

Standard

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

P.O. Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, May 27, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Family history book donated to library



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Eildon's Biggest Morning Tea



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Murrindindi Beanie Festival



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Weekend sport



Pages 16-20



Menzies Support Services hosted a Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday, May 21, raising funds for cancer research. The clients and staff worked very hard to create a beautiful array of food for the attendees. -AR

Why did the temporary accommodation take so long?

THE Victorian Government is offering temporary accommodation to support uninsured and underinsured households by providing them with a temporary place to stay while their homes are repaired or rebuilt.

Residents from areas impacted by the January bushfires, including those in Murrindindi Shire, can apply for temporary accommodation if they are unable to live in their home due to the bushfires. Temporary accommodation is allocated based on community need, not local government area.

A Department of Families, Fairness and Housing spokesperson said, "We are supporting communities as they navigate their journey from disaster to recovery. More than \$420 million in recovery assistance has

been made available to communities affected by the January 2026 bushfires, including communities in Murrindindi Shire."

Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell has spoken out against the state government however, claiming there is a delay in providing housing support for bushfire-affected people.

Ms Lovell spoke in parliament last week to demand that the Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery take immediate action to provide proper housing support to those affected by the fires.

She noted that after the Black Saturday fires and the October 2022 floods there was a rapid and concerted effort to ensure that people in immediate need were given housing.

"It is vital that after a disaster housing is provided that allows families to remain present and connected in their communities as they recover, and enables children to stay in their local schools," Ms Lovell said.

Almost 500 homes were destroyed or damaged across the state in this summer's fires.

Over the past few weeks Ms Lovell has been extremely disappointed to hear from residents in the Longwood and Harcourt fire zones that the government has failed to provide an adequate housing response for people who lost their homes.

Many are still living in caravans without adequate heating as cold winter weather arrives, and there are children who have not yet returned to their local school. Others who

are still relying on the hospitality of family or friends continue to seek alternative long-term accommodation while attempting to rebuild their homes and lives.

"The Allan Labor Government has let these communities down, and taken far too long to provide adequate housing support to those who lost their homes in the fires. I am pleased to hear that the government has finally committed to providing 100 modular homes, but this is clearly not enough and has arrived far too late as the cold winter weather has already set in," Ms Lovell said.

People affected by the January fires in the Murrindindi Shire are encouraged to seek support through the Emergency Recovery Support Program by calling 1800 560 760.

Grant funding for three new council road safety projects

MORE safety upgrades will soon roll out on local roads and streets across Victoria, with another 100 projects announced under the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program. A further \$28.7 million will be invested in the program, with \$17.2 million directed to regional Victoria.

The funding will help councils deliver projects including pedestrian crossings, intersection upgrades and traffic calming measures.

More than 430 projects have now been approved across Victoria, with all 79 councils participating in the program.

Murrindindi Shire Council has successfully secured grant funding for three new road safety projects under the program's supplementary round.

These projects build on council's ongoing commitment to improve safety outcomes across the municipality, following the adoption of the *Murrindindi Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030*. Keeping community and visitors safe remains a key priority for council's advocacy and grant program.

The successful projects stretch across Eildon, Alexandra and Caveat.

In Eildon, there will be speed limit reductions and improved signage and line marking on the Eildon-Jamieson Road. These works respond to a history of serious accidents on this road corridor and are designed to improve driver awareness and reduce risk.

In Alexandra, installation of a raised priority pedestrian crossing, commonly

known as a wombat crossing, on Webster Street, will replace the existing school crossing to improve pedestrian safety in this area.

And in Caveat, speed limit reductions will be implemented on Highlands Road and Caveat-Dropmore Road, complementing and extending broader safety improvements already underway on Highlands Road through the initial phase of the program.

Together, the three projects represent just under \$1 million in investment in safer local roads for the Murrindindi community.

These newly announced projects are separate to the Grant Street pedestrian safety improvements previously announced by council. The Webster Street wombat crossing is an additional project focused

specifically on improving safety near the existing school crossing.

Council was also successful in securing approximately \$2 million in road safety projects under the first phase of the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program.

The program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), in partnership with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), and supports councils to deliver targeted safety upgrades on local roads where they are needed most.

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program is part of Victoria's Road Safety Strategy, which aims to halve road deaths by 2030 and eliminate road deaths by 2050.



Letters to the Editor

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400
In an emergency dial 000

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Carbon emissions

WITH respect to Ken Coller's data and good intentions expressed in the May 13 edition of the paper, I have a different point of view. Very roughly, Australia's contribution to global CO2 emissions is four times the global per capita average.

I believe that it is vital that Australia leads by example by heading towards 100 per cent renewables. We can be South Pacific renewable industry leaders and help our neighbours with expertise and hopefully equipment sales.

The total projected land use for renewables in Victoria is less than one percent. Land used for solar farms and turbines can also generally be used for grazing animals. I think it is likely that in the future, the US and other countries that do not participate in renewable energy developments will become technologically outdated by countries that are developing industries based on green energy.

Other reasons for developing towards 100 per cent renewables are both short term and long term. We have a younger generation that is searching for optimism in an increasingly difficult world. The abandonment of environmental regulations by the Trump regime is a shattering blow and terrible example for those of us who look towards a clean and healthy planet earth. Australia's renewable transition is a cause for optimism by many.

Thinking generations ahead, Australia's vast coal reserves may be more profitably left in the ground for now. Wood for building is becoming increasingly expensive and massive deforestation in other countries is an addition to global warming. Coal consists mostly of carbon, along with smaller amounts of hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen and nitrogen. Future developments will make coal valuable as a source for materials like green concrete, bricks, carbon fiber and no doubt, commodities that are yet to be invented.

Andrew Bottomley, Alexandra

In memory

IN memory of the beautifully hand crafted and colourful planter boxes torn from the main street of Alexandra a year ago, on May 29, 2025. These special additions to the main street conveyed a promise of better days and gave new life to their surroundings.

The community wonders if those who orchestrated this destruction which caused an empty street of broken promises and plans, and a street devoid of colour and soul, are happy with their decision.

They are urged to take notice of the streets in Seymour, Yea, Euroa and Marysville which show support for plants and colourful additions which demonstrate care and pride in their street appeal to be enjoyed by the local community and visitors alike.

The community is tired of empty promises to improve the appeal of the main street area. Show us some action, arrange for the planters to be returned and support the community wishes for a well planned and welcoming town centre.

Pamela Thompson, Alexandra

Solar panels

WHAT you are not told when installing hot water solar panels on your roof is that when they stop working they leach chemicals onto your roof causing rusting and holes and leaks. For an 80 year old who does not venture up ladders onto the roof this came as a huge shock.

Val lethbridge, Alexandra

Our farming zone

IT should be simple. The primary use of our quality agricultural land in the Murrindindi Shire is farming. It's the backbone of the shire's economy, employment and rural identity. The Victorian Planning Scheme is clear that subordinate uses including dwellings require permits (on properties less than 40 hectares). While many landowners may find the planning process frustrating, its

purpose is important. It's to prevent land use conflicts and protect productive farmland for future generations.

Too often, people purchase rural land believing they can do as they please. Some proceed with unapproved uses on the assumption that 'it is easier to ask for forgiveness later'.

However, once a landowner's actions begin to interfere with neighbouring farming operations or undermine the intent of the planning scheme, simple forgiveness is no longer enough.

Then there are the quieter forms of non-compliance, such as sheds converted into accommodation without approval, often introduced gradually and with little scrutiny. Some may see this as harmless. But problems arise when those occupying sheds in the Farming Zone treat their land like their castle with no respect for realities of legitimate farming operations nearby and the healthy acres on the other side of the fence.

On the other side of the coin, you have the real farmer living from the land looking forward to a peaceful weekend after a long working week, to find his or her amenity disturbed by the noise of recreational motor bikes or a private shooting range or overseas hunters chasing wombats across paddocks.

This raises an important question: what is the role of council?

Council has the duty and responsibility to uphold the Victorian Planning Scheme and protect agricultural land from incremental encroachment by recreational or incompatible uses.

Who gets the stamp of approval? Does council fulfill its duty by prioritising and protecting legitimate agricultural activity in the Farming Zone, or allow ongoing non-compliance and gradual erosion of the zone's primary purpose?

Name and address supplied but withheld by request. The author is 'just a farmer'

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
 5772 0900
Non-emergency police assistance
 131 444
EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency
 UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
 UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountaineer

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
 Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
 Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
 Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
 Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
 Sun AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.
 Sun ALANON meeting; 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086

MONTHLY

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Weekly Weather
 May 27 - June 2, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	6	17	Wednesday	10	17
Thursday	10	16	Thursday	11	16
Friday	8	16	Friday	9	15
Saturday	7	14	Saturday	7	14
Sunday	6	12	Sunday	6	13
Monday	7	12	Monday	7	12
Tuesday	7	12	Tuesday	7	13

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	7.00AM Mon	1.08	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	7.00AM Mon	0.48	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.00AM Mon	0.58	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	10.30PM Sun	0.18	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.50	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00AM Mon	0.25	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	8.00AM Mon	0.63	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	8.00AM Mon	3.25	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	8.00AM Mon	0.42	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	0.78	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	8.00AM Mon	0.33	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	1.14	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

***ISSUED AT 7.00 AM AEDT MONDAY 25 MAY 2026**

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	14mm
Buxton.....	7mm
Eildon (AWS).....	9mm
Flowerdale.....	49mm
Jamieson.....	20mm
Kinglake.....	37mm
Lake Eildon.....	10mm
Mansfield.....	6/9mm
Taggerty.....	25mm
Yarck.....	22mm
Yea.....	27mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	269.44m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	40.5%
Metres below full supply.....	19.45m
Daily inflow.....	800ML
Release.....	800ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	67%

Standard
 THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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

POLICE REPORT

POLICE have advised that a stolen white Subaru crashed into the wire rope barrier on the Goulburn Valley Highway, near the corner of Abes Lane, in Killingworth at approximately 6.45am on the morning of Tuesday, May 19. No-one was in the vehicle when the police attended. Police are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen the occupants. Please contact the Yea Police if you are able to provide any further information. The collision led to significant delays on highway as the clean up took place.



Attendees at the U3A volunteer tutors morning tea. -S

Thank you morning tea for U3A volunteer tutors

LAST week, during Volunteer Week, the U3A Murrindindi East Committee took the opportunity to show appreciation to their wonderful team of volunteer tutors with a special morning tea.

This year U3A has a total of 44 tutors, some conducting classes weekly, others fortnightly, monthly, per term, short several-week courses or pop-up events, all equally valued by members.

U3A tutors generously share not only their knowledge, skills and experience, but also their time, patience and enthusiasm. They are the heart of the organisation and play a vital role in creating opportunities for learning, friendship and community connection across Murrindindi East.

The range of classes and activities on offer continues to grow and reflects the many

talents and interests within the community. From art, craft, writing and music, to exercise, dancing, technology, languages, history and special interest groups, there is truly something for everyone.

Many tutors spend countless hours preparing lessons, organising materials and encouraging members to step outside their comfort zones and try something new in a welcoming and supportive environment.

The morning tea was a small gesture of thanks for the enormous contribution the volunteer tutors make throughout the year. It also provided an opportunity for tutors to catch up with one another, share ideas and enjoy some well-deserved recognition for the important role they play within U3A.

U3A Murrindindi East is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and

passionate group of volunteers who help make lifelong learning enjoyable, accessible and socially rewarding for members. Without tutors, U3A simply would not exist.

To each and every one of the volunteer tutors, thank you for the energy, kindness and commitment you bring to our community. Your contribution is deeply appreciated by both members and committee alike.

Matthew Sparkes wanted on warrants

POLICE are appealing for public assistance to help locate Matthew Sparkes. The 36 year old is wanted on multiple warrants and is thought to frequent Kilmore, Mt Evelyn, Seville and is a previous resident of Eildon.

He is described as having a fair complexion, dark hair, slim build and approximately 175cm tall.

Anyone who sights Matthew, or has information regarding his whereabouts is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or make a confidential report at crimestoppers.com.au



Alexandra Newspapers acquired by North East Media

ALEXANDRA Newspapers, a leading provider of news services in the Murrindindi Shire, would like to announce that its mastheads have been acquired by North East Media (NEM) effective July 1, 2026.

The transaction marks a significant milestone in the company's history and positions the business for continued growth under new ownership.

The *Alexandra Standard* masthead was founded in 1868 and the *Yea Chronicle* in 1885. Through these newspapers, Alexandra Newspapers has built a strong reputation as a trusted and reliable news source for the

Murrindindi Shire. Our print media service prides itself on trust, honesty and integrity.

We deliver every week over the year for the benefit of the community (Christmas holidays excluded). This is no mean feat.

The sale will officially go through with the new financial year so from July 1, North East Media will take control of the business and assets.

Customers can expect a seamless transition, with all existing services continuing uninterrupted.

NEM CEO Edward Higgins said the additional

mastheads come with strong historic connections and award winning coverage of their towns and regional communities.

"They fit well with our regional papers at Mansfield and Euroa and will be supported by our Wangaratta based print and publishing technologies," he said

We want to thank all our customers, advertisers, and staff current and former, that have made the newspaper great. This decision was the right one and we have confidence that North East Media group is a very competent operator to take the paper into the future.



THUMBS DOWN: To the business in town who parks a work vehicle in front of their Grant Street business all day long, not giving the shoppers spending money a chance to park at the front of the supermarket.

THUMBS UP: To Yarck. The hall committee, the volunteers, the donors, those who always have a nice word or a hug. Strong and supportive in tough times. Such a caring and helpful community to be part of.

THUMBS UP: To Goodies. Always happy smiles, kind deeds and great service. A wonderful asset to Alexandra.

THUMBS UP: To Chris Bowen, Labor and the local Independent teal green representative. Renewables powering the failed street lights of Myrtle Street last week. More will come.

THUMBS UP: To Kerrie and her wonderful helpers for putting on such a huge Biggest Morning Tea in Eildon. Special mention to the two Sue's, Lyn, Veronica and her yummy bake table. Also to Ken who always has a smile for everyone and Anita Carr for being the emcee. Big thanks to everyone else concerned. A big effort for such a worthy cause.

THUMBS UP: To whoever is painting the roads pink to highlight potholes and problems.

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

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

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TRAWOOL
TRiVIA
 Hosted by
 Trawool owner & local lad
 Wes Old!
Friday
 26th June, 7pm
 Think you know your stuff?
 Put it to the test
 at Trawool Trivia!
 Free to play & prizes
 BOOK HERE

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH
MEN'S HEALTH WEEK
Murrindindi Foodshare
 Thursday 4/6/2026 9am - 12pm
 88a Grant St - access via Bayley St carpark
Alexandra Pharmacy
 Thursday 18/6/2026 10am - 12pm
 101 Grant St, Alexandra
 Free health checks on-site
 no appointments necessary
 Murrindindi RESTART at Alexandra Foodshare
 Foundation Murrindindi
 alexandra community pharmacy



Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THIS week's Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club meeting was special as following the social meeting agenda, the members remembered Ron Huggard. Ron passed away at Easter.

Club members were joined by friends from the ParkView Caravan Park and the local area, past members Gai and Phil Smith who travelled down from the north of the state, and the family from Rutherglen, to celebrate the life of a long time club member.

Ron was the quiet, behind-the-scenes man who did the jobs we forget, like turning up early to turn on the air conditioning or heating before the meetings. He put the bins out, swept up the leaves, and drove people about when they had no transport.

Treasurer Dave told us of Ron's time with the club, his love of carpet bowls and 500, and as a member of the committee. He was a man of few words but he was there when you needed help.

His family spoke of his life before he moved to Alexandra and the ups and downs he had in his life. A big heartfelt thank you to the family for joining club members and friends to remember a good bloke. Vale Ron Huggard, August 11, 1942 to April 2026.

A social meeting will be held this week and a committee meeting on the morning of Friday, June 6 will be followed by a business meeting at 1pm. Head along and join the happy group. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Out & About

THE items in Out and About are sourced from our current advertising. 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.

Congratulations to all the Winton ticket giveaway winners. We hope you have a great time. Thank you to everyone who entered. The winners were: Lynette Bennett (Alexandra)

Iain McPherson (Glenburn); Ron Moroney (Eildon); Stewart Potter (Marysville); James Stewart (Alexandra); Sandra Whitning (Chirside Park); Gusty Gale (Alexandra); Laurence Franklin (Alexandra); Lyn O'Kane (Eildon); Kelly Peterson (Alexandra).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Yea Water Tigers Amateur Swimming Club AGM will be held at Yea Community House

from 6-7pm. General meeting will follow. Enquiries to yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com. New members welcome.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Clearing sale Maroondah Highway Yarck. Farm machinery, farm sundries, general tools and hardware, cattle showing gear and more. Contact Embling Rural for more details 0418 266 038.

Whanregarwen Fire Brigade will hold its AGM at 9am at the fire station. All welcome.

Eildon Bowling Club AGM will be held at 11am at the bowling club.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

2026 Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show. Trucks, rods, music, amusements, food and much more.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Eildon/Alexandra Mens Shed AGM will be held at 1pm at McKenzie Street, Alexandra.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Don't miss the new musical by Steve Paix. *Mr Pres!!!! The Fake Musical*. 2pm at The Memo, Healesville. yarraranges.vic.gov.au/culturetracks or phone 1300 368 333.

Council calls for recovery funding reform with new bushfire impact video

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has released a video highlighting the scale of devastation from the January 2026 bushfires, reinforcing its call for a more equitable and impact-based disaster recovery funding model that better reflects the needs of affected communities.

The video supports council's submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires and provides a clear account of the ongoing impacts on residents, primary producers, local businesses and the visitor economy.

Murrindindi was the hardest-hit municipality, with almost one-third of the shire burnt. More than 200 homes and 520 outbuildings were destroyed across 22 localities, and around 450 kilometres of council roads and dozens of bridges were damaged.

Data shows Murrindindi suffered close to half of the state's structural losses in the January 2026 fires. Despite that, council has received only around eight per cent of government funding which is intended to assist local councils with recovery.

In reality, that means that neighbouring councils who lost about five per cent or less of the number of homes that Murrindindi lost, receive the same funding. Councils who had a handful of roads damaged and trees burnt receive the same funding that Murrindindi did with over 450km of roads impacted.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Councillor Damien Gallagher said it is clear that the current funding model does not work and this video highlights the disconnect between impact and resourcing on the ground.

"Frontline in the disaster, back of the queue in recovery; that has been the experience for Murrindindi," Cr Gallagher said.

Cr Gallagher said many residents were still navigating insurance, trauma, uncertainty and the complex path to rebuilding, in a community that has now faced major disasters in 2009, 2022, 2023, 2024 and again in 2026.

Council continues to work alongside residents and partner agencies to support recovery, with a focus on practical measures to help people rebuild faster and safely.

These include additional planning and building capacity, waived planning and building fees, support navigating planning requirements and overlays, wastewater system inspections, and access to specialist planning advice.

"The video shows why communities like ours are calling for a more proportionate and practical approach to recovery support," he said.

Council's submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Fires includes 15 recommendations to improve disaster preparedness, response and long-term recovery.

A key issue is the use of uniform funding allocations across councils, which Murrindindi argues does not adequately reflect the scale, geography and complexity of impacts between regions.

Cr Gallagher said this approach has had real consequences for recovery progress in rural communities.

"Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes. Where impacts are widespread and communities are dispersed, recovery takes longer and needs more sustained support," Cr Gallagher said.

Council is advocating for funding models that are based on verified impact, recognise regional differences, and support recovery over the longer term, not just the immediate response phase.

Council's advocacy priorities identify more than \$100 million in recovery and rebuilding needs, including support for residents, primary producers, local businesses, tourism and damaged community infrastructure.

Cr Gallagher said that the scale of recovery now demands partnership beyond the local level.

"We are inviting government, industry and philanthropy to partner with us, not just to recover, but to build a stronger, more resilient future, because recovery doesn't happen alone, it happens together," Cr Gallagher said.

The video also captures the scale of agricultural and economic loss, including 7796 livestock lost, 4861 kilometres of fencing destroyed, damage to orchards and crops, and a \$3.47 million drop in spending in just 24 days as visitor numbers fell sharply across towns including Yea, Yarck, Marysville, Alexandra and Eildon.

Cr Gallagher said the focus of the Inquiry should now be on delivering practical, evidence-based reform.

"This is an opportunity to make sure recovery systems better reflect what communities actually experience," he said.

"The video makes clear that communities bearing the greatest impact cannot be left to recover with inadequate support, and that funding reform is urgently needed.

The video can be found at tinyurl.com/yeynj998

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

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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

Department steps in over Yea hospital board selection

CONCERNS have been raised about the selection process for the Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) board appointments in the new round.

The board has four available places, and three retiring members due to the amount of time they have spent on the board.

The standard process for selecting board members is for the government to advertise that positions are available, and people then apply or may be recommended by the department. The panel will then conduct interviews and make selections.

It's understood that for the YDMH board selection in this round, there has been a change, and the process will be re-run, with the selected candidates from the initial round de-selected.

In the re-run, there will also be a new selection committee, comprising one person from the YDMH board and two people from the Victorian Department of Health. Two more people

have also been added to the list of candidates by the department. Compounding the challenge, the new board is meant to have been appointed by the start of the new financial year.

A person with knowledge of the situation said that there may be little local representation on the new board.

The hospital has been very innovative in recent years, implementing a variety of actions to support the health of the community. Some of these are even being looked at internationally. They have also been maintaining a healthy financial position.

It's understood that the local applicants who were initially selected for board positions were very well qualified, with backgrounds in areas including health, business and enterprise management.

Concerns have also been raised that the new board may set the stage for a merger with

a larger health entity, such as the one being proposed between Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health, currently being decided on by the Health Minister.

A person with knowledge of the situation said, "I think there's always opportunity to either amalgamate or cooperate or do lots more things together... There are huge pluses in trying to do more locally. But I still think it's very important to maintain a fair degree of local input to the decision-making process."

Although the new selection process is getting underway, applications for board roles at the hospital have now closed.

The person added, "I think as a community, we've got to fight back to see what we can do. That's my belief."

When contacted with questions, a Department of Health spokesperson said, "As part of the annual board recruitment round there is an active recruitment process underway for Yea and

District Memorial Hospital. This process has not concluded."

They also provided the following information. Board recruitment and appointments are led by the Department of Health in accordance with the *Health Services Act 1988*, and guided by the *Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines* and the *Diversity on Victorian Government Boards Guidelines*. The Boards Ministerial Advisory Committee provide independent advice to the Minister for Health on proposed board appointments to public health service to ensure all boards are highly skilled, independent and objective. The Department of Health works closely with boards to ensure appointments reflect the right mix of skills, experience and diversity to support strong governance. Advice is then made to the Minister for Health to make an appointment in line with the Act.

Local arts project on display



Cast members Steve Paix, Julian Dunham and Tamara Kuldin. -S

LOCAL musician, Steve Paix premieres his new comedy, *Mr. Pres!!!! The Fake Musical* at 2pm on Sunday, June 21 at Memo Healesville.

With a cast of characters that includes billionaires, a model turned First Lady, and a ghost with parenting issues, the show dishes up song after song of tongue-in-cheek fun.

In the words of Mr. Pres, "Nobody has ever seen anything like it before!"

Steve is joined on stage by tenor Julian Dunham and jazz chanteuse Tamara Kuldin. "They are fantastic singers," Steve said. "It's going to be a great show."

For tickets call 1300 368 333.

Bingo winners at Thornton

THERE were two lucky winners, sharing in the statewide Big Bucks Jackpot, while playing Bingo at the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton recently. The lucky winners were

Reg Savage and Leona Greer. Congratulations and spend your winnings wisely. The bingo session at the Rubicon Hotel is a fundraiser for the Eildon Golf Club.



Reg Savage and Leona Greer. -S

Alexandra Rotary guest speaker

THE Rotary Club of Alexandra guest speaker at their recent meeting was Alison MacLean from 3whitehorses. She made a presentation to the club about domestic and family violence.

This follows on from the successful 'Say NO to Family Violence' walk and presentations in late 2025.

One of Alison's key messages was that family violence is a choice made by the perpetrator, coming from their need for control.

We all need to be aware and look for signs that someone may be abused. Refer to agencies such as Orange Door or Vincent Care Marian Community as entry points for assistance, or call Police (phone 000) for emergencies or when help is needed.

Family conflict is not the same as family violence. Perpetrators of family violence are usually men. Not all family violence is physical.

Journalist Jess Hill explores the issue in *See What You Made Me Do*, her book about power, control and domestic abuse, and talks available on Youtube.

The conversations can be uncomfortable but are essential. A good starting point can be "Do you feel safe?" or "Are you going to be safe when you go home?" Most importantly, listen, and believe what you have been told.

You don't have to be an expert, just be aware of the safety of all concerned, and be the best you can with what you know, when you can.



Ian Gibb with Alison MacLean from 3whitehorses. -S

Family history book donated to library

ON Friday, May 15, Shereen Thomas was delighted to donate a book about her family history to the Alexandra Library.

The book, titled *Home Before Dark*, was written by Shereen's mother's second cousin back in 1988. Shereen read it a year later.

When her mother became ill during the COVID-19 pandemics, she read it to her mother who was in palliative care. At the time, Sheeren and husband Darren had been operating the Thornton pub for about nine years. During the re-reading, she realised the relevance of the place name. Her family had spent time in the area.

Shereen explained, "They were in Gobur. My great great grandfather got a liquor license to sell beer during the gold rush days in the early 1800s. It's like it all came together... They also lived in Alexandra. I didn't even realize. And I'm like, I own a hotel in the same area and about 200 years ago my family did."

She added, "When Darren got a copy, he went and did his research and got a copy of it, and then got a few more from the printers, I thought I'll donate one to the library because it is about this area and it's my family. And we just happen to be going to Scotland next week. I'm going back to where my forefathers were."



Shereen Thomas. -AR

She'll be taking a copy of the book with her on her travels.

The book tells the story of the McAlpine and Donald blended families. Both families came from the town of Ayreshire in Scotland, but as Sheeren explained, "They met here in Australia and married and the two families blended together."

It's likely that some relatives remain in the area, and Sheeren wondered whether someone else might do some research based on the book.

"It's written like a novel," she said. "It's a good story about two different families and their struggles when they first came to Australia. It's not a massive book, but it's got some interesting stories in it."

The towns mentioned in the book include Trawool, Gobur, Euroa, Alexandra, before the family moved to Richmond. There are also lots of photos in the book.

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ELLIE-MAY

For demonstrating the school value Achievement by making incredible progress in your reading, moving up from level 8 to level 15. Your confidence, persistence and hard work are shining through. Amazing effort, Ellie-Mae.



HUNTER

For demonstrating the school value Achievement by being kind to others and working hard in class. Nice improvement, Hunter.



SHANNON

For demonstrating the school value of Achievement by making outstanding progress in your reading, moving from level 21 to level 30 and officially reaching chapter books. Your dedication to learning and love of reading is incredible to see. What a superstar, Shannon.



ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Neisha V S

Neisha demonstrates outstanding concentration and engagement in all classroom activities. She approaches her learning with a positive mindset, setting high standards for herself and taking pride in the effort she puts into every task. As a responsible learner, she is willing to try her best, even when faced with challenges.

Well done Neisha, your dedication and persistence is commendable.



BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students of the Week are Isaac, Ava and Elliott for showing respect towards others and their personal space.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Prices were steady with the lower weight of the weaners. -BD



There was a large crowd for the weaner sale. -BD

Prices strong in Yea weaner sale

THE Nutrien Weaner Sale took place last Friday at the Yea Saleyards. 2934 head of cattle were yarded, averaging 522 cents per kilogram (c/kg).

In the top steer pen, highest weight was 372.5 kilograms and it sold for \$2000 per head, making for 537c/kg.

The top weight for heifers was 400.8 kilograms that sold for \$1830 per head, making for 457c/kg.

The next cattle sale at Yea will be this Friday, with the Combined Agents Feeder and Weaner Sale.



Watching the sale with interest. -BD

YEA SALEYARDS		STOCK REPORT 22 MAY 2026	
Nutrien Weaner Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	2,934		
Average \$ per head	\$1,441		
Average weight per head	276.3 kg		
Top price per head		\$2,000	\$1,830
Top weight		372.5 kg	400.8 kg
Turnover	\$4.2 million		



Council's Community Capacity Building Officer, Bill Bate presenting to attendees at Strath Creek Public Hall. -S

Community leaders come together to shape the future of events in Murrindindi

IDEAS, collaboration and community spirit were front and centre at the 2026 Murrindindi Events Forum, as event organisers and volunteers from across the shire gathered in Strath Creek on Wednesday, May 13, to share practical ways to build stronger, more sustainable local events.

Hosted at the Strath Creek Public Hall by the Strath Creek Progress Association, with support from Murrindindi Shire Council, the forum focused on helping local events thrive for the long term through environmental responsibility, volunteer attraction and community resilience.

More than 30 attendees took part in discussions and presentations covering practical sustainability initiatives, volunteer retention strategies and opportunities for greater collaboration between event organisers across the region.

The forum created space for community groups to exchange ideas, learn from shared experiences and strengthen connections with others working to deliver local events through Murrindindi Shire.

This event is part of council's Community Capacity Building Program, supported through funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.

While the Community Capacity Building Program comes to an end in June, council will continue working

with local communities and event organisers to support vibrant and sustainable events across the shire.

For more information about this event, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eventsforum26

President of the Strath Creek Progress Association, Lisa Mack said of the event, "Strath Creek Progress Association were beyond grateful to Murrindindi Shire Council for bringing local communities together and providing an informative forum. Everyone attending found it worthwhile, insightful and enjoyed connecting with others from neighbouring communities."

Council's Economic Development, Local Jobs and Skills Portfolio Councillor, Sandice McAulay said the forum highlighted the importance of events for our local community and economic growth.

"Events play a vital role in strengthening our local economy, creating jobs and building the skills and capacity of our communities. It was inspiring to see so many passionate organisers and volunteers come together to share ideas and support one another, helping ensure events across Murrindindi continue to grow and thrive into the future," Cr McAulay said.

"Thank you to everyone that supported this event, from the hosts at the Strath Creek Progress Association to all attendees that took part."

Haines releases plan to strengthen bushfire recovery

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has met with the Minister for Emergency Management to present her plan to strengthen bushfire recovery and resilience.

The plan draws directly from the Longwood and Upper Murray bushfires, which destroyed around 300 homes and burned more than 250,000 hectares in Indi.

Dr Haines said it focuses on improving coordination between local and state governments and the Commonwealth, ensuring mental health support is delivered flexibly through local mental health services, primary care providers and outreach services, building more resilient telecommunications including mandatory power back-up for mobile towers and disaster roaming, and ensuring recovery funding systems are streamlined and improved.

"As communities across Indi continue to recover, it's clear we need a disaster response and recovery system that works better to ensure communities are not left waiting, confused or overlooked once the immediate fire event is over," Dr Haines said.

Dr Haines has formally presented her plan to Minister for Emergency Management, Kristy McBain, after consultation with fire-affected residents, local governments, emergency services, health providers and community organisations.

"I've taken what I've heard directly from fire-affected communities to the Federal Government and developed a practical plan to improve how we prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

"In the immediate aftermath of the fires, I brought the Minister to the fire ground to see the scale of devastation firsthand and hear directly from those impacted."

Dr Haines said disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, and governments must stop treating recovery with short-term assistance.

"Recovery doesn't end when the flames are out. For many communities, it takes years, and too often people are forced to navigate fragmented systems while dealing with trauma, financial stress and uncertainty," Dr Haines said.

"We need a recovery framework that is long-term, locally driven and designed around our realities.

"Our communities have shown extraordinary resilience and generosity in the face of disaster.

"They deserve governments that match that effort with systems that are faster, fairer and built for the long haul."

Dr Haines also made a submission to the Victorian Inquiry into the Summer Bushfires in April.

Supporting farmers through recovery

Technical information, practical advice and financial support is available to eligible primary producers



Find out more:
agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



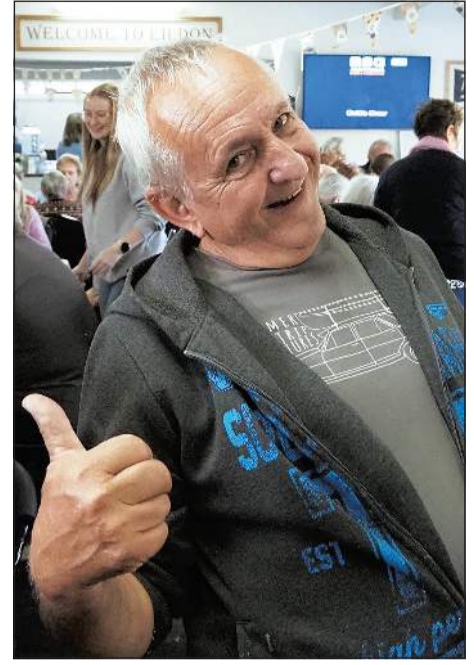
A huge crowd for Eildon's Biggest Morning Tea



Veronica and Wendy. -S



Cr Anita Carr speaking at Eildon's Biggest Morning Tea. -S



Alby gave the event a thumbs up. -AR



The attendees enjoyed a delicious array of food. -AR



One of the many tables of people at the event. -S



The team of volunteers taking a short break for a photo. A remarkable \$6886.10 was raised at the event, including a \$4000 donation from the Eildon Op Shop. -AR



The Eildon Bowling Club was filled with people, keen to donate to the very worthy cause and enjoy a magnificent morning tea. -AR



There were lots of smiling faces at the event. -AR



A group raising their teacups for the event. -AR

Beanie Song music success

THE two Bruce Watson music workshops, coinciding with the Murrindindi Beanie Festival, attracted a wide variety of stringed and non-stringed instruments.

Bruce was a perfect tutor, inclusive, very interesting and fun. The organisers would like to thank the Alexandra Library as the

host venue, Murrindindi Shire Quick Grants and staff, and Ukulele Heaven for organising the event.

Ukulele Heaven meets on the last Friday of the month at Alexandra Library 5 to 7pm and everyone is welcome. It's completely free. Just turn up.



The Beanie Song being performed in the Alexandra Shire Hall during the Murrindindi Beanie Festival. -S



The Ukulele workshop in the Alexandra Library, where the participants practiced before performing at the Murrindindi Beanie Festival. -S

Diphtheria outbreaks a reminder to stay up to date with vaccination

THE Australian Medical Association is urging Australians to check that they and their families are up to date with their vaccinations, as diphtheria spreads to more states.

There have been 223 diphtheria notifications in 2026 at May 19, already exceeding any full calendar year recorded since national reporting began, with public health authorities warning of increasing notifications since late 2025. Fortunately, at this stage, there have been no appearances of the disease in Murrindindi Shire according to the Victorian Department of Health's Notifiable Diseases summary report.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection that can affect the nose, throat, airways or skin. In severe cases, respiratory diphtheria can obstruct breathing, and the toxin can cause life-threatening complications, including heart and nerve damage.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends routine vaccination as a primary course for infants and routine boosters for adolescents and adults in certain circumstances, because vaccination remains the strongest protection against this preventable disease. The primary course for infants is one dose at two, four and six months old.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen said the rise in diphtheria cases was a serious reminder of the importance of vaccines.

"Immunisation is one of the greatest achievements in modern medicine, but when vaccination rates fall, serious diseases, which we had largely eliminated, can make a come back," Dr McMullen said.

The AMA is encouraging parents, carers and adults to review their vaccination status, including any booster doses they may be due for, and to book an appointment with their GP to discuss the vaccinations recommended for them and their family. Catch-up vaccinations may be available for families with missed or delayed vaccinations.



VACCINATION IS THE BEST PREPARATION

Influenza, COVID-19 and RSV viruses are always changing, and the risk of serious illness goes up if you're over 65. By vaccinating regularly, you can protect yourself before a new strain goes around.

Speak to your health professional and book your vaccinations today or visit health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations



Australian Government



Organisers Pam Petersen, Carolyn Weeks, Sue Wynn, Judy Gallie and Marcia Turner. -AR



The Alexandra Cub Scouts created a wonderful display of decorated beanies. -AR



Natalie from Faunistry. -AR



Melanie with some of her wonderfully decorated op shop hats. -AR

Many grabbed a baa-gain at the Beanie Festival



The Yea Primary School grades four, five and six display at the Murrindindi Beanie Festival. -AR



In addition to the beanie displays, school students also participated, creating a colourful displays which added to the atmosphere. -AR



The Alexandra Timber Tramway team created a fabulous beanie for their train during the Murrindindi Beanie Festival weekend, bringing a smile to the faces of the children and adults who attended. -AR



The event drew a large crowd. -AR

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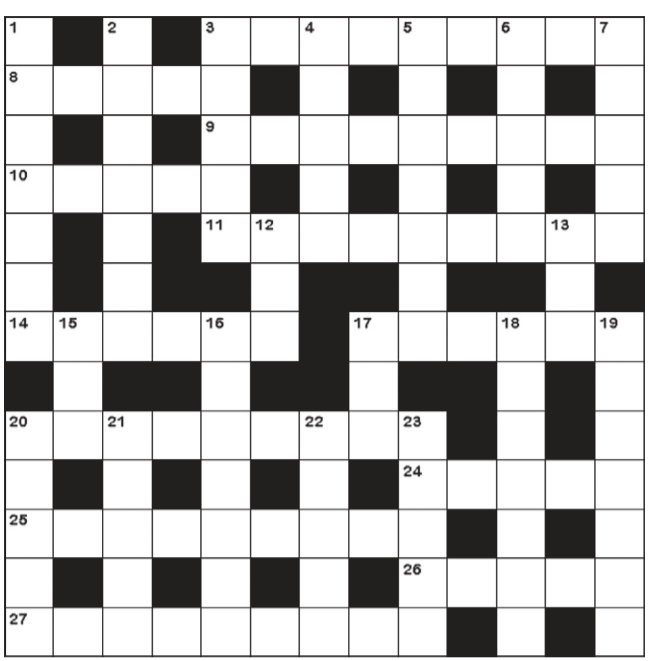
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Anything that causes damage, harm, or loss.
 - A loop in the end of a rope or cord.
 - Lengthened and drawn out in duration.
 - Skill in doing or making something.
 - Farming, when regarded as a science.
 - Machine to remove material from a riverbed.
 - A written message addressed to a person.
 - Killed by squeezing the throat to suffocate.
 - Competed in a contest of speed.
 - To say or do again or repeatedly.
 - Resembling the colour of growing grass.
 - Dark purple egg-shaped vegetables.



- DOWN**
- Rapped on the door with the knuckles.
 - A novel about an affair of the heart.
 - The degree of richness or intensity of colour.
 - Implements used in the performance of a trade.
 - To set apart or cut off from others.
 - Moved away gradually or hesitantly.

- Drink made with whisky, hot water and sugar.
- The great Australian paddock vehicle.
- The mass of eggs in a female fish's ovary.
- A deep track made by the passage of wheels.
- Marked by refinement in taste and manners.
- Present an intentionally false statement.
- Gives instructions or lessons in a subject.
- Speaking the words from a book out loud.
- A twilled woolen fabric often used for suits.
- Feeling remorse for one's own wrongdoing.
- Gain knowledge through experience or study.
- Sediment settled at the bottom of a liquid.

Word Search

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

- Fruit & Veg**
- | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|
| APPLES | BROCCOLINI | POTATO |
| AVOCADO | CAULIFLOWER | PUMPKIN |
| BANANAS | GRAPES | SQUASH |
| BEANS | ORANGES | ZUCCHINI |

Cryptogram

Fruit & Veg

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

_____ _____
 21 3 25 4 4 24 3

_____ _____ _____
 18 12 3 16 26 21 26 12

_____ _____ _____
 18 12 8 17 17 4 21 1 1

_____ _____
 4 7 7 7 24 14

Math Square

1	-		+		4
x		x		+	
	÷		x		8
-		+		-	
9	-		+		10

-3 13 1

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Sudoku

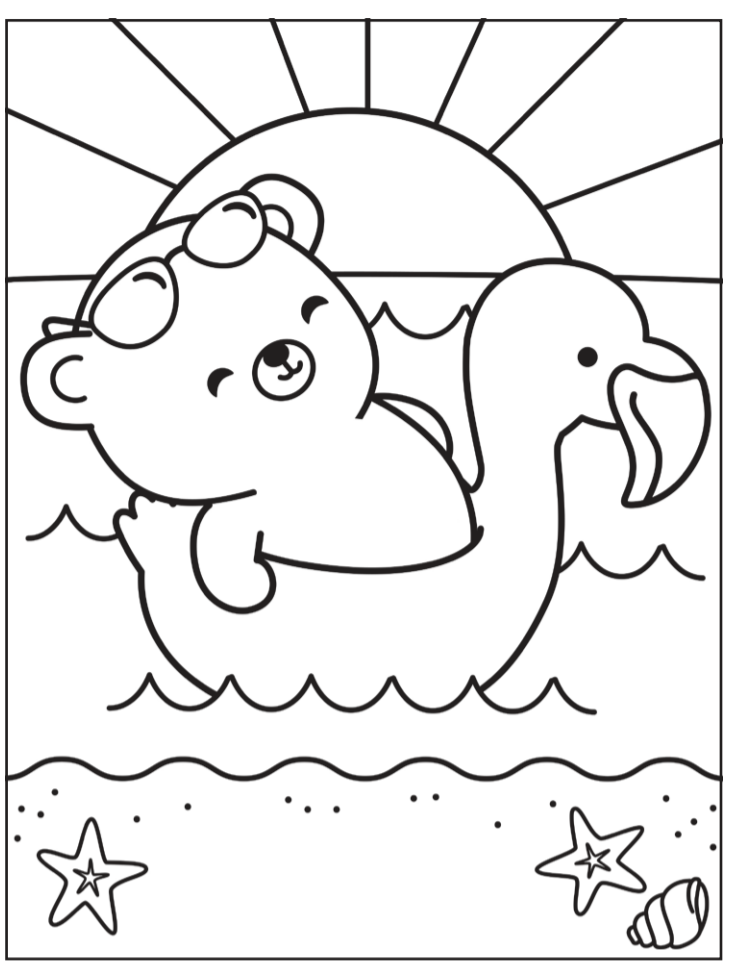
9			7		5			
			1					
	3			8		6	9	
				3	1		8	
7	5				9		3	
3	8	4						
5	3		9			2		
				2				
		7	5					1

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.

Colouring Page



Word Search - Words starting with "Q"

QUAIL	Z O J Q K F V J D R B P O R J
QUAKE	D L I A U Q M I G K M M Z Q V
QUARTET	Z N M H Y E U Q L J B D G U W
QUEEN	D G O Y C Q E D V N U J W I J
QUEENSLAND	O N V I A R C N E Q P X Z E G
QUERY	R E A Y T Q U A K E U Q C T D
QUESTION	O E Q L Z S I V Q Q U O D F U
QUICK	H T C G S W E U S I V X T I X
QUID	W I N K L N A U Z B A R D E I
QUIET	Q U I C K R E S Q Y K R I U Q
QUIRKY	Q Q R K T P L E H S P T H S F
QUITE	U Y R E J L B J U P N V H R T
QUIZ	E L T L G Q F H Z Q T I A L E
QUOTE	R M Y O R J J C D C M I U K T
	Y G J D O S Q H T A H I F G G

Math Square

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

7	-		+		10
+		+		+	
4	+		+		8
-		-		+	
	-		+		5

3 -4 12

Jokes

Q: When is an apple not an apple?

A: When it's a pineapple

Q: What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?

A: Ouch!

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THE Remote Sensing Bushfire Detection testing is underway at some of the state's fire towers, with the aim of detecting fires quickly to enable fast action.

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman AFSM explained, "Early detection of bushfires is critical. It provides the best opportunity to suppress bushfires while they are still small and before they impact communities, the environment and assets such as drinking water and energy infrastructure."

"The Remote Sensing Bushfire Detection project is complementing the work of FFMVic's specially trained Fire Lookout Observers, who are located at 64 lookouts across Victoria. The project is currently analysing the data from phase three trials."

"FFMVic is committed to exploring the best combination of approaches to speed up fire detection and response times. The latest satellite and drone scanning cameras is game-changing technology, with the heat maps they generate able to be in the hands of fire operations within 20 minutes."

Remote sensing bushfire detection technology has been trialled over several fire seasons as another way to help keep Victorians safe from bushfire.

The trial is being conducted over three phases and is exploring how remote sensing technologies and artificial intelligence can be used to help detect bushfires early.

This includes assessing the reliability and timeliness of smoke-detecting AI software. The cameras ran in parallel with FFMVic's specially trained Fire Lookout Observers this fire season, and have helped fire operations teams detect smoke.

Over the three phases of the trial, cameras have been installed in DEECA lookouts located at Mt Gordon near Marysville and Mount Wombat which partially overlooks the northern part of Murrindindi Shire, as well as Mount Tarrengower, Mount McLeod, Mount Arapiles, Stawell, Mount Mittamatite, Mount Ida, Peters Hill and Crowes Lookout, with two mobile camera units deployed to Beecher Hill and Mount Gar. Phase three trials also included installing cameras in third party infrastructure located at Mount Pendergast and Mount Marimingo.

The trial is progressing as planned with the available and emerging data from the trial to be used to inform a future remote fire detection strategy. Recommendations are expected in the 2026-27 financial year.



The 2026 GBCMA calendar cover photo, Emu. -Rebecca Polonski

Entries open for GBCMA 2027 nature calendar

ENTRIES for photographs to feature in the 2027 Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) community calendar are now open. The calendar is known for its stunning collection of local images of flora, fauna and natural landscapes from across the catchment, taken by amateur photographers.

Preference is given to photographs of local plants or animals in their natural state, insects, waterways or other natural features that tell a story about the Goulburn Broken catchment.

"We always receive extremely positive feedback on the quality of the calendar and the fact it contains amazing images of the local environment, taken by local people," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

Goulburn Broken CMA project coordinator, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the calendar photo competition is a great way for local people to showcase their photographic skills of plants, animals and the environment.

Email your images of birds, animals, plants, insects and places in the Goulburn Broken catchment to janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au

"The competition has been running for 20 years and entering it has become quite a tradition for keen photographers and nature lovers," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

Photos must be between two to 10MB in landscape format (not portrait) and submitted as a jpeg file attachment (not as a picture inserted into the text of an email). Include a description of the image in the email subject line (ie. Emu). No USBs. Entries close Friday, August 14.

"The images in this year's calendar were chosen from approximately 280 entries. Each year we produce and distribute the calendars across the region."

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MEETINGS

AGM Eildon/Alexandra Mens Shed. Being held on Tuesday 9 June, 2026 at 1pm at Kenzie Street, Alexandra.

DEATH NOTICES

CLIFFORD, Graham Ronald 15/11/1941-19/05/2026 Devoted loving husband of Leticia devoted father of Greg and Cindy, cherished father in law of Andrea and David, much loved Pa of Mitchell, Brandy, Owen and Heath. Forever in our hearts, always my grumpy bear.

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MEETINGS

EILDON BOWLING CLUB Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 31 at 11am at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

YEAWATER TIGERS Amateur Swimming Club AGM. Meeting will be held at Yea Community House. Wednesday, May 27th from 6-7pm. All positions declared vacant, three year cycle. General meeting will follow. Enquiries to the secretary yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com New members are always welcome.

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HEGGIE-Phyllis 26/07/1924- 15/05/2026

The President, Committee and members of the Yea-Kinglake RSL sub branch regret the passing of our esteemed member, Phyllis, and offer their deepest condolences to the family. RIP Phyllis.

DEATH NOTICES



Bassett, John

The Rotary Club of Alexandra deeply regrets the passing of Honorary Member John Bassett. He made an outstanding contribution to the local community and to Rotary over many years. John joined or club in 1987 after years as a member of Montrose Rotary. He held the positions of club President in 1995/96, community Service Director twice, Art Show Director for many years and Secretary. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow with Sapphires. We'll greatly miss his friendship and involvement in Rotary. Our condolences to Vera and all of John's family, from President John Allcock and club members.

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Cindy McLeish on the Melba Highway at Yarra Glen. -S

McLeish: "Spending differently" doesn't fill potholes

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish says the Victorian Government's claims of record road funding have been exposed as a sham.

This week in the Victorian Parliament the Roads and Road Safety Minister was forced to defend massive cuts to road repairs as the government is "spending differently."

Ms McLeish said that the latest Victorian Budget shows road resurfacing and rehabilitation works have fallen by 75 per cent in just four years, while road patching has plunged by 87 per cent.

Ms McLeish said motorists were paying more and getting less.

"Victorians are handing over more in taxes, charges and registration fees, yet the Allan Government is fixing fewer roads," she said.

"We are dodging potholes, crumbling road edges and rough surfaces every single day, but the government wants applause for spending money differently."

"This Victorian Government must be measuring road repairs in millimetres instead of kilometres, with the state budget revealing what we already knew, a dramatic collapse maintenance works despite claims of 'record' funding."

Budget papers show regional road patching will be slashed from 556,000 square metres two years ago to just 76,000 square metres.

Ms McLeish said regional motorists were tired of spin. "We don't care how the government describes it. We care whether the pothole gets fixed before it destroys another tyre or suspension," she said.

"How does the government expect to fill 200,000 potholes when its own maintenance targets have fallen off a cliff?"

"Regional roads are deteriorating faster than they are being repaired, and we're paying the price through vehicle damage, safety risks and taking longer to get anywhere."



A wonderful donation from Sarsfield and beyond

IN recognition of Volunteers Week, the Sarsfield Rural Fire Brigade, posted on their Facebook page about their support of our region in the wake of the Longwood bushfire.

On Sunday, March 15, fencing materials valued at approximately \$20,000 were delivered to the Alexandra Rodeo Grounds as part of the Return The Favour campaign.

The donation was led by the Sarsfield Rural Fire Brigade in conjunction with the Sarsfield Community Association. Fencing materials were donated by members of the community and generously supported by Elders, BrownWigg, Goodmans and Bairnsdale Treated Pine. Additional fencing materials were donated by the Omeo community, through the generosity of the Omeo CFA.

Fencing is one of the first and most critical needs after a bushfire, essential for securing livestock and helping properties become operational again. This effort truly reflects the CFA and rural tradition of communities standing shoulder to shoulder in times of need.



Alexandra Scouts visit Alexandra SES

LAST week, the Alexandra Scouts paid a visit to the Alexandra SES, where they were able to use their practical skills in ropes and knots, tying in a patient (albeit a dummy), First Aid, working as a team to search and problem solve. The Alexandra SES said of the event, "Thanks to Kelly and the Alexandra Scouts for coming along and allowing us to share what we do, and our similar skills, working together and possibly a future of becoming SES members."



SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round five of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Orb Weavers versus Red Backs
 LEIGH (fill in) versus Matt: Matt showed his experience and played with confidence and consistency. Leigh had some great shots and is getting better, but Matt claimed the win. 68 to 35.
 Jessica versus Sally: A see-sawing contest. Sally jumped to the early lead, but Jessica fought back to be in the lead going into the final game. Sally used her experience to come from behind in the final game and take the match. 61 to 55.
 Chris versus Mick: Chris looked very casual as he ground his opponent down for a convincing victory. Mick needed to tighten his shots up to be able to put pressure on his opponent. 83 to 48.
 Michael H versus Jim: Lots of lead changes. The battle seemed to be within themselves rather than between each other. It was a very even game that resolved in a draw. 54 to 54.
Trapdoors versus White Tails
 Tyler versus Ethan: If Tyler had remembered to call 'let' he may have had a few more points in the end. Ethan had control and his serving

was great, helping him to victory. 57 to 35.
 Laura versus Liane: A tight contest for the first three games with Liane up by a point, having come from behind. Laura brought it together in the final game to finish on top. 62 to 55.
 Rob versus Travis: A great match with the lead changing regularly throughout. Travis playing a strong long game while Rob had many winning drop shots. Travis won by a single point. 58 to 57.
 Daniel W versus Andrew: Daniel clawed out an early lead, but Andrew played consistently and took control in the third game when Daniel lost his rhythm. Daniel fell behind to make way for Andrew's victory. 52 to 45.
Wednesday competition
 Sand Flies versus Wasps
 Ben H versus Beth: Ben held the advantage in the first half giving the impression that he was going to take a straight win. Beth put those assumptions to rest by taking control and winning the last two games. Unfortunately, Beth couldn't win enough points to take the match, and it ended in a draw. 57 to 57.
 Jess versus Lucas (fill in): Jess was expecting Daniel, but had Lucas as the surprise last minute fill in. Lucas was in the drivers' seat with full control of the match all



Ben watches for Mark's return. -S

the way through. Jess didn't stand a chance on the night. Lucas was victorious. 76 to 35.
 Phil versus Michael M: Phil took a strong lead in the first game and kept it easily through the match. Phil could not put a foot wrong, claiming the match with an excessive lead. 72 to 33.
Hornets versus Mosquitoes
 Nicole versus Jordan: Such a close game. Really great to watch. Jordan has the power, but Nicole just kept it steady to win by two-points. 62 to 60.
 Kristelle versus Mick: It was close all the way. Kristelle's serves were giving Mick trouble while his ability to hit the 'nick' kept catching Kristelle off guard. In the final seconds Mick won a point to clinch the match with that single point. 64 to 63.
 Ben F versus Mark: It was a family feud with father and son battling for supremacy. Ben was in good form and kept his shots tight. Mark wouldn't go without a fight, but in the end the youth won out. 65 to 45.

Spirit shines through scoreboard shadow: TEDFNC shows grit in round seven clash

by Sophia Weaver

THE final scoreboard at last Saturday's Round Seven clash may have read a daunting 143 to 0 in favor of Emerald, but for the Thornton-Eildon Football Netball Club (TEDFNC), the numbers failed to tell the true story of a team rapidly finding its feet.

Facing a powerhouse Emerald side that launched into a blistering, high-velocity start, the burgeoning TEDFNC lineup refused to be intimidated. After weathering the initial storm, the Thornton-Eildon players visibly adjusted to the tempo, lifting their work rate and turning the match into a fierce, high-pressure contest.

TEDFNC sustained their defensive intensity across all four quarters, locking the ball into their own forward half for unprecedented stretches of game time.

Relentless intent

While a breakthrough on the scoreboard ultimately proved elusive against Emerald's seasoned offense, the tactical evolution of the Thornton-Eildon side was on full display.

Following the match, TEDFNC Coach Tash Hay praised her squad's resilience and tactical growth under immense pressure.

"As the game went on, the girls started linking up beautifully; clean



Round seven gameday award winners, Anita, Kate and Rach. -S

chains, strong kicks to advantage, and some great passages moving the ball into our forward line," Hay said.

Despite the lack of reward on the goal front, the coach emphasized that the structural improvements and the team's refusal to back down were the true victories of the day.

"We locked it in well and created opportunities, even if converting on

the scoreboard remained a challenge," Hay added.

"What mattered most was the intent, the pressure, and the willingness to keep fighting for every contest."

Gameday awards: Anita Cabric, Kate Borzyn, and Rachelle Chenhall. Volunteer of the week: Sophia Weaver.

Next week the team heads down to Officer for another early start, 10.50am at Rob Porter Recreation Western Oval.



Fierce competition in the clash against Emerald. -TEDDY Photography

Alexandra Golf Club report

by Dave Silverman

LAST week kicked off at Alexandra Golf Club in the usual fashion, that is, a stableford round on Tuesday. There were 10 players, and for some reason, big numbers weren't the order of the day, with no-one playing to their handicap. The winner, continuing his run of good form, was Leo Dynes with 33 points. Russell Purcell was second with 29, and Brad Newton came in third with 28.

Brad also took home the only nearest the pin of the day on seven, with nobody able to find the green on either 17 or 18. Bruce Colville and John Greatorex both earned a voucher in the rundown.

Eight ladies also played a stableford round last Wednesday, and once again it was Rosemary Parker who won the day, with a countback putting her in first place from Ruth Worland, both having scored 35 points. Bron Howell came third with 34.

The nine hole winner, with 14 points, was Donna Meggitt, who also claimed nearest the pin on two, with five going to Bron, and Rosemary snaring 18.

Saturday saw yet another Stableford round scheduled, sponsored last week by On Point Brewery, which attracted a split field of 16, with two groups teeing off at 8.30am, and the remainder at 11am.

Once again it was tight at the top, with John Norfolk and John Steer in first and second, both recording 37 points. James Kidd was third with 36, fourth was Bruce Flanders with 33, and in fifth and sixth respectively were Trevor Biffin and Jason Krijt, both on 32.

Nearest the pins went to Brad Kidd on two, Corey Jack took seven, and five and 12 were claimed by Jimmy the Kidd, while 18 remained unconquered.

Marysville Golf Club report

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Sunday the final of the Dalhousie Men's Pennant Division Two Handicap section was played at Eildon Golf Club. Marysville Golf Club played Alexandra and Marysville won four to one. Congratulations to the Marysville team for winning the final after some close matches throughout the season.

The team members were Richy Clark, Steve Coker, Glen Rattay, Brett Mansfield, Keith Atwell, Paul Martin and Drew Kaempkes. Clubs playing in Division Two were Eildon, Yea, Broadford, and Alexandra and the Marysville team thank all their opponents and the clubs which hosted the games. Their contribution to an enjoyable 2026 pennant competition was very much appreciated.

Last Thursday four ladies travelled to Strathbogie to play in their annual bowl. The weather was beautiful and the course in excellent condition resulting in some very good scores. The Kilmore team won the bowl with Seymour runners-up. Marysville member Margaret Blair won C Grade with 34 points and one Player of the Year point. Members thank the Strathbogie club members for their hospitality.

This week four ladies will travel to Euroa to play in the annual tournament.

Last Saturday all golfers played a mixed four ball best ball stableford game and the winning pair were Gail Leigh and Richy Clark with 45 points. The runners-up just one point behind were Peter Lilley and Drew Kaempkes.

The nearest the pins were won by Travers Stow, David Douthwaite, Brian Worcester and Ming Kuan who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday all golfers will play a stableford round with all proceeds going to a local charity and the ladies winner will receive the Mavis Hadfield Trophy.

The 2026 club fundraising efforts are organised and ready to be supported. On the Saturday and Sunday of the Kings Birthday weekend, June 6 and 7, there will be a fundraising Hole in One Competition. It



The winning men's pennant team. Pictured are Steve Coker, Glen Rattay, Brett Mansfield and Keith Atwell. Missing from the photo are Paul Martin and Drew Kaempkes. -S

will be held each day on the practice fairway and green from 10am to 4pm. The cost is \$5 for one ball and \$20 for five balls.

No bookings are required and a golf club will be supplied if needed. The prize for the first hole in one is \$1000 and other prizes will be offered. All local and visiting golfers and non-golfers are encouraged to call into the club on one or both of those days and 'have a go'.

The annual club raffle is also now being held and members each have a book of raffle tickets to sell. The draw will take place on September 12 and the prizes are \$1000 cash, a dozen bottles of Premium Wine, a \$200 Bunnings Voucher and a trailer load of firewood. Tickets can be purchased from a club member or from the club shop.

The club is also selling firewood for \$120 a trailer load with free delivery within the Triangle area. Contact the club on 5963 3241 to organise a delivery.

SPORT

Eildon Golf Club report

by *Puttomatic*

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club match report. Last week the club played a stableford drawing partners after the match (always a favourite).

There were 12 players including some visitors from Alexandra that joined in the competition last week. Winners for the week with a combined score of 63 were Marian Williamson and Ken Collier joining them at the top of the list also on 63 points, Rosemary Parker and Rod Taylor. The ball run winners were Kerry Power and Dwayne Cornelliuss with 61 points.

Last week's nearest the pin winners, on the third and 12th there were no winners, Kerry

Power was the best on the fifth and 14th and Rod Taylor was the closest on the 11th. There were no recorded birdies on the birdie holes last week and Kerry Power was the super six. Denis McDonald was the lucky entry draw recipient and Dennis Seamer had a win with the swindle.

Last Sunday Eildon Golf Club hosted the handicap division two pennant final. Congratulations to Marysville Golf Club who had a hard fought win over Alexandra.

Next Saturday will be the club's May monthly medal, hope to see you at the club soon and congratulation to all last week's winners.



The Eildon Golf Club course is looking magnificent. -S



Tilly Miljkovic and Harper Williamson in the Alexandra Under 15s. -S

Alexandra junior footballers and netballers play away from home

Football

Under 12
Broadford 14.17-101 defeated Alexandra 0.2-2

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Levi Campbell; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Logan Conway; Kazza's Diner, Josh Northmore; Gilligan Plumbing, Lucas Crane; Coaches Award, Evan Smith.

Under 14
Kyabram Bombers 9.6-60 defeated Alexandra 5.5-35

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Eli Van Lierop; Essence Coffee Lounge, Mason McKenzie; Kazza's Diner, Mitchell Kidd; Coaches Award, Clay Hilder.

Under 16
Seymour 16.13-109 defeated Alexandra 1.2-8

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Jasper Coster; Essence Coffee Lounge, Logan Kerr; Kazza's Diner, Logan Heard; Phil Savage Award, Vander Kasier; Coaches Award, Nate Broadway.

Under 18
Awards: Kazza's Diner, Ollie Lynch; Canteen Voucher, Jett Vallender; Footy Cards, Darcy Simpson and Declan Heard.

Under Nine
Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Teague Welsh; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Makaylah Reece; Footy Cards, Elias Wright and Noah Dyson.

Netball

Eleven and Under Red
Seymour 22 defeated Alexandra 3
Awards: PH Smith and Matilda Kerr.

Eleven and Under Black
Nagambie 4 defeated by Alexandra 8
Awards: Laylah Goodman and Zahlia Pearce.

Thirteen and Under Red
St Marys 27 defeated Alexandra 10
Awards: Oli Laverty and Gemma Cole.

Thirteen and Under Black
Seymour 37 defeated Alexandra 7
Awards: Liesse Hogan and Summer Edwards.

Fifteen and Under
Alexandra Black 48 defeated Alexandra Red 28

Awards: Ivy Miljkovic, Tilly Miljkovic, Bella Twitchett, Zoe Collier, Harper Williamson and Charli Edwards.



Bella Twitchett rebounding the shot in the Under 15s. -S

AFNC representatives inspired by Sharelle McMahon

THERE was plenty of inspiration in the room last Wednesday night as Alexandra Football Netball Club President Kylie Cairns and Secretary Michelle Jack attended the Outer East Football Netball League Women's Forum alongside women from clubs across the region.

The evening focused on growing opportunities for women in football and netball, encouraging stronger female leadership and helping shape a league environment that is

welcoming, supportive and inclusive for everyone involved. It was also a chance for women from different clubs to connect, share experiences and continue building stronger pathways for future generations in community sport.

Special guest speaker Sharelle McMahon was a major highlight of the night, with the former Australian Diamonds captain openly sharing stories from her incredible journey through elite sport and leadership.

McMahon, who also captained the Melbourne Vixens during her decorated playing career, spoke passionately about resilience, teamwork and the importance of backing yourself both on and off the court. Since retiring, she has continued to play a significant role in Australian sport through leadership positions with Cricket Australia and has recently returned to the Melbourne Vixens in an administrative role.

For Kylie and Michelle, the forum was more than just a

meeting, it was an opportunity to learn, connect and bring fresh ideas back to Alexandra.

"Community sport is changing in such a positive way, and nights like this remind you how important it is to keep creating opportunities for women to step forward and have their voices heard," Kylie said.

"It was inspiring to hear Sharelle speak and to spend time networking with so many passionate women from across the league."



Alexandra Football Netball Club President Kylie Cairns, guest speaker Sharelle McMahon, and AFNC Secretary Michelle Jack. -S

Rebels victories continue

THE Rebels Senior and Reserves sides extended their winning streaks to six games when they hosted Yarra Glenn at Rebel Park.

Football

Reserves Alexandra 18.21-129 defeated Yarra Glen 1.0-6

The Reserves continue to impress with another four-quarter performance resulting in a 123-point win restricting Yarra Glen to one goal for the match.

The Rebel's domination started with ruckman Luke James and on baller Connor Heaslip backed up by midfielders Cooper Phillips, Kappa, Harry Correa and Ben Jack giving the forwards every opportunity to capitalise on the scoreboard and they did from the old Scott Hill (four goals) to the young Will Clarke (four goals).

Ben Wallis and Jesse Ellks were other major goal scorers.

Awards: Shannon Group, Will Clark; Future Fit Finance, Conor Heaslip; Ruoak Hotel Award,

Luke James; Buxton Hotel Award, Jesse Ellks.

Seniors Alexandra 17.14-116 defeated Yarra Glenn 16.3-99

The Seniors lined up against this year's most improved side in Yarra Glenn in a closely fought high standard game. The boys found themselves trailing at the three breaks with the opposition's goal kicking accuracy keeping them in the game.

Down two points at the three quarter time break the Rebels needed a big final quarter. The team had to lift, and they did scoring 5.7 to 3.0 to run out 17 point winners.

With ruckman Lachlan Nankervis giving the rebels first use of the ball to top off a great individual game Tom Wynne was the general in the backline with a best on ground performance.

Sam Critchley with four goals showed his value to the team in the last quarter with his efforts up forward and in defence playing a big part in the Rebel's victory. Justin Coventry with four goals again

showed why he is such a valuable pickup this year. Mitch Parker, Sam Boots, and Peter Cairns also were fine contributors in a team where all players played their part in a gritty win.

This week the team cannot relax as they travel to play another finals contender in Belgrave.

Awards: Kervale Award, Tom Wynne; O'Briens Real Estate, Lachlan Nankervis; Ruoak Hotel Award, Sam Critchley; Buxton Hotel Award, Justin Coventry.

Under 18 Alexandra 3.8-26 defeated by Yarra Glen 4.7-31

Awards: Bowens Award, Sam Harris; Kia Chadstone Award, Connor Kaempkes; AFNC Club Voucher, Jayden Valentine; Coaches Award, Harrison Christie.

Netball

A Grade Alexandra 48 defeated by Yarra Glen 60

Awards: Incentive, Jorja Gesler; Corner Hotel Award, Jaz Collett.

B Grade Alexandra 27 defeated by Yarra Glen 49

Awards: Incentive, Marli Collier; Corner Hotel Award, Sarah Skehan.

C Grade Alexandra 25 defeated by Yarra Glen 52

Awards: RUOAK Hotel, Fiona Stephens; Corner Hotel Award, Katelyn Prendeville.

This weekend the Rebels are back on the road, travelling to Belgrave with three games of football and three games of netball set to take place across the day. It promises to be another big round for the club as all teams continue to build momentum throughout the season.

The Under 17 footballers will also travel to Pakenham where they will take on Pakenham Maroon at 9.25am.

Looking ahead, there are plenty of exciting events coming up at Rebel Park and around the club.

On Sunday, June 7, the Alexandra Football Netball Club will once again be running a food stall at the

Alexandra Truck Show, one of the club's major fundraising events for the year. With football and netball having a bye that weekend, the club would love to hear from any members or supporters who may be available to lend a hand throughout the day.

Round Nine on Saturday, June 13 will see all teams return to Rebel Park as the club host Pakenham for the annual MND Round. It is shaping up to be another huge day for the club as they come together to support this great cause. The day will feature fundraising activities including a dunk tank, with plenty happening both on and off the field and courts.

Make sure to keep an eye on the club's social media pages for updates, announcements and upcoming events. If you would like to be added to the Rebel Update newsletter mailing list, please contact the club at alexandrafnc@outereastfn.com.au



Luke James grabbing a mark under immense pressure from the opposing team. -S



Cam Clark for the Under 18s. -S



Will Clark sending the ball in the reserves game. -S



Tom Wynne grabbing a solid mark for the Alexandra seniors. -S



Ryan Lucas under pressure. -S



Amy Jamieson playing for Alexandra A Grade. -S



Heath Sutcliffe leading the charge in the Under 18s. -S



Cassie Kidd defending for the B Grade. -S

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Big crowds reel in success at Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge

CROWDS flocked to Jerusalem Creek Marina and Holiday Park over the weekend of May 15 to 17 as the 2026 Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge delivered another standout event, blending competitive angling with community spirit and fundraising success.

Hosted by the Jerusalem Creek Charity Committee, the annual competition once again attracted anglers from across Victoria and beyond, all casting a line in support of Variety, the Children's Charity. The event continues to grow in popularity, combining serious competition with a relaxed, family-friendly festival atmosphere.

Fishing officially began Friday afternoon and ran through to Sunday morning, with competitors vying for top honours in popular categories including Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Trout and Redfin, alongside a strong showing of junior anglers.

Cod Forum hooks anglers early

The weekend began on Friday night with the ever-popular Cod Forum, hosted by renowned fishing expert Peter Burtchell. The session drew a packed crowd of eager anglers keen to gain an edge before lines hit the water.

Burtchell delivered an engaging and insightful presentation, covering cod

behaviour, seasonal patterns and the finer points of targeting Australia's iconic freshwater species.

A standout topic was the influence of the waning crescent moon, with Burtchell explaining how lunar cycles can impact fish feeding patterns and bite windows, knowledge many anglers were quick to put into practice over the weekend.

Auction night delivers energy and generosity

Saturday night's charity auction proved once again to be a highlight of the event, with Shane Melrose taking the reins as auctioneer. Bringing humour, quick wit and high energy to the room, Melrose kept the crowd thoroughly entertained while driving spirited bidding across a wide range of donated items.

From fishing gear and outdoor equipment to unique experiences, bidders showed plenty of enthusiasm, and generosity, helping raise significant funds for Variety. The auction has cemented itself as a cornerstone of the challenge weekend, blending entertainment with purpose.

Ideal conditions with a wet finish

Competitors enjoyed near-perfect autumn conditions across Friday and Saturday, with calm water and mild temperatures creating excellent fishing opportunities. Boats launched early, shoreline anglers lined the banks, and campsites were alive with activity.

A change arrived on Sunday morning, with steady rain and low cloud settling across the lake. Despite the wet conditions, many anglers reported continued success, with the cooler weather helping keep fish active right through to the finish.

Major prize draw adds excitement

Alongside species prizes, competitors also went into the draw for the event's major giveaway, a Regal Marine 415 Blue Fin Trekker GT, complete with Mercury 25HP motor and trailer, valued at more than \$18,000. The draw remains a major attraction, giving

every entrant a chance to walk away with a significant prize.

Winners and results

At the time of publication, official 2026 results and category winners are still being finalised and will be released via the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge Facebook page, where organisers traditionally publish full results following the event.

Past competitions have consistently produced impressive catches across all divisions, highlighting Lake Eildon's reputation for quality fishing and trophy-sized native species.

Community at the core

While the fishing remains central, it is the sense of community that truly defines the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge. Families camped together, children cast their first lines, and seasoned anglers reconnected over meals, stories and live entertainment.

The welcoming atmosphere of Jerusalem Creek, combined with strong local support, continues to make the event a favourite on Victoria's fishing calendar.

Looking ahead

With another successful year complete, organisers are already setting their sights on 2027, a milestone event marking the 10th anniversary of the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge.

Traditionally held on the weekend following Mother's Day, the competition is expected to be bigger than ever, continuing its proud tradition of fishing, fundraising and community spirit.

Acknowledgement

The Jerusalem Creek Charity Committee would like to sincerely thank all sponsors and volunteers who contributed their time, resources and support throughout the weekend. Without their ongoing commitment, the Lake Eildon Fishing Challenge would not be the success it has grown to become.



Random entry door prize winner Elaine Marks, who walked away with a Regal Marine 415 Blue Fin Trekker GT worth \$18,000. -S



Senior winner of the largest Murray cod at the Eildon Fishing Challenge, Rod Groaters, with a 120cm cod. -S



Winner of the 'Guess how many lollies?' challenge at the Eildon Fishing Challenge. -S