

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 13, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Early Years Conference in Eildon



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UGLN build nest boxes at APS



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Mother's Day Classic



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Weekend sport



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On Thursday, May 7, snow fell across many elevated parts of Murrindindi Shire, bringing a taste of winter among the autumn leaves. At Lake Mountain, around 30cm of snow was received in the village and over 40 at higher elevations. Callum Brown, General Manager for Lake Mountain Alpine Resort said, "The storm total at Lake Mountain is one of the biggest snow accumulation events we've seen in May for many years. While it presents some early-season challenges, it provides an excellent base layer for winter and significantly improves our snowmaking efficiency." This beautiful image was taken in Marysville, near the lake. -Anita Lowerson

David Berry imprisoned over Yarck death

HIS Honour Judge Tiwana sentenced David Graham Berry on Monday, May 11. Mr Berry was the driver of a stolen vehicle which collided with an Alexandra motorcyclist in Yarck on May 8, 2024, resulting in the man's death.

Berry was charged with theft, culpable driving causing death, and failing to stop after a motor vehicle accident. He was also charged with a summary offence of unlicensed driving. Berry has previously pled guilty to all charges.

After being arrested five kilometres from the scene of the crash, he was tested for drugs and alcohol in his system. Dr Gaya provided an expert opinion and estimated that Berry's blood alcohol level was between 0.129 per cent and 0.187 per cent. He was also found to have 0.27 mg/L of methylamphetamine in his system.

The judge outlined the incident in his sentencing summary, as well as Berry's criminal history.

Between 2000 and 2018, he refused to remain at the station for a breath test (one charge in 2000), exceeded the prescribed concentration of alcohol (four charges in 2004, 2008 and 2018), driving while disqualified (three charges in 2001, 2004 and 2005), and unlicensed driving (three charges in 2004, 2008 and 2018).

The judge stated, "You also have a significant non-driving history between 1996 and 2018. This includes offences of dishonesty, including handling stolen goods, seven offences of theft, four offences of burglary and two offences of attempted theft. On February 2, 2018, the County Court sentenced you to a term of four years and three months' imprisonment with a non-parole period of three years. You also have been dealt with by the courts for offences of violence, including intentionally causing injury, unlawful assault, resist police, assault police, make threat to kill, common law assault, assault with intent to rob, recklessly causing

injury. I also note the offending involving contravention of family violence orders, damaging property and offences subject to the Bail Act 1977 (Vic)."

The deceased man's family provide heartbreaking victim impact statements to the court.

In sentencing, the judge said, "Having synthesised all relevant matters and circumstances, I sentence you, David Berry, as follows: On charge one, theft, you are convicted and sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment. On charge two, culpable driving causing death, you are convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. On charge three, failing to stop after a motor vehicle accident, you are convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. On the summary charge of unlicensed driving, you are convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

"The sentence on charge two will be the base sentence. Three months of the sentence on charge

one and nine months of the sentence on charge three will be served cumulatively upon each other and upon the base sentence. The sentence on summary charge nine will run concurrently. This makes a total effective sentence of 11 years' imprisonment. I set a non-parole period of seven years and six months' imprisonment." 563 days was declared as time served.

The judge said that if he had not pled guilty, he would have sentenced Berry to 14 years' imprisonment with a non-parole period of 10 years.

The judge also ordered that Berry be disqualified from obtaining a licence for 10 years from the date of the sentencing.

Man dies in Eildon single vehicle crash

A MAN has died following a crash in Eildon on Sunday, May 10. Emergency services responded to reports that a car had hit a power-pole on Eildon-Jamieson Road just after 4pm.

Despite the efforts of passersby who tried to help the three men inside the Holden Commodore, a passenger died on scene.

Another passenger was injured and conveyed to hospital by road ambulance while the driver

suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to Melbourne.

Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives are attending and will investigate what caused the crash.

Sergeant Geoff Shaw from the Marysville Police Station coordinated the police response and said this is a devastating high-speed crash that has ended one life and will change many others forever.



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May 30 and 31

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Town

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In an emergency dial
000

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Letters to the Editor

Government's financial choices

LAST week's editorial about a man, Shane Lewis, who was terminally ill and ended his life as he could not access help should be a wake-up call to all who live in regional Victoria.

Reading what Shane and Marlene his wife went through, with inadequate local medical assistance, and denied financial assistance from NDIS and the Aged Pension. It's ironic NDIS refused to help when over two per cent of people in Australia are getting financial help from them.

There have been several massive failures in our country this week which have wasted billions of dollars, making a man having to take his own life to take the unsustainable burden off his wife heinous and disgusting. Snowy River Two that will produce less than a billion if it ever gets up running now to cost \$42 billion. \$50 billion dollars per year that goes supposedly to Aboriginal people. The repatriation of terrorists set to cost \$1 million each per year while arresting our highest decorated soldier advocating a court case that will have spanned 20 years and will have cost \$1 billion dollars and for what?

All this pales to the fact an Aussie worked all his life became sick and his only recourse was to pay for his own life to be taken. All this on the 81st anniversary of the end of World War II Europe. What would our diggers think?

Rest in peace Shane, sorry your journey ended this way. Condolences to all family and friends.

Tom Collins, Alexandra

Claimate change

A TYPICAL climate change denier's phrase is "0.04 per cent!" as if to say such a small amount of carbon dioxide can't possibly influence the climate. For comparison, if your blood contains more than 0.05 per cent alcohol you cannot legally drive a car. A lethal dose of tiger snake venom is about three milligrams or roughly 0.005 per cent of the

average human body weight. CO2 levels in the Mesozoic period when dinosaurs roamed the steaming swamps were roughly three to 10 times higher than levels at the start of the industrial revolution. Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) is now roughly 50 per cent higher than pre-industrial levels due largely to global CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels. Every day on fragile planet Earth we humans consume about 100 million barrels of oil and add about 100 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to our atmosphere.

Andrew Bottomley, Alexandra

The Green Dream

IN reply to Andy Millers letter in last week's Standard, given that there is limited cobalt in present lithium batteries, I don't think that it is still right for the exploitation of slave labour to extract this from the ground regardless of where it is going to. Also, the nickel factories are supplying much CO2 to the atmosphere regardless of where it is going also. As for the interview with Bowen, he just refused to answer the question which was posed to him. We must also remember that as the ABC is a left leaning enterprise they are always looking to find something to have a go at right wing conservative views.

However, this present government's drive toward 100 per cent renewable energy sure has some interesting data unfolding to this present date. Let's see: 3700 turbines installed, 70,000 acres of solar panels installed, 8000 acres of land cleared for new transmission lines.

Overall, 180,000 acres of land has been covered or cleared for the above. To complete this transition to 100 per cent renewables, approximately 296,500 acres would have to be cleared or covered. To date over \$230 billion has been spent with estimates the total cost would be greater than \$700 billion. [probably heading towards a trillion dollars if this ever comes to fruition.]

Given that Australia's contribution to the world's CO2 levels is 1.1 per cent with estimates that with 100 per cent renewables,

the reduction would be 0.4 per cent. This equates to our government spending close to a trillion dollars and destroying thousands of acres of beautiful forests and farming land to produce an outcome of 0.7 per cent. which would have virtually zero impact on the world's output. [One example China around 30 per cent] I'm having trouble getting my head around whether we are getting bang for our buck here.

Just another side to this, Victoria has 430 billion tonnes of brown coal in reserve enough for well over 1000 years. 220 trillion cubic feet of gas in reserve, enough for 17 years without new untapped discoveries, and 1.75 million tonnes of uranium underground which is the world's largest uranium resource base.

Another interesting note is, where are all the Greens and animal activists that tied themselves to the logger's equipment when logging was allowed, remembering that these areas were replanted for future growth? They should be seething at what is going on especially in the high country, but their silence is deafening. Remember that the roads cleared in these areas will never be regrown as when they must replace broken or burnt or worn-out turbine blades these roads will need to be kept open allowing the transport of this equipment.

I can only say that between the Labor / Greens coalition we are witnessing hypocrisy of the highest degree, for what outcome? But as we still have some form of democracy left, ask the farming fraternity, the voters of this nation especially this state will tell us which way we should go at the next election.

Ken Collier, Eildon

David Attenborough

MOLLY Waterhouse of Alexandra, worked for a time at the Desert Park in Alice Springs. She wrote to 99-year-old David Attenborough to tell him about her work with endangered desert animals, such as ghost bats, bilbies and the smallest macropod in Australia, extinct in the wild, the mala. He replied to

COMMUNITY DIARY

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

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

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY
 Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
 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 6-9pm @ 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



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 13 - May 19, 2026
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	20	Wednesday	8	20
Thursday	9	20	Thursday	8	20
Friday	11	21	Friday	11	21
Saturday	12	20	Saturday	12	20
Sunday	12	18	Sunday	12	18
Monday	9	17	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	8	16	Tuesday	8	16

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	8.00AM Mon	1.05	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00AM Mon	0.52	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.00AM Mon	0.63	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yareck	7.51AM Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.49	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00AM Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	8.00AM Mon	0.75	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	8.00AM Mon	3.40	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	8.00AM Mon	0.38	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	0.97	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	8.00AM Mon	0.32	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	8.30AM Mon	1.36	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

*ISSUED AT 9.09 AM AEDT MONDAY 11 MAY 2026

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	34mm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	36mm
Flowerdale	37mm
Jamieson	57mm
Kinglake	57mm
Lake Eildon	52mm
Mansfield	28mm
Taggerty	52mm
Yareck	27mm
Yea	23mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	269.37m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	40.3%
Metres below full supply	19.53m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	750ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	92%

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.

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Standard

DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbsup/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or
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We thank you for your continued support

 Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

David Attenborough

MOLLY Waterhouse of Alexandra, worked for a time at the Desert Park in Alice Springs. She wrote to 99-year-old David Attenborough to tell him about her work with endangered desert animals, such as ghost bats, bilbies and the smallest macropod in Australia, extinct in the wild, the mala. He replied to her hand-written letter with his own. How special is that.

Happy 100th Birthday Sir David. You are an inspiration to us all.

Bev Dick, Acheron



The letter states, "Thank you for your letter. I am so glad you enjoy my programmes. Your job caring for the animals that are in your area sounds very interesting. Best wishes, David Attenborough." -S

'The Beanie Song' for the Alexandra Beanie and Fibre Festival

ALEXANDRA'S Ukulele Heaven is hosting longtime favourite of the music scene, Bruce Watson, to teach his hilarious *The Beanie Song*, at the upcoming Alexandra

Beanie and Fibre Festival.

Bruce is an icon of the Australian music scene and has a stack of prestigious songwriting awards to his name. He has produced eight

albums, and appears on over 20 compilation albums alongside artists such as *Yothu Yindi* and Christine Anu.

Alexandra Library will host two workshops on Friday

evening and Saturday morning of May 22 and 23. Head along to one or preferably to both, then help Bruce in pop-up performances Saturday afternoon for festival visitors.

The workshops are open to any instrument and Bruce welcomes a mix of abilities, ages and instruments. At least one violin, some ukeleles and several singers have already booked. Bruce has prepared a riff suitable for advanced players and indeed has a few songs to share.

As a singer-songwriter Bruce has performed at more than 200 music festivals and innumerable folk clubs and other venues across Australia, New Zealand and the UK, and had his songs covered by performers of the calibre of Eric Bogle, Joe Dolce and Greg Champion. Alexandra is very lucky to have him visit.

This event, proudly supported by Murrindindi Shire and Alexandra's Ukulele Heaven, will lift spirits. If you're at all musical, head along.

Ticket enquiries to Jeanne on 0456 583 611.



Bruce Watson with ukulele players. -S

Four of our shire volunteers receive Orders of Australia

ON Thursday, May 7, four of our local heroes received their orders of Australia (OAM) from Her Excellency Professor the honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria.

The four were among 72 recipients from all around Victoria to receive the award.

Graeme Robb received his for service to the community through emergency response organisations; Gordon Simpson for service to the community of Alexandra; Gary Pollard for his service to the community of Yea (2025); and Geoffrey Penny for his service to Gobur and Terip Terip.

Congratulations to these men for this well deserved honour and for their dedication. In a way we can see while they have received this award, they represent all the hard workers out there who work tirelessly to make our communities safe and more liveable.



Graeme Robb, Gary Pollard, Gordon Simpson and Geoffrey Penny at Government House to receive their OAMs. -S

We're back in the hall

Market@Yarck
including devonshire teas and toasties.

Saturday, May 16
from 9am

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Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

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The Beanie Song

Bruce Watson comes to Alexandra May 22 and 23
Ukulele Heaven and the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival present a music workshop with renowned singer and songwriter Bruce Watson
Bring your ukulele, voice or other instruments and lift your spirits

Workshop times:
Friday, May 22 5 - 6.30pm
Saturday, May 23 10 - 11.30am

Where:
Alexandra Library
Grant Street, Alexandra

Tickets:
\$10 covers both sessions. Students free

Bookings:
events.humanitix.com/beanie-song

Cash tickets:
Ring Jeanne 0456 583 611

Event enquiries:
bevdick3903@gmail.com
text 0428 384 410





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Car enthusiasts to hit the road

SOME of Murrindindi's most dedicated car enthusiasts are about to hit the road, as part of National Motoring Heritage Day, to raise funds for victims of the devastating Longwood fire.

Members of the Murrindindi Historic Vehicle Register will participate in the drive from Healesville to Eildon, then possibly on to Yea, on Sunday, May 17.

The drive, officially known as a cruise, begins at Beechworth Bakery at 10am, before travelling over the Black Spur to Narbethong, where participants from the Alexandra and Eildon area who have chosen to not drive to Healesville, will join the convoy at the Black Spur Inn.

Then the vehicles, tipped to number at least 20 historic and classic cars, will travel to Marysville, where they will drive down the main street to show participants, drivers and passengers, how the picturesque township has recovered after being almost wiped out by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire.

It also will give Marysville residents an opportunity to view cars dating back to the 1950s.

After the Marysville visit, the cruise will pass through Buxton, Taggerty and Thornton, then to Eildon, where Alexandra Lions will serve a sausage sizzle lunch at the golf club.

All money raised on the day will be donated to the Alexandra Lions fire recovery fund.

Bernie McKeegan, who is the Murrindindi Historic Vehicle Register's delegate to

the Association of Motoring Clubs, said Sunday's event was being held with the association's backing.

He said that, in addition to raising funds for bushfire victims, the cruise would give the community an opportunity to see how the historic vehicle movement contributes to the national economy.

Mr McKeegan added that after lunch the group might extend the Healesville-Eildon drive on to Whanregarwen Road and Yea to give participants, especially those belonging to Melbourne-based clubs, the chance to see first hand the fire's devastation.

Suffice to say, participants in the cruise hope the weather gods will smile upon them on Sunday.

Beanie festival donates to Koriella CFA

EACH year the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival has great pleasure in giving back to the community monies raised from the fabulous fibre event held on the fourth weekend in May.

Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival committee members Sue Wynn, Carolyn Weeks and Pam Peterson handed over a 10kg washing machine recently purchased from Country Tech Alexandra and donated it to the Koriella Fire Brigade after they put the call out to the community, following the fires within Murrindindi Shire earlier this year.



THUMBS UP: To the staff at Country Tech. I purchased a new phone couple months ago and the charger turned out to be faulty. A replacement was given, no questions asked. I also recently purchased a washing machine that had a fault, and had the same great service and received a new one.

THUMBS DOWN: To the condition of the road around the Spring Creek Road turnoff, especially in regard to unfixed potholes.

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

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

Community Wood Auction this weekend

THE Alexandra Community Wood Auction is set to be held on Saturday, May 16 at 10am at the bottom of Bayley Street, near the playground.

This year, there will be about 15 or 20 trailers to bid on. This number is down a bit due to the recent fires and the lower level of dry firewood around.

Organiser Andrew Embling said that the trailers will be supplied by various groups, including Acheron CFA, Alexandra CFA, the Australian Deer Association, Alexandra Kindergarten and St Mary's Primary School.

All funds raised go back to the community groups.

The event will again be run free of charge for the community groups.

Single-vehicle incident on the Black Spur in icy conditions

A MOTOR vehicle accident on Black Spur at 9.30am on the morning of Thursday, May 7 closed Maroondah Hwy for several hours.

Police, ambulance, CFA and SES crews from Marysville, Alexandra and Healesville attended the scene where a vehicle with

three people on board went off the road near Fernshaw.

SES and CFA High Angle teams from Marysville, Alexandra, Monbulk and Wandin were called to extricate the patients 10 metres up the side of the road to waiting ambulance crews. Police closed the Maroondah Highway

at Narbethong and Healesville until the road was cleared.

With snow below 600 metres, the highway was wet, slippery and icy in many locations. A number of trees also fell across the road, attended to by Marysville and Healesville SES.



Snow at Mount Dom Dom on the morning of May 7. -S



Emergency services at the scene of the incident on the Black Spur on May 7. -S

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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Sharing the transforming love of
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Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
0408 123 581
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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 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.

Have your say on council's Annual Budget for 2026/27. Submissions close 6pm June 2. Scan the QR code in this weeks paper for full details.

TUESDAY, MAY 12
Friends of the Library Alexandra AGM. 6pm at the Alexandra Library. New members welcome. Nomination forms available by emailing the secretary proctor@virtual.net.au

SATURDAY, MAY 16
Yarck Market is back from 9am. Don't miss out on Devonshire tea, toasts, and all your favourite stalls including plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear

and much more. For any enquires contact Sharon on 0407 879 612

THURSDAY, MAY 21
Free heart health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy 10am-noon.

FRIDAY, MAY 22
Bruce Watson is coming to Alexandra on Friday and Saturday, Ukulele Heaven and the Murrindindi Beanie Festival present a music workshop with Bruce. Take your ukulele, voice

and other instruments to lift your spirits. Workshops 5-6.30pm on Friday and 10-11.30am on Saturday.

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.





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It's almost Biggest Morning Tea time

CANCER Council Victoria is calling on Victorians to rally their family, friends and workmates for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and turn a simple cuppa into a powerful way to support those impacted by cancer.

With one Australian diagnosed with cancer every five minutes, the same time it takes to boil the kettle and take a tea break, every single morning tea held across the state has the potential to make a life-saving difference.

While the official date of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is Thursday, May 21, Cancer Council Victoria is encouraging people to host events anytime across May and June.

Head of Fundraising and Communications at Cancer Council Victoria Lyrian Fleming-Parsley said the iconic fundraiser continues to unite people and communities for a cause that touches so many.

"Almost every Victorian has been impacted by cancer in some way, and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a meaningful way to come together and make a difference," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"Tackling cancer takes all of us. Whether it's a small catch-up with friends, a workplace event or a large community gathering, every morning tea helps fund life-saving cancer research, prevention programs, and support services."

As Cancer Council Victoria marks its historic 90th year supporting Victorians living with cancer and their families, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea remains one of the charity's most enduring and impactful community fundraisers. This year, almost 6000 Victorians are set to host morning teas across the state, connecting more than 60,000 people.

Cancer Council Victoria aims to raise more than \$4 million across the state this year, contributing to a national fundraising goal of more than \$17 million.

Among those leading the charge are Lisa Pham and her colleagues at Berth Restaurant and Events in Melbourne's Docklands, who have been proudly hosting events for their network of passionate friends, family and clientele for more than a decade.

What began in 2012 as a small gathering raising a few hundred dollars has grown into a major annual event, last year welcoming more than 100 guests and raising more than \$40,000.

"Each year we see familiar faces come together to honour loved ones and support those going through cancer," Ms Pham said.

"It's incredibly special to create a space where people can connect, share stories and know they're making a real difference."

Ms Pham and the team at Berth will host their 2026 event on Thursday, May 28, with a high tea-style brunch that continues to draw strong community support year after year.

Fellow long-time fundraiser Anna Worsnop is also encouraging others to get involved. She has hosted a morning tea every year since losing her father to stomach cancer more than two decades ago, with her passion for the cause deepening after her mother passed away from leukaemia 12 years ago.

While Ms Worsnop's event started as a personal tribute, before long it developed into a much-loved community event, and has raised more than \$60,000 for Cancer Council Victoria.

"Hosting my morning tea has always been about bringing people together and doing something positive in the face of cancer," Ms Worsnop said.

"I love that it connects people who've been touched by cancer in all kinds of ways. So many people have reached out over the years to share their stories, and it gives them a chance to do something meaningful for someone they love."

This year, Ms Worsnop will host her event on Saturday, May 30 in Melbourne's south-east, once again bringing together strong support from local community members across the region.

Since its inception in 1993, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea has raised more than \$200 million nation-wide, helping Cancer Council fund vital research and provide support services for people affected by cancer.

"Thanks to the incredible support of the community, we've made significant progress

in cancer research, prevention and treatment," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"But with cancer still the leading causes of death in Victoria, and with the state recently recording its highest-ever number of diagnoses in 2024, there is so much more to be done. That's why every cup of tea counts."

Ways to support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Host an event: Plan a morning tea at home, work or in your community this May or June.

Donate: Support a local event or make a contribution online.

Get involved: Attend a morning tea near you and be part of the cause.

To register, donate or find out more, visit biggestmorningtea.com.au



Local childcare workers join Early Years Conference

THE 2026 annual Early Years Conference was held at Holmesglen at Eildon on Thursday, May 7, a day which also brought the first snow of the season to many parts of Murrindindi Shire, as well as Victoria more generally.

At the start of the conference, there was meant to be a Smoking Ceremony but this had to be cancelled when snow began to fall. A Welcome to Country was held inside instead.

There were over 60 attendees at the event, bringing together childcare workers from across the shire, as well as special guests.

After breakfast, the attendees were welcomed by Mayor Damien Gallagher and the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tracy Beaton, spoke and invited questions from the audience.

A break-out session was held with facilitator Catharine Hydon, where a case study was provided to the participants in small groups. It outlined a complex situation and the participants were invited to discuss a series of questions around the case.

This was followed by a panel discussion featuring the facilitator, Hayley Carter from DFFH Child Protection, Donna McKenzie from FamilyCare, Jamey Peterson from Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESO) and Beth Gammell from Maternal and Child Health.

After a lovely lunch, Robyn Papworth conducted a session titled Play, Move, Improve.



Holmesglen at Eildon provided an ideal venue for the event. -AR



Facilitator Catharine Hydon during the break-out session. -AR



The panel discussion. -AR



Mayor Damien Gallagher. -AR



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ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kenz Marchetti

Kenz always shows the school values. She constantly strives to do her best by taking on feedback and working hard to improve. She is a positive and kind person who is always willing to support teachers and her peers. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Kenz. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lucas, Logan and Leo for working well as a team with each other.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Juniors-William Tatham

Demonstrating the school value Achievement by getting all of your spelling correct and being a blending superstar when identifying and blending your sounds together. Keep up the fantastic work, William.

Seniors: Hailie Smith

For demonstrating the school value Achievement by understanding how money transactions can be represented by mathematical formulae. Impressive, Hailie.



ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Presley



Presley is making incredible learning choices. She always puts in 100% effort, immediately uses feedback to improve and helps others when she can. Presley is very kind and caring towards all other students and staff. She can be relied upon to take up any extra responsibilities. Great start to the year, Presley.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Wear orange on Wednesday, May 20 to show your support for the SES.

Wear Orange Wednesday supporting SES volunteers

WEAR Orange Wednesday (WOW Day), held on 20 May, is the national day of recognition to acknowledge and thank State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers for their ongoing contribution to community safety.

Taking place during National Volunteer Week, it is a significant and proactive event within the VICSES calendar.

Over the past 12 months, VICSES volunteers have responded to more than 32,000 requests for assistance.

Our volunteers have been out there including providing support during the Longwood bushfires, clearing countless fallen trees from roads during storm

events, assisting with road crash rescues and rescuing stranded boats on the Goulburn River.

Alexandra SES Deputy Controller Shannon Mitrow said SES volunteers are often mistaken for paid emergency service personnel, however, VICSES is a wholly volunteer-based organisation.

"Members generously contribute their time, skills, and commitment to assist communities in times of need," she said.

"Orange looks good on everyone, so please don some orange on May 20 this year. Even a splash of orange will show your support for State Emergency Services across Australia on WOW Day."



Psychologist Lisa and nurse Bronwyn at last month's Foodshare event. -S

Heart checks at Foodshare

A TEAM from Alexandra District Health (ADH) attended the monthly Foundation Murrindindi Foodshare event on Thursday morning, May 7, in Alexandra.

The staff in the Mobile Health Van offered free heart health risk assessments, with blood pressure and blood glucose checks.

The event was held in conjunction with Heart Week (May 4-10), which raises awareness of cardiovascular disease, still one of Australia's leading causes of death.

Last month's Foodshare event featured ADH psychologist Lisa, and Bronwyn from the ADH nursing team.



One of the Foodshare volunteers, Byron Gilmore, having his blood pressure checked by Alexandra District Health Cardiac Nurse, Zoe. -S

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Department of Education



Let's eat, it's our treat

Tips and inspiration for cooking fish

FISH can be a culinary delight, especially when prepared the right way. Think of pan-seared salmon with mashed potato and steamed vegetables, grilled barramundi with salad, or crumbed whiting with chips and tartare sauce.

Now imagine that you caught the fish. Our area of Murrindindi Shire has an abundance of prime fishing spots to choose from, including Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River, etcetera. Murray cod, brown and rainbow trout, redbfin, yellowbelly (proper name of golden perch), and carp can all be fished in local waters.

To spare people's sensitivities, details on the part about field preparing a fish after it has been caught will be left out. Needless to say, make sure to dispatch the fish as humanely and quickly as possible after reeling it in, and then clean, scale and gut it immediately after. Keep the fish on ice until you are ready to cook it.

When it comes to actually cooking the fish, Matt Preston has a number of helpful tips, which he shared with *taste.com.au*.

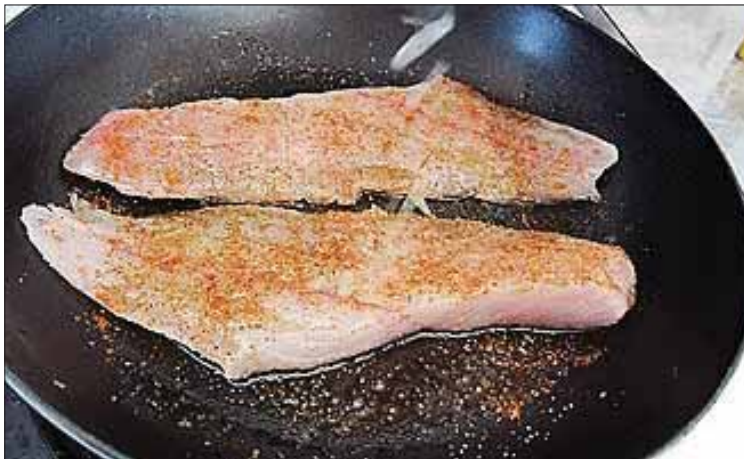
"For me, overcooked seafood is a crime, so I err on the side of underdone knowing the fish will cook a bit more when out of the pan," Matt says.

"Avoid snapper if you are a fish novice as it's easily ruined."

He suggests utilising subtlety when cooking fish, so don't destroy its flavour by burying it under other flavours like spices, etcetera. Either pick or slice your fillets so they are around the same thickness, to make sure they all cook evenly and finish cooking at the same time.

Always cook fillets skin side down, to protect the vulnerable flesh of the fish. If you want crispy skin on ocean fish, start your fish in a cold pan and then flip it to just warm the top side at the very end of cooking.

Matt suggests baking rather than deep frying your fish. Twenty minutes at 180 degrees with a coating of herbs, cheese or spices can do wonders for fish fillets. He also says to use a lot of heat for a very little time.



Do you know how to cook fish well? -Jason Lam

"Slow it down for gentler white fish such as whiting or snapper fillets. Cook slowly in a pan, napping the fillets with foaming butter (spooning butter over the fish to cook the top at the same time)," Matt says.

"Or cook fillets confit-style under warm olive oil. I love to bake whole fish, but also think of steaming smaller whole fish in a covered bamboo steamer and wok. Room-temperature fish will take about 15 minutes per 500 grams, but this depends on its thickness, which is why we slash fatter-sided fish."

Recipe ideas for local fish

To provide some inspiration, here are three recipe ideas for each of the fish that can be caught in Murrindindi Shire, including carp, so dispose of your prejudices.

Trout

Baked trout cooked in foil parcels: Seal trout fillets in foil with fennel, white wine and lemon, then steam and serve.

Pan-seared trout with garlic lemon butter: Coat fillets in flour, pan-sear with olive oil and butter for a short time. Add lemon juice, garlic, and parsley.

Crispy trout: Pan fry for crispy skin, then serve with bacon, toasted almonds and a side of beetroot.

Murray cod

Smoked Murray cod omelette: Smoke cod fillets in a smoker or under a grill, then flake the fish into an omelette. A good breakfast option.

Steamed cod: Steam Murray cod fillets with ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil and spring onions, then serve with steamed rice.

Barbecue cod with salsa: Lightly oil and season cod fillets, then grill until the skin is crispy. Pairs well with a salsa of spring onion, parsley, coriander, anchovy fillets and capers.

Redfin

Redfin burgers: Dust fillets with flour and pan fry, then serve on a buttered roll with cheese,

Let's Eat April winner

THE winner of our April Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Charlie Bissett from Alexandra. Charlie will be having a \$50 feed on us at Sedona Estate. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at the venue advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat. Remember to circle your venue of choice.

lettuce and mayonnaise.

Thai-style whole redbfin: Scale, gut and gill the redbfin, then dust the whole fish with flour and deep fry until it's crispy. Serve with a spicy sweet and sour sauce.

Grilled redbfish with white wine butter sauce: Grill the redbfin, then serve with a garlic, shallots, wine and butter sauce alongside a salad.

Golden perch (yellowbelly)

Golden perch fish cakes: Mix cooked and flaked fish with mashed potatoes, chilli, fish sauce, shallots and kaffir lime leaves. Form them into cakes, then fry.

Parmesan-crumbed perch: Coat fillets in breadcrumbs, parmesan grated, garlic and herbs, then grill or pan fry until golden.

Fried perch with Cajun spices: Dip fillets in a milk and mustard wash, dredge in flour, cornflour and Cajun seasoning, then deep fry.

Carp

Smoked carp fillets: Brine fillets overnight, dry and then smoke for a long time. Helps to remove the muddy taste.

Roasted carp: Bake in the oven with some seasoning, then serve alongside vegetables or other sides.

Fried carp: Coat fillets in batter and fry until golden, then serve with lemon alongside your choice of sides.

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Return this form by noon, Thursday, May 28 for your chance to win. Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street, or PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic 3714.

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month. T&C: Only venues advertised in this feature are eligible to be chosen. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned. If you do not circle your choice of venue, your entry is invalid.

Draft budget approved and available for feedback

MURRINDINDI Shire Council conducted a special meeting on May 6 to adopt the annual 2026/7 budget.

Cr Adams and Cr Lording were both on leave. In introducing the topic, Cr Carr noted the impact of the recent fire and the uncertainties around operational, financial and workforce pressures, as well as assessments of asset damage, recovery costs and government funding support is not yet known.

She said that council was already facing significant structural financial challenges prior to the fires, including ongoing underlying operational deficits and declining cash reserves.

She said that the budget takes “a disciplined and stabilising approach, focused on maintaining services, support community recovery, and preserving council’s financial capacity while recovery impacts are better understood.”

The draft budget forecasts a modest operating surplus of \$570,000 on revenue of \$47.7 million. Within this, rates stand at \$26.4 million under the 2.75 per cent rate cap increase.

She said, “Capital works of \$15.6 million are proposed, with a strong focus on asset renewal, and a temporary reduction in program scope to manage risk associated with potential fire-related asset impairment. Excluding capital grants, Council continues to face a significant underlying operating deficit, resulting in an ongoing drawdown of cash reserves.”

Following consideration of all submissions, Budget 2026/27 will be presented for adoption at Council’s Scheduled Meeting on June 17.

Cr McAulay asked how reduced visitation and economic flow-on, a result of the fire, are being factored into planning and priorities.

Director of People and Corporate Performance, Michael Chesworth, replied that they have been mindful of the impact of the fires and the economic impact during the development of the draft budget. He said that they have not created a lot of new initiatives

or expansion of services. They want to be able to respond as the impacts of the fires become clearer. They are awaiting further advice regarding state and federal funding and what might be possible to assist people both directly and indirectly impacted by the fires. They are also looking to work with the community regarding the recovery plan.

Cr Carpenter asked about the difference between asset renewal and program scope in capital works. Mr Chesworth explained that the scope is the entirety of the capital works, with the bulk focused on returning assets to the level of service that they’re designed to provide (asset renewal).

Cr Gallagher asked about the constraints and challenges for small rural councils more generally. Mr Chesworth noted the recent fires and said that they are yet to be confident of the level of funding required to restore the assets. He also spoke about the challenges of ongoing financial sustainability more generally, including the state and federal inquiries into the topic. Council has been advocating to receive a fair share of bushfire recovery funding, as well as broader financial assistance to councils.

Cr Gallagher also asked about the community waste charge and any changes in the next financial year. Mr Chesworth explained that the charge is independent of the kerbside waste collection service and that it relates to the cost of running a landfill, resource recovery services, street bin cleaning, promotion for recycling and re-use, and the collection of dumped rubbish. Last year, this was \$149, increasing to \$155 in the next financial year, in line with standard increases. The rural landholder exemption due to drought conditions will no longer be in place in the new financial year.

Cr Gallagher enquired about the reduction in capital improved value of landholders in the fire footprint and how council might address revenue. Mr Chesworth explained that after the fires, they suspended the need to collect rate revenue from people who were fire impacted, to enable a re-evaluation process to occur. For people who have lost property, a revised rate notice for January

to December 2026 will be issued, which recognises the reduction in capital value. Once the capital values become clear, council will seek an adjustment from the government or a reimbursement of the difference between what council would have received and will now receive.

Cr Carr congratulated staff on their hard work on the challenging budget, supported by other councillors.

The draft budget was approved. The draft budget is now available for the community to review and provide feedback. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget for more information.

Key initiatives in the draft budget

\$1 million to complete the Eildon Key Worker Accommodation Project (grant funded with borrowings approved in 2025/26). \$364,000 for renewal and upgrades at the Yea Saleyards. \$283,000 to continue the establishment of an Integrated Forestry and Carbon Offset Project in Yea. \$49,000 for strategic land use planning to incorporate housing development opportunities into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. \$36,000 additional funding to improve biodiversity and environmental management across council-managed roadsides and bushland reserves. \$1.4 million to upgrade the Kinglake Memorial Reserve oval (54 per cent grant-funded). \$194,000 to continue council’s Grants and Sponsorships Program. \$550,000 to support communities recovering from the January 2026 bushfires (fully grant funded). \$300,000 to upgrade lighting at the Thornton Recreation Reserve football oval (75 per cent grant funded). \$170,000 to continue the Leaping into Resilience Program (grant funded). \$75,000 to implement the Urban Tree Strategy. \$15,500 to improve maintenance of recreational areas surrounding Boundary Creek in Yea. \$768,000 for a new mobile library and customer service vehicle (fully grant funded). \$349,000 to develop the Nihil Street Alexandra roundabout to improve safety (grant funded). \$25,000 to support efficiency reviews and productivity improvements.

Word on the web

How would you react if you were served by an AI robot in a local store?

Caolan O’Connor: I’d argue that there are already examples of AI and robotics quietly operating in almost any regional town in Victoria. And we’re not generally blacklisting those businesses.

Kool Bass: In most supermarkets you have to scan and pack your own items and the scanners are a form of AI. Most people reading this now are either on a phone, tablet or computer, all of which are loaded with AI that they use every day without even realizing it. This concept of being served by a robot or AI figure isn’t that different. I’ve had some great people serve me in coffee shops and at other times, some I wish were probably this robot.

Grant Webster: Not quite sure which is worse. Serving oneself, thereby doing the unpaid work of people who should be paid and respected for doing it, or being served by an unpaid but costly robot. Neither is great in relation to the social aspect of buying in a shop or a cafe.

Jacobina Coby Petersen: No thanks, I like human contact. And I’d like to think there is work for my grandkids in years to come.

Margaret Talent: I wouldn’t be served by one because I’d be out of there as soon as I realised. I’d look for another store manned by real people.

Sophia Weaver: I wouldn’t buy from a store with an AI robot. I already quietly add places that use AI to make posters etcetera to my ‘do not buy’ list.

Jenny Petersen: I’d prefer human more personable

Vicky Ryan: When everyone has their strawman money (millions) would they still want to work?

Nicki’s Lawn and Property Maintenance: That’s a no from myself and my own business Raymond Gleichmar: I’d walk out.

Sue-Anne Robinson-Witnish: They can stick that. I would not buy from there.

Joel Gaylor: Skynet has become self aware Terminator movies taught us nothing.



Murrindindi Business Month

Your business, your future.

Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to announce Murrindindi Business Month, a month long initiative designed to support, strengthen and celebrate local business.

Running throughout June, this coordinated program guides businesses through a journey of recovery, growth and future planning, helping participants build capability, confidence and momentum.

Registrations are free and businesses are encouraged to attend multiple sessions and benefit from the full program.

For details:

- visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yourbusiness
- call 5772 0333
- scan the QR code.



Funding has been provided for this initiative by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



Have your say on Council’s Annual Budget for 2026/27

The draft Budget has been prepared following the January 2026 bushfires and focuses on maintaining essential services, supporting community recovery and managing Council’s finances responsibly.

This is your opportunity to share what matters most to you.

Submissions close 6.00 pm Tuesday 2 June 2026

Have your say:

- Scan the QR code to submit feedback online
- Provide a written submission
- Register to speak at a Council Meeting



murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget26-27



UGLN works with students to build more nesting boxes



UPPER Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) members Zanni Waldstein and Leigh Redding ran another nesting box building workshop at Alexandra Primary School on Friday, May 1.

Eleven enthusiastic and capable students worked with them to construct and paint some more boxes to go out into fire affected areas in the region.

Many of the students had been fire affected themselves, with some of them having lost their homes, and it was an incredibly affirming and positive activity to do with them.

The next boxes will be installed by the Intrepid team of UGLN later in the year in and around Alexandra and beyond. The materials were funded by a grant received from Bendigo Bank.



Victorian

Law Week

May 18 to May 24

AI and copyright: An undefined legal conundrum

WHO owns content generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)? It's an interesting question, because the creator of the content, AI, is not alive to hold a copyright. So then, does the company that runs the AI own the content? Or does it come back to the person who prompted the AI to create the content, giving it the original push and idea?

Further from that, AI-generated content, whether that be text or images and art, is not inherently new. It is a Frankenstein's Monster, in that it utilises existing media from across the internet, drawing facts, ideas and conclusions from other works to create its own response to whatever prompt the user inputted.

Research Fellow Pratap Devarapalli from The University of Queensland delved into this challenging topic.

"The legal questions surrounding the ownership and use of AI-created works are still up for debate under copyright law. Authors' rights and interests in their original works such as books, songs and paintings are protected by copyright law, giving them the right to control the copying, sharing, adaptation, performance and display of their creations," Mr Devarapalli said.

"However, copyright law has restrictions and exceptions such as fair use, parody, criticism, education and research. Additionally, works that are not sufficiently creative or original such as ideas, facts or processes are not protected by copyright laws."

Mr Devarapalli suggests utilising Creative Commons (CC) licencing as a way of perhaps rectifying the issue.

"CC licences could be used in numerous ways for AI-produced works. For instance, the user of the AI app or website could select a CC licence for the final product and provide credit to the creator of the AI app or website," Mr Devarapalli said.

"The individual who develops the AI app or website may decide to use a Creative Commons licence for it and its outputs while giving credit to the authors of the data sources."

Because AI is so new, it is difficult to define. There is currently no widely accepted definition of AI, other than it is computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence.

An information sheet titled 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Copyright' by the Arts Law Centre of Australia, goes into depth about AI and how vague the copyright rules around it are.

"Since this technology is so new, it is not clear that works created with the help of AI will be protected by copyright," the article reads.

"As a general rule, a work can only be protected by copyright in Australia if there is a human author who contributed 'independent intellectual

effort'. Because of this, it is possible that works generated by AI which don't have enough human input won't be protected by copyright.

"AI tools do not currently have a legal status and cannot own copyright. It is the human contributor who would own copyright if a work was protected."

There are numerous examples of AI being used to generate various artforms, including music, poetry, movie scripts, etcetera.

The Australian music band 'Uncanny Valley' generated a song with AI that went on to win the Eurovision-style 'AI Song Contest' in 2020. With the rules around copyright and AI being so vague and undefined, it's hard to imagine that a song would be attributable to a specific band if it was created with AI.

Yet an AI-generated portrait titled 'Edmond de Belamy' was sold at auction for \$432,000 in New York by Paris-based arts collective 'Obvious'. It was the first AI portrait ever sold, and presumably 'Obvious' pocketed the money, not whatever company ran the AI system.

The discussion around AI-generated content and copyright is ongoing and widely debated, in a similar fashion to every ethical issue involving AI in this modern era. There are no specific copyright laws for AI because it is developing at a pace too quick for legislation and the legal system to monitor and control.

This begs another question: Should the human race be rushing into AI at the speed we currently are? If the law can't keep up, doesn't that mean that AI is acting in a lawless space, with potential for any variety of actions?



The AI-generated portrait 'Edmond de Belamy', which sold for \$420,000 at auction in New York. -PICRYL

Legal help available following bushfires

IT has now been four months since January 7, when the Longwood bushfire tore across the hills and charged towards Alexandra, impacting various communities along the way. Affected people are in various stages of recovery.

For some, insurance claims might still be the focus, for others, clean up is in full swing. Some people are replacing fencing; some are moving stock back into formerly burnt paddocks.

Anyone who is still struggling with bureaucracy, particularly legal issues, this is a reminder that legal help is available, and there are people and services out there who can provide assistance.

ARC Justice's Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre can be contacted on 1800 310 900. Victoria Legal Aid has offices in Shepparton and Bendigo. The Shepparton number is 5823 6200; the Bendigo number is 1800 450 909. Whittlesea Community Connections also provide legal help. Their Epping office is contactable on 9401 6666. More generally, you can also call

Disaster Legal Help Victoria weekdays from 8am to 6pm. Their phone number is 1800 113 432.

Common issues post-disaster that these agencies can provide assistance with include issues relating to tenancy, insurance, property damage, problems with fences and parenting arrangements, among other things.

For more complex legal matters, some great services are available locally. Bell Legal and Planning provides a wide range of services in Murrindindi Shire and beyond, including planning and building advice, estate planning, probate, retail and commercial leases, Magistrates Court and VCAT representation, and subdivision lodgements.

Williams Hunt & Bett Lawyers and Conveyancers also have a range of services available, including business sales and purchases, commercial matters, conveyancing, criminal matters, family and divorce law, wills and probate, and disputes and litigation.

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Mother's Day Classic raises more than \$12,000

MORE than 100 participants gathered in Murrindindi Shire last Sunday for this year's Mother's Day Classic, raising more than \$12,000, and counting, in support of breast and ovarian cancer research.

With sunshine overhead and strong community spirit on display, locals of all ages took part in the run and walk event, helping continue the legacy of one of Australia's most recognised community fundraisers. Since its inception, the Mother's Day Classic has raised more than \$50 million nationally for vital cancer research.

Participants were treated to a fantastic community atmosphere throughout the day, with free barbecue and fairy floss, kids' games, and a raffle featuring generous prizes donated by local community sponsors.

Organisers extended their sincere thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who helped make the event such a success. Rotary members assisted with the barbecue, while UGFM broadcast live from the event, helping spread the message and celebrate the day with the wider community.

Kelly from Optair Eyecare kept the crowd entertained as emcee, and the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van was onsite throughout the event, providing a dedicated first aid space for participants and families.

The event highlighted the strength and generosity of the Murrindindi community, with attendees coming together not only for fitness and fun, but to support families impacted by breast and ovarian cancer.

Donations remain open until the end of May, with organisers encouraging anyone who could not attend to still get behind the cause. Contributions can be made online at mothersdayclassic.com.au/fundraisers/progressionruncrew

Organisers thanked all participants, volunteers, sponsors and supporters for helping create a memorable day and reinforcing why the Mother's Day Classic continues to be a must-do community event each year.





Koriella Night Strike exercise a success

The participants in the event. -CFA District 12



Cutting up trees. -Sam Hicks

THE Koriella Fire Brigade hosted their annual Night Strike training exercise on Friday, May 8 in the Fawcett and Koriella areas.

The event involved local brigades from the Alexandra Group, along with a visiting Task Force from District 8 which included six tankers, two ultra-lights and Forward Command Vehicles (FCVs). Over 50 CFA members took part.

The exercise aimed to strengthen skills and build relationships across districts, and to ensure readiness when it matters most. It was also important that the skills training occurred at night, as many callouts occur in the dark.

The mock incident was a helicopter crash. The helicopter had crashed into trees and started a fire. A tree had come down, so the teams needed to deploy their chainsaw skills in addition to firefighting.



Drawing water for the trucks. -CFA District 12



Firefighters extinguishing the mock blaze. -CFA District 12



The trucks lined up outside Fawcett Hall, ready to get started after the briefing. -CFA District 12



The Buxton tanker. -CFA District 12



Emergency lighting at the mock incident. -Sam Hicks



One of the vehicles extinguishing the mock blaze. -Sam Hicks



The mock helicopter crash. -CFA District 12

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

Colouring Page



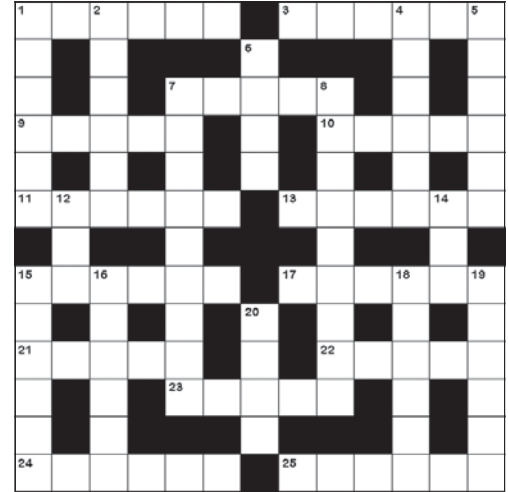
Crossword

ACROSS

- Marked by refinement in taste and manners.
- Great coolness and composure under strain.
- Wild plants growing where they are not wanted.
- A person who is of equal standing with another.
- The act or an instance of stealing.
- The belief in the existence of a God or gods.
- Develop gradually by a natural process.
- The brothers of your father or mother.
- Regarded with deep or rapturous love.
- A thin, smooth, shiny coating.
- Of or relating to the kidneys.
- Move in a rhythmical way to music.
- A government tax on imports or exports.
- A collection of things wrapped together.

DOWN

- A legal document giving official permission.
- Of small or less than average size.
- A severe or trying experience.
- A soft, usually knitted shoe for a baby.



- A feeling of anxiety for your safety.
- Words that were spoken in soft hushed tones.
- Worker who loads and unloads ships in a port.
- The adult female of the domestic fowl.
- Compete with or bid against for something.
- Requiring immediate action or attention.
- A fissure in the earth's crust.
- Talked in a noisy, excited manner.
- A torrent of rain causing flooding.
- A time or phase of gradual decrease.

Word Search - Words starting with "O"

OCEAN	V	X	F	J	O	F	I	E	O	J	M	D	H	N	O
OCTOPUS	R	C	N	W	A	C	F	T	C	P	V	U	E	U	C
OFFER	A	I	L	Z	K	P	N	F	S	N	E	V	H	V	E
OLIVE	E	G	N	A	R	O	P	Q	I	V	O	N	T	V	A
ONCE	O	F	F	E	R	Y	P	X	K	X	S	S	I	A	N
ONION	O	S	C	A	R	O	N	A	K	P	N	U	E	N	V
OPENING	U	Q	L	F	F	E	V	M	V	E	L	P	V	K	G
ORANGE	U	J	Q	J	A	J	C	E	D	L	U	O	I	B	O
OSCAR	K	U	G	V	J	V	D	I	R	V	U	T	L	G	R
OSTRICH	P	F	H	W	T	G	S	C	W	C	N	C	O	E	H
OUTSIDE	Q	B	V	P	H	T	H	W	O	R	O	O	A	V	K
OVEN	A	Y	X	H	U	I	O	Z	O	D	G	A	I	X	T
OVERCOAT	K	R	K	O	V	U	Y	L	N	O	Y	H	T	N	T
OWL	A	H	C	I	R	T	S	O	V	F	J	F	K	V	O
	Q	I	A	S	U	I	Q	B	Z	G	X	C	U	L	H

Word Search

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

Sports

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| BASKETBALL | NETBALL |
| CRICKET | POOL |
| CYCLING | RUGBY |
| DARTS | SNOOKER |
| FOOTBALL | SOCCER |
| LAWN BOWLS | SWIMMING |

Math Square

	+		-		-1
x		x		+	
	+	8	+		15
-		÷		-	
	x	4	÷		14
23		6		8	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Cryptogram

Sports

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				4				3

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	21						

T	R			O	R				
21	3	25		25	4	24	3		
R		S	T						
18	12	3	16	26	1	21	12	14	16
					O	T	S		
	18	12	8	26		17	4	21	1
O									
4	7			7	24	14			

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.

2	+		+	3	14
-		-		-	
	+		+		21
+		+		-	
	+		-		0
0		2		-9	

Sudoku

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

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.

Jokes

Q: What has no feathers or wings but still flies?

A: A helicopter

Q: What has one head, one foot and four legs?

A: A bed

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

MATH SQUARES

5	+	3	-	9	-1
x		x		+	
6	+	8	+	1	15
-		÷		-	
7	x	4	÷	2	14
23		6		8	

SUDOKU

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

CRYPTOGRAM

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
12 22 10 16 26 7 19 18 5 2 11 17 20

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
14 4 6 23 3 1 21 24 8 15 13 25 9

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KIDS - MATH SQUARES

2	+	9	+	3	14
-		-		-	
6	+	8	+	7	21
+		+		-	
4	+	1	-	5	0
0		2		-9	

Don't let measles make a comeback this winter

AS winter approaches, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) is urging people across the region to check that their vaccinations for flu, measles and RSV are up to date to help protect themselves, their families and the wider community.

According to the World Health Organisation, since 1974, immunisation has saved six lives every minute, with the measles vaccine accounting for approximately 60 per cent of those lives saved.

With flu season fast approaching and an increased risk of measles across Victoria, GVPHU is urging the community to act now.

"Flu season is coming. Get your vaccination to stay in the game, stay at work, stay in class and stay healthy," Dr Vinay Menon, Medical Lead for the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit said. "At the same time, we're asking our community not to let measles make a comeback. Now is the time to check your vaccination history. If you're unsure about your protection, speak with your GP or pharmacist about the MMR vaccine."

Vaccines are available free of charge to eligible people through the National Immunisation Program and Victorian Government-funded programs. In many cases, people can receive their flu and MMR vaccines at the same appointment. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist to confirm this is right for you.

People can also check their immunisation history through the Australian Immunisation Register or MyGov. If you're unsure whether you are due for a vaccine, speak with your GP or a participating community pharmacy provider.

Measles is one of the most infectious viruses in the world and spreads easily through the air. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes, and a red blotchy rash that usually starts on the face and spreads down the body.

"If you or a family member develops these symptoms, particularly after overseas travel or visiting known exposure areas, seek medical advice immediately and call ahead before attending a clinic or hospital," Dr Menon said. In serious cases, measles can lead to complications, including pneumonia and inflammation of the brain.

From May 15, additional protection will be available for older adults with the introduction of funded RSV vaccination under the National Immunisation Program. This vaccine will help protect vulnerable older adults from severe illness caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common virus that can lead to serious lung infections and hospitalisation. Eligible groups include adults aged 75 years and older, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 60 and above.

Flu can spread quickly through workplaces, schools, sporting clubs and households. Getting vaccinated helps protect against severe illness and helps keep people active, connected and doing the things they love. "Getting vaccinated is a small act that protects the whole community. It's how we keep our children safe, our communities strong, and our winters healthier," Dr. Menon said. "Now is the time to book your flu vax and check your measles immunisation history. Encourage a loved one to do the same. Together, we're keeping our region healthier, one vaccine at a time."

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Community giving strong in the Triangle

GIVING back to community was the strong theme of three presentations made at the Marysville Market last Sunday. The last market before the winter break was the stage for both the Narbeview Wildlife Shelter and the Buxton Progress Association (BPA) to be recognised with financial contributions from the market committee. A donation of \$350 was made to help Narbeview to provide continued care for injured wildlife and \$1000 was gifted to the BPA's Buxton Memorial Hall Maintenance Appeal. The morning was also an opportunity for the Buxton Progress Association to recognise a significant donation to the Hall appeal by the Marysville and District Lions Club.

The team at Narbeview Wildlife Shelter have seen a substantial increase in demand for their services since the Longwood fire, with injured wildlife continuing to be located and cared for at the shelter south of Buxton. Shelly Stafford said the generous donation from the market committee would assist with helping wildlife in need.

"We have experienced a significant demand on our time and resources since the Longwood fire and are grateful for the market's help today", Shelley said after the presentation.

The shelter is located at 1500 Maroondah Highway between Buxton and Narbethong and is a self-funded non-profit animal shelter serving not just the Triangle area but the wider eastern area of Murrindindi Shire.

"Our mission is beyond just rescuing and releasing injured animals, we also nurture wildlife, including orphaned animals, and ensure their return to the wild which is fuelled by an unwavering passion and love for these creatures by everyone involved with the shelter," Shelley explained following their cheque presentation on Sunday.

Recently, the shelter has started to take donations of CDS Eligible Containers with a collection point now located at the gate of the property on Maroondah Highway. The shelter has a website (narbeview.com.au) where people can make individual donations to help them care for injured animals.

The market's donation to the Buxton Memorial Hall Maintenance Appeal was made in recognition that the Marysville Market is operated to benefit the entire Triangle area and the hall at Buxton is

considered to be a valuable community resource. In accepting the kind contribution to the appeal, Buxton Hall Manager, Willie Cureton and BPA Treasurer, Graham Eddy thanked Marysville Market President Robert van der Gragt for the generous support.

"We have been very fortunate to have raised nearly \$11,000 so far which has ensured the hall could be repainted externally before winter hit," Willie said after the presentations.

Graham acknowledged the support of the Upwey and District Community Bank and the Professionals Real Estate in Marysville who got behind the project early, saying "Their support gave us confidence to undertake a public appeal and we are overwhelmed by the support we have received from individuals in addition to that provided by both the Marysville Market and Marysville and District Lions Club."

In making the two presentations by the market committee, Robert van der Gragt spoke about the role of the market in returning the proceeds from the market to the local community saying "As a not-for-profit community group it is important for us to give back to the community."

Committee member, Hanna Kasch, said, "The market is an opportunity for local community groups to raise funds and to provide a venue for showcasing local makers and creators."

Following the presentations by the market committee, a separate presentation was made to the BPA by Marysville and District Lions Club President, Neil Fookes. The Lions Club also made a contribution of \$1000 to the Buxton Hall's maintenance appeal.

"Buxton is an important part of the Triangle and the Lions Club is proud to support the BPA's efforts to ensure this local facility is preserved for future generations," Neil said.

The appeal has a target of \$12,000 which was intended to not just repaint the outside of the hall but raise some additional funds for other works.

"With a new garden established at the rear of the hall, following the creation of the rear carpark by Murrindindi Shire Council, we have arranged for an additional tap to be installed which the appeal will also fund," Willie explained. Any excess funds held will be directed to the Hall Maintenance Account to help with future maintenance.

Man who lit campfire under Total Fire Ban conditions receives \$5000 fine

A COURT outcome in Mansfield has underscored the serious dangers and consequences of lighting a campfire during Total Fire Ban conditions.

A Shepparton man has been convicted and fined \$5000 for lighting a campfire in Victoria's north-east, during a statewide Total Fire Ban on December 26, 2024.

The 41-year-old was sentenced in the Mansfield Magistrates' Court last month, after failing to appear for the scheduled court hearing in relation to the offence.

Conservation Regulator and Forest Fire Management Victoria Authorised Officers discovered the campfire at the Blue Gum Flat campground while on patrol in the Delatite Arm Reserve during dangerous fire conditions.

The man was at the campground at the time and acknowledged that he knew campfires were prohibited that day due to a Total Fire Ban.

After admitting to lighting the campfire, the man was verbally abusive towards the investigating Authorised Officer.

Under Total Fire Ban conditions, lighting fires in the open air is illegal as it puts lives, property, and the environment at serious risk.

In sentencing, the Magistrate remarked on the man's "blatant disregard" for the Total Fire Ban and the seriousness of potential consequences, particularly given the local community's experience with bushfires.

While satisfied the fire was not lit with intent to cause deliberate harm, the Magistrate described the man's attitude towards the fire restrictions as "appalling".

The Conservation Regulator focuses on campfire safety across the summer months, through targeted compliance patrols, education and close collaboration with land and fire agencies to reduce bushfire risk and protect Victorian communities and landscapes.

Hume Manager of Regulatory Operations Greg Chant spoke to the importance of respecting Total Fire Ban regulations.

"Total Fire Bans are declared to protect the community and the environment, and ignoring them puts community and firefighters' lives and landscapes at extreme risk," Mr Chant said.

"An escaped campfire on a day of Total Fire Ban can have devastating consequences, and that's why campers must comply with the restrictions.

"This court outcome sends a clear message that breaches of Total Fire Bans will be taken seriously, with offenders prosecuted and held to account."

Where serious or deliberate breaches of campfire safety rules are identified, the Conservation Regulator will pursue appropriate enforcement action, including prosecuting offenders.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary
Mike Jennings

THIS week's meeting of the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club, chaired by president Yvonne got underway with the club song and welcoming prospective members Colin and Chris. When invited to join the 500 players they said they enjoyed a game of Euchre so the club might have to add that to their itinerary (Now where is my *Hoyle's Official Rules of Card Games*?)

Members had a minute's silence to remember Barb Doyle, a friend of many members.

Members are reminded to put their names on the list for Healesville RSL Morning Melodies on Tuesday, June 9 on the front desk, not Wednesday as I listed in last week's report.

The members also discussed future luncheon activities. Watch this space. Treasurer Dave had everyone chuckling with Comedy Corner, and Josie, Joan and June went home with the chocolates. This Wednesday, the Bridge players meet up again and Friday is a social meeting.

Come along and join us in the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Fire-hit communities miss out on CFA funding

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish says the omission of Yarck from new CFA station builds is a slap in the face from an out-of-touch Victorian Government.

Ms McLeish said this week's state budget snubbed a community still recovering from January's devastating bushfires.

Land purchased in Yarck for a new CFA station has now sat vacant for almost a decade. Ms McLeish said the snub comes as the Victorian Government spruiked funding for 10 new fire stations over the next 10 years as part of its state budget.

Ms McLeish said the decision was bitterly disappointing

for volunteers at the centre of January's firefight where 33 homes were lost around Yarck alone.

"The Labor Government's investment in rural brigades is nothing short of woeful," Ms McLeish said.

"This is a government that collects \$3 billion each year from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy and yet this half-baked plan is spread out to 2036 and no one knows who gets what.

"Land was purchased back in 2016, yet Yarck keeps being pushed down the priority list."

The brigade has protected the community since 1939 and continues to play a critical role responding to bushfires, road accidents and emergencies across the district. The vacant site on Goodear Lane was secured in December 2016.

Ms McLeish said the case for a new station was clear. "After everything this community has endured, the government must stop ignoring Yarck and deliver the modern, safe facility our firefighters deserve," she said.

"A token grant to fix up a toilet back in 2024 does not change the desperate need for the CFA station to be moved out of the main street."



Cindy McLeish outside the Yarck CFA station. -S

Government secures 10 million litre diesel reserve for Victorian farmers

VICTORIA has secured 10 million litres of diesel as a strategic fuel reserve for the agricultural sector, meaning Victorian farmers can be confident that fuel will be available when they need it most.

Victoria has now joined Western Australia as the only states in Australia with a confirmed fuel reserve.

Why it's needed

Victorian farmers are the backbone of the nation's food supply. They produce more than \$22 billion in agricultural output annually and feed families around the country and world.

Victorian farmers have faced prolonged drought plus global economic uncertainty because of Donald Trump's war.

This reserve will help them make confident planting and farm management decisions for the winter growing season. That protects food security and keep grocery prices down for everyone.

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan said, "Our regional communities rely on a strong harvest. That starts with knowing fuel will be there when it's needed.

"Backing farmers means backing local jobs and businesses and keeping grocery prices down for everyone."

Minister for Agriculture Michaela Settle added, "We're protecting supply at critical times and ensuring Victorian farmers can continue to produce world-class food."

How it works

This reserve does not change day-to-day supply, it is a contingency so farmers can plan with confidence.

The reserve would only be released if Level Four of the *National Fuel Security Plan* is activated. It complements the Commonwealth's existing Minimum Stockholding Obligation for fuel companies.

There continues to be sufficient diesel available for Victorians to meet their needs, with supplies arriving in Australia in the required quantities and frequency.

Carp control virus back on the radar

THERE are two reasons for Australians to introduce non-native animal species. In the case of the cane toads in Queensland, they were deployed to eat the grey-backed cane beetles that were destroying cane crops. One, management. In the case of sambar deer from India and carp from Europe, it was acclimatisation societies that decided to introduce them, to make Australia feel more like home in Great Britain. Two, sport.

Perhaps it went like this: A group of old English gentlemen, living a new life in Australia but longing for the best parts of back home and bored with fishing trout from the river, decided in a moment of shining glory that they would introduce carp into Victoria's rivers.

'Catching carp is fun,' they might have thought, 'and there is plenty of waterways here for them to spread into.'

Fast forward to today, and there are now some 375 million carp clogging up Australia's waterways. They are designated as a pest species and account for around 90 per cent of the entire biomass of fish in the Murray-Darling Basin. Carp exist on every continent in the world except for Antarctica.

The issue

According to the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) carp are the most ecologically damaging non-native species globally.

They have a vacuum style of feeding that stirs up sediments from river and lake beds, increasing the cloudiness of the water. This cloudiness reduces sunlight's ability to penetrate the water, reducing aquatic plant growth that provides essential food and shelter for Australia's native fish.

Carp also cause erosion of riverbanks by removing aquatic plants, and compete with native fish for food, as well as preying on native fish eggs, larvae and juvenile fish.

Studies conducted by the National Carp Control Program (NCCP) estimate that the impacts of carp cost the Australian economy between \$11.8 million and \$500 million per year. This includes ecological, social, recreational, amenity downstream impacts from degraded water quality, infrastructure, as well as secondary impacts.

Control and combat

In 2016, the Australian Government invested \$10.37 million in the National Carp Control Program (NCCP) to assess the feasibility of using the carp virus as a biocontrol agent to control Australian carp populations. The carp virus is a species-specific waterborne disease that only causes mortality in carp and koi carp.

In 2022, the NCCP published its key findings which involved extensive research, international collaboration, viral testing on other species, and community consultation, making it the most comprehensive biological control assessments ever conducted in Australia. In 2024, the Federal government announced a further \$3 million dollars in research funding to fill some remaining information gaps.

The VFA has nominated carp as a key threatening process under the



Carp are an invasive species that cause significant impact on Victoria's waterways and economy. -Thirdman

Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

If accepted by the Commonwealth Government, listing carp as a key threatening process will trigger preparation of a threat abatement plan, which can be used to guide various decisions relevant to controlling the carp population more effectively.

The VFA has also nominated carp for listing as potentially threatening process under Victoria's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. The nominations provide a foundation for building a coordinated approach to improve the health of Victoria's freshwater native fisheries and aquatic ecosystems by managing carp.

The VFA will continue to work closely with the scientific committees responsible for assessing the nominations. Carp is already listed as a noxious species under Victoria's fisheries legislation.

The Federal government is responsible for determining if the carp virus can be used a biological control agent to reduce carp populations. In 2024, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) outlined a two phased roadmap for the Carp Biological Control Program.

The outcomes of the NCCP research will be used to inform Federal legislative approvals processes under the *EPBC Act 1999*, *Biological Control Act 1984*, *Biosecurity Act 2015*, *Water Act 2007* and *Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Codes Act 1994*.

If approved for release, state jurisdictions will play a key role in implementing the release of the virus requiring further consultation and approvals processes. The timelines for deciding on the release of the carp virus are not clear at this stage, but the VFA is leading the development of a Victorian plan to trial the use of carp virus initially within an enclosed and controlled waterway.

The plan will detail the experimental design, site identification and what biosecurity controls are needed, to test the mortality rates of infected carp held under a range of carp population densities.

A clearer understanding about mortality rates (currently estimates range from 30 per cent to 80 per cent) is needed to determine what, if any, carp cleanup operations are required if the virus is released.

Journalist for *The Weekly Times*, Peter Hunt, reported last week that the VFA is looking at several fenced Wimmera storages

that were abandoned after construction of the Wimmera Mallee pipeline to conduct a controlled trial release of the carp virus.

In April, VRFish attended the Murray Darling Carp Summit in Nagambie, co-hosted by the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Australian River Restoration Centre, where the formation of a Murray-Darling Carp Action Alliance was proposed to ensure a collaborative, basin-wide approach to carp control.

VRFish Chair Rob Loats, said that carp control measures need to be a top priority.

"European carp are the 'rabbits' of our waterways, they have a disastrous impact on our water quality, native fish populations and cause environmental degradation to our rivers," Mr Loats said.

"Now is the time to act. Recreational fishers are deeply concerned by the negative impact carp continue to have on our waterways and we are calling for a bipartisan commitment to implement carp control measures ahead of November's election.

"We are still waiting on the Australian Government's decision on whether or not biocontrol will be used following the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP). There is no clear timeline on when a decision will be made and, even if biocontrol is released, it will not be a stand-alone solution."

The carp virus

The carp virus is called cyprinid herpesvirus 3 and was first identified by a large outbreak at a carp farm in Germany in 1997.

It is a highly contagious, water-borne virus that does not affect humans, according to the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

Symptoms include reddening of the gills, excess mucus on the gills and skin, darkening of the skin, and eventually patches of skin necrosis (tissue death). Signs of the disease occur within seven to 14 days of infection, and death then occurs within a day or so.

There is no evidence that the virus can multiply in other fish, although the virus may be inadvertently transported on the surface of other fish for a short period of time.

Research on the virus and CSIRO testing began in 2006, and the virus only affects carp species.

Nominations open to honour lifetime contributions of Victorian seniors

THE Victorian Government is celebrating the extraordinary contributions of older Victorians, with Victorians encouraged to nominate seniors who are making a real difference in their communities.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt last Wednesday opened nominations for the 2026 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

"Older Victorians play a vital role in keeping our communities strong, safe and inclusive. These awards recognise the difference they make every day," Ms Stitt said.

"If you know a senior Victorian who goes above and beyond for their community, now is the time to nominate them so we can celebrate their contributions."

For more than 30 years, these awards have recognised the lasting impact of older Victorians. From mentoring young people, supporting Victorians experiencing disadvantage and promoting social connection, seniors are strengthening communities. Their contributions are building a stronger, safer and more connected Victoria.

Last year's Victorian Senior of the Year, Patrick Templeton, was honoured for his

work supporting disadvantaged young people through community outreach programs.

Other recipients were recognised for backing road safety programs, strengthening social cohesion and spreading awareness about reconciliation and sustainability.

There are six categories of awards in 2026, including: *The Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year* for outstanding and lasting contributions; the *Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Award* for local community champions; the *Emerging Impact Award* recognising new volunteers that are already making

an impact; the *Positive Ageing Award* for promoting positive and active ageing; the *Promotion of Multiculturalism Award* for advancing cultural diversity; and the *Veteran Community Award* for service to the veteran community.

The awards will be presented in October as part of the annual Victorian Seniors Festival. Nominations are now open and close on May 19, 2026.

To find out more and nominate an older Victorian making a real difference, visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

Warning as poisonous mushrooms starting to appear in cool weather

VICTORIANS are being reminded to stay vigilant, with poisonous mushrooms beginning to appear during autumn as conditions become cooler and wetter.

Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Evelyn Wong is warning people not to pick or eat wild mushrooms growing in home gardens or publicly accessible areas, as they can be poisonous and unsafe to consume.

“Adults and children are advised not to handle wild mushrooms with bare hands or eat them, and pets should be kept away from areas where mushrooms are growing. Eating some wild mushroom can make you very sick or even kill you,” Dr Wong said.

There is no home test available to distinguish safe and edible mushrooms from poisonous mushrooms and unless you are an expert, do not pick and consume wild mushrooms in Victoria, including in your home garden.

Poisonous mushrooms, including death cap mushrooms and yellow-staining mushrooms, are more common in Victoria

through the autumn and winter months, particularly after rain.

It is important to safely remove any wild mushrooms growing at home to reduce the risk to young children and pets.

Wild mushrooms growing in home gardens should be removed by wearing gloves, carefully placing them in a bag and disposing of them in a closed general waste (landfill) rubbish bin. Hands should be washed thoroughly afterwards.

Victorians are strongly advised to only eat mushrooms purchased from supermarkets, greengrocers or other reputable retailers.

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre received more than 400 calls relating to mushroom exposures in 2025, with nearly half of these calls involving exploratory exposures in children under the age of five.

Poisoning can happen to anyone consuming wild mushrooms. If you or anyone in your care may have eaten a wild

mushroom, do not wait for symptoms to develop. Please call the Victorian Poisons Information Centre immediately on 131126 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) for appropriate advice.

“Common symptoms of mushroom poisoning can include stomach pains, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea. Ingesting death cap mushrooms can lead to irreversible organ failure and ultimately result in death.”

If you or anyone in your care feels unwell after eating wild mushrooms, including with severe gastrointestinal symptoms, call 000 immediately for an ambulance. Do not call the Poisons Information Centre in an emergency.

If your pet has ingested a wild mushroom, contact the Animal Poisons Helpline on 1300 869 738 for advice.

More information about mushroom poisoning is available at the Better Health Channel at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mushroom-poisoning



Yellow staining mushrooms. -Tom May, Royal Botanic Gardens



Death cap mushrooms. -Tom May, Royal Botanic Gardens

Government adopts Haines' housing infrastructure plan

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of a \$2 billion investment in enabling infrastructure to unlock more housing, including dedicated funding for regional Australia.

Dr Haines said the announcement reflects years of advocacy to address one of the biggest barriers to housing supply in the regions.

“The biggest handbrake on building more homes in regional Australia is the lack of critical enabling infrastructure, the roads, water, sewerage and power that make developments possible,” Dr Haines said.

“I've been building the case for targeted investment in this infrastructure, because without it, we simply cannot build the homes our communities need.”

The government's decision to direct a quarter of the funding to regional Australia reflects reforms long championed by Dr Haines, including her *Unlocking Regional Housing Bill*, introduced in 2023.

Dr Haines also moved amendments to the Housing Australia Future Fund to ensure regional Australia was not left behind in national housing investment.

“This is exactly the kind of practical, targeted policy regional communities have been crying out for, and it's encouraging to see the government has listened and adopting this approach,” she said.

“As Indi's independent voice, my focus is on delivering practical solutions that improve everyday life, and this is a clear example of how strong, constructive advocacy can have national influence.”

“There's more to do, but this is an important step forward in tackling housing shortages in regional Australia.”

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood link to Alexandra

THE Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, also known simply as the pre-Raphaelites, consisted of a group of painters, poets and art critics in England. The group was founded in 1848, with the seven members including William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Michael Rossetti, James Collinson, Frederic George Stephens and Thomas Woolner. Other creatives were also on the periphery of the group, with shared principles.

The group were keen to return to art with abundant detail, intense colours and complex composition. They believed that the classical poses and compositions of Raphael has been a corrupting influence on art, and therefore sought a return to a time prior to his work.

Two of the more famous examples of Pre-Raphaelite art include the painting of Ophelia floating in a river by John Everett Millais and *The Lady of Shalott* by John William Waterhouse, featuring a young woman in a small boat on a river.

So how does the town of Alexandra feature in the story?

Bernhard Smith (1820-1885) was a London-born painter. He joined the Antique School of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1840, and enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris later that year.

By 1951, he had exhibited 19 works at the Royal Academy.

The Australian Dictionary of Biography states, “Smith and Woolner shared a studio in Stanhope Street. Smith's daughter Minnie later claimed that he was one of the seven original members of the Pre-Raphaelite

Brotherhood; he certainly belonged to it by 1850 when he helped D G Rossetti to plan the *Germ*. Both Woolner and Rossetti acknowledged Smith's influence on them.”

Smith became disillusioned with the movement and planned to go to Canada, before changing his mind and travelling to Melbourne with Woolner and E L Bateman in 1852. When they arrived, Smith and Woolner set out to fossick at the Ovens goldfields at Beechworth, before trying Fryers Creek and Sandhurst.

Woolner later became famous for creating the bronze sculpture of Captain Cook which stands in Hyde Park, Sydney, often the subject of debate.

Smith's brother, Alexander John Smith had become commissioner of crown lands for the goldfields. Alexander was previously a naval officer and polar explorer, taking part in the 1839 to 1843 voyages of exploration to Antarctica on the *HMS Terror*.

In 1954, Bernhard Smith became assistant commissioner for the Westport District, and was soon in Ballarat. According to the *Alexandra Standard*, he was present at the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat in 1854. He was remembered as being a fair and reasonable man.

In 1858, he became warden of the goldfield as Chinese protector. After a one year stint as a police magistrate in Stawell, he joined his brother, now in Kyneton. Alexander by this stage had been elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Bernhard became commissioner of crown lands in August and warden for the goldfields of Victoria in 1861. He married Olivia Frances

Josephine Boyes in 1863. He became police magistrate and deputy sheriff at Stawell from 1865 to 1878. Along with many other civil servants, he was dismissed on Black Wednesday, January 1878.

Later reinstated, he was transferred to Alexandra and presided over the Alexandra Police Court. He continued to paint throughout his time in Australia, but did not enjoy painting Australian subject matter. He instead painted ethereal and heavenly objects in the manner of Blake and Fuseli.

The *Alexandra Standard* reported on September 18, 1885, “The usual calm serenity of the Sabbath in Alexandra was painfully disturbed last Sunday afternoon by an accident which, unfortunately, was attended with a fatal result to one child and, but for the praiseworthy courage exhibited by Mr Pierce Synnot, would have also terminated fatally to another child. It appears that on Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock two children, a girl and boy of Mr C Cosgrave, the well known and respected coach driver for Messrs. Cobb and Co., were attempting to cross the U T Creek over a log crossing at the continuation of Webster Street towards the common, when the girl, Mary Cosgrave, aged 10 years, was endeavouring to guide her young brother Denis over the rude and dangerous crossing place at the creek, when the latter got frightened at the roaring torrent of water which was at that time flowing down the creek from the recent heavy rains in the district, and in struggling with his sister fell off the slippery log into the water, dragging his sister into the swift flowing torrent along with him.

“The girl managed to scramble out on to the bank shortly after falling in, and running a short distance, daringly jumped in the creek with the idea of saving her brother. The two children, clinging to each other, were then carried by the current towards the bridge, by which time, Mr B Smith, Police Magistrate, who was an eyewitness of the accident, had aroused the attention of all persons within hearing with the result that the girl was rescued by Mr P Synnot, who, riding by, courageously rushed his horse into the creek and with great difficulty, owing to the strength of the current and depth of the water, safely handed the child to Messrs M Coughlan and Cowie, who ran along the bank awaiting the result of Mr Synnot's plucky efforts.

“The girl states that she let go her hold of her brother before reaching the bridge, but the little fellow was not seen from the time he fell in until his body was recovered on the following day half-a-mile from the log crossing. The sad accident caused considerable excitement at the time, and much sympathy is felt for the unfortunate parents. The crossing is an exceedingly dangerous place, being the remains of a tree which has at some time or other fallen across the creek, and should be removed and a few planks and handrail substituted.”

Bernhard Smith died aged 64 of pneumonia in Alexandra on October 7, 1885, just a few weeks after the incident.

He was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery, survived by his wife, three of their four sons and four of their five daughters.

Artworkz has an excellent booklet on the subject, available online.

SPORT

EDLWTA Round Two matches

by Deb Mims

AFTER magnificent weather last week, the 'Weather Gods' weren't so kind last week, reminding the players that winter is coming in the Euroa and District Ladies' Winter Tennis Association.

Mansfield versus Creightons Creek 1-5, 19-45

Mansfield hosted Creightons Creek's team of Marja Wondergem, Lyndall Bigland, Ros Doxey and Kerry Hewlett, with a touch of sunshine, a slight rain delay mid second set, and a mixture of cool and not so cool temperatures.

Creightons Creek were on fire and Michelle Piggdon, Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Deb McCormack and Pat Howard returning as the fifth player after a long hiatus, battled hard. Mansfield had their own cheer squad of Loretta Armitage and Deb Mims, braving the elements to encourage their team. Despite some long and tough games Mansfield were only able to grab one set off Creightons Creek.

Euroa versus Moglonemby 3-3, 41-37

Euroa were home team against Moglonemby, with the Euroa courts being home courts for both teams. Euroa's players, Faye Mollison, Deb Seach, Triona King and Mary Kelly fought hard against Moglonemby.

Tie breakers were a feature for these two teams, with half of the matches resulting in this heart stopping part of the match. The first two sets were tie breakers with Mollison and Seach falling over the line against Moglonemby's Sue Vaughan and Marlene Hanrahan. To even it up Moglonemby's Robyn Johnson and Kylie Ross took the other one against King and Kelly.

And so the battle continued with the last set also being a tie breaker, Moglonemby's way, evening up the sets. With a strong eight to one set Euroa's way, this put them in the position to take the win.

Terip Terip versus Benalla 4-2, 46-26

Terip Terip welcomed Benalla team of Peta Kelly, Caire Sharp, Maureen Jewell, and Wendy Maxwell to their courts, with Benalla coming off the bye to play their first match for the 2026 season. Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe MacDermid and Suzanne Irvine of Terip were too strong for Benalla.

Mansfield's Wappan had the bye but were practicing to keep in form for Round Three this week, which will see Benalla versus Mansfield, Creightons Creek versus Euroa, Moglonemby versus Wappan and a bye for Terip Terip.

Under 18s only senior Alexandra team competing

Under 18s

Alexandra versus Woori Yallock

THE Alexandra Rebels Under 18s were the club's only senior side in action last Saturday, making the trip to Woori Yallock while the remainder of the club enjoyed a bye weekend.

Despite a strong effort from the young Rebels, Woori Yallock proved too strong on the day, running out winners 19.12 (126) to Alexandra 6.4 (40).

This weekend the club heads to Powelltown, with the Under 18s take on Wandin before everyone heads back to the Ruoak Hotel for the weekly awards presentations.

Looking ahead, the next home game will be on Saturday, May 23 against Yarra Glen, which will also double as the club's Past Players and Sponsors Day.

Marysville Golf Club farewells Alan and Helen Howard

by Lesley Rundle

HAVING played in the Lancefield Tournament on Thursday, April 30, the Marysville Golf Club's ladies' pennant team returned there just four days later to play against the Romsey/Macedon team in the fourth round of the Dalhousie season.

The Romsey/Macedon team won three to two and are now on top of the ladder. Monday, May 11 was a bye for the Marysville team with the other teams gathering at Mandalay Golf Club for the fifth and final round. Romsey/Macedon will be in the finals on May 18 but their opponent will be decided at Mandalay.

The men's postponed pennant final between Marysville and Alexandra will now be played at Eildon on Sunday, May 24.

With snow down to 600 metres last Thursday the nine holers at Marysville didn't play but four ladies played in the Yea

Ladies' Bowl. Conditions were challenging but players soldiered on and all golfers completed the 18 holes. The Mansfield team won the bowl while Kilmore were runners up. The club says thanks to the great team at Yea for their hospitality and a well organised event.

Last Saturday in almost perfect conditions all the golfers played a par round. Par is not the most popular game on the golfing syllabus and good scores were hard to come by but Sabrina Stow (23) was the ladies' winner with minus two followed by Michele Mansfield (26) on a countback from Heather Jenkins with minus one. Keith Atwell (20) won the men's section with plus four followed closely by Ray Jones (24) with plus three.

The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Richey Clark, Keith Atwell and Adam Littlejohn who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday all golfers will play a stableford round. The men will play the

second round of the Barton Cup and the ladies will play for the Norman Trophy.

During the presentation long time members Alan and Helen Howard were farewelled as they are relocating to Pakenham. Both Helen and Alan have contributed greatly during their time at the club which they joined in the 1980s.

Alan has been Captain, pennant Captain, a committee member and supporter of many events and mentor to many players. His name appears on most of the major trophies.

Helen has been the ladies handicapper, the chief cake maker, the Raffle Wonder Woman, a great pennant player and has supported numerous Dalhousie District events which often involved very early starts and long drives.

The members thanked them both very much for their contribution and wished them well with their move. They each have big boots to fill.



Long time members Bev Bellman and Helen Howard enjoying the autumn colours. -S



Helen and Alan Howard's farewell. -S

Alexandra junior football and netball results

Football

Under 16
Kyabram 173 defeated Alexandra 6

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Logan Conway; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Jaidyn Dimech; Kazza's Diner, Maverick Burchall; Gilligan Plumbing, Jayd Bennett; Coaches Award, Braxton Lodge.

Under 14
Alexandra 60 defeated Wandong 43

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Nathan Webb; Essence Coffee Lounge, Mitch Kidd; Kazza's Diner, Charlie Broadway;

Coaches Award, Eli Van Lierop.

Under 12
Wandong 47 defeated Alexandra 44

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Griff Thomas; Essence Coffee Lounge, Sam Grech; Kazza's Diner, Tahj Parker; Coaches Award, Nate Broadway.

Under 10

Awards: Kazza's Diner, Ollie Lynch; Canteen Voucher, Ryan Kirley; Footy Cards, Noah Knight and Cohen Pearce.

Under Nines
Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, AJ Doyle; Sherrin

Bounce Footy, James Munro; Footy Cards, Declan Heard and Fletch Lynch.

Netball

Eleven and Under Red
Alexandra 3 defeated by Nagambie 7

Awards: Reddrops Award, Evie Hutt; Kazza's Diner, Isabelle Kroespsch.

Eleven and Under Black
Alexandra 9 defeated Broadford 3

Awards: Reddrops Award, Josie Blakeney; Kazza's Diner, Zahlia Pearce.

Thirteen and Under Red
Alexandra 6 defeated by Broadford Blue 40

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Jayde Stewart; Kazza's Diner, Lainey Martyn.

Thirteen and Under Black
Alexandra 18 defeated Broadford White 13

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Summer Edwards; Kazza's Diner, Amelia Kocianic.

Fifteen and Under Red
Alexandra 36 defeated Broadford 31

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Charli Stephens; Kazza's Diner, Ruby Bermingham.

Thornton-Eildon defies odds to field side against Officer

by Sophia Weaver

THE scoreboard at Thornton Oval may have read zero to 89 in favor of the Officer Football Club last Saturday, but for the Thornton-Eildon District Football Netball Club (TEDFNC), the weekend was defined by a victory of a different sort.

Following a training session at Thornton Recreation Reserve last Thursday night, the mood was somber. Coach Tash Hay delivered the news that every club fears: they were short on numbers and, barring a miracle, would be forced to forfeit their Saturday clash.

However, the TEDFNC spirit proved unbreakable. Refusing to let the game slip away, players launched an 11th-hour recruitment drive. They reached out to friends, neighbors, and relatives, successfully cobbling together a full side just in time for the first whistle.

Saturday morning arrived with an atmosphere of camaraderie and genuine

excitement. While the final score reflected Officer's clinical performance, Coach Hay insisted it failed to capture the heart of the home team.

"These girls are always learning and developing each game, and now they're really starting to put those learnings into action," Hay said.

"Once again, the scoreboard didn't reflect the strength, effort, and determination the girls put into the game. That was recognized by the opposition as well, with Officer telling our girls it was the hardest fight they've had all season so far."

Gameday awards

Lilah Weaver-Galbraith, \$30 Voucher from Valley Aged & Disability Home Care Support Services; Tarni Koster, \$25 Club Voucher; Laylah Seamer, \$20 Dindi Kids Cash Gift.

The Thornton Butcher Meat Tray raffle was won by Charlie Spencer.

The club also took a moment to recognize its "fearless leader" on Thursday Evening, naming Tash Hay as Volunteer of the Week. Club members cited her positivity and unwavering commitment as the driving force behind the team's ability to take the field this week.

Looking ahead: Pride and Ladies' Day

The club now turns its attention to May 16th for what promises to be one of the biggest events on the local calendar. TEDFNC will host Seville at the Thornton Recreation Reserve for Pride Round and Ladies' Day (check the Facebook page for details).

The match is scheduled for a 1.30pm kick-off. Supporters are encouraged to head down to the reserve to celebrate the inclusive spirit of the club, enjoy the festivities, and cheer on a team that has proven they will never back down from a fight.



Volunteer of the week, Coach Tash Hay. -S



Thornton Eildon gameday award winners Tarni, Lilah and Laylah. -S



The team are finding their feet, even in the air. -TEDDY PHOTOGRAPHY

Denis McDonald makes a comeback at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club match report. Last week the club had a stroke round with only eight players. Being Mother's Day weekend that was not surprising. But the day turned out a ripper and the course is in great shape.

The club says a massive thanks to all their volunteers, especially Ken and Maz who have been working feverishly to present the course in great condition.

Last week's winners: A welcome comeback to Denis McDonald, back from a mysterious injury to record a net 73, Jezza Magee net 74, ball run saw Rod Taylor 75 and Ken Collier 75.

Only one nearest the pin was captured last week, Jezza with his second shot on the third. Super Six winner last week was Dennis Seamer and Denis McDonald won the putting contest with only 23 putts. Entry winner was Rod Taylor and the swindle went to Denis McDonald.

Good luck to all of the Eildon players who are heading to Yarrowonga for the annual May tournament. It is always a great week of golf, not to mention the food, drink and of course the company. The club says congratulation to all winners and they look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

Alexandra Squash Club: Round Three of Term Two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Funnel Webs versus White Tails

LEIGH (fill in) versus Ethan: Ethan played very well and as this was Leigh's first game, he also did quite well. Ethan's experience triumphed. 58 to 35.

Randy versus Liane: Randy was overwhelmed by Liane's skill. It was a one woman show with Liane claiming the court, winning all four games and the match. 76 to 47.

Sam versus Travis: An entertaining contest. It was close for the first three games, but Sam ran away at the end to clinch the win. 68 to 53.

Ben F (fill in) versus Andrew: The games see-sawed with both players taking home two wins. Ben filled in up a level and played well, but Andrew won his games with a greater margin to seal the win 60 to 50.

Orb Weavers versus Trapdoors

Eric versus Tyler: It was well played by both opponents. Tyler has become the stronger player and showed this with his

skills on the night. 60 to 38.

Jess versus Laura: A well fought out match. Jess kept up with Laura, but Laura stayed ahead in each game to accumulate points and win the match. 66 to 51.

Chris versus Mick (fill in): Mick put in a good effort but couldn't crack through Chris's consistency. Chris claimed all four games to claim champion of the court. 76 to 51.

Michael H versus Daniel W: A battle of great intensity. It was neck and neck throughout with a draw in game two. Daniel pushed hard to win some extra points and come out victorious. 63 to 55.

Wednesday competition Hornets versus Sand Flies

Nicole versus Ben H: Nicole hit the ground running and impressed with deep returning shots that Ben struggled to return. At the half-way point Ben had to contend with a 10-point deficit. Ben managed to win the final two games by tiring his opponent, however Nicole held onto the win by four points. 56 to 52.

Kristelle versus Jess: A seesawing first game. Jess made some incredible running and reflexive returns. Kristelle couldn't keep control of the game. Jess won the match. 64 to 50.

Ben versus Phil: There were some amazing rallies, and both players were fired up. Ben fought hard, but Phil's tenacity and tricks brought Ben to his knees, winning Phil the match. 59 to 48.

Bees versus Wasps

Marty versus Beth: The youth is bringing the heat on the court. Marty gave Beth everything he had and came up with the goods. His serves were giving Beth a lot of issues and helped raise Marty up for his victory. 62 to 52.

Lucas versus Daniel L: Daniel's power threw Lucas off in game one. Lucas altered his game to win the next two with a good margin to win the match. 63 to 52.

Justin versus Michael M: Game one and three were very close. Games two and four favoured Justin with Michael making friends with the tin. Justin won with a decent margin. 72 to 45.

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Steve's medals from the event. The gold is his state championship medal, followed by a second and a third place. -S

Steve Lynch: Rowing state champion at the age of 76

LOCAL man Steve Lynch competed in the annual Rowing Victoria (RV) State Masters Championships in Nagambie on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4, becoming state champion at the age of 76 alongside his three other teammates.

They took victory in the Male Masters H to K Coxless Quad category, in which there were four competitors, all listed as an I classification (over 75 years of age). Only 0.26 seconds separated them from the second-placed team across the finish line.

Steve also took home a second place in the Male Masters G to K Coxed Four, and a third place in the Male Masters G Coxless Quad.

The former category was one oar per rower, the latter two oars per rower, and all events were raced over 1000 metres.

He was very proud of the result and his three medals.

"As far as I'm concerned, a state championship medal at the age of 76 is an excellent achievement. Something that I never thought would ever happen," Steve said.

"They were mixed teams. One of our regular Nagambie blokes hurt himself during the week. So we put a substitute in, a guy by the name of Bill from Bendigo. He was similar age. It's what we call a composite crew.

"The Coxed Four was a composite crew, two from Power House and two from Nagambie, because I used to row for Power House."

When his children were attending Scotch College in Melbourne, Steve had the opportunity to learn rowing. He was there for around 10 years, part of a competitive mixed team of four boys and four girls. They won a lot of races, including state championships and an Australian medal at one stage.

Eventually this competitive team grew too big for the Cardinal Club at Scotch College, and they moved to Power House Rowing Club. Steve was there for 20 years before moving to Alexandra.

He stopped rowing when he moved to Murrindindi Shire, instead shifting back to swimming.

"I came up here and it was too far for me to commute and train; I needed to train three nights a week. I couldn't do it from here," Steve said.

"It was all too hard. But I'm a swimmer and I was able to train. I love to do open water swimming and that was my passion for three or four years while I was up here and rowing was too hard. But I found circumstances changed and I couldn't train in the open water as much as I usually did.

"I gave up training in a 25-metre pool. It's too hard, especially when you're swimming one and a half or two and a half kilometres in open water. So I thought I'd go and join Nagambie and reinvent my rowing career as a result."

Nagambie Rowing Club is around an hour's drive from Alexandra, allowing for a reasonable amount of training. When he's not able to train on the water, Steve uses an ergonomic machine at home to practice the motions and work the muscles.

"We do our own individual training. I have an ergo at home. I usually row with the Nagambie crew every Saturday morning. We train up and down the course, or if that's not available, we'll go into the Goulburn River and train on the Goulburn River," he said.

"I do what we call land-based training during the week, which is on the ergo. And that's hard to do when it's just you.

"You've got to have it mentally to try and get the kilometres up and get your legs going. Because when you're rowing, the power and the stroke is in your legs."

Following the state championship victory, Steve will be taking a break from rowing for the foreseeable future as he recovers from leg surgery.



The state championship winning team. Steve Lynch is second from the right. -S

Two Monthly Medals at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

PERRIN Gooding proved that age is no barrier last Tuesday, when he took a three shot win in the stableford round, which was played in cool, mild conditions. Perrin was the only player to play to his handicap, scoring 36 points. Second went to Brad Newton on 33, and Leo Dynes, also with 33, came in third.

Brad also claimed the nearest the pin on 17, and Leo took 18, with seven remaining unconquered. Rndown vouchers went to Steve Pearson and yours truly.

A fine, overcast Wednesday morning saw 12 ladies tee up in a stroke round to decide not one, but two, Monthly Medals. The April Medal was decided by a playoff between Ruth Worland and Judy Pearson,

and it was Ruth who came in four strokes ahead of Judy to take the prize.

Ruth also came very close to taking the May Medal as well, only to be denied by Rosemary Parker, a relative newbie, who carded a 93 net 68 to top the scoresheets, and take home her first Monthly Medal. Ruth's net 70 put her in second spot, with Sharyn Petrzela and Helen Findlay in third and fourth respectively, both on 73.

Judy Pearson was the nine hole winner on the front nine, Marg Fahey recorded the fewest putts with 31, and nearest the pins went to Ruth on two and five, and Sharyn on 18.

Last Saturday heralded the arrival of another run of fine, mild days, perfect weather for golf. Twenty-two members decided to come out and enjoy the

conditions, and put their names down to play in the four ball best ball stableford format, which was sponsored by Fallons Bus Service.

There was a fair spread of scores across the 11 teams, but it was very tight at the top, with just one point covering first to fourth. The winners, with 44 points, were Mick Holohan and Trevor Biffin, just edging out Brad Kidd and Matt Richards, who also had 44. Third place went to Bruce Flanders and John Norfolk on 43 points.

All five par threes gave up a nearest the pin, with two going to Lennie Jenkins, five to Darren Gregg, seven to John Steer, 12 to Brad Newton and 18 to Matt Richards.

Michael Bossonnet rounded off a pleasant day by winning the raffle.



Shane McGorlick sends it on 14 with Dash and Boz looking on. -S