

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard

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

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Emerging leaders in health



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Flowerdale bus stop mystery solved



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Syd and Chris Savage interview



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Weekend sport



Pages 17-20



Volunteers Bob, Greta, and Kerry from the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre. More images on page 5. -BD

## Volunteer Expo highlights the shire's volunteer organisations

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's (MSC) Volunteer Expo took place last Saturday, giving volunteer organisations from around Murrindindi Shire the opportunity to highlight the incredible work they undertake and potentially interest new members.

The event took place at the Alexandra Football Netball Club rooms, running from 1 to 5pm, and included tea, coffee, and snacks.

Volunteer organisations in attendance included Landcare, CFA, SES, Ambulance Victoria, U3A, Rotary, Lions, Foundation Murrindindi, Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival, Murrindindi Carers Support Group, Yea Arts, Alexandra Community Hub, visitor information centres from around the shire, and more.

A *Community Capacity Building Program* undertaken on the part of MSC, a grant from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) made the day possible.

## Great Forest National Park 'not government policy'

THE Liberals and Nationals have demanded confirmation that the Victorian Government will not back the formation of the Great Forest National Park (GFNP).

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, has written to Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, requesting a formal public commitment.

It comes after Field and Game Australia revealed on social media that the Minister told an Electrical Trade Union delegates conference that Labor does not support a GFNP.

Similarly, on May 14, this newspaper was provided with a statement from government saying, "We see a future where the benefit of our forests are enjoyed by all Victorians. The government will not be considering large scale land tenure changes."

Attempts were made to confirm whether the statement relating to no large scale land tenure changes definitely applies to the Central Highlands rather than the Great Outdoors Taskforce area, however no response was received.

The proposed half a million-hectare GFNP, about 90 minutes north-east of Melbourne, would triple the area of the Central Highlands Forest.

Ms Bath's request follows a recent parliamentary petition opposing the creation of new national parks which gathered over 40,000 signatures, underscoring widespread public discontent.

Ms Bath said Victorians did not need more poorly maintained 'pad-locked' national parks.

"If Minister Dimopoulos is prepared to say there will be no Great Forest National Park to union delegates behind closed doors, he must be prepared to put it on the public record," Ms Bath said.

"The government owes an explanation to the 40,208 Victorians who signed the petition opposing Labor's plans to form new national parks.

"Labor is mismanaging our existing national parks, with successive budget and staffing cuts.

"Neglecting public land increases fire risk and leads to the proliferation of invasive weeds and pests, which degrade the environment and pose a threat to native flora and fauna.

"The Liberals and Nationals oppose the creation of new national parks and support the active management our public land for better environmental and recreational outcomes."

Ms Bath also urged Labor to overturn its misguided decision to create the Wombat-Lerderderg and Mount Buangor National Parks to the north-west of Melbourne, saying "These state forests have long served as vital spaces for a range of recreational activities, including horse riding, trail bike riding, four-wheel driving, camping, hunting, prospecting and fossicking and firewood collection.

### Government response

In response to the Melina Bath statement, a Victorian Government Spokesperson said, "We've been very clear that the Great Forest National Park is not and never has been a government policy. Recreational fishing, boating and game hunting supports tens of

thousands of jobs across the state, especially in regional Victoria.

"We are creating new national parks and expanding regional parks to link existing state forests, parks and reserves to ensure our great outdoors is looked after, for every Victorian to enjoy."

The government announced in 2021 that it would create three national parks, two conservation parks, and seven new and expanded regional parks in the state's central west, including the Wombat-Lerderderg National Park covering more than 44,000 hectares between Daylesford and Bacchus Marsh.

It is expected that legislation to create three new national park will soon be introduced into parliament.

They also said that Victorians will continue to enjoy a range of recreational activities in the new national parks including bush walking, camping, horse riding, four-wheel driving, dog walking, fishing and more.

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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Letters to the Editor

Four bin system

I TOTALLY agree with David Anderson's letter in the *Yea Chronicle* on July 2. Rural properties have been safely and wisely managing their own small amount of waste for years.

In my case, when the notices first came out to all rural households, there was a part on the form where you could apply to opt out of the new garbage collection proposal, which I duly filled in. When I received three new bins delivered to my gate, I immediately contacted the person in charge at Murrindindi Shire Council and was told there had been a mistake and if I left my bins on the roadside the contractor would come and collect them. Three months later and two reminders to council, the bins are still sitting on the roadside waiting to be collected and just this week I have received a letter saying the service is compulsory.

Ever since the bin collection service was introduced to Whittlesea-Yea Road, my son who lives next door, opted to have the service. We agreed we only needed one service between us for the small amount of waste we generate. I have been placing my one small bag of recycles in his bin, about once a month for the past 20 years, and between us we still don't fill the bin.

I don't want or need a bin service. Although there are two houses on it, we run the property as one. I will be returning my three bins to the Yea Depot from whence they came as I won't be using them and I don't need them cluttering up my backyard.

This is just another money grabbing idea from government. Council successfully avoids the rate cap each year by having your property revalued every year, which is now done in far-away office with no on-site inspection as was the duty in the past so values were a true indication of your property's worth. With rates rising enormously every year and council charges likewise, this is just another impost on all ratepayers who can ill-afford more costs.

Elaine White, Yea

Planter boxes

I NOTE with interest the letter by Pamela Thompson in the *Alexandra Standard* concerning removal of planter boxes from Grant Street, Alexandra.

Rate payers should be entitled to discuss this with council officers and to see the boxes, that had been removed and given the reason. Pamela your council representative should have demanded it.

Were the councillors aware of their pending removal? And was it on the council meeting agenda?

Pamela, we live in a democracy at all levels, but that is only effective if we have strong politicians and councilors, paid for by the rate payers.

Councillors should direct, as all public servants, what they expect as policy and relationship with residents.

I can only repeat what I stated along time ago, for those with long memories, I refer to the very enjoyable television series, *Yes Minister*. I think our Alexandra councillors could fit those roles perfectly.

Ray Donkin, Buxton

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN:

To Murrindindi Shire Council for the total lack of communication about the bin system, on which bin goes which week. For example, everybody in our street put out the yellow and red bin. When we rang council, it's yellow and green. Everybody in the street got it wrong.

THUMBS DOWN:

To those who let their aggressive dogs run off lead at a public reserve. If your dog is aggressive, please keep them on the lead to avoid possible dog fights and it's dangerous to the owners.

THUMBS DOWN:

Ever wondered why you pay so much tax ? One reason could be this. A recent seven minute visit to my local Alexandra GP for prescription renewals cost the taxpayer \$300. You can very easily check what your bulk billing doctor charges by logging on at MyGov-Medicare-Claims history. In my case, a quick check shows some extraordinary, unexplainable excessive charges over the last three years, all for similar, short (less than 10 minute) consultations. \$300 for seven minutes? Why ?

THUMBS UP:

To the staff who maintain the Buxton toilet complex. An unplanned stop there found the ladies toilet clean, tidy and well resourced. Clearly the work of unsung heroes.

THUMBS UP:

To the volunteers who were able to retrieve the planter boxes from council. We're looking forward to them being reinstated shortly.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance  
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

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

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

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

MONTHLY

1<sup>st</sup> Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1<sup>st</sup> Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4<sup>th</sup> Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

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

ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00am Mon	1.24	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.47	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00am Mon	0.52	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarek	9.52am Mon	0.16	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.00am Mon	0.47	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00am Mon	0.27	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.59	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.42	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.96	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.28	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.79	steady		
**ISSUED AT 10:54 AM AEST MONDAY 7 JULY 2025					

Weekly Weather

July 9 - July 15, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

6

10

Wednesday

5

11

Thursday

4

8

Thursday

4

11

Friday

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Saturday

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Sunday

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11

Sunday

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Monday

4

9

Monday

4

10

Tuesday

4

9

Tuesday

4

10

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra ..... 8mm

Buxton..... N/Amm

Eildon (AWS)..... 2mm

Flowerdale..... 8mm

Jamieson..... 2mm

Kinglake..... 39mm

Lake Eildon..... 1mm

Mansfield..... 2mm

Taggerty ..... 2mm

Yarek ..... 4mm

Yea..... 6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....276.36m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....57.6%

Metres below full supply.....12.54m

Daily inflow .....1000ML

Release..... 1100ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....80%

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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



Ian Wood. -S

## Artist of the month Ian Wood

IAN Wood is the current artist of the month at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre.

During his school years, art and writing were Ian's refuge and outlet for his creative desires and abilities. One of his English teachers was especially encouraging, giving him praise for essays and poetry which he wrote even when they were not required. He loved the places his imagination took him through words.

In February 1969, his working life began in advertising and lasted 18 months. In October 1970, he began promoting pop and rock bands and nine months later, after no success and no money, he drifted into the hippy subculture for four years. There he explored life through the creative endeavours of music, art and writing.

Ian continued writing and performing his work at Melbourne spoken word events for two years before hitchhiking to Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns where he performed spoken word and played his music.

For 30 years from the mid-1970s, Ian's focus was on a career as an interior designer successfully creating interiors for private residences, offices,

restaurants, hotels and motels, as well as health and aged care facilities, clinics and hospitals.

He began a path as an artist in 2002 and has now exhibited in galleries and art events in Kensington, Kew, Daylesford, Sorrento, San Francisco and Mexico. He has his work in private collections in Australia, Chicago, Kansas City, Seattle, Bend in Oregon, and Point Richmond, Sausalito and Point Reyes Station, all in California.

In 2009, after an absence of over 35 years, Ian returned to the Melbourne poetry scene. He was a regular at The Dan, Passionate Tongues and The Court House, and many other venues. He has now performed for audiences in Australia, Europe and the USA.

His first book of poetry, *the ends don't meet*, was released in August 2018 and his first novel, *Hidden in the Light*, came out in late August 2020.

Currently Ian is working on new works of paintings and drawings for upcoming exhibitions in 2026 and has about 60 new poetic works for his second book of poetry and short stories. He is also working on his second novel.

Ian is now doing what he dreamed of during his school years.

## New four-bin kerbside collection service rolled out

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has commenced its new four-bin kerbside collection service, bringing the shire into alignment with Victoria's mandatory transition to a statewide four-stream garbage and recycling system.

The new service, which started on Monday, June 30, aims to improve recycling, reduce landfill, and make better use of resources. It is part of a statewide effort to move towards a circular economy, where materials are reused and recycled instead of thrown away.

While many residents have long taken pride in doing the right thing, data shows Murrindindi still has a way to go. In 2023/24, our shire diverted just 32 per cent of kerbside waste from landfill, compared to the state average of 49 per cent and 40 per cent for comparable rural councils. This new system gives us the tools improve landfill diversion and keep pace with other communities.

From June 30, kerbside refuse is sorted into four bins: Red lid is general rubbish (fortnightly), yellow lid is mixed recycling (fortnightly), green lid is food and garden organics (weekly), and the purple lid is glass bottles and jars (every four weeks).

While for some households this is a small shift from two to four bins, for others, particularly those not previously receiving a kerbside service, it's a significant change. Council acknowledges this adjustment and

appreciates the cooperation of all residents as the new system rolls out.

Cr Sue Carpenter, Council's Sustainability and Assets Portfolio Councillor, said the expanded service is essential for meeting community expectations, state requirements, and environmental goals.

"We're introducing these changes because it's time. Recycling is everyone's responsibility, and this new system helps us reduce contamination, protect the environment, and make recycling more meaningful," Cr Carpenter said.

"We know it's not always easy to change routines, especially when the changes feel imposed. That's why we're working hard to make information clear, accessible, and tailored to different needs."

Residents can download the LoopedIn Councils app for personalised bin reminders and guidance on what goes in each bin. Printable calendars are available online or from council's library and customer service centres. Residents can also request a printed copy by mail.

To learn more or to access collection schedules and resources, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fourbins](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fourbins)

"This is about building a better system for everyone, not just for today, but for the future. We thank our residents for adapting and doing their part as we make this important transition together," Cr Carpenter said.

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club activities opened with two tables of bridge on Wednesday afternoon before Friday's business meeting which was well attended and covered the usual agenda items.

Treasurer Dave advised that the club has sufficient funds for the time being and reminded members that annual membership fees are now due. He followed up with Comedy Corner and had us all smiling. Josie won the FoodWorks raffle prize.

A reminder that the annual general meeting will be held on Friday, July 18 in the Bayley Street clubroom. Items for agenda and nominations for committee positions are most welcome.

After the formal side of things, members retired to the tearoom for refreshments and the usual games of 500 and UNO. A big thank you for all the ladies who prepare the lovely cake and sandwiches.

The planned tutorial at the Alexandra Lawn Bowls Club planned for Tuesday, July 15 has been cancelled with those interested now having other activities to attend. We will look at a tutorial when the weather warms up.

Come along and join our happy group. Members meet up on Friday afternoons at 1pm in the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile stay warm and safe, and keep smiling.

## Energy Safe Victoria investigates Glenburn fire

ON January 7, a fire occurred at a farm in Glenburn, and may have been caused by the high voltage powerlines crossing the property.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) investigated the incident. An Energy Safe Victoria spokesperson has advised, "Energy Safety Victoria has not found evidence of any breach of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*.

"We are continuing discussions with industry to better understand the factors that led to the incident and to identify ways to prevent similar incidents in the future."

## POLICE REPORT

POLICE are seeking information from the public regarding a break in that occurred at Mystic Mountains Ski Hire in Narbethong. Between Thursday, June 26 at 6pm and Thursday, July 3 at 2.15pm, offenders forced entry at the property and stole a large number of items. If you saw anything suspicious, please contact Marysville Police on 5963 3222 or make a report via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

ALEXANDRA Police are seeking the owners of a diamond ring with small diamonds. If you believe that the ring is yours, please attend the Alexandra Police Station. Evidence of ownership will be required.

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## Minimum wage increase now in effect

THE Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) says employers must ensure eligible employees get their 3.5 per cent minimum wage increase from the first full pay period starting on or after July 1.

The new National Minimum Wage applying from July 1 is \$948 per week (based on a 38-hour week for a full-time employee), or \$24.95 per hour. This is an increase from the 2024-25 rates of \$915.90 per week and \$24.10 per hour.

Casual employees entitled to the National Minimum Wage must receive at least \$31.19 per hour, which includes the 25 per cent casual loading.

The 3.5 per cent increase also applies to the minimum wage rates within awards. About 20.7 per cent of all employees in Australia are paid at the minimum wage rates in industry and occupational awards.

The National Minimum Wage is the minimum rate for adult employees in the national system who are not covered by an award or enterprise agreement. It is set each year by the Fair Work Commission (a different agency to the Fair Work Ombudsman), as part of its annual wage review.

Fair Work Ombudsman Anna Booth urged employers to make sure that eligible employees receive the 3.5 per cent increase from the first full pay period on or after July 1.

"The Fair Work Ombudsman provides information, tools and support to employers to help them pay employees correctly," Ms Booth said.

"Employers and employees can use our free Pay Calculator and pay guides to check the minimum pay rates that apply from today, or they can contact us directly for assistance.

"Employers must apply the new minimum wage immediately from the first full pay period on or after July 1 to eligible employees.

"Employers and employees can also use our Pay Calculator to check which award applies to their industry or occupations, or contact us for help."

The minimum wage increase may also apply to employees covered by an enterprise agreement, as an employee's base pay rate under an enterprise agreement can't be less than their base pay rate under the relevant award or the National Minimum Wage if the employee is not covered by an award.

The Fair Work Commission announced the National Minimum Wage increase on June 3.

Minimum pay rates for award-free and agreement-free junior employees (aged 20 and under) are based on the percentages for juniors set out in the Miscellaneous Award 2020.

Pay rates for award free and agreement free trainees and apprentices who have a formal training contract with their employer are also based on the Miscellaneous Award 2020. There are special national minimum wages for some award-free and agreement free employees with disability where their disability affects their productive capacity.

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# Church Services

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

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

**UNITING CHURCH In Australia**  
 St Andrews, Downey Street,  
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 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*.

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## WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Livestock handling workshop at Yea Saleyards today at 9.30am to 2.30pm. Guest speakers will be Mark Bennett, Jack Briscoe, and Dominic Thurbon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

Yea Garden Club invites you to a seminar and luncheon at Yea Country Club Function room for 11am start. Guest speaker Craig Castree. Cost \$35 per head, contact Elaine White on 0431 752 367 for bookings.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Join Murrindindi Shire Council for a special event with Ron Litjens, 2025 Volunteer of the Yea to find out how you can get trees and plants to attract native birds and pollinators to your garden. Event and webinar details are: 6.30 to 8.30pm (online session from 6.50pm) Attend in person at Alexandra Council

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY, JULY 17

2030Yea Ethical retirement investments with Q&A with John Agostinelli, Ron Litjens and Munira Chowdhury. 6.30-7.30pm at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FRIDAY, JULY 18

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club AGM will be held at the Bayley Street clubrooms at 1pm. All welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MONDAY, JULY 21

Murrindindi U3A AGM will be held at the Alexandra Bowling Club at 11am followed by a light lunch. All welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

National Renewables in Agriculture Bendigo 2025. Hear from farmers and industry experts. Scan the QR code in this edition for details or visit [renewablesinagricultureconference.com.au](https://renewablesinagricultureconference.com.au).

\*\*\*\*\*

## SATURDAY, JULY 26

Quiz for a Cause Trivia – Help Foundation Murrindindi raise funds to support Food Relief Programs across the shire. Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open 5.30. 6.30pm quiz start. BYO table nibbles, drinks at bar prices \$35 per person. Scan the bar code in this edition for tickets.

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Both volunteers and the general public had the opportunity to mingle and network in the Alexandra Football Netball Club rooms. -BD



Sasha and Robyn from Foundation Murrindindi. -BD

# Volunteer Expo highlights the shire's volunteer organisations



Melinda Jackson from Alexandra Rotary, alongside new Yea Rotary President Darryl King. They were showcasing the perks of volunteering at Rotary. -BD



The crowd watched the panel on volunteering with interest. -BD



Mary and Chathusara from the Australian Red Cross. -BD



A panel of volunteers spoke about their experiences. Pictured are host Bill Bates alongside Craig Green, Sue Hendy, Sam Hicks and Ron Litjens. -BD



Scattered around the room were several activities to promote engagement with volunteering. -BD



Corey and Tim from Ambulance Victoria, alongside Nigel Adams from the Alexandra SES. -BD



Shane Frean and Captain Chris Lynch represented the Alexandra CFA at the Murrindindi Shire Council Volunteer Expo. -BD

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 Taggerty Store  
 Thornton Store  
 Yea FoodWorks  
 Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:

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Country Press AUSTRALIA

# Check where your children's devices are charging

A KILMORE family is urging Victorians to install smoke alarms in their bedrooms and to not charge their devices on bedding after their house was recently damaged by a fire in the early hours.

Just after 4am on Monday, June 9, CFA crews attended the scene after an iPad that was on charge under a pillow caught fire.

Mother of four, Jessica, said the iPad, charging between the bedhead and the pillow on the top bunk in the bedroom of two of her children, exploded from the heat and ignited a large flame.

"I was alerted by my son yelling and screaming because he got burnt from debris falling from the top of the bunk. He woke us up by saying there was fire on his bed," Jessica said.

"I was in pure shock and surprise. All I wanted to do was make sure my kids were safe.

"My initial actions were to try and put the fire out, so we put water on it, and that obviously didn't work, so we closed the door and ran safely out of the house."

With no existing home fire escape plan in place, Jessica wishes she could go back in time, having had conversations with her family earlier about what they would do in an emergency.

"Although you often feel a charger heat up, you never think anything will actually happen," Jessica said.

"My son was extremely terrified. He is fully aware of the dangers and now



The bedroom following the incident. -S

doesn't charge his phone anywhere near the bed."

Due to the family closing the bedroom doors, the fire was able to be contained to the bedroom, however both Jessica and her son sustained injuries from the blaze.

"I got burnt on my toe, and my 14 year old got third degree burns on his arm," Jessica said.

With school holidays approaching and families spending more time indoors, Jessica strongly urges parents to ensure all their devices are not

being put on charge inside bedrooms.

"Please be mindful of where you are charging devices. I'd recommend charging on benches away from any kind of fabric materials and preferably not overnight," she said.

Residents are reminded smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom and living area and to assist in helping your family to safety, interconnected smoke alarms are recommended, so that when one alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound.



The emerging leaders after receiving their certificates of completion. -AR

# Local health workers become emerging leaders

LAST Wednesday, 13 participants in a GoTafe Emerging Leaders program completed the course and received certificates of completion at Alexandra District Health's The Cottage.

The program was delivered to the group as part of the Murrindindi Health Network's (MHN) Workforce Development Project, supported by a Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) grant.

The participants have been meeting fortnightly to complete this course, which was delivered by Lead Educator Training and Assessment at GoTafe, Sarah Chircop. Sarah also presented the certificates of completion.

Participants in the program were from local businesses, including ADH, Kellock Lodge, Menzies Support Services, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, Murrindindi Shire Council, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH).

After the awarding of certificates, participants enjoyed a light lunch.

Laura Baker, Executive Director of Student Experience at GoTafe, said that the training program is a good opportunity for upskilling.

"Emerging Leaders is a highly effective contextualised training program, which continues to grow in popularity," Ms Baker said.

"Over the last 12 weeks, participants have been able to refine their leadership skills and will now be able to take these back to their workplace and make an impact to their organisation.

"This program is a great example of upskilling and investing in your staff."

Employers interested in the Emerging Leaders program for their staff are encouraged to contact GoTafe at [gotafe.vic.edu.au/customised-training-solutions](mailto:gotate.vic.edu.au/customised-training-solutions)



# Let's work together to make our community safer and more pet-friendly

Council is updating its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 to improve services for cats and dogs in Murrindindi

During this process Council is seeking your feedback on a range of animal management issues within the Shire including :

- Our animal management services
- Cat and dog behaviours
- Dog off-lead areas
- Cat confinement and mandatory desexing.



You can have your say by visiting our website, meeting a Council officer in person at Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, or requesting a phone interview.

To arrange a phone interview, contact Peter Wright, Community Safety Officer, on 5772 0333 or email [pwright@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:pwright@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

Feedback closes on Sunday 3 August.

Visit our website for more information at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/DAMP26-29](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/DAMP26-29)

## Goulburn Valley Water

### Notice of fees and charges: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Goulburn Valley Water would like to advise all customers of new tariffs, which have been approved by GVW's Board and the Essential Services Commission. These are applicable to all customers in GVW's serviced areas, unless alternate special fees apply.

Water service fees (daily)	\$
Standard residential (20mm)	0.5229
Vacant land - unconnected	0.2614

Water usage fees (per kilolitre, based on meter readings)	\$
Potable water (drinking)	1.3102
Non-potable water	0.9168
Raw water	0.6546

Trade waste (daily)	\$
Category 1 and 2	0.7178

Sewerage fees and charges	\$
Residential (daily)	1.3583
Vacant land - unconnected (daily)	0.6791
Non-residential (daily)	1.3583
Wastewater volume usage (per kilolitre)	1.7909
Non-residential (yearly charge per cistern where volumetric charges cannot be applied)	495.81

Bills are issued three times a year. Properties with fire services are charged a fee equivalent to 10.63 per cent of service fees.

If you are having difficulties paying your bill, support is available. We offer flexible payment options, concessions and access to government grants and programs - call us to ask about available options to suit you.

For a full list of all other fees and charges for 2025-26, please visit our website or call 1300 360 007.



[gwwater.vic.gov.au](http://gwwater.vic.gov.au)

## Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea &amp; District and Alexandra

 **Bendigo Bank**


### ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Jager Fegen

Jager is a quiet achiever. He is a kind and caring student who always shows the school values. He does his best in all he does and is always willing to help others. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Jager. You are a star.

### EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Mollie

for working hard this week and showing the school values.



## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kingslake branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

## Cheaper home batteries program

THE Australian Government is helping households, small businesses and community groups bring down their energy bills with the roll out of the Cheaper Home Batteries program.

The government's Cheaper Home Batteries program will help bring down the cost of a typical battery discounted by around 30 per cent. This will save households with existing rooftop solar up to \$1100 off their power bill every year, and those installing a new solar and battery system could save up to \$2300 a year, up to 90 per cent of a typical family electricity bill.

One in three Australian households have rooftop solar, but only one in 40 have a battery.

The Australian Government is fixing that, by giving all Australians a proper leg up towards the cost of a battery, around 30 per cent, or around \$4000, off the cost of a typical home battery.

This will help Australians take control of their own power bill while reducing reliance on the grid, helping to drive down prices for everyone, and slashing bills for good. The support could drive over one million battery installations to 2030.

The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) is delivering the program through the existing *Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme* that has safely and successfully delivered solar subsidies since 2011, making Australia a world leader when it comes to rooftop solar.

The subsidy is proportionate to the size of the battery installed, ensuring people are able to pick an affordable battery that is right for their needs. This works out to 30 per cent off a typically sized home battery, around \$4000 off a 11.5 kilowatt hour battery, which usually costs around \$14,000.

A smaller five kilowatt hour battery would often cost around half as much, and will now be discounted by around \$1800 under the scheme.

The Cheaper Home Batteries Program is aimed at creating a fairer, cleaner, and more reliable energy system for all Australians, with an additional \$150 in direct bill relief for households and businesses also commencing from July 1.

## Inaugural \$50,000 Tim Fischer Fellowship announced

THE search is on across the nation for the first recipient of the inaugural Tim Fischer Fellowship, as the Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) announced a \$50,000 annual funding grant for an Australian who has the passion, skills and career prospects to create real change in regional and rural communities.

Open to anyone over 18 years, the fellowship is targeting people with dedication and potential to be curious, to explore new ideas and insights, and to put these ideas into practice, talented changemakers who are focused on the impact they can make over the course of a year outside of the big cities.

The funding may be applied towards professional development, research activities, travel related to the fellowship purpose, accommodation, or other agreed-upon expenses. One recipient will be selected each year and receive funding of up to \$50,000.

Applications close on August 17. More information can be found at [cef.org.au/Programs/tim-fischer-fellowship/](http://cef.org.au/Programs/tim-fischer-fellowship/)



The bus stop garden, prior to its removal, decorated for Christmas. -S



The Flowerdale bus stop following the removal of the plants. -S

## Flowerdale bus stop mystery solved

AFTER further exploration, Murrindindi Shire Council was able to provide information on the removal of plants at the Flowerdale bus stop.

They stated, "Council undertook the recent removal of some vegetation from the garden area at the Flowerdale bus stop opposite the pub, following a safety compliance request from Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

"On May 27, council was contacted by PTV via its contractor Meipol, which carries out safety inspections of bus shelters on behalf of the Department of Transport and Planning. Council was asked to remove grass and small plants around the boarding zone of the Flowerdale bus stop, to eliminate potential tripping hazards and ensure the area met current safety standards.

"Council is required to act on safety issues identified through these inspections. In response, council's parks and gardens team carried out limited vegetation removal directly around the boarding zone to ensure it was safe and accessible for all users.

"Council recognises and appreciates the significant care and effort that has gone into maintaining and beautifying this garden over many years. It's a great example of local pride and care, and we acknowledge the value placed on the space by the community.

"We are open to working with the local residents to explore future opportunities for planting or beautification that continue to reflect the community's spirit while meeting safety requirements."

## MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



### NEW KERBSIDE COLLECTION HAS STARTED

The new four-bin kerbside collection service started on Monday 30 June. The new service includes your existing general rubbish and recycling bins, and includes a new Glass bin and a Food and Garden Organics bin (optional in some areas).

Your existing bin day remains the same, however different services will be collected on different weeks.

You can find out more, including a printable calendar with your collection schedule on our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fourbins](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fourbins)

Council now has an app! Set reminders, check collection schedules, and know which bins to put out. Look for the **LoopedIn Councils** app on Google Play or the App Store.



### ANNUAL BUDGET 2025-26

Council adopted the Annual Budget 2025-26 at the scheduled Council meeting on Wednesday 18 June.

The Budget outlines the resource requirements and priority projects developed alongside the upcoming Council Plan 2025-29. Community submissions were considered before the final Budget was presented to Council for adoption.

To read the Annual Budget, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget)

### THANKS FOR SHAPING THE COUNCIL PLAN

Feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025-29 and refreshed Community Vision closed on Wednesday 25 June. We've heard from more than 1000 community members and Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to the new Plan and refreshed Vision. The final plan will be presented to Council for adoption at the Wednesday 23 July scheduled Council Meeting.



### NATIONAL TREE DAY TALK

Join us on at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 16 July for a special National Tree Day Talk with Ron Litjens, 2025 Volunteer of the Year. Discover how to attract birds and pollinators to your garden using plants suited to our local climate and learn about the Street Tree Audit.

Attend in person in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, or join online. Enjoy a light dinner (in-person only), take home a free plant, and enter the draw to win a \$40 grocery voucher!

Visit our website to register or for more information at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/TreeDayTalk](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/TreeDayTalk)

### HAVE YOUR SAY ON PET WELFARE IN MURRINDINDI

Council is updating its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29 to improve services for cats and dogs.

During this process Council will also be seeking your feedback on a range of animal management issues including cat confinement, mandatory cat desexing and dog off-leash areas within the municipality.

Feedback is open from Monday 7 July to Sunday 3 August. Visit our online engagement platform at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/DAMP26-29](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/DAMP26-29)



### NEW ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Murrindindi Shire Council has a new Road Management Plan 2025-2029, which outlines how Council will manage over 1150 km of roads, footpaths and related infrastructure.

The Plan sets inspection schedules and response timeframes to ensure services are delivered safely and efficiently. It includes improvements to repair times, clearer guidelines, and updated classifications for roads and pathways. The Plan was shaped by community feedback and came into effect on 1 July 2025.

You can view the Plan by visiting one of Council's Library and Customer Service Centres or online at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rmp](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rmp)

### IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Flu season is here, and we understand the whirlwind of caring for small children. Amidst the chaos, don't forget the essential: immunisation. It's your child's shield against preventable diseases!

We offer free influenza immunisation for children aged 6 months to 4 years. Protect your little ones from the flu! Remember to bring their Child Health Record Book and Medicare Card on the day.

For additional information about the flu and the vaccine, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/immunisation) or email us at [immunisation@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

Book online at [murrindindi.book.vaxapp.com.au](http://murrindindi.book.vaxapp.com.au)

### STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

### GET IN TOUCH

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333

# Syd and Chris Savage: adventures in Eildon

SYD Savage's childhood home was at old Eildon Weir, below the Pondage gates. The landscape has now been altered because of the quarrying and the building of the new spillway.

Syd said, "It was this house actually," commenting on their current home on the Goulburn Valley Highway. "They shifted this house here in four pieces, jacked it up and brought it down here. A couple of places they couldn't fit through the cutting. They had to send the bulldozer down and open the place up a bit. Everything was just sort of coming together with the building of the dam. This was 1950. I was living here in bits of the thing. My mum and dad were living up the town and my brothers John and Peter were living bits of this that were left up there. It only for a month or so, while they got all the bits back together."

Fortunately, all of the right machinery was available due to the building of the dam.

Syd was born in 1940. He said, "A lot of people have passed on before. I mean, I look after the local cemetery and every time I go there there's just more and more people... and some of them are quite young. Like my dad, for instance, while he was 64 or 65 or something. Which is crazy, you know." Sadly, his father passed away from a heart attack.

There were three children in the family. Sadly, his brothers John and Peter have passed. Peter was well known in Alexandra due to the ambulance and John used to meter read in the district for many years before running the TAB at Eildon then Seymour.

Syd started his working life at the Snobs Creek Hatchery when he was young, then as soon as he got his driver's license, he began distributing fish all over Victoria. "I loved it," he said. "There wasn't much money attached to it, but it was a great job."

He added, "Then someone came along and offered me a lot of money to take on another trucking job. I couldn't refuse it so I left and started carting super phosphate all over Victoria and some of NSW with Alexandra Haulage.

"Later on, a company called Transwest in Geelong bought out the company that I was with, and I was still working for them all over the place from here, but I had never met anybody from there. They just sent my pay through and that's all I was interested in anyway.

He stayed with them for about 11 years. By the time he left, he was their operations manager, based out of Geelong, and had travelled all over Australia.

Syd left for Eildon when his father passed away, but the company kept paying him for three months, trying to get him to come back. Syd however had decided, before his father passed away, that he'd buy his father's business.

The business actually included nine different businesses, all relatively small. They included a service station, a shop, bulk fuel, rubbish removal, taxi, school bus run, brickette sales, heating oil, a mail run, and later a mechanical workshop and RACV as well. They sold the highest amount of fishing licences in Victoria at that stage too, because they also sold fishing tackle and had a huge sign on the back of the shed. They eventually sold the bus service to Larry Fallon.

In 1984, Caltex put the Eildon service station up for sale and suggested that they buy it. Chris, Syd's wife, said Syd agreed because the business was in Eildon and not down the road.

Chris said, "When Syd had a back problem, we closed here and we rented out here, and we moved into the garage at the Eildon for four years, until 1988 when the vendor sold it, which didn't work. By then we were into trucks and bulk trucks. We went back thinking we were going back for three months. We were back there for two years, so then we leased it to our mechanic."

In the 1990s, Syd went into partnership with someone in a truck, carting large rocks. Chris commented, "We had a wonderful driver. He actually works for Simmo now."

Early in the conversation, Chris said that she was a housewife, but that vastly understates the amount of work she was doing. In addition to time spent raising children, she was also the front person for the shop.

Another of Syd's adventures started when he went past the Eildon airfield and saw a



*Syd and Chris Savage. -AR*

man and his wife with a puppy hiding from the rain next to an aeroplane. Syd was driving the taxi at the time and stopped to check that they were okay. He ended up taking them all home as it rained all night. They stayed for a couple of days due to the weather. Syd told the man he shouldn't fly until the weather cleared, but it turned out that Reece was a very experienced commercial pilot.

One day, out of the blue, Reece rang up and said, 'How would you like to go to Papua New Guinea' for a hunting trip.

Reece also became involved in importing ultra-light aircraft, based out of Eildon. Chris said, "The kids loved it," and Syd added, "Because he used to crash often."

Then in 1985, he invited Syd to go to Africa to prepare planes for bringing them home. They had to gut them and fill them with fuel tanks, so they could make the trip. Syd didn't know much about planes at that point, "But I learnt a lot quickly."

Another adventure was travelling right around the world twice in a single-engine Cessna with Reece piloting. Syd eventually gained a pilot's licence as well.

Both Syd and Chris have been heavily involved in voluntary activities as well, including the Eildon Lions Club for 50 years, the Eildon Dams Museum, and is a life member trustee of the Eildon Cemetery, where the rates are apparently very reasonable compared to other local cemeteries. Syd's father and grandfather were also Eildon Cemetery trustees.

Syd's service with the Lions was recently celebrated at the club's anniversary dinner. He explained that his brother was involved with the Alexandra Lions and suggested

that Syd get involved in helping an Eildon Lions Club get off the ground. Some of the early activities included washing windows and collecting newspapers, as well as the motorbike Navigational Rally, held in the Savage's paddock for 20 years.

Syd said, "Some interesting things happened over those years. One time the meat went missing. We have a big cook up for all these people. There was big piece of Scotch. We went to get it out of the fridge and it wasn't there." Fortunately, the culprit was eventually found, and the dog was off the hook. The club catered for 700 people at the event.

Asked about his proactive attitude towards the world, Syd commented, "Oh well. You got to get it done," and Chris added, "Somebody's got to do it."

More recently, Syd has been supervising people doing community service, for fines or driving under the influence, etcetera. Syd said, "Some of the guys are really good, and they've remained lifelong friends." While they start out with no knowledge of why the person is in trouble, they soon open up.

Chris and Syd have recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Speaking about when they met, Chris commented, "Syd said he saw me before we met" and Syd added, "I saw this little curly mop."

Chris was originally from England, and she was 10 when her family first came to Eildon. Her father was a welder, working on the dam. Syd's family didn't work directly on the dam, but did do a lot of the associated freight.

Syd was working with his uncle delivering block ice for ice chests from the Butter Factory in Alexandra, and that was when

they first met. Chris's family then moved away for a couple of years and when they came back, Chris attended boarding school for a couple of years. She decided she wanted to come home and stay, attending Alexandra High School. Syd's father had the school bus run and Syd used to catch the bus to help the men do the cartage on the trucks. That's the first time that Chris remembers Syd.

Syd added, "It was a bit of a battle for a while to round her up." When they married, Syd was 20 and Chris was 19 years old.

They now have three children, two boys and a girl. Shane lives next door to his parents, Andrew is in Healesville, but soon to move to Phillip Island, and Debbie lives in Alexandra. They also have four grandchildren. They don't have any great grandchildren yet.

Asked about his advice for young people, given that they have a long history of involvement in the local community, Syd said, "Get involved."

He added, "I talk to a lot of people to try and invite them to Lions come, and have a look at it. It costs you nothing. You can see how it works. Stay for a couple of meetings or something if you don't like it, give it away. If you like it, we'll sign you up."

Chris and Syd also look after the Big River camp for the Lions Club, making the journey about one each week, cleaning, checking the water and refuelling. They are keen to find people to help out with it. Many hands make light work. The camp has a huge impact on the funds for the community, raising around \$30,000 annually.

## Seasonal firefighters help protect Victorian communities

APPLICATIONS are now open for seasonal firefighter roles across Victoria. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is employing 500 seasonal firefighters prior to the summer bushfire season.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman, said seasonal firefighters boost Victoria's firefighting capacity in the lead-up to summer and during the peak fire season.

"New recruits will train and work alongside our permanent firefighting staff, responding to bushfires rapidly to keep communities safe this summer," Mr Hardman said.

"They will be part of a team of close to 1800 frontline personnel and 1200 accredited incident management staff this bushfire season."

Last year Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters responded to more than 1265 bushfires across the state, and delivered priority planned burns which will help reduce the impact of bushfires this summer.

"Emergency response deployments can occur anywhere across the state, providing opportunities to travel and work in different locations," Mr Hardman said.

"In previous seasons, some recruits have also been deployed to support firefighting efforts across Australia and internationally."

Hume Region Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy, said seasonal firefighter roles provide rewarding career opportunities for those with a passion for the outdoors, learning new skills and making a difference.

"In addition to responding to bushfires and helping to deliver planned burns, new recruits will also undertake pest and weed control works, and maintain recreational reserves, strategic fire breaks and forest roads," Mr Kennedy said.

"They can also be called on to support other emergencies such as major floods, storms and biosecurity incidents."

"Many of the firefighters deployed to the current Canadian bushfires started their careers as project firefighters," he said.

Applications are now open for seasonal firefighter roles across 12 locations in the north east including Alexandra, Marysville, Toolangi, Broadford, Benalla, Mansfield, Beechworth, Bright, Ovens, Corryong, Eskdale and Tallangatta.

FFMVic is committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the Victorian community. As part of its ongoing commitment to support meaningful careers for current and future First Nations staff, designated positions are available.

Applications close on July 27 and employment occurs between October and May, with some variations depending on seasonal requirements.

For information and to apply, visit [jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff](https://jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff) or call 136 186.



Have you thought about becoming a seasonal firefighter? -Mark Jesser

## Smoking out illegal tobacco retailers

LAST week the state government introduced the new tobacco licensing scheme as part of the crack down on the illicit tobacco and organised crime.

Retailers and wholesalers can now apply for a licence on the Service Victoria app or website. Licences will be required to sell tobacco products in Victoria from February 2026 when enforcement begins.

Anyone who sells tobacco will need to apply for a licence, including supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, petrol stations, and online retailers.

Anyone found to be selling tobacco without a licence will face fines of up to \$355,000 or up to 15 years in jail, while businesses will face fines of more than \$1.7 million.

Licences will only be granted to fit and proper people who pass a strict test, with the regulator able to refuse a licence based on a person's history or known associates.

Victoria Police will also play a role in ensuring the suitability of licensees and will have powers to impose further licence conditions.

Licensing fees will be lower than New South Wales and Tasmania, with initial licences valid for 17 months from when enforcement begins in February 2026.

The initial fee will be \$1176, to avoid businesses applying for a license twice in the same year. It will be \$830 every year thereafter.

Fourteen licensing inspectors will be on the ground to ensure compliance and helping shut down illegal operators, while also supporting police with intelligence gathering in the fight against serious organised crime.

Tobacco Licensing Victoria will also have the power to cancel a licence and disqualify a person from applying for a licence.

The Victorian Budget 2025/26 delivered \$46 million to set up the new licensing scheme and regulator to help smoke out the illegal tobacco market.

For more information and to apply for a licence through Service Victoria, visit [vic.gov.au/apply-tobacco-licence](https://vic.gov.au/apply-tobacco-licence)

## Seatbelt complacency becoming common issue

THE Transport Accident Commission (TAC) is urging Victorian drivers and passengers to use life-saving common sense, with new research revealing a growing number of people don't always wear a seatbelt.

The TAC has announced findings from its Road Safety Monitor report, which found 4.7 per cent of people admitted to traveling unrestrained as a passenger in the past 12 months, a proportion that has more than doubled since 2020 (2.2 per cent).

More than 2500 people were surveyed for the report, which also found three per cent of respondents had driven while not wearing a seatbelt, a slight increase on the previous year (2.7 per cent).

Respondents aged 18 to 25 were most likely to travel as a passenger (10.5 per cent) and drive (6.4 per cent) not wearing a seatbelt, both proportions increased on last year's survey (7.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent).

Regional Victorian motorists were more likely than those in the city to drive while not wearing a seatbelt (7.2 per cent versus 2.5 per cent), as well as travel as a passenger unrestrained (8 per cent versus 4.9 per cent).

The findings come as the number of people killed on Victorian roads remains tragically high with 148 lives lost, compared with 136 at the same time in 2024. Of the 81 drivers and passengers killed on that state's roads this year, around one in five were not wearing a seatbelt, where seatbelt status was known.

"It has been a devastating year on our roads, and we are calling on all Victorians to stop and think about what they can do to keep themselves and the rest of our

community safe," TAC CEO, Tracey Slatter, said.

"Seatbelts in vehicles have been mandatory in Victoria for 55 years and wearing one is the simplest form of protection we have that can be the difference between life and death," she said.

Ms Slatter said that while the research showed most people buckled up all the time, it was a concern that the minority was growing.

"It's hard to fathom that more people are risking their safety by not taking the most basic of actions in putting on a seatbelt for every trip," she said.

"We are seeing far too many lives lost and people seriously injured on the roads, and an inexplicable number of those are not wearing a seatbelt, there is no excuse not to wear one every time we get in a car."

The TAC is investing \$350 million into the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 Action Plan two, which will include a significant expansion of the state's mobile phone and seatbelt detection camera program, to reduce road trauma and deter risk-taking behaviour on the roads.

Since the cameras were introduced in 2023, around half of the more than 130,000 infringements detected have been seatbelt non-compliance, heavy penalties apply to those caught by the cameras.

The TAC continues to highlight the life-saving importance of wearing seatbelts via campaigns, with an enforcement-style seatbelts campaign set to roll out next financial year, the TAC also urges prospective car buyers to consider vehicles with safety features like seatbelt alert systems.

## Come work with us as a seasonal firefighter



Designated Aboriginal positions available

- ✓ Protect community
- ✓ Work outdoors
- ✓ Great teams
- ✓ Care for environment
- ✓ Earn and learn

Applications close 27 July 2025

For more information and to apply: [jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff](https://jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff)



FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

# The Farmer's Ag News



Fog and chilly conditions meant farmers had to rug up against the weather. -BD



Not the biggest crowd ever hosted in the Yea Saleyards, but with 1600 cattle yarded, it was enough. -BD

## Low yarding but big prices for Yea's July sale

by Bailey Dixon

A LOWER yarding for July's Elders and Nutrien Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards, with around 1600 cattle sold on the day.

This is perhaps due to renewed optimism caused by recent downfalls, or that farmers have already sold off most of their stock. Either way, prices rewarded those who were selling.

The average price per head for the day was \$1108 with the average weight sitting at 279.55 kilograms, calculating out to some 393 cents per kilogram (c/kg).

First row was cows and calves, followed by the usual rows of steers and the back rows occupied by heifers. A mixture of breeds were being sold, with Black Angus the most popular as usual, with some Red Angus, Charolais and Herefords mixed in.

Top price per head for steers was \$2600 with a top weight of 667.7 kilograms, calculating to a sale price of 389c/kg.

For heifers the top price was \$1940 and a top weight of 495 kilograms, equalling out to 392c/kg.

Some pens made it over the 400c/kg landmark, which is sure to make farmers happy.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital were providing mental health support on the day as part of their ongoing Yea Saleyards program.



Elders and Nutrien were the livestock agents for the sale. -BD



Les and Lisa Williams from Alexandra with their cattle. -BD

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan

www.jmdcartoons.com.au ©JD

little tricks like that help him get his steps in...

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STOCK REPORT 4 JULY 2025				
Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,608			
Average \$ per head	\$1,108			
Average weight per head	279.55kg			
Top price per head		\$2,600	\$1,940	\$1,600
Top weight		667.7kg	495kg	
Turnover	\$1.7 million			

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# The Farmer's Ag News

## RCV says some wins on drought taskforce, but challenges remain

RURAL Councils Victoria (RCV) has acknowledged some breakthrough wins delivered by the Victorian Government's Drought Response Taskforce, while warning significant challenges remain unresolved.

The government has agreed to speed up access to interstate fodder, expand fodder delivery routes and fast-track kangaroo control permits for rural landholders.

Rural Councils Victoria is represented on the Taskforce by RCV Deputy Chair Cr Kate Makin, who is also the Mayor of the Corangamite Shire.

"These are steps in the right direction, but there's still a mighty long way to go," Cr Makin said.

RCV has been in constant dialogue with member councils about the types of supports rural communities require.

Cr Makin said there were key matters the Taskforce still needed to deliver on such as subsidised council rates, fair loans and ongoing council supports.

"We need to be talking about how to deliver fully-funded rate subsidies for primary producers in drought zones, zero interest loans that don't need to be matched by farmers, and direct funding for councils to boost local support programs and infrastructure spending," Ms Makin said.

"These are common sense measures that would help farmers and local economies immediately."

Other challenges raised by rural councils include the need for: Greater

access to emergency water supplies, including assistance with delivery; household allowances to support families through hardship; boosted mental health supports; a relaxation of roadside grazing rules; the expansion of the Rural Financial Counselling Service; more flexibility in the criteria for on-farm infrastructure support; and additional support for community events and informal social opportunities to strengthen social bonds and reduce isolation.

RCV Chair Cr Rob Amos (Campaspe Shire) said Victoria needs a whole-of-government drought resilience strategy that integrates economic, health, environmental and community outcomes.

"Entire rural communities are feeling the strain, including farmers, families, shop owners and service businesses," Mr Amos said.

Cr Amos said rural councils are on the frontline of the drought crisis and have unmatched local networks and relationships.

"Rural councils should be formally engaged in the co-design and delivery of drought response programs," he said.

"They know their communities and are best placed to tailor efforts locally."

He said as the peak representative body for rural communities, Rural Councils Victoria stands ready to assist with the strategic coordination of drought responses.

The Drought Taskforce is chaired personally by Victorian Premier, Jacinta Allan.

## Let it flow, let it grow: Winter fresh for Goulburn River

WATER for the environment will be delivered into the Goulburn River this month to sustain the health of the waterway.

Known as a winter fresh, water will be released from Lake Eildon that will increase the height of the river for about four weeks.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) environmental water manager, Simon Casanelia, said the fresh will replicate what would have occurred naturally in the river during winter, prior to regulation, but at a smaller scale.

"Even in dry conditions, it's important to provide water to keep the river and its dependent plants and animals healthy and resilient," Mr Casanelia said.

"The winter fresh will help the entire food chain by depositing seed-rich sediment on the banks, promoting the growth of bank-stabilising plants. It will move sediment from the riverbed, creating diverse habitat for native fish and water bugs.

"Higher water levels will also provide an important nesting cue for platypus to build and utilise higher nests on the riverbank. Adjacent wetlands and anabranches, which are currently separated, will be connected by the water delivery, providing habitat for animals."

Water for the environment is water allocated and managed to improve the health of rivers, wetlands and floodplains. Use is adapted based on climatic conditions, water availability and ecological needs.

The winter fresh will begin around July 11 and will flow through Alexandra, Molesworth, Seymour, Murchison and Shepparton and will eventually flow into the Murray River near Echuca. It will provide the Gunbower Forest and lower Murray River wetlands and floodplains with a much-needed drink.

The fresh will peak downstream of the Goulburn Weir in late July at approximately 9500 mega-litres per day (a river height of 5.6 metres at Shepparton) before slowly dropping back to approximately 1000 mega-litres per day (a river height of 2.7 metres at Shepparton) in mid-August. The peak is well below the minor flood levels (9.5 metres at Shepparton).

Timing of the fresh may change depending on Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) operational requirements. In the event of heavy rain, environmental water releases will be reduced or stopped.

Between now and spring smaller variable deliveries above base flows will be considered, based on conditions and ecological need.



Homewood Wetland. -S

Environmental flows are planned by the Goulburn Broken CMA in consultation with the local community, river ecologists, Goulburn-Murray Water, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH), the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

This flow complements other management activities undertaken over the past decade to improve the health of the Goulburn River including fencing, weed control, revegetation and returning logs to rivers (re-snagging) for fish and bug habitat.

To check how water for the environment changes flows in the Lower Goulburn, view the hydrograph on Goulburn Broken CMA's website which is updated weekly at [fchmccoys.hydronet.com/](http://fchmccoys.hydronet.com/)

The impact of the water delivery on vegetation, bank condition, fish and waterbugs will be measured as part of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder's Monitoring Evaluation and Research (Flow-MER) project. More information at [flow-mer.org.au/area-pages/goulburn-river-and-northern-victorian-tributaries](http://flow-mer.org.au/area-pages/goulburn-river-and-northern-victorian-tributaries)

The flows are authorised by the VEWH in line with its *Seasonal Watering Plan 2025-26*. The plan is available for download from [vewh.vic.gov.au](http://vewh.vic.gov.au), with regular watering updates posted on the Goulburn Broken CMA website at [gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://gbcma.vic.gov.au)

To learn more about the Gunbower forest wetlands that will benefit from water delivered from the Goulburn River winter fresh view North Central Catchment Management Authority's website at [nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/rivers-and-wetlands/gunbower/](http://nccma.vic.gov.au/projects/rivers-and-wetlands/gunbower/)

## Statewide on farm grants now open

THE Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced the opening of the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants program statewide, with updated guidelines based on farmer feedback and expanded eligible activities. This \$69 million of drought support packages will assist Victorian Farmers doing it tough.

The program, managed by Rural Finance, makes available co-contribution grants of \$5000 for all primary producers across the state, with \$10,000 available for eligible farmers in south west Victoria and parts of West Wimmera to help those who have been in drought longer.

Eligible activities under the grant program now include pasture re-establishment and water carting, reflecting the wide-ranging pressures farmers are facing and ensuring support reaches where it's needed most.

Agriculture Victoria's technical decision-making services are also now live and farmers across the state can access a free one-on-one consultation with a farm advisor to help make the difficult decisions they are facing, particularly due to fodder and water shortages.

Agriculture Victoria has engaged 60 consultancy businesses in Victoria, including more than 90 individual farm advisors, who will assist farmers to take action to develop a drought action management plan.

The Look Over The Farm Gate farmer mental health and wellbeing program is also now open, bringing communities together and supporting farmers and farm families under stress.

The program, managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health on behalf of the Government, will provide grants of up to \$5000 for community-led events that promote social connection and mental health awareness.

Other supports are also available including the Farm Household Allowance, and Regional Investment Corporation loans.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free, confidential and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

For more information about available drought support, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or call 136 186.

## JULY 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. One photo per entry. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire.

## Haines meets with local NDIS providers over pricing changes

FEDERAL Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines is calling on the Federal Government to pause National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) pricing changes and undertake regional consultation, following a meeting with allied health providers last week.

On Monday, Dr Haines met with NDIS providers, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, speech pathologists and support coordinators, who expressed serious concerns about controversial changes to NDIS pricing, which came into effect on July 1.

The changes, which include a freeze or reduction in price caps and travel costs, could make it unviable for providers to continue delivering services in areas which Dr Haines says are already stretched.

"Multiple providers in Indi are concerned that recent pricing changes for travel will have a particular impact on regional and rural communities," Dr Haines said.

"Part of best practice for physios, occupational therapists and other allied health services is to

visit NDIS participants in their homes, upholding participant choice, for comfort and to ultimately ensure their service is making a positive difference.

"However, the recent pricing changes announced by the NDIS risk the sustainability of these home-based services and put them at severe risk of closing.

"Providers are telling me that travelling outside Wangaratta or Wodonga will be financially unviable for them, meaning people in smaller regional communities will suffer."

Dr Haines said the government was taking a cookie-cutter approach to pricing that failed to reflect the reality of delivering services in regional areas.

"It appears these changes apply the same rules for travel to both metropolitan and regional areas, when we know that service availability is not the same.

"I heard from one of the two pediatric dieticians in the region who is worried these changes may mean children on PEG feeding miss out on feeds

or assessments because she can no longer afford to travel to them. This is completely unacceptable."

In addition to the travel pricing changes, Dr Haines heard from providers, particularly, support coordinators, that a price cap on top of a five-year pricing freeze may force their closure if they cannot keep up with operational costs like wages, rent, compliance and insurance.

Dr Haines said any closure of support coordinators will have negative knock-on effects for the specialised services that require coordination of complex services.

Prior to the changes coming into effect, Dr Haines wrote to the Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Senator Jenny McAllister, about her concerns over the pricing changes and requested a meeting to discuss the issues.

In that letter, Dr Haines urged the government to pause the commencement of the pricing changes and undertake consultation with NDIS providers. Dr Haines said she would push for changes when parliament resumes on July 22.

## Childhood vaccinations on a steady decline

ON June 12 the Australian Government published the new National Immunisation Strategy for 2025-30 outlining the priorities and strategies to increase the national vaccine rates.

The new strategy has been released following data showing that childhood vaccination rates have been on a steady decline since 2020.

The immunisations on the National Immunisation Register include DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis which is also known as whooping cough), hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type b, meningococcal C, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), pneumococcal disease, polio, and varicella which is also known as chickenpox.

Data from the Department of Health shows the rolling average combining assessment quarters from March, June, September and December 2024 that from age one to less than 15 months of age the rate of fully vaccinated children is 92.67 per cent, in 2019 the rate was 94.71 and crept up to 95.08 per cent in 2020 and has declined continually ever since.

From the age 24 months and less than 27 months the current data show 91.33 per cent of children are fully vaccinated. In 2019 it was 92.31 per cent and 2020 92.77 per cent and then it's been on the decline since then.

In the age cohort of five years old, it shows that 94.64 per cent of children are now fully vaccinated, in 2019 it was 95.68 per cent and 2020 it was 96.06 per cent.

Its not just the standard national immunisations have dropped over this time. The influenza vaccine has dropped considerably. In 2020, in children aged six months to five years, 39 per cent had their flu vaccinations and this year from June 2025 its 17.6 per cent. For children from five to 15 years old in 2020, 25.4 per cent, and for June 2025 it's currently sitting at 11.9 per cent. For both age groups that's close to a 50 per cent decline.

In a news article dated June 13 from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Australia, it stated "Challenges include ongoing declines in vaccination coverage rates in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, related barriers to vaccine access and uptake, and a troubling increase in vaccine hesitancy and mistrust in the community."

With this decline there is also another factor at play that are affecting children that aren't vaccinated in the early years. The No Jab No Play legislation requires children to be up to date with immunisations for their age to enrol in early childhood education and care services.

The No Jab No Play legislation was introduced in Victoria on January 1, 2016, and was designed to support families by encouraging parents to keep their child's immunisations up to date, while ensuring all children have access to early childhood education and care.

Immunisations in the Murrindindi Shire comes under the Goulburn Valley statistical area on the Australian Immunisation Register report.

From 2019, children 12 months and under 93.4 per cent were fully vaccinated, it then went up to 95.04 in 2020 and then a decline in 2022 and went back up in 2023 then down again to 92.54 per cent in December 2024.

Two year olds in 2019, 93.43 per cent were fully vaccinated, then it went down to 92.7 per cent in 2020, and then jumped up and remained consistent in 2021 and 2022 in the 94 per cent range, then down to 91.31 per cent in 2023 and 92.29 in 2024.

Five year olds 2019, 94.51 per cent were fully vaccinated and then jumped up to the 96 per cent range in 2020 and 2021, then down to 95.70 in 2022 and down to the 94 per cent range in 2023 and 2024.

To get your children immunised, talk to your local practitioner or maternal child and health centre. For more information the new National Immunisation Strategy for 2025-30 visit the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing at [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)

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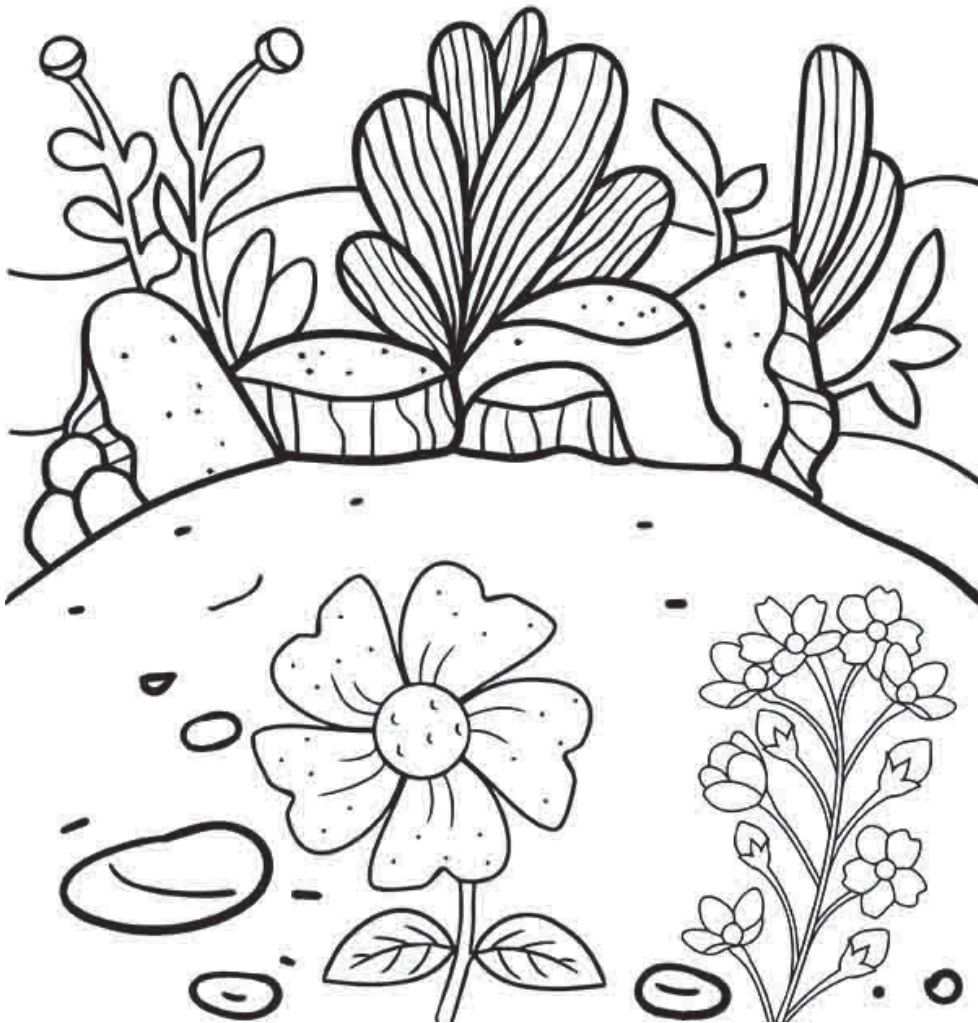


Australian Government

# KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
**Page 15**

## Colouring Page



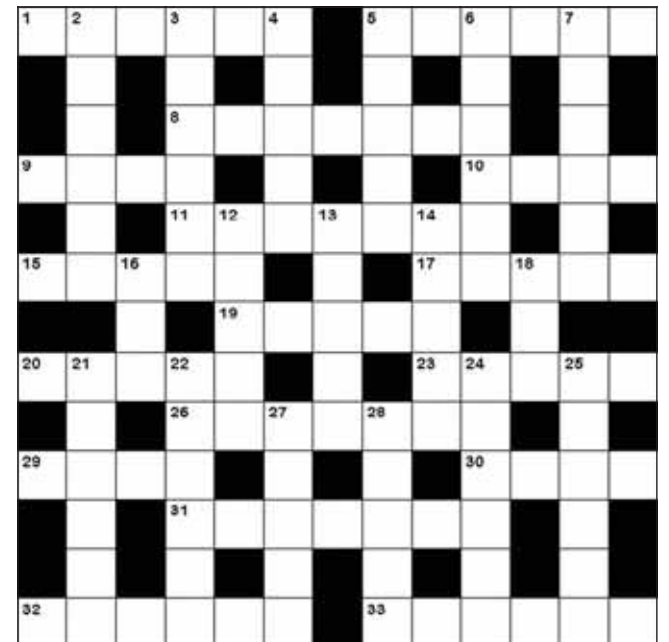
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Combines different shades into one colour.
- Lengths of hollow cylindrical objects.
- The building where films are shown.
- Come to a complete stop.
- The center around which something rotates.
- Scatters rubbish in the street.
- A set or a group of twelve.
- An aquatic fish-eating mammal.
- A simple catchy, little song.
- Push roughly and rudely out of the way.
- More than enough to go around.
- A punishment intended to serve as a warning.
- A term used at the end of a prayer.
- A long pointed tooth specialised for fighting.
- Severe physical or mental suffering.
- Holding a deep-seated feeling of resentment.
- Judged or considered.

### DOWN

- To be played in a smooth flowing manner.
- A hairy, stinging, or prickly plant.
- The taste of sugar or honey.



- The distinctive name of a literary work.
- The part of a garment that covers the chest.
- One of the original inhabitants.
- The finger next to the thumb.
- An emblem of a clan, a family or an individual.
- Belonging to the king or queen.
- A facility where wild animals are housed.

- A gentle touch on the shoulder.
- A large basket usually with a cover.
- Gave free expression to one's anger.
- The courage to carry on.
- A tenant who holds a lease.
- Come to a mutual understanding.
- Beg for mercy.

## Word Search

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

### Words starting with "L"

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| LAUGHING | LINDA     |
| LEGEND   | LIONESS   |
| LEMONADE | LISTENING |
| LEONARDO | LITTLE    |
| LESSON   | LOCATION  |
| LETTERS  | LOYALTY   |
| LETTUCE  | LUCKY     |

## Word Search

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

### Harry Potter

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| CAULDRON   | MAGIC     |
| DUMBLEDORE | NORBERT   |
| GRYFFINDOR | PROFESSOR |
| HERMIONE   | SPELLS    |
| HOGWARTS   | TROLL     |
| Longbottom | WAND      |

## Sudoku

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

### 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.

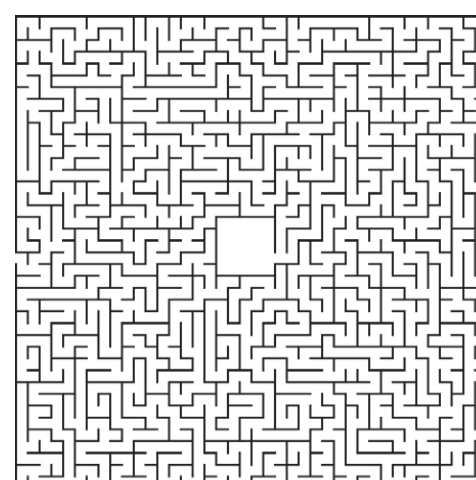
## Math Square

	+		+		12
+		+		-	
4	-		-	2	-7
+		-		+	
	-		-		-8
10		11		8	

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

## Maze



## Math Square

3	+		-		-3
-		x		-	
	+		+		19
-		+		-	
4	-		+		3
-3		14		-7	

### 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 people who stole a calendar?  
**A:** They each got six months.

**Q:** I have a pet tree.  
**A:** It's a lot like having a pet dog, but the bark is much quieter.

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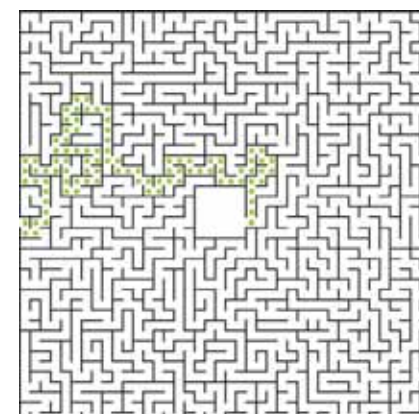
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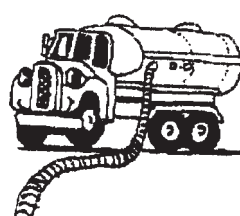
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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### WILLIAM DUNCAN SEATON, late of 5977 Maroondah Highway, Koriella Vic 3714, deceased

Creditors, next-of-kin and others having claims in respect of the estate of the deceased, who died on January 12, 2025, are required by Sue Hardie and Peter Elward the executors of the estate, to send particulars of their claims to them, care of the undermentioned solicitors, by September 15, 2025, after which date they will convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which they then have notice.

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### DEATH NOTICE



**SANDERSON, Anne.**

Council extends our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Anne Sanderson, following her death in June.

Anne served as a committed Councillor of the former Shire of Alexandra and was its 69th and final President before its amalgamation into Murrindindi Shire in 1994.

A long-time resident of Eildon, Anne played an active role in her community, serving on the boards of Murrindindi Community Health, Darlingford Nursing Home, Eildon Hospital, Kellock Lodge and the Goulburn Valley Road Safety Council, among many other local committees.

Anne is remembered not only for her leadership and service as a Councillor and President, but also for her dedication, compassion and enduring contribution to the community.

Her legacy lives on in the many organisations and people she supported, and she will be fondly remembered across the region.

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### MEETINGS

**ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB** will hold their Annual General Meeting on Friday, July 18, 2025 at 1pm in the Bayley Street Clubroom. All are welcome.

### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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### FUNERAL NOTICES

#### HEDGER, Marilyn.

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Marilyn will be held on Monday July 14, 2025 at Alexandra Football Netball Club rooms commencing at 11am.

Followed by a burial at Alexandra Lawn Cemetery.



**Standard**  
The Yea Chronicle

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### DEATH NOTICES

#### HEDGER, Marilyn. nee Bellman

01/02/1947 -  
27/06/2025

Loving wife of 58 years to Darrell. Mother to Darrell and Kerryn, Leigh and Debbie. Ma to Addison, Makenna, Phoebe and Lachlan.

Thank you for your lifetime of memories, for your love, kindness and encouragement.

**HEDGER, Tup.**  
01/02/1947 - 27/06/2025. Loved sister of Joe and sister in law of Brenda (dec). Loved aunt of Nikki, Brad, Morgan and Kaiden and Dean, Andy, Dylan and Jess. A lifetime of memories and the fount of family history. Much love to Darrell, Darrell, Leigh and families.

**MOSS, Sue. Sleep well** Sue. At peace and no more pain. Reunited with Dad. Rosalie, Tony and family.

**MOSS, Suzanne Louise.**  
01/12/1965 - 29/06/2025.

Passed away peacefully at Mansfield Hospital. Loving daughter of Pat, Ted (dec). Sister to Rosalie, Robert, sister in law to Tony and Helen and families. She potters no more in the garden. She strolls no more down the path, but the years we shared together will live forever in our heart. RIP Sue. Love mum. At Sue's request, no funeral.

### IN MEMORIAM

**WARD, Brian 'Doc'.**  
06/12/1940-04/07/2015. 10 years have gone by. Dearly missed. Love always Adell, Dawn, Maree, Brian and family.



### Eco-friendly retirement investments

THE next 2030Yea session is about keeping our retirement funds buoyant while loving the planet. It's not about which investment to make, as the speakers are not financial advisors. It's about reaching zero net emissions in time to save the planet for future generations, while keeping ourselves funded as we age.

Is it possible? What sorts of organisations care for ethical investments and what sorts don't? Attendees will hear from a local accountant, a local investor, and Market Forces, an organisation that monitors corporate investments that do and don't love the planet.

There'll be time for discussion. And supper.

### Home buyer fund extended

THE Victorian Government is extending the popular Victorian Homebuyer Fund to help more Victorians achieve their dream of owning a home.

Since it was launched in October 2021, the fund has helped more than 15,400 Victorians buy a home. More than two-thirds of the fund's successful homeowners are first home buyers, with 25 to 44-year-olds the largest group to benefit.

The short-term extension, until the government's investment of \$2.8 billion is exhausted will enable new applications to be made beyond the original June 30 cut-off. This will help an estimated 2600 more Victorians buy their own home, bringing the total up to 18,000 homebuyers assisted by the fund since its launch.

After this, Victorians will transition to the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme, which will continue the important work of the ground-breaking Victorian scheme.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund's shared equity arrangement makes it easier for more people to buy a home, by reducing the amount of money eligible participants need to enter the market and relieving Victorian homebuyers from the extra financial burden of lenders' mortgage Insurance.

The median Victorian Homebuyer Fund participant's mortgage repayments are around \$250 lower per month, a saving of approximately \$3000 per year, compared to if they purchased the same property with a traditional 80 per cent loan to value ratio loan.

Participants are also eligible for other first home buyer supports, including stamp duty exemptions and concessions and the First Home Owner Grants of \$10,000.

Since the fund's launch, more than 15,400 Victorians have been supported to buy their own home, with a median purchase price of \$615,000.

The Victorian Budget 2025/26 is delivering initiatives to help more Victorians buy a home, including \$61 million to extend the stamp duty concession, slashing stamp duty on eligible off-the-plan apartments, units and townhouses for another 12-months.



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A brush-Tailed phascogale. -Chris Tzaros

## Feisty marsupial lives a short, fast life

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is highlighting the importance of tree hollows for wildlife in its 2025 Year of the Tree Hollow community awareness campaign.

This month features one of the Goulburn Broken catchment's carnivorous marsupials, the feisty brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*).

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the brush-tailed phascogale was nocturnal and primarily arboreal, meaning it relies on healthy, connected forests and woodlands so it can travel through the treetops to search for nectar, insects, spiders, centipedes and bird eggs.

"As a hollow-dependent species, the brush-tailed phascogale will use several tree hollows in which to nest and shelter during the day, demonstrating how important tree hollow habitat is in our environment," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"The use of several hollows by the one animal is possibly a predator evasion tactic but means the demand for nest hollows is further exacerbated.

"Fortunately, where natural hollows no longer exist, the brush-tailed phascogale

readily uses artificial nest boxes, however nest boxes should not be seen as a solution to the tree hollow problem. Preserving large old trees and standing dead trees is the first priority."

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said this important habitat was often removed for firewood, spelling disaster for the animals that rely on it for shelter and protection from predators. It's therefore important that firewood collection is undertaken at designated areas to ensure valuable habitat is not degraded or destroyed.

"The brush-tailed phascogale leads a short, fast life. After mating in late autumn to early winter, the male perishes. As he is around just one year old, this makes the brush-tailed phascogale the largest known mammal to die after its first and last breeding season," she said.

"The female raises her five to eight young from mid-June to early August, firstly within their pouch, a fold of skin on her belly rather than a true pouch, for seven weeks, and then within the nest until the joeys are five months old. A female will sometimes raise two litters in her lifetime. She typically dies before turning two."

## Health service partnerships commence

HEALTH services are joining together in partnership, with 12 new Local Health Service Networks commencing from July 1.

The networks will drive improvements through health services working together across regions so that Victorians can access more of the care that they need, closer to where they live.

Each health service will retain its board and CEO, unique identity and connection to their community.

Each network will hit the ground running by identifying and planning improvements to address the health needs of their local communities. This follows work over the past few months to identify early initiatives to improve access to care, better support the local health workforce, and improve the quality of care.

This work will help develop annual plans and three-year strategies addressing four priority areas: Access, equity and flow, making it easier to access and navigate the health system through initiatives like regional waiting lists and support for aged care patients to stay out of hospital; workforce, develop coordinated plans to develop and retain a skilled health workforce; Safety and quality, embedding evidence-based improvements for safer care; shared services, identifying back-office efficiencies to ensure better use of available resources, minimise wasteful duplication, and share findings with other networks.

As the networks mature, they will begin to focus on additional priorities, including understanding the care needs of priority populations and addressing these in collaboration, improving integration with other parts of the health system, and improving access to research and clinical trials.

The state government invested a record \$31 billion in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* into the health system, including a record \$9.3 billion boost to give every public hospital the certainty to plan for the future and keep delivering the world-class care Victorians rely on.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas, spoke about how the health networks will improve Victoria's health system.

"The Local Health Service Networks will mean a better and stronger public health system, freeing up beds in busier hospitals, easing pressure on our dedicated workforce, and delivering faster care closer to home," Ms Thomas said.

"By working together across each network, health services will be able to better coordinate your care, including easier access to specialist care when needed and bringing your care closer to home for any ongoing care and recovery.

"We're keeping what Victorians value most about their health services, maintaining a local voice and identity, while better connecting our health system to build stronger referral pathways between services."

The Local Health Service Network that covers Murrindindi Shire is called East Metro and Murrindindi and includes Alexandra District Health, Eastern Health, St Vincent's Health, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

This network reflects its community's existing service flows from the peri urban region of Murrindindi to the outer and middle eastern metropolitan suburbs and then towards the central business district along the major transport routes of the Melba, Maroondah and Burwood Highways.

This network is consistent with close collaboration arrangements between Alexandra District Health and Yea and District Memorial Hospital. It also aligns with Ambulance Victoria transport routes and reflects the primary catchments of Eastern Health and St Vincent's Health and the strong flows by residents of Alexandra and Yea localities to eastern metropolitan hospitals.

This grouping will strengthen the access by residents of these areas to medium to high complexity care at Maroondah and Box Hill Hospitals, and to higher complexity care at St Vincent's Hospital.

For more information, please visit [health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks](http://health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks)

## SPORT

## Pennant concludes at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

IT was a wonderful pennant with a tight competition at the Alexandra Squash Club, but the fun had to end and the results are in.

Hawks won the season and Owls pipped Kestrels for second place in the final week of the pennant.

Dragons have held their spot on the top with Frill Necks coming up second.

### Monday competition Falcons versus Hawks

ERIC versus Ethan: Eric played his best game to date with consistent serves and ball placement making Ethan work hard for his points. Ethan was still the stronger player, winning three games while Eric forced a tie in the last game. Ethan claimed the victory. 63 to 46.

Jess versus Chris: Great game by both. Jess was serving well but Chris's court coverage was too good in the end and help him win the match. 71 to 54.

Simon versus Jared: An even and entertaining game. Jared's ability to control the 'T' made all the difference in what might be Simon's last game for a while. Jared won. 63 to 51.

Michael H (fill in) versus Andrew: A very even match which opened with a drawn game. Going into the final game Michael was down two points which he clawed back and exceeded to win the match. 63 to 60.

### Kestrels versus Owls

JORDAN versus Tyler: Tyler did a great job of keeping the games close in the first half, but Jordan got away in the second half with two brilliant games. Jordan was the winner. 69 to 56.

James G versus Mick: Mick won a number of points on his fast well-placed serves. James played some lovely wall shots, particularly on his backhand. In the end Mick was too strong and claimed a solid win. 71 to 46.

Oli versus Matt: A match with alternating strong halves. The first two games Matt had the ball on a string, playing exquisite shots that Oli could not play and Matt appeared to have an unbeatable lead of 42 to 23. Oli found his range in the last two games and Matt lost his mojo, rushing shots and making several unforced errors. Oli made a good recovery but couldn't quite close the gap. 71 to 62.

Jim versus John: Craft and cunning from both players. Loose shots were put away so eliminating loose shots was essential to avoid conceding easy points. John was able to find some stunning winners from defensive positions, but Jim was able to force John into making lose shots and taking control to win the match. 59 to 48.

### Thursday competition Geckos versus Skinks

RANDY versus Matthew: The match got better the longer it went. Matt never stopped running, Randy's lethal serve being the



Jared returns Simon's serve with a cracker. -S

difference and giving him the edge to win the match. 76 to 53.

Phil versus Justin: A battle of wills. Justin kept the pressure on Phil throughout, playing a good game. Phil kept his cool, keeping Justin on the backfoot and taking all four games for the win. 67 to 55.

### Dragons versus Frill Necks

JESS (fill in) versus Blake: Much closer than the score suggests. Blake was peppering the backhand wall and Jess had some clinical finishing shots. Jess took the win, outlasting Blake as he waned further each game. 65 to 47.

Travis versus Kristelle: Some chaos ensued with both players making some unusual shots and a near miss with the ball. Travis had a comfortable lead in game three which Kristelle clawed back bringing the overall score to a three-point difference. Game four saw Travis's persistence grow as Kristelle's focus faltered. Travis triumphed. 67 to 57.

Michael versus Daniel W (fill in): Very close game and very fun to watch with long rallies. Daniel's quick reflexes and long limbs were utilised and Michael sent him from one side of the court to the other. Michael held on by the skin of his teeth to win the match. 61 to 59.

## SPORT

## Draw partners at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WITH a very pleasant day for golf last Saturday, Eildon Golf Club had 15 players contest a stableford draw partners after the game competition.

At the end of play, the individual results had Marian Williamson finish on top with 34 stableford points, closely followed by Colin Long with 33 points also with 33 points John Gysberts. Hot on their heels were Denis McDonald and Peter McNair both on 32 points and Michael McLearn, Mark Mackwell, Rod Taylor and Michael Lynch all on 30 points.

The draw partners had John Gysberts and Colin Long pairing up with 66 points and matching them was Marian Williamson and Peter McNair also with 66 points. The ball run for last week went to the pairing of Ken Collier and Mark Mackwell with 58 points.

There were no nearest the pin winners last week on the third, fifth or 11th, but Ken Collier was too good on the 12th as was Denis Seamer on the 14th. On the eighth birdie hole Peter McNair was successful in getting his group a drink with his birdie, no one could do the same on the 15th.

Other winners, Denis McDonald tried his hand with the joker draw, Michael McLearn took out the entry draw and Dave Sands was the lucky swindle winner.

## Hardy golfers remain at home

by Lesley Rundle

DARWIN, Perth, Central Australia, Broome and Queensland are destinations that some golfers have decided to visit to get away from the Marysville winter. However, some hardy golfers have chosen to remain at home and enjoy winter golf on the beautiful Marysville golf course.

In fine conditions last Saturday both the men and the ladies played the second round of the Winter Aggregate and the July monthly medal.

The winner of the ladies' Winter Aggregate was Heather Jenkins (17) with nett 163 over the two rounds. Michele Mansfield (24) was the runner-up just one shot behind Heather with 164.

Michele's husband Brett (15) won the men's event with nett 141 with Drew Kaempkes (15) runner-up with nett 143. That result was reversed for the July monthly medal with Drew winning with nett 74 on a countback from Brett.

Heather Jenkins was the ladies' daily winner and therefore won the July monthly medal with nett 81 followed by Sabrina Stow (18) with nett 82. The nearest the pins were won by Brian Worcester, Drew Kaempkes and Travers Stow who also won the Golden Shot.

The club fundraising raffle is continuing and if members are able to sell another book of tickets please see Steve Coker at the club as soon as possible.

Next Saturday all golfers will play 'Stableford with a Twist'. Each player will play a traditional stableford round but after play names will be drawn randomly to create pairs of players. Each pair will add their two scores together and the pair with the most points will win the competition.

Members please note that this will be a shotgun start at approximately 10am to ensure that players finish within a certain time to enable the draw to take place.



Long shadows at the end of the round. -S



Greg Ebinger with an iron off the first. -S



Last Wednesday's medal winner Donna Meggitt. -S



Todd Galloway on the 18th. -S

# Two debutante medal winners at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

DONNA Meggitt and Damon Malcolm are both first-time monthly medal winners at Alexandra Golf Club.

A fine, cool day greeted the 15 players who entered last Tuesday's stableford round, and, despite the recent rain, the course still retains a degree of run, much to the relief of the oldies.

The win went to Russell Purcell for the week, with a score of 35 points. James Fulton was second just one point back, and third went to Russell Haack on 32.

Greg Ebinger claimed the nearest the pins on both seven and 17, and 18 went to one of the club's new(ish) members, Kane Berkley. Rundown vouchers went to Bill Wind, Dan Burns, Leo Dynes and Bruce Colville.

Last Wednesday saw the ladies' July monthly medal up for grabs, and nine ladies threw their hats into the ring.

In the end, it was Donna Meggitt who emerged the victor, her 88 net 74 five strokes clear of second-placed Deb Richardson. Judy Pearson came in third with a net 80. Unsurprisingly, Donna had the fewest putts, needing only 29 shots on the green.

Deb was nearest the pin on two, while five and 18 were claimed by Barb Doyle, who also won the nine-hole competition with 40.5.

It was the men's turn last Saturday, and 20 competitors turned out to play. The event, sponsored by JTS Carpentry, was played in fine, mild conditions, but it was Damon Malcolm who really had a day out.

One of only two to better their handicaps, Damon's round included nine bogies and a double, which were balanced out very nicely by a birdie and not one but two eagles, which came on eight and 17.

The final score? A 76 net 64, once again five clear of second place, which was taken by John Norfolk. Dan Burns and Brad Kidd both carded 71, giving them third and fourth respectively, and Leo Dynes was fifth with a 72.

Damon also snared nearest the pin on two, Burnsie took five, seven went to Brad, 12 to Luke Heard and 18 to Jared Sloane. The honour of having the fewest putts went to Matt Richards with just 27.

The club says congratulations to the medal winners, and for the rest, well, there's always next time.



Russell Purcell on 19. -S



Leo Dynes chips up to 18. -S

SPORT



Seniors player Sam Boots either doing ballet or kicking the ball. -S



B Grade player Beth Cairns working the ball for Alexandra. -S

Tough week for Alexandra football and netballers

by Wayne Miller

THE Rebels made the long journey to Pakenham to battle with the top of the ladder team in both Seniors and Reserves.

Reserves  
Pakenham 10.6-66 defeated Alexandra 5.7-37

Missing some key players the Rebels hit the ground running with Jake Steyger for the second week dominating the ruck giving on ballers first use of the ball with the team’s tackling again impressive.

They went into the break leading 3.2 to 2.1 with Cooper Phillips kicking two goals, however his good start soon ended when he was out of the match with hamstring tightness.

The second quarter was a real battle with both defences on top. Half time Alexandra 4.4 Pakenham 4.3

The third quarter was a continuation of the first half with Connor Heaslip in the centre, Nathan Dundas off half back and Brandon Kapakoulakis on the ball continually driving the Rebels into attack.

Despite matching the opposition throughout the quarter they wasted shots for goal. Three quarter time Alexandra 5.7 to Pakenham 6.4.

In the final quarter the Rebel’s bubble burst with Pakenham taking full control and the Rebels failing to score, proving in the first three quarters they are more than capable to compete against the best sides. Scott Heveren, Toby Ward and Jake Keath were prominent throughout the match .

Awards: NP On the Run, Conor Heaslip; Future Fit Finance, Jake Steyger; Alexandra Hotel, Jake Keath; Grant Street Grocer, Scott Heveren.

Seniors  
Pakenham 10.5-65 defeated Alexandra 7.7-49

The senior line up saw a late change with Harry Prendergast a late withdrawal. Pakenham we’re fast out of the blocks settling quicker than the Rebels and soon had four goals before the Rebels settled with two goals late in the quarter. Alexandra 2.0 to Pakenham 4.1.

The second quarter began with Pakenham kicking two more goals. Early in the quarter the Rebels were down two players with ruckman Lachlan Nankervis and Jonathon Grimwade both out for the day leaving only two on the bench for the second half.

The back line led by the ever-reliable Tom Boots and Harry Aikman were providing great drive in a team playing with great endeavour to outscore the opposition four goals to two to trail by 11 points at the final break.

The last quarter was a dour battle with both teams playing strong football with the top team grinding out a 16-point win.

The Rebels had many players prominent throughout the game, Mitch Parker, Ryan Lucas, Thomas Massey and Riley Frankcombe to name a few. Ed Aujards effort rucking solely for three quarters deserved a special mention.

To play with the players down for three quarters against the flag favourites on their home ground and to go down by 16 points was an impressive performance.

The Rebels must now get back on the winning list when they face Powelltown at home, so head along and support your team at Rebel Park this Saturday.

Under 18  
Pakenham 23.17-155 defeated Alexandra 0.0-1

Awards: Bowens Incentive, Josh Crane; GWS Motors, Ben Geldart; AFNC Club Voucher, Sam Harris; Coaches Award, Thomas Kendall.

Netball

Under 17  
Alexandra 5 defeated by Pakenham 40

Awards: Koala Cherries, Ashlyn Newman; AFNC Club Voucher, Phoebe Kidd.

D Grade  
Alexandra 7 defeated by Pakenham 38

Awards: Alexandra Hotel, Ashlee Collett; Corner Hotel, Katelyn Prendeville.

C Grade  
Alexandra 24 defeated by Pakenham 65

Awards: Alexandra Hotel, Rose Hurrey; Corner Hotel, Ava Krijt.

B Grade  
Alexandra 15 defeated by Pakenham 87

Awards: Incentive, Jayde Cairns; Corner Hotel, Beth Cairns.

A Grade  
Alexandra 33 defeated by Pakenham 72

Awards: Incentive, Jaz Collett; Corner Hotel, Ellie Hedger.

Men In Action Day at Home game versus Powelltown

This coming week, the club takes on Powelltown at home in what promises to be a big day both on and off the field. AFNC are proud to host the Men In Action Function, a special event dedicated to raising awareness around men’s mental health.

The Men In Action Day tackles the issue head-on, encouraging open and honest conversations to help break the stigma.

The club are thrilled to welcome AFL Premiership player and Western Bulldogs legend Tom Boyd as the guest speaker. Tom will share his personal journey and insights into mental wellbeing in sport and everyday life.

Tickets can be purchased online or by contacting the club and they will include entry into the exclusive marquee, beef and gravy roll and nibble table, goody bag, front-row viewing of the senior’s match. A bar will also be provided inside the marquee.



Reserves player Jake Keath taking an epic mark. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	437.41	10	Seville	219.44	11
Pakenham	367.80	10	Warburton Millgrove	213.13	9
Warburton Millgrove	187.70	7	Pakenham	238.44	9
Alexandra	101.63	6	Yarra Glen	116.96	6
Belgrave	211.13	6	Yarra Junction	94.68	6
Yea	109.29	5	Alexandra	64.89	3
Powelltown	35.74	3	Belgrave	57.10	2
Yarra Junction	16.69	1	Powelltown	32.77	1
Yarra Glen	19.06	0	Yea	56.56	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Pakenham	233.66	10	Seville	313.28	11
Warburton Millgrove	260.25	8	Pakenham	276.01	10
Seville	172.10	9	Warburton Millgrove	156.08	8
Alexandra	104.94	5	Yarra Glen	108.41	7
Yarra Glen	93.90	5	Yarra Junction	73.65	5
Belgrave	99.08	5	Belgrave	76.19	4
Yea	94.38	3	Yea	62.54	2
Powelltown	47.18	2	Alexandra	45.44	1
Yarra Junction	26.01	0	Powelltown	37.95	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	10	Seville	308.21	11
Wandin	80.00	8	Pakenham	232.93	10
Emerald	68.18	7	Warburton Millgrove	178.99	8
Thornton Eildon	45.00	4	Yarra Glen	97.19	6
Yea	40.00	4	Yarra Junction	82.92	4
Seville	10.00	1	Alexandra	68.88	3
Officer	9.09	1	Belgrave	68.40	4
			Powelltown	35.19	0
			Yea	45.74	1
Netball – 17 and under			Netball – D Grade		
Seville	405.13	10	Seville	395.00	11
Pakenham Lions Gold	227.16	9	Pakenham	309.22	10
Warburton Millgrove	104.45	5	Warburton Millgrove	198.89	8
Pakenham Lions Maroon	51.08	2	Alexandra	62.23	4
Alexandra	38.87	2	Yarra Glen	78.57	4
Powelltown	40.46	1	Belgrave	63.64	4
			Yea	52.98	3
Football – Under 18			Yarra Junction	57.57	2
Pakenham	1169.67	11	Powelltown	26.76	0
Seville	357.30	8			
Warburton Millgrove	44.46	4			
Yarra Glen	41.78	3			
Yea	33.25	2			
Alexandra	32.73	2			

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The AFNC under 12 award winners. -S



The AFNC under nine and under 10 award winners. -S

## A big weekend of football and netball action: AFNC junior sports round-up

by AFNC

IT was a busy Sunday for the Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) junior athletes, with a full day of football and netball across several age groups.

At home, the under nine, under 10, and under 12 football teams faced off against Wandong. The local crowd turned out in strong support, cheering on the young footballers as they battled hard on the field.

Meanwhile, in netball, the under 13 and under 15 teams played a competitive match against each other.

Also at home, the under 14 footballers took on the Shepparton Swans.

Further afield, AFNC's under 16 footballers made the trip to Kialla to take on Tongala. Despite the travel, the team put in a solid performance with only 17 players.

### Football Under nine

Awards: Essence Coffee Award, Jude Nardella; HBI Constructions Award, Ryan Kirley; Footy Cards Awards, Corbyn Hayes and Teague Welsh.

### Under 10

Awards: Phil Savage Award, Tahj Parker; Essence Coffee Lounge, Joey Creed; Footy Cards Awards, Bodhi McKenzie and Louis Hill.

### Under 12 Alexandra 0.2-2 defeated by Wandong 16.9-105

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Harry Winch; Reddrops FoodWorks, Beau Nash; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Mason McKenzie; Coaches Award, Logan Kerr.

### Under 14 Alexandra 9.14-68 defeated Shepp Swans 1.3-9

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Chase Hilder; Reddrops FoodWorks, Mitchell Kidd; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Riley Cole; Coaches Award, Levi Campbell.

### Under 16 Alexandra 5.5-41 defeated by Tongala 8.12-60

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Cam Clark; Reddrops FoodWorks, Lachlan Williams; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Tom Clark; Coaches Award, Xavier Cowell.

### Netball Under 13 Alexandra Red 33 defeated Alexandra Black 6

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Charlie Stephens and Tilly Miljkovic; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Harper Williamson and Liesse Hogan; Alexandra Sports Power, Annie Barker and Summer Edwards.



Cam Clark from the AFNC under 16 team with a roaring kick. -S

### Under 15/ Alexandra Red 49 defeated Alexandra Black 13

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Taya Barkley and Lily Barkley; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Pheobe Kidd and Ruby Friswell; Alexandra Sports Power Award, Megan Kendall and Ela Palmer.

## Close game against Emerald for Thornton Eildon

by Scott Whitehead and Tash Hay

### Emerald 5.7-37 defeated Thornton/Eildon 3.6-24

THIS week in women's football Thornton/Eildon travelled to Gembrook to take on the Emerald Bombers. The last time these two teams met the match ended in a draw, so both sides were eager to walk away with a definitive result this time around.

Right from the first siren, Thornton/Eildon came out strong, winning the centre bounce showing fierce determination but Emerald matched their intensity, quickly registering the first goal of the game. Prior to the match, Captain Rosie Kealy had asked the team to score a goal within the first five minutes, and they delivered, thanks to a beautiful left-foot goal from Jade Mewburn.

At the first break, Emerald led by just four points, in what was Thornton/Eildon's strongest first quarter of the season.

With only 17 players available, Thornton/Eildon had just one player on the bench, compared to Emerald's full roster of 23 yet despite the disadvantage, Thornton/Eildon refused to back down. Emerald lifted their

pace early in the second quarter and scored another goal.

As the pressure increased so did the bumps and knocks. Sienna Heard produced a great tackle, winning a free kick but had to leave the ground under the blood rule. With no bench rotations available, every Thornton/Eildon player had to dig deep and battle through fatigue.

Thornton/Eildon's backline strengthened by the return of Mia Supple, home from holidays where she got engaged, who would continue to defend hard, but injuries continued to mount with Thornton/Eildon's Bechet Cousens copping a knock to the throat late and Sienna's nose continuing to bleed.

The hard work by the backline would see Emerald only top up their score with behinds, but Emerald's backline was even more resilient not allowing Thornton/Eildon to score leaving Emerald up by 14 points at the main break.

The coaching staff faced a real challenge fielding a full team in the third quarter, but the players rallied and were soon back to 16 on the field. Clean ball movement saw the ball seamlessly transition down the wing and into the hands of Rosie Kealy, who

took a strong mark and slotted a much-needed goal.

Both teams added only behinds from there, showcasing just how hard the defensive units were working. With two minutes left on the clock Thornton/Eildon's Vice Captain Siobhan Bell took a contested mark and while evaluating her options when an Emerald player ran across the mark, resulting in a 25m penalty and a free kick in front of goal, however her shot on goal missed by millimetres leaving Thornton/Eildon trailing by seven points going into the final quarter.

With the game on the line, the away team midfielders found another gear. Clearances to Rosie Kealy and Tahno Heard, combined with fast legs from Jamee Cousens and Mia Heard, took forward territory finding Xahlia Sutton Stevenson with a great mark and was within goal kicking range. The resulting goal from Xahlia had the teams in a familiar position with scores now level.

From the next centre ball-up Emerald regained the lead by a point, but Thornton/Eildon were not done and scored a point of their own to again have the scores deadlocked.

With the ball now in Emeralds hands, their desperate ball movement broke through

their opposition defensive, seeing them score two late goals, the game finishing with a 13-point victory to the home team.

Goals: Jade Mewburn, Rose Kealy, and Xahlia Sutton Stevenson one each.

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General store, Tahno Heard; Café Alex, Xahlia Sutton Stevenson; Murrindindi Aged and Home care, Mia Heard; Snobs Creek Holiday Park, Siobhan Bell.

Round 13 is an Indigenous Round. This Saturday at the Thornton/Eildon home ground as the team take on the Yea Tigers. A traditional Welcome to Country will take place at 12.10pm, followed by the game at 12.30pm.

After the match, don't miss the Music Trivia Night, kicking off at 6pm. Tickets are available via social media platforms and website; everyone is welcome, and there are heaps of prizes up for grabs.

Training is held every Monday and Thursday at 6pm, with delicious \$15 meals available after Thursday sessions. Interested in joining as a player, supporter, or sponsor? Find the team on the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball Club Facebook page or email [tedfnc@outlook.com](mailto:tedfnc@outlook.com)