

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, April 22, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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Young people get \$140,000 boost



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Protecting the environment post-fire



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Highball Coffee and Cars at Taggerty



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Weekend sport



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The trees in their autumn glory provided a spectacular backdrop to the Cars and Coffee event, held on Sunday, April 19. More on page 17 of this edition. -AR

Who's left steering the merger ship?

THE CEO of Alexandra District Health (ADH), Jane Poxon, retired on April 17. The CEO of Eastern Health (EH), David Plunkett, chose not to renew his contract.

The two former CEOs were the leading spokespeople for the merger consultation, along with ADH board member Alan Studley.

With the departures, what happens to the promises made during the consultation?

The new Eastern Health CEO is Helen Cooper. She started in her new role on April 7. At ADH, the interim CEO is Claire Palmer, Director of Clinical Services.

The boards of both organisations have signaled their support for the merger and are the driving forces behind the proposal.

The consultation in Murrindindi Shire was held over an unconscionably short period of time, with many people unaware that it was even happening as it was largely unpromoted. The online survey conducted by ADH and EH did not ask any direct questions of the community regarding the proposed merger.

A survey conducted by Murrindindi Shire Council found that two-thirds of the community are opposed to the merger.

New Eastern Health CEO Helen Cooper was asked whether it was her intention to continue to push for an amalgamation.

A spokesperson from Eastern Health responded, "The boards of Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health have formally recommended a voluntary amalgamation to strengthen access to care closer to home for the Alexandra and district community.

"With the commencement of Helen Cooper as Eastern Health Chief Executive, there is no change to the board's recommendation and no changes to the amalgamation process that is underway.

"The recommendation now rests with the Minister for Health for consideration and approval under the *Health Services Act 1988*. No changes will occur unless Ministerial approval is granted."

On Monday, April 13, it was announced that Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas, along with Ministers Danny Pearson and Gayle Tierney, would not be contesting the next election and would be standing down from their ministries, effective immediately. They will continue their terms on the backbench.

On Wednesday, April 15, the new Health Minister was announced as Harriet Shing.

There is no clear indication of the future of the merger between ADH and EH. Everything depends on the will of the new minister, as this is the only decision yet to make regarding the direction of healthcare in Murrindindi Shire.

Disaster Relief Australia calls in administrators

DISASTER Relief Australia called in administrators on March 13 following allegations of mismanagement. These allegations were eventually unproven, however it led to the Federal Government pulling their funding, according to a report in the *Herald Sun*.

The administrators lodged a report with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, stating that the organisation has about \$2.8 million in assets, with about \$2.63 million likely to be recovered. Employees are owed almost half a million dollars in unpaid entitlements. There are also 59 other creditors.

Board member Major General Andrew Freeman sought the reinstatement of federal funding after the organization had been cleared, but the request was denied. Administrators were then called in.

In a Facebook post on January 13, shortly after the fires which decimated our region, the veteran-led Disaster Relief Australia said, "Disaster Relief Australia volunteers have deployed into Victoria to coordinate and support bushfire recovery efforts. Tasked by National Emergency Management Agency at the request of the Victorian State Government, our volunteers will lead and supervise spontaneous and community volunteers across Longwood, Harcourt, Streatham, and Grass Flat as they clear debris and fire damaged trees. Our veteran volunteers have the skills and experience to coordinate spontaneous volunteer efforts in the field and ensure they can safely, efficiently, and

practically assist with recovery tasks in their own areas. We look forward to supporting the communities of Victoria."

In another post on February 26, they said, "Our volunteers have been on the ground in Victoria for more than two weeks to help communities begin to recover after devastating bushfires swept through the area in January. So far, more than 90 DRA volunteers have deployed alongside 192 NAB Foundation Recovery Crew community volunteers. Together, they have spent 5035 hours in the field helping residents in and around Harcourt, Grass Flat, Streatham and Longwood. We have cleared debris, felled burnt trees and removed damaged property. Our work is not yet done. We will take a brief break and return on March 4 at the request of Emergency Recovery Victoria, to provide further support in the coming months."

The Yea Tennis Club and Yea Football Netball Club provided access to their clubhouses while the team was in the area.

The last post on their Facebook page was on March 11.

The organisation was awarded the 2023 Australian Charity of the Year.

Disaster Relief Australia was engaged by the Victorian Government to complete clean-up related activities in the Longwood and Harcourt fire footprints.

Emergency Management Victoria were asked whether they were planning to put additional supports in place, given the issues with Disaster Relief Australia.

An Emergency Management Victoria spokesperson responded, "We acknowledge that this is an uncertain time for everyone at Disaster Relief Australia. Emergency Management Victoria continues to work with impacted council areas to understand the recovery needs of communities. Recovery supports continue to be available for people impacted by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires. We encourage anybody who needs help to call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. Disaster Relief Australia clean-up activities that are underway remain unaffected."

A Clean-up Program is available through Emergency Recovery Victoria to support eligible people whose homes or properties were impacted by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires. The program provides demolition for people who cannot access it through their insurance because: they do not have insurance, or they are underinsured and their insurance would be inadequate to accommodate demolition and a rebuild activity. This includes removing eligible damaged homes, business and community assets at no cost. Supporting structures such as sheds may also be eligible. The Clean-up Program is not designed to replace or cover the total losses caused by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires. Find out more about the eligibility criteria for the ERV Clean-up Program at vic.gov.au/clean-support-january-2026-bushfires or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

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 Commutea 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



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.

Eildon Landcare working along the bike track

LAST week, a dedicated team of Eildon Landcare volunteers, Wendy, John, Judy and Anne, spent time maintaining sections of the Goulburn River bike track. Their work focused on removing invasive weeds such as thistles and blackberry, as well as clearing accumulated leaf litter to improve the track's condition and accessibility for the community.

This ongoing effort is part of Landcare's commitment to protecting the local environment, enhancing native vegetation, and ensuring the bike track remains a safe and enjoyable space for walkers and cyclists.

The group meets every Thursday morning, weather permitting, and welcomes new volunteers of all experience levels. Anyone interested in contributing to this valuable community initiative is encouraged to get in touch with Wendy on 5774 2424.



Former shire CEO heading to Joondalup

THE City of Whittlesea announced on April 15 that it will be undertaking a recruitment process for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), following Craig Lloyd's decision not to enter into a new contract with the City of Whittlesea. Mr Lloyd has accepted the role of CEO at the City of Joondalup, in the northern suburbs of Perth, Western Australia.

Craig spent two and a half years as CEO of Murrindindi Shire Council, departing in October 2020.

Mr Lloyd will be finishing with the City of Whittlesea in late May ahead of some pre-arranged leave.

Three local donations from Marysville Lions Club

THE Marysville Lions Club had a dinner meeting recently to present donations to local organisations, thanking them for the work they do.

A \$10,000 donation went to Gordon Simpson OAM on behalf of Alexandra Events for the Murrindindi Health Van. This van was launched two days before the January fires and has been put to great use since. It's a great asset to our area.

A \$5000 donation went to Robyn Hill on behalf of Murrindindi Food Share. Around 20,000kg of food has been distributed by the organisation over the last two years, and the demand is growing.

A \$10,000 donation went to Graham Cockerell on behalf of Need for Feed. Graham informed the Marysville Lions Club of the work they have been doing in the district. On Australia Day, 75 trucks went in convoy from Seymour to Alexandra, where the hay was then distributed. The club said a huge thank you to these people for the immediate help they give our farmers in need.

Foundation receives significant donation

Foundation Murrindindi would like to acknowledge a significant recent donation received for fire impacted communities across the Longwood Fire. Shout out to Arisit Pty Ltd.

They have generously donated over \$20,000 worth of new Whirlpool and Ariston brand washing machines and microwaves to Foundation Murrindindi. These have now been distributed to the community led relief hubs in Highlands, Terip, Ruffy, Longwood, Yarck and Fawcett. This donation will assist people as they continue on their recovery journey.

Arisit is a 100 per cent Australian owned importer and distributor of quality home appliances and electronics, and has exclusive distribution of a range of appliance brands from around the world.

The Foundation would also like to acknowledge local business HG Turf, which donated the time and trucks to pick up and deliver the goods from Dandenong to Alexandra, and Kaz and John Stillman for providing the warehouse space for storage while the items were distributed. Thanks also to Fred Lampe who was on call with his forklift to load pallets of goods on to trucks, trailers and utes.

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

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Weekly Weather

April 22 - April 28, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	2	Wednesday	9	22
Thursday	10	23	Thursday	9	24
Friday	11	22	Friday	10	23
Saturday	11	21	Saturday	11	21
Sunday	10	21	Sunday	10	21
Monday	10	21	Monday	10	21
Tuesday	10	20	Tuesday	10	20

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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

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

Like us on Facebook

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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00AM Mon	1.61	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00AM Mon	0.42	falling	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00AM Mon	0.52	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.32AM Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.42	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	9.00AM Mon	0.21	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00AM Mon	0.49	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00AM Mon	3.54	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00AM Mon	0.34	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00AM Mon	1.08	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00AM Mon	0.29	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.30AM Mon	1.41	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	6mm
Buxton	N/A mm
Eildon (AWS)	4mm
Flowerdale	1mm
Jamieson	8mm
Kinglake	7mm
Lake Eildon	6mm
Mansfield	3mm
Taggerty	9mm
Yarck	4mm
Yea	0.9mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	269.94m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	41.6%
Metres below full supply	18.96m
Daily inflow	600ML
Release	2750ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	62%



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



Murrindindi Shire Cr Sue Carpenter, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish and council's Manager for Community Wellbeing Stuart Collier celebrate VicHealth's \$140,000 grant. -S

Young people get \$140,000 boost

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish says more children and their families in the Murrindindi Shire will live healthier lives, thanks to VicHealth's \$6.5 million Growing Healthy Communities grants program.

Council will use its \$140,000 grant to support young people aged nine to 16 across Eildon, Yea, Kinglake and the surrounding districts. Youth led workshops in music, visual arts and non-competitive activity will be held in skate parks, community centres, bowls clubs and arts facilities.

Murrindindi Shire Council is among 82 organisations successful in the program's second round of VicHealth's Growing Healthy Communities program.

Ms McLeish said the aim was to promote good health. "I'm a strong advocate for sport in the development of children but it's not for everyone," she said.

"This grant will open the door to others, with other talents, perhaps open the door for some that have never had the chance to explore their potential.

"At a time when families face cost of living pressures or safe spaces to be active, these grants aim to promote good physical and mental health through a passion for arts."

VicHealth will also support grant recipients by connecting them with other local leaders and providing tools, training, and support to help maximise long-term health impacts for Victorian communities.

VicHealth CEO, Prof Anna Peeters AM, said the Growing Healthy Communities program reflects VicHealth's commitment to prevention and locally driven solutions.

"We know what people need to live healthy lives, but often the conditions around them make this difficult," she said.

The second year of the Growing Healthy Communities program builds on strong demand from communities across Victoria. In its first year, the program supported 84 organisations across Victoria through \$4.7m in funding, helping communities put health prevention into action at a local level.



Free firewood collection

Council's free firewood collection program is now open to all Murrindindi Shire residents, not just those in fire-affected areas.

Firewood is available for collection from Koriella and Terip Terip in limited, booked sessions and a permit is required to collect. You must load wood by hand into a suitable trailer or vehicle.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and:

- Check eligibility and conditions
- Apply for a permit
- Book your collection time.

For assistance, visit a Council Customer Service Centre, or call Council on 5772 0333.



murrindindi.vic.gov.au/freefirewood

ANZAC Day Services 2026

The following services will be held across the Shire to commemorate ANZAC Day.

Friday 24 April

Alexandra

Assemble at 10.30 am for 10.45 am private service for residents at Kellogg Lodge.

Saturday 25 April

Alexandra

Dawn service at 6.00 am at Leckie Park Memorial, Vickery Street.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the RSL Hall, 44 Grant Street for 11.00 am march to Leckie Park Memorial.

Eildon

Private service at 10.15 am for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home.

Assemble at 10.40 am for 11.00 am service at Cenotaph, Utah Place.

Flowerdale

Assemble at 10.45 am for 11.00 am service at Flowerdale Community Hall, 3380 Yea-Whittlesea Road. Refreshments to follow.

Glenburn

Assemble at 5.45 am for 6.00 am dawn service at Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall, 3876 Melba Highway). Breakfast to follow at 7.00 am.

Kinglake

Dawn service at 5.30 am, followed by traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter's Anglican Church, Corner Bald Spur Road and Whittlesea-Kinglake Road.

Service at 10.00 am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial, Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road (entry via Extons Road).

Marysville

Assemble at 10.15 am at corner Murchison Street and Lyell Street for a march at 10.30 am to the Marysville Cenotaph. Refreshments to follow.

Strath Creek

Assemble at 8.45 am for 9.00 am service at Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial, Glover Street.

Yarck

Assemble at 9.45 am for 10.00 am service at the Yarck War Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway.

Yea

Private service at 9.45 am at Yea Memorial Hospital for residents and family.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the Yea Cenotaph, The Semi Circle for 11.00 am service.



Haines' budget pitch focuses on reforms to health, housing and taxation

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has urged the Federal Government to deliver a budget that meets the moment, pushing for reforms to health, housing and taxation.

As the Federal Budget approaches, Dr Haines has presented her annual Indi Budget Submission to Treasurer Jim Chalmers,

outlining key policies and local funding priorities.

"Regional Australia is experiencing growing challenges, from access to healthcare, housing and childcare, to infrastructure and disaster recovery following bushfires and floods," Dr Haines said.

"Global instability is causing ripple effects domestically for supply chains and uncertainty for our agriculture and construction industries.

"All of this is having a direct impact on the hip pocket of everyday Australians, and the upcoming budget must respond to those challenges with targeted investment and meaningful reform."

Dr Haines said healthcare and housing in regional Australia remains a top priority, including the establishment of a *Building Regional and Rural Hospitals Fund* and *Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund* to support critical upgrades.

"Rural Australians experience poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancy than our city cousins, and our health services are operating with ageing infrastructure," she said.

"In the regions, the biggest handbrake on new housing is not land, it's the lack of enabling infrastructure like water and sewerage.

"We need sustained, needs-based investment to close these gaps."

Dr Haines urged the government to be bold in delivering tax reform to boost revenue, including higher taxes on gas companies and winding back capital gains tax exemptions on property investments.

"At a time when Australians are under pressure, we must ensure the tax system is fair, sustainable and fit for purpose," she said.

"Right now, the burden of taxation sits too heavily on individuals and small business, while big corporations get let off the hook.

"We export a huge amount of gas every year and collect a pittance in comparison. If we taxed this fairly, we could raise tens of billions each year from our gas exports, money that could be invested in hospitals and housing for regional Australia."

Dr Haines said she was seeing increased support for a winding back of capital gains tax benefits, across her community.

"It's clear our capital gains tax settings are a barrier to young people purchasing their own home.

"I'm seeing increased support for change, including from the generation that is benefiting

most from the current settings, so that future generations can enter the housing market."

After another horror bushfire season, Dr Haines' Indi Budget Submission highlights the need for continued investment in disaster recovery and resilience, as well as stronger support for energy reliability, telecommunications, early childhood education, aged care and local government sustainability.

"Indi is a resilient and vibrant electorate, but we can't meet these challenges alone.

"This budget is an opportunity for the government to back regional communities with the investment and reform they deserve and deliver the bold reforms Australia needs."

Dr Haines said her submission was developed in close collaboration with Indi's nine local governments and, for the first time, 10 regional health services.

"These priorities are grounded in evidence and shaped directly by our communities.

"I look forward to continuing to work constructively with the government to deliver the outcomes regional Australians need."

Longwood fire remains on the map

ON the VicEmergency map, the January firegrounds are still showing up even though it's now April.

Emergency Management Victoria were asked why this is the case, and how long the firegrounds will continue to show.

They provided information stating that the Impact Areas map layer displayed on VicEmergency is informed by live data provided by the emergency service agencies. The areas affected by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires are currently shown as fire grounds on the VicEmergency map, as they have already been burnt through. The data is revised after the high-risk weather season, subject to emergency impacts and timing.

McCORMACK FUNERALS
 Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
1800 080 909
 Please call the team
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
 Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
 Obligation free appointments
 Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
 personalised funeral and memorial services
 www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

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



The Alexandra Opportunity Shop donated \$20,000 to the Alexandra CFA Group. -S



Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home received a \$25,000 donation towards renovating rooms. -S



UGFM received a \$5000 donation and the Alexandra SES received a \$10,000 donation. -S

First round of 2026 donations for Alexandra Opportunity Shop

THE Alexandra Opportunity Shop has completed its first round of donations for 2026.

In keeping with Aged Care being a focus for the Alexandra Opportunity Shop Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home received \$25,000 towards the renovations of rooms. CEO Donna Walsh was most grateful for the donation and continued support of the Alexandra Opp Shop.

Kellock Lodge received \$12,000, which is an ongoing donation made every three months.

The Alexandra CFA Group was given \$20,000. Secretary/Treasurer Christine Irvine said the funds would be distributed

for equipment as needed by the various CFA Brigades.

Alexandra SES received \$10,000. Deputy Contoller and Finance Officer Judy Blakeney said the funds would be used for additional communications and rescue equipment.

Alexandra Secondary College received \$8000 towards the Driver Education Program. There has been ongoing support of the program over many years and nothing could be more important than ensuring young people learn the best driving practices.

UGFM received \$5000 which will enable them to purchase a Starlink connection to be used during emergencies especially

when all internet and phone services are lost as was the case recently.

\$500 to the Carer's Group which meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the RSL between 10.30am to 2.30pm. This group has been running since 2016 and the coordinator Jenny Wilkinson is happy to receive any enquiries on 0491 746 314.

These contributions are only made possible by the donations of items by local community. The Opp Shop volunteers recognize the importance of supporting the local groups that keep people safe and healthy. The volunteers continue to offer hours of their time each week to sort donations and to stock the shop.

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.

SEE THIS EDITION FOR ALL ANZAC DAY SERVICES ACROSS THE SHIRE.

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 closed 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

remodeling 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 remodeling 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.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Confetti and Chaos at Trawool Estate. This fabulous five star experience has fun and mayhem bursting from the seams of a wedding dress, with entirely original comedy

that pulls out all the stops; including quick fire character changes and quick fire laughs.

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Enjoy Mother's Day in Wild Water restaurant at Trawool Estate. Dine from the usual all day menu, or enjoy the specials available just for this special day. Booking essential on 5792 1444 or trawoolstate.com.au/booktable

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

Unsung heroes of the fire recovery effort

SO many people helped out after the bushfires, in so many ways. Some truly went above and beyond in trying to make sure that everyone was okay. It's time for these legends to be recognised.

Some people were contacted directly for their thoughts and others commented in response to our post on Facebook. People were encouraged to name someone and say a few words about what they did to help with fire recovery in Murrindindi Shire.

Their comments are included here in no particular order.

Kellock Lodge - For sheltering and caring for a number of vulnerable towns people, on that worst day and overnight, and then continuing to feed and care for them until the town's electricity and supplies were restored. All this on top of caring for their regular residents and working with a skeleton staffing situation. -Carolyn Asquith

Sam Hicks - Without a doubt, and don't forget her incredible partner Bernhardt. These two legends have not stopped since day one and continue to support and inspire everyone despite being impacted themselves. -Anne Maree Catherine

Daniel Williams and Rick Hodgetts - My son and son-in-law who fought alongside my father Brian Muller at Yarck fire front, along with **Andy and Lorraine, Tim and Col** and others. It was a hairy night for these wonderful people. -Di Fletcher

Sasha Barrow and Sam Hicks for all the reasons others have already mentioned. And **Cath Olive** and all the team at Biodiversity Recovery Alliance, for all the work they do, the stories they share, and their genuine practice of reciprocity, founded in the knowledge that when we help nature recover, nature helps us recover -Fern Hames

Jess Arnold, Lana Fitz, Will Koster, Amanda Beth - Jess Slapp

The board and staff of **Murrindindi Community Food Share Foundation Murrindindi**. Tireless work in regards to donations and collection of goods needed. **Robyn Hill** (EO) was out there, no fuss just working for community at all hours. Her staff helping people navigate government services. Well done to the board, who are voluntary, to enable this and assist as well. -Steve Belli

Jamie Duggan - Instigator of the CFA Fundraiser as others have mentioned. -Steve Belli

Sam Hicks - When the system failed the community hall stood proud and undefeated. Leading the community through crisis. -Steve Belli

Emily Gannon - One of the FFM gals here in Alexandra. She did an absolutely phenomenal job keeping us safe from the frontlines. Love ya. -Indiana Carter

Everyone who stepped up and helped are heroes. -Joshua Crute

Finn Mary - She has been doing amazing work during the response phase and now moving into recovery. She has been physically supporting her community in Yarck and now supporting the children of the broader region with fantastic events. She's a brilliant therapist who gives her all. -Amanda Beth

Alexandra Community Hub - The staff and volunteers have been and continue to be a wonderful supportive, informative and safe space. -Ange LM

Steven Grindley - For all the great things he did. -Brodie Arnott

Jye Savage - Everyone knows what this legend has done. -Beau Clarke

Kids helping Kids - These are the kind of souls who inspire the generation coming up behind us all. -Leoni K Arthur-Weston

Finn Mary - Chrystal Turnbull

John Wilson - He heads up the team from **Operation Veteran Assist**. One of the first teams in on January 10. Thirty-five volunteer veterans helping clear fence lines and downed tree. Deployed over a six week period, supporting local veterans and first responders. -Drew Maddison

Darryl King (Yea Rotary), Yea Community House, Amity Rose, Greg Conlan Kylie Conlan, Glen Rowley, Ingrid, Just Great Coffee Yea, Kim Chadband and Donna M Slevin (Murrindindi Shire), John Alcock (Alexandra Rotary), Ann Mannion, Robert Gardiner, Saint Lukes Op Shop Yea, Saint Lukes Church Yea, Yarck Hall, Bron Britton. -Leisa Carney

Central General Practice Mansfield - A wonderful contribution and very welcome at this crucial time. Well done. -Maxmaur May

Blaze Aid - and all their amazing volunteers. -Caity Jane

Jason Morris from Strathbogie Shire and Buffy Leadbeater who looked after Dave Wilkey at the Seymour Relief Centre. **Christine from the Yea Motel** who accommodated us for two or three weeks until we found a rental. The amazing angels and new very special friend **Leisa Carney, and Carlie Burnet-Underhill, Amity, Darryl from Rotary and all the volunteers at the Yea Community House** for their love, kindness and compassion, keeping us alive and clothed, looking to what Dave's needs would be towards recovery and the future and their financial support. **Kim Chadband** from Murrindindi Shire for your tireless help and work in sorting out services for us, plus **Andrew and Trudi** from the shire. **LouLou** (next to Yea Motel) for your love, friendship, understanding, insight and inviting us for dinner as strangers. The lovely local volunteers at the **Yarck Hall** for support and supplies. **Scott from the Yarck CFA**, and our neighbours around Yarck, **Andrew and Kerry McGahy & Tony Mann**, who constantly kept an eye on our place and went above and beyond to move along those stickybeaks and looters. **Colin and Ging B Halligan** for your help, mentally preparing us with your videos and constant cooking for the volunteers at the Yarck Hall. **Operation Veteran Assist, John Wilson, Dan Young and Tracey** and crew for all the work you did at our place, and of course **Lisa Grobe and family** for all your love, help, friendship, support and hard work to save some of our possessions. **Josh** from the Captain's Rebuild Shed for not only helping Dave but a lot of other men who lost all their tools and **John Wilkinson** from Narbethong who is still helping us clean up. -Chrissy Wilkey

Sam Hicks, Sasha Barrow, Joshua Crute, Robert Sharp and Kellie Fielder - All these amazing humans have barely taken a day off and continued to help hundreds of people. So many people did as much as they could do and went back to do more. The community as a whole has been amazing, even if it was donating \$5 or checking on a friend, if that is all you had the capacity to do and you did that, you made a difference. -Will Koster

Hay depot - Every one of the volunteers down at the hay depot. Incredible people. -Jye Savage

Andrew Embling and the hay depot crew, all of the relief centre volunteers, the CFA, family and friends, Rotary, Lions, CWA, the local shops, and the staff at the Resource Recovery Centre - Thank you all. -Erica Hawke

Robert Sharp and Melbourne Jeep Owners Club - For all the chainsawing. -Fiona J Lindsay

Timothy James Duggan - Thank you for everything you did, offering reassurance, being on and off CFA trucks day in day out, night after night helping keep people calm. The gala night. What you have done is nothing short of incredible. -Joel Gaylor

Clint Homan - After spending five days on the dozer cutting fire breaks from Alexandra to Eildon during the height of the danger, Clint (Smokey) used his first two days off to bring his own equipment up to the road where his was the only house that survived. He meticulously cleared hazardous trees and made sure that access to what used to be homes was safe and ready for when people came to grieve. No fuss, no fanfare, just a legend. -Tom Ward

Damian Gallagher - Spent more or less 24 hours fighting the fire, trying to slow it down for as long as possible around Alexandra, and before you knew it he took off his CFA gear and was back at his day job helping run our amazing shire, always offering to help anyone and anywhere he could. -Timothy James Duggan

UGFM - Particularly Nomes Booker. -Marg Rouse

Central General Practice Mansfield - They came with their doctors for a few extra days. -Cassandra Fraser

Sam Hicks - Always a huge support for our community. Our **SES, CFA, police**, etcetera also need the love and recognition for everything they do for all of us. Love hugs and strength to you all. -Sally Townsend

Tim Homann - Who drove up to Terip to get me to safety and ensure I was safe. -Jodie Penny

Terip Terip Rec Reserve committee and volunteers, Terip CFA champions - For providing wonderful support to all of our locals. -Jodie Penny

Yea Community House were incredible for the whole region and worked tirelessly across countless areas of the response. -Amanda Beth



Kids Helping Kids - A group of kids aged 10 and below who came together and raised over \$4000 and donated items to nine families who had lost their bikes, scooters, gaming consoles etcetera. So proud of them. -Amanda Beth

Jamie Duggan - His selflessness and dedication to organizing the Murrindindi CFA fundraising dinner is truly inspiring. Sixty-nine days of planning and execution, to feed and entertain 180 people, and raising a grand total of \$46,753.48. An incredible achievement. His efforts will have a lasting impact on the CFA community. And of course, to all the people who donated money, food, time, effort, and equipment. None of this would have been possible without you supporting him and our amazing CFA brigades as well. -Timothy James Duggan

Sam Hicks has brought the Fawcett and surrounding areas together, magicked up other support and resources, and tirelessly supported all of us. Plus so much more. -Bronwyn Howell

Carly Unfiltered and our hubs and community members who were so badly hit by the fires, stepped up, opened their homes, created places where people could come for a meal, a hot shower, clean clothes, food and water. Highlands Hub, Fawcett Hall, Yarck Hall, Merton Hall, Grand Central Hotel, Peppercorn Hotel, etcetera. -Joel Gaylor

Bek Klinge / Grand Central Hotel - No power, but gas for cooking and food available. Opened the doors for anyone in need. Fed anyone who needed a feed without expectation of payment in return. -Kirstie Allen

Will Koster - He got his family to safety then headed back to jump on a CFA truck. He also organised for my daughter's horse to be checked on because she was really worried about him. He's always putting his hand up to help anyone. -Sophia Weaver

To those who donated hay to help our farmers feed their stock - Thank you. You came from kilometres days away just to help our local farmers to be able to keep their stock alive, even though they were probably facing droughts and floods themselves. That's the true Aussie spirit. -Joel Gaylor

4WD TV - Who have been helping people get back on their feet. -Joel Gaylor

The Unbreakable Farmer - He has stuck by us even after the fires have gone through, after he has been through such trauma himself. His true selflessness, compassion, empathy, kindness and being there for us a shoulder to lean on, an ear to speak into, a cuddle for those that needed it. Thank you for everything you're doing. -Joel Gaylor

Charities - Such as Farm Angels and Blaze Aid. Your work continues across the fireground, helping people to rebuild their homes and properties, rebuilding fencing, etcetera. Feeding those who are continuing to help, helping those who lost everything to find housing, to get fed, to have a warm bed to sleep in. Thank you so bloody much for everything you're doing. -Joel Gaylor

The interstate and overseas fire crews - Thank you. -Joel Gaylor

DEECA and FFMV - Thank you for helping the CFA to get things back to where they were, safe enough for people to return home. -Joel Gaylor

The entire CFA - Your selflessness, your sacrifice, your courage, your strength, your kindness and compassion, the work you put in day in day out, night after night is nothing short of truly incredible and inspirational. Thank you for everything you do and continue to do. -Joel Gaylor

The Acheron CFA Captain - Who went above and beyond, who always made sure his CFA troops were safe on the fireground and made sure they came home. -Joel Gaylor

Damian Gallagher - The leader of the Murrindindi Shire. His courage, his selflessness,

his kindness, his generosity, his sacrifice, his leadership, his compassion and empathy. By day he was on the back of a CFA truck and by night he was back in civies leading our shire through such a traumatic, horrific time, leading our shire, being there for others. Our shire is extremely lucky to have him. Thank you Damien. -Joel Gaylor

Sue and Mike - For having me in their house for a month after the fires. **Kevin McFarlane** who had the job of 'furnishing' my rental after losing everything in the fires. **Cheryl Devaney** from Gooram CFA who found this, that and the other, to let me live a normal life beyond the fire. **Michael and Rowena Stubbe** for allowing me to rent their gorgeous 'managers' house. **Deb Ellis** who got me shorts and shirts almost within days of everything gone. **Ellaine**, my dear Irish friend who lives with long-life COVID-19 but still sent me vouchers to use and contacted the Collingwood Football Club to get some memorabilia. **Lorraine and Neville Mawson** who have collected parcels for me and presented me with a bottle of wine. Friends, family..... the list really could go on and on. -Leanne Waters

Owen Lusted - He was always there to lend a hand, not only for the survivors but for the volunteers as well, and continued after everything died down. He also went to Blaze Aid to assist. He was great. -Shez Marchenko

Jean Hamilton - Tirelessly cared for fires, locals and volunteers at the Longwood Community Centre for endless hours over the emergency period and beyond. -Claire Clayton

Jean Hamilton - A true community person. -Alison McDiarmid

Paul B and a friend - They put out a house fire on the edge of town by themselves. Saw it happening and acted. -Lorelei Goodall

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

Andrea Bauer - For managing the Highlands Hall, sometimes for 12 or 14 hour each day. -Darryl King (Yea Rotary)

Yea Community House - The staff there have been flat chat. Their work has been mindblowing. -Darryl King (Yea Rotary)

Murrindindi Shire Council - A shout out to Kim Chadband and Donna Slavin. They have gone above and beyond and done so much work out of hours. -Darryl King (Yea Rotary)

Rotary Yea - For providing the amenities trailer to Highlands Hall, where people can shower and wash their clothes. -Darryl King (Yea Rotary)

Leisa Carney - She worked at the Food Hub at the Yea Community House. Every day without fail, she supported people, making sure they had food, fresh water and clothes. Still Leisa works from home sorting donations and distributing them. -Darryl King (Yea Rotary)

Andrew Embling - For coordinating hay distribution and for extending the invitation to visitors to support the community with a wealth of local events like the Alexandra Pro Rodeo. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Eddie White - and the trucking fraternity from Warrnambool and Western Victoria who brought 54 semi trailers of hay to town. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Neil and Jan Beer and Beer Auto Group Seymour, and Andrew Seamers and the team at Whanregarwen Pastoral Company - For shouting meals for the drivers of the hay trucks. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Kim and Lisa - Who went above and beyond to support the day, and to support the assembly of hay vehicles at Yea Saleyards. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

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Unsung heroes of the fire recovery effort

Continued from Page 6

Aussie Hay Runners - The truck and ute crews who made the journey from Seville to Murrindindi, delivering drops of hay to Highlands, Yarck, Gobur, Ruffy, and surrounds. Special mention to the Cute Ute Crew who attracted volunteers from Geelong and Rosedale too. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Jake and Hamish - A couple of young men from Melbourne who saw a need and decided to help out. They worked in Melbourne during the day but after work, they jumped on Marketplace and bought up any hay they could get their hands on. They loaded up utes and trailers and their network of mates-of-mates distributed whatever they could buy, along with all manner of fencing material (self-funded) to Alexandra, Yarck and Fawcett communities in need. The lads also helped Narbeev Wildlife Shelter with a supply of hay to sustain rescued natives. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Kylie - Who jumped in to support some of Yarck's most impacted farmers with stock management and fencing. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Isabella from St Mary's Primary School and Guneet from Alexandra Secondary College - They dedicated a chunk of their school holidays to configuring, sorting and tidying the community-led Hub at Yarck. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Sue and Emmie - Who brought some laughter and light to the community at the Yarck Hotel last night. They offered free haircuts for a cause, attracting lots of donations and support for the benefit of Yarck CFA. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Patricia, Nathan, Lachie and Max - The family lost their weekender in northern Murrindindi but looked for an opportunity to support their friends and neighbours. At the Community Colour Run in Yarck, they catered for 400 visitors, and backed it up with a community breakfast for the special community of Terip Terip. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Carlie and Amity and the Yea Community House team - They have been supporting the Murrindindi community, distributing all manner of essential goods and comforts to everyone in need. Their commitment is amazing and their shoulders to lean on are strong. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Kellock Lodge, Darlingford, Menzies - Thank you to the teams for supporting some of our most impacted and vulnerable during the emergency. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Linda Rieschick and Maureen Bond - They were overwhelmed by the community generosity, receiving and organising the enormous amount of donated goods. -Yarck Hub

Sandy Keath - Who utilised her contacts with charity and government organisations who then attended the hall to guide people through processes to obtain help and grants. -Yarck Hub

Shivaun Murphy - She handled social media publicity, obtaining additional volunteers and posting lists of items most in demand. -Yarck Hub

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) - They provided so much practical, emotional and material support to everyone passing through the centre, including nutritious frozen meals for those impacted by the fires and volunteers. -Yarck Hub

Bella from Bucks Bakery and Guneet from the Yarck Service Station - They arrived every morning and worked tirelessly, putting their retail skills to use sorting and displaying grocery items that just kept arriving every minute of the day. Their beautiful smiling faces boosted morale for all. -Yarck Hub

Many dedicated volunteers - They appeared to sort bedding, clothing, tools and necessities. A number came from far and wide including Marlene Fleming, Suzanna Bowman, Jo Lakeland, Susan, Teena, Jenny, Maria, Judy to name just a few, all put their own problems aside to help others. -Yarck Hub

Rosalie - She arrived daily and silently placed beautiful, colourful flowers from her garden around the hall. -Yarck Hub

Ging and Kiran - They kept everyone well fed with tasty lunches every day. -Yarck Hub

Sharon and Graham and Bron - from the Yarck Hall Committee were always there doing whatever was needed, turning on the air con/heating, putting out the rubbish. -Yarck Hub

There are so many unsung heroes - They donated gifts, goods and vouchers anonymously. Pensioners and shop assistants, small businesses and large corporations, way too many to mention but all who touched our hearts. -Yarck Hub

Peter Davies - His personal loss was severe. He visited the Yarck Centre looking for support but on seeing how others were affected he immediately ignored his own needs and organised deliveries of brand new work boots, gloves, work pants, shirts and other protective clothing. He continued to call in regularly to top up supplies and to check up on everybody's welfare. -Yarck Hub

Finn Keath - Helped keep the community spirit alive and well, organising barbecues, children's fun activities, the colour run in the park and a movie session at the hall. -Yarck Hub

The people impacted - Also the other unsung heroes are those impacted by the fires who sought help. It takes a huge amount of courage to accept help. As a society we are fiercely independent and strong. Even though they had lost homes, sheds, fences, animals, the words most often heard were, "No, please give it to someone else who needs it more." -Yarck Hub

Fawcett Hall Committee of Management - Sam Hicks, president and resident for working tirelessly at Fawcett Hall, going completely above and beyond. From immediate relief through to ongoing recovery, Sam has supported both on-site efforts and property-level assistance, alongside fundraising and advocacy for fire-affected communities. **Ian Newman**, secretary and generational resident, for his behind-the-scenes work in waste management and recycling, keeping the hall clean and operational. Ian has also raised nearly \$1000 through the CDS scheme. **Sandra Macalister**, treasurer and resident, for her exceptional financial management during recovery. Sandra has overseen donations, payments, and cash flow, converting donations into vouchers, ensuring creditors were paid promptly, and keeping funds moving where they were needed most, all while managing her own recovery. **Joy Burchell**, committee member, for quietly ensuring the hall remained clean and functional, maintaining toilets and waste areas daily throughout relief and recovery. **Bernhard Sauerbeck**, committee member and resident, for extraordinary on-ground support. Over 14 consecutive days, Bernhard worked tirelessly delivering hay, feeding livestock, clearing access, managing fuel supplies, and assisting with fencing and recovery logistics across the community. He still does this two mornings a week. **Cinamon Cunningham**, committee member and resident, for strong advocacy for small and mixed-use farms, identifying grant opportunities, and raising key issues across relief and recovery. Also, a dedicated voice for native wildlife and old-growth trees. **Les Perry**, committee member and resident, a quiet contributor with lived experience from previous fires. Les has provided guidance, local knowledge, and strong support for community connection initiatives, including meals at the hall. -Fawcett Hall

Koriella Fire Brigade - Captain Scott Reeves, Anna Carson, Tim Carson and Pat McVeigh, for their efforts in protecting and ultimately saving Fawcett Hall. -Fawcett Hall

Fawcett Angels - Annie, Jason, Tim, Lana and Sharon, for coordinating and delivering large-scale donations from day three of the fire. Their efforts ensured a steady and ongoing supply of essential items including water, fodder, fencing materials, tools, clothing, and food for the community. -Fawcett Hall

Andrea Redgewell from Seville Veterinary Clinic - For providing outstanding mobile veterinary care in the critical early weeks, supporting fire-affected livestock and delivering essential animal supplies. -Fawcett Hall

Narbeev Wildlife Shelter Incorporated and Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter Inc. - For their tireless work rescuing, feeding, and caring for injured wildlife, including kangaroos, wombats, and koalas. -Fawcett Hall

Donna Howson - For assisting with wildlife monitoring, reporting, and coordinated feed drop-offs. -Fawcett Hall

Catering and support crews - Led by Maureen Scale, Libby, Bron, Nevila, Mary, Bec, Leone, Christine, Kerry, Lou, Sally, Marg, Lynne and Grant, for preparing and cleaning up of all community meals, coordinating food, and supporting community meals at the hall throughout relief and recovery period. So many others as well. -Fawcett Hall

Open Garden Fundraiser and plant team - Jan Young, Sue Pain, Pauline Lawrence, Nadine Rofe and Sue Allen for continuing the tradition of local plant fundraising despite personal loss of gardens and or paddocks and dwellings and shedding. And for management of the Fawcett Hall plant library instigated by Angel Lana and Yea Garden Centres Rachel. There are many local ladies, clubs and individuals out of region who also support this initiative. -Fawcett Hall

Marysville community support - Christine and Ken Adams, Jacqui and Ian Pearson, Di and Jim Kennedy, Jenny and Graham Pullen, James and Jane Fraga, and Melanie Ritchie for ongoing support, daily check-ins, meals, and encouragement for the community. -Fawcett Hall

Businesses of note - Rachel at Yea Garden Centre for coordinating plant donations across the region from across Victoria. Ethan from The Fine Food Merchant for ongoing food support in the relief stage. The team at Bonfire Station for community support and supplies. Colin and Mandy from Alexandra Quality Meats for food contributions, management and organisation for special events. Hairdresser Sue Dundas for personal support to locals, Daniel Clark from Anything Anytime for storage logistics and on-ground assistance with items. Jules and Tori from Greensborough Grain Store for feed and supply support. Donovan Wilson from Streamline Trees for tree assessment work. Nath and Ben from Premier Fencing for our first fodder delivery. Matt and Saatchi from Rural Fence and Trade for sourcing and logistics of donated fencing material. -Fawcett Hall

James O'Donnell - He has been at Fawcett every weekend on the chainsaw since the fire. -Ben Lewis

To all those independent people who suddenly became the vulnerable, losing property but also dreams and memories. Your humble resilience makes you all my unsung heroes. -Maureen Bond

Jonathan Tofts and Shannon Roach - I cannot speak highly enough of these two. Even though their house was destroyed too, they have gone above and beyond to help. Not only being a major part of Terip Terip CFA, but also feeding our sheep when we couldn't get back, helping my family with paperwork and putting myself and others in contact with people that could help. **Yasmine Hodgetts and Nicko Bell** - Not only were they tirelessly working at their family's house that was destroyed, but they were also helping my family by organising my family bags of clothing, picking things up for us from hubs etcetera when we couldn't, allowing us to store things at their place and even putting up posts for us to get help, even offering to buy us our animal food when we couldn't find any at the hubs. **Andrea Bauer** and the team at **Highlands Hub** for being a huge support, but also reaching out to us often to make sure we were ok and didn't need anything and keeping us up to date. -Kelly A Petersen

Darren Thomas, also, **Trevor Evans**, SES. All the captains and crew of the CFA, and SES crew. -Axel Van Harsel

Corey Dewhurst - While going through major changes in his professional and personal life, he was out there, every day, delivering hay, food, and water. Absolute Legend. -Axel Van Harsel

Maureen Bond, Linda Rieschick, Sharon Fox, Sandi Keath, Samantha Petersen, Tess Rich, Pagan McCarthy, St Mary's Primary School Alexandra, Alexandra Primary School Community, Sarah Irving, Buxton Primary School, Tim Drewitt, Yarck Hall, Chloe Pilkington, Catherine Bowman, Vetey Coo, Jennifer Drysdale, Graham Keath, Tom Keath, Norm Stokes, Patricia and Nathan Weinberg - The list is endless. There are so many unsung heroes involved in this story and none of them are asking for recognition however you're all bloody amazing and I can't thank you enough for being a part of our recovery. Without you it wouldn't be possible. Patricia Donati. -Finn Mary

I don't know their names and it's a topic a lot can't deal with but anyone who was tasked with humanely euthanising livestock, these men and women probably don't even want to be reminded of this but they are a very forgotten group of people that did one of the hardest jobs in the whole campaign. I send all the healing their way. -Nomes Booker

Naomi McNamara, Leisa Carney, Trudy Elkington -Jell Vinycomb

Aussie Hay Runners - Branded Burgers & Bar **Jye Savage** - For putting together huge hay runs for the entire community's farmers and livestock. Without hesitation, Jye just did what he could and without his input things could have been much worse. -Rennaye McDonald

Tori Mitton from Greensborough Grain Store and **Jamie** from St Andrews Stock Feed and the team they put together for spending long endless days delivering stockfeed and supplies all over the affected areas. They put in an amazing effort and Tori gives the best hugs. Hats off to them. -Andrea Donnellan

Jo and David Rudge - They did walkthroughs of our place and next door to check for embers and watered anything in dire need. We had evacuated. We are grateful for your kindness. -Vicki Combridge

The Unsung Hero

by Nomes Booker

IT started with those we call Anzac.

SES sandbagging to keep the water back.

The fires risking it all on a flank attack.

To the lone man with a knapsack

Putting life on line those in blue.

FFMV working in a convoy of white utes.

The dirty dusty job of the dozer crew.

Lions and Rotary providing mountains of food.

Community-led Hubs stepping up on day one.

Trucks fully loaded on a hay-run.

Blaze Aid fixing fences 'til the job's done.

To the hundreds of volunteers that are still to come.

UGFM emergency broadcasting on the radio.

Army dropped in from a chopper in camos.

The ones who save your life the ambo's.

Raise a glass to all those you call hero.

Sue Dundas - For raising money by donating her time at the Yarck Hotel giving haircuts to the community. -Norm Stokes

It felt throughout the acute response phase and deep into relief and the commencement of recovery, that **every person in the community** was giving of themselves everything they could. For some that was 18 hour shifts at a recovery centre, for others it was quilting, and for some it was providing a temporary home for someone displaced. Then there were the fires and the neighbours helping with fencing and stock. We had people prepare and distribute meals, or just being there for a conversation or a laugh, or a cry. Murrindindi was and continues to be a place where the community throws its arms around those who are struggling and won't abide anyone being left behind. That's the Murrindindi way. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

I'd like to recognise the dedication of **council staff**, many of whom have been stretched between core service delivery, emergency response, and community recovery, also lending their discretionary efforts in their own time to supporting people from the very first hours, and around the clock. -Mayor Damien Gallagher

Alexandra Newspapers and UGFM teams - Because relevant, timely advice and sensitive story-telling and advocacy has been vital. -Mayor Damien Gallagher



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Funding the environment following the Longwood Fires

by Cath Olive, Granite to Goulburn, Biodiversity Recovery Alliance

THE Longwood Fire in January 2026, is the biggest fire in an agricultural landscape in Australian history, with 136,000 hectares burnt. The agricultural and human infrastructure losses are immense. However, what has not been acknowledged widely is the environmental impact of the fire on native vegetation and local fauna.

There has been a significant loss of hollow bearing trees estimated at 90 per cent, equating to thousands of hollows lost. As a result, hollow-dependent fauna including birds, possums, gliders and phascogales have lost vital habitat for nesting and shelter. Artificial hollows (nest boxes) provide instant short to medium term habitat required to sustain populations until native vegetation recovers forming natural hollows. Funding the construction and installation of nest boxes is required and should be prioritised given the scale of hollows lost to the fire and the

detrimental effects to the species that rely upon these hollows.

There are 36 public land reserves across the fire affected landscape, more than 3000 hectares in total. They have been preserved for their landscape and cultural values, the presence of rare flora and fauna, and their biodiversity significance. Most of these reserves are now burnt and require fencing from stock to allow recovery without additional browsing pressure. The current rate of \$5 per metre for government fencing reimbursement is inadequate, when many of these fences will cost landholders \$20 to \$25 per metre. Pest plant and animals should be managed along with flora and fauna monitoring to ensure healthy recovery of native species and plant communities.

There are several permanent creeks and rivers within the fire affected area, with the most significant being Hughes Creek. Fed by spring soaks from groundwater across the tablelands, these springs and their creek networks flow through to the Longwood plains or into the Goulburn River. These springs and the creek systems are critical as drought refuge during climate crises. Offering water, shade, filtration via vegetation, cooler microclimates, vegetated corridors and vital habitat for all manner of life, they are the lifeblood for country and community. Thankfully, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) have fire recovery funds to replace riparian fencing.

Landholders across the fire footprint have always expressed their love for where they live. The most constant refrain after 30 years of working with community in land management is, 'I want to leave my land in better condition'. Many landholders actively protect remnant vegetation, fence and revegetate for shelter, shade and to improve habitat.

A survey of 80 landholders from Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative in 2021 indicated 39 per cent were either farming full or part time. Almost 90 per cent of respondents indicated they were interested in protecting rivers, creeks and spring soaks, protecting native vegetation, managing pest animals and plants, and revegetating.

Across the entire fire footprint over the past 15 years, 1600 hectares of vegetation have



been voluntarily protected or established through government assistance schemes, with 213 projects. \$10 to 15 million dollars of state and federal funds have been used to develop areas of vegetation over this time. Landholders are seeking support/subsidies to protect and re-establish these natural areas, continuing their efforts to combat climate change and assist with biodiversity.

Our landscape has an enormous risk of environmental decline without further government support. New plants are germinating right now, and are very vulnerable to grazing pressure.

To ensure our biodiversity recovers, we need to monitor our flora and fauna; to protect areas from grazing of livestock (with realistic fencing reimbursement); adequate, consistent and long term pest herbivore and predator control and weed control; and to install thousands of nest boxes.

The Granite to Goulburn, Biodiversity Recovery Alliance is a collective of local environmental groups including Euroa Arboretum, Strathbogie Conservation Management Network, Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network and Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative. The partnership was formalised in response to the

Longwood fires, and work from a landscape plan developed by the local community in 2024. The group has a collaborative relationships with GBCMA, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Mitchell and Mansfield Shires, Zoos Victoria, Trust for Nature, Biolinks Alliance, Up2Us Landcare Network, Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and Deakin University.

As an alliance of local groups and experts, they wish to lead the recovery of the landscape and community following fire. They are seeking adequate funding for fire recovery as specified. They also continue to invite Parks Victoria and DEECA to work along side them, to continue the vision and goals of the *State Government Biodiversity Plan 2037*: Engaging all Australians in indigenous biodiversity conservation; Building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate using suitable indigenous plants; Attaining measurable results. Over the next 15 years the revegetation goals for Victoria are 200,000 ha of revegetation in priority areas for connectivity between habitats and 200,000ha of new permanently protected areas on private land.

Program to protect threatened aquatic species following the Longwood bushfires

THE impacts of the 2026 summer bushfires on the people, communities, and emergency services have all been extensively considered in the aftermath. But what about the affected environment?

More than 400,000 hectares of land burnt across Victoria, causing widespread destruction, leading Minister for the Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, to announce

\$2.6 million for urgent conservation and recovery for threatened species impacted by the fires.

"Victoria has unique native wildlife that are under threat from recent bushfires, Labor is protecting our iconic animals," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"We are moving from emergency bushfire response to long term recovery across the

state to protect the health and wellbeing of our native wildlife."

This support is jointly funded by the Federal and Victorian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

In the north east of the state, \$600,000 is being invested in emergency programs to help vulnerable aquatic species.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) partnered with the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), Parks Victoria, and consulted with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council, to protect threatened species following the Longwood bushfire.

Vulnerable aquatic species such as Macquarie Perch, Trout Cod, Flat-Headed Galaxias, and Alpine Spiny Crayfish were rescued from rapidly drying waterways, such as the Goulburn River.

They were housed at the VFA's Snobs Creek Hatchery, with the understanding that they would be returned to their natural environment as conditions improved. Some have already been returned.

Federal Minister for Environment, Murray Watt, spoke about the partnership between state and federal government to protect threatened wildlife.

"Sadly our wildlife are often at the forefront of natural disasters and it can take a long time for populations, and the places they call home, to rebound," Mr Watt said.

"The Albanese Government is very pleased to partner with the Allan Government to deliver these important projects which will support urgent conservation and recovery efforts for threatened species impacted by the fires."



Releasing the threatened fish species back into their natural habitats. -S

Fire-impacted communities invited to book their firewood collection

COUNCIL is continuing its free firewood program for households affected by the January 2026 bushfires, with further collections becoming available on a staged basis for eligible Murrindindi property owners and renters.

The first week of the program was targeted to property owners most directly impacted by the January fires, and council has received strong positive feedback from the community about the initiative.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the program was designed to support recovery while safely managing access to firewood supplies.

"We know many households lost their firewood stores during the January bushfires, and this program is about helping people rebuild while also cleaning up fire-affected areas."

"The response from the community during the first week has been overwhelmingly positive, and now that those most directly affected have had the first opportunity to access the program, we're pleased to be able to make additional limited sessions available to other Murrindindi residents where capacity allows," Cr Gallagher said. Bookings for free firewood will be available from two locations, Terip Terip and Koriella.

Collection sessions operate in hourly time slots, with a maximum of five vehicles per site per hour to ensure safety and orderly access.

The collection dates and times are April 20 to 24, April 30 to May 1, May 2 to 3, May 7 to 10, with various timeslots available.

Bookings are mandatory for this free offer by completing an online form. This process ensures that everyone is kept safe, and the process is managed fairly.

"We ask residents to please follow the conditions, wear appropriate footwear, and be prepared to load the wood by hand," said Cr Gallagher.

The free firewood collection form is on council's website and to apply residents must: complete the online application form, upload photo ID and proof of a Murrindindi residential or property address, receive a collection permit, and select a preferred date and time using the online booking calendar.

Eligible applicants will be emailed a permit and a booking link.

Property owners and residents who need assistance with the application process, or who are unable to upload documents, can visit Customer Service or a Recovery Hub in Alexandra or Yea, where staff can sight identification and assist with completing the application.

For more information and to apply for a collection permit visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/freefirewood



Speeding? Expect a minimum fine of \$254.

If you speed, even a little over the limit, you can expect a minimum fine of \$254 and 1 demerit point. Police and speed cameras can be anywhere, so why take the risk? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

Colouring Page



Word Search - Words starting with "L"

LARGE	L G N I N R A E L L Y F D H U
LAST	B I D C A O J T E D K F L N C
LAUGH	K A T V P R A M S E D G W B R
LEARNING	K E L T I Y O T J M G V P G E
LEGS	R L V U L N K C L S Y P I M S
LEMONADE	X A A O A E N O S S E L H T I
LESSON	D R C D L U Y V O Z L P G S X
LETTER	E G E R S R F I L U T W U A X
LION	H E Z L E L I O N J V V A L D
LITTLE	Y W Q T O E Z C V M X B L R U
LOOKING	T K T D M O H J C U F G L B L
LOVE	V E C Y Y T K P K H H I D U E
LUCKY	L D Q U I Y P I X E I W U A G
LUNCHTIME	Q I O M L P M Q N T E H Z E S
	J A E X S S B X I G H A I N K

Math Square

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

	+		-	2	11
-		-		+	
	+	6	-		0
+		-		-	
	-		-		-4
9		-8		10	

Jokes

Q: What kind of bear gets caught in a rainstorm?

A: A drizzly bear.

Q: What did the raindrop say to his friends?

A: Two's company, but three's a cloud.

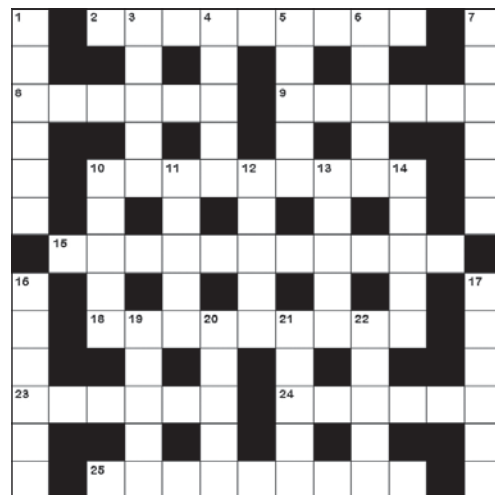
Crossword

ACROSS

- Block of compressed coal dust used as fuel.
- A baby's bed with sides and rockers.
- A rational motive for a belief or an action.
- An aptitude that could be developed.
- An exclusive right or privilege.
- Stripped of all possessions by violence.
- Became limp and droopy.
- Appealing and easily remembered or repeated.
- A female ballet dancer.

DOWN

- Gentle and easy to handle or train.
- An exhibition of cowboy skills.
- A line of people or vehicles waiting their turn.
- Wading bird like a heron but with long plumes.
- Jewelled headdress worn by women at balls.
- A collection of things tied together for storing.
- Read or studied carefully and attentively.
- Grows bored or impatient with something.



- Person with dark skin who comes from Africa.
- Informal term for military information.
- Black and blue from a bruise.
- A statement made in reply to a question.
- Knitted with diamond-shaped pattern.
- A minor actor in crowd scenes.
- A lever that is operated with the foot.
- Undergo as a result of one's own behaviour.
- Take into the mouth as a meal.

Word Search

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

Sudoku

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

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|------------|-----------|
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| HEROES | RISINGSUN |
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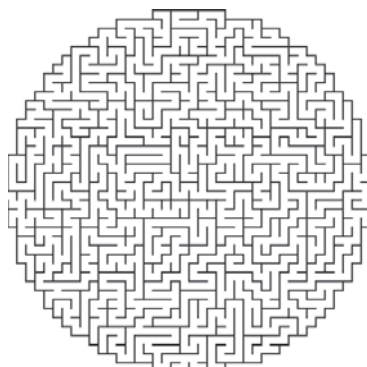
Difficulty: Medium

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

Math Square

	×		+		15
-		×		+	
	+	4	÷	2	8
×		-		-	
	÷		-		-2
-46		1		4	

Maze



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

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Nature's regeneration

THESE photographs, provided by Dr Lachlan Fraser, show the regeneration of our landscape following the January fires.

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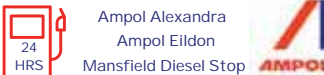
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A burning tree behind Halls Flat Road during the January fire. -photos by Lachlan Fraser



The same tree about three months later. Epicormic growth can be seen.



A photograph taken from the rail trail following the fire.



The same scene around three months later.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	B	R	I	Q	U	E	T	T	E	B
O	U	G	I	U	G	I	U	G	I	U
C	R	A	D	L	E	R	E	A	S	O
I	E	U	E	R	E	A	S	O	N	D
L	P	O	T	E	N	T	I	A	L	L
E	P	R	E	R	O	G	A	T	I	V
A	N	E	R	E	S	P	O	I	L	E
N	D	E	S	P	O	I	L	E	D	R
S	X	E	N	A	G	E	N	A	G	E
W	I	L	T	E	D	C	A	T	C	H
R	A	U	E	L	L	E	R	A	L	L
R	B	A	L	L	E	R	I	N	A	L

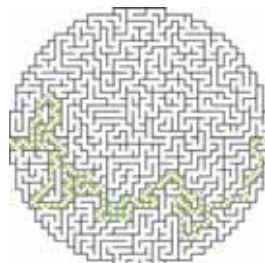
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

8	x	1	+	7	15
-		x		+	
6	+	4	÷	2	8
x		-		-	
9	÷	3	-	5	-2
-46		1		4	

MAZE



KIDS - MATH SQUARE

8	+	5	-	2	11
-		-		+	
3	+	6	-	9	0
+		-		-	
4	-	7	-	1	-4
9		-8		10	

Community dinner at Embassy of Ideas

AN Embassy of Ideas community dinner was held on the evening of Thursday, April 16.

Murrindindi Shire Council supplied the roast beef and gravy rolls, and the Embassy put on an assortment of pavlovas for dessert.

It was a wonderful way to meet new friends and connect with familiar faces. There were over 110 people in attendance. Even a few rain showers didn't deter the crowd.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is come together, share a meal, catch up and check in on our neighbours. These dinners are all about building community connections and strengthening our resilience, simply by sharing a meal and spending time together.

It is so important right now to continue to look out for each other. Let's keep talking, keep checking in, and showing up with kindness and compassion. Because community matters.



U3A's new and continuing classes

MURRINDINDI East U3A is thrilled to announce the introduction of a few new classes this term. DRU Yoga will be conducted by Tracey Halliburton, Elke Reid will teach Continental Knitting and/or Crochet and Jeremy Morrison will present Stock Exchange Investment and Portfolio Management. These and all U3A programs are available to view on line at their website.

During the school holidays the walkers headed to Eildon National Park following the Collier Bay Track from Herb Fitzroy Area to Lakeside and beyond and the Ladies Let's Do Lunch and the Chap's Chat and Chew Group both met at the Rubicon for lunch but on separate days.



Ladies Let's Do Lunch. -S

New Victorian Ministers announced

ON Wednesday, April 15, Premier Jacinta Allan announced her new ministry following the resignations of Gayle Tierney, Mary-Anne Thomas and Danny Pearson.

Harriet Shing - Minister for Health, Ambulance Services and Water.

Ingrid Stitt - Special Minister for State, Minister for Government Services and Minister for Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria.

Paul Edbrooke - Minister for Cost of Living, Minister for Renters, Minister for Men and Boys and Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Steve Dimopoulos - Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs, in addition to his work as the Minister for Sport and Major Events.

Colin Brooks - Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing, Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Skills and TAFE.

Natalie Suleyman - Minister for Tourism, in addition to her portfolios

as Minister for Veterans and Minister for Small and Family Business and Employment.

Ben Carroll - Minister for Medical Research in addition to his other responsibilities.

Anthony Carbines - Leader of the House.

Jaelyn Symes - Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts, in addition to her role as Treasurer, Minister for Industrial Relations and the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

Gabrielle Williams - Minister for Women and Girls.

Nick Staikos - Minister for Housing and Building and the Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop.

Enver Erdogan - Minister for Environment and Minister for Outdoor Recreation in addition to his work as Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

Sonya Kilkenny - Minister for Violence Reduction and Minister for Finance in addition to her responsibilities as Attorney-General and Minister for Planning.

Paul Hamer will continue that work as Minister for Youth Justice and Minister for Corrections, as well as the Minister for Local Government.

Ros Spence - Minister for Roads and Road Safety, in addition to Minister for Community Sport and Minister for First Peoples.

Melissa Horne - Minister for Prevention of Family Violence in addition to her other responsibilities.

Michaela Settle - Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Agriculture.

Luba Grigorovitch - Minister for Youth and Minister for Carers and Volunteers.

Tim Richardson - Cabinet Secretary.

Classifieds

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Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE: NOON THURSDAY

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A celebration of cars at the height of autumn

HIGHBALL Coffee and Cars was held for the fourth time at Erindale, between Buxton and Taggerty, on Sunday, April 19. The property is well known for its spectacular driveway, with the event becoming increasingly popular.

The event encourages drivers of all types of unique, historic, vintage and modern vehicles to 'park up' at Erindale so others can take a closer look.

It's also a great fundraiser for local community groups, including Buxton CFA on the gate and the Marysville Lions Club providing snacks.

Organiser Glenn Ridge estimated that there were around 750 cars on show at Sunday's event, up from 500 the previous year, although it was hard to tell as the

vehicles become very transient during the day. He was also delighted that the event didn't clash with other motor shows, and that the autumn leaves were on full display.

Glenn said, "We're very, very, very pleased with it to be quite honest, under the circumstances."

Glenn and his family spent a "A few hours on the lawn mower... so our fuel bill has been hectic over this period of time."

He added, "We got some fabulous feedback from people. To us it's a working farm so during the year we just treat it with contempt and don't realise how nice it is until weekends like that when we get some really lovely comments."

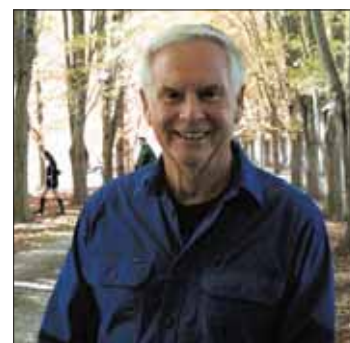
He estimated that the community groups were able to raise about \$8000 from the

event. Grant Street Grocer also attended and helped to feed the hungry motorists.

Given the success of this year's event, Glenn is "pretty confident" that the event will run again next year.

He said, "Most of our people come up from Melbourne, which also makes us feel good for local businesses along the way, because they [the drivers] leave so early, about lunchtime. The Bucky Pub had a good Sunday lunch and they spend their money in the area which is what we want to do. I just we love the locals and love them being there but it's kind of nice to get some money out of the Melbourne people."

People can find out more about Erindale at [instagram.com/erindalehayshed/](https://www.instagram.com/erindalehayshed/)



The Highball Coffee and Cars event was hosted by Glenn Ridge. -AR



Sunbeams. -AR



The Cathedral Range behind the second field of cars. -AR



A Volkswagen arriving at the event. -AR



On entry, the vehicles drove along the spectacular driveway at Erindale, between Buxton and Taggerty. -AR



A driving simulation. -AR



This is the fourth year that Highball Coffee and Cars has taken place at Erindale. -AR



A Volvo. -AR



A Lamborghini. -AR



A Holden Special. -AR

A celebration of cars at the height of autumn



Around 750 vehicles were on show at the event. -AR



There were plenty of keen photographers at the event. -AR



An Alfa Romeo. -AR



A De Lorean, for keen time travellers. -AR

SPORT

Roos refuse to give up in tough home clash

Wandin 19.18-132 defeated Thornton 0.0-0
THORNTON Eildon Roos hosted their first home game of the season in perfect sunny conditions last Saturday, taking on a strong and experienced Wandin side.

It was all hands-on deck early, with players, families and volunteers coming together to prepare the club. With the sun shining and music pumping, there was a great sense of energy around the ground as the Thornton girls got ready for the match, many playing just their second game of football.

A special highlight of the day was seeing two mother-daughter combinations take the field, with Lottie and Amanda, and Laylah and Courtney lining up together.

Wandin's experience showed early, with a tough opening term. A defining moment came when two Thornton players collided, leaving the field with bloodied faces. Both returned shortly after and, in true Thornton spirit, threw themselves straight back into the contest, playing tough and proud just as coach Tash Hay had asked pre-game.

Thornton lifted in the second quarter, increasing their pressure and limiting Wandin to four goals. Ava, Ella, Siobhan and Charlie led the way through the midfield with several strong centre clearances, while Charlie's tagging work created valuable space around the contest.

Kristy and Bechet in the backline, provided integral structure and experience helping reduce Wandin's scoring opportunities through consistent pressure.

After a much-needed halftime break in the heat, Thornton came out with renewed focus.

The third quarter again saw Wandin restricted to four goals, with improved defensive pressure, more accurate kick-ins and better connection through the ground. Leylah got herself into perfect positions, taking strong marks and played a key role in transitioning the ball forward.

The final quarter saw Thornton continue to fight until the final siren, maintaining effort and intensity across the ground. Coaches were particularly pleased with the improvement in contested ball and marking, both key focus areas from the previous week's training.

Thornton's effort never dropped, with Wandin players commenting on the pressure applied and the team's ability to keep competing and never give up, regardless of the scoreboard.

Despite the result, the team showed clear growth. Post-game, the players were all smiles, recognising not only individual efforts but the progress they are making as a group.

Off the field, the day was just as successful, with the Thornton community turning out in full support. From volunteers in the canteen, bar and around the field, to the families and supporters on the sidelines, it was a strong reminder of what makes the club such a great place to be.

Game day awards

Coach Tash Hay praised the award winners for their effort and persistence, highlighting that their willingness to keep competing reflected the attitude of the entire team.

VADHSS voucher: Ella Dean \$25; Club voucher: Leylah Seamer \$20; Dindi Kids cash voucher: Charlie Spencer.

The Roos continue to improve, with strong foundations starting to take shape. Next week Thornton host Yea, in a Murrindindi Derby for ANZAC day. Game starts at 1.30pm at Thornton Recreation Reserve.



The Thornton Eildon Roo team. -S



Game day award recipients. -S

SPORT

Junior Rebels open season with strong performances

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club's junior footballers were on the road last weekend, with the Under Nines, Under 10s and Under 12s travelling to Yea to take on the Tigers, while the Under 14s made the trip to Mooroopna to face Moama.

The Under Nines and Under 10s, who do not play for premierships points, both enjoyed their opening matches of the season and were thrilled to be back on the field for their first games of the year.

Under 9 awards: Essence Coffee Award, Eden Kelly; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Sonny Crouch; Footy Cards, Dallas Leary and AJ.

Under 10 awards: Kazza's Diner Award, Angus Hedger; HBI Canteen Voucher, Patrick Gilligan; Footy Cards, Noah Dyson and Roy Hedger.

Under 12

Yea 5.3-33 defeated by Alexandra 5.8-38

The Under 12s, coached for the first time by Luke Heard, produced the most dramatic finish of the day. Yea started strongly, kicking 2.3 to the Rebels' four points in the opening half. Both sides added a goal in the third quarter, leaving the Tigers ahead 21 to 11 at the final break.

Whatever message came from coach Heard at three-quarter time certainly worked, with the Rebels storming home in the last quarter. Alexandra slammed on 4.3 to Yea's two goals to snatch a thrilling five-point victory.

Under 12 awards: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Louis Hill; Essence Coffee Award, Logan Kerr; Kazza's Diner Award, Benji Cavill; Coaches Award, Kaiden Andrews.

Under 14

Moama 4.4-28 defeated by Alexandra 9.15-69

The Under 14s were equally impressive in their clash against Moama. Travelling to Mooroopna, the boys got off to a flying start and never surrendered control, leading throughout before running out convincing winners.

Under 14 awards: Reddrops FoodWorks Voucher, Eli Van Lierop; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Harrish Balsang; Kazza's Diner Award, Hudson Brooks; Coaches Award, Jack Kidd.

Under 16

The Under 16s also made a strong statement in their opening home game against Seymour. Under 16 coach Dan and assistant Franky, the boys started superbly, kicking the first two goals before Seymour responded with one late in the opening quarter.

The Rebels continued to build in the second term, adding another two goals to Seymour's one to head into the main break with a handy 27 to 16 lead.

The third quarter proved the decisive period and by far the side's best football of the day, with the Rebels piling on six goals while restricting Seymour to just a single point.

Both teams added two goals apiece in the final quarter as Alexandra completed an impressive all-round victory.

It was a terrific team performance with every player contributing across the four quarters.

Under 16 awards: FoodWorks Award, Jaydin Dimech; Sponsor Award, Josh Northmore; Kazza's Diner Award, Levi Campbell; Coaches Award, Ethan Hargrave.

Overall, it was a terrific opening round for the Junior Rebels, with strong numbers, great spirit and plenty of exciting signs for the season ahead.

Netballers launch season with Friday Night Alexandra Derby

The club's netball season got underway in exciting fashion last Friday night, with Alexandra Red taking on Alexandra Black across the junior grades in a full night of local derby action. With plenty of enthusiasm, strong support and great sportsmanship on display, it was the perfect way to open the 2026 season.

Under 11

The Under 11s were first to take the court, with Alexandra Black proving too strong to defeat Alexandra Red, seven goals to two. Both teams showed terrific effort and teamwork in a great opening contest.

Under 11 awards: Alexandra Black: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Lily Drysdale;

Kazza's Diner Award, Isla Jenkins. Alexandra Red: FoodWorks Award, Isla Hutt; Kazza's Diner Award, Olivia Wood.

Under 13

The Under 13s provided one of the games of the night, with Alexandra Black edging out Alexandra Red in a close battle, 26 goals to 23. It was a fast and competitive match with both sides showing plenty of skill and determination.

Under 13 Awards: Alexandra Red: Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Matilda Woehl; Kazza's Diner Award, Ava Hill. Alexandra Black: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Amelia Kociancic; Kazza's Diner Award, Ricki Birch.

Under 15

In the Under 15s, Alexandra Red came away with a strong 45 to 36 win over Alexandra Black in another entertaining contest. Both teams played with intensity, but Red's consistency across the four quarters proved the difference.

Under 15 Awards: Alexandra Red: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Ella Palmer; Kazza's Diner Award, Harper Williamson. Alexandra Black: Reddrops FoodWorks Award, Tilly Miljkovic; Kazza's Diner Award, Zelda Van Lierop.

It was a fantastic opening night for Alexandra Netball, showcasing the depth of junior talent in the club and setting the scene for an exciting season ahead.

Emergency Sporting Equipment grant program

THE Emergency Sporting Equipment Grant Program supports community sport and active recreation organisations across Victoria to replace or repair essential sport or first aid equipment that has been lost or destroyed because of natural disasters, including bushfire, flood, significant storms, theft, arson, or criminal damage. Grants of up to \$2000 are available.

For more information, visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding/emergency-sporting-equipment-grant-program

Eildon Golf Club report

by Puttamatic

LAST week Eildon Golf Club had a stableford round with 18 players competing, which included four guests. It's great to see more and more locals and visitors utilising the fantastic golf course on a great day for golf.

There were two grades last week and the A grade and overall winner was Leigh Munro with 35 points, second place Phil Dally 34, Brad Newton 34 and Kerry power also 34 points and Dean Mally 33. B grade winner Colin Long 34 points, John Monteath 30, Ian Lakeland 27 and Jezza Magee 26 points.

Nearest the pin winners, third Dean Mally, fifth Denis McDonald, no winner on the fifth, 12th Kerry Power and the 14th Colin Long, no recorded birdies on the birdie holes last week.

Other winners last week, Dean Mally won the entry draw, Kerry Power had a chance with the Swindle and Colin Long took a shot at the Joker.

Next week is a stroke monthly medal round. Congratulations to all the winners.

Alexandra Golf Club: Two halves for Saturday golf competition

by Dave Silverman

ALMOST perfect conditions for last Tuesday's stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, which attracted a stellar field of 11 players.

Brad Newton made his comeback after a few weeks on the bench, and returned a score of 36 points to take the win. Perrin Gooding scored 33 to secure second spot, with Leo Dynes in third with 32. Brad also snared the nearest the pin on 17, and Leo got 18, while seven went begging.

Rundown vouchers went to Bruce Colville, Greg Millard and yours truly.

There were also 11 players for last Wednesday's ladies' round, the dreaded par, a scoring system which many dread, but obviously Sharyn Petrzela isn't one of them, as she took the win with an amazing plus seven. Second went to Bron Howell, who carded a plus three, and Helen Findlay was third with plus two.

Nearest the pins went to Barb Doyle on five, Sue Greatorex on seven, and Sharyn on 12.

H G Turf was the sponsor for last week's Saturday stableford round, which, because of the pull of the local football game, was split into two halves: Those playing early in the morning, and those playing at 11am. Fortunately, there didn't seem to have been any advantage to either group, as the placegetters were pretty evenly distributed.

Greg Ebinger was the winner, and the only player to better his handicap with a score of 37 points. Dan Burns came in second with 32, and third went to Corey Jack, also with 32, and the final paying position was filled by Steve Darmody, with 31 points.

Only three of the five available nearest the pins were claimed, with two going to Frank Devries, five to Corey and 18 to Shane Mcgorlick.

April monthly medal at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

Marysville Golf Report

THE first few months of 2026 have been busy for the Marysville golfers as they have hosted numerous events involving many hours of pre-planning and coordination. The FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters, The Liesfield Trophy, The Lakeside Challenge, a golf clinic, The Sandy Wilson Ladies Bowl, The Dalhousie Veterans, The Junior Invitational Day, The Dalhousie Men's Pennant and The Tour Elephants Challenge were all very successful events and it was a pleasure for members to welcome many visitors to the club.

When thanking people for their voluntary contributions to any event it is always a dilemma as to who should be named. However,

there are people who in this case deserve to be thanked publicly. Many thanks to Heather Jenkins, Colin Davies, Steve Coker, Richy Clark, the staff from the Pavilion Bar and Grill and the volunteers who maintain the course so tirelessly in all weather conditions.

Last Saturday the Marysville golfers played a stroke round for the April monthly medal and the ladies game included the second round of the Barton Shield. It was great to see Ken Whittingham back playing golf with the members after a long break.

The winner of the ladies' medal was Gail Leigh (9) with nett 74 followed by Lesley Rundle (38) with nett 77. The men's medal winner was Richy Clark (15) with nett 76. The daily winner and runner up were two visitors who joined the daily competition, Dave Adamson (2) from Sale with 75 nett

on a countback from Anthony Lagratta (14) from Yea.

The nearest the pins were won by Colin Davies, Anthony Lagratta, David Douthwaite and Gail Leigh who also won the Golden Shot. Ken Whittingham won the putting with 24 putts. Next Saturday on ANZAC Day all golfers will play a stableford round.

The Dalhousie men's pennant season is well underway but on Monday, April 13 the ladies played in the first round of their season. The team of Heather Jenkins, Mim Page, Margaret Blair, Beverley Bellman and Lesley Rundle played and won the match 3/2. Well played ladies and they next play Yea at Euroa.

Last Sunday the men played well to beat Eildon at Alexandra 3/2 and will play Yea at Broadford next week.

Sports facilities on the way for Murrindindi

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes has announced that two projects in Murrindindi Shire will share in more than \$18.3 million for 78 new projects across the state through the latest round of the *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund*.

Murrindindi Shire Council will receive \$250,000 for the Alexandra District Speedway lighting upgrade project.

Council will also receive \$40,000 towards the implementation of the *Murrindindi Sport and Recreation Strategy 2027-2037*.

These investments are aimed at helping more Victorians get active while supporting local jobs, economies and healthier communities.

Ms Symes said, "Congratulations to Alexandra and District Speedway. This boost will go a long way to support the growing number of people across the region keen to get involved in local sport and recreation."



C Grade player Emma Todd looking for opportunities to move the ball. -S



Rebels take on Emerald at home

Under 18 player Jayden Valentine going for the mark. -S



Reserves player Jack Steyger celebrating a goal in his 200th game. -S



Reserves player Morgan Eastwood. -S



Under 17s player Leah Cole. -S



Seniors player Tom Mitchell. -S



C Grade player Kate Broadway guarding. -S



Reserves player Cooper Phillips pulling off a spectacular mark. -S

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Highlights galore at Rebel Park: Alexandra Seniors and Reserves football

THE huge crowd that attended Rebel Park last Saturday was treated to a memorable day packed with highlights both on and off the field.

Among the standout moments were: The unveiling of the Reserves' 2025 premiership flag; Ben Cooper and Jake Steyger celebrating their 200th games for the club, made even sweeter with both players kicking a goal to the delight of teammates and supporters; Tom Mitchell, Brownlow Medallist and AFL premiership player, lining up in the red, white and black; the launch of the club's new electronic scoreboard; a helicopter golf ball drop at half-time of the senior game,

with a local supporter taking home the \$5000 cash prize; the outstanding presentation of the ground and club facilities on a perfect autumn day.

Congratulations must go to the Alexandra Football Netball Club committee and all volunteers whose hard work helped deliver such a fantastic occasion for the club and community.

*Reserves
Alexandra 14.10-94 defeated
Emerald 4.7-31*

The Reserves side that took on Emerald was further strengthened by the inclusion of

premiership players Connor Heaslip, Lachlan Collard and Jake Steyger, while Ben Jack also slotted seamlessly into the line-up from the Senior side.

Talented young players Brad Johnson, Casey Collett, Callan Howell and Will Clarke were reunited after recent stints at Euroa and Mansfield, adding further depth and energy to the team.

From the opening bounce, the home side produced a dominant four-quarter performance, using their run and relentless tackling pressure to control the contest throughout on the way to a commanding 63-point victory.

Young ruckman Brad Johnson was outstanding, while the midfield brigade of Kappa (two goals), Cooper Phillips (two), Callan Howell (one) and Casey Collett consistently drove the ball forward to dangerous targets Scott Hill and Ben Wallis, who capitalised on their opportunities.

The defensive unit, led superbly by Brendan Musgrove and Rob Andrews, was rock solid all day in what was a complete team performance.

Goal Kickers: Johnson two, Kappa two, Phillips two, Wallis two, Jack one, Hill one, Steiner one, Halligan one, Steyger one.

Awards: Shannon Group Incentive Award, Bradley Johnson; Future Fit Finance Award, Scott Hill; Ruoak Hotel Award, Callan Howell; Buxton Hotel Award, Jake Steyger.

The boys now turn their attention to next week's clash with Yea at Rebel Park, with Yea also coming off an impressive win over Powelltown.

*Seniors
Alexandra 23.17-173 defeated
Emerald 12.12-84*

The Senior side was forced onto the back foot early, with Emerald's run and attack on the ball catching the Rebels off guard as they trailed at quarter time, 4.6 to 2.4.

Any concern among Rebels supporters was quickly erased in a scintillating second quarter, as the home side piled on 9.6 to Emerald's solitary behind in a brilliant burst of team football. Mitch Parker was instrumental through the centre, helping spark the remarkable turnaround.

Making his first appearance for the Rebels, Cameron Bishop added to the side's strength, while ex-AFL star Tom Mitchell also featured in an impressive line-up.

The Rebels were far from finished, maintaining their fierce commitment to the contest with another eight goals in the third term before adding seven more in the final quarter.

After managing two goals in the opening term, they finished with a stunning 24 goals across the final three quarters in a dominant display. Winners emerged on every line as the midfield and defenders continually supplied the forwards.

Will Stewart led the charge with five goals, Ted Watkins added four, Sam Critchley kicked three, while Josh Edwards finished with two as they capitalised on the outstanding work up the ground.

Such was the complete nature of the performance that it would be unfair to single out individuals in what was a true team effort.

Awards: Kervale Incentive Award, Cameron Bishop; O'Brien's Real Estate Award, Ben Cooper; Ruoak Hotel Award, Harry Aikman; Buxton Hotel Award, Kellan Percy.

Attention now turns to next week's ANZAC Day clash at Rebel Park against local rivals Yea, with both senior and reserve sides entering the contest on the back of similarly emphatic victories.

Head along and support your team at Rebel Park, with all gate takings going to the local RSL.



Ben Cooper carried off for his 200th game for the club. -S