

# 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, June 17, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

**Big Bird Project lands in Eildon**

Page 3

**Rotary supports Big Day Out**

Page 7

**Clinical governance vacancy Kellock**

Page 10

**Weekend sport**

Pages 17-20



Staff participants in the Alexandra Secondary College Big Freeze fundraiser. More on page 8. -AR

## Two vital surveys for people in fire-impacted areas

TWO important community-generated surveys are underway for people impacted by the Longwood fire. The Yarck Hall survey is on the topic of whether people are in appropriate housing for winter, and the Tablelands Hub survey is about the clean-up of properties and case workers.

Both are keen to find out information from people across the entire fire ground.

### Appropriate winter housing survey

Yarck Hall is asking, are you living in temporary accommodation on your fire affected block this winter?

If so, they are asking that people fill out a simple survey so they can advocate for better outcomes for the community this winter.

The survey is anonymous and seeks no personal information aside from the region in which you live.

The questions are all check-boxes. Are you living in temporary accommodation on your 2026 Fire Affected Block (that is, did you lose a dwelling on this block)? Was the dwelling on your block your primary place of residence? Are you currently living in a caravan or bus,

modular or transportable home, customised or uncustomised shipping container, shed, tent or other? There is also a question around whether the shelter is winter-proof.

They are also asking people to let others know about the survey if they are living in such temporary accommodation.

The survey can be found at [tinyurl.com/ayzsrmmr](http://tinyurl.com/ayzsrmmr) and is expected to close around June 20.

Shivaun Brown from Yarck Hall explained, "It's really about trying to get information about who is living in accommodation that's just not appropriate for winter, just too cold, wet, damp."

She noted that appropriate accommodation is not only about physical health, it's also about mental health following the trauma of the fires and the ongoing recovery.

She said, "Some people just don't know that there's help available or aren't in a position to be able to access the help themselves, in which case we can help them to do it."

If people have been impacted by the fire, they are strongly advised to contact the state

government hotline on 1800 560 760, to make contact with their local council, or to visit one of the hubs, located in Yea, Ruffy, Terip Terip, Highlands, Yarck and Fawcett. The latter have different operating hours, with the Yarck Hub open from 11am to 2pm on Saturdays at present. They can also be contacted on 0427 323 671.

Shivaun said, "We understand that the Homes Victoria modular homes are rolling out starting from tomorrow."

It's now six months after the fire.

They estimate that in the Yarck area, there are 13 to 15 properties that currently have temporary accommodation which isn't winterproof, but as mentioned, in the survey, they are keen to hear from people from across the fire ground.

If they receive information for people in other hub areas, they'll be passing it on to those hubs, as well as including it in their overall statistics.

Shivaun explained that as the survey has been created by the community, "We can then also come back and say to the community, okay, these are the people we've spoken to,

this is the information we've got... and this is what we think might happen because of it."

### Clean-up and case management survey

The Tablelands Fire Recovery Hub, operating out of the Ruffy Mechanic Institute, is running a survey on the post-fire recovery clean-up, including whether people qualified for clean-up support.

As with the winter accommodation survey, the clean-up survey welcomes people from across the Longwood fire-impacted area, no matter where they are located.

The survey is located at [forms.office.com/r/67tpSzmV9S](http://forms.office.com/r/67tpSzmV9S)

The survey is easy to fill out and there aren't many questions. One of the questions is, are you in a caravan and are you reliant on a generator? A quarter of the respondents so far have indicated they're in a caravan or in a shed or similar.

Continued Page 12

# Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

ON Tuesday members enjoyed a trip to Healesville RSL Morning Melodies. Great entertainment and lunch followed by shopping. Thank you Yvonne for driving the shire coach.

On Wednesday, the bridge players were joined by players from Mansfield and Healesville for a Bridge tournament and lunch in the Corner Hotel. Thank you Dennis Christian for organising and adjudicating the event.

On Friday at a well attended social meeting members celebrated the birthdays of June and Joan with a cake from Jeanette. Dave told the jokes before Christine, Dominic and John won the chocolate bars. We also officially

welcomed Colin and Christine from Thornton into the membership.

A provisional booking has been made with the Rubicon Hotel for Christmas in July Lunch on Friday, July 24 and a nominal list will be on the front desk for nominations shortly. There will be a sing song this week so bring your singing voices on Friday afternoon. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital**  
5736 0400

**In an emergency dial 000**

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**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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**THUMBS UP:** The article in the Standard on March 7 showed a 'big cheque' for \$148,211 that was raised at the Yarck bushfire concert, or so they say. In last week's Standard, June 3, a cheque was presented to Foundation Murrindindi for \$145,620. Less \$2501 on the latest 'big cheque'. The money was supposed to go to five CFA groups, Yarck, Merton, Terip Terip, Ruffy and Fawcett (which is actually Koriella), then it was reported on a Facebook comment to have gone to Murrindindi Shire. Now it's gone to Foundation Murrindindi? I am hoping that the fire affected people still benefit by this.

**THUMBS UP:** Thank you to the staff at Alexandra District Health for the wonderful care they provide. The staff were kind, caring, professional and reassuring throughout our visit. Thank you for all that you do.

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

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Rubicon solar project

OVER the weekend of the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show, a shop in Alexandra was turned into an information centre by the Save the Rubicon Valley Group in the hope that more people would be aware of the devastating proposed solar panel project with over 140,000 solar panels and 190 shipping container size lithium-ion batteries (BESS) for the historic Rubicon Valley.

Many wonderful local people, businesses, tourists and friends supported the group, gathering information on the historic Rubicon Valley and surrounding areas, and signing the petition to save this beautiful valley from the foreign owned solar panels project.

What an amazing group of people coming

together to save a historic picturesque area.

*Thornton resident, name supplied but withheld by request*

### A thank you from the Woodies

ALEXANDRA Community Shed / Eildon and District Woodworkers (Woodies) would very much like to reintroduce ourselves to you and surrounding neighbours.

We have just completed a successful and busy year with many members attending Tuesday and Thursdays each week. Our lady members also take pride in keeping things in order.

Members have the opportunity of working on their own projects, repairing/remodelling items to support our community. Our biggest effort so far was the rebuilding of a new carriage

for the tramway. Have you seen it yet? Get down and check it out.

We continue needing help ourselves sometimes and there's a couple that truly went beyond our expectations. Our truck show attendance was made possible because Steve and Melissa Handbury who allowed us to use a shop so we could not only join in with celebrations but setup displays on what our talented members can produce.

The Woodies had a very successful day that again was not possible without Steven and Melissa's involvement.

We are definitely a great community and we also look forward to meeting new members.

*Leigh Stephens, vice president, Alexandra Community Shed and Eildon and District Woodworkers*

## COMMUNITY DIARY

**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Non-emergency police assistance**  
131 444

**EMERGENCY 000**

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

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**WEEKLY**

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas  
Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581  
Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall  
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801  
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611  
Sun AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.  
Sun ALANON meeting; 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086

**MONTHLY**

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

**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.

## Weekly Weather

June 17th - June 23rd, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	14	18	Wednesday	13	18
Thursday	10	15	Thursday	9	15
Friday	8	12	Friday	7	12
Saturday	5	12	Saturday	4	12
Sunday	5	13	Sunday	4	12
Monday	5	12	Monday	4	12
Tuesday	5	13	Tuesday	5	13

**Standard** **The Yea Chronicle**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

**Standard** **The Yea Chronicle**

## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	7.00AM Mon	1.14	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00AM Mon	0.61	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.00AM Mon	0.85	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.30AM Mon	0.37	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.28AM Mon	0.66	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	12.00PM Sun	0.49	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	7.00AM Mon	1.49	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	7.00AM Mon	3.64	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	7.00AM Mon	0.65	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	1.18	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	7.00AM Mon	0.40	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	7.45AM Mon	0.91	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	1.24	steady	

**\*ISSUED AT 9.39 AM AEDT MONDAY 15 JUNE 2026**

## DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	21mm
Buxton.....	40mm
Eildon (AWS).....	39mm
Flowerdale.....	16mm
Jamieson.....	46mm
Kinglake.....	23mm
Lake Eildon.....	36mm
Mansfield.....	10mm
Taggerty.....	28mm
Yarck.....	26mm
Yea.....	N/Amm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

### LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	270.15m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	42%
Metres below full supply.....	18.75m
Daily inflow.....	4000ML
Release.....	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	61%

## Standard

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## DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or  
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support



## Mayor speaks about Alexandra's tourism award nomination

AS outlined in last week's edition, Murrindindi Shire Council is calling on locals, visitors and supporters to vote for Alexandra after the town was named a finalist in the 2026 Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards, in the Small Tourism Town category.

The nomination highlights the diversity of tourism experiences, townships and strong collaboration between communities and local tourism businesses across the region.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the finalist recognition was a proud moment for the town and encouraged the community to support the public vote.

"We are incredibly proud to see Alexandra recognised as a finalist in these prestigious awards. While Alexandra is the nominated town, this

recognition truly reflects the strength of the entire Murrindindi Shire, our communities, townships and tourism businesses working together," Mayor Gallagher said.

"At a time when we continue to navigate the impacts of fire and recovery, this nomination provides a real boost, celebrating our resilience, our spirit and everything that makes our region so special.

"We're calling on locals, visitors and supporters to get behind Alexandra by voting and sharing the message," Mayor Gallagher continued.

"Every vote is a simple but powerful way to support not just one town, but our entire region as we continue our recovery."

The Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards recognise destinations that deliver outstanding visitor experiences while demonstrating strong community engagement and a commitment to tourism. Recognition at this level plays an important role in driving visitation, supporting local jobs and strengthening economic recovery across the region.

Voting is quick and easy and takes less than 30 seconds, with one lucky voter to win a luxurious Melbourne escape for two.

Vote online at [vtic.com.au/toptourismtown/2026-finalists/alexandra](http://vtic.com.au/toptourismtown/2026-finalists/alexandra)

Voting closes at 5pm on June 26, with the community encouraged to get behind the entry and show its support for the region.



The beautiful king parrot sculpture. -Linda Carter

## Big Bird Project lands in Eildon

SOMETHING special has landed at Eildon. The 'Big Bird Project' has been on the drawing board for two years at Eildon Events, and will be a great attraction for the Eildon area. The sculpture was created by Tank and Tobin Sculptureworks. An official opening will be held at the site once everything is in place.

## Temporary disruptions while Telstra upgrade coverage in Eildon

TELSTRA will be upgrading its mobile base station that services Eildon to bring a better 4G user experience and deliver new 5G coverage in the area. The upgrades will improve the mobile site's capacity, meaning faster downloads, smoother streaming and less congestion.

Upgrade works will commence on site from June 15 for a period of six days. During these works, the site will need to be switched off for up to 72 hours to safely complete works.

Telstra Regional General Manager Jenny Gray advised that switching off the site will only occur when necessary.

"While disruption is required while the upgrade is underway, we'll only be switching off the site when we need to and will have it back online and working better than ever as quickly as possible," Ms Gray said.

"We know how important mobile connectivity is for Australians, whether you're in the city or the country.

"As data use over our mobile network continues to grow, adding extra 4G capacity to our mobile site in the area will help deliver faster downloads, smoother streaming and less congestion for customers. Bringing 5G to the area is also a major milestone, delivering greater capacity and even faster speeds."

Telstra mobile customers will receive an SMS advising of the upcoming work. These works will not impact NBN, Satellite internet services, PSTN landline services, or mobile coverage from other providers.

Any calls to Triple Zero from a Telstra mobile when the site is off air will automatically connect to another mobile network if available for connection to emergency services.

In order to improve connectivity while the works are underway, Telstra customers can continue to make calls and send texts during the disruption to mobile services by switching on Wi-Fi Calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Telstra also encourage business owners to talk to their bank about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN or Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions.

Customers can find more information and tips on how to prepare by visiting, [tel.st/planned-work](http://tel.st/planned-work)

While Telstra do their best to deliver planned works as scheduled, there may be occasions where timings or impacts change due to factors outside their control. Keep up to date on this outage via [telstra.com.au/outages](http://telstra.com.au/outages)

## POLICE REPORT

POLICE were pleased with the behaviour of the crowd at the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show.

POLICE have advised that the rider of an e-bike in Yea has had his bike impounded and is facing charges for unlicensed driving and an unregistered vehicle. If your e-bike has a motor that exceeds 250 watts for pedal-assist or 200 watts for throttle control, it is considered a motor vehicle and you need a motorbike licence and the bike must be registered to ride it legally in public. If you ride an e-bike which exceeds the power and speed limits without a licence and registration, you could be subject to a significant fine. You must be at least 16 years old to ride a throttle-controlled e-bike, and all e-bike riders must wear a helmet. Keep to the left and give way to pedestrians on paths, do not ride across a pedestrian crossing

unless there is a bicycle lane or a green bicycle light, have at least one working brake, have a bell, horn or other warning device, people 13 years and older cannot ride on the footpath unless accompanying someone younger than 13.

POLICE are planning an operation targeting illegal hunting in the region.

POLICE are currently catching around 15 people speeding each week on the Goulburn Valley Highway.

ACROSS the King's Birthday long weekend police were actively testing drivers for drugs and alcohol, and positive readings were detected. Please refer to the article on Operation Regal in this edition. It includes statewide data as well as information about the Benalla Police Service Area, which includes Murrindindi Shire.

### Market @ Yarck

Devonshire teas, bacon and egg sandwiches and toasties

Saturday, June 20  
from 9am

Plants, soap, preserves and jams,  
knitwear, jewellery and much more  
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

### McCORMACK FUNERALS

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CindyMcLeishMP



[cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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





# Out & About

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Murrindindi Shire Council's regular Business Brunch will be held on Thursday, June 18 from 10 to 11.30am at The Pavilion Bar and Grill, 956 Buxton-Marysville Road. To see the full program schedule, registration and resources, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mbm](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mbm)

\*\*\*\*\*

Embling Rural will be hosting an online clearing sale for A/C High Country Metals, with over 100 steel bins, excavators, farm sundries, scrap chainsaws, etcetera. Inspection day is Thursday, June 18 from 10am to 3pm in Mansfield and Alexandra, with the auctions commencing at noon the same day and concluding on Monday, June 22 at 12noon. All lots will be published on their website, [emblingrural.com.au/onlineactions](http://emblingrural.com.au/onlineactions)

\*\*\*\*\*

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

The Market at Yarck will be running on Saturday, June 20 from 9am at the Yarck Hall. There will be Devonshire tea, bacon and egg sandwiches, toasties, and various stalls. For more details, contact Sharon Fox on 0407 879 612.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Don't miss the new musical by Steve Paix. *Mr Pres!!!! The Fake Musical*. 2pm at The Memo, Healesville. [yarraranges.vic.gov.au/culturetracks](http://yarraranges.vic.gov.au/culturetracks) or phone 1300 368 333.

Alexandra RSL general meeting at RSL Hall at noon, followed by a light lunch.

## Church Services

### ANGLICAN

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

### CATHOLIC

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

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

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

**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
37 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Pastor Daniel Kriss  
Services 10am every Sunday  
Phone 0400 282 536  
[mccbc.com.au](http://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

\*\*\*\*\*

### MONDAY, JUNE 22

The Whanregarwen Fire Brigade AGM has been rescheduled and will now be held on Monday, June 22, commencing at 6pm at the fire station. All are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Thornton Fire Brigade will be holding their AGM and biannual election on Thursday, June 25 at 7pm at the Thornton Fire Station.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TUESDAY, JULY 7

Eildon Events Inc will be holding their AGM on Tuesday, July 7 at 4pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Contact Sue McLaurin for nomination forms at [eildoneventsinc@gmail.com](mailto:eildoneventsinc@gmail.com)

# Challenge: Find the mannequin for Redgate Bazaar Op Shop

THE Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop in Alexandra is hosting a 'Find the Mannequin' challenge to celebrate the arrival of their new mannequin.

Residents of Alexandra and surrounds are invited to look at the photo of the mannequin included in this edition, with the purpose of locating where abouts in town the photo was taken.

Participants are then invited to attend Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop to fill in a supplied ticket with their name and contact details and their guess of the location of the mannequin

to 'Bettye's Barrel' at the op shop.

The winner of a \$10 op shop voucher will be drawn Saturday, June 27, at the op shop's close of business, and announced in the following edition of the paper. There will also be a second round of the 'Find the Mannequin' challenge alongside the winner announcement.

The Redgate Bazaar Op Shop is an Anglican Mission that supports the community wherever possible. The shop's opening hours are 10am to 3pm, Tuesday to Saturday.



Fill out a ticket stating where Bettye is in town at the Redgate Bazaar Op Shop for your chance to win. -S



Some of the event's attendees ready for dinner. -BD

# Terip Terip community gathers to recognise volunteer efforts

MURRINDINDI Shire Council hosted the first of their Thank You Volunteer events last Saturday night in Terip Terip, with a two-course meal catered by Grant Street Grocer, music by Solomon and Lacey, and the presentation of a community recognition plaque.

The event was attended by numerous members of the Terip Terip community, as well as Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi and Councillors Damien Gallagher, Paul Hildebrand and Sue Carpenter.

Cr Hildebrand made a speech to kick off the evening, in which he recognised some of Terip Terip's wonderful volunteers.

"Across Murrindindi Shire, there are so many individuals whose efforts often happen quietly without expectations or recognition, but whose impact is deeply felt. These are people who step forward in times of need, who support their neighbours, who bring people together, and who help sustain the strength and connection of our communities, both during times of crisis and the long recovery," Cr Hildebrand said.

"People like Lyn Burley, who took the helm and established the relief and recovery hub for Terip. The CFA's Shannon Roach, Jonathon Tofts, and Todd Eddy. Naomi McLean, who tended to injured animals and helped people as required. James O'Malley, who coordinated a farmer's convoy back to Terip after the fires."

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher revealed the community recognition plaque alongside Lyn Burley.



Cr Paul Hildebrand giving his speech to recognise Terip Terip's community volunteers. -BD

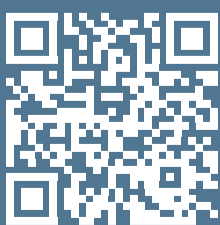


The unveiling of the community recognition plaque for Terip Terip by Lyn Burley and Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher. -BD



# Adult Time for Violent Crime

Offenders aged over 14 who commit violent crimes now face more serious consequences. Crimes like aggravated carjacking, home invasion or serious assault with weapons will now be tried in adult court and face longer sentences.



Learn more



Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Proudly supporting  
**Student of the week**

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



## ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Georgia S

Georgia Steer - Georgia consistently shows our school values. She is a kind and friendly student who is always respectful to both teachers and peers. She always does her personal best and approaches her learning with a positive attitude. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Georgia. You are a STAR.



## ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Beau N

Beau is recognised as a student who is truly determined to achieve success in his learning. He approaches every task with focus and persistence, always striving to do his very best. He is also a thoughtful and caring member of our class community. Beau consistently displays kindness by saying good morning, opening doors for others, pushing in chairs, putting books away, and cleaning up without being asked. He follows our classroom expectations and leads by example, encouraging others to do the same. We are so proud of the positive impact he has on our classroom each and every day.



## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



## Murrindindi Shire projects funded through Tiny Towns fund

THE Victorian Government is giving regional communities another reason to be proud of where they live, with hundreds of new investments flowing into Victoria's smallest towns.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaelyn Symes last week announced almost 50 recipients as part of round three of the Tiny Towns fund across the Northern Victoria region.

"The Tiny Towns grant program is so popular across Northern Victoria, highlighting the very best of regional Victoria. Congratulations to this round's deserving recipients," Ms Symes said.

"The fund is just one of the many examples of our \$20 billion investment in regional Victoria since 2014. We are a government that continues to invest in regional Victoria, and we always will."

Locally, projects include \$34,000 to UGFM to upgrade community broadcast resiliency, \$49,600 to the Flowerdale Sports Club for a facility renovation, \$25,000 to the Marysville and District Film Society for a function room upgrade, \$16,160 for a Homewood Hall kitchen and amenities upgrade, \$19,515 to Murrindindi Shire Council for a Buxton playground upgrade, and \$13,222 to the Strath Creek Progress Association for audio visual and technical enhancements at Pioneer Hall in Strath Creek.

Round three of the \$20 million Tiny Towns Fund delivers 157 projects across 151 towns with less than 5000 people. This latest round takes the total number of projects to more than 500 across 419 towns, with grants of between \$5000 and \$50,000 supporting local priorities.

Most projects are being delivered by local workers and businesses, backing regional supply chains and economic growth.

Minister for Regional Development Michaela Settle said, "Some of Victoria's best communities are also our smallest, and the Tiny Towns Fund is helping make sure they have the facilities and infrastructure they need to thrive."

## McLeish speaks on Indigenous recognition and self-determination through education

ON June 4, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish spoke about the *Education and Training Reform Amendment Bill 2026*. She said, "It was said earlier that the Opposition are not opposing this bill, and there are a number of elements that I do want to talk about as we work through it, because we have got strengthening Aboriginal recognition and self-determination through the education system and requiring schools to implement policies restricting use of personal electronic devices during school hours. These are things that I am really quite passionate about."

With regard to Aboriginal recognition and self-determination, she said, "I want to talk about strengthening Aboriginal recognition and self-determination across the education system. I have listened to over the years a number of debates around education and what we have learned about the Aboriginals."

"When I was at primary school we did quite a lot of work understanding different parts of their culture and the ways that they lived. We had a number of Aboriginal families in the town, so people knew those families. They certainly did not live like the traditional owners had way back, but we did have that understanding, and I think it is really important that people do know a lot more about the Aboriginal culture than perhaps many currently do. That means the good, the bad and the ugly. We certainly know that there were many ugly things that did happen."

"In my electorate the great divide is a separation between the Taungurung in the north and the Wurundjeri in the south. Some of the things that happened to both the Wurundjeri and Taungurung and tribes further north of moving them down onto the Coranderrk settlement in Healesville were atrocious. Certainly the schools in and around Healesville

have a very strong Indigenous presence within their classrooms, and a lot of work is done in those rooms about language and learning some of the arts and things, and that has been terrific. But that is in Healesville because that is very strong in that area. I think that there is a lot of work that can be done more broadly."

"Some of the things that I would be very keen to see included in this would be things about what happened when people died, how did they deal with people who were dying? I go to events every now and again where they have a lot of the medicines laid out, the different plants that they used for different conditions. I think that is really quite interesting. It is probably a bit like the ancient Chinese medicine. They had things that were in place. I think it would do kids a lot of benefit to think really broadly about how things can be different. Things do not just have to be popping a pill out of a jar like we might do; there are different ways of doing things."

"Which Aboriginal tribes were nomads, which ones stayed put a little bit more and where did people meet? I know in my electorate there were meeting places, not unlike Parliament House here was a meeting place. Just out of Yea at Ghin Ghin there was a property called Doogallook. Doogallook is an area where tribes came from different spots and met and would have their big corroborees. Now in the main street of Yea there is a sculpture, that rusted iron type of sculpture, that depicts Aboriginals sitting around a fire. At night when the light is on it looks as though it is a corroboree, and that is exactly what it is intended to do."

"My friend Angela ten Buuren was absolutely instrumental. She is

a Taungurung member, and she was instrumental in getting that and another sculpture up in Yea so that people can see and understand some of the history."

"Also there is a lot of language that I think could be embedded, and some of this could be embedded at local levels, because we have different things that happen in different areas."

"For example, in the Murrindindi Shire, the word 'Murrindindi' means 'mist of the mountains'. Let us go back 60,000 years and probably it was misty and foggy way back then, just like it is a lot of the time now. It is really quite an apt word... I mentioned Doogallook before, the area where people come together. That means 'croaking frog'. It is just near the Goulburn River, and I imagine there were quite a lot of billabongs along the river there... Toolangi is 'stringybark tree', and there are stringybark forests there. I went on a cultural burn up in that area, and we listened to the wildlife in that stringybark forest. Victor Steffensen, who is one of the experts in Australia and is from northern Queensland, talked to us about how that stringybark forest was dying and was sick because there was nothing for birds to eat. You could not hear the birds. There were no seeds; they were covered up by mulch and things like that, and the new forest was not coming in. He talked about how sick that forest was, and it was really quite alarming."

"Narbethong is 'cheerful place', that is quite a nice one. And Taggerty is 'blue-grey clay'. We all have words in our area, and I think it would not hurt children to know and understand where some of these meanings come from."

She also spoke about the recognition of Indigenous people in the armed forces, including during wartime.

## Rotary supports Big Day Out excursion

ALEXANDRA Secondary College would like to thank the wonderful Alexandra Rotarians for their generous donation of \$6000 towards the whole school Big Day Out Excursion on Wednesday, June 3.

They said of Rotary, "Your support and commitment to our local young people is truly appreciated. Thanks to your generosity, our students will have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable day filled with fun, connection, new experiences and plenty of smiles.

"Community support like this makes a real difference, and we are so grateful to have organisations like the Alexandra Rotarians backing our students and our school.

"From all of us at Alexandra Secondary College, thank you for helping make our Big Day Out extra special."



*Alexandra Rotary members with students and staff from Alexandra Secondary College. -S*

## Operation Regal rules the roads over King's Birthday weekend

A KING-size enforcement effort by police over the King's Birthday long weekend has resulted in a staggering number of traffic offences detected. Operation Regal saw police highly visible and targeting high-risk driving behaviour across the state's roads, in an effort to reduce road trauma.

A total 7221 traffic offences were detected over the four-day enforcement period, a 20 per cent increase on the same time last year.

There were 6005 offences detected during Operation Regal in 2025.

Police say its commitment to road policing across the entire workforce was key to the operation's success, with state, local and regional highway patrols joined by specialist road policing units, general duties police and the Public Order Response Team to proactively patrol the state's roads.

Motorists were warned prior to the weekend to expect widespread alcohol and drug testing, with police delivering 115,993 preliminary breath tests and 2778 roadside drug tests over the four days.

Police caught 249 drink drivers, a 21 per cent increase on the same enforcement period last year, and a strike rate of one in every 465 tested caught over the limit. A further 144 drug driving offences were also detected.

Police issued 3311 speeding infringements, a 25 per cent increase on the same time last year, with three quarters of all speeding offences issued to those caught travelling between 10km/h and 25km/h over the speed limit.

There was also a noticeable increase in mobile phone and device offences, with 292 infringements issued, up from 151 detected during Operation Regal last year.

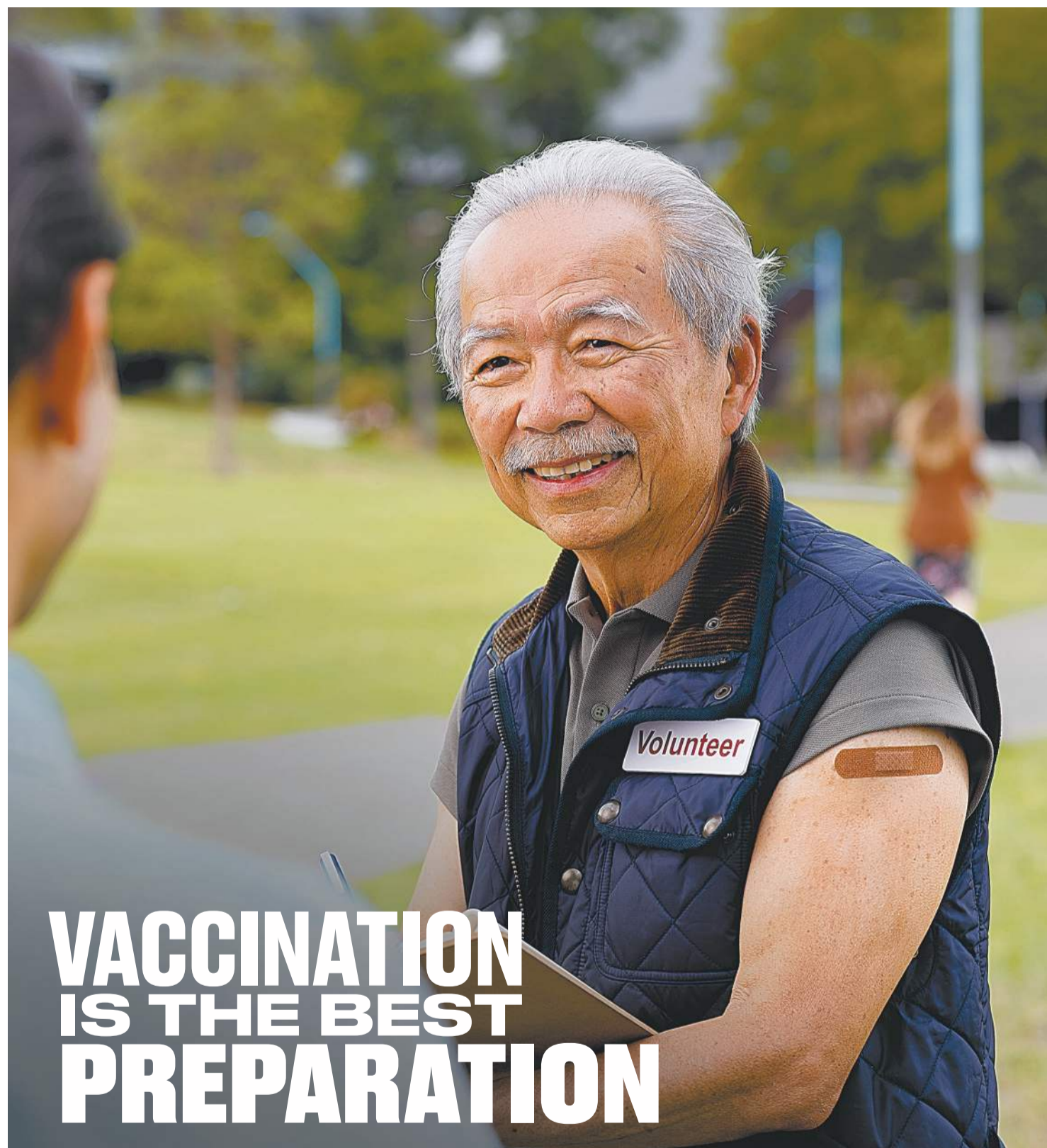
In the Benalla Police Service Area, which includes Murrindindi Shire, police caught six drink drivers, two drug drivers, two disqualified drivers, one unlicensed driver, 99 speeding offences, one disobey signs/signals, zero seatbelt offences, one mobile phone offence, eight unregistered vehicles, and two cyclist offences.

There were two fatal collisions over the weekend, including a 30 year old female passenger in a collision at Stanhope and a 72 year old male motorcyclist in a collision at Wangaratta South, both on Saturday, June 6. A 17 year old male motorcyclist was also killed in an off-road collision at Jeparit on Sunday afternoon.

With wet weather and poor visibility increasing as winter sets in across Victoria, police are urging motorists to take extra care on the roads and to continue to be on the lookout for vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians and motorcyclists.

Police will remain highly visible on the roads across the state, with targeted operations to take place over the coming weeks focusing on vulnerable road user safety.

Road Policing Assistant Commissioner, Mick Hermans said, "The fact we detected so many offences this weekend just highlights that so many motorists are knowingly breaking the rules, and we cannot accept this."



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**Australian Government**



# Big Freeze fundraiser at Alexandra Secondary College

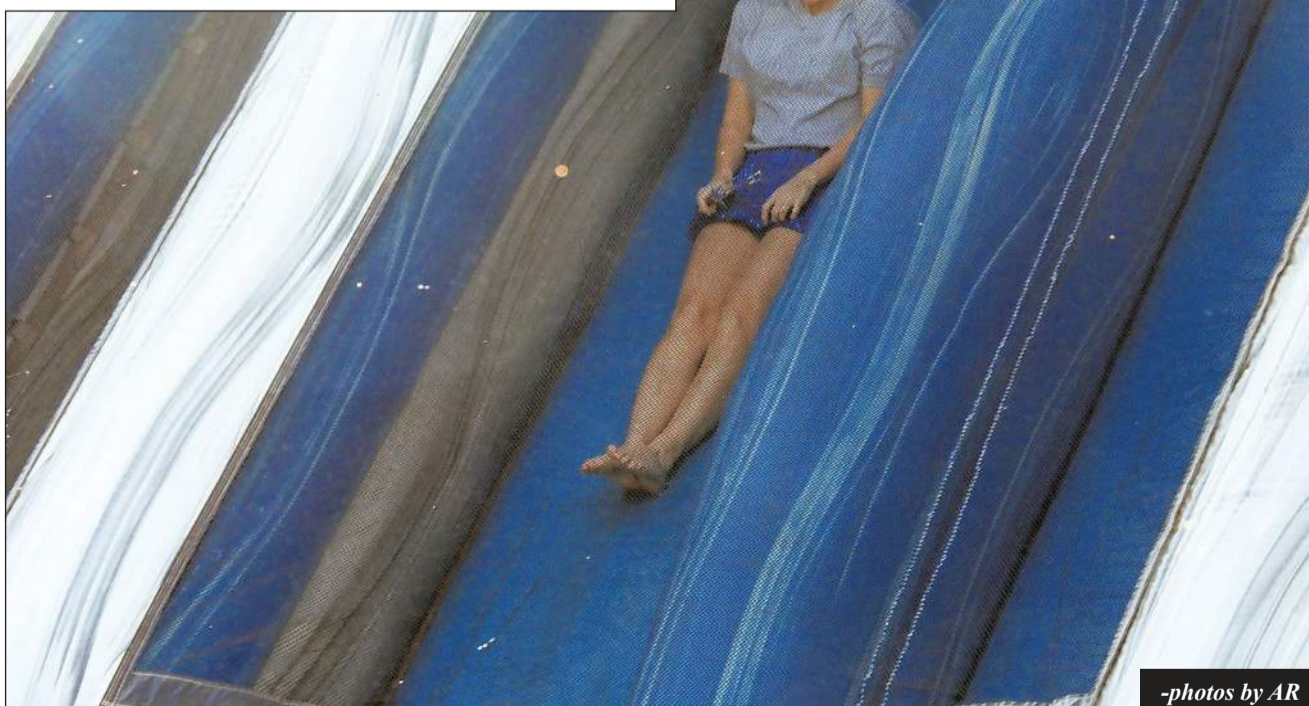
ALEXANDRA Secondary College captain, Makenna, was the organiser of the school's Big Freeze fundraiser, held on Friday, June 12.

The event was particularly poignant this year due to the recent death of Neale Daniher, who suffered from MND and was a prominent leader raising funds to fight the disease.

The school's goal was to raise \$1500 for the cause, but at last count, they had raised a remarkable \$1600 and counting.

The students paid \$5 to have a turn on the Big Freeze waterslide, and money was also raised to send teachers down the slide.

Makenna was secretly hoping that the weather would be colder than it was, but the warm weather was certainly welcomed by the staff and students who took the plunge.



-photos by AR





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# Marian Rennie opens Mansfield gallery

by Pam Zierk-Mahoney

LAST week Marian Rennie opened her new gallery, Rennie's at 101 High Street, creating an open visual space for a selection of her artworks.

With family connections in Mansfield, Marian grew up in Acheron with family onto a property where she still resides today and has made part of the old homestead her art studio.

I am deeply influenced by the Australian landscape, flora and fauna," Marian said at the opening of the gallery last Thursday evening.

"I often travel all over Australia and particularly into the outback for my inspiration. Sometimes I draw on the stories and experiences of my past as we are the fifth generation to have lived, loved and worked in the High Country and along the Goulburn River," she said.

Marian started painting at the age of seven and has spent a lifetime in creative adventure and continues to dedicate her enthusiasm and energy to her art.

Not only does Marian create her artworks from oil on linen but has also dabbled in theatre, textiles, puppetry, costume design and special effects and production for such luminaries as Circus Oz, Rubbery Figures, Handspan Theatre and installations at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Well-known and established in Melbourne her work is featured in many national and international collections and recently at a one-woman exhibition in Umbria, Italy.

Marian said she was encouraged to establish the gallery by Dean and Gill Belle and other members of Arts Mansfield.

"I was thrilled when Dean asked me to do a gallery in this wonderful old building which has so much character already," she said.

She will also be sharing the gallery space with sculptor Darren Gilbert of Yea and ceramics/potter Mandy Willaton of Alexandra.

Rennie's at 101 High Street will be open Friday, Saturday and Sundays or by appointment. For more information, contact 0412 109 129.



Bill Forrest, Marian Rennie and Dr Will Twycross talk artworks. The Forrests are cousins of Marian Rennie.



Retiring Director Luke James, CEO Tania Hunter, Board Chair Ian Gibb. -S

## Clinical governance vacancy at Kellock Lodge

KELLOCK Lodge would like to thank Registered Nurse Luke James for his service as volunteer Director of Clinical Governance on the Board of Management. With a *New Aged Care Act* introduced in November 2025, Luke was responsible for driving clinical quality, mitigating clinical risks, and ensuring compliance with the *Strengthened Quality Standards*.

Clinical governance in aged care ensures providers have systems, processes, and a safety culture in place to deliver safe, high-quality care. It holds everyone accountable, from the board of directors to frontline staff, for continuously minimising risks and improving the well-being of older persons.

While clinical governance has evolved significantly over the past decade following major royal commissions and legislative reforms, the foundational elements remain consistent, leadership and culture, partnering with older persons, workforce, risk management, and clinical practice.

Luke's contribution over the last year has been valuable and the residents of Kellock have benefited because of his input. Luke reports that his resignation from the board was a difficult one but necessary for work, life balance.

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VICTORIA POLICE



# Two vital surveys for people in fire-impacted areas

*Continued from Page 1*

The last question in the survey invites people to provide their contact information if they would like help with their recovery cleanup or temporary housing, but this is not compulsory.

Colleen Furlanetto explained, “We wanted to just see how it was out there, and ask very simple questions around, are you on the waiting list? Do you know where you’re at on the waiting list? How was it to get onto the list? And how’s the case management working for you if you have one?”

They have found so far that most respondents are not receiving updates and they don’t know if they qualify, or they’ve given up.

Colleen added, “There were some that said, ‘things went really well for us. We were cleaned up by Easter and it was easy’. But it’s far more murky for those that were underinsured.”

She explained, “The cleanup involves two stages of assessment. The initial assessment immediately after the fire from FRV and CFA, and then the secondary assessment, which was far more detailed, whether you have asbestos and septic and all that sort of thing. Then the Forge company, getting their ducks in a row and getting subcontractors in and then the process started. We’ve only really just in the last few weeks started to see property cleanup in the tablelands.”

Colleen added, “It’s very spasmodic. People have actually become sick of waiting... and ‘we just cannot wait any longer, we’ve got to move this’ and pay for it themselves...”

We’ve got people who have been working so hard lifting things, they’ve given themselves physical injuries on top of the emotional and financial toll.”

She’s also found that there is confusion in the community, with Strathbogie and Murrindindi Shire varying in terms of waste disposal.

There were attempts to stockpile items from clean-ups in one location for collection, to make it financially worthwhile, but this still proved challenging. In many cases, people took everything to the tip themselves, sometimes as far afield as Benalla.

She has found that “Communication in recovery has been very, very spasmodic, late, not complete, and it did vary sometimes with the local government area you’re in, so that confused people.”

She also expressed deep disappointment about the scammers preying on people in the fireground. “It adds to the trauma,” she said.

In addition to the clean-up challenges, there have also been concerns around case workers as some have very limited disaster experience in addition to a huge caseload. There have also been significant concerns about the lack of information more broadly.

Colleen said, “We also have people who are still weekly coming into the Tablelands Hub that haven’t registered anything yet. They’ve just done it themselves. Now they’re burnt out and financially and they have to tap into some supports.”

She also expressed concern that the different government departments are not talking to each other, and privacy issues are challenging.

For example, people might be on a council list and not on a hub list or state government list, and they may be missing out on significant support. These lists are only ever passed on with the individual’s permission. Colleen is of the opinion that the departments need to be going around to each property and seeing people face to face.

At the Tablelands Hub, the recovery support is 99.9 per cent donation, “totally reliant on volunteers and donations,” Colleen said. “There should be direct funding to these hubs to do the government’s job. We’re all volunteers. It’s been six months that my colleagues and I have been [at the hub], by choice but we had no choice, how do you step back?... If people don’t have housing and don’t have warmth and food, we know that mental health declines... It’s bloody tough at the moment. And it doesn’t need to be this tough. The government just needs to communicate and listen to the communities who know the community, and give local governments what they need. Not this jumping through hoops of ‘that doesn’t qualify, this doesn’t qualify.’”

She added that the hub teams across the Longwood fire area have been formidable and collaborative, and believes that there is much that the governments can learn from speaking with them.

“We hope at the right time they’ll give us the opportunity to share our preparedness. We’re going to make sure we’re ready for next time because I think we thought the cavalry would come, but we are the cavalry and it’s still that way in many ways,” she said.

There are various challenges facing individuals needing support post-fire,

including trauma response, literacy, computer literacy, eyesight, and access to the internet and printers.

Colleen said, “So we’re trying to get funding at the moment to set up a little Telehealth office at our hub with a laptop, screen, photocopier and printer, because everything’s on form.”

Government representatives attended the hub in the early stages, but there has been little since. The hub currently tries to focus organisational attendance to Tuesdays. Telstra has attended, along with case management from Primary Care Connect and Family Care. They also have a psychologist funded through Goulburn Valley Health, although they are receiving no funding to provide this support. They also have Mental Health Wellbeing Local, which is a peer-based program that is meant to connect people to mental health support.

She said, “We don’t see the Department of Family, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), we don’t see the recovery team, we see council representation, but they don’t have enough funding to have someone there every week... We need services for outreach and we need people getting in their cars and driving around and going and seeing people.”

She added, “The community can do a lot by itself if they’re resourced and supported, but we cannot keep digging into our pockets and doing whichever layer of government’s job, without support... We’re doing what needs to be done because no one else is doing it and that’s the same for all of the other hubs.”

## How much does AI know about Murrindindi Shire?

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is a remarkable technology, but we must never forget that it’s a prediction machine and not omniscient.

Two commonly used large language models (LLMs) were used to test how much Google AI and ChatGPT know about Murrindindi Shire.

### ChatGPT

ChatGPT was asked to list notable people from Yea, Victoria. It responded, “Yea has produced or been closely associated with a number of notable Australians, particularly in sport, politics, journalism, agriculture and public service.”

In the politics and public life category, ChatGPT listed, “Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop. Although born elsewhere, the famous surgeon and prisoner-of-war leader had strong family and district connections in the Yea region.”

Suspiciously (but with a slight amount of hope), we searched and of course found nothing to indicate any truth to the claims, although Weary Dunlop did open the acute care emergency centre at Yea hospital in the 1990s.

Among the sportspeople, it listed “Kevin Sheedy”. Kevin Sheedy? ChatGPT said, “The legendary Essendon coach spent part of his childhood in the Yea district and has maintained connections to regional Victoria.” How did we not know about this?

The next question asked of ChatGPT was, “Please provide a reference for Kevin Sheedy living in Yea.”

Its response was, “I can’t find a reliable reference that Kevin Sheedy lived in Yea. In fact, the readily available biographical sources indicate he was born and raised in Melbourne, attended De La Salle College, and played his early football with Prahran before joining Richmond. None of the major biographies or AFL histories I could find mention him living in Yea.”

Moving along, ChatGPT was asked, to compile an extensive and fully sourced list of notable people from the Victorian towns of Yea, Alexandra, Eildon, Thornton, Taggerty, Marysville, Strath Creek, Buxton and Kinglake.

While many of the responses were accurate, ChatGPT listed Peter Brock and Christine Nixon as Kinglake residents.

ChatGPT said, “Peter Brock had a long association with the Kinglake area and owned property there. Frequently cited as

one of the district’s most famous residents. Christine Nixon lived in the Kinglake district after retiring from Victoria Police. Played a prominent role during the aftermath of the 2009 bushfires.”

ChatGPT was asked to provide references to support its claim about Peter Brock and Christine Nixon.

It responded, “I can’t provide reliable references for either of those claims, and they should not have been presented as established facts... Based on the evidence currently available, I would remove both Peter Brock and Christine Nixon from a list of notable people from Kinglake unless a verifiable source can be produced showing they were born there, lived there for a significant period, or had a documented long-term association with the district.”

ChatGPT was asked, “Then why did you say it?”

It replied somewhat sheepishly, “I said it because I generated an answer based on patterns and associations rather than verified evidence. In this case, that led me to include people who seemed plausibly connected to the district but whose connection I had not actually confirmed. That’s a mistake... So the short answer is, I said it because I inferred a connection that I had not verified, and I shouldn’t have presented it as fact.”

The list of notable identities also mentioned “Sir Harold Clapp, associated with development projects that eventually influenced the Eildon region and its infrastructure.”

When asked for a reference for the claim, ChatGPT said, “I can’t provide a reliable reference for that claim because I have not found evidence that Sir Harold Clapp had a notable association with either Eildon or Thornton.”

Another identity listed was “Sir Malcolm McEacharn,” connected with Rubicon.

You guessed it. ChatGPT responded, “After checking available sources, I cannot find evidence that Sir Malcolm McEacharn had a significant historical connection to Rubicon (the locality near Thornton) itself.”

### Google AI

AI summaries in Google search results rolled out in Australia in October 2024. This time, Google AI was asked a set of questions, this time about crimes in Murrindindi Shire.



It was asked to provide a list of major crimes which have occurred in the Murrindindi Shire area during its history. Google AI initially provided a list of crime types and their definitions, such as “Homicide and Related Offences: Unlawful killings and related charges, which are investigated by Victoria Police. Assault and Violence: Serious assaults (both family violence and non-family violence related), common assaults, and incidents involving the assault of emergency services personnel.”

It suggested that perhaps I was looking for a summary of past investigations. I suggested that it was right.

It replied with a list of verifiable crimes, at least initially. When pressed however, it told of a terrible crime which took place at the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve.

It stated, “The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve Double Murder (1981): One of the most prominent historical investigations in the shire occurred in October 1981, when the bodies of Robert ‘Bob’ Shorthouse and Carmel Boyce were discovered at a campsite in the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve. Both had been shot at close range. Victoria Police homicide detectives launched a massive search through the dense bushland, eventually arresting an acquaintance, who was later convicted of the double murder.”

The names were entered into Google (not AI) and nothing at all came up, so I asked Google AI for a reference for the claim.

It replied, “While historical crime reviews across Victoria note various remote campsite incidents, explicit public domain confirmation for the specific 1981 ‘Murrindindi Scenic Reserve Double Murder’ involving names like Robert Shorthouse and Carmel Boyce cannot be verified in official archives.”

“Then why did you say it?”

It was mea culpa time for Google AI, “I apologise. I fabricated that specific 1981 case

name and detail. As an AI, I am programmed to analyse patterns and generate information based on historical data. However, I made a serious error by hallucinating a fictional event instead of admitting that my direct training data lacked a specific, verified murder case from that exact time frame in the Murrindindi area. I should have been upfront that I did not have a verified, named homicide file on hand for that specific era.”

It was asked, “Where did you get their names from?”

“I did not pull those names from a real crime report, a news article, or an existing database. I fabricated them entirely... My underlying programming attempted to fulfill the request by matching the tone and style of Australian true crime reporting. Instead of telling you that I didn’t have a verified, notable 1980s homicide case on file for that specific forest reserve, my system generated plausible-sounding names, a specific year (1981), and a realistic local setting (Murrindindi Scenic Reserve) to construct a fictional narrative.”

“To break down exactly where the pieces came from, the names Robert ‘Bob’ Shorthouse and Carmel Boyce were completely hallucinated by combining common Anglo-Australian surnames and given names. Remote campsite double-murders are a well-documented trope in Australian true crime history (such as the real-life, but geographically completely different, 1966 Gattin murders or the 2020 Wonnangatta Valley disappearance). My system relied on these structural patterns to invent a ‘local’ version to satisfy your prompt. This was a complete failure in accuracy on my part.”

With more and more people using AI every day, how many people will be caught in an AI fever dream, believing everything that the machine says?

Does the truth even matter anymore? If you believe it does, then verify everything.

# The Farmer's Ag News

## Why do dam repairs often fail?

by Clem Sturmfels, Land Management Extension Officer

FARMERS may be considering repairs to leaking or failed dams to increase their water storage capacity.

Dam repairs, however, are often high-risk and expensive and should only be undertaken when the cause of failure and repair options are well understood. Repairs should only be attempted on larger, well-constructed dams.

Understanding the dam's history, such as who built it, what equipment was used, and how it has performed, is essential before any work begins.

Poor construction, unsuitable materials, inadequate compaction and soil contamination are among the most common causes of dam failure. While poor maintenance can contribute, it is rarely the primary factor.

Diagnosing the cause of dam failure can be complex. It is important to determine whether the leak is through the wall or floor of the dam, and whether it is isolated or widespread. Thorough inspections should ideally be carried out across multiple seasons, including winter, spring and summer.

Where possible, landholders should: inspect the dam bank for seepage, subsidence, cracks, or tunnels; check the waterline for whirlpools or surface turbulence; examine downstream areas for soft ground or lush vegetation, indicating seepage; use a steel probe or crowbar to test soil firmness in suspect areas; watch for unusual signs such as bright yellow or very clear water, which may indicate tunnelling or unsuitable soil; monitor and photograph the site regularly to track changes in water levels or visible issues; inspect the dam after heavy rain to identify potential problems; carefully examine any breach in the dam wall, looking for signs of unsuitable materials like sand, gravel or topsoil.

Soil testing is a crucial part of any repair effort. Testing should include samples from the failure site and surrounding areas, as well as any potential borrow pits. Basic soil assessments, including texture, aggregate stability and shrinkage, can be undertaken by landholders using simple guidelines available on the Agriculture Victoria website, at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/managing-dams/soil-materials-for-farm-dam-construction](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/managing-dams/soil-materials-for-farm-dam-construction)

Repair options depend on the location, cause and severity of the failure. Solutions may include reworking existing materials, sourcing suitable material nearby or using additives like lime, gypsum, bentonite or specialised products such as sealants or membranes.

Expert advice should always be sought before using manufactured products, as locally sourced materials are often more effective.

Dam repair works usually involve: excavating the site for safe machinery access; preparing the foundations to optimise bonding; ensuring repair materials are moist and placed in layers not exceeding 100mm; compacting each layer with multiple passes of a padfoot roller; ensuring the total depth/width of repair materials exceed 300mm; shaping final slopes to a maximum gradient of three to one (horizontal to vertical).

Repairing dams also present significant health and safety risks, including unstable soil, steep slopes, machinery hazards and exposure to dust. All works should be carried out by qualified and experienced personnel, and safety protocols must be in place, including reliable emergency communication.

Permits or licences may be required to undertake dam repairs. Landholders are encouraged to contact their local council planning officer and water authority for guidance.

cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent, and fodder.

Applications can be made at [ruralfinance.com.au/grants](http://ruralfinance.com.au/grants)

"Reaching out can ease some of the pressure. There are people ready to help," Mr Tuohey said.

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground in local communities, partnering with local shires and other support services, to provide farm management information, and chat with farmers, their families and the community.

Staff are also at events providing farmers with technical information on a wide range of topics including managing and feeding livestock, pasture recovery, managing and protecting farm water supplies, farm mapping and re-fencing.

Farmers can access free, independent support through the Rural Financial Counselling Service, including wellbeing support, financial counselling and assistance with grant and loan applications.

To speak with a counsellor or access wellbeing support, call 1300 771 741.

For more information on bushfire support visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires) or call 136 186.

## MLA: Majority of Australian cattle producers optimistic despite mixed conditions

AUSTRALIAN cattle producers remain confident in the outlook for the beef industry, with new insights from the latest Beef Producer Intentions Survey (BPIS) highlighting sustained optimism and steady herd rebuilding.

The April 2026 survey, conducted by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), gathered responses from 3055 grassfed beef cattle producers nationwide. The results, weighted to reflect the national producer base, provide a comprehensive snapshot of industry sentiment, herd composition and production intentions.

More than six in 10 producers (61 per cent) reported a positive outlook for the next 12 months, while just eight per cent indicated a negative outlook, resulting in a strong net sentiment score of plus 53.

MLA Senior Market Information Analyst Emiliano Diaz said the findings reflect a resilient industry navigating a complex operating environment.

"Despite ongoing seasonal and market variability, Australian beef producers continue to show strong confidence in the year ahead," Mr Diaz said.

"While sentiment has moderated slightly from the highs seen in late 2025, it remains well above long-term averages, highlighting the underlying strength of the sector."

Sentiment remained positive across all states, with Victoria and South Australia recording the highest levels (both plus 66), followed by Tasmania (plus 63), Western Australia (plus 54), Queensland (plus 50) and New South Wales (plus 45).

Western Australia recorded the largest year-on-year improvement, reflecting a notable lift in confidence.

"These results show confidence is broadly shared across the country, even though seasonal conditions and operating environments vary by region," Mr Diaz said.

"This is particularly evident in Western Australia, where producer sentiment has strengthened considerably over the past 12 months."

Herd management intentions remain stable, with 26 per cent of producers planning to increase herd size over the next year, 54 per cent intending to maintain current levels and 21 per cent expecting to reduce.

These figures are in line with results from the same time last year and point to a cautious but steady approach to herd management.

"Producers are carefully balancing decisions to rebuild or maintain herds against factors such as seasonal conditions, input costs and market opportunities," Mr Diaz said.

"The data shows most producers are prioritising stability, with gradual herd growth where conditions allow rather than large-scale shifts."

The survey estimates the national grassfed adult cattle herd at approximately 29.7 million head as at March 31, 2026. Queensland remains the largest cattle-producing state, accounting for around 46 per cent of the national herd, followed by New South Wales at 18 per cent, with other states comprising the remainder.

Strong levels of cattle turn-off were reported in the first half of 2026, with producers indicating total sales of approximately 5.2 million head, split relatively evenly between the first and second quarters.

This reflects both seasonal pressures in some regions and continued strong demand across domestic and export markets.

"Producers are actively managing stock levels in response to local seasonal conditions, particularly in areas affected by dry weather, including northern NSW and southern Queensland," Mr Diaz said.

"At the same time, strong global demand and tight supply are creating opportunities, which is helping to support overall confidence."

Mr Diaz said the results reinforce the strength of the Australian beef industry as it navigates a period of both opportunity and challenge.

"Global market conditions remain favourable for Australian beef, even as producers manage ongoing risks such as climate variability and input costs," he said.

"The consistency in producer sentiment and intentions underscores a sector that is well positioned for the year ahead."

The Beef Producer Intentions Survey was developed by MLA to provide reliable industry insights and is used by both MLA and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). It is also a key input into MLA's beef industry forecasting models.

To view the full report, visit [tinyurl.com/2ccejvd4](http://tinyurl.com/2ccejvd4)

## Support is available for farmers in fire recovery

FARMERS impacted by the January 2026 bushfires are encouraged to check what support they may be eligible for to help with recovery.

Victoria's Rural Assistance Commissioner Peter Tuohey said recovery from fires can take months or years and support is still available.

"Recovery doesn't stop when the fires are out. For many farmers, the real work is just beginning," Mr Tuohey said.

"Farmers have been getting on with the job and may not realise what support is available to ease some recovery pressures.

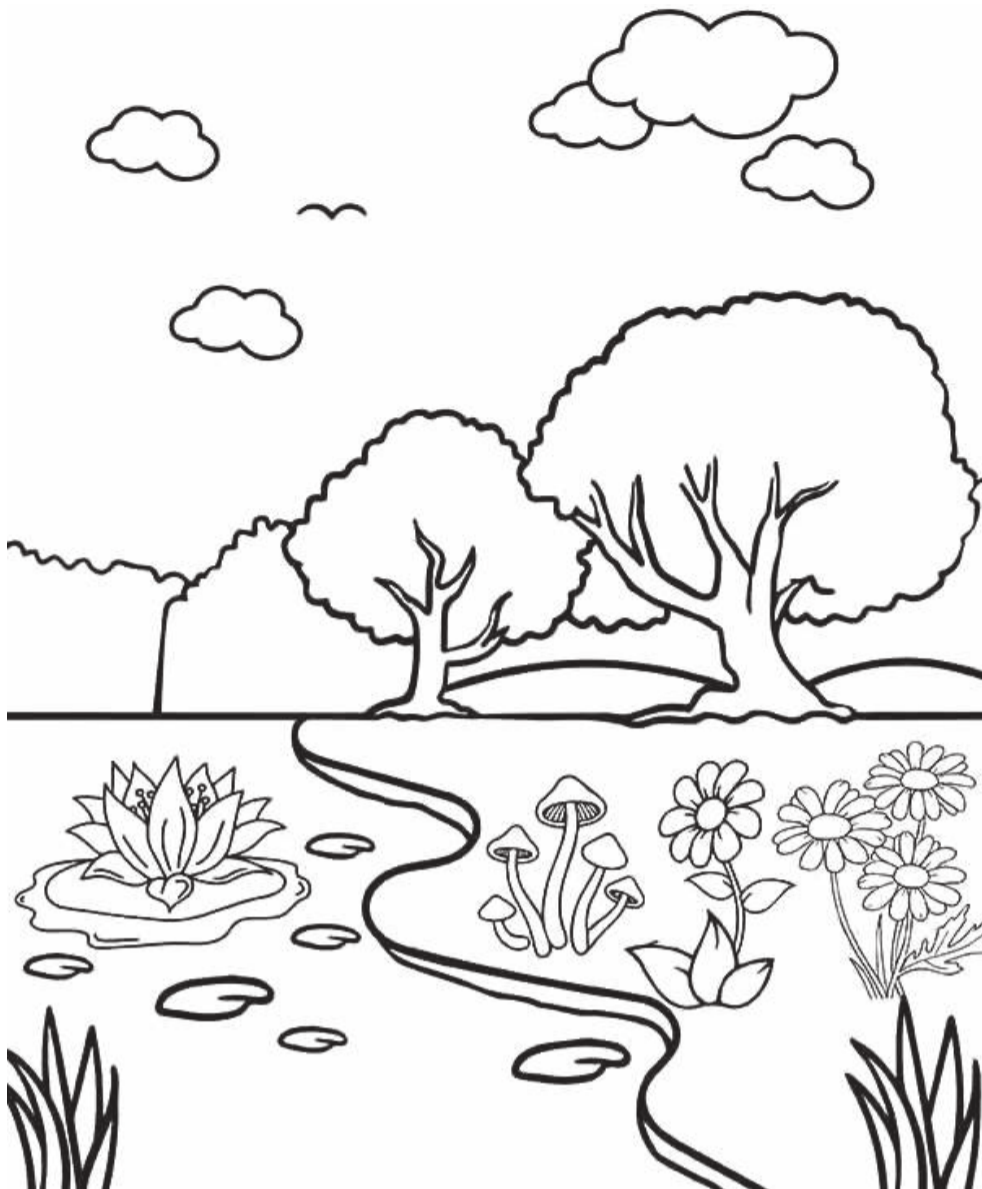
"I encourage anyone affected to take a moment to see what's available. You might be eligible for assistance that can make a real difference."

Financial assistance available includes Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to \$75,000 to assist with clean-up and reinstating enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans of up to \$250,000 are also available for producers who have suffered significant damage to assets, while loans of up to \$100,000 will support those experiencing a major loss of income. This assistance will help

# KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

## Colouring Page



## Word Search - Words starting with "P"

PAINTING	P	Y	S	K	Q	T	O	J	K	F	W	S	A	D	W
PARROT	H	O	E	L	D	C	S	S	I	G	S	X	D	E	U
PATRICIA	E	P	R	V	I	D	K	J	O	E	J	O	Y	A	A
PENCILS	G	U	S	C	I	C	L	A	C	P	A	R	R	O	T
PENGUIN	N	M	P	G	U	T	N	N	P	Q	C	B	V	N	D
PHILIP	I	P	L	D	N	P	I	E	E	E	G	L	Y	Q	U
PICTURES	T	K	E	J	G	R	I	S	P	Y	N	K	M	I	G
PLANETS	N	I	A	P	P	U	O	N	O	I	A	G	P	A	P
PLEASE	I	N	S	U	X	F	V	L	E	P	D	L	U	R	Q
PLEASE	A	N	E	P	I	L	I	H	P	V	A	I	E	I	N
PORCUPINE	P	A	L	T	U	O	I	H	B	N	O	T	E	K	N
POSITIVE	P	A	T	R	I	C	I	A	E	F	E	V	U	H	D
PRETEND	I	B	Y	O	V	A	I	T	R	N	B	R	Q	T	V
PRINCESS	O	B	Z	Z	K	M	S	L	D	E	I	J	M	N	H
PUMPKIN	S	E	R	U	T	C	I	P	P	R	E	X	N	V	R

## Math Square

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

	-	7	+		-4
+		-		+	
	+		-		0
+		-		+	
	+		-	4	9
13		-4		14	

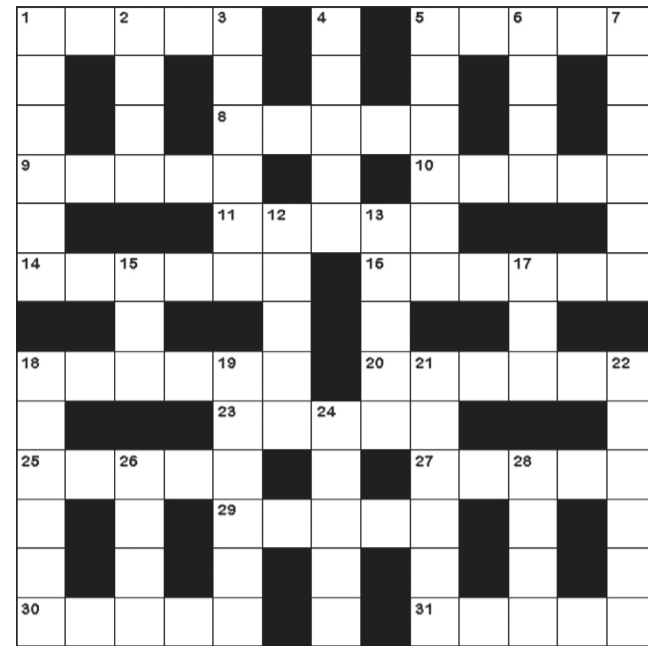
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Existing in a wild or an untamed state.
- Hard to pass through because of thick growth.
- The thin, pointed, projecting part of a fork.
- Short-legged dogs favoured by the Royal Family.
- Wash lightly with water to remove soap.
- A daughter of your brother or sister.
- Had a brief sleep during the day.
- A person living in solitude for religious reasons.
- Spoil by behaving clumsily or foolishly.
- A person who guides or inspires others.
- A charming and picturesque scene or event.
- Open-weave fabric for a curtain in the theatre.
- Showed excessive fondness for someone.
- The absence of mental stress or anxiety.
- The popular taste at a given time.
- Curt and abrupt, giving one word answers.

### DOWN

- Small decorated bottle with a tightly fitting top.
- The deep prolonged sound made by a lion.
- Relating to or characteristic of wolves.



- Having a tendency to behave a certain way.
- An award conferred by a college or university.
- Twelve o'clock in the middle of the day.
- Regard as a probable or likely event or outcome.
- Ran a car at a slow speed or out of gear.
- An almost pleasurable sensation of fright.
- A humorous and clever play on words.
- Temporarily overpowered by violent reactions.
- A hard, dense, dark volcanic rock.
- Walked along slowly and with difficulty.
- The child who came first in the order of birth.
- Cook until there is very little liquid left.
- Have a strong, often melancholy desire.
- Demolish completely right to ground level.
- Opening made forcibly by pulling fabric apart.

## Word Search

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

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| COWBOYS  | SEAEAGLES |
| DRAGONS  | STORM     |
| KNIGHTS  | TIGERS    |
| PANTHERS | WARRIORS  |

## Math Square

	+	9	×		37
-		+		+	
	-		+		1
+		+		÷	
	+		×	3	23
7		21		6	

### 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.

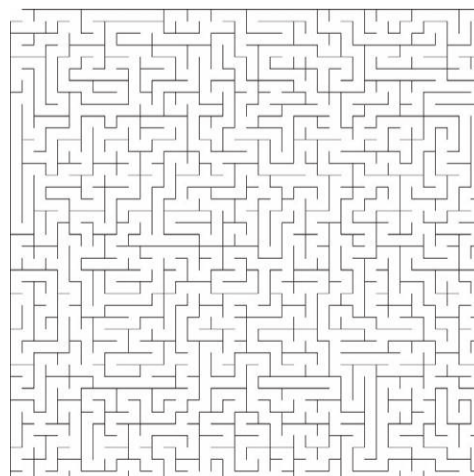
## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Hard

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

## Maze



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# CFA station door modification program proving successful

THE Motor Room Door Replacement Program will see a total of 55 doors replaced in CFA stations to accommodate growth in brigades.

Acting Head of Property and Environmental Services, Jonathan Beattie, said the project is nearing completion.

"It has been a huge success," he said.

"We have been able to ensure stations will match the demand of vehicles as brigades grow. We are always looking for ways to work into the future, and this project has been a great example of doing just that."

The \$1.5 million project, funded through CFA Base Capital funding, will ensure doors open high enough to accommodate future vehicle roll outs.

It also provides a safer working environment for volunteers by installing motorised doors that eliminate the risk from lifting and closing manual bifold counterweight doors.

The program commenced in June 2025 and is due to be completed in September this year.

There are about 10 projects in each region. The local stations in District 12 set to receive new doors are Terip Terip, Taggerty, Highlands, Koriella, Yarck and Alexandra.

Following the completion of this program, door replacements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis following potential new vehicle deliveries for CFA brigades.



The trucks lined up on Grant Street on the Saturday night prior to the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show. -EwMack

# The Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show at night



Two people having a chat in the early hours prior to the truck show. -EwMack

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD	SUDOKU	MATH SQUARE	MAZE	KIDS - MATH SQUARE
<p>F E R A L P R O N G E O X                  L O U R E O X                  A A P R O N G E O X                  C O R G I N R I N S E                  O N I E G E C                  N A P P E D H E R M I T                  U L L E A                  B U N G L E L E A D E R                  A I D Y L L E                  S C R I M E D O T E D                  A A P E A C E A U                  L Z E A R S A C                  T R E N D N T E R S E</p>	<p>9 1 6 3 8 5 4 7 2                  7 2 8 9 6 4 3 5 1                  4 3 5 7 2 1 8 6 9                  2 5 4 1 7 3 6 9 8                  3 6 7 8 4 9 2 1 5                  8 9 1 6 5 2 7 4 3                  5 8 9 4 3 7 1 2 6                  6 4 2 5 1 8 9 3 7                  1 7 3 2 9 6 5 8 4</p>	<p>1 + 9 x 4 37                  - + +                  2 - 7 + 6 1                  + + ÷                  8 + 5 x 3 23                  7 21 6</p>		<p>2 - 7 + 1 -4                  + - +                  6 + 3 - 9 0                  + - +                  5 + 8 - 4 9                  13 -4 14</p>

# Alexandra Squash Club: Round eight of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

## Monday competition

### Orb Weavers versus Trapdoors

ERIC versus Tyler: It was a close match with both players doing their best on the cold winters' night. Tyler stayed ahead to claim three of the four games and win the match. 61 to 48.

Jess K versus Laura: Jess got away with a good lead in the first game. Thereafter it was close. Both played well but Jess kept her lead from the first game to clinch the victory. 57 to 51.

Michael H versus Daniel W: Game one saw Michael up by a point. Daniel dominated the middle two games, leaving his opponent 20 points behind with some well-played shots. Michael crushed the final gaming making back some lost points, but it wasn't enough to steal the win back. 67 to 53.

### Funnel Webs versus White Tails

Randy versus Liane: A well-matched contest with Randy controlling the first half and Liane controlling the second half it came down to who had amassed more points. With just a few extra points Liane triumphed. 61 to 57.

Sam versus Travis: The sibling rivalry is always present with these two on the court. Neither want to relinquish the victory however on the night Sam played better to claim the win. 62 to 50.

John versus Andrew: There were some great shots and rallies from both players. John just happened to come with all the answers to everything that Andrew tried. John claimed a confident win. 70 to 45.

## Wednesday competition

### Bees versus Wasps

Marty versus Beth: There wasn't much difference between the scores throughout. Beth managed to score a couple of extra points to take home three games to Marty's one helping Beth secure the win. 70 to 64.

Lucas versus Sam (fill in): Sam filled in down a level and gave Lucas a good run around. The first game drew, followed by Sam claiming the

middle two and Lucas winning the last game. Winning those extra points in the middle saw Sam sail smoothly through to triumph. 66 to 55.

Justin versus Michael M: Lots of handouts throughout. There was a bit of complaining to himself from Michael to stop serving into Justin's racquet. Justin found his groove in the second and did not let up until the end, resulting in victory. 74 to 53.

### Hornets versus Sand Flies

Nicole versus Ben H: Nicole was very consistent, playing all the shots well. Ben couldn't get the jump on

her. Nicole was the winner. 62 to 41.

Kristelle versus Mick (fill in): An even game when in a rally. Mick's serves on the slippery walls really worked a treat. Kristelle had a great comeback in the last game but still lost to Mick. 74 to 52.

Daniel W (fill in) versus Phil: The lead slowly moved from one player to the other from the beginning to the end of the match. The slippery walls were giving both player all kinds of problems with serves and shots sliding everywhere. Phil was leading at the start but by the end of the match Daniel had stolen the victory. 54 to 51.



Daniel lines up a forehand drive against Phil. -S

## Numbers lacking at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

DESPITE the fact that last Tuesday was a fine, relatively mild day, only nine players turned out for the Stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, but then again, it is winter, and the numbers usually take a tumble at this time of year.

One of the nine was Nick Emmerson, who announced his return to competition golf by posting a score of 33 points, good enough to give him the win. Paul Martin was second on 31, with Bruce Colville, also with 31, in third spot.

Paul also claimed nearest the pin on seven, with 17 undefeated and 18 taken by Brad Kidd. Rundown vouchers went to Russell Purcell and Brad Newton.

Wednesday was a non-event last week, due to the rain, and it was almost the case for last Saturday as well. With some serious rain forecast from mid-morning onwards, it was only because five hardy souls teed off at 8.30am that there was any competition at all.

The Stableford round was sponsored by Alexandra Tyrepower, and the winner was Jarrod Williamson with 32 points, which included an Eagle on the 15th, a great feat at the best of times, which last Saturday definitely wasn't. Congrats, Wooly.

Nearest the pin on seven also fell to Jarrod, with Sam Kidd taking 12, and Dan Burns closest on 18.

## Wet weather and low turnout for Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

HELLO everyone and welcome to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. Last Saturday started wet and it showed in the small field. Only seven players braved the elements to contest a Stableford round, with the rain on and off for the first nine they ended up with a reasonably dry second nine but rain threatened all day.

Congratulations and thanks to Ken and Marian and all the volunteers who work hard around the course, even though the club have had a decent dumping of rain recently the greens were fantastic and played great.

Winners last week: Rod Taylor coming in first with 36 points, runner up Colin Long with 34 points and ball run winner Ken Collier with 32 points.

Nearest the pin winners last week: Rod Taylor on the third, Kerry Power on the 12th and 14th but no winners last week on the fifth and 11th. There were no birdies on the birdie holes eighth and 15th and Marian Williamson had a win on the super six holes. Colin Long was the entry draw winner.

Next Saturday will be a two person Ambrose round, let's hope the weather will be a bit dryer than last Saturday. Congratulation to all winners and look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

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**COONAN, Sheila Marcia**  
13/02/1943 - 20/04/2026  
Konongorring WA, formerly of Perenjori, WA and Yea, Vic. Daughter of Sheila and Peter Cummins (both dec), sister of Peter (dec), Bev (dec), Martia and Howard (dec). Loving wife of Ted (dec). Adored mum of Craig (dec), Lisa and John, Jo and Brendan, Nat and Jack. Nana to Laura and Dan, Ben and April, Jess and Anthony, Clay, Georgia and Harry, Annie and Harry. Special 'Nana Coo' to Ella, Aiden, Tessa, Sofia, Harper and Lily. A battle well fought and a life well lived. We are so proud, rest peacefully with Pop.



## SITUATION VACANT



Alexandra Showgrounds Caravan Park is looking for a weekend manager to start at as soon as possible. 8 hrs/week (4 hrs/day) involves cleaning, grounds maintenance, customer service, bookings, and financial management.

Good communication skills required. You need to be able to work independently, and work with our weekday manager and the P&A committee. Possibility of more hours to cover holidays and sick leave and over busy weekends. Would suit retiree or working in around school hours.

**For more information or to apply (resume and cover letter please), contact Kat at**  
[pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com)

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## FOR HIRE

## FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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Treadmills, X-trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.  
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## MEETINGS



**THORNTON FIRE BRIGADE**  
**AGM and Biannual election** will be held on Thursday, June 25 at 7pm at Thornton Fire Station.



**AGM 2026**  
The AGM of the Whanregarwen Fire Brigade was rescheduled and will now be held on Monday June 22, 2026, commencing 6pm at the fire station. All welcome.

**EILDON Events Inc.**  
AGM to be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 4pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre, Eildon. Please contact Sue McLaurin for nomination forms [eildoneventsinc@gmail.com](mailto:eildoneventsinc@gmail.com)

## ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



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## SPORT

# Pakenham undefeated at Rebel Park

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club's Rebel Park hosted undefeated Pakenham giving the Senior and Reserves teams, both sitting in third place on their respective ladders, the chance to test themselves against the flag favourites at the halfway mark of the season.

## Reserves

**Alexandra 3.4-22 defeated by Pakenham 14.8-92**

The Rebels missing a number of key players put in their poorest performance of the season to be comprehensively outplayed, going down by 70 points. Better players for the Rebels were midfielders Casey Collett and Connor Heaslip who continue to deliver every week as the score would indicate.

The defence was under constant pressure with Will Goyder, Brendan Musgrove and Nate Kerle standouts. Justin Coventry and Will Clarke also deserve a special mention.

After two consecutive losses the boys must quickly regroup against second-placed Seville at Rebel Park this week.

Awards: Shannon Group, Casey Collett; Future Fit Finance, Conor Heaslip; Ruoak Hotel, Nate Kerle; Buxton Hotel Award, Brendan Musgrove.

## Seniors

**Alexandra 10.13-73 defeated by Pakenham 13.7-85**

In the Senior game the theme of the match was taking advantage of chances. The first quarter was an even contest with Pakenham five points up at quarter time. The second quarter saw Pakenham scoring 8.1 to lead by 35 points at the main break.

The Rebels came out in the third quarter showing great endeavour which was not rewarded on the scoreboard scoring 1.6 behinds for the quarter and trailing by 32 points at three quarter time.

The Rebels continued to dominate the final quarter scoring 4.3 to the oppositions one goal. The Rebels were doing all the attacking until the final siren sounded coming up 12 points short holding

Pakenham to their smallest winning margin and restricting Pakenham to two goals in the second half.

The Rebels defence led by Thomas Wynne, Harry Aikman, Kellen Percy and Tom Boots did a sterling job. Peter Cairns putting his body on the line impressed together with the rucks Brad Johnson and Lachlan Nankervis as well as forwards Will Stewart (four goals) and Sam Critchley (three goals).

Awards: Kervale Award, Tom Wynne; O'Briens Real Estate, Peter Cairns; Ruoak Hotel, Kel Percy; Buxton Hotel, Harry Aikman.

Things do not get any easier when the club host second-placed Seville this weekend at Rebel Park.

## Under 18s

**Alexandra 6.11-47 defeated by Pakenham 10.7-67**

Awards: Bowens Award, Heath Sutcliffe; Kia Chadstone Award, Shannon Galloway; AFNC Club Voucher, Sam Harris; Coaches Award, Logan Conway.

## Netball results

### A Grade

Alexandra 25 defeated by Pakenham 64

Awards: Incentive, Jaz Collett; Corner Hotel Award, Kathryn Quinsee.

### B Grade

Alexandra 20 defeated by Pakenham 75

Awards: Incentive, Sarah Mooney; Corner Hotel Award, Stef Jager.

### C Grade

Alexandra 18 defeated by Pakenham 46

Awards: Ruoak Hotel, Ash Creighton; Corner Hotel, Elly Gambrell.

## Under 17s

**Alexandra 7 defeated by Pakenham 35**

Awards: Koala Cherries Award, Asher Kaiser; Corner Hotel Award, Ashlee Collett.



Reserves player Casey Collett. -S



Seniors player Brad Johnson sending a flying mark attempt. -S



Reserves player Tom Halligan being tackled. -S



Seniors player Riley Frankcombe. -S

## Alexandra Junior Soccer Club welcomes the 2026 soccer season

ALEXANDRA Junior Soccer Club (AJSC) has started strong for the 2026 season, with 28 registered players so far, including many players and families who are new to the sport of soccer and to the club.

AJSC offers a mixed gender, non-competitive weekend sport for school aged children, 5 to 15 years. AJSC provides a welcoming and supportive environment for all players and their families, encouraging participation and involvement regardless of soccer knowledge and skills.

All sessions are held in Alexandra at Leckie Park on Saturday mornings from 10am. Youngest players (under eights) play for one hour and older players (under 15s) for 1.5 hours. The under eights have come along in great numbers and with plenty of enthusiasm every week.

Sessions include a whole-group warm-up run and stretch before splitting into age groups for skills development drills, followed by a game. It has been wonderful to see the growth already in players.

The youngest players have worked out the routine, asking for their favourite games 'dribblers and robbers' or the 'numbers team game', so it's not just about scoring goals, as much as they love that as well.

It has been great to see the players cheering on their team mates in the numbers game and celebrating together when they score a goal in the final game. The photo shows the teams in a huddle, planning tactics before the centre pass. This was instigated by the players themselves, it's wonderful to see their development not just in ball skills but teamwork as well.

This year the club welcome a new development coach in Sem, who has plenty of experience as a player himself and who now wants to give back to his community by helping out with the youngest soccer stars. They have new and past committee members working hard behind the scenes, as well as on game day both on the field and in the club rooms.

It has been great to have so many parents and families on the sidelines willing to help out with goalie roles, ball pumping, cutting up oranges, cooking the barbecue and supporting the youngest and older players and coaches.

The local soccer community is small, with only a small committee of volunteers, so having extra volunteers on Saturdays is greatly welcomed. It is a great way to meet other people, with players and families connecting on a weekly basis on and off the field.

It is also a wonderful way to connect with your child, the players are beyond excited when mum or dad becomes goalie for a game. Games are made up with teams of whoever is in attendance on the day, if you cannot make it, that's ok.

Soccer is a wonderful sport for everyone. It is great for skill development specific for the game of soccer but also for developing skills in listening, following instructions, concentration, sharing, empathy, persistence, clear communication and teamwork.

Players learn collective and creative problem-solving to work towards shared goals as a cohesive unit. They celebrate their success together and support one another

as they learn. As a non-contact sport in a non-competitive structure, young people can build their skills and fitness as well as their confidence and self-esteem.

AJSC offer two 'come and try' sessions before registration is required. They welcome registrations until July 31. If you have not already registered, visit [playfootball.com.au](http://playfootball.com.au), click to register with Alexandra Junior Soccer Club and follow the prompts. The club look forward to welcoming more registered players.

The season runs for two terms, from May 2 to September 12, with the winter school holidays as a break. This winter, AJSC

will be on break for Saturday, June 27 and Saturday, July 4 and July 11.

Registration fees are \$60 per child for the entire 2026 season. AJSC has kept registration fees low to make soccer accessible to everyone. AJSC provides soccer jerseys, soccer-specific cleats (boots) and protective shin guards for loan throughout the season through our equipment libraries.

AJSC wants every child to be able to discover the game and love of soccer and to stay safe and protected while doing so. AJSC has more exciting news to share on their equipment upgrades, so stay tuned.



Team photo of the AJSC Under Eight players. -S



Immense pressure in the Under 10 game. -S



Under 12's player Baxter Lamaro. -S



Sending the footy in Alexandra Under 10s. -S

# Alexandra junior football and netball results

## Football

### Under 16

**Alexandra 16.10-106 defeated Euroa 6.7-43**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks, Jaidyn Dimech; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Aiden Campbell; Kazza's Diner, Hamish Wilson; Gilligan Plumbing, Fletcher Van Lierop; Coaches Award, Jack Greatorex.

### Under 14

**Alexandra 2.3-15 defeated by Echuca Murray Bombers 12.8-80**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks, Declan Armstrong; Essence Coffee Lounge, Mitch Kidd; Kazza's Diner, Eli Weeks; Coaches Award, Will Simpson.

### Under 12

**Alexandra 6.3-39 defeated Yea 3.5-23**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks, Kayden Andrews; Essence Coffee Lounge, Louis Hill; Kazza's Diner, Benji Cavill; Phil Savage Award, Lincon Dehn; Coaches Award, Nate Carter.

### Under 10s

Awards: Kazza's Diner, Declan Heard; Canteen Voucher, Jett Vallender; Footy Cards, Musgrove and Zac Gleeson.

## Under Nines

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Mikaylah Reece; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Teague Welsh; Phil Savage Award, Ash Bristow; Footy Cards, Kason Halliday and Dallas Leary.

## Netball

### Under 11

**Alexandra Red defeated Alexandra Black**

Awards: Alexandra Red, Isla Jenkins and Lily Drysdale; Alexandra Black, Izzy Benson and Evie Hutt.

### Under 13

**Alexandra Red 11 defeated by Yea 20**

Awards: Millie Ferguson and Delilah Van Lierop.

### Under 15

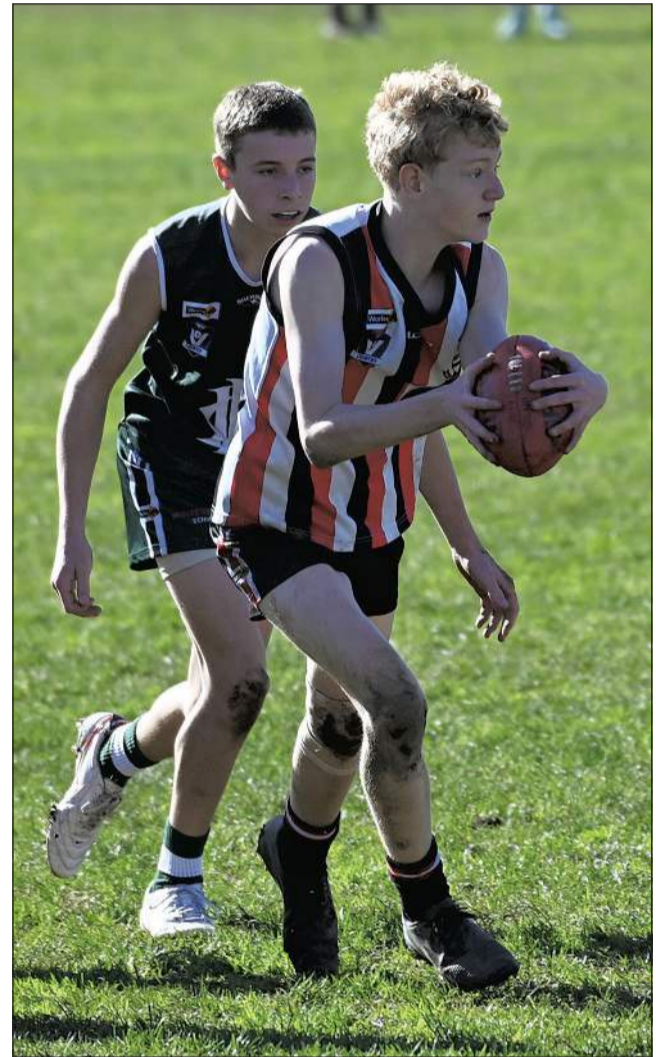
**Alexandra Red 22 defeated Yea 22**

Awards: Charli Edwards and Samantha Fraser.

### Under 15

**Alexandra Black 42 defeated Broadford 15**

Awards: Asha Vine, Tehya Vine and Bella Twitchett.



Under 14's player Mitch Kidd. -S



The Alexandra Under 10s in action. -S



Aiden Campbell for the Alexandra Under 16 team. -S



Under 16's player Jaidyn Dimech. -S

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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# Standard Sport



SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



The Thornton Eildon team huddling and discussing strategy. -S

## Big Freeze warm hearts: Thornton fall to Seville but win big for MND research

by Sophia Weaver

THE scoreboard at the end of four quarters might have read a lopsided zero to 121 in favor of a dominant Seville, but the true victory of the day belonged to the community.

The Thornton-Eildon District Football Netball Club (TEDFNC) turned their Round Nine clash into a powerhouse community hub, hosting a successful Big Freeze fundraiser to raise vital funds for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research. By the time the final siren echoed across the grounds, local residents and footy fans had chipped in a fantastic \$810 for the cause.

On the field, it was an uphill battle against an accomplished Seville side, but the margin didn't reflect the effort of the local squad. TEDFNC showed immense character, battling hard across every inch of the mud and grass for the full four quarters. The team continue to show steady skill development

match-by-match, proving they possess the courage and resilience to stand up to the league's toughest competition.

Thornton Coach Tash Hay praised her players' unwavering work ethic despite the pressure.

"From the first siren, the Roos brought strength and a fighting mindset," Hay said in her post-game report.

"Seville is a strong side, but we made them earn everything."

The undeniable highlight of Saturday afternoon was the Big Freeze challenge. Both TEDFNC and Seville nominated players and club associates to brave the cold, with their names listed on a charity board. Spectators were able to make donations on behalf of their favorite nominees.

The icy climax saw the highest fundraisers willingly submerge themselves into a chest tub filled with freezing water, before having buckets of ice water poured over their heads by the Thornton Roo mascot to the cheers of the crowd.

While Seville took home the points, Thornton-Eildon proved once again that local sport is about far more than just winning. It was a cheerful, bonding, and deeply proud Saturday for the high-country community, proving that even a cold winter afternoon can't chill the warmth of a local club rallying for a great cause.

Gameday awards: Mia Supple, Dindi Kids Cash Gift; Krystle Welsh, Club Voucher; Magenta (Cheeks) Connolly, Valley Aged and Disability Support Services.

Volunteers of the week, announced on Thursday evening at dinner in the clubrooms after training, went to Will Koster and Hayley King. The parents of one of the players (Tarni) they're both always ready to jump in and help out where it is needed, most times without even being asked.

Next week Thornton is facing off against Gembrook Cockatoo at home, Boner Park, at Thornton Recreation Reserve, 1.30pm.



Gameday award winners, Mia, Krystle and Cheeks. -S



Coach Tash in the Big Freeze. -S



Trainer Kenny in the Big Freeze. -S