

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, October 15, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

What's happening at U3A



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Black Saturday revisited



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Wedding of the Year



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A wonderful donation to food share program



Robyn Hill from Foundation Murrindindi, Michael Clark from Unilever and Ros Bowd from Alexandra Motorcycles. -AR

ROS Bowd from Alexandra Motorcycles was the proud winner of a shopping spree at Alexandra FoodWorks, but instead of making the most of it herself, she decided to donate the trolley of goods to the community.

Robyn Hill, CEO of Foundation Murrindindi which runs the Food Share program said, "We're absolutely thrilled with the generosity of community member Ros Bowd to offer this whole trolley dash to Foundation Murrindindi's program, Murrindindi Community Food Share. It means it will go straight to the people who need it most and we really applaud Ros's generosity in donating all of these beautiful products to us."

Foundation Murrindindi were also able to provide input to Ros about what was needed.

Robyn added, "Huge kudos to Ros for doing the research, coming down in her runners, running around with the trolley, filling it up and making an incredible donation that will really make a big difference."

Ros explained that she saw the competition advertised and thought it would be a wonderful way to give back to the Food Bank. "I'm pretty lucky," she said. "Sometimes I win things. That was the only reason I entered. I couldn't believe it. It was just meant to be."

She said that Foundation Murrindindi staff members coming along to help made it even more special.

Michael Clark, sales representative for Unilever also helped out with the trolley run, tapping away on his calculator to make the whole experience easier.

He said, "I'm just happy that it's going to a good place."

He also donated an additional box of food on behalf of FoodWorks towards the cause after the trolley had been filled.

Ros's donation will make a huge difference to so many people. She thanked Unilever and FoodWorks who have always been so good to the community.

Forest Fire Management vehicles taken offline

FOREST Fire Management is facing some significant challenges in the lead-up to the fire season, with 290 G-Wagons (the entire G-Wagon fleet) and 59 Unimogs taken offline to correct an issue with their chassis and subframe faults.

The Herald Sun reported that the authorities have been working to put back-up plans in place. The contingency fleet includes Landcruisers, fire tankers and bulldozers. It's understood that the CFA and SES have also provided vehicles.

The vehicles were rolled out from 2017 and it's understood that the issue was identified on Friday, October 3.

The Victorian Opposition expressed concerns about safety, given that the state is just weeks from the start of fire season.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien, said it was extraordinary that the same government which boasted about the vehicles' cutting-edge design has now sidelined the entire fleet.

"Labor promised Victorians a state-of-the-art firefighting fleet. Eight years later. Labor has delivered a world-class failure," Mr O'Brien said.

"When the Premier warns of a dangerous fire season, Victorians deserve answers on how this failure was allowed to happen and what steps will be taken to ensure community safety.

"Victorians are paying an additional \$3 billion through Labor's new emergency services tax, yet the CFA is relying on ageing vehicles and is now being asked to cover for FFMV, an organisation now being funded by these additional taxes," he said.

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, said that the Victorian Government is leaving regional Victoria dangerously exposed ahead of a high-risk fire season.

"Grounding Victoria's frontline fleet weeks before fire season is an unacceptable failure, given nearly 40 per cent of the state is public land.

"Labor's flawed bushfire policy 'Safer Together' has delivered just 1.6 per cent of land treated for fuel reduction annually since 2015 and the government routinely fails to meet its own fuel-driven risk targets.

"Victorians are paying more but getting less protection. Labor's failure to manage bushfire preparedness is putting lives at risk," Ms Bath said.

"At a time when we need every piece of equipment and personnel working to reduce risk, it is our CFA volunteers who are asked to carry the load with ageing equipment and limited resources."

A Victorian Government spokesperson said, "The safety of our firefighters is paramount, that's why regular safety inspections of vehicles and equipment are so important.

"FFMVic has brought online additional vehicles to continue undertaking critical bushfire season preparations and respond to bushfire emergencies.

"These repairs are being fast tracked over the next two months and FFMVic is working on agreements to secure additional emergency response vehicles from other states if required."

Ross Kenna, president of the AWU Victoria Branch said, "The Australian Workers Union covers all the field stuff for the guys who actually go into the field to do the prep work and fight fires as they come through, so I see our members who spend the majority of the time in the Unimog and in the G-Wagon fleet.

"Without going right back through history, when the government first purchased the G-Wagon fleet, the AWU formally wrote to the department suggesting that they weren't fit for purpose and we had some concerns about safety. The department did allay those concerns... but since then the G-Wagon has been a problem for our members. We've had lots of reliability issues across the service of the vehicle, and it's led now to a critical situation where we've got a bunch of cracks in the chassis of the fleet.

He was keen to make it clear that the workforce is willing and able, and that they'll make do. They'll work in whatever vehicles they're provided to make sure Victoria's safe.

He added, "I think it's been a bit of a misnomer in the media coverage since it went live, that some of our CFA volunteers

would be asked to do work that our members do. That's incorrect."

He said that the work of FFM is "really, really highly skilled and really demanding and our workforce will continue to complete the job. They're focused on making sure every Victorian property and every Victorian is safe from the effect of fire. They don't get paid enough money, they do it because they love the job, so they will continue to do that and if there is a vehicle bought in from interstate or from the CFA, we welcome that to make sure we can get them to the front. But our members will continue doing the work. So as long as the vehicles they're getting us are safe, we'll be happy for our workforce to continue to protect Victoria."

He added, "Our main concern will be making sure that our members are safe and that Victoria is safe... Some of the senior decision-makers within the department probably need to have a look in the mirror.

He said, "AWU is very proud of the membership and our health and safety representatives who brought this situation to the fore. They're the ones who really pushed on this and did the work necessary to make sure it became an issue. I know it's really inconvenient timing. It's terrible timing with the season about to be upon us, but the health and safety of every worker is their primary concern and they've done a great job in making sure that our workforce doesn't go in vehicles that could break down and could have catastrophic failure on a fire front."

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

Alexandra and District
Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

AFTER having no meeting last week and members enjoying Friday lunch at the Yark Hotel followed by a visit to an orchard to appreciate the new blossoms, things got back to normal this week with a productive committee meeting on Friday morning. The main discussion was how to reduce the club expenditure.

With gradually decreasing membership and increasing costs, the bank balance is decreasing. This seems to be happening to many clubs in the area and while the club try to entice new members, the area is lucky to have so many activities to join.

In the afternoon, there was a business meeting and members were advised of the committee deliberations before heading into the tea room for refreshments. The members raised their voices to sing a belated *Happy Birthday* to the one remaining life member, Roma Lund, who celebrated her 100th birthday last week in Darlingford Nursing Home.

The bridge players continue to enjoy a few hands on Wednesday afternoons. Please come along and join the activities. You will be most welcome. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Questions over NAB ATM

A CONCERNED resident advised that the National Australia Bank ATM, located outside the Alexandra Post Office, has been out of action at various times over recent weeks, either broken or out of cash.

When contacted about the issue, the NAB media representative said that the machine was down for about 15 minutes on Wednesday morning, October 8.

Has your experience of the machine been different to what is claimed? Let us know by emailing editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Weekly Weather

October 15 - October 21, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	24
Thursday	12	27
Friday	5	18
Saturday	10	20
Sunday	16	24
Monday	9	20
Tuesday	8	18

Standard

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	25
Thursday	12	28
Friday	6	19
Saturday	10	21
Sunday	15	25
Monday	9	21
Tuesday	8	18

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	0.70	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.60	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.64	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yark	10.48AM Mon	0.18	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.55AM Mon	0.47	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	10.00AM Mon	0.30	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.54	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.77	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.43	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.46	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.29	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	1.74	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	1.14	steady	

*ISSUED AT 11:10 AM AEDT MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2025

Letters to the Editor

engagement and provides meaningful social value and economic benefits.

VicGrid is currently calling for submissions, closing date November 5, to provide feedback on its *Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects*. This is part of a broader consultation process for community and industry into VicGrid's Victorian Access Regime.

We encourage as many people as possible to make a submission. SRRCG is currently preparing a submission to VicGrid and an important piece of evidence we wish to include is data on the impacted community's perceptions of FERA's community engagement to date.

To this end, we would be grateful if you could complete the survey found at surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityEngagementFERA

Closing date for this survey is Friday, October 24. The survey will only take about four minutes of your time and can be done on any device. The short timeline is necessary to ensure that we can use the data from this survey for our submission to VicGrid.

Darryl Otzen, secretary,
Strathbogies Responsible Renewables
Community Group

Correction

In last week's edition, there was an article titled 'Coffee connection for the faithful'. For clarity, all are welcome to attend the event.

Police unhappy with donuts

A 20 YEAR old man's car has been impounded after he was caught allegedly doing burnouts while over the alcohol limit in Eildon on the evening of Friday, October 10.

Eildon police came across a Ford XR6 doing donuts in the local swimming pool car park at about 5pm.

They quickly intercepted the vehicle, performing a breath-test on the Cranbourne driver who returned an alleged reading of 0.084.

He is expected to be charged on summons with drink driving, improper use of a motor vehicle, use unregistered motor vehicle and making unnecessary noise and smoke.

Officers also impounded the man's car, which will cost him \$1775 to have released in 30 days time.

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	3mm
Buxton	12mm
Eildon (AWS)	3mm
Flowerdale	4mm
Jamieson	6mm
Kinglake	6mm
Lake Eildon	0.4mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	6mm
Yark	5mm
Yea	2mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	275.83m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	66.1%
Metres below full supply	13.07m
Daily inflow	2500ML
Release	3100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	70%

THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE
Standard

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

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

More police in the community

TENS of thousands of police hours will be diverted to the frontline each year under a comprehensive package of reforms unveiled by Chief Commissioner Mike Bush.

A proposed restructure of the organisation is at the core of the plans that will free up police from administrative burden and give them more time on the streets where they can stop offending before it happens.

The proposals represent the most significant structural changes in years and lay the foundations for a transformation in how Victoria Police operates, with a total focus on reducing crime and improving the safety of all Victorians.

At the heart of the proposed new structure is a slimmed-down executive team, the backbone of Victoria Police, that will enable a reinvestment in the frontline.

There is a reduction in the number of centralised Commands and Departments and an elevated focus on crime prevention and partnerships.

These proposed changes are a first step only. A second phase of the review will commence early next year, and will propose further, deep and tangible changes to the ways in which Victoria Police operates.

The restructure of Victoria Police is a centrepiece in a broader program of works unveiled by Chief Commissioner Bush. The Victoria Police Uplift Program will drive changes to how Victoria Police operates. It will focus on five critical themes: Leadership, Bureaucracy, Technology, Organisational

Design, and Recruitment, Retention and Return.

Led by some of Victoria Police's most experienced senior officers, each of these programs will deliver critical reforms that will 'build the backroom', unshackling members from administrative burden and giving them the support they need.

Among the many initiatives they will be working on are:

A new State Crime Coordination Centre. Within the first half of next year this will be launched. It will be a high-tech hub, that will bring together information, intelligence, and operational capability under one roof. Using advanced data and technology, the centre will identify links between crimes, uncover patterns, and provide real time insights to frontline police. From the centre, resources will be deployed in real time, 24/7, to respond to incidents, disrupt criminal networks and prevent crime before it occurs. A trial that will release sworn officers from police station reception counter duties and see them replaced by alternate staff. This will launch in the next three to six months and if the trial is a success, they will waste no time in implementing the initiative statewide. A new initiative which will see dedicated teams of admin staff, including former police officers, established within police stations

to free members up from their paperwork after making an arrest. Currently police are spending too much time in the office tied up in paperwork when they should be back on the streets. Again, if these Investigation Support Units are a success, then they will roll them out across the state as quickly as possible.

Chief Commissioner Mike Bush said, "We have a crime problem here in Victoria. There is no escaping this fact. The levels of offending we are seeing in our community are entirely unacceptable.

"Good people, innocent people going about their everyday lives, are being victimised, on the streets and in their own homes. This cannot continue.

"Getting ahead of this crime problem requires consequences for those offenders who drive fear in our communities combined with ongoing swift arrests and proactive operations.

"But it will also require a fundamental shift in how Victoria Police operates. We need to change how we police, so that we can get ahead of the criminals and stop the offending before it happens.

"Prevention and deterrence, these are the hallmarks of our strategy moving forwards as we seek to drive our crime rate down.

"Victoria Police is an exceptional organisation. We have almost 22,000 police, PSOs and VPS staff who turn up every day to keep the Victorian public safe. But it is clear to me that we have not been giving our frontline members the support they need.

"While specialist services within Victoria Police have benefitted from considerable investment, and necessarily so, our general duties officers, the backbone of our organisation, have not received the same levels of focus or investment.

"They are loaded past their capacity, burdened by bureaucracy and systems that don't talk to each other. Our structures do not support them as effectively as is needed and nor do our back-of-house functions, technology or processes.

"If we are to prevent crime, then it starts with properly resourcing and enabling our frontline police officers.

"Right now, police spend more than 4000 hours per day, or 1.4 million hours per year, staffing reception counters in police stations. This is poor use of their invaluable skills and it's not what they want to be doing.

"We must get more police, your police, out of their stations and onto the streets where they can respond to and deter crimes.

"What is important to me, is that our members on the frontline know that help is coming, and it is coming soon.

"The structural changes we are making, and the new initiatives I have detailed, are a significant departure from how Victoria Police has gone about its business in recent years.

"We are doing this because it is clear that we can't keep doing things the same way and expecting different results.

"These changes will put us in the best possible position to achieve our goals, reducing crime, building trust and confidence, and making sure everyone is safe and feels safe."

Council adopts annual financial and performance statements at special meeting

A SPECIAL meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council took place last Wednesday, October 8, to adopt the Financial and Performance Statement for 2024-25.

Cr Adams and Cr McAulay were both apologies for the meeting.

Council's draft annual Financial and Performance Statement for 2024-25 was brought before council, after being reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee in September.

The statement reported that council recorded an \$8 million operating surplus, some \$5.7 million more than the original adopted budget. This was due to unforeseen revenue, notably a \$3.3 million grant from the Federal Government for the 2025-26 Financial Assistance Grants; \$2.5 million in flood recovery funding, and an accounting adjustment of \$1.9 million for reduced future landfill rehabilitation costs.

By removing capital income, the underlying picture shows that this is a \$1.8 million improvement compared to budget, but it still reflects a deficit of \$1.5 million. However, when the two one-off revenue items are removed, the grants, the adjusted underlying result is a deficit of \$6.6 million.

This shows that council's current working capital remains strong, but continuing annual underlying deficits are reducing council's financial position and sustainability over the medium term.

The resolutions that were brought before council at this special meeting included: that council approve, in principle, the Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the Performance Statement 2024-25; authorise the principal accounting officer to make minor amendments required to the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended June 30, 2025, to meet the requirements of the Victorian Auditor General's Office; and authorise Cr Gallagher, Cr Hildebrand and council's CEO, Livia Bonazzi, to certify the final versions of the 2024-25 Financial and Performance Statements, following any changes recommended or agreed to, by the Auditor General in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council voted to adopt the Financial and Performance Statements for 2024-25, along with the resolutions brought before them at the special meeting.

Marysville Beauty Spot update

MARYSVILLE'S prominent Beauty Spot nature walk has been closed for repairs in recent months, and many have been asking when it will re-open.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has advised that they are planning to re-open the walk prior to the November Melbourne Cup holiday.

The upgrade includes the replacement two of the original timber bridges with metal structures. The bridge works are now complete, while minor works to the existing boardwalk and trail surface will be undertaken in the next couple of weeks.

The remaining improvements to the long walk loop boardwalk will be undertaken between December and January.

Murrindindi community invited to count the birds in our backyard

MURRINDINDI Shire Council hosted a Birds in the Backyard webinar with shared viewing events in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea on Tuesday, October 7.

Presented by wildlife expert Dr Gráinne Cleary, the webinar, *What Are Birds Telling Us?*, explored how bird behaviour reflects the health of our environment, and what

their songs, movements and silences can tell us about changes in local ecosystems.

Almost 30 participants joined the live broadcast online or gathered at council's viewing venues at the Alexandra Council Chambers, Kinglake Library and Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, to take part in the interactive presentation and Q&A

session followed with a light supper enjoyed by those who attended in person.

Council is also supporting the annual Aussie Bird Count, a national citizen science project running from October 20 to 26, which encourages people to observe and record the birds in their local area.

There will be local events happening across the shire where you can get involved. The information collected helps BirdLife Australia better understand how bird populations are tracking across the country. To find out more or to register, visit aussiebirdcount.org.au

Murrindindi Shire Council Sustainability and Assets portfolio councillor Sue Carpenter said the webinar was a great way to inspire people to connect with nature and take practical steps to support local wildlife.

"Birds are vital messengers of environmental change, and events like this help us understand and protect the ecosystems we share. I encourage everyone to take part in the Aussie Bird Count, it's a simple, fun way to contribute to conservation science right from your backyard," she said.

For more information about upcoming events including the Aussie Bird Count in October, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events



Attendees at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre event. -S

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Church Services

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

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

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0408 123 581
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**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
37 Grant Street , Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

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

Out&About

THE items in Out and About are sourced from our 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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

The Trawool Estate would like you to join them under the stars for an outdoor orchestral candlelight concert 7.30-9.30pm \$150pp. For bookings phone 5792 1444 or scan the QR code in this week's edition.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Yarck Market is on again from 9am. Plants, soap, preserves and more.

Embassy of Ideas is hosting a whole town garage sale.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Clearing sale, Station Street, Alexandra from 10am. Farm machinery, farm sundries, Conner Shae parts, general tools and hardware and

more. Approximately 500 lots. For more details phone Embling Rural 5772 3110 or visit emblingrural.com.au

Alexandra RSL general meeting will be held at noon, followed by a light lunch.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc AGM will be held at 5.30pm at The Mount, 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Redgate Alexandra CWA AGM will be held at 10am at the club rooms, Perkin Street, Alexandra. More information 0412 435 946.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Fawcett Hall Open garden weekend. Saturday and Sunday. Plants, bargains, food and coffee. Trash 'n Treasure, raffles and more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

TEDFNC AGM will be held at 11am at the Thornton Sports Club. Everyone welcome. Nominations will be called from the floor; all positions will be filled. For enquiries phone 0422 787 132.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Free business networking brunch in Yea. Join local businesses and entrepreneurs from around the shire from 10.30am-12.30pm at Country Club Yea. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessnetworking

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Yea Football Netball Club AGM will be held from 6pm in the main clubrooms, Yea Recreation Reserve.

Kellock residents enjoying the change of season



Kellock Lodge embraced the footy spirit. Staff dressed in their footy colours in the lead up to the Grand Final. Pictured are Megan, Tina, Hannah, Allie, Sophie, Debbie and Pat. -S



Kellock residents enjoy their beautiful magnolia. The magnolia was a gift from Alan and Joy Welch and family in 1984. -S



At Kellock Lodge, spring has sprung. Residents were recently out planting pansies and seeds in the new raised garden bed made by Alexandra Stainless. Pictured are residents Eileen, Liz, Margaret and Graham with Viv and Noeline from the Lifestyle team. -S

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They made it to the top of Mt Pleasant. -S

What's Happening at Murrindindi East U3A

A LOT has been going on at Murrindindi East U3A. Greta has been the Head Cook at the "Old Fashioned Cooking" classes since 2016 and last Thursday she hung up her apron for the last time as class tutor. The final class enjoyed preparing and then eating zucchini fritters, porcupines and salad, followed by lemon curd muffins and baked pears served with a dollop of lemon curd.

Next year Greta is looking forward to joining the rest of the class participants who will be looking for inspiration from our new tutor, Judy, who will be transporting our tastebuds with dishes from far away.

On Thursday afternoon Andrea ran a women's health seminar from the warm comfort of the Alexandra Library, followed by a delicious cuppa and cake.

Andrea started with a short anatomy reminder, followed by some guidelines about hormones and healthy living. Andrea made us feel good about ourselves even if some of our bits weren't quite working like they used to.

Last Friday saw a small group of walkers set off to see the wildflowers in McKenzie Flora reserve and to take in the magnificent view at the top of Mount Pleasant.



Wildflower photography. -S



Head chef Greta. -S



Kath and Greta. -S

RDA appoints new deputy chairs and members

REGIONAL Development Australia (RDA) is continuing to support regional Victoria to thrive with 58 new and reappointed committee members and deputy chairs announced.

The new appointments will help Victoria's six RDA committees grow strong and confident regions, driving economic success that links government, businesses and communities together.

Committee members were selected for their business expertise and understanding of their respective regions, bringing experience from local government, private businesses, local communities and not-for-profit sectors.

New deputy chairs were selected for their knowledge, expertise and leadership and will join the RDA Chairs to deliver positive change across the state.

Each RDA committee will deliver a 2025-2026 Business Plan to help diversify and grow its regional economy. The plans are tailored to each region, including collaboration to support industries such as agribusiness and tourism.

The new committees will build on previous RDA successes, including supporting regional communities to transition to renewable energy, grow skilled workforces and advocate for improved digital connectivity in regional Victoria.

The RDA program is an Australian Government Initiative, with over 50 committees throughout the country aimed at supporting regional growth and prosperity by identifying opportunities across industries, businesses, communities and government.

Victorian RDA committees are a partnership between the Australian and Victorian governments, supported by Regional Development Victoria. The committees operate in the Barwon South West, Gippsland, Grampians, Hume and Loddon Mallee regions and Melbourne.

Each Victorian RDA committee is involved in developing submissions, providing strategic advice to government and supporting regional investment attraction.

To find out more, visit: rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-development-australia

RDA Hume committee

Chair: Brett Luxford; deputy chair: Linda Nieuwenhuizen.

Members: Mike Dalmau; Claire Ewart-Kennedy; Grant Jones; Robert Tanti; Geraldine Christou; Katie Bowker; Samar Patel; Werner Vogels; Katherine (Kate) Coffey.

Big open gardens weekend for Fawcett Hall

FAWCETT Hall will once again open its gates for the much-loved open gardens weekend on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26, from 9am to 4pm each day.

Visitors are invited to drop in between garden visits and enjoy a warm country welcome at the hall. The weekend will feature a car boot sale, plants for sale, trash and treasure, and plenty of home-baked treats, including that famous Marg's sponge, along with Jan's jams and sauces.

The Perry team will be on the barbecue, serving alongside locally roasted coffee

brewed via 'Pearl' and hearty jacket potatoes prepared by the Stoney Creek girls. Children will love the Koriella CFA demonstrations and hoses from 10am on Saturday.

It's a great opportunity to pick up something unique, meet the locals, and support Fawcett Hall.

Located at Fawcett Hall, 655 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett, entry is through a gold coin donation. For stall bookings, visit issimomarkets.com/bookings/113866

For more information visit fawcethall.org.au or follow Fawcett Hall on Facebook.

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND AT

Fawcett Hall

SAT 25 & SUN 26 OCTOBER

Plants & bargains - Food & coffee
Trash n treasure & 5 raffles!

Marg's Passionate fruit Sponge & Jan's Jams
Kids' Koriella CFA fun - join in at 10am Saturday
and..Car boot sale and stalls (book now)

655 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett 3714 - from 9am both days..

DROP BY IN BETWEEN GARDENS

fawcethall.org.au * Last weekend for name pavers

Proudly supporting Student of the week

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ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hunter Piergrosse

Hunter has started Term 4 with a bang! He is doing his personal best each day and showing a great improvement in his resilience and respect for himself and others. Hunter, you are using your integrity and kindness each day, how wonderful. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Hunter. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lillian Fraser

for demonstrating the school value resilience by working hard on her holiday recount. Legendary Lilli.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch
 **Bendigo Bank**

Protecting the mental health of workers in Victoria

THE Victorian Government is strengthening workplace safety with new protections to support workers' rights to a mentally safe and healthy workplace.

Deputy Premier and Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Ben Carroll recently announced the new *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (Psychological Health) 2025* have been made and will commence on December 1.

The new regulations recognise that psychosocial hazards are just as important as physical hazards, creating new obligations for Victorian employers to identify and manage risks associated with psychosocial hazards in their workplaces.

Psychosocial hazards such as bullying, sexual harassment, aggression or violence, and exposure to traumatic events or content continue to cause significant harm in Victorian workplaces.

Claims for work-related mental injuries in Victoria remain high, as community awareness grows and workers are encouraged to report injuries early ensuring they can receive

immediate treatment and return to work faster. In 2024-25, 17 per cent of workplace injury claims to WorkSafe were reported as mental injuries.

The new regulations respond to recommendations made by the Boland Review, the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health.

The changes align with regulations introduced in other Australian states and territories and reinforce the existing duty of employers to provide a working environment that is safe and free from risks to health, including psychological health.

A Compliance Code and supporting resources are available to help employers understand how to meet their duties to control psychosocial hazards. This includes prevention plan templates for employers to use to help identify actions they'll take to manage these risks.

For more information about psychological health and the new regulations, visit worksafe.vic.gov.au

Lifting the Lid on Mental Health

ALEXANDRA Rotary's special guests at their recent meeting were members of the Murrindindi Respect group, welcomed by chair Bob Flowers.

Members and guests at the meeting donned their best or silliest hats in the spirit of Lifting the Lid for mental health research during October.

After a delicious two course dinner members and guests tested themselves with a new game devised by Games Master Mark Warren-Smith. Contestants who managed to toss a ball through a small hole into one box then tried to puncture balloons hidden in a different box. After much laughter, Rotary was declared winner of the challenge.

Following the directors reports, prizes were awarded for multiple categories of creative hats before president John closed the meeting, thanking their guests from Murrindindi Respect for an entertaining evening, and the creative cooks for the delicious meal enjoyed by all.



Debbie Skinner, Geoff Proctor, John Sier and John Cannon. -S

Fishing club grants available

THE Victorian Government is giving local fishing clubs and associations the chance to reel in funding grants to help improve their facilities and attract new members.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos announced applications opened on Wednesday, October 8 for the 2025/26 round of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program, encouraging clubs to apply for their share in up to \$600,000.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways, from clubroom and facility improvements to providing fishing tuition for multicultural groups, women and First Nations people, as well as open days, training, events and running guest speaker nights to share skills and attract new members.

In the most recent round, 32 clubs and associations netted grants of up to \$10,000, made possible through the \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Victoria plan.

Minister Dimopoulos said, "Fishing gets people outdoors and helps build stronger connections in the community. We want to encourage more Victorians to fish more often. We encourage fishing clubs to consider applying for a grant, to help attract new members and share the many memorable experiences fishing can offer within their communities."

Applications for the grants are open until Sunday, November 30. To learn more and to apply, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs



The attendees at the meeting. -S



White-throated treecreeper. -Russell Jones



Brown treecreeper. -Chris Tzaros

Spot a treecreeper during Aussie Bird Count

THE Aussie Bird Count, which involves observing and counting birds that live near you, in your garden, the local park, by the river or even outside your office window, is on this month.

It's a great opportunity to head out and see if you can spot a treecreeper, the bird species featured this month in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's Year of the Tree Hollow.

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the hollow-dependent brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*), attributed its name to its habit of spiralling up tree trunks to probe and prise the bark for larvae, insects and other tasty morsels.

"Large old trees are important for birds like the brown treecreeper as bigger trees, with their broad trunks and plentiful branches, contain more surface area which translates to more feeding opportunities," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"It's much more energy efficient and safer for a brown treecreeper, as it is for most birds and animals, to meet their energy requirements from one large tree with plenty of bark and food, than it is for them to undertake high risk and high energy consuming

movement to several smaller trees for the same result.

"While the brown treecreeper spends a great deal of time climbing the trunks and limbs of trees to probe the bark for food, it also searches the ground for its next meal, demonstrating the value of and need for 'messy' ground layers of sticks, logs and shrubs where its insect meals reside."

Brown treecreepers are highly sociable birds and will often live and breed communally. With the assistance of the broader Brown Treecreeper community, the breeding pair build their nest in a tree hollow in a large old tree, using pieces of twig, grass, leaves, bark, dung, animal fur and sometimes even pieces of human litter.

Also tree hollow dependent is the white-throated treecreeper (*Cormobates leucophaea*), which resides in more heavily timbered forests unlike the brown treecreeper which prefers open woodland.

"Where the brown treecreeper spends time on the ground foraging for food, the white-throated treecreeper rarely descends from the treetops," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"If the territories of the two birds do overlap, they tend to feed from different species of tree as the white-throated treecreeper will select trees with looser tree bark to prise beneath. This way, they avoid stepping on each other's toes.

"Unlike the brown treecreeper and their many helpers, the female white-throated treecreeper builds the nest in a tree cavity lined with bark, fur and hair and incubates the eggs on her own, but both sexes care for the young."

The BirdLife Australia Aussie Bird Count is on from October 20 to 26, where participants spend 20 minutes counting and recording the birds they see. The event is designed for all ages and skill levels.

The data collected helps BirdLife Australia understand local bird populations and trends, contributing to conservation efforts and there's the chance to win prizes, visit aussiebirdcount.org.au

The Year of the Tree Hollow is supported by the Victorian Government through the Our Catchments Our Communities stewardship program.

Victoria's duck abundance survey about to begin

THE Game Management Authority (GMA) will begin its annual survey of Victoria's game duck population on Tuesday, October 21.

The survey will be conducted by wildlife biologists, who will record the presence, species and number of game ducks at more than 850 waterbodies across Victoria, including wetlands, farm dams, sewerage treatment plants, streams and rivers. The survey will also include ground counts where the helicopter is unable to operate.

Satellite imaging will be used to determine how much water is in game duck habitats in Victoria, which informs an estimate of the total abundance of each game duck species in the state.

The GMA is continuing this research as part of the Victorian Government's Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. The results from the survey will be used as one of the key inputs to support Adaptive Harvest Management for setting sustainable duck hunting arrangements each year.

GMA Research Principal, Dr Jason Flesch, said regularly collecting data is critical to understanding what drives the abundance and productivity of game duck populations.

"Results from this survey will help to accurately estimate total game duck abundance, based on the environmental conditions at the time," Dr Flesch said.

"This research is the most comprehensive survey of game ducks undertaken in Victoria. It benefits wildlife conservation by increasing our understanding of the ecology of Victoria's game duck populations and the health of their habitats."

The 2025 survey is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, October 21 until Saturday, November 8. The flight schedule may change from day to day, depending on weather conditions or other factors.

Residents in surveyed areas may see a helicopter flying at low levels for a short time and for no longer than is necessary. Disturbance to livestock will be minimised or avoided. The safety of people and livestock is a priority.

The results of the survey will be published on the GMA website in 2026.

For more information, including a map of the proposed flight path, visit gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research

Farm Drought Support Grants

Grants of up to **\$5,000** are available to **eligible primary producers** across Victoria.



Apply now:
**ruralfinance.
com.au/grants**

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

VICTORIA
State Government



Bushfire Risk Management Program underway across Victoria

by Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Chris Hardman

BUSHFIRES are a natural part of the Victorian landscape, but with the right planning and action, we can reduce their impact on communities, the environment and critical infrastructure.

Right across the state, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) crews are working hard to reduce the risk and impact of bushfires through a combination of planned burning, non-burn bushfire risk management and strategic preparation.

Leaves, small branches, long grass and undergrowth can fuel bushfires making them faster, more intense and harder to control. Bushfire risk management helps reduce this danger by removing excess vegetation (or fuel), protecting communities, the environment and critical infrastructure.

Less fuel means it's harder for a fire to start and spread, and easier for our crews to contain. That's why last season we delivered bushfire risk management works across more than 109,000 hectares of public land.

The seasonal bushfire outlook for spring asks Victorians to prepare for an increased risk, particularly in the state's west, but also the southern coast and areas around Melbourne. With low rainfall over the past 18 months, the outlook shows areas at increased risk stretching from the South Australian border across to Bendigo, the Otways, Melbourne including the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley and parts of south Gippsland.

As soon as favourable weather and forest conditions arrive, we'll make sure all available resources are delivering planned burning and non-burn bushfire risk management works.

Our bushfire risk management program is underpinned by a significant body of scientific evidence, built over more than 35 years. We acknowledge bushfire science is continually evolving, and we continue to invest in research and the best available science to inform our bushfire risk management program.

We use science and modelling tools to choose the right time and approach for delivery of our bushfire risk management program in each location or landscape, combined with our understanding of the ecological needs of our forests and the plants and animals that depend on them.

Planned burning plays a key role in our work in reducing bushfire risk. It involves

the careful use of low-intensity fire to reduce dry vegetation like leaves and small branches that build up over time and make forests more flammable.

Our crews look for opportunities to carry out planned burning throughout the year, and with drier conditions in parts of the state, we've already been able to deliver planned burns over winter, including at Anglesea Heath in the Great Otway National Park, Boggy Creek Nature Conservation Reserve, Gellibrand Bushland Reserve, Wilson Promontory and at Mountain Creek Education Area in Shelley.

In areas where planned burning isn't suitable, such as near homes, on steep slopes or close to roads and towns, FFMVic uses non-burn bushfire management techniques. These include mowing and slashing long grass, mulching dense vegetation, targeted spraying of invasive weeds and maintaining public road networks in forests and reserves. Each method plays a vital role in reducing fuel loads and improving access for emergency services.

Over the coming weeks, you can expect to see our crews and contractors ramping up the mowing and slashing program. The timing of these works is important; if grass is slashed too early, before it has cured, it will only encourage regrowth.

Our top priority is to protect life, property and the environment from the risk of bushfires. While Victoria will always have bushfires, we want you to know that when fires happen, we are ready to respond. We have more than 1800 personnel on the frontline, including firefighters, fire lookout observers and fire support officers; firefighting equipment, including more than 500 ultralight tankers and close to 100 heavy tankers, and more than 50 aircraft contracted for the season ahead.

But being prepared for the bushfire season is a shared responsibility. While FFMVic crews are working hard on public land, all Victorians are encouraged to start cleaning up around their properties to help reduce bushfire risk in their own communities.

Visit our website to learn more about how FFMVic manages bushfire risk.

And to keep up to date on planned burns near you, sign up to receive notifications at Planned Burns Victoria or download the VicEmergency app.



Glen Fiske. -S

Black Saturday revisited

ON Tuesday, October 7, the ABC series premiered season two of *I Was Actually There*, with the first episode focused on the experience of Black Saturday.

The interview subjects were: Glen Fiske, Captain of the Marysville CFA who lost his wife and son during the fires, Kinglake CFA firefighter Karen Barrow, Kinglake West residents Jason Lynn and Juliet Moore, Maryville B&B owner Sharen Donovan, Kinglake restaurateur Isabella Laudisio, Police officer Cameron Caine, Victorian Police Helicopter rescuer David Key, and Nine Network news reporter Tom Steinfort.

I Was Actually There collected their personal stories, sharing the terror and heartbreak of that day, as well as the extraordinary resilience and luck required to make it through.

Unexpected stories also emerged. While evacuating citizens from above, police helicopter rescuer David Key was surprised to find animals tagging along. He said, "There were deer, a koala ... They probably sixth-sensed that, yes, they're heading into safety. We'll follow them."

The episode is available to watch on ABC iView.

Are we facing another Triple Zero outage if there's a big storm?

BACK in February 2024, a severe storm resulted in a power outage across much of Murrindindi Shire for several days, and Triple Zero access ceased for around 24 hours for most of the population in the LGA. It was pure luck that people didn't die during the outage.

Optus and Telstra were asked to outline any changes to the resilience of phone/internet infrastructure in the area and whether longer-lasting back-up power infrastructure has since been installed.

In short, should another similar storm occur, are we facing the same scenario?

Optus

An Optus Spokesperson said, "Optus has made significant investments to strengthen network resilience, and has a number of solutions to deploy in case of power outages and/or natural disasters: Standby power solutions including over 200 fixed generators, and a significant number of portable generators which can be installed at critical sites as required which are complemented by portable fuel pods that can extend generator supply by up to five days. Critical Power eXtender batteries which can support service continuity across clusters of mobile sites during power failures. Battery resilience program, uplifting batteries across sites and increasing spare kit availability for rapid replacement when required. Fibre resilience and microwave resilience on critical sites, main and standby backhaul using either fibre or microwave. When we construct new coverage sites, we assess risk scenarios such as flood and fire risk.

"Should we lose the site, we can also deploy support in the following ways: Satellite-powered mobile base stations (SatCats), which are easy to deploy during natural disasters, with high bandwidth and 4G/Wi-Fi connectivity with the ability to deploy Cell on Wheels (COWS) to stand up services following a natural disaster. More temporary rapid-deployable mini sites that are purpose-built for emergency

evacuation centres. We have also tested and have committed to investing in drone technology that can be quickly deployed to restore connectivity in hard-to-reach area. We optimise the network to provide better services to customers. This involves measures to extend battery life of the mini sites and tilting mobile antennas to provide greater coverage."

Telstra

Telstra Regional General Manager Jenny Gray said, "We know how important it is to stay in touch during natural disasters and we have backup systems using a variety of technologies that keep services running after power goes out.

"We have more than 20,000 network sites across the country and we rigorously assess what's the best backup solution for each of them. We also continually review our sites to ensure their backups are working as expected, and upgrade them when needed.

"We also recently conducted battery and power system upgrades at Flowerdale, Castella and Strath Creek as well as delivering mobile network upgrades to increase capacity at Flowerdale South, Marysville, Pheasant Creek and Killingworth.

"Our network sites can use the same amount of power as 10 homes every day though, so disruptions will occur if power's out for a long time in your area.

"When that happens, we work closely with authorities to ensure we can get into affected areas and bring services back online as soon as it's safe to do so. This includes deploying portable generators to bring sites back online while power is being restored in the area.

"This isn't just a telco issue. It's an industry one, and that's why everyone, including energy companies and government agencies, need to work together to solve this national problem. This includes ensuring the power grid is also as resilient as possible."

Pilots reminded to stay clear of bushfires

WITH summer almost upon us, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is reminding all general aviation pilots and drone operators to plan ahead and stay well clear of bushfires.

Any crewed aircraft not involved in aerial firefighting should remain at least five nautical miles (9.26 kilometres) from fire boundaries, but ideally much further.

Drones must never be flown near bushfires under any circumstances.

Pip Spence, CASA CEO and Director of Aviation Safety, says that by following the rules, pilots and drone operators can contribute to safer outcomes for all.

"If you're in the air, firefighting aircraft can't do their job. By steering clear of bushfires, we can let aerial firefighters get on with the job of containing the fire and keeping communities safe," Ms Spence says.

"For drone operators, this includes keeping your drone on the ground. Drones are small and hard to see and pose a risk to aircraft and helicopters.

"Always remember to check the rules before you fly, and tune into your local fire authority for the latest updates on active bushfires in your area."

In recent months, prolonged wet weather across Australia has fuelled rapid vegetation growth, creating ideal conditions for bushfires. When fires ignite,

they can spread quickly and disrupt flight paths that pilots would normally use.

Aerial firefighting operations rely on this airspace. These aircraft often fly at low altitudes and may change direction suddenly, posing risks to other airspace users nearby.

Pilots must heed the warnings of local fire and police authorities about any active bushfires along their intended flight path. Pilots are reminded to always consult NOTAMs before embarking on a flight.

CASA has a comprehensive set of safety regulations that govern aerial firefighting operations.

These include specific pilot training and experience requirements, approvals for air operators to spot fires and drop water or retardant and the creation of temporary danger or restricted areas around fires.

Hundreds of aircraft are approved to be used in aerial firefighting with, on average, a total of 30,000 hours flown each year in firefighting operations across Australia.

CASA requires air operators approved to control firefighting aircraft to identify and manage safety risks such as pilot fatigue. Safety checks and audits of these operators are carried out by CASA.

During the fire season CASA is ready to respond quickly to requests for new or changed operational approvals. CASA also has processes to allow foreign pilots to be used in Australian firefighting operations.

Crackdown on illegal rubbish dumping

THE Victorian Government is cracking down on illegal dumping across Victoria, cleaning up parks and reserves, and holding illegal dumpers accountable for the mess they leave behind.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced \$21.5 million to bolster the Illegal Dumping Taskforce and deliver extra financial support for councils and public land managers to clean-up illegally dumped waste.

Councils and land managers who are facing an increase in dumping, so the government is delivering \$8.5 million to help ease the burden of clean-up costs for illegally dumped and toxic waste in public spaces.

This will help public land managers clean up priority waste, like public health hazards, and will cover up to 50 per cent of the clean-up costs in situations where all avenues to trace the perpetrator and recover costs have been exhausted or are not feasible.

To catch more people flouting the law and hold them to account, \$13 million will help the Illegal Dumping Taskforce ramp up surveillance, enforcement and clean-up efforts across Victoria.

The taskforce will be led by the EPA, who will work with Conservation Regulator and undertake enforcement activities using expanded intelligence and monitoring to detect and respond to waste crimes in key locations.

The taskforce will also review fines and cost recovery for illegal dumping, hold offenders to account through the courts and step up naming and shaming of those who do the wrong thing.

Rubbish dumping and littering on public land is illegal with a maximum penalty of \$3,951,800 for businesses and \$800,000 for individuals or five years imprisonment, or both.

All Victorians have a part to play in preventing waste dumping. To report illegal dumping contact the EPA on 1300 372 842.



Rubbish dumped on the Melba Highway, near the Kinglake turnoff. -BD

RealEstateGUIDE

Is retirement life easier when you downsize?

REA Group, in collaboration with GemLife, last month released the *realestate.com.au* GemLife Downsizing Australia Report, which analyses the motivations, needs and concerns of downsizers across the country.

The report draws on the views of 2051 buyers who responded to the *realestate.com.au* Property Seeker Survey, including a sample who identified as over 50 years old and looking to downsize in the future.

As downsizers typically have smaller households, more than four in five (85 per cent) aged 55 and older live in homes with two or more spare bedrooms. In contrast,

one-quarter of households aged 25 to 54 years old have no spare rooms, and five per cent have too few rooms for the size of their family. With over one-third of Australia's population set to be aged 55 or older in 2050, encouraging older Australians to downsize is critical to ensure we meet the needs of our aging population and use the housing we have efficiently.

Key findings of the report included: among those aged 55 and older, 80 per cent are one or two-person households, compared to just 41 per cent of 25 to 54 year old households. As a result, older households typically have

more spare bedrooms, 85 per cent of 55+ households have two or more spare bedrooms, compared with just one-third of those aged 25 to 54 years.

Smaller homes ideal for downsizers, one-to-three-bedroom units and houses accounted for less than half of homes built between the 2016 and 2021 Censuses, highlighting the need for purpose built housing for this demographic. Three in five downsizer respondents (59 per cent) would consider moving to an over-50's lifestyle or retirement community, including 17 per cent who would definitely make the move.

The two key drivers for those looking to downsize are lower-maintenance living (34 per cent) and retirement (29 per cent). Yet hesitation persists for some. The main barriers to downsizing include the hassle of moving (18 per cent) and not finding the right size home (17 per cent).

REA Group Senior Economist Angus Moore said, "Australia's population is aging, with over one third to be aged 55 or older in 2050.

"As our demographic make-up changes, so too will the types of housing we need. Older households are smaller, but much of our existing housing stock and the housing we build is still large, detached homes that

may be better suited towards larger family households.

"Encouraging older and smaller households to downsize will be critical for ensuring we meet the needs of our aging population and use the housing we currently have more efficiently."

GemLife Managing Director and Group CEO Adrian Puljich said purpose-built solutions, such as land lease communities, were key to motivating older Australians to downsize, while improving their quality of life. "Many older people stay put simply because there is a lack of suitable housing for their over 50s and beyond, but struggle to maintain often large, ageing family homes," he said.

"When there are appealing alternatives and that means homes that are easy to look after, close to the people and places they love, and designed for how they live now, and will in the future, we see they are willing to downsize and often wish they had done so sooner.

"Land lease communities are one of Australia's fastest growing housing types because they are specifically designed for this demographic, with supporting facilities that promote wellbeing, connection and lifestyle and a financial model that helps free-up capital for retirement."

Choosing the right agent for you

WITH many real estate agents to choose from in the Murrindindi Shire how do you know which one is right for you to buy or sell a home?

Some key tipsto consider when choosing the agent for you:

Agent fees, commissions, and marketing costs

Know all your upfront costs and any hidden extras. If your selling check if your marketing budget is quite large. Some agents with low commissions may use this to get back some earnings in the long run. Make sure your marketing budget is getting put to good use with various media options such as billboards, well known real estate websites, print listing such as flyers and newspapers, digital listings, and social media.

It's important to remember that the total cost of selling your home will include your real estate agent fees, marketing, conveyancing, and other associated costs.

Local market expertise

The agent you choose to work with needs to have local market expertise, they should know local market reports and trends, demographics, schools, features of the local areas including things to do, services and transport.

Knowledge of comparable properties

This also comes with local market expertise. Your agent should know of similar properties that you are looking

for or what you are trying to sell. This gives you that competitive edge when trying to sell when making sure your home is fairly priced. If you are looking at buying property an agent should have a few properties in mind that are suitable for you and your needs. This could include price point, location, and personal taste.

Communication

Your agent needs to be a great communicator, this helps to build relationships, make the buying/ selling process streamlined and simple, and to keep everyone informed, and of course it builds strong negotiation skills to get the best price. You want an agent who will always be transparent with you, and with this trust develops.

Sales history

You can view your agents' sales histories through the agent's website or various real estate digital platforms. This will tell you what they have sold in your suburb, the median sold price, and median days the properties they had were on the market.

Reputation and recommendations

Like anything word of mouth is something that goes very far, whether its good or bad. Listen to your friends and families' experiences with agents, even check reviews online but remember to take them with a grain of salt as anyone can leave a review social media platforms that may not be entirely accurate.

The Old Narbethong School

527 Maroondah Hwy, Narbethong
\$649,000

3 1 2.4 acres

Step into a unique piece of Narbethong's history with this charming property, once the Narbethong State School, it has witnessed generations of students and served as a gathering place in this scenic mountain region. Remarkably, the original school slide and swing still stand on the grounds today. Now lovingly restored, this cottage sits nestled on approx. 2.4 acres, in park-like gardens & farmland surrounds, offering an extraordinary opportunity for its next chapter.

Main Residence - The Headmasters residence.
 The cottage features three bedrooms, a separate kitchen and dining area, and a spacious, recently updated bathroom with underfloor heating. The living area contains a split system and wood fire. Significant upgrades have already been completed, including a new roof, re-plumbing, rewiring, external repainting, and restumping. Approved plans and permits are also in place for an extension and a new deck.

Second Building - Former Classrooms.
 The property also includes the original school building, freshly painted externally and connected to power. This versatile space offers exciting potential as an in-law retreat, guest accommodation, or even an Airbnb venture (STCA).

Additional Features
 - Bore water and a fire hydrant water system.
 - Animal-proof fencing.
 - Great shed/workshop with concrete floor.
 - NBN and satellite TV connected.

Inspection by appointment only.

Nutrien Harcourts Alexandra

Tayla Arnett
0490 035 591

Looking after yourself through the exam period

OCTOBER is the start of the most stressful period for year 12 students completing their Victorian Curriculum Certificate (VCE).

Physical and mental wellbeing need to be at the forefront of every student’s day as they navigate one of the most challenging periods of their life.

During the lead up to the exams, revision is something you need to stay on top of, so you don’t fall behind and avoid last minute cramming.

A new era for Stonelea

THE reinstatement of the iconic Stonelea Estate is officially underway, marking the return of one of Victoria’s most beloved destinations.

Once known as a popular wedding and events venue, the estate is now reimagined as a premium accommodation, events and dining experience that will bring renewed energy and economic impact to the region.

Construction works have commenced, with local commercial builder Hedger Constructions appointed to complete the renovation and fit-out of the hotel and bungalow guest rooms.

Works on the main building will begin shortly, including the restoration of the restaurant and bar, hotel reception and lobby, the events and weddings centre, ceremonial hall and outdoor landscaping.

The new vision for Stonelea Estate is designed to deliver sought-after five star accommodation at a boutique hotel destination just two hours from Melbourne. With a strong design-led focus, the estate will feature a modern accommodation offering, premium food and wine experiences, and striking event spaces set within the natural beauty of Murrindindi.

The redevelopment is being led by Bennett Williams, with investment from the Victorian Government’s Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

The project is supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, Tourism North East, Alexandra Traders and Tourism Association and Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. Each recognises the significant opportunity that Stonelea represents for attracting more visitors to the region, increasing overnight stays, and supporting the local economy.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos said the redevelopment of the historic Stonelea Estate will provide a major boost to the local economy by drawing more visitors to the region.

“The redevelopment of this property into a premium accommodation destination will give visitors even more reason to stay longer, supporting local businesses and experiencing all that our famous High Country has to offer.”

Stonelea Estate has appointed national hotel management group 1834 Hotels to oversee hotel operations.

Scott Armstrong, Director of Development at 1834 Hotels, said the project represented a major milestone for regional tourism and a strong investment in local infrastructure. “We’re thrilled to be involved with the Stonelea Estate project. It’s a truly exciting redevelopment that will reinvigorate regional tourism, and we look forward to supporting its successful opening and ongoing operation,” he said.

Owner and developer Andrew Purdie said the team was passionate about preserving the legacy of the site while creating a refined new experience for future guests.

“It’s an honour to bring Stonelea back to life. This is more than a renovation, it’s a new chapter for a place that has meant so much to so many. We can’t wait to welcome guests back and showcase what we’ve created,” Andrew said.

The project will generate local jobs, engage regional trades and suppliers, and establish a major new visitor destination at the gateway to Victoria’s high country.

It is expected that Stonelea will be open and operating by mid-2026.

Creating a study schedule to help you feel a sense of control and gives you plenty of time to revise and practice exams. Make it realistic though, don’t set yourself up to fail by making unrealistic goals. Taking regular breaks during these times will make your head feel clear and focused when you return to study. This can involve going for a walk, watching a movie or listening to music.

Eating a balanced diet and getting enough sleep will optimise your results. It might be tempting to reach for the sugary snacks that you keep you wired but the sugar crash afterwards doesn’t help your focus later. Foods to improve your focus includes wholegrains, fatty fish, berries, coffee, nuts, eggs, leafy greens, and even a piece of dark chocolate here and there.

Relaxation techniques should be practiced during periods of stress; this will help you build resilience to face the challenges ahead of you. Practices such as deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, meditation

and visualisation is a great way to calm your mind.

Finding a balance and creating positive interactions within your day through connecting with friends and family, or your study group can be a great way to stay positive and help you feel supported. Try to avoid people who create stress for you, or online platforms that don’t put you in good mental health headspace.

Leading up the day of the exam ensure you’re organised the night before, so stress isn’t increased in the morning, have a good start to the day with a fuelling breakfast and allow plenty of time to get to the exam venue.

After the exam it’s time to reward yourself and have a bit of time to recharge and relax. Try not to reflect too much on the exam you’ve just taken, this will only create second guessing yourself and increase the stress levels, the key is to walk out of there and move on and focus on the next step ahead of you.

If you find yourself overwhelmed with exam stress speak to a trusted friend or family



Some anxiety is normal during exams but don’t let yourself get overwhelmed. Putting self care practices in place to look after yourself through the exam period will help you in the long run. -S

member or a health professional. You can also get online support through headspace.org.au/services/work-and-study-support/



The spotted tree frog (Litoria spenceri) is at high risk of extinction in the wild. -Jean-Marc Hero

Can you spot a spotted tree frog?

CRITICALLY endangered species the spotted tree frog (*Litoria spenceri*) is a rare sight to see but can be found in the Murrindindi Shire, especially around Lake Eildon National Park and in other river systems in the region, including the Yea River.

They are also found in areas such as the Central Highlands, Mt Kosciuszko, the Alpine National Park, the Eildon National Park, and Buffalo National Park in Victoria, and the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales.

The small, camouflaged frog is experiencing a steady population decline due to threats including predation by non-native trout, amphibian chytrid fungus, and destruction of their natural habitat.

Locally, at Lake Eildon National Park closures have been put in place from Gap Track between Pinnacle Track and O’Toole Creek. The Parks Victoria website says, “There is no vehicle access to Gap Track directly from Eildon Jaimeson Road. By vehicle, Gap Track must be accessed from Pinnacle Track (when seasonally open), Jerusalem Creek Track, and Simms Track only.

“By vehicle, the shortest way back to the bitumen from this location is via the Simms Track connector to Eildon-Jamieson Road.”

The reason for this closure is to protect O’Toole Creek from damage by vehicles fording the creek, as the bridge over O’Toole Creek has failed. O’Toole Creek flows directly into White Creek which is home to the critically endangered spotted tree frog. Spotted tree frogs are threatened by loss of vegetation on creek banks, and by sediment in waterways.

The habitat restoration for the critically endangered spotted tree frog is just another way to protect the species now where numbers are declining.



The team from the Arthur Rylah Institute electrofishing to catch predatory fish in the Spotted Tree Frog habitat in Lake Eildon National Park. -S

Parks Victoria Ranger Team Leader Jane Lloyd said, “Spotted tree frogs are critically endangered in Victoria and work to protect the Lake Eildon National Park population has been going on for several years, as part of a multi-agency effort.

“Work has included habitat protection, by reducing sediment getting into the streams where the frogs live, removing non-native fish that prey on tadpoles and young frogs, and building a fish barrier that stops non-native fish getting into the frog habitat.

“Over the last three years we’ve seen more young spotted tree frogs surviving in the National Park thanks to these efforts.”

Captive breeding is another way the species survival is getting another chance. Zoos Victoria Healesville Sanctuary and the Amphibian Bushfire Recovery Centre at Melbourne Zoo are breeding this species and coming up with habitat restoration programs since their habitats were destroyed significantly as a result of the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/20.

Climate related emergencies such as flash flooding can also compound the threat and further impact populations.

The species can live up to 10 years which is a good lifespan for a frog, with a combined effort of removing nonnative trout, destruction of natural habitat, and captive breeding programs this frog’s survival has a better chance.

The Farmer's Ag News

Keeping soil in place when your paddocks are bare

by Kerri Goschnick, Land Management Extension Officer

MAINTENANCE is the key to reducing soil and sediment movement in paddocks. While spring rain is valuable for pastures and replenishing farm dams, run off may also carry sediment into livestock dams, particularly where there is exposed soil in heavily grazed paddocks.

Hay bales or netting held together with steel posts or stakes to control sediment flow into dams can be a good starting point. Although the cost of hay and the hazard of steel posts should be considered. Coir logs are a potential alternative to hay bales.

Fibreglass posts and construction site hazard fencing (barrier mesh) are another, often safer option. Using 20 metres of barrier mesh and four fibreglass posts upstream of a dam is both highly visible and relatively low cost, at around \$85 per site.

Aim for mesh openings that are no smaller than 100 mm square. Smaller openings will block up with debris too quickly and the fence will fail. It is also important to remove stakes or mesh once the risk of sedimentation has reduced to avoid debris build up.

Building earthen banks to protect areas from sedimentation usually requires survey design, knowledge of soil type and risks, suitable equipment and expertise to successfully construct.

A good understanding of catchment size and potential water volumes is necessary to avoid failure.

Road and track maintenance is also important. Annual maintenance with a slight camber in the road surface to shed water to the side with the shortest distance possible will help to prevent wheel tracks from developing into drains and washing out the track surface.

Culverts and side drains should also be cleaned annually to prevent blockages and water from being redirected to less suitable discharge areas.

Visit the Agriculture Victoria website for articles on soil retention and sediment movement on agricultural land following drought, fire, strong winds and rainfall events.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for farmers to support investment in on-farm drought management activities and be better prepared for future droughts.

Eligible activities include water infrastructure upgrades such as pipes, tanks, troughs and dams, stock containment areas, grain and fodder storage, water carting and pasture re-establishment.

Visit ruralfinance.com.au/grants/ to apply.

Find more information about available drought support at agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

Star gazing disease in livestock

Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer, Northern Region

FOLLOWING the seasonal conditions we have experienced this year, there is very little standing roughage in most paddocks. This has set the scene for cases of 'star gazing disease' also known as *polio encephalomalacia*.

Polio encephalomalacia occurs when an animal lacks enough thiamine (Vitamin B1), an essential nutrient for normal body metabolism. In healthy ruminants such as cattle, sheep, and goats, thiamine is produced naturally in the rumen, the first stomach, where microbes aid in breaking down food.

However, if this microbial community is disturbed, thiamine levels can become dangerously low.

Any condition that disrupts the balance of rumen microbes can lead to thiamine deficiency. This includes grain poisoning, low-fibre diets, or an excess of sulphur in feed.

The disease most commonly affects well-grown calves or lambs aged between six and 12 months old, but it can affect animals of any age or sex.

When it comes to things to look out for the earliest signs can be subtle: animals may seem lethargic, lose their appetite,

or wander away from the herd. They may bump into objects, appear blind, or stand motionless, sometimes with their heads drooped, at other times gazing fixedly at the sky.

As the condition worsens, affected animals may experience convulsions, collapse with their head arched backward, and ultimately slip into a coma. Without treatment, death often occurs within two to three days.

But not every case is the same. Some animals are found dead without warning, while others show only mild symptoms and recover on their own.

If caught early, the condition may potentially be reversed with an injection of thiamine, which is available without a prescription from veterinarians. Farmers are also advised to support the rest of the herd by offering high-fibre feed, which promotes a healthy rumen environment and consistent thiamine production.

Unfortunately, once blindness or paralysis occurs, the brain damage is often irreversible. In such cases, humane euthanasia is usually the only option.

Farmers are encouraged to seek advice from their local veterinarian. In Victoria, advice is also available from Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officers.

Tragic end for cows in truck rollover

ON Tuesday, October 7 Melba Highway was closed in both directions between Yea and Castella due to a cattle truck rollover.

It's understood that there were around 102 cattle on board. The driver was able to safely extricate themselves from the truck.

Agriculture Victoria were in attendance, along with numerous police units. Victoria Police was the agency in charge at the scene and is responsible for investigating the cause of the accident and if any subsequent charges under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Also in attendance were CFA, the local vet, and a local person with an excavator, all of who assisted with the recovery effort.

During the closure motorists were advised to use the Maroondah Highway through Molesworth, Alexandra, Taggerty, Buxton and Narbethong, as this detour was also suitable for heavy vehicles.

Another alternative advised was the Whittlesea-Yea Road through Flowerdale to Kinglake West. Then, Whittlesea-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Kinglake Road will lead drivers back to the Melba Highway, however this route wasn't suitable for heavy vehicles.

Sadly, at end of operations on Tuesday evening, 30 cattle died or were euthanised by Agriculture Victoria officers and local vets.

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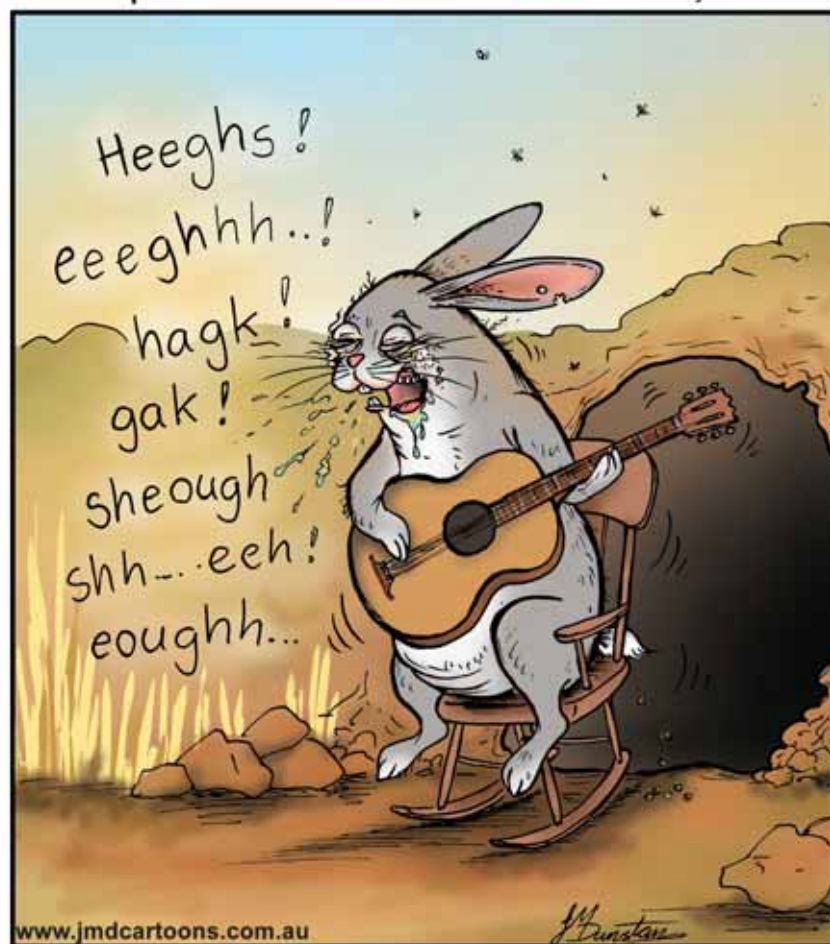


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The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



The Myxomatosis Blues.

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An uninvited and somewhat unexpected guest. -S

U3A Seniors Week Activities start with a bang

ON Saturday, October 11 the Wedding of the Year took place at Thornton Hall to kick off Murrindindi U3A's seniors week activities. There were a few surprises, some inspired speeches, a superb roast meal with all the trimming to satisfy the invited guests who attended the mock Wedding of the Year.

Thanks to the Murrindindi Shire Council for the grant, the Rubicon Hotel, Colin from Alexandra Butchers, the Four Fathers Singers from Yea, Alby Evans who supplied the music, Amy Campbell who decorated the hall, and Sharon Peters who made the wedding cake.



The bride (Marianne) and groom (Warren) arrive for the big day. -S



The wedding party. -S



Dianne, Judy (bridesmaids), Pam (flowergirl), and Marianne the bride. -S

WATER WEEK 20-26 OCTOBER 2025

Join us in celebrating, exploring and learning about all things water this National Water Week. Discover what's on and how to get involved:



Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens

Wednesday 22 October

7pm - 9pm | Eastbank Shepparton



Discover how to design gardens that thrive in the Goulburn Valley with gardening experts.

FREE EVENT | BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Join the WATER NIGHT challenge!

Can you go 5 hours without taps, showers, or running water? Join thousands of Aussies switching off the taps and tuning in to how we really use water.

National and regional prizes on offer.



Sign up to take on the challenge on 23 October, 2025.



The organising committee, Greta, Jeanne, Ros, Deirdre, Judy, David, Sue and Sandra. -S



Everyone danced the night away. -S

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "Z"

ZANY	ZILCH
ZEBRA	ZIPPER
ZEPHYR	ZODIAC
ZEPELIN	ZOMBIE
ZERO	ZOOLOGY
ZESTY	ZOOM
ZIGZAG	ZUCCHINI

Math Square

	-		+		3
+		-		-	
	-		-		-10
-		-		-	
	+	4	+	6	12
10		-5		-10	

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: What musical instrument would you find in a bathroom?

A: A tuba toothpaste.

Q: What goes up when the rain comes down?

A: An umbrella

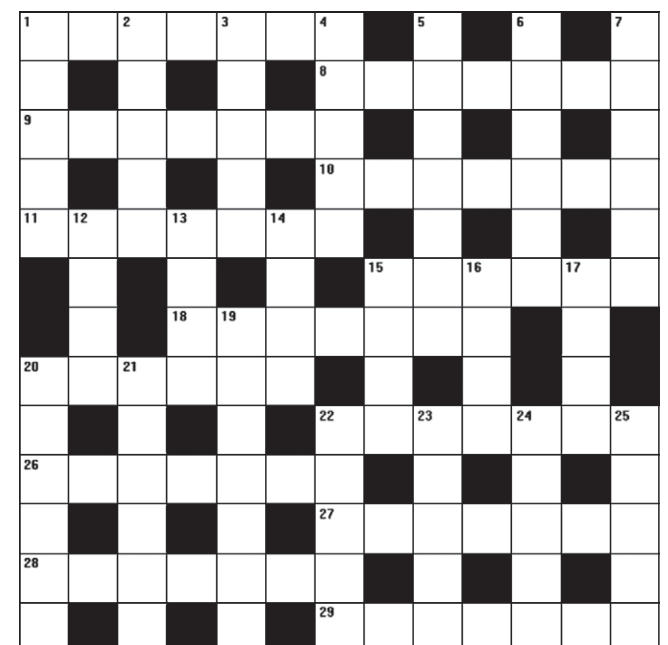
Crossword

ACROSS

- Gradually narrowed toward a point.
- Raise from a lower to a higher position.
- Fixes things that are broken.
- Small oval citrus fruit with very acid pulp.
- Leaves in a difficult or helpless position.
- A devastating type of bomb.
- Men who are expert boat rowers.
- A drug or medicine that cures a disease.
- Exhaled spasmodically through the nose.
- Disparage or destroy one's good name.
- Gnawing animals with large incisor teeth.
- The green leaves of a plant.
- Each wage earning day of the week.

DOWN

- Small slender gulls with a forked tail.
- The medium used for writing a letter.
- The period during which a sovereign rules.
- Pieces of furniture with a writing surface.
- An antlike insect that feeds on wood.
- An home appliance that cleans by suction.



- Relating to or characteristic of the Celts.
- A very large and scholarly book.
- Plant with large red or yellow tubular flowers.
- A flat-bottomed fishing boat with high sides.
- A term used at the conclusion of a prayer.
- On one occasion or for one time only.
- Not in use or operation.
- The supreme commander of a fleet.
- Approve and express formal consent.
- Small glass ball used in children's games.
- Small mouse-like long-snouted mammal.
- A person who is older than you are.
- Sectioned for use for a particular purpose.
- Lighted as if by twilight.

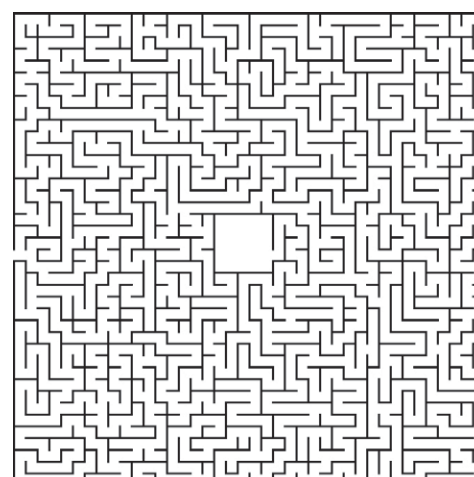
Shapes

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

Fruit & Veggies

CIRCLE	PENTAGON
HEART	RECTANGLE
HEXAGON	RHOMBUS
OCTAGON	SQUARE
OVAL	STAR
PARALLELOGRAM	TRIANGLE

Maze



Sudoku

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

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

	+		-		2
+		+		+	
	-		x		-44
-		-		-	
	÷	2	+	4	8
-4		9		12	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

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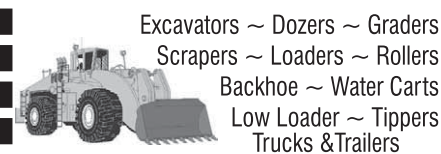
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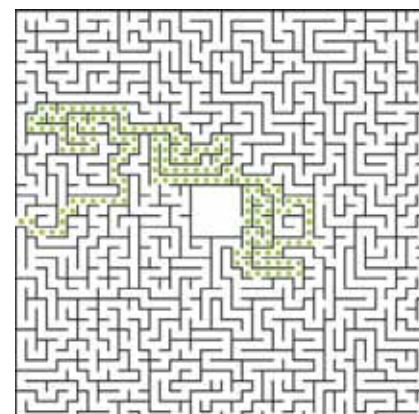
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MEETINGS



The Alexandra Football / Netball Club (AFNC) invites all members and community supporters to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Date: Tuesday, October, 21
Time: 6pm
Location: AFNC Clubrooms

All members, players, supporters, and community members are warmly encouraged to attend. Enquiries president Kylie Cairns – 0409 932 761

Everyone welcome.

YEA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Annual General Meeting

10 | NOV | 2025

6pm onwards, in the main clubrooms

Yea Recreation Reserve



The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc., trading as Menzies Support Services, has been providing services to our community for over 40 years. We are a Not for Profit Charitable organisation, community owned, with a volunteer Committee of Management.

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2025,
5.30pm at "The Mount",
Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra

Any new business or applications for membership for consideration need to be forwarded to the Secretary, seven business days prior to AGM. **Please RSVP via the contact details below.** You will be provided with the agenda, Annual Report and other important documents prior to the AGM. **Members of the community are encouraged to attend the AGM.**

Please RSVP to Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc. Dave Beattie, President on 0448 009 200. Email the DPMC secretary, DPMC@menziessupport.org.au or Menzies Support Services 5772 1888.

All committee positions are open for nomination. For more information or to nominate for a committee position, please contact Dave Beattie, President on 0448 009 200. **We invite new members to the association.** Membership renewals and application forms can be obtained from Menzies Support Services at 49 Nihil Street, requested by email or post, or submitted online at menziessupport.org.au/dpmc

DEATH NOTICES

CANN, James Mervyn.
12/04/1934 - 28/09/2025.
(91 years). Loved and loving husband of Dawne (65 years). Much loved father and father in law of Rohan, Christine and Peter (dec), John (dec), Leonia and Natasha. Loved Pa of Beau, Renee, David, Laura, Esther, Aaron, Will, Darcy, Harry and Lucy. Great pa of Jordie, Olivia and Lenny. Caring and respected by Dean, Tarrelle, Lolah, Ciara and Sophie, Marni, Dean, Lexi and Oliver. Forever remembered. Never forgotten.

DICKER, Alan C 'Abdul'

27/05/1956 -
03/10/2025

Loving father to James and Thomas. Father in law to Alison and Kira. Pa to four beautiful grandchildren. Partner to Sabina. Forever in our hearts.

Keep on truckin' XXXX

Privately Cremated

A celebration of life for Alan will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the Grand Central Hotel Yea commencing at 12pm.



HALLIGAN, Lola Grace.
Most dearly loved mum, nan and great nan. There are no goodbyes for us, wherever you are you will always be in our hearts. Tim and Anja. Rach, Daniel and Jackson. Ash, Dylan and Maeve. Anna, Holly, Luke and Bradley.



DEATH NOTICES

HALLIGAN, Lola Grace.
Our memories of you will always be rich. You'll be forever loved, forever missed. Always in our hearts our beautiful nan and great nan. Ashleigh, Dylan and Maeve Lola.

NICHOLLS, Wendy.
September 26, 2025.
A true friend is never truly gone. Their spirit lives on in the memories of those who loved them. Sleep peacefully my dear friend. Judy.



RIDD, Les.

Our sincere condolences to Marg, Darren, Matt and Katherine and families on the recent passing of Les. He was a kind and thoughtful man who made a significant contribution to our community, Whanregarwen Fire Brigade

STEWART, Richard

27/02/1934 -
07/10/2025

Loving husband to Gillian.

Loving father to Kathy, Scott and James, and father in law to Martin, Kerrie and Vickie.

Loving grandfather to Geoff, Michael, Jenny, Sefton and Blake, and granddaughters in law Sharyn and Laura.

Loving great grandfather to Ethan, Liliana, Isaac, Zara, Lucy, Hannah, Caleb and Noah

Always in our hearts.

IN MEMORIAM

HYATT, Barbara Louise
(nee Picone). In loving memory of Barbara, 1950-2000. Very sadly missed by her loving family.

FUNERAL NOTICES

JAMES, Brian William.

A funeral service for Brian will be held at Bailey's Memorial Chapel, 82 Anzac Avenue, Seymour on Saturday, October 18, 2025 commencing at 12pm, midday followed by a private cremation.

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NICHOLLS.

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Wendy Marie Nicholls will be held at the Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Friday, October 24, 2025 commencing at 1pm. Private cremation. An invitation is extended to family and friends to the Yack Hall for refreshments following the service.

FUNERAL NOTICES

STEWART, Richard

The funeral service to celebrate the wonderful life of Richard Stewart will be held at the Murrindindi Chapel on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 commencing at 1pm.



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MEETINGS



General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, October 19, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

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Expression of Interest – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc., trading as Menzies Support Services, is an established not-for-profit organisation based in Alexandra, dedicated to delivering high-quality supports. An outstanding opportunity exists for an accomplished and values-driven executive to lead Menzies Support Services.

We are seeking expressions of interest from experienced leaders with a strong commitment to social impact, strategic growth, and operational excellence. The CEO will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of inclusive, person-centred care aligned with our mission and values and strategic direction.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide visionary leadership and strategic direction in collaboration with the Committee of Management.
- Oversee the effective delivery of disability and aged care services, ensuring compliance with NDIS and aged care standards.
- Drive innovation, sustainability, and continuous improvement across all areas of the organisation.
- Strengthen stakeholder relationships and community engagement.
- Lead a high-performing team with a focus on culture, accountability, and service excellence.

To express your interest or gain further information please contact David Beattie, President on 0448 009 200

Where is the AI revolution taking us?

THE artificial intelligence revolution continues apace. Image generators proliferate, and as of last month, some video generators have the capacity for characters to speak dialogue. You can even upload your own image and star in your own film. You want to hear your own voice speaking the dialogue? There's programs that can analyse what you say and update the generated dialogue accordingly. If you want someone else to star in your film, perhaps someone from Hollywood or a long departed relative, that is possible too.

While this means that a lot of people will have a lot of fun, it also means that scams will get much better, so be warned.

Chatbots are proliferating. When you try to contact a company, many websites will direct you towards a chatbot helper. If you want to talk to a real life person, well wait in the queue.

Combating illegal shooters

THERE appears to have been an increase in illegal shooting activity on private properties in Murrindindi Shire, and police are calling on locals to report shooting incidents as soon as they become aware of them. There is little that can be done when they hear about incident days, weeks or even months later.

Call Triple Zero to make the report, or contact your local police station. If the station is unattended, police may be out on the road already. People may be put through to Benalla Police Station in their absence. Don't hang up. Make a report to them, and the information will be relayed to the police in the local area.

If there have been a lot of incidents in a particular area, then police will be able to focus their attention on the locale, however reports are needed to ensure that police are patrolling the area.

Reporting these incidents also give police the power to get involved with other agencies, including the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Gama Management Authority (GMA).

Police gaining evidence is vital. It helps if people have video cameras on their property, however this can be a challenging and potentially expensive proposition for people.

The police also warned that people should not approach the illegal shooters, due to the risk to personal safety.

At times, the illegal shooters may believe that they are in a legal shooting area but they are in fact on private property. They may also not be aware of the legal shooting areas. Placing signs such as 'No Trespassing' or 'Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted' may help, as then there is no argument. It can also help to have a clear boundary line.

All are reminded that it is illegal to shoot native animals without an 'Authority to Control Wildlife'.

Zac Powell, Director of Compliance and Intelligence at GMA said, "The GMA and Victoria police conduct joint patrols across Victoria. This partnership allows officers to share intelligence and target areas where illegal firearm use is most likely to cause risks to public safety.

"All allegations of persons illegally discharging a firearm on or across private property should be reported to Victoria Police on 131 444 or 000 in case of emergency.

"To report illegal hunting to the GMA visit gma.vic.gov.au or call 136 186."

It is illegal to discharge a firearm on or across private property without the permission of the landowner or manager.

People caught illegally using a firearm may face significant fines, have their equipment seized, including firearms, spotlights and vehicles, and firearm licences cancelled.

GMA will continue to take compliance actions against those caught illegally hunting and support Victoria Police in regulating illegal firearm use.

Large language model (LLMs) text has started popping up at the top of Google results, but it certainly doesn't stop there. People have not just been asking questions of bots such as ChatGPT, but they have also been developing strong relationships with them.

Such bots are not entirely trustworthy, as they provide predictive text which is not always accurate. Depending on the programmed parameters, they may also make negative suggestions. There have been reports of chatbots suggesting that people harm or kill themselves. In short, they should be approached with caution and skepticism.

New AI CCTV is available which can identify threats in shopping malls, and the video is searchable via clothing and other descriptions applied.

Chain stores such as Kmart and Bunnings have been in trouble with the Information Commissioner over the use of biometric data such as facial recognition, however many people use facial recognition to unlock their phones.

Artists, writers, musicians, photographers and others have had their creative outputs scooped up by AI companies without recompense, for a profit-making enterprise. The Productivity Commission suggested in August that there be a copyright law exemption for AI, prompting criticism from those whose work has been taken without consent. In the meantime, large publishers and music companies are making deals with AI companies.

As for robots, there are some predictions that nearly everyone will have a humanoid AI robot at home in the 2030s, while others say that there could be more than a billion humanoids in use by 2050. At least there won't be any more fights over who does the washing up.

But when there's nothing left to do, what will humans do? Luxuriate or die of boredom? What will be the mental health impacts when there's nothing left to strive for? And will the economic boon be adequately shared with the populace?

It appears likely that there may be GDP increases for Australia through the use of AI, but how will this be passed onto the workers displaced? After all, the World Economic Forum estimated that 22 per cent of current jobs globally will face disruption by 2030.

There are also fears of techno-feudalism developing, with big-tech owners as our overlords.

Theorists have suggested that a Universal Basic Income (UBI) may be the only real option as more jobs disappear, but if it is implemented in Australia, how long will it take? If it's not implemented quickly, how

will potential income inequality be handled? While UBI sounds a bit like socialism, it is in fact something entirely new as socialism focuses on workers owning the means of production, while UBI is a redistribution of wealth.

A spokesperson Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations was asked about these challenges. They responded, "Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) recently published *Our Gen AI Transition*, Australia's first national, whole-of-labour market study focused on the potential workforce opportunities and challenges presented by generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI). The study and its recommendations offer a framework for employment and skills policy to respond to gen AI and future technologies.

"The report highlights the need for broad digital and AI capability uplift to enable Australia's transition over the medium term with key findings showing that gen AI is more likely to augment human work than replace it, with many roles remaining secure against automation.

"Reforms have built a responsive, industry-led vocational education and training (VET) system driven by data, collaboration and shared stewardship. The National Skills Agreement, Jobs and Skills Councils and Jobs and Skills Australia are positioned to address AI-related skills and workforce challenges, with initiatives already underway.

"The Australian Government has programs in place to assist workers facing job loss, including those displaced by AI. Retrenched workers and their eligible partners have immediate access to tailored employment services under the Early Access initiative and can register with a Workforce Australia Provider for support.

"Workforce Australia can provide services including reskilling, finding and applying for jobs, and relocation assistance. An on-the-ground transition support network, comprising representatives from DEWR national, state and territory offices together with Job Coordinators can assist retrenched workers to connect with local support services."

The Australia Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) is also actively researching and studying various aspects of artificial intelligence.

A spokesperson for DISR said, "AI is an important tool that will improve the lives and livelihoods of Australians, but its potential will only be realised when used in a safe and responsible way.

"The Australian Government is taking an integrated approach to capturing the

opportunities of AI while building trust in the Australian community.

"We are also working with international partners to progress global research on technical AI safety and shape global frameworks to reflect Australian values.

"AI is governed by both economy-wide and sector-specific laws, at both Commonwealth and state and territory levels. These include online safety, consumer and privacy laws.

"The government released the Voluntary AI Safety Standard (VAISS) in 2024, which provides practical guidance to business on how they can adopt AI safely and responsibly.

"This includes ensuring there are processes to identify bias and minimise the effects of bias in AI systems.

"The government takes its responsibility to keep Australians safe seriously. In partnership with industry, the government has acted to ban the availability of 'nudify' and undetectable stalking tools that cause harm and undermine trust in this new technology.

"The National AI Centre is delivering tools and resources to support companies to develop and adopt AI responsibly.

"The Australian Government is considering its approach to the regulation of the use of AI in high-risk situations. It is important that we get the balance right," they said.

New round of Landcare grants

LAST week the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced the 2025 Victorian Landcare Grant recipients, with each funded project making a difference to enhance and protect Victoria's great outdoors.

This year \$3.6 million in grants will support 509 Landcare and environmental volunteer groups across the state, helping fund on-ground works, community education and engagement activities, group development, and small grants supporting administrative functions, including insurance, incorporation and operational costs.

Locally, Landcare grants recipients included Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, who received \$15,598 to go towards environmental education for schools and community, in particular their popular kids teaching kids program, as well as their work with the schools and scouts of Murrindindi Shire.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network also received \$12,100 for controlling pests, plants and animals in the Upper Goulburn, including workshops, running a chemical users course that qualifies land owners for using chemicals and bait, and a rebate on people buying chemicals for combating blackberries.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network also had a \$20,000 extension to their funding for koala conservation, giving them more scope to expand outwards from their current work in the Yarck and Merton area to potentially the Goulburn River and Cathedral Ranges area.

Support grants of \$500 included Kinglake Landcare Group, Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare, Flowerdale Landcare Inc, and Strath Creek Landcare Group.

Landcare grants deliver lasting benefits to the environment, the funding will help Landcare groups restore and protect vital habitats and waterways, and grow strong, connected communities that will continue to care for the land for generations to come.

Grants were available to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, including Landcare and Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Traditional Owner or Aboriginal groups and organisations working on Country.

The grants will be delivered in partnership with Melbourne Water and nine Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria.

For more information, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants



The event was held as part of Seniors' Month. -AR

An afternoon tea at Menzies

MENZIES Support Services hosted a lovely afternoon tea for seniors, as part of Seniors' Month, on Thursday, October 9. The attendees enjoyed a chat, a laugh and some lovely food.



Some of the afternoon tea attendees enjoying a chat. -AR

Daniher's Drive rolls in to fight MND

THE important annual event, Daniher's Drive, rolled through Murrindindi Shire on Thursday, October 9, stopping at Flowerdale Estate and Peppers in Marysville.

Matt Tilley, CEO of FightMND, described the start of Daniher's Drive as being "like the first day of school camp."

He explained that in addition to the drive being a lot of fun, it's also a meaningful time of the year for the people to reconnect with everyone from the MND community. Most people taking part have either lost someone or are living with someone going through it.

This year, they have 11 new teams taking part, in addition to returning teams. The event makes people feel less alone on their journey, as other people know what they're going through.

Founder and MND sufferer, Neale Daniher, was the winner of the Australian of the Year award this year, and Matt said that it's made a big difference to Daniher's Drive. "Spots filled up pretty quickly," he said.

On the first day of the drive, before visiting Flowerdale Estate and then Marysville in the evening, they visited Assumption College, Neale's old school, where they honoured him by naming a building after him. Neale recorded a speech for the occasion, and attended in person.

Teams taking part in the drive all raise or donate \$5000 for the cause, with sponsorship opportunities available. Donations are also welcome at fightmnd.org.au

Matt explained that the progress towards finding a cure for the disease is slow. "Science takes a long time," he said. "But we're trying to hurry everyone up. Just a month ago we flew in some of the best and the brightest from around the world, from universities like Oxford and King's College and Johns Hopkins, and we have a little think tank and we push them along and go, you can't just hide there in your laboratories, are you all talking to each other?"

He noted that Victoria has become "a bit of an epicentre for MND research."

Asked whether AI is making a difference in medical research, Matt said, "Interestingly enough one of the things we've funded this year is called the Longitude Prize. It's quite a significant amount of money and [FightMND] and a number of other organisations involved in MND research have contributed to it. It's effectively a prize to the research laboratory that can come up with the best AI approach to tackling the cure. We're definitely leaning into it."

He noted that medical professionals have long been using AI, before it became well known to the general public.

He added, "MND is not a city disease. It doesn't discriminate. One of the most powerful things we can do here is connect with people in these communities. People come from far and wide to join this drive... The hope we want to give people is that they're heard, no matter where they live, even though a lot of the resources and the medical treatment centres are in the capital cities. We know the people are everywhere and the tyranny of distance when someone has a disease that sees them physically deteriorating. It takes hours to prepare cylinders for a car ride and then to trek into the city and stuff. And exhausting for the carers and the families as well."

There's no test for MND, so it can take a long time to be diagnosed, and there's no cure although some trials may extend life by a couple of months. Genetics appear to be a factor in three to eight per cent of cases, but for the remainder, the cause is unknown.



Some of the participants on Daniher's Drive in Marysville. -AR

This year marks the ninth time that Daniher's Drive has been run. Neale's daughter Bec said, "It's just been incredible. The Daniher Drive is about bringing together a community and for us we've had nine years where we've got to meet so many beautiful people. They've either been directly impacted by MND or they've been inspired to try and help make a difference. There is just no better group than these Daniher Drive people, and then the fact that we get to go out into regional communities and I just think the spirit of regional communities continues to amaze us. The town stops, everyone comes out and wants to support it, and so often we see people living with MND as we go along and we know how important it is to see a town rallying behind someone in need. We see that time and time again."

She also commented on how proud she is of her father being named Australian of the Year. "It was such a kind of quite a surreal moment to hear his name being read out. He really does accept that on behalf of everyone who has been a part of the fight, who is in their own fight or in memory of those that have lost their fight. This has always been beyond just one person. This is about the power of a community when they can rally behind a cause. And whenever I see the Daniher's Drive community come together, it just reminds me how strong we are when we come together as a collective," she said.

She also spoke of the vital contribution that FightMND has made towards medical research. "We've been able to invest over \$117 million into vital MND research and critical care as well for those living with MND. We've got some grant announcements coming up at the end of October, a really significant boost to the fight against MND. We want to make sure that the funds that are raised are moved as quickly as possible because the people that are going to find the answer, they're the ones in the clinics and the labs around Australia and the world. We want to make sure that they're able to work as hard as possible. I just think every time I hear about an advancement being made, it's just a little more glimmer of hope. And I know we'll find a Eureka moment one day and we'll pop a bottle of champagne and fight MND will be no more because we're not needed."



The Flowerdale Estate event. -S



The participants enjoying lunch at Flowerdale Estate. -S



Neale's brothers, Chris, Anthony and Terry with Neale's daughter Bec. -AR



People having fun on the journey. -S



Neil Daniher's daughter Bec speaking to the audience at Peppers in Marysville. -AR

Cricket season kicks off for Alexandra

by Michael Mawson

THE 2025-26 season of the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) got underway on the weekend with a round of T20 games. Alexandra hosted Pyalong on the lush surface at Leckie Park, with consecutive A and B grade matches.

The Redbacks A-Grade team narrowly lost a low-scoring match. Prior to this, the B-Grade hosts enjoyed a comfortable win on the back of a dominant performance from Levi Ronalds with both the bat and ball.

Many of the players in the competition dislike playing in the T20 format. One benefit of the shorter games is that if a team is having difficulty filling its list, players can play two matches in a day. Both Alexandra and Pyalong resorted to this, with the first round of a season being notoriously difficult for getting all players to assemble.

The Redbacks' B-Grade captain won the toss and elected to field first. This decision was made with the expectation of the new pitch and grassy field becoming faster and easier to score upon as the day wore on.

Josh Crane and Will Ellis opened the bowling and had Pyalong's batsmen on the back foot with effective pace and swing.

Ellis bowled the two openers cheaply in an economical spell. Crane can count himself unlucky with a few catches being missed. Pyalong's Matthew Wilkins saw off the bowling of Jordan Ferrier and Thaya Sathisivam. Thaya's zippy leg-spinners proved to be frustratingly hard for the batters to play scoring shots.

Levi Ronalds entered the attack and immediately flipped Pyalong's innings on its head. Wilkins was caught for 23 when he edged a delivery into the chest of Mawson behind the stumps. Damien Zoch had the proven ability to post a big score but was denied when he top-edged a Ronalds ball that was caught by Harrison Christie. Ronalds then went on to bowl three more batsmen with sharp off-cutters and conceded only six runs in four overs.

The youngest player in the team, Dusty Fitzpatrick also chimed in with an over and got a wicket with his first ball when Alexander Ryan edged his ball to Andrew Wood at first slip.

Daniel Sowden was the highlight of Pyalong's batting with a quick 31 runs and he helped the visitors to a score of 8-89. While a low score, it was defensible given that the lush surface made it difficult to hit boundaries.

The Redback opened the innings with Scott Whitehead and Tim Polson. Both batsmen started by eking out runs against an effective bowling attack until Polson was caught out for five. Mawson entered the middle and departed a few balls later after being caught at slip for no score.

This dismissal proved to be terrible for the visitors as this brought Levi Ronalds to the crease. In a very short time, the chef repeatedly clouted the ball and scored 38 runs. This included two fours and four sixes. While all this action was happening, Whitehead methodically compiled 36 runs and carried his bat. When Ronalds was caught out, Harrison Christie came in and needed to score only six before Alexandra passed the Pyalong total in 16.5 overs.

The A-Grade team then took to the crease after the captain Will Ashton won the toss and elected to bat.

Ashton opened the batting and hit two fours on the way to a score of 18. Banjo Fitzpatrick and then Matt Wal had difficulty against the sharp pace of Matt Pratt and hit catches to be dismissed cheaply. Justin Leary was then bowled in a curious manner off the bowling of Mitch Wittig for a score of two. This left Alexandra reeling at 4-25.

Newly appointed Vice-Captain, Vinu Hewage was at the crease with Mawson who was playing his second innings of the day. Both batters found boundaries hard to come by but managed to keep the score moving with a mix of defence and aggression. The pair added 44 runs for the fifth wicket before each were dismissed trying to tonk the bowlers in the last few overs.

The Redbacks managed to get a score of 7-75 which would be considered below-par.

The home team's bowling innings got off to the best possible start with Leary bowling out a Pyalong opener with his first ball. The Pyalong batsmen then steadied the innings and scored at the required rate without losing wickets until Ferrier induced a catch and Hewage got through another player's defence with a skidding off-break.

Ashton put himself into the bowling attack and got Josh Crane to swap the keeping gloves with Toby Ward so that he could make use of his bowling talents. The new bowling partnership caused runs to dry up and wickets fell in quick succession. These dismissals included a superb catch by Fitzpatrick, a leg before wicket to Ashton and Ward caught a top-edge that went stratospherically high.

With eight balls to go, Pyalong were still in a winning position of 6-73. Unfortunately, a ball was cut above point and Mawson dropped a sharp chance that he normally would take. To his own surprise, this chance was missed by jumping too high. This brought the score to 74. The next ball Pyalong glanced a ball past the keeper and looked to be taking the winning two runs. However, a quick-thinking Ward chased down the ball and effected a run-out on the second run with a bullet throw. This left the scores level with one over left.

Ashton took the ball and delivered three fast, accurate deliveries that had the Pyalong number nine batsman in all sorts of trouble. The Redbacks were starting to think that an unlikely tie might be salvaged. On the fourth ball of the innings, however, the Pyalong batter got a lucky top-edge that pierced the field for a match-winning boundary.

Despite the loss, the Redbacks could point to some positives given that the team was in a cricketing quagmire twice and managed to fight their way out each time.

First round of term four for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Blue Vein versus Camembert

ETHAN versus Jordan: One player held control of the court all match. It was a very one-sided match with Jordan winning with a solid lead. 79 to 47.

Randy versus Liane: Consistency was key. Liane kept the pressure on throughout the match. The third game saw Randy break out to claim the game, but Liane was back in the fourth to squash his hopes of winning. Liane was crowned victorious. 77 to 57.

Jared versus Chris: Jared shot out taking a 10-point lead in the first game. Chris claimed some points back over the next two games, only to have Jared taken them back in the final game to win the match. 61 to 52.

John versus Derrick: Derrick kept the 'T' to run John around the court. With his opponent in control John tried to get creative but couldn't take the win. Derrick took the match. 59 to 44.

Feta versus Gouda

Tyler versus Lochlan: These two had some great rallies. Tyler opened strong to take the first game with a good lead.

With consistency Lochlan won the next three games, however he lost the match on points. Tyler for the win. 57 to 55.

Jess versus Laura: With more experience under her belt, Jess was consistent throughout. Laura gave Jess a challenge, but Jess's skills prevailed. 60 to 49.

Matt (fill in) versus Ben F: The spectators did not want this match to end. It was a terrific contest with some outstanding rallies. Ben held the upper hand in the beginning until Matt fired up in the second half taking the last game with enough points to win the match. 64 to 56.

Andrew versus Michael H: It was a close match. Andrew made Michael work hard for his victory with each game having a difference of a few points. Michael was triumphant. 61 to 57.

Thursday competition

Barracudas versus Hammerheads

Matthew versus Jessica: It took Matthew two games to get a read on his opponent and when he did, it made all the difference. Jessica was leading going into the third game. Matthew made some changes and dominated game three to take and hold the lead until the end. A brilliant victory for Matthew. 56 to 51.



Matthew reaches to return Jessica's shot. -S

Daniel K versus Daniel W: Battle of the Daniels is always an interesting show of varying talents. Daniel W has the ability to seemingly always get to the ball and make a shot while Daniel K has superb placement and the skill to read the next play. Daniel K was triumphant in this enjoyable match. 62 to 35.

Orcas versus Piranhas

Beth (fill in) versus Ben H: Beth was finding the going easy against her less experienced opponent. Beth's use of the side wall in the first half saw her leading. Putting some extra power into his shots Ben won the last two games, but he didn't have enough points to

win the match. 59 to 52.

Sam versus Travis: There's no rivalry quite like sibling rivalry. It's always a close and interesting game between these two. Game one went to Sam with a few points in the kitty. Travis won the next two games, taking back his lost points. Going into the final game the score was even and when the smoke settled the match was a draw. 60 to 60.

Michael M versus Justin: With tenacity Michael kept the 'T' under control, pushing Justin to the back of the court. Despite his efforts, Justin could not displace Michael. Michael was victorious. 65 to 53.

Marysville golfers have a full schedule

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday, the nine holer played the first round of the Winter Finals with a stableford game on the back nine holes. Keith Atwell (10) was the star of the day with a win with 23 points, he won nearest the pin on the 11th hole and had the shot of the day with a birdie on the par four 10th hole. Well played Keith. Geoff Fergusson (10) and Amanda Rattay (14) were the runners up each with 18 points. Round two will be played next Thursday and will be stableford on the front nine holes.

Also last Thursday two ladies played in the Euroa Bowl. A field of 34 ladies from throughout

the Dalhousie District and further afield played stableford. In a high scoring game, the Kilmore team combined well to win the bowl. Helen Howard finished with 35 points but with such high scores she didn't go home with a trophy.

On Saturday both the men and ladies played the second round of the club championships. The ladies daily winner was Gail Leigh (12) with nett 73 followed by Jody Doran (12) with nett 77 on a countback from Helen Howard. Steve Coker (17) with nett 69 won the men's competition from Brett Mansfield (13) with nett 70. The nearest the pins were won by Brett Mansfield, Sabrina Stow, Gail Leigh and

Steve Coker. Gail also won the putting with 26 putts and Steve won the golden shot. At the presentation four visitors from Beacons Hills Golf Club were welcomed to the competition. Next Saturday the men will play the third and final round of their championships and the ladies will play the third round of four.

November will be a busy month at the club with the Anniversary Fundraising event on the eighth, the Mixed Tournament on the ninth, the first round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra on the 15th and hosting the Dalhousie Veterans on 27th. Details can be found on the club Website and Facebook Page.

Eildon Golfers attend 2024/25 presentation night

by Puttomatic

LAST Saturday Eildon golfers had 17 players compete in a stableford competition before the 2024/25 presentation night at the Rubicon Hotel.

The winner last week was Ken Collier with an impressive 39 stableford points, with John Beale coming in second with 35 points. Ball run winners were Dale Lunt with 34 points, Grant Walters, Michael Lynch, and Colin Long all also with 34 points.

The nearest the pin winners last week, Tony Grayson was the closest with his second shot on the third and also the closest on the 14th. No winner on the fifth and Phil Dally had the best shot on the 11th with Ken Collier taking out the 12th. There were no birdies on the par five-15th drink hole but Rod Taylor chipped in for a birdie on the eighth earning his group a drink.

This time of the year the club celebrates the season with a great night at the Rubicon Hotel with the annual presentation night. These nights gives the club a chance to celebrate not only achievements of players, but also the great work volunteers and committee do throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the winners on Saturday and the winners at the presentation night, and the fantastic volunteers and committee that keeps the club going.

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Chook run is back for Alexandra golfers

by Dave Silverman

LAST week Alexandra golf kicked off, as usual, on Tuesday, when a field of nine played Stableford in fine conditions, although the wind was strong enough to be a factor at times.

Steve Darmody won the day with 35 points, three clear of Russell Purcell in second, with third going to Leo Dynes on 31 points. Russell also claimed the only nearest the pin with a great approach on 17. Rundown vouchers went to Nick Emmerson and John Greateorex.

Wednesday saw the ladies play round two of their championship, in similar conditions to the previous day. The round also incorporated the October Monthly Medal, and, not for the first time, it was Barb Doyle who came out on top, taking the round win and the medal with a 92 net 74. Second place went to Deb Richardson with a net 76, and nearest the pins went to Judy Pearson on two, Donna Meggitt on seven and Sue Greateorex on 12.

On her way to the win, and a sure indicator of a good round, Barb recorded the fewest putts with 31.

Thursday saw the return of the very popular Chook Run. Sponsored as always by Burnsie's Pizza, this week saw a field of 23 turn up, with over half that number non-members and first time Chook Runners. The evening was, as usual, a great social event, and the winner was Ryan Carter, with Jarrod Williamson in second and Scott Hill in third. The nearest the pin went to Simon Rouget.

With the run of good weather continuing, Saturday's round attracted a bumper field of 30. Sponsored by HG Turf, the stroke round included both the October monthly medal and round one of the men's championship.

Russell Purcell had a great round to take the win, and the medal, with a score of 84 net 68. Well done, Purce. John Greateorex came in second with a net 72, and third was Simon Rouget, also with a 72. Net 73s got Darren Gregg and Shane McGorlick into fourth and fifth respectively, and Matt Richards came in with a 74 to claim sixth.

Nearest the pins went to Pat Buckett on two, Donna Meggitt on five, Michael Bossonnet on seven, David Gilliam on 12 and Brad Kidd on 18.

The honour of fewest putts was shared equally between Mick Holohan and Shane McGorlick, both of whom had just 28, and congratulations must go to Pat Buckett for his eagle on the ninth.

Darren Gregg capped off a good day by winning the raffle.



Burnsie digs one out on the 13th hole. -S



Hilary Myles on the 12th tee. -S



Matt Richards on the 15th tee. -S



John Steer on the ninth tee. -S

Grants available for regional all abilities participation

EARLIER in the month the Victorian Government announced that applications are open for a second round of the *Regional All Abilities Participation Grants*.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available in three categories: Equipment and Travel, Inclusion Workforce, and Programs and Disability-led Initiatives.

The grants can be used to purchase specialised or modified equipment and

uniforms, such as sports wheelchairs, sensory balls, throwing frames, accessible starting systems, modified bats and racquets and other adaptive technologies enabling safe and inclusive participation.

For clubs that already have the right equipment and uniforms, funding can be used to subsidise wages or salaries towards creating a skilled workforce to help boost participation, such as disability sports

coaches, support workers or volunteers who are keen to broaden their skillset.

The funding can also be used to cover travel to competitions and festivals, and for clubs to create their own all-abilities sports programs.

Organisations that support community participation in sport and active recreation such as local clubs, state sporting associations, disability or self-advocacy

groups, and health or disability providers are encouraged to apply.

Increasing opportunities for more Victorians to participate in sport and active recreation is a key objective of the state government's *Active Victoria 2022-2026*, a strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria.

For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding