

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, June 18, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

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Weekend sport



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Eildon Lions celebrate 50 years of friendship and service



The current Eildon Lions members. -AR

THE Eildon Lions Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner at Pixies at the Billabong on the evening of Thursday, June 12.

The event celebrated the wonderful works of the club, as well as its members, past and present.

Some of the major achievements of the Eildon Lions Club include the creation of the area which came to be known as the Eildon Lions Leisure Park, which includes the rotunda, children's playground, toilets, the fishing platform with disability access, the wildlife refuge island in the Pondage, as well as helping to fund the stage, cover and lighting.

The Lions also famously ran the Easter Trash and Treasure Market from 1983 to 2018, and constructed the Eildon Dams Museum, which is a must for all residents and visitors to the area.

They also built their clubrooms, and built the Big River Camp which raises at least 75 per cent of the funds raised by the club.

They have also undertaken a wide range of other activities for the benefit of Eildon and surrounds, including of course, running

barbecues and running the popular Blue Light Disco in the 1980s.

As District Governor Kim Low commented, "May your service continue to touch lives for many years to come. Thank you and congratulations."

Emcee Mike Dalmau spoke about the beginnings of the club, as he had only recent begun working at the Golden Trout and it was the location of the first meeting. At the 1975 inaugural meeting, John Savage became president, Christopher Pearson secretary and Neil Hamstead treasurer. The other members included Neil Buck, Bill Bullock, Raymond Carroll, Max Cartwright, John Coutts, Raymond Donald, Bruce Gwyther, Frank Hardingham, Max Keddell, Duncan McDonald, Maxwell McDonald, Claude Newburn, Gerald Millar, Oleg Mistrachowitsch, Maxwell Moate, Clifford Morris, Ernest Muller, Syd Savage, Allan Spence, Stuart Vallis, Edward Ward, John Ward and Leslie Wilkinson. Mike spoke fondly about each member of the group.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said, "You all should be very proud of the contribution that you have made to your local community, your local Lions Club,

and certainly to the Murrindindi Shire and to Victoria. You've made a great difference."

John Storen spoke about the various actions undertaken by the Lions for the good of the community, and about their projects. He also spoke about the upcoming book which will cover 50 years of the Eildon Lions Club.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "In a world that often feels divided, there's something profoundly powerful about a group of people who come together simply to serve. The 50 years of the Lions Club of Eildon has done just that and tonight we honour that legacy."

Councillor Anita Carr spoke on behalf of her grandfather. She commented, "It is really a worthy cause and I encourage anyone that's got spare time to touch base."

During the open mic session, congratulations flowed and many stories were told. It was a wonderful night of celebration, and well deserved. The Eildon Lions Club has done so much for the community.

Operation Regal results from King's Birthday weekend

ON the King's Birthday weekend Operation Regal showed that over the state one in every 335 drivers were caught drink driving.

Despite challenging weather conditions across the long weekend, police conducted around-the-clock roadside alcohol and drug testing.

There were 205 drink driving offences detected from 68,673 preliminary breath tests, a strike rate of one in every 335 drivers.

A further 168 drug driving offences were detected from 2740 roadside drug tests, a strike rate of one in every 16 drivers.

More than 40 per cent of all offences detected were for speeding, with the majority of those caught between 10km/h and 25km/h over the speed limit.

Over 430 drivers who shouldn't have been on the road at all because they were either unlicensed, disqualified or suspended from driving were caught during the operation.

Police also issued 499 infringements to motorists for disobeying traffic signs or signals, 174 for mobile offences, and 90 for seatbelt noncompliance.

The total 6005 traffic offences detected during Operation Regal included 2638 speeding offences, 499 disobey signs/signals, 435 disqualified/suspended/unlicensed drivers, 205 drink driving offences from 68,673 preliminary breath tests, 174 mobile phone offences, 168 drug driving offences from 2740 roadside drug tests, 107 vehicle impounds, 90 seatbelt offences, and 546 unregistered vehicles.

In the Hume Police Service area, police charged one drink driver and two disqualified drivers. No other offences recorded over the long weekend.

With wet weather and poor visibility increasing as winter sets in across Victoria, police are urging motorists to take extra care on the roads and be on the lookout for vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians and motorcyclists.

Police will remain highly visible on the roads across the state, with targeted operations to take place over the coming weeks focusing on vulnerable road user safety.

Operation Regal ran from Friday, June 6 until 11.59pm on Monday, June 9.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

DESPITE the cold weather that seemed to persist throughout the week, members were keen to support the club activities. The bridge players of a Wednesday continue to grow in numbers and enthusiasm.

The social meeting on Friday was well supported with members happy to get out of the cold and catch up with old friends in the warmth of the hall. An enthusiastic *Happy Birthday* was sung to June and Joan, and chocolate bar prizes for the Batts Raffle were carried off by Barb, Beverley and Ian.

Afterwards, the usual scramble for a welcome cup of tea was rewarded with a scrumptious slice of pavlova from June's birthday celebrations. Then it was time to cast frivolity aside and settle into a serious game of 500. Alternatively you could regress into your childhood and enjoy a loud and raucous game of UNO.

Come and join the happy ranks on any Friday afternoon or if you fancy a game of bridge, the meet up is in the Bayley Street clubroom at 1pm on a Wednesday. You will be most welcome

Meanwhile stay dry, safe and keep smiling.



Letters to the Editor

Garbage collection policy

THE new garbage collection policy has certainly stirred the emotions of many rate payers, especially those who live in units or those living as a single person. They would have very little waste after they cash in their bottles and cans at the CFA for recycling. I can see the CFA will be the big losers in this debate.

The charges of \$410 to \$560 should be more equitable to those in the above circumstances.

I note council claims 55 per cent support for their new policy. I wouldn't claim that as a strong mandate for its implementation.

I have also been informed that bins left on the council nature strip, not private land, if stolen, the rate payer will be charged for the replacement. I would doubt very much whether this would be enforced by a court of law. I have also spoken to the Mansfield Shire Council, they are in discussion with the state government, for a better deal for their rate payers.

Ray Donkin, Buxton



THUMBS DOWN: To our blinkered council who initially sanctioned the colourful and much admired planter boxes in Grant Street and then decided that six months later, a permit was required. A case of the left hand not talking to the right hand. No surprises there.

THUMBS UP: To the organisers and workers at the truck show, what a show. Everyone should take a bow. It was fantastic. Well done to everyone with all the work in preparation and on the day. Once again, well done.

THUMBS UP: To the Truck Show organisers (and council?) for fencing off the swale area at Leckie Park to stop people from parking their cars there.

THUMBS UP: To the Truck Show committee for another wonderful event which gave so many people, local and otherwise, an opportunity to get together and have a good time.

THUMBS UP: The Year sixes from St Mary's would like to thank all the generous people of Alexandra. We collected \$485.35 for the Starlight Foundation last Friday.

THUMBS UP: Riots in Los Angeles, volcanic eruptions in La Castellana Philippines, missile attacks in Kiev, but in Alexandra the planter pots have been removed as they're a hazard. Just love this town.

THUMBS UP: To the workers who have cleaned up the rail trail from Mt Eglinton to Maintongoon road. Wow. What a job. The drainage work and the cleanup are brilliant. The care factor shows. Thank you.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

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

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

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

MONTHLY

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

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

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

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

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

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

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

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

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

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

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

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

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's
regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this
a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of
what groups are available in the community, when they meet
and a contact phone number.

Weekly Weather

June 18 - June 24, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
Wednesday	4	11		Wednesday	3	12	
Thursday	2	11		Thursday	1	12	
Friday	2	13		Friday	2	13	
Saturday	5	15		Saturday	5	15	
Sunday	9	15		Sunday	9	16	
Monday	6	13		Monday	6	13	
Tuesday	5	12		Tuesday	6	12	

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.09	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.19am Mon	0.46	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.42am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.21am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.00am Mon	0.26	steady	below minor
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.48	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.20	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.38	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.63	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.87	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.58am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	1mm
Buxton.....	0.5mm
Eildon (AWS).....	1mm
Flowerdale.....	4mm
Jamieson.....	3mm
Kinglake.....	7mm
Lake Eildon.....	2mm
Mansfield.....	21mm
Taggerty	1mm
Yarck	2mm
Yea.....	0.5mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	276.68m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	58.4%
Metres below full supply.....	12.2m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release.....	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	60%

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DEADLINES

Real Estate

Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services

Thursday noon

Early General News

Thursday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

Sports Editorial

Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor

Monday 9am

Thumbsup/down

Monday 10am

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

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support



Local members during a group training exercise. -S

Your local brigades need you

WHILE the official fire season may have ended, the risks remain. Dry conditions continue to pose a threat for grass and scrub fires, and as winter approaches, house fires become a significant concern. Now is not the time to be complacent. It's the time to step up.

Our local fire brigades are made up of volunteers, people just like you. They are parents, grandparents, colleagues, and neighbors, everyday community members dedicated to making a difference.

Why Join the CFA?

Becoming a CFA member is a rewarding experience with countless benefits, including community engagement and social events, the satisfaction of protecting and serving your community, leadership training opportunities, hands-on firefighting training including General Firefighter certification, specialised skills such as chainsaw use, breathing apparatus training and heavy truck licensing, structure fire training and thermal imaging camera use, crew leadership development

and much more.

Even if firefighting isn't for you, there are plenty of ways to contribute. Fire brigades rely on non-operational members for crucial roles, such as community involvement through engagement and social events, supporting emergency responders with a rehab vehicle at incidents, station and grounds maintenance, social media administration and community engagement, organising social activities and wellbeing support, and handling administrative tasks like secretarial and treasury duties.

Junior brigades developing future firefighters

Buxton, Marysville, and Narbethong Fire Brigades proudly support a junior brigade, providing young community members with

the opportunity to learn essential firefighting skills, teamwork, leadership, and emergency preparedness. These programs help shape the next generation of CFA volunteers while fostering a strong sense of community and responsibility.

Workplace support for CFA volunteers

Employers can also benefit from supporting CFA members, including recognition as a volunteer-friendly workplace and enhanced community perception, as well as Federal Government payroll tax exemptions for wages paid to employees attending emergencies.

If any of this sparks your interest, or if you'd like to share your skills and contribute in other ways, visit the CFA website to submit an Expression of Interest and select the brigade closest to you.

Goals for Victoria's water corporations

THE state government is aiming to reduce emissions with all Victorian water corporations on track to be powered with 100 per cent renewable electricity by the end of 2025.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney announced all 18 of Victoria's water corporations are on schedule to meet their target to source all of their electricity from renewable sources by the end of 2025.

Water corporations have also set a target to reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2035. More than half of them have brought that target forward, aiming to reach net-zero by 2030.

The shift to powering operations with renewable electricity has seen water corporations reduce their emissions by 42 percent, the equivalent to removing around 136,000 cars off Victoria's roads.

Investments in renewable energy will help lower power bills for water corporations, which means they can continue to deliver affordable water and sewer services to the community.

The changes are being delivered alongside the recent announcement that the State Electricity Commission (SEC) signed retail contracts to supply all Victorian Government operations with cheap, renewable electricity.



TRUCK SHAW AT TRUCK SHOW: All the extended junior Shaw family came out to see their uncle James from Shaw's Transport Mansfield in the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show and to lend their support (with the hat merch). They are pictured here enjoying the day out in town. It's a well run event, year after year. -S

Ambulance Victoria urges people to prep for winter with a health check-in

AS the winter chill sets in, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is calling on all Victorians to prepare for the colder months by looking after their health, checking in on vulnerable loved ones, and getting vaccinated against the flu and COVID-19.

With seasonal illnesses on the rise and colder temperatures increasing the risk of injury and illness, especially for older people, paramedics are encouraging the community to take some simple steps now to stay safe and well.

AV Executive Director Regional Operations Danielle North said winter can bring extra health risks, particularly for older people and those living on their own.

"Simple things like a fall in the bathroom or a faulty heater can quickly become serious," Ms North said.

"Now's the time to check that your heating is safe, that rugs and cords aren't trip hazards, and that walkways are clear and well-lit. A few small steps can make a big difference."

Ms North said vaccination remains one of the most important ways to protect against seasonal illnesses and encouraged Victorians to do their part to ensure AV's highly skilled paramedics and first responders were available for patients most in need.

"There are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice but don't need an emergency ambulance, including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinics," she said.

"We know demand on our hard-working paramedics and first responders will rise as we head into winter and we tend to see a surge in respiratory illnesses like flu and COVID-19.

"Getting vaccinated is still the best protection, and there's still time.

"That's why we urge Victorians to book in their annual flu vaccination, keep regular check-ups with your GP or specialist and stay home if unwell. We can all help to protect ourselves and people most at risk in the community."

Know your options before calling Triple Zero (000)

Victorians are reminded that for non-urgent health concerns, there are trusted services available:

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) has 24/7 access to emergency doctors and nurses. Just visit vved.org.au

Urgent Care Clinics feature GP-led care for urgent but non-emergency issues.

Nurse On Call has free advice from a registered nurse, 24/7, on 1300 606 024.

Your GP or local pharmacist can also be of assistance.

"These services are a great first port of call and help save Triple Zero for genuine emergencies," Ms North said.

To learn more about staying healthy this winter and how to book your routine vaccinations, visit: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/stay-well-this-winter

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REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea
and cake stall
SATURDAY June 21
from 9am
Plants, soap, preserves and jams,
knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612



Church Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

Out&About

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Whispering Sky-Tenzin Choegyal in concert; A Tibetan-Australian artist, composer and Grammy-nominee will be presented at MiRA Marysville at 2pm. Bookings on trybooking.comDBIUF

Market@Yarck is on again, including CWA morning tea and cake stall, from 9am. Plants, soap, jewellery and much more.

100 years ago in Alexandra this week

Alexandra and Yea Standard and Yarck, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express (Vic. : 1908 - 1949), Friday June 19, 2025
MR John Cameron, of Yarck, had the misfortune to be thrown from his horse on Thursday of last week. He was riding down an incline, and the saddle slipped with the result that he was thrown to the ground and one of his arms broken.
A few weeks ago the correspondent of Taggerty State School wrote to the Hon. E J Mackrell, MLA, asking him to urge the department to have repairs

effected to the school building. Owing to that gentleman's promptness (or instrumentality) the Public Works Department are inviting tenders at an early date to have the necessary repairs done.
A man named Hugh Talbot was admitted to the local hospital about a fortnight ago, suffering from a cut on the throat. He had been working for the Electricity Commission, and was found near the camp at Murrindindi. On Tuesday he was brought before Mr Wylie, JP, and remanded to the Receiving Home at Royal Park.

Seasonal snapshot: Melbourne's water storages

VICTORIA'S driest autumn in 17 years is a timely reminder of why strategic planning is essential to securing Melbourne's future water supplies.
Across autumn, Melbourne's water storages captured 50 per cent less water than the 30-year average.
The lack of rainfall contributed to the biggest start-of-year fall in Melbourne water storages since 1998 during the Millennium Drought. In the first five months of the year, Melbourne's drinking water supplies fell by 13 per cent to 73 per cent, a loss of 241 billion litres.
While it is normal for Melbourne's storage levels to decline during late summer and autumn, the ongoing dry conditions in much of Victoria and a rise in water household use contributed to the unusual fall.
Household water use
Water use across Melbourne continued to rise, with 1403 million litres of drinking water used per day during the autumn months.
The figure represents a 5.7 per cent increase compared to last autumn, equating to 77 million litres more per day than in 2024.
Winter outlook
The data has been released in Melbourne Water's latest seasonal update, alongside the predictions from the Bureau of Meteorology for winter.

Rainfall across the state for winter is expected to be within the typical range for the season, for much of the state.
Securing water supplies
As part of strategic planning to secure water supplies across Victoria, 50 billion litres of drinking water will begin to flow from the Victorian Desalination Plant into Melbourne water storages from next month.
The high-quality drinking water, extracted from seawater, will add to the 455 billion litres of desalinated already delivered into the water supply system since 2016.
Water restrictions have taken effect in five Victorian towns to protect declining local water supplies, and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) continues to monitor at-risk water storages across Victoria to ensure sustainable water use. DEECA works closely with water corporations, which introduce restrictions when required.
These initiatives sit within a wider strategy to safeguard Victoria's drinking water supplies.
Desalinated water, water efficiency programs, water restrictions, recycled water and treatment of stormwater are all part of Victoria's strategic approach to ensure reliable water supplies now and in the future.
Lake Eildon is currently sitting at 58.5 per cent.

Increase in COVID-19, flu and RSV in Victoria

THE Chief Health Officer sent out a health alert last week as there is an increased risk of respiratory illnesses heading into the winter months. In Victoria the increase in COVID-19 cases between April and May this year were 2.5 times higher than the same time as last year, with hospitalisations increasing. The flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases are also on the rise.
Immunisations are available for many respiratory illnesses such as influenza (flu), COVID-19 and RSV.
People most at risk of severe illness with respiratory conditions include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children under the age of five years old, elderly people, pregnant women, those who are immunocompromised, and those with certain medical conditions including diabetes, cardiac disease and chronic respiratory conditions.
Symptoms of respiratory illnesses such as flu, COVID-19 and RSV can be quite similar

and include fever, coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, body aches and fatigue. These illnesses are very infectious and spread via droplets produced through coughing and sneezing, or by coming in close contact with infected people.
To protect yourself the best way possible against these illnesses and to stay healthy is: wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly and regularly, particularly before and after touching your face; cough or sneeze into your elbow; stay home if you are unwell; wear a face mask if you have symptoms or visiting sensitive settings, such as aged care facilities; talk with your doctor now if you are at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or the flu. Discuss what to do if you get sick, including testing options and whether you are eligible for antiviral treatment, and if you experience serious symptoms, seek medical attention.

Review of the Owners Corporation Act

MINISTER for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos has announced an independent expert panel would review the *Owners Corporations Act*, to ensure it is working fairly and efficiently, and in the interests of lot owners and residents in strata developments.
One in four Victorians live in developments that are overseen by an owners corporation. This number is expected to increase significantly in coming years.
The expert panel will examine stakeholder concerns related to owners corporations, including hardship arrangements where a lot owner is having trouble paying fees, as well as voting requirements among lot owners.
The review will examine unethical owners corporations management conduct, including dishonest business practices, unfair contracts, conflicts of interest, and inappropriate commissions or 'kickbacks'.
Issues around the collective sale of owners corporations will also be considered. Currently, common property owned by an owners corporation can only be sold if all lot owners agree. The review will examine whether this threshold is appropriate.
The review will also look at whether amendments made in 2019 to the Act, to help manage bad behaviour in short-stay accommodation, are working effectively.
The expert panel will consult the Victorian community, including those living in owners corporations, and other stakeholders to inform its report. Consultation will occur through Engage Victoria and start later this year. The panel will also consider other methods for the community to engage with the review.
The chair of the expert panel is Marsha Thomson, a former Minister for Consumer Affairs between 1999 and 2002, and 2005 to 2006. The other two members of the expert panel will be announced in due course.
Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos said, "Significant reforms were made to laws in 2021 to better reflect the needs of Victorians living in apartments and other owners corporations properties. This expert panel will ensure those reforms are strengthened and improved even further.
"One in four Victorians live in a property managed by an owners corporation. This review will ensure their needs and quality of life continue to be protected.
"The expert panel will also review provisions in the OC Act that regulate short stay accommodation in strata developments, helping to deliver essential protections for apartment residents."
The panel will provide a report to the Minister for Consumer Affairs by December 2025.



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Eildon Grocer
Endeavour Alexandra
Hazeldene Store
Igloo Buxton
Marysville Grocer
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

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Council welcomes ESVF levy cap for farmers, but says more must be done

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement to cap the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy for primary production properties at 2024-25 levels for the next financial year.

The cap offers much-needed short-term relief for farmers facing the worst drought conditions in over a decade, and follows strong, coordinated advocacy from farmers, local communities, council, and industry bodies.

"This is a positive step and a direct result of rural voices coming together,"

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said.

"We thank the Treasurer for listening, but a one-year cap won't fix a system that continues to impact residents, hurts commercial and industrial property owners, and remains deeply unfair to many primary producers, especially those managing multiple land titles."

Farmers across Murrindindi are dealing with escalating freight costs, feed shortages, and water scarcity. Many have had to destock or euthanise animals due to poor conditions and limited options. The emotional toll is

growing, with the wellbeing of farming families under increasing pressure.

Council has also welcomed the formation of the Victorian Government's Drought Response Taskforce, which will advise on drought relief measures for farmers, businesses and rural communities. Cr Gallagher, representing Murrindindi on the Hume Region Local Government Network, has joined other mayors in putting forward a clear case for further action.

The group's advocacy includes calls for: A drought declaration to unlock Disaster Recovery Funding; Emergency funding

for water cartage and feed; Permanent abolition of the ESVF levy; Local delivery of mental health support; Relief for those already impacted by issued levy notices; Action on freight and fodder price gouging by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

"Supporting emergency services and supporting rural communities shouldn't be a trade-off," Cr Gallagher said.

"We'll continue to work alongside our community and regional partners to push for a fairer, more durable approach."

Whispering Sky concert with Tenzin Choegyal

THIS weekend, MiRa Marysville welcomes Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Tenzin Choegyal, one of the world's most celebrated Tibetan artists, and virtuoso string musicians Chris Stone and Holly Downes for an unforgettable afternoon of song and story.

A master of traditional instruments, Tenzin is best known for his extraordinary vocal ability. Proudly following the nomadic lineage which is central to his musical repertoire, Tenzin's powerful vocals and connection with his audiences have established him as a favourite on the world music scene. His unique style embraces joyful folk tunes, meditative mantras and spoken word, infused with the essence of Tibetan wisdom and a sound as expansive as the Himalayas.

Although from widely differing cultural backgrounds, Chris and Holly have formed a close, collaborative partnership with Tenzin. Chris is a genre-breaking violinist, composer, educator and artistic director and Holly is an accomplished double bassist, composer and educator.

Drawing on their rich musical backgrounds, both are skilled in improvisation, providing a perfect counterbalance to Tenzin's spontaneous melodies and sublime flute pieces. In what has become a deeply collaborative process, Chris and Holly perfectly capture the soul of Tenzin's music in sensitive string arrangements and deft improvisations.

Following their sold-out performance at this year's National Folk Festival, Tenzin, Chris and Holly come together once again to present a unique blend of east-west sounds, inviting audiences on a musical journey which transcends cultural boundaries, reveals ancient wisdoms and connects deeply to Tibet's wandering people.

The event will be held at MiRa on Saturday, June 20, starting at 2pm. To book, visit trybooking.com/DBIUF and for enquiries, call 0428 942 095.



Tenzin Garma. -S

Historical Memorabilia Display

Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library
- Circa 1888 -

More commonly known as the Yarck Hall
6583 Maroondah Highway, Yarck

You are invited to celebrate the Display Opening and Afternoon Tea
Sunday, June 22 at 3pm

Please **RSVP** by **Friday, June 20** to Sharon Fox **0407 879 612** or Graham Halliburton **0407 807 104**



GET YOUR FREE TICKET FOR THE VOLUNTEER EXPO

Why volunteer? It's a win-win! Give back to your community, learn new skills, and feel amazing doing it.

In line with this year's National Volunteer Week theme, 'Bringing Communities Together', Council is hosting a Volunteer Expo to help you find your perfect volunteer match.

When: Saturday 5 July from 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Where: Alexandra Football and Netball Club, 53 William Street, Alexandra

Reservations: Free but essential by Monday 23 June

Enjoy some light refreshments, connect with local groups, and hear from experienced volunteers.

To book your ticket or stall, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteereexpo

For more information, speak with Council's Community Capacity Building Officer by calling **5772 0333**.

This event is part of Murrindindi Shire Council's Community Capacity Building Program, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



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WHISPERING SKY
TENZIN CHOEGYAL in Concert
Saturday June 21st 2.00pm
with virtuoso musicians Chris Stone (violin) & Holly Downes (double bass)
MARYSVILLE INFORMATION + REGIONAL ARTSPACE 11 Murchison Street

<https://www.trybooking.com/DBIUF>

Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Makaylah Reece



Makaylah always shows the school values. She has a great positive vibe that is contagious. She happily shares her knowledge with her peers and always supports others in their learning. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Makaylah. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lillian



For showing Achievement in English Skills and Math Mentals.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Daisy



It is a pleasure to present the principal award to Daisy. Daisy has shown to be mindful of building positive friendships. She has made deliberate steps to include peers in play and learning. Daisy considers others feelings and supports those in need. She has also shown a positive mindset towards her learning. Daisy pushes through challenging work and asks for support if needed. Congratulations on your social and academic growth Daisy. Stand proud.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank



Benny and Mat the dog would love a safe area to play in Leckie Park when they come to town. -S



This group had plenty to say. One said, "Off Lead Dog enclosure, what a good idea. This park is the social hub of our town." Another added, "Dogs bring people together and there are a bucket of people who live alone in Alexandra and it would be great. It would give a focus for chatting, so important." -S



Felicity said she would love an off lead dog area. Her partner works from home and time away from a screen is what Leckie Park offers. -S



Wendy says Max the dog is not good at coming back, hence the lead. She would love an off lead area for Max to socialise. -S

Vox pup regarding the off leash dog park

by UT Creek Leckie Park Landcare

TWO UT Creek Leckie Park Landcare members did a Vox Pop earlier in the year. They sat on the perimeter of the area proposed for the new Off Lead Dog Park so walkers could make suggestions and have a good understanding of what is proposed.



Claudia from Alexandra said, "Piggies is a runaway so I would love an enclosed area for him to socialise without having to worry about him running off." She added, "Thanks for making the effort to get this to happen." -S

Volcanic eruptions in Murrindindi Shire

DOCTOR Bill Birch, Curator Emeritus, Geosciences at Museums Victoria, provided information on the Cerberean Complex, also known as the Marysville volcano, even though “it’s not really a volcano in the traditional sense.”

In terms of the location, Dr Birch said, “It’s all the high country to the east of Marysville, what I call the Cerberean Ranges, but it includes some Mount Torbreck, the Royston Range, the Cathedral Range. The Cathedral Range is sort of associated, but it’s not part of the volcanics. It’s an interesting story. The volcanic rocks are responsible for the high country, the forested country, that part of the Central Highlands, south of Eildon, east

of Marysville and across to the east. It’s a bit hard to put a town on the east because well, there isn’t one. All that high country is volcanic rock.

“It’s a complicated history, but essentially what happened was back in the Devonian about 365 million years ago, Victoria was part of Gondwana. The countryside then would have been sort of sedimentary rocks with ranges, streams, rivers, lakes, etcetera. A bit of vegetation and not much in the way of life, but possibly some. There certainly would have been fish around about.

“All of a sudden there were some volcanic eruptions in that area. They were what we call ‘ash flow’ eruptions. You can see ash

flow eruptions these days in Japan and in New Zealand, I think, but these were quite big. Then there was a series of different volcanoes erupted, different types of lava and they built up, and there were intervals in between, there probably might have been tens of thousands or millions of years in between some of these eruptions, even to the extent that lakes formed and fish were found in those lakes. It’s actually a horizon of sedimentary rocks or lake rocks in the volcanic sequence in this first part,” Dr Birch said.

“Then, all of a sudden, a giant block of the Earth’s crust, like a big cylinder 27 kilometres across, it started to collapse. It fell into a

magma chamber below. We’re not quite sure how deep, but probably 10 to 15 kilometres deep and these massive volcanic eruptions occurred all around the ring fracture.

“You can still see where the ring fracture is with various means. These volcanic eruptions built up a huge thickness, probably over a kilometre or so of volcanic rocks and when it all ceased, everything cooled down, and the rocks hardened, of course. Everything went quiet. It’s stopped now.

The only thing that’s happened since then, that’s 365 million years ago, is that erosion has worn down a lot of the landscape. Probably the top of the range now that you see, Mount Torbreck, that would have been at least sort of level surface with the land at that time. So what’s happened is bits have been eroded off the volcanic rocks and but all the rest of the softer stuff around is lowered. That’s why you have the high relief of the Cerberean Ranges or the Central Highlands there, so it’s a bit hard to visualise all that happening, but that’s essentially what happened.

“The other thing going on was that there were similar volcanic eruptions going on in the area that now is occupied by the Dandenongs. Also, Mount Macedon is a smaller one. It doesn’t have the variety of volcanic rocks, but the main one is almost identical to the youngest rock that forms the Cerberean Ranges. There were other ones to the north east a bit, so a region of the earth’s crust where there was a lot of a lot of activity going on and I think Cerberean Cauldron Complex, as it’s called, is an amazing geological feature. It probably should be more recognised internationally than it is because of the circular ring, the circular fracture. You can put a compass point in the middle and draw a perfect circle around 13 kilometres, or 27 kilometres across.”

It’s not a mineral rich area as a result of the volcanic eruptions. “The volcanic rocks themselves are pretty barren of economic minerals. It might be a little bit of tin, but nothing has been exploited at all. There’s no gold. But in terms of its biodiversity, I think it would be remarkable.”

The volcanos have created fertile soil in the area, with Dr Birch commenting, “It would be a lot more fertile than the sedimentary rocks all around it... And of course it gets a lot of rain. I think Rubicon is one of the highest rainfall places in Victoria.”

“The remarkable thing about that area is that there have been hardly any earth movements affecting the area since the volcanic activity

stopped. Part of the reason we can say this is because, as I said, you can put a compass point on the centre of the ring of the Cerberean Cauldron and it’s a perfect circle. If you’d had some disruption or movement or folding and squeezing, it still wouldn’t be a perfect circle.”

He added, “Since the Cerberean volcanics erupted, Australia separated from Gondwana.”

At 27 kilometres diameter, the Cerberean Complex is among the largest in the world, and “the volcanic sequence that’s preserved is remarkably diverse. It’s got lots of different aspects to it, including the fish fossils which were described fairly early near Marysville... There are a few new species modern methods have determined.”

He was unable to comment on whether the eruption may have had an impact on the Late Devonian extinction event as it’s not his area of expertise.

He did say however that, “There would have been plant life around early on because they’re in the very earliest volcanic rocks. There are fragments of charcoal. It’s not that common, almost certainly related to early trees. That’s another remarkable feature, because of how early it was and the fact that you have a volcanic rock so old that has preserved organic material.”

He commented that geology of an area isn’t always easy to see. “There aren’t many road cuttings. You can see if you drive up out of Marysville and on the Marysville-Cumberland Road. As soon as you get out of Marysville, you start to climb up and the cuttings on Robley’s Spur show different volcanic rocks, forming part of the sequence. Unfortunately the cuttings are very weathered now. And also if you drive up Snobs Creek Road, as you head up, you can also see volcanic rocks on the right hand side of the road. If you go up to the big quarry on the right hand side and that exposes a very fixed part of what’s called the Rubicon Rhyolite and that was the first big eruption when the collapse started. That rock was used as part of the fill for the Eildon Dam. That’s why the quarry was put in.

Dr Birch also commented on his fond memories of the area, having been involved in geological mapping of the area in 1970.



The Cerberean Complex was a series of eruptions around 365 million years ago. -Google Earth

There are many ways you can give us a hand.

Your local CFA Brigade needs you, and there are many ways you can help. Roles include daytime firefighters, community educators, and support roles. You don’t need experience, and you’ll be amazed at what you will achieve, while fulfilling a vital and rewarding role in your community.



Scan the QR code to find out how you can help.



Eildon Lions celebrate 50 years of friendship and service



Club president Kevin Tappe, Syd Savage and District Governor Kim Low cut the cake, helped by Chris Savage. -AR



The Eildon Lions Club's 50 anniversary dinner was held on the evening of Thursday, June 12 at Pixies. -AR



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish congratulated the club on its milestone and thanked them for their service to the community. -AR



Sera Ghaly performed on the harp and violin. -AR



John Storen spoke about the clubs most recent decade, and about the camaraderie and friendships formed within the club. -AR



Mike Dalmau emceed the event and spoke about the club's first 40 years. -AR



Syd Savage was presented with his 50 Year Monarch. Syd has been a member of the Eildon Lions since its inception. Chris Savage was presented with a 25 Year Monarch. Chris and Syd were both presented with portraits painted and donated by Kati Lansell. -AR



Malcolm Qualtrough was presented with a 40 Year Monarch, presented by kim Low (centre). -AR



Malcolm Qualtrough also took the opportunity to speak about the importance of the club. -AR



Mayor Damien Gallagher spoke about the importance of the club in the area. -AR

Shaun Lawlor awarded AFSM

SHAUN Lawlor of Lima was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal for distinguished service as a member of an Australian fire service.

Mr Shaun Lawlor commenced service as a firefighter with the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) in December 1989 in Heyfield (formerly the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands).

Since that time, Mr Lawlor has performed his primary fire role as an air attack supervisor for 28 years and his secondary fire role as an operations officer for 31 years at numerous fires. His substantive position is the regional manager for Forest and Fire Programs, in the Hume region of the Forest and Fire Operations Division.

Mr Lawlor has attended every major fire in Victoria in the last 35 years including 1998 Caledonia fire, 2002-03 Alpine fires, 2006-07 Great Divide fires, 2009 Black Saturday fires, 2013 Harrierville fire, and 2019-20 Black Summer fire either as air attack supervisor or in his role as an operations officer.

Mr Lawlor has represented DEECA at the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission which included preparation of the 2009 Beechworth and Murrindindi fires presentation and preparation of the narrative for the Emergency Services Commissioner chronology of events for the 2013 Harrierville - Alpine North bushfire.

He has led the implementation and delivery of integrated fire management programs including the Reducing Bushfire Risk program, the Strategic Fuel Breaks program and the Joint Fuel Management program.

He has also led the establishment of the Hume region Continuous Improvement Program in 2013. Key achievements since its inception are development of the Model of Bushfire Response, the initiation of the Securing Water Supplies in Remote Areas for Firefighting project, fuel treatability mapping and enhanced fire management zone categories to assist with landscape mosaic burn identification and planning.

North East Firefighters assist with Canada's Wildfires

FOREST Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) has sent a taskforce of 20 arduous firefighters, supported by an agency representative, to help

Canadian firefighting colleagues as they respond to wildfires in the province of Alberta.



Hume firefighters from left to right: Sam Schwarz, Steven Le Brun, Eilis MacInerney – Parkinson, and Nicholas Panuccio. -S



FFMVic taskforce headed over to Canada on Monday, June 9. -S

The taskforce left Australia on Monday, June 9.

Four FFMVic firefighters from north-east Victoria are part of the deployment. They are Steven Le Brun from Ovens, Sam Schwarz from Broadford, Nicholas Panuccio from Benalla, and Eilis MacInerney-Parkinson from Alexandra.

The Victorian contingent is joining a larger group of 96 firefighters and incident management personnel from Australia deploying to Edmonton, Alberta Province.

The deployment is expected to be up to 36 days comprised of two 14 day rotations.

The fire situation in Canada has become worse over recent weeks, with over 100 fires burning across the country and thousands of people evacuated.

More than 2.6 million hectares of land has been burnt this year.

This taskforce will face challenging conditions in difficult terrain, but will gain valuable firefighting experience that they can bring home to our Victorian communities.

The Canadian terrain may be challenging and the trees and wildlife very different but FFMVic staff are experienced in fighting fires in these conditions. Their skills are sharpened through overseas deployments where they learn from different environments, fire behaviour and international colleagues.

Canadian firefighters were last deployed to Victoria during the 2019/20 during Black Summer.

Deployments for emergencies have been in place between Australia and Canada for more than 15 years.



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The Farmer's Ag News

Are your livestock fit to load?

AS drought and difficult conditions continue across Victoria and livestock producers consider further destocking, Agriculture Victoria is issuing a timely reminder.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Industry Development Officer Dr Hannah Manning said it's important to consider the condition of animals under your care before transporting them. Dr Manning said there have been recent reports of stock arriving at livestock exchanges in poor condition.

"It's important to make early decisions to minimise welfare impacts on livestock," Dr Manning said.

"Body condition of livestock must be factored in when making a decision to sell to ensure they are strong enough to make the journey ahead."

Dr Manning said as part of its drought support Agriculture Victoria is offering a one-on-one advisory service to help farmers with stock management strategies, decision making, and planning for managing these difficult seasonal conditions.

"Animals being sold via a saleyard can have long transport journeys ahead of them depending on the buyer, and therefore careful planning and preparation is needed to ensure their welfare is appropriately managed," Dr Manning said.

"All people involved in transporting livestock have a responsibility for their welfare from the original owner or person in charge that decides to sell the livestock,

through to transporters, selling agents and the purchaser.

"If you have any concerns about the condition of your animals before they are transported, contact your veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria."

Information relating to Fit to Load standards is available on the Agriculture Victoria website and Meat and Livestock Australia's national guide titled 'Is the animal fit to load?'

Indicators that an animal is not fit to load include: Not able to walk normally or bear weight on all four legs. This may be due to a recent or old fracture, injury, a deformity or any other condition likely to further compromise its welfare during transport; not strong enough to make the journey; suffering from severe distress or injury; in a condition that could cause it increased pain or distress during transport; blind in both eyes; in late pregnancy.

"Unfit to load animals should be either treated appropriately and then reassessed for transport once recovered, or humanely euthanised on farm or via knackery service in some areas," Dr Manning said.

Resources to assist fit to load decision making and on-farm disposal of livestock are available on the Agriculture Victoria website. For more information on drought and dry seasons support and the technical decision-making support, visit their website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

Why do dam repairs often fail?

by Clem Sturmfels, Land Management Extension Officer

AS dry conditions continue across Victoria, many farmers may be considering repairing leaking or failed dams to increase on-farm water storage capacity once it rains.

Dam repairs are often high-risk, expensive, and should only be undertaken when the cause of failure and repair options are well understood. Repairs should only be attempted on larger, well-constructed dams.

Understanding the dam's history, such as who built it, what equipment was used, and how it has performed, is essential before any work begins. Poor construction, unsuitable materials, inadequate compaction, and soil contamination are among the most common causes of dam failure. While poor maintenance can contribute, it is rarely the primary factor.

Diagnosing the cause of dam failure can be complex. It is important to determine whether the leak is through the wall or floor of the dam, and whether it is isolated or widespread. Thorough inspections should ideally be carried out across multiple seasons, including winter, spring, and summer.

Where possible, landholders should: Inspect the dam bank for seepage, subsidence, cracks, or tunnels; check the waterline for whirlpools or surface turbulence; examine downstream areas for soft ground or lush vegetation, indicating seepage; use a steel probe or crowbar to test soil firmness in suspect areas; watch for unusual signs such as bright yellow or very clear water, which may indicate tunnelling or unsuitable soil; monitor and photograph the site regularly to track changes in water levels or visible issues; inspect the dam after heavy rain to identify potential problems; carefully examine any breach in the dam

wall, looking for signs of unsuitable materials like sand, gravel or topsoil.

Soil testing is a crucial part of any repair effort. Testing should include samples from the failure site and surrounding areas, as well as any potential borrow pits. Basic soil assessments, including texture, aggregate stability, and shrinkage, can be undertaken by landholders using simple guidelines available on the Agriculture Victoria website: Soil materials for farm dam construction.

Repair options depend on the location, cause, and severity of the failure. Solutions may include reworking existing materials, sourcing suitable material nearby, or using additives like lime, gypsum, bentonite, or specialised products such as sealants or membranes. Expert advice should always be sought before using manufactured products, as locally sourced materials are often more effective.

Dam repair works usually involve: Excavating the site for safe machinery access; preparing the foundations to optimise bonding; ensuring repair materials are moist and placed in layers not exceeding 100mm; compacting each layer with multiple passes of a padfoot roller; ensuring the total depth/width of repair materials exceed 300mm; shaping final slopes to a maximum gradient of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical).

Repairing dams also present significant health and safety risks, including unstable soil, steep slopes, machinery hazards, and exposure to dust. All works should be carried out by qualified and experienced personnel, and safety protocols must be in place, including reliable emergency communication.

Permits or licences may be required to undertake dam repairs. Landholders are encouraged to contact their local council planning officer and water authority for guidance.

Growing the next generation of farming leaders

MINISTER for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced the opening of the 2025 *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program*, encouraging early-career farmers to apply and gain the tools they need to thrive in Victoria's agriculture sector.

"The 2025 *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program* is a great opportunity for farmers looking to broaden their skills and resources, helping them pursue training to enhance their agricultural practices," Ms Spence said.

"By supporting young farmers to build capability and resilience, we are investing in a stronger, more sustainable future for agriculture across the state."

The program offers scholarships of up to \$10,000 for farmers aged 18 to 40 including up to \$5000 for training or study, and another \$5000 to apply those skills on-farm through practical investments.

Participants can pursue learning in areas such as agronomy, irrigation, land management and conservation, alongside core business skills like marketing, accounting, and HR.

After completing their training, recipients can use the second half of their scholarship to invest in farm planning, new technologies, professional development, or equipment that supports innovation and growth.

Since 2015, the program has empowered 133 young farmers from across the state, helping to make Victorian agriculture more capable, adaptable and ready to take on future challenges.

Clay Gowers, Chair of the Young Farmers Advisory Council, encouraged young farmers to make the most of this opportunity.

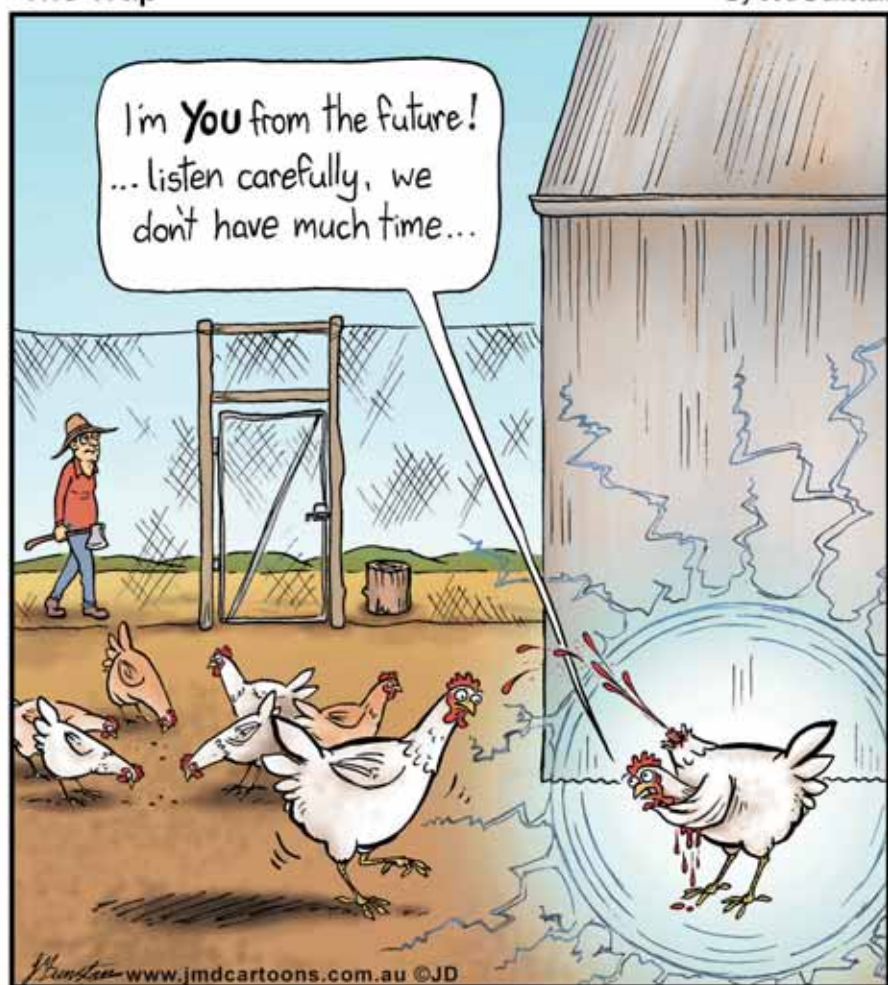
"I encourage Victoria's young farmers to apply for the 2025 *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program*. It's a great opportunity to boost the productivity of your farm business, enhance sustainability on farm and improve your own skills."

Applications are now open to young farmers who have been working in a farm business for at least three days a week for the past three months, with a minimum of two years' total on-farm experience.

Applications close 5pm on July 23. To apply, visit vic.gov.au/youngfarmers

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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The Farmer's Ag News

Scammers fake hay while the sun shines

THERE have been reports of farmers across Victoria being scammed on Facebook while trying to purchase hay. This is a particularly callous move by the scammers, given the current drought conditions.

When purchasing on Facebook, always look at when the seller joined Facebook and how many friends they have on the site. This can

be a key indicator. Look at their profile page as well as their seller page. If they joined in recent days and they only have a few friends, there may be reason for suspicion.

Their account may be a duplicate of a real person on Facebook. Most regular users will have received friend requests from people who they are already friends with. While

sometimes this may be legitimate, it should also ring very loud warning bells and care should be taken before re-friending. Your friendship may be used to legitimise scam sales or other scam posts, and your friend may know nothing about it.

Never, under any circumstances, send money in advance. This includes deposits.

Purchase only from reputable suppliers and be very careful if you decide to source hay via online marketplace ads.

As the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) says, "Scammers advertise hay for sale and ask for a deposit, with the balance payable in cash on delivery. But the hay never arrives and the scammer stops all communication. Never pay money to someone you only know through social media. If you're making an online purchase, use secure payment methods such as PayPal or credit card."

If you've transferred money or shared financial information, contact your bank immediately. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch, <https://bit.ly/4cGFMEx>

Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.



Be cautious if purchasing hay via social media site. -Flagstaffphotos

Does action need to be taken on kangaroo numbers?

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad said a better kangaroo management strategy was needed, as driving on regional roads was now like driving through a minefield, with increasing vehicle crashes, train strikes and damage to farms.

"Aerial and ground surveys were undertaken last year to estimate the kangaroo population across Victoria. The data, which excludes some areas, shows that there are over 2.4 million kangaroos," Ms Broad said.

"Kangaroo-related vehicle collisions are the most common wildlife hazards on our roads. These incidents are particularly dangerous for motorcyclists, who are over-represented in fatal crashes.

"For anyone who drives on regional roads, especially in the early morning or after 5pm, it is like driving through a minefield. You do not know when a kangaroo will jump into your headlights, and the consequences can be devastating."

Ms Broad said the most reliable statistics on accidents involving kangaroos are from insurance companies and wildlife rescue teams. The RACV and Wildlife Victoria reported last year that there were nearly 10,000 collisions, but the real number is likely to be higher as many go unreported.

"There is also a significant impact on our farmers, who are already battling drought. Kangaroos compete directly with livestock for feed and water, and the pressure on agricultural land is growing. The current management tools are slow, bureaucratic and often ineffective," she said.

"I have spoken with local residents who say the authority to control wildlife program is flawed and the kangaroo harvesting program should be expanded. While Victoria grapples with over 2 million kangaroos, only \$200,000 has been allocated in the budget for kangaroo harvesting next year."

NFF says wage growth must be matched by productivity gains

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has acknowledged the Fair Work Commission's decision to increase the National Minimum Wage and modern award rates by 3.5 per cent.

NFF Chief Executive Troy Williams said that while the commission had adopted a measured approach, albeit with an outcome a little higher than employers may have wanted, it is critical that future wage increases are underpinned by genuine and long-term improvements in workforce productivity.

"Australian farmers continue to face rising input costs, acute workforce shortages, and significant exposure to global market volatility," Mr Williams said.

"As price takers, farm businesses have limited capacity to absorb higher labour costs without a corresponding uplift in productivity. Without this link, wage growth risks undermining the viability of many small and family-run farm operations."

Ms Broad said the government should expand the market for kangaroo leather and meat.

"Sustainable harvesting provides a way to manage kangaroo numbers while also unlocking a valuable source of leather and meat. Kangaroo leather is renowned for its strength, lightness and durability. It is widely used in footwear, gloves and sporting goods, where strong, lightweight leather is important.

"Our communities are doing their best to coexist with native wildlife, but it is time for a more balanced and proactive approach that prioritises community safety. Labor cannot manage our kangaroo problem and regional Victorians are paying the price."

Ms Broad encouraged people to have their say by making a submission and completing a survey for the current Parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrike in Victoria. The survey closes on June 30 and can be found at parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/WildlifeRoadstrike/Survey/

NFF emphasises that lifting productivity is central to the agricultural sector's long-term vision.

"The NFF's 2030 Roadmap sets an ambitious target to grow Australia's farmgate output to \$100 billion by the end of this decade. Achieving that goal relies on smart investments, technology adoption, and a workforce framework that rewards performance and drives efficiency," Mr Williams said.

NFF believes that the Fair Work Commission must continue to ensure that wage decisions reflect productivity trends and regional conditions to protect rural employment and business sustainability.

"Real wage growth must be earned through real on farm productivity gains. That's how we ensure fairness for workers and resilience for the farming sector," Mr Williams said.

The NFF will continue to advocate for a balanced wage-setting system that sustains the economic health of Australian agriculture while supporting its people.

Victorian food and fibre exports leading the nation

DESPITE the challenges that Victoria's Primary Producers and food manufacturers are currently facing they have still delivered another year of record-breaking exports, leading the nation and hitting the state's \$20 billion target six years ahead of schedule.

Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson last week released the *2023-24 Food and Fibre Export Performance Report*, which shows Victoria is Australia's top food and fibre exporter, capturing 27 per cent of the total national export value.

The results cement Victoria's position as the nation's premier state for food and fibre, building on two consecutive years of record-breaking numbers and seeing the state exceed the government's ambitious target of \$20 billion in food and fibre exports by 2030.

Victoria was one of only two states to record growth in food and fibre export value in 2023-24.

Butter exports surged by an incredible 81 per cent, a testament to the quality of our produce, sustainable practices and safety standards.

China remained Victoria's largest export market, totaling almost \$5 billion in value in 2023-24. Victoria saw growth in export value to many of our key markets in addition to China, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and India.

The government's *Economic Growth Statement* identifies Agribusiness as a priority sector and trade as a critical driver of economic growth. Agriculture production is an integral part of Victoria's regional economy, which is home to around 75 per cent of the industry's workforce.

To read the report, visit global.vic.gov.au/victorias-export-performance

JUNE PHOTO COMPETITION

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

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

KID'S PUZZLES

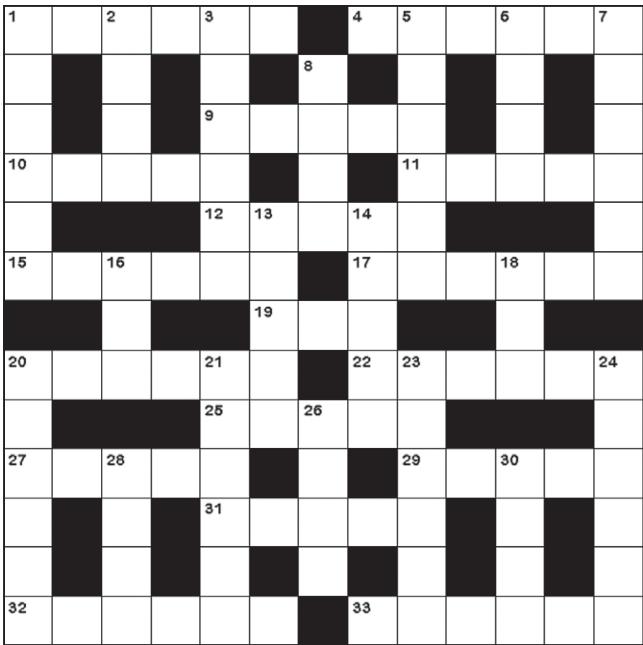
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. A long and tedious speech.
- 4. Expressed in words.
- 9. Fritter away.
- 10. Anything with a spherical shape.
- 11. Bungle the job.
- 12. Take without permission.
- 15. Connect with.
- 17. Undiluted fruit juice.
- 19. Repetitive Strain Injury.
- 20. Finger and toes.
- 22. Empty areas.
- 25. Reject with disgust.
- 27. Regard highly.
- 29. More than is needed.
- 31. In a softened tone.
- 32. Go back again.
- 33. Calm and peaceful.

DOWN

- 1. Hang around.
- 2. Three performers.
- 3. Most up-to-date.
- 5. Three times as much.
- 6. Pulled tight.
- 7. Fuss about.
- 8. A small island.
- 13. Brief and to the point.



- 14. Liquorice-flavoured seeds.
- 16. Fall behind.
- 18. A muscle twitch.
- 20. Eat up greedily.
- 21. A small earthquake.
- 23. Promise solemnly.
- 24. A solid sculptured figure.
- 26. A course of action.
- 28. Tilt to one side.
- 30. Run out of energy.

Word Search

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

Fairytale Characters

- ANASTASIA RAPUNZEL
- ARIEL ROBINHOOD
- CINDERELLA SHREK
- JASMINE SNOWWHITE
- PINNOCHIO TINKERBELL
- PUSSINBOOTS TOMTHUMB

Cryptogram

ANZAC Day

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
24								

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				21				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	4						

A 24 O 12 21 11 6 T 4 10 18 23

A 24 O 6 21 O 21 11 1 23

O 20 22 21 11 A 24 T 4 10 18 23

Math Square

	-		-		-6
+		÷		+	
	÷		+		3
+		-		+	
7	+	6	×		61
16		-2		13	

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

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

Words starting with "I"

- IAN INDIGO
- ICECREAM INDOORS
- IGLOO INFANT
- IGNORE INSECT
- IGUANA INSTRUCTOR
- IMAGINE ISABELLE
- IMPORTANT ISLAND

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

Math Square

	-		-		-3
+		-		-	
7	+	8	-		9
+		+		-	
	+		-		-3
15		-3		-13	

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

- Q: Did you hear about the two rowboats that got into an argument?
A: It was an "Oar-deal".
- Q: What kind of dog does a magician have?
A: A Labracadabrador.



Some great new nesting boxes that will be well used by wildlife. -S



A beautiful backdrop for the Melbourne students to experience. -S

Melbourne students lend a hand with junior landcare activities

RECENTLY students from the Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne took time out of their school camp at Camp Marysville to help the Eildon and Cathedral Landcare Groups with their projects at the Eildon Pondage and Andrews Creek.

Under the guidance of the local landcare volunteers the students planted 160 understorey plants around the Eildon Pondage and helped with the maintenance of

the revegetation sites along Andrews Creek in Taggerty.

The students also built many nesting boxes for wildlife and helped install the boxes onto trees at the landcare sites.

The students enjoyed checking the older nesting boxes and were very excited when they found ringtail possums and sugar gliders using the nesting boxes.



The students were excited to see some of the nesting boxes are occupied. -S



The students planted 160 understorey plants around the Eildon Pondage. -S



The students from the Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne got busy making nesting boxes for local wildlife. -S



Landcare Volunteers assisted the students in creating the nesting boxes. -S

Illegal disposal of dead pythons punished

A MAN has been ordered to pay \$10,000 to the court fund after pleading guilty to charges arising from the illegal dumping of dead snakes at Mount Disappointment.

The 26 year old South Morang man appeared in Heidelberg Magistrates Court on five charges relating to his burying of 32 dead carpet pythons in the Mount Disappointment State Forest.

He was found guilty without conviction, was ordered to pay \$10,000 to the court fund and placed on a good behaviour bond for two years.

The man had a private wildlife licence to own the captive-bred carpet pythons but euthanised them when some became infected with a disease.

The man buried the snakes in the state forest where there was a significant risk of the disease spreading to native wildlife. He also failed to keep accurate records as required in the conditions of his licence and gave false or misleading information to an authorised officer when asked about the snakes.

In passing the sentence, the Magistrate described the offending as 'very reckless'.

Conservation Regulator spokesperson, Greg Chant, said, "Disposing of privately kept wildlife in this manner is reckless and represents a significant biosecurity risk for native wildlife and the community.

"The case is a reminder to people who own wildlife as pets that they need to keep accurate records of the animals in their care and take appropriate care with diseased or dead animals.

"The conditions in permits to keep wildlife as pets need to be taken seriously so that the privately kept wildlife, native wildlife and the community are protected."

Concerns over new home care package delays

INDEPENDENT Members and Senators have said they are concerned about the impact the Australian Government's decision to postpone the commencement of 80,000 new Home Care packages will have on older Australians.

83,000 new Home Care packages were due to be rolled out from July 1. This has now been postponed until November. There are currently some 80,000 Australians on the waitlist for a Home Care package.

It takes 12 to 15 months for someone to get a level four package. In that context a six month delay is consequential.

Research shows that the longer people go without appropriate Home Care supports, the higher their risk of injury, hospitalisation and earlier entry into residential aged care. The delay will also imperil the government's commitment that by 2027 no one will wait more than 90 days for a package.

The parliamentarians have signed an open letter calling on the government to, at a minimum, fund 20,000 new packages to commence on July 1 under the current Home Care Packages scheme, which can then be

rolled over onto the new Support at Home program when it eventually commences.

ACT Independent Senator David Pocock said older Australians and their families couldn't afford to wait even longer for much-needed support in their homes. "Last term the Albanese Government made some good progress with multi-partisan support but now they need to prioritise implementation," Senator Pocock said.

"I regularly have families contacting me about the excessively long wait times for Home Care packages. We can't afford to delay this further. The 1400 Canberrans currently on the waitlist need help now, and each day we delay is another day they are put at risk of injury or of going into permanent care well ahead of their time."

"While the sector acknowledges this delay as a frustrating but necessary step, we need more home care packages now to bridge the gap until November," Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, said.

"In my electorate, people have approved packages but are waiting months for care because of a lack of providers. We also can't

delay the rollout of a pricing framework that fairly reflects the travel costs to deliver care in rural areas."

Independent Member for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan said older Australians were already waiting too long for support. "It's clear that the industry is not yet ready to implement the new Aged Care Act, and it makes sense to delay it," Dr Ryan said.

"However, older Australians shouldn't suffer because of the aged care system's failures. They're already waiting far too long for the help they need. The government should urgently fund an extra 20,000 home care packages to support older Australians stay safe and healthy at home, while it helps stakeholders transition to the new framework."

Allegra Spender MP, independent Member for Wentworth said action is needed now to help lower waiting times. "I regularly hear heartbreaking stories of parents and grandparents who are eligible for home care packages, but end up in aged-care facilities unnecessarily, because the home care package takes too long," said Ms Spender.

"The rationing of home care packages fails families and older Australians and simply places more burden and costs on our aged care system. The government needs to deliver on its promise to provide more home care package.

"While the additional time for the sector to transition to the New Aged Care Act is warranted, the 83,000 people waiting for a Home Care Package should not be made to wait any longer."

"The government can and must act on this without delay," Dr Sophie Scamps, independent Member for Mackellar, said. "These delays to Home Care Packages are putting pressure on families who are struggling to care for their loved ones and desperately need urgent support right now.

"The longer Tasmanians Seniors can stay home, the better off they are, delaying the promised rollout until November isn't acceptable. Both sides of politics have dropped the ball on this issue over the last 10 years. What the Minister calls 'a brief deferral' will directly impact the lives of older Australians," Senator Jacqui Lambie, Senator for Tasmania, said.

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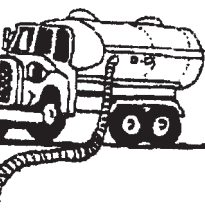
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6	2	9	1	5	4	3	8	7
4	7	5	3	8	6	1	9	2
3	1	8	9	7	2	4	5	6
7	9	6	2	3	5	8	1	4
5	8	1	6	4	7	9	2	3
2	4	3	8	9	1	6	7	5

MATH SQUARES

5	-	8	-	3	-6
+		÷		+	
4	÷	2	+	1	3
+		-		+	
7	+	6	×	9	61
16		-2		13	

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
24	5	1	8	23	19	6	14	10	26	2	12	18
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11	21	22	25	17	7	4	20	3	13	15	9	16

A LONG TIME AGO;
ONCE UPON A TIME

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

3	-	4	-	2	-3
+		-		-	
7	+	8	-	6	9
+		+		-	
5	+	1	-	9	-3
15		-3		-13	

How can you help someone with hoarding challenges?

HOARDING is an issue for many in our community. Australia Psychology Association CEO Sara Quinn kindly provided more information about the phenomenon and the psychology behind it.

She said that hoarding “can occur when individuals in the community go through any traumatic experience [such as Black Saturday] or if there’s a sense of emotional deprivation through someone’s upbringing, that can increase the likelihood of developing a disorder such as hoarding.

“We know that when attachment bonds, a child’s attachment to their adult figures in their lives, are disrupted, people tend to refocus on material possessions as an emotional containment mechanism because that invokes these feelings of control, and identity and safety and security. And we would see the same sort of responses occur through a traumatic experience.”

She said that hoarding disorders, “is an ongoing difficulty letting go of possessions, and what we know is when people have difficulty letting go, that can lead to cluttered spaces, and then a disrupted daily life. It’s often driven by that strong emotional attachment to their material possessions, real difficulties with decision-making and some unhelpful beliefs about items and, and in general avoidance of distress. So hoarding disorder is actually defined as a difficulty getting rid of material possessions, and that’s partnered with accumulation of possessions and cluttered spaces.”

She added that all humans experience some attachment to their possessions. “That attachment, when that impairs the person’s ability to engage in their normal quality of life, it becomes problematic,” she said.

People collect things, and that’s normal. When this impacts on a person’s quality of life, that it becomes problematic, and this may lead to a hoarding disorder.

Dr Quin explained, “Unhelpful beliefs are quite quintessential for hoarding... We know that in particular, some of our clients might hold rigid or unhelpful thoughts around some of the items that you and I might naturally want to throw in the rubbish or donate to others. Some of these beliefs can be ‘I might need this one day’ or ‘discarding of this type of article might be irresponsible’ or ‘this item is unique and it’s irreplaceable’. These beliefs can reinforce a person’s need to retain those items, and that’s irrespective of whether or not they’ve got actual utility or value. “

“What we see as someone unable to clean up what we might determine as mess is actually being reinforced by those unhelpful beliefs... It can undermine a person’s ability to live their day-to-day life. And that’s before we even start talking about behavioural avoidance.”

She explained that when people have these unhelpful beliefs, “there’s a lot of emotional discomfort and a lot of what we would call cognitive load, so there’s a lot of stress and pressure associated with sorting and discarding, which can often lead to people avoiding those very behaviours that others do quite naturally. Avoidance means that they don’t have to go through the pressure of having to sort things out and get rid of them, but what it does do over time, is perpetuates that cycle of hoarding and that contributes to that clutter and that mess and then and then this overall sense that people are actually not getting rid of what we would perceive as rubbish. Because the problem is too big at that point.”

We know that individuals with hoarding disorder can often form intense, not only emotional connections to their possessions, but the intensity of even the thought of having to engage in any sort of sorting or making decisions around whether or not we keep throw away an item, that in itself can be incredibly overwhelming, and we actually know that there are some deficits in some individuals who develop hoarding disorder around information processing, so they can have difficulties with attention, they might not see what it is that we see, they have difficulties organising their spaces, categorising them, and decision making, which is key. Those sorts of changes can make the actual process of sorting through anything completely overwhelming.



Dr Sara Quinn. -S

How do you how do people who engage in hoarding start to resolve the situation?

Dr Quin responded, “It’s a significant act when we think about all the challenges associated with it, and I think that the impact of this and why people start to resolve it is because it has an impact not just on the individual, but also on family members and if they have pets, and the community. Often if someone is living in the community and you can see some of that behaviour extending out onto the gardens, etcetera. It’s also important to note that some people experiencing hoarding don’t actually consider that their behaviour is a problem. Additionally, there could be quite an acute sense of shame associated with inviting people into their homes, and that might mean that they’re more likely to be isolated in the first place, which can then lead to the problem being exacerbated.

“In particular, when we speak to some of those individuals who do provide support to those with hoarding disorder is that there’s a lot of hazards usually that occur in the home for them.” These might include trip hazards or an increased risk of fire, and the problem may not be known until people become unwell or repairs are needed to the home. The problem is unlikely to be found until someone alerts that for the person.

In the psychological world, they have found that cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is usually the most effective evidence-based treatment, however bringing people to realise that they need to seek and take on board that support is one of the biggest challenges. CBT would involve teaching people how to make decisions on a small scale so that they can then expand out through explorations of beliefs and exposure techniques. This might include clinicians going into the home with the person and starting to get them used to experiencing that distress and those emotional challenges.

She added, “It’s a long process and quite overwhelming for an individual unless they’ve got good support.

Would it be wise to have someone come in and do some sorting, get rid of the bulk of stuff and then allowing the person to start again? Or do you feel that it’s important for the psychological recovery for the person to be doing it themselves with potential support.

Dr Quin responded, “I think it actually depends on the individual. I think that a lot of individuals will not feel able to be safe to be able to engage in that sort of behaviour without an expert by their side, because I think that even though somebody might have the best of intentions to help... Without familiarity around what the disorder is and some of those unhelpful beliefs in some of the intense emotional experience of the individual, we might see it as, they just don’t want to throw stuff out and they just need some help. What we’re not seeing is actually the significant challenges associated with that...”

“I would say that it’s really important for those individuals to understand the experience of the person that they’re trying to assist, because their refusal to engage in that help is not necessarily because they don’t think they need it. It’s often they don’t realise that it’s such a problem for them or it might be such a source of embarrassment and shame that they don’t want to even go close to accepting some help. The judgement free support that a psychologist has and that knowledge of how it is that we start to untangle some of those really complex beliefs can be quite crucial, not just for the individual, but for people offering support as well.”

Should a person seeking to help receive some psychological advice before undertaking that activity?

“Yes. I think when people feel safe enough to speak with their family and their friends about what is going on for them without judgement, then they’ll feel more likely to accept that help. When their families and those friends are educated on what hoarding disorder actually is, to provide that appropriate support, that means the support they offer is really helpful.

“Social workers and professional organisers who are experienced working with people with hoarding disorder, they can then work alongside treatment for the individuals. Effectively, it could be a really nice team support as long as everyone is educated in what it actually is, and the person feels ready and able to accept that support,” Dr Quinn said.

I imagine that there would need to be a lot of tolerance and not showing external displays of judgement

“Yes definitely. I think there can often be an ambivalence for individuals who are experiencing hoarding and I think if you’re able to actually sit with them in their ambivalence and understand how it is that that occurred for them without judging their experience without you thinking that you can clean them up, which can be very, very distressing for, in particular, a family member or someone who really cares for that individual to want to get this done really quickly, sitting in some of this discomfort can be one of the most difficult yet important strategies to being able to help somebody in the long term,” Dr Quin said.

What other supports are potentially available?

“There are psychologists who are experts in human behaviour, but family members and community members can also be very well placed, especially if they approach it without judgement. Create a solid support system for an individual, especially if there are risk issues attached. If a person is more likely to become sick, sometimes their GP might be able to identify this first, people in the community when they see some of the hoarding extent onto their verge might notice that as well. There are also really well placed social workers and professional organisers who are able to, and very well experienced, working alongside that beneficial treatment as well,” Dr Quinn said.

What about industrial cleaners?

“It depends on the individual. Sometimes worst case scenario is we see individuals have been holding for a very, very long time we see the risk of fire, the risk of the associated financial burden, needing to repair a home that might be in disrepair because of hoarding, there are so many risks that occur for an individual living in that sort of environment and the desire to want to clear it out really quickly can be really strong. If that person is in a position to be able to facilitate that, that is best case scenario for an individual,” Dr Quin said.

“However, if the problem is too overwhelming and/or the person is unable to assist with that, there can be a place for someone coming in and actually cleaning it up, but where possible I think involving the individual is going to give them the best sense of agency. Also when, we think of long-term gain, if they’re able to be part of that process, then they’re more able to start to develop more helpful ways of connecting and attaching themselves to their material position.”

Is there anything else that you would like to add on the topic that you think it’s important that the community knows about?

Dr Quin said, “I think the most important part of all of this is that hoarding disorder is a disorder, and it’s characterised by a persistent emotional attachment to possessions. We know that that’s often linked to past traumas or deprivation, and that in turn interferes with daily life. I think the psychologists are very well equipped to provide that evidence-based support. What I do want to normalise that it’s actually a really normal human experience to be attached to our material possessions. So just because someone is a collector of items doesn’t necessarily mean that they have a disorder. It is when it starts to impact their ability to function in daily life that we then think, how is it that we could help this individual? Look out for your neighbours, friends and family is probably the most important message.”

Our history: Road testing the Australian car

Alexandra and Yea Standard, November 5, 1948

ON November 29, 1948, Holden unveiled its first locally-made car, the Holden 48-215, known as the Holden FX. The vehicle was a huge hit, with a list of 40,000 waiting for cars. The plant was aiming to produce 20,000 cars per year.

FOR a period of 10 years before the war it was the job of the writer to road-test cars. In that time he tested almost every new car or new model that appeared on this market, and his test reports were featured throughout the Australian Press. One reason for the popularity of his reports was that the performances of all cars were assessed comparatively, for he tested every car over one specially chosen route.

This is the first road-test report on the Australian car. It is a report that, as an Australian, I am proud to write. Also, it is a report I always hoped to write. Yesterday it became possible, and the Australian car was road-tested over the identical 86 mile route on which I 'punished' so many new cars in the past.

Now, as then, that course is, in my opinion, the best 'give and take' example of Australian road conditions that could be chosen.

But car owners seldom, if ever, punish a car as the Australian car was punished yesterday to learn exactly how it behaves, particularly on rough and potholed tracks, on muddy and water-channelled hills on loose gravel, and under many other conditions.

Yet day in and day out this car, and four others, have been making this identical drive, and under the same severity of handling, and one of them has exceeded 60,000 miles of this testing, equal to about 240,000 miles of normal driving. There is no overstatement in that claim. No car would normally be driven over this course at more than half the set, and timed, testing speeds. Nor would you subject your own car to the abrupt stops, starts, climbs, speed cornerings, accelerations, and

other pounding tests that are normal for each test car on each run over this course.

That each of the five test cars has come through months of this severe testing with honours is in itself a tribute to the excellence of the design and construction of the Australian car. But it is my opinion that very few other cars now on this market would give equally good results on the same course.

This includes 12 miles of gravel, most of it loose and rough, but very good for testing steering, riding comfort, cornering and general stability. It includes four miles of unsurfaced hills, steep and greasy and deeply corrugated, also about eight miles of broken macadam embracing long stretches of water-filled potholes.

Any car that can belt over those potholes at 55mph is a good car, but the Australian car did it easily and in complete control. At the same speed it cornered without tyre screech on both loose gravel and macadam, then on good surfaces went easily up to 75mph and held that speed without use of full throttle. Repeatedly it was accelerated from a slow roll to past 50mph in second gear, and always that speed was gained without nearing the power peak of the engine.

Finally, as a test of high-gear flexibility on a steep grade-varying from one in five to one in 10, the car was checked, back from 30mph to seven mph, then proved itself capable of accelerating a swiftly and easily up from that speed to nearly 50mph.

These things, and many others that the car did, are, the reasons I am proud to write this report, for the Australian car is better than good. It lacks nothing, and it has a dozen or more performance features, each of which hallmarks this car as one of exceptional merit.

Future owners of these cars may perhaps list these things in varying order, but in my opinion four dominant features of the Australian car are: Its inbuilt stability; Marked riding comfort on all surfaces and at all speeds; The excellence of the steering; and the effortless, flexible, always or silent

flow of power given by its exceptionally economical engine.

Even to quote performance figures would give no true indication of the merit, of this car, for something of much more importance is the way it gives those performances.

As cars go today, the Australian car is not a big car, but it rides like one, has equivalent passenger comfort, and performs like one. It 'glues down' at 75 as safely and smoothly as any car I could name. It has the power for all-high-gear operation under most conceivable conditions; and it traverses rough going in a way that is only possible when a car is perfect in its weight distribution. In addition, clever

design gives exceptional clear vision-in all directions for driver and all passengers, also the roominess and low build that are modern needs. I consider that this car is as skid-proof as any sedan type car yet designed, and in its usually direct steering, light and shock free, it has been given a feature that most-Australian car owners have hitherto sought for in vain.

Finally, and for the average private owner, this is a matter of extreme importance, I do not believe that this car will date in any way, and particularly not in appearance.

Alexandra district agents for this new Australian car, the Holden, are G E Courtney Motors.



The 1948 Holden. -svlamb

SPORT

Green tinge for Eildon Golf Club course

by Puttomatic

IT was a very cold start to the individual stableford competition last Saturday at Eildon Golf Club. The course is getting a nice green tinge and with softer conditions there was a variety of scores recorded.

Phil Dally had a day out with an impressive 41 points followed by John Beale with 35 points on a countback from Peter McNair also on 35 points. Ball run winners for the week were Peter McNair with 35 points, Ken Collier with 32 points and Colin Long with 31 points, it's great to see Colin back playing again.

Nearest the pin winners for the week, there were no winners on the third or the fifth holes, Colin Long took out the 11th and the 12th and John Rachcoff was the closest on the 14th. There was no winner on the birdie drink holes for the week.

Other winners Peter McNair had a win with the swindle draw and Rod Taylor was the entry draw winner.

The club says a huge thanks to Ken and Maz and all their volunteers, who have over the past few weeks done a fantastic job with the trees and the clean-up needed to ensure the course is in top condition, it looks great. Many thanks to Peter McNair for providing afternoon tea with Wayne Kupke giving great assistance in the kitchen.

Marysville Ladies golfers head to Avenel

by Lesley Rundle

WHILE the Marysville Golf Club members follow a Saturday syllabus every week of the year many events such as visiting groups, tournaments, Dalhousie events, and clinics go into recess during winter. Behind the scenes the club volunteers are preparing for the next series of events and accepting bookings and marketing the course for late winter, spring and summer golf. Marysville members welcome green fee players throughout the year.

The final ladies Dalhousie event prior to the winter break was held at Avenel last Thursday and the Avenel ladies welcomed 35 ladies from Dalhousie and beyond. Avenel is the only course in the Dalhousie District with sand greens which players enjoy playing although scraping the 'greens' after each group can be a challenge. Three Marysville ladies played at Avenel and members congratulate Bev Bellman for winning C Grade with 34 points. For the third week in a row when playing at a Dalhousie event Heather Jenkins won a raffle. The Dalhousie ladies' events will start again in late July.

On Saturday both the men and the ladies played stableford. The ladies winner was Jody Doran (13) with 38 points followed by Gail Leigh (10) with 33 points. The men's winner was Richy Clark (17) with 35 points followed by Steve Coker (17) just one point behind. The nearest the pins were won by Keith Atwell (2) Pat Orwin and Richy Clark who also won the Golden Shot. After play members enjoyed a warm lunch provided by Bickey the chef at the Pavilion Bar and Grill.

Next Saturday both the men and the ladies will play a stableford round with the men's game incorporating the final of the Barton Cup.



Beverley Bellman giving her thankyou speech at Avenel. -S

SPORT

Groundhog Day at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

IT'S starting to feel a little like Groundhog Day now at Alexandra Golf Club, with last Tuesday's results looking depressingly familiar at the top, with Brad Newton once again taking the win with 37 points.

Second place went to Greg Ebinger with 36 points, and third went to Russell Purcell with 33.

Greg also claimed nearest the pin on seven, and Brad took 17, with the rundown vouchers going to James Fulton and Leo Dynes.

It was monthly medal day for the ladies last Wednesday, which of course means a stroke round. In spite of the fact that play commenced in the fog, Sue Greateorex performed very well to secure the June Medal, her 90 net 70 three shots clear of second-placed Marg Fahey.

Ruth Worland came in third with a net 74, and fourth went to Bron Howell with a net 75.

Bron also had the fewest putts, an honour that she shared with Marg, both having 30, and Sandy Wettenhall won the nine-hole competition, with a net 38.5.

Nearest the pins went to Donna Meggitt on two, Sandy on five and Sue on 18.

Even an 11am start time couldn't avoid the dreaded Alexandra fog on Saturday.

The stableford round, sponsored by Koala Cherries, attracted a field of only 10, which may have had something to do with the aforementioned fog.

About halfway through the round, the fog cleared, and we were all really happy to see the sun. Unfortunately, it was only about 10 minutes later that the clouds came over, and that was the end of that. But overall, it was still a good day.

Simon Rouget came in third, with a score of 35 points, while second place went to John Steer on 36. The winner, with an impressive 38 points, was Shane McGorlick, who also picked up the nearest the pin on 18 on his way to the victory.

The only other nearest the pin to be claimed was the seventh, which went to Dan Burns.

A quick reminder to all members that memberships are now due and payable.

Country football and netball grants now available

FOOTBALL and netball clubs across Northern Victoria have a chance to apply for state government funding to improve their facilities.

The Nationals' Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad encouraged all football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations across the region to apply for the latest round of grants under the Country Football and Netball Program.

Applications can be made for grants of up to \$250,000 to develop facilities.

Ms Broad said potential projects could include new change rooms, upgrades to lighting, improved water efficiency and more.

"Grassroots football and netball is the backbone of many regional communities, and having great facilities encourages more participation and in turn provides great social and health benefits," Ms Broad said.

Applications for the current round of the Country Football and Netball program close on Monday, July 7.

Clubs must register their interest through their local council.

For further information visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding/country-football-and-netball-program

ADNA Youth Netball round up

by Cassandra Fraser

ROUND four of indoor netball saw some pretty hot competition.

Diamonds versus Comets was hotly contested with Diamonds winners by eight points. On the night Diamonds had two fill ins Chloe Woehl and Samantha Fraser who added further strength to an already slick team. Best on court was impossible to choose with both sides working hard and playing well as a team.

Bandits versus Astros saw Charli Edwards fill in for Bandits and play a second sensational game for the night. Umpires Renee and Belinda needed their skates on to keep up with the pace of this game. Both sides were keen for possession of the ball with multiple intercepts and changes of direction, shooters for both sides were accurate and defenders fierce. Bandits won this game by five points. Best for Bandits: Tilly, Ava and Charli; Best for Astros: Matthew, Marli and Zoe.

The ladder after round four: Bandits: 12 points, 204 per cent; Astros: 12 points, 110 per cent; Diamonds: eight points, 77 per cent, and Comets 0 points, 58 per cent.



Pep is poised as he awaits Matt's return. -S

Alexandra Squash Club report

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Falcons versus Owls

ERIC versus Tyler: Great rallies. Tyler's second game was outstanding with his serves finding depth and proving too good. Tyler claimed the win. 74 to 45.

Pep (fill in) versus Matt L: Two fellas that refuse to let the ball die. Pep stayed just ahead in the first half. Matt claimed the third game to even out the score, but Pep upped the ante in the final game to close out the match on top. 74 to 61.

Phil (fill in) versus John: Both players had great court coverage. Phil had the touch in the first two games followed by John's guile in the third game. Experience and speed were evident in game three with John taking a commanding lead. The final game saw John keep ahead to become victorious. 60 to 48.

Eagles versus Hawks

SALLY versus Chris: A great game with both players putting forth some beautiful

winners. Sally had well played shots, but Chris's court coverage was too good and helped him greatly on his journey to victory. 71 to 56.

Michael M versus Jared: Very tight through the first three games with some sublime shots and extended rallies. Michael seized the momentum in the last set and stormed home. 59 to 47.

Derrick versus Andrew: Despite Derrick's skilful improvisation he found himself playing catch up with an inform Andrew. With control and single-mindedness of a squash Terminator, Andrew managed to exploit any loose shots and eke out a 13-point win. 69 to 47.

Thursday competition Blue Tongues versus Frill Necks

BETH versus Blake: Blake steam-rolled Beth in the first game gaining a 15-point lead. With persistence and some placement, Beth took the next two games. But Blake rallied to steal the final game and keep hold of his crown. 68 to 53.

Sam versus Kristelle: Taking an early lead, Kristelle's shots were coming off at all angles, misdirecting her opponent. Sam took control in the second half, utilising every opportunity he was gifted when Kristelle continued to put it into the tin. Despite taking control, Sam couldn't bring it back and Kristelle went home victorious. 66 to 64.

Dragons versus Skinks

LIANE versus Matthew: Liane came out blazing and didn't give Matthew any chances to take the lead. Holding firm, Liane triumphed with a commanding lead. 76 to 38.

Travis versus Lucas: A fun game to watch. Both players took home two games, but Travis had the upper hand on the night, pulling a fast one over on Lucas to win the match. 59 to 53.

Michael M versus Justin: The first and last games were neck-and-neck, but Michael's consistency and strength shone through to dominate the middle games and ultimately claim the match. 71 to 54.



Last minute instructions from captain Rose Kealy. -S

Things get icy for Thornton Eildon

by Scott Whitehead

Thornton/Eildon 2.3-15 drew with Emerald 2.3-15
IN women's football this week Thornton/Eildon took on Emerald at the Thornton

Recreation reserve in Sockit2MND round. Both teams completed vigorous warm-ups in foggy conditions but as the first siren sounded the sun was shining revealing two teams desperate for the win.

Emerald was first to kick a major, but the home team soon responded with a goal of their own through the raking left foot of Jade Mewburn leaving the scores level at quarter time.

The close contest continued throughout the second quarter with Thornton/Eildon dominating the ball movement but strong defence from Emerald denied them any goal scoring opportunities. Backlines from both teams held strong but Emerald found the goals with a clever snap that allowed them to lead by five points at half time.

The third quarter began in the same fashion as the previous two with the ball rebounding from backline to backline. Thornton/Eildon began to find more of the ball and seemed to control the quarter, but they again found it difficult to score with Emeralds steely defence holding strong. The home teams same steely defence lead by Bechet Cousens would also deny the opposition goal scoring opportunities and at three quarter time the scores would have Emerald leading by six points having scored the only score for the quarter.

With a goal the difference Lucy McRae was thrown into the ruck with immediate results taking a strong contested mark and kicking truly leveling the scores. For the next 10 minutes of the quarter the ball ping ponged again between each team's defence and then with moments remaining in the game

and the ball in dispute, the game was paused for an Emerald player who had succumbed to a neck injury. With no time on and the injured player leaving the ground the final siren sounded with the scores deadlocked and a draw the result.

After the game both teams in great spirit joined in the fund-raising activities for MND raising an impressive \$560. Coaches, captains and club president all took the plunge in icy cold water and if that wasn't enough the dunking was topped with an icy cold bucket of water being tipped over the participant's head.

Goals: Jade Mewburn, Lucy McRae one each.

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General store: Jade Mewburn; Café Alex: Leah Battalis, Murrindindi Aged and Home care: Cas Fulton; Snobs Creek Holiday Park: Amber Saric-Skewers

Next week Thornton/Eildon head off for the early game starting at 9:10am at the Warburton Recreation reserve.

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

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders					
Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	545.40	8	Seville	223.90	8
Pakenham	389.11	7	Warburton Millgrove	211.64	7
Belgrave	269.42	5	Pakenham	219.07	6
Warburton Millgrove	150.52	5	Yarra Glen	123.08	5
Alexandra	106.53	5	Yarra Junction	89.72	4
Yea	95.10	3	Alexandra	69.28	3
Powelltown	33.25	2	Belgrave	65.71	2
Yarra Junction	13.77	1	Yea	53.92	0
Yarra Glen	21.18	0	Powelltown	26.18	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	289.11	7	Seville	362.09	8
Pakenham	229.79	7	Pakenham	234.60	7
Seville	198.94	7	Warburton Millgrove	147.86	6
Yarra Glen	105.75	5	Yarra Glen	114.38	5
Alexandra	103.78	4	Belgrave	86.71	4
Belgrave	97.55	3	Yarra Junction	59.95	3
Yea	85.97	2	Yea	65.31	2
Powelltown	42.27	1	Alexandra	51.40	1
Yarra Junction	24.32	0	Powelltown	40.08	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	8	Seville	333.85	8
Wandin	87.50	7	Pakenham	192.50	7
Emerald	68.75	5	Warburton Millgrove	182.11	6
Thornton Eildon	64.28	4	Yarra Glen	97.83	5
Yea	14.28	1	Alexandra	78.59	3
Seville	12.50	1	Belgrave	72.84	3
Officer	0	0	Yarra Junction	68.89	2
			Yea	48.57	1
			Powelltown	36.58	0
Netball – 17 and under			Netball – D Grade		
Seville	391.58	8	Seville	376.92	8
Pakenham Lions Gold	213.24	6	Pakenham	284.82	7
Warburton Millgrove	104.69	4	Warburton Millgrove	186.58	6
Pakenham Lions Maroon	50.23	1	Yarra Glen	89.86	4
Alexandra	47.37	2	Alexandra	77.27	4
Powelltown	36.65	1	Belgrave	74.16	4
			Yea	47.68	2
			Yarra Junction	52.78	1
			Powelltown	21.09	0
Football – Under 18					
Pakenham	1105.62	8			
Seville	219.66	5			
Yarra Glen	73.05	3			
Warburton Millgrove	48.91	3			
Alexandra	43.45	2			
Yea	26.92	1			



Coach Tash Hay enjoying an ice bath, Banjo Fitzpatrick assisting. -S