

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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, July 23, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Small Business Commissioner listens to shire's concerns

ON Tuesday, July 15, Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith joined business leaders and advisors from the Murrindindi Shire to hear about local business conditions and associated issues in the shire.

The meeting was held a day before the official signing of the Small Business Friendly Charter when Murrindindi Shire Council officially became a Small Business Friendly Council.

The round table discussion, held at Elli & Ivy in Alexandra, provided a relaxed atmosphere for the discussion on the various challenges small businesses are facing in the Murrindindi Shire.

The topics discussed included compliance and taxes including land tax, the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (ESVF), the importance of deer being reclassified as a pest species instead of a game species, the wild dog

problem, the cost of living, business licencing, WorkSafe processes and costs, connectivity challenges including slow internet during peak periods when tap-and-go is most used, the loss of post offices in Murrindindi Shire, farmers losing money due to drought de-stocking, tourism challenges, empty shops, the challenges of employing key workers and clinical staff, and mental health challenges.

A further issue was the reduction in bank services, including the upcoming closure of the Alexandra agency of Bendigo Bank. There will be challenges in obtaining cash, and the importance of businesses being able to carry a float. If people need to travel outside the shire to obtain banking services, funds may also be lost to the shire if they decide to do their shopping at the same time.

Mayor Damien Gallagher also spoke of the recent challenges in the shire which are having an impact

on small business, including recent flood events, the Flowerdale fire in February 2023, the end of the native timber harvesting industry, the impact of various weather events on farming, as well as Land Tax and the ESVF.

A similar session was held on the following day prior to the signing of the charter. Councillors and council staff were invited to make comment on the challenges faced by the shire, with many similar issues raised as well as some new ones, including insurance challenges, cultural heritage management plans, and increasing accommodation in the shire.

The Small Business Friendly Charter was signed following the discussion. The charter outlines six commitments that council and the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) will jointly work on. These commitments include minimising disruption to

small business from infrastructure projects, supporting local small business networks, streamlining permit approvals processes for small business, promptly paying small business suppliers, delivering information and guidance for small business, and open communication between the VSBC and Murrindindi Shire Council on small business concerns

Murrindindi is the 66th local council to sign the charter.

The charter states that the six commitments are to be delivered within 12 months, with council to report to the VSBC on its work at the end of financial year.

Council has already been working towards supporting small business by streamlining its approvals processes, building on the foundation of its Business Concierge service, business support grants and ongoing improvements to the business customer experience.

Commissioner McAlary-Smith said, "I commend Murrindindi Shire Council for making the commitment to becoming a Small Business Friendly Council. The charter's greatest power is to focus everyone within council upon the experience of small business. I'm pleased that Murrindindi Shire Council is wasting no time by already actively reviewing and uplifting its approvals processes for small business through the Business Friendly Council Initiative. I invite Murrindindi's small businesses to keep council and the VSBC jointly accountable for delivering upon the six charter commitments."

Mayor Damien Gallagher commented, "We are proud to sign the Small Business Friendly Charter, reaffirming our commitment to the small businesses that are the backbone of our rural community. This partnership with the Victorian Small Business Commission reflects our focus on building a more inclusive, resilient and connected business community.

"The Charter strengthens our engagement with local entrepreneurs, creators and service providers. It commits us to practical support that helps businesses succeed, especially during times of disruption. We value the leadership of the Victorian Small Business Commissioner and the Commission's ongoing work to create a fairer, more transparent environment for small businesses across Victoria. We are pleased to stand alongside them in championing local enterprise."

Council CEO Livia Bonazzi added, "This charter comes at the right time as we enter the next phase of our Better Approvals Project under the Business Friendly Council initiative. We are continuing to look across all areas of our operations to find better ways to support local businesses, from cutting red tape to improving customer experience."

"It is a pleasure to welcome the Commissioner to Murrindindi and a point of pride to be the first council since 2021 to sign the charter, reinforcing our commitment to local business."



Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi, Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith, and Mayor Damien Gallagher as Murrindindi Shire Council formally signs on to the Small Business Friendly Charter. -AR

Ross Wilson
& THE PEACENIKS
at Pixies at the Billabong, Eildon

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Address

Email.....

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated with no association
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THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To Jeanie and her nursing team, the CFA and Victorian Ambulance Service for their outstanding effort of stabilising my wife after a nasty incident on Saturday, June 28 so that she could be transported by road to a Melbourne hospital. It was unfortunate that the fog was so thick on the night that the air ambulance was not able to be used due to heavy fog. Fortunately she is slowly recovering now.

THUMBS DOWN: To the ongoing refurbishment of the public toilets in Rotary Park. It's been six weeks of inconvenience for visitors. Not a good look when driving into Alexandra, wire fencing unsightly.

THUMBS UP: To FoodWorks for the ambush fruit and vegetable offerings next to the checkout lanes. Could be an Australian first?

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

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

Murrindindi Shire talks trees for National Tree Day

MURRINDINDI Shire Council hosted a successful National Tree Day Talk on Wednesday, July 16, bringing together people from across the shire to learn and share ideas about the vital role trees play in supporting biodiversity and strengthening our communities.

Held across three in-person locations in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea, as well as online, the event attracted 35 participants and showcased council's ongoing commitment to protecting our environment. Cr Jodi Adams attended the Kinglake event, and Mayor Damien Gallagher, Cr Sue Carpenter and CEO Livia Bonazzi attended the event at the Yea Wetlands.

The evening featured a fascinating presentation from Ron Litjens, the 2025 Volunteer of the Year, who shared his knowledge of how native trees and plants attract birds, bees and other pollinators. Ron's talk included stunning wildlife photography and insights into the unique features plants use to attract different species. Feedback from attendees praised the informative and engaging talk.

Council staff also delivered updates on the recent Street Tree Audit, shared advice



Attendees at one of the sessions. -S

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

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

Fri Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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 Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00am Mon	2.56	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.51	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00am Mon	0.57	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarek	9.52am Mon	0.17	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.22am Mon	0.47	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00am Mon	0.29	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.63	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	4.46	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.47	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.31	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.42	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.79	steady		

*ISSUED AT 10:39 AM AEST MONDAY 21 JULY 2025

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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.

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Standard
The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

July 23 - July 29, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY LOW HIGH DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 4 10 Wednesday 3 10

Thursday 3 12 Thursday 3 13

Friday 8 12 Friday 8 12

Saturday 7 11 Saturday 7 11

Sunday 6 10 Sunday 6 11

Monday 5 10 Monday 5 11

Tuesday 5 10 Tuesday 5 10

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	9mm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	6mm
Flowerdale	4mm
Jamieson	8mm
Kinglake	8mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield	2mm
Taggerty	5mm
Yarek	3mm
Yea	3mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	276.15m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	57%
Metres below full supply	12.57m
Daily inflow	2000ML
Release	8700ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	78%

THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

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DEADLINES

Real Estate Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services Thursday noon

Early General News Thursday 5pm

Classifieds Monday noon

Editorial Monday 9am

Sports Editorial Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor Monday 9am

Thumbsup/down Monday 10am

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

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Is there a future for Eildon's Container Deposit Scheme?

IN 2023 the Victorian Container Deposit scheme (CDS) opened in the Murrindindi Shire at various locations. One of the locations in Eildon was managed by Jason Lodge, who took the challenge on with determination and enthusiasm for bringing this new service into the township of Eildon.

Eildon being a popular holiday spot over the summer period made Jason a busy man and the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme hit their one millionth container on Monday, August 19 last year.

Fast forward to 2025, and this wonderful service for Murrindindi shire locals and tourists has come to a sudden halt.

Manager for the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme Jason Lodge explained what occurred in the lead up to the closure.

"We moved sites due to unfortunately closing Nanny Jan's down. We had to break our lease for Nanny Jans, and we were told one out all out, so unfortunately, we had to move sites (the container deposit site), so I moved, and with moving it brings a change of contract. The CDS contracts are site specific, so they had to come out and check out the new site and they denied the site.

"The new location is zoned farming, where the old hardware store was. The explanation they gave was "following a thorough assessment we have determined the proposed premises is not suitable as the use as a refund collection point under the scheme. Specifically, the proposed premises lack adequate amenities and to support the scheme operations and raises concerns to the close proximity to residential dwellings."

Jason said, "To us it's a better site. It's secure. It meets all the criteria in my opinion. It met all the criteria the same as where we were.

"The new premise was even going to be undercover as well. There is a big warehouse there and they have a big carport off the side which is about the same size where I was operating before. Having a cover over it to would have made my life easier and I could be open more in rain, etcetera."

Jason was asked about the difference in facilities from the prior site to the new site. He said, "I've got the facilities there. It may be because when the other site ended, I had to move out pretty quickly. I relocated their assets, which was their bins, without prior

consultation. I had made sure they were secure and looked after and I think they are grasping at straws. That's my opinion."

Jason has been working around the clock to get the service back up and running again.

"I got onto Anita Carr from Murrindindi Shire Council, and she has been fantastic, she got onto Cindy McLeish and Cindy McLeish contacted me yesterday (Monday, July 17) and she has drafted a letter to the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos.

Jason and his family are feeling the effects of this issue as he explained how the process has been quite lengthy.

"They have also taken six weeks to give me that answer, I haven't been able to operate for six weeks. I am paying rent with nothing coming in."

Jason is very humbled by the community's response to the closure of the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme.

"The support from the local people has been absolutely phenomenal. We have done almost two million containers. That's a return of \$200,000 to the community... helping places such as Buxton CFA, and the footy club in Alexandra. I just don't understand

the reasoning behind it. I want to thank the community for their ongoing support through all of this," Jason said

Alexandra Newspapers contacted Visy to get some further information on this issue. Tim O'Donnell, General Manager Container Deposit Schemes at Visy said, "We're working with businesses and community organisations to make the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme as convenient and accessible as possible. There are three refund points in Murrindindi available for the community to use. We're also actively exploring new locations.

"The proposed new site for Eildon was deemed unsuitable as a recycling centre due to the proximity of residential homes.

"Residents can return their eligible containers at three CDS Vic over-the-counter refund points, all situated within the Murrindindi Shire. These include Pheasant Creek General Store and Hot Food at 884 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road in Pheasant Creek, Kinglake Pub and Pantry at 28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road in Kinglake, and Bourke's Ice Works at 17 Binns McCraes Road in Alexandra.

Nation first RSV program for older Victorians

THE state government is leading the nation in protecting older Victorians from Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), with a free vaccine now available for residents in public sector residential aged care services.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt announced last week the Australian-first program, which will see the Arexvy® RSV vaccine delivered to residents aged 60 and over in public and Indigenous community controlled aged care services.

RSV is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can affect people of all ages but can cause serious illness in older people, particularly those with existing heart or lung conditions or weakened immune systems.

The Arexvy vaccine has been shown to reduce the severity of RSV infections, including the risk of complications like pneumonia and bronchiolitis.

The \$2.2 million program complements the state government's broader investment in aged care with \$34.6 million in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* to continue delivering high-quality care in Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS) and \$7.5 million for infrastructure upgrades to improve comfort and safety for residents.

The RSV immunisation program is also supported by strong clinical guidance including from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) which recommend RSV vaccination for people aged 75 and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 60 and over and those with medical risk factors.

The initiative builds on the governments previous RSV protection program for babies and infants, which is helping shield the youngest Victorians from severe illness. In Australia, RSV is the leading cause of hospitalisation in infants, often progressing to serious conditions like pneumonia or bronchiolitis.

Mothers are also encouraged to get vaccinated during their pregnancy to help build immunity in their baby as early as possible. However, for those unable to be immunised with Abrysvo, or mums immunised less than two weeks before delivery, the Victorian-funded nirsevimab vaccine is available for babies.

Together, these nation-leading programs are helping Victorians of all ages stay healthy and out of hospital, and ensuring the state's most vulnerable residents are protected during the winter RSV peak.

For more information on RSV, visit the betterhealth.vic.gov.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv



The Alexandra Cemetery were able to replace the panels on the gazebo roof thanks to a generous donation from the Alexandra Opportunity Shop. -BD

Opportunity shop supports improvements at cemetery



Three new seats were added to the Alexandra Cemetery thanks to the same donation from the Alexandra Opportunity Shop. -BD

Council seeking community feedback on animal management plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is updating its *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29* to improve services for cats and dogs in Murrindindi Shire.

During this process council is seeking community feedback on a range of animal management issues within the shire including: Council's animal management services; cat

and dog behaviours; dog off-lead areas; cat confinement and mandatory desexing.

You can have your say by visiting council's online engagement platform, The Loop website, to fill out a survey or drop a pin on a map for a dog off-lead area, meeting a council officer in person at Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, or requesting a phone interview.

To arrange a phone interview, contact Peter Wright, Community Safety Officer, on 5772 0333 or email pwright@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Feedback closes on Sunday, August 3. Council's The Loop website can be found at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/

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Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
f /alexandramuseum
or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988

Joint statement on Treaty negotiations

VICTORIA’S path to Treaty has taken another step forward, towards a better and fairer state for all Victorians.

Later this year, the Victorian Government expects to introduce the Statewide Treaty Bill to Parliament.

Negotiations on Victoria’s Statewide Treaty Bill are focusing on how to evolve the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria into an ongoing representative body to provide advice to government and make decisions over matters that affect First Peoples.

For the last five years, the First People’s Assembly has been the independent, democratically elected body representing First Peoples in the Treaty Process.

Victoria’s Statewide Treaty Bill is proposed to give the Assembly decision-making powers to make sure First Peoples’ communities can design and deliver practical solutions for their communities.

The State and the Assembly are negotiating on how to provide for the Assembly to: Form the independent accountability mechanism that is required by the National Agreement to Close the Gap and provide concrete solutions and recommendations to improve outcomes for First Peoples; Make decisions and rules about specific matters that directly impact First Peoples, such as the confirmation of Aboriginality; Run an Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program, the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll and important events like NAIDOC week; Making certain statutory appointments for designated First Peoples’ seats on government boards and entities, such as First Peoples appointments to the Heritage Council of Victoria; Celebrate over 60,000 years of First Peoples’ culture, including by bringing it into the ceremonial life of Victoria; Lead ongoing truth-telling, healing and reconciliation across Victorian towns and regions, including capturing stories and retaining an archive of this information to support education of the broader public about our shared history; Make representations and provide advice to the government, including being able to ask questions of ministers and

creating a duty for ministers and departments to consult with the Assembly on laws and policies that are specifically directed to First Peoples; and Build on First Peoples’ knowledge and leadership to strengthen self-determination in the Treaty-era.

Treaty is a pathway to acknowledging the past and making real, practical change to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria and close the gap.

The Productivity Commission found governments haven’t fully understood the scale of change needed to meet their Closing the Gap commitments. It urged shared decision-making with First Peoples, and praised Victoria’s Treaty process as a leading example.

The proposed body will sit within our existing parliamentary and democratic structures. It will not have veto power on policy or legislation, a power that does not exist under Victoria’s parliamentary system.

Under Victoria’s Statewide Treaty Bill, the proposal is that the First Peoples’ Assembly would be a statutory corporation.

Treaty could also build on the strong community accountability demonstrated by the First Peoples’ Assembly and legislate its ongoing public reporting, election processes, participatory governance and cultural oversight from Elders.

The proposed ongoing body would be subject to oversight bodies including IBAC, VAGO and Ombudsman.

The Victorian Government and the First Peoples’ Assembly recognise the delivery and tabling of the Yoorrook Justice Commission’s final interim report, *Yoorrook for Transformation* and final report, *Truth be Told*.

The work of the commission will have a significant impact on Victoria, helping all Victorians to understand our history by bringing to light the truth of First Peoples since the beginning of colonisation.

These developments in negotiations are the latest on an almost decade-long path that Victoria has been on towards achieving Australia’s first Treaty.

In Treaty negotiations, the Victorian Government is represented by senior Department of Premier and Cabinet executives, and appointed Member Negotiators represent the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria.

Council provides update on Acheron’s Breakaway Bridge

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked whether any updates were available regarding Breakaway Bridge and whether there were any particular hold-ups or challenges.

Council responded, “Murrindindi Shire Council is nearing the end of a long and complex process to secure a solution for Breakaway Bridge, which was catastrophically damaged during the October 2022 floods. This flood event impacted large areas of the state with many assets still being reinstated.

“Since our last update to the Acheron community in June, council has continued to work closely with the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DoTP), the state agency appointed to manage claims under the joint Commonwealth and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). These arrangements provide vital financial support for rebuilding essential public assets, with costs shared 75 percent by the Commonwealth and 25 percent by the state. However, accessing DRFA funding comes with strict requirements.

“For Breakaway Bridge, council has spent the past 18 months compiling the extensive documentation required under DRFA, including technical assessments, photographic records and certified cost estimates. This has been an intensive process, reflective of the bridge’s scale and importance and the need for a solution that ensures the safety and connectivity of the community well into the future.

“A core challenge has been the state’s application of the DRFA stipulation that funding will only be provided to restore infrastructure to its pre-disaster condition, unless overwhelming evidence shows this would result in an unacceptable outcome. Council has argued strongly that a like-for-like rebuild of Breakaway Bridge would not be appropriate, given increasing flood risks and community expectations for a more resilient and safe infrastructure.

“We’re pleased to report that the formal funding claim has now been finalised and submitted for assessment. We expect to be advised of the outcome in the near future. It is likely that further negotiations will follow to reach a final agreed position.

“While our officers continue to engage with DoTP on the technical aspects, the Mayor and CEO have also been actively advocating for broader changes to the DRFA arrangements including building back more resilient infrastructure, timely decision making, and to the extent and format of evidence required.

“We are getting closer to securing a funding commitment for the project. Once confirmed, council looks forward to engaging with the community on potential design options and the overall scope of the rebuild.

“We appreciate the patience of the Acheron community throughout this challenging recovery process and remain committed to delivering a solution that is both practical and enduring.”

Out & About



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

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Quiz for a Cause Trivia – Help Foundation Murrindindi raise funds to support Food Relief Programs across the shire. Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at 5.30. 6.30pm quiz start. BYO table nibbles, drinks at bar prices \$35 per person. Scan the bar code in this edition for tickets.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Speak with council at an open community meeting in Yarck from 5-7pm at Yarck Memorial Hall. See ad in this edition for full details or email governance@murrindindishire.vic or phone 5772 0333.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Yea and District Historical Society Inc will be having their Annual General Meeting at 2pm at the Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Eildon Events Inc Annual General Meeting at 5.30pm at the Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon road, Eildon. New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

UGFM Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email at secretary@ugfm.org

Tiny Towns grant secures final stage of Fawcett Hall restoration

THE Fawcett Hall Committee is thrilled to announce that the hall has received funding through the Tiny Towns Fund, an initiative of Regional Development Victoria, to complete the final stage of its long-running restoration project.

Over the next 18 months, the hall will see major enhancements including the completion of an all-access paved walking history path, the installation of interpretive privacy screens, and a vital upgrade to the septic system.

The walking path directly ties in with the hall’s published history book, *Fawcett Hall and Its People* by D I Newman, chronicling the hall, its history, and its community since 1882.

Residents’ past and present are invited to become part of this lasting tribute by purchasing a named paver, forming the surrounding pathways. This is the final round of name pavers.

Community groups and local businesses who have engaged with the hall over the past 20 or more years are also encouraged to get involved. More details, including how to purchase a brick, can be found on the hall’s website.

The interpretive privacy screens will feature a combination of design and storytelling, sharing the rich heritage of Fawcett’s people,

gold mining history, farming culture, and the enduring role of the hall. These will be developed with the help of a local artist, designer, and sculptor, in collaboration with the committee and community members.

Upgrades to the septic system will ensure the hall remains a safe, functional, and welcoming venue for workshops, meetings, celebrations, and gatherings hosted by local families, organisations, and community groups.

President of the hall committee Sam Hicks said, “This funding helps us honour the past while improving the space for future generations. We’re proud to be working with locals and our local business community to make this happen. In a time of drought, this will give us something else to focus on and bring the community together for a common goal.”

Sam went on to encourage locals, “Don’t forget if you want to leave a named brick as a legacy as your connection with Fawcett, make sure you purchase a name paver.”

The Fawcett Hall Reserve Committee of Management gratefully acknowledges the support of Murrindindi Shire Council and land manager DEECA Hume, whose guidance and endorsement strengthened the successful grant application.

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Yea Arts Inc are calling guitarists across Murrindindi Shire

GUITARISTS across Murrindindi are invited to take part and rock out with internationally acclaimed artist and musician, Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) as part of High Voltage.

This August and September plug in and celebrate all things rock across the Murrindindi Shire with free workshops and an event called High Voltage that will happen on Sunday, September 7 at the Yea Shire Hall.

Anyone and everyone can sign up to be part of this event, so dust off your guitars and bass guitars and get on board. All skill levels and ages can participate and it's free.

Joseph O'Farrell says "I'm so excited to bring this work to the shire after returning

from the United Kingdom. High Voltage is all about the universal joy of music and participation. There's no audition, just sign up and you're in."

"High Voltage is going to be a really fun performance event for the shire, bringing together a whole heap of great community groups to rock out in Yea," Jof said.

Participants will be sent a song book with the tabs and playing instructions after registration. There will be multiple workshop opportunities in Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake and it's encouraged to attend as many workshops as you can to get the most out of the creative process.

All the details are on the registration form which is available via the Yea Arts Inc website, at yeaartsinc.org/high-voltage

Yea Arts Inc President Allan Thatcher says, "Yea Arts is really excited to bring to life this inter-generational event giving everyone who can hold a guitar in the Murrindindi Shire a chance to be involved with so many others. It's going to be a blast."

High Voltage project is led by Yea Arts Inc and proudly supported by Murrindindi Shire Council to make it a shire-wide celebration, bringing local talent together for one High-Voltage concert to remember.

If you have any questions, please email local producer Cynthia Lim on: eventsyeaarts@gmail.com or call 0403 831 520.

This project is part of Murrindindi Shire Council's *Community Capacity Building Program*, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



Guitarists of any experience level are welcome to participate in the free High Voltage event. -Luke Witcomb

Alisdair Hutt on his first year as a seasonal firefighter

by Bailey Dixon

ALEXANDRA local Alisdair Hutt joined Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVIC) as a Seasonal Forest and Fire Operations Officer (seasonal firefighter) in 2024, spending the 2024-25 fire season in active duty.

The experiences of his first year as a seasonal firefighter taught Alisdair many things about both himself and what the role entailed, but he thoroughly enjoyed his eight months on the job and sat down with *Alexandra Newspapers* to share the details.

"To be honest, I wasn't 100 per cent sure on what they [seasonal firefighters] actually did. It was quite a mystery to me when I was looking for a new job," Alisdair said.

"I've been a carpenter for 14 years and I needed a bit of a change, but I was quite keen to stay in the area. It was quite daunting, but I applied for the job and then I think it was one of the best things I'd done for a long time.

"I ended up having one of the best seasons. You wake up in the morning and you're actually excited to go to work. I haven't had that in a long time.

"It's something that really made a difference to me, was waking up and feeling like you're a massive part of a huge family, a huge team that is all trying to achieve the same goal. That was one of the best things about it."

There are a large number of tasks that seasonal firefighters with FFMVIC undertake, far more than the traditional firefighting aspect. Alisdair described these tasks as including general forest maintenance and management.

"There's a lot of big machinery that we're using to clean up tracks in the bush and making things more accessible. Cleaning up water points that we have for filling. There's a lot of prep work for your fuel reductions, so we get out there as a team and are raking around trees, trying to protect habitat trees," he said.

"There's a lot involved in it, so it's hard to say that you go out and do one thing, because you don't. It's very diverse. You clean campsites, you pick up litter off the road, just making a difference which feels good. We clean up the tracks at the start of the year.

"I didn't know what I was expecting, it's not secretive, but it's quite hard to find out from the outside what they do for a job. A lot of it is looking after the bush and maintaining the tracks. There's a lot of preparation for the summer season."

The 2024-25 season was a larger one than normal, starting earlier and depriving FFMVIC of important preparation time. This kind of threw Alisdair and the other first-year seasonal firefighters in the deep end.

"They got hit pretty early last year. We didn't actually have enough time to do all the things that we would normally do, and we spoke about that quite a lot," Alisdair said.

"The first-year firefighters, which was myself and a couple of others, we were obviously green to it, so we don't know what to expect, and so when we were straight into doing fires we thought that was the norm. They're like, that's not the norm, we're usually still only prepping stuff."

Alisdair started in November but had four weeks of first-year training beforehand and then was in active duty until the end of June. This was longer than a normal season. He also had some situations that challenged him to push himself.

"It was a massive season. I was never expecting that much. It was meant to be six months of work, and I think I ended up with a couple of extra months," he said.

"Your days could be massive, but they are always protecting you as well, so they are really on top of your fatigue management.

"I think the hardest thing with a family and because you enjoy the job, is knowing that the job is going to end. I was in the motion and the zone and becoming part of the team. I've got itchy feet to go back again."

The sense of fulfillment that Alisdair felt from his work as a seasonal firefighter was evident during the interview.

"You're doing a lot, from community protection to environmental protection, all that kind of stuff. It's a hard thing to explain, but you feel such a sense of pride," he said.

"My youngest daughter was in school and she drew a picture of herself as a firefighter. I've never had her draw a picture of herself as a carpenter. You get that feeling that they're

proud of you as well. When you put that shirt on and you go to work in the morning, you're part of a massive team and you just feel involved and you feel proud, you're protecting communities."

Alisdair concluded by offering advice to anyone interested in applying for a role as a Seasonal Forest and Fire Operations Officer.

"Give it a crack, 100 per cent. It gives you a fair bit of confidence. You might think it's a big jump to get into the firefighting, and it is, and there's a lot of learning to start, but you're jumping into a big family, a big team of people that all want you to succeed," he said.

"For any ages, there's so many life lessons. It's an open door. Once you get in, you can go in any avenue you want. If you're thinking about, it is definitely something that is worth it. You get so much self-satisfaction from it," Alisdair finished.



Alisdair Hutt took a seasonal firefighting position with Forest Fire Management Victoria for the 2024-25 season. -S

Ross Wilson

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Former childcare operators comment on the changes in the industry

MARK and Helen Lewis, residents of Alexandra for the past 14 years, formerly owned and operated a childcare business in Ormond, Melbourne, and were keen to speak about what had changed in childcare and about the care that every child needs.

Ormond Early Learning and Childcare quickly grew into business which was much sought-after by parents for the impact on the children and they needed to expand the size of the operation by buying the property next door. This enabled the children to be separated into age groups.

One of the local primary school principals even told them that they could always spot children who had attended the Ormond business without being told, as the children were bright and aware due to the stimuli provided at the facility.

They held high standards, always ensuring that the children had good food. It was their belief that food was not a place where money should be saved.

They always had one or two special activities each week, including petting zoos, violin, piano and a comedian. They were critical of current childcare facilities using television as a child-minder.

Mark said that the philosophy and intention were the most vital elements in childcare, over and above making money. Another important factor was that they had both a staff and parent expectation list, to ensure that everything was appropriate and that there were clear guidelines.

Helen and Mark worked in the business for 14 years, working long hours, often from 7.15am to 6.30pm.

He said that they don't believe that CCTV would solve the current issues in childcare.

Wife Helen later added that the real issue is a lack of supervision and a lack of planning by the people building the centre. She believes that glass between rooms is vital. She also asked how many visits are being made to centres by the government overseers. When they were operating, the oversight organisation would visit every few months to conduct inspections, as they would all centres.

She said of the recent news of paedophilia at childcare centres, "Now these people are getting away with things. It makes you wary of every childcare centre." She added that it's a challenging time for male childcare workers, saying "They're getting such a bad press and there's a lot of good ones out there. But on behalf of all the parents, when you're an owner, you have to be very careful. They're all supposed to have police checks... but there are still some rotten apples in the barrel. And that's got worse since we were in it. It makes parents very wary of any childcare centre."

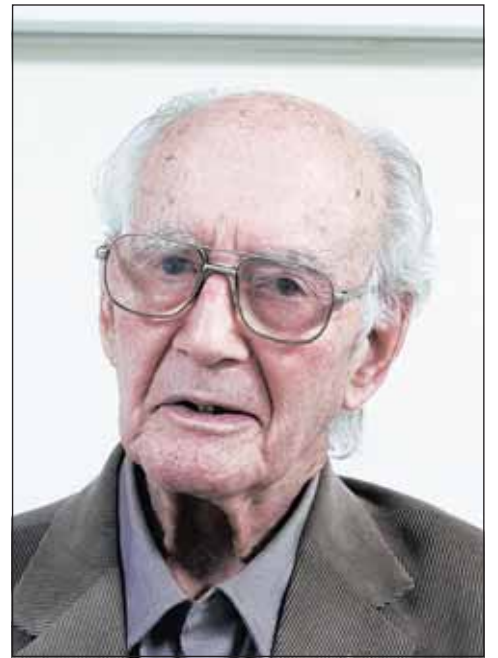
Asked about what she would put in place in an ideal world, Helen responded, "I would do away with the private corporations owning centres. They own far too many. They're only in it for the profit motive. They have shareholders who are their responsibility, not the children or the workers. I think it's wrong. I think it was much better when there were couples like me and Mark running a centre. We knew all the parents. We knew all the children and they knew us."

She later added, "You have to be serious and you have to be dedicated."

She's also a big believer in traineeships rather than university educations in childcare, learning and completing assignments on the job, adding that it's also good for local employment.



Helen Lewis. -AR



Mark Lewis. -AR



Mark and Helen (second and third from left) during their childcare days. -S

Meeting the Victorian Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith

by Melinda Pullen

DURING the visit of Victorian Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith last week, Alexandra Newspapers sat down with her to find out what the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) does and how they can help small businesses.

Ms McAlary-Smith said, "We do alternative dispute resolution for business related disputes, for business to business consumers, business to government disputes. It can involve mediation where our staff talk to both sides to find out what's going on and find a resolution."

"We also do retail leasing disputes, in effect landlords really need to come to the commission to try and mediate with a tenant before they take certain actions with VCAT. We also do farm debt mediation... If a farmer really wants mediation they can get a certificate that prohibits the bank from acting. We get north of 90 per cent of a success rate with mediation on farm debt."

"We also cater for the gig economy, if someone is running a business such as Uber Eats, an Uber, Air Tasker, we do dispute resolution in that sense, as well and we also do dispute resolution services around owner drivers and forestry contractors."

Other areas the commission focuses on is disputes between taxis, hire cars and rideshare drivers and operators, and franchising disputes.

A particular focus this year, in addition to the standard activities, is that the VSBC will be supporting new entrepreneurs.

"We are doing a really big outreach program. We have a whole range of different webinars coming up around running a business how to avoid a dispute, de-escalate one if you have one, good money management skills as well. We see all these businesses where things go wrong and that

gives us an insight if things have been done differently. Our focus is a lot on outreach education. Taking the expertise that we have and sharing it. We are doing partnerships with industries, associations, local councils and sectorial. Education and outreach is the focus," the commissioner said.

As the world evolves so does small business. With Australia opening its arms to the gig economy, and new features such as AI, there are both positives and negatives.

When asking the commissioner about what she has noticed regarding the gig economy, she said, "It's fascinating, we deal with a lot of people getting kicked off the platform they have lost access to, the platform that is where they are earning their money and all of a sudden because of something, they have been cut off. Sometimes that's because the platform has legitimate concerns about something that has happened or a number of complaints and sometimes it can be a misunderstanding. That would be the biggest thing that we deal with. And we have really good success rates with that too. I have had people fighting with Instagram for a year and one afternoon we get them back on."

With AI getting used more in the workplace, it can have its benefits for those who may need the extra help if your open to it.

The commissioner said, "It's actually an exciting opportunity for business when we talk about some of this stuff around compliance and form filling. There is a lot of stuff we don't have a natural skill set for, for example you could punch into AI 'I need a new policy' and it will spit it out for you, but the challenge then is having the ability to critically analyse it and go is this right or not? I think it's an amazing opportunity for small business, but a lot are also scared of it."

"Some small businesses do some really great things regarding getting rid of some



Attendees from the round table session discussing all the issues small businesses are facing in the Murrindindi Shire. -MP

of the lower level stuff that they are doing in terms of time intensive paperwork, and they are making the most of it."

In the Murrindindi Shire we are in the midst of drought and small businesses are suffering. The VSBC can provide help if needed.

The commissioner urged the local community to seek support. "One of the key things we can do is the farm debt mediation we can certainly advocate for small business people who are impacted from the drought irrespective of what industry they are in."

"One thing I want to say about farm debt is a farmer doesn't have to be in arrears to come and get the mediation with us. They can call it early and come to use for mediation help and we can support them in that. It doesn't just have to be when things have become really bad. We can help in advance of that."

With the round table discussion held on Tuesday, July 15 the commissioner walked away with an understanding of what Murrindindi Shire businesses are facing.

The commissioner said, "One thing that is really positive in this region is councils' engagement and one good thing about signing the charter is it sends a signal, and it also brings accountability, and the community can hold them to account with that, in my experience is really important as well."

"Every regional community is different and that's one of the important things about these visits because sometimes in government you can bunch it into metro and regional and put regional all in one bucket. The local nuances and challenges are different and some regional communities thrived post covid and others are not doing as well. It's not consistent."

The Farmer's Ag News

The disparity in drought funding

IN a press release on July 4, *Backing our farmers through drought*, significant additional support was announced for farmers in the south west of the state, including Ararat, Moyne, Colac Otway, Pyrenees, Corangamite, Southern Grampians, Glenelg, Surf Coast, Golden Plains, Warrnambool, City of Greater Geelong and southern parts of West Wimmera. The funding includes a 40 per cent rate reduction and household payments of \$1000. Some statewide support is also available.

The Bureau of Meteorology have published a map, pictured with this article. According to the map, Murrindindi Shire has a 'severe deficiency' in rainfall for January to June 2025, remarkably similar to the south west of the state.

According to the bureau's historical rainfall data for January to June 2025, Yea

is down by 88.4mm on the mean average, Alexandra is down by 70.4mm on the mean average, Marysville is down by 208.8mm on the mean average, Eildon is down by 83.8mm on the mean average, and Kinglake is down 139mm on the mean average.

Given the bureau's map and the rainfall data, the government was asked why the additional support is not being provided in Murrindindi Shire, when the conditions are so similar to the South West.

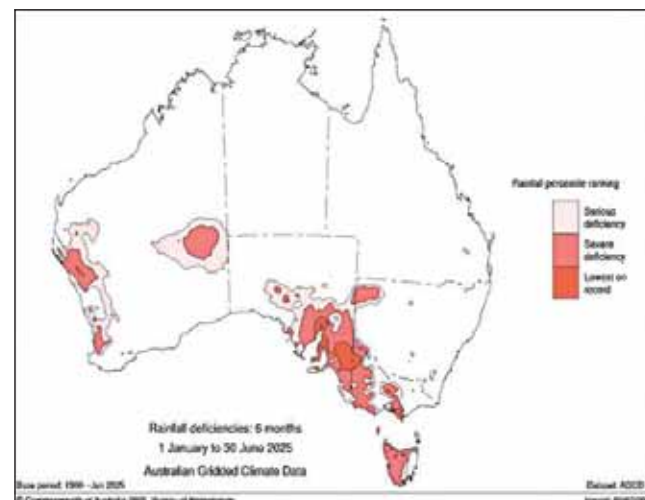
A Victorian Government spokesperson responded, "We know how tough dry conditions can be on our farmers right across the state, it's why we have a range of statewide drought support measures available to all farmers including the Farm Drought Support Grants, technical decision-making support, mental health support and more.

"Our Drought Response Taskforce will continue to listen to farmers and regional communities across Victoria, and monitor seasonal, social and economic conditions in the months ahead."

They provided as background the following information: The south-west of Victoria has recorded rainfall deficits that equate to the lowest on record for over two years. The Victorian Government is investing a total of \$144 million to provide appropriate drought support to every primary producer in the state. All farmers can access the Farm Drought Support Grants program. Across the state, we're also investing a further \$5.9 million to continue critical technical decision-making support, mental health services, timely farm debt mediation and engagement activities for another 12 months. We're

also reducing the costs of doing businesses for our primary producers with a \$6.3 million fee and duty relief package."

To view the full range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available to drought impacted farmers visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.



Rainfall deficiencies from January 1 to June 30, 2025. -Bureau of Meteorology

Council questioned over four bin system for farms

A READER has raised some concerns about the four bin system in Murrindindi Shire after reading about the waste management system in Yarra Ranges Shire.

In Yarra Ranges Shire, people with a residential block of four hectares or more can opt out of the bin collection service (or part thereof), provided they meet the conditions. Murrindindi Shire Council was asked why a similar option was not being made available in Murrindindi.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges also has three optional bin sizes for the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), recycling and rubbish (80L, 120L or 240L), with associated reduced charges for the smaller bins. Murrindindi Shire Council was asked whether this would become an option in Murrindindi?

Murrindindi Shire Council responded that they "Understands there is community interest in how different councils deliver their four bin kerbside collection services. While we're aware that Yarra Ranges Shire allows residents on properties over four hectares to apply to opt out of part or all of the kerbside service, this option comes with strict conditions. Residents must demonstrate they have suitable alternative arrangements in place, and councils are required to carry out regular audits to ensure compliance under the Victorian Government's Circular Economy legislation.

"For a small rural council like Murrindindi, implementing and monitoring such a system would place a significant administrative burden and cost on both staff and the community. Council has instead chosen to take a consistent, equitable approach to kerbside collection, like we do with other shared services such as roads, libraries and

emergency support. A universal kerbside collection service helps ensure that all residents receive the same standard of service and value for money, while keeping the system fair and sustainable.

"We do provide some flexibility for our rural residents, for example our food and garden organics (FOGO) service is offered on an opt-in basis for rural properties, unlike Yarra Ranges where residents must apply to opt out. We also offer additional support for households that generate higher volumes of general rubbish such as nappies, incontinence products or medical needs. This extra capacity is provided at no extra cost for residents who are eligible and apply.

"Council currently offers 120 litre and 240 litre bins as options for rubbish, recycling and FOGO. This decision is based on cost and practicality. Ongoing collection costs are the same for all bin sizes, however, vehicles would require specialised equipment to lift smaller 80 litre bins, which would increase services costs for everyone.

"Additionally, other rural councils have experienced issues with the instability of 80 litre bins due to the smaller footprint and propensity to tip over on uneven open roads. The main reason metropolitan councils offer 80 litre bins is the limited space that small urban lots have available. Our kerbside collection service is quite economical. For rural residents who use our three-bin system, the cost is \$410 this financial year, compared with \$509 in Yarra Ranges for the same bins and capacity, or \$480 for households using an 80 litre general rubbish bin.

"Council continues to monitor and adapt its kerbside collection services in line with community needs, government policy and best practice."

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



As Doris approached the gate with that basket, they knew the tournament was over.

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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire.

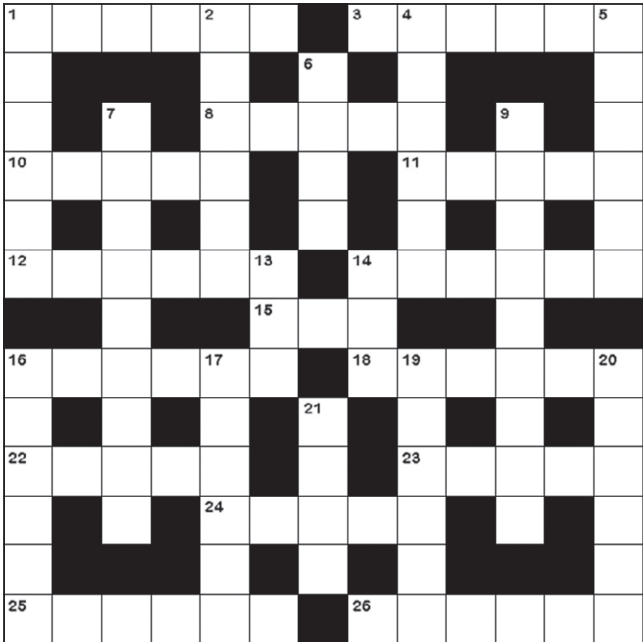
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 10

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. A robe originally worn by Japanese people.
- 3. Make a financial gain.
- 8. Satisfies with over-abundance.
- 10. A sudden short burst of energy.
- 11. A small amount eaten or drunk.
- 12. Refused to recognise or acknowledge.
- 14. Sorrowful through loss or deprivation.
- 15. A single person or thing.
- 16. The reason behind the action.
- 18. Completely free of charge.
- 22. A short subdivision of a poem.
- 23. Have an intense desire for.
- 24. Stuff thrown away as useless.
- 25. Everywhere in great numbers.
- 26. The flat region on either side of the forehead.



DOWN

- 1. Touched gently with the lips.
- 2. Snuggle down into a comfortable position.
- 4. The sound of dry leaves blown in a breeze.
- 5. A warning of impending danger.
- 6. Come to a complete halt.
- 7. Objects that make a room ready to live in.
- 9. Vitrally important and absolutely necessary.
- 13. Mature female deer.
- 14. Ask for food or money for free.
- 16. Leaving one residence for another.
- 17. The one doing the watching.
- 19. Move back and away from.
- 20. Change direction abruptly.
- 21. A set of questions to evaluate knowledge.

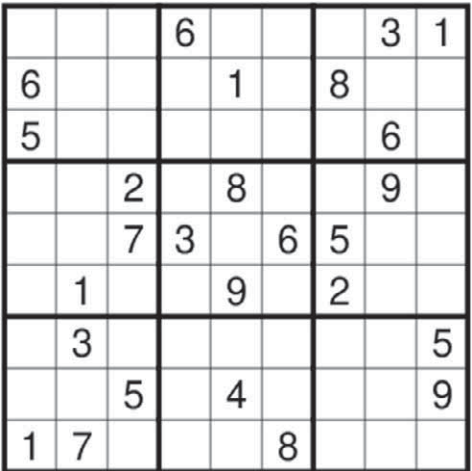
Word Search

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

School Subjects

- ALGEBRA
- ARTANDCRAFT
- BIOLOGY
- COOKING
- DRAMA
- ENGLISH
- HUMANITIES
- LANGUAGE
- MATHS
- SCIENCE
- TECHNOLOGY
- WOODWORK

Sudoku



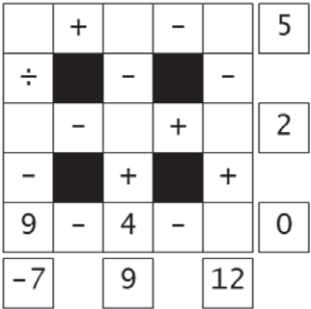
Difficulty: Medium

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

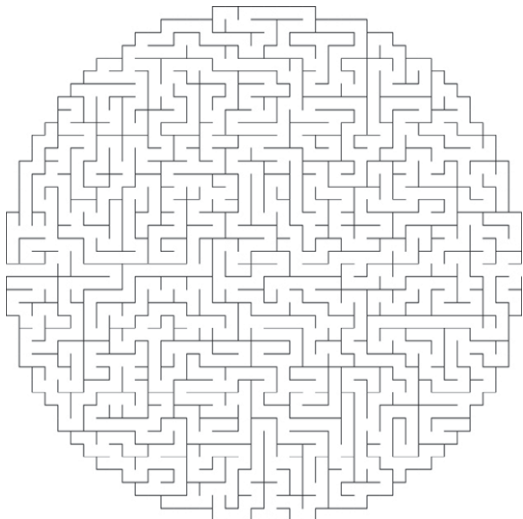
Math Square

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.



Maze



KID'S PUZZLES

Colouring Page



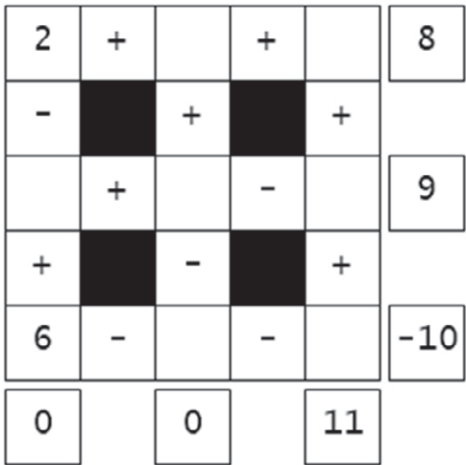
Word Search

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

Words starting with "N"

- NACHOS
- NIGHT
- NATURE
- NOODLES
- NAUTICAL
- NORMAN
- NAVIGATE
- NOTEBOOK
- NECTARINE
- NUISANCE
- NEWBORN
- NUMBERS
- NICOLE
- NURSE

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.

Jokes

- Q: Why do we tell actors to break a leg?
A: Because every play has a cast
- Q: What is worse than raining cats & dogs?
A: Hailing taxis

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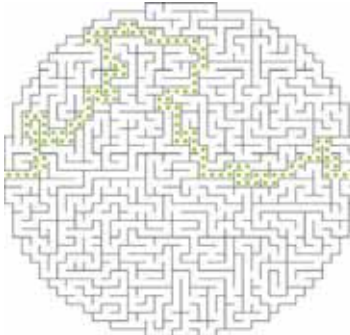
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MAZE



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Annual General Meeting, Thursday, August 14, 2025, 5.30pm at Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon Road, Eildon.

New members welcome.
Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary: eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

For more information please call 0409 050 494.
A normal committee meeting will follow the AGM.



Upper Goulburn Community Radio
Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email secretary@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.

YEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
Annual General Meeting Monday, August 4, 2025 at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

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Urgent calls as ambulances cases rise

AN extra 100 Code One cases each day since April has prompted an urgent call to action from Ambulance Victoria (AV) for help to save paramedics and ambulances for the sickest patients.

Driven largely by respiratory illness, the increase in demand for life-saving paramedic care has put significant strain on the system.

AV Chief Executive Officer Jordan Emery pleaded with Victorians to consider alternative healthcare options for less-urgent medical concerns.

"We all have a role to play in ensuring paramedics are available to respond to the sickest people in our communities," said Jordan.

"We've seen a significant increase in Code One cases, on average 100 more each day compared to just a few months ago.

"This increase in life-threatening cases means we need to respond lights and sirens to administer life-saving medical care, and we can't do that if ambulances are being called to less-urgent or avoidable situations."

AV Acting Director Regional and Clinical Operations Jessica McGowan urged Victorians to ensure they're protected against season illness.

"Vaccination remains one of the best ways to protect against seasonal illness and if you're feeling unwell or you have flu-like symptoms, stay home to help stop the spread

and protect those most at risk," said Jessica.

"Paramedics do not replace GP care. It is vital that if you are feeling unwell that you seek medical advice as soon as possible, before your illness escalates. That advice could be from a local GP or pharmacist, or the online Victorian Virtual Emergency Department is also a great option and it's free.

"Calling an ambulance when you don't need one could delay help for someone whose life depends on it."

"The message is simple," said Jordan, "save paramedics for emergencies."

There are many ways to get health advice and care outside of Triple Zero (000), including: Victorian Virtual Emergency Department: 24/7 free online access to emergency doctors and nurses via vved.org.au, Urgent Care Clinics: GP-led care for urgent but non-emergency issues, NURSE-ON-CALL: Free advice from a registered nurse 24/7 on 1300 606 024, or visit a local GP or pharmacist.

If you or someone you're with is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

A reminder that firewood thieves will be caught

TWO individuals who thought the cover of darkness would shield them, have been caught allegedly illegally cutting and splitting a freshly felled tree for firewood in Wandong Regional Park early last week.

With assistance from Victoria Police, Conservation Regulator Authorised Officers intercepted the two individuals at about 5.15am on the morning of Monday, July 14 as they were loading the freshly cut and split timber into a tandem trailer.

The trailer, two chainsaws, two block splitters, two mobile phones and the cut timber were seized on the spot.

The matter is still under investigation and forms part of ongoing monitoring and surveillance activities, including night patrols, across Mt Disappointment State Forest and the Wandong Regional Park through 'Taskforce Ironbark'.

Taskforce Ironbark is a state-wide initiative, led by the Conservation Regulator in partnership with Parks Victoria, aiming to crack down on commercial firewood thieves.

This type of crime will not be tolerated and the individuals are expected to face court over alleged firewood-related offences.

If community members observe suspicious firewood activity, they are urged to call 136 186. Reports can be made anonymously.

For more information, visit: vic.gov.au/sourcing-firewood

Conservation Regulator, Manager Regulatory Operations Hume, Greg Chant said: "Illegal tree felling is a serious environmental crime, Authorised Officers patrol at all hours in Victoria's state forests and parks to help protect biodiversity and ensure people follow the rules.

"If you're caught illegally harvesting timber from public land for commercial sale, you will be held accountable for the environmental damage, and risk facing prosecution and losing your equipment."



Are you looking after your wood fire correctly? -Kmtextor

Nice warm toes? Remember where the smoke goes

VICTORIA'S environmental watchdog has some handy tips for everyone who has a wood burning heater keeping their toes warm this winter.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Victoria says the condition of the heater, the flue and the fuel you're using all contribute to seeing more, or less, smoke from your chimney.

EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist Jen Martin says you'll get less smoke and more heat for your money, if you do it right.

"Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house," Dr Martin said.

"Don't leave it smouldering, it's inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard."

Wood heater owners have an obligation, under the EPA's General Environment Duty, to minimise the smoke from their wood heater. EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours' health and seek alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung conditions such as asthma, pregnant women, young children, those aged 65 years and over, people with diabetes and smokers.

"If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, take your regular medications, rest and seek medical advice if the symptoms persist," Dr Martin said.

Another important tip is to avoid burning the wrong things, including coal, coke, driftwood, household rubbish, painted wood, chemically treated timber or the green-coloured pine logs used at parks and playgrounds.

The EPA website has more information for anyone who wants to be a good neighbour and create more heat and less smoke from their wood heater at epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or visiting what pollution and waste you can report at epa.vic.gov.au/what-pollution-and-waste-you-can-report

More access to Neighbourhood Battery programs

ACTING Premier Ben Carroll and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D’Ambrosio last week opened round three of the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program, backed by \$6.6 million to install more neighbourhood-scale batteries across Victoria.

Neighbourhood batteries return power into the hands of local communities, giving them a secure energy supply by soaking up cheap and clean renewable energy when it is plentiful and dispatching it when it is needed most.

The program is already delivering 90 neighbourhood batteries across the state, helping more Victorian families and community organisations to lower their bills. The program has also funded back-up systems at publicly accessible buildings to support communities through power outages.

The third round of the program will bring the total number of batteries to over 100, with up to \$400,000 in grant funding available per battery, and participating organisations able to apply for multiple batteries as part of a project.

Not-for-profit organisations, local government authorities, co-operatives, educational institutions, public entities, private sector businesses and agencies across Victoria are invited to apply.

Applications opened from last week, for more information visit energy.vic.gov.au/grants/neighbourhood-batteries/100-neighbourhood-batteries-program-grants

Secure numberplate to avoid theft

WITH numberplate theft at record highs, Victoria Police is urging owners to fit anti-theft screws to their vehicles.

Across the state, numberplate thefts have surged by 50 per cent to the highest number recorded in the state, with 29,790 recorded over the last year, equivalent to 83 a day or one every 17 minutes.

Thefts of numberplates account for over a third of all items stolen from cars across the state, which continues to be the most common and fastest growing crime in Victoria.

Not only is it an inconvenience to car owners, numberplate theft is often at the centre of more serious offending.

Stolen numberplates are often used by offenders to hide the identity of a vehicle when committing other crimes such as burglaries, ram raids, petrol drive offs and to evade police. It is also believed stolen and cloned numberplates, along with stolen vehicles, have been used in incidents linked to several arsons at tobacco shops and associated businesses being investigated by the Lunar Taskforce.

The Crime Statistics Agency data indicates the top five areas for numberplate thefts over the year ending March 2025 are: Casey (2139 numberplate thefts), Hume (1966 numberplate thefts), Greater Dandenong (1581 numberplate thefts), Wyndham (1449 numberplate thefts) and Brimbank (1414 numberplate thefts).

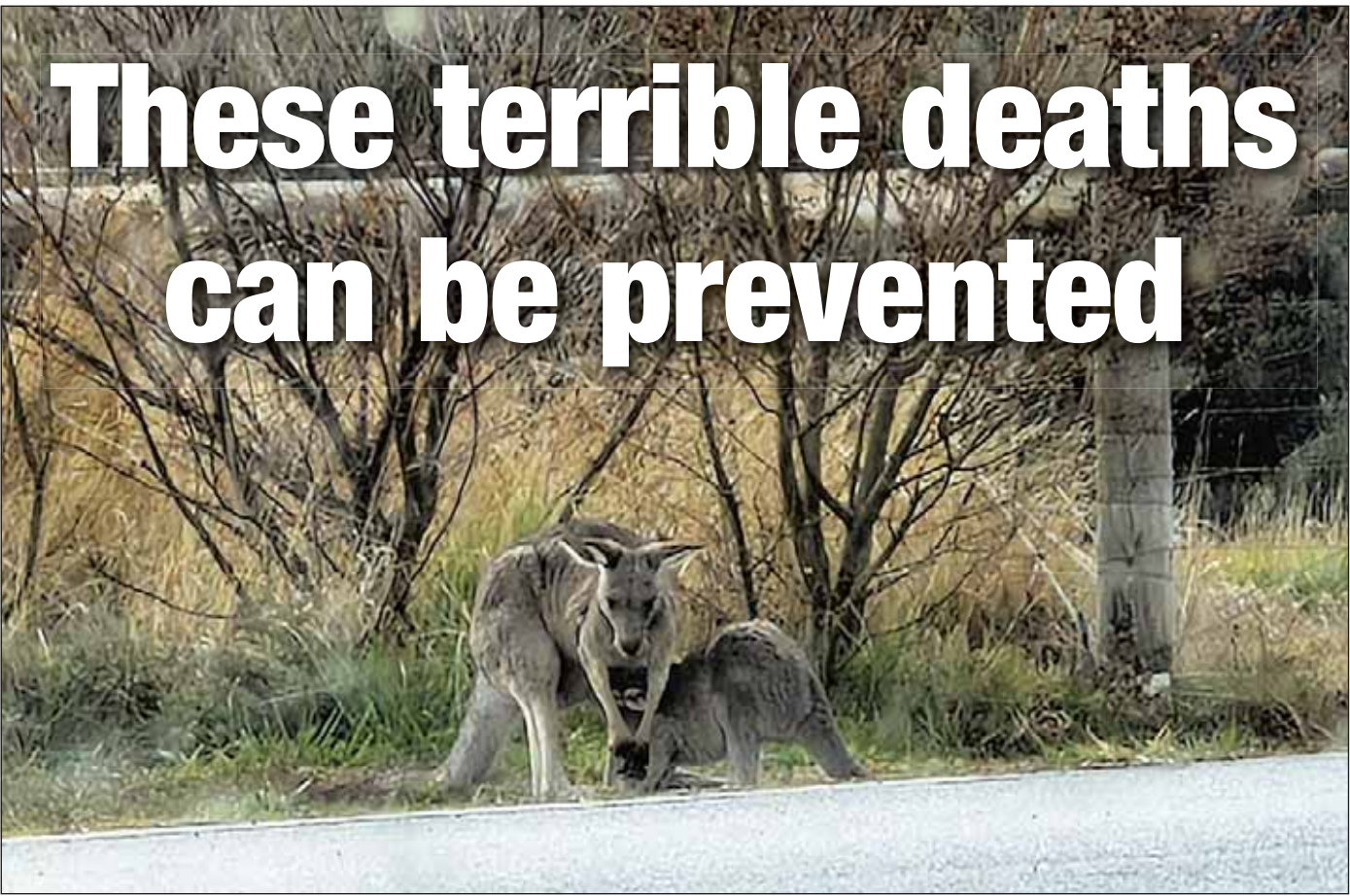
Police are regularly seizing stolen numberplates, particularly during operations utilising Automatic Numberplate Recognition Technology.

ANPR technology allows police to rapidly scan vehicles and immediately identify any cars bearing false or stolen numberplates.

There were 1414 thefts of numberplates over the last year, which has increased by 40 per cent.

Police are also urging the community to blur number plate details when advertising vehicles online, or when sharing photos on social media to avoid the likelihood of a vehicle’s numberplate being cloned.

Anyone who has been the victim of a number plate theft or suspected cloning activity is urged to contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.



PHALARIS staggers is a terrible condition impacting kangaroos on the western side of Murrindindi Shire, and in other parts of Victoria. Kangaroos with the condition appear drunk or staggering, losing their balance and collapsing, and it’s caused by the grass, Phalaris aquatica.

Kate Turner from Murrindindi Wildlife Rescue was contacted about the issue. She said, “I just euthanised another two in Flowerdale. I have honestly lost count of how many I’ve euthanised now, especially on the Broadford-Flowerdale Road, between Strath Creek and Flowerdale. There are some spots in Yea as well with it. There’s been a couple out there that have been euthanised.

“Alexandra doesn’t seem to have it as bad as everywhere else. They don’t really have that much phalaris aquatica growing I don’t think. I don’t get out that side that often. It doesn’t grow up Murrindindi, but Glenburn, Flowerdale and Strath Creek are covered in it, and Yea.”

Shelley from Narbeview Wildlife Shelter advised that the issue is increasing on the Alexandra side of the shire as well.

Kate said that it was worse this year than ever before, “Because we’ve had such a bad season, the plants are under more stress than usual. When Phalaris aquatica is under more stress, it produces more toxins to protect itself. The roos are much worse. In previous years I’ve been able to save some. This year I haven’t been able to save a single one. Even when I think that’s only mild, they don’t even last 24 or 48 hours.”

It’s not just Murrindindi Shire being impacted, with cases also reported around Mitchell Shire and most of Hume Shire as well.

She pleaded that farmers stop planting it and re-seeding it. She said, “It’s planted because it grows well in all conditions... It’s really, really hard to get rid of. It’s almost impossible. You have to use a mixture of herbicides, burning and changing the pH of the soil to get rid of it. If we could stop planting new lots, that would be great.”

She said that the grass has been recommended for around 30 to 50 years. “It was brought over a very long time ago because it’s fast growing and grows in all conditions. It was the first grass to grow this season. It’s the main one still growing because it doesn’t need much. It grows very large and they can cut it for hay and it’s good for cattle. It’s good for filler.”

Asked whether there was another similar grass which doesn’t have the same toxic impact, Kate responded, “Cocksfoot. It’s a great grass. It’s another introduced one, but it has zero negative impact on native wildlife. If anything, I prefer to pick that for the roos because it’s their favourite grass. But probably farmers wouldn’t like that.”



Phalaris aquatica. -S

She said that Phalaris aquatica can also affect cattle and sheep, but they can be given cobalt before they eat it. She said, “That stops them from developing the staggers. Cobalt doesn’t work so well on kangaroos. Plus, we have a bit of trouble getting them to eat it first. I have not seen it in wallabies or wombats, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t affect them. But I’ve not personally seen it.”

She said that it’s also impacting joeys. “Joeys in the pouch are often extremely thin or have malnutrition because mum’s not been able to supply enough and she’s also not able to toilet them and look after them in the pouch so they’re usually pretty grotty.

“Yesterday, there were ones I couldn’t get at a golf course, with eight kilogram joeys which were just as bad as their mothers. And I’m like, I need someone to come in here with the dart gun and we just have to go through and euthanise about 10 of these roos.”

She added that sometimes she is able to save the baby, “but other times not so much.”

Unfortunately, cobalt is of no help afterwards. In the past, they have been able to administer intensive fluid therapy with activated charcoal and syringe feeding, but it takes months for them to recover. Unfortunately, this is generally not viable due to space and time and the other cases building up. “I have to pick and choose which battle I can win,” she said. “This year is really hitting me with this with the phalaris because it’s something I previously had some success with and this year it’s like, no, I’m just euthanising everything and I hate this.”

Kate’s key message is, “Don’t plant it. If you see it, get rid of it, and report any roos that are acting drunk or are on their

own for a significant amount of the day. Let’s not have them suffering when they don’t need to.”

Phalaris staggers is a cruel disease and Phalaris grass should never be planted by farmers seeking to reduce the number of kangaroos on their property. There are far more humane methods.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) was contacted about whether they are recommending Phalaris aquatica to farmers. A spokesperson responded, “DEECA partners with Traditional Owners and government agencies to target invasive weeds including phalaris aquatica on public land across Victoria, using a range of techniques including herbicide spraying, slashing and ecological burning.”

When grown under certain conditions, the young growth of some phalaris grass species may become toxic to animals. Currently, there is no known treatment for this condition in wildlife.

Private landowners can explore a staged spraying of phalaris grasses that have a high risk of being toxic and replace this crop with alternative grasses. However, it is important to be aware that removing the grass could increase grazing pressures and put livestock at risk, and the use of a chemical spray could create a new toxicity risk.

Sightings of wildlife with signs of phalaris toxicity poisoning should be reported to your local vet, wildlife welfare organisation or the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186.

For further information about phalaris toxicity poisoning of kangaroos in Victoria, visit wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/kangaroos

SPORT



The Marysville ladies golfers enjoying the rare sunshine. -S

Third round of Par Shield done and dusted at Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday the men played the third round of the Par Shield. The daily winner was Mark Bambery (23) who finished even and Drew Kaempkes (14) was the runner up with -1. Those who qualified in this round for the Par Shield final were Richard Clark, Brett Mansfield and David Douthwaite. They will join Keith Atwell, Brian Worcester, Drew Kaempkes, Ross Ansell, Adam Littlejohn, Ray Jones, Mark Bambery and Paul Martin in the final. The final will be held on Saturday, November 22 not the 15th as scheduled. This change is because the first round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters is being played at Alexandra on November 15.

The ladies played a stableford and found high scoring challenging but Mim Page (24) played well to finish with 31 points. The runner up was Gail Leigh (11) with 29 points. The nearest the pins were won by Mark Bambery, Drew Kaempkes and Gail Leigh who won the golden

shot. During the presentation members welcomed back Ken Whittingham who is returning to golf after some medical care.

While there are few golfing events at the club at this time of year there is a lot of planning for spring and summer golf. A Junior Invitational event will be held on Saturday, September 13 and all young people under 18 who are interested in playing a game of golf will be invited to play alongside our friendly members.

Golf clinics will be held on Friday, September 26 with Travis Harrison a qualified PGA coach. More details will be given at a later date but organisers suggest that these two dates are put into diaries and calendars.

Another date for members to note is the working bee at the club on Wednesday, August 6. Many hands-on deck would be much appreciated.

Next Saturday both the men and the ladies will play a stroke round.



Jess Petreski. -S

New inclusion coach to support clubs, schools and community organisations

VALLEY Sport has welcomed Jess Petreski to the team in her new role as an Inclusion Coach, employed by Leisure Networks and delivered in partnership with Sport4All as part of the All-Abilities Workforce and Sector Support Program (AAWSSP), funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Based at the Valley Sport office in Shepparton, Jess will support clubs, schools, and community organisations across the Moira, Benalla, Mansfield, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Murrindindi, and Greater Shepparton Shires to improve access and participation for people with disability in sport and active recreation.

"Sport should be something everyone can enjoy, no matter their ability," Jess said. "I'm really looking forward to working with local communities to help break down barriers and create spaces where people with disability feel supported and empowered to get involved."

Trained in the Sport4All and Learning and Development Hub programs, Jess will help

deliver inclusive education and support local groups to identify opportunities, access resources, and develop inclusive practices.

Jess's role will involve building meaningful relationships with people and groups across disability, community sport and health sectors, supporting clubs and schools to create inclusive and welcoming environments, and promoting free training, tools, and resources through the Sport4All Learning and Development Hub, created by Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria (DSR).

Valley Sport Executive Officer Megan Carr said, "It's fantastic to have Jess join our team. Her knowledge, passion, and genuine commitment to inclusion will be a real asset across our region. We're excited to support clubs and communities in making lasting, positive changes toward greater accessibility in sport."

If your club or school would like to learn more or connect with Jess, please reach out. Together, we can make sport inclusive, welcoming, and accessible for all.

Alexandra Golfers hoping for blue skies around the corner

by Dave Silverman

THERE was actually some golf played this week, with Tuesday's competition attracting a field of nine for a Stableford round which was played in a cool breeze, and under cloudy skies.

Dan Burns continues his run of form, taking the win with 37 points, four clear of his closest rival, Greg Ebinger. Third place was taken by Leo Dynes with 31 points, and Greg picked up the only nearest the pin to go off, which was eighteen.

Rundown vouchers went to Dave Silverman and Steve Darmody.

Wednesday was also a Stableford round, and seven ladies played in changeable conditions. It was Bron Howell who emerged from the pack to get the win, her score of 29 points three clear of her pursuers. Both Marie Stace and Deb Richardson scored 26 and came in second and third respectively.

The three nearest the pins were all claimed by our placegetters, with Deb on two, Bron on seven and Marie on eighteen. Marg Fahey was the nine hole winner.

Last Saturday's forecast sounded sort of okay, and eleven players registered to play in the four ball best ball event, sponsored by Burnsie's Pizza. Sadly, the wind which whipped up about starting time was very cold, and strong enough to make us all rethink our choice of club with many shots.

As it turned out, two of the six teams had to be separated by a countback, which these days takes place deep in the bowels of a computer somewhere. Brad Kidd and Jared Sloane were declared the winners, and Bruce Flanders and John Norfolk had to be content with the second spot. Both teams scored 40 points.

Only three of the five nearest the pins went off, with Burnsie on five, Simon Rouget on seven and Jarrod Williamson on eighteen.

Eildon Golf Club welcomes new member

by Puttomatic

LAST Saturday was a Stableford competition and 14 players competed in the weather that was cool but no rain interrupted the days play. The club welcomed one new member Shane Barrand for his first game at the club, it's great to see a new face at our club.

Michael McLear took on all comers to finish the day with 36 points one clear of Rod Taylor on 35. Our ball rundown winners were Sandi McLear with great score of 32 points and John Matthews also on 32 points and Marian Williamson with 31 points. Good to see John back at club after his overseas holiday.

Our nearest the pins this week, Leigh Munro had a great shot to win

the second shot on the third par four, there were no winner on the fifth and 11th par three's. Colin long was the best on the 12th and Sandi McLear was the closest on the 14th. Michael McLear won drinks for his group on the par four-eighth and new player Shane Barrand did the right thing by his group getting and birdie on the 15th, with a very impressive chip in off the green. Other winners this week, Ian Lakeland won the entry draw; Rod Taylor was successful with the swindle.

Next Saturday, July 26 will be the July monthly medal stroke round, hope to see you there medal rounds are always a great day.

Until then, take care and happy hitting.

SPORT



Under 16 player Toby Lucas. -S

Junior Footballers Shine on the Road

by AFNC

IT was a big weekend on the road for junior footballers, with both the Under 14's and Under 16's teams travelling to take on tough opposition.

The Under 14s faced off against Euroa and delivered a dominant performance, showcasing great skill and teamwork throughout the match.

Meanwhile, the Under 16s made the long trip to Moama with just 16 players, including Josh Northmore stepping up from the Under 14's. Despite the challenge, the boys dug deep and played a fantastic team game to defeat the Moama Magpies on their home ground.

A brilliant effort from both teams, proving once again the depth of talent and determination in the junior ranks.

Under 14 Football
Euroa 4.6-30 was defeated
by Alexandra 9.9-63


Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge: Mia Heard;
Reddrops FoodWorks: Jaidyn Dimech;
Alexandra Bakery & Café: Eli Van Lierop;
Coaches Award: Max Kaiser

Under 16 Football
Moama 4.5-29 was defeated
by Alexandra 7.1-43

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge: Toby Lucas;
Reddrops FoodWorks: Matt Wal; Alexandra
Bakery & Café: Lucas Crane; Coaches Award:
Josh Northmore



Under 16 player Matt Wal. -S



ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION
COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 12

POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Buxton Hotel	12	11	1	44
2	Panthers	12	10	2	40
3	Kill Bills	12	10	2	40
4	Arrowsmiths	12	8	4	32
5	Alex Bowls Club	12	6	6	24
6	Bucky Pub	12	6	6	24
7	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	12	3	9	12
8	On Point 26ers	12	3	9	12
9	On Pointers	12	3	9	12
10	Dart Vaders	12	0	12	0

RESULTS
KILLBILLS def ONPOINTERS 11-0
BUXTON HOTEL def ALEX BOWLS CLUB 9-2
ARROWSMITHS def BULLS, BEERS & BOOBS 10-1
BUCKY PUB def ON POINT 26ERS 9-2
PANTHERS def DARTVADERS 8-3

TONS
E. Collett – 114, J. Masters – 100, 100, B. Arnott – 140, 100, 100, W. Nelson – 100, 100, 100, P. Dalley – 100, 100, 100
G. Lund – 101, 121, 121, C. Sherman – 138, R. Sproles – 122, G. Gilmore – 100, 100, 100, 113, C. Hutchings – 140
A. Hutt – 101, 100, 121, 160, D. Nicklos – 133, 114, 108, G. Elder – 100, 100, S. White – 121, 140, 100, 100, A. Bull – 112, 117,
A. Wylde – 100, R. Bates – 100, 116, 100, W. Elliott – 100, Z. Kilroy – 100, 180, 100, 100, 100, 140, 140
S. Kilroy – 121, 140, 123, 100, 100, 140, R. Welsh – 100, 100, 120, 100, 100, J. Billman – 140, M. Backstrom – 104,
M. Robinson – 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 140, 100, 140, M. Jenkins – 121, 100, 140, 100, B. Jenkins – 104,
J. Weatherald – 132, M. Edwards – 100, 100, 100, 100, J. Farnan – 100, L. Ronalds – 100, 100, S. Ritchie – 100, 100, 100, 100, 100,
134, 100, L. Turnbull – 100, R. Penny – 121, R. McCullum – 138

HIGHEST PEG – Greg Gilmore 113
180'S – Zane Kilroy



Under 16 Tom Clark giving the ball a swift quick. -S

SPORT



Seniors Ed Aujard and Tom Boots making it happen. -S



Seniors player Charlie Boots. -S

Epic games for AFNC senior football



Reserves player Nathan Dundas. -S

Senior Netball awards and results

by Alexandra Football Netball Club

A Grade: Alexandra 37 defeated by Yarra Glen 56

Incentive Award: Claire Jungfer, Corner Hotel Award: Sarah Skehan

B Grade: Alexandra 22 defeated by Yarra Glen 59

Incentive Award: Ash Frankcombe, Corner Hotel Award: Beth Cairns

C Grade: Alexandra 31 defeated by Yarra Glen 39

Alexandra Hotel Award: Himali Collins, Corner Hotel Award: Ash Creighton

D Grade: Alexandra 16 defeated Yarra Glen 23

Alexandra Hotel Award: Lizzie Butcher, Corner Hotel Award: Kate Broadway

Under 17s: Alexandra 18 defeated by Pakenham Maroon 20

Koala Cherries Award: Ava Krijt, AFNC Club Voucher: Brenna Frost

This coming Saturday promises to be a huge day at the club s the club hosts Warburton/Millgrove on home turf. But the action won't just be on the field and court, at half-time of the Seniors match, get ready for a chilly spectacle with Scott Ferrier and his team of brave MND Dunkers taking the plunge.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	472.08	12	Warburton Millgrove	214.61	11
Pakenham	351.21	11	Seville	201.39	12
Warburton Millgrove	183.65	8	Pakenham	238.22	10
Alexandra	132.04	8	Yarra Glen	128.91	9
Belgrave	181.31	7	Yarra Junction	90.73	6
Yea	107.45	5	Alexandra	72.23	4
Powelltown	30.68	3	Belgrave	60.61	3
Yarra Glen	23.60	1	Powelltown	32.91	1
Yarra Junction	16.90	1	Yea	54.47	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	246.58	10	Seville	311.46	13
Pakenham	212.65	10	Pakenham	269.23	11
Seville	182.54	10	Warburton Millgrove	153.40	9
Alexandra	123.70	7	Yarra Glen	116.40	9
Belgrave	99.83	7	Yarra Junction	66.98	5
Yarra Glen	94.51	6	Belgrave	78.22	5
Yea	94.29	3	Yea	62.78	2
Powelltown	41.83	2	Alexandra	49.06	2
Yarra Junction	25.04	0	Powelltown	40.18	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	12	Seville	291.95	13
Wandin	75.00	9	Pakenham	227.11	11
Emerald	57.69	7	Warburton Millgrove	181.69	9
Yea	50.00	6	Yarra Glen	96.13	7
Thornton Eildon	40.90	4	Yarra Junction	80.73	5
Officer	16.66	2	Alexandra	78.60	4
Seville	8.33	1	Belgrave	72.42	5
			Yea	46.44	1
			Powelltown	31.66	0
Netball – 17 and under			Netball – D Grade		
Seville	454.33	12	Seville	351.28	12
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.56	10	Pakenham	307.24	11
Warburton Millgrove	75.68	5	Warburton Millgrove	204.55	10
Pakenham Lions Maroon	52.27	3	Yarra Glen	82.80	5
Alexandra	45.43	3	Alexandra	69.14	5
Powelltown	46.21	2	Yea	55.56	4
			Belgrave	61.99	4
			Yarra Junction	53.73	2
			Powelltown	28.88	0
Football – Under 18					
Pakenham	1057.75	12			
Seville	330.43	9			
Warburton Millgrove	41.57	5			
Alexandra	38.54	4			
Yarra Glen	42.29	3			
Yea	35.57	2			

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Under 18s chair off and celebrate teammate Naz after he kicked his first goal for the club. -S

Epic games for AFNC senior football

by Wayne Miller

THE Rebels travelled to Yarra Glen with both sides recording big wins in difficult conditions to continue their March to the finals.

RESERVES Yarra Glen 1.1-7 defeated by Alexandra 14.16-100

The Rebels continue to improve each week recording a 93 point win over their

opponents keeping them scoreless in three quarters in extreme condition given the strong northerly wind.

In a great team effort, the performance of Conor Heaslip in the centre with 40 possessions and four goals and Brandon Kapakoulakis 30 possessions five goals and a number of assisted goals deserved special mention.

Other notable performances were Scott Heveren, Michael Whitbourn, and Brendan Musgrove in defence and Michael Coombs (three goals) and Harry Correa in attack.

The continued improvement of the team will be tested against Warburton/Milgrove with both teams fighting for third position.

Awards: NP on the Run: Conor Heaslip; Future Fit Finance: Scott Heveren; Alexandra Hotel: Brandon Kapakoulakis, Buxton Hotel: Harry Correa

SENIORS Yarra Glen 6-4-40 defeated by Alexandra 13.9-87

Sitting two points clear of their opponents and having suffered a narrow loss to Yarra Glen at Rebel Park a win was essential to further cement their finals campaign.

At the start of the match the wind had become even stronger with both teams hoping to win the toss and kick with the aid of the wind.

Yarra Glen won the toss which experts believed was a five to six goal advantage.

In the ensuing 30 minutes the Rebels played one of their most impressive quarters of the season with the defence led brilliantly by Nick Meehan and Nathan Georgiadis restricting Yarra Glen to one goal by keeping the ball low and using handball to great effect topped off by two goals to Luke Spence not only winning the quarter, but you could argue the match.

Ed Aujard rucked tirelessly all day backed up by his mobility around the ground topped off by two goals was an outstanding individual performance.

On ballers Mitch Parker, Harry Prendergast, Sam and Charlie Boots gave great drive to our dangerous forwards Wil Stewart (four goals) Luke Spence (three goals) and Ted Watkins (two goals)

The entire team is to be congratulated for their smart football in trying conditions restricting Yarra Glen to four goals in two quarters kicking with the wind.

Credit must also go to the coach for his game plan to counter the conditions.

We cannot rest on our laurels as we now face the top of the ladder Warburton/Milgrove at Rebel Park this Saturday, this should be a test to continue their recent excellent form a game that deserves your attendance to support your team.

Awards: Kerval Incentive: Mitch Parker; O'Briens Real Estate: Nick Meehan; Alexandra Hotel: Charlie Boots, Buxton Hotel: Nathan Georgiadis.

Under 18

Yarra Glen 1-4-10 defeated by Alexandra 2.7-19
Awards: Bowens Incentive: Matt Wal, GWS Award: Harry Morley, AFNC Club Voucher: Max Young, Coaches Award: Naz Edmund

Thornton Eildon

SALSA NIGHT

Saturday 26th July | 6.00pm
Thornton Community Hall
\$15 entry includes free drink
Family friendly event
Nibbles provided
Dress code: Fiesta