

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, August 13, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

#ThanksforCaring



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Road safety operations in Yarck



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100 days of school



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Weekend sport



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Staff at Darlingford Nursing Home celebrated on Aged Care Employee Day. Thank you to all aged care staff across the shire who look after the oldies so well. More information on Darlingford's celebration can be found on page three of this edition. -S

Council calls on Bendigo Bank to reconsider agency closures

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has said that they are deeply concerned by the Bendigo Bank Corporate decision to close its Alexandra and Marysville agencies from October.

They said, "This move represents yet another blow in the ongoing withdrawal of essential services from regional Victoria.

"Communities like ours are being asked to accept reduced accessibility, diminished convenience, and less support, while still being expected to adapt to metro-centric solutions that do not reflect our realities.

"These closures follow the retreat of the 'Big Four' banks, which have already removed in-person services across Murrindindi. For many, Bendigo Bank was seen as the last bank still standing. That is no longer the case in Alexandra or Marysville.

"We know these decisions disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, older residents, people with disabilities, those with limited digital literacy, and those without reliable access to technology, who rely on

face-to-face banking. For these individuals, the shift to digital-only services risks deepening exclusion and financial insecurity. It's not that internet banking is impossible, it's that it's inaccessible for those who need personal support. The notion that everyone can simply 'go online' is not only flawed, but also discriminatory.

"In small towns like Marysville and Alexandra, the local bank is more than just a place to do your banking. It's a trusted service, a point of connection, and a critical part of local economic activity. When that service disappears, so too does foot traffic, community confidence, and financial inclusion.

"We acknowledge that the Yea Community Bank branch will remain operational, and we thank the local team for their ongoing commitment to our community. But one branch cannot service an entire region.

"Council maintains that banking is essential infrastructure, particularly in rural

areas where alternatives are limited without travelling great distances.

"We strongly urge Bendigo Bank to reconsider these closures or, at a minimum, engage directly with local councils and communities to co-design sustainable alternatives.

"We call on state and federal governments to step up, not just with words of concern, but with real action. It is time to regulate where market forces have failed and to treat equitable access to banking as a national obligation, not a commercial afterthought.

"The 2023 *Senate Inquiry into Regional Banking Services* made it clear: banks should be required to engage meaningfully with affected communities before withdrawing services. It also recommended strengthening the role of Australia Post and Bank@Post as part of a national access strategy and called for a mandatory minimum service standard in regional areas.

"These are not radical ideas, they are fair and necessary protections for rural communities. We urge all levels of government to implement the Inquiry's recommendations without delay. Without policy change and stronger regulation, communities like ours will continue to pay the price for decisions made far from the realities we face every day."

Cr Sandice McAulay, Portfolio Councillor for Economic Development, said, "The closure of local banking services is not just a financial inconvenience, it's an economic and social setback for our towns. Banks play a crucial role in supporting local businesses, enabling tourism, and building community confidence. These closures put that all at risk, and we expect better for regional Victoria."

Council continued, "This is not just about Alexandra or Marysville. This is about the future of regional Australia and the basic right to access essential services, no matter where you live. We will continue to stand up for our communities, and we will not accept silence as a substitute for support."

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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COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health

5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance

131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

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

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

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

MONTHLY

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

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

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

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

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

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

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

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

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

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

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

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

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

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

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN:

So many people are wearing black and dark colours. Put them to the back of your wardrobe and get some rainbow colours and brighten up your lives and others.

THUMBS DOWN:

People, make way for others walking down the street, especially for those who aren't as agile.

THUMBS UP:

A huge thankyou to the Alexandra Standard and Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon for the free double pass to see Ross Wilson in concert. He was fantastic and the whole show was fabulous. Thankyou again.

THUMBS UP:

To the wonderful Centrelink staff at the Hub. Such a great resource for our community and much more convenient than travelling to Seymour.

THUMBS UP:

To the shire for a fantastic job on the carpark behind Buxton Hall.

THUMBS UP:

A big thank you to the staff at Alexandra District Health and paramedics on the July 2.

THUMBS UP:

A big thumbs up to all the staff of the Alexandra Library for always going over and above performing their duties.

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

Letters to the Editor

Bendigo Bank

THE recent decision by Bendigo Bank to close 28 agencies across Australia, including in Alexandra and Marysville, is of great disappointment.

I understand the changing nature of banking in regional Australia and the reduced use of in-person banking. However, too often the withdrawal of in-person services has negative effects on small business, community organisations, older persons and those with limited mobility, or limited digital skills or connectivity.

I have written to the CEO of Bendigo Bank to express these concerns and ask what, if any, ongoing services will be available to customers in Alexandra and Marysville and surrounds.

While banking services increasingly move online, I do not accept that it should be at the expense of people who rely on face-to-face contact for services as important as banking.

Regional Australians often feel like they are the last to get and the first to lose when it comes to services, and banking is no exception. More than a year after the Senate reported on its inquiry into *Bank Closures in Regional Australia*, there has been no government response on key recommendations such as expanding banking service at Australia Post outlets or establishing community bank branches in regional towns.

It's time the government responds to the regional banking inquiry and gives assurance to regional communities about the future of regional banking services.

Dr Helen Haines MP, Independent Federal Member for Indi

Treaty letter response

THE High Court of Australia's Mabo decision rejected the notion that Australia was terra nullius at the time of British settlement, as a legal fiction not compatible with Australian common law. The Mabo decision was the first step in a process of reconciling the inequality in our society that terra nullius created.

An Aboriginal treaty is a logical step in establishing indigenous equality and rights with the rest of the Australian population. It would also serve as recognition of past injustices.

The letter makes several other claims that deserve review. Firstly, that Australia's uranium exports could make Australia richer than all the OPEC countries combined. Australia only exports depleted uranium not the valuable enriched uranium used to fuel nuclear reactors. Secondly, global revenue for uranium is 1/600th of current global oil and gas revenues.

Australia is the world's top exporter of coal, yet Australia is winding down coal fired generation. Not because of ideology over common sense but hard economic private investment reality. The economic risk of coal fired generation in Australia, a country with abundant cheap renewable generation potential, is not a good investment and risks stranded assets in a net-zero carbon world.

Trump's pro-oil, anti-renewables and climate scepticism may play well to the MAGA base. Yet, the growth of renewable energy generation in the US, notably in oil rich Texas, continues apace, now exceeding coal generation and soon to pass nuclear generation. Yet, despite this, the US lags well behind China that long ago saw the renewable energy market as the path to global manufacturing dominance.

Australia's dependence on fossil fuel export revenue leaves us highly exposed to global action on climate change. We risk being badly caught out unless we develop new sustainable export revenue streams.

Ray Wynn, Devils River

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00am Mon	1.64	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.53	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00am Mon	0.61	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	9.41am Mon	0.21	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.23am Mon	0.52	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	9.00am Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00am Mon	0.69	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.63	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.55	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.84	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	1.21	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.53	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.16	steady	

*ISSUED AT 09:54 AM AEST MONDAY 11 AUGUST 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	3mm
Buxton.....	6mm
Eildon (AWS).....	5mm
Flowerdale.....	6mm
Jamieson.....	13mm
Kinglake.....	10mm
Lake Eildon.....	5mm
Mansfield.....	4mm
Taggerty	5mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea.....	5mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	276.14m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	56.9%
Metres below full supply.....	12.76m
Daily inflow	2000ML
Release.....	4400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	85%

Standard

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

Take time to say #ThanksforCaring

THE amazing contribution of aged care workers was recognised throughout Australia on Thursday, August 7 on Aged Care Employee Day.

Staff at Darlingford Nursing celebrated with a freshly cooked breakfast, followed by morning and afternoon tea of hot cappuccinos from the coffee machine, delightful scones, cakes and sausage rolls. There was even a game of billiards.

Residents attended to thank all the staff including nurses, personal care workers, chefs, cleaners, maintenance staff, gardeners, laundry staff, activity coordinators and administration and management staff, who all play a key role in the lives of residents and their families. The staff offer much more than clinical and physical care but also emotional support and companionship.

Aged Care Employee Day is an opportunity for all of us to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for their invaluable contributions, often going above and beyond to provide care to residents.

Now in its seventh year, Aged Care Employee Day is a significant day on our national calendars, which acknowledges the thousands of people who care for and support millions of older people in Australia who receive aged care services.



Update on Marysville's lake

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has provided an update on Marysville lake at Gallipoli Park. They were asked whether they have found a solution to the leak and whether it will be refilled and stocked soon.

They responded, "Gallipoli Park Lake remains empty while Murrindindi Shire Council carries out unscheduled maintenance to fix a leak. During this process, we also identified the need for desilting, which we hope to include in the works. Timeframes for both the leak repair and desilting are yet to be confirmed.

"While the water levels were low, we also inspected the two viewing platforms and found they need replacing. Council has secured funding for this work through the Australian Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program - Phase 4*, and is now progressing through the tender process to appoint a contractor.

"The replacement is expected to take around two months, but this may change depending on contractor availability.

"We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we carry out these important works to restore Gallipoli Park Lake and will continue to provide updates as the project progresses."

Special Meeting of Council

MURRINDINDI Shire Council will hold a Special Meeting of council on Wednesday, August 13 at 5.30pm at the Alexandra Council Chambers.

The meeting will focus on key items related to the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project, including its background, planning applications for 18 Twenty First Street and 10 Eighth Street, and the construction tender.

Community members are welcome to attend or watch the meeting via Facebook Live. You can find out more on council's Council Meetings page.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizen's Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

TWO tables of bridge players on Wednesday opened the week before the usual social get together on Friday with vice president Barbara in charge. Treasurer Dave told members they still had enough funds but reminds everyone that some haven't paid their annual fees yet. He also had members smiling in Comedy Corner. There were more smiles when Barbara, June and Ian were lucky winners in the chocolate raffle. After retiring for tea and cake, members settled down to games of UNO and 500.

There are still places on the list for the trip to Morning Melodies at Lilydale International on Wednesday, September 3. Members will get to go shopping in Lilydale Market before heading home. As always, the club welcomes new members, so if you fancy joining the activities please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

New energy-saving products for Goulburn Murray Solar Savers

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is helping local residents and businesses access reliable, money-saving solar systems, batteries, and other energy-efficient products. As a partner in the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers initiative, council supports a program that gets products and suppliers to provide access to quotes from trusted companies.

The program has carefully selected a panel of leading, accredited providers known for exceptional service, quality products and great value, making it a smart, sustainable choice for a brighter future.

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers is also running a series of free webinars to help people learn more about the products on offer and how to choose what's right for their needs. You can register for a session on the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers website.

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers now offers quotes from trusted providers for: PV solar systems, battery storage systems, hot water heat pumps, efficient heating and cooling

systems, EV chargers, induction cooktops, insulation, draught proofing, and home energy assessments.

To learn more about the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program, or to request a quote from one or more of the approved suppliers, visit the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers website.

Reg Hickey, Business Development Manager of well-known local regional business Watters Electrical said, "Our ability to partner with councils in the Goulburn Murray region is great for us as a regional business and more importantly it's fantastic to have a trustworthy option for residents and businesses as well. Although door knocking and cold calling is illegal in Victoria, Watters still sees the aftermath of unethical operators selling systems and products that fail, and who won't answer calls for help. As a 65-year-old local business, we are proud to be part of this council managed program with trusted products and service, warranties and back up support."



TRACY HAD A LITTLE LAMB: Tracy took a walk along UT Creek with her daughter's four week old lamb, Lambie, on Wednesday, August 6. He didn't even need a leash. Tracy was on lamb-sitting duties while her daughter was away. -AR

Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea and cake stall
SATURDAY August 16
from 9am
Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

McCORMACK FUNERALS
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Marysville Grocer
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Church Services

ANGLICAN

St Johns Alexandra

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street, Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

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

Out & About



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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14
Eildon Events Inc Annual
General Meeting at 5.30pm at

the Eildon Tennis Clubrooms,
Eildon road, Eildon.
New members welcome.
Nomination forms for
committee member positions
available from the secretary at
eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16
Yea Arts Inc presents
Dave Arden; playing at
Homewood Hall at 4pm. For

further details and tickets
yeaartsinc.org/tickets

MONDAY, AUGUST 18
UGFM Annual General
Meeting will be held at
7.30pm via Zoom. For a
meeting link or to nominate
for committee contact via
email at secretary@ugfm.org

Nominations open for Victorian Tree of the Year

THE National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year are now open.

Attracting thousands of votes each year, the annual competition celebrates the significant trees that have captured the hearts of Victorians and draws attention to the vital role trees play in our environment and communities.

As the state's leading advocate for tree protection, the National Trust has remained committed to safeguarding and celebrating Victoria's natural heritage. Since 1982, the organisation has classified more than 20,000 trees across 1200 locations through the National Trusts of Australia Register of Significant Trees.

To be eligible for the Victorian Tree of the Year, a nominated tree must be listed on this register. There are 22 Murrindindi Shire trees listed in the National Trust database.

Nominations can be submitted online until Sunday, August 31 via the National Trust's website at nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear. Each submission should include details about the tree and a description of why it deserves the title of 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year.

After receiving nominations by the closing date, the Significant Tree Expert Committee will then review all nominations and curate a shortlist of nine exceptional trees. Public voting will then take place online from Tuesday, September 23 to Thursday, October 23.

Collette Brennan, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), is encouraging all Victorians to get involved. "Being part of the Victorian Tree of the Year is an active and powerful way for our community to demonstrate how deeply we value our trees and their essential role in our lives. With Victoria currently lacking comprehensive policies around tree protection, it's more important than ever to highlight the significance of these living landmarks and advocate for their preservation.

"Whether it's the tree you pass every day on your way to work, the one at the heart of your favourite park, or a majestic giant that's stood for generations, this is your chance to shine a spotlight on a tree that matters. We're calling on tree enthusiasts, nature lovers, and anyone who values our natural heritage to make a nomination."

The Victorian Tree of the Year aims to raise awareness about the conservation of the state's natural heritage and highlight the many benefits that trees bring to our lives, from supporting biodiversity and wildlife, to improving air quality, wellbeing, and liveability. Many trees on the Significant Tree Register are also living landmarks that hold memories, stories, and deep cultural significance.

The winner of the 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year will be officially announced on Tuesday, October 28.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear

Murrindindi ambulance response time increases from a year ago

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) is applauding Victorians for saving ambulances for the state's sickest people, with new data showing paramedics are responding 10 seconds faster to the most critically ill.

AV Acting Executive Director Regional Operations Michael Georgiou said demand for 'lights and sirens' ambulances fell by 3.5 per cent between April and June, compared with the same time last year, coinciding with an AV community information campaign to save paramedics for emergencies.

"April to June last year was AV's busiest three months on record, with 102,419 Code One emergencies," Mr Georgiou said.

"Across the same period this year, we've responded to 98,874 Code One cases.

"I thank our highly skilled paramedics and first responders who do a remarkable job providing best care to their communities, each and every day.

"We're grateful to Victorians who are choosing to use alternative care for non-urgent issues. It means ambulances are available faster for emergencies. That community effort is helping us save lives.

"From April to June 2025, the state-wide average response time to Code One emergencies was 15 minutes and 27 seconds, down from 15 minutes and 37 seconds a year ago.

"There has also been an improvement in the percentage of Code One cases responded to within 15 minutes."

During this quarter, AV crews across Victoria responded to 65.3 per cent of Code One cases within the state-wide target of 15 minutes, up from 64.2 per cent a year ago.

In the Hume Region crews responded to 5503 Code One cases between April and June 2025, down from 5623 last year, but up from 5451 three months ago.

Compared with the same time last year, performance improved in 53 Local Government Areas (LGAs). The biggest improvements in the Hume Region were in the Moira, Mansfield, Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton LGAs and the major population centre of Kilmore.

In the Murrindindi LGA, paramedics attended 33.3 per cent of Code One patients within 15 minutes. Compared with a year ago, Code One response times in Murrindindi increased from 23 minutes and 55 seconds, to 24 minutes and 15 seconds.

AV is urging people not to be complacent, with demand for emergency ambulances climbing again as winter illnesses spread through the community.

"We've already seen a 3.7 per cent jump in Code One demand since the first three months of 2025," Hume Regional Director Narelle Capp said.

"Winter is always our busiest time. Our paramedics are focused on reaching the sickest patients first, but every day, more than 500 calls to Triple Zero (000) don't need an emergency ambulance.

Protect yourself from burns this winter

AS people seek relief from the winter chill, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is educating the community about burn prevention and correct treatment.

AV Hume Director Regional and Clinical Operations Narelle Capp said burn prevention should be at the forefront of everyone's minds.

"When the temperature drops, we often reach for products to help ease the cold, whether that be warm food or drink, heaters or hot water bottles and heat packs," she said.

"While these are all common household items, they can be dangerous if used incorrectly or by unsupervised children.

"There are a few simple steps that can significantly reduce the risk of burn injuries in high-risk places such as kitchens, bathrooms, around heaters and campsites."

Burn prevention tips

Always supervise children in the kitchen and keep hot items out of reach, such as the kettle or coffee mugs, and turn pot handles so they can't be pulled down.

Always test bath temperatures before letting your child enter.

Remain vigilant around open flames, keep them out of reach of children and away from flammable materials. Make sure safety guards are around fireplaces and always use water to fully extinguish campfires.

Treatment

All burns can be serious and it's important to know how to treat them properly and when to call for emergency assistance.

Treatment is the same for all burn injuries and should begin with holding the burnt area under cool running water for 20 minutes. Clothing or jewellery that is not stuck to the burn should be removed.

Do not apply ice or food products, such as butter, to the burn as these can make the injury worse.

For minor burns, the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) is a great resource available 24/7 via video link.

"VVED is a convenient, free service that virtually connects you with doctors and nurses from the comfort of your home with no need to attend an emergency department," Narelle said.

"It can be used from anywhere in Victoria, all you need is a device with internet and video connection."

For serious burns or emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).

Translated resources for non-emergency care can be found on the Ambulance Victoria website.

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

"Our expert Secondary Triage team, made up of nurses and paramedics, plays a vital role by connecting people with the right care and freeing up ambulances for life-threatening emergencies. Between April and June alone, they redirected 46,015 non-urgent cases away from an emergency response."

Ambulance Victoria is working closely with hospitals, emergency services and government partners to keep ambulances on the road and patients moving through the system.

"The new Standards for Safe and Timely Ambulance and Emergency Care are already making a difference, improving patient flow in hospitals and helping our crews get back on the road sooner," Ms Capp said.

"We're grateful to our hospital partners for their efforts. It's helping us reach more patients, faster.

"Since June, 117 new graduate paramedics have joined the frontline across Victoria. And earlier this year, the largest-ever single intake of 30 Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) intern paramedics hit the road, delivering a major boost to critical care statewide."

Victoria is banning machetes from 1 September

A 3 month amnesty will allow Victorians to safely dispose of machetes with no penalties.



Scan to learn more



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Isaac Goodman

Isaac has shown our school value of care this week as he has welcomed new students to our school. It is scary to start at a new school and Isaac made the students feel comfortable and welcome. Thank you for caring for others, Isaac. We are proud to have you in our learning community. You are a star.

Student of the Week

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Proposed laws to work from home

PREMIER Jacinta Allan announced on Saturday, August 2 that the government will introduce legislation to protect the ability of an employee to work from home.

Under this proposed law, if you can reasonably do your job from home, you will have the right to do so for at least two days a week, public sector or private sector.

Working from home works for families and it's good for the economy. Flexible working arrangements are utilised by workers and businesses alike, with more than a third of Australian workers, including 60 per cent of professionals, regularly working from home.

It saves families money. It saves Australians on average \$110 a week or \$5308 every year. That's more money back in the pockets of Victorians.

It cuts congestion. Victorians are now spending less time commuting, saving more than three hours in their week on average. That's three fewer hours sitting in traffic and three more hours back in your life.

It gets more people working. Work from home supports women with children, carers and people with a disability to work. Thanks to work from home, workforce participation is 4.4 per cent higher than before the pandemic.

It's good for business. Those who work from home are working nearly 20 per cent more hours than those who are working in the office full time.

Work from home has changed millions of lives. While not everyone can work from home, everyone can still benefit.

To develop these laws, the government will undertake consultation led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

It will consider the types of businesses and the size of businesses that that will be covered by this scheme, as well as the definition of remote work and who is able to do it.

Consultation will focus on ensuring the law reflects the real-world experience of working from home: what's fair, what's practical, and what's already working in many workplaces today.

This consultation process won't determine whether working from home should be a right. We're already clear on that: it should be. We just need the appropriate laws to reflect it.

Following consultation, the Labor government will introduce and pass this legislation next year, with several legislative options available.



A cockatiel under UV light. -Kelly2357



A snail under UV light. -Rand Workman

Many Australian animals display biofluorescence

AN increasing number of Australian animals, and animals around the world, are being found to exhibit biofluorescence, meaning that they glow under UV light.

The phenomenon was first discovered in 2020 after scientists discovered that platypuses glow under UV light, and since then, people have been rushing to discover which other animals biofluoresce.

UV torches only cost around \$15 to \$20. UV light is also known as blacklight.

Platypuses, bandicoots, quolls, possums, wombats, echidnas and bilbies all glow under UV light. So do rats, some spiders, some snakes, some lizards (including geckoes) scorpions, millipedes, centipedes, crickets, and

many birds including cockatoos, parrots, budgerigars and pigeons, but not magpies.

Kangaroos do not glow, although Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo does glow. Wallabies glow faintly.

Sadly for hunters, deer do not glow in the dark.

Sadly for drivers, UV light can't be used for headlights as they damage the eye of oncoming drivers.

Carnivorous plants such as the mouth of a pitcher plant also glow. Many sea creatures also display the feature, as does flower pollen.

In the kitchen, tonic water glows blue, eggs can glow red, honey can glow green, and turmeric can glow yellow.



Members of the dog squad attended the Yarck road operation. -S

Road safety operation in Yarck

VARIOUS Victoria Police units came together recently to conduct a two-day road safety operation in Yarck.

Murrindindi officers, the Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit, Mansfield Highway Patrol, dog squad members and members from the Sheriff's Office Victoria attended.

As part of the operation, police performed vehicle inspections, roadside breath testing, and educated motorists on ensuring their vehicle is alpine ready on the Maroondah Highway, a popular route during the snow season.

Some 926 motorists were tested for drug or alcohol, and all but one driver returned a negative result.

The one driver who allegedly returned a positive preliminary oral fluid test will be summonsed to appear in court.

Four people were arrested after they were detected to be in possession of drugs of dependence.

More than \$35,000 in outstanding fines was also recovered.

Rural road users are four times more likely to be killed than road users in metropolitan Melbourne. That is why police are committed to road safety operations like this one.

Victoria Police would like to thank motorists for their patience during any delays while on their way to their destinations.



The operation lasted for two days in Yarck. -S



Police were checking for a variety of offences. -S



Highway Patrol and the Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit attended. -S



SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

**Wednesday 13 August from 5.30 pm
at Alexandra Council Chambers**

Council is meeting to consider items related to the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project including:

- project background,
- planning applications for 18 Twenty First Street and 10 Eighth Street,
- awarding the tender for housing construction.

The meeting is open to the public, and can also be watched live on Facebook or Council's website.

To view the agenda, reports, attachments and livestream, scan the QR code or visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

scan
ME



Menzies Support Services Community Meeting Thursday, August 28, 2025

Call for Committee Members

Strengthen Local Disability and Aged Care Services in Alexandra

Are you ready to contribute your expertise and leadership to a vital community organisation?

We are seeking expressions of interest from committed individuals to join the Committee of Management of a respected not-for-profit organisation delivering essential disability and aged care services in Alexandra, Victoria.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape the strategic direction of a service that supports some of our most vulnerable community members. Committee members play a key governance role, ensuring the organisation remains sustainable, responsive, and aligned with its mission and values and strategic direction.

We welcome interest from individuals with experience in:

- Disability or aged care services
- Community development and advocacy
- Finance, legal, or corporate governance
- Strategic planning and leadership
- HR and Recruitment
- Lived experience as a carer or service user

Prior board experience is not essential — we value diverse perspectives and a strong commitment to community service.

What You'll Gain:

- A meaningful opportunity to influence local service delivery
- Collaboration with a passionate and skilled team
- Professional development in governance and leadership
- The satisfaction of giving back to your community

How to get involved:

Menzies Support Services will be hosting a Community Meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 49 Nihil Street, Alexandra.

For a confidential conversation please contact Dave Beattie, president on 0448 009 200.

Help us build a more inclusive and supportive Alexandra — your contribution matters.



The foundation students from Alexandra Primary School. -S



Foundation and grade one students from Marysville Primary School. -S

Celebrating 100 days of school



Foundation WH students from St Mary's Primary School. -S



Foundation S students at St Mary's Primary School. -S



Ellie-Mae from Eildon Primary School. -S



Buxton Primary School foundation students. -S

What's behind the urban-regional political divide?

IN democracies around the world, a political phenomenon appears to be increasing, but is it the fault of voters or politicians?

The urban-rural political divide has been observed in countries including (but not confined to) Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Thailand, Turkey, the USA, the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as on a state level, including Victoria.

The division sees urban voters veering to left and regional voters veering to the right. The phenomenon can be clearly seen in maps of election results, whether state or federal, and regardless of the country being explored.

The phenomenon is believed to have intensified around the world since the recession from late 2007 to mid-2009.

The phenomenon does not appear to have been explored in any significant detail in Australia, aside from the fact that it happens, so a series of questions on the subject were posed for six former Victorian Premiers (three Labor and three Liberal), as well as the current Premier and the Opposition Leader, and Federal Independent Member for Indi Helen Haines.

They were asked, 'What do you believe is the cause of the division? How can it be countered within the existing party system? Is the distribution of wealth and infrastructure a factor? Is the cost of provision of services a factor? Are cultural factors at play? Are political philosophy factors at play? How can politicians ensure that the needs of both regional and urban Victorians are adequately met? Should all politicians ensure that voters in both the city and regional areas are considered in decision-making?'

One former premier (who we have chosen not to identify) responded quickly, referring us to the Minister for Agriculture, which highlights the issue. In regional areas, agricultural issues are certainly pertinent, but so are issues around housing, health, education, connectivity, disability, ageing, creative activities, policing, climate, environment, recreation, roads, planning, economic growth, employment, mental health, public transport, and a multitude of other issues.

Jeff Kennett

Former Liberal Premier Jeff Kennett was keen to comment however, saying "In short, it has probably never been greater." He said that it is particularly highlighted in the areas of health services, potholes, urban infrastructure in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

He noted that most people in Melbourne know someone who lives in regional Victoria, and that "Where government fails is understanding the way in which metropolitan people understand their plight." He believes that this is particularly being felt as a result of droughts and floods, road maintenance, and the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy and other issues around the CFA.

He said, "Victoria always has been fairly well balanced in terms of its delivery of services, etcetera, but never before has there been such a massive program of borrowing that's only affected one small sector of the community. For instance, the Suburban Rail Link will never ever be used by anyone who lives outside of Cheltenham and Box Hill, but country folks are going to pay for it."

He expressed concern that this will be through the accumulated debt and reductions in "basic services the government should provide."

When asked about the tyranny of distance in the provision of services, Mr Kennett responded, "Where do we see the evidence that government is trying to through its priorities to incentivise rural Victoria, through utilisation of science and technology. It's just not there. There's no commitment, no recognition that if you want to grow any area of endeavour, you've got to invest in it. You've got to provide for it, and there's no provision at all."

Asked about the underlying cause of right wing politicians getting seats in regional Victoria and left in urban, Mr Kennett said,

"I think it's fundamentally a basis of values. Those who have traditionally lived in rural Victoria are men and women pioneers, farmers, shopkeepers. They work hard. They work from morning until night. In metropolitan areas there are an increasing number of people who are employed by governments directly or indirectly, whether they're public servants or whether they're any of these people working on the infrastructure projects are all being funded by government borrowing, and they're making huge salaries, absolutely huge salaries. So that is buying them into that sort of cohort of Labor views and supporting Labor."

He's noticed that many young adults tend to leave regional areas for employment, and increasingly there's also been a growth in the level of entitlement in urban areas.

He added, "So it makes it more difficult for conservative parties, per se, to win government because then you find in metropolitan areas more than anywhere else you have these smaller parties or independent parties that are arguing issues like climate change alone or they're standing on a local issue and they're getting elected to Parliament federally and state, which does not provide a disciplined focus on governing the electorate in the way it should. You want people who are there, who are disciplined, who are focused, who've got experience. Particularly in Victoria, where you're going to manage this debt for the next at least two generations."

When asked, do you see a way that the city country divide politically can be addressed by both political parties, Mr Kennett responded, "Yeah, I think it can. It can be addressed by better governments, by the government body itself. Secondly, it can be done by the government of the day, recognising the value and potential growth value of rural Victoria, in this case, though. It does need a mindset."

There appears to be a heavy demographic basis to the political preferences that are targeted. Mr Kennett responded, "I think right now we're in a very fluid situation, and if the conservative side cannot offer themselves to the electorate with a vision and with unity, then it is possible that Labor will continue simply because of the growth in the number of people who are reliant upon government for their employment and occupation. On the other hand, if the conservative sides together can develop a range of policies that will rebalance the scales, that will excite the youth of the day, then we've got a chance, but more of the same, and certainly in my opinion political parties not simply offering more to buy votes, is unacceptable."

He commented that in recent election, "both political parties simply went out there and said we'll spend more money. That's almost immoral. I don't mind spending more money if you've earned it first. But this concept that you can just buy your way into government has huge risks associated with it."

He also believes that when promises are made, the politicians need to have the courage to see these things through.

Asked whether there is a degree of traditionalism in the policies of both the left and right that haven't necessarily shifted with the times, Mr Kennett responded, "I don't think, as a generalisation, governments as we see them at the moment, are fit for purpose."

He particularly cited the dangers of borrowing rather than earning, adding that some manageable debt is fine, adding, "In order to get that government into thing, you've got to convince the electorate you're going to have to make some understandable, tough decisions in order to get to a better place."

He also commented, "I would say on that one of my greatest regrets is that we have never had a federal government that has given agriculture and water to priorities they deserve because we should have set ourselves a target 20 years ago to feed a billion people to our north by just collecting and distributing water, so that those who have their properties now can be secure with their water supply. And if we distribute the water better, we can provide water to some of the arid lands.

But agricultural water has never been a top priority of a federal government, regardless of its policy."

Asked what he would do if he were to land back in power right now, Mr Kennett responded, "I would establish water collection, distribution, pricing and agriculture as the primary priority. You hear everyone talking about defence and AUKUS and you hear about these submarines we've ordered. The best defence policy is to become a major supplier of food to the four billion people who live immediately to our north so that would be my first major policy initiative. My first economic policy issue would be to stabilise the debt, and thirdly, my priority would be to somehow, through policy setting, encourage people to believe that they can achieve here in Victoria whatever they follow and be rewarded for it without necessarily being ripped asunder by the failures of government that remove incentives."

Helen Haines

When asked about the urban-rural political divide, Independent Member for Indi Helen Haines said, "I would say that the electorate of Indi, it's not like that at all. In fact, what we've seen in the electorate of Indi is a move away from the extreme right political movement and much more of a centrist approach. And I think that the fact that the people of Indi have overwhelmingly, in just in the last election, voted for an independent for the fifth time in a row indicate that Indi doesn't meet this kind of criteria of being different to some of the metropolitan areas in terms of voting patterns."

In response to a question about whether political philosophies are behind the voting pattern, or whether it all boils down to access to services, Ms Haines responded, "I think access to services is the number one issue when it comes to an electorate such as mine, and I'm consistently advocating to the federal government about this, and while I'm not a member of the state Parliament, I'm not shy about advocating to the state government either. We've still got in rural and regional areas and our area is no exception, where your health for example, is dictated by your post code. For every kilometre that you are away from a metropolitan centre, the less likely you are to have really good health, and in fact we're still seeing in rural and regional Australia and of course most particularly in remote areas, that rural and regional Australians die younger, they're more likely to have a higher incidence of chronic disease or cardiovascular diseases or diabetes. Your chances of having those chronic diseases are higher if you live in the country. Certainly in the six and a bit years that I've been a Member of Parliament that's the most consistent issue that people come to me about is access to healthcare."

She added, "I think that rural and regional Australians are smart enough to know that you're not going to have the same level of services in a small country town as you will in a big city. Of course you're not. But while you may not be able to access neurosurgery, you should be able to access the transport to get you there to a major hospital to get immediate care. For example, if you have a heart attack, there should be no delay for an ambulance to get you to the help that you need as fast as you possibly can, and I think it's those other areas of service that we still have to fight for funding to ensure that we do get timely care."

She also said that with healthcare, it's not just the provision of a hospital, "It really comes down to... how long is the surgical waiting list. Do you have to wait longer if you are in a rural and regional area to get an operation?"

Asked about other factors underlying the situation, Ms Haines said, It's workforce. It remains very, very difficult to recruit and retain the health workforce that we need in regional areas compared to a metropolitan area. We have real issues in having the numbers of people we need to deliver services under the NDIS, under aged care, in acute

health, in all the Allied health professions and this has been a problem for a very long time and we haven't moved the dial very much on that.

"So workforce is a critical issue and related to workforce, is that even in some of our smaller towns where health services or schools or police or whatever it might be have been able to recruit a person, there's no home for them to live in. We've got a housing shortage. That's a problem right across Australia. There's a problem in rural areas as well. Unless we've got the housing for people to live in, they're not going to come and take up those positions that are available," she said.

Asked whether there's any way to countering the urban rural divide, Ms Haines responded, "Yes. I think that for every policy that a government puts forward, and I've been a champion of this and in fact, I've had some success in shining a light on this, is that there needs to be a rural, regional and remote lens put over that policy to say, how will this play out in a rural, regional or remote setting? Because it's not a cookie cutter, same size fits all approach to public policy. What might work in Collingwood may not work in Alexandra. So that question needs to be asked on every single policy.

"For example, in the federal sphere, the minister responsible for infrastructure needs to report each year on the how, how it plays out in rural and regional Australia, so every budget has a rural and regional remote impact statement... I think that's important to shine a light on it and then to draw the attention of the government to say, for example, in housing. There's been huge investments from the Commonwealth into housing and I've been arguing very strongly to say you need to guarantee that 30 per cent of that funding actually makes it out into rural and regional Australia, where 30 per cent of the people live," she said.

On encouraging private investment in rural and regional areas, Ms Haines said, "Investment in business in rural and regional Australia can only be enhanced if we have the infrastructure, the public infrastructure that would support, for example, if you look at housing and housing developers coming and building the homes that we needed in, for example, a town like Alexandra. I argued very strongly and was subsequently successful in the Commonwealth setting up a housing support fund which provides funding to local councils for the enabling infrastructure. The pipes, the power, the poles, the pavement, that underground works, that enables the houses to get out of the ground in the first place. Things like telecommunications, having really good digital access, mobile phone access, is where the Commonwealth can play a role and it makes a rural area more attractive for a business to come and set up in. I think it is about that enabling infrastructure, making sure that there's adequate road funding, that there's public transport, that our railway lines are well funded."

She added, "I meet very regularly with all our local councils and I meet regularly with Chambers of Commerce and various businesses of all stripes, and they're not looking for a handout for government to run their business because the moment you get a handout, you have to deliver something for government as a result of that. It can be constraining. But what they do want is to make sure that when they want to pick up a mobile phone that works...and that our roads won't be absolutely covered in potholes, and that when they want to recruit workforce somewhere to live, and that in each town, there's going to be access to a GP and there'll be some functional schools, all those things are the areas where government are involved in. I guess I think ultimately, what would attract private business to come and set up."

[Representatives from the Australian Labor Party were also contacted for comment, but no response was received by the time this article went to print. If a reponse is received, it will be including in an upcoming edition. -Ed]



Latest MLA survey shows beef producers holding firm despite market pressures

AUSTRALIAN beef producers are showing resilience and strategic patience in the face of market and seasonal challenges, according to the latest Beef Producer Intentions Survey from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

The pulse survey, conducted between July 1 and 17, 2025, provides a mid-year update to the full survey conducted in April and captures producer sentiment and actual outcomes across herd management, calving, and cattle sales.

The survey received responses from 1295 grassfed beef producers nationwide and found that 84 per cent of producers indicated their intentions have remained the same since April 2025. Only 16 per cent reported a change from the last survey, with six per cent now planning to reduce their herd, seven per cent

opting to maintain herd size, and three per cent intending to increase.

MLA's Market Information Analyst, Emily Tan, said the level of consistency in herd planning reflected a cautious but deliberate approach from producers.

"Producers are watching the market closely and making decisions that position them well given the market conditions," Ms Tan said.

Autumn calving outcomes slightly exceeded expectations, with producers reporting 2.43 million calves delivered. This was up from the April forecast of 2.39 million calves.

While 38 per cent of producers delivered fewer calves than expected, 32 per cent delivered more, and 29 per cent met their forecast.

However, cattle sales in the first half of 2025 fell short of expectations. Actual sales totalled 4.03 million head, down from the April forecast of 4.82 million. Nearly half of producers (46 per cent) sold fewer cattle than planned.

"Many producers are holding cattle back, either because they didn't meet weight targets or because they're anticipating stronger prices later in the year," Ms Tan said.

"This aligns with broader industry sentiment that suggests producers are waiting for the right moment to re-enter the market."

Among those who sold fewer cattle than expected, 42 per cent cited weight issues and 21 per cent pointed to price forecasts as key reasons.

Conversely, producers who sold more than expected were driven by stronger-than-anticipated prices (33 per cent), the need for cash flow (29 per cent), and efforts to reduce feeding costs (25 per cent).

"These results show producers are being tactical," Ms Tan said.

"They're balancing short-term pressures with long-term opportunities, and that's a sign of confidence in the future."

The Beef Producer Intentions Survey was designed by MLA to support the industry with reliable data and is used by MLA and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It is one of the inputs into the MLA beef industry forecasting models.

To view the full results please visit tinyurl.com/3ykyxv9x



Energy transition must not trample farmers' rights

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has reacted with concern following recent comments from Victorian Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, warning that the state government's energy transition risks alienating the very communities it needs most.

While the VFF supports the shift to renewable energy, VFF President Brett Hosking said the transition is being derailed by poor planning, worrying rhetoric, and alarming legislative proposals including the VicGrid Bill Amendment, which would allow police-enforced access to farms and fines of up to \$12,100 for landholders who resist.

"Farmers are not opposed to renewable energy. We know the world is changing and we're part of that change, but we won't cop being steamrolled in the process."

"The VicGrid amendments are deeply troubling. Allowing police to enforce access and slapping hard working farmers with fines for simply wanting to protect their land is not how you build trust, it's indicative of how trust has been lost," Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking said the government's determination to press ahead with major transmission projects without genuine community consultation including the Western Renewables Link (WRL) and VNI West is undermining both public confidence and the project's viability.

"The WRL and VNI West are both failed projects and they should be scrapped entirely. Both have been mismanaged from the start, and communities have made it clear they won't accept it being forced through their paddocks."

"These projects are too important to get wrong and the Victorian Government is risking a smooth renewable energy transmission by attempting to ram these projects through. Acknowledging the mistakes and starting again is the only way to deliver a smooth transition."

"The VFF has directly expressed our concerns with Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and written to all MPs, urging them to vote down the VicGrid Reform Bill," Mr Hosking said.

The VFF is alarmed by the Minister's comments that "transmission lines will be built" regardless of community concerns. It's approaches such as this that foster opposition in our rural communities which only serves to delay meaningful emissions reduction.

"We've had enough of being treated like obstacles, instead of partners."

"Good policy isn't made in a Spring Street bubble or podcast studio, or by using threats of fines and jail or coercion, rather it is done through genuine consultation with those that live and work on the land."

The VFF is calling for the Victorian Government to withdraw or significantly amend the VicGrid Bill to remove coercive powers, scrap the Western Renewables Link (WRL), take VNI West back to the planning table and start fresh with genuine consultation, commit to respectful, transparent consultation with landholders and local communities, and recognise and protect agriculture as a vital land use in energy planning.

"The transition to renewables can and should be a win for everyone, but that means doing it right."

"The government needs to drop the heavy hand and start partnering. Otherwise, they risk doing lasting damage to rural communities and undermining public confidence in the whole transition," Mr Hosking concluded.

Risk of red imported fire ant in fodder imported from interstate

AGRICULTURE Victoria is urging farmers to be mindful of import requirements and to keep watch for red imported fire ants (RIFA) when sourcing fodder from interstate.

Agriculture Victoria Acting Chief Plant Health Officer Stephen Dibley said RIFA or *Solenopsis invicta*, is one of the worst invasive ant species in Australia.

Native to South America, it was first detected in Brisbane in 2001 and while still largely localised to Greater Brisbane, it has also recently been detected in two separate zones in New South Wales.

"RIFA is not present in Victoria, and we hope collective efforts continue to ensure that this situation remains unchanged," Dr Dibley said.

"If RIFA made it into Victoria, it could severely affect the state's economy, agriculture, the environment and the wellbeing of people and livestock."

"RIFA is mostly spread when it hitchhikes on material that is transported out of an infested area."

He said with drought forcing farmers to source hay and fodder from interstate suppliers there was a real risk they may inadvertently import RIFA.

"We know current conditions mean farmers are dealing with unfamiliar fodder sellers, but we still want to protect our agricultural industry from biosecurity threats."

"Hay and straw are ideal host materials for RIFA, providing shelter, temperature regulation and a food source," he said.

Dr Dibley said farmers should be aware that hay or straw purchased from anywhere outside of Victoria must come from a location with an accepted RIFA area freedom certificate.

Fodder purchased from the infested zones, must meet inspection and treatment requirements and be certified by an officer responsible for agriculture in the state or territory of origin.

When coming from these zones, your purchase must also include one of the following types of certificates: a Plant Health Certificate (PHC); a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC); a Biosecure HACCP Biosecurity Certificate (BHBC); a Plant Health Declaration (PHD).

To further protect Victoria, if you suspect that you have found RIFA, report them immediately via the Agriculture Victoria Public Online Reporting Form at agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-insects-and-mites/report-an-unusual-plant-insect-pest-or-disease or by calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Find more information about interstate movement of hay and fodder at agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/moving-hay-and-fodder-across-states

AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for AUGUST, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandria. The AUGUST theme is **'SUNSHINE'**.



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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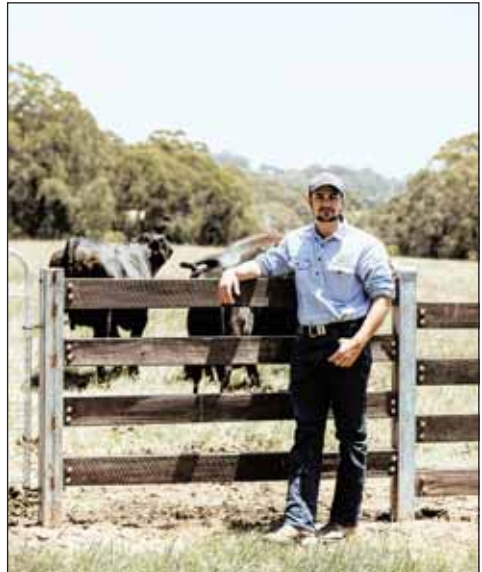
T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandria Newspapers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire.



Using Wire-Lok is simple and easy, and doesn't require additional lengths of wire. -S



The Wire-Lok. -S



Jack McMaster, the man behind Wire-Lok. -S

Wire-Lok the new fencing solution

JACK McMaster is the man behind Wire-Lok, an innovative simplified and efficient way to join fencing wire for farmers.

According to Jack, traditional fencing methods were prone to constant repairs due to old, ruined or newly broken fences.

The Wire-Lok offers a reliable and long-lasting solution, reducing the time and effort spent on fence maintenance.

"It's like a gripper, the same sort of deal except there's no moving parts, there's no plastic in it. It's a fool-proof way of joining wire. With a gripper there's a lot of things that can go wrong. They always let go," Jack said.

"I wanted a product that was good peace of mind and that would work for a long time.

"I think the main purpose of Wire Lok is to have old wire that has slackened over time from constant kangaroo activity or a tree

branch that hasn't broken the wire, but has stretched it, and you don't have enough wire to tie a new knot, the Wire Lok is perfect for that. You can retighten them."

Jack grew up on a beef cattle farm in the Highlands and has a background in metal fabrication and engineering.

He said that Wire-Lok has been well-received since it was released around a month ago.

"It's been out for a month. It's going a lot better than I thought it would. I've already had sales over in the USA. I've had a few in South Australia, a lot in New South Wales, and then a fair few in Victoria. Lots of hand sales as well," Jack said.

People looking to purchase Wire-Lok can email connect@wire-lok.com.au or visit wire-lok.com.au

Wire-Lok, Why Knot?

Australian Made and Australian Owned

The Wire-Lok is a simplified and efficient way to join fencing wire.

The Wire-Lok a reliable and long lasting solution, made of stainless steel and rust resistant.

This innovation enables farmers to focus on other critical aspects of farming, increasing overall productivity and efficiency.

Strainers, pliers and a Wire-Lok is all that is required. See our easy six step guide at wire-lok.com.au/how-to

Available online at wire-lok.com.au or scan the QR code below

Free shipping Australia wide, when you purchase three or more boxes of Wire-Lok

SCAN ME

Contact us: wire-lok.com.au

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0498 036 194

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan

www.jmdcartoons.com.au ©JD

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Darlingford Nursing Home celebrates Christmas in July

AN amazing Christmas luncheon was held on Wednesday, July 30 at Darlingford Nursing Home, courtesy of the Eildon Opportunity Shop.

Residents were treated to prawns and steak, followed by delicious home made apple pie. Games, treats and a small Christmas present made it feel like a real Christmas celebration.

Darlingford Nursing Home would like to thank the Eildon Opportunity Shop for making this function possible, providing all food, treats and presents.

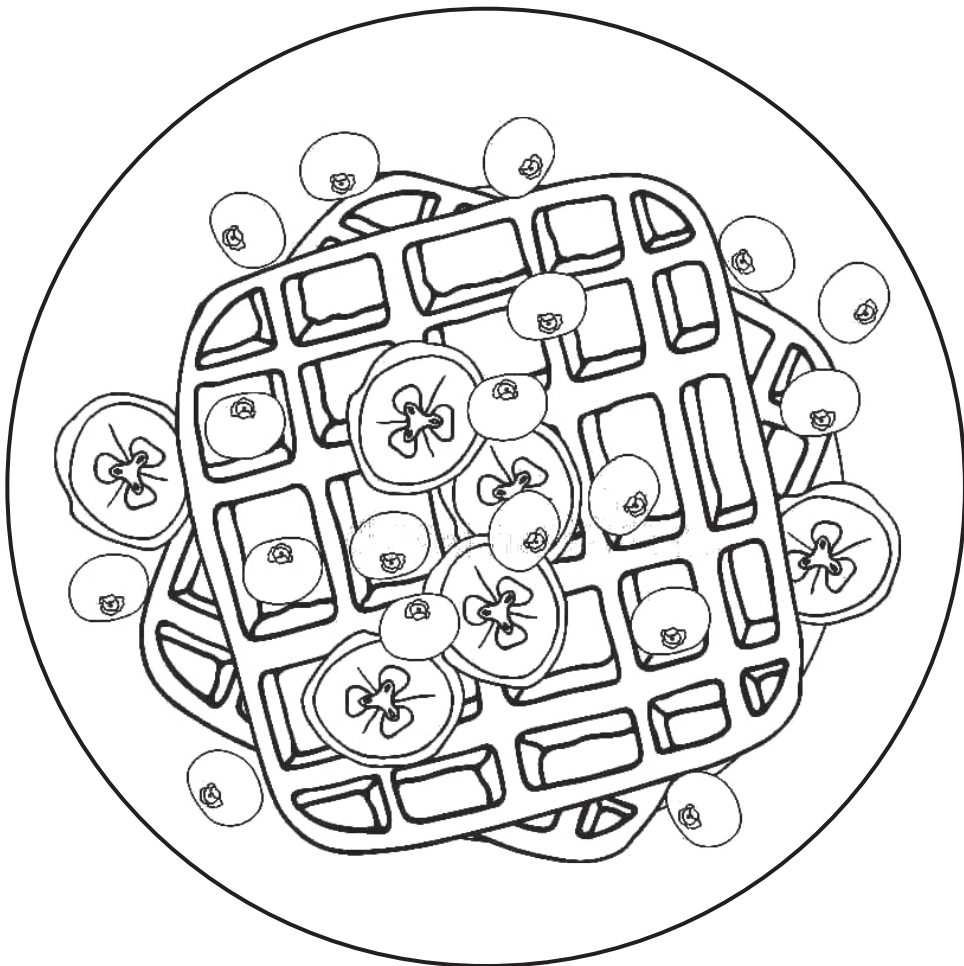
They were also keen to thank the amazing lifestyle department for their organisation and creativity, and for all staff assisting on the day.



KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Colouring Page



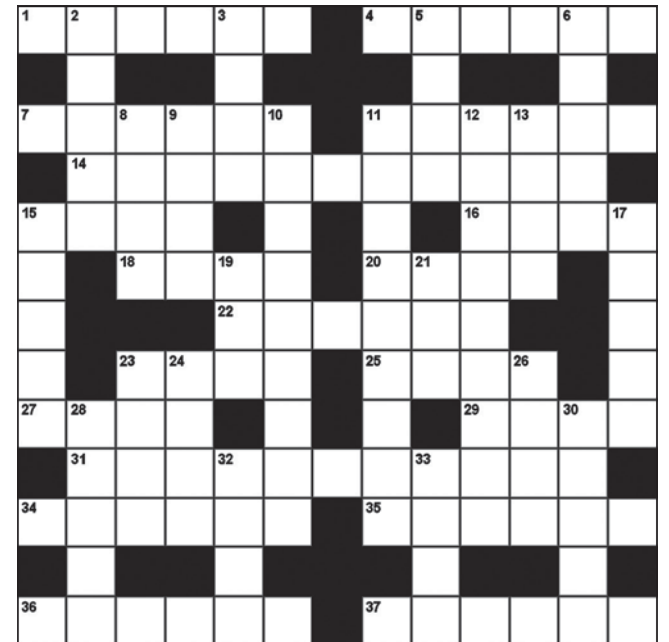
Crossword

ACROSS

- Of very little importance.
- Serving no useful purpose.
- Afloat and off course.
- Not arrogant or prideful.
- Successive generations of kin.
- Kept closely confined.
- Adult male red deer.
- Willingly received something offered.
- An impudent or insolent response.
- The most uncommon event.
- The amount that is owed.
- Used to form a question.
- The highest point.
- A specific piece of work.
- Not done with deliberate intention.
- A situation of a hindering obstruction.
- Small light anchors.
- Became hardened against.
- Crosspiece between the legs of a chair.

DOWN

- A long narrow range of hills.
- State of existence.
- An aggressive criminal.
- Spicy Mexican sauce.
- A regular payment by a tenant.
- Hooked on and preoccupied with.



- Quite chatty and outgoing.
- Cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing.
- Expressed something incorrectly.
- Makes a wager.
- Small rainforest wallaby.
- A native or inhabitant of Greece.
- Ornamental sphere.

- Light silvery grey.
- Refuse to accept.
- A set of questions evaluating a skill.
- A distinctively sharp taste.
- Metal spike for mountaineering.
- Ancient upright stone slab.
- Fraught with extreme danger.
- The printed word.

Word Search

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

Words starting with "Q"

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| QUADRUPLE | QUESTION |
| QUAILS | QUICKLY |
| QUALITY | QUIET |
| QUARTER | QUILT |
| QUEEN | QUINCE |
| QUENCH | QUIZ |
| QUENTON | QUOTE |

Word Search

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

Puzzle fun

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| CHESS | RUBIKSCUBE |
| CROSSWORDS | SCRABBLE |
| CRYPTOGRAM | SUDOKU |
| JIGSAW | TICTACTOE |
| MAZE | WARSHIPS |
| MONOPOLY | YAHTZEE |

Cryptogram

Spring

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
19				26				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					16			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	25						

A

18 19 4 10 9 23

18 20 1

A O
19 24 16 20 1 6

T E
25 8 26

E T A E
5 20 11 11 9 26 25 19 3 9 26

Math Square

	+		-		-1
+		+		-	
9	+		-		3
+		-		+	
3	-		+		1
17		-3		5	

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.

Math Square

	+	3	+		15
x		-		-	
	x		+		12
+		+		x	
6	÷		+		12
26		4		-65	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

Jokes

Q: Why don't ants catch the flu?

A: Because they have little anti-bodies

Q: What's blue and smells like red paint?

A: Blue paint

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

MATH SQUARES

5	+	3	+	7	15
x		-		-	
4	x	1	+	8	12
+		+		x	
6	÷	2	+	9	12
26		4		-65	

SUDOKU

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

CRYPTOGRAM

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

FAMILY FUN AROUND THE
PUZZLE TABLE

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

5	+	2	-	8	-1
+		+		-	
9	+	1	-	7	3
+		-		+	
3	-	6	+	4	1
17		-3		5	

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DEATH NOTICES



LAWSON, Don.

Council extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Don Lawson, who died August 2, 2025.

Mr Lawson was a respected community leader and a long-standing, passionate advocate for the district. From 1988 to 1991, he served as a Councillor for the former Yea Shire Council, where he actively contributed to matters of community concern.

In 1969, after purchasing a farm with his father in Yea, Mr Lawson founded the Ythanbrae Angus Stud. The stud achieved national prominence for producing balanced, functional cattle with strong build traits and high reliability for commercial producers. A pioneer of performance-recorded livestock breeding, he dedicated more than six decades to advancing the Australian beef industry.

Mr Lawson was a passionate champion of agricultural education and a tireless advocate for science-based policy and producer welfare. His expertise and commitment helped shape industry standards and improve outcomes for farmers across the country.

Remembered as a friendly gentleman always ready for a conversation, Mr Lawson leaves a legacy of generosity, leadership and innovation. He will be dearly missed.

DEATH NOTICES



GANGE, Philip John.

10/02/1950 - 02/08/2025.

Cherished husband of Linda.

Adored dad of Chelsea and Melissa. Father in law of Glen. Dearly loved Pipi of Tenielle and Oscar, Bailey (dec) and Jaime. Adored Pipi the Great of his little mate, Ethan.

GOSCHNICK, Eric George (Peter). Formerly of Alexandra. Passed away peacefully aged 98, Crows Nest, Queensland. Husband of May (dec). Father of Kerri, Greg, Steven, Peter and David. Always remembered.

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MEETINGS



Eildon Events Inc.
Annual General Meeting, Thursday, August 14, 2025, 5.30pm at Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon Road, Eildon.

New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary: eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

For more information please call 0409 050 494. A normal committee meeting will follow the AGM.

MEETINGS



Upper Goulburn Community Radio

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email secretary@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.

MEETINGS



General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, August 17, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

YEA and ST PATS RACING CLUB AGM will be held at the Yea Racecourse in the club house at 6pm on Tuesday, August 26. All members and interested supporters are invited to attend. Sarah, secretary.

SITUATION VACANT



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Alexandra, Benalla, Myrtleford & Shelley

Applications are sought for **Seasonal Fire Crew** (Summer Plantation Workers) for the 2025/26 fire season. The paid limited tenure positions will run from early November 2025 to late March 2026 and will include physical outdoor work and firefighting.

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Plantation work is varied and involves **four wheel driving, spraying, assisting with helicopter fertilising operations, track clearing, mapping, fire response and fuel reduction burning!**

Current accreditations in chainsaw use, chemical use, first aid, firefighting and a MR license are favourable.

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- Applications close: **31st August 2025**



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- Drive innovation, sustainability, and continuous improvement across all areas of the organisation.
- Strengthen stakeholder relationships and community engagement.
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Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Farewell to Greenskeeper Kellan Fiske

by Lesley Rundle

THE Thursday golfers played stableford on the front nine holes and the winner was Brian Worcester (eight) with 21 points followed by Amanda Rattay (12) with 19 points. Keith Atwell won the nearest the pin on the ninth hole. Many thanks to Amanda for recording the Thursday results each week.

On Saturday Amanda and her partner Glen, having recently joined as full members, were welcomed to the Saturday competition. Conditions were perfect for golf and some very good scores reflected that. Both the men and the ladies played a stableford round and it became the ‘Mansfield Show’ with Michele (24) winning the ladies section with 38 points and her husband Brett (15) winning the men’s section with an excellent 40 points. Amanda Rattay (26) continued her good form and was the runner up for the ladies with 35 points and Steve Coker (16) was runner up in

the men’s with 38 points. It is great to see some new members at the club and to see them on the winners list. The nearest the pins were won by David Douthwaite, Peter Lilley, Jody Doran and Adam Littlejohn who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday both the men and ladies will play a stableford round. Also, next Saturday the recent fundraising raffle will be drawn and results will be written in the next weekly report.

The Working Bee on Wednesday was a success and the bank around the bowling green and the garden beds around the clubhouse now look very tidy and well mulched in readiness for the spring growing period. Other working bees will be held when necessary.

After 18 years of dedicated service to the club Kellan Fiske the course superintendent greenkeeper has decided to leave and pursue another career. Kellan’s turf management skills, dedication, vision, hard

work and commitment have been appreciated by so many people. Golfers from far and wide for many years have thoroughly enjoyed playing on the course and local non golfers have seen it as an essential community asset. Kellan’s teams of volunteers, both past and present, have appreciated his leadership and the skills he has taught them will stand them in good stead for years to come. Kellan’s final day will be on Wednesday, August 13 and he will be officially farewellled later in the year. Members wish Kellan all the best in his new role in and around the Yarra Valley.

Dates of events to be noted are the Club AGM on Saturday, September 6, the Junior Invitational event on Saturday, September 13 and the Clinics on Friday, September 26. For both the Junior event and the clinics entrants must register and details are on the club website and Facebook page.



After 18 years as Marysville Golf Club’s greenskeeper Kellan is moving on. -S



Alexandra Golfer Shane McGorlick on the sixth. -S

Small numbers don’t stop great competitions

by Dave Silverman

ONLY six competitors for last Tuesday week’s Stableford competition for Alexandra golfers, but at least it was a competition, and the weather was fabulous, a condition which was to continue for the rest of the week. James Fulton was the winner with a score of 34 points, and picked up the nearest the pin on 18 on his way to the win. Second placed Leo Dynes also claimed a nearest the pin on seven, and scored 30 points. Steve Darmody came in third with 29, and the other nearest the pin went to Frank DeVries on 17.

Last Wednesday was monthly medal day for the ladies, and it was once again a field of just six to compete for the prize.

Not for the first time, it was Donna Meggitt who sat atop the leaderboard after 18 holes had been played, her score of 87 net 73 just one clear of Judy Pearson in second. Donna also picked up the nearest the pin on five, while two went to Marg Fahey and Marie

Stace claimed 18, as well as being the nine hole winner. Barb Doyle was the best on the greens, needing just 29 putts for the 18 holes.

Sponsored by JTS Carpentry, Saturday’s Stableford competition attracted a field of 13, who teed off in the remnants of the fog, but who nearly all had their jackets and jumpers off after a few holes. The afternoon weather was just idyllic, but for one player in particular, it was a very fine afternoon indeed.

Damon Malcolm, a relative rookie compared to some of us grizzled old veterans, came in with a score of 44 points, which placed him firmly in first place, with daylight second. His nearest rival, with 34 points, was Trevor Biffin, while in third and fourth, also both on 34, were Simon Rouget and Greg Ebinger.

Luke Heard was accurate off the tees, but nearest the pins on two, five and seven only resulted in birdie, bogey and par. The other two nearest the pins went to Damon on 12 and Greg on 18.

Great turnout for Eildon’s two person ambrose

by Puttomatic

LAST Saturday on a fantastic winter’s Eildon golfers had 12 players for the two person ambrose competition.

In a fiercely competitive competition the winners were Leigh Munro and Rod Taylor with a net 64.75 coming in second John Rachcoff and Phil Dally with net 67.25 and the ball run winners John Beale and John Matthews with net 67.75.

Nearest the pin winners, no winner on the fifth, Dennis Seamer was the closest on the 11th, Ken Coller was too good on the 12th, and Phil Dally was the best on the 14th. There were no birdie drink holes this week. Sandi McLearn was entry draw winner this week and Marian Williamson was luck swindle winner.

Next week is a Stableford competition. Hope to see you at the club. Until then, take care and happy hitting.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	538.56	14	Seville	217.81	14
Pakenham	419.03	14	Pakenham	215.27	13
Alexandra	155.57	10	Warburton Millgrove	202.63	13
Warburton Millgrove	169.79	9	Yarra Glen	132.53	10
Belgrave	215.17	9	Yarra Junction	91.38	7
Yea	88.50	5	Alexandra	76.28	6
Powelltown	28.09	4	Belgrave	66.04	4
Yarra Glen	23.78	1	Powelltown	32.79	1
Yarra Junction	14.86	1	Yea	52.22	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Pakenham	242.06	13	Seville	342.14	15
Warburton Millgrove	225.82	12	Pakenham	254.47	14
Seville	205.82	12	Warburton Millgrove	159.67	11
Alexandra	127.13	9	Yarra Glen	117.34	10
Belgrave	116.21	9	Belgrave	85.10	7
Yarra Glen	89.49	7	Yarra Junction	68.25	6
Yea	80.99	3	Alexandra	53.25	3
Powelltown	39.82	2	Yea	55.65	2
Yarra Junction	25.10	0	Powelltown	38.07	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	14	Seville	328.63	15
Wandin	78.57	11	Pakenham	215.52	14
Emerald	60.71	8	Warburton Millgrove	171.31	11
Yea	50.00	7	Yarra Glen	103.24	8
Thornton Eildon	34.61	4	Yarra Junction	83.33	7
Officer	14.28	2	Belgrave	77.66	6
Seville	7.69	1	Alexandra	81.18	5
Netball – 17 and under			Yea	46.21	1
Seville	456.76	14	Powelltown	28.73	0
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.67	12	Netball – D Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	81.51	6	Seville	391.02	14
Alexandra	48.35	4	Pakenham	309.19	14
Pakenham Lions Maroon	51.35	3	Warburton Millgrove	191.87	12
Powelltown	48.75	4	Yarra Glen	86.30	6
Football – Under 18			Alexandra	75.70	7
Pakenham	1093.37	14	Belgrave	68.31	5
Seville	351.93	11	Yea	51.90	4
Alexandra	46.84	6	Yarra Junction	53.14	2
Warburton Millgrove	41.69	6	Powelltown	28.10	0
Yarra Glen	35.29	3			
Yea	36.73	2			

SPORT

Alexandra Under 18s show what's possible with passion, perseverance and community

JUST a few short months ago, the idea of fielding an under 18s team at Alexandra Football Netball Club felt like a distant dream. After several years without the numbers to make it happen, it would have been easy to let it go. But for one person, that wasn't an option.

Sam Kidd, now coach of the under 18s, brought more than just a clipboard and whistle, he brought a vision. Late last year, Sam made it his mission to bring this age group back to life. With the full support of Club President Kylie Cairns and Football Director Steven Hedger, he rallied the club, reached out to families, and started planting the seeds for something special.

In early 2025, the club hosted a meeting for interested players and parents, joined by Collingwood CEO Craig Kelly. Craig made a promise that night: if Alexandra could form a team and stick together, he'd personally welcome them to Collingwood for an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience.

At the time, they had just 12 players, barely enough to dream, let alone field a team. But Sam showed up. Week after week. He coached, encouraged, and never gave up. And the players came, one by one, mate by mate until 24 young men proudly pulled on the red, black and white.

They've since learned what it truly means to be a team. To win hard and to lose harder. To dig deep and back each other in. They've become part of something bigger than themselves and that's the real win.

True to his word, Craig Kelly delivered. Twenty players and five adult volunteers from Alexandra travelled to the Holden Centre for a day they'll never forget. Greeted by Craig himself, they toured the inner sanctum, the gym, recovery rooms, theatre, and even watched the AFL squad train. They heard

from former Ironman great Trevor Hendy, who shared powerful words on leadership and resilience. And, in a moment that meant the world, Craig congratulated the group for what they'd achieved, not just in numbers, but in heart.

There were handshakes, selfies, signed jumpers, and plenty of laughs. But more importantly, there was a sense of pride in what had been built, together.

At its core, the Alexandra Football Netball Club is about people, its about players and

its volunteers. That is the club's culture. It's about giving everyone a place to belong, to grow, and to be part of something meaningful. This under 18s story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when belief meets community, and the club couldn't be prouder.



The Alexandra under 18s in their element on their day out. -S



-S



Twenty players and five adult volunteers from Alexandra travelled to the Holden Centre for a day they'll never forget. -S

Tiebreaker tussles in windy tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

WILD winds met players on the plateau for the top of the table clash between Terip and Euroa. Thanks go to the many fill ins on the day.

In Mansfield snatches of sunshine broke through to warm players as the wind picked up. Mansfield met rivals Wappan in a ding-dong battle, while Delatite met Creighton's Creek beside them. Seven Creeks hosted Benalla in Euroa.

At Terip, Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Ruth Nolan, Mary Dewis and Robyn Johnson won two tiebreakers, but Terip took all the other sets in a blustery contest.

Terip won 4/46 to 2/30 edging closer to the ladder leader.

Seven Creeks were up against Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp Maureen Jewell and Deb Siggers. Rowena Ellis, Nicola Enright, Carmel Linehan and Mary Kelly came close in two sets, losing a tiebreaker, but Benalla had all the answers and took all the sets 6/48 to 0/19.

Creighton's Creek found themselves again in Mansfield, this week to play Delatite. Deb Seach, Chris Ellis, Ros Doxey, and Kerry Hewlett were feeling familiar and comfortably took both openers.

Delatite's Karyn Fraser combined superbly with Jo O'Brien and then with Deb Mims to

win both sets in tiebreakers. The Creeks won the others in an entertaining day of tennis.

Creighton's Creek won 4/46 to 2/24.

Mansfield hosted local rival Wappan and brought their competitive edge to the contest from the outset. Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Clare Beecham and Sophie Yencken won both opening sets in tiebreakers seven to one and 11 to nine.

Wappan's Anna Speirs, Liza Karras Rhonda Carpenter and Carol Watts would need to lift. Anna's classy ball striking, Carol's chase down skills, and Liza's tenacity to overturn a deficit, gave the team control. The pairs found form to take both second sets eight to three, the sets were tied at two all.

Michelle and Sophie won yet another tiebreaker seven to two but Liza and Rhonda were determined and at 0 to three down had to dig deep. Keira and Clare owned the net with power volleys and deft touch, but Wappan caught them, going game for game, then pulled away as Liza served strongly to clinch the set eight to six.

Wappan defeated Mansfield on games to win 3/45 to 3/36 in a fabulously even contest.

Moglonemby had the bye and picked up five points.

Round 12 Ladder: Euroa 86.5, Terip 76, Moglonemby 73.5, Wappan 68, Benalla 51.5, Mansfield 50, Creighton's Creek 36.5, Delatite 27, Seven Creeks 26.

SPORT



Sizing up options in the under 11 category. -S



The under 11 netballers played in fine conditions. -S



Under 16 player Matt Wal with a spectacular mark under pressure. -S



Under 12 player Hudson Brooks running with the ball. -S

Junior matches at Rebel Park

by AFNC

THE majority of the Alexandra Football Netball Club Junior teams were at home last weekend with under nine, 10 and 12 football and under 11, 13 and 15 Alexandra Red playing against Yea in the football and four games of netball, while the under 15 Black netball teams took on Seymour and the under 16 boys played against Mooroopna. The under 14 footballers travelled to Wandong to take on the Raiders at their home turf.

Football Under nine

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Fletcher Lynch; Canteen Voucher, Cohen Pearce; Footy Cards, Noah Knight and Darcy Simpson.

Under 10

Awards: Phil Savage Award, Nate Broadway; Essence Coffee Lounge, Logan Heard; Footy Cards, Baxter Lamaro and Isacc Kociancic.

Under 12

Alexandra 7.4-46 defeated Yea 6.7-43

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Bodhi McKenzie; Reddrops FoodWorks, Ben Strochnetter; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Sem Kijlstra; Coaches Award, Tahj Parker.

Under 14

Alexandra 7-5-45 defeated Yea 6-7-45

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Jordan Hammond; Reddrops FoodWorks, Maverick

Burchall; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Will Simpson; Coaches Award, Jaidyn Dimech.

Under 16 Alexandra 7.6-48 defeated by Mooroopna 15.17-107

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Lachlan Williams; Reddrops FoodWorks, Jayd Bennett; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Fletcher Van Lierop; Coaches Award, Logan Conway.

Netball Under 11 Development

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Alisha Abdullah; AFNC Canteen Award, Zalia Pearce; Coaches Awards, Olivia Wood and Reagan Martyn.

Under 11

Alexandra Red 6 defeated by Yea 16

Awards: AFNC Canteen Voucher, Scarlett Pearce; Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Kailya Stewart.

Under 13

Alexandra Red 35 defeated Yea 26

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Mia Bruce; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Gemma Cole.

Alexandra Black 35 defeated Seymour 8

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Zoe Collier; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Ruby Birmingham.



The under nine and under 10 award winners for the week. -S

Under 15

Alexandra Red 37 defeated by Yea 50

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Cassie Kidd; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Chloe Woehl; Coaches Award, Leah Cole.

Alexandra Black 32 defeated by Seymour 75

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Ivy Miljkovic; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Nikita Lyttle.

The club says thank you once again to all weekly award sponsors for supporting their

juniors; sponsorship each week is greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to leader of the canteen Kath Hedger but also to Amy and Rod and all the parents who continue to show up and help out in the canteen on home games. Without your support the club wouldn't be able to operate.

Next week the juniors will be on the road with nine, 10 and 12 football playing Nagambie, the under 14s playing at Broadford and the 16s will play Tongala at Kialla. The netballers will also be heading in different directions with some teams at Yea and others travelling to Seymour.

Round three of term three at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Australorps versus Silkies

JORDAN versus Lochlan: Jordan had his serves landing perfectly in the back corners and won many points that way. Lochlan fought back to win the final game but lost the match. Jordan was victorious. 77 to 54.

Laura versus Liane: Liane started off strong taking the first two games with a 17-point lead. The second half was much closer with Laura making a stand. Experience won out and Liane took home the win. 61 to 41.

Chris versus Justin: Some good running from both players. Justin had the upper hand with deep shots and court coverage for a convincing win. 89 to 47.

John versus Michael H: Keeping Michael running, John was in top form. Michael kept it close in games two and three, but John had done too much damage in games one and four, claiming the match. 64 to 47.

Leghorns versus Isa Browns

ERIC D versus Tyler: Great games with some long rallies and a few laughs. Eric finished strong, but Tyler came through with the win in the end. 68 to 52.

Sally versus Ethan: Sally has the skills. Ethan almost clinched game three but Sally

was too good taking a clean sweep of the game to close out the match. 72 to 45.

Derrick versus Andrew: The game had lots of long rallies and skilful shots. It was anyone's match. Derrick made up some lost ground in the final game, taking the game and the match. 58 to 56.

Thursday competition Whippets versus Dachshunds

MATTHEW J (fill in) versus Randy: Putting up a good fight Matthew claimed the first game. Randy made waves after game one, collecting points like it was his mission in life. Randy went home with a substantial win. 76 to 51.

Beth versus Blake: Beth had some good finishers, but Blake's serve was a killer and gained him a mass of points. Blake was the victor. 69 to 49.

Travis versus Lucas: It was two games each with each player dominating a half. Travis opened by taking the first two games. Lucas had to put in some effort to make back his deficit, and he almost made it. Travis claimed the match 60 to 56.

Phil versus Daniel W: Phil was on-form from the start. Daniel was on the run and had a hot streak in the third game, but Phil put him on the back foot, winning all four games and the match. 62 to 46.



Travis waits at the 'T' for Lucas to make his shot. -S

Golden Retrievers versus Labradors

MATTHEW J versus Eric F: Matthew had a great match which translated to points gained. Eric managed to draw the final game, but Matthew won in the end. 65 to 50.

Kristelle versus Jess: A tight match was expected and the first game delivered with Jess taking an early lead, only to be reeled in at the end. The rest of the match was all Kristelle's as her accurate serves proved too much for Jess. Kristelle powering through to win. 78 to 42.

Mick versus Sam: Sam started strong and didn't let up. Mick showed good form with flat shots that proved difficult, but Sam was up to the challenge, taking it on headfirst to claim triumph. 58 to 49.

Daniel K versus Michael M: Daniel played it cool as Michael gave it his all. Cool, calm and collected, Daniel held the upper hand throughout to claim the match with a commanding lead. 74 to 32.

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Rebels retain the Hedger/Ivey Cup

by AFNC

LAST Saturday, the teams travelled to Yea to take on the Tigers on their home turf, with both clubs competing for the prestigious Hedger/Ivey Cup.

Each year, this special event sees Alexandra and Yea battle it out for the honour of taking home the cup, named in tribute to two club legends: Alexandra's Kevin Hedger and Yea's Richard Ivey. Both men were true stalwarts of their respective clubs, and it remains a great honour to continue this meaningful tradition in their memory.

With a clean sweep in both football and netball at Yea, the Rebels once again claimed bragging rights, proudly retaining the Hedger/Ivey Cup for another year.

Reserves

Alexandra 12.7-79 defeated Yea 5.5-35

THE Reserves headed to Yea last Saturday determined to bring home a win, knowing victory would strengthen their position on the ladder and give them a shot at a double chance heading into finals.

With the match starting later in the day, both sides came out evenly matched in the opening term. At quarter time, the Rebels held a slender lead of just one goal.

The momentum began to shift in the second quarter, with the Rebels lifting their intensity and beginning to find their rhythm. By half-time, they had extended their lead to 18 points.

The second half saw the boys take full control of the game, dominating possession and capitalising on scoring opportunities. They booted six goals five to Yea's two goals three, pulling away to secure a convincing 44-point win over the Tigers.

It was a strong performance at a crucial time in the season, giving the Rebels a boost in confidence and ladder position as finals approach.

Awards: NP on The Run, Toby Ward; Future Fit Finance, Scott Hill; Alexandra Hotel, Brandon Kapakoulakis; Buxton Hotel, Nathan Dundas.

Seniors

Alexandra 9.2-56 defeated Yea 7.12-54

THE Seniors took to the field at 4pm for a twilight clash against Yea, with both teams

hungry for a win. For the Rebels, the stakes were high. Securing the four points was crucial to locking in a final's berth.

Alexandra started strongly, asserting early control with four goals to Yea's one, giving them a 17-point lead at quarter time. The Tigers responded in the second quarter, lifting their work rate and matching the Rebels across the ground. They kicked three goals five to Alexandra's three goals one, trimming the margin to just 13 points at the main break.

Both sides came out with renewed energy after half-time, but strong defensive efforts kept scoring to a minimum. Each team managed just one goal for the quarter.

Injuries began to take a toll on the Rebels. Sam Turner was ruled out for the second half, while promising young talent Riley Frankcombe battled through with a back issue, clearly restricted in his usual impact.

With the final quarter played under lights, the tension rose. Yea surged late, adding two goals four to Alexandra's single goal, bringing the margin within a kick. In a tense finish, the Rebels held on to claim a heart-stopping two-point victory.

Standout players included Tom Boots, who was once again outstanding in defence, along with fellow backmen Nathan Georgiadis and Nick Meehan, who both provided composure and strength under pressure. Up forward, Ted Watkin was a key target, presenting well and giving the team a strong focal point in attack.

It wasn't the Rebels' cleanest win, but with finals on the line, the four points were all that mattered.

Awards: Kervale Incentive, Tom Boots; O'Briens Real Estate, Nathan Georgiadis; Alexandra Hotel, Ted Watkin; Buxton Hotel Award, Nick Meehan.

Under 18

Alexandra 8.5-53 defeated Yea 5.3-23

Awards: Bowens Award, Jake Marchetti-Gleeson; Gary Warren Smith Motors, George S; ANFC Club Voucher, Harry Morley; Coaches Award, Sam Harris.

Netball

A Grade

Alexandra 58 defeated Yea 32

Incentive Award, Sarah Skehan; Corner Hotel Award, Jorja Gesler.

B Grade

Alexandra 50 defeated Yea 38

Incentive Award, Ash Frankcombe; Corner Hotel Award, Marli Coller.

C Grade

Alexandra 43 defeated Yea 34

Alexandra Hotel Award, Rose Hurrey; Corner Hotel Award, Caeley Palmer.

D Grade

Alexandra 30 defeated Yea 17

Alexandra Hotel Award, Kelsey Purcell; Corner Hotel Award, Katelyn Prendeville.

Under 17

Alexandra 17 defeated by Powelltown 24

Koala Cherries Award, Chelsea Webb; AFNC Club Voucher, Sam Fraser.

With one normal home and away round left for both the Saturday and Sunday competitions before heading into finals the club remind everyone of the below dates.

Senior Presentation Night will be held on Saturday, September 20; Junior Presentation Day is set for Sunday, September 21. Further details will be shared soon.

This week the Senior teams will travel to Belgrave, with the under 17 netballers playing Pakenham Maroon at Seville.

Dinners will continue on Thursday night with build your own burgers and happy hour and the club members draw.



Under 18 player Riley Frith moving the ball. -S



Seniors player Ben Jack lining up his kick. -S



Seniors player Nick Meehan mid-kick. -S



B Grade player Ash Frankcombe. -S



A Grade player Caitlan Haggis. -S



Troy Surkitt preparing to send the ball on its way. -S



Rob Andrews applying the pressure in the reserves category. -S