapakoulakis, Alexandra Hotel: Scott Heveren & Simpson Fuel Card: Jarvis Matuschka.

Under 18s **Warburton/Millgrove 7.6-48** **defeated Alexandra 3.9-27**

THE under 18s football team kicked off the day with a determined effort. The first quarter was a defensive battle, with the Rebels holding Warburton/Millgrove to just one goal while managing a single point themselves.

As the second quarter unfolded, the Rebels grew in confidence. A flurry of goals from both sides kept the contest tight, with Alexandra trailing by just seven points at halftime.

The second half saw the Rebels step up another gear. Their defensive pressure was outstanding, and the team delivered what was undoubtedly their best performance of the season so far. While the Burras ultimately came away with the win, the 21-point margin didn't reflect the competitiveness of the game.

The boys should be proud of their effort and the clear improvement in their game, promising signs for the rest of the season.

Awards

Bowens Incentive: George Sotiropoulos; GWS Incentive: Riley Frith; AFNC Voucher: Jake Marchetti; Coaches Award: Matthew Wal.

The Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) congratulate their very own Kath Hedger who last Saturday night at the Murrindindi Shire Council 2025 Community Awards was nominated in the Senior Volunteer of the Year category and received a special commendation in recognition of her lifetime of dedicated service to the club. AFNC we couldn't be prouder.

This coming week the senior teams will travel to Yarra Junction in four games of netball and three games of football. The awards will take place back at the Buxton Hotel.



Seniors player Sam Boots sending the ball while the opposition moves to intercept. -S



Harry Prendergast in the wild weather. -S



Jake Steyger going for the mark for the Alexandra reserves team. -S



Will Goonan mid kick. -S



Under 18 player Riley Frith sending the ball on its way. -S



Toby Lucas for the Alexandra under 18 side. -S

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Matt Wal booting the footy. -S



Tom Clark sending the football for the under 16 side. -S



Jayd Bennett under pressure. -S

Supportive crowds for AFNC teams

by Michelle Jack

IT was a big day at Rebel Park last Sunday, with the under nine, 10, and 12 footballers, along with all the junior netball teams, taking to the courts and fields in front of a supportive home crowd.

The under nine and under 10 played with plenty of enthusiasm and energy against Broadford. While scores aren't officially recorded at this level, every player gave it their all and played like superstars. The smiles, teamwork, and spirit on display were exactly what junior footy is all about, well done to all the kids, coaches, and families involved.

Awards

Under nines: Fletcher Lynch, Lincoln Conway, Cohen Pearce and Declan Heard.

Under 10's: Nate Carter, Koby Williams, Baxter Lamaro and Zac Stephens.

Football Under 12

THE under 12 footballers continue to build momentum, with numbers steadily increasing each week. This round, the team proudly welcomed four new players to the side, a fantastic sign for the future of the group.

The boys ran out onto the field full of excitement and enthusiasm, eager simply to play footy and enjoy the game. Despite coming up against a strong Broadford outfit, the Rebels never dropped their heads and continued to compete right to the final siren.

Full credit to every player for showing determination, resilience, and the true Rebel spirit throughout the match.

Awards

ESSENCE Coffee Lounge: Hudson Brooks; Reddrops FoodWorks: Jack Kidd; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Liam Coghill; Coaches Award: Clay Hilder.

Football Under 14 Wandong 9.13-67 defeated Alexandra 2.3-15

THE under 14 Footballers travelled to Wandong playing later than usual in the day. Under the guidance of Coaches Bec and Franky the team had a fantastic third quarter keeping Wandong scoreless.

Awards

ESSENCE Coffee Lounge : Billy Baker; Reddrops FoodWorks: Eli Van Lierop; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Max Kaiser;

Coaches Award: Brayden Glascott

Football Under 16 Echuca 23.15-153 defeated Alexandra 2.2-14

THE under 16s hit the road last week, travelling to Princess Park in Shepparton to take on a strong Echuca side. With only 15 players available, including Jaidyn stepping up from the Under 14s, the Rebels knew they were in for a challenging day.

Throughout the match, the boys battled hard despite being undermanned, at times playing with just 14 on the field due to a couple of blood noses. Meanwhile, Echuca had the advantage of a full bench with seven rotations. But that didn't deter our Rebels.

Credit to the entire team for their resilience, determination, and outstanding sportsmanship. They never gave up, supporting one another and showing what it truly means to wear the red and black. The team should be proud of their efforts, a tough day, but a great display of character.

Awards

ESSENCE Coffee Lounge: Lucas Crane; Reddrops FoodWorks: Lachy Williams; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Heath Sutcliffe;

Coaches Award: Logan Conway

Netball

ELEVEN and Under Development Netball Superstars this week: Reddrops FoodWorks: Olivia Wood; AFNC Canteen Voucher: Oakley Bishop; Alexabndra Sportspower: Lily Drysdale.

11 and Under Netball Alexandra 10 defeated by Broadford 11

AFNC Canteen Voucher: Tess Welsh; Reddrops FoodWorks: Hailey Coghill; Alexandra Sportspower Award: Ava Hill

13 and Under Netball Alexandra Red 19 defeated by Broadford 21

REDDROPS FoodWorks: Zelda Van Lierop; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Jayde Stewart; Alexandra Sportspower Award: Lainey Martyn

13 and Under Netball Alexandra Black 34 defeated St Marys 10

REDDROPS FoodWorks: Asher Mullins; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Ashleigh Francis; Alexandra Sportspower: Zoe Collier

15 and Under Netball Alexandra Red 33 defeated Broadford 30

REDDROPS FoodWorks: Koa Parker; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Megan Kendall; Alexandra Sportspower: Hannah Weeks

15 and Under Netball Alexandra Black 23 defeated by St Marys 41

REDDROPS FoodWorks: Holly Williamson; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe: Nikita Lyttle; Alexandra Sportspower: Ivy Miljkovic

A huge thank you to all our parents, guardians, and helpers who week in, week out continue to support our junior teams. Whether it's running water, setting up equipment, keeping score, or filling in at the last minute, your willingness to step up wherever needed doesn't go unnoticed.

With our junior teams often split across multiple locations each week, there's always a job to be done, and we're incredibly grateful for the community spirit that keeps everything running smoothly.

A big shout-out as well to our generous weekly award sponsors, your continued support helps us recognise and reward our young athletes for their efforts and commitment.



Asher Kaiser playing for the under 17 Rebels netball team. -S



Ashlee Collett and Abby Miljkovic working together to move the ball. -S