

# Standard

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

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Bushfire concert raises over \$148,000



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Anzac Day in Yarck



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Kellock thanks Pam



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Weekend sport



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# Lest we forget



The attendees at the Yarck Cenotaph on Anzac Day. More images on page 8. -AR

## Fire Inquiry hears from our fire-impacted region

THE Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's *Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires across Victoria* held a hearing at the Alexandra Shire Hall on Friday, April 24. The committee members had also heard directly from some of the communities impacted by the Longwood fire on the preceding days.

The session started with council representatives from the fire-impacted region, including Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher, CEO Livia Bonazzi, and Director of Community and Development Andrew Paxton.

The panel also heard from community hub representatives from Fawcett, Tablelands and Highlands, followed by CFA representatives, then former incident controller Andrew Miller, Peter Weeks from UGFM, and Fiona Lindsay who lost her property in the Longwood Fire.

After lunch, there was an open mic session, where members of the community could make three-minute presentations to the panel.

Throughout the session, the panel members were made aware of the trauma and challenges

facing the fire-impacted communities. There was also the overwhelming impression that residents, councils and community hubs felt that they had not been adequately supported by the state government during the recovery stages, noting how different the response has been compared to previous bushfire events in Victoria.

As Mayor Damien Gallagher said in his presentation, "In February, the Victorian Government announced \$6.9 million in mental health support for bushfire impacted communities. Try to contemplate my frustration after conveying the story of Murrindindi Shire, the 4000 square kilometres and most impacted municipality, has received \$0 dollars of that funding. Contemplate my frustration at hearing no response to raising this concern and seeing Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital and community and philanthropic funded individuals like Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, fill the mental wellbeing gap without recovery support; a gap left by a failure of policy. Murrindindi is on the

frontline of the disaster, and back of the queue for funding."

He also spoke about the recovery challenges following the 2022 flood event, and the power and communication difficulties in the shire. He spoke of farmers suffering from floods, droughts, fire and now the fuel and fertiliser challenges. Livia pointed out that half of the shire's farmers are missing out on all support from the state government.

Damien noted that only 8.3 per cent of the announced funding for local governments to date is going to Murrindindi Shire, despite our shire comprising 48 per cent of the area burnt in the January fires.

CEO Livia Bonazzi stated, "Resilience is not a funding model. When recovery funding is standardised against unequal impact, the burden shifts onto communities, onto volunteers, and onto small rural councils with limited capacity to absorb it."

She said, "A system that is not proportionate in design becomes re-traumatising in delivery. We entered this fire season already carrying

the impact of floods, storms and prolonged disruption. Infrastructure was already compromised. Recovery frameworks assume events occur in isolation. Communities experience them as cumulative, layered and unfinished. Local government sits at the centre of this. We are the recovery coordinating authority. We are the delivery layer. We manage infrastructure. We enable rebuilding. We support community wellbeing and local economies. Half our workforce was directly impacted by this disaster. They are living the recovery while delivering it. At the same time, volunteers and community-led hubs have been essential. But community is not a substitute for a system that is properly resourced."

She finished by saying, "We will continue to stand with our community. The question is whether the system and government will stand with us."

The panel also heard numerous times about people's concerns around roadside vegetation, wire-rope barriers, communications challenges, leave early or stay and fight, and the prioritisation decisions during the fire fight.

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

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Unviable, unachievable and not value for money**

UPPER Goulburn landholders met with Federal Water Minister Watt, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) Simon Banks and Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Chief Executive River Management Jacquie Hickey last week. It seems none of them are widely read on the cold hard facts why any relaxed constraints flows from the upper Goulburn and mid Murray River simply cannot have any positive effect on increasing flows in the Lower Murray, unless man-made major floods such as those of 2016 and 2022 are created.

The Minister was totally clueless of the fact that the *Hydrological Outcomes* document that investigated the feasibility of constraints in the Goulburn and Murray stated, "The beneficial environmental impacts of relaxing constraints in the mid-Murray and Goulburn tend to decrease with increasing distance downstream of the Barmah Choke. Modelling suggests relaxing constraints will result in no change in the frequency of environmentally desirable higher flow rates in the Murray River at the South Australian border under all relaxed constraints scenarios tested in this stage of the Victorian Constraints Management Project."

In fact none of the bureaucrats had read the above document which repeatedly states relaxed constraints flows, as modelled by the MDBA, DEECA and University of Melbourne, from the Upper Goulburn and mid Murray have no significant impact past Torrumbarry or at the South Australian border.

The Minister also told us that he was unaware that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has repeatedly stated that they do not need or want any more water for the Goulburn. They have 650GL and struggle to use all that.

Carl Walters, Chief Executive GBCMA has continually said, "We can't have the Goulburn River treated as a sacrificial lamb to downstream needs. It has essentially destroyed the characteristics of the lower Goulburn with bank slumping, erosion and declining native fish populations."

The MDBA and CEWH advise the Minister on environmental buybacks, so in my book, these bureaucrats are culpable of either misinforming the Federal Minister or the Minister himself is slow-witted and uncomprehending.

Regardless, Minister Watt told us face to face and in no uncertain terms he intended to continue buying back the 450 GL. Despite the fact that the purpose of the 450GL was to be delivered to the Lower Murray and South Australia to achieve 'enhanced environmental outcomes' and has now been proven to be unachievable, the Minister intends to keep spending billions of taxpayer's dollars.

As environmental water entitlements make up 44 per cent of entitlements in the Goulburn Valley consumptive pool, it is obvious this excess water which will have to be stored in the upstream storages, will in wetter years with more unpredictable rain events, cause major flooding of landowners on the riverine floodplains. And in drought years will exacerbate food and fodder shortages.

Water policies as devised by the Basin Plan have created an overabundance of environmental water which now controls our national food and fodder security.

The MDBA, CEWH and Minister Watt are all answerable to the public. They are all guilty of spending billions of taxpayer's dollars on a project that has proven to be unviable and unachievable and certainly not value for money as all procurement programs must be by law.

*Jan Beer, Yea, representing Upper Goulburn River Catchment Association*

**New funding opportunity for energy resilience projects**

APPLICATIONS are now open for the final round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Grants. There are two categories: Energy Resilience Grants, and Energy Education and Literacy Grants.

These grants provide funding for projects that strengthen local energy resilience and help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from prolonged outages, emergencies and severe weather events.

With communities across the Murrindindi Shire continuing to recover from the January bushfires, this funding can support essential improvements that build long term resilience.

Applications are open to community and not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises, and eligible small businesses or sole traders providing an essential service or operating as a resilience hub.

You can read the grant guidelines at Energy Resilience Community Fund (ERCF) and submit an application through the ERCF grants portal.

For questions about eligibility or the application process, you can also contact AusNet's ERCF Manager, Kim Sullivan, on 0499 781 580 or at [ERCF@ausnetservices.com.au](mailto:ERCF@ausnetservices.com.au)

**Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report**

*by honorary secretary Mike Jennings*

THE club week started with two tables of bridge players testing their skills on Wednesday. On Friday, there was a social meeting, with the formalities followed by refreshments and the customary chat before settling down to games of 500 and UNO. The next excursion will be to *Morning Melodies* at Healesville RSL on Tuesday, June 9. If you are planning to come please put your name on the list on the front desk.

The club welcomes new members both for bridge and other club activities so please come along and join in at the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

**COMMUNITY DIARY**

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

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

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

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

**MONTHLY**

1<sup>st</sup> Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913  
 4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517  
 Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455



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

**Weekly Weather**  
 April 29 - May 5, 2026  
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	24	Wednesday	9	24
Thursday	10	23	Thursday	10	23
Friday	12	24	Friday	12	25
Saturday	14	23	Saturday	15	23
Sunday	11	20	Sunday	11	21
Monday	8	16	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	7	15	Tuesday	7	16

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
 can be submitted via email to  
[editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au) or  
[reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
 or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers  
 PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	1.67	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.40	falling	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.49	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	10.32AM Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.27AM Mon	0.40	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	10.00AM Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.39	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.61	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.31	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.21	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.28	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.30AM Mon	1.52	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

\*ISSUED AT 10:54 AM AEDT MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra.....	0.1mm
Buxton.....	N/A mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0mm
Flowerdale.....	0.2mm
Jamieson.....	0mm
Kinglake.....	0mm
Lake Eildon.....	0mm
Mansfield.....	0mm
Taggerty.....	0.2mm
Yarck.....	0mm
Yea.....	0mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week.....	269.72m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	41.1%
Metres below full supply.....	19.18m
Daily inflow.....	500ML
Release.....	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	70%



**DEADLINES**

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

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

5772 1002 or  
[reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

We thank you for your continued support



# Letters to the Editor

## The Green Dream

AS I class myself as one of the silent majority, ie. not one for marching up and down streets and protesting about anything that does not fit my outlook on this once wonderful country, I've just about had enough of the incompetence of current governments at both state and federal level that are driving this country in a downward

spiral to I don't know where. What has steamed me up is a program I watched last Sunday, April 12. To those who agree or disagree with the current move toward renewable energy I implore you to watch this program which is called *Spotlight: The Green Dream*, available on 7+ if you have a smart TV. This will open your eyes up regardless of your

beliefs. The program shows some horrifying situations that should affect us all in this current age, proving that the push toward renewables is an issue that must be re-addressed, good luck with that. If anyone wishes to reply to this letter, please don't until you have watched this program in its entirety.

Ken Collier, Eildon



Elva Thompson with some of the beautiful puppies and teddy bears she has been creating for the young patients at Alexandra District Health. -AR

# Bushfire Relief Concert raises \$148,121 for fire-affected communities

AFTER weeks of behind-the-scenes work to finalise outcomes, organisers of the *Rise From the Ashes* Bushfire Relief Concert have officially confirmed that \$148,121 has been raised to support communities impacted by the January 2026 bushfires.

The event brought together an overwhelming level of community support, with funds directed toward the smaller, and in many cases harder-hit, communities of Yarck, Fawcett, Merton, Ruffly and Terip Terip.

Event organisers Jason Smith (Frankston Bombers Football Netball Club President) and Terip and Yarck locals Chris and Chloe Sharman said it was a privilege to work alongside key contributors to bring the initiative to life.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working together to deliver an event that not only brought people together but delivered meaningful support to those who need it most," they said.

To ensure the funds are distributed fairly and effectively, a meeting was recently held

with the five CFA Captains representing each township. From this, an Advisory Committee has been established, with clear criteria to guide the allocation of funds across the affected communities.

The final stage of the fundraising effort was marked Sunday, April 19, with the official cheque presented to the Advisory Committee at the Yarck Hotel.

Organisers extended their sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the event's success.

"We would like to thank every business and individual who supported this event, whether through raffle prizes, auction items, food, beverages or direct donations.

"A special thank you must also go to the Frankston Bombers FNC and the wider football and netball community of the Mornington Peninsula, whose generosity and volunteer support played a significant role in making the day such a success.

"This result simply would not have been possible without the support of so many."



# POLICE REPORT



Police are keen to speak to the man in this image regarding the Merton incident. -S

ON Saturday, April 11 between 7pm and 8.50pm, unknown offenders broke into a Nissan Patrol which was parked on High Street in Yea. The offenders made attempts to start the vehicle but were unsuccessful. The offenders stole a black Dometic branded fridge, a wallet and various keys from the vehicle. If you have any information, please contact Senior Constable Moffatt at Yea Police on 5797 2630.

BENALLA Crime Investigation detectives are seeking assistance from the public following a burglary at a Merton service station on April 15. A male wearing a red bucket hat, all black clothing, gloves, and white shoes, gained entry to the Maroondah Highway premises about 2.50am. He stole cash, cigarettes and a mobile phone. The offender fled in a newer model silver

Toyota Rav 4 (possibly a XSE variant) with black rims and roof. Investigators believe a second person was in the vehicle, in the front passenger seat. This follows on from a similar incident in Eildon about 2.30am on Saturday, March 14. An offender gained entry to a service station on Centre Avenue, stealing a safe containing cash. Investigators have released images of a person wearing a grey 'NXP' hoodie, black pants and white sneakers, who they believe may be able to assist the investigation. Police have also released an image of a white dual cab Toyota utility that was in the vicinity at the time of the Eildon incident. Anyone who can help identify an offender or one of the vehicles mentioned is urged to contact Crimestoppers.

👍 THUMBS UP 👎  
 THUMBS DOWN

**THUMBS UP:** To Bob from the Alexandra Fire Brigade who gave up his time on Sunday, April 26 to run a fire evacuation drill with fire extinguisher training to the members of the Oasis Community Church. Bob's expertise and professionalism was truly appreciated.

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](mailto: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

## CFA Appreciation Dinner raises \$46,753.48

THE Murrindindi CFA Appreciation Dinner, held on Saturday, March 28 in Alexandra has announced that the event raised a remarkable \$46,753.48. The organisers would like to send a huge thank you to all of the people of Murrindindi Shire.

Ticket sales raised \$6447, the live and silent auctions raised \$31,470, the raffle raised \$6035, the Liquor Donation package totalled

\$1490, and there was \$960 in direct donations, \$251.48 in payment donations, and the Buy-It-Now total was \$100.

As a result of the effort, each of the shire's 24 brigades received a deposit of \$1948.06.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who came to support the event on the night and the many generous businesses which donated.

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88a Grant St - access via Bayley St carpark

Alexandra Pharmacy - Thursday 21/5/2026

10am - 12pm

101 Grant St, Alexandra

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# Additional funding budgeted for the CFA

The *Victorian Budget 2026/27* will include an expansion to CFA's rolling fleet replacement program.

The press release states, "An additional \$100 million for new CFA tankers and pumpers to ensure our firefighting fleet can protect Victorians. The budget also includes \$26.2 million for CFA station builds, planning, land acquisition and upgrades." These upgrades are not located in Murrindindi Shire.

The government will also deliver \$22.4 million for more wellbeing support, training and new protective gear.

Forest firefighters will receive a \$217 million investment to purchase 17 new assets including heavy tankers, dozers and graders, deliver upgrades to the vehicle fleet, secure the critical aviation fire fleet, and conduct more planned burns and fuel management.

Danny O'Brien, Leader of the Nationals, responded to the announcement, saying that the government had "conveniently left out that it will be distributed over 10 years."

He added, "This is a joke. This funding spread over 10 years doesn't come anywhere near what is required to adequately replace the CFA's ageing fleet. There are at least 630 old single cab tankers in the fleet, and more than 10 per cent of tankers are more than 30 years old. This funding will not even begin to modernise the fleet. It's also a fraction of the \$3 billion extra the government is collecting from Victorians in emergency services tax. Where is the rest of the money going?"

At present, new tankers cost \$465,000 and pumpers \$1 million.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria estimates the CFA needs to replace 100 appliances each year at a cost of \$60 million just to stop the age of the fleet going backwards.

A government spokesperson was asked for further information on the funding. They confirmed that the funding is over 10 years

and said it's "designed to provide certainty and a steady pipeline of new appliances."

They said, "In 2026-27 alone, CFA will have up to \$53 million available for fleet, combining around \$10 million from the new \$100 million commitment, around \$10 million from the existing rolling fleet replacement program, around \$10 million from CFA base funding, and up to \$23 million through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). That level of funding will significantly accelerate the replacement of ageing appliances, particularly older tankers that raise safety concerns."

"The \$26.2 million for CFA station builds, upgrades, planning and land acquisition is being delivered through the current budget, with projects rolling out as planning and approvals are completed, not spread evenly over 10 years. This approach allows CFA to act now on stations already in the pipeline while also planning ahead for future needs."

Asked for information on whether any of the new tankers and pumpers would be for Murrindindi Shire brigades, the spokesperson responded, "CFA does not release a fixed, public brigade-by-brigade list in advance, because fleet allocation is an operational decision based on risk and need. CFA uses a statewide prioritisation process, considering factors such as local fire risk, call-out rates, the condition and age of existing appliances, and regional roles."



*Buxton Primary School students commemorated Anzac Day on Friday, April 24 with the planting of poppies at the base of the flagpoles outside the Buxton Memorial Hall. The flagpoles form part of the reflective garden which was established through funding from the Federal Government's Saluting Their Service grant program a number of years ago. The idea of planting poppies came from Buxton resident and returned serviceman Carmel Denham, who served on USNS Comfort as part of an Australian medical detachment during the first Gulf War. Carmel is a member of the Returned Nurses RSL Sub-Branch and an associate member of the Maryville RSL. School principal Sarah Irving thanked Carmel for the beautiful poppies saying "We love this tradition you have created for us. We have just planted them and had our minute silence." Some of the students also participated in the Marysville RSL march and service on Anzac Day.*



*Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home was very grateful for the generous donation from the Alexandra Opportunity Shop this month. Cheryl Scheltinga presented the \$25,000 donation to CEO Donna Walsh and DON Gee Nair at the facility. The donation will be put to great use for Darlingford's renovations program of residents rooms, including new flooring, window furnishing and a fresh coat of paint. Darlingford greatly appreciate the commitment that the volunteers make and the positive impact they have made at Darlingford and throughout the Murrindindi Shire. -S*

## An important warning

AN email arrived in our inbox recently from a prominent local person, known to our organisation. The email said, "Do you have time to chat over email?"

Our response was in the affirmative, with an offer to chat over the phone if needed.

They replied, "Thanks for the response, I'm reaching out to ask for a favor. I need to get an Apple gift card for my niece, who is diagnosed with stage 4 mesothelioma cancer. It's her birthday but I can't do this now because I'm currently out of town. I tried purchasing it online, but unfortunately, I got no luck on that. I was wondering if you could purchase it at any store around you, supermarket or ordering it online through Apple, prezze or eBay and have it sent directly to her email. I'll refund you, just let me know if you're able to assist."

This rang alarm bells and led to checking the email address it had been sent from. It was similar to the address of the person known to us, but not the same. Someone in the office had also seen the person in town just an hour earlier.

The email was sent from a scammer. We decided to mess with them a little bit.

We enquired about the address they would like the gift card sent to, and this was willingly supplied by the scammer.

"Thank you so much. I want you to get \$200 Apple gift card, you can order the gift cards to her email address [\*\*\*] and forward the order confirmation to me once done. The delivery date should be 'now' so it will be delivered five mins after been ordered. Message I want is 'Happy Birthday you deserve the best.'"

We replied, "Done," and followed up half an hour later with a 'Whoops, I think I sent it to the wrong email address.'

They responded, "Thank you so much. She has not received any Apple gift card, so you will need to reorder another one for her. Don't worry I will refund you all. Here is her email address [\*\*\*]."

We enquired about whether the money would be refunded in cash tomorrow, and of course they said it would be, along with a

further request to "forward the confirmation once it's done."

We asked whether the gift card should be in Euros or American dollars.

The scammer replied, "Send it in Euros she has a way of using it."

We offered to call and confirm the details. They said, "No, I'm currently busy at the moment please go ahead and place the order."

We said, "I just want to confirm the message to include. I'll call you in five mins. Just a really quick call."

The reply was, "I'm currently using my computer at the moment so I can't receive call. Here is the message you will include: happy birthday you deserve the best."

Of course, we didn't send the money.

These scammers impersonate people, even our local people, and prey on kindness.

If you receive a similar email, please don't be fooled. Check the email address against the email address you have for the person you know, and give them a call if you're not sure.

Always be extremely wary of anyone asking for a gift card to be emailed.

### Church Services

#### ANGLICAN

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

#### CATHOLIC

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

#### UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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#### OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,  
Loving Life  
118 Grant Street, Alexandra  
0408 123 581  
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

#### MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

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

#### THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist  
Union of Victoria  
Sunday 4.30pm service  
Kids program during school term  
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Contact - 0438 642 559

## Out & About

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

An open community meeting will take place from 5pm at the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, hosted by Murrindindi Shire Council. This is an opportunity to speak to council about topics or issues that affect you and your community. Prior registration is not required.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FRIDAY, MAY 1

Free health checks for the farming community at Yea Saleyards.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THURSDAY, MAY 7

Free heart health checks at Murrindindi Foodshare 9am-noon- access via Bayley Street carpark.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FRIDAY, MAY 8

*Confetti and Chaos* at Trawool Estate. This fabulous five star experience has fun and mayhem bursting from the seams of a wedding dress, with entirely original comedy that pulls out all the stops; including quick

fire character changes and quick fire laughs. From arrival through to seating, eating, and dancing, audiences will become part of a classic wedding reception gone wildly wrong. The most hilarious wedding reception ever. A perfect gift for your mum for Mother's Day. Book now 5792 1444 or [trawoolstate.com.au/whatson/confettiandchaos](http://trawoolstate.com.au/whatson/confettiandchaos)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SATURDAY, MAY 9

Yea Garden Club announces it's inaugural Mother's Day bouquet sale outside Yencens Yea from 9am until sold out.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SUNDAY, MAY 10

Enjoy Mother's Day in Wild Water restaurant at Trawool

Estate. Dine from the usual all day menu, or enjoy the specials available just for this special day. Booking essential on 5792 1444 or [trawoolstate.com.au/booktable](http://trawoolstate.com.au/booktable)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TUESDAY, MAY 12

Friends of the Library Alexandra AGM. 6pm at the Alexandra Library. New members welcome. Nomination forms available by emailing the secretary [proctor@virtual.net.au](mailto:proctor@virtual.net.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THURSDAY, MAY 21

Free heart health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy 10am-noon.

\*\*\*\*\*





Alexandra RSL President Bob Binghamy (podium), Kellock Lodge CEO Tania Hunter and her nursing staff leading the gathered crowd in hymns. -BD

# Anzac Day at Kellock Lodge

KELLOCK Lodge in Alexandra hosted their ANZAC Day ceremony last Friday, with residents gathering in the courtyard to remember the soldiers that bravely served our country in ages past.

President of the Alexandra RSL Bob Binghamy led the service, reading the traditional poem of 'In Flanders Fields' by John McRae. Wreaths were laid, including a special one created by the residents of Kellock Lodge.

Michael Gallagher raised the flag, and the Last Post was played. A morning tea was held after the ceremony for residents.



The Kellock Lodge wreath created by residents. -BD



The residents gathered outside in the courtyard, with the autumn sunshine complementing the service nicely. -BD



Michael Gallagher raising the Australian flag at Kellock Lodge's ANZAC Day service. -BD

## Snobs Creek Hatchery annual open day to show off new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre

THE Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery near Eildon will be open to fish fanatics of all ages from 9am to 2pm at its annual open day on Sunday, May 3.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said the annual free event will have an added attraction this year following the opening of the new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre which will provide a significant boost to the iconic 'Maccas' and trout cod.

"The open day is packed with free family activities including self-guided tours and the chance to ask questions of expert hatchery staff about how fish are bred in captivity and Victorian Fisheries Authority's nation leading fish stocking program," Mr Dowling said.

Snobs Creek opened in 1948 and now produces everything from the iconic Murray cod to threatened trout cod and Macquarie perch, as well as brown and rainbow trout and Chinook salmon.

Work by the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery to help recover at least 10 threatened species is another highlight of the open day.

VFA staff and the team from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute will be on hand to explain the work carried out at this state-of-the-art facility.

Robbie Alexander will be there sharing fishing tips and stories, inspiring the next generation to go fishing more often and scientist Dr Corey Green will be dissecting trout and discussing their fascinating anatomy.

VRFish will be running a fun lure painting activity while sharing advocacy updates in the recreational fishing space.

The Fisheries Education team will keep the kids entertained with a range of activities. There will also be a stocking truck display, casting clinics, aquaculture hub, live music, coffee van and sausage sizzle.

The Snob's Creek Fish Hatchery is at 455 Goulburn Valley Highway, Eildon.

For more information on what the Snobs Creek Open day has in store, visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/snobsopenday](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/snobsopenday)



People have an opportunity to wander around Snobs Creek Hatchery and talk to staff at the annual open day. -BD



**SUNDAY  
3 MAY  
9am 2pm**

**FREE EVENT**

# SNOB'S CREEK OPEN DAY

Join us for a fun, free open day at our  
**Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery!**  
455 Goulburn-Valley Highway, Eildon

- ✓ Tour the hatchery, including the new Conservation Hatchery to bring back threatened freshwater species and Macquarie perch Recovery Centre
- ✓ Aquaculture Hub with free samples
- ✓ Meet fishing expert Robbie Alexander
- ✓ Fun kids activities - plaster arts, face painting, games and so much more!
- ✓ Take a selfie with our big fish sculpture
- ✓ Local artists performing live music
- ✓ Coffee van and sausage sizzle onsite








**SCAN ME!**





Proudly supporting  
**Student of the week**

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



**ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Lachlan Fallon**

Lachlan shows the school values of Respect and Care each day in the classroom. Lachlan is happy to work with a wide range of students, even creating games that they can play together. He is kind and helpful to both his teachers and his peers. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Lachlan. You are a Star.

**BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Buxton's students of the week are Mia-Rose, Lucy and Harlow for being caring and helping to look after our school plants and animals.



**EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ELLIE-MAE**



For demonstrating the school value Achievement by completing your independent work to the best of your ability and on time. When you are unsure, you give it a go or ask for help rather than skipping tasks. Also, thank you for your patience during our ever-changing days and for always using your initiative and respect to help wherever possible. Well done, Ellie-Mae.

**Student of the Week**

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



**Anzac Day in Marysville**



*Anne Jessop. -S*

THE Marysville Anzac Day commemoration took place beneath autumn leaves and clear skies.

Reverend John Jessop provided the Anzac Day address. He said, "For me, one of the most important things we commemorate on Anzac Day is the comradeship and mateship that those on active military service experience. The circumstances of active military service draw people together in co-operation and mutual dependency. People who have not experienced the fear of being under fire, or the extreme deprivation and discomfort of the battlefield, warship or warplane, will have difficulty in understanding this. This sort of comradeship is often expressed in the ultimate sacrifice. It is also an expression of love and it ultimately leads to grief."

He spoke about the young RNVR Sub-Lt, Arthur Tisdall, a scholar and poet, who performed an act of such heroism that troops waiting in boats to land could only watch in dumb admiration and astonishment.

Rev Jessop explained, "Sub-Lt Tisdall was waiting on his troop ship, SS River Clyde, to lead his platoon ashore when he witnessed the

attempted landing of the Munster and Dublin Fusiliers. Just as the Irish reached the shore, the Turkish machine guns opened up again, cutting a terrible swathe through the ranks, leaving many men dead and wounded on the beach. Their cries could be heard above the relentless rattle of the machine guns and the thunder of exploding shells. Rescue of the helpless soldiers seemed out of the question, then Tidall turned to a major by his side and said, 'I can't stand it. I'm going over.' He then leapt into the water and aided by four seamen and pushing a small boat before him made several trips between shore and ship, rescuing many men. All the time he ignored the hail of bullets. For this action Tisdall was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was killed in action on May 6, 1915."

This is one of many stories of heroism that come from Gallipoli. Rev Jessop added, "It was Tisdall's sense of common decency and generosity; and his regard for his fellow men that prompted his action. In my experience, this sense of service and decency pervades the men and women of our defence forces and we should be very proud of them."



*Bob Emblin with Cr Sandice McAulay. -S*



*The Anzac parade down Murchison Street in Marysville. -S*

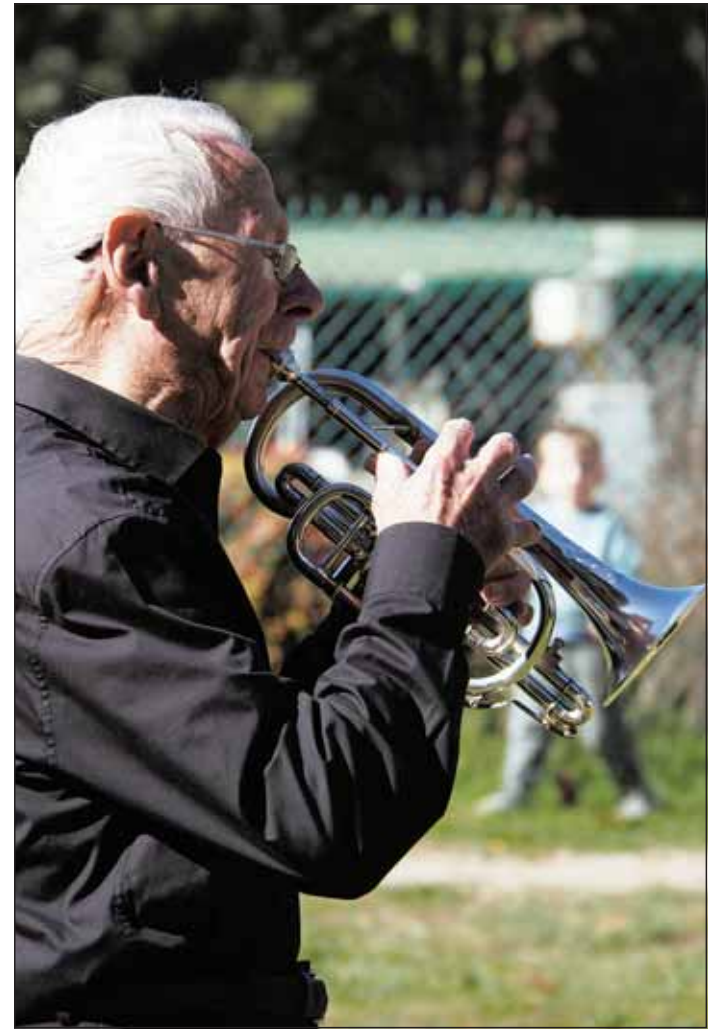


*Bob Emblin and Rev John Jessop. -S*

# Anzac Day in Alexandra



The Alexandra Anzac Day event was very well attended. -AR



Bob Gillespie (91) playing *The Last Post* on the bugle. He first played *The Last Post* at the Alexandra Anzac Day ceremony when he was aged just 11. He received a sincere round of applause from the audience for his fine efforts. -AR



Students from Alexandra Secondary College. -AR



Richard Crisp. -AR



Alexandra RSL President Bob Benghamy. -AR



The statue atop the Cenotaph. -AR



An Ambulance Victoria representative with their wreath. -AR



SES representatives with their wreath. -AR



Students from Alexandra Secondary College laying a wreath. -AR



Students from St Mary's Primary School laying a wreath. -AR



The choir. -AR

## Disability access plans for the shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked whether they are developing any plans around disability access in the shire, particularly regarding footpaths and shire owned buildings.

They responded, "Council recognises that safe, dignified and accessible movement through our towns and public buildings is essential for people of all abilities, and improving disability access across the shire remains an ongoing priority.

"Across council-owned buildings, upgrades are being delivered progressively as part of planned renewal programs and as funding allows. A current project is in planning to improve accessibility at the Alexandra Shire Hall and Council Chambers, including consideration of circulation and entry arrangements. The Yea Shire Hall already provides disability access via a side entrance, and council seeks to ensure access arrangements are equitable, functional and respectful, while also working within the constraints of heritage buildings and existing layouts.

"Council is also continuing to upgrade footpaths and pedestrian crossings to better meet disability access standards. These works are prioritised based on safety, usage, connectivity and identified need. In recent years, several crossings in High Street in Yea have been upgraded, and further significant improvements are planned within the Grant Street commercial precinct in Alexandra, with delivery expected within the next 12 months.

"Community feedback has highlighted ongoing concerns in some locations, including streets without footpaths and crossings that are difficult to use for people in wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Council uses this feedback, condition assessments and technical advice, to inform forward planning and prioritisation across the network.

"New footpaths are typically delivered as part of subdivision or redevelopment, while upgrades in established areas often rely on external funding support. It is important to acknowledge that many residential streets were constructed historically without footpaths. Council continues to actively advocate for grant funding to be accelerate improvements in priority locations. Recent examples include footpath works delivered in Hall Street, Alexandra, and Falls Road, Marysville.

"Council will continue to assess opportunities, pursue funding and progressively deliver improvements to ensure our streets and public buildings are safer, more accessible and inclusive for everyone who lives in or visits Murrindindi Shire."

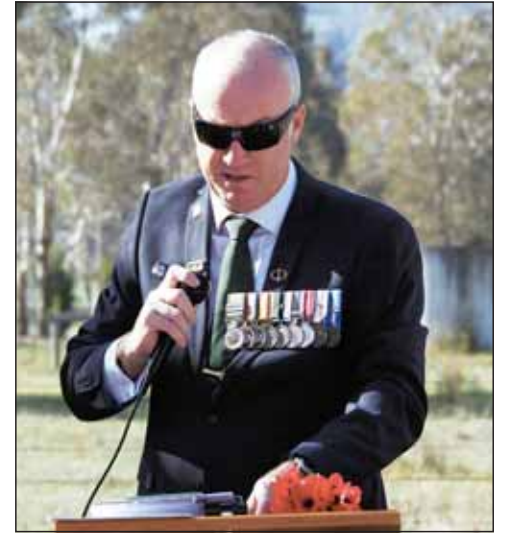
# Anzac Day in Yarck



Cr Paul Hildebrand laying a wreath. -AR



Darren Stendt. -AR



Steven Watson. -AR



Wreaths at the Cenotaph in Yarck. -AR



People of all ages attended the Yarck Anzac Day ceremony. -AR



Alexandra RSL members Stuart Chettle, Steven Watson, Luke Fegen and Darren Stendt. -AR



A magpie atop the flagpole at the Yarck Anzac Day ceremony. -AR

## Some more of our wonderful unsung heroes

**Jye Savage** definately needs a shout out for all his epic work putting the hay run together. -Francine Smith

**Sam Hicks. Sasha Barrows. Ray Mackey. Andrew Embling. Aidan Embling. Tim Winter. Jarrod Smith.** Bushfire heroes. Ray Mackey is from Acheron. He and Tim Winter and Jarrod Smith saved fires from getting into Black Range and joining up with big fires. Alone with farm and home made equipment they held a huge spot fire that turned into 20ha and saved several farms and houses in the district. -Vee Scott

**Dan Lawrence** - He came across from Axedale to help his brother save his Dad's property in Swan Road. -Karen Mckenzie

All the goodness in people simply poured out of our local towns. For me, having no home or clothes, the support of **Burton's IGA Euroa** donating new clothes and boots for my family and through the pop-up shops was so important, and **Shez Marchenko** and **Kathryn Goodall** keeping the Longwood Relief Centre. Donations of food, kitchenware, furniture and offers of accommodation came from so many. Particular thanks to **Steven Jeffery** for the perfect house for us

to recover rebuild and be able to work from home. **Longwood Primary School** for their emotional support, donations, and care of our son. **Paula Burton** for taking Otis on some fun and distracting activities. Gift vouchers from work colleagues and family have helped us get the things we need. It just goes on. -Michelle Hanslow

**The Longwood Community**, every single member, family, friend and helper, past and present. The staff and children of the **Longwood Primary School**, the **Longwood Football and Netball Club**, and all the groups that make a community, it has always been and hopefully will always be. The Longwood Fires only just displayed it to the world. -Ron Socnik

**Shez Marchenko** and **Kathryn Goodall** for the visionary and tireless efforts setting up the bushfire relief centre at the Longwood Football Netball Club. Incredible women who are still serving those in need, while they juggle their own family, work, friends, homes, and network. - Heather Yelland

All of the crew, both locals and out of area volunteers, at the **Ruffy stock feed depot**

and all the ladies and gents at the **Ruffy Hall** who are still going strong. -Gavin Henderson

**Shez Marchenko** and **Kathryn Goodall** for heading up and still now continuing the bushfire relief centre at the Longwood Recreation Reserve. - Maddi Milne

The **Embling team** for staying open and having what was needed on hand regardless of all they were going through themselves. The guys from **Fifth Gen Constructions** for taking so much time off work to do hay runs all over the area. **Andrew Embling** for organising the hay depot. **Menzies support services** for the community wardrobe that helped so many. - Emily Salmon

**Chris Lynch** and the CFA teams from here and all over the state. The businesses who stepped up in those first dreadful days when there was no power and we were isolated, especially **FoodWorks**, **Alexandra Pharmacy**, the **Alexandra Opp Shop**, **Kevin and Sirikarn's cafe** and **Grant St Grocer**. They opened despite few staff and were so important. **Alexandra Rotary Club** immediately asked for donations and set up a voucher centre in the **Alexandra and Eildon Woodworkers** building. These vouchers

could only be used in Alexandra and supported local businesses. The Woodworkers let Rotary use the space from 9am to 3pm every day and also collected tools and implements. **The Alexandra Lions Club** distributed their own vouchers and provided an amazing array of tools, etcetera. The Menzies Centre set up a **Recovery Wardrobe** for people who had lost so much. **Foundation Murrindindi** provided food, bedding, clothes and referrals for people. **The Alex Hub** assisted locals to apply for government assistance and also gave immediate relief. **SP Ausnet** and various internet companies worked long hours to restore electricity. **Murrindindi Shire Council** coordinated many of these activities behind the scenes. **The SES** was called out to many difficult and dangerous situations. Now **Blaze Aid** is doing a wonderful job erecting fences and providing encouragement to farmers. They are being cared for by the **Alex Football/Netball Club** where they have caravans and showers. **Need for Feed** organised by the **Lions Club**. -Alexandra Rotary

# The Farmer's Ag News

## Independent inquiry finds Murray-Darling Basin environmental program failed to deliver

A MAJOR independent inquiry has found that the Northern Basin Toolkit, a \$160 million package of infrastructure projects and policy reforms agreed to in exchange for reducing the northern basin's water recovery target under the Basin Plan, has severely underdelivered on its environmental commitments, with key infrastructure projects falling drastically short of their original targets over the program's seven years.

The inquiry was conducted by the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC), the Honourable Troy Grant, under the *Water Act 2007*, drawing on over 12,000 documents, 16 submissions, field visits across the northern basin, and interviews with senior officials from five government agencies.

The toolkit arose from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA's) 2016 Northern Basin Review, which reduced the northern basin's water recovery target from 390 to 320 gegalitres per year. The 70 gegalitres that remained in consumptive use was agreed on the basis of commitments by the Australian, New South Wales and Queensland Governments to deliver environmental outcomes through complementary measures; commitments this inquiry found were not met.

"Even ardent defenders of the implementation of this program would have conceded that delivery has been slow, fragmented, and in some cases lacking transparency," Mr Grant said.

Policy measures in the toolkit largely succeeded. Infrastructure projects, which received all the dedicated funding, largely did not.

The NSW Reconnecting the Northern Basin project has so far delivered just 64 kilometres of fish passage against an original target of 2135 kilometres. Despite over \$37 million in committed funding, the Gwydir Constraints project has not secured a single land purchase or flow easement. The Bifurcation Weirs project in Queensland never proceeded past the feasibility stage.

The Australian Government funds basin programs but depends on states to deliver them, and that only works when incentives are aligned and consequences are shared. The toolkit had neither. The 70 gegalitre reduction was secured through commitments alone, not proof of delivery. Funding agreements carried no penalties for non-delivery. When projects fell short, the environment bore the cost.

"Allowing delivery to be quietly scaled back undermines confidence in the Basin Plan," Mr Grant said.

The inquiry makes seven recommendations to maximise delivery of remaining commitments before the December 2026 deadline and identifies 11 lessons for future basin programs. It calls for accountability mechanisms that link funding to outcomes rather than planning milestones and ensuring any reductions in water recovery targets are matched by actual project delivery. These lessons are directly relevant to the current review of the Basin Plan.

"Complementary measures have a role to play in delivering positive environmental outcomes in the Murray-Darling Basin," Mr Grant said.

"However, they require excellence in design and implementation, which was too often missing in the Northern Basin Toolkit."

The full report is available at [inquiry.igwc.gov.au](http://inquiry.igwc.gov.au)

## NFF statement on first agreements to underwrite shipments of fertiliser

by NFF President, Hamish McIntyre

THE Federal Government has announced it's working with fertiliser companies, CSBP (Wesfarmers) and Incitec Pivot, using the new Strategic Reserve powers to underwrite shipments of fuel and fertiliser. This framework enables companies to lock in shipments from overseas and get supply into the country faster.

### NFF statement

This is a welcome and practical step that will help get fertiliser where it's needed most, and a direct result of advocacy and the importance of industry and government working together.

We also acknowledge the four additional shiploads of fuel that will deliver an extra 200 million litres of diesel from South Korea, Brunei and Malaysia.

We've been clear, fertiliser isn't optional for Australian farmers. Without it, we simply can't grow the food and fibre Australia relies on. Australian agriculture is on track to contribute more than \$100 billion to the economy this year and supports over 250,000 jobs, with nearly all production reliant on fertiliser and diesel.

This outcome reflects the government acting on the concerns we've been raising directly on behalf of farmers. Coupled with last week's announcement securing 250,000 tonnes of urea, it will help restore some confidence heading into the season.

But we are still a long way from being out of the woods. Despite this news, farmers and regional businesses are still under real pressure, facing tight supply, rising costs and tough decisions.

## NFF calls for funding for Regional Tech Hub to assist with UOMO rollout

PICTURE this: Your car breaks down on a single-lane dirt road in the middle of nowhere country. Looking both ways down the road, you see nothing visible for miles. No houses. No other cars on the road. No sign of civilisation. A look under the bonnet reveals smoke billowing from the engine and a problem you can't fix.

You pull out your mobile phone to call for assistance, only to find there is no signal. You're stuck.

In February of 2025, the Australian Government took the first step in providing a solution to this common scenario. They announced the Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO) that will require mobile carriers to provide access to mobile voice and SMS almost everywhere across the country.

The policy means that anyone with the right handset will be able to call or text from anywhere they can see the sky by December of 2027.

In their announcement of the Uomo, the Federal Government laid out their policy objectives relating to improving mobile coverage. These included expanding Triple Zero access for Australians across the nation, expanding outdoor voice and SMS coverage into existing mobile black spots, and improving the availability of mobile signals during disasters and power outages.

Federal Minister for Communications at the time of the announcement, Michelle Rowland, spoke to the importance of the Uomo.

"The Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation will improve public safety, increase resilience during natural disasters, and provide an extra layer of coverage in areas previously thought too difficult or costly to reach," Ms Rowland said.

"The experience will be different to land mobile networks, but the benefits transformative, particularly for a large continent such as ours."

This reform is possible due to global innovations in Low Earth Orbit Satellites (LEOSats) and the arrival of direct to device (D2D) technology, which enables signals from space direct to mobile devices.

Now the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) is calling for continued funding for the Regional Tech Hub program in next month's Federal Budget by designating it an essential service.

The Regional Tech Hub, launched in 2020 and fully funded by the Federal Government ever since, is a NFF-run service providing free and independent advice to regional, rural and remote communities to help with their phone and internet.

Individuals, community organisations, local councils, small businesses and primary producers rely on the hub to understand their connectivity options, resolve phone and internet challenges, and make informed decisions about the services available to them.

By translating complex telecommunications information into clear, practical guidance, the Regional Tech Hub helps regional Australians stay connected, productive and able to participate fully in the digital economy.

As National Cabinet meets this week, we need continued action to shore up supply, an agriculture-specific plan and targeted support for those facing circumstances no business could reasonably prepare for.

### Key NFF asks

An agriculture-specific plan to secure fuel and fertiliser supply for farmers and fishers into the uncertain months ahead, including clear 'trigger points' for government-escalated action to safeguard food production in both the short and medium term. The plan must drive sector coordination across all jurisdictions and all commodities.

Last year, more than 28,000 regional Australians received direct connectivity support from the Regional Tech Hub, more than 75 people each day. Some 327,254 people visited the Regional Tech Hub website, 7877 phoned the Regional Tech Helpdesk, and 3480 people were helped by a member of the Regional Tech Hub team in-person at an event.

In a submission to the Uomo's Senate Inquiry, NFF CEO Mike Guerin said people will be left behind if there isn't independent, plain-English help on hand.

"The Regional Tech Hub is critical to a successful Uomo implementation," Mr Guerin said.

"In a three-month period, the hub recorded more than 77,500 website users driven by major developments such as nbn's fixed wireless rollout and concerns over the Triple Zero outages.

"With technology options becoming increasingly complex, and with more changes on the horizon, independent support is more important than ever for rural, regional and remote Australians trying to stay connected.

"The Regional Tech Hub provides free, practical and independent advice to help people navigate complex connectivity decisions and bridge the gap between what services are available, and what consumers actually understand and know how to use.

"Connectivity gaps continue to plague families and businesses in the bush and the Regional Tech Hub plays a vital role in helping close those gaps during periods of rapid change."

Each year the service has grown its reach and successfully supported initiatives such as the On Farm Connectivity Information Service. However, the service's future depends on funding in next month's Federal Budget.

"Farmers and regional Australians are anxiously awaiting news on whether the budget will continue to fund this vital service," Mr Guerin said.

"The Regional Tech Hub has been the helping hand to guide regional Australians through Triple Zero outages and the 3G network shutdown.

"The Uomo is a world-first policy. If we get it right, Australia becomes the gold standard for regional communications.

"But, past experience has shown, these things rarely go to plan and Australians will need the support of services like the Regional Tech Hub to get the full benefit of the Uomo.

"The Regional Tech Hub is a vital service, which helps an average of 75 regional Aussies every single day. Our health, businesses, education, and ultimately, our lives, rely on telecommunications.

"There is no other service like it. We need the Regional Tech Hub now more than ever," Mr Guerin finished.

The NFF's submission to the Uomo Senate Inquiry can be found at [tinyurl.com/4v5wanav](http://tinyurl.com/4v5wanav)

The Regional Tech Hub can be found at [regionaltechhub.org.au](http://regionaltechhub.org.au)

The government must continue to use regulatory tools to increase supply of fuel and fertiliser into regional areas, such as what we have seen announced recently.

The inclusion of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry industries as Essential Users under the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984*.

The government must provide targeted business support for farming businesses facing acute financial pressure.

The acceleration of medium to long term solutions to strengthen supply chains, including building Australia's sovereign capability, biofuels industry and a National Food Security Strategy that prioritises critical input supplies.

### FREE Health Checks for the FARMING COMMUNITY

#### MouthMapping Oral Cancer Screen



Friday 1 May 2026

#### FREE Influenza Vaccinations



Friday 22 May & 5 June 2026

#### FREE Hearing Tests



Friday 3 July 2026

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



# KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 12

## Colouring Page



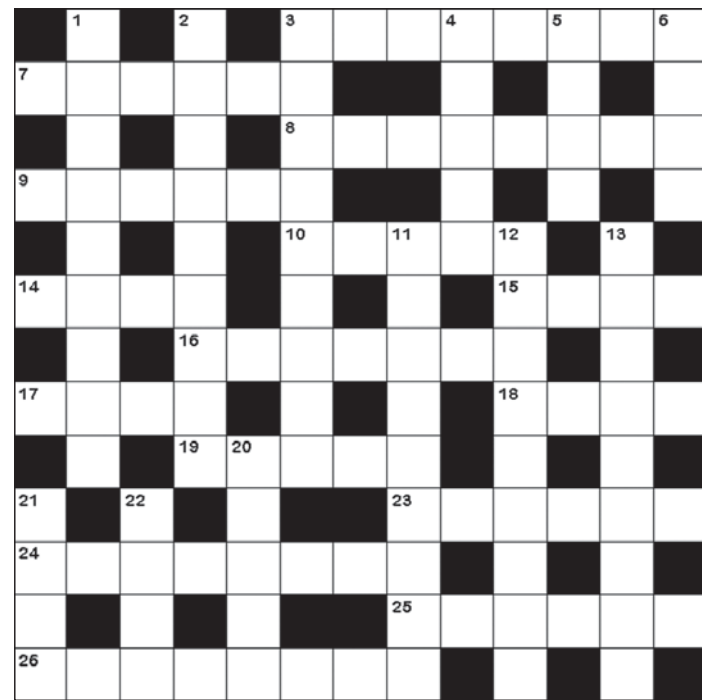
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Leniency shown towards offender by a judge.
- The wool of a sheep or similar animal.
- Sitting or reclining in a relaxed manner.
- Completely calm and tranquil.
- Any animal with two feet.
- Greek cheese made of goat's or ewe's milk.
- Having exactly the same amount as another.
- A drawing that explains how something works.
- Evidence that helps to solve a crime.
- A sign of something about to happen.
- Large yellow root of a rutabaga plant.
- Small animals or insects that are destructive.
- Leave one's own country to settle in another.
- An illegal enterprise carried out for profit.
- Pause or hold back in uncertainty.

### DOWN

- According to what has been said to be true.
- Sings and plays for somebody they love.



- Have special festivities to mark a day or event.
- Food ground into very small pieces.
- The horny plate at the end of fingers and toes.
- Exercises to promote control of body and mind.
- Stick things out to the bitter end.
- A political system governed by the people.
- Gained an advantage from a situation.
- The greatest damage of which one is capable.
- All parts work together in harmony.
- Fail to attend an event or activity.

## Word Search - Words starting with "M"

MAGIC	J	H	H	M	Y	X	R	C	T	M	G	C	P	P	M
MEAT	J	W	E	F	O	A	I	Z	V	N	O	C	J	O	I
MILKSHAKE	M	A	C	A	C	G	D	E	I	A	R	V	U	E	S
MISTAKE	T	I	Q	Y	A	L	S	N	K	K	E	T	I	S	T
MONDAY	Y	I	L	M	U	S	I	C	O	G	H	N	N	E	A
MONSTER	Q	Z	M	K	S	M	B	C	N	M	T	I	U	P	K
MOON	N	O	G	O	S	M	K	I	M	O	O	N	G	J	E
MORNING	T	X	I	L	L	H	N	Q	V	H	M	Q	M	P	J
MOTHER	A	O	O	X	Z	R	A	K	L	E	C	G	O	P	H
MOTORCYCLE	V	O	D	J	O	Y	U	K	D	S	U	H	N	W	E
MOUSE	Q	P	G	M	E	E	D	O	E	U	A	A	S	M	S
MOUTH	O	Z	M	T	I	D	I	F	Q	O	E	X	T	K	G
MOVIE	L	A	N	M	U	I	X	N	K	M	H	G	E	I	W
MUSIC	G	E	W	C	J	D	Q	O	T	P	P	K	R	U	N
	W	B	E	L	C	Y	C	R	O	T	O	M	W	E	V

## Word Search

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

### Reptiles

- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| BLUETONGUE | IGUANA   |
| CHAMELEON  | LIZARD   |
| CROCODILE  | SKINK    |
| FROG       | SNAKE    |
| GECKO      | TORTOISE |
| GOANNA     | TURTLE   |

## Math Square

	-		+	1	6
÷		+		+	
	×		+		13
-		+		×	
	+	6	-		4
-3		13		46	

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

## Cryptogram

### Reptiles

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1				6				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
16							

			E					A	
24	20	26	6	7		22	16	1	4

A	S	A	E	S		
1	19	4	1	23	6	19

			E				
10	6	24	24	12			

## Math Square

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

	-		+	1	0
+		-		-	
	+	5	-		-2
+		-		+	
	-		-		-5
13		-8		-2	

## Jokes

**Q:** What do clouds wear under their raincoats?

**A:** Thunderwear

**Q:** Why didn't anyone want to sit next to the basketball team to eat?

**A:** Because they dribble too much.

## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Very Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9. Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

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**Kellock thanks Pam Petersen**

KELLOCK Lodge chair Ian Gibb, Life Governor John Sharwood, residents, and past and present staff members came together over an afternoon tea to celebrate Pam Petersen's 30th anniversary at Kellock Lodge. They expressed their gratitude for Pam's three decades of loyalty and commitment to Kellock Lodge.

Pam Petersen joined the catering team at Kellock Lodge on April 15, 1996. She has built a remarkable legacy over the last 30 years, with her dedication and commitment to ensuring the residents receive nutritious meals based on their dietary requirements and preferences, supporting residents to maintain their health, wellbeing and quality of life at Kellock Lodge.



Pam enjoying a commemorative 30th Anniversary cup cake. -S



Jayme (Pam's daughter) with children Charlie and Jorja, with Sophie (daughter) and children Logan, Harvey and Hailey. -S



Kereth Farn (past catering team member), Lifestyle Co-ordinator Viv Gill, Pam Petersen, chair Ian Gibb and Life Governor John Sharwood. -S

**PUZZLES SOLUTIONS**

**CRYPTOGRAM**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
 1 10 17 11 6 14 25 16 21 13 23 24 2

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 4 20 3 9 7 19 22 8 5 26 15 12 18

LOWER THAN A SNAKES BELLY

**CROSSWORD**

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

**MATH SQUARES**

8	-	3	+	1	6
÷		+		+	
2	×	4	+	5	13
-		+		×	
7	+	6	-	9	4
-3		13		46	

**SUDOKU**

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

**KIDS - MATH SQUARES**

3	-	4	+	1	0
+		-		-	
2	+	5	-	9	-2
+		-		+	
8	-	7	-	6	-5
13		-8		-2	



Cindy Hayes from Terip Terip and Kerry Hewlett from Creightons Creek, both dressed in pink for the theme. -S

## Winter tennis kicks off with pretty in pink theme

by Deb Mims

YOU couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to kick off the Euroa and District Ladies' Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) competition. A tradition that was started a few years ago of a round robin to commence the season, with this year a suggestion that a theme be picked, to add to the fun and raise funds.

Breast Cancer was suggested and with that in mind, pink was at the forefront of everyone's thoughts, digging out shirts, skirts, socks, hats and any item that could be found that was pink. Even a tutu.

Benalla, who usually hosts the round robin, couldn't due to a new floor being laid in their clubhouse, so Mansfield put up their

hand. Always a fun day, as instead of playing against other clubs, they were suddenly your partner. A terrific way to start the season with two new players attending and meeting people from various teams. Even pink tennis balls were used to add to the occasion.

As always with the EDLWTA, a superb afternoon tea followed along with lots of chatter. With just over \$140 raised it was a successful day all round.

The serious stuff starts next week with Mansfield's team, Wappan playing at home and the other Mansfield team playing in Euroa.

If anyone is interested in being a fill-in, contact Deb Mims on 0411 149 085 for more information. A criteria is that you must be a current financial member (2025/2026) of a tennis club.



Cathie Anderson from Mansfield, Lyndal Bigland from Creightons Creek, Frances Lawrence from Terip Terip, and Sue Vaughan from Moglonemby pointing out the pink ball. -S

## Alexandra Squash Club: Round one of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition Funnel Webs versus Orb Weavers

JIM (fill in) versus Eric: Jim filled in to do some coaching and the pair had a great game. Keeping the ball in play, Jim challenged Eric to keep the rally going and play some winning shots. Jim won the match. 51 to 37.

Daniel W (fill in) versus Jessica: Daniel filled in down a few levels to give Jessica a match as her opponent was a no show. Jess demonstrated good discipline playing down the wall but also hit many low winners when the opportunity was there. The winner was Daniel. 57 to 43.

Sam versus Chris: Sam has moved up a level and was strutting his stuff after blitzing the first game, but Chris tightened the screws to grind Sam down. Chris claimed the victory. 71 to 58.

John versus Michael: A tight contest from start to finish. Michael had scratched out a three-point lead after three-games, but John closed the gap in the fourth game for a tie. 61 to 61.

### Redbacks versus Trapdoors

Matt versus Tyler: Quite a good game to watch, the lads were quite evenly matched, but Matt was just a bit more consistent with his shots. Matt was the winner. 69 to 51.

Sally versus Laura: An amazing game. These two always bring a high level of skill to the contest and this contest went down to the wire. Laura was victorious with a one-point lead. 61 to 60.

Mick versus Rob: Mick gained the early advantage while Rob brushed out the cobwebs after his extended break. Rob found his range in the second game to close the gap, then pushed ahead in the final two games to win. 66 to 57.

Jim versus Daniel W: A clash of styles and a battle of wits. Daniel's power game can trouble Jim when executed well, but Jim pushed the ball high and deep to put Daniel on the back foot. Jim put together a run of tight serves that forced loose shots from Daniel that Jim was able to put away. Daniel threw everything he had at the ball in the final game, but Jim held it together to win. 54 to 51.

### Wednesday competition Mosquitos versus Sand flies

Nicole (fill in) versus Ben H: Nicole was playing her second match for the night. Ben's serves were giving Nicole trouble, but she didn't fold and kept up with Ben. Both players won two games each and ended the match in a draw. 50 to 50.

Mick versus Jess: A tight match. Two games drew but Mick capitalised on his chances to win the other games and clinch the match. 59 to 48.

Daniel K (fill in) versus Phil: Phil put in some good work to keep up with Daniel. But it was a one man show with Daniel taking home all the games and the match. 63 to 40.

### Bees versus Hornets

Marty versus Nicole: Amazing match between family. In the end Marty got the match. A great game played well. 56 to 47.

Lucas versus Kristelle: It was level playing in the first game. Kristelle struggled to play shots over the towering frame of her opponent. Lucas held the serve and was serving well which kept him ahead to win the match. 67 to 57.

Justin versus Ben F: It was a sensational competition. Going into the last game there was only a one-point difference. Justin put on a final burst of brilliance to pull ahead and claim the match. 55 to 53.

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journey to your heavenly  
home, where St Peter was  
waiting for you to arrive,  
"Come on in Gerry, we  
have been waiting for you  
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## MEETINGS

Notice of Rescheduled  
Annual General Meeting



### Friends of the Library Alexandra & District Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of FOL Alexandra & District Inc., originally scheduled for April 7, 2026, has been postponed due to lack of quorum.

**New date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6pm**  
Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra  
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**SPORT**

# Spirit overshadows scoreboard in Anzac Day clash

by Sophia Weaver

ON a day defined by remembrance and resilience, Thornton-Eildon Football Netball Club (TEDFNC) once again proved that effort cannot always be measured by the final score.

While Yea walked away with a comprehensive 129-0 victory, the afternoon at Thornton Oval was a clear show of determination and growth by the mostly brand-new side.

The afternoon began with a poignant tribute to the Anzac legacy. Players and volunteers stood in a united front, arms linked. Led by Deputy Mayor Anita Carr, the ceremony opened with a minute of silence followed by the Last Post, followed by both the New Zealand and Australian national anthems. The Ode of Remembrance and Reveille closed out the ceremony before play began.

**The resistance at Thornton**

Despite facing a polished team in the Yea outfit, the TEDFNC squad, boasting a full list of 21 players, refused to be intimidated. From the first bounce, the home side applied blistering pressure. Their defensive efforts were characterized by play-stopping tackles and a fierce determination to win clearances.

While Yea's offensive transitions were incredibly effective, TEDFNC ensured that every point earned by the visitors was contested. As the match progressed, the home side's growth became visible; the ball spent increasing amounts of time in Thornton's forward half, signaling a team that is rapidly finding its rhythm and skills.

"Thornton refused to make anything easy for Yea," Coach Tash Hay said.

"The pressure acts, blocks, and defensive efforts were a standout. As the game went on, we saw the ball spending more time in our forward half. That shift alone shows how much this group is growing."

**Community and commendations**

The final siren did not signal the end of the day's camaraderie. Many of the Yea squad remained after the match for the presentation of awards and the local meat raffle, graciously donated by the Thornton Butcher and won by Alicia Nicol.

While the scoreboard told one story, the tenacity of this brand-new TEDFNC team told another. The club moves forward with its head held high, looking toward next week's challenge.

Gameday awards: Emma, TEDFNC Club Voucher; Courtney, Rebel Gift Voucher by Valley Aged and Disability Home Care Support Services; Kristy, \$20 Cash Gift by Dindi Kids.

TEDFNC face Gembrook-Cockatoo at Gembrook on Saturday, May 2, at 10.50am.



The Yea and Thornton Eildon teams taking part in an ANZAC Day service before play. -S



Gameday award winners Emma, Courtney and Kristy. -S



The team getting some advice from Coach Tash Hay. -S

## ASC student Koa Parker competes in triathlon events in Queensland

by Ally Crouch, Sports Coordinator at Alexandra Secondary College

ON March 16, local student Koa Parker, who attends Alexandra Secondary College, travelled to the School Sport Australia Triathlon and Aquathlon Championships, held at the Runaway Bay, Gold Coast Performance Centre, where she competed in the 13-14 Female Triathlon. This is an outstanding achievement, and the school is extremely proud of Koa and all she has accomplished.

Koa competed in the Aquathlon on Tuesday, which involved a 150-metre swim and a one-kilometre run. She recorded an impressive time of 6 minutes and 21 seconds, placing 9th out of 38 competitors.

On Wednesday, Koa competed in the Single Leg Relay (Female Junior Vic A Team). This event, which is only held every second year, involves a 200-metre swim, five-kilometre cycle and 1.5-kilometre run. Koa completed the swim leg, helping her team achieve an outstanding third place overall.

That same day, she also competed in the Multi Leg Relay (Mixed Junior Vic A Team), where each athlete completes a

200-metre swim, four-kilometre cycle and a 1.2-kilometre run. As the fourth and final competitor in her relay, Koa helped her team secure second place out of 13 teams.

Thursday saw Koa compete in Super Sprint Number One, consisting of a 100-metre swim, four-kilometre cycle and 800-metre run. She recorded a time of 13 minutes and 30 seconds, placing 13th out of 38 competitors. She then competed in Super Sprint Number Two, again placing 13th out of 38.

Combined results from the Aquathlon and both Super Sprint events determined qualification for the finals, with the top 16 athletes progressing to the A Final. Koa finished 12th overall, securing her place in the A final.

On Friday, Koa competed in the A Final of the 13-14 Female Triathlon, completing a 200-metre swim, five-kilometre cycle and one-kilometre run. She finished the race in an impressive time of 19 minutes and 48 seconds, placing 11th overall.

Congratulations to Koa on an outstanding week. Alexandra Secondary College are incredibly proud of her determination, dedication and persistence, and can't wait to see what she achieves next.



Koa Parker celebrating a podium finish with her medal. -S



Koa taking on a running part in the triathlon events. -S



Koa undertaking a cycling stage during one of her many triathlons for the event. -S

## P is for perfect weather at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

THE golf gods obviously just pressed "P" for perfect on their weather selection machine last week, and it's sure that all those who played at Alexandra Golf Club were very grateful.

Twelve booked in to play last Tuesday's competition, and it was good to see the name Ross Thompson back on the list, having been on the injured list for quite some time. Leo Dynes continued his run of good form, taking the win with 37 points, Brad Newton filled second spot with 35, and your humble scribe scraped into third spot with 31.

Steve Darmody claimed nearest the pin on seven, and Bill Wind took off 18, while nobody managed to get a second shot onto 17.

Steve and Billy also got a voucher in the rundown, as did John Greatorex.

Ten ladies teed it up last Wednesday in a four ball best ball, and the runaway winners were Ruth Worland and Rosemary Parker, with a score of 49 points. I believe that the tests have come back negative, so, well done, girls, great score. In second place, a mere seven points away, was the team of Sandra Morris and Helen Findlay.

Ruth picked up the nearest the pin on two, and 18 went to Barb Doyle.

Last Saturday's round, sponsored by the Alexandra Motor Inn, was a four ball best ball, and attracted a field of 20, all revelling in the perfect weather.

Bruce Flanders and John Norfolk were declared to be the winners, after a countback was needed to separate them from the second placed team of James Kidd and Dan Burns, as both scored 46 points. Brad Kidd and Jarrod Williamson came in third, just one point further back, on 45.

No-one managed to keep a tee shot on the second green, but five went to Mr Norfolk, Trevor Biffin took seven, 12 went to James and Brad claimed 18.

## Monthly medal on Anzac Day at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WELCOME back to the Eildon Golf Club match report. Anzac Day produced a glorious day for golf.

After the dawn service at Alexandra to commemorate the sacrifice of our defence force members over many years, covering many wars and battles to give us the freedom we now enjoy, to do the things that freedom gives us like playing golf on a great golf course.

The club put on a small service before the game to pay their respects. The genuine emotions and respect was fantastic and moving. Many thanks to the members who took part.

Last Saturday was the April monthly medal stroke round with 13 players competing on a great day for golf. Winners last week was Leith Munro with a net 71, runner up Rod Taylor also with 71, ball run winners Michael McLear 73, Marian Williamson 76, Colin Long 76, Grant Walters 77.

Nearest the pin winners, third Grant Walters, no winners on the fifth or 11th, 12th Kerry Power, 14th Ken Collier, Super Six winner Rod Taylor, Marian Williamson was the entry draw winner and Denis McDonald tried his luck with the swindle draw. Congratulations to all winners and the club says a huge thank you to Kaz who provided hotdogs for after the game, they went down a treat.

Next Saturday is the Smedley Memorial Stableford two-person four ball best ball competition.



Alexandra Reserves player Brandon Kapakoulakis applying pressure. -S



Alexandra Reserves player Robert Andrews. -S



C Grade player Katelyn Prendeville fighting the opposition. -S



Alexandra Seniors player Kel Percy.



A Grade player Jaz Collett reaching for the ball. -S



Alexandra Seniors player Brad Johnson going for a spectacular mark. -S

## Alexandra junior netballers and footballers in action

THE Alexandra junior netballers and footballers enjoyed another busy weekend of competition, with strong performances across both codes.

### Netball

The 11 and Under, 13 and Under and 15 and Under netball grades all played at home, with Alexandra's 11 and Under Red, 13 and Under Black and 15 and Under Red teams taking on St Mary's.

The 11 and Under Black side faced Nagambie, while the 15 and Under Black team came up against Yea Tigers. Alexandra's 13 and Under Red team had the bye.

With a mixture of results across the day, all teams represented the club proudly, showing great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship.

The closest contests came in the 15 and Under grades, where both Alexandra teams fought hard to record excellent victories.

Award winners: 11 and Under Red: Isabelle Wings, Eva Nardella Marcom; 11 and Under Black: Zarac Crouch, Alisha Abdullah; 13 and Under Black: Tess Welsh, Hailey Coghill; 15 and Under Red: Chloe Woehl, Koa Parker; 15 and Under Black: Tehya Vine, Ivy Miljkovic, Bella Twitchett.

### Football

Alexandra's Under Nine, Under 10 and Under 12 football teams all enjoyed the bye this week.

The Under 14 Rebels travelled to Euroa to face Tatura and returned home with an impressive 62-13 victory.

After a strong team performance, the award winners were: Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Will Simpson; Essence Coffee Lounge Award: Mitch Kidd; Kazza's Diner Award: Beau Nash; Coaches Award: Javi Miljkovic.

The Under 16 Rebels faced a tough challenge at home against the Shepparton Swans.

The visitors proved too strong on the day, defeating Alexandra 177-13.

Despite the result, several Rebels continued to battle hard throughout the contest.

Award winners: Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Billy Baker; Sponsor Award: Harrison Christie; Kazza's Diner Award: Fletcher Van Lierop; Gilligan Plumbing Award: Mav Burchall; Coaches Award: Lucas Crane.

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## Anzac Day football and netball at Rebel Park

UNDER brilliant autumn skies on Anzac Day, the Alexandra Football Netball Club hosted a significant day of football, netball and remembrance as they faced Yea in the annual Hedger Ivey Cup.

A strong crowd lined the ground, creating a great atmosphere for the occasion. Yea's netball sides proved too consistent across all grades, securing three wins to take out the 2026 Hedger Ivey Cup. Alexandra's footballers responded with impressive performances, with both the Senior and Reserves sides recording wins in front of their home supporters.

The day was further elevated by the presence of Tim English and James O'Donnell from the Western Bulldogs, who spent time meeting supporters, signing autographs and joining the post-match presentations. The pair also contributed an exclusive Western Bulldogs experience for auction, including inner sanctum access and a signed guernsey, with proceeds to be split between the Alexandra and Yea CFA brigades.

Distinguished guests added further significance to the occasion, with Cindy McLeish delivering a post-match address that reflected on her personal connection to Anzac Day, as well as her ties to the Hedger Ivey family, before presenting the cup. The presentation was widely regarded as a special moment within the day's proceedings.

Alexandra Football Netball Club President Kylie Cairns said the day highlighted both the competitiveness of the competition and the strength of the local community.

"It was a really solid day across the club," Kylie said.

"Yea were strong in the netball, but I was pleased with how our football sides performed, particularly in the seniors and reserves."

Kylie also acknowledged the support shown by those in attendance and the broader purpose of the day.

"The crowd was fantastic, and there was a genuine respect for what the day represents."

As part of the day's proceedings, the club also made a \$5000 donation to the Alexandra RSL, raised through contributions across the event. Kylie said it was important the club played its part in supporting the local RSL.

"It's something we're proud to be able to contribute to as a club, particularly on a day like this," she said.

Following the matches, a packed clubroom fell silent as Major Sarah Mooney and Colonel Marek Janiszewski addressed attendees, sharing reflections on their service representing Australia.

Kylie said the address was a defining moment of the day.

"Hearing from Major Mooney and Colonel Janiszewski really grounded the day. It was a reminder of what ANZAC Day represents beyond the sport."

She also acknowledged the personal significance of the moment.

"To hear my sister speak about her experience was something I'm very proud of. The respect shown in the room said a lot about our community."

The Anzac Day round once again reinforced the Alexandra Football Netball Club's role as a central part of the community, bringing people together through sport and shared respect.



The Alexandra Under 18 team paying their respects to the Anzacs. -S

### Rebels tame Tigers

The Alexandra Rebels produced a dominant Anzac Day display at Rebel Park, with both the Seniors and Reserves recording emphatic victories over Yea in front of a huge crowd. The neighbouring clubs were playing for the prestigious Hedger/Ivey Cup, adding extra significance to an already eagerly anticipated clash.

### Reserves

#### Alexandra 13.15-93 defeated Yea 1.6-12

Despite making seven changes from the side that won convincingly the previous week, the Rebels showed no drop in intensity, pressure or teamwork, storming to an 81-point win. Their fierce attack on the ball, relentless tackling and polished four-quarter performance proved too much for the Tigers, with Alexandra producing winners across every line.

Justin Coventry starred with a best-on-ground display, booting five goals and causing constant headaches for the Yea defence. Cooper Phillips was outstanding on the wing, pushing hard into attack to finish with two goals, while Scott Heveren again led the backline superbly with his trademark dash and drive.

Heveren was well supported by Rob Andrews and Toby Ward, with the Rebels' defence restricting Yea to just one goal for the match. Youngsters Casey Collett, Josh Crane and Will Clarke continued their strong development, while Luke James, Connor Heaslip and Kappa combined brilliantly through the middle to give Alexandra first use of the football.

Coach Steven Steiner's experience at full forward was evident throughout, and with several key players still to return, competition for spots is intensifying.

Awards: Shannon Group, Justin Coventry; Future Fit Finance, Cooper Phillips; Ru oak Hotel Award, Scott Heveren; Buxton Hotel Award, Josh Crane.

### Seniors

#### Alexandra 29.9-183 defeated Yea 8.6-54

In a game remarkably similar to the previous week's clash with Emerald, the contest began



RSL members at the Anzac Day football match between Alexandra and Yea. -S

at a frantic pace. Yea came out firing with five first-quarter goals to Alexandra's three, but the Rebels responded strongly in the second term. A five-goal quarter to Yea's two saw Alexandra edge to a five-point lead at the main break.

Ted Watkins was instrumental in keeping the Rebels in the contest during the first half, kicking four goals, while young Rebel Riley Frankcombe provided a highlight with a brilliant running goal from 50 metres after dashing down the wing.

Most expected the game to go right down to the wire after such an even opening half. Instead, Alexandra produced another stunning second-half demolition. For the second week in succession, the Rebels exploded after halftime, piling on 16 goals, six behinds to Yea's one goal, two behinds in a breathtaking display of champagne football to run away 99-point winners.

One of the day's biggest moments came when teammates swarmed Bradley Johnson after he kicked his first senior goal for the

Rebels. Kellan Percy was a rock in defence, while Watkins finished with six goals in a commanding forward performance.

Bart Wallace and Thomas Wynne were outstanding in defence, Mitch Parker and Riley Frankcombe controlled the midfield, while Josh Edwards and Sam Critchley also made strong contributions.

After two outstanding performances at Rebel Park, both Alexandra sides will look to stay grounded as they travel to face Yarra Junction Football Netball Club this week.

### Netball results

In A Grade, Alexandra 50 was defeated by Yea 54. Incentive award went to Amy Jamieson, Corner Hotel Award went to Jorja Gesler.

B Grade, Alexandra 35 was defeated by Yea 48. Incentive award to Stef Jager, Corner Hotel Award to Cassie Kidd.

C Grade, Alexandra 22 was defeated by Yea 48. Incentive award to Zoe Mullins, Corner Hotel Award to Phoebe Kidd.