

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Eildon Landcare working on bike trail



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Biggest Morning Tea



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Vale Bruce Luckman



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Weekend sport



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Further drought support and farmer ESVF deferred, but is it enough?

ON Friday, May 30, the Victorian Government announced that it will extend its Drought Package to farmers statewide and defer the start date for the ESVF levy on farmers.

The latest weather data shows the anticipated 'autumn break' has failed to eventuate, with the window for last minute rain to avoid a failed season closing completely. Advice from Agriculture Victoria indicates that rainfall in May realised the worst-case

scenario, projected at the start of the month. Over the past two weeks, a majority of the state received just 20 per cent or less of the average typical rainfall expected in May. The Bureau of Meteorology also indicates these conditions are likely to continue into June. These conditions have left paddocks and dams dry, with fodder prices doubled.

Due to these worsening conditions, the Victorian Government is set to provide

an expanded Drought Package, costing \$37.7 million.

Farmers across the state will be able to access grants of up to \$5000 to support on-farm drought management improvements, in addition to financial counselling and mental health support.

The \$5000 requires dollar for dollar, so if you spend \$1000 on water cartage for

example, then you will get \$500 back. It's by application. Details can be found at agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/dry-seasons-and-drought-support

These payments will be increased to \$10,000 across 11 council areas and parts of West Wimmera. The program will also be expanded to cover water carting activities and pasture re-establishment across Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria's farm technical and decision-making support has also been made available statewide, supporting farmers to manage the impacts of these increasingly drier conditions.

As part of its Drought Package announced earlier in May, the government announced that farmers in 24 drought-impacted local government areas would pay a reduced Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) contribution, capped to the same amount they paid in 2024-25.

This will now be extended to all primary production properties, ensuring all farmers can focus fully on their drought response and recovery.

This will mean the ESVF variable rate on primary production properties will remain at 28.7, the same as it was in 2024-25, for the duration of the 2025-26 financial year. This reduced rate will be applied to rates notices for primary production properties automatically.

The government will also deliver a further package of support in the coming weeks, informed by a new Drought Response Taskforce. The taskforce will include Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence, Minister for Water Gayle Tierney, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Michaela Settle, Nationals MP for Murray Plains Peter Walsh, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Brett Hosking, Regional Cities Victoria Chair Cr Shane Sali, Rural Councils Victoria Deputy Chair Cr Kate Makin, Dr Susan Brumby from the National Centre for Farmers Health, CWA Victoria President Jenny Nola, stock

Continued Page 18



The briefing before the army training exercise, held with the multi-agencies at the Narbethong Sawmill site. More on page 6. -MP

★ OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JUNE 9 ★

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY FOR JUNE 11 EDITION

CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH AND FUNERAL NOTICES - 2PM FRIDAY, JUNE 6★
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS, THUMBS UP/DOWN AND
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, JUNE 9★

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au AND sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EGN and TRADES advertising deadlines remain unchanged.



Draft Council Plan 2025-29 open for community consultation

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting the community to have a final say on the draft Council Plan 2025–2029 and the updated Community Vision, following one of the most comprehensive engagement processes council has ever undertaken.

This is the third and final stage of community consultation before the documents are formally adopted in July 2025.

Over the past year, council has engaged in over 1000 conversations with community members about what matters most for the future of Murrindindi Shire, including the need for practical solutions, strong leadership, and a long-term vision that's grounded in local identity. This feedback has helped shape a bold yet practical roadmap that outlines how council will work toward the community's aspirations over the next four years and what our towns and shire should look and feel like over the next decade.

The council plan is organised around three clear strategic directions: A thriving and prosperous shire; healthy, inclusive and

resilient communities; trusted leadership and sustainable services.

These directions respond directly to what the community told council: The need to plan growth carefully, protect rural character, maintain local roads and assets; strengthen local connections and wellbeing, build resilience to climate and economic shocks; and ensure council communicates clearly, listens actively, manages finances responsibly and delivers effective and reliable services.

The draft council plan sets the direction for council's work from 2025 to 2029. It outlines objectives and strategies that balance the need for growth, sustainability, and strong service delivery, while continuing to manage resources responsibly. It also outlines council's role in delivering services and advocating on behalf of the community, while highlighting the opportunities for partnership and collaboration, because achieving this vision will take everyone working together.

The refreshed 10-Year Community Vision paints a clearer, more meaningful picture of the future the community wants:

A vibrant rural shire where everyone feels welcome, young people see a future, and the environment and identity are truly valued. It is a vision created by the community, in their own words, based on what they shared throughout the engagement process.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the draft plan represents a true collaboration between council and the community and encourages everyone to take a few minutes to review the document and share their views.

"This council plan belongs to the people of Murrindindi and responds to the vision set by our community. It reflects the conversations we've had from cafes to town halls, about what's needed now, and what kind of future we want to build together," Mayor Gallagher said.

"We've heard clearly that the community wants council to stay focused, to be honest about the financial and service challenges we face and deliver with purpose. This is your opportunity to make sure we've got it right.

"This is your shire, and your voice matters. Help us finalise a plan that reflects your

priorities and sets a strong direction for the years ahead."

A short survey is now open to all community members to help council confirm that the draft council plan reflects the priorities you shared. While the refreshed Community Vision has already been shaped by your input, this is your chance to check that the goals and strategies proposed align with what matters most to you.

Feedback closes Wednesday, June 25. To view the draft and complete the survey, visit: theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan2025-29

A summary of the community feedback will be published on The Loop and used to inform the final council plan and Community Vision, to be adopted by council in July.

Where's the water gone at Gallipoli Park Lake?

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has informed *Alexandra Newspapers* about the lack of water at the Gallipoli Park Lake.

A council spokesperson has said, "The Marysville lake has naturally drained due to a failed valve, and with water levels already extremely low and minimal inflow from the waterway, council is taking the opportunity to complete essential maintenance now, while conditions allow. Works will include structural repairs to the two piers and de-silting of the lakebed, which will require some additional drainage.

"Once the valve is repaired and the works are complete, the lake will naturally refill through the existing pipe system from the Steavenson River.

"We know this has an impact and appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we carry out these important works to restore the lake."

Val Lethbridge celebrates her 80th birthday

VAL Lethbridge had her 80th birthday party recently at the Corner Hotel. The food and atmosphere were wonderful, with 40 friends and family coming to help her celebrate. Suzie Cipriani made the sensational and delicious cake.

Val is a local identity who has lived in Alexandra for 60 years and spent 35 years at the Alexandra Secondary College, first as a French and English teacher then as a library assistant.

She was married to Marty who died four years ago.

People know her as an organist at St John's, Probus member, Redgate Bazaar Volunteer and a good friend, of whom she has many. Lots of people remember their boys Stefan and Scott.



Val Lethbridge with her birthday cake. -S

Plans for Eildon's Utah Place

CONCERNED Eildon Residents have been questioning when the bollards will be removed at both ends of Utah Place in Eildon between the Skate Park and Swimming Pool and the Splash Park and Playground.

A Murrindindi Shire spokesperson provided *Alexandra Newspapers* with the following response.

"The Eildon Reserves redevelopment is a collaborative project between Murrindindi Shire Council and the community, developed through extensive engagement, including a community deliberative panel.

"Following community feedback about pedestrian safety, particularly for children moving between the Skate Park and Swimming Pool on one side, and the Splash Park and Playground on the other side, council temporarily closed Utah Place to through traffic using fixed and removable

timber bollards. The original plan included a permanent closure of Utah Place.

"This current temporary closure aims to reduce risk while council undertakes a parking and pedestrian movement study, which will inform long-term solutions. Importantly, the road remains accessible for emergency services and can be reopened for community events or markets.

"A petition regarding the closure was formally received at council's December 11, 2024 Scheduled Meeting and has been responded to by the Director of Assets and Development.

"Council appreciates the community's ongoing interest in the project and will continue to keep residents informed as the study progresses and next steps are determined."



COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29 AND 10-YEAR COMMUNITY VISION

Shaping a stronger Murrindindi Shire together.

Over the past year, Council has engaged in over 1,000 conversations with community members to shape a practical roadmap for Murrindindi Shire's future. The Council Plan focuses on three strategic directions: a thriving Shire, healthy communities, and trusted leadership.

These directions address community needs like careful growth planning, rural character protection, local connections, resilience building, and effective services. Our 10-year Community Vision reflects shared hopes and requires strong collaboration.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. We now seek your feedback on the draft Council Plan to ensure it aligns with your priorities.

Read the draft and provide feedback at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan2025-29

Feedback closes **Wednesday 25 June 2025.**



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/alexandramuseum
or by contacting 0427 509 988

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A Christian community part of the Baptist
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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*.

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 2025 Scholarship Program applications open now. Details and application form can be found at yeahospital.org.au, or contact Jacky Baynes on 5736 0412. Applications close June 15.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

At Yea Sale Cards free flu vaccinations for the farming community.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Garage sale 7 Aitken Street, Alexandra, Saturday only from 8am-3pm.



THUMBS UP: To John at Yenckens. He was extremely helpful for two not so agile people and he was much appreciated. Thanks John.

THUMBS UP: To Kazzas Diner for the wonderful lunch provided to the visiting 55/56/57 Chevrolet Club on a club run to Alexandra and Eildon. The handmade place mats were a very thoughtful addition and the club loved them.

THUMBS UP: Thank you to the Eildon Landcare Group for their great work around the Eildon Pondage and lately the Eildon Recreational Trail. They work tirelessly to control many of our noxious weeds, in particular thistles at the moment. What a difference your efforts make. Greatly appreciated.

THUMBS UP: Thank you to the dedicated volunteers for coming out on the cold winter mornings for the Eildon Park Run to welcome all the participants, locals as well as many visitors. It is fantastic to see so many keen to engage in this great weekly event. Congratulations to all concerned. A great initiative for the shire.

THUMBS DOWN: Utah Place, Eildon. Locked up, the centre of town, unloved, unused, nothing happening, a wasteland, looking so sad and forlorn. Why?

THUMBS UP: To Amanda at the Rubicon Hotel in Thorton. Professional and looking after customers. Well done.

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

Marysville Winterfest Burrengeen Park and Gallipoli Park from 2-8pm. Food vans, coffee, fire dancer, outdoor market and more.

Alexandra Speedway this weekend, Saturday and Sunday. Racing starts 1pm both days. 100 lap derby, standard saloon cup, Sunday only; SSA junior sedans and more.

Murrindindi Shire Council's statement on the ESVF

MURRINDINDI Shire Council unanimously passed an urgent motion at its May 28 scheduled meeting, in response to ongoing community concern about the state government's introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy and following the release of legal advice received by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). This was prior to the announcement of limited support for Murrindindi Shire farmers, with a temporary deferral of the full implementation of the ESVF and drought support funding of \$5000 matched dollar for dollar.

The shire's statement says, "council acknowledges the significant cost-of-living impact this new state tax will have on households, businesses and rural landowners.

"The motion highlights council's legal obligation to collect the levy as part of annual rates and the need to inform the community that unpaid ESVF charges will contribute to property rates debt. This isn't something council can waive or avoid, and it's important the public understands the real financial implications.

"Legal advice shared this week by the MAV with councils across Victoria, confirms that councils are required to collect the ESVF as part of annual rates and charges and must proportionally allocate payments that do not cover the full amount. Councils are also legally prevented from issuing separate rate notices for the ESVF.

"Council also resolved to write to the Treasurer, Jaclyn Symes, requesting that the ESVF levy for primary producers in Murrindindi Shire be capped at the

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

The 28th Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show. Live music, free entry, wood chopping, exhibition and trade displays, children's amusements, plenty of food, trucks and rods.

2024-25 Fire Services Property Levy level for the 2025-26 year, in recognition of the severe drought conditions and the significant financial hardship that farmers are experiencing.

In presenting the urgent business to council, Deputy Mayor, Cr Anita Carr, said, "Small to medium farms, often spread across multiple titles, are facing significant increases with little ability to absorb the cost.

"The limited exemption for volunteers on their primary place of residence doesn't go far enough. We need a fairer model, one that supports our emergency services without compromising the future of rural communities."

Council said that they remain deeply concerned about the way this new state government levy has been implemented, particularly the pressure it places on rural communities.

"We all rely on emergency services, and we absolutely support the need to resource them properly," Mayor Damien Gallagher said.

"But this levy shifts a state taxation burden onto local government and places an unfair financial load on our communities already doing it tough. Farmers across Murrindindi are dealing with prolonged dry conditions and skyrocketing operating costs, small businesses and individuals are already facing land tax increases, while young people and the elderly alike are facing cost of living challenges, so this additional levy is poorly timed and poorly targeted."

Council said they will continue to advocate strongly for a more equitable and sustainable approach to funding emergency services.

Happy 60th anniversary

LOCAL Marysville couple Peter and Linda Dickinson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 1.

Peter spoke with this newspaper about how they met and how much his wife means to him.

"We met at a dance hall in the old Marysville Hall," Peter said. "My brother was working at Marylands Guest House at the time, and

he rang me up and said, 'there's a young student come in here, and I think she's a bit of alright'. So, we went on the dance floor and the rest is history.

"Linda was boarding at Maryland's, and then she got offered a job at Mary-Lyn with Fred and Vi Fiske, and she was there for quite some time," Peter added.

"When we first met I took her down to see Marysville House, which is a guest house that my father built. I said that it had 10 bedrooms. She got very excited about that. And I said hang on, are you planning a big family? She said no, two only, after that you're having the next one. I got the message very early in life."

With so many years spent together, Peter shared the secret to a happy marriage.

"Lots of patience and convenient hearing," Peter said.

"I'm a very lucky guy, she's incredible. Full on all the time, but that's what it's all about, keeping busy.

"She's done the whole guest house up as my father built it. He was a piano maker by trade. Linda used to run the crystal shop here for 20 years. Of course, with bushfires and COVID-19, everything came to a grinding halt.

"But we're maintaining the gardens, and at the moment she's got 40 gnomes, mushrooms, fairies, everything in the kitchen. We cleaned them all up, and she's hand painting them again. I put in for a face lift. I got totally told that it's not going to work, 'every time you smile it will crack the paint.'"



Linda and Peter Dickinson on their 40th anniversary. -S

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Training exercise with a multi-agency approach

FROM Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1 the Fourth 19th Prince of Wales's Lighthouse - Australian Army undertook a weekend of training exercises to prepare for supporting Victoria Police and other emergency services. The main training exercise was held at Narbethong Sawmill in Narbethong on the Sunday.

Major Abdelsayed has been working on the planning for this training exercise since February. He said, "A lot goes on because this is considered a non-defence training area. We have to talk to council. We have to get permission to use public property. Talking with Victoria Police, talking with the ambos and CFA and SES. So there's a lot of moving parts to get everyone together."

Thirty-nine soldiers from the Fourth 19 Regiment camped out in the forest area in Camp Spur in the Toolangi State Forest on Friday and then they camped out at the recreation reserve in Narbethong on Saturday.

Major Abdelsayed explained, "They were practicing their vehicle checkpoints. They were practicing their clearance search type activities. They didn't quite know what was happening today, but they were preparing to do this activity. So it's part of what we want to test with the culminating activity, that they use all that they've been trained in and done, and they bring it into a culminating activity to actually test it."

Over the weekend the Fourth 19th Regiment also held a recruiting stand in Marysville at Gallipoli Park.

"Community engagement is one aspect of this. That's really important. Being out with the community here in Narbethong in Marysville. We had a recruiting stand in Marysville in the park. Also having a chance to connect with the multi agencies and networking with each other," Major Abdelsayed said.

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Monroe said, "Just to reinforce that the activities like this give us an opportunity to practice the skills that the soldiers learn as cavalry soldiers as part of the Fourth Brigade. And it allows us to work with the community. We're grateful for their support to enable this activity this weekend and it reinforces the relationships with their emergency management partner stakeholders. That allows us to practice the skills that we develop in our training, so that we are always ready as required by Australia's Defence Force."

"The Fourth Brigade has a recent history with the region here because of the bushfires.... And when the fires were the control agency during that period, we were one of the support agencies... A lot of the members from our regiment were in the region here supporting Marysville. The narrative from the locals was, thank you for your service. But they're not talking about people that went and served offshore. They were talking about members of the Fourth Brigade that came and helped a lot of the community here," Lieutenant Colonel Monroe said.

The main training exercise held on the Sunday was conducted well, with the Fourth 19th Regiment cordoned and contained the area so Murrindindi police officers could conduct a search type scenario with three offenders on site with the background of a civilian threat in the Toolangi State Forest.



The road block at Anderson Lane in Narbethong. -MP



Members from the Fourth 19 Regiment, Narbethong CFA, Victoria Police, and Ambulance Victoria. -MP



Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Monroe spoke about the army's role in different scenarios depending on who called for the assistance. -MP



The debriefing following the training exercise. -MP



The soldiers gathered together after the exercise. -MP

Getting famil with Taggerty and Narbethong

LAST Wednesday, 40 volunteers and staff from the four Visitor Information Centres in Murrindindi Shire took part in a famil (familiarisation tour) of the Taggerty and Narbethong areas.

The group had fun visiting Taggerty General Store and Taggerty Hall, Pack Saddling Australia, Saladin Lodge, Bonfire Station and BIG4 Taggerty Holiday Park where they learned more about the region and what these local businesses offer to visitors.

Held during National Volunteer Week, this event was a great opportunity to recognise and thank amazing Visitor Services volunteers. Their warm welcomes and local knowledge help make Murrindindi Shire a must-visit destination.

Are you interested in volunteering? Email at visitorservices@murrindindi.vic.gov.au to find out how you can get involved.



The attendees at the famil tour. -S

Eildon Landcare Group working on the bike trail

THE Eildon Landcare Group has been working tirelessly on the Eildon Recreational (Bike) Trail on the Back Road in Eildon.

They have been working on the area for several weeks, in particular trying to stop the spread of thistles and other weeds.



The thistles and weeds alongside the Eildon Recreational Trail. -S



Members of Eildon Landcare Group, including Wendy Dare and crew. -S

Awards for On Point Brewery

CONGRATULATIONS to On Point Brewery in Alexandra on winning four awards at the Australian International Beer Awards.

They won silver in the Bohemian Style Pilsner category for their Pilsner can, and bronze in the American Style Pale Ale for their Pale Ale can.

They also won bronze in the Red India Pale Ale category with their Red IPA can, and bronze in the American Style Brown Ale category for their Point Lookout Lager can.

Bridging now to next this National Reconciliation Week

THIS year's National Reconciliation Week (NRW) theme, 'Bridging Now to Next', invites people to honour the journey of reconciliation. One that honours the past, embraces the present and builds for the future.

Inspired by the resilient native plants featured in this year's artwork by Kalkadoon woman Bree Buttenshaw, residents are reminded of the strength found in adversity and the possibilities of renewal.

At Murrindindi Shire Council, they are marking the week with a range of activities to reflect, learn and act. These include a staff low-key Lunch and Learn session featuring 'Going Places with Ernie Dingo' highlighting Aboriginal-led education and a discussion facilitated by Mayor Damien Gallagher as well as participation in the wawa dharrang Cultural Immersion Experience.

Council is proud to support activities like boomerang painting at Yea Library. Drop in anytime during NRW to decorate your own boomerang and pick a book from the First Nations display to take home. No bookings needed and everything you need is provided.

For more information about this year's NRW, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/www.reconciliation.org.au/bridging-now-to-next-nrw-2025/

Ambo's educate on heart health in Eildon

ANOTHER informative "Ambo's for an Hour" session hosted by Eildon Action at the Eildon Information Centre was held on Tuesday, May 27.

The topic was "Heart Health Awareness" and Mick from Ambulance Victoria, who is very passionate about this subject, answered lots of questions put forward by those present.

There was a morning tea provided and everyone chatted while Mick did some blood pressure and blood sugar tests for those who wanted them.

The next topic will be "Winter Messaging, Men's Health Week"

Anyone is welcome to attend.



Mick de Groot speaking to the attendees. -S



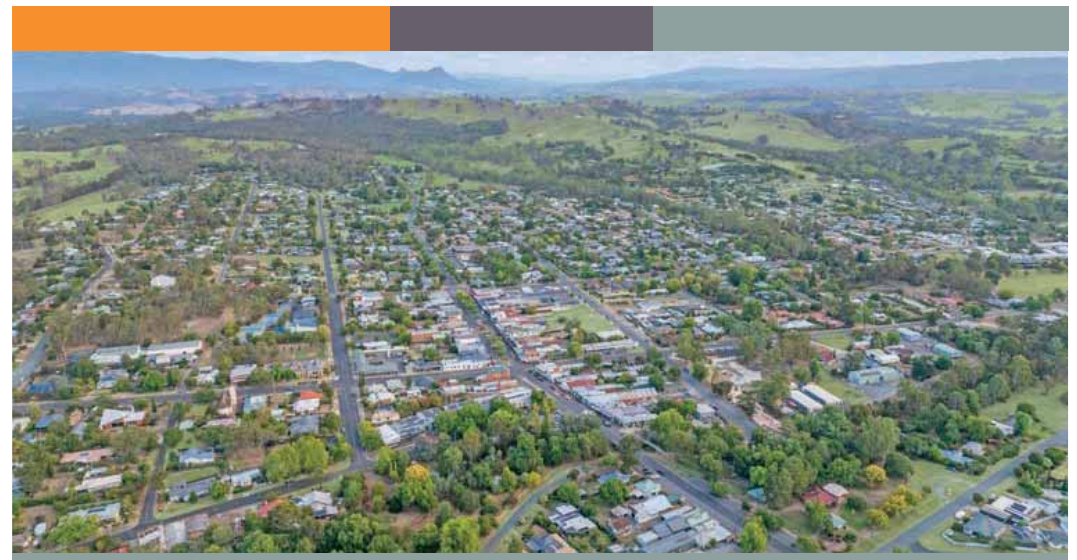
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DRAFT ALEXANDRA EAST DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The draft Alexandra East Development Plan is opening soon for public comment.

Developed with input from local residents, the draft plan proposes future development that respects what matters to the community – diverse housing, better footpaths and roads, drainage, and protecting big old trees.

Review and comment online when feedback opens on Friday 6 June at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/draftAEDP

Feedback closes **Monday 30 June 2025**.

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ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ava

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Shannon for working hard when writing about the Yea Wetlands.

Mollie for working hard on English Skills and Math Mentals, showing the school value of Achievement.

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Georgia Clark

Georgia is a bright and bubbly star in our school. She is an empathetic and helpful person and she is a great friend to people around her. Georgia tries her best in the classroom, is always polite and responds to feedback to improve her learning, making her a great role model. You are a star, Georgia. on English Skills and Math Mentals, showing the school value of Achievement.

Student of the Week

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Understand the risk of your home flooding

A FREE, local resource that provides residents with information about where water may spread to in a flood is available via the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) website.

The Goulburn Broken Community Flood Intelligence Portal details the possible water levels that might be reached at individual properties across a range of flood scenarios.

Goulburn Broken CMA Chief Executive Officer, Carl Walters, said the portal was a community resource developed in partnership with the CMA and six municipal councils to improve the flood resilience of the region's people, property, infrastructure and environment.

"We live in a floodplain, so like bushfires, we should always be prepared with a plan in advance. Floods can happen at any time of the year so it's important to be ready and vigilant," Mr Walters said.

"We really encourage everyone to go to this site and access the information that tells them if their property is at risk of flooding and at what point their home or business may start to get floodwater in it.

"That way people are ready in advance of flooding and when flood warnings are issued, the warning will mean something to them."

The portal includes flood information within the areas of Greater Shepparton, Strathbogie, Moira, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Benalla councils.

Mr Walters said the portal provided flood maps and information within floodplain areas, down to a property scale, to assist with planning for future floods.

"The portal also includes general Goulburn Broken region flood information such as minor, moderate and major flood level categories, links to Bureau of Meteorology flood gauge data, contacts, planning and development requirements and flood definitions," he said.

"Following the major flooding experienced across the region in October 2022, residents are much more aware of the importance to prepare in advance for potential flooding and this site is one tool available to them for that."

Access the Goulburn Broken Community Flood Intelligence Portal at my.floodreport.com.au/gbcm/

Freshwater crayfish worth rugging up for this winter

RECREATIONAL fishers are being encouraged to get into the great outdoors during winter and catch a Murray spiny freshwater crayfish after the three-month season opened on June 1.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Chief Executive Officer Travis Dowling said the prized freshwater species could be caught in northern and north-east Victoria and were great fun for fishers of all ages and experience levels.

"One great thing about catching crays is you don't need heaps of gear. A piece of steak on a length of string or a labelled hoop net will do the job," Mr Dowling said.

"Many families have great memories of winter weekends catching crays, which are perfect to enjoy around the campfire with loved ones or can be released to stay at liberty.

"It's important to know how to measure crays correctly, from just behind the eye socket to the rear of the carapace, which is the main body shell. The legal size range of 10 to 12 centimetres helps keep large, breeding females in the system to produce offspring for years to come."

In good news for the treasured native species, a study funded by recreational fishing licence fees has found wild populations across 17 sites in north-east Victoria remain in strong shape.

Researchers from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) and Nature Glenelg Trust surveyed the locations using hoop nets and found only minor changes from a similar study undertaken in 2016.

VFA recreational fisheries manager Dr Taylor Hunt said the assessment compared the abundance, size and sex ratio of freshwater crays caught in the two surveys and showed their numbers remaining steady.

"There were increases in the Goulburn River around Shepparton and the Wodonga Creek, slight reductions in the Goulburn at Murchison, Mitchellstown and Seymour and very little to no change in the Ovens, Kiewa and Mitta Mitta rivers," he said.

"This is good news and suggests our existing fishing rules are balancing fishing opportunities for recreational anglers with the right level of protection for a really important native species.



A correctly measured cray. -S

"We're also working with ARI to produce Murray spiny freshwater craylings at our Snobs Creek conservation hatchery, which will further bolster numbers in these spots and more."

Key rules for Murray spiny freshwater crayfish include the 10 to 12cm 'slot limit', a daily bag limit of two crays and statewide possession limit of four per person at any one time.

For more information, grab a free Recreational Fishing Guide from a tackle store, download the free VicFishing app or head to vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingguide



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Eildon's Biggest Morning Tea sets the bar high

EILDON'S Biggest Morning Tea for 2025 raised \$5462.55 for the Cancer Council, proving to be a huge success, financially and socially.

Indeed, several attendees said it was the best they had experienced.

"Wow, that was great," a woman commented moments before exiting Eildon Bowling Club, once again the perfect venue for the eagerly anticipated fundraiser.

The grand total to be donated to the Cancer Council included a \$3000 contribution, \$1000 more than last year, from the Eildon Community Opportunity Shop Inc.

The makeshift cheque was presented to emcee Cr Anita Carr by Op Shop President, Fay Crimeen, Vice-President Sue McLaurin, and Treasurer Veronica Bahlen.

"I doubt there would be anyone in this room whose life hasn't been impacted at some time by cancer," Fay Crimeen said.

"That is why the Eildon Op Shop committee unanimously agreed to once again generously support the morning tea."

Officially welcoming everyone, Cr Carr, Murrindindi Shire's Deputy Mayor and Eildon Ward representative, said, "It is fantastic to see the place bursting at the seams, with all seats filled, and we are left only with standing room."

"I would like to kick off the official proceedings by thanking Kerrie Malley and her team of awesome volunteers (too many to mention individually) for organising and hosting this morning tea for our community and the Cancer Council."

"Fittingly, this year's event falls into National Volunteer week, so an extra clap and thank you to all the volunteers in the room who give up their time to give back to the community."

"Eildon is well above average for volunteerism, but there's never too many, so if you are sitting there thinking you'd like to

help with something like this event, or looking to join a group in town, come have a chat and I'll point you in the right direction."

"It is so important for communities to get behind these events and give what we can to to assist people with cancer, whether in our community or further afield."

"Unfortunately, cancer touches us all in some way and we need to continue to fight together to destroy the beast."

"I know the ladies and gents have put in a mammoth amount of work to bring today together, so thank you and congratulations on what I am sure will be a successful day."

Cr Carr also thanked Eildon Bowling Club for providing its premises as the morning tea venue.

"The bowling club is such a great hub in Eildon, and the committee and volunteers are always so accommodating to these types of events," Cr Carr added.

"The venue is in immaculate condition and set up beautifully for today's event."

Kerrie Malley said the morning tea's success was due to several factors, the sterling work of her volunteer team, the public's patronage, and the year-upon-year generosity of local and out-of-town business and community donors to provide raffle and lucky door prizes.

"Their fantastic support enabled us to have 52 raffle prizes this year, including a huge trailer of firewood kindly donated by Mick Taylor, one of many great supporters of the morning tea," she said.

"That we are able to contribute almost five and a half thousand dollars to aid the fight against cancer makes it all so worthwhile."

The gathering included a group of residents from Darlingford Nursing Home. Luck was with the oldies as they won several raffle prizes.



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Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677





Let's eat, it's our treat

Something for everyone at Pavilion Bar and Grill

PAVILION Bar and Grill at the Marysville Golf Club has been operating since February this year and it's proving to be quite the success.

You will find a great assortment of cuisine at the Pavilion Bar and Grill such as pasta including the popular homemade gnocchi, steaks, burgers, a few curries and plenty more. The menu boasts of a mix of Italian, French and Indian.

Highly experienced Head Chef Bick has been working in the industry since 2006.

Bick said, "Previously I have worked with good companies, and I have owned my own restaurant earlier. I came to study here doing hospitality management. It was a two-year diploma. I have always had a goal to own my own business. I have worked with different cuisines and different Italian and French restaurants. I have learnt from here and there... I'm putting what I have learnt on the plate now, in this restaurant."

"Italian food is my passion. You will see homemade ravioli, fresh pasta and homemade gnocchi. That's what I love to do."

Experience the variety at the Pavilion Bar and Grill, they are open five days a week from Wednesday to Sunday for lunch and dinner at Marysville Golf Club, 956 Buxton-Marysville Road, Marysville.



Head chef Bick from the Pavilion Bar and Grill in Marysville is in his element in the kitchen. -S



The popular Gnocchi Lamb Ragu is a sell out dish. -S



A heart warming dish full of flavour is the Beef Vindaloo. -S



People can enjoy fabulous food and wine at Philip Lobley winery. -S

Tasty Sundays at Philip Lobley Wines

TUCKED away in the rolling hills of the Yea Valley, Philip Lobley Wines is inviting people to experience the perfect pairing: handcrafted wines and wood-fired pizza.

Every Sunday, the cellar door transforms into a relaxed haven where good food, fine wine, and great company come together under open skies.

Pizza Sundays are more than just a meal, they're a tradition in the making. Bring your friends, your family, or simply yourself, and enjoy artisan pizzas topped with fresh, local ingredients, all baked to perfection in the roaring wood-fired oven. Sip on the small-batch, naturally made wines while soaking in the serenity of the vineyard.

Whether you're a wine enthusiast, a pizza lover, or just looking for a laid-back Sunday escape, Philip Lobley Wines delivers warmth, flavour and genuine country hospitality. From crisp whites to complex reds, every bottle reflects our passion for sustainable winemaking and our love for community.

Join them this Sunday. Unwind, indulge, and make memories that taste as good as they feel.

Philip Lobley Wines' Pizza Sundays are every Sunday from noon to 5pm at 1084 Kinglake Glenburn Road in Glenburn. Bookings encouraged. Phone 0447 166 377.

Let's Eat winner

THE winner of the May Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Eileen Herridge from Alexandra. Eileen will be having a \$50 feed on us at Sedona Estate. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in this edition of *Let's Eat; It's our treat*.



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Let's eat, it's our treat

Peppers restaurant getting back to its roots

NEWLY appointed Head Chef and Restaurant Director Manuel Verdaguer from Andiamo Restaurant and Bar at Peppers Marysville is planning to shake things up for locals and tourists alike.

Asked about his vision for Andiamo Restaurant & Bar, Manuel said, "I want to bring guests in and just to go back to good old-fashioned service of the industry and honest food that country people will enjoy."

"I want to go back to the roots. I don't want to be pompous with the food; I just want to be honest and heartwarming, be honest to what we do. It's country food, nice big portions and reasonable pricing."

The bar is currently attached to Andiamo Restaurant & Bar but from mid to late June you will find the bar location will change to the chalet area, giving the bar a more relaxed feel. In this space, Manuel wants to concentrate a little bit more on international cuisine rather than just Italian. There will still be a bar at the Andiamo Restaurant & Bar to give people plenty of options to choose from.

There will be a new menu coming into effect in June, where Manuel plans to do big T bone and rib eye steaks. They will be great for sharing as they will be at the 1.2 to 1.3kg mark.

"I'm trying to bring the restaurant more in line with an Italian feel because it currently isn't holding that line, I'm working towards that, I'm also working on the capabilities of

the kitchen and the team that goes with it," Manuel said.

Manuel also plans to run some events in the conference centre such as Latin nights. "I will hopefully get people interested in coming, not just for the restaurant, but also to look at Peppers Marysville as a space to go to rather than just a restaurant and a bar," he said.

Next month Peppers Marysville will be holding many activities to celebrate the much-loved Christmas in July.


Make sure you head to Andiamo Restaurant at Peppers Marysville to witness these exciting changes to the venue, cuisine and atmosphere.



Some of the beautiful food available at Andiamo Restaurant and Bar.



Andiamo Restaurant and Bar. -S



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Philip Lobely Wines - Pavilion Bar and Grill - Peppers - The General
(Circle one venue of your choice from above list only)

One entry per household

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

For your chance to win a \$50 voucher, return this entry by noon, **Thursday, June 26.**

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KING'S BIRTHDAY Long Weekend



Winterfest: A festival of fire and ice

WINTERFEST offers an exciting welcome to winter in Marysville, offering family entertainment and attractions to celebrate the opening of the snow season.

The fun will begin with an outdoor market in Gallipoli Park and lantern-making workshops in Burengeen Park. Local emergency response teams will display their expertise in hourly demonstrations, and mini golf and best snowman competitions will keep the younger visitors amused, and mulled wine around the fire pits.

As darkness falls, the lantern parade will head around the lake, towards the oval, where Karina the Fire Dancer will be waiting to

amaze onlookers. Gypsy band 'Szara Fox and the Midnight Secrets' will get the crowd onto their feet with their brand of exciting music.

Entry is free, with fun, food and entertainment ahead for locals and visitors alike.

Make your own lantern from 2 to 5pm then enjoy the lantern parade at 5.30pm at Burengeen Park. There will be a great variety of food and drinks at Gallipoli Park at the outdoor market.

Marvel at the fire dancer and dance to the exciting music of Szara Fox and the Midnight Secrets at Gallipoli Park.



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A young Winterfest attendee with her lantern. -S



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KING'S BIRTHDAY Long Weekend

More to explore for motor vehicle enthusiasts

THE Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) in Shepparton opened its doors some 14 years ago in 2011, providing various exhibitions for motor vehicle enthusiasts.

Whether that be cars, trucks, buses, or motorbikes, MOVE's collections focus on the history and evolution of transportation.

Highlights of the collection include the Kenworth Dealer Truck Pavilion, Garth Wallace Harley Davidson Collection, Farren Bicycle Collection, Loel Thomson

Costume Collection, Clayton Gramophones, Telephones, and Radios, The Furphy Museum, and the Classic Bus Collection.

This wide variety of displays include detailed narratives that guide the viewer through the history and celebrates the innovation that led to these technological marvels.

More information about the Museum of Vehicle Evolution can be found on their website, at moveshepparton.com.au



The Kenworth Dealer Truck Pavilion at the Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) in Shepparton. -S

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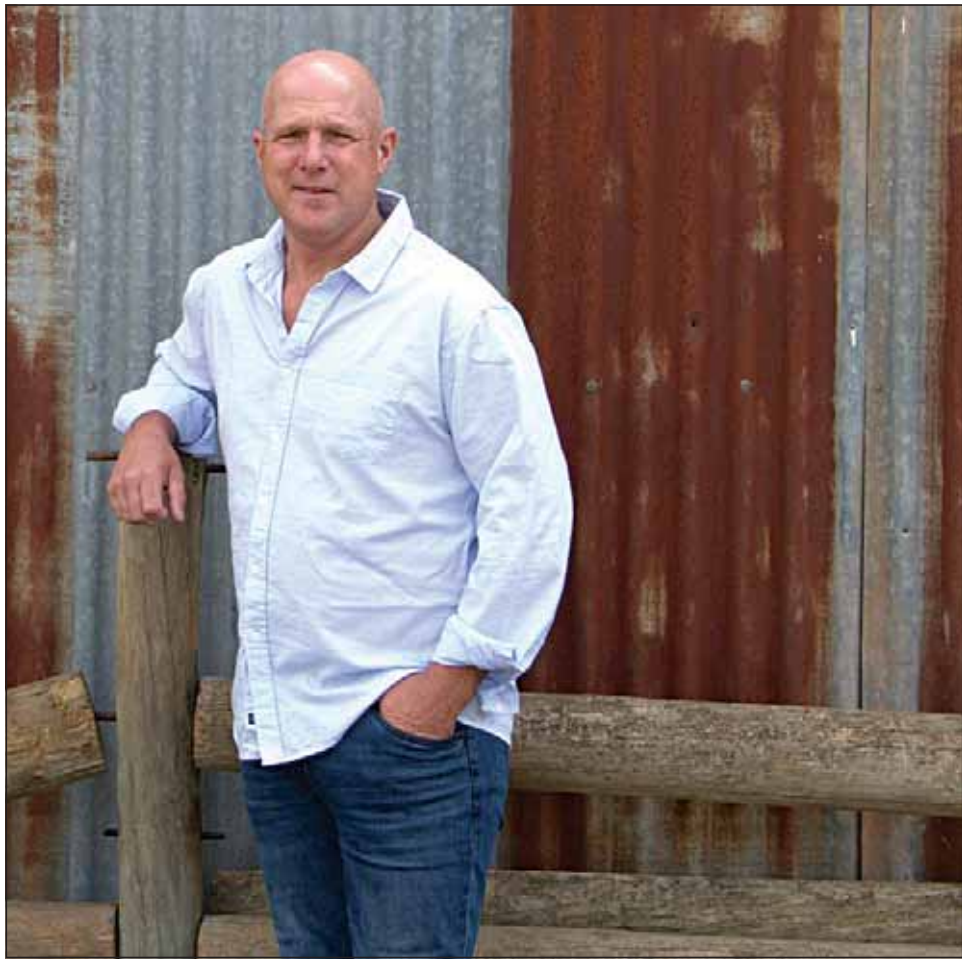
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KING'S BIRTHDAY Long Weekend



Warren Davies. -S

Truck show ambassador: The Unbreakable Farmer

WARREN Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, is set to be this year's Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show ambassador.

Warren Davies is not just an average farmer. There is more to him than meets the eye. His eventful life has tested his resilience, persistence and determination. These events had a massive impact on his young family, relationships and finances, but this has made Warren who he is today, The Unbreakable Farmer.

He empathetically engages with individuals and organisations by sharing the journey of piecing his life back together, and the vast array of life lessons he learnt along the way.

He purchased his first farm aged 22, however the harsh reality of being a farmer soon became very evident: high interest rates, low commodity prices, floods and drought. All these had an impact, but most significantly, on his mental health. It had a massive impact on his young family, relationships, and of course, his finances, culminating with the decision to basically walk off the farm.

He searched for a better way. He began his journey of piecing his life back together, and the road has been long. He speaks about resilience, persistence, determination, leadership and wellbeing. These are relevant to people of all ages and backgrounds, from all communities.

Healthy Heads Foundation at the truck show

HEALTHY Heads in Trucks and Sheds Foundation is an organisation dedicated to improving mental health and wellbeing in all aspects of Australia's transport industry.

Representatives from the foundation will be speaking at the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show dinner, and they will also be hosting a stall at the event.

Healthy Heads in Trucks and Sheds focus on providing tailored support and initiatives,

to keep the warehousing, logistics and road transport sectors healthy and improve wellbeing.

The foundation was established by Australia Post, Coles, Linfox, Toll, Ron Finemore Transport, Woolworths Group and QUBE, to improve psychological and physical health for the industry.

For more information about the foundation, visit healthyheads.org.au/about-us/



The Healthy Heads in Trucks and Sheds truck, Kenny the Kenworth. -AR

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TRUCK SHOW WEEKEND

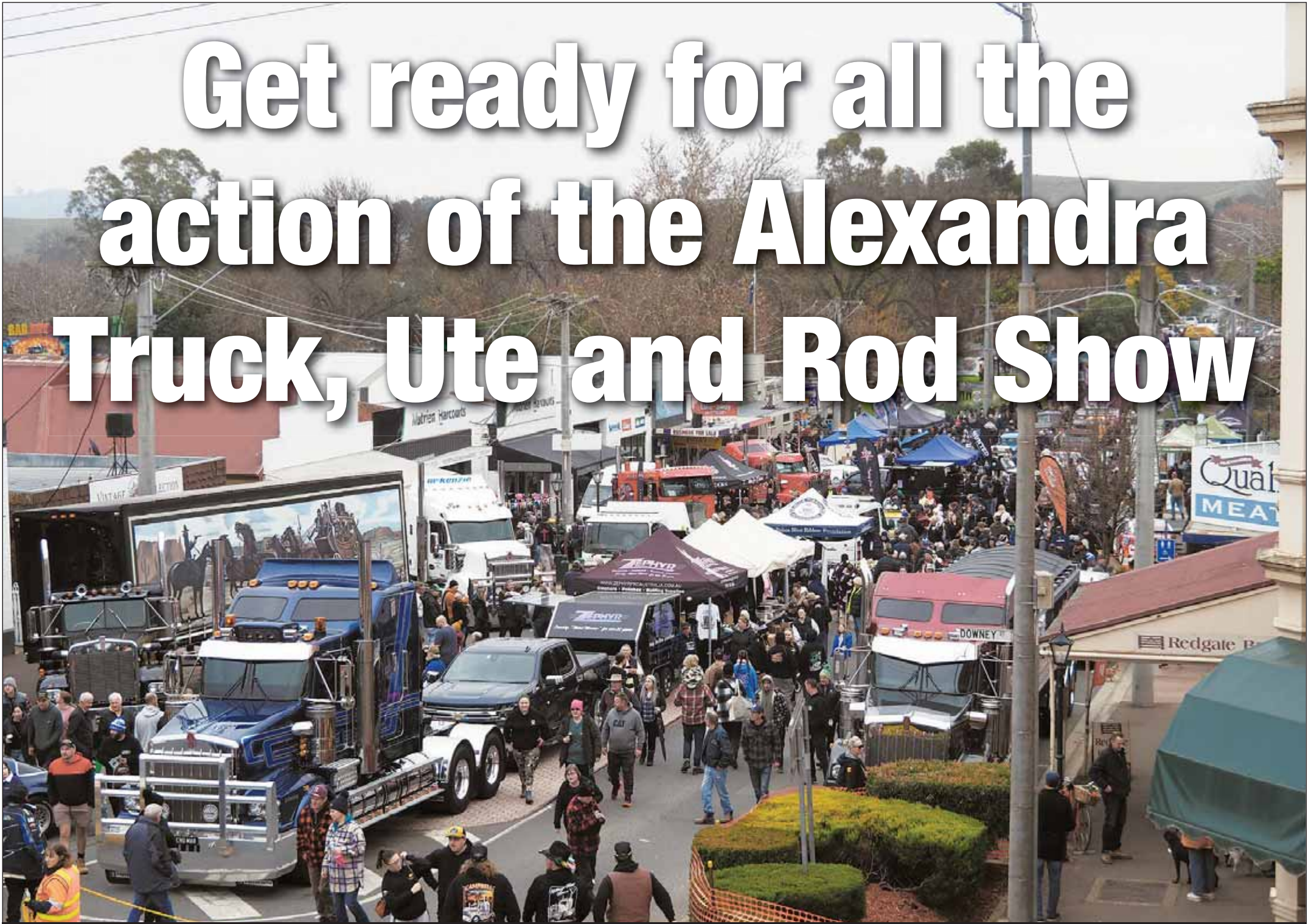
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KING'S BIRTHDAY Long Weekend

Get ready for all the action of the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show



Some of the crowd at the 2024 truck show. -AR

THE Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show is back for the King's Birthday long weekend.

Gordon Simpson, one of the organisers, said, "The truck show memorial is at 2pm

on the Saturday, then that leads into a dinner at the Alexandra Shire Hall. It's a chance to meet and mingle with the sponsors and

some other people, and to help our Alexandra Events Foundation.

"This year we're going to try to get some money to get a caravan for the Yea Hospital," he said. This will be used as a mobile medical unit.

"On the Sunday things will start nice and early. We've got a fair few trucks organised, in fact we've got a road train with two big trailers coming in to be right on the bridge, one of our sponsors. That was built for the recent truck show two weeks ago. They're going to clean it up and bring it down for the truck show.

"We can't do this event without our sponsors. That's the main thing to get across, if we don't have people supporting us, we wouldn't have a show.

Council recently approved a three year sponsorship plan, which will save the organisers from going back every year and asking council for money.

"It probably costs us \$80,000 to \$90,000 to put the truck show on," Gordon said. "A

lot of volunteer hours. A lot of money to pay for toilets and we've got to pay for people to put up signs and control the streets and stuff like that. We've got a fair few new costs this year that we've got to cover. Because we run a free event, that's why we need sponsors, to help cover the event. And that's why we sell raffle tickets, to help pay for it."

The auction will be held at 2pm, in the familiar format. The performers will include Andrew Swift and Billie-Jo Porter.

Gordon is expecting the truck show to be "On a par with other years. We never know until the day, or what the weather is like, how many utes or rods we get. There's a lot of trucks coming, a lot of big companies talking about coming down to support us."

The wood chop will be the same as normal, with the timber coming from a private plantation near Ballarat.

"We've got Warren Davies coming too, The Unbreakable Farmer, he'll be back with us this year. He's our truck show ambassador," Gordon said.

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The Farmer's Ag News

Opposition calls the ESVF 'cruel and unfair'

A JOINT press release from Leader of the Opposition Brad Battin, Shadow Treasurer James Newbury and Leader of the Nationals Danny O'Brien stated, "the Allan Labor Government has finally admitted that its emergency services tax is unfair after months of community outrage and sustained pressure from the Liberals and Nationals."

"Under the cover of a drought support announcement, Labor has quietly paused an increased emergency services tax on to farmers, a cruel and unfair tax hike that would have hit farmers during one of the driest seasons in years."

"However, the unfair tax will remain on all other Victorians and the partial pause will be removed in 12 months, leaving every recipient forced to pay the full force of the tax."

Leader of the Opposition Brad Battin said, "Jacinta Allan picked a fight with CFA volunteers and farmers, and she lost."

"After weeks of spin and denial, Labor has finally admitted what we've been saying all along, this was never about supporting emergency services. It was a desperate cash grab that hurt the very people who protect our communities. This is not leadership. This is political damage control."

"Farmers were rightly furious that in the middle of a drought they were being slugged with a 150 per cent increase in emergency service tax."

Leader of the Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien said the fight against this tax is not over. "Farmers get a one-year stay of execution but they shouldn't be facing this massive tax slug in the first place. The only way to fix this issue is to scrap the tax altogether. Every single household and business in the state is still up for a massive doubling of their emergency services tax from July 1. This will hit every Victorian during a cost-of-living crisis and yet the budget papers show a cut in funding for our emergency services," he said.

Shadow Treasurer, James Newbury, said the emergency services tax was always about plugging Labor's budget black hole, not helping the CFA or SES. "Jacinta Allan has now admitted that her great big new tax is seriously unfair but has refused to fix it permanently. The only fix for this tax is to scrap it, which is what the Liberals and Nationals have committed to do. We also now know that the Budget surplus...is a total phoney."

Drought Taskforce welcome but more help needed says RCV

RURAL Councils Victoria (RCV) has welcomed the establishment of a bipartisan Drought Response Taskforce, but warns more work is needed to support rural communities now.

Premier Jacinta Allan announced she will personally Chair the new Taskforce, which also includes Corangamite Mayor Kate Makin as a representative of Rural Councils Victoria.

Cr Makin (who is also the Deputy Chair of Rural Councils Victoria) described the taskforce as a positive step.

"The taskforce is a welcome acknowledgement that the drought is biting, it's affecting huge swathes of Victoria and that more help is needed. The real test will be action. I'm hopeful the taskforce can help design further measures the Victorian Government will take to support rural communities."

As part of today's announcement, Victoria will spend an extra \$37.7 million helping farmers through small cash grants and additional funding for financial counselling and mental health support.

The Victorian Government also confirmed it would pause the introduction of the flawed and unfair Emergency Services Volunteers Fund levy.

RCV Chair Rob Amos said this was a half-measure, but welcome all the same.

"The ESVF is a bad tax that will do great harm to rural communities. We would still like to see its full removal."

"But delaying its implementation is very welcome."

"It's at least a sign the government has listened and is taking action to remove some immediate financial burdens from primary producers."

Cr Amos said Rural Councils Victoria will work supporting the Taskforce and Ms Allan, to ensure the government delivers the extra support rural communities need.

"The government can't make it rain, but we do expect it to adequately support rural communities through the tough times," Cr Amos said.

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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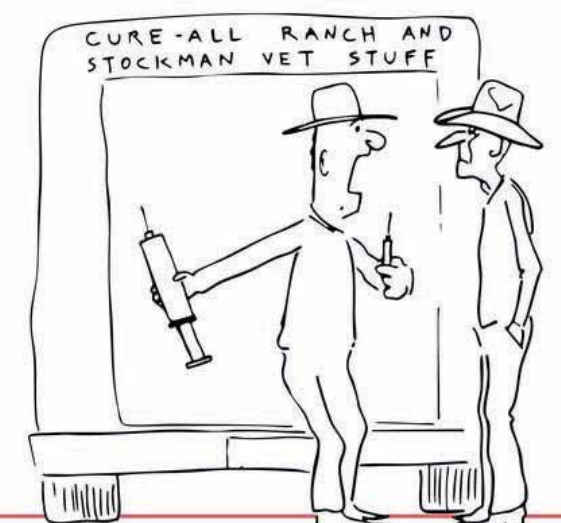
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Murrindindi Shire Council’s May meeting

AT the Murrindindi Shire Council May meeting, all councillors were present. Mayor Gallagher declared a conflict of interest regarding the Alexandra Events sponsorship request.

A petition was received from Kinglake Junior Football Club, signed by 176 people, requesting that council fund regular maintenance for the oval. The petition was received and will be considered as part of the budget process.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund
Cr Carr spoke in Urgent Business about the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), which recently passed in the Victorian Parliament, to commence on July 1. She proposed to bring new information regarding council’s legal obligations and position regarding the implementation of the levy, given the concern and anxiety in the community. She noted that the next council meeting is not until June 18. She said new legal advice had arisen since the agenda was confirmed. She proposed that the issues around the ESVF be considered by council. The motion was carried.

Cr Carr provided an outline of the ESVF and noted that the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) recently shared its legal advice regarding the implementation of the levy and council has issued a statement about the levy. She moved that council noted the MAV legal advice indicating that councils are legally required to collect the ESVF, if a ratepayer pays less than the required amount, a portion of the paid amount must go towards the levy, and that councils cannot issue a separate invoice for the ESVF. She said that while council has a legal obligation to comply, it remains deeply concerned about the introduction of the ESVF, which shifts a state taxation burden onto local government operations and potentially impacts the relationship between council and the community. She asked that council write to Treasurer Jaclyn Symes seeking relief from the ESVF for Murrindindi Shire primary producer for the next financial year by capping the ESVF levy at Fire Services Property levels, recognising the prolonged dry period and the escalated costs of carrying stock.

She spoke about the impact of the levy on rural communities, particularly farmers who are already under significant financial pressure. She said that the ESVF compounds the pressure on farmers who are contending with rising costs, dry conditions and limited feed availability. “For those not eligible for infrastructure grants or volunteer rebates, there is little relief,” she said, adding, “The timing of the 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 disproportional 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. This new

levy is going to affect everyone... It’s going to hurt everyone in this cost of living crisis.”

She added that she acknowledges the importance of properly funded emergency services and the efforts of 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 which supports both our emergency services and our communities to thrive.”

Cr McAulay spoke about council’s advocating to government agencies for Murrindindi Shire to be listed as drought-impacted. She supported Cr Carr’s views.

Cr Lording said, “I just look at this as a perfect storm against the farmers. There are three or four different costs skyrocketing at the moment... It’s just not fair to hit them all like that. I would like to see the government do something along the lines we’re suggesting.”

Mayor Gallagher thanked Cr Carr for bringing the motion. He said, “This levy comes at a particularly difficult time for our community as we navigate pressures at home, on the farm and in business. Council wishes to acknowledge the impact right across the community.”

He said he was concerned that the tax is founded on the concept that land equals wealth. For many farmers, who are disproportionately impacted by the ESVF, the expenses are up, revenues are evaporating, and so the capacity to pay is often terminally diminished. He noted that while council is legally required to collect the tax and to pursue unpaid rates and levies, “This does not mark the end of the matter. Council will continue to explain to government the impact of the levy on our rural community. Council will continue to tell their story.”

Council voted unanimously for Cr Carr’s motion. Further information on this can be found on page four of this edition.

Public participation

Justin Bumstead spoke about the Kinglake Junior Football Club petition regarding the oval. He said that 1600 people use the oval each week. He said that the oval has fallen into a state of disrepair as it has relied on volunteers identifying the issues to council. They are seeking support for the maintenance plan.

Cr Lording said that council already spends \$60,000 to \$65,000 per year on the oval, and that there are five ovals in the shire like that. This led to some further discussions around efficiencies. Cr Adams commented that council is seeking major funding for the oval renewal from government. Cr Gallagher asked for details of in-kind support from volunteers, as well as seeking information on women’s sport in Kinglake.

Catherine Cumming spoke about how her son incurred an injury recently at Kinglake oval. She also commented on how the football would frequently go onto the road and how dangerous it is.

Questions of council

Ms Bonazzi read questions from Murray Ross, relating to the circular economy reforms. Ms

Bonazzi cited the Circular Economy Act, and said that under state legislation, participation is not optional where the service is provided, except where access is not feasible.

Grants and sponsorships

Council approved a Major Events Grant as recommended by the Grant and Sponsorship Assessment Panel for DrachenFest Australia 2025 (\$2500) and noted the Quick Response Grants awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel during the February to April period. These were Murrindindi-Woodbourne Community Hub Inc for Murrindindi Valley Community Sign Boards (\$2500), Rotary Club of Alexandra for the 55th Easter Art Show (\$2500), 2030 Yea Inc for their Community Presentation on Sustainable Housing and Renewables in Yea (\$2500), Murrindindi East U3A for pickleball (\$2500), Murrindindi Carer Support Group for Carers Week (\$1160), Strath Creek Progress Association Inc for the Anzac Day Service (\$1400), Buxton Primary School’s Boite Schools Chorus (\$846), Alexandra Secondary College’s Purchase of Education Beer Goggles (\$640), Alexandra Secondary College’s Party Ready First Aid for year nine (\$376), Yea Community House’s Community Notice Board (\$2500), Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House for the relocation of Kinglake OpShop (\$2500), Gallipoli Park Precinct Community Asset Committee for Winter Fest Fire and Ice (\$2500), Yea and District Memorial Hospital for the Mother’s Day Classic (\$885) and Toolangi Castella District Community House Inc for updating equipment (\$918).

Alexandra Events

Cr Gallagher departed the chamber prior to the discussion.

The officer recommendation was “That council approve entering into a three-year sponsorship agreement with Alexandra Events Corporation Ltd for the Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show and the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, and authorise the CEO to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on Council’s behalf, incorporating the following terms: Year One: Cash contribution of \$12,000; In-kind support (council services) up to \$13,000, Growth allocation up to \$6000. Year Two: Cash contribution of \$10,000 (plus CPI), in-kind support (council services) up to \$10,000 (plus CPI); growth allocation up to \$6,000 (plus CPI). Year Three: Cash contribution of \$8000 (plus CPI), in-kind support (council services) up to \$10,000 (plus CPI), growth allocation up to \$6,000 (Plus CPI). Require Alexandra Events to submit a report within three months of each event, acquitting how the sponsorship funds and in-kind support were used, and summarising outcomes achieved. Incorporate into the agreement the partnership elements and mutual benefits outlined in the Sponsorship Proposal.”

Cr Lording spoke against the proposal last year but is now “totally happy with it and very pleased to recommend this proposal.”

Cr McAulay commented on how the events attract large crowds of visitors and locals. “Supporting this event shows a

commitment to supporting locals,” she said. Cr Adams commented on the transparency of the required reporting, and Cr Carr on the economic impact.

The application was approved unanimously per the officer recommendation.

Community engagement

The Community Engagement Findings Report will support the development of the draft Council Plan 2025-29. It summarises insights and feedback gathered from community consultation undertaken in June and July 2024 and February and March 2025. These findings will inform the development of the draft 10-Year Community Vision, the new Council Plan 202529 and 10-Year Financial Plan, all prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. It was noted by council and the community acknowledged.

Audit and risk committee

Steve Schinck was reappointed to the Audit and Risk Committee as an independent member for a second three-year term.

Council Services During High Emergency Risk Periods Policy

Council adopted the new policy and rescinded the *Service Provision* and *Fire Danger Ratings Policy* and the *Emergency Management Policy*.

Quarterly Finance Report

Council received the report and noted the adjustments. It was also noted that the CEO advises that there are no new or unanticipated material changes to the budget that would require formal adoption of a revised budget for the 2024/25 financial year. The operating surplus is expected to increase from \$5.2m to \$5.8m.

Capital Works Program Quarterly Report

Council noted the report. The key highlights for the third quarter included the opening of Baanh ba Djila in Eildon, completion of the Kayigai Trail at the Yea Wetlands, and the completion of the Yea Pedestrian Ramps Disability compliance program.

Kerbside Collection Service Bins expedited payment

The Victorian Government is requiring all councils to implement a four-bin collection service by 2027 and council intends to comply with these directives while renewing the kerbside bin collection contract currently up for review. A tender process was undertaken to engage a vendor as part of a regional joint procurement brokered by the Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group. Council awarded Solo Resource Recovery on the basis that it provided best value. To meet implementation timeframes and ensure continuity in service rollout, it has been necessary for council to proceed with payment for the delivery of two new bins to residences across the shire prior to the finalisation and signing of the master agreement with Solo Resource Recovery. The payment was approved.

Further drought support and farmer ESVF deferred, but is it enough?

Continued from Page 1

agent representative Heath Templeton who is President of the Hamilton and District Stock Agents Association, NAB Executive for Regional and Agribusiness Khan Horne, and Robert Musgrove, General Manager, Corporate and Public Affairs at Bendigo Bank.

The taskforce will be chaired by the Premier and provide advice on further help for farmers, as well as broader support for impacted businesses and communities.

The taskforce’s first meeting will be held this week, with a further package of support to be delivered as soon as possible.

Premier Jacinta Allan said, “The increasingly devastating effects of drought aren’t confined by postcode or region. It’s impacting farmers across Victoria. It’s why we’re expanding support statewide.”

“The new taskforce will bring together Victorians from different communities, different backgrounds and different political parties. Most importantly, it’ll be focused on delivering real relief for farming communities.”

While the ESVF has been deferred for farmers across the next financial year, the

ongoing impact of the tax is likely to be highly disruptive in regional communities when implemented in full.

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) will take between \$2.2 million and \$3 million more from farmers annually in Murrindindi Shire than they were previously paying under the Fire Services Levy, based on farm property valuations for April 2025.

Under the former Fire Services Levy, which is now effectively in place for a further 12 months, a total of between \$1,591,786 and \$2,116,135 will be charged of farmers in Murrindindi Shire, based on total farm valuations as of April 30.

Under the ESVF, a total of between \$3,800,696 and \$5,112,482 will be demanded from our farmers in Murrindindi Shire, once the deferral has expired.

Non-farm properties will also be charged under the ESVF, and this will remain the case in the next financial year, however farmers were being disproportionately burdened with an unfair variable rate.

It’s understood that only seven per cent of the ESVF levy will go towards funding our volunteer services, including the CFA and

SES. The remainder will go towards funding up to 95 per cent of the annual budgets for Triple Zero Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria (including the State Control Centre) and responsibilities for emergency management within the Department of Justice and Community Safety (including Emergency Recovery Victoria), and Forest Fire Management Victoria and its support functions within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

These organisations were previously paid for through general revenue. As taxpayers, we were previously paying for these services, and yet there will be no reduction in our tax, so the government is not only hitting farmers particularly hard during a drought, the state government also double-dipping.

There are no refunds for the amount we were paying via general revenue, of course.

On May 16, the following questions were asked of Treasury: 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? [I note that a new heavy tanker costs around \$460,000]. How many low quality CFA stations be replaced through the levy? Why are farmers being targeted for higher levies than residential owners under the ESVF?

After much chasing, a response was finally received, which simply pointed us in the direction of the premier’s drought support announcement.

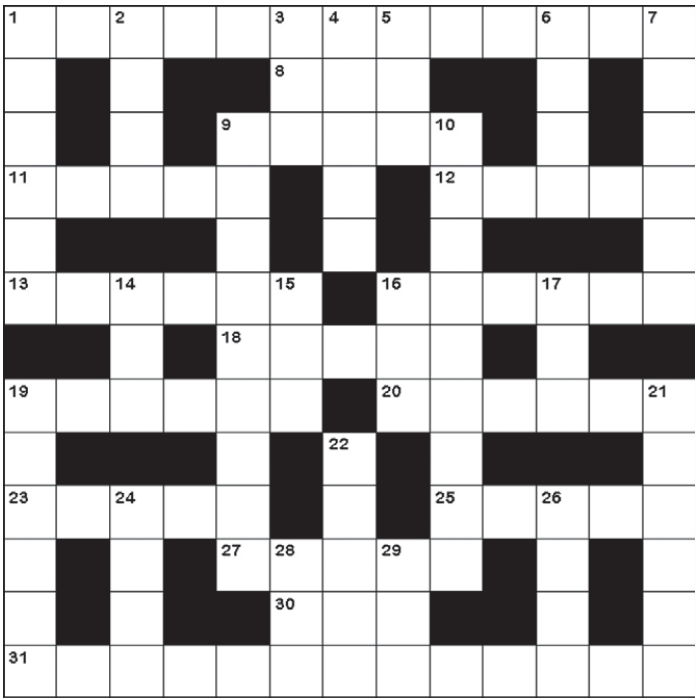
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 22

KID’S PUZZLES

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1. Established as genuine.
 - 8. Make a mistake.
 - 9. Not salty, sour or bitter.
 - 11. The fur of a rabbit.
 - 12. Black hornless beef cattle.
 - 13. Devastate and destroy.
 - 16. Tiny reptile with two pair of legs.
 - 18. Looked at with wonder.
 - 19. Vehicle equipped for camping.
 - 20. A great shortage.
 - 23. Long barrelled firearm.
 - 25. Garden tool for cutting grass.
 - 27. Lace place under a dish or bowl.
 - 30. Unidentified Flying Object.
 - 31. Broken into fragments.



- DOWN**
- 1. A fisherman who uses a hook and line.
 - 2. A device for capturing.
 - 3. Never been used.
 - 4. Hikes through mountainous areas.
 - 5. Strong angry feelings.
 - 6. A small thin branch.
 - 7. Wet thoroughly.
 - 9. Laughed quietly and secretively.
 - 10. The art of stuffing and mounting animals.
 - 14. Exuberant vigour and energy.
 - 15. The organ of hearing.
 - 16. Guided the way.
 - 17. A distinctive quality.
 - 19. Cured in brine.
 - 21. A person who announces important news.
 - 22. A cutting blade.
 - 24. A petty quarrel.
 - 26. Where the sun sets.
 - 28. Not at home.
 - 29. A written record of events.

Word Search

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

Boys names	
ALEXANDER	MATHEW
CAMERON	PHILLIP
DAVID	ROBERT
EDWARD	STEPHEN
GRAHAM	THOMAS
JONATHAN	WILLIAM

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Cryptogram

Boys names

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
19								

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				20				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
21	17						

S N S A N
21 20 26 2 21 19 20 13

S N A S A N
21 20 19 26 14 21 19 20 13

2 8 2 2 4 13 24 1

T A S
17 19 26 14 21

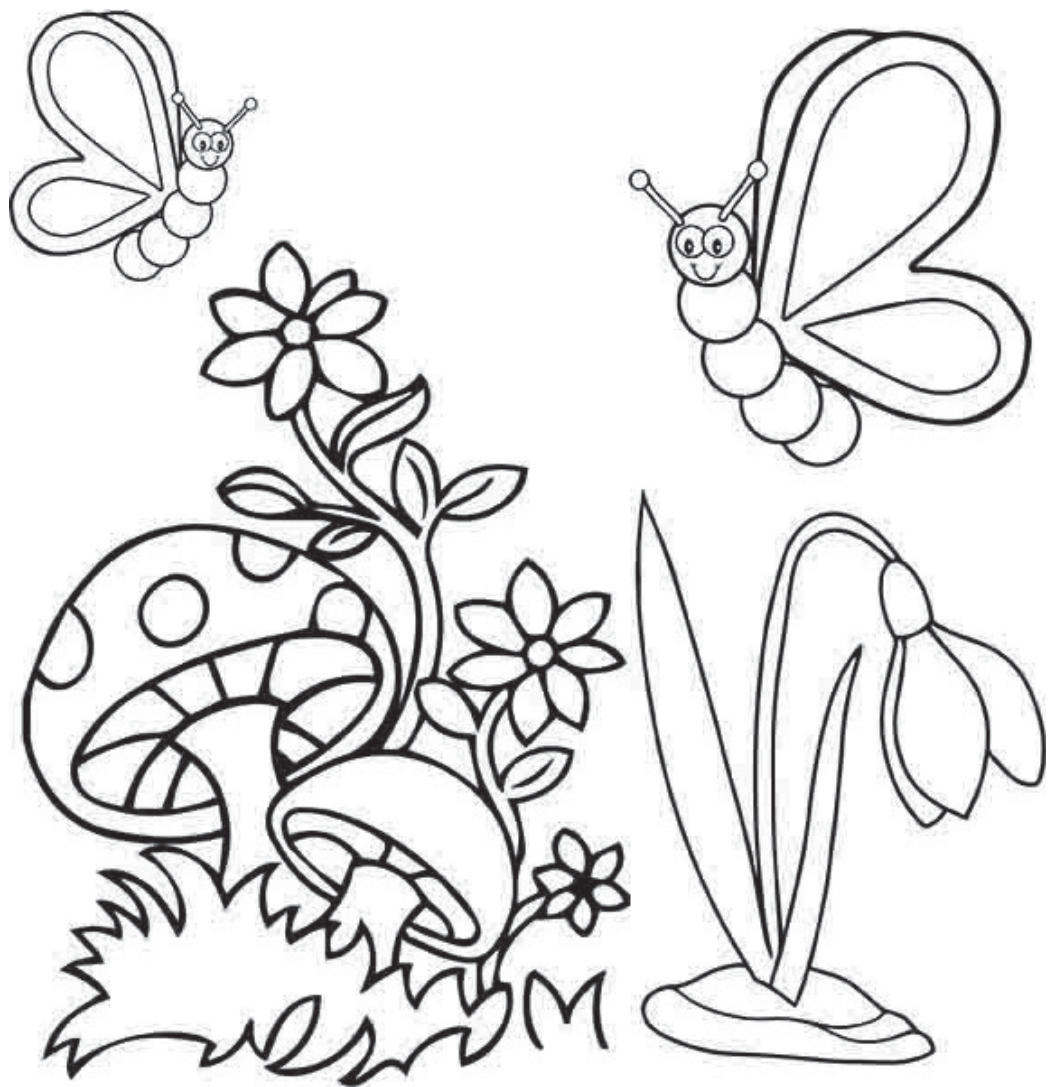
Math Square

	+		×		17
+		+		×	
5	+		+		18
+		-		+	
3	×		-		23
17		1		25	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with “G”

GALLOP	GLOBAL
GARBAGE	GOALPOST
GARDEN	GOATS
GENEROUS	GOODBYE
GEOGRAPHY	GRAPES
GEORGINA	GREEN
GIANT	GREGORY

Math Square

5	-		+		12
-		+		-	
	+	8	-		13
-		-		+	
	-		-		-8
-4		6		15	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

Knock knock!
Who’s there?
Spell!
Spell who?
Okay, W-H-O.....

Q: What do you give a sick lemon??
A: Lemon-aid



Bruce collecting donations for the Good Friday Appeal. -S



Bruce with his three children and six grandchildren. -S



Bruce Luckman. -S

Vale Bruce Wallace Luckman 25.02.1949- 7.04.2025

Supplied by Lynne Luckman

BRUCE Wallace Luckman was born on February 25, 1949, 'up on the hill' as he used to say, at the Alexandra and District Hospital to parents Una and Frank Luckman. Bruce was the eldest of four children born into this branch of the Luckman family; his siblings being Alan, Judy and Nett.

The four siblings enjoyed their childhood playing and exploring the paddocks of their family farm on Spring Creek Road in Fawcett. Even though life may have taken Bruce and his siblings in different directions, their care and interest in each other's lives did not wane.

Bruce attended Alexandra Primary School and Alexandra High and although school was never his favourite place to be, he knew he had to be there. Once a week Bruce would come into Alexandra and stay with his Nana Wallace so he could do his weekly paper round.

Bruce's weekends were filled with footy in winter and cricket in summer. He remembered that on more than one occasion playing footy, the fog was so bad, the players wouldn't know the ball was coming until it hit them. The cricket team Bruce played for was Church of England Eleven. He was the wicket keeper and loved playing for the Church of England team because, he said, the church ladies made the best cakes and sponges for their tea breaks.

When he turned 18, Bruce bought his first car, a Mini, but his pride and joy was his Hallinger Four Wheel Drive which he used to transport himself and his mates when they went deer hunting up near Gaffney's Creek where Bruce also bought a home.

Bruce's service to the community began early when he volunteered as treasurer of the Australian Deer Association from 1979 to 1982.

When Bruce and his mates all went out, Bruce volunteered himself as the designated driver happy to drive them all home after they'd had a few beers. While Bruce didn't drink, he was by no means a wowser and was happy to help his mates out.

Always keen to help his parents out as well, one day out at the farm, a tree had been damaged by strong winds and needed to be felled. Bruce thought he had it all worked out and knew which direction the tree would fall when he cut it, but he miscalculated, and the tree fell straight onto his dad's shed.

Bruce went to his first fire as a volunteer with his dad when he was about 10 years old, and he helped to hose down a tree that was on fire. From then on Bruce looked forward to turning 16 and then, like all farmer's sons, he could join the fire brigade as a volunteer with the Koriella brigade.

Bruce's first job after leaving school was working as a household goods technician for Neil Hill who ran his business from his home in Eildon. Bruce did on the job training and his theory was obtained through trade school at RMIT. When Neil Hill decided to return to Melbourne, Bruce bought his home in Eighth Street and worked on his own until Geoff Sharrock approached Bruce, and they formed a partnership with GI Sharrock Television.

After Bruce moved to Eildon, he eventually transferred from Koriella CFA

to Eildon CFA and for all the years he was a volunteer there, he was dedicated and devoted to his local community and the brigade where he held every position from foreman to captain. And when he joined Alexandra Fire Brigade he was welcomed for his knowledge and his dedication, also for making sure the lolly jar was always full.

Life for Bruce was busy, his days were filled with working, volunteering, sport, and hunting with his mates.

It was through his sister Nette, that Bruce met Lynne. It is fair to say he did not make such a great impression at their first meeting when Bruce cooked dinner for Nette and Lynne, steak with apricots on top, crunchy Surprise Peas and Deb mashed potato.

Once they got to know each other better, Bruce and Lynne just knew they were meant to be together, and from that date to this, they have been inseparable.

As a dad, Bruce was the go to man for Cassandra, Stewart and Sherilee; he was their world, their everything; they all asked his advice before making any big life decisions, from employment to large purchases: he did not tell them how to live their lives; he believed in them and encouraged them to explore life and all it had to offer; he supported them in all their endeavours and he was extremely proud of them and their achievements, especially them all having their own homes. He was the steady hand for them to hold onto in times of stress and strife.

In what little spare time he did have, Bruce spent it with his family. Every Saturday night Bruce had the children take it in turns to go with him to get fish and chips for dinner, and whoever's turn it was, was allowed to choose the treats for the family. Then they'd come home, put a blanket on the floor and eat while watching Hey, Hey, It's Saturday.

Bruce took the children to the pondage and taught them to fish. One memorable day, Bruce was standing on the banks of the pondage, he'd baited the hook and cast in, hook, line and sinker, and rod... yes, the whole kit and kaboodle and he had to wait until the water level dropped before he could retrieve it.

Several times, Bruce and Lynne took the children to Queensland, and for the whole trip there and back, Bruce drew on his inner Alby Mangels and commented on anything they passed; a tree, a flower, a white post; and when he thought they'd had enough of his commentating, he'd sing to them "Show Me The Way To Go Home" and "Give Me A Home Among The Gum Trees," to name just a couple.

As full of love as Bruce's heart was for Lynne and their children, it expanded even further with the arrival of each of their grandchildren and great grandchild. As a proud grandfather, Bruce offered his grandchildren essentials for life, he was an inspiration, he was supportive and encouraging and he provided them with all the important things they needed to succeed: unconditional love, attention, humour, and lessons in life.

Lynne wanted to mention that Bruce hated being cold and a blanket was his best friend.

"He could sleep on a roll of barbed wire in a tornado," Lynne said about Bruce.

Bruce Luckman and the Alexandra CFA

In honour of Bruce's illustrious volunteering service to the CFA for almost 60 years, Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch provided the following address.

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand here before you today as asked by Lynne to share a tribute to the life that Bruce dedicated to the country fire authority. Before I go into depth of Bruce's service history, I would like to offer on behalf of the Alexandra Fire Brigade and District 12 our sincere condolences to you Lynne and family.

Over the last couple of weeks as Bruce's health declined, I would ring Lynne to check in to see how Bruce was doing and how Lynne was coping. I would take this information and feed it back to the brigade as they all had deep concern, although not family through bloodline but family through the Alexandra brigade.

As a captain you oversee many things, things you can control and things you can't. I said in a conversation to a friend that I had a feeling that I had never felt before and this feeling was I was losing one of my members, one of the Alexandra Fire Brigade family.

There have been many things I have learned from Bruce, and I don't think I have ever met a man so passionate about firefighting, the CFA, his Fire Equipment Maintenance (FEM) team, and most importantly his family.

If Bruce wasn't talking fire extinguishers, hose lengths, hose testing or how many clients they had visited this month he was talking about his family. He would often talk of his kids and even more so of their kids. He was a very proud dad and an even prouder grandfather.

I would like to take a minute to acknowledge his second family also known as FEM team. To Mike, Dave, Bob, Mick and Don I know that you have not only lost a colleague but a true friend, a friend you've known for a long time. I know Bruce was the heart of this team and I know how much he cared and how proud of each one of you he was. The boys today wear their FEM uniform as a mark of respect for Bruce.

In 1966 Bruce joined to Koriella Fire Brigade, in 1985 Bruce left the Koriella Fire Brigade and joined the Eildon Fire Brigade,

there Bruce became an active firefighter and held positions such as foreman and first lieutenant and shortly after became captain of the Eildon Fire Brigade.

In 2002 Bruce took a position as a fifth deputy group officer in the Alexandra Group and shortly after transferred to Alexandra Fire Brigade. Bruce also held several different positions including Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) delegate which is a position he still held to this day, brigade health and safety officer as well as the fire equipment maintenance officer where Bruce's passion grew.

Recognised for his significant contribution to the CFA's organisation, over his 58 years of service, Bruce received the full complement of CFA Service Awards and the National Medal, First and Second Clasps.

In 2014 he received the National Medal Third Clasp, a Brigade Life Member VFBV Gold Star and the National Emergency Medal for the Victorian Fires in 2009, and at the brigade's 150th Anniversary Celebration in October last year, he was presented with a 55 Year CFA Life Membership. All a testament to the level of involvement, depth of participation and extensive service he gave to the CFA.

There wasn't much Bruce didn't know about fire trucks, pumps, fire ground tactics and especially extinguishers and also not much Bruce hadn't done as in his time he had seen most of the major fires as a firefighter crew leader and even a strike team leader.

Bruce, as you look down on us, we can't thank you enough for all the work and dedication you've put in to put the Alexandra Fire Brigade in the position it's in. I thank you for all that you have taught me, the examples you've set, the knowledge you've passed on, the stories you've told and the endless banter you bought to the monthly meetings usually aimed at Mike or Dave nevertheless left a smile on everyone's face.

Firefighter Luckman you have fought your last fire and extinguish the flame and although physically your time at the Alexandra Fire Brigade is up your memory will live on.

Rest in peace.



Bruce with the Fire Equipment Maintenance van. -S

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- General servicing
- Fleet car servicing
- Mechanical repairs
- RACV Roadside Assist
- Towing
- RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Roadworthys
- Trailer servicing
- Car batteries
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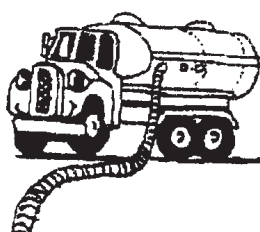
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7	3	5	9	2	1	4	6	8
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9	+	2	×	4	17
+		+		×	
5	+	7	+	6	18
+		-		+	
3	×	8	-	1	23
17		1		25	

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
19	22	18	13	23	9	1	15	26

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
16	6	14	12	20	24	2	10	7

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Seasonal road closures will be in place from June 10. -S

Seasonal road closures help keep motorists safe

VISITORS to Victoria's parks and forests are being reminded that temporary road and track closures will come into effect on Tuesday, June 10, following the King's Birthday long weekend.

The annual closures make it safer for motorists and reduce damage to remote roads impacted by heavy rain and snow.

Forest Fire Management Victoria, Parks Victoria, and the Conservation Regulator enforce seasonal closures between June and November annually.

Authorised officers will be educating visitors about the upcoming changes in busy parks and forests during the King's Birthday long weekend, followed by increased patrols and surveillance over the 2025 closure period.

Last year, there were more than 307 gate breaches, and over 700 instances of illegal vehicle use across Victoria's parks and forests.

In 2024, 140 infringement notices under the Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations were issued, including for driving cars or riding trail bikes illegally off-road or in restricted areas.

Offenders caught driving or riding on a closed road in Victoria's parks and forests face a maximum penalty of up to \$3846 if prosecuted in court.

Visitors are advised to check local road and track closures and weather conditions before heading into the great outdoors.

For more go to ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests

For emergency information, including severe weather alerts and warnings, download the VicEmergency app. Environmental crime can be reported to 136 186.

Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer at Forest Fire Management Victoria said, "We want visitors to enjoy our parks and forests during winter, however, please respect road closures. They are closed to help keep the community and emergency services personnel safe, and protect the road and track network from damage."

Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator said, "Driving in our forests can be fun, but it can also be destructive when done illegally and irresponsibly. Our Authorised officers regularly patrol parks and forests to make sure drivers are doing the right thing. Following vehicle rules and staying off closed roads helps to maintain healthy forests that will benefit everyone now and into the future."

Chris Mercier, Manager, Enforcement Capability, Parks Victoria said, "These closures are put in place to protect both visitors and the environment, particularly during wet periods when the roads can be especially dangerous. When people ignore seasonal road closures, it's not just a matter of breaking the rules, it leads to real and often costly damage."

SPORT

Biggest speedway party of the year in Alexandra this weekend

by Dean Thompson

IT is without question, the biggest Speedway community party of the season, the season ending Alexandra Speedway 100 Lap Derby weekend where thousands come along to watch a great weekend of racing and have a great night all night, every night. This year will be the biggest ever 100 Lap Derby weekend with numerous additions to the event to boost that party atmosphere.

The real fun begins Kings Birthday weekend on Friday night with a Calcutta event providing fans with the opportunity to purchase on their own or with their closest mates a driver or drivers that they feel will win the event overall taking home with them a significant piece of a cash pot raised in the bidding process. This night will be filled with laughs, drinks, and stories to set the tone for the next two nights.

For the racing on Saturday and Sunday, over 70 entrants have entered the main event, the 100 Lap Derby, while another 50 drivers fill spots in two supporting classes of Standard Saloons and Junior Sedans competing in their short circuit challenge.

All sorts of race cars following the Sports Sedan and Unlimited Sedan class specification books are entered in the big Derby event with once again Americans flying in to be involved including Matt Ryan, Billy Meazell and Alan Lindow. Meazell in particular garners significant interest through his media following in the United States which ensures numerous followers of the weekends results and growing interest in the event from stateside.

Defending champion Eastern Suburbs racer Darren Forrest heads a field that includes all of last seasons top five finishers and many more that have the talent and the wheels underneath them to be in the potential winners conversation.

Last years runners up Damien Miller, Northern Suburbs racers Nathan and Shane O'Brien and Dale Smith another from Melbourne's East all top five finishers last season lead the likes of Brendan Miller, Tony Moule a former winner, Lennie Bonnici a winner of the event multiple times, Warrick Taylor, Matt Nelson, Josh Service, Luke Fallon, Lee Beach and David Donegan all series contenders in the event and we are still missing out a dozen others in our mentions.

Prior to the final on Sunday night, an open grid walk will occur where fans and especially those that never get up close to the drivers and cars during an ordinary nights racing can walk up and down the 40 car feature race grid to get a closer look and perhaps a memento or two with drivers keen to bring posters and stickers and other promotional giveaways for fans of all ages.



Darren Forrest from Boronia, the defending 100 lap derby winner. -Louise Norman

The event is a 100-lap sprint through a dog-leg circuit with a controlled open pit enclosure that allows cars to duck in and out of the pits as required if they could get themselves to a position where they can make it back to the enclosure. Previously the event has been won by chassis cars and mono-shell construct sedans, anything can happen and change the course of the race and usually does.

Standard Saloons compete for their dog-leg feature with the event each Kings Birthday weekend popular among the second biggest sedan class in Victoria. Mark Miles has been a frequent winner of the weekends previous events and is once again nominated to do battle.

Miles will have to deal with one of the bigger Standard Saloon fields in the class in recent seasons having reached more than 30 nominations. Brodie Ardley, Mitch Foster, Leigh Gooding, last year's winner Brad Hill, Ally Morrison, Kacey Ingram, Wayne Sheerman, Harry Cecil, Chris Miles, Neil Ingram, Chase Ingram, Jaimi Barber, Courtney Meakins and Ella Sheedy are just some of the competitors with victory on their minds.

In Speedway Sedans Australia Junior Sedan competition many of the season's strongest competitors in state association racing have entered. Stave Cosson, Luke Morrison, James Peacock with many wins in the state series behind him, Axel Robinson, Brad Marshall



Wayne Sheerman from the eastern suburbs, Alexandra member and Standard Saloon competitor. -Steve Mitchell

and South Australian state champion and Alexandra resident, Will Fallon are some of these racers. The racers aged 10 to 16 will be very entertaining in their quick and nimble race machines.

Gates to the venue open from Tuesday, June 3. The weekend will include a bike race for junior fans with almost 100 kids entered to hit the track when the bike race is scheduled. Live music is part of the weekend on the Saturday night with cover band 'Exploded View'.

Racing begins on Saturday from 1pm on Gordon Street Alexandra with a planned 9.30pm finish and again on Sunday from the same start time. Enquires can communicate via Facebook messages to the club.

Entrance cost for two days is \$150 for a family of two adults and three children between the ages of 10 to 16 with all children under 10 free. Adults on their own is \$60, Invalid, and aged pensioners are \$30 and children not entering on a family ticket is also \$30. For one day of racing only, halve the price for any of the tickets required.

Tennis play continues after the rain

by Rhonda Carpenter

DESPITE doubts about the weather, forecast high winds and potential rain, Delatite welcomed Seven Creeks and Wappan welcomed Moglonemby for their round five matches in Mansfield.

Mansfield travelled to Euroa to meet Creighton's Creek, while Benalla hosted top side Euroa on their lawn.

Moglonemby's mainstay Judy Sands needed players for her team and welcomed Sue Vaughan, Cindy Hayes and Julie Brook for a day of laughs and top hitting in the four seasons that followed.

Wappan's Liza Karras, Rhonda Carpenter, Kass Thomas and Kimberley

Marsden were excited to get on the court and relished the opportunity against the more experienced side.

Moglonemby put on a masterclass of baseline hitting and cross court angles to dazzle and outplay their opponents. Serving struggles were overcome despite the gusty winds.

In the final set Liza and Kimberley found their rhythm against Judy and Julie, to level up at six all. However, the Moglonemby pair stamped their authority on the contest to clinch it.

Moglonemby won 6/48 to Wappan 0/19.

Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Deb Mims, and Loretta Armitage had a ding-dong battle against Seven Creeks' Ro

Ellis, Nicola Enright, Gayle Furphy and Mary Kelly.

Rain delays forced players from the court due to poor visibility for those wearing glasses. Eventually play was completed with both teams splitting the sets and Delatite up by four games for their first win of the season.

Delatite won 3/37 to Seven Creeks 3/33.

Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Natalie Bergsma, and Clare Beecham were convincing in their match against Creighton's Creek in Euroa.

Deb Seach, Ros Doxey, Lyn Johnson, and Kerry Hewlett battled hard, unlucky to lose an opening set tiebreak.

Mansfield won 6/48 to Creighton's Creek 0/14.

Benalla hosted Euroa with the opening sets going eith to six each way. Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Deb Siggers would be facing a long day against their visitors.

Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Faye Mollison, Ruth Nolan, Mary Dewis, and Lyn Pierce gained the edge winning the next two sets. Benalla's Kate and Deb snatched another set, but Faye and Ruth took the last in style.

Euroa won 4/41 to Benalla 2/31.

Ladder Round five: Euroa 41, Moglonemby 29, Wappan 28, Terip 26, Creighton's Creek 19, Mansfield 17, Seven Creeks 15, Benalla 13, Delatite 12.



Marion Williamson putts out on 18. -S

Woolly takes a win

by Dave Silverman

JARROD Williamson (aka Woolly) overcame the cold and the fog to record a great win last Saturday.

The weather was once again the bad guy this week, turning decidedly wintry on Tuesday, and putting off all but the hardest golfers. So, of the seven who played, the best score belonged to Nigel Waterhouse, who carded a very handy 39 points. John Greateorex and Steve Darmody were second and third respectively, both on 35 points.

Russell Purcell took the only nearest the pin to go off this week, with a great tee shot on seven. Russell and Leo Dynes also featured in the rundown and took home a voucher each.

Seven seemed to be about all you could hope for this week, as that was also the number of ladies who played stableford on Wednesday. Sue Greateorex was the winner, just, with 35 points, on a countback from Judy Pearson in second. Marg Fahey was third with 34.

Sue also took out nearest the pin on two, and 18 went to Ruth Worland. Helen Findlay was the nine hole winner with 16 points on the back nine.

The numbers were a little better on Saturday for the stableford round which was sponsored by Alexandra Porta Loos, and as the fog lifted just before the scheduled tee off time of 11am, it turned into a beautiful day for golf.

Not quite so good for the early group, who teed off in the fog at 8am, so it is a credit to them that two of the best scores came from that group. Jarrod Williamson was one of the early starters, and, despite taking the scenic route on 15, recorded the best score of the day, by a margin, his 38 points three clear of second-placed Greg Millard. Third spot went to Russell Purcell on 34, and Dan Burns came in fourth with 33.

Woolly picked up the nearest the pin on five on his way to the win, with two going to John Steer, seven to Bruce Flanders and 18 to Shane McGorlick.

Marysville Golfers travel near and far

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday the nine holers played a two person ambrose game on the front nine holes. The pairing of Richy Clark and Mark Alexander combined well to win the competition with nett 33.25 followed by Brian Worcester and Reynaldo Rey with nett 34.7. Reynaldo also won the nearest the pin on the ninth hole while no one won nearest the pin on the fourth.

The ladies Dalhousie event last Thursday was the Euroa tournament and three Marysville ladies travelled there to support the Euroa ladies. Bev Bellman was close to winning C Grade but missed out on a countback and Heather Jenkins received one Dalhousie Player of the Year point. The Marysville raffle successes continued with both Heather and Lesley Rundle winning a prize. Congratulations to the Euroa Captain Sarah Bullen for achieving a hole in one on the 18th hole and the celebratory clapping and cheering from her playing partners echoed throughout the course. There are just two more Dalhousie ladies events before the winter break and Marysville will be represented both at Alexandra and Avenel.

Three ladies had a very early start when on Monday, May 26 they played in an invitational game at Spring Valley golf club in Clayton South. Registration was at 7.30 am for an 8.30am tee off so a long day on a challenging course was had by Heather Jenkins, Margaret Blair and Mim Page.

On Saturday in perfect weather for golf both the men and ladies played a stableford round. The ladies winner was the in-form Heather Jenkins (17) with 35 points followed by Beverley Bellman (34) with 30 points. Colin Davies (25) won the men's event with 35 points on a count back from Richy Clark (14). The nearest the pins were won by Drew Kaempkes, Peter Lilley and Gail Leigh (2) who also won the Golden Shot. It was the clubs Charity Day with all competition fees, raffle money and winnings donated to the Marysville Lions 'Need for Feed' project. During the presentation members welcomed four players from Jubilee Golf Club in Wangaratta who returned to play at Marysville after having played in the 50TH Anniversary event last November.

Members would like to thank all those who assisted with the working bee last week and who enhanced the gardens around the clubhouse and carpark. Another working bee will be held at a later date. A major fundraising raffle will commence in August and members are asked to please sell at least one book of tickets.

Next Saturday both the men and ladies will play stroke for the June monthly medal and the ladies round will incorporate the fourth round of the Barton Shield. Any weekenders or visitors who are in the area for the Kings Birthday weekend would be very welcome to play in the competition or play as green fee players and enjoy lunch or dinner in the Pavilion Bar and Grill after the game.

End of Eildon's May Monthly Medal

by Puttomatic

THE last day of autumn saw thirteen players contest May's Monthly Medal in a stroke round and counting putts at Eildon on Saturday.

In lovely autumn conditions, Denis McDonald (QP) prevailed to secure first place honours just one shot clear of Peter McNair with both players finishing with a net 72 and 73 respectively. Also scoring 73 were Rod Taylor and John Gysberts followed by Kerry Power on 74 and all fairing in the ball run down and Ken Collier successful winner with the putts, only having 30 for the day.

Mark Mackwell was nearest the pin on the par four third (second shot), Rod was

successful on the 11th, Michael McLearn the 12th and rounding out the 14th was John Matthews. The fifth went unclaimed. There were no recorded birdies on the nominated holes.

Denis was also the fortunate entry draw winner with Dennis Seamer taking out the swindle.

Next week is another stroke round count putts and please remember, our tee time is now 11am with booking in from 10:30am. This is a permit change other than our extreme weather policy requirements.

Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone that competed.

Until next time, take care and happy hitting.

Alexandra Squash Club plays round five of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Falcons versus Hawks

ERIC versus Lachlan (fill in): It was a very one-sided contest. Lachlan's overwhelming strength earned him all four games and he won the match in a landslide. 109 to 32.

Jess versus Chris T: There were some good long rallies with great shots down the walls. Chris kept his consistency and covered the court to keep ahead and take home the match. 67 to 51.

Simon versus Jared: Simon jumped out of the blocks to blitz the first game, but Jared tightened the screws to slowly claw his way back into the match. Jared pinched points at every turn to claim three games and the match. 58 to 54.

Kestrels versus Owls

Jordan versus Tyler: A see-sawing match. Jordan had the better shots, but he gave away enough through serving faults, keeping Tyler in the running. It was close, however Jordan stayed on top. 67 to 60.

Sally (fill in) versus Mick: Sally played some beautiful winning shots, but it was not enough as Mick put in a solid match for a comfortable victory. 69 to 47.

Oli versus Daniel W (fill in): An absolute slugging match. Oli gave his opponent a run for his money in the first three game until Daniel's strong power game carried him through to win the match. 73 to 55.

Jim versus John: John out played Jim for three games as he hung on with desperate running and defensive shots. Jim went on a spree in the final game to surge forward, taking the lead. 58 to 50.

Thursday competition Geckos versus Skinks

DANIEL K (fill in) versus Matthew J: As a last-minute fill in Daniel was over-qualified for the job but he made sure to keep Matthew running and giving him tips to improve his game. Daniel won. 71 to 45.

Jodie versus Mick (fill in): Jodie had some spectacular serves which Mick countered with his stroke play. It was

a tough match, but Jodie came out on top for the victory. 58 to 47.

Phil versus Justin: An excellent game. It was fast paced with some great shots and rallies. Justin gave Phil a good run around before Phil defeated him on the courts. 65 to 45.

Dragons versus Frill Necks

Liane versus Blake: Liane tried to put her opponent out of commission on the first point with a mishit that took the wind out of him. Blake's hardy, managing to persist and playing some curveballs to claim a well-deserved win. 57 to 49.

Travis versus Kristelle: Instilling frustration in her opponent, Kristelle's serves were on point. She held the court like a boss and despite Travis's attempt at a comeback, he only managed to draw a game. Kristelle won three game to rise as the victor. 71 to 53.

Michael versus Stuart: Quite a one-sided match. Stuart made a good effort in the last game but couldn't hold Michael off. Michael held the match comfortably to take home a decent win. 72 to 43.



Daniel waits at the 'T' for Oli's return. -S

SPORT

Seven away games for AFNC juniors

by AFNC

SUNDAY, June 1 was a big day for the Alexandra Football Netball Club junior footballers and netballers, with teams travelling and playing at home in a full round of weekend sport.

The under nine, 10 and 12 footballers, along with the netball teams, travelled to Seymour to take on St Mary's in what was a fantastic day of spirited competition.

While the younger footballers play non-competitive games, players were still recognised for their sportsmanship and effort on the field. Last week's awards for the under nine and 10 footballers went to Henry, Teague, Ryan, Roy, River, Koby, Nate and Lewis, and the club says well done to all for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Back on home soil, the under 14 footballers hosted Broadford and played a solid game in front of a supportive local crowd. Meanwhile, the under 16s faced off against Moama, putting in a determined performance that showcased the team's growth and resilience this season.

The club says congratulations to all teams for their efforts, both away and at home. A big thank you goes out to the coaches, volunteers, and families for their ongoing support.

Under 12 Football St Marys 0.0-0 defeated by Alexandra 21.10-136

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Logan Kerr; Reddrops FoodWorks, Sem Kijlstra; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Beau Nash; Coaches Award, Riley Kirley.

Under 14 Football Alexandra 11.10-76 defeated Broadford 1.2-8

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Declan Armstrong; Reddrops FoodWorks, Levi Campbell; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Harish Balansag; Coaches Award, Charlie Broadway.

Under 16 Football Alexandra 10.16-76 defeated Moama 6.4-40

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Tom Clark; Reddrops FoodWorks, Jayde Bennett; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Cam Clark; Coaches Award, Noah Jack.

Under 17 Seville 47 defeated Alexandra 13

CONGRATULATIONS go to Ellie Hedger, who proudly played her 100th netball game for the club.

Following the match, the club gathered to honour Ray Steyger, who recently marked an extraordinary 28 years of service as club president. In a special celebration on Saturday night, current and past members came together to reflect on Ray's incredible contribution to the club community over nearly three decades.

The evening featured several guest speakers, including former St Kilda player Steven Baker, who was warmly welcomed as a special guest. Others who paid tribute to Ray's leadership and passion included Graeme Matthews, Peter McKenzie, and members of the Steyger family, Julie, Jake, and Lauren Steyger.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who attended and helped make the night one to remember.

Looking ahead, both junior and senior teams will have a bye this coming weekend due to the long weekend.

The club is also calling for volunteers to assist with their food stall at the upcoming truck show. Anyone interested in lending a hand is encouraged to contact Club President Kylie Cairns on 0409 932 761.

Netball Under 11 Netball Development

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Charlie Ferguson; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Eva Narclullah; Wood Family Award, Alisha Abdullah.

Under 11 Red Netball St Marys 14 defeated Alexandra 2

Awards: AFNC Voucher, Ricki Birch; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Amelia Kociancic.

Under 13 Red Netball St Marys 9 defeated by Alexandra 46

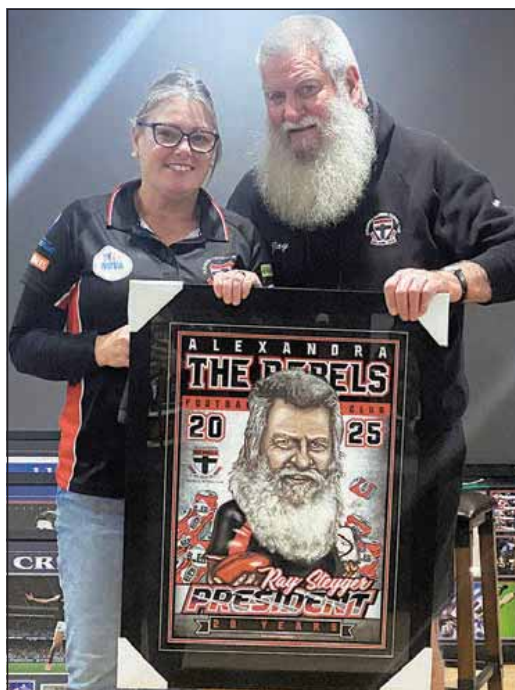
Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Koa Parker; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Bella Lamaro.

Under 13 Black Netball St Marys Green 20 defeated by Alexandra 22

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Tehya Vine; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Tilly Miljkovic.

Under 15 Red Netball St Marys defeated Alexandra 19

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Chloe Woehl; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Indianna Hoornweg.



Kylie Cairns presenting Ray Steyger with a framed caricature of Ray. -S



Under 12 players with their awards. -S



Under nine and 10 players looking proud as punch. -S

Alexandra Bowls season done and dusted

by Marie Evans

THE 2024 -25 Alexandra Bowls season has finished with some very pleasing pennant results. Saturday Division four side won the grand final and will now be promoted to Division three. Division six Saturday and Division four Tuesday will be looking to improve in the coming season.

The club recently held its AGM and Club Championship Presentation. The board was elected. All positions were elected unopposed. Greg Gilmore continues as president, Lauren Gilchrist is club secretary, Christine Mayfield club treasurer. Board members are Clive Murphy, Chistine Murphy, Malcolm Gill, Ben Gilchrist, Terry Livy and Trevor Stewart.

Bob Mayfield is once again bar manager and David Nicklos continues as green keeper. The pennant selectors are Greg Gilmore, Clive Murphy, Terry Livy and David Nicklos.

The Treasurer's report indicated a strong financial position for the club. There was an increase in pennant players but like all clubs, new members are encouraged to join. The club would particularly like to see young people join and is offering coaching.

The club has recently been successful in receiving \$30,040 through the state government's Tiny Towns Grants for much-needed shade cloth for the front of the club rooms. This will be a terrific addition as it is currently very hot in Summer Pennant.

A new shed is being constructed to replace the 'not fit for purpose' old structure and the cost is being met by the club. Construction will be completed by end of July.

Champions Presentations were made after the AGM to all 2024-25 Club Champions.

Larry Scott was the Men's Singles Champion, Lauren Gilchrist was the Women's Champion, Larry Scott and Greg Gilmore won the Men's Pairs, Bob and Christine Mayfield won the Mixed Pairs, Scott Ferrier is the President's Handicap Champion, and Andy Tobias won the 100 Up Championship.

The new season is fast approaching and memberships both full and social can be paid through the club. Once again there is a members free food and drinks afternoon on the June 29 for all members.



Bob and Christine Mayfield 2024-25 Mixed Pairs Champions. -S



Scott (Rissolo) Ferrier 2024-25 President's Handicap Champion. -S



Under 17 Chelsea Webb looking focused. -S



D Grade player Himali Collins. -S

Three wins and a narrow loss for Alexandra netballers

by AFNC

Netball results

A Grade: Alexandra 55 defeated Yea 48.

B Grade: Alexandra 36 defeated by Yea 40.

C Grade: Alexandra 35 defeated Yea 23.

D Grade: Alexandra 29 defeated Yea 9.



C grade player Lauren Benson not letting the ball get away. -S



A grade player Ellie Hedger celebrated her 100th game over the weekend. -S

Thornton Eildon dominate Officer at home

by Scott Whitehead

Thornton/Eildon 8.11-59 to Officer 3.6-24

IN women’s football last week Thornton/Eildon hosted Officer in beautiful sunny conditions at the Thornton Recreation Reserve. It was to be a day of celebration as the crowd welcomed another female member to the 50-game club in Amy Campbell.

Amy has been a part of the club for five years and after recovering from a calf strain a fortnight earlier led the team onto the field. In her own words Amy described her early game style as “just trying to survive and avoid the ball but now I actually run toward the action.”

In another must-win game to keep in touch with the top four, Thornton were first to score but it wasn’t long before Officer returned fire with a goal of their own. In a tight first quarter, neither team could get clean possession, but it would be Thornton/Eildon who would take a four-point lead into the first break.



Amy Campbell celebrated her 50th game with a dominant victory at home. -S

The start of the second quarter Thornton/Eildon showed clean ball movement and just like rehearsal at training during the week, went “coast to coast” to the delight of the growing crowd. A second goal in the quarter, and her first in senior football to Sienna Heard, put Thornton/Eildon 16 points up at half time.

After the long break, Officer came out with a different attitude and their aggressive ball movement saw them have five scoring shots to one. However, it was Officer’s inaccuracy in front of goal that allowed Thornton/Eildon to hang on to a two-goal lead heading into the last quarter.

With the game on the line Thornton/Eildon again reflected on their training and they began to take total control of the game. Kristy Pearce was moved to full forward and in a show of dominance kicked three unanswered goals to the delight of everyone at the ground.

Officer then replied with a goal of their own, but the home team wasn’t done having another six shots on goal, but their efforts would only result in one more major for the game. At the sound of the siren Thornton/Eildon won by 25 points.

Goals: Kristy Pearce three, Sienna Heard two, Jade Mewburn, Lucy McRae, Izzy Weston one each.

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General Store, Kristy Pearce; Café Alex, Lucy McRae; Murrindindi Aged and Home Care, Sienna Heard; Snobs Creek Hotel, Izzy Weston.

Next week the league has a general bye for the Kings Birthday weekend. 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

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves

	Percentage	Wins
Seville	639.71	7
Pakenham	608.13	7
Belgrave	332.00	5
Warburton Millgrove	115.87	4
Alexandra	99.74	4
Yea	73.58	2
Powelltown	36.89	2
Yarra Glen	24.60	0
Yarra Junction	13.77	1

Netball – A Grade

	Percentage	Wins
Seville	247.60	7
Pakenham	250.79	6
Warburton Millgrove	231.41	6
Yarra Glen	129.47	5
Yarra Junction	89.72	4
Belgrave	63.43	2
Alexandra	63.26	2
Yea	53.92	0
Powelltown	26.18	0

Football – Seniors

Seville	234.67	7
Warburton Millgrove	285.34	6
Pakenham	240.80	6
Yarra Glen	125.05	5
Alexandra	101.60	3
Belgrave	99.83	3
Yea	75.58	1
Powelltown	40.70	1
Yarra Junction	24.32	0

Netball – B Grade

Seville	439.66	7
Pakenham	274.25	7
Warburton Millgrove	152.52	5
Yarra Glen	120.45	5
Belgrave	82.90	3
Yarra Junction	59.95	3
Yea	48.85	1
Alexandra	47.79	1
Powelltown	41.42	0

Football – Senior Women

Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	7
Wandin	85.71	6
Emerald	71.42	5
Thornton Eildon	66.66	4
Yea	16.66	1
Seville	14.28	1
Officer	0	0

Netball – C Grade

Seville	366.98	7
Pakenham	232.90	7
Warburton Millgrove	185.71	5
Yarra Glen	105.24	5
Belgrave	71.06	3
Alexandra	73.84	2
Yarra Junction	68.89	2
Powelltown	36.36	0
Yea	38.00	0

Netball – 17 and under

Seville	444.87	7
Pakenham Lions Gold	245.95	6
Warburton Millgrove	100.59	3
Pakenham Lions Maroon	46.20	1
Alexandra	39.11	1
Powelltown	32.88	1

Netball – D Grade

Seville	452.86	7
Pakenham	346.51	7
Warburton Millgrove	183.46	5
Yarra Glen	97.81	4
Alexandra	78.98	4
Belgrave	67.07	3
Yea	39.72	1
Yarra Junction	52.78	1
Powelltown	14.66	0

Football – Under 18

Pakenham	1801.96	7
Seville	281.66	5
Yarra Glen	87.61	3
Warburton Millgrove	31.89	2
Alexandra	29.82	1
Yea	27.43	1

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Alexandra Reserve footballers take narrow three-point victory

by AFNC

SATURDAY, May 31 saw the Rebels back at home taking on Yea in the local derby in three games of football and four games of netball with the under 17 netballers playing Seville.

Reserves

Alexandra 6.10-46 defeated Yea 6.7-43

A COUPLE of changes to the lineup this week didn't shake the Rebels, who fielded a strong side for the highly anticipated local derby. The match was made even more special as the club celebrated Will Goonan's 100th game, a milestone that gave the boys extra motivation to walk away with a win.

The first quarter saw both teams struggle to gain clean possession, with tough tackling and defensive pressure dominating early play. At the first break, Yea held a narrow lead, up by just one point.

In the second quarter, the Rebels settled and began to find their rhythm, managing to slot through a couple of important goals. Their improved ball movement and composure under pressure saw them take a slim three-point lead into the halftime break.

The third quarter belonged to the Rebels. They lifted their intensity and accuracy, kicking five goals one to Yea's three goals, extending their lead and putting themselves in a strong position heading into the final term.

However, the Tigers were not done. In a thrilling fourth quarter, Yea mounted a fierce comeback, booting seven goals one. The Rebels responded with seven goals four of their own, doing just enough to hold off the challenge and secure a nail-biting three-point victory.

Awards: NP on The Run, Sam Kidd; Future Fit Finance, Conor Heaslip; Alexandra Hotel, Brendan Musgrove; Grant Street Grocer Award, Jayden Saggin.

Seniors

Alexandra 15.16-106 defeated Yea 7.6-48

THE Rebels welcomed Mitch Parker back and debuted exciting new recruit Jonathan Grimwade for last week's clash against

Yea. Fresh off a strong performance against Junction, the team was eager to maintain their momentum, and they did just that in commanding fashion.

The opening minutes set the tone, with Will Stewart on fire, booting four straight goals in the first six minutes. The Rebels' forward pressure and slick ball movement kept Yea on the back foot, allowing only one goal and one behind for the quarter. At the first break, the Rebels held a commanding 25-point lead.

The second quarter saw the Rebels tighten their grip on the contest, adding another five goals two, including two more from Stewart, while Yea managed just two goals two. The Rebels went into halftime with a dominant 41-point lead, looking every bit in control.

The third quarter turned into a scrappy affair, with both sides struggling to find clean possessions and rhythm. Each team added just one goal for the term, as physicality and defensive pressure took over.

The final quarter saw the Rebels return to their earlier form, regaining control and continuing their attacking play. The highlight of the quarter, and arguably the day, came when first-gamer Jonathan "Jonno" Grimwade slotted his maiden goal for the club. Every teammate rushed in to celebrate the milestone, capping off a memorable debut and another comprehensive win for the Rebels.

Will Stewart was the standout forward, finishing the day with a dominant seven-goal performance that helped power the Rebels to a comfortable 58-point victory.

Awards: Kervale Incentive, Mitch Parker; O'Briens Real Estate, Lachlan Nankervis; Alexandra Hotel, Ed Ajuard; Buxton Hotel Award, Harry Prendergast.

Under 18

Alexandra 12.18-90 defeated Yea 1.1-7

FOR the first time this season, coach Sam Kidd had the luxury of a full side, thanks to the inclusion of Ben Geldart, Ash Dean, and Shaun Sutcliffe. The reinforcements provided a much-needed boost to the Rebels' depth and allowed for valuable rotations off the bench.

As has been the case for many under 18s sides this season, Yea were struggling for numbers. In a great show of sportsmanship, the Rebels offered a number of players to assist Yea and ensure the game could go ahead with even numbers.

The Rebels started strong, kicking three goals in the opening term and taking a handy 19-point lead into the first break. The second quarter saw the Rebels lift further, dominating across the ground and adding another five goals to their tally. Their defensive pressure kept Yea scoreless for the quarter, giving the Rebels a commanding lead at halftime.

More player rotations were made at the main break to continue supporting Yea and to give everyone a run, but the Rebels maintained their control. They added another 23 points in the third term, while Yea managed to register their first goal of the match.

Despite Yea's determination and effort right to the final siren, the Rebels proved far too strong, running out comfortable winners by 83 points.

Full credit goes to all players from both teams for their commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day. It was a great display of community spirit and fair play, ensuring the game was enjoyable and competitive for all involved.

Awards: Bowens Incentive, Luke Frith; GWS Award, Toby Lucas; AFNC Club Voucher, George Sotiropoulos; Coaches Award, Nazril Edmund.



Seniors player Jonathon Grimwade going for a kick. -S



Reserves player Will Goonan celebrated his 100th game. -S



Under 18 player Shaun Sutcliffe. -S