

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, April 16, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Anzac Day Services

ANZAC Day services will be held at various locations across the Shire on Friday 25 April and Saturday 26 April.

Kinglake
Anzac service at 10:30 am, followed by traditional games. 30 Prince of Wales Memorial Church, Kinglake. Involvement for residents at 10:30 am.

Yea
Anzac service at 10:00 am at the Yea Club ANZAC Memorial Community Centre, 436 Whitelane Kinglake Road, Yea. Involvement for residents at 10:30 am.

Marysville
Anzac service at 10:15 am at corner Macpherson Street and 12th Avenue at 10:45 am at the RSL Hall for a march to Luckie Park. Involvement for residents at 10:30 am.

Strath Creek
Anzac service at 10:45 am for 9:00 am service at Strath Creek Reserve Memorial, Glover Street, Strath Creek.

Yea
Anzac service at 10:45 am at the Yea War Memorial Hospital for Nursing Home residents and family. Assembly at 10:45 am at the Yea Cemetery for 11:00 am.

Page 3

Another great youth program



Page 17

Yea High School classmates reconnect



Page 18

Weekend sport



Pages 20



Members of the Yea Garden Club on their visit to Macedon. More on page 14. -S

Question of future funding for Be Well in the Ranges program

A VALUABLE mental health service that has been running for six years is unsure whether funding will be renewed in the future to keep the program going.

Be Well in the Ranges supports members of the Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale, some parts of Yea, Toolangi, Steels Creek, and Dixons Creek.

Dr Beth Williams from *Be Well in the Ranges* spoke with Alexandra Newspapers about how the program came about and what it delivers.

"We're a mental health program that has been funded over the last six years. We were first funded by FRRR and that was around the 10 year anniversary of Black Saturday.

"Basically, in a nutshell, the program has had an increase in the people requesting support through psychology and counselling over the time that we've run the program. We've had more than 1470 people who have been connected with the program as of the last reporting period ending in September last year. Since then, at least another 100 people have re-engaged with the program or newly engaged with the program. The numbers are quite significant that we've worked with over that time.

Continued Page 15

Our office will be closed Friday, April 25

Early deadlines will apply

Display booking and artwork noon, Thursday, April 24

We will reopen Monday, April 28, at 9am

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

EASTER OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 AND MONDAY, APRIL 21

EARLY DEADLINES
APPLY FOR APRIL 23
EDITION

NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17
★ DISPLAY ADS - BOOKING AND ARTWORK
★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES ★ TRADES

10AM MONDAY, APRIL 21
★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WILL REOPEN 9AM TUESDAY, APRIL 22



43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 5772 1002
email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

PUBLISHERS

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THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP:

To our Mayor Damien Gallagher for the honest and thought-provoking explanation of his Acknowledgement of Country.

THUMBS DOWN:

Our small unit block has just had 30 bins delivered on top of the 30 we already have. Our problem is there is no room to store the bins in a sightly manner. When we were originally told about the bins, it was stated that we did not have to accept the extra bins. How does everyone feel about this waste of money and it does not necessarily make for a greener planet. Are there going to be four trucks to collect those or all in the same trucks we have now?

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

Candidates Forum

I'VE heard that a number of candidates are not attending the Candidates' Forum at the Alexandra Town Hall on Sunday, April 27.

How sad is that. I want to see my preferred candidate in the flesh. I want to be reassured Mitch Bridges is upright and can put some words together and that he is willing to travel all the way from up north to this remote corner of Indi. I want Mitch to be there for me.

It is a big blue for a candidate to opt out of this and six or seven similar community forums because s/he is scared, shy or feels inadequate.

And yes, it is a test, a test to demonstrate how much a candidate cares about people in our part of Indi.

To bastardise an memorable slogan I say, 'If they don't show, vote no.'

Robyn Walsh, Yarck (ALP Member)

Candidates finalised

THE Federal election is set to occur on May 3, and while the candidates aren't finalised until after we go to print, the current candidates have declared their intention to stand.

The candidates for the House of Representative are Mitch Bridges (Labor), James Trenery (Coalition), Alysia Regan (Greens), Helen Haines (Independent), Mark McFarlane (Independent), Athol Thomas (One Nation), Michael White (Family First), Ben Howman (Legalise Cannabis Party) and Tim Quilty (Libertarian Party).

A series of questions have been sent to the candidates and their responses will be included in coming editions.

The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

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Alexandra Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers

Endeavour Yea

Hazeldene Store

Merton General Store

Seymour Newsagency

Shell Thornton

Yea FoodWorks

Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:

regional media connect

Country Press AUSTRALIA

Audited Media Association of Australia

abc

Foundation Murrindindi's volunteer grant program open

FOUNDATION Murrindindi proudly announces the launch of its new grant program initiative aimed at supporting the operations of volunteer driven, grass roots community organisations within Murrindindi Shire.

The Volunteer Grant program will support projects to engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base, and strengthen volunteering in local communities within Murrindindi Shire.

Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by reducing barrier for volunteers, increasing participation in volunteering and increases community capacity.

Grants of up to \$1500 are available to eligible community organisations. Grant applications close on Wednesday, April 30.

To find out more about this grant opportunity please visit *foundationmurrindindi.org.au*. You will see our fact sheet with more information about the grant criteria and eligibility.

We require all applicants to contact the Foundation first, to discuss your project and how it fits within the grant program. Contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.19	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.38	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.23am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.45am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.20am Mon	0.36	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.20am Mon	0.15	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.07	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.29	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	4.15pm Sun	0.10	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.82	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.04	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.57am Mon	0.78	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.46AM ON MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2025				

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

April 16 - April 22, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

12

26

Wednesday

12

26

Thursday

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Thursday

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Friday

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Saturday

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Saturday

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Sunday

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Sunday

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Monday

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Monday

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Tuesday

10

21

Tuesday

10

21

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra..... 0mm

Buxton..... 0mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 0.2mm

Flowerdale..... 0.4mm

Jamieson..... N/Amm

Kinglake N/Amm

Lake Eildon 0mm

Mansfield..... N/Amm

Taggerty 0mm

Yarck 0mm

Yea.....N/Amm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....278.33m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....63.2%

Metres below full supply.....10.57m

Daily inflow350ML

Release..... 5500ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....78.3%

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

Easter Sunday at Fawcett Hall: A community day out

EASTER Sunday at Fawcett Hall promises a fantastic day out for the whole community, with something for all ages to enjoy. On Sunday, April 20 from 9am to 4pm, locals and visitors alike can take part in a car boot sale, historical displays, market stalls, and delicious food.

For just a gold coin donation at the gate, visitors can browse the car boot sale (\$10 per car to sell), pick up home-made jams and plants, and enjoy a sausage sizzle and self-serve tea, coffee, and soft drinks.

A highlight of the day is the famous Marg's

passionfruit sponge, a must-try treat.

For history lovers, the event will showcase historical displays from Fawcett and Koriella, as well as a nostalgic collection of photographs from Alexandra Secondary College in the 1980's.

Families won't want to miss the Easter Egg Hunt at 9am for kids under 12.

Fawcett Hall is located at 655 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett, just 10 minutes from Alexandra.

Make a weekend of it with the Alexandra Rotary Easter Art Show and Rennies at Acheron Sculpture Exhibition, both running across Easter, with a reciprocal entry for ticket holders.

For more information, visit fawcethall.org.au



Last year's Fawcett Hall car boot sale. -BD

New parenting portal for Victorian parents

VICTORIAN parents and carers now have access to a free online service to support them through every stage of parenting, starting from family planning to early childhood.

Last week the Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins launched the Parents Portal on the Service Victoria platform and app and announced that a digital birth certificate will be piloted later this year.

The portal is a one-stop shop for parents and carers seeking information and resources when planning to have a child. It includes resources on maternal and child health services, early childhood education, playgroups, kindergarten, and critical information on emergency services.

The service is shaped by feedback from Victorian families and carers and includes important information for parents who have a child with a disability and LGBTQI+ parents.

Building on information in the 'green book', a book supplied to parents to track their children's health and development progress, the portal aims to provide parents with more resources for early childhood and beyond, particularly around key life events and accessing essential healthcare services.

The new portal is part of the state government's digital transformation

agenda, designed to make it quicker and easier for Victorians to interact with government services.

This is the first phase of rollout for the Parents Portal, it will be expanded over time to incorporate new functions and features to respond to the changing needs of Victorian families.

Future features being considered include a personalised navigator to enable new and soon-to-be parents to access personalised content about their child's current development stage.

A new digital birth certificate will be piloted on the Service Victoria app to make it easier for parents to securely store and show proof of their child's birth when they need to, such as enrolling their child in three year old kinder.

Victorians can visit the portal on the Service Victoria app or at service.vic.gov.au/find-services/family-and-child/parent-support

Through the Service Victoria app, Victorians can easily access more than 130 government services online. To download the Service Victoria app, go to the Apple or Google Play Store.

Good Friday Appeal to be different this year

THE Good Friday Appeal is fast approaching, but there will be a change in the way that the collection will be run. The CFA and SES will no longer be tin rattling at intersections in the shire due to safety concerns around uncontrolled intersections. There are no traffic lights in the shire, which is the preference as a collecting location, and therefore permits have not been issued. This is likely to impact many regional towns

around the state.

Lochie Lake from the Alexandra Fire Brigade explained that they'll still be walking around town and driving around the streets in their truck.

The change may result in a drop in the total donations, so it's vital that people lend their support to the worthy cause. Donations can also be made online at goodfridayappeal.com.au if you don't see the collectors.

Engagement completed and report with government

THE Eminent Panel for Community Engagement's has completed its report, which is now being considered by the government. No decisions on the future use of state forests in the Central Highlands have been made while the government considers the report.

The panel spoke to over 1000 people at 60 engagement sessions and received over 14,000 responses through Engage Victoria to its consultation on the future of state forests in Victoria's Central Highlands, although not all were happy with the quality of the engagement and nor the questions asked.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2025



The following services will be held across Murrindindi Shire to commemorate ANZAC Day on Friday 25 April 2025.

Thursday 24 April

Kellock Lodge

Private service for residents at 10.30 am.

Friday 25 April

Alexandra

Dawn service at 6.00 am at Leckie Park Memorial.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the RSL Hall for a march to Leckie Park Memorial, Vickery Street for 11.00 am service.

Eildon

Private service at 10.40 am for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home.

Assemble at 10.40 am for 11.00 am service at Cenotaph, Utah Place

Flowerdale

Assemble at 10.45 am for 11.00 am service at Flowerdale Community Hall, 3380 Yea-Whittlesea Road, Flowerdale. Refreshments to follow.

Glenburn

Assemble at 5.45 am for 6.00 am dawn service at Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall, 3876 Melba Highway Glenburn). Breakfast to follow.

Kinglake

Dawn service at 5.30 am, followed by traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter's Community WW1 Memorial Church, Kinglake.

Service at 10.00 am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial, Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake (entry via Extons Road).

Marysville

Assemble at 10.15 am at corner Murchison Street and Lyell Street for a march at 10.40 am to the Marysville Cenotaph for 11.00 am service. Refreshments to follow.

Strath Creek

Assemble at 8.45 am for 9.00 am service at Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial, Glover Street, Strath Creek.

Yarck

Wreath laying service at 11.00 am at the Yarck War Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway, Yarck.

Yea

Private service at 9:45 am at Yea Memorial Hospital for Rosebank Nursing Home residents and family.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the Yea Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.





Alexandra Museum

EASTER GALA

& Steam Train Rides

Open Saturday and Sunday

April 19 and 20

10am to 3.30pm

7 Station Street, Alexandra

All information can be found at:

alexandratramway.org.au

[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)

or by contacting 0427 509 988



ALL HOURS

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Eildon • Marysville

and districts

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Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214

Chris Walsh 0407 194 037



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COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital

5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance

131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

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 Wed

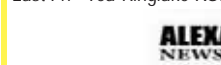
Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Wed

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

Last Fri

Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



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.

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 11.15am

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

Looking for something to do this Easter weekend. Check the classifieds for the garage sale listings.

Easter Church services are on page four of this edition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Gala opening night for the 55th Alexandra Easter Art Show at the shire hall. 6.30pm. The art show continues until Monday, April 21.

Sedona Cellar Door, 182 Shannons Road, Murrindindi. Good Friday, noon–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 11.30-5pm. Experience an afternoon of tasting estate made wines, graze on delicious artisan platters and admire the stunning views. 0432 435 180.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
Don Wilson Photography Exhibition, 34 Retreat Road, Buxton over Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. donovanwilson@redbubble.com

Eildon Community Easter book sale is on again at the Eildon Community Centre from 9am-6pm on Saturday and 9am-3pm on Sunday. Fiction, non fiction, children’s, adults and more.

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

Alexandra Museum Easter Gala is on over two days with steam train rides. Saturday and Sunday 10am-3.30pm, 1 Station Street, Alexandra.

Eildon Twilight Market is on from 4-8pm, featuring the inaugural boat show and shine. Live music, food and drink stalls, face painting, Easter bonnet parade and more.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
Fawcett Hall, sausage sizzle, home made jams, plants, historical displays and much more. 9am-4pm and a carboot sale.

Marysville Market is on from 9am-1pm. All your favourite stalls including home made cakes, local honey, plants, jewellery and more.

Alexandra Easter Fair at Rotary Park is on between 10am and 3pm. Local food, wine tasting, live music, market stalls, face painting, children’s amusements and more.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, April 28 at noon. Inspection day April 24 from 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Anzac Day services throughout the shire are published in this edition.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Eildon Bowling Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

Friends of Kellock Fundraiser 11am-3pm at 740 Whanregarwen Road, Alexandra. Picnic on the beautifully manicured garden and browse the classic cars on display. \$10 entry per person. Food and coffee van onsite.

Maintongoon Road, Alexandra, clearing sale from 10am. Farm machinery, sundries, firewood, trailers, horse gear and more. Approximately 450 lots. Contact Embling Rural for further details 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

Easter in 2025: Everything will be all right

by Fr Mario Hendricks

THIS is the third year after we experienced the great upset of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you can remember, the days during COVID-19 were by and large marked by a great void. Void of rituals, void of faces, void of presences, void of contacts. It had widespread and at times violent consequences. The pandemic has taken away our certainties, our habits, our feasts, our meetings.

A fear, mixed with disorientation and bewilderment, has taken hold of us during that time. We feel lost, confused, blind. We could not read what is happening very well, we cannot see or glimpse what it will be, how we will be, how and if we will resume our life.

Now we are again able to celebrate easter with family and friends. It is again a time of togetherness, with the expressed feeling, “Everything will be all right.”

For me that is the central message of our Easter celebrations. It carries the vision that “everything will be all right.”

Easter reminds us of our interconnectedness and that our lives are intertwined. It enforces and instils a deep sense of belonging, in whatever way you choose to celebrate it. Without that Easter faith and vision, every consolation, every commitment to justice and peace will be a short-lived recipe for the heart of any person who yearns to rise again.

I therefore believe that, in the days and months to come, we will all need a renewed capacity for togetherness and interconnection, we will need a new vision for selfless giving and of uplifting one another.

Dumping is not donating

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to donate responsibly and avoid dumping items outside charity donation bins or op shops.

While donating clothes and household goods in good condition to charities is a great way to support the community and reduce waste, leaving items outside donation bins or charity shops creates significant challenges. These discarded items are often damaged by the weather or not fit for resale, meaning charities are left to foot the bill for disposal.

Laura, a volunteer from the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House and Op Shop, explained how the issue affects their team. “We absolutely love and appreciate the generosity of our community. Their donations are what keep our op shop running and helping others. Every item sold helps fund important local programs like our Foodshare initiative and subsidised courses at the Neighbourhood House for people who may not be able to pay full fees,” she said.

“However, we have an increasing number of items being dumped outside the shop, often in poor condition due to exposure to the weather. While we’re always grateful for donations, our volunteers shouldn’t have to sort through damaged or unsellable items, especially when they’ve been left out in the rain or overnight.

“We kindly ask that donations be made during our opening hours, and that people consider whether the items are in good enough condition to sell. Unfortunately, when items

are dumped and can’t be used, we have to pay for their disposal, and that takes funds away from the community programs that donations are meant to support.”

Murrindindi Shire Council’s Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams also expressed concern, urging residents to do the right thing.

“Dumping unwanted items is not only inconsiderate, but it also goes against the spirit of giving.

“If you want to help, make sure your donations are clean, in good condition and dropped off directly to op shops and charities during operating hours so volunteers can check they’re suitable for resale.

“Council reminds residents that donating responsibly helps charities focus on their important work, rather than diverting resources to manage dumped goods. You could also be liable for fines if you’re founding dumping items in front of op shops or donation bins.

“To help residents with unwanted household goods, council provides Resource Recovery Centres in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Marysville and Eildon. We also run re-use shops, known as ‘Scrap Shacks’ at the Alexandra and Yea Resource Recovery Centres. Let’s work together to keep our community clean and support our local charities. Remember, dumping is not donating.”

Easter Services

St. Luke's Anglican Church - Pelissier Street, Yea

April 17 Maundy Thursday

6pm:

Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist and Passover Meal.

A combined, ecumenical service with Churches and Congregations in the district

**Will be held at St Johns Alexandra*

April 18 Good Friday

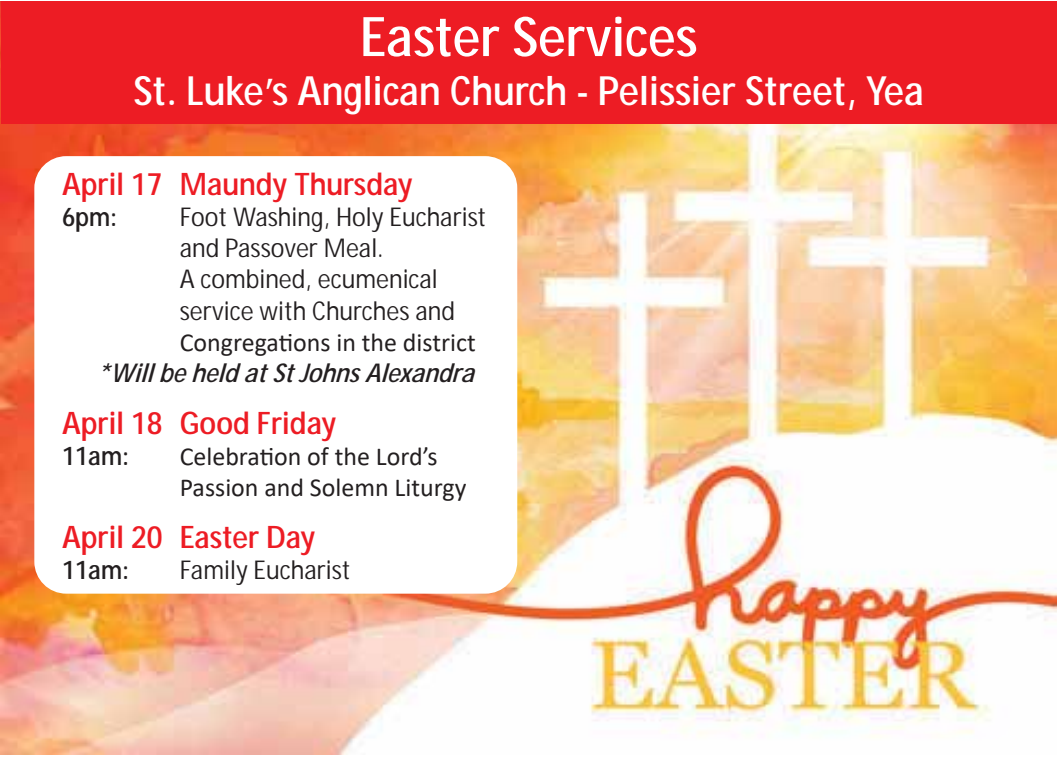
11am:

Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Solemn Liturgy

April 20 Easter Day

11am:

Family Eucharist



The new bins: your questions answered

NEW bins are being delivered around the shire as part of the new four bin system. Members of the public sought answers to a variety of questions. These were posed to council.

QUESTION: *Can bins be swapped, either formally or informally? (ie. a gardening business needs more room for garden waste but has no bottle waste. Can they swap their bottle bin to a pub for example and get their garden waste bin in return?)*

ANSWER: No. Bins are registered to specific property addresses and must stay at that property. Each bin has a serial number and is linked to the property for collection and billing purposes. If you need extra bins to suit your needs, you can request them through council. Additional charges apply, unless exempt due to medical or other legitimate reason.

QUESTION: *Will there be four separate bin truck types to collect the waste from each bin or are the trucks multipurpose? There have been a variety of comments from people saying that both waste and recycling go into the one truck and are suspicious recycling and general waste are re-mixed.*

ANSWER: There will be six new collection trucks for the four-bin service. While the trucks may look the same, each one will only collect one type of bin per run, just like the current system. Currently in Murrindindi Shire, recycling and general rubbish are not mixed. Each material is collected and processed separately. The new collection service will also keep each stream separate as this is the cheapest approach.

QUESTION: *Are larger shared bins available for people in units where there isn't space for each unit to have separate bins?*

ANSWER: Yes. Council's Kerbside Collection Policy allows shared or larger bins for multi-unit dwellings, where space is limited. All bins can be upsized to 240L and they can be shared

between units, if everyone agrees. Council will assess each request case by case.

QUESTION: *Will bin bags be supplied for the organic waste caddies? If not, is there a particular type of bag that should be used?*

ANSWER: Council will not be supplying caddy liners, and they are not mandatory. If you choose to use caddy liners, they must be compostable and certified to AS4736 standards. These are accepted by our organics processing facility. You can use the council provided smooth, easy-to-clean caddy without a liner. Alternatively, you can place a paper towel or some garden waste in the bottom to keep it dry. Council will work with local retailers to ensure certified compostable liners are available locally.

QUESTION: *How much will rates increase due to the four bin system?*

ANSWER: Council is proposing no additional cost to ratepayers who currently have a two-bin service, for the new four-bin service. The current annual waste charge is \$428.35 for general rubbish bin (red lid) and \$130.95 for the recycling bin (yellow lid), a total of \$559.30. The proposed annual charge for the

four-bin system is \$560. This is mandatory for properties in township areas. The proposed annual charge for the three-bin service (no food and garden organics) is \$410. This applies to rural and commercial properties. Properties which previously did not have a kerbside service and are now included in the mandatory service zone, will be required to pay for the kerbside service from July 1.

The new expanded service will not cost more because of savings made by: Collecting landfill bins fortnightly instead of weekly; diverting up to 60 per cent of waste from landfill to recycling through the new green bin (food and garden organics); diverting glass (purple bin) from the more expensive recycling (yellow bin); and reducing landfill disposal costs, which are the most expensive part of the service.

Recycling helps lower costs and supports the creation of new products from recovered materials. Keeping glass out of the recycling bin (yellow lid) helps reduce costs because broken glass contaminates other recyclables and sends more to landfill.

Keeping recyclable items out of landfill is key to keeping costs down and making the system more efficient for everyone.

QUESTION: *Will a simple calendar /collection schedule be made available for easy reference?*

From June 30 the Murrindindi Shire Council Recycling and Bin Information App will be available to download from council's website. People will be able to view, download and print your calendar, set yourself bin reminders and have access to the full A-Z guide on how to correctly dispose of your items.

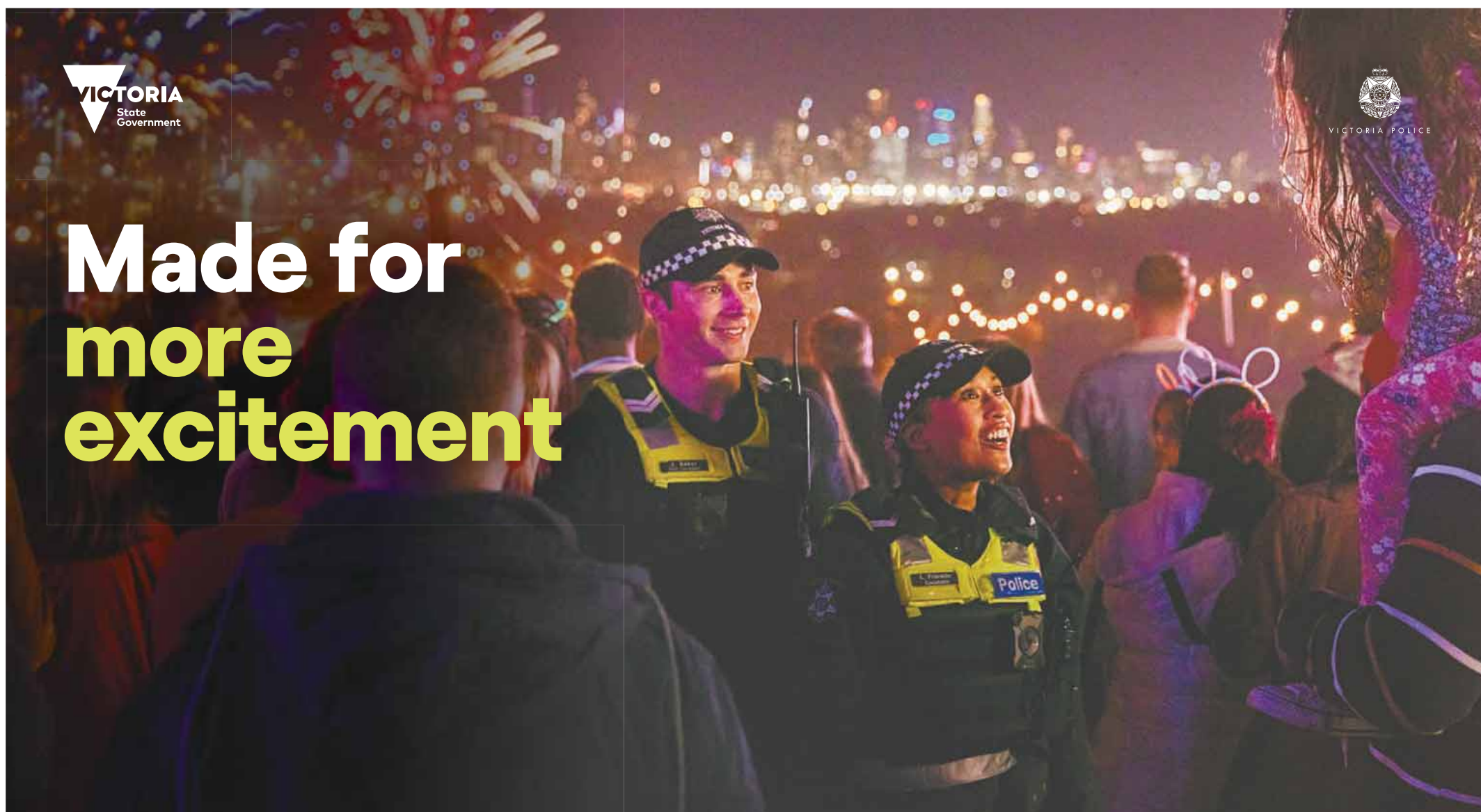
QUESTION: *What if house households or businesses don't need a particular bin type? Can they return it?*

ANSWER: No, bins cannot be returned. Under Victorian legislation, the kerbside collection service is compulsory, and a standard set of bins is assigned based on the property's location. Urban households must have all four bins: red (rubbish), yellow (recycling), green (FOGO), and purple (glass). Rural households must have three bins: red, yellow, and purple. The green FOGO bin is optional. This is a requirement under state law, not a council decision. Charges apply to the property regardless of whether the bins are used. Commercial properties can opt out of the kerbside service entirely or customise their service.

QUESTION: *What goes into the general rubbish bin?*

You can use your red bin for items that can't be recycled or composted, including soft plastics and hard plastics that aren't recyclable, nappies and baby wipes, broken crockery, general household rubbish and kitty litter. A full list is available on council's website.

Please don't place the following items in your red-lid bin: Food scraps, lawn clippings or garden waste, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, batteries or e-waste (like old phones or cables), liquid waste or chemicals, or hot ash or coals. These items must go in the appropriate recycling or organics bins or taken to a Resource Recovery Centre.



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MADE FOR MORE

Murrindindi’s fire restrictions are officially lifted

FIRE restrictions to end in parts of north east The Fire Danger Period (FDP) officially ended on Monday, April 14 in the following municipalities within CFA Districts 12 and 22. These included Shire of Moira, Shire of Strathbogie, Greater Shepparton City Council, Mitchell Shire Council, and Murrindindi Shire Council.

As restrictions lift, CFA is urging residents to remain fire-aware, as dry Autumnal conditions combined with strong winds can still lead to fast moving grassfires. Deputy Chief Officer for the North East, Gavin Thompson AFSM said favourable weather conditions has allowed restrictions to ease.

“Fire behaviour has slowed remarkably over the last few weeks due to rain events, lower daytime temperatures and single figure night temperatures,” Gavin said.

“We have seen a reduction in callouts to grass and scrub fires over the last several weeks.

“Most nights we have been seeing dew appearing and some parts of the area have even seen their first frost.”

Residents travelling to other parts of Victoria are reminded to remain vigilant, as fire danger periods in other regions may still be active. With the end of the FDP, some landowners may choose to resume private burn-offs, but it’s essential to take precautions and ensure conditions are safe before proceeding.

To prevent unnecessary emergency callouts, landowners must register their burn-offs. If smoke or fire is reported, it will be cross-checked with the register to

avoid an emergency response. Burn-offs can be registered online at firepermits.vic.gov.au.

Where possible, landowners should also notify neighbours and those nearby who may be sensitive to smoke.

Having a burn-off safety checklist is recommended. These include check fire restrictions in your area and register your burn-off, monitor weather conditions, especially wind, notify neighbours to prevent unnecessary emergency call, maintain a three metre firebreak clear of flammable materials, have enough equipment and water to contain the fire, never leave a burn-off unattended and stay until it is fully extinguished.

If your burn-off gets out of control, call 000 immediately. For tips on protecting your health from smoke, visit the EPA Victoria website.

Be mindful when burning off

NOW that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) is over, burn piles may be part of your weekend chores as you tidy up your yard.

Burning off laws are in place to make it easier for residents to maintain their properties all year round.

Before you light those fire piles remember to be a considerate neighbour and let them know prior to when you plan to light up. Understandably smoke may cause a trauma response in the general community so having open communication helps ease the minds of anyone affected by this. By letting your neighbors know and giving them time to prepare to make arrangements is also important if there are people living in the area with health problems such as asthma that can be triggered by smoke.

According to local laws, persons must not burn any noxious or toxic substance, which can be classified as toxic (containing or being poisonous material) and noxious (a substance that is physically harmful or potentially fatal to living beings).

Burning anything other than approved materials, decreases air quality as it releases harmful pollutants and toxic fumes.

For your safety and others, you must meet the following conditions when conducting a burn off. You must always have the means to prevent your fire escaping and the ample water to extinguish the fire available. Your burn area must be clear of flammable material with a three metre radius around the fire. If an authorised officer directs you to extinguish your burn off you must obey these directions. Upon completion of burning off you must ensure its extinguished properly and ashes are spread around to ensure this. The burn pile must not include damp or green materials, and the fire must be supervised at all times by an adult.

Murrindindi Shire Council states on their website if your land is less than one hectare, the burn pile must not exceed one metre by one metre in size.

If your land is more than one hectare the burn pile must be no more than 20 cubic metres, the fire must not be lit if wind speed exceeds 15 kilometres per hour, and the burn pile must not be located closer than five metres to the property boundary or five metres to any building. Any fire that does not meet these conditions will require a permit from council.

Private burn offs need to be registered online at firepermits.vic.gov.au all through the year, this can then be crosschecked if a member of the public reports smoke activity to emergency services. You can call the burn off registration line on 1800 668 511 however this can involve long wait times as call takers also take vital emergency calls.

Reminder to protect valuable paddock trees when burning stubble



Protect your paddock trees while cleaning up your property. -S

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is asking all landowners to take the necessary steps to protect paddock trees when burning stubble on their properties.

Landowners have several options when it comes to managing crop stubble. If landowners are managing particular issues in a paddock, burning may be the chosen option as fire restrictions have lifted in Murrindindi Shire.

“It is important to protect native paddock trees. They provide shade to stock, reduce wind impacts to crops, store carbon and provide habitat to important pollinators and birds that feed on pests,” Hume Natural Environment Program Officer, Daniel Pendavingh said.

Native trees are protected by law and there are ways to avoid damaging them. This includes, establishing an adequate fire break around native trees and ensuring there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively with adequate water and fire extinguishing equipment accessible.

“We encourage landholders to be well prepared before beginning a stubble burn. Creating firebreaks around trees and having enough people, water and equipment ready to extinguish the fire will ensure you can protect your valued native trees.”

If fire restrictions are in place a permit is required to burn grass, stubble and other vegetation on your property until the Fire Danger Period ends.

Find out more at cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings/restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Find out more about native vegetation and farming at environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/farming-and-native-vegetation

Anyone wanting to report the destruction of paddock trees during stubble burning should contact their local council.



CELLAR DOOR

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EASTER MONDAY 11.30am - 5pm

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sedonaestate.com.au
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☎ 0418 576 167 ✉ larry@fallons.com.au
✉ 4041 Maroondah Highway Alexandra VIC 3714





The significant damage to the Flowerdale Bowling Green. -S

Damage to Flowerdale Bowling Green

RECENTLY some significant damage occurred to the bowling green by scooters at the Flowerdale Sports Club Inc. This has permanently damaged the delicate surface, with markings still visible and bowls can't be played on it as its not a smooth surface now.

The club is managed by local community volunteers who enable this amenity to be accessible for the whole community. Significant repairs will be required at a cost to the community, of which the group will need to fundraise for to fix the damage. The clubs only income stream comes from patrons'

attendance with food and beverage sales, raffles and donations. It's a timely reminder to protect community assets.

Community grants are getting harder to source to fund repairs and maintenance as this isn't part of grant criteria usually.

Unfortunately, due to the damage the scheduled April Barefoot Bowls had to be cancelled on April 13.

The club hopes to have the surface repaired in time for next season commencing in mid September.

Promises, promises

THE Federal Election is set for Saturday, May 3. In the lead-up, there will be plenty of press releases flying around. We will be using this section in coming weeks to provide summaries of these announcements.

reject their gender transitions."

Independent
Helen Haines – House of
Representatives candidate

Childcare: "Helen Haines MP is hoping to create hundreds of new childcare places and increase capacity in Indi by up to 10 percent... Dr Haines' Early Education Plan proposes the capital grants stream be increased from \$500 million to \$1 billion, bringing the total value of the Building Early Education Fund to \$1.5 billion."

Power bills: "Dr Haines has launched her policy for an 'Electrify Everything Loan Scheme' that would help homeowners lower the cost of running their home through home batteries, energy-efficient appliances and solar storage solutions. She has also committed to help small business reduce their energy and tax bills through a proposed \$30,000 energy incentive for small business and primary producers. The loan scheme for households reduces the upfront financial burden on consumers through interest-free loans for home electrification upgrades she says will drive down power bills."

Supermarkets: "Dr Haines said a Supermarket Ombudsman is necessary to regulate the operation of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct, with powers to create binding determinations, issue infringement notices and refer investigations to the ACCC for court action."

Microgrids: "Dr Haines said she would push for a tripling of the funding for microgrids in regional communities to \$150 million."

Potholes: "Helen Haines will fight for funding to help councils fix potholes and repair damaged roads. Dr Haines' plan to reboot the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program would provide \$500 million a year in untied grants to local councils."

Democrats
Carly Noble – Senate candidate

"Incentivising battery storage across households and businesses nationwide can alleviate grid stress caused by intermittent solar power. Establishing federal programs for distributed and storage in schools, government housing, alongside re-nationalising poles and wires through transparent processes, are crucial stages. Additionally, prioritising transmission upgrades, avoiding excessive grid investments, adequately compensating landowners who host transmission lines, and ensuring reliable dispatchable generation sources as coal plants phase out are vital strategies."

Family First
Bernie Flynn – Senate candidate

"Family First has renewed its calls for a ban on puberty blockers, hormone treatment and surgical mutilation of gender-confused children in the wake of [the recent] decision by Justice Andrew Strum of the Family Court. In a bombshell ruling that rejects the gender fluid ideology of LGBTIQ+ political activist-informed medical interventions on children, Justice Strum ruled that a 12-year-old boy was not a girl and that he must not be allowed to go to the local gender clinic, despite his mother's wishes for him to be injected with puberty blockers... Mr Finn said if Family First Senators held the balance of power after the May 3 election they would immediately introduce legislation to de-fund Australia's child gender clinics, establish a Royal Commission into child gender medicine and create a compensation fund for victims like Mel Jefferies who now bitterly

We're currently doing planned burning to keep Victoria safer from bushfires.

To learn more about planned burning, or to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns via email or text.

Register at
www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au



FOREST FIRE
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Murrindindi
Shire Council



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Driving tired? You won't see the crash coming.

Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.



We're voting for: Helen Haines

INDEPENDENT FOR INDI



We're from Murrindindi and we're voting 1 for Helen Haines.

Helen is our Independent Federal Member for Indi. She works for us and with us. While the major parties play politics, she's always fighting for Indi. We can rely on her to put Indi first, 100% of the time. We know being Independent works for Indi. We trust her and that's why we've put our names in this advertisement, paid for by community donations.

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Darcy French
Graeme Foster
Tony Pammer
Lyn Scotchmoor
Evi Gotze
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Rita Seethaler
Elaine O'Shannessy
Howard Paix
Sue Hendy
David Wells
Elise Anderson
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Megan Buntine

Philip Williams
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Fiona Henson
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Valerie Uhd
Gail Dollimore
Paul Barnard
Rebecca Bessant
Andrew Bottomley
Diana Cherry
Neil Cornell

Cat Harper
Teresa Iacono
Heather Joblin
Neri Kijlstra
Neill McLennan
Jodie Morrison
Vitto Oles
Daryl Porter
Di Robb
Grant Stinear

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Janet Marion
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Authorised by Elise Anderson
97 Grant St, Alexandra 3714

Alexandra detectives appeal for public help

ALEXANDRA Crime Investigation Unit detectives are appealing for public assistance to help solve a 53 year old mystery.

Investigators are attempting to identify an unknown man who was located deceased in Buxton on Christmas Day, 1971.

Two teenage girls were celebrating the holidays with a swim in the Steavenson River when they happened upon the man's body about 4.30pm. They quickly summoned on of their fathers, who then contacted the Marysville Police. At the time, the nearest Crime Investigation Unit was in Lilydale.

The discovery occurred about 60 metres downstream from the Maroondah Highway bridge and the man's remains were in an advanced stage of decomposition. It was estimated that he had been in the water for about three weeks.

The man was believed to be aged in his 40s or 50s, about 183cm tall with dark, greying hair and a large build.

He was dressed in blue jeans, a white shirt, a vest with square white buttons and desert-style boots.

Investigators at the time scoured the scene but there was no trace of evidence to give detectives any insight into how the man's body came to wind up in the river. There were no signs of a fall, and no personal property left behind. There was no camping gear, fishing gear or swimming gear, and there was no vehicle.

In the following days articles ran in each of the daily metropolitan papers and the story was substantially covered by the local

press but no one came forward to identify the deceased.

Investigators turned to interstate law enforcement agencies, exploring the possibility that the man may have been a holiday visitor, but these efforts yielded no further clues as to who this man could have been.

Dental analysis determined the man had undergone extensive molar repairs, so the results were shared throughout the Australian dental profession but again the efforts were unsuccessful.

The unidentified remains were checked in line with many missing persons cases at the time, including the well-documented disappearance of unionist Alfred 'The Ferret' Nelson whose car was recovered from the Yarra River in 1971, but whose body has never been found.

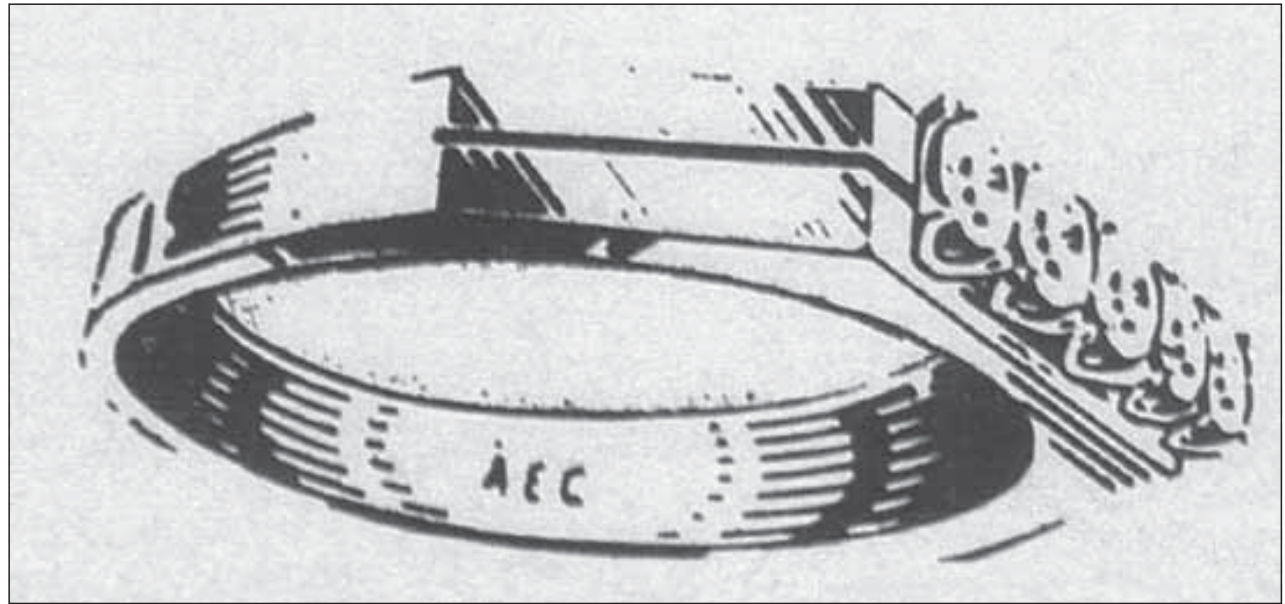
Due to particular documented body features of both men, the possibility of the Steavenson River body being that of the 'The Ferret' has been ruled out.

An autopsy revealed the man had heart disease and cirrhosis of the liver.

Such was the decomposition of the body that it was impossible to ascertain whether the man had sustained any physical injuries in the lead up to his death.

A coronial inquest was held on August 16, 1972, where the cause of death was determined to be consistent with drowning and the man was buried in a metropolitan grave where he remains unidentified.

Fast forward to 2025 and Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit detectives insist this case can still be solved.



A drawing of the ring the man was wearing. -S

There were several interesting items found on the man that police believe may hold the key to his identity.

In addition to the belt around his waist, the man was wearing a large, thick belt around his stomach which appeared to have been used to support his stomach muscles.

Along with a gold Unicorn watch, the man wore, on his left ring finger, a black signet ring which was inscribed "21.4.71 P.U.C.K".

Detectives are investigating the possibility that this inscription could have actually been the Cyrillic 'P.I.C.K' meaning 'risk' in English.

In support of this theory the man was described at the time of the discovery as "continental migrant"

and a Ukrainian youth camp was, and remains, four kilometres upstream from where the man's body was found.

Enquiries have been made with the Ukrainian Embassy and the camp but have yet to yield any additional information as to the man's identity.

Investigators have released an image from the case file, believed to depict what the ring found on the man resembled.

Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit Detective Sergeant Flyn Loughlin said despite the decades that have passed this man can be identified.

"We are confident that there is someone out there who knows

something that can help determine who this man was," he said.

"This may have occurred back in 1971 but this man was someone's son, he had a family, and there were those who loved him.

It is hoped that with some fresh leads, there may be a possibly of DNA testing the man's body.

"Even the slightest bit of information could be the missing link we need to finally be able to provide some closure in this matter."

Det Sgt Loughlin also commented that the police don't give up on cases.

Anyone with information that could assist police is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

KINDER YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find a three and four-year old kinder learning program they can count on.

1

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The Kinder Tick recognises kinder programs that are led by a qualified teacher.

2

PLAY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

It highlights kindergartens and long day care centres that offer play-based programs to help children learn and grow, before they start school.

3

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ON THE LAND

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Federal budget delivers some positive outcomes for beef industry

THE Australian Government's latest federal budget has delivered some positives for the grass-fed beef industry in the form of funding to support border security, environmental protection, market access initiatives, and a national food security strategy.

Cattle Australia (CA) Chief Executive, Dr Chris Parker, said despite the budget being underwhelming for agriculture, there

were some silver linings that would provide positive outcomes in several key areas.

"Illegal boat arrivals on Australian shores are a potential pathway for pests and diseases to take hold on remote grazing properties on our northern coastline, and we have been calling on the government to recognise this risk and provide increased funding for activities to prevent an incursion," Dr Parker said.

"Biosecurity is critically important to market access, animal health, productivity, and food safety, and we are pleased to see the government will provide \$84.5 million over four years from 2025–26 to support Australia's border security.

"Most importantly, \$74.9 million of this will be spent in 2025–26 to address border and biosecurity threats from illegal fishing activities in Australia's northern waters, including increasing the presence of the Australian Border Force and Australian Fisheries Management Authority in the region, and supporting prosecutions by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

"Funding to upgrade the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to continue its biosecurity functions is also very good news for biosecurity preparedness and testing and research into exotic animal diseases."

Protecting our environment

Recognition of the positive contribution of beef producers in managing and protecting the environment is also a key priority for CA, particularly in the lead up to the Federal election, and Dr Parker said funding that supports producers' efforts was vital to ensuring ongoing sustainability.

"As custodians of 50 per cent of Australia's land mass, beef producers play an essential role in managing our unique environment and are integral to our nation's environmental stewardship," Dr Parker said.

"Australian beef producers are acutely aware of the risks and costs associated with managing our environment, last year spending \$5.3 billion out of their own pockets to manage invasive plants, pests and diseases.

"We welcome the government's commitment of \$11 million in 2025–26 to continue efforts to reduce the economic and environmental burden of established feral animals, pests and weeds, and look forward to learning more about the commitment of \$200 million for the Saving Australia's Bushland program, which will include providing better pest management and incentives for private land conservation."

Market access, connectivity and a national food security strategy

"Market access and improved connectivity are vital to the prosperity of grass-fed beef producers and the communities in which they operate, and we endorse investments in these areas," Dr Parker said.

"We also look forward to learning more about the National Food Security Strategy and working with government and other agriculture industry stakeholders to develop a strategy that recognises the importance of Australia's food and fibre producers, meets the needs of all Australian consumers, and ensures our place in the global market."

New data confirms broadacre farmland prices have levelled off

BROADACRE farmland prices across Australia have continued their plateau for a second straight year after decade of strong growth, which had seen broadacre farmland rates increase by more than 10 per cent per year on average.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) *Farmland Price Indicator* reveals that the average price per hectare of national broadacre farmland has levelled off in 2024, following a flat result in 2023.

Executive Director of ABARES, Dr Jared Greenville, said that farmland prices can be a double-edged sword.

"On one hand, higher land prices boost farmer wealth and equity levels. This in turn increases lending capacity and supports productivity growth by allowing farmers to access capital for further investments in land and technology," Dr Greenville said.

"On the other hand, relatively high land prices may create a barrier to entry and expansion.

"We have seen strong annual growth in the Tasmanian dairy farmland (14.1 per cent), as well as national cropping farmland (13.7 per cent) and beef farmland in the southern region of Australia (13.8 per cent).

"Average annual price growth over the past 10 years has been lowest for hobby farmland (4.1 per cent) and sugarcane farmland (6.2 per cent)."

Visit the ABARES *Farmland Price Indicator* dashboard at agriculture.gov.au/abares/data/farmland-price-indicator

Safe on-farm disposal of dead stock

by Rachael Campbell, Dairy Industry Development Officer

STOCK deaths occur periodically, and farm managers are responsible for carcass disposal. Methods of disposal include knacker, rendering services or suitably licensed landfills.

If these are not available, alternate biosecure options for use on-farm may include composting or burial. If on-farm disposal is to be used, then forward planning with appropriate siting, infrastructure and management is critical to minimise any biosecurity, environmental or other risks.

Burying carcasses on the farm may be the most appropriate option depending on the circumstances. Stringent guidelines apply to appropriate burial sites, so they don't adversely affect the land, surface/ground waters or the air. Detailed information on

setback distances and other requirements can be found in the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) document Farm waste management.

The other on-farm option is composting of carcasses. In line with EPA guidance, when the average number of mortalities doesn't exceed one tonne per month, then a composting pile is appropriate.

When mortalities exceed this threshold, bin composting should be considered. Bin composting requires more dedicated infrastructure. Detailed information on pile and bin composting can be found in the EPA's Composting mortalities on farm guidance.

It's important to realise composting is an active process, not a set and forget method. Failing to monitor and follow established composting techniques will result in an increased risk of harm to the land or the environment and a sub-standard final product.

Agriculture Victoria can provide guidance to farmers about on-farm disposal options in consultation with the Environment Protection Authority. In the event of unusual signs or suspected cases of emergency animal disease, please report them immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Early reporting increases the chance of effective control and eradication. If an emergency animal disease outbreak is declared, Agriculture Victoria is responsible for the destruction and disposal of animal carcasses, including those that can be buried on-farm.

Further information on farm biosecurity and animal disease is available on the Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases

CLEARING SALE

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025 at 10AM
Maintongoon Road, Alexandra



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ONLINE CLEARING SALE

Commencing Thursday, April 24 at noon
Concluding Monday, April 28 at noon
Inspection Day Thursday, April 24 from 10am to 2pm
Maintongoon Road, Alexandra



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emblingrural.com.au/onlineauctions

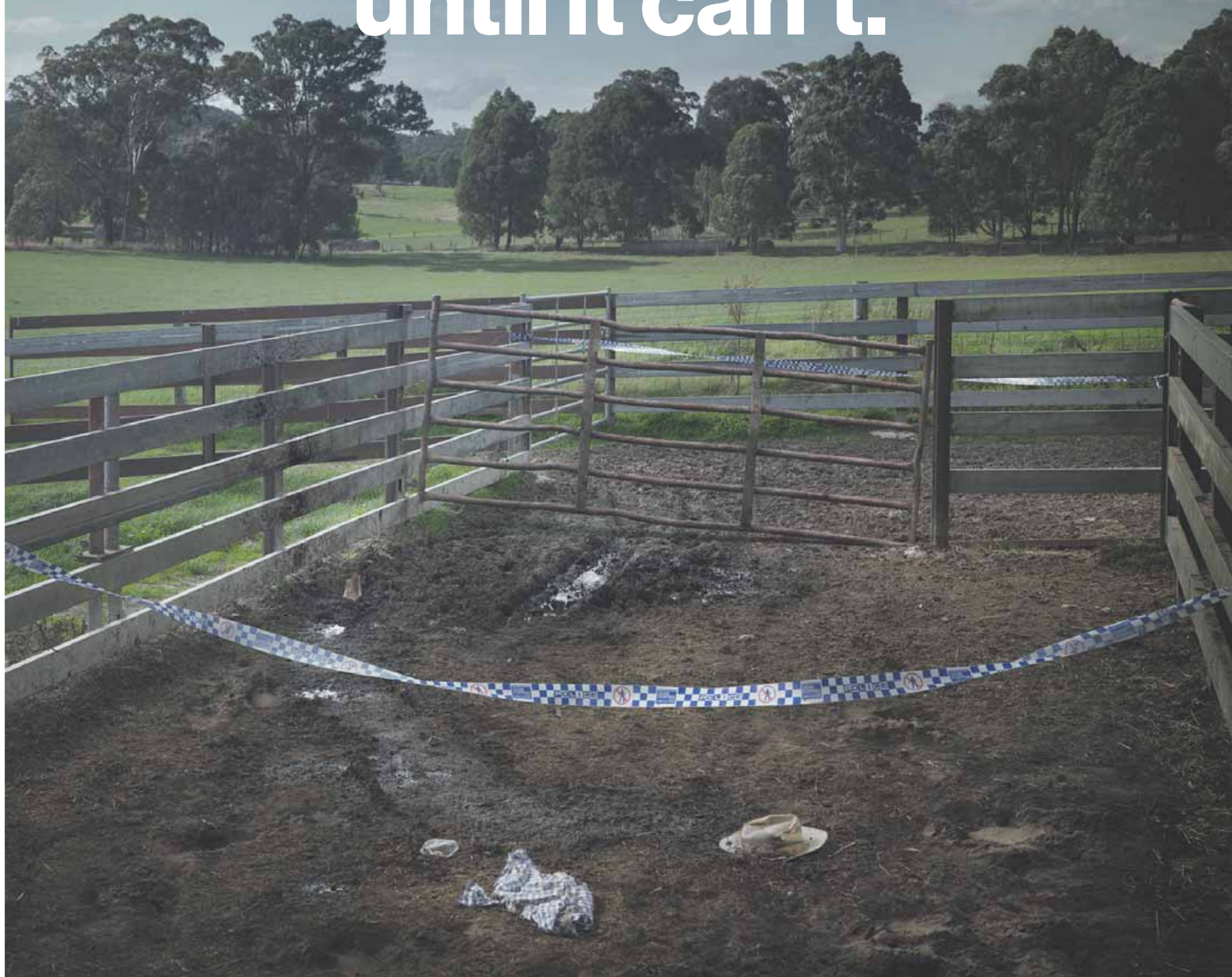
No Buyers Premium



Embling Rural Alexandra
5772 3110

Agent: Andrew Embling 0418 266 038
Director: Ayden Embling 0427 924 944

The broken gate can wait, until it can't.



Livestock is the second highest killer on farms – we all know cattle can be unpredictable.

So while it may seem like a job that'll take longer to get the tools out than do, one small repair could save a life.

Understand your responsibilities with safety around cattle at worksafe.vic.gov.au/livestock

It's never you, until it is.



Scan for farm
safety support.

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

2. A festive occasion.

5. Experienced an emotion.

9. Unpredictable behaviour.

10. Apply oil.

11. Dealer in foodstuffs

12. Answer back.

16. Festive celebration.

17. Misappropriated funds.

19. A wanderer.

22. Weathercock.

23. Very large book.

26. Native of Crete.

28. Wispy white cloud.

29. Woman whose husband has died.

30. Dye with a colour.

31. Not domesticated.

DOWN

1. Precious few.

2. Game bird.

3. A narrow path.

4. Picnic spoiler!

5. Fleshy pear-shaped fruit.

6. Very light brown.

7. Changed direction.

8. Knitted pullover.

13. Strike with a heavy blow.

14. Reddish brown dye.

15. A clear blue sky.

16. Feigned attack.

18. Forces out.

19. Take orally.

20. Burning hot.

21. Toxic infection.

24. Be wide open.

25. Brown egg-shaped fruit.

27. Egg of a parasitic insect.

28. Female of domestic cattle.

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Word Search

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

Easter

CELEBRATION

FAMILY

CHOCOLATE

FEAST

CHRISTIAN

GOODFRIDAY

COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY

EASTERBUNNY

HOTCROSSBUNS

EASTEREgg

TRADITION

Maze

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

Math Square

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	×	4	-		33
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	-		+		4
-8		14		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.

The club members visited ‘Viewfield’ and ‘Forest Glade’. -S

Garden club visits Macedon

YEA Garden Club enjoyed an outing to see the autumn colouring of two magnificent Macedon gardens last week. The group visited ‘Viewfield’ and ‘Forest Glade’, both vastly different styles and both large and breathtaking gardens. The weather was glorious and so were the gardens.

Viewfield has only been open to the public in recent years and combines many different styles from vast vistas to secret forest glades. The owner has an excellent eye for creating a garden to suit all ages and all styles and for placing show pieces in just the right setting. The garden is open over the Easter weekend and the ANZAC Day weekends and over Easter they have a fun treasure hunting activity for children. Check the website for details. Yea Garden Club members highly recommend you visit in the Autumn for colour or Spring to see mass plantings of bulbs.

Forest Glade is an historic garden which has been open to the public for many years but never fails to delight. A forest of woodland plants, magnificent trees, secret paths wandering everywhere, beautiful statuary throughout and a Japanese garden to delight. A garden you can visit anytime of the year to enjoy its beauty.

Yea Garden Club Day is on the second Thursday of every month. In the Spring and Autumn they usually go out visiting gardens including orchards and food gardens as the weather is suitable for outdoor activities. In Summer and Winter they shelter indoors at their meetings at the RSL Hall with guest speakers or a gardening related activity. New members are always welcome. For more information contact President Melinda Jackson or secretary Elaine White on 0431 752 367.

One of the beautiful gardens, resplendent in autumn. -S

Man convicted and fined over firewood incident at Mt Disappointment

AN Eltham North man was convicted and fined \$750 in Seymour Magistrates Court last week after being found guilty of obstructing a Conservation Regulator authorised officer.

The incident occurred in the Mount Disappointment State Forest during a firewood patrol conducted under Taskforce Ironbark.

The Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria are cracking down on illegal firewood theft from Victoria’s public land through Taskforce Ironbark.

The taskforce aims to disrupt the illegal firewood trade and minimise impacts on the health of our parks, forests and reserves.

Manager of Taskforce Ironbark Brady Childs said, “Authorised Officers patrol

state forests and parks to ensure people are doing the right thing. Failure to follow the rules may result in penalties, such as fines or court prosecutions.

“Authorised Officers have a critical role in educating community and enforcing laws that protect our environment and communities. This outcome is a reminder to community that it’s important to treat them with respect and follow their directions.”

If you suspect someone might be selling firewood illegally, or illegally cutting and removing firewood from public land we urge you to make a report by calling 136 186. Reports can be made anonymously.

For further information on sourcing firewood legally visit vic.gov.au/sourcing-firewood

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EMC0125

Question of future funding for Be Well in the Ranges program

Continued from Page 1

“Our reach is into kindergarten, primary school, and then we provide music therapy, that’s my role, I coordinate and I am the music therapist within the program. I do more group work, and then the psychologist and the counsellors generally see people one on one,” Beth said.

“We support the Kinglake Ranges community, we stretch out to Flowerdale, some parts of Yea, Toolangi, Steels Creek and Dixons Creek. Our reach is quite far and the distance of those communities to reach even any mental health support is quite considerable, and they have to go to probably Shepparton or Melbourne.

“For the people in the community who are chronically ill, as a result of the side effects of stress and trauma of Black Saturday, they may also have complex mental health issues. To expect those people to get to such distant services is totally unrealistic. That’s why we think that our program is vital, because it is really accessible.”

Beth pointed out that there is still people in the communities who have never sought support for their mental health. “Black Saturday was such a critical life-changing event. There’s also quite a considerable amount of intergenerational trauma as well.”

The question is, will the funding be continued into the future?

“After *Be Well in the Ranges* was funded by FRRR, funding was received from the state government. We also had to apply for funding pretty much every year since then.

“When we get to June, we generally have no idea whether we can continue. That’s sort of a nervous time, we normally wait for the May budget, and then from that time we know a bit more. Usually, the head of the department calls and lets us know.

“It’s tricky, because we never know if we have to close everything down and lose all the staff.

“The state government has been supportive, the reason that I emailed the health minister and the mental health minister and our local member Cindy McLeish, I emailed them all in February, just to put our program back into the discussion, because we know that the state government has been under a lot of pressure and that there are major financial issues.

“Our funding is around \$150,000, which is not quite enough to get us through a 12-month period, we are looking at more like \$200,000. Getting \$200,000 would be more adequate for

that period, because at the moment we just really stretch that to get it to fund what we do.

“We’re basically just trying to advocate that we do get funding for the program moving forwards, but you never know.

In a recent parliament sitting MP Cindy McLeish showed her support on the matter and requested the minister to commit to ongoing funding for the *Be Well in the Ranges* program.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms McLeish said, “This is a valuable program that needs to be continued. The Kinglake Ranges community are still affected by the Black Saturday bushfire that devastated the area. There has been a growing demand around long-term PTSD, complex intergenerational trauma and many other serious mental health issues relating to surviving the disaster. In the last six months there has been an increase in community members seeking help for the first time and accessing the program...”

“Without this funding, the community will be left without accessible or affordable mental health support. There is a risk of losing the team of subcontracted mental health staff, who have invaluable experience within the community,” Ms McLeish said.

Alexandra Newspapers contacted the Minister for Mental Health Ms Igrid Stitt to see if she would like to comment on the *Be Well in the Ranges* program that provides mental health support in the Kinglake Ranges.

Questions included, how important is continuing to support the mental health of those affected by the Black Saturday bushfires? If the ‘*Be Well in the Ranges*’ program loses funding and ceases, what mental health support will the people of Murrindindi Shire have access to? Is there anything else you would like to add on the subject?

A response from a Victorian Government Spokesperson was received which stated, “We are investing record funding into Victoria’s world-class mental health system, making sure Victorian families can continue getting the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

“We know how devastating the aftermath of the Black Saturday fires were for the region, it’s why we have supported ‘*Be Well in the Ranges*’ for several years, delivering mental health and therapeutic interventions to locals.

“Our Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals in Lilydale (servicing the Yarra Ranges) and Whittlesea is also providing support with free and accessible services for people in need of mental health support.”

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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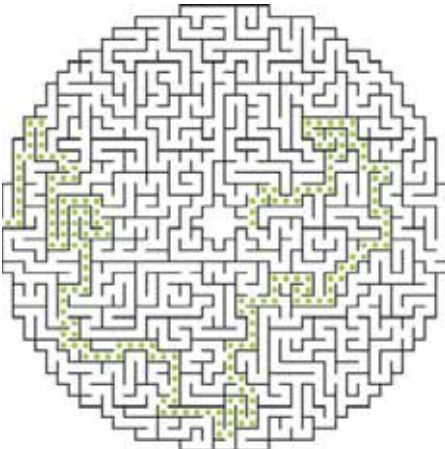
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MATH SQUARES

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MAZE



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MEETINGS

EILDON BOWLING CLUB Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

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FUNERAL NOTICES

LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace

A service honouring Bruce's life will be held at Alexandra Football Netball club rooms on Thursday, April 17, 2025 commencing at 11am followed by a private cremation.



FOR SALE

MODERN barbecue; \$250. A set of Brosnin men's golf clubs and buggies; \$500. Large fan; \$50. Queen size mattress topper; \$100. Small generator; \$150. TV; \$100. Aluminum 6ft step ladder; \$100. Approximate 14ft extension ladder; \$200. Electric leaf blower; \$50. Outside umbrella; \$50. Phone 0499 551 180.

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ALEXANDRA, 7 Aitken Street.
April 19 and 20. 8am-3pm. Garagenala, old milkcans, vintage cast iron pots and scales, collectable bottles, windmill, wooden bench, rustic farm wheels, vintage silverware, collectable items and heaps more.

EILDON, 727 Back Eildon Road.
Easter Saturday and Sunday. 9am - 6pm. Horse gear, vintage chainsaw, camping and sports gear.

EILDON, U13, 2 Riverside Drive.
Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am to 4pm.
Outdoor setting, wooden table, recliner chair, books, DVD, 10 person dinner set, mirrors, haberdashery and lots more.

DEATH NOTICES



BERRY, Peter

The Marysville RSL Sub-Branch is sad to report that the long standing, respected member and friend, Peter, passed away on March 29.

We extend our deepest sympathy to wife Jenny, their family and friends.

LEST WE FORGET

LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace
25/02/1949 - 07/04/2025

Went to sleep forever in my arms.

Very loved husband and soulmate to Lynne.

Devoted dad to Cassandra and Dale, Stewart and Rebecca, Sherilee.

Adored pa to Dakota, Emma, Jackson, Declan, Lillie and Natalia.

Great Grandpa to Braxton.
Aussie dad to Tatiana.

LUCKMAN, Bruce.
My heart is absolutely shattered. My love for you is endless. Forever in my heart and forever in my arms. Lynne.

LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace.
25/02/1949 – 07/04/2025.
Dad, you were the most beautiful, loving, and supportive father, father in law, and pa to our family. We will forever cherish the wonderful memories — the family holidays, your warm hugs, your stories, and the quiet moments of comfort only you could give. Your love never wavered, and your support was a constant in our lives. You were our rock, and we are so grateful for every moment we had with you. We are so proud of your many years of dedicated service with the CFA — a role you lived with passion, courage and quiet strength. You will live on in our hearts always. With all our love, your son, Stewart, daughter in law, Rebecca, and your adoring grandchildren, Jackson and Lillie.

LUCKMAN, Bruce Wallace.
True and trusted friend and partner of Sharrock Television for 40 years. Our heartfelt thoughts are with Lyn and the family. Anne and Geoff Sharrock.

LUCKMAN, Bruce.
25/02/1949 - 07/04/2025.
Brother to Judy. Brother in law to Keith. Uncle to Robert and Kelly. Will be sadly missed. RIP Bruce.

LUCKMAN, Bruce. Long time friend of Dave and Gail Kneeshaw. At Rest.

Police urge to report sex offences linked to dating apps

VICTORIA Police is urging people to contact police if they experience any form of sexual offending linked to the use of dating apps.

Dating apps have become a common way for people to connect, and while many users have a positive experience, police have received an increase in reports of people being sexually assaulted after meeting in person.

In concerning trends identified by investigators, this can include rape, sexual or inappropriate touching and sexual harassment.

This may involve people engaging in what begins as consensual sex or sexual activity before consent is withdrawn for any reason, one party engages in an activity the other party has not consented to or when the other person becomes violent or aggressive.

Victoria Police wants to make it clear that any form of sexual offending is completely unacceptable, and consent can be given or withdrawn, at any time, for any reason.

There must be expressed consent every single time you engage in sexual activity. Consent can never be assumed, otherwise it may be considered an offence.

By law, you must follow the affirmative consent model before engaging in, and during, sexual activity.

Affirmative consent means that the people involved must actively ask that they have consent from each other. Their response can be in the form of saying “yes”, or nodding.

This includes situations where a person has consented to the same or different sexual act with the same or different person before.

In Victoria, all parties must freely agree to a sexual act for there to be consent.

While we encourage victims to report sexual offences as soon as possible, it doesn't matter how much time has passed, we are always able to investigate the crime.

It's crucial that the community understands that dating apps are not investigators, police are the only ones able to conduct a criminal investigation and hold perpetrators to account. Reporting to the dating app is not the same as reporting to police.

Police can request information from dating apps to assist in solving sexual offence investigations and can also conduct a criminal investigation even where one party has blocked or deleted someone from the app.

Detectives from the Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT) and Sexual Crimes Squad have been working tirelessly to investigate reports of the crime, support victims and hold perpetrators to account.

These detectives are trained to understand the complexities of sexual offences and support victims from disclosure, through to the investigation process, and then on to court proceedings.

SOCIT and the Sexual Crimes Squad acknowledge the difficulties in reporting sexual offences to police and want victims to know it is never too late to make a report.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a sexual offence, please come forward and contact police so it can be investigated.

One of the most important things police are able to do for sexual assault victims is give them advice on and connect them to a wide range of support services.

Even if someone ultimately decides they do not want to make a formal report or for an investigation to be conducted, police can still assist them with seeking further support such as medical services or counselling.

Victoria Police will always respond to any report of sexual offences, no matter when it occurred. Anyone who contacts police will be supported and treated with respect, courtesy and dignity.

Support and advice are also available from Sexual Assault Crisis Line (1800 806 292) or the National Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Counselling Service at 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000). If you can't get to a phone, ask someone else to do it for you.

For more information about affirmative consent, visit respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/news/affirmative-consent

For more information on safe online dating, visit crimestoppersvic.com.au/current-focus/onedating

Flowerdale Community House puts on another great youth program



A tour of the UGFM studio. -S



A production line of some great cooks. -S



A chocolate banana cake in the making. -S



Checking out how the radio programs work. -S



Getting ready to see the Minecraft movie. -S



Sampling some of the days cooking. -S



Pantry Experts Cooking Class on day one of the April Youth Group. -S



Day three was at Watermarc following a visit to McDonalds. -S



Learning how to make scrambled eggs was on the menu for Pantry Experts Cooking Class. -S



Cooking class helped the youth learn some great new skills. -S



The entire group, including partners and other family members. -AR

Former Yea High School classmates reconnect

A VERY special reunion took place on Saturday, April 12, at Ian Sichlau’s property near year. Former form one 1963 and form two 1963 classmates got together for their reunion.

The attendees enthusiastically chatted about past times and their journeys since leaving school.

It’s was a lovely, bright and sunny day, just like the dispositions of the former classmates as they reconnected over lunch and a tipple. They considered how much has changed and how much has stayed the same.



The former classmates from Yea High School form one 1963 and form two 1964. -AR



Nola Penrose, Bernie Loughran and Helen Scott. -AR



Sarah Stowe with her mother Helen Stowe. -AR



The classmates while they attended Yea High School. -S



Peter Tull and Neville Penrose. -AR



Neville Penrose, Laura Muller, Helen Hazelman (Miller), Lila Muller (Tull), Carolee Ratcliffe and Trevor Ratcliffe. -AR

Former Yea High School classmates reconnect



Brian Muller, Marg Pickburn and Jonathon Pickburn. -AR



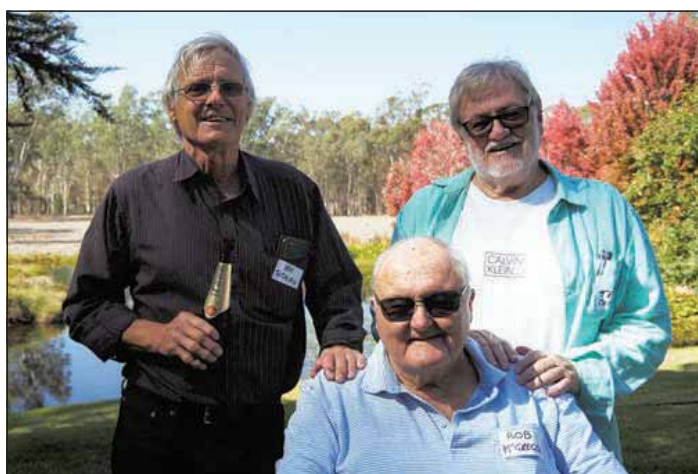
John Loughran and Bill Skey. -AR



Wayne Maggs and Wendy Gates (Foster). -AR



Max Johnson, Despina Johnson (Stratourides) and Carolee Ratcliffe. -AR



Organisers Ian Sichlau, Rob McGregor and Terry Cooper. -AR



Lindsay Hazelman and Chris Muller. -AR



Kay Dean and Peter Dean. -AR

The Chronicle Sport

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Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Bella Philpot takes the ball in her stride. -S

Yea women's team improving every week

by Jess Kennedy

**Yea Women's defeated by Emerald
7.8.50-10.8.68**

FOLLOWING a momentous first game, the Yea Women's Football team travelled to Emerald for round two. Despite the scoreboard reading 10.8.68 to 7.8.50 in Emerald's favour, the Yea girls continued to take big strides forward in their development.

Emerald proved very slippery in the early phases of the game, quickly scoring four majors, putting Yea on the back foot. Yea's defence was strong, led by captain Emily Kerr and the ever-reliable Sarah Arbuthnot, who both backed up last week's efforts with composed performances down back.

As the match wore on, Yea began to find their feet. The midfield, driven by the tireless running of Madi Albers, who also scored the first ever goal for Yea and Jordan Beattie, who proved a tough opponent for many an Emerald opponent, began to gain ascendancy

and will be a force to be reckoned with going forward. Georgia Knight was powerful in the ruck and was rewarded with best on ground recognition.

Yea debuted four new players: Jordan Beattie, Abby Christie at full forward, Meagan Gallagher at half back and Amy Taylor at half forward. The addition of these girls added class to an improving Yea outfit.

While the result didn't fall Yea's way, the effort, improvement and growing belief among the group was evident. With each game, the team continues to build confidence, chemistry and experience the foundations of a bright future.

Once again, Yea was well supported by club members who turned out in strong numbers to support the team, and their presence did not go unnoticed. The journey is just beginning, but already the pride in this team is unmistakable.

Yea's next game will be at home against Officer on the April 26.



Emily Kerr (Captain) chasing down a forward. -S

Great win for Brendan on Men's Monthly Medal

by Alan Pell

BRENDAN "Trout" Chenhall (14) led all comers in the Men's Monthly Medal with 75 off the stick, 61 nett. Mick Sheather (24) recorded a 64 nett but had to settle for runner up. Stephen Rumney (25) made a welcome return to form posting 67 nett to take home third place. John Renahan (51) and

Trevor Connell (18) filled the minor placings with 68 nett. There were no winners in the men's nearest the pin with the tee markers at the back mark on the 11th hole. John Paul Mullaly collected the putting award with 25 putts. Phil Armstrong was awarded the club award. In the Ladies event Cindy Armstrong (26) continued her run of good form posting a fine

nett 71 to take out first place. Up and coming junior golfer Addison Scott (36) recorded a nett 72 to finish second. Di Elliott (27) also had a nice round, taking out third place with 74 nett. Meryl Connell reaped the rewards of a great drive on the 11th hole, taking out nearest the pin.

Wednesday saw a mixed stableford event with 27 players

playing. Winner with 41 points was Alan Pell (12) from second Jo Clayton (21) with 39 points. Third with 38 points was the improving Caroline Webber (47) from fourth Rob O'Halloran (21) on countback from Sam Wright (26) and Jan Wealands (29) all with 37 points. Jo Clayton was nearest the pin on the 11th and Rob Gill took out the club award.



Brendan Chenhall looking proud as punch with his win. -S