

# 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 24, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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100 lap race at Alexandra Speedway



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Weekend sport



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## Alexandra Rotary president's report

by John Allcock, Alexandra Rotary President 2025/26

THE 2025/26 Rotary year started off with the club helping the Alexandra Lions club in a joint renovation project. A local family in need reached out to the Lions and the Lions asked if we could help too. A successful joint effort.

The 2000/2025/2050 Time Capsule at Rotary Park attracted great community involvement with many people giving themselves or their families a message from the past.

Our November Anti Domestic Violence Awareness and information 'Purple' campaign was a huge success not just with the club but with the shire council and wider community involved. The club plans to continue this event in the 26/27 year.

Throughout the year, the club has worked with Foundation Murrindindi providing barbecues, hot soup, tea and coffee or a friendly chat at the Murrindindi Food Share. This was a great initiative and all enjoyed taking part.

2026 had barely begun when we were hit with the January 9 Longwood fire. The club rose to the occasion led by Tom Farrell, John Cannon and Ian Gibb to re-instate a community voucher air program that had been used in 2009. A depot was set up with a lot of help from the Woodies at their workshop and clubrooms and was well supported by both groups.

The voucher program ran for about three months and succeeded in helping people that needed assistance while supporting local businesses. Donations poured in from individuals and businesses across the community. Both the district and interstate level of Rotary were generous in their help, as were many other Rotary clubs across the country. Over \$85,000 has been raised so far. The club will continue to distribute funds as donations are received.

March saw the members working again with the local Lions to put on a thank you event for the local CFA brigades. It was a great afternoon at On Point Brewery.

March also included Dindi Daze. It was a free community event and very welcome event after the trauma of the fires. A chance to have some fun and enjoy the food, activities and entertainment. Despite a minor hiccup in the weather attendance was great and a good time was had by all.

April led us to our 56th annual Easter Art Show. The event was well supported by local artists with 180 entries and attendees from a wide ranging area. It was once again a resounding success as the club's biggest fundraiser.

A few weeks ago the members made Monday night pizzas for the Yarck Community Centre. This gave their volunteers a night off and a chance for the club to show off its culinary skills. I'm sure there will be another one with a different theme in coming weeks.

Over the year the club also participated in two wood raffles, a firewood program, Lift the Lid for Mental Health, ELF Day, school awards, open gardens, helped with the Christmas tree and Beanie festivals, and Cycle Dindi with Yea Rotary which was unfortunately cancelled due to the state of the rail trail.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alexandra Rotary members for all their hard work and dedication and to the community at large for their encouragement and support.



This group of students at Alexandra Primary School made a presentation on why Alexandra needs a sports co-op, as part of the DASH program. All of the information, including the winners, can be found on page 10 of this edition. -AR



The air ambulance ready to transport the patients. -S

## Terrible collision in Koriella

TWO women were airlifted to hospital after a truck and car collided in Koriella on the morning of Wednesday, June 17.

Police were called to the scene, at the intersection of Maroondah and Goulburn Valley highways, following reports of the collision at about 9.45am.

The pair inside the vehicle were initially trapped before they were freed by emergency services.

A specialist Air Ambulance Victoria helicopter crew, Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA), and Advanced Life

Support (ALS) paramedics assessed and treated two patients at the scene.

Both women, the driver aged in her early 20s and the passenger aged 70, suffered upper body injuries and were airlifted to the Alfred Hospital with the passenger believed to be in a critical condition.

The male driver of the truck was fortunate to escape serious injury.

Officers believe there was another truck in the vicinity of the collision and the driver may have witnessed the incident.

It is believed he stopped at the scene but left before police arrived.

Mansfield Highway Patrol are appealing for the driver to come forward and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The Maroondah Highway between Koriella and Yarck was closed during the incident, with the road re-opened around 3pm.

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

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

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING**  
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS** Karen Morrison  
 manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**ADVERTISING**  
 1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary**  
 trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**EDITOR** Anne Richey  
 editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 (Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**SPORTS**  
 sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714  
 Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603  
 Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday



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**Letters to the Editor**

**Rubicon solar project**

ON Thursday evening, a meeting was held in the Murrindindi Shire Council Chambers to discuss the proposed Rubicon Solar Project.

In attendance were Mayor Damien Gallagher, Deputy Mayor Councillor Anita Carr, Councillor Sandice McAulay, and Andrew Paxton, Director of Community Development, along with approximately 30 members of the community.

To summarise: Council was unable to provide any significant insight or comment on the proposed project, as it has still not received any formal correspondence from Samsung. Council has no intention of establishing a council-community working group at this stage, citing budget constraints and the fact that its current priorities remain focused on fire recovery projects.

Mayor Damien Gallagher pledged to involve the community in the feedback process once a planning application is submitted. He also stated that all information relating to the project would be made publicly available.

It was evident that both council and the broader community have only a limited understanding of the scale and potential

impacts of the proposal in its current planning stage. The immediate community will continue to work together to ensure that council and the wider public have access to all relevant information as it becomes available.

Ultimately, the final decision rests solely with Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny.

One important issue that was not raised during the meeting was the potential impact on tourism. Given the importance of tourism to our region, and Alexandra's recent recognition through its tourism award nomination, it is worth considering how a project of this scale could alter the character of the gateway to the Rubicon Valley. This landscape is a defining feature of the area and contributes significantly to the region's identity, visitor appeal, and local economy.

As the proposal progresses, it is essential that residents across Murrindindi Shire take the time to understand the scale of the project and its potential implications. Decisions of this magnitude will shape the character of our region for generations, and it is important that the community is fully informed and actively involved in the process.

*Thornton Resident, name supplied but withheld by request*

**Redgate Alexandra CWA report**

THANK you to everyone who supported Redgate CWA's Soup and Slice Kitchen at the recent Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show. The group sold out of soup and slices and were very happy with the profits.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, June 25 at the club rooms on Perkins Street in Alexandra starting at 1pm. The hostesses are Cynthia and Marion, with the competitions being Flower of the Month and Cake Recipe with a small sample.

There is no guest speaker this month. They will have an update from the CWA State Conference about the resolutions that were submitted. They will also organise a roster

for soup cooking in July in conjunction with the Embassy of Ideas for fire affected hubs to distribute.

The next coffee catch will be on Thursday, July 9 at 11am with venue to be discussed.

Even though it is the middle of winter, Craft Days are still being held at the CWA rooms every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm for a small donation of \$3 to cover electricity. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee are provided.

For more information, please call Martine Sloan (president) on 0411 287 763 or Sue Wynn (Craft contact) on 0412 435 946.

**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 Communitya 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



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

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00AM Mon	0.89	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00AM Mon	0.66	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00AM Mon	0.93	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.29AM Mon	0.45	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.38AM Mon	0.70	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	9.00AM Mon	0.40	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00AM Mon	1.64	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00AM Mon	3.67	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00AM Mon	0.74	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00AM Mon	1.12	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00AM Mon	0.51	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	1.87	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	1.41	steady	below flood level

\*ISSUED AT 9.24 AM AEDT MONDAY 22 JUNE 2026



**THUMBS UP:**

To Murrindindi Shire Council for the great job in actioning the Snap Send Solve request, submitted to clear the walking path along the Maroondah Highway, opposite the sewage treatment facility in Alexandra.

**THUMBS UP:**

To Alexandra Community Hub for being so helpful. Thank you.

**THUMBS UP:**

To the Rotary Club of Yea who have donated 10,000 litre Bushman tanks to the fire-affected farmers in surrounding areas.

**THUMBS UP:**

To the staff of Reddrops FoodWorks who are always so helpful, with the deli and fruit departments always so pristine and inviting. A lot of hard work goes into them by the staff there who are also so friendly.

**THUMBS DOWN:**

To Menzies Support Services for ceasing to provide aged care services from June 30. They will continue to provide disability services for NDIS clients.

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**

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.



**Weekly Weather**  
 June 24th - June 30th, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	14	Wednesday	5	15
Thursday	4	14	Thursday	4	14
Friday	3	14	Friday	3	14
Saturday	4	14	Saturday	3	14
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	8	15
Monday	11	14	Monday	11	14
Tuesday	11	15	Tuesday	11	15



**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	12mm
Buxton	69mm
Eildon (AWS)	19mm
Flowerdale	27mm
Jamieson	41mm
Kinglake	34mm
Lake Eildon	21mm
Mansfield	12mm
Taggerty	31mm
Yarck	21mm
Yea	13mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	270.58m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	43%
Metres below full supply	18.32m
Daily inflow	7000ML
Release	400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	56%



**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

# L2P program transitions from Alexandra Community Hub to Berry Street

ALEXANDRA Community Hub has proudly hosted the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P Program since July 1, 2019, continuing a program first introduced to the Murrindindi Shire by Berry Street in 2009. From July 1, 2026, the TAC L2P Program will transition from Alexandra Community Hub back to Berry Street in Shepparton.

The transition will maintain continuity of support for participants with young people continuing to receive the same level of L2P support, with no change to funded learner places or access to the program in the area.

Since its establishment in 2008, the TAC L2P Program has supported young people facing barriers to gaining the supervised driving experience needed to obtain a probationary licence. The program connects learner drivers with fully licensed volunteer

mentors, helping young people build confidence, driving skills and independence.

Over the years, the local program has achieved significant outcomes, including: 165 learner drivers supported; 67 volunteer mentors trained; 4,438.76 supervised driving hours completed; 86 young people achieving their probationary licences.

These outcomes have contributed to improved road safety and increased independence for young people across the region.

"We are incredibly proud of what the TAC L2P Program has achieved in Murrindindi since 2009. The dedication of our volunteer mentors, staff and community partners has made a lasting difference in the lives of young people across the region," Sue Sedelies,

Coordinator at Alexandra Community Hub, said.

"This transition to Berry Street ensures the program remains in strong and capable hands. We are confident the same commitment to young learner drivers will continue, and we thank everyone who has contributed to the program's success over many years."

Volunteer mentors have been central to the success of the TAC L2P Program, contributing thousands of hours of supervised driving support since 2009. Their ongoing commitment has helped shape confident, capable and safer drivers across the region.

Volunteers will continue to play an important role under Berry Street's delivery model, with opportunities to remain involved and support the next generation of learner drivers.

Alexandra Community Hub would also like to acknowledge the many individuals, organisations and community groups who have supported the program over the years, including: Volunteer mentors and learner drivers; Advisory Committee members and Alexandra Secondary College.

Financial contributors to the TAC L2P vehicle, including: Murrindindi Shire Council; Rotary Club of Alexandra; Murrindindi Foundation; Murrindindi Beanie Festival; and the Country Women's Association Redgate and Yarck branches.

The transition will be implemented in a coordinated and supported manner, with all current participants and volunteers receiving direct communication regarding next steps.

## Vale Andrew Johnston

by Nigel Lyttle, Principal, Alexandra Secondary College

IT is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Andrew (Andy) Johnston on Thursday, June 11.

Andy served Alexandra Secondary College with distinction for many years, first as Assistant Principal from 2002 and then as principal from 2008 to 2016. Throughout his time at the college, he was a highly respected educator, leader, mentor, and friend who was deeply admired by students, staff, families, and the wider community.

Andrew's love for the college was evident in everything he did. He was passionate about creating opportunities for students to thrive and was unwavering in his commitment to supporting staff and fostering a positive, inclusive school culture. His leadership was characterised by integrity, compassion, vision, and a genuine belief in the potential of every young person.

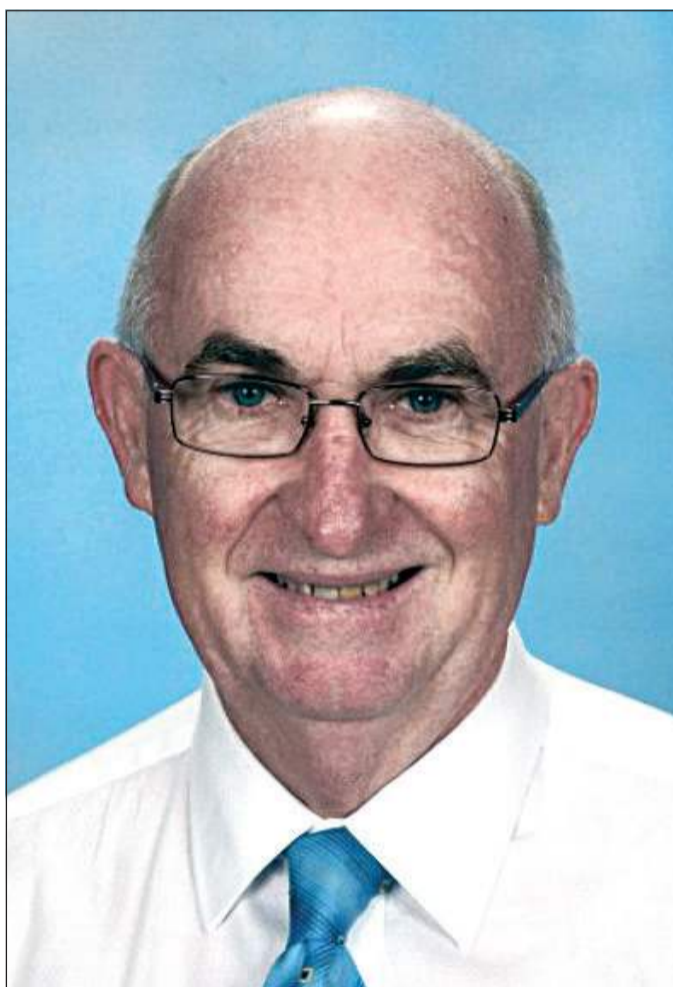
Across an extensive career in education, Andrew had an immeasurable positive influence on thousands of students and hundreds of colleagues. His impact extended far beyond the classroom, shaping lives, inspiring excellence, and helping build strong educational communities wherever he served.

Andrew left a remarkable legacy at Alexandra Secondary College. Under his leadership, the school experienced significant growth and improvement in its infrastructure, culture, and learning programs. Through his dedication and foresight, he left the college in a far stronger position than when he began, creating foundations that continue to benefit our students and staff today.

While his achievements were many, Andrew will be remembered most for the relationships he built, the care he showed for others, and the lasting difference he made to so many lives.

On behalf of the college community, we extend our deepest condolences to Andrew's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.



Andrew Johnston. -S

## Why is the Longwood fire still on the VicEmergency map?

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

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

Emergency Management Victoria were asked again in June to advise why the map had not yet been updated and how long the firegrounds continue to show.

They responded, "Emergency Management Victoria is working closely with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to update data displayed on VicEmergency impact mapping. People should never rely on one source of emergency information. Know your local emergency broadcasters, follow VicEmergency on social media or tune in to community radio for updates."

## Eildon's Telstra works postponed

TELSTRA has advised that "due to circumstances outside our control, works [at the Eildon mobile base station] have been postponed with a revised date not yet available."

Previously, Telstra advised, "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."

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club week opened with two tables of enthusiastic bridge players on Wednesday afternoon. Friday saw a somewhat depleted crowd at the social meeting which ended with a sing song. Jack had the lucky ticket three

times in the chocolate raffle but only took home one bar, with Jeanette and Bev the other two. We hope he had a lotto ticket in too. One apology for the meeting was Val Hall who had a fall walking her dog. Get well soon Val.

Jeanie Hurrey from Alexandra District Health will be giving an Advance Care

Planing presentation after the meeting on Friday, July 3. Guests are welcome.

The list for Christmas in July at the Rubicon Hotel on Friday, July 24 is on the front desk. Please enter your name if you plan to attend. Meanwhile with winter now upon us. Stay safe and keep warm and smiling.



Have you worked out where Bettye is? Need a clue? ... "Does Jack grow roses in his garden?" Head to Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop and put your entry into Bettye's Barrel for a chance to win a \$10 voucher and see what other goodies you can find. -S

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54A Downey St, Alexandra

# Out & About WHAT'S ON?

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 25

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

Alexandra District Health will be conducting free diabetes health checks at Murrindindi Foodshare, 88a Grant St, access via Bayley St carpark, on Thursday, July 2, from 9am to 12pm. No appointment necessary.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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)

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, JULY 16

Alexandra District Health will be conducting free diabetes health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy, 101 Grant St, on Thursday, July 16, from 10am to 12pm. No appointment necessary.

# Free health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy

ALEXANDRA District Health's (ADH) health promotion officer Melissa Storey and cardiac health nurse and diabetes educator Zoe Reeves were at the Alexandra Pharmacy on Friday, June 19, offering free health checks, including blood sugar and blood pressure, as part of Men's Health Week.

They also attended the Murrindindi Community Food Share at the start of the month, offering similar checks.

In July, for National Diabetes Week, they will be back at the pharmacy again offering free health checks. The date will be announced on the ADH Facebook page.

When asked what she wishes people knew about diabetes, health, heart health, etcetera, Melissa replied, "The statistics are that 10 men a day die from physical inactivity."

In addition to the checks, they also provided people with brochures on healthy eating and healthy recipes and tips on staying active. If people are keen to access these brochures before the next promotions, they can always call in to ADH and pick some up, or for specific information, they can speak to Melissa or another staff member.



Melissa Storey and Zoe Reeves at the Alexandra Pharmacy. -AR

## Criminal incidents up by 14 per cent in Murrindindi Shire

THE latest crime data has been released by the Crime Statistics Agency, covering the last financial year.

### Criminal incidents by town

In Murrindindi Shire, 29.9 per cent of criminal incidents saw charges laid. In 20.8 per cent, no charges were laid. 49.3 per cent remain unsolved.

The number of criminal incidents in Alexandra rose from 81 last financial year to 97 this financial year, but in Yea, then

number of criminal incidents fell to 88, down slightly from 89 last financial year.

Kinglake's crime numbers almost doubled with 62 offences, well up on the 34 the previous year. Marysville was also up, with 31 offences, up from 18 the previous year. In Eildon, the crime rate fell to 39, down on the 55 from the previous year.

### Principal offence subgroups

There was a significant increase in breaches of family violence

orders across Murrindindi in the last year, up from 35 to 66.

There was also an increase in criminal damage in the shire, up from 47 to 65.

'Other theft' was down however, from 60 to 53.

Residential non-aggravated burglaries were up from 31 to 52. There was also an increase in theft from motor vehicles.

In total, criminal incidents across Murrindindi Shire were up 14 per cent, from 507 to 578.

### Victoria comparison

Murrindindi shire had 3633 per 100,000 population, while some of the naughtier local government areas (LGAs) were Melbourne CBD on 17,110, Latrobe on 12,992, and Mildura on 10,269, Yarra on 12,312, Darebin on 8083, Port Phillip on 10,986, Ballarat on 9015, Greater Shepparton on 10,209, and East Gippsland on 9280.

## 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

Medal awarded to Mary Jane Cosgrave for her act of bravery on 13 September 1885 (case number 431). Museum Victoria number NU 18244.



ACTUAL SIZE 3.8cm diam.

Jan Radford kindly provided this image of the bravery medal awarded to Mary Jane Cosgrave, prompted by the recent article about pre-Raphaelite Bernhard Smith in this newspaper on March 13. Mary and Bernhard attempted to save Mary's brother from drowning in UT Creek in 1883. -S

## Bushfire relief measures announced

THE 2026-27 Victorian State Budget has announced relief measures from land transfer duty, land tax and vacant residential land tax for people affected by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires.

People impacted by the January 2026 bushfires, who meet specific eligibility criteria, may be entitled to a land tax waiver for 2026 for properties destroyed or substantially damaged by bushfires; a land tax waiver for 2026 for owners with properties in the bushfire-affected areas that have incurred significant financial losses as a result of the bushfires; land transfer duty refunds up to \$55,000 for recent purchasers whose homes were destroyed by bushfires; up to \$55,000 in land transfer duty relief on a replacement home; a vacant residential land tax waiver for the 2027 tax year for residential properties that cannot be used or accessed due to bushfires.

Eligible customers will need to apply for relief.

The State Revenue Office website provides more detail about the measures, including the eligibility criteria and instructions for how to apply. Visit [sro.vic.gov.au/owning-property/land-tax/exemptions-and-concessions-land-tax/bushfire-relief-measures](http://sro.vic.gov.au/owning-property/land-tax/exemptions-and-concessions-land-tax/bushfire-relief-measures)

## Road closure alert

THE Department of Transport will be carrying out bushfire recovery vegetation removal works on Wednesday, June 24 from 6am to 6pm on Maroondah Link Highway, near the overpass in Yarck.

A full closure will be in place, with detours via the Maroondah Highway, Koriella and the Goulburn Valley Highway, adding around 10 minutes travel time.

Works may change due to weather. Please follow signage, plan ahead and allow extra time.

# Alexandra Rotary changeover dinner

ON Wednesday, June 17, Alexandra Rotary met at Grant Street Grocer for the changeover dinner.

Immediate Past President John Allcock welcomed members and guests from surrounding clubs before providing a report of the past year's activities. A very busy and at times challenging period saw members rise to the challenge of providing support for the many in our community affected by the Longwood complex of fires.

A new award initiated this year, named in honour of the club's most senior member John Sharwood, recognised the efforts of Peter Weeks through the SES and UGFM in service of the community.

Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to four members whose actions embodied the ethos of Rotary in demonstrating Service

Above Self. Chris and Ian Smith have shown this characteristic through their efforts in organising Dindi Daze, which showcases the many positives in our community. Geoff Proctor and his partner Sue Sedelies have worked tirelessly at the Alexandra Community Hub, helping those affected by the fires to access government services and referrals for legal, insurance, utilities and other sources of recovery assistance, persistently and cheerfully.

The new board for 2026-27, under the leadership of Debbie Skinner, was then inducted by Penny Paxman, District Community Leader.

The new board comprises president Debbie Skinner, secretary Tom Farrell and treasurer Ian Gibb, assisted by Geoff Proctor, Ged Skinner, Jo Brewer, Helen Gibb, John Allcock, Sharen Robinson and Ian Smith.



John Allcock, Helen Gibb, Ian Smith, Geoff Proctor, Ged Skinner, Debbie Skinner, Ian Gibb and Jo Brewer. -S



New president Debbie Skinner. -S



John Sharwood lighting memorial candle in memory of past members who have died in the last year. -S



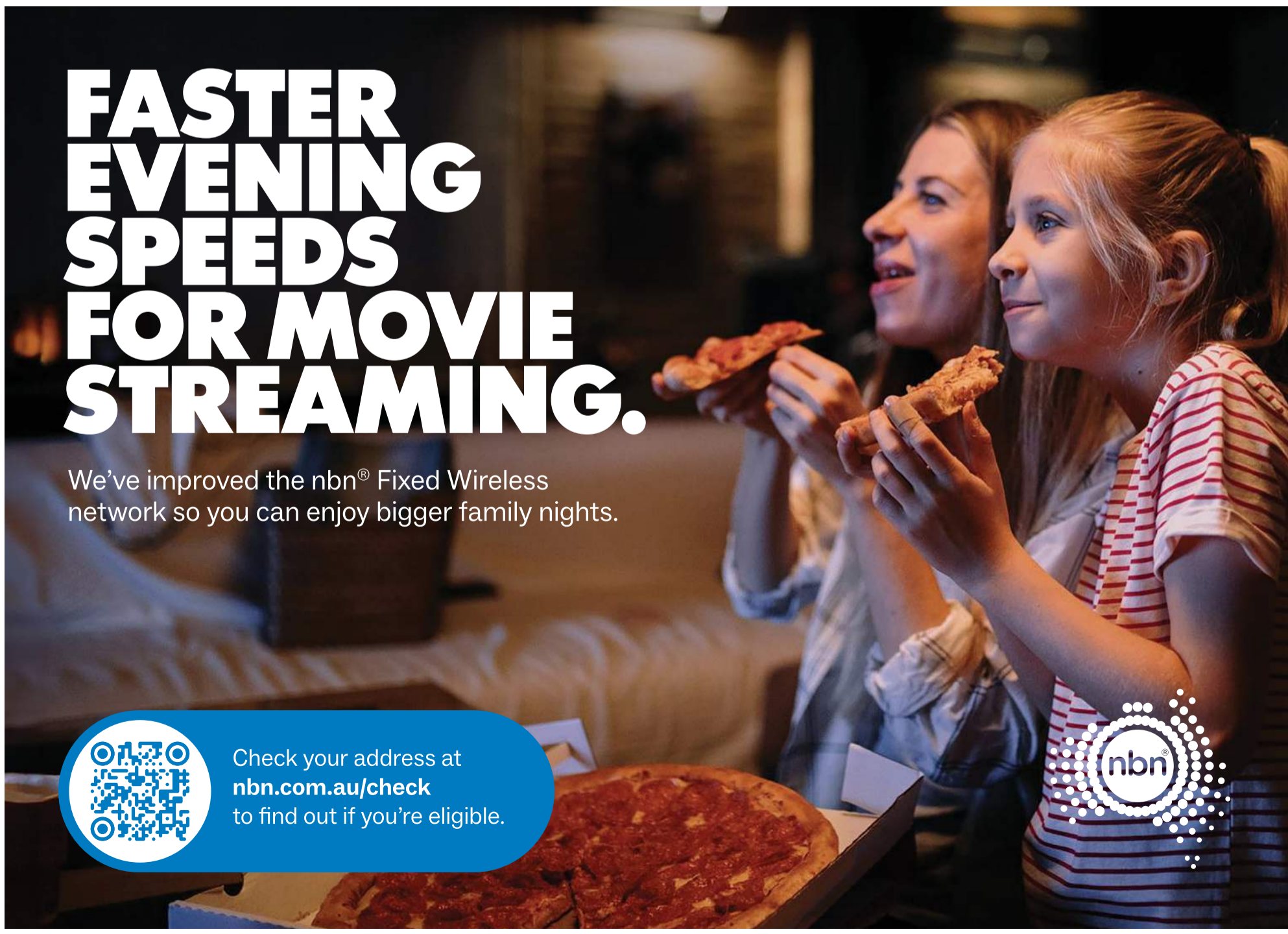
John Sharwood and John Allcock presenting Peter Weeks with his award. -S

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# Proudly supporting Student of the week

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## ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ST MARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Heidi S

Heidi displayed our school value, Achieve whilst on camp. She took on challenges that were out of her comfort zone and nailed them! She talked herself into being brave, what an amazing skill! Heidi, we are proud to have you in our learning community. You are a star.



### Luke S

Luke is receiving this principals award for his excellence in all learning tasks and for consistently using his initiative as a responsible learner. He always moves and acts safely in the classroom and school environment. He is an exceptional role model to all of his peers through his positive attitude and outstanding behavior.

## EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Ruby R

For demonstrating the school value of Achievement and Resilience. You now confidently know all of your stage 1 sounds, most of your stage 2 sounds, can spell stage 1 words, and know all of your friends of 10 in maths. We can't wait to read all of your wonderful ideas and creative stories. Keep up the amazing work, Ruby.

### Charlotte

For demonstrating the school value of Achievement by coming up with some great suggestions for activities at the school. So creative. Congratulations, Charlotte.



## BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Eva, Isla and Max

Eva, Isla and Max for showing respect for other's personal space.

# Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
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# Golf croquet with U3A

DESPITE the forecast of heavy rain and the ominous clouds gathering overhead, the U3A introduction to golf croquet on the afternoon of Saturday, June 13, went ahead as planned.

Suitably attired for the conditions, nine enthusiastic participants gathered at the Alexandra Bowling Club. They completed a full round of the course in teams of two, carefully navigating the cape weed and uneven ground along the way. There was plenty of laughter, friendly competition and good-natured banter throughout the afternoon.

At the conclusion of the game, the general consensus was that golf croquet would be a wonderful addition to the U3A program. It is a gentle, enjoyable activity that can be adapted to suit a wide range of fitness levels. The attendees then relaxed together over afternoon tea and the delicious homemade slices prepared by Kaye.

A special thank you from the club to Kaye and Bill Capper, who have kindly offered to tutor golf croquet next year. They are also grateful to the manager of the Alexandra Bowling Club, who has generously offered the use of the site, with the weeds cleared, at no cost to U3A.

When members step forward to suggest new courses, share their skills, or volunteer to tutor when others are unavailable, often quietly and without fuss, it is a wonderful reflection of the commitment and generosity within the U3A community.

The club sincerely thanks all of their tutors. Their enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to share their knowledge are what make U3A such a positive and rewarding experience for all members.



The members all enjoyed the opportunity to try the game. -S



Golf croquet at the Alexandra Bowling Club. -S

# Australian Government announces changes to disaster recovery arrangements

THE Australian Government has announced new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, saying that they are "simpler and fairer for all Australians."

They said that the new framework will ensure commonwealth funding will flow to impacted communities faster and with less red tape, while building on risk reduction.

The government will work with the states and territories to introduce standardised packages of assistance so impacted communities get access to timely, suitable supports; embed an equal partnership between the Australian, state and territory

governments through a 50/50 funding model; implement a simpler threshold for accessing disaster funding, delivering support to communities sooner; and introduce a *Resilient Infrastructure Scheme* to support communities to build back better after disaster, with funding of up to 15 per cent cost shared with jurisdictions.

The new framework responds to recommendations from the *Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding*, led by Mr Andrew Colvin AO APM.

The review found that Australia's disaster management frameworks and arrangements

have not evolved at the same rate as the changing nature of disasters, which have increased in size, scale, intensity, cost and complexity.

Recent emergency management improvements made by the Australian Government include the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to create a single, nationally coordinated, end-to-end commonwealth agency to better prepare for, respond to and recover from increasingly frequent and severe disasters; the *Disaster Ready Fund* (DRF) delivering disaster resilience and risk reduction across Australia; more than \$100

million investment in the national aerial firefighting capability to support states and territories to respond to crises; the continued investment in the National Emergency Management Stockpile to support the roll-out of critical goods and services to communities quickly; and delivering AusAlert, the new national emergency warning system that sends near instant emergency alerts to mobile devices, a more efficient, faster and secure system.

The government will engage with states and territories on key elements of the framework.

# THE MISTY BIT

COME WINTER IN VICTORIA



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**VICTORIA** EVERY BIT DIFFERENT



Year 11 students at HI Jinx Hotel. -S



The year eights at Ninja Nation. -S



Year nine students getting their skates on. -S

# The Whole of School Big Day Out

ALEXANDRA Secondary College's inaugural Whole School Big Day Out was a fantastic success, bringing together students and staff for a day of fun, connection and shared experiences.

The event provided an opportunity for students in each year level to build friendships, work together and create lasting memories outside the classroom. From engaging activities to plenty of laughter and teamwork, the day highlighted the strong sense of community that makes the school such a special place.

The event took place on Wednesday, June 3. Students from each year level enjoyed a day out at a variety of locations.

Fallons provided excellent support with transport logistics, while the Year Level Coordinators and front office staff did an outstanding job coordinating the day.

The school is very grateful to the Alexandra Rotary Club for their donation of \$6000 which essentially paid for the buses, making the excursion accessible and affordable for the students.



Year nine students on the ice. -S



The year eight students had fun at the ninja activity.



The students all had a great time during the ninja activity. -S



The year 10 students went to Prison Break. -S



The year eight students enjoyed mini golf. -S

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Department of Education



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

# DASH program at Alexandra Primary School

Blue Light Victoria delivered their DASH (Dynamic, Active, Safe, Healthy) program with grade five and six students at Alexandra Primary School on Friday, June 19.

DASH is a hands-on leadership and community engagement program which helps students build confidence, strengthen connections, and develop their ability to create positive change in their communities.

Throughout the program, students worked alongside a Blue Light Victoria facilitator, police, emergency services, and community partners to identify a local issue they are passionate about.

The students then developed a project to address it, with the program culminating in a Community Showcase, where students presented their ideas.

The project selected by community partners receives \$1000 in funding, along with community support, to bring their idea to life.

The projects presented by the children were terrific, with a lot of thought and effort put into their ideas. There were two projects selected as winners, the Engaging Rubbish Bins with Native Animals project and the Bin Game project.

Congratulations to all of the students involved.



*This group was keen to encourage fairness in sport. -AR*



*These students were keen to develop a community garden. -AR*



*A local Alexandra mountain bike track was the focus for this group. -AR*



*These students wanted to prevent bullying. -AR*



*The Engaging Rubbish Bins with Native Animals project team. -AR*



*These student wanted to develop a youth council for the shire. -AR*



*The students all worked very hard on their presentations. -AR*



*These students developed an idea to create Game Bins, rewarding recycling. -AR*



*These students worked on an idea to encourage more people to be involved in sport. -AR*

# Opening up the housing market with more affordable homes

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# The Farmer's Ag News

## Farmers call time on costly Basin buybacks

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has reiterated its strong opposition to further water buybacks under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, following the Federal Government's announcement it has secured around 380 gegalitres toward the 450GL target.

NFF Water Committee Chair Malcolm Holm said recovering the additional 450GL had always been a choice, not an environmental necessity.

"Let's be clear: recovering the 450GL was a choice. It was a choice the NFF did not support then, and does not support now," Mr Holm said.

"While this announcement refers to 85 per cent of the target, the reality is much more significant. With 2750GL already recovered, this takes total recovery to around 98 per cent of the Basin Plan target.

"It is more than enough, more than can be usefully used, more than was necessary, and more than Basin communities should have had to bear."

NFF Water Committee Chair Malcolm Holm said the latest update confirmed the government had doubled down on a policy approach that is failing both farming communities and the environment.

"Farmers understand the importance of a healthy river system, as we depend on it to grow food. But more buybacks and water acquisition in any form are not the answer," Mr Holm said.

"This has already cost taxpayers billions, yet there are serious questions about

whether the water being purchased can even be delivered to achieve the intended environmental outcomes."

Mr Holm said evidence continued to mount that additional water recovery was delivering diminishing returns, with major delivery constraints limiting how much water could be used effectively across the system.

"The Basin Plan review does not identify a need for more water, and even the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder is challenged to utilise all existing holdings.

"What farmers and communities need is smarter Basin management, not more water taken out of production."

Mr Holm said the government should focus investment on practical projects that would deliver real environmental benefits.

Former Chair of the Independent Panel on Social and Economic Conditions in the Murray-Darling Basin, Robbie Sefton, has made clear the government must stop these contentious buybacks, and that the scientific case for more water does not exist.

"We need to see action on carp control, repairing critical infrastructure and fixing fish passage, including viable fish ladders. These are the kinds of measures that improve river health without hurting food production, farm businesses and regional communities," he said.

"The continued reliance on buybacks ignores the very real socio-economic impacts on Basin communities, including reduced production, lost jobs and growing uncertainty for regional industries."

Mr Holm said recent engagement with Basin communities, including the Echuca roundtable, had raised expectations that the government would move beyond buybacks. He said the NFF looked forward to the Minister confirming that at the earliest opportunity.

He warned the government must provide clarity on how it plans to address any remaining shortfall in water recovery, while communities continue to face the prospect of further acquisitions tied to Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment gaps.

"This must be the end of buybacks. The focus now must be on environmental, economic and social outcomes, not simply chasing another litre of water," Mr Holm said.

## More support for Look Over the Farm Gate events

AN additional \$400,000 is now available through the Look Over the Farm Gate program to support farmers in drought and bushfire recovery.

Delivered by the National Centre for Farmer Health, the program funds community-led events with grants of up to \$5000 each, bringing people together to support farmers and their families.

Director Climate, Resilience and Communities, Amanda Pagan, said more than 40,000 people have attended over 320 local events since June 2025.

"From community barbecues and farm visits to movie screenings and steak nights, these events are helping reduce isolation and strengthen connections when they are needed most.

"Communities across the state have made great things happen through this program, showing the power of what can be achieved when people work together to support each other.

"Through Look Over the Farm Gate, we've seen communities step up, bringing people together, checking in and offering practical support and connection.

"Across regional Victoria, hundreds of community members, including volunteers, have organised these events, prepared meals, checked in on each other and created welcoming spaces where people can come together and take some time away from the farm.

"These efforts across the state are helping to support mental health, strengthen

communities and ensure no one feels alone during tough seasons," Ms Pagan said.

The Look Over the Farm Gate program is part of the Victorian Government's \$146.5 million Drought Support Package.

Applications are open until the Program budget is fully expended, or June 30, whichever comes first. Events must be held by September 30.

Find out more and apply via the National Centre for Farmer Health website, [farmerhealth.org.au](http://farmerhealth.org.au)

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

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

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Friday 3 July 2026

#### Farm Safety – VFF



Friday 7 August 2026

#### Eye Tests – Optair Eyecare



Friday 4 September 2026

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## H5N1 bird flu in Western Australia

THE first case of bird flu H5N1 was found in a migratory bird on the coast of Western Australia recently. The bird had died and initial testing returned a suspected positive result before this was confirmed by the CSIRO. Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins announced the discovery on Friday, June 19.

A second bird was located, and the presence of the disease was again confirmed by CSIRO. This means that H5N1 now on every continent in the world.

At this stage, there is no evidence of the disease being more widespread in Australia.

If you find sick or dead birds or animals, do not touch them. Take photos or video record from a safe distance, then report it to [birdflu.gov.au](http://birdflu.gov.au)

On Friday, June 18, there were reports of around 13,000 of elephant seal pups being found dead on Heard Island in the Southern Ocean, an Australian territory. It's estimated that more than three quarters of pups had died after contracting H5N1. The disease has also been impacting penguins, fur seals, and a variety of birds. Scientists suspect that the disease arrived from Crozet Islands, 1700km away.

In addition to potential mass mortality for birds, livestock may be impacted. In other parts of the world, the disease has been found in cattle, alpacas, pigs and goats, often due to contact with infected birds or infected environments. These generally recover but there are health and reproductive impacts.

Cats and dogs are also at risk, along with foxes when infected animals are consumed. The disease is often fatal in cats and foxes, but the impact on dogs is mostly mild.

The impact on Australian mammals is not yet known as the first potential case of H5N1 has only just reached our shores.

Around the world, H5N1 has infected over 500 bird species and has caused mass die-offs. In some flocks, there has been 100 per cent mortality. It's estimated that around the world, 280 million birds have died or been culled on farms to prevent further transmission.

The disease was first identified in Scotland in 1959. It crossed over to humans in 1997 in Hong Kong, resulting in 18 human infections and six deaths. There have since been 860 human infections with a greater than 50 per cent death rate, according to the Centre for Disease Control. Person to person spread is extremely rare.

Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins said in a press release, "More than \$113 million has been invested by the Albanese Government to strengthen our nation's preparedness for H5 bird flu. A dedicated Australian Government Taskforce was established in 2024 to strengthen preparedness for a possible incursion, jointly led by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Australian Centre for Disease Control on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability

and Ageing and the National Emergency Management Agency.

"A series of national simulation exercises have also been undertaken since 2024 to prepare for this event.

"Government, industry and stakeholders have been working together to strengthen planning and governance arrangements for disease response and are ready to activate.

"H5 bird flu is a low health risk to the public as it rarely affects humans unless there is direct and close contact with sick birds. Eggs and poultry meat are safe to eat provided they are handled and cooked according to standard food-safety practices.

"H5 bird flu causes severe illness and high death rates in birds. In birds, the disease can cause sudden death, a sharp drop in egg production, swelling of the head and neck, breathing difficulties, and sometimes neurological signs such as loss of coordination.

"The community is encouraged to report any dead or sick birds or animals showing signs of bird flu.

"If you see multiple sick or dead birds or other animals, do not touch them. Avoid contact. Record what you see. Report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 from anywhere in Australia," she said.

For more information visit [birdflu.gov.au](http://birdflu.gov.au)



# 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](#)



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# KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

## Colouring Page



## Word Search - Words starting with "U"

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

- |          |          |       |
|----------|----------|-------|
| UFO      | UNDO     | UPEND |
| UGLY     | UNHAPPY  | UPPER |
| UKULELE  | UNICORN  | UPSET |
| UMBRELLA | UNICYCLE | USE   |
| UNDER    | UNZIP    |       |

## 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.

	-		-		-3
+		+		+	
2	+		-		-6
-		+		+	
	+	4	-		0
7		11		21	

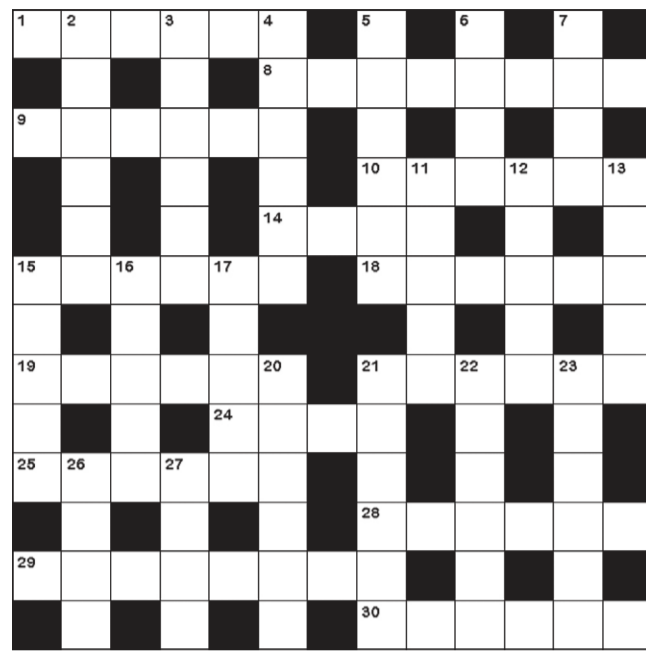
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Became accustomed to by constant exposure.
- Acted violently, recklessly and destructively.
- Thinly dispersed and scattered, not dense.
- Relating to or connected with the stars.
- A heavy open vehicle usually drawn by a horse.
- A sample strip cut from a piece of material.
- Caramelised sugar cooled in thin sheets.
- A cylindrical container that holds liquids.
- Strict and harsh in attitude or treatment.
- An agreement or contract between two people.
- Things that happen at given places and times.
- Got an excellent grade in an examination.
- A salve used for healing or soothing.
- Shaped or fashioned after a specific design.

### DOWN

- A son of your brother or your sister.
- The most uncommon or the hardest to find.
- Administer a dose of liquid medicine to a horse.
- Give, advise or communicate something.



- A small pointed missile that is thrown or shot.
- A flat tableland with steep edges.
- Kitchen appliance used for cooking food.
- A shoulder weapon with a long barrel.
- A loyal subject to a monarch.
- A sword with a curved blade and thick back.
- All be of one opinion or understanding.
- Moved around stealthily and cautiously.
- Beat severely with a whip or a rod.
- Usual tricks done to attract attention.
- The trait of being vain and conceited.
- Love unquestioningly and uncritically.
- A garment that covers the head and face.
- Observe with care or pay close attention to.

## Word Search

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

### AFL Teams

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| BRISBANE  | HAWTHORN  |
| CARLTON   | MELBOURNE |
| ESSENDON  | RICHMOND  |
| FREMANTLE | STKILDA   |
| GEE LONG  | SYDNEY    |
| GOLDCOAST | WESTCOAST |

## Math Square

	+	5	+		14
+		+		+	
	x		+		9
+		x		-	
	-	9	+		3
15		23		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.

## Cryptogram

### AFL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2				11				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	25						

<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>
18	19	2	21	2	26	1	11
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>
A	20	13	A	2	21	10	6
					12	11	25

<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>
24	14	6	8	1	26	15	
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>
A	20	13	A	T	23	2	25
					6	8	
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>	<u>   </u>
T	E	11	A	E	18	2	17

## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Medium

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

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# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

## June meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

Cr Adams and Cr Lording were absent on planned leave, Cr Carpenter was an apology.

Council voted to accept the report.

### Councillor reports

Cr McAulay reported that work is progressing on the business case for a regional university study hub, with the goal of improving access to education, training and workforce development opportunities in the local area.

Cr Hildebrand reported that renewal works at Kinglake Memorial Reserve are underway and are expected to be completed by September or October. Drainage improvement works are commencing in Yea at Meadow, Moyle and View Streets. Major culvert replacement works in Limestone continue to progress. The refurbishment of the John Cotton Footbridge in the Yea Wetlands has been completed, including upgrades. He reported that council's trial of Container Deposit Scheme baskets attached to public litter bins has received extremely positive feedback from the community.

Cr Carr reported that the Financial Sustainability Roadmap initiated last year but paused due to the January fires, will be reactivated in the second half of this year. Lake Eildon has risen for 16 days in a row. On June 1 it was at 40.5 per cent, and on June 17, it had risen to 42.2 per cent.

Cr Gallagher reported that at the Municipal Association of Victoria state council, 98 per cent of councils supported Murrindindi's proposition that municipal disaster response, relief and recovery capabilities could be strengthened and made more efficient by establishing an appropriately funded pool of emergency specialists deployable to emergency events across the state. In Yarck and Fawcett, council met with Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Services, Ryan Batchelor and Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Management Victoria, Mariela Diaz.

### CEO report

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi reported that council has been successful in securing a number of grants through the Safer Local Roads and Streets program. These include: \$373,000 for speed management improvements on Eildon-Jamieson Road; \$244,000 for speed management improvements in Highlands Road and Caveat-Dropmore Road; and \$130,000 for a raised priority pedestrian crossing in Webster Street, Alexandra. The Yea Structure Plan will be made available on council's website for community to engage with.

**Adoption of Annual Budget 2026-27**  
The final budget was presented to council for adoption.

There were several adjustments from the exhibited draft budget, including: an anticipated \$756,000 state government bushfire relief grant; a \$526,122 reduction in rates revenue; increased investment interest; additional borrowings of \$1.5 million for strategic investment opportunities; and minor capital adjustments for library book stock, drainage renewal and the street tree program.

Important budget outcomes include: a forecasted operating surplus of \$0.78 million, including capital income; an underlying operating deficit of \$5.2 million; a projected cash balance of \$18.7 million and reserves of \$7.3 million at June 30, 2027; a \$15.7 million capital works program; total borrowings of \$1.6 million; and a working capital position of approximately 252 per cent.

Of the 14 submissions received during the public exhibition period, the budget was updated to include: increased investment in new library book stock by \$10,000; an updated description of family and children services to include the Parental Early Education Program; and a correction to a minor fees and charges schedule error relating to printing charges.

After a number of questions from the councillors, the *Annual Budget 2026-27* was adopted.

### Adoption of Annual Priority Action Plan 2026-27

The action plan will commence on July 1, 2026 and lays out the actions needed in the next financial year to progress towards the realisation of the 10-year community vision. It provides council with strategic direction.

Council voted to adopt the *Annual Priority Action Plan 2026-27*.

### Emergency procurement report

Council enacted emergency procurement measures following the January 2026 bushfires. These measures lapsed on May 30, 2026, and a report was presented to council detailing how they were used.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO did not utilise the temporary \$3 million delegation. The Municipal Emergency Management Officer utilised the emergency provisions, primarily through existing panel contracts, for a total expenditure of \$5.89 million.

## Competition to name the parrot

AS many already know, a new attraction has arrived in Eildon, the four metre tall king parrot. Eildon Events are holding a competition to give this beautiful sculpture a name. The scientific name is *Alisterus scapularis*. What name can you come up with? Place your entry in the box at Simpsons Service Station in Eildon. Entries close at noon on July 3.



Eildon's magnificent new parrot. -S

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L	E	D		S	T	Y	L	E	D

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6	+	5	+	3	14
+		+		+	
1	x	2	+	7	9
+		x		-	
8	-	9	+	4	3
15		23		6	

### SUDOKU

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

### KIDS - MATH SQUARES

8	-	6	-	5	-3
+		+		+	
2	+	1	-	9	-6
-		+		+	
3	+	4	-	7	0
7		11		21	

## SPORT

# Students compete in Hume Cross Country

ALEXANDRA Secondary College's Hume Cross Country representatives travelled to Benalla last Friday to compete against some of the region's strongest runners, showcasing determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

The school is incredibly proud of all students who represented the school so positively and gave their best effort on the challenging course.

A special congratulations goes to Koa Parker, Phoebe Kidd, Alice Fitzgerald and Jasmine Hunkin, who achieved outstanding results and have now qualified for the State Championships.

Thank you to Paul Francis and Lisa Francis for their support and assistance with transporting the students, helping make this opportunity possible. The school wishes their state qualifiers all the very best as they prepare for the next stage of competition.



# Ladies winter tennis report

by Deb Mims

## Mansfield versus Wappan 0-6, 21-48

THE local derby between Mansfield and Wappan began with a bang when the teams brought their best tennis to both openers. Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon and Karyn Fraser raced to a five to zero lead against Wappan's Jenny Bell and Kimberley Marsden before needing to stop for a breather in the intense set.

Play resumed, momentum shifted enabling Wappan to claw back four games, but ultimately the set ended by forfeit.

Meanwhile alongside Carolyn Murray and Pat Howard were enjoying a real arm wrestle against Wappan's Carol Watts and Mary Reilly reaching three-all before stopping to check on proceedings nearby.

As both teams were using five players Mansfield rejigged their card so the match could finish. Pat and Loretta Armitage showcased their skills and experience by playing every set in lengthy battles.

Placement was key in the remaining sets with sun peeping through on the cloudy day. Despite the recent rain the courts were remarkably dry. Michelle and Carolyn

played a hotly contested set against Jenny and Carol who edged past them to take the win in a tiebreak.

Net play was a standout with Michelle's smashes never coming back, and Carol's soft hands claiming many points. Wappan were convincing in winning the other sets.

## Terip Terip versus Mognolemby 6-0, 48-22

Terip Terip's team of Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Suzanne Irvine and Mary Kelly were up against tennis enthusiasts of Mognolemby, Sue Vaughan, Marlene Hanrahan, Robyn Johnson, and Lisa Krepp. Despite some tight matches, Terip shone through, despite the sun not, taking all six sets.

## Benalla versus Creightons Creek 5-1, 43-21

Benalla hosted Creightons Creek with Peta Kelly, Claire Sharp, Marg Clode, Wendy Maxwell and Deb Siggers dominating the team of Lyndal Bigland, Kerry Hewlett, Lyn Pearce and Jill Hayes, finishing with five of the six sets. If only the tie breaker had gone Creightons Creek's way.

Tie breakers were back in vogue last week, with not only Benalla and Creightons Creek having played one, so did Mansfield and Wappan. Euroa had a bye.

## Alexandra Golf Club report

by Dave Silverman

LAST Tuesday turned out to be a fine, relatively mild day, cloudy but with no precipitation, which the 11 players in the Stableford round really appreciated.

The winner was Paul Martin, who had 38 points, with Brad Newton in second on 35, and John Greatorex in third with 30 points.

Brad also took off nearest the pin on 17, with seven going to Nick Emmerson and 18 unclaimed. Nick scored a rundown voucher, as did Leo Dynes and Bill Wind.

Six ladies also took advantage of the benign conditions last Wednesday to play a Par round, and once again it was Rosemary Parker that took the win with a score of minus two. In second spot, complete with her new you-beaut buggy, with a seat and a broly holder no less, was Sandra Morris on minus seven, just edging out Bron Howell on a countback.

Rosemary snared nearest the pin on 12 on her way to the win, with seven going to Donna Meggitt.

Unfortunately, the combination of impending rain and an already soggy course meant that there was no competition last Saturday. Members will cross all their fingers and hope that there will be more golf to report on next week.

## Marysville Golf Club report

by Lesley Rundle

THE results of last Thursday's nine hole competition at Marysville Golf Club were given to this scribe as "here is the report for the crazy golfers who showed up on Thursday". Indeed, the wet and cold conditions last Thursday only attracted 'crazy golfers'.

Those who did brave the elements played stroke on the back nine holes and the winner was Richy Clark (8) with nett 38 on a countback from Brian Worcester (10). Brian was nearest the pin on the 11th hole and Richy was closest on the 18th. Keith Atwell (10) won the putting with an excellent 13 putts.

Conditions last Saturday were slightly better and the golfers played stableford. The men's game included the third round of the Barton Cup. Good scores were hard to come by in the wet conditions underfoot and from above but players soldiered on to complete their rounds.

The ladies' winner was Gail Leigh (11) with 25 points followed by Margaret Blair (35) with 23 points. Glen Rattay (11) won the men's competition with 33 points on a countback from Keith Atwell (18). The nearest the pins were won by Keith Atwell, Glen Rattay and Ming Kuan who also won the Golden Shot.

The finalists for the Barton Cup on Saturday, September 12 are Ming Kuan, Alan Howard, Glen Rattay, Paul Martin, Peter Lilley, Drew Kampkes, Adam Littlejohn, Ray Jones, Richy Clark and Brian Worcester. Next Saturday all golfers will play stroke for the first round of the Winter Aggregate.

The Thursday Ladies' Dalhousie event at Kilmore was cancelled due to the wet weather and is rescheduled for September 24. The Dalhousie ladies' events are now in recess until the Avenel Tournament on September 10.

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## MEETINGS

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)



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SPORT

# One hundred lap race at Alexandra Speedway

by MCS

AFTER a week of rain, wind, some sunshine and the work of Tim McPherson and the Alexandra Speedway fraternity the 100 Lapper kicked off on Saturday, June 6. Included were support classes of Standard Saloons, Street Stocks and SSA Juniors.

Fires burned around the track as spectators rugged up to watch what was going to be a great first night of racing. After a washout last year both spectators and racers were keen as mustard.

### One hundred lapper

Race teams worked wonders donning the new rubber, repairing panels or taping panels down the best they could. Double checking components hoping for the best and crossing their fingers as they rolled out onto the racetrack. This year being the first year where laps under yellows did not count, leading to uncertainty.

The flag drops and the mayhem starts with car 64 Dale Smith receiving damage straight away and heading for the back gate. Car 43 Darren Nelson spins coming out of the dog leg on backstraight bringing on the yellows. D10 Tony Moule comes to a stop in turn four after completing just one lap.

33 Lenni Bonnici has the lead with the two Miller boys hot on his tail. The restart sees AX77 Luke Fallon jump several spots in one swoop. NG11 Nathan O'Brien headed out the back gate. 19 Jamie Paull brings on the next caution rolling to a stop just off the backstraight with 97 laps to go. Wang 68 Jackson Barneveld goes out the back gate with dramas once again.

Wang 9 Caleb Lincoln suffers front end failure with 92 laps left to run. 61 Matt Nelson rides the wheel of AX77 coming away with damage. While AX77 of Luke Fallon has progressed from starting 30th now up to position eight. DS84 the "Slapper" Brad Warren has started to blow smoke. 43 Darren Nelson has front end damage ending his run.

A spin in the dog leg sees the Alex63 rear of field with 82 laps to run. Once again the sly fox of Luke Fallon gains another three positions on the restart taking him into fourth position. DS6 Damien Miller has gone out the back gate by this stage for a check over in the pits.

The AX77 of Fallon who has been chipping away takes advantage of yet another caution and on the restart passes 46 Matt Shankland who has been holding a steady second position, his sights are set on Vic 1 and within a lap he has the lead. Vic 1 holding second with 33 Lennie Bonnici third.

DS84 exit's out the back gate. N99 Travis Ramsdale pulls to a stop on the backstraight bringing on the yellows once again. AX48 Russell Smith's front wheel parts company with 60 left to run on the clock.

After holding the lead for 20 laps car 33 Lennie Bonnici takes the lead from AX77 on the exit of the dogleg. AX41 Darren Forrest stops in the dogleg after his battery left the



Lennie Bonnici celebrating his victory in the 100 lapper. -S

car in a shower of sparks with 45 laps to run ending his campaign for back-to-back wins.

Vic 1 Brendan Miller heads out the back gate not long after, then disaster strikes the AX77 Luke Fallon pulls infield with differential issues and his goose was cooked. 33 Lenni Bonnici holds onto the lead with 46 Matt Shankland, WG5 Braiden Webster, 308 Dave Donegan all trying to chase him down.

46 Shankland loses a wheel with 39 to go, adding to the twists and turns of the great race, by this time the DS6 of Damien Miller has rejoined the field after exiting earlier and is on the march to make up lost laps.

Miller gets past a couple of cars passing 33 of Bonnici after a fierce battle and is off into the sunset 10 laps down. WG5 Braiden Webster and 308 Dave Donegan battle it out for second and third position, with the 18 of Kellie Latham holding her own in fourth position.

308 of Donnaz slips out the gate with 15 to go and returns to the field with eight remaining, needing a splash of fuel to continue the fight. Vic 1 Brendan Miller and DS84 of Brad Warren also rejoined the field, after standing on the hill for a long while, deciding they would rejoin to greet the chequered flag at the end of the great race with just three laps remaining.

Bonnici goes on to an emotional victory, again claiming the silverware. Saying in his interview "that was the hardest race he has had to win at the 100, and it's a credit to the Alexandra team to get such a great event run and won, this one is special".

Webster and Donnaz rounding out the top three, both ecstatic with their results in such a tough race. Kellie Latham fourth, heaping praise on her team for getting a reliable chariot to go the distance. Damien Miller and Gumboot rounding out the top six.

Gumboot went on to say "absolutely stoked to just still be out there circulating with a smashed gearbox from earlier in the night, it's been a tough year but this makes up for a lot of the seasons drama".

The speedway racers will regroup and saddle up ready for the three-hour Enduro later in the year, where they will do it all again.



Winner of the 100 lapper, Lennie Bonnici, who has now won the event five times. -S



Alexandra driver Dale Smith in one of the heats of the 100 lapper. -S



The annual kids bike race saw over 150 kids take to the track to be part of the amazing weekend. -S

# Alexandra Football Netball Club: Rebels come up short against Seville

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club Rebels faced a tough challenge at Rebel Park last Saturday, taking on second-placed Seville. Despite plenty of effort across the day, both senior sides were unable to match the visitors, recording disappointing losses.

### Reserves

In a hard-fought and low-scoring contest, the Reserves battled strongly across all four quarters. While their tackling pressure and commitment at the contest were outstanding, the Rebels were unable to convert their efforts onto the scoreboard, eventually going down by 13 points.

Jesse Elkks continued his impressive debut season with another strong performance, while William Goyder was rock solid in defence.

Hayden Gilmore and Ben Jack worked tirelessly through the midfield, and Toby Ward and Brent McDonald, making a welcome return to the side, led the way with their fierce tackling pressure.

Jake Steyger and Lachlan Collard were also valuable contributors throughout the contest. The Rebels will be hoping to regroup during the second half of the season, with several key players expected to return and strengthen the side as they look to finish the year strongly.

Awards: Shannon Group Award, Jesse Elkks; Future Fit Finance, Will Goyder; Ruoak Hotel Award, Hayden Gilmore; and Buxton Hotel Award, Ben Jack.

### Seniors

After an impressive performance against the undefeated Pakenham the previous week, the Rebels entered last Saturday's clash with second-placed Seville full of confidence.

However, it was Seville who further strengthened their hold on second spot, producing a strong second-half performance to record a 23-point victory.

The game opened at a frantic pace, with both sides displaying tremendous commitment in a high-quality contest. The Rebels made the perfect start and appeared to have control of the match at half-time following an outstanding four-goal second quarter.

Leading by 22 points at the main break, the home side looked well placed, with forwards William Stewart and Josh Edwards creating major headaches for the Seville defence.

It was a tale of two halves, with the Rebels dominating the opening stages before Seville responded after half-time. The Blues lifted their intensity, using quick ball movement and precise field kicking to great effect, demonstrating why they have lost just one game for the season.

Seville capitalised on their opportunities in the final quarter, with Dominic Aoli proving the difference. His three goals from beyond 50 metres helped swing the momentum decisively in the visitors' favour as they surged to an impressive 23-point win.

Despite the result, the Rebels had plenty of strong contributors throughout the contest. Josh Edwards and William Stewart were outstanding up forward with three goals apiece, while Tom Boots, Nick Meehan and



Seniors player Tom Boots. -S



Alexandra Reserves player Robert Andrews kicking. -S

Thomas Wynne were resolute in defence. Harry Aikman and Sam Critchley also played important roles in a spirited team performance.

Having tested themselves against the competition's top two sides in consecutive weeks, the Rebels now turn their attention to consolidating third position on the ladder and securing a double chance heading into the finals. Their focus shifts to this Saturday's away clash against Emerald as they begin the second half of the season.

Awards: Kervale Award, Tom Boots; O'Briens Real Estate, Nick Meehan; Ruoak Hotel, Charlie Boots; Buxton Hotel Award, Cameron Bishop.

### Football Under 18s Alexandra 3.8-26 defeated by Seville 5.8-41

Awards: Bowens Incentive, Lachlan Williams; Kia Chadstone Award, Matthew Wal; AFNC Club Voucher, Ryder Brady; Coaches Award, Mitch Rowntree.

### Netball results

#### A Grade

**Alexandra 22 defeated by Seville 82**

Incentive Award, Jorja Gesler; Corner Hotel Award, Sarah Skehan.

#### B Grade

**Alexandra 15 defeated by Seville 79**

Incentive Award, Kirby Welch; Corner Hotel Award, Caeley Palmner.

#### C Grade

**Alexandra 14 defeated by Seville 65**

Ruoak Hotel Award, Lizzie Butcher; Corner Hotel Award, Kate Broadway.

#### Under 17s

**Alexandra 11 defeated by Seville 49**

Awards: Koala Cherries Award, Marli Collier; Corner Hotel Award, Zoe Mullins.

# Alexandra junior football netball reports

### Football

#### Under 16

**Alexandra 7.7-49 defeated by Shepparton Unite 9.15-69**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks, Fletcher Van Lierop; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Chase Hilder; Kazza's Diner, Brock Horgan; Gilligan Plumbing, Riley Galloway; Coaches Award, Ethan Hargrave.

#### Under 14

**Alexandra 1.0-6 defeated by Shepparton Swans 16.13-109**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks, Clay Hilder; Essence Coffee Lounge, Leo Murphy; Kazza's Diner, Mitch Kidd; Coaches Award, Riley Germon.

#### Under 10s

Awards: Kazza's Diner, Declan Heard; Canteen Voucher, Jett

Vallender; Footy Cards, Musgrove and Zac Gleeson.

Under Nines and 12s had the bye.

### Netball

#### Under 11 Red

**Alexandra Red 4 defeated by St Marys 17**

Awards: AFNC Canteen Voucher, Olivia Wood; Kazza's Diner Award, Bella Kroespsch; Spirit of the Game Award, Olivia Wood.

#### Under 11 Black

**Alexandra Black 11 defeated by Nagambie 14**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Alisha Fita; Kazza's Diner Award, Olvia Bruce; Spirit of the Game Award, Alisha Fita.

#### Under 13 Red

**Alexandra Red 15 defeated by Yea Black 40**

Awards: AFNC Canteen Voucher, Ava Hille; Kazza's Diner Award, Charlotte Pullen.

#### Under 13 Black

**Alexandra Black 8 defeated by Yea Yellow 28**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Ricki Birch; Kazza's Diner Award, Bella Lamaro.

#### Under 15 Red

**Alexandra Red 45 defeated Broadford 22**

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Mia Heard; Kazza's Diner Award, Sienna Heard.



Under 14 football award winners Clay Hilder, Mitch Kidd, Leo Murphy, Nate Broadway and Riley Germon. -S



Alexandra Under 15 Red award winners Mia and Sienna Heard. -S



Under 13 Black award winners Ricki Birch and Bella Lamaro. -S



Under 13 Red award winners Ava Hill and Charlotte Pullen. -S



Under 11 Black award winners Alisha Fita and Olivia Bruce. -S

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# Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



The team celebrating their first goal of the season. -NEDDY Photography

## Thornton-Eildon celebrate their first goal of the season

by Sophia Weaver

THERE are losses that feel like defeats, and then there are losses that feel like massive wins. For the Thornton-Eildon District Football Netball Club, last Saturday's clash against Gembrook-Cockatoo was firmly the latter.

The senior side achieved a massive breakthrough, scoring their first goal of the year and locking in their smallest losing margin of the season, finishing six to 18. For a mostly brand-new squad that has spent the year focused on development and skill-building, the performance was a testament to their hard work and growing chemistry.

The defining moment of the match arrived in the third quarter when Krystle Welsh found the big sticks. As the ball broke through for the long-awaited six-pointer, the ground erupted.

In a beautiful display of local sportsmanship, it wasn't just the TEDFNC bench and crowd who burst into joyous cheers, even the opposing side acknowledged the momentous occasion. Nearby players sprinted from all corners of the ground to swamp Welsh with hugs and high-fives.

The breakthrough sparked new life into the side, energising a ferocious final-quarter surge.

"That goal fired up the Roos to get another one," Coach Tash Hay said.

"Their pressure, strength, and determination lifted again. In the fourth quarter, the ball lived in our forward line, with a strong wall set up to lock it in and stop Gembrook from scoring."

While Gembrook-Cockatoo ultimately walked away with a two-goal victory, the final scoreboard didn't tell the whole story. The Roos walked off the ground with their heads held high, carrying the momentum of a team that is officially on the rise.

"Gembrook took the win by two goals," Coach Hay added, "but the Roos walked off feeling like winners."

With the monkey finally off their back, Thornton-Eildon looks ahead to next week with renewed confidence and a clear message to the rest of the league: the Roos are building something special.

Gameday award winners: Holly Sparke, TEDFNC club voucher; Kate Borzym, Dindi Kids Cash Gift; Siobhan Bell, Valley Aged and Disability Home Care Voucher.

Volunteer of the week went to Amanda Dean, who is one of those amazing people who is always willing to lend a hand and help wherever she can. From assisting with Thursday night dinners to supporting the club behind the scenes, her dedication, generosity and positive attitude never go unnoticed.

Next Week TEDFNC is heading 'over the hill' to Wandin North Reserve for a 9.10am game.



Volunteer of the week Amanda Dean. -S



Gameday award winners Holly, Kate and Siobhan. -S

## Alexandra Squash Club: Squashed like a bug

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition

Trapdoors versus Funnel webs

TYLER versus Jim (coach): Jim put Tyler through his paces for a great training session. Tyler kept at it to end the match with one point less than Jim. 42 to 41.

Laura versus Randy: Laura took the early lead, but Randy fought back and took control in the second half to claim the match. 55 to 44.

Lucas (fill in) versus Sam: Sam started well continuing his dominant form this season. However Lucas was also in good form and put Sam on the ropes even though he was

filling in a level up. Lucas won the last three games and the match. 62 to 53.

Daniel W versus Justin (fill in): Daniel started well, but let up a bit in the third giving Justin a break to take game. Coming back into the final game hard Daniel had a good win. 64 to 46.

### Red Backs versus White Tails

Matthew versus Ethan: A great game. Matt started off really strong, but Ethan settled down towards the end and the second half of the match was a lot closer. Matthew sealed the deal winning three out of four games. 64 to 49.

Sally versus Liane: Two players who know each other's game well and continue to have

good competitive matches. Liane created a small advantage by lobbing serves deep into the corner that Sally struggled to return. This assisted Liane in her victory. 60 to 54.

Mick versus Travis: Travis took the early lead controlling the first game. Mick lifted the tempo and took the lead after two games and pushed ahead to triumph. 68 to 55.

Jim versus Andrew: Andrew opened with might and had Jim on the ropes. Jim found his groove and won the last two games but couldn't catch Andrews' lead. 54 to 48.

### Wednesday competition

Bees versus Sandflies

Marty versus Ben H: Starting strong Ben

claimed the first three games. Marty had some great runs of points throughout but only managed to take the final game. Ben with the win. 73 to 54.

### Mosquitos versus Wasps

Jordan versus Beth: What a great game. Both players brought their 'A' game, and it was super close in the end. Jordan just got up in the end to claim the match. 64 to 61.

Lucas versus Mick: It was a wonderful match up with the scores even at the halfway point. Lucas steam rolled Mick in the third, taking the lead. The final game also went to Lucas, solidifying his victory. 68 to 52.