

Standard

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

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

New senior sergeant for Alexandra



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Bob Gillespie



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Alex Fire Brigade lifesaving program



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Weekend sport



Pages 14-16



Congratulations to gold medal winner Ron Muller who sold all of the works he exhibited at the Alexandra Rotary Easter Art Show. More on page 13. -S

Alpine ash forests endangered

UNDER the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*, also known as Woollybutt) and White Ash (*Eucalyptus fraxinoides*) forests of mainland Australia became officially listed as 'endangered' ecosystems from March 20. This means that the forests face a high risk of collapse or extinction, largely due to intensifying fire seasons.

In Murrindindi Shire, reproductively mature stands of live Alpine Ash occur from Mount Bullfight to the Blue Range, including the Cathedral Range, and in the Upper Yarra Catchment. They tend to grow at altitudes of 900 to 1500 metres, and are found in such altitudes in various areas across the Great Dividing Range.

White ash is generally found in the Howe Range east of Mallacoota, as well as in some parts of New South Wales.

Alpine ash regeneration poses a particular challenge. When a mature tree dies after an intense fire, the seeds quickly regenerate as these seeds require an ash bed. The challenge is that these trees will not create their own seeds for around 20 years, making them particularly susceptible should another fire occur in the meantime, with regeneration only possible via the artificial sowing of collected seeds.

The protection of such forests does not focus on logging as over half are in existing national parks, and logging ceased in Victoria in 2023.

University of Melbourne scientists Tom Fairman and Trent Penman are encouraging long-term seed collection programs, planned burns for forest protection, and selective thinning to speed the growth of younger trees as larger trees are better able to withstand fire.

VicForests was previously responsible for collecting the seeds, but this too closed down. It's understood that DEECA is putting together a seed collection program.

According to ABC's Landline, the contracts being offered by DEECA are only for one to two tonnes of seed from Mountain and Alpine Ash species. In previous years, three times that amount was collected.

Forest scientist Owen Bassett believes that 17 tonnes of seed is needed to ensure sufficient supplies to re-seed areas following severe bushfires.

When contacted for comment on this, a DEECA spokesperson responded, "Seed is vital to our Alpine and Mountain Ash forests, our new specialist seed services collected during this summer's fires where it was safe to do so. In good news, our recent flowering and seeding forecast told us mature Alpine and Mountain Ash forests stands will, in most instances, be able to recover naturally should a fire occur."

Ash forests, including Alpine Ash, can only produce viable seed to regenerate after 20 years of age.

DEECA provided the following information as background. The state's Forest Restoration Program, currently has over 25.5 tonnes of seed in store. Of that, 7.80 tonnes is Alpine Ash, 5.75 tonnes is Mountain Ash and 12.0 tonnes is other species.

Following the 2019-20 fires, the government funded a major Forest Restoration Project which reseeded 11,500 ha of Mountain Ash and Alpine Ash forest killed by the fires and also create a seed bank to buffer against future events.

For more information visit, forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/forest-restoration-project

Calls for proportionate recovery funding following January fires

MURRINDINDI Shire Council says the scale, cost and complexity of recovery following the January 2026 bushfires clearly exceeds the shire's capacity to manage alone and is calling for recovery funding that is proportionate to the geographic spread, concentration of losses and ongoing recovery burden experienced locally.

The January 2026 bushfires affected more than 20 communities across Murrindindi Shire, causing widespread devastation to farmland, residential areas and critical infrastructure across a large and highly dispersed rural municipality.

Council's current assessments estimate the municipal recovery task alone at around \$105 million, a figure well beyond council's financial capacity.

This estimate reflects council-related recovery costs only. The broader financial impact on the community is substantially higher. For example, the cost to replace almost 5000 kilometres of fencing across the shire is now estimated at \$120 to 140 million, highlighting the immense burden facing landholders and primary producers as recovery continues.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the figures illustrate both the

severity of the fires and the long road ahead for recovery.

"The impact of the January 2026 bushfires on Murrindindi has been profound and far-reaching. Our communities, farming sector and council infrastructure have all been hit on a scale we have not seen before.

"A \$105 million municipal recovery task is simply not something a rural council of our size can absorb without significant additional government support," Cr Gallagher said.

Council has welcomed the assistance provided by the state and federal governments to date, including the \$15 million announced on January 14 for fire-impacted councils across Victoria. However, Murrindindi's allocation to date is \$1.3 million, representing less than nine per cent of the total fund.

"We acknowledge and appreciate the funding that has been made available so far, and it is an important early contribution to locally led recovery," Cr Gallagher said.

"However, the level of funding allocated to Murrindindi does not yet reflect the true scale of damage and the disproportionate impact our shire has experienced."

Murrindindi was the most impacted municipality of the statewide impact from

the January 2026 fires. Of the 451 homes destroyed across Victoria, 219, about 48 per cent, were in Murrindindi. Almost half of all sheds and other structures lost statewide were also in the shire, along with approximately 50 per cent of fencing damage.

In addition, more than 450 kilometres of council roads were damaged, alongside extensive roadside vegetation impacts requiring assessment, treatment and ongoing management across a vast rural landscape.

"What is critical in this discussion is proportionality," Cr Gallagher said.

"Murrindindi experienced nearly half of all home losses across the state, and the geographic spread of damage has significantly increased recovery complexity. It is reasonable and appropriate that future funding allocations reflect that reality."

Unlike other fire-affected locations where damage was concentrated in a relatively small area, the impacts in Murrindindi are highly dispersed across a large rural shire. This has materially increased the cost and complexity of recovery, service delivery and community support, with long travel distances, multiple communities affected, and many residents experiencing ongoing trauma.

Recovery is underway, with council working closely with communities and partner agencies to support clean-up, restore access and essential services, and provide planning and rebuilding assistance. Six community recovery hubs have been established across the shire to meet local needs, reflecting both the scale and geographic spread of the impacts.

At the same time, council is actively planning for the longer-term recovery effort, including rebuilding critical infrastructure, supporting primary producers and local businesses, and investing in community wellbeing and mental health.

"Council has raised its concerns with Victorian Government Ministers. We remain committed to working constructively with state and federal governments. Funding decisions grounded in evidence, taking into account impact, geography and recovery cost are essential to ensure our communities can rebuild safely, quickly and with confidence in the future," Cr Gallagher said.

Council says further investment will be critical to protect the long-term productivity of the region and ensure Murrindindi's communities remain strong, resilient and connected as recovery continues.

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
 NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

ON March 31, industry leaders, irrigators, farmers, legal professionals, scientists and geologists came together from across Victoria, NSW and South Australia to

discuss the continuing social, economic and environmental impacts wrought by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and to air practical solutions. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) declined to accept the invitation to attend.

The meeting was held at Barham under the banner of *Saving the Murray-Darling Basin from the Highway to Hell* with speakers including Darren De Bertoli, managing director De Bertoli Wines; Justin Sutherland, representing Ricegrowers Association of Australia; Jason Limbrick, CEO of Australian Consolidated Milk; Daryl Kirchofer from Kagome Tomato Processors; Nathan Free, horticulturist and managing director of Wattle Farm Organic Farms, supplier to Woolworths and international markets; Peter Gell, Emeritus Professor at Federation University and renowned wetland scientist; Mark Doecke, chair of Citrus South Australia; David Farley, agribusiness professional, previous MD and CEO of Australian Agricultural Company; and Tim Horne and Bobbie Pannowitz, legal professionals specialising in water law.

Every single speaker from food processors and agriculture at this water forum spoke of industries and farming enterprises struggling to continually adapt to the outcomes of water policies which have already stripped 4687GL from agricultural production and are intent on removing the remainder of the 450GL plus the Sustainable Diversion Limits shortfall calculated to be up to 355GL.

The *Basin Plan Regulation Impact Statement* declared that to meet the requirements of the Water Act, the Basin Plan will ensure the use and management of the Basin water resources in a way that optimises economic, social and environmental outcomes and provides improved water security for all uses of Basin water resources.

There is no such surety of water security for agriculture on which to base forward business plans and expansion. With the purchase of every extra megalitre of water from the

consumptive pool, it becomes increasingly difficult to forward plan and budget, as buybacks escalate the price of water and when combined with other factors such as drought, global impacts of war, fuel and energy shortages we see businesses collapse.

The federal government has spent more than \$11.5 billion under the Basin Plan over 14 years yet has failed to accomplish its targeted objectives, despite owning environmental entitlements worth \$11 billion and environmental water holders holding 44 per cent of entitlements in the Goulburn Valley, the foodbowl of Victoria. Some 83 per cent of all recovered water has come from the southern basin.

With fish and bird numbers declining across the basin and the federal government recently proclaiming the Lower Murray River a critically endangered ecological community/region, the Basin Plan policies are failing, causing increasing hardship to farming communities and their reliant businesses and processing industries as continuing water buybacks remove more and more water, from food producers, which is the lifeblood of their enterprises.

It is now 14 years since the inception of the Basin Plan, ample time to understand and see the environmental degradation caused to our major rivers, the failure to achieve legislated enhanced environmental outcomes, its success in destroying generational farming businesses, aiding in closing milk processing plants, increasing suicides and mental health issues.

It is time to stop buybacks, step away from simply using volumetric water targets to specific sites and use the many complimentary measures available, such as eradication of carp, cold water pollution curtains, fish passages, improved water quality, sediment management, river bank revegetation and on-farm environmental refuges.

Jan Beer, Yea



THUMBS UP: To Father Mario at St John's Anglican Church for organising the magnificent ecumenical Easter Sunday service. Thanks also to the talented musical Weeks family, Phil, Michelle, Milly, Hannah, Eli and Diana. The church was packed, and the service inspirational and simply wonderful. Ecumenical services are so important as, after all, we Christians all worship the same God.

THUMBS UP: Feeling so grateful. I inadvertently dumped a bag at the Alexandra tip on Tuesday. After a call out for help, my hopes were realised. You guys at the tip went above and beyond. You know who you are. You made me a very happy grandma. Thanks again.

THUMBS DOWN: The cool weather is bringing those four-legged critters inside, mice. I've caught three so far.

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

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

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

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

| STATION NAME | TIME | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|-------------------|
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW) | 8.00AM Mon | 1.37 | steady | below flood level |
| Rubicon River at Rubicon | 8.00AM Mon | 0.52 | steady | |
| Acheron River at Taggerty | 8.00AM Mon | 0.56 | steady | below flood level |
| Home Creek at Yarck | 7.33AM Mon | 0.16 | steady | |
| Yea River at Devlins Bridge | 7.26AM Mon | 0.46 | steady | below flood level |
| Murrindindi River Above Colwells | 8.00AM Mon | 0.23 | steady | |
| Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd | 8.00AM Mon | 0.48 | steady | |
| Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin | 8.00AM Mon | 3.42 | steady | |
| King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale | 8.00AM Mon | 0.38 | steady | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Trawool | 8.00AM Mon | 0.97 | steady | below flood level |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook | 8.00AM Mon | 0.29 | steady | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Seymour | 8.30AM Mon | 1.29 | steady | below flood level |
| Whiteheads Creek at Seymour | 8.00AM Mon | 0.79 | steady | below flood level |

*ISSUED AT 8:54 AM AEDT MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026

Weekly Weather
 April 15 - April 21, 2026
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

| Alexandra | | | Yea | | |
|-----------|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|
| DAY | LOW | HIGH | DAY | LOW | HIGH |
| Wednesday | 9 | 18 | Wednesday | 9 | 19 |
| Thursday | 10 | 21 | Thursday | 10 | 22 |
| Friday | 7 | 14 | Friday | 7 | 15 |
| Saturday | 5 | 16 | Saturday | 5 | 16 |
| Sunday | 8 | 17 | Sunday | 8 | 18 |
| Monday | 8 | 18 | Monday | 8 | 18 |
| Tuesday | 8 | 20 | Tuesday | 8 | 19 |

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Alexandra | 0.4mm |
| Buxton | 28.5mm |
| Eildon (AWS) | 0.6mm |
| Flowerdale | 1mm |
| Jamieson | 2mm |
| Kinglake | 2mm |
| Lake Eildon | 1mm |
| Mansfield | 3/3mm |
| Taggerty | 0.4mm |
| Yarck | 1mm |
| Yea | 0mm |

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

| | |
|---|---------|
| Height above sea level this week | 270.09m |
| Capacity as at 9am Monday | 41.9% |
| Metres below full supply | 18.81m |
| Daily inflow | 750ML |
| Release | 1700ML |
| Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change) | 67% |

ALEXANDRA
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 can be submitted via email to
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Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

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

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DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Council escalates calls for business recovery support following fires

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has escalated its call for urgent state and commonwealth business recovery funding through a formal open letter to the Minister for Small Business and Employment, warning that many local businesses face permanent closure without immediate government intervention.

The open letter calls on the Victorian and Australian Governments to urgently introduce targeted, disaster-specific recovery grants for businesses directly and indirectly impacted by the January 2026 bushfires. While such grants have been offered following previous floods, fires and the COVID-19 pandemic, no equivalent business support has been made available following these catastrophic fires.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the letter reflects the severity of the situation facing local businesses,

many of which are experiencing an acute and worsening cashflow crisis following a subdued Easter trading period.

“We have written an open letter to the Minister for Small Business and Employment, because the situation for our local businesses has become critical. Without direct state and commonwealth recovery funding, many simply will not survive,” Cr Gallagher said.

Council is calling for the introduction of recovery grants for businesses able to demonstrate significant loss of trade and clear viability risk as a result of the fires, including businesses indirectly impacted through reduced visitation, disrupted supply chains and rising costs.

The proposed approach would better reflect the realities of rural and regional economies

by recognising small, mixed and diversified enterprises, including farm-based and tourism-related businesses that fall outside current primary producer eligibility criteria.

“The absence of any business-specific disaster recovery funding following these fires is creating a growing sense of inequity. Eligibility rules need to recognise the diversity of modern regional businesses and the scale of income loss they’ve experienced,” Cr Gallagher said.

Council warned that failure by governments to act quickly will have lasting consequences for local towns, including loss of essential services, reduced employment and long-term economic contraction.

“If businesses quietly close over the coming months, those losses will be felt across

entire communities for years to come,” said Cr Gallagher.

Murrindindi Shire Council has advised it is ready to work closely with state and commonwealth agencies to support the effective design and delivery of any future business recovery programs, drawing on established local business relationships and Community Business Connect engagement.

“We are ready to work with government to ensure support is targeted, practical and delivered quickly. This funding must come forward now, while recovery remains possible. Timing is everything and we have requested urgent consideration of these measures and welcomes further discussions with government,” Cr Gallagher said.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THERE was a busy week with members of Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club enjoying a trip to *Morning Melodies* at Lilydale International followed by lunch and a visit to Lilydale Market for shopping before heading home. Thank you Yvonne for driving the council coach.

Two tables of bridge players were also in action on Wednesday. On Friday morning the committee met up to plan the club's activities before the business meeting in the afternoon.

There was much discussion about future club outings and club meals. Watch this space for details.

This Friday is a social meeting so if you fancy a friendly chat over a cuppa and a game of 500 or UNO please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom. You will be most welcome. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.



The much-loved Pans on Fire performed in Marysville on Easter Sunday, to the delight of locals and visitors. -AR

Redgate Alexandra CWA report

THANK you to everyone who purchased cakes, slices and scones at the recent CWA stall. Your contribution is very well received.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, April 23 at 1pm at the clubrooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. The hostesses are Cynthia and Marion with competitions being Flower of the Month and a limerick. The guest speaker is to be confirmed a representative from SES.

A CWA member will present a wreath at the upcoming Anzac memorial service. The next coffee morning will be on Thursday, May 14 at 11am with the venue to be advised.

Tuesday Craft Days are at the CWA clubrooms from 10am to 2pm. Please bring your own lunch. Hot refreshments are available. A small donation of \$3 is requested.

If you have any questions, please contact president Martine Sloan on 0411 287 763 or Sue Wynn for craft enquiries on 0412 435 946.

CWA 2026 determinations

Theme: sharing our story. State project: accessibility at Umina. Product/resource: Australian wool. Country of study: Canada. Social issue focus: mental health matters, supporting those most at risk in our communities. Craft of the Year: Tatting.

Terip Terip CFA break-in: A shocking act

THE shire's fire brigades were extraordinary during the January fires, fighting for people's lives, homes and businesses. It is therefore incredibly disappointing that during the Easter long weekend, the Terip Terip CFA Station was broken into and various items stolen.

These are items needed to keep people safe, and the person who committed the theft should be deeply ashamed of themselves.

Terip Terip CFA Captain Shannon Roach, whose own home was lost during the January fire, spoke about the discovery of the theft.

She said, “On Sunday morning I got to the shed and found the side door open that we normally enter through. I had a look around and noticed that there were quite a number of items missing and the side window was open, which we always keep closed.

“We could tell that someone had been there and taken all that stuff.”

The door's lock was a key code entry system, but opens from the inside very easily.

She explained that while some of the equipment is insured through CFA, there were many items which hadn't yet been included on the asset register as they have only recently received them. They will therefore not be covered by insurance, and the brigade will have to cover the cost of re-purchasing the equipment.

A Go Fund Me page has been set up on behalf of the brigade, with \$900 raised, aiming for \$4000. It can be found at gofundme.com/f/terip-terip-cfa-theft

Shannon added, “It's been really hard for the brigade as you could imagine. Going through everything that we've gone through, and everybody's lost so much. It's terrible.”

ALEXANDRA Speedway
Member of the Australian Speedway & Karting Federation

18th APRIL, 2026

GOSA VICTORIAN TITLE
GP MIDGETS, COMPACT SPEEDCARS & SDAV HOTRODS

Gordon Street, Alexandra
West to back of street

GATE PRICES

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| FAMILY (2 ADULTS & 3 CHILDREN) | \$60 |
| ADULTS | \$25 |
| Alexandra Residents | \$15 |
| CHILDREN (10-16YRS) | \$10 |
| CHILDREN (UNDER 10) | FREE |

RACING STARTS AT 4PM

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Register for fires inquiry open mic sessions

VICTORIANS impacted by the 2026 summer fires can register to speak directly to members of parliament during a series of open mic sessions to be held across the state.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee is travelling to regional Victoria for public hearings in late April.

The local open mic session for community members to have their say will be in Alexandra on Friday, April 24 from 12.30 to 1.30pm.

More details about the public hearing schedules will be released closer to those dates.

People interested in speaking at the open mics must register their interest on the inquiry website by tomorrow, Thursday, April 16.

“This will be an important opportunity for people affected by the fires to share their experiences and make us aware of any ongoing issues,” Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

“Our extensive terms of reference allow us to explore numerous matters including the emergency response to the fires, resourcing of fire agencies, support for volunteers, recovery efforts and the impact on the environment.”

The parliamentary inquiry has received almost 200 public submissions so far which are being progressively published on the committee's website, parliament.vic.gov.au/2026firesinquiry

The closing date for written input is Sunday, April 19. Very few submissions have been published from our area. It is important that we have our say.

Given that we're only part way through autumn, there are still likely to be more warm days, increasing the fire risk. House fires are also a risk too. The theft of the equipment could have long-lasting consequences.

The Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit is investigating. If you are able to provide any information on the theft, they can be contacted on 5772 1040, or you can provide the information via Crime Stoppers.

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Collision at Cottons Pinch

IN the early evening on Tuesday, April 7, a collision occurred at Cottons Pinch on the Goulburn Valley Highway, between Yea and Molesworth.

A ute was travelling in a south westerly direction and merging after overtaking. They didn't see that they hadn't cleared a heavy rigid tip truck and clipped the front aluminium bumper. This caused the ute to lose control.

The ute spun and hit the wire rope barrier before rolling onto its roof and sliding for some distance.

The driver of the ute, a 76 year old male, and the passenger in the ute, an 86 year old female, sustained some cuts and grazes but fortunately no other injuries.

They were airlifted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The man was released from hospital on Wednesday, April 8 and the woman was released on Thursday, April 9. Both are doing well.

There were no issues with the driver of the tip truck, and they helped to direct traffic while emergency services were on the way.

The emergency services in attendance included multiple ambulances and MICA vehicles, CFA units from Yea, Molesworth and Whanagarwen, and police from Yea and Marysville.

The new Senior Sergeant based in Alexandra

ACTING Senior Sergeant Adam Foley, based out of Alexandra Police Station, has taken over the management of the Murrindindi East Cluster, which includes Alexandra, Eildon and Marysville.

He's been working in the area since October 2025. He initially commenced at Seymour Police Station before taking on the Acting Senior Sergeant role, first out of Yea and then in Alexandra from November. He added, "I've been in and out of here since just before Christmas and then permanently back here at the end of January."

He is currently gazetted as a Detective Sergeant at Fawkner Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigations, a unit which covers Hume, Merri-bek and Moonee Valley.

He commented, "I thought I'd seen everything until I commenced working there. But you do have some positive impacts and you do have the opportunity to actually help." He worked there for three years.

Prior to this, he worked as a counter-terrorism security intelligence investigator, investigating national security persons of interest. Some of the bigger jobs he investigated included the Anzac Day terror plot, the Mother's Day terror plot, and the Christmas Day terror plot, all large-scale national security investigations which occurred from 2015. His work involved both digital and on-ground work.

In this role, he was seconded to the Australian Federal Police in the Joint Counter-Terrorism team for five years. He said, "We had some fairly successful outcomes from those national security investigations. One was referred to in the media as Operation Vecchio, where I was responsible for an investigation into a Bangladeshi student who came out to undertake an act of politically motivated violence in Australia, and she tried to behead her homestay host. I was the lead investigator on that investigation. I have been involved in most of the more nationally significant counter-terrorism investigations at that time."

Prior to this, he had a generalist background in criminal investigations in the city.

"I think it's fairly safe to say that I've covered most of the investigative themes that one could sort of cover as an investigator," he said.

Twenty years ago, he also spent time as a police prosecutor.

This is Adam's first Senior Sergeant role, and he certainly arrived at an extreme time, due to the fires in January. He was involved in the operational planning and execution type space in the Police Operations Centre.

Adam grew up in Whittlesea. He joined the army briefly before joining the police force. He's been in the police force for 25 years now. He's married and has one daughter. The family lives near Puckapunyal.

Asked what he hopes to achieve in the shire, he responded, "I want to leverage off the existing trust and confidence that our local police have already established in the community. I really want to build that trust



Acting Senior Sergeant Adam Foley. -AR

and confidence in our ability to police the local community and understand the nuances associated with policing these communities. We all live within these communities and as such, every effect that the community feels, it affects us as well. And I'm really keen to ensure that we protect our locals and ensure that their way of life and wellbeing is also protected."

This might mean ramping up road policing as well as connectedness with community.

He said, "I think the road policing piece does allow us to connect with the community. Just because we're pulling the car over doesn't necessarily mean that there's a traffic enforcement lens being applied at the time. I'm keen for our members to pull over cars and just have a chat with locals. It's all about education as well. But also... we can cultivate a lot of information from our community to allow us to get ahead of any issues that might be on the horizon and mitigate and negate any issues at the earliest opportunity to intervene. I'm also keen to continue to see the good work that our members have engaged in, and working out here is far different from being down in Melbourne. We can sit down and have a coffee in town and we'll have people come up and chat to us. You won't necessarily get that in Melbourne."

He added, "People are happy to see us, where that's not necessarily an environment I'm familiar with."

He said, "Coming from an investigative background, interacting with people and the community is a big part of that and how we go about solving crime. So I'm really keen to maintain and improve upon the

relationship with the local community. Road policing, while very important, is just one aspect to it. And I'm one for cultivating those relationships."

He's also delighted with the police already in place in the shire. "We've got a fantastic team here," he said. We don't have any inexperienced policemen or policewomen working here."

The five sergeants working in Murrindindi Shire are Sergeant Dave Johnson in Kinglake, Acting Sergeant Matt Robertson in Yea, Sergeant Geoffrey Shaw in Marysville, Sergeant Andrew Walker in Alexandra, and Acting Sergeant Sam McCaffrey in Eldon. Acting Inspector Steve Carden the local area commander.

"We've got a very, very broad and experienced team working here and I'll certainly leverage off all of their experience to make sure that the community is looked after," he said.

He is encouraging people to come and chat with them. "We're always keen to improve and build upon the existing relationships and feedback is very important as well. If there's anything to do, I'll implore people to come and have a chat when they see us in the street."

If there is an immediate need for police assistance, he strongly encouraged people to call Triple Zero, as the station may be unattended while they are out on the road. For less urgent matters, people can also call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Adam also answered the most important question in country life. He's "a long-suffering Carlton supporter."

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

St Andrews, Downey Street,
Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Market@ Yarck from 9am. Yarck Hall. Devonshire tea, bacon and egg sandwiches and toasties, plus plants, soap, preserves and much more.

Speedway is back. GOSA Victorian Title, GP Midgets, and much more. Racing starts at 4pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

The Cathkin (Molesworth) Cemetery Trust will be holding their AGM at 10.30am at the

Molesworth Hall. All are welcome, with the trust seeking new volunteer trust members. For more information or to register your interest, email secretarycathkincemetery@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Eildon RSL sub-branch AGM will be held at 5pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Nominations for office bearers and five general committee members closes at 5pm, April 15. Nomination forms can be obtained from the secretary, Sue McLaurin, susanmclaurin55@gmail.com or phone 0409 050 494.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Heathcote Jewellery are coming to Alexandra. Pop up store 10am-2.30pm Alexandra Bowls Club. Cash for gold, including custom and hand made jewellery, diamond specialist, repair and

remodelling and resizing and Rhodium.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Heathcote Jewellery are coming to Yea. Pop up store 10am-2.30pm Yea Bowls Club. Cash for gold, including custom and hand made jewellery, diamond specialist, repair and remodelling and resizing and Rhodium.

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.

WHAT'S ON?



Heathcote Jewellery
Your local master jeweller

www.heathcotejewellery.com.au

CASH FOR GOLD

- Unwanted jewellery
- Broken jewellery
- Gold Coins
- Silver coins
- Silver
- Bracelets
- Rings
- Gold watches
- Silver watches
- And more!
- ✓ Licensed gold dealers
- ✓ On-site purity testing
- ✓ No commitment required
- ✓ Cash up front
- ✓ Better price than the pawn shop

Alexandra Bowls Club

Pop-up store open

Monday 27 April 2026

10am to 2.30pm

2 Payne Avenue,
Alexandra VIC 3714



Other Jewellery Services :

- Custom & Hand Made Jewellery
- Diamond Specialist
- Repair & Remodelling
- Ring Resize & Rhodium

Or visit us in-store at Heathcote!

1/77 High Street, Heathcote VIC 3523

Mobile: 0437 866 606

Bob Gillespie: Changing times in a musical world

NINETY-one year old Bob Gillespie will be playing *The Last Post* at this year's Alexandra Anzac Day service, a role he first took on aged eleven.

He explained that he started playing in a brass band aged nine. His mother was a music teacher before she married, teaching piano and violin, so there was already music in his blood.

When asked whether he was nervous the first time he performed at the Anzac service, he didn't remember. It was a long time ago, after all.

He explained that he's played at the Anzac service intermittently across the last 80 years, with continual playing across the past 20 or so years. There was a gap where a recording used at the service instead of having someone play *The Last Post* live. He's also played in bands performing at the service.

He remembered playing at returned soldier burials while he was a young apprentice at Courtney Motors. This was in an era where there were no recordings.

He's also recently been playing at the Anzac Day match at the Alexandra football grounds.

He didn't have any wartime connections in his family, but did do National Service in 1953, including forming a big band of 40 or 50 people.

Bob has been heavily involved in brass bands in Alexandra, being a part of four bands, including being bandmaster in one of them. His sons, Simon and Michael, have also been band members.

Rex Tate had expressed interest in getting a band going, and a teacher from Eildon called Steven Woodcock took on the bandmaster role, but unfortunately, he had to leave after six months. Bob was then "thrown in" to the role. He said, "I wasn't trained to lead, but I had players that could play, so I just had to lead. I used to play and conduct."

They would have a main concert each year, and would play at Anzac Day as well as other events.

One of the bands was even invited to play at Melbourne's Moomba Festival in 1985, performing while marching from the centre of Melbourne to the Cenotaph.

Bob played in dance bands for many years, and at one memorable event, they played at a town anniversary event in Jamieson. "We played in this old hall, and it's obviously been swept, but there was a crowd there, and all the dust was coming through," Bob said. The crowd loved it though, and the band played until four o'clock.

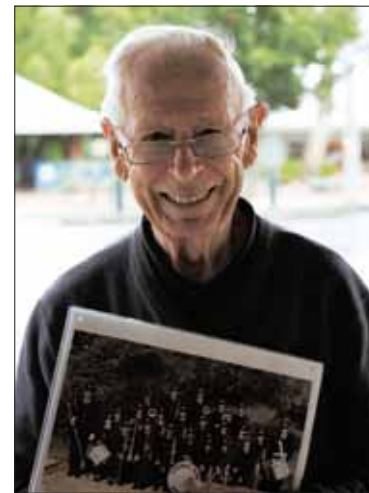
He's still involved in bands, currently playing in the Mansfield Orchestra along with three or four others from the Alexandra area. He finds it to be a very good band with very good conductors. They'll be playing in Jamieson for their upcoming Autumn Festival.

Bob has also been heavily involved in community activities, including being a member of Rotary for 22 years, and remembered the installation of the swing bridge in Rotary Park.

Bob knew Norm Reddrop well. He started the FoodWorks chain in Alexandra and now has a large number of people working for him. Bob said, "He was a good drummer, and I was in a band with Norm, a school teacher,



Bob Gillespie is front row fourth from left, Bob's son Simon is in the front row sixth from left, Bob's son Michael is in the second row sixth from the left, Martin Webber was bandmaster and is located in the centre at the back, Neil Webster is front row eighth from left, Trevor Paul is second from left in the second row, Stuart Gilmore is middle row first from the right, and Peter Weeks is second from the left in the second row. -S



Bob Gillespie. -AR

and Neil Webster, and we had a good jazz pianist. He couldn't read a note in music, but was a wonderful player. That was probably the best band I've been in. It was a five-piece. We played for balls at Yea and all the town halls, Molesworth, Yea, Merton, they all used to have dances. Ballroom dancing. But they don't have that sort of stuff now."

Bob has lived in Alexandra for 88 years. He was born in Melton South, and the family moved to the area when he was very young.

Bob recalls that in the late 1930s, the only sealed roads were Grant and Downey Street. The rest were gravel, and there were no footpaths. He also remembers that the grass around town was always high. There were very few houses, with only three or four homes on each block. "The town was mostly paddocks," he said.

He added, "We used to play cricket in the middle of the road. If a car came along, you'd just move over a bit." There were a lot fewer cars back then.

Bob started playing tennis when he was in primary school. "We had tennis and footy clubs and golf clubs, and Alexandra show. All those things that are happening now, they were happening then."

He attended Alexandra Primary School and Alexandra Elementary High School, leaving school in 1950 after fourth form.

His mother played music and wrote poetry as well as doing community work. The family lived in a little house with no electricity and hessian walls. They had a battery radio they could listen to though.

Bob loved going to the movie theatre in the Alexandra Shire Hall each week. "That was a feature of the town," he said. The picture theatre also raised money for the brass band.

He added, "We used to have three timber mills in town." When he was a child, the main industries were in timber and dairy with a few piggeries.



One of the early bands Bob played with. -S

He said, "I've just seen it change from what it was to what it is now... Most of the shops had people living above them or at the back in 1935. I was counting them up one day. There's only about three or four now where people live behind the shop."

He said that all of the shops in Alexandra have changed business type during the years, apart from the butcher shop and the newsagent.

There were two pharmacies, the current post office was the National Bank when he was a child. There was no supermarket, but there were four or five grocery shops, a couple of greengrocers and a couple of butchers.

Bob took on a mechanic apprenticeship in 1950, when Alexandra FoodWorks was a Holden garage, working there for 11 years. He then worked for five years at the Ford garage. Keen to get diesel experience, he began working for a farm machinery business, located in what is now Rotary Park.

He said, "There was a house and a small shed there. I worked on farm machinery, tractors and ride-on mowers, all that stuff. I eventually bought that place." He was about 40 years old at the time.

The business moved to the building which is now Mount Cathedral Baptist Church. He started with five staff and ended up having 12 people working there.

As he was working on large machinery, there was a lot of field work as the pieces were too large to bring to the workshop. This included travelling as far afield as Eildon and Marysville. In addition, he also sold several brands of tractor. He was working seven days a week as there were many hobby farmers who only came up on the weekends, so after his wife suggested he was doing too much,

he sold the business to two staff members, Brian Slater and Greg Harland.

Bob had purchased two acres in the late 1970s, where the pump shop is now located. At the time, it was just a bare block. Bob put up two buildings and worked from there for about 18 or 20 years, doing the same kind of work.

He had four sisters, all of whom grew up in Melbourne. The eldest is now 97 years old and the youngest is 88. Sadly, the other two have passed away.

Bob has three children, with two still living in Alexandra. He has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He also has many nieces and nephews on both his side of the family and on his wife's side.

His son Simon was an electrical engineer who later became a science, maths and physics teacher at Alexandra Secondary College, teaching there for about 20 years. He's now retired. Bob's eldest son Mike lives with him.

Pam, Bob's wife sadly died four years ago. They were married from 1957 until she passed in 2022, a remarkable 67 years.

He met Pam Walpole, from Wangaratta, at a Church of England Deb Ball in Alexandra. Bob's mother used to play the organ for the church and Bob sang in the choir. At the deb ball, he met Pam, a friend of his deb partner. At the time, Pam was nursing in Melbourne. She finished up in 1957 when they married, and she began working at the old Alexandra Hospital. She came from a very medical family. Her sister was a physiotherapist and her two brothers became doctors.

They had a house built in Coster Street and had lived there since 1958.

ADVERTISEMENT

ANZAC DAY

Remembering those who have served and fallen for our country

Cindy McLEISH MP

STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

03 9730 1066
CindyMcLeish.com.au

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

Alexandra Fire Brigade part of new AV and CFA lifesaving program

ALEXANDRA Fire Brigade is one of nine CFA brigades that are trained and ready to respond to select medical Triple Zero calls as part of a new program that will officially commence on November 27.

The new Fire Medical Response program is a joint initiative of CFA and Ambulance Victoria that will see CFA brigades and Ambulance Victoria dispatched simultaneously to cardiac arrests.

The other brigades kicking off the program are Euroa, Tatura, Numurkah, Yarrowonga, Lakes

Entrance, Orbost, Bairnsdale, Huntly and Kyneton.

Alexandra's Brigade Captain Chris Lynch said the decision to join the program was an easy one to make given the benefits it will provide the Alexandra community.

"Programs like the FMR project will only increase the ability to get to patients faster and assist Ambulance Victoria at a patient's critical time of need. The Alexandra Fire Brigade has worked extremely hard and dedicated many hours to

online and hands on training," Chris said.

"The benefits of having this program in our area are that if Ambulance Victoria are potentially doing a transfer to Melbourne and are out of town for an extensive time we may be able to fill the gap on a priority zero call. It will also help having hands on scene allowing ambulance Victoria to focus on what they have to do.

"As a part of the FMR project Alexandra CFA has been supplied with specialist equipment including

a Zoll defibrillator that is compatible with Ambulance Victoria as well as a trauma kit and the ability to administer oxygen.

"As always it is a privilege to work with these CFA members and their willingness to provide another level of care for their community. What this program means is that community members who call for an ambulance may receive both a fire truck and an ambulance. There is no specific order in which the services arrive to the incident.

"Alexandra has been training with Ambulance Victoria for months, in preparation for the program which will complement the Ambulance Victoria service in the local area."

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Garry Cook said the program was a natural fit for CFA because of the 52,000 volunteers across the state.

"CFA has more than 1100 volunteer fire stations with more than 52,000 members," Garry said.

"This puts CFA in a unique position to complement the Ambulance Victoria response in 50 locations across Victoria to help deliver early intervention to cardiac arrests."

Ambulance Victoria Executive Director of Regional Operations, Danielle North, said Victoria's cardiac survival rates are one of the best in the world, thanks to high rates of early intervention.

"The Fire Medical Response program will improve survival rates for people in rural and regional Victoria," Danielle said.

"Quick intervention with CPR and a defibrillator has the greatest impact on improving a patient's chances of surviving a cardiac arrest."

Come and Try Dindi Skills!!

DINDI Skills!! is a Come and Try program running in Alexandra for young people aged 12 to 25 years who are looking to give something new try.

Are you interested in trying Reformer Pilates? Yoga? Cheerleading? Woodwork? There are several classes running across term two on offer, and registrations are open now. Get in quick as numbers are limited for each class. These are no obligation, completely free sessions to see if it's for you. Try one or try them all.

Special deals will be available for participants who discover they love it and would like to join the activity ongoing. Check out the advertisement for all the session details and registration links.

The hope is to bring Dindi Skills!! to neighbouring townships in the future to expand opportunities for physical activity, movement and social engagement to all young people across Murrindindi Shire.

Dindi Skills!! is being delivered in partnership between Alexandra District Health and Valley Sports. If you would like more information, please contact Melissa Storey at Alexandra District Health on 5772 0900 or email melissa.storey@adh.org.au

If you are aged under 16 years, parental/carer attendance is required. Parental/carer consent is required for anyone aged under 18 years.



Alexandra Fire Brigade Captain Chris Lynch receiving the brigade's Fire Medical Response (FMR) certification award from Fire Medical Response Implementation Manager at CFA, Fiona Macken. -S



The Alexandra Fire Brigade undertaking their Fire Medical Response (FMR) training. -S

Dindi Skills!! COME & TRY SESSIONS

Thinking about trying something new? These sessions are the perfect place to start.

Our FREE Come & Try program in Alexandra is designed for young people aged 12-25, offering a range of fun and welcoming activities to explore. Whether you try one session or jump into them all, it's a great way to get active, meet new people and discover what you love. Plus, if you find something you enjoy, special start-up offers are available to help you continue. Scan the QR code or head to the link below to view full details and register for each activity.

<https://valleysport.net.au/dindi-skills/>



SCAN HERE



Dindi Skills!! is proudly delivered in partnership between Alexandra District Health & Valley Sport.

If you have any questions about this program please contact Melissa Storey at Alexandra District Health on 03 5772 0900 or melissa.storey@adh.org.au

What to know / bring:

- Sessions have limited spots - register early to avoid missing out
- Parent attendance and consent required for participants under 18 years
- Bring a water bottle
- Wear comfortable clothing/activewear
- Full session details provided upon registration

YOGA by Dindi Yoga Doula, Grounded Studio, 40 Downey St, Alexandra



About the session:

Yoga classes based on the Knoff Yoga System focus on building strength, flexibility, balance and posture. Sessions combine breath work, movement and relaxation to support both physical and emotional wellbeing.

Age Group: 12-18 years.
Date & Time: Mon 27/04/2026, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Age Group: 18-25 years.
Date & Time: Mon 04/05/2026, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

PILATES by Grounded Studio Pilates, The Exchange Room, 40 Downey St, Alexandra



About the session:

A full-body Reformer Pilates workout with clear guidance and a supportive, controlled pace. Ideal for beginners or those looking to improve their technique while building strength and confidence.

Age Group: 16-18 years
Date & Time: Mon 18/05/2026, 4:15pm - 5:00pm

Age Group: 18-25 years
Date & Time: Mon 11/05/2026, 6:00am - 6:45am

WOODWORK by Alexandra Community Shed, 39 McKenzie St, Alexandra



About the session:

This session will walk you through the transformation of raw wood to a functional and sturdy toolbox. See what's involved ready to roll up your sleeves and start building in Term 3!

Age Group: 16-25 years
Date & Time: Wed 27/05/2026, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

CHEERLEADING by Dindi Dance, Studio 58, 58A Grant Street, Alexandra



About the session:

A high-energy class introducing cheerleading basics including chants, jumps, simple stunts and short routines - building confidence, coordination and team spirit.

Age Group: 12-17 years
Date & Time: Wed 03/06/2026, 6:15pm - 7:00pm

MOUTH MAPPING LAUNCH

A new, **world first** oral cancer screening program at the Yea Saleyards

Yea & District Memorial Hospital is excited to launch MouthMap — an innovative digital health tool designed to improve access to oral cancer screening for rural communities.

What is MouthMap?

MouthMap uses high-quality medical photography to take detailed images of a person's mouth. These images are then reviewed by specialist doctors, allowing expert advice without the need to travel long distances.

Why does it matter?

Oral cancer cases are gradually increasing across Australia. Early detection is important and can lead to better treatment outcomes.

Why launch it at the Saleyards?

Through the YDMH Saleyards Program, free health clinics are delivered monthly in a familiar and accessible setting at the heart of the local farming community.



A proud partnership with the Rotary Club of Yea, whose generous funding has enabled this initiative to be delivered locally.

JOIN US

For the launch on the 1st of May 2026
11:30-12:00pm at the Yea Saleyards

RSVP - NOT REQUIRED BUT ENCOURAGED FOR CATERING

(03) 5736 0490

Chloe.Harward@ydmh.org.au



The Farmer's Ag News

Improved testing for Anthrax

by Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer

ANTHRAX has been a cause of sudden death of livestock in Australia for the past 150 years. Once an animal has died from Anthrax, the Anthrax spores can survive in the soil for decades, waiting for the right set of environmental conditions to infect another animal.

Most districts in Victoria have experienced livestock deaths due to Anthrax. Anthrax-related livestock deaths mostly occur in the warmer months, although history has shown that they can occur at any time of year.

Therefore, Anthrax should be considered whenever there is any sudden death of livestock, particularly if blood is seen around the animal's nose, mouth, and anus.

At one time, veterinarians had to carry a microscope and examine a smear of specially stained blood to rapidly diagnose Anthrax.

This all changed with the development of pen-side ICT (immunochromatographic test) kits, which provide a quick, safe, and accurate means of diagnosing or excluding Anthrax when investigating cases of sudden death of livestock. All private veterinarians who deal with livestock have free access to ICT kits and can investigate sudden deaths through subsidised disease investigations.

There are several reasons why it is advantageous to know whether an animal has died from Anthrax.

First, the best way of stopping further losses due to Anthrax is through early diagnosis, and the subsidised vaccination of everyone who has come into contact with the affected livestock.

Secondly, the carcass of an animal that has died of Anthrax will remain a source of infection for future outbreaks if it isn't disposed of correctly through incineration and the decontamination of its death site.

And finally, Anthrax is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can potentially infect humans. The exclusion of Anthrax will bring peace of mind both for yourself and your veterinarian when trying to find the real cause of the animal's death.

Exclusion testing should be carried out within 48 hours of an animal's death. If you suspect a case of Anthrax, please contact your local veterinarian, or Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officer, or call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

National sheep flock expected to decline in 2026: MLA Sheep Industry Projections

AUSTRALIA'S sheep industry is entering a lower supply phase in 2026, with Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) latest Australian Sheep Industry Projections forecasting a further decline in flock numbers after several years of elevated turnover and challenging seasonal conditions.

The national sheep flock is estimated to fall 2.7 per cent to 67.1 million head by June 30, 2026, reflecting the cumulative impact of below average rainfall across key southern production regions including Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and southern New South Wales. While some late summer rainfall has provided short term relief, soil moisture and pasture conditions remain under pressure in many areas.

MLA Senior Market Information Analyst Emiliano Diaz said three consecutive years of difficult seasonal conditions have weighed heavily on the flock.

"Producers have been managing through sustained seasonal pressure, and the high levels of turnover over recent years have reduced flock size and constrained the potential for a rebuild if the seasonal outlook improves," Mr Diaz said.

Lamb and mutton availability is expected to tighten further in 2026 as producers retain more breeding stock where possible.

Production and slaughter

Lamb slaughter is forecast to decline 11 per cent in 2026 to 21.86 million head, following an estimated 6.9 per cent fall in 2025, as the effects of several years of heavy turnover continue to flow through the system.

Mutton slaughter is expected to contract more sharply, falling 30 per cent to 7.13 million head, reflecting the tighter supply dynamic.

Despite lower slaughter volumes, productivity gains and heavier carcass weights are continuing to support output. Average lamb carcass weights are forecast to lift to 24.6kg, supported by ongoing genetic improvement, grain feeding and processor demand for heavier stock.

As a result, lamb production is expected to decline 10 per cent in 2026 to around 537,000 tonnes carcass weight, which would still rank among the stronger production years on record.

Mr Diaz said the figures highlight how productivity gains are underpinning supply even as numbers tighten.

"While lamb turnover is forecast to be lower in 2026, improvements in genetics, feeding systems and carcass weights mean production remains relatively resilient by historical standards," Mr Diaz said.

Mutton production is forecast to fall 29 per cent as the effects of earlier heavy ewe and wether turnover further reduced supply.

Exports and global demand

Export conditions for Australian sheepmeat remain mixed in 2026. Tighter supply is expected to limit exportable volumes, although reduced global availability continues to support underlying demand, particularly as New Zealand's flock remains constrained.

Australia continues to benefit from its reputation as a reliable supplier of high quality sheepmeat into global markets.

"Global sheepmeat supply remains tight and Australian product continues to be well regarded across key export markets. However, higher livestock prices, freight costs and currency movements are expected

to influence competitiveness and trade flows through the year," Mr Diaz said.

Live sheep exports also face ongoing uncertainty. Volumes declined in 2025 due to lower supply, vessel availability and high domestic prices, and trade conditions remain influenced by shipping disruptions and geopolitical instability in the Middle East.

Despite this, demand for Australian sheep persists across the region, reflecting Australia's strong animal health and quality reputation.

Looking ahead

Price forecasts point to relatively stable conditions across sheep indicators through 2026, with prices remaining well above long term averages despite some mixed movements.

The National Heavy Lamb Indicator is forecast to lift one per cent, the Trade Lamb Indicator to rise 0.5 per cent, while the Restocker Lamb Indicator is forecast to ease four per cent by June 30, 2026.

"Lower flock numbers and reduced turnover are expected to support prices, but conditions remain finely balanced. The pace of any potential flock rebuild in the future will depend heavily on seasonal improvement and producer confidence," Mr Diaz said.

While slaughter and production are expected to stabilise over the medium term, MLA expects 2026 to be a year of adjustment rather than expansion for the sheep industry, as producers manage through constrained supply, ongoing cost pressures and variable seasonal conditions.

To view the full report, visit: tinyurl.com/24aj3h3y

Cool weather still driving hay fire danger

COOLER conditions across Victoria may suggest reduced haystack fire risk, but moist hay continues to heat internally and remains a significant hazard.

Producers are urged to maintain regular monitoring of baled and stacked hay, as no current technology reliably tracks internal hay temperatures.

Dairy Extension Officer, Michele Jolliffe said the real danger in hay is what you can't see, so regular checks remain the strongest protection against fire.

"Simple actions like testing temperatures and watching for warning signs can prevent a heating haystack from becoming a dangerous ignition," Ms Jolliffe said.

"Warning signs such as steam, roof condensation, mould, acrid smells or humid air near stacks should prompt immediate checks to prevent heat buildup and potential ignition.

"Most heating occurs within the first fortnight after baling, although hay can still reach ignition point up to eight weeks later especially during fluctuating autumn temperatures.

"Cooler weather can hide the risk, but moisture in hay can still spark trouble if vigilance drops," Ms Jolliffe said.

Using a crowbar inserted for two hours remains an effective temperature test, and

a bar too hot to hold indicates a dangerous internal temperature above 70°C.

If hay is heating, stacks should be carefully pulled apart to release heat, with water supply and trained personnel on standby to prevent ignition.

Producers should avoid walking on stacks due to potential internal charring, any extra weight on the stack may cause the stack to collapse and cause serious injury.

If there is the slightest risk of a fire starting due to wet hay, never keep machinery in the hayshed and don't allow children to play in or near heating stacks.

Further information on hay fire risks is available on the CFA website, and seasonal support is accessible at agriculture.vic.gov.au or by calling 136 186.

CLEARING SALE

A/C THREE SISTERS PAST

SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026 10:00AM

2724 Broadford-Flowerdale Rd, Flowerdale Victoria



**FARM MACHINERY, FARM SUNDRIES,
HORSE DRAWN JINKER, FURPHY
TANK, GENERAL TOOLS & HARDWARE,
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| Number of head | 2,293 | | | | |
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Reinstatement of council's Road Management Plan



Damien Gallagher - S

Mayor joins VLGA board

THE Longwood Fire Event significantly impacted Murrindindi Shire and Murrindindi Shire Council operations. In response, council temporarily suspended the Road Management Plan at the end of January 2026 to prioritise fire response, community safety, and recovery efforts.

As of last Tuesday, April 7, the Road Management Plan has been reinstated across all roads in the municipality, except those directly affected by the Longwood Fire.

The Road Management Plan will remain partially suspended for a further six months for approximately 450km of council-managed roads within fire-impacted areas. This restricted suspension is required while council works with funding agencies to enable recovery and reconstruction works to occur.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Livia Bonazzi, has determined that sufficient access, workforce capacity and system functionality have been restored to enable a return to normal service delivery under the plan for non-impacted roads. Council will therefore resume its standard inspection, maintenance and repair schedules in accordance with the Road Management Plan where it has been reinstated.

While the restricted suspension remains in place for fire-impacted roads, council will continue to prioritise works based on risk, safety and available resources.

Updates will be posted on council's website, social media, and other public channels. If you have any questions, please contact council on 5772 0555.

Council also thank the community for its patience and understanding during the emergency response and recovery period.

THE Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) is delighted to advise that Cr Damien Gallagher, Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council, has been appointed to the VLGA board to fill a vacant position, effective immediately.

The term of Cr Gallagher's appointment will be until June 30, 2028, at which time he will be eligible to stand for election.

Cr Gallagher has a strong focus on sound governance, careful stewardship of public resources, and long-term community wellbeing.

Cr Gallagher has represented Murrindindi Shire through the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association, and Rural Councils Victoria. In 2024, he chaired the Hume Region Local Government Network. In 2024 and again in 2026 he was appointed to the Local Government Minister's Mayoral Advisory Panel, contributing to state-level discussions on governance, resilience, and regional advocacy.

Cr Gallagher said he is looking forward to making a valuable and sustained contribution to the VLGA board and ensuring the VLGA continues to be recognised as a supportive and respected governance peak body for councils and councillors.

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For more information or to register your interest, email secretary@cathkinemetry@gmail.com

DEATH NOTICES

MARTIN (nee Parker) Rosalyn Joy.
Passed away peacefully on Sunday March 29, 2026.
Loved daughter of June and Bill Parker (dec).
Sister to Gary (dec), Sharron (dec) and Gaylene. Wife of Michael.
Loved mother, friend and adored grandmother to Leia, Brett, River and Billie, James, Raquel, Gabriella and Chloe.
In Gods care.

DEATH NOTICES

MARTIN (Parker), Rosalyn Joy.
Passed away Sunday March 29, 2026.
Roz, I will carry you with me in my heart always.
The bond we had will never be broken. Love you. Your sister Gaylene.
Always the fun aunty to Brooke, Ryan and kids, Luke, Lauren and kids.

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MEETINGS



Notice of 2026 Annual General Meeting, Eildon RSL Sub-Branch
In accordance with By-Law 10C (11) (a), The Eildon RSL Sub-Branch 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held on:
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 5pm
Eildon Visitor Information Centre, Main Street, Eildon, Victoria 3713
Business:
Election of General Committee Members and Office Bearers.
Presentation of reports.
All financial service, affiliate and life members can nominate. Nominations for Office Bearers and five general committee members open on Wednesday, March 31, and close at 5pm on April 15, 2026.
Nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Sue McLaurin
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The plan to draw cyclists to Murrindindi Shire

CYCLING is a major drawcard for the Murrindindi area, with extensive trails and majestic scenery such as Lake Eildon, the Cathedral Ranges and the Great Victorian Rail Trail. Ride High Country is Tourism North East's cycling brand, designed to highlight and inform cycling tourists about the available networks and features on offer.

Tourism North East Head of Marketing, Christina Harris, spoke recently about the wonderful cycling opportunities in Victoria's high country.

"For Ride High Country, we really focus on the cycling experience and that means from the trails like rail trail, gravel, road and mountain biking, to the accommodation and cycle-friendly businesses as well as wonderful dining and retail and things like that, ensuring that anyone who's looking for the ultimate cycling holiday has all the information they need," Christina said.

In Murrindindi Shire, cycling opportunities across the region include Eildon Mountain Bike Park, Lake Mountain and Cascades Trail, endless road options with unparalleled climbing and hundreds of kilometres, including things like the Lake Mountain Seven Peaks Challenge, etcetera.

"As regional tourism board for the area, we're really committed to leveraging the infrastructure that we're fortunate to have in our region already. So that means focusing on those key assets like the Great Victorian Rail Trail, Murray to Mountains and the mountain bike parks," Christina said.

"As we've discussed, obviously Buxton, Eildon and Cascades within Murrindindi, as well as the Seven Peaks, which are really a unique point of difference that can't be replicated anywhere else in Australia, of which we're fortunate to have Lake Mountain as part of.

"In addition to that, we do have the newly launched gravel network, which features over 50 green to double black routes and covers more than 2000 kilometers and 35,000 meters of elevation. And that does include popular locations like Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake."

Christina spoke about the strategy for promoting cycling tourism in the north east.

"It's a multi-integrated strategy, working across our own channels as well as partnerships, PR and all that side of things. So it's not one specific thing, it's really an integrated sort of cross-channel," she said.

"We are constantly working on what works and making sure that we're building on that. So every year is a little bit different. Obviously, focusing on those wonderful own channels and the audience we're building around that as well.

"Cycling tourism is really, really a very strong performing segment for us over the past 10 years. In the year ending June 2024, Victoria's high country attracted an estimated 4.63 million domestic visitors, of which approximately 280,000 were cycling visitors.

"We're really continuing to invest into awareness driving marketing activity. So we're estimating that this will grow to 390,000 visitors by the end of 2027. A very important segment for the region. That's for high country specifically."

People can visit the Victoria's High Country website and download the GPX, which allows them to sort out their adventure and ensure that the road route chosen suits their experience level.

"All of our routes are tagged from green through to black or double black, like the mountain biking system. That means you can really sort of measure it to where you are at and all that side of things," Christina said.

"And any route that we put online is something that we look through and make sure that it fits with what the local area needs and also what showcases our best beautiful, local landscape.

"From our end, gravel is amazing and connects so many wonderful locations and allows for an on bike experience where you don't need a car and you can go on roads that are really beautiful, very quiet and show off the beautiful infrastructure. It's sort of connecting the towns as well as our wonderful landscape.

"At this time, we're really focused on activating the assets we have, as well as working with our local and state governments to repair infrastructure that was damaged in the 2026 summer fires. However, in that space, our work in the product development really continues and we're continuing to map rides and improve navigation, and that'll continue over the next 12 to 24 months."

Tourism North East are fortunate to have secured funding from the Victorian Government to support their Ride High Country program for the next two years, allowing them to continue mapping routes and promoting landscapes.

Christina finished by saying, "hop on your bike, come up and check out the High Country in Murrindindi Shire. There really is cycling available for every single level and interest. I think that's something that is so amazing about our region. It really is unparalleled when it comes to cycling opportunities.

"Whether you are a family and want to go for a gentle roll or, you know, just try out mountain biking the first time, there's options around up to full on experts that want to absolutely check out something that's challenging and that they can't see anywhere else in Australia.

"We really have unparalleled opportunities when it comes to that combined with really passionate local operators that are cycling focused, so our cycling experience is more than just the trails, it's also the accommodation, it's the dining and it's the local characters around that," she concluded.

More information about Ride High Country can be found at victoriashighcountry.com.au/ride/

New food labelling laws tabled for consumer clarity

NEW food labelling laws that will safeguard Victorian farmers and keep consumers informed when buying meat and dairy at the supermarket, have been tabled in parliament.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy, said immediate changes to food safety laws were needed, "to ensure stronger consumer transparency, protect our farmers, and hold emerging food technologies like lab-grown meat accountable."

"Whether milk or meat, supermarket shoppers must be able to easily understand where their food comes from, so they can make an informed choice at the checkout," Ms Kealy said.

"These changes will ensure a level playing field between natural and imitation products."

The Nationals and the Liberals amendments will: Prevent misleading use of "milk" where a product is not dairy. Prevent misleading use of meat descriptors (e.g. bacon, steak, mince). Require clear, prominent disclosure where products

are plant-based imitation foods or cell-cultivated meat.

The changes will also require disclosure to be clearly visible on the display panel of the product and in equal font size to the product descriptor. For example, products containing lab-grown meat must be labelled, "cell-cultivated meat" or "lab-grown meat."

The changes will ensure there is no reduction in food safety standards, and that support for meat and dairy farming industries remains steadfast.

"Victorian farmers have a reputation of producing high quality, nutritious and delicious food, but their premium brand must not be used by other products masquerading as meat and dairy," Ms Kealy said.

"Victorian farmers produce the real thing. They shouldn't have to compete with products that borrow their name but not their standards."

"Only the Liberals and Nationals will support our farmers to ensure the quality of their products is protected."

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE: NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

More prizes at the Alexandra Rotary Easter Art Show

THE Alexandra Rotary Easter Art Show's most popular artwork, as judged by visitors to the show, was 'Serenity Lake Eildon', which also won Section Four, Local Scene.

The winners of the Art Show Raffle were:

First Prize, 'Alexandra Scene', watercolour by Max Wilks won by Lisa Harding

Second Prize, 'Timber Mantle Clock' donated by Alexandra Men's Shed / Eildon Woodworkers Guild won by Gordon Simpson.

Third Prize, a hamper donated by Cindy McLeish, was won by Jenny Baker.

Fourth Prize, a hamper donated by Helen Haines was won by Sandra Oprey.

The show was very successful. Although entries were a little down on last year, sales were up in number and average price.

The organisers would like to sincerely thank all of the artists, judge Drew Gregory, visitors and sponsors. Thanks to Rotary members and Friends of Rotary, Alexandra Football and Netball Club, and students from Alexandra Secondary College for helping to create a wonderful community event.



Sue McIntyre and her daughters on Opening Night. -S



Helen Gibb and Art Show Director Jenny Holmes with Popular Choice Winner, 'Serenity Lake Eildon'. -S

Night Strike exercise in Koriella

THE Koriella Fire Brigade, located at 10 Stoney Creek Road in Fawcett, is to conduct another night training exercise as part of the Koriella Fire Brigade's annual series of Night Strike training exercises on Friday evening, May 8.

The exercise will include local brigades from within the Alexandra Group and a task force coming up from District Eight, fostering relationships outside of District 12.

The exercise will be conducted in the Fawcett and Koriella areas from 6 through to 11pm.

The exercise itself will involve local brigades 'turning out' to a mock accident that has occurred on private property in Fawcett, which has subsequently started a grass and scrub fire threatening a homestead. There will be no live or active grass fires however a CFA prop will be in position and utilised.

The training is conducted to expose crew members to situations that they will often come across when 'turning out' to real incidents. The better trained they are, the better the response is. This is to ensure that the brigades remain a trusted and reliable capability for the communities and to build stronger ties and better cohesion with local emergency services.

Being a night exercise, it would be appreciate that if you need to travel along Spring or Stoney Creek Roads in Koriella and Fawcett that night, please exercise caution when doing so, so volunteers are not put in harm's way with the additional risk of speeding traffic. Please observe the required 40kph speed limit when approaching flashing red and blue lights.

All queries can be directed to the Koriella Fire Brigade Captain, Scott Reeves via email on scott.koriellafb@gmail.com or call 0417 584 910.

Varroa mite detected in shire

THE varroa mite, which has decimated beehives around Australia since it arrived on our shores in June 2022, has been detected in Murrindindi Shire. Two locations in the Whanregarwen Road area, and a locations in the Killingworth Road area and Marysville area have been impacted. Treatments are available, but people with hives will need to act fast.

As many commercial beekeepers move their bees around to provide pollination services, they may have inadvertently brought varroa mites back with them.

Charlie Nancarrow, owner of Dindi Bee Supplies in Yea, said, "With warmer days coming up, it will be a good time for anyone in the area who keeps bees to do an inspection and a check for varroa."

He explained that to test, a cup of nurse bees (around 300 bees) needs to be collected and put into a varroa wash. The wash is in a container filled with 50 to 100ml of methylated spirits or isopropyl alcohol. These bees are sacrificed to detect varroa mite in the hive. The varroa mite on the bees are dislodged during the process and can then be counted.

Varroa mite detections need to be reported to the Victorian Department of Agriculture, either directly or on the VMAX system.

Charlie said, "With more modern systems we could have possibly tracked things better and reduced the amount of movements that were made by commercial beekeepers, but that's not where we're at, where what the reality is of the industry."

He said that the detection of the mite will affect everyone that has bees.

"The bigger effect that doesn't necessarily get talked about very frequently is the effect on wild bees, I'm not talking native bees but I'm talking wild honey bees that have spread rapidly in this country because our country's just perfect for honey bees, with our large gum trees producing a lot of nectar and a lot of honey. There's a lot of beehives out there that will get decimated and we rely on those bees, although we don't measure how much we rely on those wild bees to pollinate crops and gardens and flowers and trees.



Varroa mite has been detected in two areas of Murrindindi Shire. -John Severns

"The managed hives from backyard beekeepers and commercial assets we can treat them for varroa to keep the numbers down and to ensure that the bees survive in those colonies, but we don't do that for wild hives, so there's going to be a lot of hives in trees and so on that will disappear over the next five or 10 years," Charlie said.

The varroa mite weakens hives over time. "The varroa mite is an incredibly effective insect that reproduces very rapidly and can quickly overwhelm a hive," Charlie said.

He explained that initially, the mite only impacted Asian honeybees but it evolved over time and crossed over to the European honey bee.

Charlie said that in the lead-up to winter, "We normally we do a pack down of hives, which means we take off all the honey that is excess to the bees needs over winter and pack them down into one or two boxes each colony. It's important over the next few weeks when we do have some warmer days for anyone that has bees to do that check and inspection on the hives, and to put a treatment in if they detect it at any significant level."

Treatments are available, and hives are no longer being destroyed. "That was a technique that was implemented when it was first detected in the country to try and completely eliminate the spread. Unfortunately, that wasn't successful for various reasons, and some of those reasons are that some beekeepers didn't

take it on board that it was very important. And then there was backlash from people not understanding the process of us eliminating some bees to save the rest of the bees."

Charlie is planning to have a bee club meeting in about two weeks to discuss the issue with members.

There are different treatments available. Charlie recommends Aluen Cap Oxalic Acid strips or Apibioxyl Dribble and Powder. He said, "Synthetic treatments have been shown to be not so effective anymore. The mite has developed resistance to some of those synthetics."

He emphasised that PPE will be needed to administer the treatment, and that the dosage instructions need to be carefully followed. The treatments do no harm the bees.

He added, "The way to support happy and healthy bees is to try and reduce the need to use pesticides and to use those sorts of things, and herbicides, which also affect the bees down the track. Use those spays which happens in farms in regional areas as a course of business doing farming and so on, but use those things in accordance with the labels. If they don't need to use it, they shouldn't use it. All those sort of things just help support a thriving pollinating insect population, the bees and beyond the bees."

Parents urged to vaccinate under-fives this flu season

VICTORIAN families are being urged to ensure children under five are protected against serious illness this winter by arranging a free flu vaccine ahead of the 2026 peak season.

While vaccination is recommended for anyone aged six months and older, Victorian Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElroy warns it is especially critical for children under five, who are more likely to experience severe flu symptoms that may require hospital treatment.

"For our youngest children, the flu can be far more serious than a few days at home unwell. It can be life-threatening.

"Vaccinating kids under five is one of the most important things families can do to keep them healthy and out of hospital this winter.

"Flu vaccines are completely safe, effective and free for children under five years," Dr McElroy said.

The flu vaccine is free for at-risk groups including children aged six months to five years, people over 65 years, pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people with medical conditions that put them at increased risk of severe flu.

Dr McElroy said getting vaccinated early provides the strongest protection against serious illness as flu activity increases heading into winter.

"The earlier you get vaccinated, the better your protection will be as we move into winter. A quick appointment now can make a big difference to your health and the health of those around you."

It's important to get vaccinated against influenza every year as the virus changes throughout the year changes and new vaccines are developed for the following winter season, she added.

"Having an annual flu vaccine will not only reduce your chances of catching the flu but also reduce the severity of your illness if you become infected," Dr McElroy said.

The vaccine is available across general practices, pharmacies, local council immunisation clinics, Aboriginal Health Services and often at workplaces.

Flu vaccines can be given at the same time as other National Immunisation Program vaccines, such as the free maternal RSV vaccine, whooping cough and the COVID-19 booster.

As well as vaccination, simple steps can help stop the spread of respiratory illnesses such as hand washing, coughing or sneezing into your elbow, wearing a mask, and staying home when sick.

SPORT

Marysville Golf report

by Lesley Rundle

ON Saturday, April 4, a very successful Junior Invitational Day was held at the Marysville Golf club with the young players playing a two person ambrose alongside a Marysville member who guided them through the rules and the course. There were five players from RACV Healesville, Jarrod and Ryder Hudson, and Anthony, Austin and Alex Simmions. Eastern Golf Club was represented by Kent Hudson, Marysville by Billy Baker and Angus Birchall and Will and Cameron Simpson also played. The winners were Jarrod and Ryder with 66 nett followed by Kent and Austin with nett 67. Marysville members thank these young players for supporting this initiative and to their families for assisting them. Days such as these take a lot of organising and many thanks to Heather Jenkins for coordinating this event.

The Thursday nine holers played a 4BBB on the front nine holes. The winning pair was Fiona Wright and Heather Jenkins with

23 points followed by Gail Leigh and Paul Martin on a three way countback. Richy Clark had the nearest the pin on the ninth hole.

Last Saturday for the 11th year, members welcomed the golfing group the Tour Elephants to the annual stableford challenge. It is such a pleasure to welcome back groups such as this and to continue the friendly competition and camaraderie between the players. Leading into this latest challenge the trophy had been won five times by the Tour Elephants and five by Marysville. This year it was a runaway victory for the Marysville players with 474 points as opposed to 341 for the visitors.

A home team advantage was obvious this year especially as the greens had been recently cored and Marysville players were better able to handle the sandy greens. Gail Leigh won the ladies section on a countback from Jody Doran and Peter Lilley won the men's from Travis Stow. The nearest the pins were won by Bernie Morrell, Gail Leigh, Chris Suckling and Malcolm Fraser. Sabrina

Stow and Phil Morley had the longest drives and Jody Doran played the straightest drive. Thanks was given to the visiting golfers coordinated by Richard Knight, Heather Jenkins, Helen Howard, the green keeping volunteers, Colin Davies, Richy Clark and Bic. The Pavilion chef for their contributions to another very successful challenge.

On Sunday in the third round of the Dalhousie Handicap Division Two Pennant the men played against Broadford. Marysville lost two-three and on Sunday, April 18, they play Eildon at Alexandra.

The ladies Dalhousie pennant season began on Monday with Marysville playing Lancefield at Yea. Results will be given next week.

Next Saturday all players will play stroke for the April monthly medal and the ladies round will include round two of the Barton Shield.

Members are reminded that beginning this Saturday, April 18, tee off time is 9.30 for 10am.



Richard Knight and Richy Clark with the Tour Elephants Trophy. -S



Junior Invitational Day. -S

New boat ramp at Howqua Inlet

MINISTER Dimopoulos announced on Friday, April 9 that construction of the new \$1.5 million Howqua Inlet boat ramp would start on Monday, April 13.

Once completed, the new Howqua Inlet ramp will boast a two-lane concrete surface, including parking.

The dual-lane concrete ramp will provide access to Lake Eildon above water levels of about 80 per cent.

It will include 18 parking spaces for cars with trailers and a vehicle turning apron to make backing down easier.

Lake Eildon is synonymous with recreational boating, and the Howqua ramp will provide yet another option for locals and holidaymakers.

Eildon continues to be Victoria's most heavily stocked fishery, known for producing metre-long Murray cod as well as big trout and golden perch. It's also a great spot to waterski, wakeboard or tow a donut with the family.

Labor has invested in several ramps around Eildon, enabling maintenance and ensuring facilities are easy to use.

Minister Dimopoulos said, "We proudly back outdoor recreation, which is why we're building a brand-new boat ramp right here at Lake Eildon. Our new boat ramp will make it easier for families to have budget-friendly fun on the water."

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes added, "This will make it easier for families to get out on the water and enjoy affordable, outdoor fun at Lake Eildon."

Alexandra Squash Club pennant for term one concludes

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

PENNANT for the term at Alexandra Squash Club has come to a close and there were two teams that stood the test of time to win their night. The winning teams were Pelicans on Monday nights and Kenworths on Wednesday nights. Great work.

Magpies versus Cockatoos

Tyler and Eric (fill ins) versus Liane: Liane's opponent was unable to make it so she had some lovely gents fill in against her. Both Eric and Tyler played well, but the more experience player won. Liane was queen of the court. 64 to 47.

Matt versus Ben: Keeping each other on their toes they ran a marathon in this match. Ben won three games to claim the match. 56 to 47.

John versus Phil: The games see-sawed with both players taking home two games each. In classic form John's experience won out for victory. 55 to 49.

Pelicans versus Eagles

Tyler versus Eric: There were some great rallies, and both were playing well, but Tyler was just too good and won the match. 74 to 41.

Laura (fill in) versus Sally: A great game by both. Sally hit out strong, but Laura's coverage and big winners clawed her back to a good close finish. Laura claimed the win. 62 to 58.

Michael H versus Daniel W: It was fast and it was furious. The speed of play accelerated



Wednesday night's winning team of Kenworths. Pictured are Daniel K, Mick and Matthew. -S

and the movement around the court was nimble. Daniel started strong while Michael picked up his game closer to the end. It was a two-point win for Daniel. 51 to 49.

Daniel K (fill in) versus Justin: A feisty match. Justin played hard in an attempt to overthrow the champ, but Daniel rejected his play, winning all four games and the match. 75 to 32.

Wednesday competition Macks versus Scania's

Jessica versus Ben H: Ben won the first with every intention of keeping on top, but Jessica had other ideas. Turning the tide Jessica took the second with a solid lead. The second half was much closer but Jessica's win in the second saw her win the match. 59 to 43.

Kristelle versus Travis: With a steady hand and some tricky serves, Travis kept Kriselle down not letting her take a single game. Travis claimed the win. 69 to 52

Daniel W versus Justin: A battle ensued on the court. Daniel opened with an eight-point lead in game one. Both players were moving around each other in a dangerous dance and kept the remaining game within two points. The early lead saw Daniel finish the match with the win. 66 to 56.

Kenworths versus Western Stars

Matthew versus Beth: Fantastic game play from both. It was an even match all the way through which was evident when it ended dramatically in a draw. 57 to 57.

Mick versus Daniel L: Each game was up and down with Daniels power proved a challenge while Micks placement was deadly. The match came down to a two-point difference with Daniel winning the match. 57 to 55.

Daniel K versus Ben F: There were great rallies with some amazing shots. Ben had some promising moments, but Daniel has the skills and won. 76 to 31.

TEDFNC show spirit and promise

by Sophia Weaver

Seville 107 defeated TEDFNC 0

WHILE the scoreboard at the Seville Recreation Reserve might not have favoured the visitors on Saturday, the energy displayed by the TEDFNC told a much more compelling story of spirit.

In a challenging season opener on April 11, the newly formed TEDFNC squad faced a formidable Seville Football Netball Club. With a roster featuring only four returning veterans and 12 players either new to the club or entirely new to the sport, the game inexperience was evident as Seville claimed a 107-0 victory.

However, the final tally was a poor reflection of the actual contest. As the match progressed, the TEDFNC side demonstrated marked improvement with every passing quarter. The players showed a disciplined commitment to the game plan, meticulously implementing the tactical adjustments relayed by coach Tash Hay and assistant coach Bec Clark via runner Jimmy Fulton. Captain Siobhan Bell and gameday vice captain Kristy Pearce kept the players on task and motivated out on the field.

Following the match, coach Tash offered a spirited encouragement of her team's performance, emphasising that the score failed to capture the true character of her players.

"The scoreboard didn't reflect the effort, the improvement, or the heart they played with," coach Tash wrote in her post-match address. "These girls were winners the moment they committed to the challenge, pushed past their comfort zones, and proved to themselves that they belong out there."



Team huddle. -TEDdy Photog on Facebook

The loss serves as a foundation for what promises to be a transformative season for the Thornton-Eildon team. The team will look to build on this momentum in their first home game of the year next week.

Rising stars earn honours

THE match served as a breakout performance for three debutants, who were recognised for their standout efforts with the game day awards: Ava Virtanen; received a \$25 club voucher courtesy of TEDFNC. Caeley Palmer; awarded a \$20 cash gift from Dindi Kids. Rebecca Alexandrou; presented with a Rebel

Gift Card, sponsored by Valley Aged and Disability Support Services.

The TEDFNC squad returns to the Thornton Recreation Reserve this Saturday, April 18, to face the Wandin Football Netball Club at 1.30pm. Supporters are encouraged to head down and cheer on the team, with club memberships currently available to help support this community institution.

The club remains in recruitment mode and welcomes new players aged 15 and over to join the ranks. Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to contact coach Tash Hay at 0430 119 420.



Gameday Award winners Rebecca, Ava, and Caeley. -S

Perfect golfing weather in Alexandra

by Dave Silverman

THE cooler weather always seems to coincide with an increase in player numbers, and so it was last Tuesday at the Alexandra Golf Club, when 13 players teed off at midday in the now standard Stableford round.

Leo Dynes jumped out of the blocks early and finished up five points clear of his nearest opponent, recording a very respectable 40 points. Nigel Waterhouse and Perrin Gooding both scored 35 and filled second and third spots respectively.

Nigel also claimed nearest the pin on seven, with 17 going to Len Jenkins and 18 to Graeme Emmerson. Rundown vouchers went to Lennie, Simon Rouget and Paul Martin.

Last Wednesday was the day when the ladies devote their golf game to raising

money for the Cancer Council. It is traditionally an individual Stableford round, but after the round is complete, partners are drawn at random and their scores combined to determine the winners and losers.

The winners, with 68 points, were Judy Pearson and Helen Findlay. Barb Doyle, Sue Greatorex and Lyn Capp claimed the three nearest the pins on offer and at the end of the day, the grand sum of \$202 has been forwarded to the Cancer Council. Well done, ladies.

Saturday was a big day, with the April Monthly Medal up for grabs, as well as the final rounds of both the Summer Cup and the Bob Dodge Golden Putter competitions.

The round, sponsored by Koala Cherries, was played in fine conditions, but with just a hint of the winter months to come, with a brisk, chilly wind making its presence felt.

Fittingly, the day winner was Simon Rouget, whose 83 net 69 gave him the win, but not the medal; not yet, anyway. In second spot was Jarrod Williamson, who carded a score of 81 net 69, which means that he and Simon will have to play off for the medal at the next stroke round. In third spot, with a net 71 was Shane McGorlick and Luke Heard came in in fourth with a net 74.

Shane only needed 26 putts on his way to his third spot, which cemented his win in the Bob Dodge Golden Putter for 2026. He also claimed nearest the pin on five, with yours truly (Dave) on seven, Simon on 12 and Luke on 18.

To cap off a really stellar day, and a really good Summer season, Shane also took the win in the Summer Cup. Congratulations, Shane.

Leo Dynes was the raffle winner, and with the day's results all done and dusted there were some trophies to be handed out for the 2025 season. Congratulations go to all recipients.

Finally, the lady captain, Helen Findlay, was on hand to present a richly deserved, and very popular, Life Membership to Marie Stace. Marie has been a member of the club since the sixties, has held many official positions over the years, and is a much loved and respected member of our little community. Congratulations, Marie, from all of us.



2025 trophy recipients Luke Heard, John Greatorex, Dan Burns, Marie Stace, Dave Silverman, Michael Bossonnet and Bill Wind, -S



Newly inducted Life Member Marie Stace with Helen Findlay and president Matt Richards. -S

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Reserves - Scott Heveren. -S



Under 17 Netball - Bella Twitchett. -S



Under 18 Football - Shannon Galloway. -S



Seniors Tom Wynne. -S

Tough going at Seville for Rebels

THE Alexandra Rebels kicked off one of the toughest assignments travelling to play one of this year's flag favourites in both seniors and reserves, Seville at Seville. Full on bleak winters conditions was not going to help the cause.

Reserves

Seville 11.6-72 defeated Alexandra 10.8-68

THE Rebels (reigning premiers) took to the field under new coach Steve Steiner at the weekend. In the same opening round last year, the Rebels were defeated by Seville by in excess of 100 points, which made their journey to the 2025 premiership even more impressive.

The Rebels opened full of running, with Heveren in the ruck getting the ball down to Kappa, Phillips and Halligan, who were able to take advantage of last year's senior captain Ted Watkins at full forward, kicking three goals for the quarter.

In the second quarter, with the aid of a strong breeze, the Rebels continued to dominate. Kappa added two goals, both worthy of goal of the year nominations, along with another two to Watkins, bringing his tally to five for the half. The Rebels went into the main break leading: Alexandra 7.0 to Seville 2.1.

With the aid of a strong wind, Seville came out playing more disciplined football in the third quarter, kicking five goals to the Rebels' one (Kappa's third). At three quarter time the scores were Alexandra 8.4 to Seville 8.3.

Despite the conditions, the final quarter was an even contest, with Seville's fitness getting them over the line, winning by four behinds.

A controversial incident late in the last quarter saw the football kicked into a building site, where it could not be retrieved. Seville did not have a replacement football ready despite requests from the umpire, and with no time-on played, the Rebels were denied in excess of three minutes of play — an incident that could well be argued to have cost them the match and one the league should investigate.

Goal Kickers: Ted Watkins 5, Kappa 4 and Ben Wallis 1.

Among the best for Alexandra, Scott Heveren was awarded the Shannon Group Award, while Brandon Kapakoulakis was recognised by Future Fit Finance after an

impressive four-goal performance. Ted Watkin led the scoring with five goals and took home the RUOAK Hotel Award, with Tom Halligan receiving the Buxton Hotel Award.

Seniors

Seville 12-17-89 defeated Alexandra 3-12-30

DESPITE the senior team entering the field full of confidence, with Peter Cairns, Sam Critchley, Thomas Wynne, Bradley Johnson and Justin Coventry all playing their first senior games for the club, that confidence was quickly tested.

Seville's pace and precision ball use on their home ground, combined with difficult conditions, saw them take control early and continue on to a convincing four quarter victory.

Peter Cairns made an excellent debut, collecting in excess of 30 disposals, with his ball use a real feature.

The ever reliable Tom Boots, Mitch Parker and Lachlan Nankervis were all prominent, while new recruit Sam Critchley also impressed despite the result.

While the scoreboard didn't reflect it, the club has assembled a talented list that is expected to rebound quickly and will look forward to the open expanses of Rebel Park in a big clash against Emerald this Saturday.

Goal Kickers: S. Critchley 2, S. Boots 1
Awards: Kervale Incentive; Tom Wynne. O'Briens Real Estate Award; Nick Meehan. RUOAK Hotel Award; Peter Cairns. Buxton Hotel Award; Kel Percy.

Netball

ALEXANDRA'S netballers faced a tough challenge in round one, coming up against a strong Seville side to open their 2026 campaign. While the results didn't fall Alexandra's way, the match provided a valuable first hit-out for all grades as new combinations begin to take shape.

A Grade: went down 27-76, with Mia Rouget earning the Incentive award for her efforts, while Ellie Hedger was recognised with the Corner Hotel Award.

B Grade: fought hard but were defeated 18-71. Darcy Doyle was awarded the Incentive

Award, with Emily Irwin receiving the Corner Hotel Award.

C Grade: beaten 11-54, with Kate Broadway named recipient of the RUOAK Hotel Award and Emma Todd taking out the Corner Hotel Award.

The club's Under 17s also faced a strong contest, going down 8-58. Bella Twitchett received the Koala Cherries Award, Brenna Frost the Corner Hotel Award, and Koa Parker was awarded the Coaches Award.

Despite the results, Alexandra will take positives from the opening round as players continue to build connections and adjust to the season ahead.

Undermanned Rebels show strong fight in season opener

Under 18s

ALEXANDRA'S Under 18s faced a challenging start to their season, taking on Seville with a depleted line up that saw just 16 players take the field.

With several regulars unavailable, the Rebels called on four under 16 players to step up, with Fletcher Van Lierop, Aiden Campbell, Riley Galloway and Lucas Crane all answering the call and representing the club well.

Up against a full strength Seville side, it was always going to be a tough contest, but the Rebels showed great determination and resilience throughout the game. Under the guidance of coach Sam Kidd, and with strong support from the sidelines, the group continued to apply themselves and compete right to the final siren.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the effort and attitude displayed were a credit to the playing group and highlight strong depth coming through the junior ranks.

Award winners on the day were Shannon Galloway (Bowens Award), Cameron Clark (GWS Award), Matthew Wal (AFNC Club Voucher) and Aiden Campbell, who was recognised with the Coaches Award.

You won't want to miss what's happening around the club right now.

Senior football and netball uniform presentation saw over 80 meals served and more than 100 people in the clubrooms last Thursday night. It was a great night. The



Seniors Sam Critchley. -S

weekly meat tray raffle is back, thanks to the ongoing support of Colin and Mandy Gesler from Alexandra Quality Meats. Congratulations to the Carr family on taking it home. The members draw is up and going, with two draws each week at 6.30pm and 8. You need to be at the club to claim it, this week's jackpot is sitting at \$150.

This Saturday the Rebels head into the first home game for the season against Emerald, it's shaping as a big one. At half time of the senior match the Helicopter Golf Ball Drop. \$50 a ball gives you the chance to win \$5,000, with \$500 for second closest. You can purchase balls online via trybooking or at the club. Balls will be available to buy on game day up until the first quarter of the seniors game.

The club is also looking forward to welcoming AFL Brownlow Medallist and Hawthorn/Collingwood player Tom Mitchell, who will line up with the senior side this Saturday. Tom will be around before and after the game, so make sure you get down, say hello, and stick around for after game awards in the clubrooms.

This Thursday and Friday night will also be big as the junior football and netball season kicks off, with uniform presentations across both nights.

The bar will be open, Thursday night meals available as usual, and on Friday night there'll be a free pie and drink thanks to Eildon Bakery.

There is genuinely something for everyone this week, the club would love to see the players, members, sponsors, supporters and wider community right in the middle of it.

If you've been thinking about getting down to the club, this is the week to do it.