

## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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## Are Forestry Transition Grants helping forestry workers?

QUESTIONS have been raised in the community about how much the Forestry Transition Grants have been helping former forestry workers. The government was asked how many former forestry workers based in Murrindindi Shire have been employed as a result of the grants.

A Victorian Government spokesperson responded, "We're supporting forestry communities to find new local economic opportunities that will create more jobs."

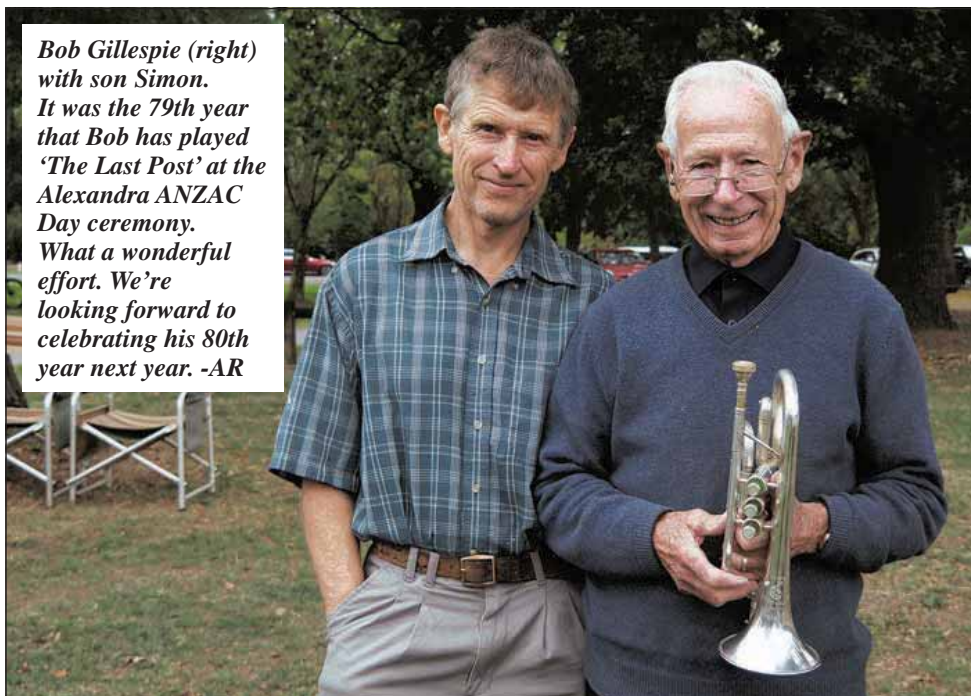
"The Forestry Transition Program has provided \$6.4 million in the Murrindindi region alone to support workers and businesses to transition or expand their operations, creating and retaining 40 jobs."

It's understood that at this time, the information available to the Victorian Government shows that the seven native timber businesses in Murrindindi Shire which have received support from the Forestry Transition Program all currently remain operational.

Thirty-seven workers have registered with the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program in Murrindindi Shire. Of these workers, 78.4 per cent (29) have remained with their employer 21.6 per cent (eight) were made redundant of which 13.5 per cent (five) are in new employment and 8.1 per cent (three) have retired.

Three grants have been approved under the Forestry Transition Fund which will create 11 jobs.

Bob Gillespie (right) with son Simon. It was the 79th year that Bob has played 'The Last Post' at the Alexandra ANZAC Day ceremony. What a wonderful effort. We're looking forward to celebrating his 80th year next year. -AR



## Alexandra schools receive maintenance funding

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes has announced that Alexandra Primary School and Alexandra Secondary Collage are two of 49 schools which will share in funding from the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP).

The program funds high-priority maintenance work across Victoria's government schools.

The funding allows schools to undertake essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as fixing roofs and replacing windows, maintaining ramps, painting, and resurfacing floors, as well as some external works like improving pathways.

Alexandra Primary School will receive just over \$18,000. Alexandra Secondary School will receive just over \$1.25 million.

Works are determined by a rolling facilities evaluation process, which provides up-to-date information on the condition of schools.

Including this latest round of funding, this program has funded \$65.2 million for 211 projects at 207 schools in 2025.

The Victorian Government has invested \$16.9 billion over the past 10 years to build new schools and deliver more than 2200 school upgrades, supporting more than 26,000 jobs in construction and associated industries.

For a list of schools receiving funding under the Planned Maintenance Program, visit [schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program](http://schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program)

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll said, "We are constantly reviewing our schools' buildings and facilities to make sure every single classroom and school building is modern, safe and engaging."

Ms Symes added, "From a fresh coat of paint in classrooms to ensuring crucial emergency shelters are in good condition, this latest maintenance blitz will ensure students have safe and modern learning spaces."

## Invisible candidates disappoint

ELECTIONS are a time for candidates to present themselves to the community, to divulge both who they are and their policies. It's about having an open democracy.

There appears to have been a disappointing trend in recent years where some candidates choose not to respond to questions and do not present themselves at forums.

Three of the Indi candidates chose not to respond to questions from this newspaper, despite having significant time to respond.

Furthermore, bearing in mind that there have been communications from within our office to the Indi candidates, there has been only one press release received from a candidate in the last fortnight. It was from Helen Haines. There have been no communications from any of the other candidates.

The Yea Candidate Forum, which was expected to be held at 6pm on Sunday, April 27, had to be cancelled as only three candidates committed to attend. There are a total of nine candidates standing for the Seat of Indi.

The Alexandra Candidate Forum went ahead. Six candidates were expected but three cancelled, meaning that there were only three candidates on the stage.

Informed voting is the exemplar of democracy, but if such information is withheld by the candidates themselves, then democracy fails and is replaced by base marketing and sound bites from party leaders. But perhaps that's what they want.

The voters of Murrindindi deserve better.

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Sunday 11 May 2025

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With breathtaking views, exquisite wines, and live music, it's the perfect way to show Mum just how much she's appreciated.

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- Infants 3 years and younger, no charge



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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING  
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison  
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo  
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary  
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey  
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS  
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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## Letters to the Editor

### Candidates forum

WE are shocked that the majority of candidates standing in the Federal seat of Indi didn’t accept our invitation to attend the *Yea Candidate Forum*, which was to have been held on Sunday evening, April 27. It was to be an opportunity for Yea locals to compare policies across the spectrum on issues that matter to us. Of the nine candidates, only three agreed to attend: independent Helen Haines, independent Mark McFarlane, and Michael White from Family First. Sadly, we had to cancel the event as this would not have provided our community with balanced information.

Is it that people don’t have policies they wish to air with voters? Are they just complacent or lacking in knowledge about questions that may be asked, or just not concerned with this end of the electorate? It’s not a good look and certainly not how a democracy works.

This event was funded by 2030Yea. No candidates or political parties provided funds. We organised this forum because we deem it to be an important step in the voting process. Not turning up is certainly a game changer in deciding who people might prefer to represent them in the Federal Government.

2030Yea Committee

### Candidates forum

A QUICK recap from the organisers of the Alexandra Candidates Forum. The count was 87 in the room in total. Great for a Sunday afternoon.

All candidates had been invited, and by Good Friday, six were definitely coming. A Black Spur calliption knocked out one candidate last week. Then two candidates pulled out on the day of the forum, far out. As an organiser, I was pretty peeved, but a sick child email at noon, and a ‘something unforeseen has come up’ apology at 1pm is just the way things roll, so the five candidates turned into three.

However this meant the audience really heard deeply from the three candidates, and it was great. And they were very good with each other, respectful, with no party slinging or put downs. Excellent manners.

Questions were broad from the floor and UGFM listeners. The candidates were in agreement on many issues, including social welfare, health and transport.

Michael White and Mitch Bridges are first time campaigners and came across as lovely genuine people. And it was great to hear first hand how Helen Haines works on decision making (through engaging with our electorate) and the things she has changed for Indi in her term.

The afternoon tea at the end was vibrant with chatter, a testament to the successful event.

Thank you to those who attended, to the organising committee from Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) and Murrindindi Climate Network (MCN), to UGFM’s Peter and Michael for the live broadcast, to Peter McKernan for sound and mikes, and especially to Bob Flowers for his calm influence as welcomer and facilitator. And to those who rallied with food.

In the name of robust discussion and hanging on to democracy.

Bev Dick, Acheron

### Candidates forum

I ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts of local press, and local community groups, to give our community an opportunity to engage with the candidates who are seeking our support to be our representative in Canberra. It’s very disappointing and an unwelcome outlook for democracy when candidates fail to submit themselves to the scrutiny of the constituency. Are all nine Indi candidates genuinely seeking to represent our community or is the aim to farm preferences? I implore candidates to genuinely engage the Murrindindi Shire

community in the final days of the crucial 2025 federal election.

Cr Damien Gallagher, Mayor  
Murrindindi Shire Council

### Political Language

IT was disturbing to hear the Leader of the Opposition describe the ABC and left-of-centre newspapers as ‘hate media’. Having an alternate point of view is a disagreement, not hatred. Using overly-aggressive language is copying the tactics of MAGA and if it continues will take us down the same Trumpian path. Civil discussion and debate at Sunday’s Candidate’s Forum brought out different ways to address societies current problems, but none included abuse and division, a far better approach to politics. Many thanks to UGFM from those of us who couldn’t make the forum.

John Walsh, Yarck

### CFA fleet

I READ with interest the article, ‘CFA’s fleet evolution over 80 years’, in last week’s edition, with interest. As a volunteer of some 45 plus years, I have driven and operated many of the vehicles described in the article including the old Austin and Willys tankers. I have also been fortunate to contribute to the design and development of Pumpers, Pumper-Tankers, and Tankers including the current new generation Light Tanker.

Unfortunately, Mr Jones’ picture of the CFA fleet fails to describe the age of the fleet and the inadequate funding available to upgrade it.

Danny says “most vehicles are twin cabbed, air conditioned and have comfortable seating.” He fails to mention the 700 plus tankers still in the fleet that are single cabs requiring crews to ride on the back exposed to the elements in all types of weather.

Continued Page 3

Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance  
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon  
UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.79	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.11am Mon	0.47	steady	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.45am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.20am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	10.27am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.75	steady	below minor
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	1.00am Mon	0.14	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.41	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.69	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.44am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2025				

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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  
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personal attacks. Submitted letters may be  
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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.

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

April 30 - May 6, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

6

18

Wednesday

6

18

Thursday

5

19

Thursday

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Saturday

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Sunday

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Monday

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Monday

13

23

Tuesday

12

23

Tuesday

12

23

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	12mm
Buxton.....	28mm
Eildon (AWS).....	13mm
Flowerdale.....	21mm
Jamieson.....	7mm
Kinglake .....	20mm
Lake Eildon .....	13mm
Mansfield.....	0.2mm
Taggerty .....	19mm
Yarck .....	11mm
Yea.....	22mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	277.67m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	61.3%
Metres below full supply.....	11.23m
Daily inflow .....	400ML
Release .....	4000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	61.4%

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES · THE YARCK, GOULBURN, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

DEADLINES

Real Estate

Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services

Thursday noon

Early General News

Thursday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

Sports Editorial

Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor

Monday 9am

Thumbsup/down

Monday 10am

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We thank you for your continued support





**THUMBS UP:** To father Mario from the Anglican Church who organised a magnificent combined church service for maundy Thursday. About 60 of us attended and Mario cooked us a delicious roast lamb dinner with help from the ladies. It was certainly a very special night. Thank you. Such a friendly atmosphere. After all we all worship the same God.

**THUMBS UP:** I would like to acknowledge Deirdre Penhale for her two hour superb presentation on her radio program on ANZAC Day. Her choice of music pertaining to the solemnity of the day, interspersed with poetry readings which included one of her own, showed warmth and empathy. Her guest on her weekly 'getting to know you' segment was also entertaining. Still a mystery where they sang together.

**THUMBS UP:** To Henri at the corner hotel for making Val's 80th birthday a memorable one. Forty of us enjoyed the venue, tasty food, entertainment and the wonderful hospitality. It was fantastic.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To people who disrespect ANZAC Day.

**THUMBS UP:** To Taggerty resident Rita Seethaler who in 2009, as a fire recovery music therapy initiative, founded the Triangle and District Steel Pan Band project. Rita has worked tirelessly as musical director of the bands and her inspiration, energy and enthusiasm have never waned. All former and current players thank Rita for giving them the opportunity to play the unique instruments and to experience what it feels like to be a member of a musical group. Over the last 15 years there have been many changes to the structure of the bands but the current one, Pans on Fire, is in great demand for gigs within the local community and further afield.

**THUMBS UP:** To the teenage girls having a go at geocaching in Leckie Park, you have potentially opened up a lifelong hobby that can take you around the world.

**THUMBS UP:** To Erin at Yea Veterinary Hospital. On ANZAC Day, my dog was in need of special care. Erin was sensitive, professional, caring and supportive. Much appreciated.

**THUMBS UP:** To council for fixing the broken kangaroo at the new playground.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the person who has already knocked off one ear.

**THUMBS UP:** To Acheron Brigade seen scrubbing their barbecue for their first ever Democracy Sausage effort on Saturday. Great to know fried onions are in the wind.

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

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## Letters to the Editor

*Continued from Page 2*

After the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, CFA was funded to replace all tankers with petrol engines or petrol driven pumps. Many of these single cabs remain in service with what is known as the ROPS area. This Roll Over Protection Seating area is open to the environment with nothing but lap seatbelts.

These vehicles don't have air-conditioning in the cab let alone on the back. The rear seating is in no way safe by modern standards and in no way considered as comfortable. These aged vehicles, which belong in a museum not on a fireground, don't have modern safety features; such as ABS, airbags, hill-start assist, nor inertia lap-sash seatbelts throughout. They might be roadworthy, but are they fit-for-purpose by any modern measure?

It is time that CFA was properly funded by government to retire all single cab vehicles. Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) estimates that this requires a commitment of \$350m, not the \$10m promised to come from the proposed new fire service levy which they claim is for volunteers. Instead of truck funding, the new tax will send precious community funds to public servants and Melbourne based bureaucracies. VFBV has determined only seven cents of every extra dollar collected will actually flow to CFA and SES combined, based on Treasury documents.

As we celebrate 80 years of CFA in 2025, we need a commitment by all sides of politics to give volunteers the best vehicles. Tankers dating back to the post Ash Wednesday era put volunteers riding on the outside of the truck in danger of heat, smoke and toxic fumes. The best present that volunteers could get after 80 years is a fleet devoid of antiquated unsafe single-cab tankers.

*Paul Denham AFSM, State Councillor,  
VFBV District 12 Council*

### New bins

I WISH to concur with the letter of the April 23 edition. We, too, have not ever needed to have our rubbish and recycling collected by the trucks that pass our address at Koriella. We are perfectly happy to pay about \$60 per year to take our small amounts of rubbish and recycling to the relevant depots, economically

combining that with a trip to town for groceries, etc. We are really peeved that we are now expected to pay \$430 per year under the new rubbish and recycling collection scheme. This is an outrageous increase of 616 per cent. We are perfectly happy having our bins at the back of the house but now they'll have to live down by the gate, looking dreadful and ugly as one approaches our driveway. Can this situation be reassessed, please?

*Veronica Hendrickson, Koriella*

### New bins

I HAVE just received three rubbish bins. I didn't ask for them. I don't need them and I don't want them. I'm an aged retiree with a long steep gravel driveway and I am not physically able to drag one of those bins up to the roadside for collection. I am now also expected to find an extra \$430 a year to pay for this unwanted and unnecessary burden.

When I rang the council offices and asked that they come and take the bins back they responded by saying that it was state government legislation and that I have no choice. To emphasise how ridiculous this stance is, council have also given some residents of Taylor Bay three bins each and these driveways are less than 50 meters from the Taylor Bay rubbish depot.

Is there anyone in council who can give exemptions to this forced ruling rather than just passing the buck and blaming the state government. It would be nice to get some feedback from the council because there are a lot of rural households that would gladly give the bins back.

I look forward to a sensible response from the council.

*Name and address supplied but withheld by request*

### Dawn service

I wake up just before my alarm and slip out of bed. My wife is sleeping and needs to rest after surgery. I get dressed and brush my teeth then head outside to attend the dawn service.

Most mornings I wake before six to go for a walk. There are only a few regulars that walk or jog at that time and the park is empty and quiet. Today as I walk in the dark there are

vehicles driving down the street and shadows of many people walking through the park.

The smell of cigarette smoke floats through the crisp pre dawn air and the puff of fresh blueberry comes from one of the shadows. The quiet is disturbed by car engines, the shuffle of feet and the bark of a dog as people gather at the memorial in Leckie Park. A crowd of over 200 people form under the big old river red gum that was there before any of the modern wars. The light from a nearby street lamp and illumination for the statue isn't enough to identify who is standing beside me. Anonymous and uncategorised we stand and wait for the service to begin.

I look up into the crown of the red gum and see the waning crescent moon above the morning star. More people join the gathering. There is a little murmuring, but most people are quiet, ready for the service to begin.

It starts right on time with the vice-president of the Alexandra RSL introducing himself. Followed by recognition we are there to remember those who have sacrificed during wars and peace keeping missions to allow us to live in a free country.

Wreaths are laid. *The Ode of Remembrance* is read and recited aloud by some scattered through the crowd. *The Last Post* is played. In the silence that follows, magpies warble, masked lapwings and red wattlebirds call and kookaburras chuckle. I think for a minute about the sacrifices that have been made so I can enjoy the freedoms I take for granted every other minute of the year.

The Australian flag is raised and the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems played. Then the ceremony is closed and people head off in the breaking dawn to go about the rest of their day.

In less than 20 minutes I paid tribute to those who have sacrificed so everyone living in this country can enjoy freedoms not available to the majority of people around the world. Opinions may differ on the value of ANZAC Day. I found it worthwhile attending the dawn service and taking a little time to be thankful.

*Lucas Russell, Alexandra*

## Democracy sausage list

DEMOCRACY Sausages are a vital part of many people's voting day, so we have compiled a list of the locations where they might be found.

There will be sausage sizzles in Alexandra, Taggerty, Marysville, Kinglake, Flowerdale (plus a bake sale) and Yea.

No snags will be available at Eildon, Toolangi or Narbethong.

Sausage status unknown for Thornton and Glenburn.



*Beautiful knitted poppies on display near the rotunda on Grant Street for ANZAC Day. -AR*

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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

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Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday  
Contact 5772 2362

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Loving Life  
118 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Contact: Ps Steven Turner  
Ph: 0413 127 283  
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*.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Movie screening of *Just a Farmer* at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm, with the movie starting at 6.30pm. The movie explores themes of love, loss and the undeniable resilience of the farming community. After the film there will be a discussion with film producer and lead actor Leila McDougall and guest Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer. Supper and

a cuppa provided. Contact Sasha to register on 0422 225 801.

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Free flu vaccinations for the farming community at Yea Sale Yards. Get your flu vax while you are at the store sale. For more information visit Yea Saleyards website or Facebook page.

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Darren Gilbert Open studio, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm each day. 5 Gilffard Street, Yea. Open at other times by arrangement 0421 378 451.

-----

Election day. All Australian citizens aged 18 years and

over are required to vote in the Federal election.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery, Eildon open day 9am-3pm. Tours, cooking demonstrations and tasting, fun, free, kids activities and more.

\*\*\*\*\*

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Yea Arts Inc are running a free Business of Art workshop in Alexandra. The first workshops in the series include photo and video essentials and social media and brand building for creatives and are led by Sam Hicks. Spaces are limited. To book a spot visit [yeaartsinc.org](http://yeaartsinc.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Yea spring drop weaner sale. For more information visit Yea Saleyards website or facebook page.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Mother's Day Luncheon at Holmesglen at Eildon. Bookings are essential for this three-course luncheon showcasing the finest local produce, and a complimentary glass of sparkling on arrival. Visit the website at [holmesglenateildon.com.au](http://holmesglenateildon.com.au) or call 5774 2631 to book.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wood raffle drawn for Rural Australians for Refugees

THE wood raffle for the Alexandra Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) was drawn at the Marysville Easter Market on Sunday, April 20. The winner of the firewood was R. Bowd.

Rural Australians for Refugees from Alexandra would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets to support the cause.

The funds raised will go towards resettling Asef, his wife Maria and their two boys, Mahdi and Shahriyar in Australia. The

family is Hazara, forced to flee persecution in Afganistan by the Taliban.

Asef has a range of skills in construction, driving and maintenance. RAR are looking for an employer willing to employ Asef for two years.

RAR Australia has branches across the country and will support the family's resettlement here.

Please contact Rev. Paul Dalzell in Alexandra if you can assist.



Neil Guscott drew the winning ticket of RAR wood raffle at the Marysville Easter Market. -S

## Health data sought

ALEXANDRA resident Marie Bristow is lobbying for an increase to services at our local hospitals and is seeking information from residents who currently need to travel outside of Murrindindi Shire for treatments.

Marie stated, "I have been pushing for better options for dialysis patients in the area. To support our push to the government to provide better health services in our community so that people don't have to travel, I require information on the numbers of local people who currently have to travel outside the area for the following types of regular treatments, such as dialysis; iron infusions; and immunotherapies for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and some cancer.

"I also need numbers of local people who currently receive dialysis in their home or who are on the waiting list for dialysis treatment," she said.

Marie can be contacted on 0439 411 816 or by emailing [mariebristow@bigpond.com](mailto:mariebristow@bigpond.com)

## Nominees in the volunteer awards

### Volunteer of the Year Nominees

CURRENT Murrindindi Shire residents aged 26 to 64 years (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Kim Travers, (Flowerdale); Ron Litjens, (Yea); Jess Kennedy, (Yea); Tamara Fowkes, (Kingslake); Lucy Collins, (Alexandra); Sarah Hopkins, (Flowerdale); Kate Rose Turner, (Pheasant Creek); Paul Michael, (Flowerdale); Kerrie Malley, (Eildon); Michelle 'Shelley' Stafford, (Buxton); Danny Heal, (Kingslake Central).

### Senior Volunteer of the Year Nominees

CURRENT Murrindindi Shire residents aged 65 years or older (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Kath Hedger, (Alexandra); Judith 'Jude' Blakeney, (Alexandra); Margaret O'Connell, (Toolangi); Julie Hardy, (Alexandra); Gail 'Dolli' Dollimore, (Marysville); Dawn Sundblom, (Yea); Robert 'Bob' Burns, (Kingslake); Judith Hard, (Yea); John Hughes, (Eildon); Neil Guscott, (Marysville).

### Community Group of the Year Nominees

COMMUNITY groups or initiatives by a group, event, campaign or movement. Individuals are not eligible for this category.

Kingslake Market, Rotary Club of Kingslake Ranges; Christmas Tree Festival Committee, Alexandra; UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc; Sacred Heart Parents and Friends Yea; Eildon Community Opportunity Shop Inc; Kingslake Mumma's Community Support Group; Murrindindi Carers' Coffee Group, Alexandra; Tri Active Life (Registered as Tri Gym Inc), Marysville; Murrindindi East U3A; Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc, Flowerdale; Kingslake Wildlife Support; The Alexandra Community Visitor Information Centre.

### Young Volunteer of the Year

CURRENT Murrindindi Shire residents aged 12 to 25 years (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Ethan Hodge, (Eildon); Thomas White, (Yea); Layla Calder, (Flowerdale).

## Murrindindi Shire Community Awards

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is getting ready to celebrate its annual Community Awards at the start of National Volunteer Week, from May 19 to 25.

From January to March, council invited residents to nominate local individuals or community groups whose volunteering efforts inspire them. They received an impressive 45 nominations across four Community Award categories: Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, and Community Group or Initiative of the Year.

These nominees are the heart of our shire, giving their time, skills, and passion to make our communities stronger, kinder, and more connected. Council thank every nominator who helped shine a light on these local legends. To see the nominees and read their inspiring stories, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/awardnominees](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/awardnominees)

Council is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Yea on Saturday, May 17, where the 2025 Community Award winners will be revealed. The festivities continue throughout the week, with free morning tea events across the shire, bringing volunteers and community groups together to connect and be honoured.

The 2025 Community Awards will be presented by Mayor Damien Gallagher. You can watch the presentations live on Facebook, council's

website, or listen on UGFM radio, starting at 6pm on Saturday, May 17. For more details, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityawards](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityawards)

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher highlighted the strength of volunteering in our community.

"The incredible nominations we received this year prove the value of our volunteers across our communities. The Community Awards Selection Panel reviewed 45 nominations, six more than last year, demonstrating more people stepping up, giving back, and making a difference," Mayor Gallagher said.

"These nominees have all made a positive impact on our communities, and we are all better off as a result. I encourage everyone to visit our website, read the nominee biographies, and see how much these wonderful volunteers have impacted our communities.

"Murrindindi Shire has nearly double the state average of volunteering participation, making it clear how deeply community spirit runs through us. I cannot wait to celebrate the Community Award winners at the start of National Volunteer Week.

"While we'll be recognising winners on the night, on behalf of the entire community, council would like to acknowledge that every volunteer in our shire is a champion," added Mayor Gallagher.

## Correction

IN the article on page 7 on April 16, it was incorrectly stated that Fairlie Joyce was holding daughter Julie in the image of the laundromat in flood. It was in fact Nicole, with Vicki and Julie being older siblings. Our apologies for the error.





# Enjoy and spoil Mum this Mother's Day

WHAT better way to say thanks and spoil Mum, show her how much she means to you and the family by enjoying Mother's Day Lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon on Sunday, May 11 from 12.30 to 4pm.

There are still a few vacancies for this relaxing afternoon with family.

A fabulous three course luncheon with pre-lunch canapes featuring local produce and all prepared in house by our catering team, and a special two course child menu for those under 12. Special dietary requests are well looked after, please pre-advise when booking.

Local musician Dave Beattie will be playing guitar and singing during the afternoon and roving Magician Nick will enhance the day entertaining both young and old with his magic.

Bookings can be made by calling the team at Holmesglen at Eildon on 5774 2631. The cost per adult is \$90, Children 12 years and under is \$30 and Infants three years and under are free.

Four star accomodation is on site if you would like to make a weekend of it and stay.

If you already have plans for Mother's Day, why not join us for our next seasonal event Christmas in July which is on Saturday, July 26, this will include a three piece band, dance floor, magician and even a visit from Santa with gifts for all those under 12.

Holmesglen at Eildon is an amazing venue in the shire, which only opens to public for its special seasonal events, owned by Holmesglen Institute (one of Victoria's largest TAFE colleges), the venue is an Award Winning Business Event venue which can accommodate up to 120 in four star accommodation.

Throughout the year the professional team of staff are exceptionally busy hosting Corporate and Government Conferences and trainings, as well as staff and students from its campuses in Melbourne who visit the Rural Retreat for their professional development programs.



*Some of the entertainment at last year's Mother's Day event at Holmesglen at Eildon. -S*

It is tucked high up on the hill just a few kilometres before the Eildon township with its 660 acres adjoining the Snobs Creek Hatchery and overlooking the Goulburn Valley with spectacular views and gorgeous sunsets. Definitely worth a visit, and renowned for its professional service and low miles ethos with locally sourced food produce.

The team has even developed its own range of produce jars including HE jams, pickles, relishes and sauces, and a recipe book featuring many of its gourmet delights, all available for sale onsite as well as a range of hampers priced from \$32 to \$100, these are a great gift for any occasion.

For more information visit [holmesglenteildon.com.au](http://holmesglenteildon.com.au)



*Attendees enjoying a wonderful feast. -S*

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can do

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**MELBOURNE  
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# ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION IN MARYSVILLE



*The march down Murchison Street. -S*



*Marysville RSL President Jim Lee. -S*



*The large crowd in attendance. -S*



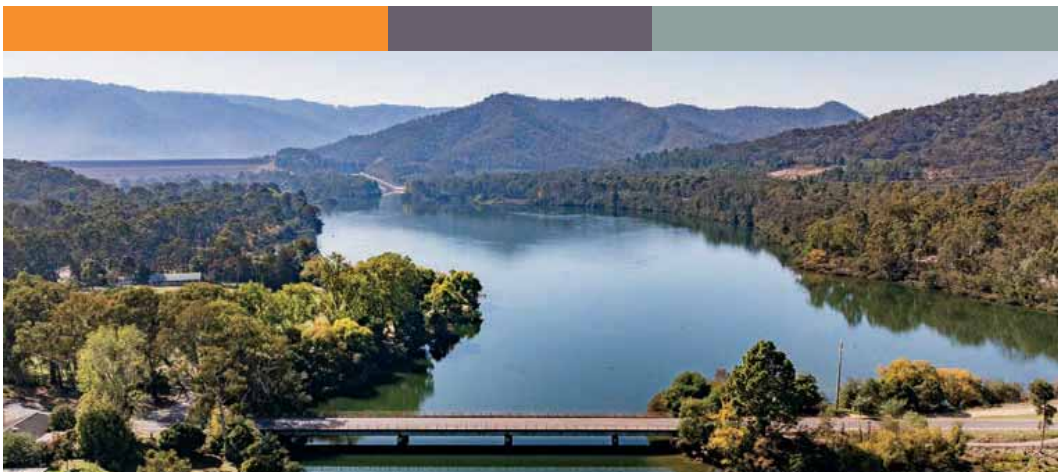
*Reverend John Jessop. -S*



*Paying respects. -S*



*Poppies at the Marysville Cenotaph. -S*



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2025/26



Every year Council prepares a Budget to fund essential services and infrastructure. This year's Budget priorities were informed by community consultation for the new Council Plan.

The draft 2025/26 Budget balances service delivery, infrastructure needs, rising costs, and limited revenue. It focuses on investing in infrastructure, improving efficiency and promoting sustainable growth.

Council will meet on Wednesday 30 April to adopt the draft Budget for public consultation, with feedback open from Thursday 1 May.

For details or to read the draft Budget, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget) or a Council Library and Customer Service Centre.

### You can provide feedback by:

- completing an online form at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget)
- submitting written feedback in person at Council's Library and Customer Service Centres or by post (Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714) or email ([msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au))
- speaking as part of Open Forum at Council's 28 May 2025 Scheduled Meeting (6.00 pm at Alexandra Council Chamber)

**All feedback must be received by Wednesday 28 May 2025.**



*Some 75 people turned out to hear the candidates speak in the Alexandra Shire Hall. -BD*

## Alexandra Candidates Forum

THE Alexandra Candidates Forum took place last Sunday at the Alexandra Shire Hall, with some of the Indi candidates appearing to answer questions posed to them by the public.

Some 75 people attended to hear their potential representatives speak and UGFM provided a live broadcast of the forum. Bob Flowers emceed the event.

Helen Haines (Independent), Mitch Bridges (ALP) and Michael White (Family First) all took to the stage.

Ben Howman (Legalise Cannabis), Mark McFarlane (Independent), Alysia Regan (Greens), Athol Thomas (One Nation), James Trenery (Liberal), and Tim Quilty (Libertarian) were apologies.

Questions fielded by the audience pushed candidates to speak on matters such as energy, immigration, foreign policy, domestic violence, cost of living, whistleblowers, the NDIS and renewables.



*Bob Flowers emceed the event, which was attended by candidates Michael White, Mitch Bridges and Helen Haines. -BD*





*Marjorie McPhail and Randall Underwood at the Eildon ANZAC Day service. -BD*



*Students from Eildon Primary School laid a wreath from the school to pay their respects. -BD*



*Mark Howard emceed the event, accompanied by John Hughes from the RSL Eildon Sub-Branch. -BD*

## ANZAC Day ceremony in Eildon

ANZAC Day in Eildon drew a large crowd to the Eildon War Memorial in Main Street to commemorate the brave men and women who fought for our country.

Mark Howard hosted the event, alongside John Hughes from the RSL Eildon Sub-Branch. They thanked people for attending, thanked the organisers and supporters, and detailed the importance of the ANZAC spirit and tradition.

Local organisations were called upon to lay a wreath at the base of the cenotaph. Cr Anita Carr from Murrindindi Shire Council laid a wreath, and a representative of Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, laid a wreath in her absence.

The Eildon RSL, Alexandra Scouts, Eildon Opportunity Shop, Alexandra Secondary College and Eildon Primary School all also laid their own wreaths during the ceremony.

John Hughes recited the Ode of Remembrance before The Last Post was played and a minute of silence was observed to pay respect to those who lost their lives in the Gallipoli Campaign.



*Wreaths laid by local community organisations. -BD*



*Sergeant Bob Derrett, John Hughes from the Eildon RSL, Senior Sergeant Noella Bannon and Murrindindi Shire Councillor Anita Carr in front of the Eildon cenotaph. -BD*



*The big crowd filled a large part of Eildon's Main Street. -BD*



*Local emergency services proudly paid their respects. -BD*



*Quite a crowd gathered to pay their respects to the ANZACs. -BD*

**SUNDAY  
4 MAY  
9am - 3pm**

**FREE EVENT**

# **SNOBS CREEK OPEN DAY**

Join us for a fun, free open day at our  
**Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery!**  
**455 Goulburn-Valley Highway, Eildon**

- ✓ Tour the hatchery, including the new Conservation Hatchery to bring back threatened freshwater species
- ✓ Cooking demos and tastings
- ✓ Aquaculture Hub with free samples
- ✓ Meet fishing expert Robbie Alexander
- ✓ Fun, free kids activities
- ✓ Take a selfie with our big fish sculpture

**SCAN ME!**



# ANZAC Day in Alexandra

ALEXANDRA'S ANZAC Day ceremonies were well attended this year, with estimates that more people attended the Dawn Service than the 11am service.

Bob Binghamy led the 11am service, welcoming the audience and reminding people of the sacrifices made by the armed forces, as well as recognising those who returned maimed, wounded or disturbed.

Wreaths were laid by various community groups, organisations, schools and representatives of politicians, and the Neil Robinson read the Lord's Prayer.

Lt Jack Reid Young from the School of Transport in Puckapunyal made the address, speaking of the honour, integrity and selflessness expected of our armed forces, and asked that people never forget the sacrifices made.

Danielle Nadj and Noah Campbell from Alexandra Secondary College then delivered the Requiem. This was followed by the raising of the Australian flag, the reading of The Ode and a minute's silence as the *Last Post* was played by Bob Gillespie. It was the 79th year that Bob has played the *Last Post* at the Alexandra ANZAC Day ceremony.

Following the hymn, *Oh God Our Help in Ages Past*, the national anthems of New Zealand and Australia were sung by the choir.

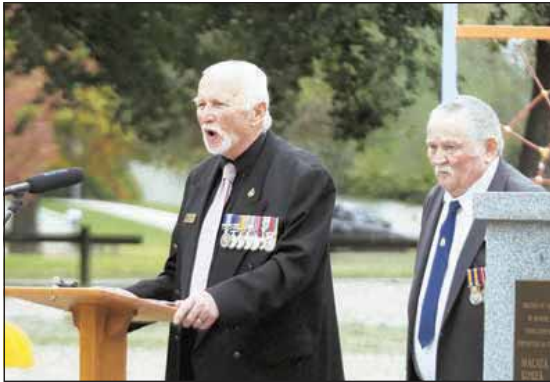
At the closure of the ceremony, Bon Binghamy noted the upcoming departure of Henry Andrews, who will be moving away from the shire. Henry will be missed, having served as president of the Alexandra Returned Services League for many years.



The march towards the cenotoph for the service. -AR



A large crowd gathered for the 11am service. -AR



Neil Robinson and Bob Binghamy. -AR



Members of the Army marching to form the guard at the Cenotaph. -AR



Alexandra Primary School students laying a wreath. -AR



Lt John Reid Young. -AR



St Mary's Primary School students after laying their respects. -AR



Members of the Alexandra Scouts with their wreaths. -AR



Mayor Damien Gallagher with father Michael. -AR



Bob Binghamy and Henry Andrews. -AR



Danielle Nadj and Noah Campbell from Alexandra Secondary College. -AR



The choir. -AR



# Do you know how to make your vote count?

## Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

**Don't worry if you make a mistake.**  
**Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.**

**Green ballot paper –**  
number **every** box in the order of your choice

State  
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

2 SURNAME, Given Names  
INDEPENDENT

3 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

7 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

8 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

1 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

5 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

6 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

4 SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

Remember... number **every** box to make your vote count

Sample ballot paper

**White ballot paper –** you can choose to vote either above or below the line

Senate Ballot Paper  
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways

**Either**

**Above the line**  
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

5 PARTY

2 PARTY

1 PARTY

3 PARTY

6 PARTY

4 PARTY

**Or**

**Below the line**  
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

8 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

5 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

3 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

2 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

6 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

10 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

9 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

12 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

4 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

11 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

7 SURNAME Given Names PARTY

UNGROUPED

1 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

2 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

3 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

4 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

5 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

6 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

7 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

8 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

9 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

10 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

11 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

12 SURNAME Given Names INDEPENDENT

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

## EITHER

**Vote above the line**  
Number **at least 6** boxes for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

## OR

**Vote below the line**  
Number **at least 12** boxes for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.

Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at [aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au)

To learn more

[aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au) 13 23 26





# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## That's a RAP: CMA commits to reconciliation

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's continued dedication to reconciliation with First Nations peoples has resulted in the completion of its third Reconciliation Action Plan.

The CMA's Chief Executive Officer, Carl Walters said the authority has a long-standing commitment to reconciliation and partnering with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities to help heal culture and Country across land, water and biodiversity.

"This commitment involves our continuing work with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Taungurung Land and Waters Council to build and nurture relationships," Mr Walters said.

"We strive to provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and increase our collective understanding and appreciation of First Nations cultures and self-determination aspirations.

"In this third edition of the CMA's Reconciliation Action Plan we have identified ways to stretch ourselves to lead and act on our commitment to reconciliation."

Planned actions include the CMA's ongoing procurement of services from First Nations businesses, planning and support for improved employment outcomes of First Nations peoples and partnering with landholders and other agencies to protect cultural heritage.

Goulburn Broken CMA board member and Yorta Yorta woman Leanne Miller was a member of the RAP working group that developed the plan.

"The Goulburn Broken CMA Reconciliation Plan builds on strong local partnerships," Ms Miller said.

"This document recognises the role we all have to play in engaging in courageous conversations and actions that challenge the status quo."

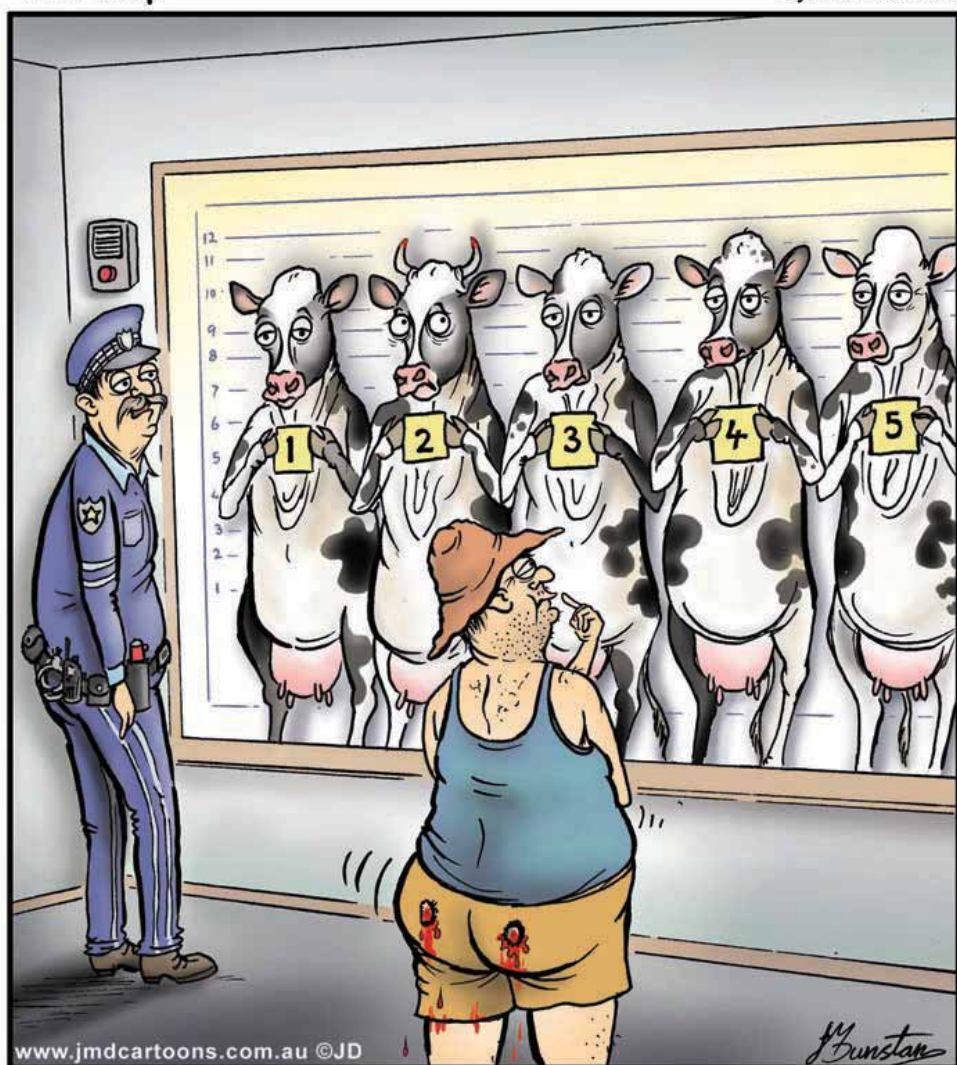
A painting by Yorta Yorta woman Tammy-Lee Atkinson, which depicts the Goulburn Broken catchment, features on the front cover of the RAP document and was recently hung in the CMA's Shepparton office.



At the commissioning of the artwork associated with the Reconciliation Action Plan at the GB CMA Shepparton office were Yorta Yorta artist Tammy-Lee Atkinson, GB CMA chief executive officer Carl Walters and the CMA's Traditional Owner Partnerships senior officer, Carla Miles. -S

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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Fri 2 May & Fri 6 June at the Yea Saleyards



Yea & District  
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Murrindindi  
Shire Council

VICTORIA  
State Government

Australian Government

YEA SALEYARDS



**YEA SALEYARDS**

*What's coming up*

2025

**2**  
MAY

**ELDERS & NUTRIEN STORE SALE**  
+ FREE Flu Vaccine

**9**  
MAY

**NUTRIEN YEA SPRING DROP WEANER SALE**

**14**  
MAY

**ELDERS YEA AUTUMN FEATURE STORE SALE**

**6**  
JUN

**ELDERS & NUTRIEN STORE SALE**  
+ FREE Flu Vaccine

**13**  
JUN

**ALEX SCOTT & STAFF – CHRIS STANLEY  
STORE SALE (TBC)**

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



# Murrindindi Shire Council's April meeting

ON Wednesday, April 23 Murrindindi Shire Council held their April meeting at the Yea Council Chambers.

There were no apologies, requests for planned leave, and no disclosures of interests for the meeting being held. There were no petitions or community recognition, matters deferred from previous meeting, or urgent business.

## Councillor induction program

THE *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* introduced new induction training requirements for councillors, and specific training requirements for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor completed the required mayoral induction training on December 12 and 13, 2024. All councillors completed their induction training on February 5.

## Council Plan Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Progress Report

EACH year the council creates a Priority Action Plan to guide the implementation of the four-year council plan. The Priority Action Plan for this financial year was approved on June 26, 2024. This item provides a progress report covering the third quarter of the year from January to March 2025. There are 68 actions in total: 66 of them are going well and are on track, one has been temporarily delayed and is being monitored, and one has been postponed due to budget constraints.

Cr Hildebrand wanted to add how there are two little tasks he is very proud of: council received 46 nominations for the community volunteer awards, and a big conversation was engaged in February and March to enable the community to input into the new council plan 2025-2029, now underway. The engagement involved five community workshops, pop up kiosks, target sessions, and a survey with 150 responses.

Mayor Gallagher questioned why one action is running slightly behind schedule and the reasons for the delay. The task is the Flat Lead Road project. It has started, just started slightly later. The site has been surveyed and laid out and ready for planting in spring. Part of delay is lack of rain and the trees have been ordered. Planting will begin between August and September.

## Landfill Environmental Monitoring Tender

THE contract to undertake environmental monitoring activities and compliance reporting for up to five years to support the operation of the Alexandra Landfill and to meet council's general environmental duty in relation to closed landfill sites was awarded.

Council contracts external consultants to undertake the environmental monitoring

activity to send samples to be lab tested and prepare reports. Reports for Alexandra landfill is reviewed annually by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to ascertain licence compliance.

## Councillor reports

COUNCILLOR Jodi Adams acknowledged the dedication of the people raising much needed funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The children loved seeing the flashing lights and volunteers. She attended Kinglake, Kinglake West and Pheasant Creek community led planning session at Kinglake Pub. Council has applied for a grant applied for to upgrade the Kinglake Memorial Reserve and recreation planning across the shire. Council will keep everyone updated with the outcomes.

Councillor Sue Carpenter spoke of the huge influx of visitors coming to Murrindindi Shire and enjoying the weather before the cold arrives. Exciting plans have been developing for Yea and Alexandra, and she attended the strategic planning community engagement sessions for Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan. It was great to see many residents come along.

Councillor Carpenter spoke about the new delivery of bins. The kerbside collection of four bin service is set to roll out soon. Community feedback has directly shaped councils' approach about the new four bin service following initial consultation in 2022 and engagement process last year, via surveys and pop-up sessions. FOGO in rural areas will remain optional reflecting the 89 per cent of respondents who already managed organic waste themselves.

Councillor Sandice McAulay also spoke about the Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan to attract families, and retirees. The Yea Structure Plan also shows that we have adequate supply of residential zone land to accommodate growth for a number of years to come. It's important to note that the structure plan is within the focus of the township land and does not include rural living. The focus of both strategies is to encourage growth and sustainability of our community.

There are ongoing issues about camping illegally for profit on private land impacting neighbours and environment. It is asked people to be respectful of neighbours and the surrounding areas. All the issues and complaints are getting followed up. Officers can't share the details of a compliance case with the person who raised it due to privacy. There have been fines and others are progressing their way to the Magistrate's Court.

Council's Community Capacity Building program has been developed to help businesses, volunteers and community

members, it is a dedicated training and development program and involves training and mentoring and networking opportunities. These will include grant writing, governance for not-for-profit organisations, etcetera.

Councillor McAulay wanted to give a shout out to the Buxton Progress Association, as they hosted Emergency Preparation sessions. This helped families to understand what to do in the first 72 hours following an emergency. It was a very informative opportunity for the community.

Councillor Eric Lording spoke about the roads and infrastructure program moving ahead as planned. The dry weather has been helpful. Regional Roads Victoria will be doing some needed works in Yea in coming weeks and delays can be expected.

He spoke about having the privilege of opening the Alexandra Rotary Art Show and over 250 people attended and purchased 20 artworks on the night.

Councillor Paul Hildebrand shared highlights and reflections of his past month around the Murrindindi Shire. One highlight was the well-attended farmers breakfast earlier in the month in Alexandra and how farmers are doing it tough with dry paddocks and lack of rain. He is hoping for solid rain for farmers soon.

Councillor Anita Carr spoke of busy Easter weekend especially in Eildon with a lot going on. She attended the football jumper presentation for Thornton Eildon women's team and mentioned the big win to kick off the season.

Mayor Damien Gallagher paid respect to his holiness the Pope Francis on his passing. He extended his thoughts to the faith communities. He spoke about his feeling of sadness and sorrow of the passing of local man, Bruce Luckman, who passed away on April 7 and how he extends his condolences to Lynn and the Luckman family.

In recent times, the mayors, CEOs and delegates from across the region came together in Flowerdale for an assembly of the Taungurung Local Government Forum.

Artists of all genres has been on the agenda this last month with the *Beyond the Beats* event in Eildon that celebrated young and emerging performing artists, while sculptures were on display in the gardens of Marian Rennie, and the Rotary Club of Alexandra hosted the annual Easter Art Show at the Alexandra Town Hall.

Mayor Gallagher hopes residents and visitors pause on ANZAC day to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australians in the defence of this country.

Mayor Gallagher speaks of the campaign representing Murrindindi Shire in the Federal election advocacy, asking for a fair go for

our community and calling for investment commitments in our region.

"As the Federal election campaign has progressed, I have appreciated the discussions about democracy itself. Democracy doesn't thrive in noise, but in the quiet steady work of bringing people together, of disagreeing with respect and focusing on outcomes and not outrage. The Murrindindi Shire community famously moderates itself, it values respect, reason and local problem solving, people are tired of the negativity, they are fatigued by the noise and increasingly sharp edge of public discourse. We need our elective representatives, all of us to set a higher standard. This is the moment that leadership unites and not divides," he said.

CEO Livia Bonazzi was pleased to report council has received \$320,000 through the Forestry Transition Program. This funding will support two key projects. \$200,000 for progress innovation areas identified by community from Shaping Murrindindi's strategy, and \$120,000 to support a health and aged care work force strategy addressing workforce shortages and access challenges in rural communities.

In round two in the Forestry Transition there is a \$20,000 incentive for businesses to employ a former timber worker. Please see the state government website for information regarding what different rounds are for.

In relation to the upcoming new kerbside collection service, the bulk roll out of the bins is substantially complete and council are assessing the need for extra from members of the community with the need such as medical exemptions.

The draft budget for 2025-26 is available to view on council's website. There will be a special meeting of council in Alexandra on Wednesday, April 30 to adopt the new budget. Once endorsed community can provide feedback on the following day and community members are invited to provide submissions in writing or in person at council meeting on May 28. This helps shape priorities the year ahead. The plan to present the new budget will be at council meeting on June 25.

At the March council meeting Mr Garry Angus and Mr Charles Exton raised concerns in the public forum about the Carey Road development in Killingworth and made reference to perceived delays and possible irregularities in council's planning process relating to this development. "Officers have undertaken a review and I can confirm no irregularities were identified and planning permit was issued well within the statutory period in 35 days once the applicants submitted all necessary information," Ms Bonazzi said.

## Come take a tour at Snobs Creek Open Day

THE iconic Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery near Eildon will have its doors thrown open to fishers of all ages at its annual open day on Sunday, May 4 from 9am to 3pm.

Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling said the free event would draw a big crowd of keen anglers going behind the scenes to learn how fish are grown at the facility, which first opened in 1948.

"Our Snobs Creek hatchery is a truly impressive facility with a rich history. The open day has something for everyone, whether you've been fishing for years or you're a parent trying to get the next generation hooked," Mr Dowling said.

"We encourage families to make a weekend of it by combining a visit to Snobs Creek with casting a line into Lake Eildon, the nearby pondage or the Goulburn River to make some magic memories together."

A wide variety of species are grown at Snobs Creek, from the beloved Murray cod to threatened trout cod and Macquarie perch, brown and rainbow trout and the facility boasts the only captive breeding population of Chinook salmon in Australia.

Work on a new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre will begin soon as part of a \$15 million investment from the Victorian Government into facilities at Snobs Creek and Arcadia, enabling hatchery staff to produce more 'Maccas' and trout cod.

Fishing-mad families can embark on self-guided tours, asking questions of expert hatchery staff along the way about all aspects of fish production, from counting eggs to monitoring tiny larvae and learning what fingerlings are fed before being released into Victorian waters as part of the record-breaking fish stocking program.

Work to recover threatened species will be highlighted at the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery which is establishing populations of at least 10 threatened species in 10 years.

Victorian Fisheries Authority staff and the team from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute will be on hand inside the state-of-the-art facility which opened in early 2024.

Leaders from the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network will share fishing tips as well as how they are fostering inclusion to get more women involved in the pastime.

A sensory activity for kids from Festive Tribe includes the RiverScape Eco Play Space, with the aim to inspire observation and an empowered sense of care of the natural world.

With even more activities in store, you can find more information on what the Snobs Creek Open Day at [vfa.vic.gov.au/snobsopenday](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/snobsopenday)



Hatchery Tours at the Snobs Creek open day. -S



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 14

KID'S PUZZLES

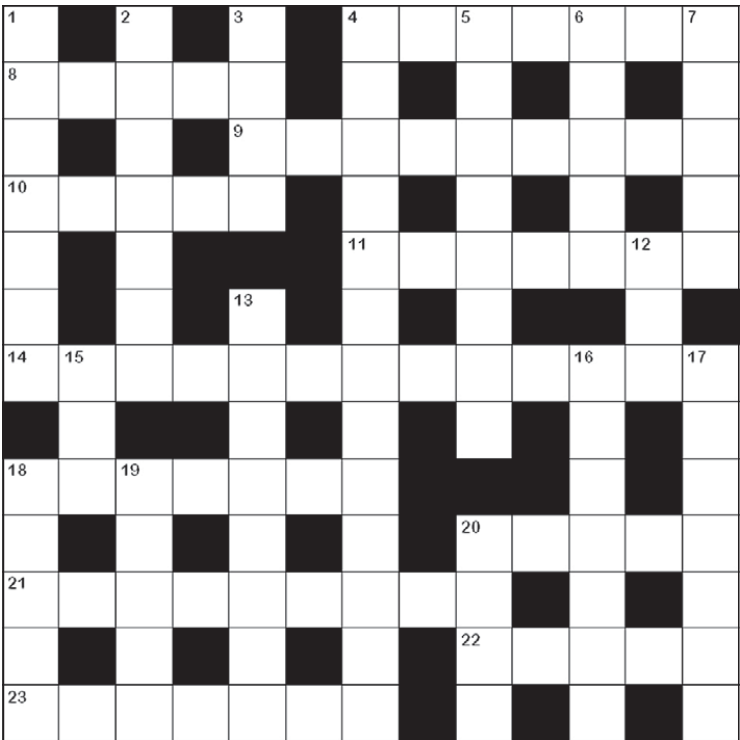
Crossword

ACROSS

- 4. Men's neckwear.
- 8. Cud-chewing mammal.
- 9. Referred to.
- 10. Put into systematic order.
- 11. Promote in rank.
- 14. A configuration of stars.
- 18. Lacking imagination.
- 20. Deliberate deception.
- 21. Childlike behaviour.
- 22. Collect funds.
- 23. Reduce in length.

DOWN

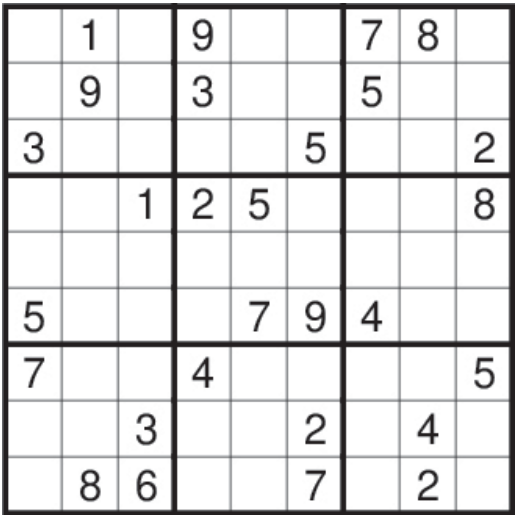
- 1. Stretchable fabric.
- 2. A dissenting clique.
- 3. Light fixture.
- 4. Unable to reflect.
- 5. Mythical Greek monsters.
- 6. Athlete's foot.
- 7. Give abilities to.
- 12. As well.
- 13. Gained with effort.
- 15. Wooden paddle.
- 16. Falsely based.
- 17. Strips of pasta.
- 18. Dessert apple.
- 19. Make available.
- 20. Flowerless plant.



Word Search

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

Sudoku



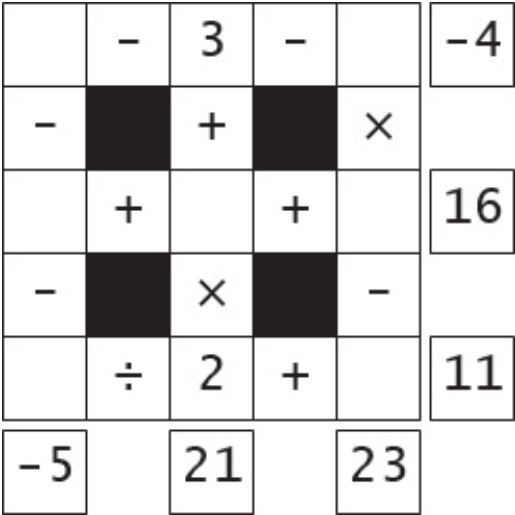
Outer Space

- ASTRONAUT
- PLUTO
- ATMOSPHERE
- SATURN
- EARTH
- SOLARSYSTEM
- GALAXY
- SPACESHIP
- MOON
- UNIVERSE
- NEPTUNE
- ZEROGRAVITY

Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Colouring Page



www.CuteColoringPagesForKids.com

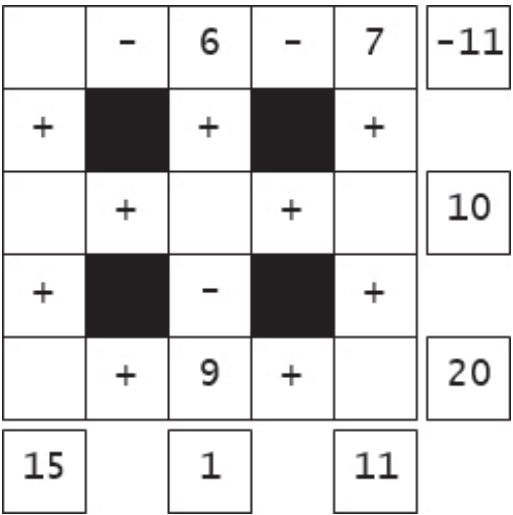
Word Search

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

Words starting  
with "B"

- BACKYARD
- BICYCLE
- BALL
- BLANKET
- BALLOONS
- BREAD
- BANANA
- BROCCOLI
- BASKETBALL
- BROTHER
- BEACH
- BUBBLE
- BEAUTIFUL
- BUNNY

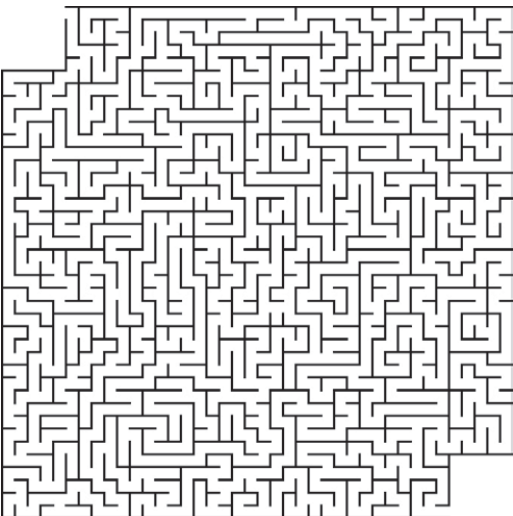
Math Square



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numbers between 1 and 9.  
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Each row is a math equation.  
Each column is a math equation.  
Remember that multiplication  
and division are performed before  
addition and subtraction.

Maze



Jokes

- Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?  
A: Because 7, 8, 9.
- Q: Why do bananas  
wear sunscreen?  
A: Because they peel.



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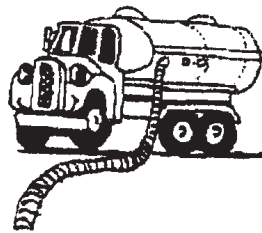
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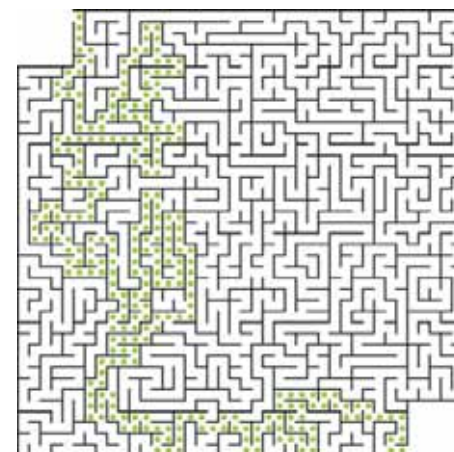
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A	C	M	E	N	T	I	O	N	E
S	E	T	U	P	R	M	E	U	
T	I				E	L	E	V	A
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C	O	N	S	T	E	L	L	A	T
A									
P	R	O	S	A	I	C			
R	F	I	T						
I	N	F	A	N	T	I	L	E	L
M	E	E	V						
A	B	R	I	D	G	E	N	D	S

**SUDOKU**

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

**MATH SQUARES**

4	-	3	-	5	-4
-		+		x	
1	+	9	+	6	16
-		x		-	
8	÷	2	+	7	11
-5		21		23	

**MAZE****KIDS MATH SQUARES**

2	-	6	-	7	-11
+		+		+	
5	+	4	+	1	10
+		-		+	
8	+	9	+	3	20
15		1		11	

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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

### DEATH NOTICES

**STRATOURIDES, Savoulla**

13/05/1965 -  
15/04/2025

A beloved member of the Alexandra community for many years, her smiling face and cheeky personality will be sorely missed by many. A memorial will be held in Alexandra, please ring 5772 2116 for details. RIP Sav. From Denise and all the staff at McKenzie Street.

### IN MEMORIAM

**O'CONNOR, GERARD (Gerry).** 17/08/1932 - 29/04/2010. It is now 15 years since you were called by God and his angels to lead you in to his heavenly home to be with your parents and your brothers and sisters. Gerry, I thank you for the 50 years we shared together along with our sons, Maurice, John, Martin, Brendan, Francis, and Christopher. I hope we can enjoy a cuppa in God's heavenly garden. My love forever, Peg, your Maggie.

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### MEETINGS

**ALEXANDRA Bowls Club AGM** will be held at the club rooms on Sunday, May 18 at 11am. Presentations and barbecue to follow.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**ROTARY Alexandra Art Show.** Raffle winner, Amanda Dean (Julian Bruere painting). Second, Karen Jarvis (accommodation at Summerlands). Third, Libby Gobbart (hamper). Fourth, Sharon Hedger (hamper).

**WINNER Alexandra RAR** wood raffle drawn March 20. R Bowd Alexandra blue ticket B98.

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## What do you do with a noisy neighbour?

WHEN the peace is disturbed when you're at home from noisy neighbours, what do you do? Confront them? Go above them, or just live with it? Knowing your rights and when you stand with noise complaints is a good starting point.

The Environment Protection Act 2017 says it's an offence to make unreasonable noise from a residence. A residential property includes any land, building or outbuilding used in connection with a residence. This includes driveways, sheds and workshops.

It doesn't include land when construction, demolition or removal of a residence is being carried out, unless it is maintenance or repair of an existing building.

Depending on the source of the noise depends on where you make your complaint to. Any commercial or industrial noise coming from places such as restaurants, supermarkets, and commercial construction needs to be reported to the EPA or local council.

For residential noise and residential construction noise such as air conditioning, pool pumps, parties and stereo systems, and home construction work you need to notify council or Victoria Police for after hours response.

In the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, it lists prescribed items and the regulations lists the prohibited hours in the day these items can't be used and this extends to someone in another house in a habitable room can hear the items.

The prohibited times in the regulations don't apply when using equipment in an emergency, or your air conditioner during a Department of Health and Human Services heat health alert day.

For those noisy neighbours who love for the whole neighbourhood to hear what music they are playing, any musical instruments and electrical audio goods such as radios, stereos and televisions cannot be heard on Monday to Thursday before 7am and after 10pm. Friday is before 7am and after 11pm. Saturday and Public holidays before 9am and after 11pm and on a Sunday before 9am and after 10pm. If the music continues outside these times, contact local police or report them to council in business hours.

## Exotic animal trading crackdown

**AGRICULTURE** Victoria is leading a crackdown on an illegal network trading in exotic pest animals, with the aim of preventing serious biosecurity breaches with a joint operation alongside the Conservation Regulator and Crime Stoppers called Operation DJANGO.

So far, six people have been prosecuted to date, and two others have received infringement notices with fines totalling \$105,600. This includes the two largest fines ever issued under Victoria's *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, with one offender fined \$54,000 with conviction.

To date Operation DJANGO has seized eight African pygmy hedgehogs, two boa constrictors, one ball python, one sulcata tortoise, one green iguana, two Indian star tortoises, and one Chaco tortoise.

Operation DJANGO Project Manager Adam Kay said illegal animal traders are becoming more sophisticated and dealing with an increasing number and variety of species.

## New RDA Chair appointed to lead Hume Regional Development Australia

**HUME** Regional Development Australia (RDA) has appointed a new RDA Chair for Hume and is recruiting new committee members.

RDA Chair Brett Luxford will support the Hume region as one of six RDA committees across the state with the goal of delivering economic success across Victoria by linking government, businesses and communities together.

Brett is an experienced local government professional having held various leadership positions across rural, regional and metropolitan councils in economic development, strategic planning, partnerships and governance.

Most recently, Brett finished a four year tenure as CEO of Mitchell Shire Council where he delivered critical infrastructure

Noise enforcement officers consider the complaint with its volume and intensity, time and place, circumstances, how long the noise continues and how often it occurs.

If it's a noisy dog that's interrupting the peace, under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, council's community law officers can investigate and prosecute if need be.

According to Murrindindi Shire's webpage, it's an offence for the person living in the house to let their animals make persistent noise that disturbs people.

If you're being disturbed by noise from barking dogs, council recommends taking the following steps. This includes speaking to your neighbour to resolve the issue in the first instance. In many cases they may not know their dog is barking. Ensure you find out where the barking is coming from, to enable council to respond.

If you are unable to resolve the barking issue with your neighbour, you can report it to council by completing the online request form on council's barking dogs page or contact council's Community Safety Unit on 5772 0333.

If noise is an ongoing problem with your neighbours there are some methods to rectify the issue before taking the matter further. See if the issue can be resolved by speaking to the person or business creating the issue, as they may not be aware that they're causing a problem.

If you feel your neighbours aren't approachable with your noise complaint or you're just unsure about them, it's also fine to skip that step and speak to council or police.

If you want to make a report to council about residential noise, council advises the use of the Noise App. This app is free and available for Apple and Android phones. This handy apps records the samples of noises that you are reporting including the date and the time. It allows you to tell council how loud the noise is and where its coming from and how it affects you. This app allows you to take multiple recordings to show council the issue is ongoing. This method helps council investigate the issue at hand.

"We are cracking down on this illegal trade that puts a serious risk to native wildlife and often causes severe cruelty to animals."

"When smuggled into Victoria without proper quarantine, exotic animals can carry diseases that may spread to local wildlife, pets, and even humans," Mr Kay said.

Operation DJANGO also uncovered the illegal trading of native animals such as the saltwater crocodile, freshwater crocodile, green tree snake, olive python, and the Darwin carpet python.

Wildlife trafficking is the fourth-largest organised crime globally, worth over \$450 billion a year, according to the Wildlife Crime Research Hub.

The maximum penalty for illegally importing, possessing, or selling exotic pest animals in Victoria is a fine of up to \$95,000.

If you have information about the illegal trade of native wildlife or exotic pests, contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

projects and secured major investments while guiding the council through significant challenges including the 2022 and 2024 major flood events.

Outgoing RDA Chair Eliza Brown has served the Hume region for three years, helping pave the way for RDA's valuable work to strengthen regional Victoria's prosperity.

RDA Hume is focused on identifying solutions to address housing shortages, supporting local business and industry with growth and workforce demands, promoting the region's unique tourism offerings and investment opportunities, and advocating to the Australian Government on critical local issues, opportunities and challenges.

Applications for RDA committee member positions are open until today, Wednesday, April 30 at 5pm.



# Voting accessibility challenges

VOTING is compulsory, and for many this is a simple process, however for people with accessibility requirements, some further research into the facilities at the various polling stations is needed.

Exploring the different options available at the shire’s polling stations does raise some wheelchair accessibility issues, and it’s hoped that works will be carried out in the future to make these facilities more wheelchair friendly.

### Hearing

Virtual Auslan interpreters are available at all of the polling locations in Murrindindi Shire. To access this, voters will need to use the Convo Australia app, and by scanning the QR code on the poster at the polling location.

Virtual Auslan interpreters are also available at all early voting centres, however there are none of these in Murrindindi Shire.

All voters are welcome to apply for a postal vote online if preferred. To find out more, visit [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)

### Vision

No text to speech pens are available in Murrindindi Shire voting locations. These pens help voters by reading text out loud.

People who are blind or have low vision can cast their vote using the Australian Electoral Commission’s telephone voting service. Call 1800 913 993.

### Sensory conditions

Alternative voting rooms, for people with sensory and sensitivity conditions, are available at five locations, Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Toolangi, Marysville and Narbethong. This unfortunately means that some driving will be required away from the two major population centres of Alexandra and Yea.

### Wheelchairs

Only Kinglake and Narbethong are wheelchair accessible without assistance. In both Narbethong and Kinglake, only one parking space is compliant with Australian standards. In Narbethong, there are no other designated accessible parking spaces available, and in Kinglake, there are other designated accessible

parking spaces available.

Assisted wheelchair access is available at Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Ruffy, Alexandra, Eildon and Marysville.

Accessible parking is also available at Flowerdale, Yea, Alexandra and Eildon.

If the voter is unable to enter the polling place because of any condition that prevents them from entering the polling place, they should call the 132 326 number to advise of their approximate arrival time to their chosen polling place. The Officer in Charge will be notified of this and will attend to the voter at their vehicle.

### Assisted voting

If you need assistance to vote, you can ask someone to help you. Polling place staff are trained to assist you, or you can nominate a friend, relative or another person.

### Dementia

People in the early stages of dementia, who are still capable of understanding the nature

and significance of enrolment and voting, may be able to continue to enrol and vote. Further information for people with dementia and their carers is available via this link: [aec.gov.au/About\\_AEC/residential-care.htm](http://aec.gov.au/About_AEC/residential-care.htm)

### Residential facilities and hospitals

Mobile voting is an in-person voting service delivered by AEC staff. Mobile voting teams will visit many people who can’t travel to a polling place including people living in residential facilities for people with disability, residential aged care, and in some hospitals and mental health facilities.

### An additional note about clothing

It is also worth noting that the AEC does not regulate what voters wear, as long as it’s not directing people to vote a certain way. Such clothing is forbidden within six metres of the polling place. Often polling officials will simply request that the person cover the clothing in question while they cast their vote.

## More changes at Lake Mountain

FURTHER changes have been announced for Lake Mountain’s winter season this year.

In an announcement posted on April 24, their website states, “Following on from the 2024 snow season and the significant changes implemented during this time, we will be continuing these changes, along with introducing some others.

“The newer changes for the 2025 snow season include no ski lessons or ski hire on resort, the resort will now be cashless, and the toboggan tickets will now include the use of a compliant Lake Mountain toboggan.”

It’s understood that Lake Mountain has been purchasing toboggans from ski hire shops in the local area.

In the 2024 season, the price for tobogganing was \$20 per adult with children aged under five free. Toboggan hire was \$15 per day.

In the 2025 season at Lake Mountain, it’s \$67 for a vehicle with up to eight seats and \$30 per adult or \$40 with a child. Toboggan hire included.

For comparison, at Mount Buller, a toboggan wristband is \$20, with children under one metre tall free with a paying adult. The pass includes toboggan hire.

At Falls Creek, a 50 minute session costs \$10 per person, not including toboggan hire. Adults must accompany children aged three and under or under 135cm talk. Toboggan hire on the mountain is \$15 to \$17.

At Mount Hotham, toboggan hire is \$15.40 but access to the toboggan field is free.

At Baw Baw, the cost is \$20 per person (BYO toboggan) or \$40 for toboggan hire and pass.

In all cases, the access cost to enter each mountain is \$67 per day for 2025, up from \$64 in 2024.

Last year’s changes at Lake Mountain included closing to the public every Tuesday and Wednesday outside of school holidays. This change will remain in place.

The announcement also stated, “Lake Mountain is finalising a partnership arrangement for the cafe this winter. Please monitor our social media channels for an impending announcement.”

In the March update, Lake Mountain advised that Dean De Santis, former Lake Mountain general manager has transitioned a new role as general manager at Falls Creek.

Callum Brown is the new general manager at Lake Mountain Alpine Resort. The announcement states, “Callum has held senior roles within alpine resorts for over a decade, including at Falls Creek and most recently as Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV)’s Head of Assets Portfolio Management working across all resorts. Callum grew up in Marysville and has a strong attachment to the region. He will be based in town and looks forward to working more closely with the Lake Mountain team, the local community and visitors.”

Alpine Resorts Victoria were questioned about whether staff will continue to be accommodated in Healesville during the winter season, the reason for the increased prices at the toboggan field given that it was already the highest in the state, and given that local hire shops will no longer receive toboggan hire income whether the cross country ski runs will be groomed. No answer was received by the time this edition went to print.

## Call to address ‘ghost camping’

CARAVAN and Residential Parks Victoria has called on the Victorian Government to urgently address problems with its free camping policy and expand the initiative to include regulated parks to reduce the growing issue of ‘ghost camping’.

They stated that the April school holidays, and Easter long weekend, again saw state government free camp sites remain near empty, resulting in significant economic losses for regional communities and frustration among genuine campers. Unlike unregulated free camps, privately operated caravan (tourist) parks operate under strict regulation and offer safe, affordable and family-friendly camping experiences with access to clean amenities, emergency infrastructure and professional onsite staff.

They also pointed out their vital role in regional economies, with tourist parks accounting for over 50 per cent of overnight stays in regional Victoria, contributing \$2.4 billion in economic value to the state, and supporting 17,000 jobs.

The organisation said that since December 1, 2024, private tourist parks have been operating in an unfair market, forced by the Victorian Government to compete with free, unregulated camp sites, eroding private park occupancy rates, revenue and profitability.

Caravan and Residential Parks Victoria CEO Scott Parker provided the Minister for Tourism Steve Dimopoulos with several options to support private tourist park businesses and the thousands of private park campers who have sought the same financial benefit as those camping for free in Parks Victoria campgrounds.

“If the goal is to make outdoor holidays more affordable and accessible, regulated tourist parks must be part of the solution,” Mr Parker said.

“For example, providing campers in private caravan (tourist) parks with a voucher worth a similar discount to that which the government is providing campers in their own unregulated campgrounds would give Victorians more choice, provide much greater support for our small business operators and avoid some of the waste created by a poorly managed free booking system.”

“Victorians would be able to redeem camping credits at either public sites or our regulated member tourist parks,” Mr Parker said.

## Hour with an Ambo

AN Hour with an Ambo will be held at the Eildon Information Centre on Tuesday, April 29 at 10am. The April topic will be respiratory conditions.

There will be a short presentation by a health professional. This is a valuable free service for our community and free health checks are offered. Morning tea will be provided.

## Planned burns progress update

FOREST Fire Management Victoria were asked how the recent planned burning is progressing in the Murrindindi Fire District.

Forest Fire Management Victoria, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy said, “Planned burning is part of our long-term strategy to reduce bushfire risk for people, property and the environment.

“It’s not just about a single burn, or a single year, but an ongoing process aimed at creating a strategic network of fuel reduced areas on public land.

“So far this year, across the Hume region, we have ignited 45 burns covering an area of 26,737 hectares.

“Specifically in the Murrindindi District, nine burns have been ignited, fuel-reducing 4200 hectares of public land.

“Without planned burning and other bushfire risk management works, bushfires will be bigger and harder for our firefighters to control.

“We look for opportunities to deliver our bushfire risk management program all year round, when it is safe to do so.

“Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable.”

## Accessibility at school polling locations

THERE is only one polling location in each of the shire’s two largest towns. They are located at Yea Primary School and Alexandra Secondary College.

The former provides no wheelchair access to the polling station and the latter provides assisted wheelchair access only.

Given this, the Department of Education was asked to provide further information about wheelchair access in public schools, and what actions are being undertaken to ensure equitable access for students requiring wheelchairs, as well as for the additional services which schools provide, such as providing polling locations.

A Department of Education spokesperson responded, “Every child deserves the opportunity to fully participate, learn, develop and succeed at school.

“The Victorian Government’s \$1.6 billion Disability Inclusion reform is helping every school deliver an inclusive education experience for every student with a disability or additional needs.

“The Victorian Budget 2024/25 provided an additional \$15 million for the Victorian School Building Authority’s (VSBA) Accessible Buildings Program (ABP). The Accessible Buildings Program ensures that eligible students, staff and members of the school community with disability have equal access to and can benefit from school facilities.”

The Accessible Buildings Program (ABP) is run annually and is an application-based program which facilitates reasonable adjustments to school facilities.

Applications to the ABP are assessed on a case-by-case basis as the issue emerges for the relevant individual/s. This is due to the varied nature of accessibility requirements for eligible members of the school community with disability.

The Victorian Government promotes inclusive learning and teaching environments, including equal access to modern and functional school facilities that enable students and staff with disability to participate in regular school activities.





*The view across the stream to the cars parked by the house. -BD*

# Inaugural Car Classic on the Goulburn a hit

THE inaugural Car Classic on the Goulburn Show and Shine took place last Sunday, being well-attended by both the public and classic car owners.

Hosted by Friends of Kellock, the event was designed to raise funds to support Kellock Lodge.

There was a food and coffee van on site, and members of the public were able to wander around admiring the cars, having a bite to eat, and chatting with car owners.

The weather was perfect for the event, with sunny skies and no rain. It made the cars gleam while on display.



*A row of classic MGs parked all together. -BD*



*Rod Hanscomb with his 1964 EH Holden. -BD*



*The wide variety of colours and models on display at the event. -BD*



*One of the rows of cars for people to admire. -BD*



*An old Lotus car with the classic green and gold paint job. -BD*



*Members of Friends of Kellock were running the barbecue and serving food at the event with a smile. -BD*



*Some of the cars had their bonnets open for people to admire the engines underneath. -BD*



SPORT

# Second round of Barton Cup complete

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday in dry autumn weather and after some welcomed overnight rain, both the men and the ladies played a Stableford round and the men played the second round of the Barton Cup.

The men’s winner was Colin Davies (26) with an excellent 42 points followed by Mark Bamberry (24) with 37 points. Colin, Mark, Richy Clark and Steve Coker will join the first round winners Ray Jones, Paul Martin, Andrew O’Shea and Travers Stow in the Barton Cup final later in the year. The ladies’ winner was Gail Leigh (11) with 39 points and the runner up was Heather Jenkins (17) with 33 points. Gail also won the nearest the pins on the ninth and 18th and the Golden Shot. No player was able to reach the green on the fourth hole leaving just the 11th for Richy Clark to win. Next Saturday a stroke round will be played for the May monthly medal and the ladies’ game will include round three of the Barton Shield. Member and visitors are reminded

that the Saturday competition is a 9.30 arrival for a 10am tee off.

Last Thursday Marysville hosted the Dalhousie District Veterans event with 40 players enjoying the Marysville course and scenery. Local knowledge was possibly an advantage with Marysville member Brian Worcester (29) winning the A grade competition with 39 points. The next Veterans event will be played at Euroa on Thursday, May 15 and on Monday, May 19 the veterans interzone competition will be hosted by Strathbogie between Dalhousie, North East and Goulburn Valley Districts.

On Sunday the Marysville mixed Pennant team played in the Dalhousie Division Two Handicap section, played Whittlesea at Eildon. The Marysville team were thrilled to win the match three to two and gain a place in the Division Two final against Yea at Woodend on Sunday, May 4. Members and friends wish the team all the very best in the finals. The ladies’ Monday Pennant session started on Monday, April 28 with Marysville playing Yea at Yea. Results will be given next week.

## April monthly medal wraps up

by Puttomatic

LAST week was the April monthly medal and 19 players turned out on what was a fantastic day to play golf. The club welcomed two newer players, John McMillan and Jamie Duursma to compete for this month’s monthly medal. The course keeps on improving and with the latest rain the fairways are greening up quickly and the course is playing greatbut it never stops throwing up challengers to the players.

The winner on Saturday was Rod Taylor with this months A grade and April monthly medal winner with a net 68, with Kerry Power coming in second with net 72 followed by Mark Mackwell net 72. B grade winner Colin Long with net 70, followed by Ian Lakeland net 76 and Dennis Seamer net 78.

Nearest the pins this week, second shot on the third was Alison Southwell, fifth Rod Taylor, 11th and 12th Kerry Power and 14th Alison Southwell. Other winners, the entry draw was won by Rod Taylor, Kevin King had a crack at the Swindle draw and Don Reid had a carryover draw of the Joker and Col Long had a go at this week’s Joker.

This Saturday on May 3 is our Smedley Memorial day; the competition is a Stableford Four Ball Best Ball BYO partner. The club values all the work of our past players and founders have done for our club. These memorial days are highly valued so if you can please come and celebrate our history and passed players please do so.

Congratulations to all our winners and we hope to see you at the club.

# Alexandra golfers make the most of autumn weather

by Dave Silverman

THE weather had taken on a decided autumnal feel last Tuesday, when 13 men came to play. Len Jenkins was the runaway winner, his very creditable 42 points well clear of second placed Steve Darmody, who had 39. James Fulton came in third with 37.

John Greatorex took nearest the pin on seven, our winner Len took out 17, and 18 went to Brad Newton. Greato also claimed a voucher in the rundown, as did Nigel Waterhouse and Graeme Emmerson.

On Wednesday, in nice, fine weather, 10 ladies signed on to play a stroke round. Donna Meggitt was the winner, with an impressive 83 net 68. Second place went to Ruth Worland with a net 71, and Helen Findlay came in at third spot with a 73.

Ruth was obviously hitting accurately, as she claimed the nearest the pins on two and 12, while seven went to Barb Doyle. The nine hole comp winner was Marion Williamson with a net 39.5.

Sponsored by Fallons, Saturday’s Stableford competition attracted a small, but high quality field of 15, spread out over two tee times, a sure sign that the football has started up again.

Lennie Jenkins was the winner with 39 points, with Russell Purcell hot on his heels with 38. Third went to John Steer with 36, Shane McGorlick was fourth on 35, and fifth was Bill Wind on 34.

Nearest the Pins went to Russell on two, Ally Hutt on five, Michael Bossonnet on seven and Steery on 18. Nobody managed to get their tee shot onto the seventh green, so it went begging. And to finish off the day in style, Shane won the raffle.

Just to conclude this week, a word about our volunteers. They all do a great job, and we’d be lost without them, but I’d like to give a special shout out to Graeme Emmerson, who spent last Sunday afternoon picking up heaps of the fallen detritus from under the trees. Thanks, Emmo.



Barb Doyle putts with Donna looking on. -S



Donna Meggitt tees off on 10. -S



Marg Fahey putting on hole nine. -S

## Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

### Football – Seniors

	Percentage	Wins
Warburton Millgrove	530.30	2
Pakenham	280.70	3
Seville	185.43	3
Yarra Glen	79.67	2
Powelltown	52.53	1
Yea	108.70	1
Alexandra	55.56	0
Belgrave	76.05	0
Yarra Junction	30.04	0

### Netball – A Grade

	Percentage	Wins
Pakenham Lions	390.16	3
Seville	245.16	3
Warburton Millgrove	218.18	2
Yarra Junction	142.55	2
Yarra Glen	119.86	2
Alexandra	31.21	0
Powelltown	17.47	0
Yea	56.02	0
Belgrave	43.61	0

### Football – Reserves

Pakenham	650.98	3
Seville	524.24	3
Belgrave	225.24	2
Yea	159.68	2
Warburton Millgrove	144.44	1
Powelltown	33.16	1
Alexandra	27.11	0
Yarra Junction	20.54	0
Yarra Glen	12.82	0

### Netball – B Grade

Seville	465.96	3
Pakenham Lions	448.00	3
Warburton Millgrove	170.37	2
Yarra Glen	100.00	2
Yarra Junction	90.08	2
Powelltown	40.00	0
Alexandra	12.80	0
Belgrave	53.70	0
Yea	51.83	0

### Football – Senior Women

Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	3
Emerald	100.00	2
Wandin	66.66	2
Thornton Eildon	50.00	1
Yea	33.33	1
Seville	0	0
Officer	0	0

### Netball – C Grade

Seville	315.09	3
Pakenham Lions	312.07	3
Warburton Millgrove	178.26	2
Yarra Glen	81.48	2
Yarra Junction	78.48	1
Powelltown	40.70	0
Alexandra	49.53	0
Belgrave	50.74	0
Yea	42.86	0

### Football – 17 and under

Seville	756.52	3
Pakenham Lions Gold	528.00	3
Warburton Millgrove	62.07	0
Pakenham Lions Maroon	50.00	1
Powelltown	9.48	0
Alexandra	21.21	0

### Netball – D Grade

Pakenham Lions	561.54	3
Seville	364.71	3
Warburton Millgrove	275.86	2
Yarra Glen	67.44	2
Yarra Junction	67.95	1
Yea	65.43	1
Alexandra	22.09	0
Powelltown	11.69	0
Belgrave	51.09	0

### Football – Under 18

Pakenham	8233.33	3
Seville	565.45	3
Yarra Glen	100.00	2
Alexandra	8.04	0
Warburton Millgrove	1.92	0
Yea	26.14	0



# Alexandra junior footballers and netballers kick off their season

by Michelle Jack

THE Juniors began their season campaign on Sunday, with three games of netball and the Under nine, 10, 12, and 14 football teams all taking on the Seymour Lions at home. Meanwhile, the Under 16 footballers hit the road to Euroa to face Shepparton United.

It was fantastic to see so many new players and families around the club, and even better to see the excitement and smiles on the kids' faces as they stepped onto the court and field for their first games of the season.

The club offers a big congratulations to their Under 11 and Under 13 netballers on their Round One wins. A huge thank you and well done to all our players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters for helping make it such a positive and enjoyable start to the year.

## Awards for the day

Under nines: Noah Dyson, Patrick Gilligan, Corbyn Hayes-Moynihan and Jude Nardella-Morcom.

Under 10s: Nate Broadway, Kaiydn King, Logan Heard and Benji Cavill.

Under 12: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Kayden Andrews; Reddrops FoodWorks to Lucas Creed; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe to Hudson Brooks; Coaches Award to Ben Strochnetter.

Under 14: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Mia Heard; Reddrops FoodWorks to Mav Burchall; Coaches Award to Eli Van Lierop.

Under 16: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Toby Lucas; Reddrops FoodWorks to Ryder Brady; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe to Fletcher Van Lierop; Coaches Award to Connor Keampkes.

Under 11 Dev Netball: Alexandra Bakery and Cafe to Izabella Kroepsch; AFNC Canteen Award to Tilly Blakeney; Alexandra Sportspower Award to Reegan Martin.

Under 11 Netball: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Kaliya Stewart; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe to Annie Barker; Alexandra Sportspower Award to Delilah Van Lierop.

Under 13 Red Netball: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Bella Lamaro; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe Award to Charli Stephens; Alexandra Sportspower Award to Mia Bruce.

Under 15 Red Netball: AFNC Canteen Voucher to Leah Cole; Alexandra Bakery and Cafe Award to Cassie Kidd; Alexandra Sportspower Award to Megan Kendall.

The club are still on the lookout for volunteers to help run the canteen during their Sunday home games.

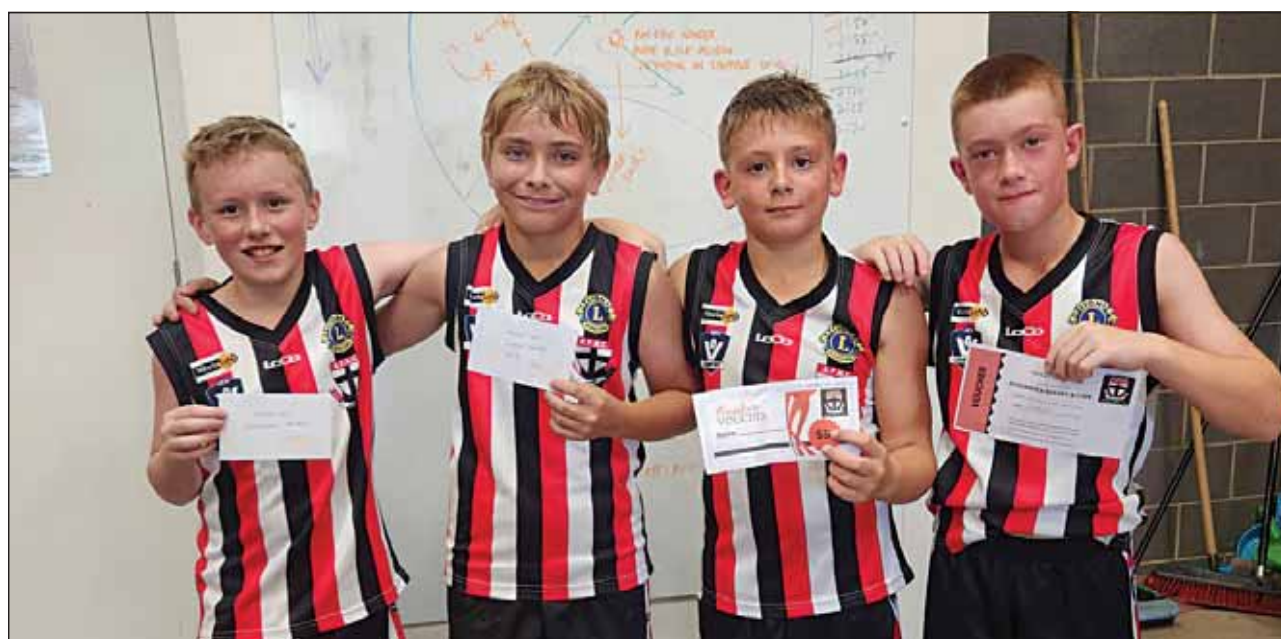
Please remember, the canteen can't operate without the support of amazing families and community. Even a small contribution of your time makes a big difference.

If you're able to lend a hand, they'd love to have you involved.

The Juniors on Sunday will see the nines, 10s, 12s and 16s travelling to Wandong to take on the Warriors, the Under 14s take on Broadford at home. The Netball teams Alexandra Black will play Alexandra Red on Friday night along with the Under 11 Development teams who will once again play an intra club match.



Under nine and 10 winners. -S



Under 12 winners. -S



Under 11 player Scarlett Pearce. -S



Under 13 Netball player Harper Williamson. -S



Under 15 Netball player Indi Hoornweg. -S

## Alexandra netballers take on Pakenham Lions

by Michelle Jack

ON Saturday, April 26, Rebel Park hosted the first game of the season, with all five netball grades and three football teams taking on the Pakenham Lions in a big day of action.

The under 17 netballers kicked off the netball, with a couple of fill-ins helping to make up the numbers. The girls were eager to get started and showed great enthusiasm from the first whistle.

Pakenham came out firing and brought their A-game, proving to be a strong and well-drilled outfit. Despite the scoreboard, the girls

never dropped their heads and battled right to the final whistle.

Full credit to the seven players on court and to Coach Sarah for guiding the team with great spirit. There's no doubt there are some future A-Grade stars in the making.

### Under 17

#### Alexandra 10 defeated by Pakenham 53

KOALA Cherries Award to Asher Kaiser; AFNC Club Voucher to Chelsea Webb.

The D and C Grade teams came up against very well drilled Pakenham teams but to both teams' credit they continued to play hard until

the final whistle and there were certainly some positives to take away from the games to work on for next week.

### D Grade

#### Alexandra 9 defeated by Pakenham 50

ALEXANDRA Hotel Award to Himali Collins; AFNC Club Voucher to Katelyn Prendeville; Corner Hotel Award to Asher Kaiser.

### C Grade

#### Alexandra 34 defeated by Pakenham 60

SIMPSONS Fuel Card to Lauren Benson; Alexandra Hotel to Ava Krijt; Corner Hotel

Award to Caeley Palmer.

### B Grade

#### Alexandra 16 defeated by Pakenham 75

INCENTIVE Award to Maddy Northmore; Alexandra Hotel to Sarah Mooney; Corner Hotel Award to Jayde Cairns.

Before the commencement of the A Grade game due to timing issues the two A Grade teams and supporters lined up on the netball court where Major Sarah Mooney delivered The Ode and a minute's silence to remember the fallen.



THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

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Players from Alexandra Football Netball Club stood solemnly during the pre-game ANZAC Day service to pay their respects. -BD

## ANZAC Round for Alexandra senior football teams

by Michelle Jack

THE Under 18s went into the game with a couple of changes from the Seville match and were keen for their second match of the season. The boys fought hard and should be very proud of their efforts but Pakenham proved too strong. The team has a great vibe around them and the club is extremely proud of these young men.

**Under 18**  
**Alexandra 0-0-0 defeated by**  
**Pakenham 25-20-170**

Awards: Bowens to Josh Crane; Shepparton Volkswagen to Thomas Kendall; AFNC Club Voucher to George Sotiropoulos; Coaches Award to Max Young.

**Reserves**  
**Alexandra 5.3.33 defeated**  
**by Pakenham 14.8.92**

THE Reserves side saw several changes from the previous week, with the inclusions of Brandon Kapakoulakis, Connor Heaslip, Scott Hill, Jake Keath, and Jake Steyger among others.

The Rebels got off to a solid start, with Kapa slotting the first goal of the game. They stayed in touch early, trailing by just two goals at quarter time.

Pakenham stepped up in the second quarter, kicking four goals to Alexandra's one, stretching their lead to 32 points by halftime.

The third term saw an improved effort from the Rebels, but in the final quarter, Pakenham pulled away to secure a comfortable 59-point win.

Reserve Awards: NP on the Run to Brandon Kapakoulakis; Future Fit Finance to Brodie Humphries; AFNC Club Voucher to Daniel Roper; Simpson Fuel Card to Michael Coombs.

Prior to the start of the Seniors match both the clubs united with local RSL Members to line up either side of the ANZAC logo which had been painted on the ground for the ANZAC commemoration. The club thank the local RSL for their continued support of the club and assistance in acknowledging the importance of ANZAC Day to all.

**Seniors**  
**Alexandra 6.11.47 defeated**  
**by Pakenham 14.7.91**

THE Senior side made just two changes this week, with Will Goyder and Luke Spence coming in for Steve Steiner and Luke Wal.

Pakenham came out strong in the first quarter, taking an early lead with four goals, three points to the Rebels' two points.



Members from Alexandra RSL and the Alexandra Football Netball Club gathered behind the ANZAC symbol painted onto the football oval. -BD



Reserves player Connor Heaslip. -S



Under 18 player Jamie Shawcross. -S



Seniors player Will Stewart leaping for the ball. -S

The second quarter saw a much-improved effort from the Rebels, who kicked three goals three points to Pakenham's one goal one point, narrowing the margin to just 11 points at halftime.

Despite having five scoring shots in the third quarter to Pakenham's seven, inaccurate kicking hurt the Rebels, allowing Pakenham to stretch their lead to 33 points heading into the final term.

The last quarter was more competitive, but Pakenham proved too strong on the day, running out 44-point winners.

Senior Awards: Kervale Incentive to Riley Frankcombe; O'Briens Real Estate to Harry Prendergast; Simpson Fuel Card to Mitch Parker; Buxton Hotel Award to Kellan Percy.

The club says a big thank you to HG Turf for their efforts in preparing the ground for the big match, and to Murrindindi Shire Council and Alexandra Newspapers for once again supporting the ANZAC Round. They're also incredibly grateful to all supporters and members. The crowd was one of the biggest seen at home in some time, creating a fantastic atmosphere around the club.

Major raffle on the day was the Big Wheelbarrow, packed with a variety of great items. The draw took place in the clubrooms after the match, and congratulations to lucky winners Ben Jack and Riley Frankcombe.

The club look forward to upcoming matches this weekend with the Senior teams travelling to Powelltown for five games of netball and two games of football as the Under 18s have the bye.