

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, December 22, 2021 \$1.50 inc. GST



Marysville Primary School's prep to grade two students delivering Christmas cards on Wednesday, December 15. -AR

Hamish Mackie joins the Alexandra Pharmacy

HAMISH Mackie has joined the team at the Alexandra Pharmacy. He's come from Perth in Western Australia, where he grew up, and worked in Victoria for about three months prior to coming to Alexandra. He has also previously worked in Tasmania.

He commented that "it's been difficult" moving house during a global pandemic. "Most of my stuff is back in WA. It definitely has been tricky, coming from the least COVID-19 infected state in the world to the most heavily regulated state in the world," he said.

He's been living and working in Alexandra for around six weeks, and has found it to be a really friendly community. "The community feels really nice," he said. "It's nice walking into shops and people know you, even though I don't know them. Everyone's taking the time to get to know me."

All of his family are back in Western Australia, and he's on his own in town. Although he's done a lot of short term stints over the last five or six years, he's hoping that he will stay in his role at the Alexandra Pharmacy for a long time.

In his personal life, he has been an active Rotary member, and was previously a youth director for a club in Western Australia. He's

also competitor in triathlons and iron man events, and is a triathlon coach. "People are more than likely to see me out running, or at the pool in the morning doing some laps," he said. He added, "the rail trail is really nice."

Asked whether he was good at reading doctors' handwriting, Hamish said, "I can read my own handwriting. My own handwriting is probably just as bad as theirs,

although I don't think we've got anyone who's terrible in town which is really nice."

"I'm happy to be here, and anything people need, they can come and have a chat with me. They can even stop me on the street if they see me and chew my ear off," he said.

The Alexandra Pharmacy have booster doses of Moderna available on January 8 and Pfizer on January 22. Call 5772 2153 to make a booking.



Lisha Thomas, new pharmacist Hamish Mackie and Cinoj Thomas, all from the Alexandra Pharmacy. -S

Rotary Park and Visitor Activity Precinct plans available

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is pleased to present the detailed design for the Alexandra Rotary Park and Visitor Activity Precinct, previously known as the Alexandra Youth Precinct or Alexandra Rotary Park Play Space.

Following community consultation in 2018 and 2019 on a draft masterplan to link Hec Ingram Reserve and the Rotary Park playground together as one precinct, council applied to the Victorian Government for grant funding to help deliver the project for the Alexandra community.

Council has announced that the Victorian Government has granted \$1.05 million in funding for the project, which will see the development of a pump track in Hec Ingram Reserve, a play space in Rotary Park and aesthetic improvements to the area, including the open grassed and landscaped areas. With council's contribution of \$500,000, this brings the project's total value to \$1.55 million

Council's Red Gate Ward Councillor Damien Gallagher said the project aims to deliver a facility of regional significance and he thanked the Victorian Government for its generous funding support.

"Rotary Park is an important recreational hub for the Alexandra community, especially young people. It is also a fantastic spot for visitors to stop in and relax, including those with young children. Thanks to everyone who contributed their ideas and feedback on the masterplan. We look forward to the design for the precinct serving the community well in coming years.

"The funding we've received from the Victorian Government will help us create an attractive and functional space. With the park only a short walk from the main shopping precinct in Alexandra, it's perfectly positioned to encourage people of all ages to get active and spend time in the area. The pump track and skate park will also provide a valuable social space for young people in Alexandra.

"Council is currently inviting suitably-qualified contractors to submit a tender bid for the construction of the project. Once a successful contractor is appointed, construction will commence early next year.

For more information about the project and to view the detailed design, please visit council's online community engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au or give council a call on 5772 0333.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



The Alexandra Standard office will be CLOSED from 3pm Wednesday, December 22 - we will RE-OPEN at 9am Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

The Yea Chronicle office will be CLOSED from 1pm Wednesday, December 22 - and will RE-OPEN at 10am Wednesday, January 26, 2022

The Yea Chronicle

The first edition of 2022 will be Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Standard

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Standard The Yea Chronicle
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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	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1 st Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 st Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
2 nd Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 nd Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 rd Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probuss Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3 rd Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 rd Sun	Alexandra RSL. CLOSED due to COVID. Ph 0409 950 913
4 th Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Fri after	3 rd Tue Field Naturalists excursion Ph 5772 1189
Last Fri	Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS Pty Ltd

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.



Letters to the Editor

Legacy Christmas Party

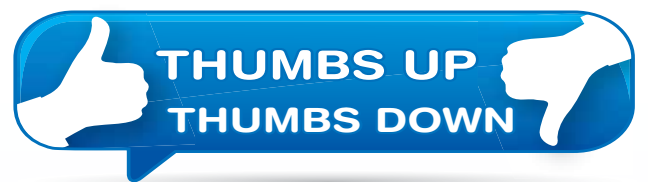
I WAS very surprised to read in last week's *Alexandra Standard* about the Legacy Christmas Party. No invitation was ever received at Darlingford, and as there are several Legacy widows residing here, I wonder why. Did anyone living in Eildon get an invitation I wonder.

I found it all rather sad, as I have been a Legacy widow for almost 40 years now, and will be until I pass away. Usually all Legacy widows receive an invitation to these parties, even if they are unable to attend.

Kathleen Chanter, Eildon



A Murrindindi Shire Council worker had a lucky escape on Monday, December 20, after the ride-on mower they were operating tipped into UT Creek, near Grant Street. They were taken to hospital for assessment. One of the side windows broke when the mower landed in the creek, with the clean up of the glass likely to be challenging. It is pictured here after it had been righted. -AR



THUMBS UP: Thank you to Sandice McCauley, our ex-mayor and current ward councillor for being our COVID-19 marshall and keeping us COVIDsafe for the day, as well as scavenger hunt audicator at the Buxton Community Christmas party. An example of a "roll your sleeves up" councillor.

THUMBS UP: To Anne Richey from Alexandra Newspapers for popping in to spread the word that the Buxton Community Christmas party achieved their three main objectives for the day. Children foremost on the day, bringing us back together after two tough years, and having a pared-down but COVIDsafe event.

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra Kindergarten. The professional way in which they handled a delicate family situation was exemplary. Their follow up was absolutely fantastic. Thank you to all the staff. We really appreciate the effort you went to.

THUMBS DOWN: To the crabbit individual who repeatedly kicks my rubbish bin over. You know who you

are and so do I. Whatever happened to community support?

THUMBS UP: To the beautiful upgrades to FoodWorks Alexandra. The staff are amazing.

THUMBS DOWN: To the idiot dropping wheelies in Breakaway Road who lost control of the car and smash through a farm fence. Maybe part of his rehabilitation could be to repay the landholder for the cost of repairs.

THUMBS DOWN: To the person responsible for the horse poo in front of the newsagent on Saturday morning.

THUMBS DOWN: To the people who do not pick up after their dogs throughout the town, especially in front of the new football club rooms. It's disgusting.

THUMBS DOWN: To council for not providing a rubbish bin at the Eildon basket ball courts. Thumbs down to the people who constantly leave their rubbish there as well. Very untidy area.

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

Weekly Weather

December 22, to December 28, 2021

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	24	Wednesday	8	23
Thursday	9	25	Thursday	9	24
Friday	13	29	Friday	13	29
Saturday	12	27	Saturday	12	27
Sunday	12	25	Sunday	12	24
Monday	11	24	Monday	11	24
Tuesday	12	26	Tuesday	12	26

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters published are the opinion of the writer and not necessarily the opinion of **Alexandra Newspapers**

Submit your letter via our Facebook page, email or mail
www.facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
PO Box 5 Alexandra, 3714

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

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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	1.38^	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.58	steady	
Acheron R at Taggerty	7.57am Mon	0.78	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	8.18am Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	4.50am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Yea R at Yea	6.27am Mon	0.84	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.56	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.59^	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.21^	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.31		
Goulburn R at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.49	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	9.07am Mon	1.02	steady	

****ISSUED AT 9.15AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021****

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra*	N/Amm
Buxton	8mm
Eildon (AWS)	9mm
Flowerdale	4mm
Kinglake	2mm
Lake Eildon	9mm
Marysville	N/Amm
Strath Creek	N/Amm
Taggerty	5mm
Yarck	9mm
Yea	3mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
*Alexandra totals supplied from www.alexandraweather.org	

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.65m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	87.4%
Metres below full supply	3.25m
Daily inflow	3500ML
Release	1700ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	46%

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

Volunteering awards

NOMINATIONS are now open for the 2021 Volunteering Awards. Nominating a worthy individual allows to recognise and honour the incredible efforts of people making a difference every day.

Victorians have pulled together like never before over the past two years, supporting each other through COVID-19. Now is the time to say thank you to the thousands of volunteers, organisations and leaders who have made a difference.

For the first time, the 2021 Volunteering Awards are being combined with the Premier's Volunteer Champion Awards to recognise and honour the thousands of people across our state who give their time, energy, and skills to support others.

Nominations are open until 5pm on January 14, 2022.

There are seven categories open to direct nomination. Individuals can be entered in Volunteering Pathways to Skills and Community Inclusion, Inclusive Volunteering, Volunteering Leadership, or Volunteering Partnerships. Volunteer-involving organisations can be entered in COVID-19 Support and Connection, COVID-19 Resilience, and COVID-19 Innovation.

Boosting sustainable hunting

THE next phase of the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan (SHAP) 2021-2024 has announced, backed by \$5.3 million funding from the Victorian Government. The four year plan will support the state's 60,000 licenced game hunters, improve animal welfare and help facilitate important research.

The government is providing \$1 million to increase the role of Traditional Owners in managing the land where hunting takes place. This funding will be provided to implement the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy, which was a key achievement of the most recent Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. Members of the Traditional Owner community led the development of the strategy.

New grants for community initiatives will be available under the strategy to fund a range of activities such as regional game food events, habitat restoration and conservation projects, hunter education and research.

The strategy also outlines the need for better access to information about hunting locations by enhancing the 'More to Explore App', as well as new education programs through online learning modules and improving animal welfare through wounding reduction action plans.

Hunting is a popular recreational activity in Victoria that makes a significant contribution to the economy. Game licence holders added an estimated \$356 million to the Victorian economy in 2019, supporting around 3100 full time equivalent jobs.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas said, "Safe, responsible and sustainable game hunting makes an important contribution to our regional economy."

"I'm excited to see the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy being put into practice. It offers opportunities for Aboriginal communities to manage Country while sharing their traditional values and practices."

Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy Project Control Group Chair Rodney Carter added, "It is great to see the Government supporting opportunities for Traditional Owners to manage Country and pass on knowledge and wisdom to future generations so they can maintain strong connections to the land."

Police pleading for care on roads this Christmas

DESPITE spending much of this year in lockdown, Victoria has already surpassed the number of lives lost on Victorian roads in 2020 when 211 deaths were recorded.

With a busy festive period anticipated on the roads, Victoria Police have launched Operation Roadwise, a statewide road policing effort targeting high-risk driving behaviour over the Christmas period.

Police will be out patrolling major arterials and highways to detect dangerous drivers and reduce road trauma.

There will be a focus on impaired driving and motorists can expect to see Victoria Police's fleet of alcohol and drug testing vehicles checking motorists at high-risk

locations. Motorists enjoying end of year celebrations are urged to think twice before consuming alcohol or drugs and getting behind the wheel.

Operation Roadwise will also see police targeting speeding drivers. Last year more than 6200 speeding offences were detected over the Christmas and New Year's period.

There were 10 lives lost between December 18, 2020 and January 6 this year.

Operation Roadwise will involve all available personnel across Victoria Police including regional Highway Patrols, State Highway Patrol, the Heavy Vehicle Unit, Road Policing Drug and Alcohol Section and Public Order Response Team.

The operation commenced at 12.01am on Friday, December 17 and concludes at 11.59pm on Sunday, December 26.

Police enforcement will continue throughout the New Year period, with a localised focus particularly in coastal locations and holiday hot spots.

For more information and tips for staying safe on the roads during the festive period, visit the Road Safety page on the Victoria Police website.

Assistant Commissioner Road Policing, Glenn Weir said, "For most of us, this is an exciting time of year with holidays fast approaching and festive cheer in full swing."

"But for the families of the 226 people who are honoured with this Christmas tree it's a sobering reminder that their loved one will not be with them."

"Road safety is everyone's responsibility. It's up to all of us to ensure we reach our destination safely."

"While we're asking everyone to slow down, not drink or take drugs and drive, and avoid distractions like mobile phones. Rest assured police will also be doing our bit and ramping up enforcement on Victorian roads."

"Please, drive safely. We don't want to see any more names added to this Christmas tree."

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- Handheld hoses can be used at any time if a trigger nozzle is attached
- Sprinklers can only be used between 6pm and 10am
- Brooms or blowers must be used to clean hard surfaces
- Use a bucket or handheld hose with a trigger nozzle to clean vehicles

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Goulburn Valley Water wishes all our customers a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

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The Alexandra & Eildon Standard, Wednesday, December 22, 2021

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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Out&About

THE items in *Out and About* are sourced from our advertising and news stories. *Out and About* is **not a free community listing diary**. Not all items can be included and are placed at the discretion of *Alexandra Newspapers*.

St Luke’s Anglican Church Yea Midnight Mass December 24 at 11.30pm. Christmas Day Service at 9.30am.

The Anglican Parish of Marysville and Buxton, Christmas Eve Marysville 11pm. Christmas Day Marysville 9.30am and St Stephens Day, December 26 Buxton 10am. All welcome.

Murrindindi Shire Council advises that the libraries and customer service centres will be closed from 1pm on Friday, December 24 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 9am.

Shire swimming pools will be closed Christmas Day. Kerbside rubbish collections will remain unchanged.

Alexandra Pro Rodeo will be held on January 8 under lights. Proof of vaccination will be required and COVID-19 restrictions will apply. Tickets available at alexandrarodeo.com.au or contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038.

Feedback is invited for the concept design for the Eildon Splash and Skate Park. Download from theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark. Feedback is open until Friday, January 21, 2022.

Yea Rotary Art Show will be held at the Yea Town Hall on January 22 to January 25 from 10am-5pm, Opening night January 21 at 7.30pm.

An update from Friends of Kellock

THANK you all very much for your help and support throughout this year. It was another difficult COVID-19 year in terms of fundraising but the team from Friends of Kellock kept going and pulled off some good fundraising with your support.

The latest event, a plant and baked goods stall at the Alexandra Timber Tramway Market on December 11, raised \$1304.

As you know, the We Care Appeal has now concluded. The aim was \$500,000 and and this was topped by

raising \$782,000. Most of that money has been raised locally, and mostly during COVID-19 months, which is testament to the level of support in the district for Kellock Lodge, that we all now own and run.

In the future, fundraising will be for specific projects for Kellock Lodge, such as audio visual equipment. We really do need you, not only to support the fundraising events, but to participate in the wider aspects of life at Kellock.

Friends of Kellock membership costs only

\$10 annually, or \$30 for life membership. The greater the membership, the merrier the band. For more information, contact Veronica Hendrickson on 0431 218 265 or email hendrickson.veronica.h@gmail.com

The Friends of Kellock committee members greatly appreciate any assistance you have given us over these last three years, and they join me in wishing you all a very happy festive season, and a peaceful, healthy new year.

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Catholic Parishes of Yea and Alexandra

Christmas Eve (Friday)

St Matthew’s, Eildon:
Immaculate Conception, Alexandra:
Sacred Heart, Yea:

Mass: 5pm
Mass: 7pm
Video, ‘The Shepherd’ – 8.10pm
Carols: 8.30pm
Mass: 9.00pm

Christmas Day (Saturday)

Immaculate Conception, Alexandra:
St Matthew’s, Eildon:

Sunday

Immaculate Conception, Alexandra:
Sacred Heart, Yea:

Mass: 10am
Mass: 5pm – Sunday Vigil
Mass: 8.45am
Mass: 10.45am



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Anglican Parish of Marysville and Buxton

Christmas Eve - December 24

Marysville 11pm
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - December 25

Marysville 9.30am
Family Christmas Eucharist

St Stephen’s Day - December 26

Buxton 10am
Family Eucharist with Carols

All are welcome

For more details contact the Reverend John Jessop 5774 7655



2021 Christmas Services at St John’s Anglican Church

39 Downey Street, Alexandra

Christmas Eve - December 24

7.30pm Lessons and carols

Christmas Day - December 25

9.30am Family service of Holy Communion

Sunday - December 26

9.30am Morning Prayers

For more information call Graeme 0429 935 000

Celebrating the birth of our Christ.

All welcome



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WHAT'S ON?



Students from grades three to six from Marysville Primary School, delivering Christmas cards in Murchison Street. -AR



Congratulations to Emma Bowe, awarded Alexandra Secondary College Dux for 2021. -S



Congratulations to Venus Pham from Alexandra Secondary College, who scored a 41 in biology and was included in the VCE High Achievers 2021 list. -S

A Christmas message

Fr John Jessop, Anglican Parish of Marysville and Buxton

WHY do we celebrate Christmas on December 25? Well, in the Northern Hemisphere, December 25 was regarded as the Winter Solstice, the shortest and thus the darkest and coldest day of the year).

The Winter Solstice is associated with a pagan festival of light when birthdays of mythological characters were celebrated. It is because of this festival of light that the Christian Church took this day to celebrate Christ's birth. The earliest mention of Christmas on December 25 is 354AD. Why take on this pagan festival of light?

Well, Christians believe that Christ is the 'light of the world'. This is the key but what does it mean? Firstly, Christ illuminates the path of life. He shows us what it is to be perfectly human. If we believe, as I do, that Jesus is the Son of God, then Jesus shows us the nature of God in terms that humans can apprehend. Secondly, Christ illuminates the depth of our hearts.

To help us to understand what this means we have to remind ourselves what it is to be human. We are physical and emotional beings. We all have physical and emotional needs and much of our enjoyment is

physical and emotional. We are intellectual beings; we can think and reason. Friendships are often based on a meeting of minds. But we are also, and most importantly, spiritual beings. It is this spiritual aspect which sets human beings apart from the rest of the animal world. Why do we exist? What is the purpose of life? From whence comes our spiritual strength? What makes us want to help others, often those we don't know or who are from a different tribe? And so on.

For me, the best answers to these questions come from God as revealed in Jesus Christ. That is why I want to celebrate the birth of a child born in humble and risky circumstances. But week by week we also remember his death and resurrection as a sign that love overcomes evil and can never be extinguished.

How do we celebrate? By showing and receiving love in the form of gifts and celebratory gatherings. We remember those from whom we are separated; and we remember those whose lives are ruined through grief, poverty, violence, and natural and man-made disasters. We do everything we can to make the world around us a better place. This, for me, is a way of showing the love of the God who sent his son into the world to redeem the world.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas.



Don't travel to high risk areas on **Extreme Fire Danger Rating** days.

If you plan to travel through Victoria, during fire season, it's important to check the Fire Danger Rating every day. If the rating is Extreme or above, avoid travelling to high risk areas, including to cities and towns.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Firefighting aircraft fleet touches down in the north east

A LARGE fleet of firefighting aircraft has arrived in north east Victoria in preparation for summer to help protect communities and the environment from bushfires.

The aircraft will be used throughout the bushfire season by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) to respond to fires.

FFMVic Deputy Chief Fire Officer Aaron Kennedy said aircraft play a critical role when responding to fires.

“On high fire danger days, as soon as the call goes out to respond, firebombing aircraft will be dispatched so we can hit the fire hard and fast in the initial stages and keep fires small,” Mr Kennedy said.

“North east Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world and this impressive aircraft fleet will work together to deliver an effective fire suppression operation.”

CFA Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer Hume Region Colin Brown said the aircraft will support on ground firefighters to contain fires both on private property and public land.

“Dispatching the aircraft with ground crews, fire trucks and bulldozers increases our ability to rapidly contain or limit the size and spread of fires,” Mr Brown said.

“The flow-on effect of this is a reduced impact on local communities and the environment. It also reduces the length of time firefighters are required to work in an extremely hazardous environment.”

Aircraft are strategically placed across the state and can be moved quickly to respond to fires which threaten life and property.

The firefighting aircraft based across the north east region this summer are:

Albury: Bomber 360 Air Tractor AT802 Fireboss. A fixed wing firebombing aircraft it has a capacity of 3200 litres and can drop water, foam or fire retardant. This aircraft is also fitted with floats and can scoop water “on the run” from large water bodies like the Hume Weir. It can travel at speeds of around 350km/h.

Birdsong 375. A single turbine fixed wing high wing aircraft used for fire spotting, air attack supervision, reconnaissance, and firefighter transport. It can carry up to nine passengers and reach speeds of around 300km/h.

Benalla: Firebird 328, Airbus AS350 B3 Squirrel. This single engine helicopter is predominantly used for firebombing and is equipped with an 1100 litre firebombing tank. The tank system can be refilled in a hover in about 45 seconds.

Mangalore: Helitack 346, Bell 412. A Type 2 firebombing



The Sikorsky S61N. -S

helicopter fitted with a 1400 litres belly tank. It can also be used to transport fire crews and conduct rappel operations.

Mansfield: Helitack 348, Sikorsky S61N. A twin turbine engine firebombing helicopter fitted with a 4000 litre capacity bucket. The aircraft can carry two pilots and up to 17 passengers. Can fly at 225km/h and is used for firebombing, fire crew insertion, sling load and rappel operations. Firebird 311, Airbus

AS350 B2 Squirrel. A single turbine helicopter used for air attack supervision, aerial ignition and reconnaissance. Bomber 358, Air Tractor AT802A. A fixed wing firebombing aircraft with a 3200-litre hopper capacity. It can drop water, foam, or fire retardant and reach speeds of 350 km/h.

Ovens: Helitack 332, Bell 412. A firebombing helicopter used also as a rappel platform for the rappel firefighting crews. Can carry up to 10 passengers. Firebird 303 Airbus

AS350 B3 Squirrel. A single turbine helicopter used for air attack supervision, aerial ignition and reconnaissance.

Shepparton: Firebird 327, Airbus AS350 B3 Squirrel. This single engine helicopter is predominantly used for firebombing and is equipped with an 1100 litre firebombing tank. The tank system can be tank system can be refilled in the hover in about 45 seconds.



Christmas TRADING HOURS

THURSDAY DEC 23	8AM - 8PM
CHRISTMAS EVE	7AM - 8PM
CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED
BOXING DAY	8AM - 8PM
MONDAY DEC 27	8AM - 8PM
TUESDAY DEC 28	8AM - 8PM
WEDNESDAY DEC 29	8AM - 8PM
THURSDAY DEC 30	8AM - 8PM
NEW YEARS EVE	8AM - 8PM
NEW YEARS DAY	8AM - 8PM
SUNDAY JAN 2	8AM - 8PM
MONDAY JAN 3	8AM - 8PM

Linda & the team at FoodWorks Alexandra thank the community for their continued support in 2021.

We wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.



Alexandra District Health 2021-2022

Christmas and New Year Services

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Executive and staff of ADH we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and healthy 2022.

Below is the list of services which we will be providing between

December 24 – January 4, 2022

The last theatre session for 2021 is Tuesday, December 21. The contact number for the health service is 5772 0900, 7 days per week 24 hours a day.

When reception is closed access to the health service is via urgent care.
(Turn left when entering the main carpark).

	DRIVE THROUGH COVID SWABBING	URGENT CARE	ACUTE WARD	RECEPTION	PRIMARY CARE	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES
December 24, 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pathology
Christmas Day	x	✓ INC URGENT COVID SWABS	✓	x	x	x
Boxing Day	x	✓ INC URGENT COVID SWABS	✓	x	x	x
December 27, 2021 (PH)	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
December 28, 2021 (PH)	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
December 29, 2021	✓	✓	✓	x	District Nursing	Pathology
December 30, 2021	✓	✓	✓	x	District Nursing	Pathology
December 31, 2021	✓	✓	✓	x	District Nursing	Pathology
New Years Day	x	✓ INC URGENT COVID SWABS	✓	x	x	x
January 2, 2022 (SUN)	x	✓ INC URGENT COVID SWABS	✓	x	x	x
January 3, 2022 (PH)	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
January 4, 2022	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Beware the blue-green algae

GOULBURN-Murray Water (GMW) is encouraging people to be mindful of blue-green algae this summer.

With the warmer weather and school holidays approaching, many people will be planning visits to one of the region's water storages. However, without being properly informed about blue-green algae and its risks, these visits can easily turn sour.

GMW regularly tests the blue-green algae levels at its storages due to its unpredictable nature and significant health risks.

Water Quality coordinator Bianca Atley noted some of the potential dangers when making contact with water that has high levels of blue-green algae.

"There are numerous toxins in blue-green algae and they affect different parts of the body," she said.

"There are neurotoxins that target the nervous system, and we've had those toxins in our lakes before. They cause people to have numb lips and limbs and it's actually very dangerous.

"We more often see algae that has a toxin which takes five to seven days



Blue-green algae can be seen near the shore in this image. -S

for symptoms to present themselves. Those toxins affect the liver and the kidneys and the symptoms are very similar to gastroenteritis."

There is no practical way to remove blue-green algae from large storages but it can be managed. Blue-green algae rests on the surface of the water, so, when possible, GMW seeks to release water from storages with high blue-green algae levels from beneath the surface. This ensures a regional bloom is not started by the blue-green algae travelling downstream.

Ms Atley said when dangerous levels of algae were detected, GMW's

priority was always to alert people to the hazard.

"The way we manage it at GMW is to firstly warn our customers and the public that it's there so that they're aware of it and can change their practices in the water, knowing that we can't remove it," she said.

When GMW issues a warning, it puts up signs at the storage and uses social media channels to alert people of the threat. GMW also displays all the current blue-green algae warnings at its storages at g-mwater.com.au/news/bga

Lake Eildon is currently clear of blue-green algae, but this may change. Keep an eye on the website.

Holiday arrangements for Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support

SERVICES Australia customers are reminded of changes to payments and services over the upcoming Christmas and New Year holiday period.

All service centres and most phone lines providing Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support services will be closed on the public holidays from Monday, December 27 through to Wednesday, December 29, and Monday, January 3, 2022.

Services Australia General Manager Hank Jongen said Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support customers can still access self-service options during this period.

"During the busy holiday period, the easiest and most convenient way to do your business with us is by using your online account through myGov, the Express Plus mobile apps, or phone self-service," Mr Jongen said.

"These services are available 24/7, even on public holidays. This means you can use myGov to apply for an advance payment, update your details, lodge a Medicare claim, or report your employment income.

"It's also important to remember your reporting and payment dates may change if they normally fall on a public holiday over the Christmas and New Year period.

"If the date you normally report falls on a public holiday during this period, you can report early to avoid any delays in your payments.

"If you are working and receive employment income, you'll need to tell us what you expect to be paid for the full assessment period. You must also do this for any other changes that may affect your payment.

"You can correct any mistakes to your estimate within 14 days, or when you next report.

"An easy way to check reporting dates is through the Centrelink online account, on the Services Australia website, or via phone self-service.

"You can still report to us, even when we're closed. However, if you do this on a public holiday, it means you won't get your payment until after the public holiday.

"Keep in mind that any automatic payments we make won't be delayed by the

public holidays, but some people might get their payment earlier than usual. This means you may need to budget carefully until your next payment."

Customers can also continue to claim Medicare benefits at their doctor's office or using self-service during the December and January holidays.

Critical services for Medicare providers, such as PBS authorities and organ donor, remain available over this period.

BasicsCard customers can still transfer funds to their BasicsCard over the public holidays by using self-service or calling 1800 132 594 at any time. BasicsCard balances can also be checked at any time by calling 1800 057 111.

Smaller sites for rural and regional communities, including remote service centres, agents and access points may also close from Friday, December 24 and re-open for business on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

To find out more about how these changes may impact you, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/holidays

Darren Gilbert

open studio



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COUNCIL SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR PERIOD

Council advises all residents and ratepayers that our Library and Customer Service Centres will be closed from 1.00 pm on Friday 24 December 2021 and will reopen at 9.00 am on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Our Swimming Pools and Resource Recovery Centres will be closed on Christmas Day.

There will be no change to kerbside waste collection services.

For full details on Council services during the period, visit our website or give us a call on 5772 0333.

EILDON SPLASH AND SKATE PARK

We have exciting news for the Eildon community! Council is pleased to advise that the concept design for the Eildon Splash and Skate Park is now available for community feedback.

You can download the concept design, including concept drawings of what the space could look like, on our online engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark

Alternatively, you can visit one of our Library and Customer Service Centres, or pop-by the Mobile Library and Customer Service van when it's next visiting Eildon.

Feedback is open until 5.00 pm on Friday 21 January 2022.

TENDERS

ALEXANDRA ROTARY PARK AND VISITOR ACTIVITY PRECINCT

Council invites suitably-qualified contractors to submit a tender bid for the construction of the Alexandra Rotary Park and Visitor Activity Precinct Project.

Works will include installation of playground equipment and an asphalt pump track, as well as constructing footpaths and extensive landscaping.

Tender bids close at 3.00 pm on Friday 28 January 2022.

MT KITCHENER AVENUE, MARYSVILLE - DRAINAGE AND FOOTPATH WORKS

Council invites suitably-qualified contractors to submit a tender bid for drainage, kerb and footpath works on Mt Kitchener Avenue in Marysville.

Tender bids close at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 26 January 2022.

To download the tender documents for either of these projects or to make an enquiry, please visit Council's online tender portal at eprocure.com.au/murrindindi



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



EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the week



Eildon Principal's Award – Term 4

Hunter Ettridge

For showing achievement in his learning tasks all term. Well done.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students of the week



Year 6 students

Blake, Cameron, Connor, Lilah and Ryder.

To our year 6 students, thank you for everything you have contributed to Buxton Primary School. Goodbye and good luck.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



COVID-19 restriction update

THE Victorian Government announced on Wednesday, December 15 that with more than 92 per cent of eligible Victorians double dose vaccinated, COVID-19 restrictions are being updated to ensure Victorians enjoy more freedoms this festive season, keeping themselves and their families safe while the Omicron variant is monitored and investigated.

On the same day, Minister for Health Martin Foley signed pandemic orders under the new Public Health and Wellbeing Act, which came into effect from 11.59pm that night and be in place until January 12, 2022.

The minister made the decision to sign the pandemic orders after considering advice from the Chief Health Officer (CHO) that there continues to be a serious risk to public health from the global pandemic, and that restrictions continue to be necessary to protect Victorians and the healthcare system.

In particular, the CHO has highlighted the need to gather more information about the Omicron variant of concern before considering further changes to protective measures, such as mask requirements.

All Victorians who are eligible for a booster five months after their second shot are urged to book an appointment as soon as possible, especially those at higher risk of contracting the virus, such as healthcare workers.

Ensuring children are protected from COVID-19 is also vital, and parents are encouraged to get their kids vaccinated when the rollout for five to 11 year olds begins on January 10, 2022.

As part of the orders, people under 18 will no longer be required to show proof of their vaccination status at all venues, such as hospitality.

The mandatory vaccination requirement will be removed for all customers in retail, except hair and beauty services, and will also be removed in real estate, places of worship, weddings and funerals. Mask settings in retail remain unchanged.

Under the pandemic orders, restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs are still only open to fully vaccinated patrons and staff. Workers are required to wear masks.

Face masks no longer need to be worn at weddings, funerals, or ceremonial settings. If these events are held at places of worship there will not be any vaccination requirements or limits on participants, nor any requirement for organisers to check vaccination status.

If the ceremony is at a hospitality setting, vaccine requirements will apply.

Workplaces exposed to a positive COVID-19 case will no longer need to be deep cleaned, after mounting international evidence that coronavirus is an airborne or droplet-borne disease and the likelihood of becoming infected by touching a surface is very low risk.

In addition, tour and transport operators, gyms and creative arts premises such as theatres and cinemas will not need to clean equipment between uses. Workplaces will still need to maintain COVIDSafe plans.

Elective surgery rules are also being updated, with rural and regional health services able to resume up to 75 per cent of normal elective surgery activity.

The order, the CHO advice, the Minister's Statement of Reasons and the Human Rights Statement will be published on the Department of Health website within seven working days of the orders coming into effect.

Minister for Health Martin Foley said, "More than 92 per cent of eligible Victorians are double dosed vaccinated, giving us the opportunity to enjoy a greater level of freedom across the state.

"These measures strike a balance between the risk of community transmission, and the protection that comes from being one of the most vaccinated jurisdictions in the world.

"All Victorians are eligible for a booster shot five months after their second dose and are urged to book an appointment as soon as possible. This will keep families safe during the holiday period and help slow the spread of the virus."

The state Opposition said Andrews' mask backflip was another blow to jobs and small business recovery, adding that it holds back Victorian small businesses and the jobs they support.

They accused the state government's mask rules of being illogical and inconsistent, and said that while a person eating in a restaurant or dancing in a nightclub doesn't need to wear a mask, a shopper buying a pair of jeans in a retail store must.

Shadow Minister for Small Business and Business Recovery, David Southwick said, "Small businesses cannot hope to recover and rebuild with Labor constantly changing the goal posts. Daniel Andrews' backflips are robbing Victorian businesses, families and workers of the confidence they need. If Daniel Andrews can't keep a promise on masks how will he keep his promise not to lock us down again?"

Seaweed to stop farting cows

THE Victorian Government is supporting the agriculture sector to boost productivity and sustainability.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas visited Ellinbank SmartFarm in West Gippsland to recognise the first anniversary of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council (VACCC) being appointed and observing experiments which test the impact of red seaweed on reducing methane emissions of dairy cows.

As part of the research investment, dairy cows at the Ellinbank SmartFarm are taking part in an experiment where they are fed red seaweed (asparagopsis) in controlled amounts. Red seaweed has shown great potential to significantly reduce methane emissions.

VACCC was appointed last year to provide independent advice to the Victorian Government on how to support the state's agriculture sector to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

In its first year, the VACCC has played a key role in shaping the design and delivery of the Agriculture Sector Pledge – the Labor Government's \$20 million investment in emissions reduction activities.

This includes working with industry and government to develop Victoria's first Agriculture and Climate Change Statement, setting a shared vision for agriculture's role in a net zero emissions economy.

The VACCC has also provided critical input to the five-year Primary Production Adaptation Action Plan, set for release in early 2022, which outlines government's priorities for ensuring Victoria's primary industries are climate resilient now and into the future.

For more information visit Agriculture Victoria website.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas said, "The research being done at Ellinbank SmartFarm guided by our VACCC is a key example of how we are responding to industry's need to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate."

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio added, "Victoria is leading the way in emissions reductions with the agriculture sector playing a critical role in helping our state reach the target of halving emissions by 2030."

Three long term staff depart Eildon Primary School

BIG changes are coming up for Eildon Primary School, with three long term staff retiring.

Sandra Ryan has been the lollipop lady at the school for the last 27 years, welcoming new youngsters and watching them grow up into fine young people. She retired on Friday, December 17.

Sandra's daughter had been attending the school, and one day one of the members of the school staff suggested that she might like to become the crossing supervisor. Initially, she wasn't sure, but she soon changed her mind.

"I know them from the time they start school, up to grade six, but once they've gone to high school and are grown up, you think, 'who's that?' They just change. The ones I've got here, a lot I'm going to miss because they're so lovely and friendly and beautiful. I'm going to miss them. I just hope I'm making the right decision."

Although some people wanted her to keep going until she reached the 30 year mark, she decided to follow her instinct.

She's not sure yet what she'll do with all of the extra time. Her daughter now works at the school as an integration aide, so they might go walking together in the morning, maybe dropping into the school to say hello to the teachers and children, before going up and having a coffee. She added that she also has plenty to do around the house, and will need to get into a new routine. "It'll be a bit hard for a while," she said.

"I want to thank all the staff, Jai, Wendy, Eileen and the teachers. They've all been great and terrific," she said. "I've really loved it and enjoyed it."

Murrindindi Shire Council has been advertising for someone to take Sandra's place.

Two other staff members are also departing, the school's business manager Eileen Herridge and integration aide and administration support person Wendy



Wendy Fletcher and Eileen Herridge. -AR

Fletcher. Eileen has been at the school for 28 years, and Wendy for 20 years. Both are now retiring.

Both are planning to depart for extended holidays in warmer climates.

They have become firm friends, and both had children who attended the school before they moved on to attend Alexandra Secondary College. Eileen had three children attend, and Wendy two.

Eileen was 13 when she moved with her family to the area, and Wendy arrived on a two year contract in 1997. Wendy commented on the natural disasters around the world, and said that we really do live in the lucky country.



Sandra Ryan. -AR

Eileen admitted that she'll miss the school and that it's a bit sad, but she's looking forward to her retirement. "It's time," she said. In addition to working at Eildon Primary School, she also spent 20 years working at Alexandra Primary School on a part time basis and will be departing

that role as well. She previously worked at Thornton Primary.

Eileen will be working for a couple of days each week before school resumes, to conduct the hand-over to the new person who takes on the role.

Catching you before you lose control.

Right now, Victoria Police are out in force catching speeding drivers. Catching these drivers helps protect them from harming themselves and other road users. The lucky ones get caught.

Keep your pets away from Christmas food

VETS are urging the public not to allow their pets to consume any human Christmas foods, as even small amounts can be toxic and potentially fatal.

The Animal Emergency Centre (AEC) say that each year over Christmas they see a surge in emergency cases due to the ingestion of foods dogs cannot eat. Last year AEC recorded a 20 per cent increase in toxicity cases which required emesis over the festive period and anticipate that number will rise significantly this year with the continuing rise in pet ownership.

Pet parents love to spoil their pets at Christmas and assume feeding them some of their festive foods is okay, however this is not the case.

Certain ingredients that are seemingly healthy and completely safe for humans to consume, such as onion, garlic, chocolate

and Christmas pudding among others, are so toxic to dogs that they can become very unwell and in severe cases, can be fatal.

Each year vets see an influx of pets in hospitals that have consumed some of their wellmeaning pet parent's foods. If you have a much-loved pet that you want to show your love to this Christmas, please think twice before you share your food with them and explore the many options of festive treats that are designed specifically for pets.

Roast lunch: Many families often want to offer their pet a special Christmas meal, however, common Christmas roast ingredients like onion and garlic which are usually in glazing, stuffing and seasoning, are poison to dogs. Skin, rich gravy, cooked bones and fat trimmings can contribute to upset tummies and painful pancreatitis. This can result in hospitalisation and be deadly

to pets. It's best to avoid these human foods and give pets a human-grade vet approved meal made for dogs instead.

Christmas Pudding: Most Christmas puddings contain sultanas, raisins or currants which are all toxic to dogs and can lead to kidney failure. Many Christmas desserts and cakes may also be alcohol based which pets cannot consume even in small quantities.

Chocolate: All kinds of chocolate contain an ingredient called theobromine that is toxic to pets. Chocolate toxicity could cause a wide range of problems, with severe cases causing seizures, heart issues and even death. The more bitter the chocolate, the higher the risk.

If a pet eats something they shouldn't, contact your nearest vet for advice.



Menzies Support Services Christmas party



Kerryn with Chris and Kent from the Alexandra Fire Brigade. -S



Menzies CEO Naomi McNamara with Santa (Rupert) at the Menzies Support Services Christmas party at the Alexandra RSL Hall. -S

ALEXANDRA PRO RODEO

★ Bulls
★ Bare Back
★ Time Events
★ Barrel Racing
★ Saddle Bronc

ALEXANDRA PRO RODEO

8 JANUARY 2022

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RODEO 5 PM

DAVE ETHELL PHOTO



Rupert with members of the Alexandra Fire Brigade at the Menzies Support Services Christmas party, held at Rotary Park on Wednesday, December 15. -S

Rotary Club of Yea

2022 ART SHOW

Yea Town Hall - High Street, Yea

January 22 to January 25 - 10am-5pm

Closing Day: January 26 - 10am-3pm

Opening: January 21, 2022 7.30pm \$20

\$5 entry Children FREE

HISTORIC EVENT 50th Yea Art Show

You can pay at the door or try booking online using this code. OR RC of Yea Annual Art Show 2022

www.yearotary.org.au

www.trybooking.com/BUOTK

Eildon Fire Brigade busy training with other agencies



On Sunday, December 19, the Eildon Fire Brigade and Ambulance Victoria conducted an exercise to extract patients from a houseboat onto the fire boat. -S



Working out the logistics. -S



Ambulance Victoria members also took the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the fire boat and all of the equipment -S



On Friday, December 10, the Eildon Fire Boat assisted the Murrindindi Forest Fire Management Victoria crews together with the Ovens Repel Crew by transporting them and their equipment from the Eildon National Park to a safer location for the helicopter to collect them. -S

Eildon Primary School's Christmas party



Students at the Eildon Primary School Christmas Party. Santa visited on the Eildon CFA fire truck. -S



Enjoying the Eildon Primary School's Christmas party. -S

EILDON

GROCER

Holiday Trading Hours

Thursday Dec 23	6:30am - 7:00pm
Christmas Eve	6:30am - 7:00pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	6:30am - 7:00pm
Monday Dec 27	6:30am - 8:00pm
Tuesday Dec 28	6:30am - 8:00pm
Wednesday Dec 29	6:30am - 8:00pm
Thursday Dec 30	6:30am - 8:00pm
New Years Eve	6:30am - 8:00pm
New Years Day	6:30am - 8:00pm
Sunday Jan 2	6:30am - 8:00pm
Monday Jan 3	6:30am - 8:00pm

Toni & the Eildon Grocer team wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season. We would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support throughout 2021.

your
GO
to for the holidays

A fun-filled day in Buxton

THE sun came out and a great afternoon of fun was had by around 100 people at the annual Buxton Community Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11.

After last year's event was cancelled amid the uncertainty of COVID-19, it was an opportunity for friends to gather and catch up in the Buxton Recreation Reserve with a fully catered barbecue lunch and children's activities. The day was capped off with Santa arriving on the back of the fire truck to say hello to the children.

The annual event is jointly hosted and funded by the Buxton Progress Association, the Buxton Reserve Committee and the Buxton Fire Brigade.

The day was attended to by old and new residents from Buxton and surrounding areas and it was a pleasure to see people catching up after two difficult years of COVID-19 restrictions. A number of new arrivals to the Buxton area were welcomed for the first time. In addition, a number of people having family gatherings at the reserve also joined in the activities.

As people arrived and undertook their COVID-19 registration, children were given a scavenger hunt sheet. The hunt kept people busy, answering questions and finding out who had the stamps to mark off the scavenger sheets. It was great fun for those involved.

Chief COVID-19 marshal, Cr Sandice McAulay, checked each of the sheets for completeness, and prizes were awarded to the children with the three best sheets. The barbecue lunch was managed by members of the three host groups and, once lunch was over, the children were entertained with a range of activities run by members of the Buxton Progress Association and Buxton Fire Brigade.

Santa arrived on the back of one of the Buxton fire trucks and was greeted by the children who, once the truck had stopped,

gathered to help Santa get out of the truck. Santa was ushered to a seat by a dozen or so children and he said hello to each as he presented them with a small bag of sweets. After many photographs with the kids and family, Santa was pushed back up onto the fire truck before departing back to the North Pole.

This year's party was, once again, supported by local business groups and organisations.

Like all community events, the day wouldn't be possible without the support of many people working behind the scenes and on the ground on the day. The organising committee would like to thank Liz Amos, Eileen Slack, Peter Anderson, Elizabeth McDowall, Paul and Carmel Denham, Alan and Jenny Tonkin, Sandice McAulay, Graham Eddy, Andy Cowan, Isaac Sims, Willie and Peter Cureton, Wendy Davis, John Corbett, Phil Ladson, Julia Foletta,



Santa visiting the Buxton Community Christmas Party. -S

Juliet Corkhill and Brian Denham for their efforts in helping to make the day a success.

A range of other people jumped in to help with various tasks during the day and the

committee was grateful for that help. They apologised if they missed anyone.

It is events like Saturday's community gathering that make us a more resilient community. Well done everyone.

Marysville gym to change hands

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) has transferred management of the Marysville gym to Tri Gym Committee, in a collaborative move that focuses on providing the Marysville and Triangle community with the tools to maintain health and wellbeing.

As a proud supporter of the Marysville and Triangle community, Alexandra District Health developed the community gym in the years following Black Saturday in 2009. With the aim to provide an opportunity for community members to maintain their health and wellbeing, the gym also provides an important setting for social connection.

The gym equipment was purchased by ADH using bushfire recovery donations from the Victorian community for the specific use of the Triangle community

and was initially set up in the temporary ADH Community Health Service at Buxton in 2009, before being relocated to the Marysville Community Centre.

Over the years, ADH's dedicated team of Allied Health Assistants and Physiotherapists has been integral to Marysville Gym's success, providing personalised gym assessments and travelling in the early hours to provide twice-weekly supervised gym sessions.

In recent years, ADH has sought to focus its physiotherapy service on more short-term goal focused services for community members with acute and chronic health issues. As a result of this, consultation with community by ADH's senior management and board, ADH is pleased to transfer

management Marysville Gym to the Tri Gym Committee.

ADH acknowledges the work of the Tri Gym Committee to date and wishes them and its supporters much success in re-establishing the Marysville Gym.

ADH will continue to provide physiotherapy services to the community at its Alexandra site, with planning underway to resume a Marysville based outpatient clinic in 2022.

Physiotherapist appointments can be arranged by contacting the ADH Intake Officer on 5772 0908.

More information about accessing the Marysville Gym service can be obtained by emailing trigym3779@gmail.com

Over 45 years building throughout Victoria, from lock-up through to completion, your design or ours.

At Swenrick Constructions we are committed to assisting you in the building of your new home.
From our friendly sales and admin staff to our experts trades, your project is our priority.



The Sea Haven offers contemporary design with simple clean lines and light filled open plan living



The Ocean View offers Double storey living, 3 bedrooms, 2 Living areas, the upstairs level features light filled open plan living with 2 Timber Decks to the front façade



A version of the "Attic 4" with an attached Carport, offering 2 bedrooms downstairs with open plan Kitchen/Living areas with an additional 2 Bedrooms & bathroom upstairs.



The Blue Gum Cottage is ideal for those clients who want a little nostalgia of a by-gone era, but with modern living.



The Warranwood 2 is on display at our Buxton Display Village, a classic country style home, featuring 3 bedrooms, Open plan Kitchen & Dining/Living space



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Mon-Fri 9-5pm | E: sales@swenrick.com.au

Phone (03) 5774 7066 | www.swenrick.com.au



CDBU-50108

RealEstate

GUIDE



Be wary of fake tradies

WITH warmer weather approaching, Victorians are being reminded to make sure any building or maintenance work they're seeking to undertake is completed by a legitimate, qualified tradesperson.

Consumer Affairs Victoria received more than 129 reports of fake tradies during the past financial year. Consumers lost money in more than 70 per cent of the reported fake tradie cases, with the total amount of financial losses being more than \$660,000.

Fake tradies knock on doors of homes and small businesses, or send flyers out offering to complete maintenance work, driveway resurfacing, painting or roof repairs at a cheap rate. Fake tradies are also known to advertise their services online, usually through third party websites.

Fake tradies may request an upfront payment directly into their bank account before commencing the work. After transferring the funds, the fake tradie quickly became uncontactable, and it can be very difficult to recover the funds.

There may also be continuous excuses not to start the work, stretching into weeks or months, with no work ever being completed.

If you're considering having work done on your property, seek out more than one quote, use established tradespeople who provide written quotes, ask for contact details of previous clients to check references and ask for the full name and registration or licence details if applicable, so you can check with their industry.

The warning comes as Consumer Affairs Victoria takes criminal action against an unregistered builder for advertising cheap building services and taking payment for work he never started, left incomplete, or completed below standard.

Victorians should report any interactions with suspected fake tradies to Consumer Affairs Victoria's dedicated fake tradie hotline on 1300 133 408.

New opportunity for first home buyers

THE Australian Government is backing in first home owners to enter the property market sooner with up to an extra 4651 buyers set to benefit under the government's Home Guarantee Scheme this year.

The scheme helps first home buyers and single parent families get into their own home sooner with a deposit of as little as five per cent or two per cent respectively.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government's Home Guarantee Scheme would reissue up to 4651 unused guarantees for first home buyers from the 2020/21 financial year who haven't had an opportunity to purchase their first home, including because of COVID-19 disruptions.

"We want more first home buyers to get into the place of their dreams," the Prime Minister said.

"The pandemic and lockdowns have interrupted the plans of many home buyers this year, so this is about ensuring we give thousands more families the opportunity they need.

"We want to help Australians into their first home or a home that they've had built for them and their family, and with our support first home buyers are at their highest level in nearly 15 years."

Minister for Housing Michael Sukkar said coupled with HomeBuilder and the First Home Super Saver Scheme, more than 300,000 Australians have been helped into home ownership, including almost 60,000 Australians through the Home Guarantee Scheme.

"The government will continue to provide Australians who have that aspiration to go and buy a home, the opportunity to go and achieve that," Minister Sukkar said.

The annual Trends and Insiders Report for 2020/21 on the Home Guarantee Scheme found that one in five First Home Loan Deposit Scheme (FHLDS) guarantees issued went to essential workers, representing almost 6000 key workers who purchased their first home under the scheme, 34.8 per cent of which were nurses.

Fifty two per cent of FHLDS guarantees went to women, with the market average only 41 per cent women.

Fifty eight per cent of all buyers under the Scheme were Australians aged under 30.

Homebuyers were able to bring their home purchases forward by an average of four years for the FHLDS, and 4.5 years for the New Home Guarantee.

The Australian Government's Home Guarantee Scheme had supported many families into their first home, a government spokesperson said.

"It's programs like this that will help even more people see the great lifestyle and opportunities our region has to offer."

First home buyers will be able to apply for these guarantees from the Scheme's panel lenders in the coming weeks. For more information, visit nhfc.gov.au/what-we-do/support-to-buy-a-home/

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy & New Year

Thankyou to all our valued clients and the wonderful community for what has been a challenging but rewarding year!

We look forward to helping you make the move in 2022.



**Nutrien
Harcourts**

Residential, Lifestyle and Rural Property Specialists

Director/ Sales Specialist
Sales Consultant

Belinda Hocking
Jody Murphy

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0422 184 231

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The end of a big year for council

THE final Murrindindi Shire Council meeting for 2021 was held at the Alexandra Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 15.

Nine members of the community appeared in seven public presentations.

Dawn French, vice president of the Yea Pottery Studio, asked whether the pottery studio might be able to use the ticket office in the Yea Railway Station, or the Yea Shire Hall Public to sell craft products. She suggested perhaps that the old toilets in the Yea Shire Hall could be decommissioned and used for this purpose. Councillor Walsh enquired about costings at the shire hall, and Councillor Lording sought more information from Ms French regarding the Yea Railway Station.

The other public presentations related to a proposed six unit development at 102 Falls Road in Marysville. Andrew Woollard spoke against the development. He was concerned about the precedent being set for small divisions, and said that it's not in keeping with the nature of the area.

Stuart Shaw spoke of his concern that the development is not in accord with some of the planning policy, including saying the design is not in character with the density and design in the area.

Margaret and Peter Barry said they were very concerned about the noise level as their property overlooks the development site, and were concerned about the nature of the development. They said that local people are opposed to the development.

Johnny and Tina Wong said they are for development, but reasonable development, and said that this development is like a caravan park. Johnny Wong was critical of the lack of consultation and said that the development is out of character with the neighbourhood.

Liza Serapiglia said that her late father purchased the block, intending for each of his children to have a unit. She said, "This development is not just about making money. It's not about going against the community characteristics or anything like that." She commented on the changes, including reducing the size of two of the units, providing two additional car parking spaces, altered floor levels, and provision of ample outdoor space. The have also previously reduced the number of units from 10 to six. She added, "We absolutely want to provide affordable opportunities for people to be able to come to Marysville and enjoy it's beautiful lifestyle and open spaces and things like that." Councillor Lording enquired about trees, and Ms Serapiglia said that the landscaping will be done once the footprint is settled.

Jackson Lai, designer for the 102 Falls Road site, commented on the reduction of the footprint and said that they are trying to maintain the cottage feel.

Cr Walsh said that to avoid VCAT overruling decisions and the creation of a precedent, it was important to bring the principle of the urban design framework into the total planning policy moving forward. He recognised that this may be a long process.

Council voted to approve the development at 102 Falls Road. Cr McAulay voted against the motion.

The three lot subdivision at 44 Villeneuve Street in Alexandra was also approved by council unanimously, per the officer recommendation.

The contracts for provision of civil works were also decided, after tenders closed in July. Twenty-two submissions were received. Sixteen were recommended for appointment.

The tender for the design and construction of the Break O'Day Road Bridge in Glenburn, as well as a temporary bridge while construction is underway, was also discussed and approved.

A tender for road resealing, and a further tender for gravel road re-sheeting, were discussed and approved, as was the tender for the Yea closed landfill rehabilitation.

Council endorsed an application to the Regional Tourism Investment Fund to deliver the Eildon Improvement Precinct Project, commit up to \$1.2m over two financial years (2022/23 and 2023/24) as a contribution to the grant funded project, and request a further report be provided to council concerning the delivery of the project following community consultation that demonstrates the range of options available to meet council's financial obligations to deliver the project. All voted in favour of the decision.

The Grants and Contributions assessment was divided into portions as there were some conflicts of interest among the councillors. These councillors left the room when the decisions were made.

Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges received a revised grant amount of \$2500 for the Kinglake Art Show, the Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival received a revised grant of \$3040.

Tri Gym received \$4500, the Rotary Club of Alexandra received \$2500 for the 2022 Easter Art Show, the Yea Golf Club received \$3500 for their Golf Carts Project, 2030 Yea Inc received \$4480 for curtain linings and a Carbon Footprint Assessment for home energy efficiency, Alexandra Indoor Heated Pool Inc received \$1982 for Breathing Safely, OpenRoads Travel received \$5000 for their rally, Eildon Action Inc received \$5000 for the Eildon Twilight Market, the Rotary Club of Yea received \$3000 for the Yea Art Show, and Alexandra Events Corporation Ltd received \$20,000 for the 2022 Alexandra Pro Rodeo and 2021 Ariat APRA National Finals Rodeo.

The Service Provision and Fire Danger Ratings Policy (Policy) outlines changes to council's services on days declared to be the most dangerous if a fire started, to minimise potential risks to personal safety. Council has a legal obligation to ensure its employees, councillors and the general public are not placed in situations of risk to safety due to its services and actions. It was approved unanimously.

The council meeting dates were also fixed for 2022, and it was decided that council will livestream all open council meetings. There will be no council meeting scheduled for January 2022, due to the lack of business scheduled for this meeting. Weekly council briefings will provide opportunities for council to engage with other parts of the shire. Cr Gerencser expressed interest in the Kinglake area being able to host a council meeting.

Cr Haslam provided a report, read by Mayor Carpenter as she was unable to attend the meeting. She said, "This is a year we will never forget. It has been one of the most trying in so many areas. However, many good things come out of difficult times. I hope we can put this year behind us and look forward to a brighter future. There is much to look forward to. The Blue Gums Recreational Trail will be a great asset for the area. There is also the opportunity to participate in the Eildon Community Plan which starts early in the new year. This is your chance to have a voice. If you have an idea or suggestion that you would like to see happen in Eildon, come and share it... Who knows what could happen or what might be achieved?" She also took the opportunity to thank the volunteers around the shire.

Cr Gerencser noted that council is still looking for Australia Day nominations, with nominations closing on January 3. She also thanked all in Kinglake for their patience while the Kinglake streetscape upgrade is underway. It is now nearing its final stages. There will be a new barbecue area installed outside the Kinglake council offices as the streetscape was under budget. She also commented on the beautiful Christmas decorations in the area.

She added, "I want to thank absolutely everyone in the shire for sticking together and helping each other through another difficult year."

Cr McAulay reported that a new municipal recovery manager is being trained in the role, important as we are coming into a late fire season. The Christmas emergency staffing roster has been updated to ensure that council is able to deal with any emergencies as required. A community advisory group

is being formed, and people are encouraged to send expressions of interest to the council email address.

Councillor Gallagher attended the Kellock Lodge AGM and Friends of Kellock Lodge, and noted that most of their fundraising occurs within the Alexandra township. Work of former CEO Jo Cavill was acknowledged, along with Maurice Pawsey for his significant contributions. He also attended the Alexandra District Kindergarten AGM, and the Alexandra Library celebrations of staff and volunteer contributions. The shire's audit and risk committee met last week and identified climate change as being the most substantial strategic risk facing the organisation. Freeza funding has also been secured for activities for young people in the shire. Through meeting with Pathways for Carers, he strengthened his resolve to support council's advocacy priorities for access in our shire to adequate medical, mental and aged care service provisions. He urged pride in the Murrindindi Shire area, and the celebration of the community.

Mayor Carpenter said she is enjoying the challenge of being appointed mayor, and said that it has been a steep learning curve. She enjoyed attending the Taungurung art launch in Yea, and noted the installation of sculptures at the Yea Pioneer Reserve and the book mural on the side of council offices. She awarded a certificate of appreciation to Peter Hawser and Jim Osbourne for their work at the Yea Saleyards Christmas party. She's also developing a greater appreciation for business and tourism in the shire, and attended the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre AGM. She found the screening of Happy Sad Man to be insightful. She is also excited about the \$1.2 million allocated for artworks along the Great Victorian Rail Trail, and was filmed for RACV Solar funding in Yea.

Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi reminded people that vaccination booster shots are available if they had their second dose five months or more ago. She noted that a priority action for council this year is to develop a reconciliation action plan, and to engage further with Indigenous culture and history. There will also be a formalisation of collaboration processes. In the last year, council has received close to 17,000 customer requests. She noted that there has been a slippage in the response time, with only 77 per cent of requests completed within the target. She stated that this may be due to an increase in the number of requests in recent months. Council is closely monitoring the situation and aiming to improve the response times. She noted that the Know Your Council data is now available, so comparisons are available with similar shires.

Learn about local frogs

A DECLINE in frog numbers across the Goulburn Murray region has sparked a campaign to highlight the threats to local frog populations and what can be done to ensure their survival.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) will lead a year-long community awareness project next year: *The Year of the Frog*.

GBCMA's Land, Biodiversity and Indigenous Program Manager, Dr Steve Wilson said that throughout next year the campaign would educate the community on the issues contributing to a reduction in frog numbers and solutions.

"There are diverse frog species in our catchment including tree frogs, ground dwelling frogs and frogs that live in the high country that are suffering for reasons including less available water

and climate change impacts," Dr Wilson said.

"Over the course of 12 months we will focus on local frogs, what they need, why they are in trouble and what we can do to help such as protecting frog habitat, setting up a backyard pond and controlling pests."

GBCMA's project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said as part of the Linking Landscapes and Communities Project which focuses on the grey box grassy woodlands area, the Year of the Frog would showcase 12 species specific to the area, with regular and interesting ways for people to learn more about the frogs in our local environment.

"Frogs are such an important part of our environment yet are often unseen and under-appreciated, so the purpose of the Year of the Frog is to raise the profile of these



A growling grass frog. -S

little ecological heroes," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"Our Year of the Paddock Tree campaign in 2019 proved that raising awareness over 12 months can have meaningful and long-term results so I'm excited to be involved with a new 'Year' and one that can help our local frogs."

This project is supported by the GBCMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. For more information contact Janice Mentiplay-Smith on 0418 316 169 or email janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au



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Christmas Wishes

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Debbie, Andrew and staff at
Goody's Discounts wish their
customers a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

**Goody's
Discounts**

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Matt, Pam and staff would like to
thank our customers for their support
during 2021.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

We will be closed December 25
and 26, 2021 and January 1, 2022

Alexandra



**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

The team at Simpsons Fuel
wish our customers and
community a very Merry
Christmas and a safe and
prosperous 2022.



**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Jenny, Graeme, Amelia, Linda,
Bradley, Darcie, Louise and Tahlee
would like to wish their valued
customers a Merry Christmas and a
safe and happy New Year.

Closed Christmas day only

Alexandra
Newsagency & Lotto

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Merry Christmas
From everyone at Marmalades

We will be closed
December 22 – 28
Open from December 29

**Marmalades
of Yea**

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Wishing everyone a safe
and Merry Christmas ...
thank you for your support
throughout 2021

**G (Jack)
McMaster
Plumbing**

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Thank you to all our customers
for your support through 2021,
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

**Just Great
Coffee Yea**

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Andrew, Trish, John and the
team at Embling Rural would
like to wish all their customers
a very Merry Christmas and
safe and Happy New Year.

EMBLING RURAL

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Wishing everyone
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

Steve 0427 577 839

Alexandra
**Windscreens
& Glass Services**

**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Chris's TV wishes everybody
a very Merry Christmas and a
safe New Year.

Thank you for your support
throughout 2021.
Ph 0405 554 915



**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

We wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

From the team at E-Tec

Ph 5751 0000



**Merry
Christmas**

& Happy New Year

Ian, Cinoj, Lisha, Hamish and all
the staff at Alexandra Community
Pharmacy wish everyone a joyous
and blessed Christmas

Closed
Christmas Day/Boxing Day/New Years day
Open
December 27 and 28 - 10am-1pm



A large, stylized graphic of the letters 'NO'. The 'N' is dark blue and the 'O' is pink. The letters are thick and have a modern, sans-serif feel. The 'N' is composed of two strokes, and the 'O' is a single continuous stroke. The letters are positioned in the upper half of the image, with the 'N' on the left and the 'O' on the right.

January

[illegible]

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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								27	28	29	30	31	

March

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May

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June

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July

August

September

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

October

November

December

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						1	1	2	3	4	5		
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

Public Holidays 2022

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Victorian School Holidays 2022

New Year's Day	Sat, January 1	ANZAC Day	Mon, April 25	Term 1	January 31 - April 8
New Year's Day	Mon, January 2	Queen's Birthday	Mon, June 13	School Holidays	April 9 - April 25
Australia Day	Wed, January 26	Melbourne Cup	Tue, November 1	Term 2	April 26 - June 24
Labour Day	Mon, March 14	Christmas Day	Sun, December 25	School Holidays	June 25 - July 10
Good Friday	Fri, April 15	Christmas Day	Tues, December 27	Term 3	July 11 - September 16
Easter Saturday	Sat, April 16	Boxing Day	Mon, December 26	School Holidays	September 17 - October 2
Easter Sunday	Sun, April 17			Term 4	October 3 - December 20
Easter Monday	Mon, April 18			School Holidays	December 21 - January 29, 2023



Christmas Wishes

Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year



Cindy McLEISH MP
STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen
03 9730 1066  CindyMcLeishMP
cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

 CindyMcLeish.com.au

Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen.

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Boz, Fran and Ben would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year

We will be closed from December 23, 2021 to January 17, 2022

Alexandra Automotive

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

A special season's greetings and heartfelt thanks to all of our customers and wider community.

Best wishes Joanne, Cindy and Jenny.

Inspire on Grant

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Chookies Furniture Plus
Thank you for supporting us over 2021
May you have a happy and safe 2022
From the staff at Chookies



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Elders Alexandra would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, and enjoy some time with family and friends after a challenging year.



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

from Paul, Sophie, Big Al and Toby at the Alex Grain Store

We will be closed from midday December 24 until 8am Tuesday, January 4, 2022



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

The staff and management of Alexandra Newspapers would like to thank our valued readers and clients for their patronage throughout 2021 and we look forward to working with you again in 2022.

Standard

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Kazza and the team at the diner, wish all our wonderful customers an amazing Christmas and a very happy new year.


Only closed Christmas Day



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Waxy Aroma Candles & Home Decor would like to thank you for your support during 2021 and wish you all a Merry Christmas.




Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Thankyou to all our valued clients for your continued support.

From Deb, Erin, Trudie and Laura

Our office will be closed from Thursday, December 23, 2021 to Monday, January 10, 2022.




Our Alexandra office will be closed from 3pm Wednesday, December 22 and will re-open from 9am Tuesday, January 18, 2022

The Yea Chronicle

Our Yea office will be closed from 1pm Wednesday, December 22 and will re-open from 10am Wednesday, January 26, 2022

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



YENCKENS

TIMBER + HARDWARE

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY!

Management and Staff of Yenckens would like to wish all our fabulous customers a Safe and Merry Christmas, and Thank everyone for their support throughout the year

OPENING HOURS

Closed Christmas Day + Boxing Day
 Mon 27th + Tues 28th 9 - 5
 Wed 29th - Fri 31st 7 - 5*
 Closed New Year's Day
 Sun 2nd 9-1
 Mon 3rd 9-5
 Hours as normal from Tuesday



Mansfield 27 Kitchen St 5775 2511
 Alexandra 7A Downey Street 5772 2188
 Yea 26 High St 5797 2290
www.yenckens.com.au *Yea from 8am (trade)
 *7am Trade entrance



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

All the team at Yea Automotive Service Centre would like to wish their customers a safe and happy holiday. We will be closed from December 24, 2021 and reopen January 10, 2022.

YEA AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTRE

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Bell Legal & Planning would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, and to enjoy some time with family and friends after a challenging year. We will be closed from December 23 and will reopen on January 10, 2022.

Bell Legal & Planning

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

HBI Constructions would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season, surrounded by family. We will be closed from December 23, 2021 until January 10, 2022.

HBI CONSTRUCTIONS

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year


Murrindindi Kitchens would like to thank their customers for their support over the last year. We will be closed from December 23, 2021 until January 24, 2022.

Murrindindi KITCHENS

Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Bianca, Giles and staff at Alexandra Panels and Towing, would like to thank everyone for their support and wish you a safe and happy new year. We will be closed from December 23, 2021 and reopen January 10, 2022.



redgate espresso

73 Grant Street, Alexandra 5772 3185

Christmas and New Year Hours

Closed December 24 - December 28
Closed December 31 - January 3
8am-1pm December 28 - January 10

Alexandra Motorcycles and Machinery

65 Downey Street - 5772 1045

CLOSED
 from December 24

RE OPEN
 January 4, 2022



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

It's been a challenging year, but Christmas with family and friends is almost here. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous festive season and a happy, healthy and safe 2022.

My office will close for the break on December 23 and we will see you again starting January 6.

Wodonga / 79 High St. 02 6024 6284
 Wangaratta / 117 Murphy St. 03 5721 7077

helenhaines.org
@helenhainesindi
helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au



ADVERTISEMENT

A Christmas gift for the Eildon community

WHEN the women of the Eildon Craft Group take on a project, it is always a challenge. This year they recruited anyone in the area interested in knitting or crocheting squares. The squares were then joined together and made up the Christmas tree now on display in the

park opposite the Eildon shops.

The steel and mesh structure, designed and built by Bob Dare, then had the strips sewn onto it by the members.

The group was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the local

community, so they had leftover squares. These were made into angels and garlands to adorn the surrounding trees.

This is a gift to the community and its visitors, by the Eildon Craft Group. Merry Christmas everyone.



The women of the Eildon Craft Group with their wonderful Christmas tree gift. -S

Victorian Students Confirmed As NAPLAN highest achievers

VICTORIAN students have achieved outstanding results in this year's NAPLAN in the face of unprecedented challenges, with the detailed breakdown of results confirming the state is the best-performing jurisdiction in Australia.

The NAPLAN 2021 National Report shows Victoria had the highest number of students performing at or above the national minimum standard of any state or territory on 13 of the 20 NAPLAN measures, with the ACT the next-best jurisdiction with 5.

Victoria has also improved on its results since 2019 in half of the assessed measures, including the critically important foundational reading skills in both year three and year five, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Primary school results improving in eight out of the 10 measures.

These improvements are expected to be reflected in secondary school results in the coming years as Victorian students see the benefits of targeted investment in every student and every school across the state.

The report shows that, while many Victorian students and families have faced profound challenges over the past two years, fears of a loss of learning as a result of the coronavirus pandemic have not eventuated.

Those predicted to be most affected by remote learning, including Koorie, rural and regional students, had better reading results at the primary level this year than in 2019. Koorie students improved in reading from 2019 to 2021 in years three, five and seven, and rural and regional primary students also improved their reading levels in years three and five.

The final NAPLAN results also indicate that more Victorian students than ever before are performing highly, with the percentage of year three students scoring in the top two bands for reading rising from 58 per cent in 2019 to 61.9 per cent in 2021. For year five students, this figure rose from 40.4 per cent to 44.8 per cent.

There is still work to do, particularly in numeracy, in every jurisdiction across Australia, and maths will be a strong area of focus for schools throughout 2022. The government's Tutor Learning Initiative is providing students with individualised support to help them thrive at school.

Minister for Education James Merlino said, "I thank every teacher, tutor, principal, family and everyone else who supported Victorian students through 2021. Our nation-leading results show despite the pandemic's challenges, our kids are learning better than ever before."

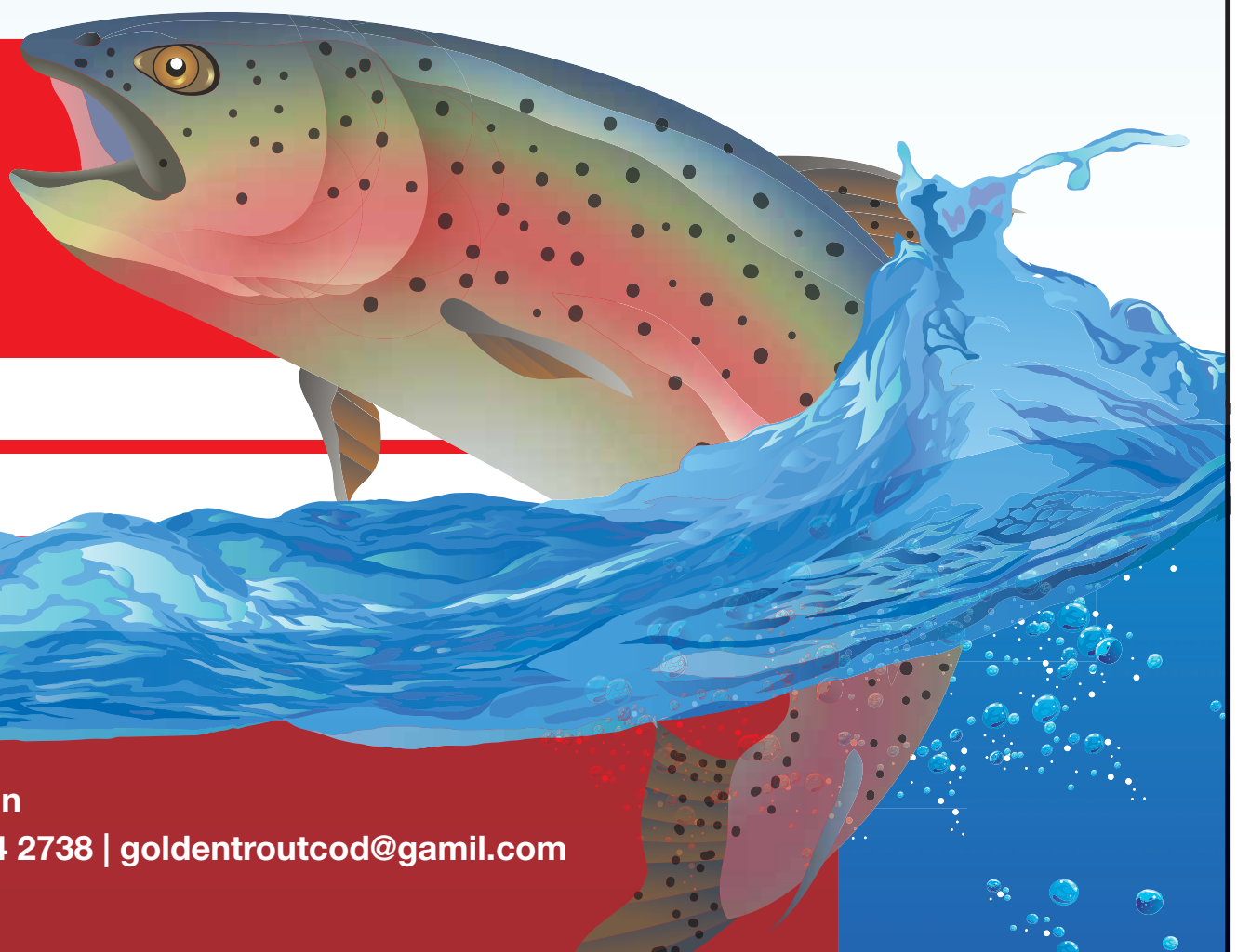
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Hiring someone with a disability

THE Disability Royal Commission has highlighted that of the 485,000 people employed by some of Australia's leading companies, only 1.15 per cent identified as people living with disability.

Australia has one of the lowest employment rates for people living with disability in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and unfortunately there has been little progress to improve the rate over the last 25 years. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare documented that people living with disability not only experience higher rates of unemployment, but tend to remain unemployed for considerably longer and, importantly, experience much higher rates of underemployment than the general Australian population.

People living with disability have a strong desire to obtain work and to flourish in employment. The Royal Commission heard of the personal fulfilment to be gained from paid employment; the satisfaction of contributing to the Australian economy; and also, of making their entitlement to be accepted as an equal member of Australian society much closer to practical reality. Sadly, they also heard about the profoundly demoralising consequences when people living with disability are repeatedly rejected by prospective employers for reasons connected with their disability.

Disability Employment Service experts, atWork Australia agree that many of the 4.37

million Australians living with disability are still experiencing barriers to employment and this issue is depriving businesses of a workforce reflective of the community, that celebrates diversity and embraces the value of an accessible and inclusive workplace. Businesses can play an important role in creating an equal and inclusive workplace and reap significant benefits from hiring people living with disability.

"What we are ultimately aiming for is businesses to review their employment practices and take actions towards being an inclusive workforce. Hiring a diverse workforce will facilitate different methods of communication, collaboration and leadership to balance out working styles and create a fluid and dynamic culture. Additionally, if we can make disclosure and diversity part of our everyday conversations, then people living with disability will feel comfortable speaking about their needs, and in turn the business can support them," Debbie Brooks, General Manager Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement, atWork Australia said.

The fear of discrimination is potentially forcing those living with disability to hide their condition from prospective employers. This can prevent businesses from supporting these employees and ensuring they are a productive part of their teams.

"Not all disabilities are immediately apparent and can span across physical, mental or neurological conditions," says



Debbie. "For example, people with visual or auditory disability who do not wear glasses or hearing aids will not appear to have physical challenges, yet this can limit a person's activities. What's more, the very fact that these sorts of disability are deemed 'hidden' can lead to a wealth of misunderstandings, false perceptions and judgements," she added.

Disability discrimination accounts for the highest volume of complaints to the Australian Human Rights Commission annually. "Due to the fear of discrimination and social stigma, many prospective employees who have a hidden disability, may choose not to disclose it when applying for new jobs," Debbie said.

There are no legal obligations to disclose a disability, however, to make potential

employers aware of any adjustments needed, it is crucial for those with needs to discuss these upfront. With this in mind, atWork Australia is encouraging all potential employees to disclose at the application stage. "Talking about any supports needed in interviews shouldn't be a negative consideration for managers when selecting the best candidate, but rather help the employer to better facilitate the person's transition into their team," Debbie said.

The average company that employs people with disability can see staff retention go up by 90 per cent which allows them to focus on their business and not 'revolving-door' recruitment, furthermore, employers can save substantially on recruitment and retention costs by utilising the support of DES providers.

Feel Good, Look Good



Alexandra District Health AGM

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) held its AGM on the evening of Wednesday, December 15, and released their annual report for 2020/21. It was a very short meeting, held on Zoom and lasting only 20 minutes. There were no questions following the presentation, and of course, there was no guest speaker or tea and cakes following the event as it was primarily online.

Chair Lorna Gelbert read aloud the Board Chair and CEO Report from the Annual Report. It can be found in full on their website at adh.org.au/about-us/publications

She spoke about the global challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2276 tests conducted at ADH under challenging conditions during the financial year.

They have also developed a respiratory protection plan, including training several staff as 'fit testers'.

They are developing a Manual of Surgical Procedures which complies with their level two capability, and mitigation strategies to ensure that some level three procedures can be conducted. They have been increasing the number of theatre sessions at ADH.

The report acknowledged the retirement of general surgeon Mr Rick Masters, as well as the retirement of Elizabeth Fitzpatrick and Geraldine McClure after 32 years and 27 years of service respectively at ADH. In June 2021, Dianne Goschnick celebrated an

amazing milestone of 50 years of nursing, with 39 of those years spent at Alexandra District Health.

Ms Gelbert also spoke about the rebranding and signage changes at the hospital, as well as the new website. She also spoke about the graduate nurse program, run in collaboration with Eastern Health, which supports four graduates each year. This year, ADH has also facilitated two enrolled nurses in the transition to practice program during their first year after graduating with a Diploma of Nursing.

The 'old Myrtle Street Clinic' has been transformed into a training and education centre and has been renamed 'The Cottage' in recognition of the Alexandra Cottage Hospital, the hospital's original name.

Regarding the financial performance, they said in the report, "The financial results for 2020/21, prior to the inclusion of capital and specific items, show an improvement in the financial performance of the health service when compared to the previous year.

"The operating position reflects a further reduction in revenue from private inpatients and primary health client fees. This is due to reduced activity which has been attributed to COVID-19 restrictions. These reductions were partially offset by corresponding reductions in the cost of medical services

and general health service delivery costs which continue to be closely managed.

"We remain committed to adjusting to the continuing financial impacts of COVID-19 by adapting to the changing needs of our community and providing alternative methods of delivering our services, such as enabling telehealth options for primary health consultations and specialist consulting. We are also actively working on strategies to attract general practitioners and their families to the region in an effort to address the shortage of medical workforce in Alexandra, which impacts activity in urgent care and inpatient occupancy."

This December, ADH celebrates two key milestones, 150 years as a Health Service and 10 years in the new building. They look forward to being able to celebrate this with the community and staff.

They are engaging with the Gender Equity Act, and planning to increase their elective surgery capacity, with additional lists being added to the schedule. They are hoping to partner with other health services in elective surgery waiting list management. She added, "This means that Victorians can access elective surgery within acceptable waiting times."

The report also said, "We strive to increase our medical workforce to provide our community and our patients with access

to a reliable and skilled medical workforce which will support them into the future. A robust medical workforce enhances our acute inpatient and urgent care services to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our health service.

Board member Alan Studley presented the financial performance, saying that the net result is \$333,000 for the year, up \$295,000 on last year. The revenue was down, mainly due to PPE and reduced admissions due to the pandemic. The access to primary health is now increasing again. He noted that some of the COVID-19 support will have to be repaid.

Overall, he called it a very positive year for the health service.

It states in the annual report that there were three Workcover claims in 2020/21, with the average cost being \$8765. There were four occupational violence incidents reported.

In terms of environmental sustainability, there has been a significant increase in clinical waste due to the pandemic, however the energy consumption is down due to solar production.

The average number of days to pay creditors was 77 days, higher than the target of 60 days. The average number of days to receiving patient fees is 52 days. The target is 60 days.

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KIDS PUZZLES

Colour



Word Search: Reindeer

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

DASHER

DANCER

DONNER

PRANCER

VIXEN

RUDOLPH

COMET

CUPID

BLITZEN

ANTLER

SLEIGH

MAGIC

Jokes

- Q:** How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?
- Q:** Why is no one friends with Dracula?



Sudoku

Difficulty: Easy
Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 4. Every row and column and every group of 4 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.

3		1	
	4		2

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 27

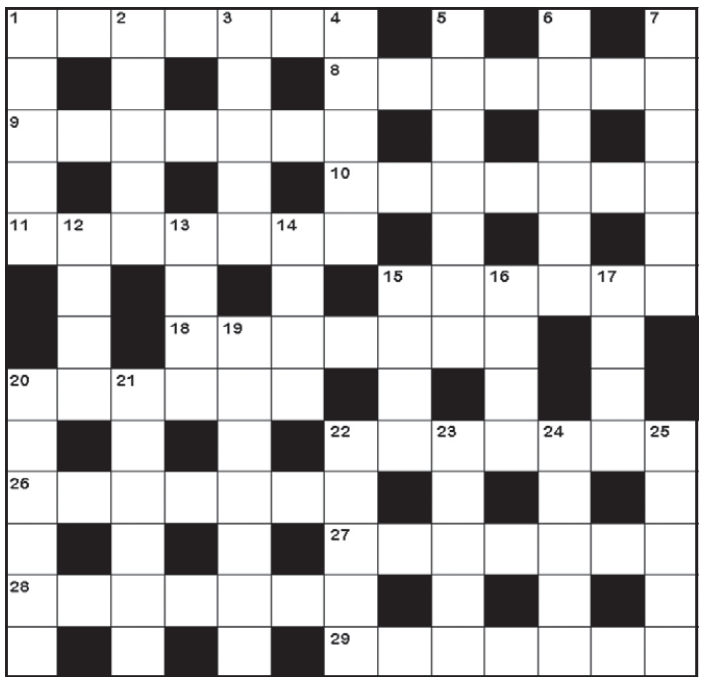
Crossword

ACROSS

- The immortal winged horse of Greek mythology.
- Kills by piercing with a spear or sharpened pole.
- Taller and thinner and more ungainly than most.
- Deliberately vague, ambiguous and elusive.
- The son of your spouse by a former marriage.
- Convert food for assimilation throughout the body.
- Wrap your arms around each and hold closely.
- Sets of data arranged in rows and columns.
- Things kept hidden from knowledge or view.
- A large aquatic mammal known as a sea cow.
- Struggle or strive in an effort to master something.
- Inspiring reverential fear, wonder or admiration.
- No longer active in your work or profession.

DOWN

- Doses of medicine in the form of small pellets.
- A type or style of literary or artistic works.
- Secretly collects sensitive or classified information.
- A warning signal that is a loud wailing sound.
- Unable to speak because of a brain lesion.



- An artificial channel for irrigating with water.
- Insist on having one's opinions and rights recognised.
- The lowest pitched brass wind instrument.
- The rind of certain fruits and vegetables.
- Any objects with a spherical shape.
- A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
- Equipment and supplies for a particular operation.
- A short humorous or satirical piece of writing.
- A reference by name, to a person or thing.
- A man sexually active with more than one partner.
- A woman's hat tied under the chin with ribbon.
- An underground pipe to drain away water or sewage.
- Swindle someone using a fraudulent scheme.
- Become a participant or be involved in an event.
- A fast and spirited horse used for state or war.

Word Search: Authors

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

PRATCHETT

ROWLING

MARSDEN

PASCOE

SHAKESPEARE

WINTON

LESTER

FLANAGAN

GLEITZMAN

TAN

WHEATLEY

THIELE

GRIFFITHS

ADAMS

MORIARTY

Brain Teaser

You are driving a bus. At the first stop, two women get on. At the second stop, three men get on, and one woman gets off. At the third stop, three kids and their mum get on, and a man gets off. The bus is grey, and it is raining outside.

What colour is the bus driver's hair?

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.

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

Recognising Indigenous artefacts and locations

THROUGHOUT Victoria, even in the most intensively developed regions, the landscape holds the imprint of thousands of generations of Aboriginal people.

Each part of Victoria, from the coast to the high country, has places where Aboriginal people lived, were expressing themselves artistically, passing on creation stories and cultural values, engaging in conflict, establishing alliances and social networks, trading goods, celebrating rites of passage and committing the departed to their final resting places.

If you find an Indigenous cultural location or artefact, it's important to remember that they are protected by law. It is illegal to disturb or destroy an Aboriginal place. Artefacts should not be removed from sites. You can help to preserve Aboriginal cultural places by reporting their presence to First Peoples - State Relations. If you discover human bones, report them immediately to the police.

First Peoples - State Relations provides a series of fact sheets on how to identify Indigenous cultural locations or artefacts.

Scar Tree

Indigenous people caused scars on trees by removing bark for various purposes. The scars, which vary in size, expose the sapwood on the trunk or branch of a tree.

Scarred trees are found all over Victoria, wherever there are mature native trees, especially box and red gum. They often occur along major rivers, around lakes and on flood plains.

Indigenous people removed bark from trees to make canoes, containers and shields and to build temporary shelters. They also cut toe holds in trees to make them easier to climb.

To remove bark, the Indigenous people cut an outline of the shape they wanted using stone axes or, once Europeans had arrived, steel axes.

Not every tree with a scar is the result of Indigenous actions. European settlers also removed bark, to build huts, however these are often square or rectangular, or sometimes triangular if they were used as survey markers.

If you find a scarred tree, check the scar for key characteristics, record the tree's location and its condition, and note whether it is under threat of disturbance. Report its presence to First Peoples - State Relations.

Mounds

Aboriginal mounds are places where Indigenous people lived over long periods of time.

They tend to be circular or oval shape, often less than 50cm high and 10 metres wide, though sometimes much larger. They are dark (often black) and sometimes have greasy sediment, lumps of burnt clay or stone and small fragments of charcoal are often present, rabbit burrows may be present, and shells, animal bones, stone tools and human burials are sometimes present.

In land which has been extensively ploughed the site of a mound will appear as an area of dark stained earth. If you look closely, you may find charcoal fragments, burnt clay lumps and hearth stones.

They are usually found near rivers, lakes or swamps but occasionally some distance from water. Mounds often occur on floodplains and the banks of watercourses. They are also found on dunes and sometimes among rock outcrops on higher ground.

Freshwater middens

Indigenous freshwater middens are accumulations of shell produced by Indigenous people collecting, cooking and eating freshwater shellfish. Middens usually occur as fairly thin layers or small patches of shell. The shells usually come from both the freshwater mussel (*Velesunio ambiguus*) and river mussel (*Alathyria jacksoni*). The shells may be the remains of just one meal or hundreds of meals eaten over thousands of years. Shell middens often contain evidence of cooking such as charcoal, ash, fire-stones, burnt earth or burnt clay. Sometimes they also contain animal bones, fish bones, stone tools and Indigenous burials.

Freshwater shell middens are found along river banks and flood plains, near swamps and lakes, and in sand dunes. They are sometimes found in dry areas, where fresh water was once present.

Flaked stone tools

Indigenous people made stone tools by removing a sharp fragment of a piece of stone. The tools generally have sharp edges, retouching along one or more edges (with flakes removed), stone rich in silica) such as quartzite, chert, flint, silcrete and quartz), and the stone type is often different to the natural rock in the area.

Flaked stone tools were made by hitting a piece of stone, called a core, with a 'hammerstone', often a pebble. This would remove a sharp fragment of stone called a flake. Both cores and flakes could be used as stone tools. New flakes were very sharp, but quickly became blunt during use and had to be sharpened again by further flaking, a process called 'retouch'. A tool that was retouched has a row of small flake scars along one or more edges.

They are most common near rivers and creeks, and near middens.

Burials

Indigenous burials are normally found as clusters of human bones eroding from the ground, or exposed during ground disturbance.

Indigenous customs for honouring and disposing of the dead varied greatly across Victoria, but burial was common.

Indigenous burial places normally contain the remains of one or two people, although cemeteries that contain the remains of hundreds of people buried over thousands of years have been found.

Sometimes the dead person was buried with personal ornaments and artefacts. Charcoal and ochre are also often found in burial places.

Surface scatters

Surface artefact scatters are the material remains of past Indigenous people's activities. Scatter sites usually contain stone artefacts, but other material such as charcoal, animal bone, shell and ochre may also be present. No two surface scatters are exactly the same.

Surface scatters can be found wherever Indigenous occupation has occurred in the past. Aboriginal campsites were most frequently located near a reliable source of freshwater, so surface scatters are often found near rivers or streams where erosion or disturbance has exposed an older land surface.

Indigenous quarries

Indigenous quarries are places where



Flaked stone tools of different sizes, shapes and material. -S

Aboriginal people took stone from rocky outcrops to make stone tools. Not all types of stone were suitable for making tools, so an outcrop of good stone that could be easily quarried was a valuable resource.

Indigenous people quarried different types of stone, each with its own special value and use. Stone tools were made from greenstone, silcrete, quartz, quartzite, basalt and chert. Pigments were made from quarried ochre, and grinding tools were made from sandstone.

Some quarries are small, consisting of just a single protruding boulder. Other quarries incorporate many outcrops and areas of broken stone that cover thousands of square metres.

Ground-edge axes

Ground-edge axes are stone chopping tools with cutting edges that were formed by grinding. They were often designed to have a handle. Aboriginal ground-edge axes are usually rounded or oval in shape, but may be slightly elongated with a straighter, sharpened end.

Ground-edge axes come in different shapes, but they are usually either round or oval. They are sometimes rounded and narrow at one end, and slightly broader and straighter at the cutting edge. They are typically 'lens shaped' when viewed from the side, and are made from hard types of stone, particularly basalt or greenstone, and worn river pebbles. Ground surfaces are usually highly polished, and they may have a groove pecked around the middle so it is easier to attach a handle.

Grinding stones

Grinding stones are slabs of stone that Indigenous people used to grind and crush different materials. Bulbs, berries, seeds, insects and many other things were ground between a large lower stone and a smaller upper stone.

They are usually made from abrasive rocks such as sandstone or coarse-grained basalt or quartzite. Smooth river pebbles sometimes resemble grinding stones. If you look closely, the surface of a river pebble has tiny impact marks caused by collisions with other pebbles in the river. The surface of a grinding stone has many scratches caused by abrasion but feels smooth. They range in size from 15cm across to 70cm across. There may be glossy stains on the stones from food.

Indigenous rock art

Indigenous rock art can be found in shelters



A scar tree. -S

of limestone caves, generally towards the back. The images in shelters are often less than 20cm in width, while in limestone caves, they are often about three metres wide. Some locations have hand stencils or hand prints. These may be overlapping in the larger caves. Rock paintings are usually of small stick figures, other simple forms such as kangaroo and emu tracks, and sets of stripes or bars. The pigments are generally red, purple, yellow or white.

If you find rock art, you are also likely to find other stone artefacts or traces of charcoal on the ground, as the shelters are generally large enough to protect a group of people from the wind or rain. In the north east of Victoria, they are often found in small clusters on the lower slopes of the ranges.

Rock paintings are particularly prone to natural erosion because they are found on exposed surfaces. Many art motifs may be destroyed unless they are protected.

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Classified information

Office hours

Alexandra

Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm
Fridays 9am-3pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Yea

Wednesday & Friday 10am-4pm.
Ph: 5797 2468

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

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It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat unless the microchip identification number of the animal is included in the advertisement. A registered domestic animal business may use its council business registration number as an alternative.

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

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Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

SITUATION VACANT

FALLONS BUS SERVICE School Bus Driver required - Yea depot

Minimum 20 hours per week during school term

The successful applicant must have a minimum MR License and will be required to gain a Working With Children Card and Drivers Certificate.

Please forward resumes to
fallons@virtual.net.au or
call Malcolm on 5772 1768



Are currently seeking reliable and hardworking labourers to join our team in Alexandra on an ongoing basis from Monday - Friday working from 7am to 3.30pm.

Your duties and responsibilities will include, but not limited to:

- Manual handling
- Machine operation (training will be provided)
- Production line work (fast paced)
- Using hand and power tools
- Following strict safety procedures
- Working at a specific work station to a defined target
- Ensuring all quality specifications are met
- Participating in good housekeeping.

Essential requirements for this role are as follows:

- Previous experience working in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Experience using hand and power tools
- Good standard of fitness to be able to stand and lift all day
- Must be reliable and self-motivated

These positions are full time. Please call 5772 3329 or 9728 8866 during business hours or email resumes to michael@glencoegroup.com.au



Research and Development Assistant Yarck, Victoria Full time/Part Time

At Valley Seeds we specialise in breeding grasses that benefit Australian farmers by increasing livestock carrying capacity in a sustainable production system. The company is also the largest supplier of home garden lawn seed in Australia.

Valley Seeds is looking for someone to be part of the research and development team at the head office in Yarck, Victoria.

Tasks and Responsibilities

- Prepare and manage seed production, trial plots and general maintenance on the research farm
- Assist in the measuring, recording, and reporting of research projects
- Maintain research equipment
- Maintain records of all activities including all those required for occupational health and safety (OH&S)

Qualifications and experience

- Competent in machinery operation e.g., Tractors, spray unit, mowers, plot harvester
- Qualifications in agriculture or related discipline
- Attention to detail
- Demonstrated ability to learn new skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently with the capability to prioritise tasks
- Experience with Word, Excel, Outlook, and SharePoint
- Valid Agricultural Chemical Users Permit

This role is a great opportunity for a graduate and has the capacity for career development. Within this role you will learn and develop skills related to pasture agronomy and understand the procedure of breeding new varieties of pasture species.

For further details on the role please call Anthony Leddin on 0408 333 046 or email aleddin@valleyseeds.com

SITUATION VACANT



CLEANER

Part Time

Valley Seeds is a well-established, Australian owned company that develops and markets pasture seed for farmers and lawn seed sold throughout Australia. An opportunity exists for a person to work one day per week assisting the team with cleaning and other related warehouse duties at our Yarck premises. Duties will include, but are not limited to, cleaning of offices and staff amenities. Additional warehouse tasks may be available to the right candidate.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

- Experience with office cleaning preferred
- Ability to work in a team environment
- An understanding and willingness to comply with occupational health and safety policies

Apply by email to info@valleyseeds.com or by written application to 295 Maroondah Link Highway, Yarck Victoria 3719.



Conferences • Functions • Events

CASUAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE
As we start to welcome groups again we are looking for additional casual staff to join our award winning Team here at Holmesglen at Eildon for 2022.

www.holmesglenateildon.com.au

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knowledge & experience with Microsoft office

Food & Beverage

prior experience in Food Service, also Bar for Restaurant & Functions (current RSA required)

General hand

gardening, dishes, rubbish, deliveries and assisting all departments

Kitchen hand

assist with food prep and dishes (food handlers cert. required)

Commencing in February 2022, please send through your resume to Manager rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au or mail to: Manager – Holmesglen at Eildon PO BOX 9, Eildon 3713

Applications close: January 21, 2022



Casual Photographer

Do you enjoy taking photos and meeting people?

Alexandra Newspapers is an award winning newspaper serving the Murrindindi Shire for 153 years with our two mastheads, *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*. We require a photographer for weekend work around the shire.

You need to be motivated, friendly and know your way around a camera. Drivers licence essential. You need to be able to follow instructions; be a team player and, be a little outgoing. You will also need to be available on weekends, but not every weekend.

To register your interest, forward your resume and two samples of your work by email to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au.



SITUATION VACANT



ALEXANDRA
SECONDARY COLLEGE

.32 Teacher Aide (12 hours per week) February 2022

Enquiries and requests for a position description and Key Selection Criteria to Bronwyn Howell on 5770 2014
Please email applications to
Bronwyn.Howell@education.vic.gov.au
Applications close January 24, 2022



Casual positions available Outdoor activity and cleaning staff

Looking for work? We need to expand our team further for both outdoor activity staff and cleaning staff for a busy year ahead with school camps.

No experience needed - training will be provided.

Flexible hours, Monday to Friday.

Like more information?

Please give us a call any time on 5772 1409 for a chat or email us at
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Disability Services Assistant /Scheduler (6 month maternity leave position)

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We take a client-centred approach to everything we do and pride ourselves in offering a high quality service. We encourage collaboration, a strong work ethic, and provide a supportive learning environment.

To succeed in this role, you will have:

- Experience in operating databases and rostering platforms
- A commitment to team communication and providing accurate and timely information to clients and other stakeholders
- Sound knowledge of Microsoft Office applications
- Great organisation skills and ability to manage priorities and deadlines
- Some understanding of the NDIS and Aged Care sectors would be advantageous

Please address your application via email to the address below by January 10, 2022, or contact us to request further information
Phone (03) 5772 1888

careers@menziessupport.org.au



Casual Administration role based in Yea.

Alexandra Newspapers is an award winning newspaper serving the Murrindindi Shire, with our two mastheads, *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*. We require an individual to fill a casual administration role, based out of our Yea office, starting in mid February 2022, for 10 hours per week. Must be able to work unsupervised and as part of a small team.

Please forward your resume and cover letter to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by January 5, 2022.

Classifieds

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SITUATION VACANT



Out of School Hours Care 2022 Program Coordinator - Full Time Applications Open

Buxton Primary School Council invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Program Coordinator for our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Program from Term 1, 2022.

Candidates must:

- Be available to work before and after school and during school holidays
- Pass a National Criminal Records Check and Working with Children Check
- Hold a suitable qualification in one of the following fields; Education, Child Care or Community Services

The position description is available on our website:
www.buxtonps.vic.edu.au

For more information or to discuss the opportunity further, please contact Sarah Irving, Principal - 0402 211 631

DEATH NOTICES

RIDD, (nee Kwiecinski) Jadwiga Teresa (Jadge) 01/10/1946 to 16/12/2021

Passed away peacefully at Doughty Galla Aged Care. Daughter of Witold (dec) and Antonina (dec). Much loved Mum of Douglas and Katy, and mother-in-law of Jan and Dom. Adored partner of Michael. Cherished and loved sister of Sofia and Romek (dec) and sister-in-law of Steve (dec). Dearly loved Babcia of Hamish, Scarlett, Joseph and Stephanie. Loved Jadge of Krystel, Alyce, Rory and Kylie, Shaun, Kieran and Krissy, and families.

A wonderful, loving and generous friend to many.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$24 each. Ph 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

FUNERAL NOTICES

RIDD, (nee Kwiecinski) Jadwiga Teresa (Jadge) The Funeral Mass will be offered for the late Jadwiga Ridd at St Mary's Catholic Church, Alexandra on Thursday, December 23 at 11am followed by a burial at Alexandra Lawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please kindly consider a donation to Dementia Australia. www.dementia.org.



PUBLIC NOTICES

SEASONS GREETINGS from Yea Custom Picture Framing. We will be closed from Thursday, December 23, 2021 and will re-open on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Phone Peter and Derrys 5797 2380 for any enquiries.

CARAVANS

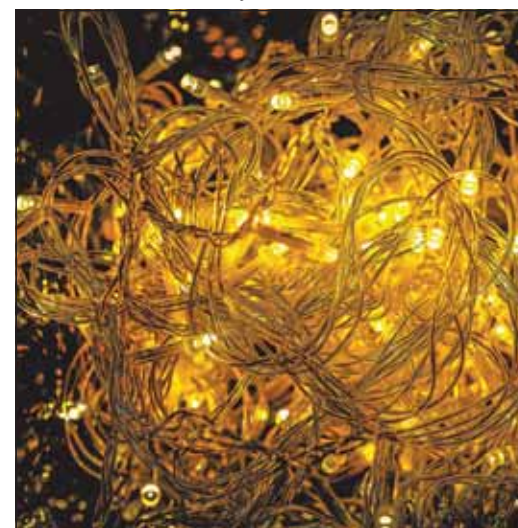


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Fireys shine a light on Christmas safety

CHRISTMAS and fairy lights are once again spreading their festive cheer across Victoria, sparking a reminder from firefighters to take proper precautions to avoid starting a fire.

Top 10 Christmas lights safety tips

When buying Christmas lights, make sure they have the Regulatory Compliance Mark tick of approval.

Consider using battery-operated LED or solar lights which don't require electricity.

Inspect your Christmas lights for any sign of damage or wear and tear. Make sure there's no exposed wiring, that the lights are in good working order and that there are no missing globes.

When decorating the outside of your home, only choose lights and fittings designed for external use.

Make sure you have a safety switch in your meter box or have a qualified electrician install one.

Don't overload power boards; use no more than three sets of lights per power board, even if there are four or more outlets on it, and avoid using double adaptors.

Make sure electric cords are completely uncoiled and are not placed under rugs or mats.

Place your tree as far as possible from any heat source, curtains or furnishings.

Maintain water in the base of natural Christmas trees to stop them drying out and remove lights once they show signs of drying.

Make sure you have working smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas and hallways.

Ideally, smoke alarms are interconnected, which means if a fire in one room sets off one smoke alarm, all alarms will activate.

SITUATION VACANT



We are recruiting

We are offering a number of opportunities to undertake meaningful work in your local community, while balancing your families' needs and other commitments. Not qualified? We provide local opportunities to gain a qualification. Traineeships may be available. Applications are open now for casual positions, with potential for transition to permanent part time:

- Disability Support Workers
- Aged Care Support Workers
- Domestic Assistants

For information about these roles and how to apply, please go to:
www.menziessupport.org.au/careers

SITUATION VACANT



Local commercial and residential builders seeking carpenters, apprentices and/or labourers to join a highly motivated and dedicated team. Permanent positions available for the right personnel. Please call or email Lachie Cronin 0409 796 126 croninconstruction1@bigpond.com

Standard The Yea Chronicle

Book your classified ad TODAY!

Deadline: NOON MONDAY

Phone: 5772 1002

or email

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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



Alexandra Newspapers
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KIDS - JOKES

A: Ten-tickles

A: Because he's a pain in the neck

SUDOKU

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

KIDS - SUDOKU

4	1	2	3
3	2	1	4
1	4	3	2
2	3	4	1

SPORT

Picnic racing at the Yea & St Pats Racing Club



The Orwin family. -TM



The Nash family.



Jim, Ian and Bev. -TM



Joel, Colt, Peter, Dylan, Ryan and Daniel. -TM



Jim, Palm, Keith, Ron, Noel and Graham. -TM



Back: Sean, Jeff and Ross. Front: Robyn, Janine, Kaye, Mary, and Jacqui. -TM



This group of friends travelled from Eltham and Yarrawonga to be at the Yea races. -TM



Hannah, Kathryn and Rhiannon. -TM



Mansfield Clay Target Club Christmas shoot

Members of the Mansfield Clay Target Club. -S

by Marty McLachlan

THE annual Mansfield Clay Target Club Christmas shoot was held on Sunday, December 19 in humid and variable conditions with periods of rain mixed with calm and clear sky. A field of 43 competitors were divided among eight squads with shooters coming from far and wide including Alexandra, Benalla, Euroa, Wangaratta, and Woods Point.

The day's events were not about record book shooting, but about getting together to celebrate the end of the shooting calendar for 2021 with like-minded friends. In keeping with Christmas shooting tradition a mixed bag of unorthodox programs was held with the normal competitive nature of trap shooting taking second stage to having fun. All attending shooters received a club prize of a leg of ham ensuring an even spread of festive cheer. The highest scoring shooters per grade over the combined day's

events also received an additional hamper of goodies.

The first event was 20 target double barrel crossing targets shot from 21 metres thrown from the skeet towers. This was followed by a walk-forward, walk-back with shooters starting at 16 metres and shooting double barrel targets, advancing one metre at a time to 11 metres then each metre going backwards to 25 metres, 20 targets in total.

These two events were followed by a Christmas lunch with all the usual trimmings coordinated by Pam Kirley, Linda Lay, Anne Skinner and helpers. This was well enjoyed by competitors, spectators and family and friends.

After lunch the third competition was a two target presentation being 10 pair, the first a right to left rabbit presentation, immediately followed by an incoming looping target, with one shot permitted per target, this was lots of fun and was accomplished with some creative shooting.

The last segment of the day was shot as two person teams 'Dueville Triples' with a pair of clays thrown away from the shooters simultaneously, from the ball trap house and immediately followed by an incoming single target. This gave the competitors four chances to break all three targets and this was repeated for 10 triples. Two teams came in with 18/20 and quite a few just another target further back.

As usual all shooters were supported by family members who participated by scoring, refereeing and generally helping out to ensure a successful day. All who attended contributed to the festivities by bringing along something to munch on, or a raffle prize. At the end of the day everyone left with something.

First place getters per grade were AA grade: Geoff McLure from Alexandra, who also won the same event last year; A grade: Iain Towers (Euroa); B grade was local junior Carson Weignot and C grade was another local Jason Foster. The day's overall

competition was sponsored jointly by Mansfield Clay Target Club and FoodWorks Mansfield.

As part of the presentations club president, Anthony Kirley, offered seasons cheer and thanks to all who chipped in through the year to make the club the success that it is.

Mansfield Clay Target Gun hosts the North East Zone shoot the third Sunday of each month; the next program will be Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 10am. Spectators and new shooters who wish to come and try are always welcome. Pre-competition practice from 10am.

The club is family focused with lunch provided and all junior shooters competition fees sponsored by the club. If you are interested in attending or want to come along and try, just turn up to the club, Pikes Road Mansfield. Every Thursday throughout daylight savings the club will be open for practice from 4pm, for more information telephone Marty 0490 702 083.

Local trio triumph at tetrathlon

THE Pony Club of Victoria State Tetrathlon Championships was held at Meenyan Pony Club in South Gippsland on December 11 and 12.

A tetrathlon is a competition that is a variant of the modern pentathlon. The four disciplines are swimming, horse riding (jumping), running and laser shooting.

Local boys Charlie Hill, Chase Hilder and Clay Hilder put in strong performances to take out placings. Charlie Hill, who now rides with Mansfield Pony Club, took out the Junior Boys Sections. Charlie's strongest round was his jumping round on his big horse Rocket.

With a winning swim, a perfect score in the ridden jumping section and the fastest run time, Chase Hilder took out the 10 and under section (equathon).

Younger brother Clay Hilder was hot on the heels in every event enabling him to come in second on the day. Clay's strongest rounds were his swim and run legs.

All three boys have benefited from their long standing participation in Alexandra community sport gaining much knowledge and skills from Alexandra Pony Club, Alexandra Swimming Club, and the Murrindindi Little Athletics Club. The three boys look forward to continuing their training and future opportunities to compete 2022.



Charlie Hill during the laser shooting phase. -S



Chase Hilder on his horse, Chino. -S



Clay. -S



Chase Hilder, Charlie Hill and Clay Hilder at the PCV state tetrathlon. -S

SPORT

Good win for under 14 cricketers

Under 14 Broadford 72 defeated by Alexandra 6/120

by Tim Orgill

THE Alexandra Cricket under 14s travelled to Broadford at the weekend and played on the main oval, on the turf. Broadford sent Alexandra into bat. It was a slow start with a wicket in the first over. The second sell at 17. One of the new recruits, Shannon Galloway, came in at three and batted for seven overs for his one run but held up his end. Alexandra got to five for 36 when Harrison Christie and Jaidon Snyman came together for a magnificent 43 run partnership. Really excellent running between the wickets by both boys which got the score to 79 before Jady fell. Enter Josh Crane with some lusty hitting with a fine 25, getting the score to 6/120.

The bowling started well with Matt Wal getting a wicket in his first over. Harry Morley was on a hatrick in his second over with some file bowling. H McMahon, from Broadford, was their best with 16 runs. Harry Morley and Harrison Christie both got two wickets each. Nearly all bowlers got a wicket and Alexandra held six catches for the match. A fine effort from the boys.

The Alexandra boys sit clear on the top of the ladder at this time of year. Matt and Luke Wal, Matt Waixel, Jaidon Snyman, Josh Crane and Cal Howell have been selected in this years under 13s and under 15s country week teams representing Seymour District Cricket Assocaition. Well done and good luck for the country week games starting on January 3. Anyone wanting to follow these games can view the scores and stats on MyCricket app or contact Brad Waixel on 0407 700 331.

B Grade Alexandra 6/165 defeated Broadford 9/164

THE day was set with high temperatures and clear skies and the Redbacks won the toss. Alexandra elected to bowl, with opening bowlers bowling well, taking an early wicket and then the second change bowlers backing them up taking a further two wickets. Broadford dug in for a good partnership, to the boys credit they dug deep in the scorching heat. With picking up multiple wickets throughout the day ending up having Broadford 9/164 at the

end of the innings. With Alexandra openers ready to go, luck was not going the right way, losing a couple of early wickets. Shane Parker top scored with a lovely 90 supported well by Jake Bourke and Brad Waixel to get Alex home with about three overs to spare. A good day finished and enjoyed great food and company at the Christmas party. The club hopes to see everyone in the New Year up and about, ready to tackle the rest of the season.

C Grade Kilmore Blue 3/142 defeated Alexandra 9/141

by Darren Waixel

ALEXANDRA C grade travelled to Wandong to play Kilmore Blue, a team Alexandra had beaten only a few weeks ago so the confidence was high. It was a bit of a father and son team this week with Dan Crane and son Josh playing their first C grade game together for the season. Darren Waixel and son Matt. Nick Wal, back from injury, with his two sons, Luke and Matt. Also Brad Howell and son Callam. Finishing

off the team was Michael Mawson and Ben Geldart.

Alexandra batted first and got off to a great start with Dan Crane and Michael Mawson combining for 41 before Mawso fell for 21. Runs were coming fairly freely but wickets were falling regularly. Josh Crane and Luke Wal contributed two lots of 13 runs late in the innings but accolades to Matt Waixel with a superb 31 runs off 23 overs on a really hot day. Well done.

Alexandra opened the bowling with the president uphill into a 40 knot southerly wind and Luke Wal downhill. We had to change bowling around, giving nearly everyone a go, as Kilmore proved very hard to get out. S Worton made 39, M Buggy, 32 and S Macallif a great 47. This innings was helped by the president dropping three outfield catches. My apologies to the bowlers. Kilmore passed Alexandra in the 25th over for the loss of three wickets. Still a great effort by our young team. We look forward to next year.

After the completion of the B grade game at Leckie Park the club held its annual Christmas party with many people in attendance. There was a visit from Santa on the Alexandra CFA fire truck with gifts and lollies for the kids (and some adults.) it was a fabulous night. There were crazy cricket games and a water slide, raffles, gifts and great food. A big thanks to Kelly Snyman and Leah Orgill for catering. Thanks to Jacques Snyman and Dan Crane for their barbecue skills. Thank you to everyone for who contributed to the raffle, especially the clubs greatest fan, Ross Miller.

From everyone at Alexandra Cricket Club, Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

The ACC would like to acknowledge the help from Murrindindi Shire Council, especially Melissa Spinks and the tradesmen who last week renewed the ceiling, lighting and a fresh coat of paint. Thank you very much. The rooms look great.



Michael Mawson Rockin it with Santa. -S



Kiera Snyman and Santa. -S



Michael Prendegast and Santa. -S



Ross Miller and Santa. -S



Jaidon Snyman and Santa. -S

Marysville Golf Report

by Lesley Rundle

THE annual presentation day was held last Saturday for Marysville golfers and a lot of fun was had. The day started with an 8.30am tee off for a game of Pink Ball Stableford. Teams of three players were drawn from a hat and each team were given a pink ball kindly donated by Margaret Blair. Each player in the team had to play with the pink ball on six holes and the stableford score gained with the pink ball on each hole was multiplied with the best score of the other two players. If the pink ball was lost the team had to pay \$5 each to be given another coloured ball. In very hot and humid conditions the results were mixed but the winning team comprising Heather Jenkins, Alan Howard and Ming Kuan won with 83 points. The runners up with 80 points were Mark Bamford, Paul Martin and Gail Leigh. The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Keith Atwell, Jodie Doran and Duncan Talbot. The winners received their trophies from Jenny Webb from Barry Plant Real Estate in Woori Yallock who kindly sponsored the day and has done so for many years. Many thanks Jenny.

After play the lunch provided by Glen Fiske was enjoyed by all players and visitors before the annual presentations took place. Obviously, there were not



Dress ups at Marysville Golf Club. -S

many trophies to be presented this year as competition play was not allowed for many weeks and our Melbourne members were in extended lockdowns. The dress up theme was a character from a book, a film or a TV show and

what a weird and motley crew they made. Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda, Smokey Bear, Hermione Granger, Wally, James Bond, The Blues Brother, a wicked witch, Hiawatha, the Great Gatsby and many others were present. Raffle

hampers were kindly donated by Rebecca Lee were also distributed and Margaret Blair won the prize for the best costume.

Our thanks to all those who played some part in the organisation of this successful day.

Next Saturday there will be no competition play as most members will be tucking into Christmas lunch but the 2022 syllabus starts on Jan 1 with a stroke round for the January monthly medal and round one of the Summer Aggregate.

Alexandra Golf report

by Elizabeth Goss

IT was Christmas party time for the ladies at Alexandra Golf Club on Wednesday. It was good to have nearly all members present, 28 in all. The day started with a nine hole round. Captain Helen had devised some trick requirements. The game was played in various unorthodox ways on the putting green, while only certain clubs were allowed on some fairways. The winner was July Lyon who gained the fewest points with 30.5, Barb Doyle was the runner up with 32 points. Sue Greatorex was nearest the Christmas Tree, Brenda Lopez the best dressed, and Sandra Morris received an encouragement

award. Later, at tables festooned with Christmas cheer, the ladies enjoyed lunch before some final presentations to those who could not attend last Saturday including the ladies Summer Cup to Brenda Lopez. The ladies will take a rest from competition golf today, Wednesday, December 22 and December 29. The four Stableford rounds for the 2020 Summer Cup will start on January 5. Book entries up until 8am.

The Tuesday winner was Russell Purcell (18) 37 points on a count back from the runner up John Greatorex (17) 36 points. Nearest the pins on the 17th went to Peter Vallance and on the 18th to Brad Newton

Only 15 players tackled the course on a very warm Saturday. The winner was Toby Ward (21) 34 points and the runner up was Trevor Biffin (15) 33 points on a countback from Graham Emerson (26) 33 points. Nearest the pin on the second and seventh was Jarrod Sloane, on the 12th Toby Ward and on the 18th James Kidd. Ball Run Down: Steve Darmody. Raffle winners were T Biffin and J Kidd. Entry winner was W Allen.

Now is the time to organise your team of four for the Community Challenge Ambrose on Tuesday, December 28.

A Merry and Happy Christmas to all our members and good hitting in 2022.

Captains day at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WITH a good turnout and an earlier start to the day with warm weather predicted, there was a mild start, but as the temperature heated up so did the golf. With a Christmas ham on the line there was a fiercely contested Stableford competition with some impressive (and not so impressive) scores recorded.

In the end our worthy winner was M Mackwell with 40 points and hot on his heels was J Rachcoff 37 points and in third place W Kupke 36 points. Well done guys great scoring.

Other winners on the day were nearest the pins on the fifth J Rachcoff, the 12th K Collier and on the 14th M Mackwell, no winners on the designated birdies holes this week.

Eildon Golf Club would like to thank all sponsors and members for all the hard work and support given to such a great club, and wish everyone a great Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at the Eildon Golf Club.



2021 Award winners, July Lyon, Jenny Fisher, Ruth Worland, Marg Fahey, Helen Findlay, Brenda Lopez, Barb Doyle, Pauline Brooks and Judy Pearson. -S



Throwing the ball. -S

Standard

Sport

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Alexandra Football Club wrap up

by Ray Steyger

ALEXANDRA Football Club have celebrated the *Let's Catch Up* program, which ran on three consecutive Fridays in December by the Alexandra Football Netball Club at the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve multi-purpose community facility. The *Let's Catch Up* program is aimed to provide everyone with a safe, comfortable environment with an opportunity to catch up and renew face to face social contact. A Foundation Murrindindi grant has gone towards the cost of providing finger food on each of the three *Let's Catch Up* sessions and support from the Foundation is very much appreciated.

Last Friday the club incorporated several club presentations with Ladies Committee President Kath Hedger thanking everyone for the year and presenting a cheque in the amount of \$30,000 to the club, monies raised during 2021 which was a tremendous effort in what was a challenging year again.

Club volunteer George Anderson was also recognised for his efforts over many years and was presented with Club Life Membership.

The Dream Team outcomes were announced with team five coming first and team six coming second, both teams owned by Ben Cooper players' syndicate, winning \$4250 and \$2550 respectively.

On Saturday, January 8, 2022 the Alexandra Rodeo is on and as per previous years, the club has been requested to supply staff to operate two bars as well as providing a food tent. The roster will go out after Christmas. If you can assist, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.

Friday, January 28 and Saturday 29, Alexandra Rodeo will be hosting rounds three and four of the APRA National Finals Rodeo, the club will again be supplying staff to operate two bars as well as providing a food tent as per the earlier Rodeo. If you can assist, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.

The club's Saturday and Sunday football and netball teams look forward to the 2022 season with some new players having signed up, one of which is Sam Kerridge, former Adelaide and Carlton AFL player. Sam joins brother-in-law Ben Cooper at the club, the boys partnered with Nicole and Rachel Manthorpe respectively. Sam looks forward to mentoring the younger players at the club after having coached White Hills in the Heathcote League the last couple of years.



Ladies committee president Kath Hedger presenting a cheque to club president Ray Steyger. -S



Sam Kerridge. -S



Volunteer George Anderson was awarded a Life Membership. -S