

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Celebrating 50 years of VICSES



Page 3

Big yarding amid dry conditions



Page 10

Dr Quinn on supporting youth



Page 12

Weekend sport



Pages 18-20

Community Fun Day in Buxton

ON Saturday, March 8 many people braved the warm weather to enjoy the inaugural Buxton Community Fun day at Buxton Recreation Reserve. The event was hosted by the Buxton Progress Association and the new Buxton Community Celebration Committee, with a special mention to Andy Cowan and Rachael

Binnie for all their help and coordination.

Over 120 people joined in on all the fun with activities for everyone after a barbecue lunch. There were pony rides and some great games such as the egg and spoon race. The free facepainting was also a hit.

Upon arrival, everyone received a free ticket to go into the draw for the adult and kids prizes on the popular spinning wheel. These were donated by various business outlets in Buxton and surrounding areas.

It was a wonderful day for the whole community.



A lot of concentration was needed to make it through the race. -mp

Eildon local a finalist for Victorian Volunteer Awards

WENDY Falconer was selected as a finalist in the Victorian Volunteer Awards for her nearly five decades being part of the Eildon Meals on Wheels program.

The awards, recently held in Melbourne, recognise the hard work and commitment of Victoria's volunteers.

Nexus Primary Health, who currently oversee the Eildon Meals on Wheels program, spoke highly of Wendy.

"Her nearly 50-year dedication to Eildon Meals on Wheels showcases her unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership and heartfelt

care in ensuring community wellbeing," they said.

"Wendy wasn't the winner on the day but getting to the top three finalists is an amazing achievement. She is a winner in not only our eyes but in the eyes of the community she supports."

When the *Alexandra Standard* spoke with Wendy, she was very humble and continued to highlight the hard work that all her fellow volunteers do.

"I love doing Meals on Wheels, and I always feel that there are so many people that do more than I do," Wendy said.

"I can remember when we first did it, I said to my daughter, it was five shillings per week. That was in 1966, or it was 1975 when we first started in Eildon. It was five shillings a week and it was an effort to get it from people, they often didn't have it. We had a lot more people in those days getting it [Meals on Wheels]."

"When the shire took it over it was such a relief. The numbers have gone down of people receiving the program. There's so many frozen meals that people can get these days, but that's just the one meal.

"Meals on Wheels they get their orange juice, their soup, a meal and their pudding, and somebody calling in and checking on them."

Wendy also spoke about the challenge of getting volunteers to run the program, and how rewarding the work is.

"It's so hard to get volunteers. In Eildon I think we've got eight volunteers. I'm amazed more people don't want to do it, it's so rewarding. You get so fond of the people that you go to, and all their quirks and so forth. And their dogs," Wendy finished.

David Graham Berry trial date set

THE trial of David Graham Berry is set to be held in the County Court in Shepparton starting on November 10. The trial is expected to last for 10 days.

The delay was allowed by the judge to enable the prosecution to reexamine the DNA.

He was remanded in custody until the directions hearing, set for July 24.

Mr Berry faces 14 charges, eight of which are indictable and six are summary offences. They relate to alleged actions including theft of a motor vehicle from Euroa, and driving a motor vehicle in a way that was dangerous to the public and caused the death of a Murrindindi Shire man, who the court has not named. He is also charged with failing to immediately stop the motor vehicle at the site of the collision, and failed to immediately render assistance.

Police allege that Mr Berry was unlicensed at the time of the incident, and that he drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and a drug to such an extent that he was incapable of having proper control of the motor vehicle.



Wendy Falconer was a finalist at the Victorian Volunteer Awards in Melbourne for her almost 50 years of volunteering at the Eildon Meals on Wheels. -S

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

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

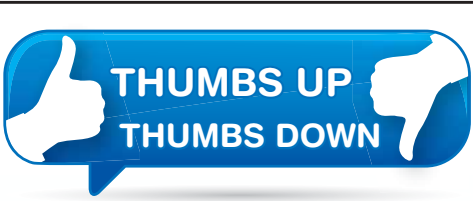
43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject
to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the
company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts
no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such
material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post
Approved - PP 10000292

Independantly owned and operated with no association
with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.



THUMBS DOWN: To the thoughtless vandals who destroyed the brachychiton tree planted in Rotary Park in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, and hurled a rock through the window of the Yarck Hall over the weekend on Mach 1 and 2. The maintenance of the hall is undertaken by a committee of volunteers, as was the fundraising for the tree plantings. These volunteer committees work hard to enhance the amenity of our community are disheartened by such wanton destruction.

THUMBS UP: To Country Tech. What large retailer would ring a couple of months after a big purchase, to just check it is all going well?

THUMBS UP: Finally we have flood depth indicators and an electronic river flow gauging station installed at Molesworth. Well done to all involved.

THUMBS DOWN: Flood depth indicators will not be very effective on the Goulburn River and Home Creek bridge decks. These have never flooded but the low-lying areas adjacent to the bridges is usually where the flood water flows. Might be best to relocate these to a more effective level which indicates actual flood water depth.

THUMBS UP: To council for a great pool season, and for keeping the Alexandra pool open for the long weekend.

THUMBS UP: To all the positive posts. Nice to read.

THUMBS DOWN: To Murrindindi Shire Council for their presentation of the raised garden beds and the area around the rotunda in Alexandra. Yea and Mansfield have large areas of well-maintained grass. Alexandra has dirt. A display of colourful flowers, ie. pansies, in the raised garden beds and green lawns (instant turf) is still achievable to greet out many visitors over Easter. Grant Street is in need of some love and care.

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

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



Letters to the Editor

Alexandra Lions Club

A PUBLIC meeting was held on February 19 to inform the community of the impending dissolution of the Alexandra Lions Club. I am truly thankful for the number of people who attended.

On March 5, a dinner meeting of the Alexandra Lions Club was held at the Corner Hotel, which provided excellent fare.

The meeting was conducted in a professional manner with three past District Governors present. All meeting procedures were followed thanks to the three past District Governors present being able to answer questions regarding procedure and future decisions which arise.

After the discussion, a new member was inducted into the club by past District Governor Bob Cooper who completed a very competent and successful task in inducting Judy Blizzard as our newest member.

The motion to dissolve the club on March 19 was moved again, seconded and debated very strongly. When the motion was finally put to a secret vote, it was defeated. This of course means that the club is still in action and viable.

The membership will increase by another one at the next meeting. However, we need more younger people to ease the burden on the existing members.

I can only say how delighted I was regarding the result of the vote, and I sincerely hope we will be able to recruit more members to enable the Lions Club to carry out its' mission to improve the lives of people in the community.

*Past District Governor John Beale,
secretary Alexandra Lions Club*

Destruction of a community tree

A SEMI-MATURE tree has been destroyed in Rotary Park, Alexandra. The tree was planted approximately two years ago. The project to plant trees in Alexandra was initiated by Alexandra and District Open Gardens Inc, who heard that grant monies were available for projects commemorating Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

The organisation was successful in obtaining a grant for the project, which was supplemented with additional financial and in-kind support from Shire of Murrindindi, Alexandra Rotary and Goulburn Valley Water.

It has been hugely disappointing to see the recent vandalism. Shame on those responsible.

The brachychiton tree is not a tree which is common in the area.

The tree was last seen intact at about 8pm, on February 28. The damage was found at about 8am on March 1.

It's pointless vandalism to something that has been organised by members of the community in an attempt at beautifying the town. If anyone knows anything, contact the Alexandra Police Station on 5772 1040.

ANZAC Day

IN defence of Robyn Walsh's letter on February 26. Irony. It's about using irony as a teaching tool. Of course we don't want to disrespect our past and present soldiers in arms. Of course we don't want to stop celebrating their valiant attempts to protect our country from evil. Of course we miss the contribution the fallen could have made to our culture, our land, our society, our ancestral lives. Some of us, even, miss grandparents, parents, and siblings who paid the ultimate price for doing this.

But you can't have it both ways. You can't remember one lot of Australians and elevate their lives and then forget the others. Heck. Our Aboriginal soldiers fought alongside us, herded our cattle, were policemen for us, served us, helped us to live on the land, were our friends, helpmates and family.

The cognitive dissonance that allows people to say we must revere and extol the virtues of one lot over the other is amazing.

If we have to remember the horror the ANZACs went through as part of our cultural history, we also have to remember the same sort of horror we extended to the people actually on the land when we got here. We shouldn't, as caring and generous human beings, do one and omit the other. That's just unconscionable.

Robyn's use of irony escapes you because you can't see the right of it. Give over and stop making light of our full-on Australian history and support all parts of it. ANZACs and Aboriginal.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandra

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

DESPITE it being a long weekend, the club had a good turnout for the business meeting on Friday and among the agenda items, members agreed to have an excursion to Healesville RSL for the Morning melodies on Tuesday, April 8. The coach will depart the clubroom at 9am. A list will be on the front desk so please get your names down so we can book the table.

Treasurer Dave had us smiling with Comedy Corner and Marion Thornycroft won the FoodWorks voucher. The members retired to the tea room for refreshments before the customary games of 500 and UNO.

As always a friendly reminder that the club welcomes new members so if you fancy a bit of company, a chat or a game of cards please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9

Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 88.9

Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.5

Marysville / Lake Mountain

UGFM 98.9

Flowerdale / Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5

Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Tues

Art Group (Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306

Tue

Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm

Wed

Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150

Thu

Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427

Fri

Seniors Social Club 1pm

Sun

AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086

Sun

Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

Sun

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

Thu

7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666

Fri

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

MONTHLY

1st Wed

Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Sat

Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465

1st Sun

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

2nd Tue

Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2nd Wed

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

2nd Sat

Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

2nd Sat

Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Sat

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

3rd Wed

Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu

Alexandra Ladies Probuss 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3rd Thu

Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun

Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Tue

Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.

4th Wed

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

4th Thu

Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri

Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's
regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this
a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of
what groups are available in the community, when they meet
and a contact phone number.

Weekly Weather

March 12 - March 18, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

18

32

Wednesday

18

33

Thursday

19

32

Thursday

19

33

Friday

19

33

Friday

19

33

Saturday

16

28

Saturday

16

29

Sunday

12

23

Sunday

12

23

Monday

11

22

Monday

11

22

Tuesday

12

24

Tuesday

12

24

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less.** We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES • THE YARCK, GORUR, 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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

2 The Alexandra & Eildon Standard, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

www.murrindindibusiness.com.au

Campfire warning: Almost 250 campfire incidents since July 2024

VICTORIA'S fire and land management agencies are urging campers and holidaymakers to prioritise campfire safety.

Since July 1, 2024, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and Country Fire Authority (CFA) have responded to almost 250 incidents involving campfires, including a bushfire that burnt through 14 hectares of land, left around 100 campers stranded and forced dozens more to evacuate a popular Cape Otway camp site in January.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman urged people to be careful when it comes to campfires, as gusty winds can easily carry embers from a campfire into the bush, posing a serious fire risk.

"Campfires that escape are a big problem in Victoria. Always fully extinguish campfires with water, not soil and make sure it's cool to touch before leaving," Mr Hardman said.

"We want people to enjoy the bush safely. By knowing and following the rules for building and maintaining campfires, we can help keep the bush healthy and safe for everyone."

Parks Victoria Executive Director Operations Kylie Trott said campfires are only allowed in dedicated fireplaces in most parks in Victoria.

"Not all parks or campgrounds allow campfires. There are some limited areas where campfires are permitted outside of constructed fireplaces, but you need to check before you go," Ms Trott said.

"Remember to always have someone in attendance while a campfire is going and properly extinguish the fire with water before you leave. The consequences can be devastating if you don't."

Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens said given the extreme fire hazard posed by unattended campfires, the Conservation

Regulator takes a zero-tolerance approach to those found breaking the law when it comes to campfire safety.

"Unattended and unsafe campfires can result in devastating consequences. The risk is real, and all campers have a responsibility to know and abide by campfire rules," Ms Gavens said.

"It just takes one ember to cause a destructive bushfire, and this is why there are significant fines for those who leave campfires unattended.

"Our forest and wildlife officers will be out over the weekend to remind campers about the importance of campfire safety."

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan reminded campers it is their responsibility to check if the area they're visiting is under a Total Fire Ban.

"It was concerning to see several illegal campfires, including a bonfire, during the

recent Total Fire Bans on February 22 and 23," Mr Heffernan said.

"This kind of activity increases risk for our forests, communities, and our firefighters."

Before hitting the road, people should download the VicEmergency app and be familiar with local campfire regulations and safety measures to help protect the environment and local communities, learn more cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a day of Total Fire Ban is \$47,421.60 and/or two years in jail.

Report unattended campfires to 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.



VICSES Alexandra Unit Controllor Peter Weeks and VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Denis Brain have both been with VICSES throughout the organisation's entire 50 year existence, and were joined by 18 month VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Amy Bracks (centre) at the official launch of VICSES' 50th anniversary celebrations. -S

Celebrating 50 years of VICSES

VICSES Alexandra Unit Controllor Peter Weeks and VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Denis Brain have both been with VICSES throughout the organisation's entire 50 year existence. They attended the official launch of VICSES' 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is proud to recognise the incredible efforts of thousands of their dedicated volunteers and members, as they celebrate 50 years of service to the state.

Incredibly, 16 current volunteers have served their communities throughout the entire 50 years.

VICSES has built a legacy of dedication, providing critical emergency assistance to thousands of Victorians each year.

The Civil Defence Organisation which formed in 1950 evolved into VICSES on March 5, 1975, and remains as we know it today, playing a lead and critical role in managing floods, storms and

rescues, as well as supporting other emergency services.

Over the past five decades, VICSES volunteers have stood on the frontline of Victoria's most challenging emergencies and severe weather events, including major flooding in 2010-11 and 2022, severe storms in 2021, the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires, the 2019-20 Victorian Black Summer Bushfires, the 2021 Victorian earthquake and so much more.

The unwavering commitment of so many VICSES volunteers has saved lives and safeguarded communities across Victoria.

VICSES is built on the dedication of its volunteers, such as Peter Weeks, who joined the Civil Defence Organisation in 1971. Inspired by his father and his passion for radio communications, Peter now serves as the Unit Controllor at the VICSES Alexandra Unit.

Peter has been involved in critical response efforts, including the 2009

bushfires, high profile search and rescue operations, and assisting people stranded in the Goulburn River during major riverine flooding events.

VICSES has 154 units across the state and operates with more than 5000 volunteers. In the past year alone, VICSES volunteers responded to over 40,000 requests for assistance, demonstrating its crucial role in Victoria's emergency response network.

Peter Weeks commented, "This is a big year for VICSES as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. While much has changed since 1975, our core values remain the same, to provide emergency assistance to Victorian communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. I'm so proud to be a VICSES volunteer, from the get-go."

For those interested in joining VICSES or learning more about becoming a volunteer, visit ses.vic.gov.au/join-us

POLICE REPORT

ON the evening of Saturday, March 8, at 9.20pm, emergency services received a call about two bushwalkers who had not returned to camp in the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve area by nightfall.

Fortunately, the caller was able to make a call via satellite as there was no mobile reception.

Police from Yea and Alexandra attended, and they were fortunately able to call in the police helicopter which was returning to Melbourne after attending a job in the Howqua Hills.

The police helicopter used a spotlight to locate the two 27 year old women, and police on the ground were then able to walk in and help them to return to camp.

The walkers were located on an island in the middle of the river and due to the darkness, had been uncertain of the river depth.

Rules for aviation around bushfires

IN Australia's harsh climate, bushfires are a major hazard during the warmer months. With longer and hotter summers, the chance of a bushfire breaking out is increasingly likely.

Recent events have demonstrated the need for each state and territory's fire service to prepare for busy bushfire seasons.

This means there's a lot more activity in the airspace in rural and remote areas. This can have implications for general aviation pilots and drone operators.

Drones are great for getting that picture perfect shot, but they are a major hazard to aerial firefighting aircraft. Drones are small and difficult to detect.

You should never fly drones around or into bushfires.

For further information around rules for drone operation, visit casa.gov.au/knowyourdrone/drone-rules

Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea and cake stall
Saturday, March 15 from 9am
Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

ELECTRICIAN
Grimshaw Electrics
For all your electrical and communication requirements
Peter Donald
0429 808 596
REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

ALL HOURS
• Alexandra • Yea
• Eildon • Marysville and districts
BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PTY LTD
Offering a caring and professional service throughout the Murrindindi Shire
A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS
Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214
Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

McCORMACK FUNERALS
Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
1800 080 909
Andrew, Robyn and Brooke
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
Obligation free appointments
Pre-paid, pre-arranged, personalised funeral and memorial services
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
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*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Alexandra races is on again. 2025 Alexandra Cup. Fun for all the family. Mini golf, music, magic and more. Gates open at noon. First race at 1.15pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Market at Yarck is on from 9am in Yarck and includes CWA morning tea and cake stall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Cathkin Molesworth Cemetery Trust AGM will be held at 11am at the Molesworth Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Murrindindi Little Aths AGM and presentation night will be held at 5.30pm at Rotary Park in the barbecue area.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Alexandra Community Hub AGM will be held at 6pm at the Historic Court House at 38A Downey Street Alexandra.



The audience at the event. -S

Advance Care Planning session for U3A

ON Thursday, March 6, Murrindindi East U3A was very pleased to hold an information session with Alexandra Health's Care Planning specialist, Jeannie Hurrey. The topic was very important for people to understand, and so the invitation went out to everyone and not just U3A members. The event was well received with over 50 people from the community, meeting at St John's Church Hall in Alexandra.

Jeannie's presentation included a short introductory video to explore the idea of how much we really know about our loved ones and what their choices might be. It was confronting in parts, more so for family

members who know how difficult it can be when grief gets in the way. Following this video, Jeannie went on to explain how to write your plan, who to ask to be your decision maker and where else help can be found to ensure that your wishes are met. Jeannie answered questions from the group and also privately. She was seen still chatting with people as everyone was going home.

Of course, afternoon tea was provided at the conclusion of the presentation. Andrea Cohen, who organised this event, also made sure that a fabulous selection of cakes and sandwiches were available to all.

National Advanced Care Planning Week commences on March 17, so now might be a good time for Murrindindi residents to review their choices should they be unable to make decisions for themselves in the future. Why wait another 10 years to do this?

U3A, a non-profit organisation, is proud to have been able to coordinate with Alexandra District Health for this event. U3A encourages people over 50 to stay mentally, physically and socially active in their retirement years. Writing an Advanced Care Plan and telling your family is part of this.

Judy Maraspin in the artist's corner

JUDY Maraspin is the latest artist to grace the artist's corner at the Alexandra Information Centre with her paintings.

Her work will be on display for the next few months, with a variety of nature-inspired pieces.



Examples of Judy's artworks, which can be found at the Alexandra Information Centre. -S

Judy retired to Alexandra almost five years ago which gave her the time and space to paint.

"Since I retired here to Alexandra five years ago coming up, I've had the ability to paint what's around us. I take all my own photos and paint from my own photos, and I do pet portraits as well," Judy said.



Judy Maraspin with the Alexandra Information Centre sign. Her artwork will be displayed in the information centre for the next few months. -BD

"I kind of look at all my photos that I take, because I love photography as well, whether I should concentrate on flowers. But birds are going really well. This is what people like."

Judy's style is more realistic, so focusing on making her art as close to life as possible, with some subtle embellishments.

"I'm a realist, so I like to make it as real as possible, that's probably why I put a few more hours into my projects and it takes a bit longer. I'm doing it because I love doing it," she said.

"My medium is acrylics mainly, and pastels. That's what I like using.

"My passion for painting and drawing has been there since primary school, because I was always being told off for drawing. I was always creative with my hands but wasn't able to set up a room with all my paints and that. But now I have the space and the time to paint whenever I want.

"I don't make a living off it, and I'm not as passionate as some other painters. I do it when I can, and I have other fields of interest. I have a big garden that I like to work in as well. I like to be outside; I don't like to sit in front of an easel 24/7," Judy finished.

Standard

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

Available from
these retail outlets

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

Alexandra Newspapers are
members of:

regional
media connect

Country Press
AUSTRALIA

Audited Media
Association of Australia

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON

Don't miss nominating a volunteer, community group or initiative for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards.

Nominations close on Sunday 16 March. Criteria and nomination forms are available at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2025Awards

You can also pick up a paper nomination form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, and the Mobile Library.

The 2025 Award winners will be announced and acknowledged at a volunteer appreciation event held during National Volunteer Week (19-25 May 2025).

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH EASE

Attention community groups and event organisers! Did you know you can promote your event on Council's website? There are two types of events we support.

Community Events: Organised by volunteers and community groups for the benefit of locals. You can now add and manage your own events. Register an account, then start listing events!

Tourism Events: Larger-scale events attracting locals and visitors. We recommend event organisers list their events on the Australia Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW). Any tourism events added to ATDW will automatically feature on Council's website.

You can start promoting your event today, or find out more about running an event at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events

POSITIONS VACANT

Council is currently recruiting for multiple Infrastructure Maintenance Officers to join the Roads and Parks outdoor team on a permanent full-time basis.

For more information and to apply, please visit Council's website at murrindindi.vicgov.au/jobs

GET READY FOR FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL THIS AUTUMN!

As we enter autumn, it's the perfect time to tidy up your garden. From April 1 to April 30, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

This offer includes domestic quantities of garden waste. To ensure your green waste is accepted, please make sure it:

- Is not mixed with other materials
- Is no longer than 1.5 meters in length and less than 25 cm in diameter (larger branches and stumps will incur a fee)

For more information on green waste disposal, call us at 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste

Happy gardening! 🌿

EMERGENCY BROADCASTERS

In an emergency, it's important to get information only from verified sources. One of the most reliable ways to stay informed is by using a battery-powered AM/FM radio because they:

- don't need an internet or power connection
- provide regular updates and emergency broadcasts directly from agencies
- can be used while traveling

If you don't have a battery-powered radio, check if your car radio works. For more information and a list of local radio stations, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/EmergencyContacts

SMS RATES OVERDUE PHISHING SCAM

Council is aware of a SMS Phishing scam targeting Murrindindi Shire residents. The message states that their rates are now overdue and demand payment through a link. Do not click on this link. Council will never send a SMS message demanding payment for overdue rates.

If you are unsure of whether a text or phone call is legitimate, please contact our customer service team on 5772 0333.

SLEEP AND SETTLING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Join our FREE online Sleep and Settling Information Sessions, facilitated by our Maternal and Child Health experts. Topics include frequent overnight waking, bottle dependency, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition and catnapping.

There are Toddler sessions from 10.00 - 11.30 am, and Infant sessions from 1.00 - 2.30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 1 April
- Tuesday 8 July
- Tuesday 30 September
- Tuesday 9 December

Reserve your spot at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333



100,000 temporary jobs

Register now to work at the federal election
You can work before, on and after election day.



All jobs
are paid



No election
experience is
needed



Training is
provided

Register now ➔ aec.gov.au/electionjobs

If you registered before July 2024, you need to re-register.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, Canberra

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Harry Armstrong

Harry showed all the school values on camp. He was resilient when faced with challenges, he was proud of his achievements, and he supported others when they were struggling. We are proud to have you in our learning and camping community, Harry. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kaiisha and Bella

demonstrated the school values of achievement and cooperation throughout their work this week. Well done.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



John Walsh retires from CRLLEN after 14 years

CENTRAL Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network (CRLLEN) last week announced the retirement of local councillor and former mayor John Walsh, who served on the CRLLEN Board for 14 years.

John is passionate about education and training options for young people in his community and this is what attracted him to the work of CRLLEN. In his final term at council John was passionate about bringing an Education Hub to Yea, as he firmly believes that all people deserve the chance to engage in education and training without having to move away from their hometown to do so.

Fast internet and tutoring support for study in times that suit their lifestyle were also key messages of the hub. John has been volunteering on the CRLLEN Board since 2010 and for many of those years acted as Treasurer.

CEO Nicky Leitch said his experience, financial know-how and love of Taylor Swift, certainly made some of the Board meetings interesting.

“While I am relatively new to CRLLEN, I certainly know that John and Laura (one of our younger Board members) were full on Tay Tay fans and many a meeting was spent discussing costumes and songs.

“What I really enjoyed about working with John was his no-nonsense approach to our work. He liked to get the job done and could always cut right to the chase, especially if he was advocating for young people in his beloved hometown region. It was always great to have him on our side.”

John has a beef and berry farm at Yarck in the north of the Murrindindi Shire. Before moving to Yarck, John ran his own company providing risk management and project

management services, skills learned during a career as an officer in the Australian Army.

John made many significant contributions to CRLLEN and his local knowledge and passion for his community has left a lasting legacy in that local community. He has helped navigate the organisation through a number of challenging financial times and leaves the group in a strong financial position.

After 14 years of volunteering with CRLLEN, John has handed over his Treasurer responsibilities to his Tay Tay co pilot Laura Crozier.

CRLLEN Chair Faye D’Helin, thanked John for his service to the group.

“Thank you John for your incredible service to the CRLLEN and the young people we support, we will miss your drive and sense of humour.”

John himself commented on his time at CRLLEN.

“I enjoyed my time on the CRLLEN Board because I was a part of an organisation focussed on improving the chances of young people to succeed. There was a constant stream of new challenges which, through innovation and drive, were surpassed by an impressive set of achievements.

“It was fun to even just have a vicarious association with such activities although I never got on top of all of the Department of Education acronyms.”

CRLLEN are now on the hunt for new Board members. If you are passionate about your local community and keen to make a difference in young people’s lives, then they would love to hear from you.

To learn more about CRLLEN visit centralrangesllen.org.au/

Fire at Koriella



A small fire on the Goulburn Valley Highway caused the road to be closed between Koriella and Cathkin on the afternoon of Thursday, March 6, due to smoke over the road. -AR



Motorists were forced to detour via Yarck or Whanregarwen Road. Fortunately, firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire. -AR

Under 5 hours sleep? 4 times more likely to crash.



Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.

TAC

VICTORIA
State Government



Cost-of-living crisis continues to bite animals in the north-east

by Belinda Dent, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader North-East

AS the Team Leader for RSPCA Victoria’s Inspectorate North-East region, my team and I see first-hand how the cost-of-living crisis affects people and their pets every day. People are struggling, and when people are struggling, their pets are affected. Those struggling to care for their pets are certainly not alone.

Heartbreakingly, RSPCA Victoria receives an average of almost 16 calls every day from people wanting to surrender their pets for a variety of reasons, including financial difficulties.

Out on the road, we see first-hand how pet owners are struggling in the cost-of-living crisis, with many cases of animals with insufficient food or water.

We’ve also seen people struggling to provide their pets with appropriate flea and worming treatment, as well as unregistered pets going missing or abandoned by their previous owners.

We don’t only deal with cases of malicious animal cruelty, but unfortunately, that doesn’t always make it easier for the animals affected.

Many of the cruelty cases we see stem from neglect due to circumstances outside their control, such as unexpected illness, injury or hospitalisation, those affected by domestic violence, and many others.

We’ve seen many owners who simply have too many animals and are unable to adequately take care of them.

Situations like this are often due to a lack of desexing. An unplanned litter of animals can

be a heavy financial responsibility at the best of times, and it is a challenge best avoided.

We’re extremely grateful to the community for their ongoing vigilance in reporting animal cruelty. Over the last six months, we received 964 cruelty reports from the north-east region, resulting in the rescue of 215 animals. Last financial year, 413 animals came into our care, and sadly it seems we’re likely to repeat this total again by the end of June.

As we enter what is historically the busiest time of year, we urge everyone in the north-east to remain vigilant for animal cruelty in our area and to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling 9224-2222 or online at [rspcavic.org/cruelty-report](https://www.rspcavic.org/cruelty-report)

The community support we see every day keeps us going and makes each day just a little bit better.

It cost approximately \$10.7 million to operate the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate in the last financial year, with the majority of funding coming from the community through donations, fundraising and events.

If you are one of many who are struggling to care for your pets, please don’t be afraid to reach out for help, whether it be to us, to other community-based programs, to your local council, or to other groups who may be able to provide support.

Many animal welfare organisations, including the RSPCA, offer community services designed to support pet owners and they may be able to help.

Walk in the footsteps of Anzacs

THE Victorian Government will give a dozen Victorian students the opportunity to embark on a fully funded 11 day study tour to Gallipoli, Türkiye, where they will retrace the footsteps of the ANZACs.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman on Monday invited students in years nine to 12 to apply for the 2025 Spirit of ANZAC Prize and gain a deeper understanding of Australia’s wartime history.

“For 20 years, the premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize has given young Victorians the wonderful opportunity to gain a profound appreciation of our nation’s history and the sacrifices made by those who served,” Ms Suleyman said.

“I encourage eligible students to embrace this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our heroes and be part of the legacy that continues to educate and inspire future generations.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize, ensuring that Victorian students continue to learn about our veterans’ service and sacrifice. This milestone is particularly significant as students will visit Gallipoli on the 110th anniversary of the ANZACs landing on April 25, 1915.

By walking the same ground as those who served, students will gain a profound appreciation of the resilience, mateship, and courage that define the ANZAC spirit.

As part of their application, students will reflect on their interest in wartime history, their understanding of ANZAC values, their contributions to their school and community, and the knowledge they hope to gain from this unique experience.

More than 4000 students have submitted applications in the last 20 years, with more than 500 of these given the opportunity to visit historic battlefields and memorials across Europe, Southeast Asia and Australia.

The state government continues to support this program, ensuring that future generations recognise the contributions of our veterans through educational programs, school initiatives, and commemorative events.

Through opportunities like this, the government is fostering a deep respect for history so the sacrifices of past generations are never forgotten.

Applications are open until Monday, April 28, 2025. To apply or find out more visit [vic.gov.au/soap](https://www.vic.gov.au/soap)

New flood markers the result of advocacy

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and its Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) have welcomed Transport Victoria’s installation of ‘Road Subject to Flooding’ signs and ‘depth of water’ markers on the Goulburn Valley Highway near Cathkin, an area that floods two to three times a year.

This follows long-standing advocacy by local agencies to improve road safety in flood-prone areas. While a simple addition, these markers provide critical real-time information, helping drivers and emergency service agencies assess floodwater depths in this 100 km/hr zone to make safer decisions.

In the past, some motorists have underestimated the depth of floodwater in this area, leading to stranded vehicles and emergency rescues. These new markers aim to prevent such incidents and reduce the risk to volunteer responders. Transport Victoria has installed flood markers between Ridds Road and the eastern entrance to Molesworth.

Council is urging all motorists to follow road safety advice and never drive through floodwaters.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher commented, “This is a great outcome for our community and a testament to the dedication of our



Two of the new flood depth indicator boards can be seen next to the road signs in this image, along with signs warning that the road is subject to flooding. -AR

emergency management teams. These markers will help prevent accidents, protect our volunteer responders, and, most importantly, save lives.

“Council is pleased that it’s advocacy on behalf of the community was supported by the Roads and Road Safety Minister. I want to thank everyone involved for their persistence and commitment to making our roads safer.”

SES Unit Controller, Peter Weeks stated, “The Goulburn Valley Highway is often subject to flooding between Cathkin and Home Creek by the Home Creek breaking its banks, following heavy rain and storm events. Over the years, Alexandra SES has performed numerous rescues on this section of the highway, due to road

users entering floodwater unaware of the depth and becoming stranded. On some occasions, we have seen the water depth well over one metre across the highway.

The new ‘Road Subject to Flooding’ warning signs and depth gauges are a welcome addition and road safety feature on this busy highway.

Road users are reminded to never drive, ride or walk through flood water. Don’t enter water that is over 150mm deep, as you can be washed away, become stranded, and you cannot see whether the road or pavement has been washed away ahead.”

For more information about staying safe during emergencies, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencies](https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencies)

Resilience on the menu at Molesworth Community Planning dinner

MURRINDINDI Shire Council would like to thank everyone who attended the Molesworth and District Community Planning Project event on Friday, February 28. Held at the Molesworth Public Hall, the event was a great success, with turnout exceeding expectations as residents came together to share ideas and discuss ways to strengthen their community.

The evening provided a valuable opportunity for residents to have their say on what would make their township a better place to live, work and visit. Over a meal, attendees connected with their neighbours and contributed to a shared vision for the future of the Molesworth area.

Participants heard from several speakers about community resilience and the impact of community-led initiatives in addressing local challenges. They then worked in groups to discuss key issues and voted on priority actions that best reflect the needs and aspirations of their community.

Some of the key topics voted on included environmental works in the reserve, including increased water levels, wetland development and walking tracks, signage for public spaces and historical sites, public toilets for travellers and users of the rail trail or recreation reserve, and development of community events in Molesworth, such as an annual fair, sporting events, film screenings and the re-establishment of the Easter Bazaar.

These sessions were initiated by the community following the October 2022 floods, which had a significant impact on the region. Council will continue working with residents to support planning for the future of the Molesworth and district area in line with local priorities.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, highlighted the significance of the event, stating, “It was

heartening to see so many people come together, united by their passion for the community. The conversations were thoughtful, insightful and, most importantly, led by the people who live and work here. We’re eager to see these ideas take shape and to continue working alongside the community to bring them to life.

“Council is looking forward to hosting more community planning sessions and encourage residents stay engaged and watch for upcoming opportunities to get involved.”

Murrindindi Shire Council received financial support for this event from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments under the jointly funded *Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* (DRFA). For more information on Community Planning events, please contact council on 5772 0333.

Murrindindi Shire Council responds to flood inquiry

MURRINDINDI Shire Council provided their statement in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event.

It states, “Murrindindi Shire Council acknowledges the release of the Victorian Government’s response to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event* and welcomes the recognition of key issues affecting flood-impacted communities.

“The government’s response highlights the need for stronger coordination between state and local government in emergency response and

recovery and commits to reviewing floodplain management strategies, planning controls, and emergency warning systems. Council welcomes the support for improved flood mapping, clear and updated planning controls in high-risk areas, and the recognition of local knowledge in emergency response efforts.

“However, while some recommendations align with council’s advocacy, others fall short of delivering the certainty and funding needed for long-term resilience, both physical and emotional.

“There is no clear commitment to changes in Lake Eildon’s flood management, despite its impact on downstream communities, and no guaranteed investment in strengthening critical local infrastructure such as roads, culverts, bridges and levees.

“Without a commitment to long-term resilience, damaged assets will remain vulnerable to future flood events, increasing risks to communities and compounding recovery challenges.

“Additionally, the failure to support a resilient homes program for flood-affected residents is a missed opportunity to assist those most at risk.

“While council welcomes the focus on improving flood preparedness and response, we will continue to push for firm commitments on flood mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and long-term disaster recovery funding to ensure regional communities like Murrindindi are not left behind.”

Best Start Best Life

Become a kinder teacher or educator.

Financial support of up to \$34,000 available.

The Victorian Government is delivering Free Kinder.
And that means thousands of new jobs across the state.
Financial support to help you study and Free TAFE
courses are available.

Learn more at vic.gov.au/kinder



ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Big yarding amid dry conditions

by Bailey Dixon

SOME 2600 cattle were yarded last Friday at this month's Elders and Nutrien Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards, with a mixture of cows and calves, steers, heifers, and bulls. Angus were the top yarding breed, backed up by other British and Euro X breeds.

Dry conditions continue to affect cattle producers, with challenges around feed and water. Recent cattle sales around Victoria have seen producers quit stock early and prices drop, with the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator dropping some 18c/kg recently.

This was not the case in Yea, with the average price per head being \$1142 and an average weight of 330.7kg, leading to an

average of 345c/kg. This is some 21c/kg higher than the February store sale in Yea.

The top steer pen fetched \$2240 with a top weight of 505.6kg, making 443c/kg.

Continuing the trend of steers fetching more than heifers, the top heifers made \$1690 per head with a top weight of 625.5kg. This resulted in 270c/kg, some 173c/kg lower than the top steers.

The first row sold at the sale was pens of cows and calves, with the top pen fetching \$1875. The top bull for the day made \$640.

Upcoming cattle sales at the Yea Saleyards include an Elders and Nutrien Feature Store Sale on March 28, followed by the regular monthly Elders and Nutrien Store Sale on April 4.



STOCK REPORT 7 MARCH 2025

Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves, Bulls
Number of head	2,606			
Average \$ per head	\$1,142			
Average weight per head	330.7kg			
Top price per head		\$2,240	\$1,690	Bulls \$640; Cow & calves \$1,875
Top weight		505.6kg	625.5kg	
Turnover	\$2.94 million			



Farmers during the selling of cows and calves at the Yea Saleyards last Friday. -BD



Another green and pink store sale last Friday with a large yarding. -BD



Noreen and Kevin Foster were viewing the large yarding of cattle at the saleyards. -BD



Tim, Mike and Mark were looking at purchasing cattle on the day. -BD

ABARES predicts strong year for agriculture industry

THE value of agriculture in 2025-26 is expected to be the third highest on record at \$91 billion.

Including fisheries and forestry, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) expects the sector to reach \$98 billion, according to Executive Director Dr Jared Greenville.

"While this is slightly down on an exceptional 2024-25, particularly strong results are forecast for livestock and livestock products, expected to reach a new record value of \$40 billion," Dr Greenville said.

"Demand for red meat is reflected in both strong export volumes and rising export prices, which has led to the total value of

meat exports expected to hit \$22 billion this financial year.

"Agricultural exports are also looking healthy next year, with the value forecast to remain relatively steady at \$72 billion, or \$77 billion if we include fisheries and forestry.

"On the cropping front this year, national winter crop production is estimated to have increased to 59.8 million tonnes in 2024-25, 27 per cent above the 10-year average and the third largest on record.

"Summer crop production is predicted to fall slightly in 2024-25 but will remain 28 per cent above the 10-year average at 4.7 million tonnes.

"Conditions for winter crops were favourable across most of New South Wales and Queensland with timely rainfall in Western Australia. However, both Victoria and South Australia faced poor seasonal conditions resulting in lower crop yields.

"Based on the back of these livestock and cropping trends, average farm financial performance is estimated to increase for broadacre farms.

"On average, national broadacre farm cash income is forecast to rise by \$89,000 in 2024-25 from \$124,000 to \$213,000, mostly driven by higher livestock prices and greater crop production.

"Next financial year average farm incomes are expected to increase further, to \$262,000

per farm as input costs ease and higher prices support both crop and livestock receipts.

"That said, dry conditions in parts of South Australia and Victoria led to below-average farm financial performance in 2024-25 in those regions, but they are turning a corner. Improving climate conditions in these states are expected to lift production and profitability next financial year."

The *Agricultural Commodities Report March 2025* can be read at agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook

The *Crop Report* can be read at agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

UGLN cleans up the shire

THE Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) hosted their own Clean Up Australia Day event recently, picking up rubbish around Murrindindi Shire.

Participants included Homewood Landcare Group, Cathedral Landcare Group, Home Creek, Spring Creek Landcare Group, Strath Creek Landcare Group, Kinglake Landcare Group and the Friends of Marysville Walks.

Murrindindi Shire Council also supported the day.



Kinglake Landcare Group. -S



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group. -S



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group. -S

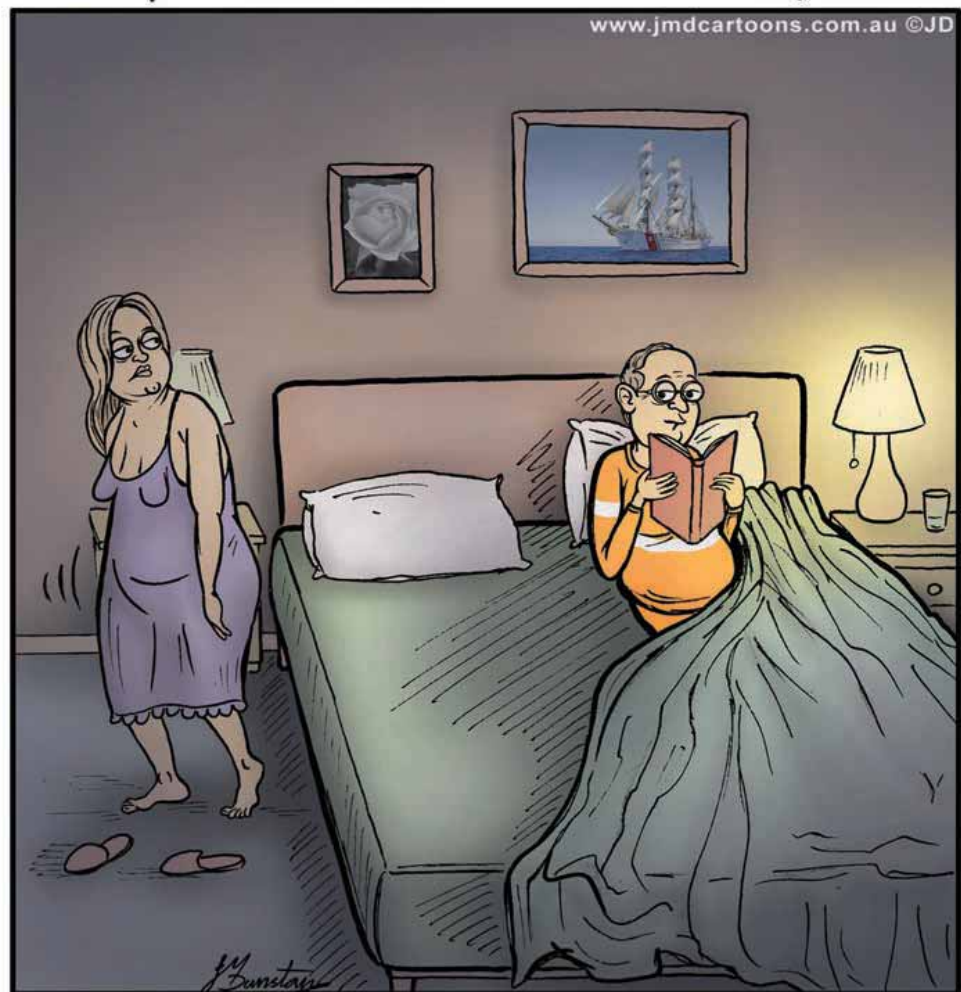


Cathedral Landcare Group. -S

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan

www.jmdcartoons.com.au ©JD



As Helen reversed into bed she noticed Graham. The high-vis pyjamas had worked.

Sponsored by

MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The March theme is 'sunsets'.

Sponsored by



5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra

Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com

facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon March 28, 2025

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

Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

A family-owned local one stop shop for Plumbing, Irrigation, Farm, Stock and Pet Supplies.

46-48 William Street Alexandra

5772 2110

alexgrainstore@gmail.com



How can we help support young people in our community

AUSTRALIAN Psychology Society president, Dr Sara Quinn MAPS GAICD, spoke to us about some of the challenges facing youths today, and the challenges parents may face in dealing with wayward youths. It’s a complex situation, but the ability to ask questions and to listen goes a long way.

How can parents best support their children when they are showing behavioural issues?

If you as a parent are concerned that your child might be engaging in those behaviours, it’s important to approach the situation yourself with a calm, curious, supportive approach. That attitude of curiosity goes a long way in order to approach that conversation in a way that’s going to be helpful for the child. We know that when a child is acting out or distracted, experiencing conflict at school or with their peers, falling behind in their education, having trouble relating to their peers, there could be a range of health, learning or psychosocial factors at play. There is not just one thing and it’s important that parents and caregivers have open and honest conversations with their child and help them really get both to the bottom of why that might be happening, but also to understand what sorts of support you might need to deal with the underlying causes of their behaviour. What we want to do is avoid threats and other reactions.

Where a consequence is actually required for behaviour, ensure that it’s appropriate for the context and for the person’s level of development, and we want it to ideally incorporate a positive learning experience or a restorative approach, so help them learn how to do things differently.

We’ve got a lot of psychologists in our schools, who are best placed to help some young people navigate those complexities in relationships and investigate the underlying causes. It also sometimes is helpful for the young person to have someone that might be independent from their parents or caregiver to have that conversation with, if it’s too difficult for them and their parents at the time.

Do you suggest that following the conversation they may be get in touch with the school or local psychological services?

I would say it’s when we see the behaviour of some young people, it’s a community that needs to respond. We often know that young people are in this time in their lives, especially in adolescence, where they start to rely more on their peers and their friendships more than they do on their parents. And that’s a really important part of their development. Parents and caregivers might not be the ones that actually are able to provide them with all of the support that they need. So enlisting the support of the school, the school psychologist, maybe even ensuring that you perhaps are having conversations with your children’s friends parents, maybe doing something like that. It’s a community approach as well.

How can parental control versus encroaching adulthood be balanced?

This is a tough one for many parents. Ultimately, the key is to balance being supportive and also a guide. You want the young person, your child, to take responsibility for their actions and their decisions, and to do that you need to create a space where your child feels safe having a discussion. That’s not just a discussion about what it is that you’re worried about, the behaviour or the problem. It’s actually to provide a safe space for the child to discuss their feelings, their experiences and their struggles at the time, so we would recommend asking open ended questions. I don’t mean put words into their mouth. I mean actually asking a question like, ‘That sounded like that was really tricky. Tell me what happened’ or ‘how did you feel about that?’

It can be difficult to get teenagers to open up. How would you handle that?

If they grunt, listen without judgement. If they know they’re not going to be judged by you, they might grunt, and then say that that’s an interesting response. Is anything else that you would like to share? Do you feel comfortable talking to me? Would you like to speak to somebody else about that? This is difficult to talk about. I find it difficult to talk about.

You can be honest about your own emotional experience of that as well, and not wanting to push them, but really wanting to be able

to help them because at essence what we’re doing is we’re trying to understand why they engage in some of those risky behaviours. Is it peer pressure, is it a desire to be close or belonging to some people or someone, are there more underlying departmental health concerns going on for that young person? We need to balance setting clear expectations and boundaries, with clear reasons why this is important, and often that’s something that we do miss. We need to say why we’re putting that in place. Then then the next step is. We need to find and support the child to find healthy outlets for their energy and frustration. We know that involvement in positive activities can actually reduce exposure to environments that might actually promote more delinquent types of behaviours. Whether or not it’s creative, like music or art, or whether it’s more social, or more physical to get out energy. Promoting that and supporting them to find those healthy outlets is important and in supporting them to continue to engage in those behaviours. That’s where a lot of this can come from. Those stronger emotions that they may not necessarily have the tools and the strategies to manage yet, and what’s most important in that conversation is that you as the parent manage your own emotions.

How much do you think boredom plays a part in it?

I think it’s very difficult for children these days to be bored because there is always such a barrage of information coming from the screens, from their phones and from the environment, far more so than any other generation. So it is actually difficult for a young person to experience boredom, and I guess that’s where being able to understand why they’re engaging in some of these behaviours and being able to support them, to find healthy outlets is really important. I think boredom can be experienced by a child as a very strong emotion and don’t know what to do with it, so it would be your role then to understand what they’re feeling and to direct them to some activities that might be really helpful for them and doing so in a way that promotes what it is that they’re into and excited by. Maybe it is that they really like being on their screens, but maybe they’d like to do that with others and gather together with their friends and their peers to do that, ensuring that you’re aware of what’s going on for them and why they might be engaging in that behaviour.

Are you able to elaborate on the causal factors behind youth delinquency? Is social media and the online space more generally, perhaps playing a part or is this just an easy place to lay blame? Or is it drugs and alcohol?

I’m going to give you a very frustrating response. I’m going to say it’s not just one thing. We know adolescence is a pretty challenging time for any of our youth, and I think it would be it would be easier for us to be able to say it’s one thing, but what we know is during that period of their lives, they’re navigating friendships and they’re doing that alongside significant personal, social and academic changes for them, and they are actually often figuring out who they are in the world and exploring the different aspects of their identity and how they might like to be and behave world around them. So it’s probably overly simplistic for us to assume that any one factor is responsible for that and for those challenging behaviours that we’re seeing in some of our young people because when there are a range of factors that play, it can be very difficult to actually pinpoint because they are very interrelated.

We do know though that the ability for social media to amplify and to normalise and maybe even in some cases, encourage behavioural change, that’s something that we can’t underestimate. It’s particularly true of young people because they’re less cognitively developed than adults might be, especially when we look at the risk taking centre of the brain. There’s just the part of the young person’s brain that’s developing. The prefrontal cortex is responsible for some of those cognitive functions, like planning, decision making, impulse control, but also emotional regulation and we know that that part of the brain doesn’t fully mature until they’re in their mid-20s. It’s very malleable to their environment and they may not necessarily have the ability to see that and

to regulate that behaviour that we might as adults.

We know that currently it might be helpful to note that at APS we are actually actively involved in the need for research around the impact of social media use on young people as well as designing those effective strategies and responses to mitigate the harm of them.

Some youths can be very attached to the sort of gaming world, for example. Is that a preventative to them developing further social skills?

There are pros and cons to all of that behaviour. We would say that some use the likes of gaming to actually connect with likeminded people. So particularly for those youths that have real difficulty interacting socially and for those youths who perhaps have brains that don’t necessarily allow them to do that with ease, the way that others might. There’s a benefit to connecting to like-minded people online. We know that there’s significant benefit, and the reduced harm can come from people that can connect with like-minded people, especially those from rural remote communities and minorities. The challenge will be if their interaction socially is only connected in those synthetic relationships online. What we would like to encourage is the parent to gently introduce other alternative means to gain that connection. If we don’t have those experiences in life and we want our children to know what their limits are and their boundaries are and to how to navigate those challenges, but we want to be able to support them in a curious way to help them understand how to do that in a safe way.

How much has COVID-19, particularly the lockdowns, played a part in any increase or decrease in youth delinquency?

We know that COVID-19 affected people in so many different ways. We know that social and economic impacts on our young people have actually been quite substantial, in particular, which is crucial at their age, that lack of physical interaction and social connectedness. I think they did a wonderful job and probably were leading the way, ahead of adults, in how to do that online. We can’t underestimate how ingenious they all were at doing that very readily. One way we know that people learn to understand themselves and the world around them is through those social connections, and usually they find those through their friends and peers at that age rather than their parents, which is a really healthy way for them to develop independence and a sense of self. But that absence of peer connection during COVID-19, especially with the school disruptions that led to significant distress in our young. Many of our life trajectory, as many of the ways that we understand ourselves and consider ourselves to be in the future, is it actually taking place during their adolescence and young adulthood. For some of those life milestones, that people would have normally engaged in and actually considered quite normal and important, those things like school events like formals, end of year assembly, where you have announcements about who’s done what and what they’re doing in the future, even on campus, university experiences in our later youth, big milestone birthdays, being able to travel and see the world and understand different customs and ways of living. The impact of not being able to do those things has made a significant difference to our youth at the minute, because we know that young people learn from their experiences and how other people respond to them. They learn how to solve problems through those experiences. They learn how to ask for help when they need to. They learn how to manage their strong emotions, and without that, learning, there are fewer mean to address those events. I would say that it has interrupted their ability to learn from those experiences and that then will be up to us to help them promote those experiences, not to protect them from the learning experiences, but to help to support them through those experiences that might be more difficult.

What do you wish parents knew about their children?

Probably the most important part to start with is that the knowledge that we’re actually in the midst of a youth mental health crisis is the first place to start. But they’re not alone. There’s actually something going on and in the past couple of years we’ve seen a marked



Dr Sara Quinn. -S

increase in children and youth presenting for treatment with psychologists. In fact, in the last 12 months, one in seven children and adolescents have experienced a mental health disorder, that’s children between the ages of four and 17, which is devastating. We know that suicide is the leading cause of death among Australians between the ages of 50 and 24. It is bleak for our youth at the minute and my hopes are that parents understand that it’s not just their child experiencing these difficulties and they have the opportunity to provide opportunities for their children to talk safely about how they’re feeling. They mightn’t do it immediately, because it’s really difficult to do, and adults and parents would know that. What we want to do is be able to encourage those open, honest discussions where a child can just feel safe to share what’s going on for them and asking you questions, because even if it is that you feel worried about what it is that they’re saying, the most important part is they feel comfortable sharing it with you. And that allows them to get the help they need when they need it most.

What do you wish the children knew about their parents?

I guess the most important part, and it doesn’t matter who your parent is and what they’re saying and what they’re doing, it’s that most parents just want the best for their children. What a child might actually say is an unfair rule or restriction on their freedom or whatever their reaction might be to whatever their parents are saying, that’s probably something that they’re putting in place in order to help them look after themselves. Parents are doing their very best they can in the situation. They experience emotions as well. It’s not up to you to help your parent manage their emotions, but it’s certainly up to you to participate in what you might not like, but might actually be important for your health and wellbeing and your safety.

Some youths and children are in family situations that are very challenging. What kind of supports are available to their children in those situations?

It is very difficult at the minute, in fact... we’re actually asking for reform at the moment to make sure that children and young people are getting appropriate and adequate access to treatment for us psychologists, because what we know, especially for youth, and for some youth who are experiencing significant difficulties, is that 10 sessions is actually just totally insufficient to meet their needs. We’ve actually been asking government to increase the sessions so that families and their children can actually benefit from the access to those additional sessions.

We’re actually calling on the government to make sure that the NDIS works effectively because we’re concerned that those cuts to the NDIS, of which many of our youth are part, have included unnecessary reductions in and the denial of psychological support in those packages to support our youth and our families.

And they’re actually impacting the functional capacity and wellbeing of those young people who are participants in that

Youth activities in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council kindly provided a summary of the shire’s current youth activities.

They advised, “Council supports young people in Murrindindi Shire with a variety of programs, events, and activities. Our dedicated Youth Services team works with young people aged between 12 and 25 years, while the Murrindindi Library Service offers engaging programs and activities for all ages. Additionally, council promotes community connection and wellbeing through initiatives that empower young people and amplify their voices.

“Recently the state government advised council that funding for two key youth programs, Engage and FReeZA, has been reduced for the next three-years. This is a disappointing outcome, especially given the existing challenges for local young people, including social isolation, extremely limited public transport and the difficulty accessing opportunities that are readily available elsewhere.

“Despite these funding cuts, council remains committed to delivering innovative and cost-effective activities for our younger residents.

Some of the programs, events and activities on offer in the shire include:

The Hangout, Yea

Youths can attend The Hangout in Yea every Monday afternoon from 4 to 5.30pm during term one. It’s a safe, inclusive and free space for young people aged 12 to 18. Enjoy fun activities and great food, with participants deciding the activities for the following week. The Hangout is located at the Yea Council Chamber. Access is via the secret bookshelf door at the Yea Library car park.

All Ages Live Music Event, Eildon

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 13. Council is hosting an All Ages Live Music Event at Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon from 2 to 5pm. Planned by local young people, this event will feature an exciting lineup of young performers. The event is strictly drug, alcohol, smoke and vape-free, and is made possible through *The Push All-Ages Grants Program*, part of the Victorian Government’s *10,000 Gigs* initiative. Follow Murrindindi Shire Youth on Facebook and Instagram for more details

Continued from Page 12

We’re actually calling on the government to make sure that the NDIS works effectively because we’re concerned that those cuts to the NDIS, of which many of our youth are part, have included unnecessary reductions in and the denial of psychological support in those packages to support our youth and our families.

And they’re actually impacting the functional capacity and wellbeing of those young people who are participants in that scheme. We are also calling for funding for more psychologists in schools, so we want to achieve a ratio of one psychologist for every 500 students.

That’s to ensure that students have access where they don’t feel that they can gain that access in the community or from their closest support network to have access to not only the mental health support they might need but also some of the academic and social support that they need, because we know that school psychologists, when they are embedded into our schools, that they have the training and skills to actually coordinate and deliver evidence-based whole of school but also multi-tiered mental health and wellbeing approaches. It can cover a whole multitude of issues going on for the youth in schools, but they’re also nicely positioned to be that bridge which links a young person and their family to supports outside of the school, and that’s healthcare, primary healthcare, specialist community mental health treatment services and social services, because without a knowledge of where to go, it’s really difficult to find it.

There’s a lot that needs to be done, and we’re calling on the government currently to put in place the \$0 safety net and better access for use in their families for health.

and ticket information.

Eat Food Play Games (EFPG), Alexandra

The Alexandra Library hosts EFPG every Friday from 3.30 to 5pm. It’s a great opportunity for young people to unwind after school, play games and enjoy some pizza.

The Lego Lab, Yea

The Yea Library hosts The Lego Lab on Fridays from 3.30 to 4.30pm. Join friends or make new ones, and create new Lego masterpieces.

High School Drop In, Kinglake

The Kinglake Library welcomes High School students every Monday afternoon during the school term from 4 to 6.20pm. Enjoy free snacks, Wi-Fi, a place to socialise, catch up on homework or simply relax.

Libraries

The Murrindindi Library Service also offers a broad program of activities for people of all ages. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries to find out more.

Other activities

If you are looking for something less structured, Murrindindi Shire is home to a range of outdoor recreation facilities, including a splash park in Eildon, pump track in Alexandra, and playgrounds, skate parks and walking trails in many of our towns.

Council welcomes ideas on how to enhance youth programs, activities and events in Murrindindi Shire, and are always looking for new ways to support young community members in partnership with others. Please share your suggestions at youth@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Don’t forget to follow Murrindindi Shire Youth on social media for updates on upcoming activities.

Many local groups and organisations also provide wonderful opportunities for young people, including sport and recreation clubs, including Scouts, community and neighbourhood houses, local schools and the Embassy of Ideas.

You can find the details of many of these organisations on council’s website, at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory

One of the other things that we have been talking about is very similar to the initiatives providers for GPS is actually to look at how it is that we can help support developing psychologists from our rural and remote communities, giving them education and training to be fully fledged psychologists, and then they will return back to their communities and deliver that support with a really good understanding of what the community needs.

Is there anything else that you would like the community to know about?

I would say just in general, other than just being really clear that when you are worried about a young child or youth or if you’re a friend of someone who might be experiencing these difficulties as a young person, that approaching someone who’s professionally trained is really important and engaging supports sooner rather than later because we want to actually be proactive rather than reactive as we’re seeing in the current statistics.

What is probably key to understanding any behaviour is understanding why that behaviour is coming up. So what is the need that’s being met through some of those more risky behaviours that we might be seeing in the community? If we understand why the youth is engaging in that behaviour, we can then help them identify what that need is and encourage more pro-social behaviours that might actually meet the same psychological and emotional need. But do so in a way that protects the safety of that young person. So that they can develop really good skills to be able to manage that in the future and that will interrupt any trajectory that we might otherwise see that would lead to more risky behaviours.

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Put money into a bank account.
- 8. The state of the world as it actually is.
- 9. Resembling a lion.
- 10. The one closest to you.
- 11. Voted into office.
- 15. More conceited than others.
- 18. Claim to have certain knowledge.
- 20. Not actually noticed.
- 22. Appeared very large and looming.
- 26. Decorate a plate of food with parsley.
- 27. Starts to burn.
- 28. A lack of sophistication.
- 29. Events that merge different elements.

DOWN

- 1. Look into deeply and intensively.
- 2. Provide evidence of the truth.
- 3. Moving very fast.
- 4. The direction things seem to be going.
- 5. A bunch of curved yellow fruit.
- 6. Very common grey and white birds.
- 7. A shellfish that contains a pearl.
- 12. Thin and lacking any fat.

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
						8						
9												
						10						
11	12		13		14							
								15		16		17
20		21										
						22		23		24		25
26												
						27						
28												
						29						

- 13. Deal with difficulties successfully.
- 14. Very dark black.
- 15. A vote that blocks a decision.
- 16. A small island.
- 17. Give relief from.
- 19. No longer working for a living.
- 20. Requiring immediate action or attention.
- 21. Injure a joint by a sudden twisting.
- 22. A criminal who steals property.
- 23. Currents of fast moving air.
- 24. Degree of relation between two similar things.
- 25. Measured portions of medicine.

Word Search

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

AFL Nicknames

BLUES	KANGAROOS
BOMBERS	LIONS
CROWS	MAGPIES
DOCKERS	SAINTS
EAGLES	SWANS
HAWKS	TIGERS

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

Cryptogram

AFL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
								14

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
	21							1

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7							

K I K I
21 14 10 21 14 6

R
6 8 1 23 17 22 8 6 8 19

I S I K S
3 14 22 7 6 14 10 21 7

Math Square

9	-	2	+	7	14
-		-		+	
6	+	1	×	3	9
-		+		+	
5	+	8	÷	4	7
-2		9		14	

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.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANIMAL SERVICES

Clever Cat

CATTERY - YEA

bookings call: **0473 514 684**



IN THE PINK Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer

0418 556 001
www.pinkdog.com.au

Taggerty Vet Clinic

Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc
0403 012 996
Consultations strictly by appointment

All Animals Large & Small

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured

AUTOMOTIVE



At Alexandra Service Centre we offer a wide range of services:

- Log book servicing
- General servicing
- Fleet car servicing
- Mechanical repairs
- RACV Roadside Assist
- Towing
- RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Roadworthys
- Trailer servicing
- Car batteries
- Auto electrical repairs
- Air conditioning

We now have several courtesy cars available when booking a service or repairs

Come in and see the team at
6A Webster Street, Alexandra
Phone: 5772 2133

BIN HIRE

RUBBISH REMOVAL
•DOMESTIC •COMMERCIAL •INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- Household Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- 3m Bins

Alexandra SKIP BINS
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA

CALL SIMON GOODMAN
0409 997 632

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA

PH 57722 152
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e: chookies@virtual.net.au

FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

BOOKKEEPING

TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING

- *BAS
- *IAS
- *Superannuation
- *Accounts Receivable
- *Accounts Payable

Ph Trevor Turner
0419 575 176

BRICKLAYING

Alexandra BRICKLAYING CONCRETE & PAVING

No job too big or too small
Free quotes
Call Jarrod, James and Corey
0409 190 502

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

HBI CONSTRUCTIONS **SCOTT HILL**
Registered Builder
0439 730 824

- NEW HOMES
- EXTENSIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- DECKS
- SWIMMING POOLS

info@hbiconstructions.com.au
hbiconstructions.com.au

REGISTERED Building Practitioner member

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

CARPET CLEANING

Carpet Cleaning

- Stain removal
- Urine treatment
- Upholstery cleaning
- Carpet steam cleaning
- Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

ALEXANDRA CHIMNEY SWEEP
Solar Panel Cleaning
Annual cleaning recommended

Phone David 0475 396 772 or Robyn 0413 299 154

CONVEYANCING

Sargeants
CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

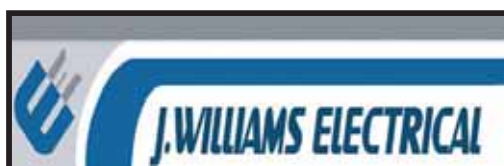
ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

E-TEC
Electrical Technology

- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations
- Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310
info@e-tec.net.au
www.eteelectrical.com.au



- COMMERCIAL
- SPLIT SYSTEMS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- MAINTENANCE
- INDUSTRIAL
- UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW HOMES
- BREAKDOWNS

0439 842 030

REDGATE ELECTRICAL

SERVICING THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE
0455 317 553
24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

Sunnyboy Electrical Services

EILDON
Domestic, Commercial and Solar
Electrical Installations
New Houses and Renovations
0498 196 986

ENGINEERING



- Ute trays and canopies
- Steel and aluminium welding
- General welding
- Onsite welding

10 Peterkin Place, Alexandra VIC 3714
www.huntedengineering.com.au
☎ (03) 5772 2132 📠 0427 937 404
Office hours: Mon-Thurs: 8am-4:30pm. Fri: 8am-1pm.

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

BUXTON EXCAVATIONS

- House and Shed Sites
- Side Cuts / Driveways
- Drainage / Erosion Works
- Dams / Vegetation Mulching
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- 20 Ton Excavators
- 3 Ton Excavator
- Quad Axle Float



Darren
0447 198 740
Barney
0488 016 820

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

- Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
- Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
- Backhoe ~ Water Carts
- Low Loader ~ Tipper Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsex@bigpond.com

Burchall Earthmoving

- ROADWORKS
- DAM WORK
- HORSE ARENAS
- GRAVEL SUPPLIES
- HOUSE & SHED SITES



Phone Shane
0418 589 240

Owner operator with local knowledge

Murrindindi EARTHMOVING
DAVID BAIRD, ALEXANDRA

0408 575 962

- Bobcat, Excavator and 4x4 Tipper Hire
- Post and Stump Hole Boring
- Trenching
- Site Clearing
- Material Delivery
- Rock Breaking

BOOK YOUR SPACE IN THE TRADES DIRECTORY

Phone: 5772 1002
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays

43 Grant Street, Alexandra VIC 3714

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE
Standard



BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

PHONE 5772 1002

EXCAVATOR HIRE

---- FOR HIRE ----

D6T dozer
Cat 12 h/grader
16T excavator
D5M dozer
Tipper
Water cart
Hay and Silage

Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)

0429 931 127

ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

GLAZIERS

ALEXANDRA WINDSCREENS & GLASS

Servicing the Murrindindi Shire
for 35 years

★ on site 24 hour service ★

- ★ Automotive glass ★
- ★ Household needs ★
- ★ Shower screens ★
- ★ Shop fronts ★

Ph Steve Heard
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER
0427 577 839



- Residential And Commercial Glass Replacement
- New Work
- Quality Double Glazing
- Mirrors
- Splash-Backs
- Shower Screens
- Pet Doors Into Single And Double Glazed

Rob - 0439 141 812

KITCHENS



Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design,
Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries,
Creative design and quality,
vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465

38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

LEGAL SERVICES



Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor
0448 793 795

admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

Louise Brennan
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra
Mobile 0418 414 875

Phone 5773 2298

Fax 5773 2294

MECHANICAL REPAIRS



Boz Miljkovic
Mechanic

Alexandra Automotive
VACC

61 Downey Street, Alexandra
Ph (03) 5772 3232

- General Car Servicing
- Repairs & Tuning
- Batteries
- Road Worthy Certificates
- Disc & Drum Machining
- Front Ends & Suspension

KAC0099

Alexandra Motorcycles



- Authorised Dealer • Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad, Side by Side repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)
PH 5772 1045

EMC4459

PLUMBERS



ANDREW WOOD
0488 559 091

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, GAS FITTING, HOT WATER SERVICES,
SEWER, SEPTIC, HEATING & EMERGENCY SERVICE

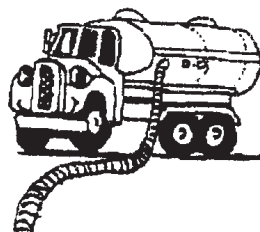
Lic. No. 108688

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SEPTIC TANK
& GREASE
TRAP
CLEANING

EPALICENCED
~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841
0419 131 958



EFTPOS & Credit
Cards Accepted

EMC0112

SERVICE STATIONS



Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
with Mobil and Prolube lubricants,
greases and solvents.



Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop **AMPOL**

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au



Like us on
facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

TREE SERVICES

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage



FULLY
INSURED

Andrew Bates: 0488 990 393
Kate Hill: 0407 555 440



- Insured
- Experienced
- Qualified
- Reliable
- Competitive

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS

Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires

5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066



Advanced
TREE CARE
Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal ✓ Chipping ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Falling ✓ Mulching ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire ✓ Free Quotes

Please call **0449 810 683**
Michael on (03) 5778 7479

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection
Ph Des Murray

0428 518 159

MM00039

WATER CARTAGE



Delivering drinking water to
Alexandra & surrounding areas

0491 795 157

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

CRYPTOGRAM

KICK IT THROUGH THE BIG STICKS

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

9	-	2	+	7	14
-		-		+	
6	+	1	×	3	9
-		+		+	
5	+	8	÷	4	7
-2		9		14	

for all your
commercial printing needs

Full colour and spot colour offset
printing, colour photocopying, business
cards, invoice books, flyers and more.

Alexandra Newspapers

Phone 5772 1002

43 Grant Street

Alexandra Vic. 3714

Email: reception

@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!
Fax 5772 1603 or Email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEALS ON WHEELS

2010 Nissan Tiida, sedan, six months rego due on May 21. Six speed manual, new battery, road worthy ready. Detailed inside and out, color gold. Economical car for young girl. Rego XRF879. Ph 0409 854 034.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

ROTARY Dindi Daze raffle winner, Pam Petersen. Second, Martin Lewis. Third, Graeme Pullen. Thanks to all.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X- trainers,
exercise bikes, rowers
and more.
PH:0407 231 377

MEETINGS



General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, March 16, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

MEETINGS



Annual General Meeting

Monday, 31 March 2025, 6pm
Historic Court House
38A Downey Street Alexandra

New Board Members Welcome (Voluntary)

Are you looking to contribute to your community in another way?

Make a difference, exciting opportunities exist to be part of Alexandra Community Hub.

A not for profit community organisation, supporting and facilitating local opportunities for learning, activities and vital services. Alexandra Community Hub Board meets monthly.

We promise you, you won't be bored on the Alex Hub Board.

Email admin@alexhub.com.au to register your interest or call Sue on 5772 1238 (Mon to Thurs) for more information.



Clay Hilder, Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder at Victorian Track and Field. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletes shine at state championships

THE 2024-25 Victorian Track and Field Championships at Casey Fields, Cranbourne, saw a weekend of high temperatures and high achievement as athletes from across the state put their best foot forward in the season finale.

Among the standout competitors were brothers Clay and Chase Hilder, who had only just returned from the Australian Interschools

Mountain Bike Championships in Thredbo. Despite their packed schedule, the duo showed their determination and resilience on the track.

Under 12 athlete Clay Hilder secured a personal best in the 1500m Race Walk, finishing in an impressive ninth place. Meanwhile, his older brother Chase, competing in the under 14 division, claimed 17th place in the 200m Hurdles with a personal best time and 18th in the 90m Hurdles. Chase also shaved six seconds off his best 1500m time, earning him 19th place in a highly competitive field.

Hot off his recent success at the New Zealand Colgate Games, under 14 athlete Levi Campbell showcased his talent in multiple events. Levi placed 14th in the 400m sprint and 20th in the 200m, while his jumping ability was on display with a 16th place finish in the Triple Jump and 20th in the Long Jump.

Zoe Coller also made the trip to Cranbourne with her family, competing in the under 12 Javelin event. Her best throw of the day earned her a commendable 21st place.

The club gives a big shout-out to team manager Kim Campbell for her support, as well as to the club members who cheered on the athletes via the live stream, sending messages of encouragement throughout the competition.

Despite the scorching temperatures, the athletes found a refreshing highlight of the meet, the misting fans, which provided much-needed relief between events. Congratulations to all competitors for their outstanding efforts in representing Murrindindi on the state stage.



Zoe Coller competed in the under 12 javelin last Saturday. -S

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE
Standard
The Yea Chronicle

PLEASE NOTE:
All classifieds
must be paid by
cash, cheque or
credit card at the
time of booking.



Alexandra Newspapers
Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant St. Alexandra Vic. 3714
Email: reception
@alexandranewspapers.com.au

full colour | spot colour | short-run

business cards

We offer a range of business card printing options, including glossy or matt celloglazed, full colour cards; spot-colour printing on classic uncoated card; and short-run photocopies when you only need a small quantity.



Alexandra Newspapers
Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant Street,
Alexandra Vic. 3714
reception@
alexandranewspapers.com.au



Some science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) activities set up by Buxton Primary School. -MP



The horse riding was popular among the children. -MP



Everyone got to enjoy a free barbecue as part of the event. -MP



The finish was close on the first egg and spoon race. -MP



The egg and spoon race was a hit among the children. -MP

Community Fun Day in Buxton



Peter Cureton and Alan Tonkin cooking the barbecue for everyone to enjoy. -MP



Hendrix looking amazing with his face painted. -MP



MP Cindy McLeish having lunch with Buxton locals. -MP



Paul Denham emceed the event at the Buxton Recreation Reserve. -MP



Mayor Damien Gallagher was in attendance at the event. -MP



MP Cindy McLeish pinning the beard on local Wayne Fiske. -MP

SPORT

Stroke round at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday with a hot day expected the golfers teed off earlier than usual to play a stroke round for the March monthly medal at Marysville Golf Club.

The ladies' winner was Beverley Bellman (39) with an excellent nett 69 followed by Lesley Rundle (34) with nett 73 on a countback from Margaret Blair. Lesley and Margaret with the same handicap and who played together, gained exactly the same score on each of the nine holes and it was only Lesley's gobbler on the par three 18th which won her the countback.

The men's winner was Ray Jones (22) with nett 65 followed by the in-form Pat Orwin (29) with nett 70. Juergen Braun from Dorset Golf Club was welcomed to the competition and he won the nearest the pin on the fourth hole.

Other nearest the pins winners were Travers Stow, Gail Leigh and Jody Doran. With 25 putts Richy Clark won the putting. It was very pleasing to see a number of green fee players enjoying the course and the club's thanks go to Kellan Fiske and his volunteer helpers for presenting the course in such good condition despite the challenging weather conditions.

Upcoming events at the club are currently being organised with the annual Lakeside Challenge being held on Saturday, March 15. The Lakeside golfers have to vacate their course every year during the Formula One Grand Prix Festival and have been coming to Marysville for 14 years for a friendly challenge against the Marysville players.

It will be a shotgun start at 9.30am and barbecue bacon and egg sandwiches will be available for those who need sustenance before the game. Members who wish to play in this event are asked to contact Heather Jenkins as soon as possible.

On Thursday, March 20 a Community Golf Day supported by the Marysville Lions is being held with a 10am shotgun start. It is a four ball best ball team's ambrose game with refreshments on the course, lunch, silent and live auctions and \$500 cash prize for nearest the pin in a circle all on the agenda.

For queries and registrations please contact Jim or Steve at enquiries@marysvillgolfandbowls.com.au

The Sandy Wilson Memorial Ladies' Bowl is being held on Thursday, March 27 and the organization for that is also under way. Entries close on Monday, March 24.

The course will be closed on Wednesday, April 2 as the greens are being cored. Next Saturday members look forward to welcoming the Lakeside players to the club.



Justin lines up a backhand against Michael. -S

Close matches for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Cappuccino versus Espresso

LOCHLAN versus Tyler: Both players had a great game. It looked like Lochlan would win

easily in the second game when he won with an enormous lead. Tyler pulled out some tricks to reduce Lochlan's lead in the last game but still lost in the end. 60 to 55.

Sally versus James G: James came to play early and held a commanding lead for the first game. Sally found her range and it saw a more competitive match. James had a cruisy 24-point win. 69 to 45.

Michael M versus Justin: If Michael was expecting an easy match, Justin soon disabused him of this notion. Justin kept the balls in play to draw plenty of error from his opponent to lead at the halfway point. Michael ran like a mad man to steal the match by only two-points. 58 to 56.

Jack versus Derrick (fill in): A very tight match with some amazing rallies. Going into the final game there was only one-point difference. Jack ran out of steam, losing a few points at the end, seeing Derrick win the match. 50 to 46.

Latte versus Mocha

JORDAN versus Ethan: Some cracking points and rallies that seem to never end. It was a very tight match with both players winning two games. Ethan pulled ahead to win by one measly point. 46 to 45.

Daniel W (fill in) versus Simon: The ball got a good hiding in this match. Simon ran the court and kept Daniel moving. Daniel won three games, all by a few points to take home the victory. 66 to 53.

Thursday Competition Darjeeling versus Earl Grey

ROB versus Travis: Taking the lead, Travis won the first game. Rob responded by taking the next three games with a decent margin to win the match. 64 to 53.

Phil versus Daniel W: A tight match. By the halfway point the score was even. Daniel lost a lot of point on strokes and lost his groove in game three. Daniel finished the match with a win, but overall lost to Phil. 56 to 48.

Oolong versus Rooibos

STUART versus Jim (fill in): Stuart had high hopes, winning the first game. The second game saw Jim find his length and take control of the match. Jim won three games and the match. 71 to 47.



Tahj Parker. -S

TAHJ Parker, a year three student has competed in both cluster and regional swimming events for St Mary's Alexandra and is now heading to the state championships.

Tahj won both his 50m breaststroke and butterfly events on Wednesday, March 5 in Shepparton and now is through to the state championships on May 1. The school wishes him the best of luck. Tahj is a champion already as he is an active member of both Seymour and Alexandra swimming clubs. Good Luck Tahj.

Good luck Tahj

Merton cricketers take on Rovers at home

MERTON cricketers hosted Rovers Bruck United in the last home and away game before the finals with both teams already qualifying in the top six.

Rovers being the inform side and sitting third on the ladder and not dropping a game since Christmas with Merton coming off the bye and looking for a strong performance before finals.

The visitors won the toss and batted making 5/152 on a lightning quick outfield. Andrew Balfour opening made an impressive 58, however when he was brilliantly caught in the outfield by Tyson Garlick off the bowling of Berriman with the score on 101.

In the 22nd over some tight bowling and impressive fielding saw the home side restrict Rovers in the latter overs. Jai Lerch-

Mackinnon 2/25, Rohan Berriman 2/22 and Luke Berriman 1/10 the wicket takers.

Vance Curran 32 was the other consistent batter for Rovers. Mertons innings started with the loss of opener Berriman in the second over however from that point the home side punished anything loose with Luke Benton 39 and Ross Mackinnon 31 pushing the score along.

After the dismissal of Mackinnon son Jai really stepped up taking on the Rovers bowlers making 64 off 38 balls in an entertaining innings which included six fours and four sixes.

Merton passed Rover's total three wickets down. S.Godfrey 1/39. J Aykroyd 1/32 and L Obrian 1/13 the Rover's wicket takers. The two sides play again next Saturday at Wangaratta in a must win final for both sides.

New round of grants for regional football and netball clubs

THE Victorian Government is getting behind regional football and netball clubs ahead of the new season, with grants to make sure more Victorians get the chance to play the sport they love close to home.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence and Member for Frankston Paul Edbrooke recently announced seven new projects will share in more than \$1.4 million from the *Country Football and Netball Program*, as well as announcing a new round of grants has opened.

"Nothing brings regional communities together like country footy and netball. Through this program we're supporting hundreds of clubs by giving them

facilities the whole community can enjoy and get around," Ms Spence said.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria, the program has invested more than \$40 million and delivered more than 580 projects since 2005.

Applications for the new round of grants close on Monday, July 7, 2025. Regional and outer metropolitan councils can apply for grants of up to \$250,000 for sports infrastructure developments including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more.

For the latest information and successful grant recipients visit sport.vic.gov.au

Golfing in warm weather at Alexandra Golf Club



A welcome return for John Mosley. -S

by Dave Silverman

FINE and warm to hot. There, that's the week's weather out of the way. Ten players competed in Tuesday's stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, with an in-form John Groatorex taking the top spot.

John was only two over par for the first nine, but fell away a little in the second half, finishing with a very good 40 points. Brad Newton was second with 36, and third place went to Leo Dynes on 33. Leo also claimed nearest the pin on 18, with Brad snaring 17. The rundown vouchers went to Bruce Colville and Len Jenkins.

Wednesday saw 11 ladies get off to an early start, all vying for the March Monthly Medal. It was tight at the top, but the medal went to Helen Findlay with a 95 net 69, just one stroke clear of Marie Stace in second, with Marg Fahey not far away with a 73.

Marg also had the fewest putts with 30, Judy Pearson won the nine hole competition with a net 36, and the nearest the pins went to Sandy Wettenhall on two and 18, with Helen taking five on her way to the win.

With daylight saving coming to an end, for this season at least, of the Chook Run, but for now, 16 players took part this week. The winner was Ryan Carter with a net 25, with Ben Jack and Jimmy Fulton in joint second place with net 27 apiece.

Saturday's weather, see above, and 24 members came out to play. It was a stroke round, and as well as being the Monthly Medal, it was also round two of both the Summer Cup and the Golden Putter.

New member Will Goyder announced his arrival in no uncertain terms, his 98 net 66 good enough to make him the March Medal winner. Well done, Will, and welcome to the club.

Hot on Will's heels were Corey Jack in second, Greg Ebinger in third and Mick Holohan in fourth, all on 67, and Simon Rouget came in fifth with a net 68.

Luke Heard had the fewest putts with 27, and the nearest the pins went to Ruth Worland on two, Steve Darmody on five, Russell Purcell on seven, Steve Wersham on 12, and 18 went to the winner, Will Goyder. Steve Wersham finished the day on a high note by winning the meat raffle.

Don't forget that the course is closed next Saturday, as the races are on, so this weekend's golf will be a stableford round on Sunday, March 16, names in by 10.30am for an 11am hit-off. Also, keep an eye on the club's Facebook page for those interested in the knockout Matchplay competition, and if you're interested in representing your club in the Pennant competition, give Luke a call.



Sandy Wettenhall putts for a par. -S



Darmody, Jenkins and Millard on the course. -S



Lyn Capp chips up to the 18th. -S



Lenny Jenkins putts on the ninth. -S

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Alexandra Bowls Club wins Grand Final

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club travelled to Tatura Hilltop Bowls Club for the Pennant Grand Final. Their opponents Euroa had defeated Shepparton Park in the preliminary final. It had been a close game in the first final against Euroa with Alexandra winning by 10 shots over the 84 ends.

The Alexandra side repeated that win and brought home the winning grand-final medals. It was a great victory and was the club's 39th Grand Final win since records have been kept. The win means Alexandra will be promoted to Goulburn Valley Playing Area Division Three for next season.

Overall scores throughout the game indicated that very little separated the sides with Alexandra eight shots up at end 56, 56 to Euroa 48. Alexandra had increased that lead by end 72 and were 74 to 62 up. End 80 and the scores were Alexandra 84 to Euroa 66. Only one Alexandra rink scored on the last end but at end 84 and Alexandra were premiers 85 to 70.

The best winning rink was Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist. They led for the entire game. Scores were seven to zero after end three and Alexandra had Euroa 15 to two on end 10. Euroa won the next three ends to trail by eight shots 15 to seven.

It was all Alexandra after that, with the rink winning five out of the last seven ends, including picking up five shots on end 14 to win 29 to 11. They won 13 out of the 21 ends.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ian Harper, Ken Argent and Christine Mayfield also won on the day. They had their opposition 15 to two on end 13 having won 11 out of the first 13 ends. However, Euroa won five out of the next six ends to trail 16 to 11. A handy four shot pick up on end 20 and Alexandra was 20 to 11 and assured of the win. But every point counts and despite losing the last end Alexandra won 20 to 13. They won 13 ends overall.

The closest game played was the David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Saxon Langmead rink. It was five all on end five but by end 12 Alexandra had a handy lead 15 to six. Euroa found their game and won the next three ends to only trail by two shots 13 to 15. The game was all tied up on end 19 at 18 all. It was one shot each on the last two ends to end 19 all.

The most impressive comeback was from the Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias and Denice Chisholm rink. They did not win their game, but their fight back contributed greatly to the victory for the side. They trailed one to 14 on end eight and were



Alexandra Bowls Club's Grand Final winners celebrating their victory, coming out on top for the 2024-25 season. -S

four to 19 on end 10. They were still trailing six to 25 on end 14. However, they won six out of the last seven ends including a five shot win on end 16 and reduced their losing margin to only 10 shots 17 to 27.

Medals were presented by the President of the Goulburn Valley Murray Region at the conclusion of the game. Christine Mayfield the Alexandra Manager thanked Tatura Hilltop for their hosting and green preparations and wished Euroa well for next season.

She also congratulated Saxon Langmead, Alexandra's first year player on being a member of the winning side. Alexandra had met Euroa four times this season and won all four games. The ride home in the bus driven by Mal Gill was loud and the singing was, well 'loud'. Celebrations back at the club continued into the night.

Alexandra has had three sides in pennant this season: a mid-week division four, a Saturday division six and four. There have been many new players take to the green and next season looks positive with their completion of a season's experience.

In other finals division two Seymour VRI were playing their Grand Final at Euroa against Shepparton Golf. VRI won 84 to 65 and will now play in division one next season.



The best winning rink consisting of Greg Gilmore, Lauren Gilchrist, Marie Evans and Larry Scott. -S

Division five Yea played at Shepparton Park against Kyabram. They were defeated in a very close finish 60 to 57.

The next major event for the club is the FoodWorks Murrindindi Tournament on March 15 and 16. Spectators are encouraged

to come along and see some top bowlers

in action.

Alexandra B-Grade cricketers beat Seymour to take second place into semi-finals

by Michael Mawson

THE final round of the regular season saw Alexandra Cricket Club's B-Grade side lock-in second place on the Seymour and District Cricket Association (SDCA) ladder with an easy win over bottom-placed Seymour.

According to the club, the match was the most enjoyable game of the season as the visiting team gave priority to having fun and playing in the best spirit of country sport.

Given that there were two home games on the weekend, the B-Grade team was relegated to the artificial wicket at Rebel Park as the A-Grade had priority on the turf pitch at Leckie Park. Seymour's captain, Ben McPherson, won the toss and elected to bat.

Despite Rebel Park being ideal for batsmen, the opening pair of Matt Miller and Joshua Carrafa were finding it difficult to score against the bowling of Will Ellis

and Ben Geldart. Any accurate balls were fended away and attacking strokes seldom contacted the ball.

Despite their quality bowling, Ellis and Geldart didn't claim wickets and the score slowly crept to 40 before the introduction of slow bowling induced mistakes. Carrafa holed out to Will Ellis at backward square leg off the bowling of Levi Ronalds. Matt Miller took risky run from the fielding of Harrison Christie and paid for it by being run-out for 26.

Seymour wickets then fell regularly with three more batters mishitting Ronalds' bowling and being caught. Thaya Sathisivam claimed a wicket by taking a stunning reflex catch off his own bowling. Joshua Delaney hit the ball like a rocket and Thaya caught it cleanly and with nonchalance.

Jaidon Snyman then took a blinding catch of his own at first slip when Seymour's

Jared Cram snicked a thick edge off the bowling of Robert "Yobbo" Andrews. Ben Broadway claimed a wicket with his off-spin when Jordan Ferrier ran down a skied top edge. Ben Geldart returned to the attack and quickly got through the defences of the final two batters.

After a promising start, Seymour had collapsed to be all-out for 110 from 38 overs.

After the lunch break, the Redbacks opening pair of Michael Mawson and Levi Ronalds had a contrasting time at the crease. Mawson had to take time grafting eight runs off the fast bowling of James Hibbens and Josh Delaney.

Ronalds faced the youngster Khari Sison and was able to smack four boundaries on his way to a score of 23. Ronalds was bowled by Delaney with the Redbacks score at 34. It was then 2/34 when Mawson mistimed an

astonishingly slow ball from his opposing captain to be caught in the covers.

From this point, Seymour was in party mode. They made sure that all their players had a turn bowling and were enjoying their banter in the field. They were often driven to comment on the shiny dental work of one of their players. It was as if perfect teeth were a rare sight in Seymour.

Jaidon Snyman and Ben Geldart were the beneficiaries of all this and scored freely off the non-challenging bowling. Snyman made 25 and Geldart smacked eight boundaries on his way to his personal best total of 54. It took less than 19 overs to pass Seymour's total.

The win had secured second place on the table for the Redbacks. The B-Grade team will play against Tallarook in a semi-final. Tallarook is a well-run team and the Redbacks will need to be at their best this Saturday.