

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, April 7, 2021 \$1.50 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

Easter fun in Eildon

EASTER joy was shared around Eildon with the Eildon Fire Brigade members and Captain Koala visiting the five caravan parks, handing out Easter eggs and having photos taken with everyone. He even had time to turn out to an out of control burn off before returning to continue to spread the Easter joy. More on page 15.



Black Spur collision

ON the afternoon of Tuesday, March 30, Victoria Police arrested a female following an incident in Fernshaw.

A vehicle rammed a police car in Buxton earlier and was then observed travelling at high speeds on Maroondah Highway when a pursuit was initiated. The pursuit was terminated a short time later.

The offending vehicle was then involved in a head on collision with another car in Fernshaw. The female driver of the offending car was taken to hospital under police guard with non-life threatening injuries.

The two occupants of the other car, believed to be local people aged in their 70s, were also treated for non-life threatening injuries. The police members in the vehicle that was rammed were not injured.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Black Spur was closed for at least several hours and drivers were encouraged find an alternate route.

Ambulance media reported that three people were taken to hospital in a stable condition. A man and woman were taken to Box Hill Hospital with upper body injuries. Another woman was taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital with lower body injuries.

Good Friday Appeal

MURRINDINDI Shire locals and tourists dug deep for the Good Friday Appeal on April 2.

The available figures at the time of going to print were: Alexandra \$13,500, Marysville \$4000, Eildon \$11,228, Yea \$395 and

Kinglake \$815. The tallies for other locations in the shire were unavailable.

Well done to everyone who collected funds, and the many who donated. The local CFA and SES have long been involved in the appeal, and again put in a great effort.

The Good Friday Appeal is a charity that raises money to enable The Royal Children's Hospital to continue to provide world class care for children.

The available Victorian tally for 2021 was \$17,122,879.



Lance. -AR

★ **CLOSED ANZAC DAY - MONDAY, APRIL 26** ★

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY

★ EGN - 5PM THURSDAY, APRIL 22. ARTWORK - 5PM THURSDAY, APRIL 22 ★

★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES - 10AM FRIDAY, APRIL 23 ★

★ TRADES WILL REMAIN THE SAME - NOON THURSDAY ★

★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, APRIL 26 ★

Lest we forget

Correction

WE would like to apologise for the incorrect name printed in last week's article, *Supporting families with special needs children*. The quotes in the article should be attributed to Liz Klein, coordinator of Inspired Carers.



Letters to the Editor

Environment

I READ with worry a letter to the editor from your March 31 publication that seems to be written by someone with almost no ability for clear thinking. Let's pull apart their claims.

Smoke pollution: our forests have evolved with fire, 60,000 years of it, fire is used to clear fire prone litter, smoke is a fact of life. It seems like the writer wants another Black Saturday, seems the answer is yes.

He is 100 per cent wrong on carbon sequestration. Chopping a tree down does not release carbon, it is actually stored in the end product for 100s of years, the tree regrows and hey presto, tonnes more carbon sequestered. I suggest you Google the abhorrent, and environmentally approved, biomass industry.

As for habitat, those protesting sustainable forestry in Alexandra are directly destroying orangutan rainforests

overseas, and speeding up the process. The useful dullards of the green movement are not altering global demand for wood, just moving the supply to a country with zero regulation

Name and address supplied but withheld by request.

Lost in the metropolis

BOOKED to be in Brunswick (from Coburg) at the dentist at 2pm. I left an hour to get there, missed the dogleg on Nicholson Street, and then chaos.

I was lost, discombobulated and gormless me parked, engine running for cooler, and simply cried.

Taxi to follow? Bernie to ask? Triple zero, I decided, and they were bloody marvellous. Police rang and rang and decided I was in North Fitzroy. Last call, I was asked to stand on the path and a young officer spotted me.

I shook his hand, fresh tears, and he patted my shoulder.

"There, you, you'll be right now. We'll lead you."

I stopped gushing enough to explain my sense of direction is zilch and any ability to read my street directory had drained out the soles of my feet.

"I'm in a state of infantile dependency, and at my age, I don't care if I look a fool," I said. He replied that it wasn't the first time police assisted in this way and that I'd not lost my way with words. I muttered, "That'll probably be the last thing to go," at which we both smiled.

In no time, I was near the dentist. I tooted and beckoned the police car over, put a hand on the officer's arm and offered \$50 "for a beer after work." They refused that and said to send flowers.

I've done better than that. I wrote a thank you letter, not too gushy but expressing gratitude.

Mary Doherty, Thornton

Rail trail

WE are constantly being warned about the hazards of fire risk and the risk of unstoppable grass fires in the surrounding bush. The rail trail is constantly promoted as great for tourists, and the local community are encouraged to cycle and walk. It needs urgent maintenance.

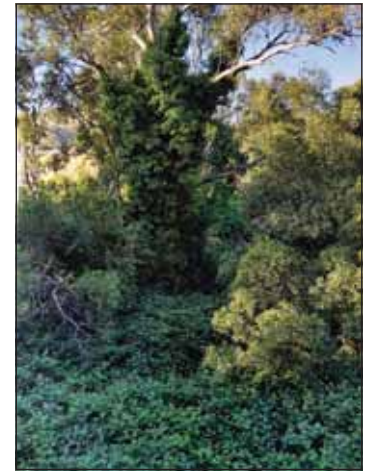
Having walked this trail from the tramway station area past Prospect Lane at least twice a week for six years, I have noticed and am deeply concerned at the huge fuel growth that has been allowed to accumulate to create a massive fire hazard.

The trail is narrowing in many places because grass and weeds, including rye grass, are growing up to two metres high on either side of the trail. A couple of trees with hardly any root hang on a dangerous angle, ready to collapse over the trail.

Before Maintongoon Road, there is huge long grass and weeds. Grass and weeds encroach on the trail on either side, narrowing the trail for bicycles. Dead tree and branches have been lying around for years.

Over Maintongoon Road, just before the bridge, rye grass and thistles are six feet high. Then in particular, on the right hand side of the bridge and to the full length of the bridge, massive blackberry patches are growing to eight feet high, and even growing through onto the bridge. A couple of beautiful 60 foot trees have ivy growing up almost 40 feet, which will eventually bring down the trees. It is a massive snake area. The creek is almost covered by blackberries.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request.



A tree on the rail trail covered in blackberry and ivy. -S

Were you in the area?

POLICE have returned to Wonnangatta Valley this week to continue their search for missing campers Russell Hill and Carol Clay.

Members of police Search and Rescue were joined by NSW cadaver dogs to continue searching for the missing campers who have not been seen since March, 2020

This is the second time NSW cadaver dogs have assisted in the search for Russell and Carol.

Police believe Russell left his Drouin home on Thursday, March 19, 2020 collected Carol from her home in Pakenham in his white Toyota Landcruiser, then travelled via Licola spending one night at Howitt High Plains before heading into Wonnangatta Valley on Friday, March 20.

Russell was last heard from on Friday, March 20, 2020 via HF radio stating he was at Wonnangatta Valley in the Victorian Alps. Campers found Russell's vehicle with signs of minor fire damage at their campsite, which was completely destroyed by fire, near Dry River Creek Track in the Wonnangatta Valley on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Missing Persons Squad detectives, with the assistance of specialist police, have conducted numerous searches in and around the Wonnangatta Valley over the last 12 months, however Russell and Carol have not been located.

Investigators are also continuing to appeal to anyone who was in the Wonnangatta area around that time, including campers, 4x4 day trippers, hunters, fishermen or trail bike riders, regardless of whether they saw or heard anything.

Detectives are also keen to speak to anyone who was in the area of Howitt Plains and Zeka Spur Track on March 19 or 20, 2020, and the Wonnangatta Valley and Wonnangatta Station between March 20-24 who has not yet made contact with police is urged to come forward.

Detectives have also established that Russell was camping alone with his Landcruiser in the area of the King Billy and Bluff Track between Wednesday, March 11 and Friday, March 13, 2020.

Police are keen to speak to anyone in that area on those dates.

Information was later received about a sighting of an older person or pair in the Black Snake Creek, Eaglevale River crossing and the Ollies Jump area on Sunday, March 22, or Monday, March 23, 2020, however police have never been able to establish if this was the missing campers.

Detectives are calling for anyone in this area, or any older couple who may be these persons, to also come forward.

Officer in charge of the Missing Persons Squad, Detective Acting Inspector Anthony Combridge, said "It has been over 12 months since Russell Hill and Carol Clay disappeared and we are committed to finding the answers on what happened to them."

"We will continue to search the area and encourage anyone with information to come forward, no matter how small they think that information might be."

Anyone who sights Russell or Carol is urged to contact triple zero (000) immediately.

Anyone with any other information regarding their disappearance or who has any CCTV or dashcam footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or log onto crimestoppersvic.com.au

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

- UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
- UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
- UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain
- UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
- UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

- Mon Art Group Eildon 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
- Tue/Thu Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
- Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
- Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
- Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm
- Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222
- Sun Alanon Recovery Phone 0402 428 086.
- Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
- Thu 7.30-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
- Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

- 1st Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
- 1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Mt Pleasant 0427 595 318
- 1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
- 2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
- 2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
- 2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
- 3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
- 3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
- 3rd Thu Community Polluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
- 3rd Sun Alexandra RSL meeting at noon. Ph 5797 6269
- 4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
- 4th Thu Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 5772 1202
- Fri after 3rd Tue Field Naturalists excursion Ph 5772 1189



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

Standard

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

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A2 Colour \$30 per copy (594mmx420mm)

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235gsm gloss photo paper

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters published are the opinion of the writer and not necessarily the opinion of

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Submit your letter via our

Facebook page, email or mail

www.facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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LETTERS MUST NOT EXCEED 300 WORDS

Submitted letters will be edited at the discretion of Alexandra Newspapers.

Letters larger than 300 words, will not be published.

Letters which are offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks will not be published. All letters must contain contact details of writer; name, address and telephone number, (not necessarily for publication).

Letters without these details will not be published.

Deadline is 10am Monday





Cindy McLeish at Thornton Bridge. -S

McLeish secures Thornton Bridge repair

IT looks as though the damaged bridge just out of Thornton on the Goulburn Valley Highway is finally going to be repaired.

Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish brought this to the attention of the Minister for Roads, because locals were frustrated that there had been no action for a long period of time.

Ms McLeish said, "Concerns were raised with me from Cr Karine Haslam

and other locals that the side railing of the bridge has been severely damaged for over 12-months. The bridge has emergency netting covering the railings and has become a safety issue for drivers."

The bridge, located after Christies Road turn off, heading from Thornton to Alexandra, is set to be repaired by June 30, 2021 by The North Eastern Maintenance Alliance (NEMA).

"Many bridges in Thornton are in need of maintenance or even a spruce up. Concrete railings are weathering, weeds litter the crossings, pedestrian access is limited, and most have lost their characteristic charm.

"Serious road safety matters such as this cannot be overlooked," Ms McLeish said.

Council sets an interesting precedent

IN recent weeks, Lake Mountain employees have been spotted landscaping the council land next to the Lake Mountain bike hire shop in Murchison Street, Marysville.

Murrindindi Shire Council were asked about what formal agreements or governing paperwork were in place between council and Lake Mountain for the use of this land, and whether Lake Mountain were paying for the use of the land.

Council responded that, "Lake Mountain Alpine Resort (LMAR) contacted us in January 2021 to seek an additional bus bay in the new Murchison Street carpark, at the rear of allotment 25.

"LMAR also requested temporary permission to park on the adjacent vacant land, which is owned by council. This is to allow for overflow bus parking, while they work through a long term parking solution.

"Council was happy to allow this, given there are no immediate plans for alternative uses of the site."

They added, "There is an informal arrangement in place, which simply provides permission for bus parking for a limited period. The arrangement is only in place until such time that council determines an appropriate use for the site or chooses to put it on the market. If residents have any concerns about use of the land by LMAR, they

should get in contact with council."

Residents adjoining the car park have also expressed concerns about the brightness and height of the street lighting in the Murchison Street car park.

Council stated that, "Following some concerns raised by neighbouring property owners about the brightness of lighting council had installed in the carpark, we commissioned an independent consultant to assess the lights. The consultant identified some issues and we are currently working to resolve those to ensure neighbouring property owners are not adversely affected by the lighting."

80th anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk

ON April 11, Australia will mark 80 years since the start of the Siege of Tobruk, which saw Australian soldiers, along with four regiments of British artillery and some Indian troops, besieged in Tobruk, Libya by a German-Italian army during the Second World War.

Around 14,000 Australians and other Allied troops tenaciously defended the

town and harbour in Libya until December 1941.

They were dubbed as the Rats of Tobruk by the enemy, a term that was embraced as an ironic compliment.

For the Allies, halting the enemy advance into Egypt was vital, and Australian soldiers 'dug in' despite being subjected to repeated ground assaults and constant shelling and bombing.

With the support of the Royal Navy and Royal

Australian Navy, the 'Rats' endured about eight long months of attacks from the German-Italian army before the siege ended.

Australia suffered a large number of casualties over the course of the siege, with over 830 killed, more than 2170 injured and around 940 prisoners taken.

As a nation, we remember and thank the Rats of Tobruk for their service and sacrifice.



THUMBS UP: to the Alexandra Bowls Club for hosting the Barefoot Bowls night, a great effort, and for their donation.

THUMBS UP: to the Thornton Hotel for reintroducing the Bingo. It's been 12 months since the last 'eyes down'. There's quite a few 'oldies' who look forward to their weekly outing. It also benefits the Thornton Eildon footy and netball club.

THUMBS DOWN: To Murrindindi Shire Council for not reopening the front office counter at the shire office. The library has no privacy and is congested.

THUMBS UP: To Ted Hall for poisoning 100 wasp nests so far this season. He puts in a lot of time and it makes a huge difference to the community.

THUMBS DOWN: To the food premises charging a public holiday service fee on takeaways.

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

Bollygum Community Market
Sunday, April 11
10am-2pm
 Bollygum Park
 40 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake
 New stallholders welcome
 0474 837 900

Alexandra Seniors report

by Phil Smith

SHORT and sweet this week. With Good Friday intervening in the schedule, the only activities for the week were cards and bowls. The Friday meeting, which happened to be the monthly business meeting is now on this Friday, April 9.

Here is the usual reminder about the weekly schedule at the hall. It presently consists of social meetings each Friday at 1pm, with the first one of each month being the business meeting.

The Carpet Bowlers play every Tuesday and Thursday at 1pm. The bridge group play on Monday afternoon at present and the Card Sharks play 500 every Friday after the meeting, as do the UNO group. Of course all of these activities are being done while applying the appropriate sanitising and distancing procedures until the situation changes.

We would love to hear from anyone who is at all interested in any of these activities. Either just turn up to the hall in Bayley Street or get in touch with president Gai or myself on 0467 369 092 for more information.

Bowls: On Tuesday, Kevin celebrated his final game with us before returning to Melbourne, with a last end 4-3 win over my blacks. On Thursday Roma's blacks had it fairly easy, downing Ron's yellows 9-5.

Interesting facts: The Eiffel Tower was originally meant to be erected in Barcelona, Spain. The only sea in the world which does not have a coastline is the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic. It is surrounded by major currents.

Useless information: Leonardo DaVinci invented an alarm clock that woke people up by tickling their feet.

Eildon Primary School
Drive-In Movie Night
Saturday 24 April 2021
 Eildon Primary School Oval
 Entry via High Street
 6:30pm
 (Gates open at 5:30pm)
 \$30 per car/\$5 walk in
CASH ONLY
 All children under 16 must have parental supervision
 'The Croods a New Age' & 'Secret Life of Pets 2'
 "New technology, higher quality resolution"
 No food or drinks for sale this year
 BYO food and drinks.
Alcohol Free Event
 Please follow Government Covid Health Advice whilst at this event

Alexandra Market
SATURDAY
APRIL 10
 Timber Tramway Grounds
 from 9am Station Street, Alexandra
 BBQ, train rides, plants, hobbies, home goods, metalwork, beads, jams, chutneys, soaps, chooks, tools and coffee.
 New stalls very welcome.
 Entry \$2 proceeds to Alexandra Timber Tramway & Museum
 Enquiries to **0427 509 988**
market@alexandratramway.org.au

McCORMACK FUNERALS
 inc. BAMFORDS F.S. Murrindindi
1800 080 909
 Murrindindi Chapel & Funeral Home
 21 Johnston St, Alexandra
 Obligation free appointments.
Mick, Ann, Andrew & Robyn
 Professional, caring 24 hour service, all areas.
 Prepaid, prearranged & at need funerals.
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

Disability Support Worker - Yea
 Southern Cross is seeking motivated, caring and committed people to provide support to a 61-year-old man with a spinal cord injury to enable independence by providing a service to assist him in his own home. There are a variety of hours available, you can nominate these during the on-line application process. To be successful you will have a minimum of 6 months experience providing care, current references, mobile phone, NDIS clearance, driver's license and reliable transport.
 If you meet the above - please go to the support worker information section at www.scch.com.au to complete an application form with the following job reference: 408DR or Scan the QR code.
 National Contact Centre: Level 1, 50 O'Connell St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
 Ph: 1800 989 000 (ext 506)

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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This week's Church Services

ANGLICAN St Johns Alexandra
 9.30am Eucharist each Sunday
 Children welcome
 Fr Graeme Brown - Rectory 0429 935 000

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
 Parish Priest, Father Vinh Nguyen
 Ph 5772 1167

St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St. Andrews, Downey Street, Alexandra
 Worshipping, Welcoming
 Sharing the transforming love of Jesus
 Services 10am each Sunday
 Kellock Lodge 2pm 4th Sunday
 contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People, Loving Life
 118 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Contact: Ps Steven Turner
 Ph: 0413 127 283
 Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

A Christian community of the Baptist
 Union of Victoria
 Sunday 4.30pm service. 4.15pm for a cuppa.
 Kids program during school term
 St. Andrews, 37 Downey Street, Alexandra
 Pastor - Geoff Leslie Ph: 0417 396 377



Right to left, co-author Dr Jennifer Jones, Mayor Sandice McAulay, Keith Patterson (Uncle Roy's son), Uncle Roy's grand-daughter Ricky Patterson (wearing glasses) and her three children. Jessica Patterson, Uncle Roy's daughter, also participated in the launch via video link from Sydney. -S

Community comes together to celebrate book launch

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was pleased to host a wonderful event on Saturday, March 27 at its Alexandra Library, the launch of *On Taungurung Land: Sharing History and Culture* by Uncle Roy Patterson and Dr Jennifer Jones.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Sandice McAulay said she was proud to welcome guests with an acknowledgement to country, including a number of Uncle Roy's family.

"This was a truly joyous occasion, attended by over 50 guests. Sadly, Uncle Roy passed away in 2017. But, as his family and Dr Jones agreed, he would have been very proud to have stood with us for the launch of this important work," Cr McAulay said.

"Uncle Roy wanted to ensure his knowledge wasn't lost to us. And I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Jones for this wonderful and informative book. I feel richer for having read it."

Dr Jones was a co-author of the book alongside Uncle Roy, who together gathered stories and made recordings. They would visit places of importance, and even experienced the taste and effect of bush tucker together.

Cr McAulay shared her special connection to the book.

"I have a special connection to this wonderful book. My husband Ray and I were lucky enough to host many of the meetings

between Dr Jennifer Jones and Uncle Roy at our store in Taggerty, where together they discussed Uncle Roy's knowledge, memories and stories, which form the basis of this book," she said.

"This memoir is significant as it plays an important role in preserving and sharing the knowledge of locally-available bush tucker, bush medicine and local indigenous culture and history of the Taungurung people.

"It is also a wonderful homage to a man who was so keen to share his culture and respect for this land. Uncle Roy wanted to revive and strengthen Taungurung cultural ways and for this knowledge to instil wider respect for Taungurung clan values."

"In 2016, council was approached to offer support to publish the book, in which they were proud to be a part of a project that paid respects to the traditional owners of the land in which we live and work on.

"Council was pleased to have been approached back in 2016 to support Dr Jones in making a grant application to the Victorian Government to assist with publication of this work.

"Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victoria Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible under its Local History Grants Program," Cr McAulay said.

New junior and senior cards to inspire love of fishing

JUNIOR and senior fishers now have new gear to boost their fishing passion, with the introduction of free Recreational Fishing Cards.

Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne said the cards will inspire stewardship and a connection to recreational fishing for people not required to hold a fishing licence.

"These new cards will inspire the next generation's love of fishing and promote a sense of continued belonging amongst those who have been fishing for years," she said.

Public consultation regarding the new cards was overwhelmingly positive and the Victorian Fisheries Authority is making the new cards available from Thursday, April 1.

The cards complement work being done through a range of projects as part of the government's \$35 million investment to get more people fishing, more often, in more places.

The feedback received through consultation indicated fishers who do not require a licence, juniors and seniors, still wanted a sense of belonging to the fishing community and felt cards would give them that.

The new fishing cards are now available online through Service Victoria and a new one will be produced each year, appealing to those who like collecting.

People under the age of 18, over 70, and holders of Seniors Cards are exempt from the need to purchase a Recreational Fishing Licence in Victoria.

The new Recreational Fishing Cards are not funded by the sale of recreational fishing licences. Money from licence sales will continue to be put to work improving fishing across Victoria through grant programs, fish production at Fisheries' Snobs Creek hatchery, better access and facilities, and extra Fisheries Officers.

To find out more about the free Recreational Fishing Cards, including how to get one, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingcards

Register for Melbourne Anzac March

REGISTRATIONS to take part in the Anzac Day commemorative march in Melbourne opened on Tuesday, April 6 at 9am.

Under the current health restrictions, the march to the Shrine of Remembrance will go ahead, with an approved maximum of 5500 participants marching along St Kilda Road.

RSL Victoria has been working with the Victorian Government and the Anzac Day Commemoration Council on all State-wide COVID-Safe commemorations, which includes the Melbourne Anzac Day Dawn Service, city march, and commemorative service.

All RSL Victoria sub branches and Victorian associations have been notified to share registration information with veterans, serving or ex-serving in their networks who may wish to march to the Shrine of Remembrance on Anzac Day.

To register, visit: register.rslvic.com.au

Once people submit their registration online, they will receive an automatic response to let them know that their registration has been submitted. They will then receive further communication the week commencing Monday, April 13. Registration does not automatically guarantee a place.

Priority will be allocated to Australian and New Zealand Veterans (current and ex-service members of the Defences Force). If places remain, tickets will then be assigned to allied forces, followed by descendants.

Allocation of tickets will be considered based on the time of when registrations are submitted, and the priority listed above.

All registrations will be stored in a centralised system. If health advice changes to allow more participants, additional tickets will be released accordingly.

Five CycleDindis in six years

CYCLEDINDI21 will return for a fifth time in six years on Saturday, April 17. The event showcases the wonderfully scenic Great Victorian Rail Trail, through the shires of Murrindindi and Mansfield.

Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra with assistance from the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail, CycleDindi 21 is a fully supported, family friendly bicycle ride.

It starts at Alexandra, Bonnie Doon or Yea, depending on the preferred distance and which starting location is easier to access.

There are three choices of long rides if you start in Bonnie Doon or Yea. These rides are either 121km or 80km.

The short rides are either 61kms, 42kms or 26kms and are either from Yea to Cathkin, Yea to Alexandra or Alexandra to Cathkin.

Lunch will be provided on the Goulburn River on private property at Cathkin. Riders always enjoy this scenic and peaceful location.

Prices are \$40 or \$50 for adults, depending on the length of the ride, and there are discounts for seniors. The price for school age children is just \$10, no matter which ride they select.

This year, the ride has attracted an interstate rider, Craig from Brisbane. In 2004 Craig traded four wheels and motor for two wheels and handlebar. He found that the pros far outweighed the cons, with fun, fitness and rockstar parking. He hasn't looked back, and since making the change, he has ridden numerous trails in Australia and Europe.

Craig became intrigued by the CycleDindi21 event after reading about it in the *Rail Trails Australia* monthly post-out, so he decided to take up the challenge to get himself and his bike from Brisbane to the Gold Coast Airport by train for the half-price flight to Melbourne, and then to travel on the V-line from Southern Cross to Tallarook. From there, he will ride the Great Victorian Rail Trail from its starting point so that he is in Yea on Saturday, April 17 for the start of CycleDindi21. He will then retrace his steps back to Tullamarine, Gold Coast and home to Brisbane.



The sheep dogs at work at Nutfield. -S



Brisbane cyclist Craig Schlencker at Abbey Rd in the UK. -S

The organisers are hoping that state borders will be open so Craig can safely get to Victoria and back home again.

The gentle gradients along much of the route make it suitable for most ages and fitness levels. The trail is a beautiful journey, traversing rolling hills with stunning views and a ride through the historic Cheviot Tunnel.

There is fun to be had in the shearing shed, with a chance to view sheep dogs at work. This will happen at a working farm,



Lunch will be provided on the Goulburn River. -S

Nutfield, on the rail trail route and includes a delicious home-made Devonshire tea, included in the entry price. This has been a feature of all CycleDindi rides to date and has proven to be exceptionally popular with all riders.

Non-riders are welcome to both lunch and the sheep dog demo for

a modest cost. There will even be a coffee van at lunch so everyone can get their fix.

CycleDindi21 is a major fundraiser to support a variety of youth programs in the communities of Yea and Alexandra.

Entry forms available at Rotary websites yearotary.org.au or rotaryalexandra.org.au

Follow CycleDindi21 updates on Facebook. Queries to cycledindi21@gmail.com and bookings can be made via direct deposit or at [trybooking.com/BNWEF](http://trybooking.com/)

Victoria leading the way towards gender equality

VICTORIA has taken a nation-leading step towards achieving gender equal workplaces in the public sector, with the commencement of the Australian first *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The new act requires 300 public sector employers, including local councils and universities, to report on and improve gender equality in the workplace.

Victoria's inaugural Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner Dr Niki Vincent is working with public sector workplaces, which employ more than 380,000 people, to close the gender pay gap, improve gender

equality at all levels of the workforce and eliminate workplace sexual harassment.

"The Gender Equality Act is the first of its kind in Australia, requiring public sector organisations to show real progress on gender equality in the workplace and our community," she said.

"The Act will have far-reaching benefits, not only for public sector workers who make up 11 per cent of the Victorian workforce, but for the people they serve."

Organisations will also need to undertake gender impact assessments, ensuring that policies, programs and services consider the different needs of Victorians of all genders.

International evidence shows that when compelled to identify gender gaps and develop a plan to address those gaps, organisations take deliberate and positive action.

The Victorian Government is driving gender equality with a \$435 million investment in progressing gender equality and ending family violence, including more than \$13 million to implement the *Gender Equality Act*.

This funding was part of a targeted range of economic supports that put women at the heart of Victoria's economic recovery as we move through the coronavirus pandemic,

including \$150 million to support 6900 women into job placements, and \$170 million to make kinder free in 2021.

Dr Vincent and the Commission are undertaking extensive consultation with the sector and are providing support to organisations to fulfill their obligations under the Act.

The Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector has published detailed guidance and resources on genderequalitycommission.vic.gov.au and will provide training and support to organisations.



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The impact of deer on logging regrowth



IT appears that deer have been having a significant impact on regrowth following logging in Murrindindi, along with other areas.

In November 2019, the *Regional Forest Agreements Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) Scientific Advice to Support Regional Forest Agreement Negotiations* stated in a document published by DELWP, "Invasive species have had substantial negative impacts on Australian biota and ecosystems. There are emerging invasive species issues in some forest ecosystems, e.g. sambar deer as well as established long-term problems in these same system e.g. cats, foxes and

blackberry. There may also be interactions between invasive species and other drivers such as disturbance e.g. increased foraging by feral predators in burned areas and deer browsing effects in areas of postlogging regeneration."

In *Browsing Impacts of Introduced Sambar Deer (Rusa unicolor) in the Mountain Ash Forests of the Victorian Central Highlands, Australia*, published by the Federal Department of the Environment, it states, "Deer herbivory is known to compromise multiple stages of plant life cycles: consumption of seedlings preventing establishment, consumption of

shoots of juvenile plants reducing survival and growth, consumption of shoots of adult plants reducing seed production, and consumption of seeds preventing regeneration.

"Keith and Pellow (2005) proposed that the greatest influence of deer on population viability of species is in preventing the establishment of seedlings and reducing seed production. Deer often target seedlings and saplings, and tree species are most vulnerable at this stage."

They added, "Peel et al. (2005) observed that sambar can devastate regrowth after fire or logging. Deer can also prevent seedling establishment by destroying thickets that act as nursery sites or regeneration refuges."

The Feral Herald at the website invasives.org.au outlines a scheme in the Bogong High Plains, where fencing is being installed to protect important sites from feral deer and horses. The article says that "The new fences do have negative aspects and come at considerable cost. They are expensive to build (up to \$50 a metre), require ongoing maintenance, need to be physically dropped and re-instated each year [due to the snow] and have a significant visual impact on the outstanding treeless natural landscape of the Bogong High Plains.

"This bold approach to the protection of biodiversity assets in natural areas raises a number of important questions. Do we continue to build fences across these landscapes to protect natural values from feral deer and horses, allow the damage to continue, or do we fight back hard against the invasion of these feral intruders to protect our pristine natural areas?"

The Victorian Deer Control Strategy, released in October 2020, states, "Current

DELWP data and analysis from the Strategic Management Prospects tool also suggests that over a thousand species of flora and fauna would benefit from deer control efforts across the state."

It makes no mention of the impact of deer on logging regeneration, with the initial focus being on "a \$1 million investment to manage the growing problem of deer in the outer northern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne," according to the premier's October 30, 2020 announcement.

It's believed that while there is currently little in the way of regeneration fencing in Murrindindi and no regeneration fencing in the Rubicon and Snobs Creek areas, a VicForests tender which closed in December 2020 called for experienced contractors for the construction and removal of deer fencing, adding that the work is a part of the VicForests' Regeneration Program. The tender "involves the fencing of eight areas to provide protection for regenerating sites and the removal of four existing fences on successfully regenerated sites. The work is in the Toolangi, Acheron and Black Range areas."

Contacted about the challenges caused by deer with regard to forest regeneration, a VicForests' spokesperson said, "Since the 2009 fires, animal browsing, particularly that of the sambar deer, has had a significant impact on VicForests' coupe regeneration in the Alexandra area.

"Where necessary, VicForests mitigates the environmental impacts of browsing by constructing fencing and tree guards as well as continuing to adapt our regeneration practices.

"VicForests is proud to be employing local contractors for its replanting and fencing work to help support regional families and townships."

VicForests provided the following as background, "VicForests regrows the forest in all coupes it harvests. The sambar deer is the animal species that has had the most impact on VicForests' regeneration practices in the Alexandra area. While animal browsing has brought new challenges on some sites, VicForests is committed to regenerating all coupes which it harvests. VicForests recycles 90 per cent of its fencing equipment on a coupe-by-coupe basis and removes this infrastructure after approximately two to three years once plants are established. All VicForests' timber harvesting and regeneration operations are conducted in line with Victoria's strict environmental regulations and the State's Forest Management Zoning scheme."

Deer are not only causing challenges for logging regrowth. They are also the bane of a wide range of farmers, orchardists and viticulturalists, and a significant hazard for drivers.

Cycle Dindi

over the hills and not so far away

SATURDAY

17 APRIL 2021

A charity bicycle event along the Great Victorian Rail Trail

THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Registrations open January 2021
Email cycledindi21@gmail.com

The event on the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be centred on the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra and will include an opportunity to ride across the iconic Bonnie Doon bridge

This event is a fund raiser for Rotary Youth Projects

Rotary
Clubs of Alexandra and Yea and the Friends of the GVRT

What do I get for my money?

- Billy tea, damper and BBQ lunch at Cathkin
- Free admission to Nutfield a working farm, with free Devonshire Tea in the shearing shed, sheep dog demonstration and trailer ride.

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DISTANCE	ADULT	SNR	CONC
Yea to Bonnie Doon (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Yea (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Cathkin (return) 80 km	\$50	\$40	\$10
Yea to Cathkin (return) 42 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Yea to Alexandra (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Yea (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Cathkin (return) 26 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10

Interested?

contact Melinda (Alexandra) **0418 378 806**
Julie (Yea) **0447 762 557**
or Ross (Mansfield) **0439 046 199**
www.rotaryalexandra.org.au
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The HEMS helicopter winching up the patient to receive medical attention. -S

Rescue on the Cathedral Range

MARYSVILLE SES were called to assist Ambulance Victoria (AV) with a Priority 1 rescue in the Cathedral Range State Park at 1.45pm on Good Friday, April 2.

A hiker was suffering a serious medical incident on the Razorback Track, an extremely challenging section some distance from the road.

In a stroke of good luck, AV and SES members were at the shared headquarters when the call came in and were able to deploy immediately.

Two SES and two AV members hiked in, carrying gear through several challenging rock scrambles to reach the patient around an hour later. Immediate medical treatment was provided, and coordinates were provided to the incoming helicopter.

With a specialist paramedic winched down to the scene, the crews then worked

to move the patient to an area where he could be winched to the helicopter and transported directly to hospital for urgent care. The crews returned around 6pm, after trekking back out.

It was a fantastic effort by the SES, Ambulance Victoria team, and by the helicopter crew. Hot and sunny conditions, along with the huge number of hikers on the range, made this job very challenging. SES would like to thank all of the bushwalkers who moved aside, listened to the important safety advice regarding the helicopter, and for the generous round of applause for the crew.

On the way down, they passed several groups of unprepared walkers and were able to offer some safety tips. As a reminder, always ensure you have plenty of water, allow enough daylight for your walk (and a bit extra), and hike within your ability.

MANSFIELD CLEARING SALE

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This marks day 2 of this collection of rare and collectables items obtained over many years and all for genuine sale. Full listing with pictures will be posted on our online auction site approx 2 weeks prior to sale at <http://emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions>

Onsite inspection Saturday, April 17 - 10am to 3pm. No inspection available on Sunday

Online bids can be made prior to sale. See website for details.

Onsite bidders must register onsite before start of auction.

Numbers system will be operating. Photo ID required. Strictly no dogs.

GST does not apply and there is no buyer's premium. Cash or Cheque only.

Directions: 9 Aisla Street, Mansfield. Look for signs

COVID-19: Masks are required to be carried and social distancing protocols apply. All attendees will be required to record personal details, in addition to buyer registration. We reserve the right to limit numbers.

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RABBIT MANAGEMENT

Did you know that rabbits are considered a serious pest in Victoria? They degrade our agricultural land, roads, parks and reserves, and they destroy native vegetation and compete with native animals for food and habitat. Rabbits are also well suited to Australian conditions and breed prolifically.

Rabbit control is most effective during early-Autumn, as breeding has generally paused during this time and rabbit populations are lower.

To find out more information about how to manage rabbits on your property, visit Council's website and search 'pests'. You can download our rabbit management brochure and one-page calendar to help you plan your rabbit control activities. The calendar is also available as a handy fridge magnet, which we can arrange to have sent to you, along with a copy of the brochure.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT (APP) SCHEME

Do you hold a Disability Parking Permit? The Victorian Government has made changes to the way you will renew your permit and for any new permit applications. When you apply for or renew your permit, you will now do so through the Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Scheme and online administration system, which aligns with the national Australian Disability Permit Scheme (ADPS) and streamlines the application process, making it simpler and consistent across the state. Councils across Victoria administer this scheme for the Victorian Government.

For more information about these changes, including how to apply, please visit Council's website and search 'disability parking permit', give us a call or drop in to one of our service centres.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

Customer Service Coordinator

Do you value connecting with customers and delivering a quality customer experience? Are you innovative and motivating? Are you system-savvy and love using data to support change? If you answered 'yes, yes, yes' - we'd like to talk to you. Council is looking for a Customer Service Coordinator who can help us continue our 'Customer First' journey, so we ensure our customers are at the centre of all our interactions and processes.

Customer Service Officers (part time and casual)

Council is seeking talented and motivated individuals to join our customer and library service team (including Council's Customer Contact Centre). We are looking for people with experience in delivering exceptional customer service. If you think you know the difference between serving customers and delighting customers with your service, please apply to join our amazing team.

As the first point of contact with Council's customers, you will be keen to find solutions and handle enquiries from beginning to end. You will be an active listener, have a positive 'can-do' attitude and be able to provide prompt and friendly customer service for the full range of Council and Library Services.

For more information about vacant positions, including position descriptions, and to apply, please visit the 'jobs' section of our website. Applications for the positions above close at 5.00 pm on Monday 19 April.



Get in touch with Council

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



Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the week



MAK LANSELL

Mak Lansell for being a kind and caring 'Buddy' to Tyler and always looking out for him during our Buddies sessions. Fantastic job Mak, keep up the good work.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students of the week



Oliver Crowle

Ollie has shown Resilience by consistently entertaining us with his creative stories and making steady improvements to them each week.

Cody Ball

For showing the school value of Resilience by working hard to create an incredible biography of Lleyton Hewitt. Well done, Cody.



Jewel Joshy

For demonstrating the school value of Resilience by applying herself to all learning tasks. Well done, Jewel.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students of the week



RYDER

Ryder has shown perseverance and focus in his learning this week after returning from a long break. Awesome work Ryder.



WYATT

Wyatt was caring and responsible when looking after the baby chicks at school. Congratulations Wyatt.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Complete our online survey and tell us what you think is important for the future of Murrindindi Shire. Your feedback will help us develop a new Council Plan, which will guide our work over the next four years.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future

You can also join an interactive community workshop at **7.00 pm on Thursday 22 April**, where we will run through the survey together and gather your feedback. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and chat with Council officers about your ideas. Registrations are essential. To register, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future

Get in touch with Council
murrindindi.vic.gov.au
5772 0333



Not sure if you have found a European wasp? Use this picture to help identify what insect you have found. -S

European wasp identification and treatment

DO you know how to tell the difference between a European wasp and a native wasp? While many different species of wasps, bees and flies have black and yellow stripes, there are differences in both the appearance and behaviour of European wasps that will help you tell the difference.

Council's Environment Portfolio Councillor Karine Haslam is urging community members to keep an eye out on their property for European wasps and take action to destroy nests.

"European wasps are a declared pest in Australia. This is due to their aggressive nature and the fact that they like living around people, where there are ready food sources available. This isn't an ideal combination of characteristics for any flying insect, let alone a wasp," Cr Haslam said.

"There are some key behaviours you should keep an eye out for to help you identify European wasps. They are commonly attracted to human food and pet food (in particular fish and meat), garbage and the sugars found in some fruit and drinks. You won't usually see other wasp or bee species attracted to these sorts of foods. European wasps also make numerous trips between a food source and their nest."

In terms of appearances, both European wasps and their nests are distinctively

different to other native wasp species. Paper wasps are commonly mistaken for European wasps, however European wasps have shorter and thicker bodies and have black antennae, whereas the Paper wasps have orange-brown antennae. The back legs of Paper wasps hang down while they fly and they're often seen hovering over lawns, bushes and water sources. European wasps don't tend to hang around in one place for too long, they fly very quickly and hold their legs close to their bodies.

"Autumn is the most critical season for European wasps because it is when the next generation of queens and male wasps are produced. If we can treat nests now, we can stop these new wasps mating and flying off to build more nests," she said.

"If you locate a European wasp nest on your property, you can either get in touch with a professional pest control service or you can treat the nest yourself using chemicals from your local hardware store or supermarket.

"To avoid receiving a nasty sting, make sure you treat the nest at night when wasp activity is low, and cover your torch with red cellophane as insects can't see red light. We also recommend wearing protective clothing and a bee veil," Cr Haslam said.

People requiring further advice on how to deal with a wasp nest on their property or to report a nest on council land can call 5772 0333.



The audience watching the movie, Sing, on March 21. -S



The new Embassy of Ideas screen. -S



The Pop Up Cinema is being run from the Alexandra Community Leisure Centre in Hall St. -S

Embassy cinema pops up

THE Embassy of Ideas were recipients of a grant from the AGL Hydro Community Support Fund in late 2019. The grant funded the purchase of a blow up portable screen, projector and speakers.

The Embassy had planned on showing its first film in March 2020, but the pandemic and subsequent lock downs meant this initiative was put on hold.

Now in 2021, the Embassy of Ideas is running some Pop Up Cinema Events to test communities appetite for film screenings. They hosted their first movie screening of the family-friendly animated movie *Sing* in March 2021.

They have two more movies screening during the school holidays. On Thursday, April 15, they are screening *The Angry Birds Movie* and on Friday, April 16, *The Biggest Little Farm*.

The Pop Up Cinema is being run from the Alexandra Community Leisure Centre and Sports Stadium in Hall St. All tickets are \$5, cash only. Doors open at 6.15 and the movie starts at 7pm.

The Embassy provides the movie, and patrons are asked to provide everything else. Bring your own camping chairs, blankets, cushions and snacks. You will be sitting on the basketball court.



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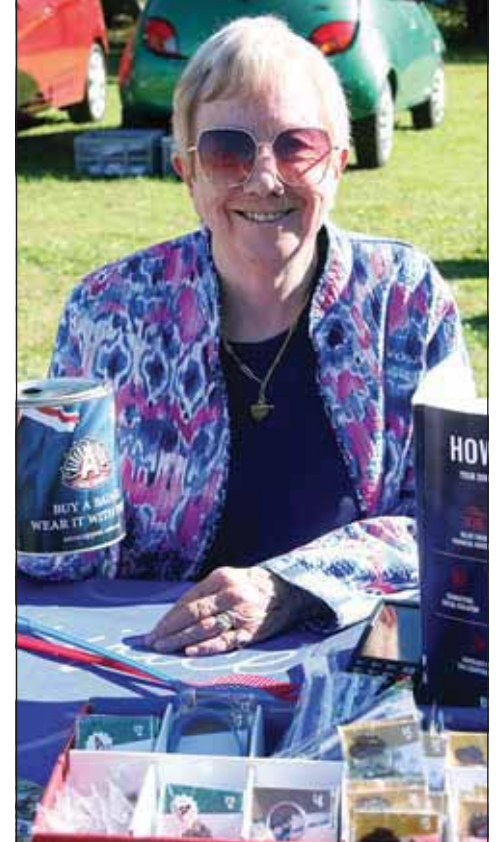
Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Marysville's Easter Market



The autumn weather was perfect at the Marysville Market on Sunday, April 4. -AR



Penny selling Anzac Appeal badges. -S



Jen and Brooke checking out the jewellery. -AR



There were over 40 stalls at the Marysville Market on Sunday, with plenty for the locals and the many tourists to buy. -AR



Lynne with her cacti stall. -AR

Eildon Bait & Tackle

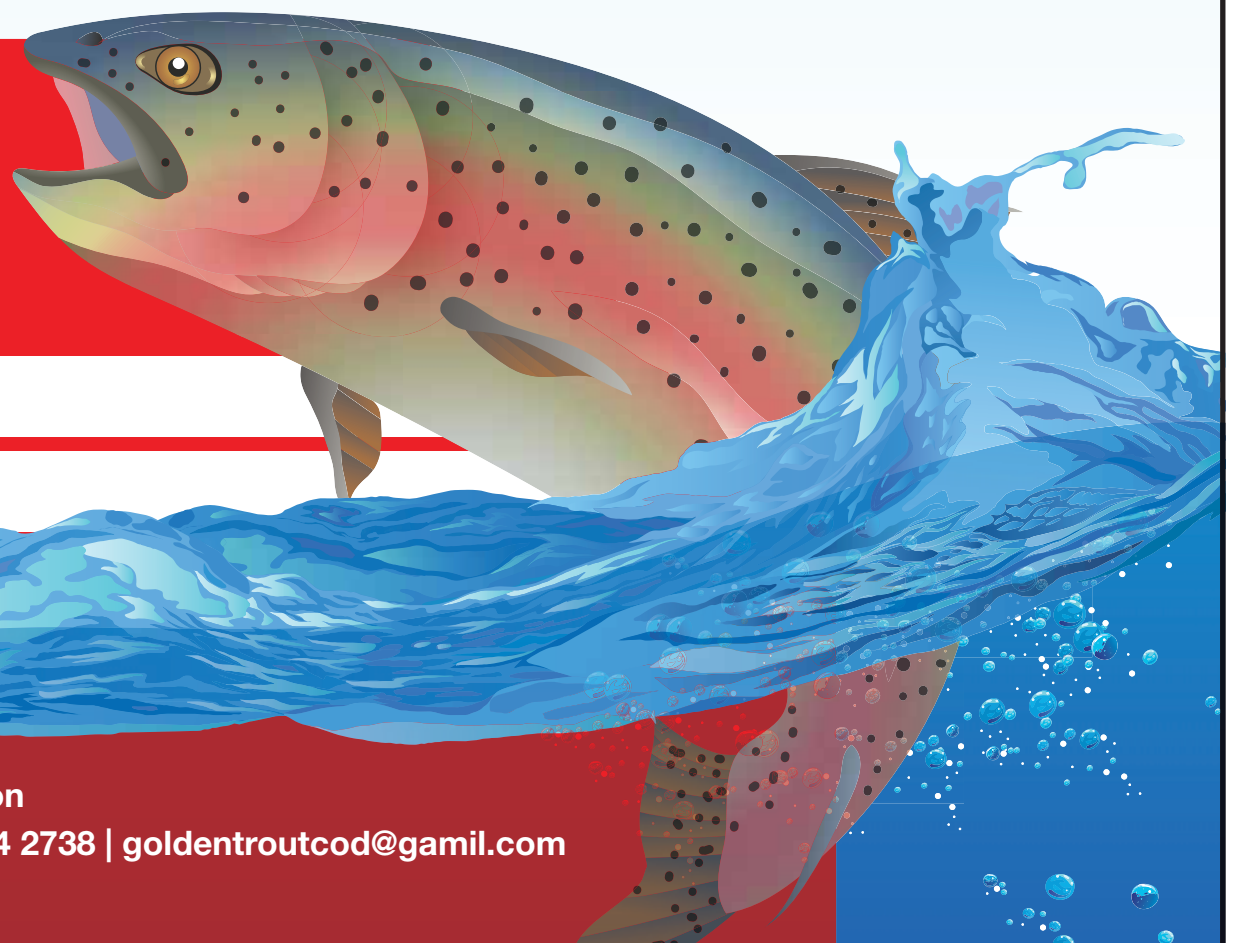
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A beautiful autumn morning greeted the monthly Murrindindi Shire Pathways for Carers group on Friday, March 26. After a stroll through Alexandra, the group enjoyed a complimentary morning tea and knowledge sharing with Jason from Carer Gateway. -S



Carer Gateway provides advice and practical support. Carers should register to find out more at carergateway.gov.au -S

Health warning as poisonous mushrooms sprout

POISONOUS mushrooms have started growing in Victoria following widespread recent rain and ideal growing conditions.

Victoria's Deputy Chief Health Officer Dr Angie Bone issued a warning for people to avoid gathering wild mushrooms around Melbourne and in rural Victoria.

"The recent conditions have been ideal for poisonous mushrooms, and recent rains have seen them start to sprout in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria," Dr Bone said.

"While commercially-sold mushrooms are safe, poisonings can occur when people gathering wild mushrooms inadvertently include toxic species. Poisonous mushrooms may appear very similar to edible varieties."

In 2020 the combination of coronavirus and an ideal growing season saw a record number of calls about mushroom poisoning incidents to Victoria's Poisons Information Centre.

Last year there were 426 calls about potential mushroom poisoning. This is more than double the number of calls in the previous two years. 194 calls were made in 2019 and 200 calls in 2018.

There were multiple poisoning cases requiring admission and treatment in an intensive care unit.

The mushrooming season starts when rain encourages growth of the fungi in the still warm earth.

Two toxic mushrooms are the Death Cap fungus, *Amanita phalloides* and the Yellow Staining mushroom, *Agaricus xanthodermus*.

The Death Cap is a large mushroom, with a cap ranging from light olive green to greenish yellow in colour. The gills are white, and the base of the stem is surrounded by a cup-shaped sac.

The commonly found Yellow Staining mushroom turns yellow when the cap or stem is bruised by a thumbnail.

The most dangerous variety is the Death Cap, usually found near deciduous trees, especially around oaks, in some Melbourne suburbs and rural areas.

Dr Bone said anyone who becomes ill after eating mushrooms should seek urgent medical advice and, if possible, take samples of the whole mushroom for identification.

"Symptoms of poisoning can include violent stomach pains, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Symptoms may subside after a day or two, but this doesn't necessarily mean recovery in the case of Death Cap poisoning," Dr Bone said.

"Death can follow within 48 hours from serious liver damage. The Death Cap is extremely toxic and responsible for 90 per cent of all mushroom poisoning deaths.

"If you have any doubts about a species of fungus or mushroom, don't eat it. Cooking, peeling or drying these mushrooms does not remove or inactivate the poison."

Feel Good, Look Good 

Victorians encouraged to connect this Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

WITH many Victorians still feeling the impacts of COVID-19, Cancer Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is giving people a chance to reconnect.

Following the tumultuous year that was 2020, Cancer Council Victoria is encouraging all Victorians to come together this May to support people affected by cancer.

The official day to host a morning tea in 2021 is Thursday, May 27, however people can register to host at any time throughout May or June.

A national survey of cancer patients and survivors that ran from June to September 2020 found about 60 per cent of respondents reported feeling isolated "some of the time" or "often" since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study also found that 85 per cent of the 150 healthcare workers surveyed were concerned COVID-19 would negatively impact their patients' mental health.

Furthermore, 34 per cent of carers said they "feared" accompanying a loved one affected by cancer to hospital or medical treatment during the pandemic.

Cancer Council Victoria Head of Fundraising Lyrian Fleming-Parsley said Australia's Biggest Morning Tea gave people a chance to catch up with friends and loved ones, while also supporting an important cause.

"This year we encourage the community to host or attend an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea as a way of reconnecting following the social isolation of the pandemic," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"This connection is particularly important for those affected by cancer as a recent Cancer Council study revealed an increase in distress levels among people calling our 13 11 20 Information and Support line during the pandemic.

"There is a need to take steps to boost positive emotions and support mental health

in cancer survivors. There are a number of ways to build positive feelings, and spending quality time with your loved ones while having a cuppa this May is just one of them."

Ms Fleming-Parsley said Cancer Council was fortunate and grateful to receive community support through events like Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

"Since Australia's Biggest Morning Tea started in 1994, millions of Australians have come together over a cuppa and a bite to eat to support people affected by cancer," she said.

"This generosity means we can continue our work in cancer research, prevention programs, advocacy and support services."

Participants are being encouraged to host an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event their way, whether it's at home, in the office, virtually or at school.

This year, Cancer Council hopes to recruit more than 20,000 generous morning

tea hosts and raise \$7 million nationally. All donations raised help fund Cancer Council's life-saving research, prevention, programs, advocacy and support services.

For more information and to register please visit biggestmorningtea.com.au or call 1300 656 585. If you or a loved one needs support following a cancer diagnosis, please call 13 11 20 or visit cancervic.org.au

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PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

Colour



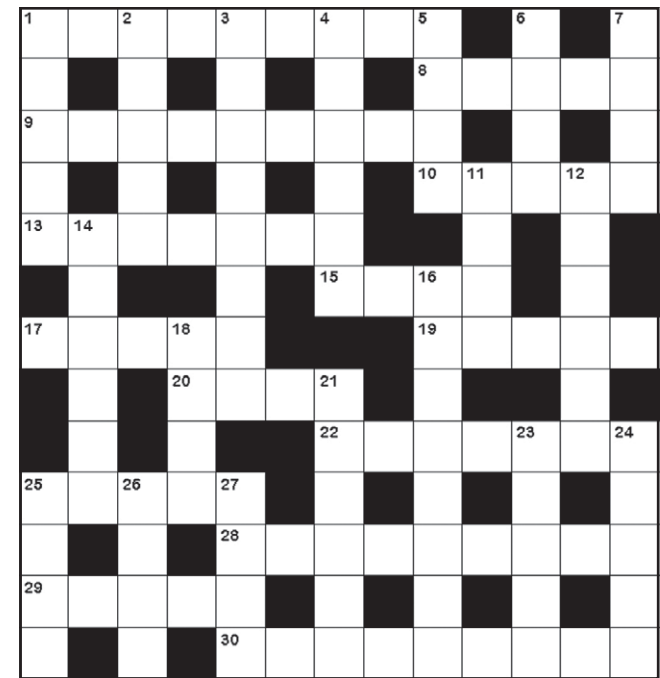
Crossword

ACROSS

- Things from which a choice may be made.
- Having no inherent ability to move or to resist motion.
- Bitterly scathing and venomous manner of speech.
- A mournful, poetic lament for a deceased person.
- Giving only major points or a rough outline.
- Engage in a brief and petty quarrel.
- A spirited horse used for state or war.
- Took the first steps in carrying out an action.
- Extending far downward below a surface.
- Narcotic drugs that contain an opium derivative.
- The post at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs.
- Inspiring affection or warm sympathy.
- A rack or ledge fixed to a wall to store objects.
- One who inflicts severe physical or mental suffering.

DOWN

- Puts goods and money in reserve for future use.
- Graceful, moving and bending with ease.
- Synchronise or occur at or during the same time.
- Fits pieces of wood into prepared slots in a surface.
- Having a pleasant or attractive appearance.



- An elaborate, often outdoor entertainment.
- Continue to be in the same place or condition.
- Ripening towards the end of the season.
- A place where cars are serviced and repaired.
- A pot with a handle and a spout for boiling water.
- Formally renounce all duties and obligations.
- Think about something at length and in depth.
- Put the wrong spin on someone's words or idea.
- White granules used to sweeten tea and coffee.
- Where a bird lays eggs and shelters its young.
- A wild plant growing where it is not wanted.
- Allowed to play without interference or assistance.

Word Search: Farming

H	G	R	J	S	K	L	M	O	N	U	J	C	Y	N	AVOCADO
P	P	A	N	C	A	R	R	O	T	Z	H	A	Q	M	BEANS
N	K	A	R	U	U	O	N	W	O	I	J	L	U	J	CARROT
K	E	Y	X	L	N	O	D	A	C	O	V	A	E	R	CHICKEN
B	K	A	X	I	I	G	L	K	S	E	E	M	S	Y	DUCK
G	B	H	O	C	E	C	E	K	C	U	D	B	T	U	GARLIC
S	I	N	Q	C	C	N	N	W	S	E	W	H	U	E	GOATS
H	T	W	M	D	U	Z	V	I	O	Q	S	W	O	Q	LAMB
G	X	A	M	A	T	K	L	G	K	I	U	Q	R	V	LETTUCE
C	W	U	O	H	T	H	P	P	D	P	H	A	P	V	ONION
K	L	L	H	G	E	Z	N	A	U	X	M	S	S	P	PEAS
U	R	Z	X	N	L	V	R	H	A	O	O	U	G	H	PUMPKIN
P	E	A	S	I	F	X	P	C	G	U	J	K	P	K	RADISH
B	C	E	B	U	I	X	I	E	I	C	T	R	Z	V	SPROUTS
V	G	X	T	Z	W	G	M	F	T	M	V	U	W	S	SQUASH

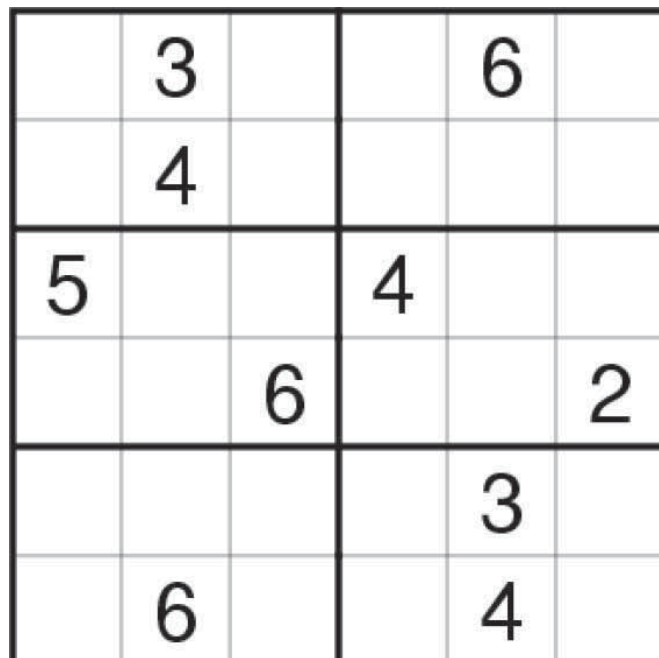
Word Search: Occupations

R	E	B	M	U	L	P	F	T	P	P	L	D	J	J	BAKER
R	N	N	U	R	S	E	S	M	I	G	J	U	C	M	CARPENTER
Z	E	Z	L	N	T	I	R	V	O	R	D	A	L	X	DENTIST
T	R	V	N	A	T	L	N	J	L	G	F	W	G	Y	DIVER
J	A	M	I	N	W	A	C	T	E	T	R	I	T	G	DOCTOR
R	R	I	E	R	M	Y	O	O	T	C	E	L	S	Q	DRIVER
C	E	D	L	E	D	N	E	L	R	S	G	Z	I	H	ENGINEER
N	K	H	R	O	D	T	P	R	E	D	N	D	R	I	FIREMAN
V	X	I	C	I	R	Y	R	O	T	C	O	D	O	B	FISHMONGER
A	F	Q	V	A	L	U	B	L	N	Y	M	Y	L	A	FLORIST
U	A	E	S	L	E	J	F	Q	E	J	H	C	F	K	JUDGE
G	R	O	P	O	Z	T	A	M	P	G	S	F	B	E	LAWYER
P	O	L	I	C	E	M	A	N	R	D	I	Z	P	R	NURSE
E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R	O	A	E	F	Z	Z	Q	PIOLET
N	B	X	Y	P	O	E	O	I	C	C	K	C	A	G	PLUMBER
															POLICEMAN
															TAILOR
															TEACHER

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 6. Every row and column and every group of 6 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.



Trivia

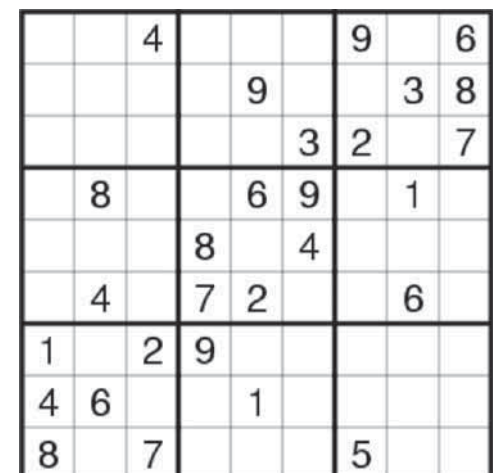
Q: Where was the below image taken?



Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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 only once.



Real Estate

GUIDE



Consider a career in construction

WITH tens of thousands of Victorians expected to lose their jobs after the withdrawal of the Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme, Master Builders Victoria (MBV) is urging Victorians to potentially consider a new career in building and construction, at a time when the industry is desperately short of tradespeople.

The \$90 billion JobKeeper scheme which had been a financial lifeline for many businesses, officially ended on Sunday, March 28, with Federal Treasury speculating that up to 150,000 jobs could now be lost across Australia.

MBV CEO, Rebecca Casson is urging Victorians who find themselves facing unemployment to consider a career change into building and construction.

"Unfortunately, there will be many hard-working Victorians who will find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own," she said.

"However, at the same time, in the building and construction industry we are now facing a huge boom in demand, and an unprecedented shortage in many trades and skills. There could be some very good opportunities for Victorians who find themselves unemployed to think about a whole new career, especially women who currently make up only one per cent of the industry in Australia," she said.

Ms Casson also applauded the announcement by the Victorian Government of the formation of the new body Apprenticeships Victoria.

"This is a terrific initiative which will provide support and create much better pathways for potential apprentices of all ages, to make their way into the workforce and it couldn't have come at a better time."

Twenty-eight year old Luke Hartley was a late starter to his apprenticeship, taking on a carpentry apprenticeship three years ago, after studying Commerce and then Construction Management at university.

"Best thing I've ever done! There's so much work around and I love being on the tools and combining that with what I learnt at uni. I think like so many other young people, I almost felt like I had no other option other than going to uni, but I know now where I'd rather be," he said.

"If anybody wanted my opinion about whether they should think about a trade, I'd say definitely."

A recent survey found almost 80 per cent of Victorian building and construction businesses are currently experiencing significant delays in being able to secure key tradespeople.

Ms Casson also reminded MBV members that last week, the Victorian Government introduced the \$250 million Jobs Victoria Fund which will provide a wage subsidy of up to \$20,000 per eligible employee to meet the costs of taking on new workers for the first 12 months of their employment.

"This new fund is a welcome and positive initiative focusing on several priority groups identified by the government as being disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19, including women, and I encourage our members to take a look at whether they can utilise the fund to help them take on more team members," she said.

Supporting women is a key objective of the program, and other priority groups include people who have been unemployed for more than six months, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, workers with disabilities, newly arrived migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds, and workers aged under 25 or over 45.

"While the pandemic has certainly had a significant impact on the building and construction industry, we remain optimistic that out of the adversity our sector has been confronted with, we'll start seeing new opportunities for people to join our industry and support for the companies looking to employ them," Ms Casson said.

Highest level on record

THE Australian Bureau of Statistics building approvals data for February 2021 show that approvals for private sector houses have yet again risen to the highest level on record.

HomeBuilder has delivered effective support and stimulus to protect the jobs of the one million Australians employed in the construction sector.

In February, approvals for private sector houses rose 15.1 per cent with 13,939 approvals recorded. This is the highest level on record since the ABS began the series in 1983

and exceeds the previous record in December last year.

Building approvals for private sector houses in February 2021 are up 57.5 per cent compared to the same time last year.

These record results solidify other recent key measures of success such as; New home sales rose by 60.5 per cent across the nation in the three months to February compared with the same period last year according to the Housing Industry Association (HIA); Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the HIA found

national new home sales in 2020 increased by 32.5 per cent compared to 2019; and a 50 per cent increase in first home buyers in 2020 compared with 2019 according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

Treasury estimates HomeBuilder will support up to \$18 billion worth of residential construction projects. HomeBuilder is supporting the economic comeback and will continue to support residential construction jobs well into 2022.

More information on HomeBuilder can be found at [treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder](https://www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder)

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Simply Stunning

65 Buxton-Marysville Rd is in a class of its own. The remote front gate welcomes you to the home via solid gravel driveway as you wind your way up to the impressive level home site carved out from the hill. Comprising a massive 59 sq's (approx.) under roof line the home certainly is made for a large family or an entertainer who wants to impress family and friends! All the four bedrooms are large enough for a king size bed with room to spare, each with built in robes. The master has a walk in robe, generous ensuite with spa, double vanity and oversized shower. Adjacent is a parents retreat sitting area. The kitchen with granite bench tops and a bright red glass splash back mirrors the feature wall in the family area. Quality appliances including new 900mm oven, warming draw, dishwasher, Zip tap, soft closing drawers and pull out pantries allow the home cook to create a feast for all the family. There are several water tanks, @90k litres and town water, there are 2 fully fenced paddocks which currently have horses in them. A 9m X 10 m shed (3 phase power), 5 kva solar system and solar HWS, double glazed windows, front and rear decked entertaining areas complete this simply stunning property.

FOR SALE

3 1 2



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Situated on a corner block with potential to subdivide (stca) is this neat 3 bedroom, (BIR's), 1 bathroom home. The lounge and dining area is spacious with split system and wood fire. The adjacent kitchen is functional with wall oven and electric hot plates. The block is flat and fully fenced ideal for keeping pets and children safe. The double garage has a concrete floor and power. The property is currently tenanted on a periodic lease for \$245pw. Book your inspection today.

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'Tanbraro' is cleverly situated in an elevated position, this light, bright, charming American style four bedroom, one bathroom residence takes advantage of the spectacular panoramic views. The land comprises of 166 acres (approx.) predominantly native bush with cleared areas making it a true lifestyle property. This property is sure to leave a lasting impression upon inspection. The home features open plan living with a traditional kitchen with gas cooking, meals area, a spacious lounge room with wood heating, cathedral ceiling, a large mezzanine floor that creates more living and sleeping space for the whole family. Family living and outdoor entertaining is prioritized throughout the well-planned layout. Insulated roof and walls, down lights, ceiling fans and over engineered structural beams gives this residential dwelling a solid structure with comfortable atmosphere. Away from the main dwelling is two separate lock up sheds one fitted with bunk beds, and the other with a wood heater, ideal as a man cave or teenagers retreat. Hay/storage shed and garden sheds cover outside storage. An internal track around the property is ideal for motor bike enthusiasts, horse riders or bush walkers. With Deutz 11 KVA generator, back up solar system, gas HWS, large rainwater tanks, septic tank, 3 dams and gas bottles connected this property is set up and ready to be enjoyed.



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Captain Koala a bit hit in Eildon



Many people were keen to get their photo snapped with Captain Koala in Eildon. -S



Cuddles for Captain Koala. -S



Tourists and locals gathered around the fire truck in Eildon for the Easter celebration. -S



There was no shortage of children when Captain Koala appeared. -S



Mark. -AR



Peter and Liz. -AR



Trevor and Tina. -AR

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Standard

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Murrindindi's population changes

THE Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released new data on local government areas (LGAs) around Australia on March 30, and the results for Murrindindi Shire provide an insight into how our population has changed since 2017.

The ABS noted that the information provided below is based on estimates only.

In 2017, there were 125 births in the shire and 121 deaths, meaning that there was a natural increase of four.

By 2020, there were 106 births and 126 deaths, a natural decrease of 20. While the death

rate has remained relatively steady, the birth rate has been falling. In 2018, there were 125 births; in 2019, there were 117.

This may have an impact on local schools in the future, particularly if the birth rate continues to decrease.

The 2020 data may however have been impacted by COVID-19, with people choosing not to have children at such a tempestuous time. It will be interesting to see whether the birth rate increases in 2021.

There has also been a shift in 'internal arrivals', people arriving in the shire from

elsewhere in Australia. In 2017, there were 1003 new internal arrivals; in 2018 there were 1158; in 2019 there were 1125. Surprisingly, given the pandemic, the numbers dropped in 2020 to 1099.

Internal departures were 878 in 2017; 965 in 2018; 1069 in 2019; and 1024 in 2020, so the pandemic may have stemmed the departure tide in 2020, due to the lower restrictions in regional areas and the quality of life during the lockdown.

The net internal migration was down in all Australian capital cities, aside from in Perth

and Brisbane. Sydney was the most heavily impacted. Despite this, Melbourne had the largest population increase, growing by 80,000 people.

International arrivals in Murrindindi in 2020 were down by only nine, compared to the previous year, with 78 compared to 87. Overseas departures were up slightly, with 40 internationals leaving the shire in 2020 compared to 34 in 2019.

The overall population in Murrindindi Shire continued to climb, in a slow and steady way. The population in 2017 was 14,234, and in 2020 it stood at 14,661.

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Standard
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Vicki Combridge with her artworks, showing at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre. -S

Vicki Combridge showing at information centre

VICKI Combridge is the artist of the month at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre. Her paintings are often inspired by nature or country life, as well as the occasional scenic view.

Her painting of the Goughs Bay sunset was created from a photograph taken near the boat club, while her Seaford Pier painting was based on a photo taken by her husband's nephew. She found the

colours irresistible and knew she had to paint them.

The butterflies are a flight of fancy, and the lioness was part of a series. It originally had the cub creeping up on her, but Vicki decided that the lioness looked more mysterious on her own.

The boobook owls are her favourite breed of owl, and she loves their big yellow eyes.

She also paints an ongoing series of *Three Naked Ladies*, which people may have seen at Redgate Espresso or Made in Mansfield. She is currently working on a new series, which she hopes to produce as a calendar.

Her wire sculptures keep her very busy and she will have some larger pieces at the Within the Land exhibition in Acheron.

"As long as I am creating something, I am happy," she said.

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SUDOKU

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TRIVIA
Timber worker statue – Rotary Park Alexandra

KIDS - SUDOKU

1	3	2	5	6	4
6	4	5	1	2	3
5	2	3	4	1	6
4	1	6	3	5	2
2	5	4	6	3	1
3	6	1	2	4	5

Celebration of the life of Wytze (Vince) Kylstra

COME and join the Kylstra family and friends on Saturday, April 17 between 1 and 5pm to help celebrate the life of Wytze Kylstra (Vince).

More details will be provided in next week's *Standard*. If you'd like to contribute to the ceremony or celebration please contact Eva via email to ekylstra@yahoo.com or phone 0426 386 320.

Classifieds

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Classified information

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IN MEMORIAM

SMITH, (Hall) Rhonda Kaye

April 10, 1990
In loving memory of our daughter, sister and aunty. So loved, so sadly missed. Forever in our hearts.



DEATH NOTICES



KYLSTRA, Wytze (Vince)

Whanregarwen CFA Captain Steve Prothero and members are greatly saddened by the sudden passing of Wytze and offer our sincere condolences to the Kylstra family. Wytze was a valued long-term member of our brigade and was Captain from 1996 to 2000. He was an inspiration, great friend and mentor to us and to the wider community. We will miss him.



DEATH NOTICES



KYLSTRA, Wytze
A loved and respected member of the CFA. Our condolences to his wife and family from the Acheron Fire Brigade.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service

The Shaw family would like to extend an invitation to the community to attend a memorial service

One Year On
to celebrate the life of **Ashley 'JOHN' Shaw** 23/08/1932-17/03/2020 (aged 87)

Loving husband of Gwen (dec), adored father and father-in-law/friend of Marty and Karen, Warren and Heather, Ross and Carolyn and Elle and Jason.

Saturday, April 10 Time: 2pm

Place: Yarck Hall

Pre-registration through McCormack Funerals is preferred, thank you.



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MEETINGS



The Yea Show AGM will be held on Tuesday April 13, 7.30pm at the Tennis Club Rooms.
Rodney Ridd - secretary
0417 340 838

MEETINGS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT INC.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6pm. Alexandra Library, Grant Street. Alexandra. New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee positions available from the library or from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au. For more information please phone 0423 043 564.

YARCK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AGM AND POST SEASON MEETING will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 6.30pm in the fire station meeting room. Supper is provided. All welcome.

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Standard

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Gum Trees

by Roger Gibson

Gum Trees

Me name's Gary, me mates call me Gazza

Gum trees to the left of me, gum trees to the right:

as I ride across this ancient place; oh, what a splendid sight.

Criss-crossing our amazing land with a million miles of roads,

I sit high up in me comfy cab carrying freight and heavy loads.

Some think it must be boring but let me put your mind at ease,

as I move round, what I love most, are our awesome Aussie trees.

Of course, I don't know all their names, too many to make the call

but as I travel, I talk to them, as with good friends in a mall.

I speak to them in 'Gumtree', a lingo most humans 'wood' not know

and I'm sure they understand me, as they put on their show.

We chat about the weather and how things used to be

and I hear their voices drifting back in the rustle of their leaves.

They stare across the searing plains and gaze up at the sky,

and beckon to the taunting clouds as they drift slowly by.

They've seen swirling floods, felt white-hot flames and bent before the wind

with bowing heads, as if in prayer, as though they may have sinned.

As wild storms rage, they hold their breath while being stripped bare of their leaves;

and often these heartless, rampant gales return like common thieves.

As the bright sun rises and I escape into the morning chill,

me fearless friends, good as gold, are waiting for me still.

I start chatting with them once again and find they're all the same,

solid, dinkum Aussie Gums, neither seeking wealth nor fame.

One of the things about gums trees I think I like the best

are their unassuming natures; their fine characters and zest.

Today I'm in me big B-Double travelling with a mate,

I'll introduce him to a some of me friends as we go interstate;

let him get to meet them firsthand, have a chat, hear what they say,

and enjoy their sterling company as I do every day.

Sprawling down the gullies, deep, and climbing mountain sides,

marching across the openplains, spread through paddocks wide.



The impounded dirt bikes. -S

Rides cut short

FOUR metropolitan dirt bikers had their weekend ride cut short after being caught riding without a licence in Kevington on Sunday, April 4.

Officers from the State Highway Patrol Solo Unit were patrolling Poletti Track when they observed four motorbikes travelling in mountainous terrain about 11.10am.

Police intercepted the group and performed roadside drug and alcohol tests on each rider. They included a 30-year-old Clayton South man, a 30-year-old Braeside man, a 33-year-old Glen Waverley man, and a 36-year-old Springvale man.

All returned a negative result and were about to ride away unscathed until police conducted vehicle checks and discovered the riders were unlicensed.

The men had their bikes impounded and are expected to be charged on summons with traffic offences including unlicensed riding, unregistered motorcycle and using

motorcycles which fail to comply for standards of registration.

State Highway Patrol Solo Unit Senior Sergeant John Papas said, "We want all Victorian riders to enjoy all that the country tracks have to offer, but we also want them to return home safely.

"No matter how remotely you ride, you can expect to be intercepted by police at any time.

This impound formed part of Operation Nexus, a five-day focus on keeping the community safe on the roads during the Easter long weekend.

The state-wide operation aimed to reduce road trauma, including the number of lives lost and injuries on our roads.

The operation involved all available personnel including local road policing units, general duties, other operational policing units and centralised resources from Road Policing Command.

Road to recovery looks bright in regional Victoria

REGIONAL Victoria continues to recover from the global coronavirus pandemic with 4600 people finding a job in the three months to February this year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics employment data released today confirms employment was up in regional Victoria while the unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent is well below its September 2020 peak of 5.2 per cent.

Victoria's regional unemployment rate dropped by 0.1 percentage points in the three months to February compared to the previous three months, sitting well below the national regional average of 5.5 per cent.

This announcement added to the news released by ABS data last week which showed 236,800 jobs have been created in Victoria since September 2020.

The Victorian Budget 2020/21 had the Jobs Plan as its centrepiece because a job means certainty and security for workers and their families.

This huge boost in employment shows that Victoria is well on the path to reaching its target of creating 400,000 jobs by 2025, with the latest figures already exceeding the interim target of 200,000 new jobs by 2022.

The Victorian Government understands that 2020 was unrelenting for all Victorians, but especially regional Victorians with summer bushfires and the coronavirus pandemic. To assist regional communities, the state government is making unprecedented investments to get all Victorians back to work.

To support businesses and jobs in the regions, the Budget invested \$465 million in the Victorian Tourism Recovery Package, which includes the Gippsland Tourism Recovery Package and new funding for the Mallee's Silo Art projects, as well as 120,000 vouchers, each worth \$200 to entice more people to visit and stay in regional Victoria.

Regional Victoria has experienced the strongest job growth among the regional areas of the states at 11.9 per cent since 2019.

Treasurer Tim Pallas said that these statistics show a positive sign as Victorians return back to business.

"More people have found a job in Victoria than any other state since we were elected in November 2014 and we're getting on with creating new jobs and investing in the infrastructure and services all Victorians need and deserve," he said.

Aussies alarmingly complacent about exercise and heart health: new data

THE Heart Foundation has launched a program to motivate more people to take up regular walking, as new research reveals Australians' alarmingly high complacency about physical activity and heart health.

In a Heart Foundation survey of more than 7000 Australian adults, two in three (65 per cent) said they know that exercise can lower their risk of heart disease, the nation's single leading cause of death.

Yet concerningly, two-thirds of these people also said that they do not meet Australian physical activity guidelines (30 minutes of moderate physical activity five or more days a week).

At the same time, 44 per cent of survey respondents said they have been told by their doctor that they need to be more active.

"Our research suggests that while many Australians know that movement is good for their hearts, and they have been

advised by their doctor to be more active, they are not acting on this," Heart Foundation Group CEO, Adjunct Professor John Kelly said.

"Overall, around one in two Australians aged 18 to 64, that's almost eight million people, are not active enough for good heart health. This is extremely concerning given physical inactivity is a key risk factor for heart disease, which takes 50 Australian lives each day, or one every 29 minutes."

To encourage more Australians to get moving, the Heart Foundation has launched its Personal Walking Plans.

In this free, six-week program, participants will receive a walking plan tailored to their current activity levels, as identified during an easy, two-minute sign-up process.

Plans will be delivered via weekly emails and texts, which are designed not only to support and motivate participants, but

also to deliver information about the many benefits of walking beyond fitness and heart health.

"This is a vital component of the Personal Walking Plans, because as our survey shows, simply understanding that physical activity is good for the heart does not equate to getting off the couch," Professor Kelly said.

"Over this six week journey with us, participants will learn about some of the lesser-known benefits of regular walking, like unwinding at the end of a stressful day; exploring their neighbourhood; becoming stronger and more flexible; and improving their mood."

This is in addition to walking's other incredible health benefits, Professor Kelly said.

"Walking for an average of 30 minutes a day can reduce your risk of not only heart disease, but also stroke, diabetes, dementia and some cancers. It can also help maintain healthy

blood pressure, cholesterol and weight."

"That's why we often call walking a 'wonder drug'. If it were a medicine, we would all be taking it daily for longer, healthier, happier lives.

"By highlighting the unique and holistic benefits of walking, we are confident of recruiting an enthusiastic new generation to our Heart Foundation Walking family, while also continuing our mission to save Australian lives from heart disease."

The Heart Foundation's Personal Walking Plans have been developed by the organisation's experts in physical activity and exercise science, with input from consultants at Exercise and Sports Science Australia.

To get started with a free Heart Foundation Personal Walking Plan, visit walking.org.au

Town water stoppage

Alexandra and Yea Standard, Friday, January 18, 1907.

FOLLOWING the recent stoppage of the town water supply, the dust of Monday last caused further annoyance; in fact it was a sickener. The uncertainty of our water supply, the threats of having meters put in, water cut off, and prosecution and on top of this an increase of rate, bringing the amount up to 2s. in the £, have caused unpleasant murmurings.

In fact, people do not know what to do. Here we have a never-failing supply of water close to our homesteads, yet it appears the

people are hindered from using what they have dearly to pay for.

Does it not appear ridiculous that the cost is so great to keep the reservoir full? The advent of a new engine-driver, and one who would supply his own wood, was thought to be just what was required, yet, we find on the very first occasion a heavy demand is made for water, that the reservoir is almost drained, or, in fact, so much so that it took over 12 hours to fill.

It was stated when the present engine-driver was appointed, that he would "never be able to make his salt."

Judging by the report, which we published last week, this is being

proved. It is a fact that the present season has been the coolest experienced for many years, consequently less water is used, and we are certainly of opinion that no more waste than usual was going on when the residents were suddenly left without sufficient water.

Besides, complaints have continually been made during the past two months. According to the enormous amount of water alleged by the engine-driver to have been used recently, is it not possible that a stoppage will again occur at any moment, notwithstanding the turning off at stated hours?

Depriving ratepayers of water is grossly unjust, especially when the rate has been increased. The suggestion of Commissioner Hamilton that a gravitation scheme be adopted is worthy of consideration, as the matter of firewood appears to be the sole drawback to the present one.

The installation of the new boiler will not take place this summer that is a certainty, therefore it behoves householders and others to be as sparing as possible during the next few weeks.

By doing this, the engine driver will be better able to keep the supply at full force. There is no doubt water has been wasted, but not to the alarming extent stated.

On Tuesday our reporter visited the various business places, and was an eye witness to the destruction by the dust fiend. The displays of summer millinery, and fancy goods in the various shops were literally covered in dust and in many instances valuable articles were destroyed. This, we think, could be avoided.

The day man in the employ of the council was approached with the idea of the hydrant being brought into play, but he refused to water the trouts unless instructed. This is surprising when it is understood that a large sum is annually voted to this trust by the council for the very purpose.

Funds available for logging transition

THE Victorian Government says that it is continuing to back communities affected by changes to native timber harvesting with targeted funding to help manage the transition and seek new job opportunities.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas announced the Local Development Strategy grants of up to \$400,000, available to 11 key forestry communities where native timber harvesting and processing is an important source of jobs and economic activity.

The grants will be available to local groups who can work with their council and the Victorian Forestry Plan Transition Team to help safeguard the community's economic future.

Through the grants, communities will be able to undertake long-term diversification planning to support their local economy and adapt to new industries, increasing job opportunities for workers.

The areas where groups will be eligible for Local Development Strategy grants are Noojee, Benalla, Orbost, Swifts Creek, Nowa Nowa, Koondrook, Murrindindi area (Alexandra, Taggerty and Marysville), Corryong, Heyfield, Yarram, Yarra Ranges (Powelltown, Yarra Junction and Warburton).

Implementation of the community plans will be supported by the \$36 million Victorian Forestry Plan Transition Fund, which will be available more broadly across the state.

The Forestry Business Transition Voucher program has also been extended to allow more forestry businesses to apply for tailored and specialist support.

Voucher applications are now open until November 30, with up to \$25,000 available to help forestry-dependent businesses assess their capabilities, options and strategies for transition.

These programs are part of the Victorian Government's \$120 million Victorian Forestry Plan, designed to support communities and businesses through the transition away from using native timber.

For more information about the support available visit vic.gov.au/forestry.

Let there be light at the Alexandra Football Ground



Screwing in the first bolts on the first lighting tower at the Alexandra Football Grounds. -AR

The first of four new lighting towers being installed at the Alexandra Football Grounds. -AR

Youth Survey 2021 is open

MISSION Australia's *Youth Survey 2021* is now open. Young people aged 15 to 19 across Victoria and nationwide are encouraged to have their say.

Celebrating its 20th year, the *Youth Survey* is the largest online survey of its kind and provides important insights into the experiences and views of young people.

In 2021 as the impacts of COVID-19 become clearer, it

is important for young people from Victoria to express their aspirations, issues and concerns. Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* provides a critical platform for young people to do just that.

The *Youth Survey 2020* was completed by more than 25,800 young people aged between 15 and 19 years, including 5826 young people in Victoria.

Last year, young people from Victoria nominated *COVID-19*,

equity and discrimination, and mental health as the most important issues facing Australia today.

A higher proportion of young people in Victoria nominated *COVID-19* and *mental health* as the most important issues facing Australia today, compared with other states such as NSW. This perhaps is a reflection on the long and strict Victorian lockdown measures, as well as the higher

number of cases experienced in Victoria compared to other states.

Almost half of respondents from Victoria said coping with stress was their top issue of personal concern. Body image and mental health were nominated the next two issues of most concern.

Youth Survey 2021 is expected to close Monday, August 9. To take part in the survey, visit missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey

SPORT

Night clay target shoot

Mansfield Clay Target Club report by Marty McLachlan

THE Mansfield Clay Target Club night shoot was held on Saturday, April 3 in calm and fine conditions. The evening attracted a small field of shooters, many of whom stayed in town and attended the day shoot the following morning.

The program included the North East Zone night 25 target tower point-score, NEZ 25 target tower single barrel and finally the state night 40 mixed targets. Competitors from other neighbouring clubs included Alexandra, Woods Point, Cosgrove, Euroa, and Echuca.

Event one was underway under lights soon after sunset. With the Echuca father and son combo setting a high standard for the evening, Colin Finn overall 72 out of a possible 75, and Peter Finn took out AA grade on 66, Mansfield A Grade local Anthony Kirley 67, B and C Grades also went Mansfield way with Phillip Desmond 68 and John Winters 69.

With no shoot-offs it was straight into event two, the 25-target single barrel tower. Colin Finn, overall with 24. AA Grade Peter Finn 23, A Grade Anthony Kirley 17,

B Grade Allan Kidd 18, C Grade John Winters 18.

The big trap event, mixed targets, comprised 10 target double barrel, 10 target single, 10 target points and five pair double rise with a maximum score of 60, this was a State Title event. Daniel Chinn was victorious with a great score of 56. AA Grade was taken by Anthony Kirley 52. A Grade was a tie with Marty McLachlan and Colin Finn both on 45, Marty came up trumps after a 14 point shoot off. C Grade was taken out by Kirsten Chinn on 42 over John Desmond by a single point. After presentations it was home for a break to return the following morning.

The Sunday event was made up of 50 target skeet and 20 target tower. Things kicked off at 10.30am with a larger gathering than Saturday with five squads. Colin Finn once again demonstrated his ability with an overall result of 49 equalled by Corowa member Royce Wojtowycz. Colin won the shoot-off with a result of 51 from 52 targets giving him overall and Royce A Grade. Wangaratta's Mark McDonald AA Grade on 45. Peter Finn won B Grade with 48



Some of the winners: Phil Wojtowycz (Corowa), Royce Wojtowycz (Corowa), Lachlan McDonald (Wangaratta), Colin Finn and Peter Finn (Echuca). -S

and, Phil Wojtowycz C Grade with 44. Other winners were Junior High Gun Lachlan McDonald 41, Ladies High Gun Leslie Wojtowycz 41, and Veteran High Gun Brian Reid 48. This event was co-hosted and sponsored very generously by the Wangaratta CTC skeet shooters with Mansfield Clay Target Club honoured to host the Atwood Law Annual Cup. Trophies were awarded for overall and Junior High Gun and first and second prizes in each grade.

Rounding up a big weekend was the final 20 target tower event, being a cash divide, there were no shoot-offs with drawn results splitting the kitty. AA Grade was shared by Royce Wojtowycz and Russel Barnes each with a perfect score. B Grade was taken out by Allan Kidd 17 and C Grade was also a tie between Kirsten Chinn and Phil Wojtowycz on 17.

Mansfield Clay Target Gun hosts their next competition Saturday, April 17 with another 75-target night shoot back-to-back with the Anzac Memorial 90 target events on Sunday.

The club is family focused with lunch provided. Junior shooters are sponsored by the club with fees waived for all competitions. If you are interested in attending

for a shoot or to have a look at the facilities just turn up to the club, Pikes Road Mansfield. Thursday practice sessions will continue post daylight savings from 4.30pm. All welcome to come along and have a try, no licence required for first time shooters, just turn up, or for more information telephone Marty 0439 102 285.

Interesting day on Eildon course

Eildon golf report by Puttamatic

A GREAT autumn day saw a three-person ambrose played at Eildon Golf Club. Nearest the pin on the 12th was Leigh Munro and on the 14th Andrew Paice. Day winners were the four-person group of John Beale, Lyn Capp, Rod Taylor, and Ian Lakeland (11¼) 57¾, runners-up were the trio of John and Jan Matthews, and Andrew Paice (5) 62. Entry draw to Ian Lakeland, swindle to Donny Reid and pick for the joker to Kevin King.

An interesting day was had by all as they negotiated the course with 46 Riverside Caravan parkers playing their four-person ambrose challenge, with some green fee players as well.

Next Saturday will be a stableford event, see you there.

Golfers enjoy Easter Saturday on the course

Alexandra golf report by Elizabeth Goss

ON a glorious autumn day, 31 players enjoyed Easter Saturday with a three-person ambrose at the Alexandra Golf Club. It was good to welcome visitors Sam, Dave, Joel, and others from the Breakaway Caravan Park to join in the fun. The family team of Corey Jack, Dylan Jack and Jason Krijt were the winners with 61(6½) 54½. The runners-up were Jarrod Williams, Len Jenkins, and Sam Creighton with 67(8½) 58½ and not far behind Mick Holohan, Russell Purcell, and Trevor Biffin 69(7½) 61½. Nearest the pin on the second was Matt Jenkins, on the fifth Brad Newton, on the seventh Sam Creighton, on the 12th Corey Jack, and on the 18th Dave Giliam. Next Saturday is stroke, Monthly Medal and the third round of the Golden Putter. Names in by 10.30 for noon hit off.

There was a great turn out on Tuesday, March 30 with 17 players including Colin from Eildon, and

James and Sam putting in their first cards. The winner with an excellent round was Colin Long (18) 40 points, the runner-up was Brad Newton (10) 38 points. Nearest the pin on the 17th was Peter Vallance, and on the 18th James Fulton. Ball run down to Neil Robinson, Peter Vallance, Michael Bossonett and Bob Dodge. Names in by 11.30 for noon hit off.

Last Wednesday was a par round and some good scores. The Division One winner was Barb Doyle with (15) +2 and the runner-up was Marg Fahey (14) -1. The Division Two winner was Lyn Capp with (32) +3 and the runner-up was Pauline Brooks (31) +1. The nine-hole winner was Ruth Worland +2. Nearest the pin on the fifth was Judy Pearson and on the 12th Lyn Capp, and on the 18th Pauline Brooks. Next Wednesday, April 14 is a 4BBB. It is also an opportunity to celebrate one of the club's past lady members, Lena Hortin, who did so much for the club. Names in by 8.30 for 9am hit off.



TEDFNC opens grant round to community organisations

report by Matthew Herridge

THORNTON Eildon District Football Netball Club (TEDFNC) has announced the opening of a grant round for organisations within the Murrindindi Shire for the purpose of community engagement.

The total round one grant funds are \$3000. Applications opened on March 30 and will close June 30, 2021.

Grants of \$500 are available for any organisation within the Murrindindi Shire and if approved must be spent within two months at sponsors of TEDFNC.

TEDFNC will provide a list of approved sponsors that applicants can order stock or services from

to the value of \$500 and will arrange payment on behalf of the approved applicant.

To be successful in obtaining the grant, applicants will need to email tedfnc@outlook.com and in 100 to 200 words explain why their organisation requires the grant.

A representative from the organisation applying will also be required to attend two committee meetings and undertake 10 hours of volunteering for the TEDFNC to indicate their commitment to community engagement.

For more information call Matthew Herridge on 0400 144 211 or email tedfnc@outlook.com

CBD finals held at Yea

Yea bowls report by Viv Cavanagh

BOTH the Division 1 and Division 2 Central Bowls Division Pennant Finals were held at the Yea Bowls Club recently. Due to a wash-out during the Division 2 game the teams returned the following week

to finish the competition.

On March 20, Kilmore 81 defeated Broadford 60 in the Division 1 grand final.

The Division 2 grand final was played on March 21 and 27. Wallan 82 defeated Seymour VRI 44.



The pennant winners in division one. -S



The pennant winners in division two. -S



The Alexandra junior tennis players in section five at the BDJTA Summer Games were runners up after a great effort. Alex Southam, Dylan Rule, Mathew Thomas and Jack Fallon. Tim Thomas was absent. -S



The Alexandra section four junior tennis players in the BDJTA Summer Games won the premiership. Oliver Hoornweg, Kalan Lyttle, Will Fallon and James Gilmore. Mia Fitzpatrick was absent. -S

Golfers pleased to play a club competition on home course

Marysville golf report by Lesley Rundle

THE Marysville Golf Club members have recently played in the Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra, Yea and Eildon and hosted the Lakeside Challenge and the Sandy Wilson Memorial Bowl, so it was pleasing to play a club competition on their home course as outlined in the syllabus.

The course looks stunning as the trees bask in their autumn colours. While playing on Saturday some of the big fir trees decided to shed their pollen and golfers were treated to a mist of fine yellow pollen as they made their way around the course. Players played a stroke round for the April Monthly Medal. The ladies winner was Margaret Blair (31) with nett 72 and Heather Jenkins (18) was the runner-up with nett 75 on a countback from Helen Howard and Rebecca Lee. The men's winner was Ming Kuan (13) with an excellent nett 66 followed by Paul Martin (33) with nett 67. The nearest the pins were won by Greg Waugh on the fourth, Peter Lilley on the ninth, Mim Page on the 11th, and Sam Coleman, a visitor from Torquay, on the 18th. Yewls Kuan won the putting with 27 putts. Peter and Sam also won the Golden Shot.

On Monday, March 29 three ladies travelled to Trentham to play in the Dalhousie Jean Wallder Bowl. They enjoyed the Trentham course and the day and congratulated the Kilmore team for winning the Bowl. The three ladies had a two hour drive each way to play at Trentham and members thank them for representing Marysville at this event.

On Thursday six ladies will travel to Romsey to play in their annual Bowl.

Next Saturday the Marysville members will host the Tour Elephants Social Group as they play the annual challenge. Members are asked to note that the stableford game is an 8.30 arrival for a 9am tee off.

Alexandra to host veterans cricket matches

ALEXANDRA Cricket Club will hold its end of season Presentation Night at the Corner Hotel Alexandra on April 9.

There are still further matches however, on Monday, April 12, Wednesday 14 and Friday 16 Alexandra Cricket Club will host the Victorian Veterans Cricket Association who will be playing over 60s cricket at Leckie Park. Some fabulous cricket will be on display so come along and enjoy the games.

For further information contact the club president Darren Waixel on 0408 576 758.

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Easter weekend speedway meeting attracts top competitors

Alexandra Speedway report
by Dean Thompson

IT is becoming nearly impossible to stop him, Anthony Beare from Mount Gambier has won his seventh Victorian Street Stock title, this time at Alexandra Speedway when he defeated a class field on the fast flowing and popular track. Beare was among a host of popular winners on the Easter weekend meeting with Josh Service, Kacey Ingram, James Oliver, and Dylan Barrow also securing victory in their classes.

The Victorian Street Stock title had attracted cars from New South Wales, South Australia, and all over Victoria to compete, with a healthy number of locals also lining up. Eight qualifiers and a preliminary final for each driver on Friday night started the action before the final two qualifiers and the feature race action on Saturday.

There was almost no better way to start the weekend's racing than when on Friday night Alexandra club chief steward Dale Morrison, on a night off from official duties, was a popular winner in the first heat race, leading to the finish three other Alexandra members to make up the first four.

Steven Watts from Warrnambool, Ricky Cornwall from Kilsyth, and Beare won first round qualifiers. Adrian Lawrence from Traralgon, Beare and Cornwall both making it two from two, and Jacob Mills from Victoria's North East were winners in round two.

Friday night closed with wins to Anthony Beare from Morris Ahearn of Bendigo, and Jason Duell in one preliminary final while in the other, Mills defeated Geelong based racer Jason Degoldi, and Shane Roycroft from Kialla in the other.

A night of socialising and a morning of repairs was followed by the final nights racing with Morrison once again kicking off the action with a win. Beare making it three wins from three starts to this point, Matt Nelson from Woori Yallock and Lawrence took race wins in round three, before David Barrie. Beare making a clean sweep of four wins from four starts. Roycroft and Degoldi won in the final qualifiers.

After a last chance qualifier elevated the first four finishers the feature race, a marathon 35 laps on the 570-metre-long

track was to be a gruelling test. Early in the feature race top qualifier Beare led Ahearn, Cornwall, Degoldi, and Roycroft. Lawrence brought himself into the battle with Roycroft then Cornwall being dislodged from the front pack a third of the race in. Watts slotted into the top five and by lap 15 Degoldi was second behind Beare.

Watts was dislodged from the lead pack and New South Wales visitor Chris Marino slotted into the podium position. When the chequered flag unfurled to end the title race Beare had a six second victory margin from

Degoldi, Ahearn, Marino, and Lawrence the top Alexandra member to finish.

Across the weekend Beare set new one lap, 10 lap and 15 lap records for the class and continued his reign as the 'G.O.A.T' of Street Stock racing with a seventh Victorian title to go along with his four national titles and nine South Australian titles and multiple other titles around Australia.

Junior Sedan action saw Wandin racer and Alexandra member Dylan Barrow pick up a Top Star class feature win in an all-Alexandra member podium in front

of Jayden Bryant, Breanna Simpson, Jack Randall, and Seth Sloane. Barrows was never headed in the feature race winning by just .331 of a second at the finish line as Bryant tried in vain to take the win.

James Oliver was too classy in the New Star class of Juniors as he won by over four seconds from Maddy Capon, the returning Rye Orme, his sister Christine Oliver, and the visiting Miller Throckmorton. James led all the way from the drop of the green flag to pick up back-to-back wins at the venue.

In Sports Sedan action the crowd-pleasing popular club class saw popular club man Josh Service winning in a class line up from Brendan Miller, Steve Kershaw, Dale Smith, and Steven Akil in another all-Alexandra podium result. Consistent laps from Service at the front of the field kept a distance between him and those who had to work their way through several positional battles trying to catch up.

Finally, young gun Kacey Ingram from Warragul won the Standard Saloon final, defeating Jeff Oldfield, Wayne Sheerman, Victor Benson, and Jaimi Barber from Benalla. Ingram, visiting Alexandra for the first time as an adult racer, took the lead from Sheerman on lap nine of 15 and took a feature race win.

Alexandra Speedway is back again on May 8 with dog leg circuit racing including the popular Crash and Bash Class, a Ladies Open Sedan feature and club classes.



Anthony Beare from Mount Gambier, the new Victorian Champion in street stocks. -S



On the podium: third Morris Ahearn from Bendigo, first Anthony Beare, and third Jason Degoldi from Geelong. -S



AUSSIE HOOPS BASKETBALL IS BACK IN 2021

Aussie Hoops Basketball is due to commence at the Alexandra Community Leisure Centre on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 5pm-6pm for Term 2.

Aussie Hoops is all about learning to play basketball in a fun and safe environment. Open to all children aged 5 (must be in Preps/Foundation) to 10 years old who are beginners.

Keep your eyes open for registration details on the Alexandra District Basketball Assoc website, in your school newsletter, or on Facebook during the school holidays and early next term.

Any queries can be directed to Mandy Gesler Mobile 0417 112 533 or gesler@virtual.net.au