

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

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New Yea Rotary President



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YHS shows support for MND



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Weekend sport



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Student leaders from Yea High School organised a huge day of support for the MND community, aiming to bring awareness to the incredible fight that many donate to and why the MND cause matters. The event was supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea Fire and Rescue CFA and Nicole Ockwell. Students and staff came together in unity, fun and laughs, teaching everyone that caring matters. -S

Outgoing Rotary president speaks about challenging year for the club

WHEN Darryl King took on the presidency of the Rotary Club of Yea last year, he certainly wasn't expecting the year to be as challenging as it was. He looked back on the year as he prepared to hand the reins over to incoming president Ann Drysdale.

He commented, "It's been, I have to say, an incredible year. But it's not me, it's the team of Rotary. It's everybody, it's all the members. We all banded together and rallied to help in the fires."

He added, "We do all our fundraisers throughout the year. We do all our barbecues, which I was totally involved in, I think every time there was a barbecue, I donned an apron and got involved. Unfortunately, with the fires, we missed out on our art show. Cycle Dindi had to be cancelled. We couldn't run that because of the fire."

As the rail trail suffered significant damage during the fire, it may be some time before it is repaired in full. As a result, Rotary are looking at workarounds.

Darryl said, "We'd really like to keep that going because we have such a following from it... It's a destination for [the cyclists] and then they spend money in the shire."

He said of Rotary, "It's certainly a team effort. That is the best thing if you are president. It's never hard to get help for something... It can be really easy if you're prepared to ask for help and get everybody to join in. It's been incredible. One of the highlights I think has been getting to know more people in the area... That was truly a highlight. One of the other things was

being able to help, going back to the fire, that was such a disaster."

Rotary developed the Water Tank project after the fire, and have so far delivered 73 10,000 litre water tanks to people who are moving back onto their property and needed water. Darryl said, "They may not have had catchment or they're living in a tent, a caravan, or even converted an old shed. Maybe lost their water tanks, which were plastic and the fire caused it to melt."

They have also delivered 90 \$500 vouchers to people in need, thanks to (Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) and Rotary International. Darryl said, "I wasn't shy in contacting them to say, hey, listen, we need some money. These people are really, really, really suffering. They can't pay their bills, they're not getting insurance, they're living in tents. People are still living in tents and caravans."

He also arranged for an amenities trailer from six of the Gippsland Rotary Club. This was initially located at Highlands and is now in Ruffy. He added that it can stay there for as long as it's needed.

In the early days after the fire, the club also gave \$5000 to the Yea Community House to cover the cost of medical assistance such as band-aids and prescriptions. They would be picked up and delivered to the Highlands and other areas. At the request of people impacted, Rotary also bought and distributed garden tools, such as rakes and shovels, when the clean-up started.

Although Yea Rotary missed out on the two fundraisers due to the fire, they are still able to

fulfill all of their financial commitments. They also had a lot of post-fire donations sent directly to Rotary which they will be able to use for fire recovery projects over the next couple of years.

In addition to his role with Rotary, Darryl also took on tasks outside of Rotary to help out after the fire, such as helping out at the food hub in Yea for three weeks. Others from Rotary also keen to assist, whether it was just pointing people in the right direction for services or at the food hub. "Everybody had their little job and it was all hands on at that time and they were needed. That was really good," Darryl said.

He added, "We're a very strong group down here at Rotary Club of Yea. We all band together. We've got a lot of older members and some young members. It's always nice to get some new members."

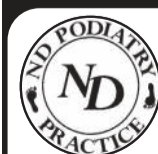
He also said, "I'm really comfortable handing over to Ann [Drysdale]. I'm not disappearing from Rotary. I'll still be there. I'm taking on Community Service, which is barbecues and working with any of the functions that we do.

"Ann's going to be most capable in taking on the role. We all bring something different to it. It's sometimes nice to have a female back in the role again and puts a total different twist on it, but she's got my support. She's got the support of everybody else."



Darryl King. -S

ND PODIATRY PRACTICE



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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."



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

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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Independently owned and operated with no association with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
 UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
 UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
 UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY
 Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
 Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086
 Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY
 1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
 1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
 2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
 2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
 2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
 4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
 4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
 Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 0409 819 040

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

For a \$5 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	

***ISSUED AT 9.24 AM AEDT MONDAY 22 JUNE 2026**

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.

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Standard The Yea Chronicle

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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%

The Yea Chronicle

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
Thumbs up/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

New Yea Rotary President Ann Drysdale

ANN Drysdale is set to take the reigns of Yea Rotary, taking on the presidency from Darryl King at the changeover dinner on June 25.

She said, "It's a fairly big step, but I think it's my turn."

She has previously been doing attendance at the Rotary meetings and organising the meals, so the presidency means that she moves "from the back table to the front table."

Ann is a long-term resident of Yea, having lived in the town for the past 66 years. She added, "I can't claim to be local. I wasn't born here. I was born in Port Fairy."

After moving to Yea, her father was shire secretary for many years. As a result, Ann has a deep sense of community, "Thanks to my parents who both gave so freely to the community and deep sense of civic roles."

She brought up both of her sons in Yea and found it to be a very safe place for them. Both of her sons are now in their 40s, with one living in Richmond with a four year old and a one year old, and the other in Hobart with a nine year old and a seven year old.

Ann has worked in finance, administration and HR at Yea High School for 30 years, retiring three years ago.

She said that the role gave her "A very keen passion for the youth of Yea. I love hearing their stories, what they achieve for themselves and how they get there."

As for Rotary, she said, "I think we've got a fairly tough year ahead of us because we've missed out on a couple of fundraising opportunities due to the fire. It has had many effects. We didn't have our art show which is a major fundraiser, and we didn't have Cycle Dindi which is a fundraiser for our youth program, so we're going to have to take every opportunity to get back on board and replenish."

"Probably our first project for the new year will be a Rotary International End Polio promotion which is coming through the district in August. We're actually going to have a baton relay within the cluster of Rotaries... We will promote the program and raise funds."

Ending polio is a very important cause. Ann said, "We were so close to getting it down but there's been some outbreaks in New Guinea. That's a bit of a worry, it's a bit close to home so I think we need to be very aware and do what we can."

They'll not only be raising awareness, they will also be raising funds for vaccinations.

She added, "We've got our Yea Garden Expo coming up in September, which is a two-day event. Rotary over the year has youth programs. They have RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Empowerment), for a 14 to 17 year old's weekend, and RYLA, which is for 18 to 30 year olds. It's the Youth Leadership Award week. They're wonderful opportunities for young ones to find out about themselves and realise that they have got a voice and to



Ann Drysdale. -S

extend themselves. There's also a sailing program which is a four day event on a small tall ship where they literally learn the ropes. There are a few opportunities which I'd really like to promote for the young ones. We also have our tertiary scholarship award, the Ruth Konig Award and our bursaries for four schools."

The Rotary membership drive is an ongoing program. They are welcoming people to attend meetings and to join.

She said that if people are uncertain, "They're welcome to come along to visit the meeting and to find out, to meet us and then come on board." She added, "We have really good guest speakers for most meetings."

If people have an interest in joining, Ann can be contacted on 0409 972 980 or via email at vadrysdale@gmail.com

Ann is also keen to continue soon-to-be former president Darryl's work in helping people impacted by the Longwood fire, including the water tank project and the vouchers. "We'll continue to support our community wherever we can," she said.

She said of Darryl, "They are huge shoes to fill, and I won't even pretend I can fill them. He's so generous with his time. He'll be there to support me and we can still work together to continue his programs."

"That's probably the number one thing, to continue what has been started with the fire victims supporting them, because it's a long haul back. Darryl's there with his heart in his hands and he's just got us all on board. I've been through a few fires and I just know how hard it is for families," she said.

She also added, "I really think our youth are our future and we need to support them and our community is everything to us."

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

For more information on drought support, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

For more information on bushfire support, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires or 136 186.

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

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.



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

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion. Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala 0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew 0459 402 547 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm Immaculate Conception Parish Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482 St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea Sunday Service 10.30am Colin Whiteway Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road, Kinglake West. 9716 2330

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 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

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.



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.

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.

Fire Brigade for Yea: 125 years since the first meeting

Yea Chronicle, July 11, 1901

ON July 9, it will be exactly 125 years since the first meeting held to assess whether Yea should have its own fire brigade. This article outlines the events of this meeting.

ON Tuesday evening [July 9], in response to an advertisement, a number of residents met in the shire hall. The attendance was not as good as might have been expected, but the inclement state of the weather no doubt induced many to stay beside the warmth and cheerfulness of their fires, rather than brave the elements.

President O'Callaghan, who occupied the chair, mentioned the object of the meeting. A fire brigade was very necessary in a town of the size of Yea, and the initial expense would be about £50. How that was to be raised he was not prepared to say.

The first thing was whether it was the wish of the people to have a brigade. He thought if one were formed it would go a long way to reduce insurance rates.

Mr A McKay moved that it was desirable to form a fire brigade in Yea. Mr Olney seconded the motion. Mr Fynn, while agreeing with the motion, said it was undesirable to go with it unless they were sure of forming the brigade efficiently. He would suggest that a committee be appointed to go into the matter of cost, and what the probable requirements might be.

The brigade would only be a laughing-stock if they went into it with insufficient appliances. He said this would be a good opportunity for forming a gymnasium and club room in connection with the brigade.

Mr McKay said a gymnasium had been formed in connection with the Kilmore brigade.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The chairman asked Mr Clark to read communications from the Country Fire Brigades Board. Mr Clark, who has taken great interest in the matter, said that, in conversation with several residents, the matter of forming a brigade had been discussed, and he took it upon himself to write to the Country Fire Brigades Board. He inquired if the cost of equipping and maintaining the brigade must be borne by the townspeople or subsidised in any way by the government; is the equipment supplied by the board if the council donate a certain sum; what is the minimum number of members; must the Board's consent be obtained before a brigade can be formed, and, if so, must it come from the council or the intending members.

He received the following letter from Mr J N Stevens, secretary to the board. "Chief Officer Marshall has handed me your letter of 17th inst. for reply. When it is desired that a newly-formed fire brigade shall come under control of the board it is necessary that the local council should make application to the board to that effect. If no objection is made, the brigade is then placed on a probationary time as the Board may decide, usually from six to 12 months. During that period the Chief Officer visits the brigade once or twice to give them a little instruction and drill, and all going well the brigade comes on to the regular register, when it is controlled and maintained by the board. Prior to registration the cost of apparatus and a place to house it in must be provided locally. The amount of outlay involved depends largely on the nature and effectiveness of the water supply in the town to be protected.

"In this connection I would ask you to be good enough to advise me fully on the following points, viz., from what source your supply is obtained; whether the town is reticulated in whole or part, and if so, the size of the mains. If the town be properly supplied the apparatus required to commence with would consist of a hose-reel, say 600 feet, canvas hose and couplings, hydrant, coupling branches, fire-hooks, and axes. These we should be happy to obtain for you at our contract prices, whereby a large saving in cost would be effected. The total sum required to meet the above expenditure would be about £50, and the articles would have to be paid for on delivery. If, on the other hand, your town is dependent on wells and tanks, a manual fire engine would be an absolute necessity, and the cost of same



Members of the Yea Fire Brigade on a vintage fire engine at the Yea Cruise Night in February. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos

would be approximately £160. As to a depot or station this need not, of course, be very elaborate or expensive, but it is necessary to arrange in such a way that the board will not have to pay any rent here after.

"The apparatus must be vested in trustees, approved by the board, for the public benefit. The income of the board is derived from the government, the insurance companies, and the local municipalities in equal proportions, the annual contributions of the councils being calculated on the basis of the annual value of rateable property within the town boundaries.

"If you can give me this information in regard to Yea I shall be able to state approximately what your council would have to contribute.

"Your brigade, if formed, should consist of 15 members, including captain, lieutenant, secretary, and foreman. There should be no difficulty, in a town of the size and importance of Yea, in getting together that number of eligible and energetic young men, who would have an interest in the work, and attend the necessary practices."

Mr Clark said he gave the information required, and received the following reply.

"On the basis of the annual rateable property within the town boundaries of Yea, your council's contribution to the board would probably be about £15 to £16 a year. The exact sum is dependent on the amount of estimated expenditure in the North Eastern Fire District for the year, but you may regard the above as approximately correct.

"The water supply being satisfactory and the town fully reticulated there will be no need for a manual engine, and the £50 I quoted should be sufficient for the preliminary equipment. After the brigade is placed on the permanent register, the board provides all additional that is required in this respect, and also uniforms. It is not customary to put the members into uniforms during the probationary period, but if particularly desired we could supply caps, belts, and spanners in the meantime, and the cost of these would be refunded by the board when the brigade is taken over."

A little discussion arose as to a site, some being of the opinion that the old printing office would be condemned by the board as unsuitable. It was decided to appoint a committee to canvass the town for subscriptions to help form a brigade and report to a meeting to be held on July 23.

Mr Clark was appointed honorary secretary, and the following gentlemen were elected to the committee: -Messrs. Rule, Barns, Purcell, Taite, and White.

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 is 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

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

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch



SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Joshua and Isla on demonstrating a commitment to our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Yea Brand Dairy win gold medals in Dairy Industry Association Awards

YEA Brand Dairy, the makers of gourmet cheese, have won two gold medals in the Dairy Industry Association Australia (DIAA) Awards for their crème fraiche and are progressing to the Grand Dairy Awards later this year.

Owners of Yea Brand Dairy, the Kirk family, have been involved in the dairy industry for multiple generations.

"I've been involved in the dairy industry all my life," Andrew Kirk said.

"My father, who passed away at the beginning of the year, he's been making cheese and in the dairy industry all his life as well.

"He took on the Yea factory close to 30 years ago now. It was a bit of a shack, really. There wasn't much there, so it went through a couple of renovations and expansions over time to build it up to what it is today.

"We're still a very small player but we're making a high-quality niche product that is well regarded."

Yea Brand Dairy's main product is their crème fraiche, but they also make mascarpone and club cheddar.

"We picked up two gold awards with our crème fraiche, which is the one that we pride ourselves on," Andrew said.

"We enter this competition pretty much every year and we do quite well. Almost whenever we enter, we seem to be able to pick up a gold for the creme fraiche. Occasionally we

get a gold for our mascarpone, but not this year.

"We entered into both the Victorian and the Australian competition and we won gold in both."

Being awarded a gold medal in the DIAA competition qualifies Yea Brand Dairy's crème fraiche to progress to the Grand Dairy Awards run by Dairy Australia.

"This is the big one, which we've got our eyes set on now. That'll be coming up later this year," Andrew said.

"The Grand Dairy Awards are really difficult to win because the categories are trimmed down. Something like creme fraiche in the DIAA competition, it's in a category called sour or cultured cream products.

"But then there's all the other categories, like there's a category for, say, thickened cream. There's a category for pouring cream. There's a category for any other cream you can think of. They've all got their own categories.

"But what happens in the Grand Dairy Awards, anything that's cream gets lumped into the same category.

"You're competing against what you call the creme de la creme, pardon the pun. You compete against anyone that's won a gold medal in any of those categories, so it's really fierce."



Yea Brand Dairy gourmet cheese pairs well with a variety of foods. -S

Yea Brand Dairy took out the Best Cream in Australia award in 2014, and are hoping to repeat the result this year.

In terms of operations, Yea Brand Dairy is owned and run by Andrew and his brothers doing the admin work, with Yea locals Dave Wareham and Kelly McLeish the two full-time staffers on the factory floor. They have a distributor based

in Sydney that covers all the east coast of Australia.

"It's not a mainstream product but you will find it in IGAs and some of those fancy sort of fruit and vegetable shops that have delis and stuff like that. Then we've got a network of food service distributors that look after the restaurants which is where a lot of it goes," Andrew explained.

"Dave Wareham and Kelly McLeish, they're locals up there. They're the two crew that are doing it day in, day out. You've got to admire their commitment. Dave's been with us for I think over 20 years. So it's a really good tight little scene," he finished.

To learn more about Yea Brand Dairy or follow them on their competition journey, visit them on Facebook.

June meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

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

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.

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 Yarrack 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.

THE MISTY BIT

COME WINTER IN VICTORIA



📍 BEAUCHAMP FALLS, OTWAY RANGES

Have you heard about the misty bit of winter in Victoria?

That's the symphony of birdsong in the forest canopy, the spray of crystal-clear water on your skin and the thunderous crashing of waterfalls... kind of misty.

VISITVICTORIA.COM

VICTORIA EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

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

New advice on allergies

WITH food allergies now affecting one in 10 Australian babies, many parents are trying to balance growing advice about early allergy prevention with understandable concerns about reactions.

To help bridge that gap, the National Allergy Council, a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI) and Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia, has launched the online Food Follower App as part of its *Nip Allergies in the Bub* program.

The free digital tool helps parents introduce common allergy-causing foods in age-appropriate forms and keep them in their baby's diet over time, an approach shown to reduce the risk of developing food allergies.

Research shows introducing foods such as peanut and well-cooked egg soon after a baby has started eating solid foods can help reduce the chance of them developing a food allergy to these foods. The recently updated ASCIA infant feeding for food allergy prevention guidelines reinforce the importance of introducing these foods early and, if tolerated, continuing to include them in a child's diet at least once a week.

Dr Sandra Vale, CEO of the National Allergy Council, said while awareness has improved, many parents are still unsure how to put that advice into practice.

"Parents are hearing that introducing these foods matters, but many are unsure of when and how to do this or what to do next. The Food Follower App turns that evidence into something practical, helping parents introduce the common allergy causing foods and continue offering them regularly," Dr Vale said.

Many parents assume trying a food once is enough, delay introduction out of caution, or stop offering foods if they are not part of the household's usual diet. In reality, it is the combination of early introduction once the baby is ready for solid foods and ongoing inclusion at least once a week that helps reduce the risk of developing food allergies. This is particularly important for babies with eczema, especially moderate to severe eczema, who are at higher risk of developing food allergies.

Allergic disease affects more than 8 million Australians and continues to place significant challenges on individuals, families and the healthcare system.

For more information or to access the free online Food Follower App, visit the *Nip Allergies in the Bub* website, preventallergies.org.au

Vale Andrew Johnston

by Nigel Lyttle, Principal, Alexandra Secondary College

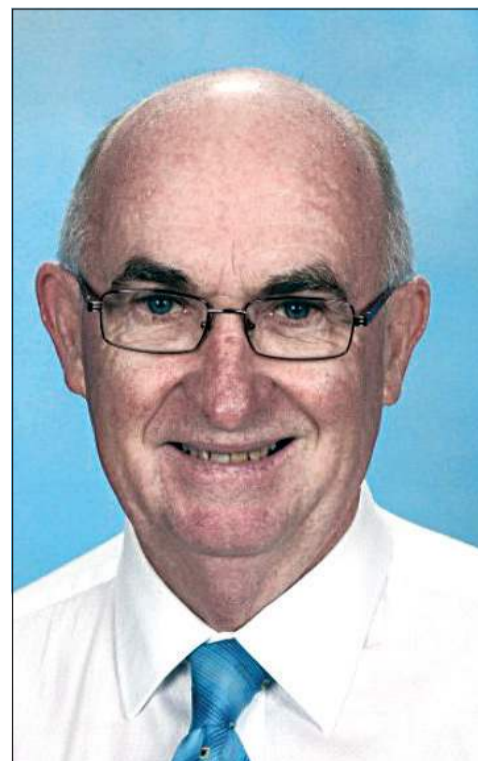
IT is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Andrew (Andy) Johnston on Thursday, June 11.

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,



Andrew Johnston. -S

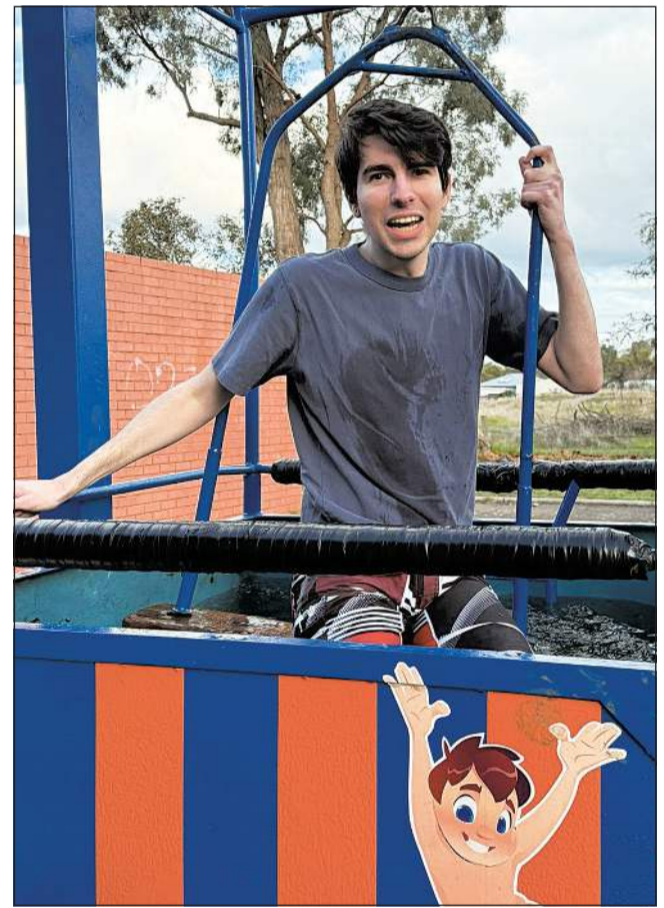
creating foundations that continue to benefit our students and staff today.

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.

Yea High School shows support for MND



ON Monday, June 15, Yea High School hosted a Blue Edge session, welcoming three local police officers Ash, John and Laura from Seymour, Yea and Kinglake Police Stations. Students completed the fitness tests required for entry into the police academy, followed by a Q&A with the officers. -S

One hundred lap race at Alexandra Speedway



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



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



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

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 run. 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 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, WG5Braiden 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.



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

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.

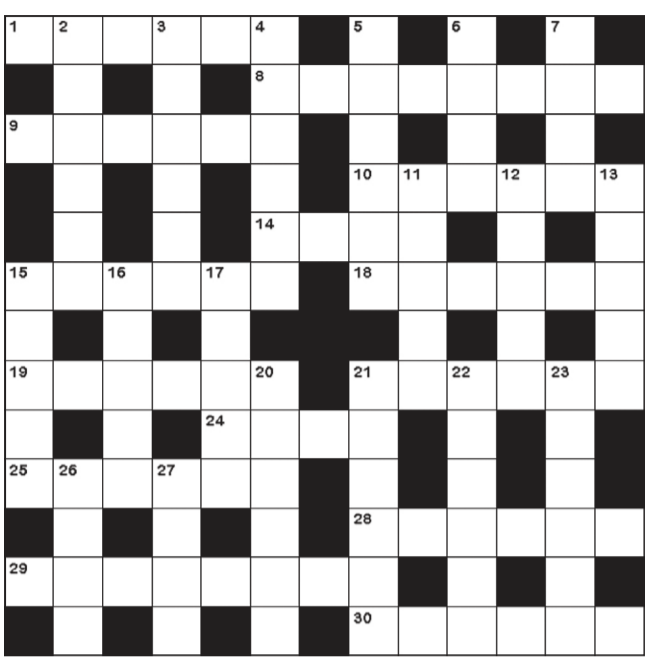
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 13

KID'S PUZZLES

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.



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

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 | |

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 |

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						

$\frac{18}{2}$ $\frac{19}{20}$ $\frac{2}{13}$ $\frac{2}{21}$ $\frac{A}{2}$ $\frac{E}{26}$ $\frac{1}{11}$
 $\frac{A}{2}$ $\frac{20}{13}$ $\frac{A}{2}$ $\frac{21}{10}$ $\frac{6}{12}$ $\frac{11}{25}$

$\frac{24}{2}$ $\frac{14}{20}$ $\frac{6}{23}$ $\frac{8}{2}$ $\frac{1}{25}$ $\frac{26}{6}$ $\frac{15}{8}$
 $\frac{A}{2}$ $\frac{20}{13}$ $\frac{A}{23}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{25}{6}$ $\frac{8}{8}$

$\frac{T}{25}$ $\frac{E}{8}$ $\frac{11}{11}$ $\frac{A}{18}$ $\frac{E}{2}$ $\frac{17}{11}$

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.

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 must contain each number and letter only once.

Math Square

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

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

Classifieds

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 Always remembered.

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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



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

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Home Economic Assistant

This position is for 20 hours per week. The position is available from July 20, 2026 in an ongoing role. The ideal candidate will have the following skills matched with relevant experience:
 *Order goods as required and arrange for safe delivery and storage.
 *Undertake specified cleaning and maintenance tasks.
 *Undertake preparation for practical classes and assist teacher during class as directed.
 *General Cleaning of school eg: sick bay
 *Possibly working within the classroom to aid student learning.
 *Other duties as directed by the principal.
 Enquiries and position descriptions are available from Nigel Lyttle. Please email applications to nigel.lyttle@education.vic.gov.au by July 11, 2026.



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SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round nine of term two pennant

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.

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

4BBB to Aurisch/Redmond at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday saw the wettest conditions on the course this year at Yea Golf Club. With preferred lies and relief from casual water, play was achievable for the 20 blokes contesting a four ball best ball event and the Club Award.

Winners of the day with an excellent 42 points were Jeff Aurisch (23) and Jim Redmond (24), finishing one point ahead of Phil Armstrong (16) and Rob O'Halloran (21).

Third place went to Tony Rule (16) and Bob Glenister (10) with 40 points on countback from Andrew Bohn (5) and John Phillips (18).

Jim Redmond was nearest the pin on the 14th, while Peter Johnston and Greg Clements took out the Club Award. Best individual score was Jonathan Fisher (10) with 37 points on countback from Phil Armstrong (16).

In the knockout competition, Zach Pell defeated Paul Heyen to progress to the third round.

Last Wednesday's golf saw 16 men play a par event with resident pro Anthony La Grutta (15) continuing his fine form with plus four to win from Peter Johnston (15) plus two, Bob Glenister (10) plus two and Michael Spagnolo (9) minus one.

Bob Glenister was nearest the pin on the 14th and the lucky \$10 winner of the Club Award was Phil Armstrong.

Nine Ladies played the fifth Monthly Medal of the year and it was won by Margie Wright (20) with a nett 77 from second Christine Simmons (24) on nett 80.

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.



Yea's Under 12 Captain and Spirit of Football medal recipient, Archie Armstrong. -S



Under 10 award winners Logan S, Hamish and Jake. -S



Under 12 award winners Zach, Darby and Jasper. -S

Yea junior football reports

Under Nines

by Kate Adams

WHAT a fantastic display of footy as both teams produced an explosive contest packed with skill, courage, and non-stop action from the opening bounce.

The game started at a blistering pace, with players throwing themselves at every contest and chasing the footy. The team showed great teamwork supporting each other all over the ground together with their never-give-up attitude.

Last week was the Spirit of Football Round, where the opposition coach selects one Yea player who best demonstrates the Spirit of Football during the game. The award was presented to Max Wearne. A huge congratulations Max for this awesome recognition.

Also, congratulations to last week's award winners: Christian, Just Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Charlie, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Matilda, Progression Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player.

Well done to all players for their effort and commitment. The coach, families, and supporters should be incredibly proud of the way the team represented the club.

Under 10s

by Jess Robinson

Under 10s played Alexandra Rebles on a typical Yea winter morning in the fog, which didn't dampen the kids' enthusiasm last week. Congratulations Harry on kicking your first goal.

Round nine marked the football Spirit award, chosen by the opposition- Well done Logan Steiner, a very deserving winner who constantly supports and encourages all kids regardless of which team they are on.

Awards: Yarra Valley Gas Improvement, Hamish; Delux Rods Tiger Spirit, Logan S; Cathkin Farm Services Coach's, Jake.

Under 12s

by Lily Armstrong

The Under 12s started the game with plenty of energy and determination, with Sienna getting the Tigers on the scoreboard first after kicking the opening goal.

St Mary's responded strongly, and despite their best efforts, Yea were unable to add to their score in the second quarter while St Mary's managed to kick three goals. The muddy conditions made for a tough, physical contest, but the Tigers never stopped working.

The determination and resilience shown by every player was outstanding. They continued to fight hard, support one another and never gave up, no matter what the scoreboard said. It was a fantastic display of courage and teamwork in challenging conditions.

Unfortunately, St Mary's proved too strong on the day, taking the win 45 to 26.

Congratulations to award winners Zach, Darby, and Jasper for their outstanding efforts.

A special congratulations also goes to one of Yea's captains, Archie Armstrong, who was selected by St Mary's as Yea's Spirit of Football medal recipient, a wonderful recognition of his sportsmanship, leadership and effort throughout the game.

Well done, Tigers. Keep your heads high, be proud of the determination, resilience and teamwork you showed all day.

Spirit of Netball round for Yea junior netballers

by Jo Madden

THE Spirit of Football and Netball Rounds celebrate the values that make junior sport special. While competition is part of the game, these rounds place the focus on sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and fair play.

They encourage players, coaches, officials and families to recognise and celebrate positive attitudes, support for teammates and opponents, and the importance of enjoying the game.

Above all, they remind everyone that junior sport is about building character, friendships and community connections, not simply winning.



Yea Under 11 Spirit of Netball award winners. -S



Yea Yellow Under 13 Spirit of Netball award winners. -S



Yea Black Under 13 Spirit of Netball award winners.



Yea Under 15 Spirit of Netball award winners. -S

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Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Mixed results for Yea Football Netball Club senior teams

THE Yea Football Netball Club teams took on Belgrave and Wandin on the road last week. They will take on Powelltown at home this week, with the exception of the Senior women's team, who take on Seville in Seville.

FOOTBALL

Senior women

Wandin 7 defeated by Yea 16

Seniors

Belgrave 80 defeated Yea 47

Reserves

Belgrave 105 defeated Yea 8

NETBALL

A Grade

Belgrave 65 defeated Yea 42

B Grade

Belgrave 32 defeated by Yea 39

C Grade

Belgrave 29 defeated Yea 24

D Grade

Belgrave 23 defeated by Yea 29



The Yea Senior players applying pressure to Belgrave opposition. -Photos by Savannah Gregory Photography



Collecting a solid mark.



Yea Senior women discussing strategy in the huddle.



The ball was slippery in the wet and muddy conditions.



Trying to find a foothold in muddy conditions for the Senior players.



Shooting for goal in the Yea netball competition.



Yea Senior women taking on Wandin.



Belgrave trying to defend a Yea goal.



Assessing options and opportunities.



Yea trying to interrupt a Belgrave shot on goal.