

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, June 10, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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Thank a First Responder Day showcase

TODAY is Thank a First Responder Day 2026, designed to encourage the community to give thanks for the incredible work first responders do and the families that support them.

Thank a First Responder Day was established in 2020 as a way to publicly express gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of first responders who are there for us day in and day out.

Being a first responder can be challenging, for both first responders and their families. Ambulance Victoria's *Annual Report 2024-25* states that there have been more than 1000 hazardous incidents involving AV staff in the last financial year.

Volunteers donate their time, skills and effort, to help keep people safe and healthy, and the power of gratitude can have an extraordinary impact on their wellbeing and mental health.

Cards and mementos can be dropped at stations and messages of gratitude placed on social media. Or you could just say a simple thank you to Victoria's wonderful first responders.

Ambulance Victoria Hume Director Regional and Clinical Operations Narelle Capp said volunteers make a big impact in their communities and to the lives of Victorians.

"At Ambulance Victoria, we are very proud of our hundreds of community-minded, selfless Victorians who give their time to support the vital work of our organisation right across the state," she said.

"To all our volunteers, thank you for your generosity, dedication and passion for your local community. You are the reason we have the amazing community connection, reach and impact that we do at Ambulance Victoria."

Volunteering with a CERT offers a hands-on way to give back to your community and support the emergency response of Ambulance Victoria paramedics in Hume.

A CERT is a volunteer first responder, working in pairs for dispatch to potentially time-critical emergencies at the same time as an ambulance. They are found in less populated and remote areas of Victoria where there is a low ambulance caseload and no ambulance branch.

CERT members respond to traffic collisions, medical cases and other incidents requiring timely emergency medical care, but do not transport patients to hospital.

"Our Hume CERTs are made up of dedicated teams of volunteers who work hard to ensure our communities have the best support possible in the event of a medical emergency," Narelle said.

"They are caring and committed people who sacrifice their time to put their neighbours first. We are looking for more community members who are interested in joining a CERT and making a difference to someone's life and health outcomes.

"CERT members are required to live within 12km of the community they serve. You do not need a medical background to apply, and all initial and ongoing training is provided by Ambulance Victoria."



Ambulance Victoria volunteers Kate Draffin and Deb English attending the Craigieburn Anzac Day service this year. -S

There are more than 150 CERT members across Victoria, including Deb English, who volunteers at Kinglake as a CERT, and Yea as an Ambulance Community Officer (ACO).

"I've been with the Kinglake CERT for 14 years this month actually. And prior to that, I did four years with the Craigieburn CERT," Deb said.

"When you initially join you have to complete two full weekends of training. That covers multiple modules, like patient assessment and medication and all sorts of

things like safety; you'll do an emergency childbirth module. There's so much that gets packed into two weekends.

"When you finish that training, you come out with an authority to practice under supervision. Then for the next few months, there's a number of modules that require completion for a new recruit to achieve their full authority to practice.

"At the Kinglake team, we have three new recruits that have done their two weekends and they've achieved their authority to

practice under supervision. If we get any jobs, they come out as a third person with us.

"And because they've not necessarily been exposed to this sort of stuff, they get that opportunity to come out and observe."

The people that Deb met while doing her CERT training have remained friends for over two decades now, through both volunteering and retirement.

"I'm retired from full-time work now but certainly with the Kinglake team when I did my initial two weekends of training, I became great mates from that point in time with a woman named Vicky Dunell," Deb explained.

"Vicky and Ian Dunell, they were members of Kinglake CERT, and Vicky and Ian always said, why don't you come up and join Kinglake? I'm going, no, no, I'm here with Craigieburn, and then I had a break. I decided to go back and I rang Vicky because we'd kept in contact after we did our initial training. And I said, you know what, I think I might come up to Kinglake.

"When I first joined the team for probably the first 18 months, two years, I actually stayed at Ian and Vicky's place when I was on call and would turn out to jobs from there."

Vicky and Ian, along with another of Deb's friends, Bart Wunderlich, are Ambulance Service Medal (ASM) recipients for their volunteering at Kinglake.

"Vicky got hers after the Black Saturday bushfires. Ian received his maybe about four years ago. And then we also had a member, Bart Wunderlich, he's a nurse practitioner as well, but Bart received an ambulance service medal two years ago. I was joining a team of greatness, and they were fantastic," Deb said.

"That whole team thing, that's the rewarding part. You make friends for life. And while the three of them have all retired from CERT after Ian and Bart both served 18, 19 years and Vicky up to 15 years. It puts a big hole into a smaller type of team.

"I saw Vicky just the other day, and Bart has an annual bonfire at his place each year. So I was up there a couple of weeks ago for his annual bonfire. Like I said, you meet some great people and I think everybody's in it for the right reasons."

Deb finished by saying that she has no intention of stopping her CERT work anytime soon.

"I love it. It's really rewarding. I've retired from full-time work now because I'm in my mid 60s and at this point in time, I have no intention of stopping what I'm doing because I just love it," she said.

"As I get older, it gives me something to get up for, even though it's overnight most of the time. But it's just so rewarding and just the friendships I've made over time, the training that I've had, the knowledge that I've gained over time is something that I wouldn't have had before."

To find out more about volunteering at Ambulance Victoria, visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/become-first-responder



Letters to the Editor

Fuel reduction burns

I REFER to the recent letter to the editor from Kinglake Friends of the Forest which asks for a cessation of fuel reduction burning in the forests.

Fire is a natural part of the ecology of your forests and in fact is important to the health of the forests. The management of the threat of fire is complex. Asking the government to replace planned burns with investment in rapid detection and suppression technologies is not an answer to a complex issue. We need both, and other strategies as well.

Historically, lightning caused hundreds of fires each year. These naturally caused fires were complemented by Aboriginal burning. The end result was a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country of varying ages and hence varying fuel quantities.

There are a range of parameters which affect how a fire burns following ignition, including temperature, humidity, topography, fuel dryness, wind and fuel type and quantity. In a forest environment, the only one of those parameters which can be controlled is fuel quantity. If fuel quantities are low, then the fire will not burn as intensely, and there is a better possibility of control. The science is clear. No fuel equals no fire, less fuel equals a less intense fire.

Current government policy dictates that all fires should be extinguished. This means fuel quantities are always increasing over vast areas. Fuel reduction burning is one of the strategies used by forest managers to recreate the natural regular occurrence of fire in our forests. It also has the advantage of influencing the rate of spread of fires, particularly those burning under extreme conditions.

To just focus fire policy on rapid detection and suppression policies, as proposed by Kinglake Friends of the Forest, is a recipe for disaster.

Forest fires cannot be extinguished by aerial attack alone. The best aerial attack can do is to 'hold' the fire until ground crews arrive. If fuel quantities are low, the fire will not burn as intensely and this gives ground crews more time to reach the fire, so long as there has also

been preparedness in keeping tracks cleared. It should also be noted that aerial attack is not possible in very windy or smoky conditions.

The Kinglake Friends of the Forest also claim that, "The forest is wrecked by the burns, habitat and wildlife suffers." In fact planned burns are of far lower intensity than wildfires, and any damage to the environment is minimal compared to the alternative option of intense wildfire over large areas, such as those that occurred in the Kinglake area in 2009.

Effective fire policy needs to be a combination of preparedness (ie. rapid detection, good access), prevention (ie. reducing fuel quantity) and suppression (ie. aerial and ground resources).

*Authorised by Garry Squires, secretary,
The Howitt Society Inc – for better
fire management*

Labor Party

TO the Victorian Labor Party. We took a short break to Echuca last week. It was noticeable that the roads under control of VicRoads were a disgrace and dangerous, especially when it was raining and dark. We now have a new game to play, it is called count the potholes. It is an easy game to play.

But travelling on the roads that lead to Melbourne there was a hive of activity in repairing the roads. Is it a vote getter for Melbourne voters? Don't you worry about the country cousins you all. And why are we getting a rebate on our car registration? Answer: Votes.

Why does it take an upcoming election to get things fixed that needed doing for years? Remember when we had to have the North to South pipeline, built so Melbourne people could water their lawns and gardens? In doing so they would have taken water away from our fruit growers, market gardeners and dairy farmers.

Eildon Weir was constructed to harvest water (a watershed) for the farmers and water supply for the many country towns. The North-South pipeline has never been used. A lot of its main infrastructure has been removed. We were told it cost the Victorian taxpayers one billion dollars.

The desalination plant, it has to be used. We were told it cost the Victorian taxpayers one billion dollars. And the cost to maintain, millions per annum of Victorian taxpayer's money.

And we get to the Melbourne Tunnel. Cost to the Victorian taxpayers, \$?

The farmers have diesel costs, fertiliser costs, wildfires that take years to overcome, and now they have land tax.

Fair go there must be better way to repay all your debts. Maybe put a tax on Melbourne road users to use their nice roads. Time for a change.

Michael Sundstrom, Eildon

Eildon Splash and Skate Park

WE, the residents of Eildon were advised by council that they would have to sell off some Eildon parkland to assist with the purchase of the proposed Splash and Skate Park. We were told there would be one block of land sold from Twentyfirst Street Reserve and all the land from the park between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

Then the goal posts were moved and all of Twentyfirst Street would be acquired along with Seventh & Eighth Streets. These parcels of land were now going to be used for Key Worker Houses.

At a later residents/council meeting, the council representatives were asked, would council have enough funds to finalise and maintain the Splash Park without the funds from the sale of the park. The reply was yes.

So, why is there a notice on the public toilet doors at the Splash Park asking the general public for a \$5 donation to assist with ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the park? What utter disgraceful pathetic conduct by the council.

Regarding the subject of Key Worker Houses, with six empty shops in the Eildon shopping complex and Darlingford Nursing Home having some 20 odd unoccupied beds, just where are these key workers going to be employed?

We await with baited breath just who will occupy these tin sheds with windows.

*Name and address supplied but withheld
by request*

The importance of staying safe in the snow

AS tens of thousands of people prepare to head to Victoria's alpine region this snow season, police will be out in force to help keep roads, resorts and communities safe across the snowfields.

Police will be highly visible on the roads and areas in and around Victoria's key snowfields, including Lake Mountain near Marysville.

Following a bumper snow season last year, an almost 50 per cent increase on the year prior at Mt Hotham alone, Victoria Police is urging visitors to plan ahead.

Skiers, snowboarders and hikers are implored to stick to designated tracks, regardless of their experience, after several people needed to be rescued last year. Police also responded to 26 search and recovery incidents in the 2025 season at Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek.

Local police will be well supported by dedicated alpine officers, Highway Patrol and the Heavy Vehicle Unit to ensure safety on the roads and respond to any incidents that may occur.

Police and authorised officers will again be testing drivers for drugs and alcohol and conducting vehicle safety checks across key routes in and out of alpine resorts.

The 2025 snow season saw more than 4000 vehicles turned around for failing to carry legally required wheel chains, placing themselves and others at serious risk on icy roads in areas with increased traffic.

All vehicles entering alpine areas during the declared snow season are required by law to carry wheel chains and fit them when instructed. Failing to carry chains may result in a \$407 fine, while failing to fit them when required results in a \$1018 penalty.

Wheel chains provide crucial traction and steering control on steep, icy roads and can be the difference between staying on the road or sliding off it.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the VicRoads and snow resort websites to learn more about snow chain requirements.

Other key safety tips for those heading to the snow include: Never go on hikes solo and have a detailed check-in procedure so people know where you are and when you're expected to arrive and return. Have a registered Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). Carry enough food and water for more than one day. Have clothing and gear suitable for all weather conditions. Regularly check weather and snow conditions as conditions can change quickly. Ensure your car's radiator is filled with anti-freeze and if diesel use Alpine Mix. Drive cautiously with gradual pressure on the accelerator to avoid wheel spin. Brake gently and avoid unnecessary gear changes. Maintain a safe braking distance from vehicles in front, especially in poor visibility. If lost, stop, seek shelter, call Triple Zero (000) and wait.

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



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PUBLISHERS

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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



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.



THUMBS UP: To the Murrindindi Shire for the introduction of the extra bins for 10c deposit bottles. Well done. I'm sure that my grandchildren will take advantage of the baskets.

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

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DEADLINES

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

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

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We thank you for your continued support



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
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reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
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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.



Gaëlle Broad: Government is playing catch-up while communities still suffer

NATIONALS Member for Northern Victoria Gaëlle Broad said recently that the Victorian Government is continuing to play catch up with fire affected communities struggling to recover from the summer bushfires.

Ms Broad told Parliament the government must prioritise support for communities trying to recover from the bushfires, as many people had been abandoned by the system.

Ms Broad said she had spoken with many people who were frustrated, angry and distressed.

“CFA volunteers have shared their frustration about relying on ageing fleets and failing equipment; calling for backup strike teams and air support with none available; asking for more water and being told no; driving past their own homes on the back of a truck and watching them burn,” Ms Broad said.

“There were residents in communities where backup for essential services failed, which put lives at risk; an elderly couple just out of Alexandra still buying bottled water over a hundred days after the fires; the Fawcett community desperately calling for star pickets to rebuild fences destroyed by fire; residents in need of mental health support being told to wait or that none is available; confusion and delays with the state government’s clean-up programs so far behind; a lack of government support to assist with euthanising stock; and delays seeking the support of wildlife volunteers.

“The slow-turning wheels of disaster recovery funding arrangements between federal and state governments are full of bureaucratic red tape. Our state government expects local councils to step up during a disaster but failed to deliver the funding or

resources to help communities get back on their feet.”

Ms Broad said the communities that suffered the greatest impact, such as Murrindindi and Strathbogie shires were under extreme pressure due to inequitable funding.

“It is easy for the government to put out a media release that support is available, but requiring people to apply for assistance across various different agencies shifts the burden onto individuals who are already struggling to survive,” Ms Broad said.

“Facing a pile of paperwork when you have experienced such loss simply adds to the trauma.”

Ms Broad recently called on the government to extend the waiver for tip fees for bushfire victims as it was due to expire on May 12. It was extended to June 30, but Ms Broad

said this was still not long enough and would add to the pressure and red tape for affected residents.

“I am part of a parliamentary committee considering the state’s response to the summer bushfires and I do not wish to preempt the findings or recommendations of the report, but as the Nationals representative for Northern Victoria I have a responsibility to highlight these issues,” Ms Broad said.

“The fact that we have no standard playbook for support following disasters is problematic when Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world.

“The fires are no longer in the media headlines, but the communities are still suffering. I will continue to fight for those affected by the summer bushfires to get the support they need.”

Nominate a dangerous country road

RACV has launched its *My Country Road* survey, encouraging Victorians to have their say on the regional roads that RACV has identified as the worst in the state.

RACV has worked with the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) to analyse the safety standards of 19,800 kilometres of Victoria’s regional roads. Based on Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) data, crash history and traffic volumes, they have identified 52 dangerous highway sections in regional Victoria, grouping them into five regional areas.

My Country Road participants have the opportunity to provide feedback on up to three of the identified road sections, or nominate their own roads of concern.

RACV Head of Policy James Williams said feedback from past *My Country Road* surveys has played a critical role in identifying safety concerns and influencing government planning and investment decisions.

“Over half of Victoria’s road crashes occur on regional roads. RACV’s *My Country Road* survey gives everyday Victorians a direct voice on the condition and safety of roads that have too many fatalities and serious injuries,” Mr Williams said.

Previous campaigns have delivered results. The top 20 roads identified in the 2024 *My Country Road* survey have all seen some improvements or have had upgrades planned or announced.

“These improvements are a positive step, but there is still more work to do to ensure regional Victorians and visitors can travel safely and confidently,” Mr Williams said.

In North East Victoria, the most dangerous roads listed include Goulburn Valley Highway and Maroondah Highway - Yea to Mansfield; Maroondah Highway - Alexandra to Healesville; and Melba Highway - Yea to Dixons Creek.

To discover more about the 52 most dangerous road sections in country Victoria, and to complete the survey, visit racv.com.au/haveyoursay

The survey closes Friday, July 17.

Tree planting on Whatton Place and Miller Street

AS part of Murrindindi Shire Council’s ongoing commitment to beautify, protect and enhance the local landscape, tree planting works will be undertaken along Whatton Place and Miller Street, Yea, on both sides of the road.

The planting has been designed to improve the local streetscape and provide additional shade for pedestrians using this area.

Tree species have been carefully selected to suit the local environment and conditions on each side of the street. On the west (hospital) side, Canadian maples have been selected. They have a slow to moderate growth rate, are able to tolerate a wide range of soil conditions in full sun and part shade, and are medium to large-sized trees with autumn colours.

On the east (river) side, Chinese pistachios have been selected. They have a slow to moderate growth rate, high tolerance to most growing conditions, and are small to medium-sized trees with green foliage and yellow, orange and red autumn tones.

Planting is scheduled to take place during June 2026.

During the works period, people may notice short-term activity from contractors and minor disruptions within immediate work zones. Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

If you have any questions about the works, please contact council on 5772 0333.

The risk of hitting an animal on the road increases in winter

IN winter, many people are driving in the dark, plus there are the additional challenges of fog and rain. Combined, this means that there is a greater risk of wildlife collisions.

AAMI data shows wildlife collisions are a major road safety issue, with 41 per cent of Australian drivers having hit an animal and more than 24,000 wildlife collision claims lodged in 2025, most commonly in winter and low-light conditions. May, June and July are the highest months for claims regarding animal collisions.

The impact is costly and dangerous, with over 4500 vehicles written off in 2025, average claim costs exceeding \$9000, and kangaroos responsible for more than 80 per cent of collisions, particularly on regional roads at dawn, dusk and overnight.

Animals are most active at dawn, dusk, and overnight, exactly when visibility is at its worst, leaving drivers with less time to react.

Driver reactions are also increasing risk, with one in five drivers saying they would swerve to avoid an animal, despite expert advice that this can lead to more serious crashes.

AAMI Motor Claims Manager Leah James said, “No one plans to hit an animal, but when wildlife jumps into your path out of nowhere, panic can take over pretty quickly. Swerving may feel instinctive, but it is one of the most dangerous reactions a driver can have.

“When confronted with wildlife behind the wheel it often causes drivers to lose control, swerving to miss the animal and hitting a tree, or crashing into another vehicle, all of which are far worse than the original risk,” she said.

The best advice is to slow down, stay alert, and keep a close lookout for wildlife, particularly in signed areas.

“Kangaroos are responsible for more than 80 per cent of collisions, followed by wallabies, wombats and deer. These crashes often seriously damage vehicles and put people at risk,” Ms James said.

In case you do hit an animal on the road, make sure that you have the phone number of a local wildlifer carer in your phone. Give them a call, even if the injured animal has moved away from the location. If the animal has died, check the pouch and areas nearby for joeys, particularly kangaroos, koalas, wombats, and echidnas. Always move the deceased animal off the road to prevent other drivers being impacted.

Keep a simple wildlife kit in your car which includes gloves, blanket, cardboard box or pet carrier, and a water bottle.

The best action you can take to avoid animal collisions, particularly in winter, is to slow down.

Minimum wage increase

THE Fair Work Commission has announced an increase to the National Minimum Wage and minimum award wages. The increase applies from the first full pay period starting on or after July 1.

The Fair Work Commission is the national workplace relations tribunal and reviews minimum wages each year as part of the Annual Wage Review.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is working to update their tools and resources with the new pay rates. These updates will be available close to July 1.

The National Minimum Wage applies to employees who aren’t covered by an award.

From July 1, the National Minimum Wage will be \$1004.90 per week, or \$26.44 per hour.

Have you applied for your rego rebate?

WITHIN 48 hours of opening on June 1, more than one million Victorians applied for 20 per cent off their rego. Money is already being paid to applicants and will continue to be paid over the coming months.

A driver with one car gets up to \$186 back. A family with two cars gets up to \$372 back. You get the full rebate whether you pay yearly or in instalments. Applications close July 31.

To be eligible for the rebate, Victorians need to have paid their registration between 1 July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, for a light vehicle for personal use. You can claim for up to two vehicles in your name.

For more information and to apply, download the Service Victoria app or visit service.vic.gov.au/rego-rebate

Vulnerable community members left without access to Registration Rebate

NEIGHBOURHOOD Houses Victoria has said that the Victorian Government Registration Rebate program, available only online, has failed to support vulnerable people to access the rebate. The support expectations have been dumped on community organisations, without a cent to support the work.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, with 400 member organisations across the state, offered to be an access point for the program on the back of providing similar support through the Power Saving Bonus. However, the government rejected the offer, leaving thousands of vulnerable community members without support.

Neighbourhood Houses are often the first port of call for people facing challenges with digital literacy, digital access, language barriers and more, and with a Neighbourhood House in every local council, it would have

filled the gaping holes that have been left in the current plan for regional and rural areas.

“We know people will come to us, as a trusted place, asking for help with getting online and navigating the complex systems to access the rebate,” Beth Davidson OAM, President of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria said.

“This lack of government support puts even more pressure on already underfunded Neighbourhood Houses. We know these organisations don’t turn away vulnerable people, and the government’s lack of responsiveness towards vulnerable people is shameful, potentially shutting them out of this much needed rebate.

“This is a classic case of a well-intentioned program being undermined by bad processes. Given the lack of dedicated support, we encourage people to contact their local state

MP’s office to help them navigate the system that’s supposed to serve them.”

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria helped almost 17,000 concession card holders apply for the recent round of Power Saving Bonus, and ensured they were getting the best energy deal with the Energy Assistance Program.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria has called on the Victorian Government to rectify the 25 per cent funding shortfall already impacting these organisations, and instead they have received a further unfunded workload.

They said that failure to meet the funding needs of these organisations has already resulted in Victorian communities losing \$230m in additional community value, where programs have been slashed to cover the basic operating costs. The failure to fund community outreach for projects like the Registration Rebate further the gaping hole in access for these communities.

Public recycling basket trial starting in Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is trialling new recycling baskets on public bins across the shire, making it easier for people to participate in Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme while supporting local fundraising and recycling efforts.

A total of 100 purpose-built recycling baskets will be installed in high-use public locations, including near food outlets, parks and activity centres.

These baskets provide a simple way for people to leave eligible drink containers for others to collect and claim the 10 cent refund through the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

Since the CDS launched in November 2023, community groups across Murrindindi have already generated around \$90,000 through container refunds, highlighting its value as a practical fundraising and income opportunity.

Based on the container volumes collected through public spaces, the trial could generate an additional \$17,000 and \$25,000 each year for community members, groups and organisations participating in the scheme.

The basket system has been designed to be simple and inclusive, enabling anyone to participate, from children collecting containers for pocket money to community groups raising funds and residents contributing to local recycling efforts.

Early observations from locations where baskets have been installed indicate that significantly fewer eligible containers are being placed in public garbage and recycling bins. This aligns with results from similar programs interstate and in Victoria, where public place basket trials have helped reduce container litter and improve recovery of eligible drink containers. Council has also observed reduced roadside litter across the shire since the introduction of the CDS.

By capturing containers before they enter the refuse stream, the baskets help reduce contamination in public bins and divert valuable materials away from landfill. Clear signage on each basket encourages simple action: leave or collect 10c containers.

Murrindindi Shire Council Sustainability and Assets portfolio Councillor Paul Hildebrand said the trial demonstrates how small, practical changes can deliver meaningful community and environmental benefits.

"This initiative makes recycling easier, supports participation in the Container Deposit Scheme and creates more opportunities for community fundraising," Cr Hildebrand said.

"Every eligible container collected is one less item going to landfill and another 10 cents returned to the community."

Council will continue to monitor the trial to assess community uptake and performance, and to identify opportunities to expand the program to additional locations.

Residents are encouraged to look out for the recycling baskets when out and about and support the initiative by leaving eligible containers for others to collect.

Container Deposit Scheme refund points in Murrindindi Shire are located at Bourke's Ice Works, 17 Binns McCraes Road, Alexandra Pheasant Creek General Store and Hot Food, 884 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Pheasant Creek; and Kinglake Pub and Pantry, 28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake.

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

CFA Molesworth Biannual election and AGM will be held at 8am at the Molesworth Fire Station.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

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

Yea becomes 'Ideal Town' in 1927

YEA was declared 'Ideal Town' by *The Sun News Pictorial* in 1927.

Yea won the C-Section award and a Christmas Eve article in *The Sun* in 1927

was headed *Spic and Span Township in a Paradise of Fertile Valleys*.

"It is one of the brightest and prettiest towns in Australia and lack of publicity and

bad roads in the past are the only reasons it has not been a famous tourist resort. Both these reasons are gone and Yea's heydays are ahead," the daily newspaper reported.

"There are four ways to get to Yea from Melbourne, the longest being over Black's Spur, but by far the most beautiful scenery is through Lilydale, Yarra Glen, Mt Slide and Glenburn (69 miles). At the journey's end the wooded, shadowed hills slope to a small fertile valley, where two sparkling streams ripple among old gums past a town that is just beginning its real destiny.

"Yea is as clean as a new pin today. Nearly every fence has been painted, shop fronts have new colour schemes of white and green and even the fire bell and telephone post boxes were given fresh paint before the 'Ideal Town' judges arrived. When the committee arrived, children were romping on the swings in the main reserves. A band was playing in its rotunda and the town was all brightness and animation.

"One of the quaint show streets is a short one containing a doctor's home, a church, a school, hotel and Salvation Army Barracks," said *The Sun*, referring to Station Street.

"The local legend is that the doctor brings you into the world, the church baptises you, the school educates you, the hotel provides the drinks; and the Salvation Army saves you from them.

"Six towns in three sections had to qualify for judging by recording votes from *The Sun* coupons and Yea had the second highest number in C Division, behind Woodend, until a late parcel of coupons arrived just on closing time to place Yea with the highest number of coupons sent.

"An active progress association and the shire council vied with each other to see that every *Sun* that came to Yea was de-couponed, that ex-residents were involved and once in the final six, no effort was spared in making the town look its very best. Paint brushes, etcetera, worked overtime," the report said.

More next week on the efforts residents made and the celebrations which followed.



A pre-World War II photo of the Yea Ideal Town fountain showing the missing finial from the top. -S

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

What is the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program?

ARE you thinking about solar, a battery, or upgrading your heating and cooling? Murrindindi Shire Council is part of the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program, which aims to make it easier for households and businesses to explore their options.

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers is a local government initiative that connects residents with pre-qualified providers of rooftop solar, batteries, heat pumps, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. The program is

designed to simplify the process by bringing together information, vetted suppliers, and available rebates in one place.

All providers are selected through a public tender process, with consideration given to safety, reliability, and value. After registering, you'll be connected with a provider to arrange a free, no-obligation quote and receive information about any government incentives that may apply.

The program includes a range of products and services, such as solar panels, battery storage, hot water heat pumps, reverse-cycle split systems, EV chargers, induction cooktops, insulation, draught proofing, and home energy assessments.

To learn more or register your interest, visit the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers website at goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au

June 2026

June is Murrindindi Business Month

Murrindindi Business Month is now underway, and there's still time to register and plan participation across the full program. Take part in a month long journey designed to strengthen capability, build confidence and support long term growth.

Our regular Business Brunch will also be held on Thursday, 18 June from 10.00 to 11.30 am at The Pavilion Bar & Grill, 956 Buxton-Marysville Road.

For the full program schedule, registration and resources, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mbm

LEAPing into Resilience Project survey

Council is inviting residents who participated in the *LEAPing into Resilience Project* to complete an online survey for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

The survey is open from 1 May to 30 June 2026.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leapsurvey

Eildon Key Worker Housing EOIs

Council is progressing Eildon Key Worker Housing, with the first six homes expected to be available for rent from July to August 2026.

The initial release includes four three bedroom and two two bedroom houses, supporting local workforce attraction and retention. An on site information session was held in May and expressions of interest are now open.

For details visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ekwheoi

National Tree Day Events 2026

National Tree Day is Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event, bringing communities together to grow a greener future.

This year, locals can get involved through activities including the 'Love your Pollinators' webinar on 15 July, a community tree planting event in Alexandra on 26 July, and library programs like the Read, Learn and Win draw running until 31 July. With opportunities for all ages to learn, plant and connect with nature, it is a great chance to support local biodiversity and make a lasting environmental impact.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ntd26



Kinglake Memorial Reserve Oval upgrade

Council will begin redevelopment works on the Kinglake Memorial Reserve oval from 9 June, with important upgrades set to support local sport and the wider Kinglake community.

Upgrades will include playing surface improvements, drainage works, and a new irrigation system to improve safety, playability and the long-term sustainability of the oval for local clubs and the broader community.

Learn more about the project on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kmruupgrade

Free Fire Waste Disposal Extension

Council welcomes the extension of the free bushfire recovery waste disposal program to 30 June 2026.

While the six-week extension is a positive step, Council will continue to advocate for a longer extension.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/firewaste

Recognising volunteering across Murrindindi

Council would like to celebrate the volunteers who strengthened our communities during and after the January 2026 bushfires.

To acknowledge these efforts Council will host four events to recognise the contributions of volunteers and community members, while also providing an opportunity to connect, reflect on shared experiences, and acknowledge the ongoing recovery journey.

Visit our website to find out more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recognition26



Get in touch

5772 0333

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Stay informed

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news

Follow us on Facebook @murrindindishirecouncil

Student of the Week

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



SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Josh, Olympia, Matilda, Rhiane and Zach on displaying our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Reduce wood heater smoke this winter

New drone fleet strengthens CFA response

THE Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria says it's time to take steps to improve the efficiency of your wood heaters and reduce the smoke they emit.

DRONES have become CFA's latest eyes in the sky, already proving their effectiveness during the 2025-26 fire season.

CFA embarked on a Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) drone trial a year ago to boost firefighting intelligence from above.

The 12 month pilot program, hosted at Rowville and Edithvale brigades including volunteer pilots from Melbourne's outer east and southeast was used for a range of emergency situations including identifying hot spots, hazmats, rope rescue and urban search and rescue, aerial thermal imaging, impact assessment, fire investigation, searches, among other live video and training benefits.

The success of the trial was proven during the January 2026 fire season on various firegrounds across the

state allowing incident controllers and fireground command personnel to make timely and informed decisions.

Incredible vision was captured during a bushfire at Rhyll at Phillip Island on 22 January, on the edge of the Koala Conservation Reserve, where firefighters were seen standing over the top of a hot spot. The RPAS crew informed the firefighters on the ground and they were able to start raking and watering down the hotspot, showing smoke billowing out of the ground.

The Incident Controller Damien O'Connor stated through the ability to have the holistic view, they were able to find several hot spots outside of the main fire.

"This prevented the fire restarting in unburnt land and gave us the confidence to leave the fireground knowing our

suppression techniques were successful," Damien said.

"These hot spots were identified at night, and we were able to guide crews to their location through the use of the drone spotlight as well as by radio communications watching the image on the screen.

"I have no doubt the use of the RPAS program at this incident not only saved the local brigades many hours and potential outbreaks, it also ensured the conservation of the koala program and its continual success to limit the spread of the fire."

Rowville Fire Brigade Captain and RPAS pilot Cien Pereira works as an air traffic controller and said she was keen for CFA to try a new specialty which happened to align with the work she does.

"Drones provide incredible intelligence and there are long term benefits of where this program can go," Cien said. "There are incident controllers out there that don't realise this is an option for them, so we're doing demonstrations across the state to try and get the word out. RPAS provides more accurate, more up to date information and intelligence for better decision making, so this makes everything safer for both the community and our firefighters."

CFA Commander and Manager of Aviation John Katakouzinis AFSM said the 12 month pilot program has been very successful and hopes to roll it out further in the future.

"We're got 21 highly trained drone pilots at the moment who have been responding to a range of incidents across the state, particularly over summer," John said.

"The varying capabilities such as still images, 4K video, HD video, optical zoom and thermal imaging provide invaluable insights to our incident controllers and firefighters."



One of the new CFA drones. -S

The condition of the heater, the flue and the quality of the wood you're using all contribute to the smoke from your chimney.

"You'll get less smoke and more heat for your money, if you do it right," EPA Chief Environmental Scientist Dr Jen Martin said.

"Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

"Don't leave it smouldering as it's inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard," she said.

Wood heater owners have an obligation, under the Environment Protection Act's General Environment Duty, to minimise smoke from their wood heater.

Another important tip is to avoid burning the wrong things, including coal, coke, driftwood, household rubbish, painted wood, chemically treated timber or the green-coloured pine logs used at parks and playgrounds.

EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours' health and seek alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung conditions such as asthma, pregnant women, infants, young children, those aged 65 years and over and people with diabetes.

"If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, follow your doctor's advice," Dr Martin said.

The EPA website has more information for anyone who wants to be a good neighbour and create more heat and less smoke from their wood heater, epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters

Seasonal message from FFMVic

FFMVic Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman WINTER is almost here, and so far I think we've had the fastest, longest, busiest year I can recall for quite some time.

Across January, I was incredibly proud of our crews (both FFMVic and beyond) and the community for their response to bushfires across the state. Although we had one tragic loss of life, I am close enough to the detail of these things to know how much worse this might have been if it weren't for the readiness of agencies to respond, and the preparedness of community to react. We say often that bushfire management is a shared responsibility; and this is never truer than at the height of a hot, Victorian summer.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all for your strength, service, action, and belief this season. There remains work to do to recover, but overwhelmingly I witnessed a system working and a state pulling together. Thank you to all who made submissions to the Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria to help shape our continual learning from these events.

From the busy-ness of the bushfire season, our crews have stepped straight into delivery of our planned burning program. Autumn typically for our crews means more opportunities to burn, with more stable conditions tending to make fire behaviour more predictable and manageable.

This year autumn has thrown us a few surprises. Conditions have not always been in our favour, but we've been out

delivering burns where it has been safe and suitable to do so. The AFAC Winter Seasonal Outlook released this week shows we can expect dry and warm conditions to continue over winter and heading into spring and warns of the potential for another early start to the fire season.

With the support of communities and working with our emergency sector partners, we will continue to take a flexible and year-round approach to reducing bushfire risk. Where planned burning is not possible or appropriate, we'll deliver non-burn fuel works, including mulching, mowing, slashing and spraying to help reduce fuel-driven bushfire risk in our state forests, national parks and on protected public land.

I wish you a good, rain-filled winter.

New community grant program

BUNNINGS has launched a new Community Grants Program, committing \$1 million across five years to support not-for-profit organisations delivering meaningful local impact across Australia and New Zealand.

Opening for applications from July 1, the program will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible organisations backing practical community projects that make a real difference locally.

Projects supported through the program could include community garden upgrades, improvements to local sporting club facilities, youth wellbeing spaces and regional community initiatives.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit bunnings.com.au/communitygrants



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Parliament Prize on offer for Victorian students

ENTRIES for this year's Parliament Prize are now open for Victorian students from Grade Five to Year 12.

The Nationals' Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad said the prize was a great opportunity for young people to learn more about Parliament and have some fun along the way.

The Parliament Prize asks students what they would say to Parliament if they were an MP, and invites them to submit their own 90-second video of a statement they would make.

"A Member's Statement is an opportunity for MPs to make a brief statement of up to 90 seconds in state Parliament on matters of interest or concern to them and those living in their electorate," Ms Broad said.

"I always enjoy visiting the schools in my electorate. It's always interesting to hear students' thoughts and views on matters that are important to them."

The competition has three categories: Grades Five to Six, Years Seven to Nine, and Years 10 to 12.

Last year the Parliament Prize received 1463 entries from students from over 240 schools across Victoria. And, with more than 450 unique topics raised in these entries, Members of Parliament took a great interest in what students in their local areas had to say.

Topics covered included the cost of living, health and mental health, artificial intelligence and education.

Cash prizes are also on offer. Entries close on Friday, June 12, 2026.

For more information and to submit an entry go to parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/parliament-prize/

Have you spotted a black-shouldered kite?

THE black-shouldered kite (*elanus axillaris*) is featured this month in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's 2026 Year of the Raptor community awareness campaign.

Raptors are carnivorous birds of prey that hunt and feed on live prey including rabbits, rodents, fish, lizards and other birds.

Goulburn Broken CMA Project Officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the black-shouldered kite was gull-like in appearance.

"This bird can be seen hovering above open grasslands, paddocks and even grassy median strips on the Hume Freeway," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"As if held by an invisible string, the hovering black-shouldered kite suspends itself mid-flight while scanning for prey.

"Once detected, it drops like a stone to grab its meal then flies away before a larger raptor steals it. Prey is eaten either in flight or from a tall lookout such as a standing dead tree."

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said not all raptors employ the hovering technique. "Many soar and dive but the Black-shouldered kite hovers in style, suspended in mid-air with legs dangling," she said.

True to its name, the black-shouldered kite has black shoulders and wing tips which contrast against its snow-white body. Its distinctive red eye is notable, as is its dark feathers, extending beyond the eye 'Cleopatra style'.

As part of the black-shouldered kite courtship ritual, the female will flip upside-down in mid-air to grab food offered by the wooing male. Together they construct a large stick nest in a tall tree and incubate three or four eggs for 30 days. After just five weeks the chicks are fully fledged and ready to hover and hunt.

"Most raptors need tall lookouts and places to fly to so they can safely eat their catch," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.



A black-shouldered kite. -Richard Gregson

May meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

AT the May meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council, Kim O'Connor was congratulated on his role as the new Director for Sustainability and Infrastructure. Cr Adams is on a leave of absence, Cr Lording was unwell and requested planned leave for the next 30 days. There was no public participation.

Grants and sponsorship quarterly allocations

Applications received February to April 2026.

Council noted Quick Response grants awarded under delegation: \$2500 for Alexandra CFA Auxillary high tea; \$2500 for Lions Club of Marysville and District to install an additional doorway at the Marysville Community Centre; \$1000 for the Buxton Progress Association community fun day; \$1990 for the Strath Creek Progress Association Anzac Day service; \$2500 for Tri Gym protective floor covering; \$2000 for Alexandra Junior Soccer Club equipment upgrade; \$899 for Ukulele Heaven's Beanie Song workshop; \$252 for Lions Club of Kinglake Anzac Day service; \$1000 for Rotary Club of Yea's 40th anniversary; \$1400 for Yea and District Memorial Hospital's Mothers Day Classic; \$900 for Toolangi Castella District Community House community lunch; \$1500 for Alexandra and Eildon District Lapidary Club new machine; \$1500 for Triangle Arts Group WinterFest 2026.

Council endorsed the allocation of funding for project grants: \$1000 for Upper Goulburn Landcare Network landscape restoration; \$2734 for the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve communications and community support; and \$4400 for Kinglake Historic Society historic storage building relocation.

They also endorsed the allocation of funding for local event grants: \$2500 for the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum Heritage Machinery Festival; and \$4270 for the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre NAIDOC Week 2026.

Alexandra East Development Plan

The Alexandra East Development Plan is complete and was presented to council for adoption. The plan was made possible through a Commonwealth grant and provides a framework for already zoned residential land. It was developed with extensive community engagement and agency consultation. Consideration was made for drainage, road access, pathways, lot diversity, bushfire safety, etcetera, and the plan provides a clear structure for future development.

Council adopted the Alexandra East Development Plan.

Inclusion of strategic investment borrowings in the 26-27 annual budget

Purpose of report is for council to endorse an inclusion in the 26-27 annual budget an intent to borrow up to \$1.5 million to enable future strategic investment. Council cannot enter into borrowing unless it is included in the budget. It means that council can consider borrowing, not that they have to. There is no project or planned application attached to this report. Any future borrowing would require a separate report, business case, and due process.

Council endorsed the inclusion of the provision.

Council Priority Action Plan 25-26 March quarter progress report

Progress continues despite the bushfires in January and subsequent reallocation of resources. There were 70 actions for the quarter ending March 31, 2026. Of the four actions due for completion this quarter, one is complete, one is still in progress, and two have been deferred due to the bushfires. In the year to date update, eight actions are now complete, 48 actions are on track, 4 actions are progressing with delays and 10 have been deferred. Significant achievements this quarter include endorsement of the Murrindindi Health Network Plan, progression of key worker housing in Eildon, and the provision of bushfire support.

Council noted the progress report.

March 2026 quarterly finance reports

Forecasted revenue for the year has increased by \$356,000, while projected expenditure has risen by \$292,000. The increase in forecast revenue is primarily attributed to a \$266,000 increase in operating grants and a \$90,000 increase in capital grants, while the increase in expenditure is due to delivery of activities funded by the additional grants. The operating surplus is expected to increase from \$3.96 million to \$4.03 million, however the underlying result is projected to decline slightly. There is a projected increase in cash reserves of \$42,000. There are no new or unanticipated material changes to the budget that would require formal adoption of a revised budget.

Council noted the report and accepted the officer's recommendations.

Councillor reports

Cr Carpenter attended the 40 years of Yea Rotary celebration. People rebuilding after the bushfires can talk to council's rebuilding team about planning; they may be exempt or able to use VicSmart's fast-track provision or there might be temporary housing available for three years. She also reported there are no delays in permit approvals at this time.

Cr McAulay spoke about the upcoming Murrindindi Business Month in June, which provides a variety of opportunities for local businesses and community groups. In the Eildon key worker housing, modular homes have been delivered to 18 Twenty First Street.

Cr Hildebrand spoke about bushfire recovery on Murrindindi Shire's road network. There were 132 roads impacted and a total of 431km. Seventy-seven roads have been reopened, while 222km of roads remain under limited access. Significant emergency works are still underway on roadsides and damaged road surfaces. Preliminary design work for Breakaway Bridge in Acheron is underway.

Cr Carr said that the rail trail remains a priority for council and they continue to advocate for its restoration post-bushfire. They have met with the various agencies involved to progress recovery planning. Approximately \$8 million in impacts has been identified. There will be a special meeting of council to discuss the draft budget on Wednesday, June 3 at 6pm.

Cr Gallagher spoke about the opportunity to share Murrindindi Shire experiences with several parliamentary inquiries, including a Commonwealth House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability in Wodonga and the Victorian Legislative Council Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires. He thanked Kerry Starr for her service as Coordinator of the Toolangi Castella District Community House over 19 years and wished her well in retirement.

CEO report

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi said that reestablishment assistance payments for households whose primary home was destroyed or made uninhabitable by the fires will remain open, with no set closing date at this stage. Previously the payments were available until 180 days after the emergency.

The Fire Recovery Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner visited Terip Terip and Highlands last week. The free firewood collection has now been opened to all residents of Murrindindi Shire, not just those who are fire impacted. Mental health support post-fire has been expanded with a new partnership between various local organisations to ensure coordinated support.

Ms Bonazzi said that Menzies Support Services have announced the transition of home and community-based aged care services to Omnia Community Health, effective July 1, 2026.

Around 100 new container collection baskets are being installed on rubbish bins around Murrindindi Shire thanks to an \$8000 grant.

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.

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VICTORIA EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

Council special meeting to discuss Annual Budget 2026-27

A SPECIAL meeting of the Murrindindi Shire Council was held last Wednesday to discuss council's *Annual Budget 2026-27*.

Cr Adams and Cr Lording were apologies on leaves of absence. An open forum was held to allow the public to submit their input into the draft budget.

Open forum

Laura Semple from Moving with Clouds pilates spoke about the proposed changes to the regular hire or commercial classification and fee increase of the Marysville Community Centre, which will push programs out of the community centre.

Laura said that under the changes, her hire of the Tree Fern Room will increase from \$80 per day to \$226.10 per day, or a \$28.30 per hour fee. Currently she is paying \$960 per month, and the changes will increase this to \$1471 per month, making it extremely difficult for her to run affordable classes for local community members.

Moving with Clouds was started in December 2025 and runs weekly classes, with 120 members across the Triangle area. Pilates helps people stay fit and healthy as well as connected socially. There are also other groups that utilise the community centre as a meeting place that have concerns around the changes, such as a Taekwondo class and jerky producer that hires the commercial kitchen.

Laura asked that council pause and reconsider the proposed reclassification and fee increase for the Marysville Community Centre for regular hirers; look at potentially introducing a regular hirer, community benefit or small business startup category with sustainable rates for the local programs that deliver clear community outcomes; if increases must occur, looking at a cap or phasing them into the next 12 to 24 months so programs aren't forced to close immediately; and commit to direct consultation with regular hirers before implementing changes.

Community submissions to the draft Annual Budget 2026-27

Cr Carr spoke to this matter, stating that some submissions were submitted after the agenda was published and are not available online currently but will be updated and reflected in the minutes. However, council has received all the submissions in full, which were formatted into a report.

In terms of engagement, there were 340 downloads of the budget documents from council's website, and there were 484 unique visitors to the budget's exhibition webpage.

Council received 14 responses through the website feedback form, The Loop, or a letter. Of these, four responses expressed concerns about the proposed reduction in the budget for library books, and three

expressed concerns about the proposed fee structure for the Marysville Community Centre.

Council will consider all submissions before the final adoption of the *Annual Budget 2026-27* on June 17. They voted to accept the submissions to the draft budget.

Discussion

Cr Gallagher asked Director of Finance and Integrity Michael Chesworth about the circumstances that gave rise to the proposed fee increase for the Marysville Community Centre.

Mr Chesworth responded saying that consideration is given to all facilities within the Murrindindi Shire, and that council wants to keep things as fair as possible for all businesses operating within this area and not provide advantages to one particular place.

Another part of the circumstances is the change from a community-led committee running the Marysville Community Centre to council taking over the centre's operation, with the committee deciding voluntary not to continue.

Cr Gallagher asked Mr Chesworth to comment on the capital program and the small capital reduction in terms of library book purchasing, with comparison to the operational budget that will be coming to the library service.

Mr Chesworth responded, stating that the overall operating budget for the library service is increasing this year, augmented by grant funding to replace council's mobile library with a more purpose-built vehicle that will be launched later next year. The operating budget itself has had an incremental increase.

There is no reduction in service, such as what hours the libraries are open, but there will be a slight reduction in the new book stock that can be purchased next financial year. He said this is seen as a one-year impact, in consideration of the unique circumstances council finds itself in (asset recovery post-bushfires).

The priority is to recover the capital budget next year when there is more certainty around funding sources and how council can address the recovery effort. The impact is shared across many elements of the capital budget.

One submission complemented council's response to the bushfires with the reduction of rates and pointed out that a reduction in the emergency services volunteer fund (ESVF) levy might be pertinent. Mr Chesworth responded to that submission, saying that the ESVF levy is a state government fund and council has no control over its implementation.



Livestock agents at the sale included Elders, Nutrien, VLP and Alex Scott and Staff. -BD

Yea Saleyards: Lighter cattle sell better at June store sale

LOWER weighted cattle sold better last Friday at the June Combined Agents Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards. Around 1400 head of cattle were yarded across the four livestock vendors in Yea, down from the bigger numbers of the numerous May sales.

Elders Livestock Agent Andrew Hill provided details on the June sale.

"The better end of the cattle sold well. There was a lot of smaller lots this sale, the twos and fives, which we didn't have last sale," Andrew said.

Cattle averaged \$1772 per head for the sale, with an average weight of 391kg, equalling to an average of 453c/kg. The feedlots were well represented at the sale.

In the steer category, it was predominantly Black Angus. Top weight was 760kg and top price per head \$3100, with smaller weighted cattle selling better.

"The steers sold on par with last week. There's a small number of those heavier cattle, 500 to 600kg cattle, sold at \$3100, which comes out at about 516c/kg," Andrew said.

"The 430 to 450kg cattle come out at an average of about \$2400, which comes out about 540c/kg. And then you come down to those 380kg for \$2080, or about 540c/kg. The 350kg cattle made \$1990, or 560c/kg, and then 300kg cattle made \$1700, which was about the same.

"Then you get to those 200kg cattle and they hit 600c/kg pretty quick. There's a lot

of people chasing those smaller black cattle types and they're selling swiftly at \$1300. The 250kg cattle are making \$1400, so they're selling pretty well."

Heifers reached a top price per head of \$2580 with a top weight of 600kg. There were a few Charolais and Hereford pens mixed in among the Angus heifers.

"The best pen of heifers were 420kg and they made \$2180, which brings them out

YEA SALEYARDS		STOCK REPORT 5 JUNE 2026		
Combined Agents Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,348			
Average \$ per head	\$1,772			
Average weight per head	391kg			
Top price per head		\$3,100	\$2,580	\$3,450
Top weight		760kg	600kg	
Turnover	\$2.3 million			



Clay and Harry from Strath Creek at last Friday's cattle sale in Yea. -BD



Despite several cattle sales through May, the June store sale was still relatively well attended. -BD

Huge crowd and great weather at the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show



There were an estimated 15,000 people at the event. -AR



One of the old fire trucks forming part of the CFA display. -AR



William at the clown game. -AR



The truck run from Yarck to Alexandra on Saturday, June 6. -AR



A truck reminiscent of the truck from Spielberg's first film, Duel. -AR



The Australian flag flying above the crowd from the Corner Hotel. -AR



Children welcoming the trucks on the truck run on Saturday, June 6, encouraging the drivers to honk as they passed. -AR



The trucks were lined up on Grant Street right through to Thom Street. -AR

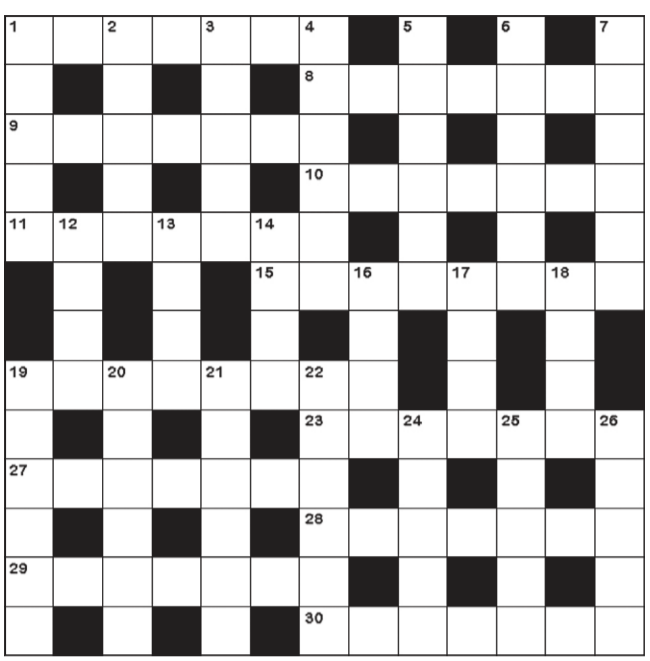
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Belonging to the upper layers of the open sea.
 - A formal written statement of relinquishment.
 - A readily perceived pretence or mockery.
 - Iron shaped by hammering with tools.
 - A beginner who is being taught the trade.
 - Friendship that is free from physical desire.
 - At a higher level in knowledge or skills.
 - Exposed to the circulation of air for purification.
 - Lets saliva drivel from the mouth.
 - Speak rapidly and incessantly about trivia.
 - Toy dogs with long straight silky white coats.
 - Comes back to the place one has just left.



- DOWN**
- An edging of small loops, as on lace or ribbon.
 - South American cud-chewing mammal that spits.
 - Seedlike fruit produced by the cereal grasses.
 - Loosely twisted yarn used for embroidery.
 - Very nearly but not quite enough.
 - A blank space that surrounds the text on a page.

- A busy, confused and intensely excited time.
- A highway or byway for vehicles only.
- The main concept you are thinking about.
- Surpassing the ordinary in size or scale.
- An officer who acts as military assistant.
- A plant of the marrow family known as gumbo.
- Run a car at a slow speed or out of gear.
- Accept as true without verification or proof.
- Capable of normal growth and development.
- The daughters of your brothers or sisters.
- When children are given chocolate eggs.
- Act against or in opposition to something.
- A style of architecture in England.
- Apply protective covering to a wound.

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

- Meat Dishes**
- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| BEEFSTIRFRY | MEATBALLS |
| BOLOGNESE | MEATPIE |
| HAMBURGER | PORKROAST |
| LAMBKOFTA | SAUSAGES |
| LAMBSTEW | STEAKANDCHIPS |
| LASAGNA | STROGANOFF |

Cryptogram

Meat Dishes

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				1	17			

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10							

E E E

3 1 1 11 1 2 24

E E S

21 6 5 21 1 7 18 1 10

F

3 26 25 20 13 6 4 26 14 8

F E S

6 2 24 13 5 26 1 2 24 10

Math Square

	+		+		18
×			-		+
	+	8	-		3
-			-		÷
	-		-	3	-4

3 -11 11

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Very 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.

Word Search - Words starting with "S"

SAND	Y D G F V I X G T N R H X R G
SANDWICH	F R N I N O F N V D K C B P S
SEAHORSE	S X R A Z Z U I N Y G I F T E
SHOWBAG	U E H E S B O G O L T W X V K
SHOWER	F E Z M B R E N C G O D S O P
SINGING	Y S W O E W S I Z R T N Q N S
SOCCER	H Q W W W H A S K I S A U T G
SOFT	Z M O I O Q U R R A T S I H K
SQUIGGLE	D H A W N N B U T A X O G Y I
STAR	S B B D S G F S B S S C G H A
STRAWBERRY	Z A M H S W I M M I N G L B V
SUNSHINE	G D I T E S R O H A E S E K I
SWIMMING	C N U D V Y O D C L B F L G C
SWING	E S O C C E R F Q E V V G U J
	F V Z N B O V I T A W A S N Y

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.

4	-		+		11
+		-		-	
	-		-	1	-4
-		-		-	
	-		-		-10

6 -13 2

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DEATH NOTICES

Young, Valerie May (nee Hussey)
 14/03/1938-29/05/2026
 Beloved wife of Stuart McLaren Young (dec). Proud and loving mum of Andrew and Kathryn. Devoted grandmother of Alycia, Hannah, Hamish and Kira.

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FUNERAL NOTICES

Young, Valerie May (nee Hussey)
 14/03/1938-29/05/2026
 Funeral at St Luke's Yea, Wednesday June 10, 1pm, followed by a burial service at Yea Cemetary.

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 Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 8am at Molesworth Fire station.

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 mobile: 0429 308 638
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• www.eildonps.vic.edu.au

• <https://www.realestate.com.au/buy/in-eildon,+vic+3713/list-1>

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The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

Disaster alert testing on July 27

AUSALERTS are warning messages sent to mobile devices by state and territory emergency services organisations and the Australian Government. AusAlert is just one of the many ways that the government is helping to keep Australians safer during local and national emergencies and disasters.

AusAlerts can be sent about different types of emergencies, such as natural hazards (ie. bushfires, floods, cyclones, earthquakes or tsunamis), security threats (ie. serious public safety events or terrorism), biosecurity incidents (ie. animal or plant disease or biohazard outbreaks), or health emergencies (ie. pandemics or other major public health issues).

AusAlert will be ready to use in October 2026, but before it launches, the system needs to be tested across Australia.

On Monday, July 27, a test alert will be sent to all mobile devices in Australia. This will be after some testing in localised areas (Murrindindi

Shire is not included in these tests). The national time for the test in Victoria will be 2pm.

Alerts will be sent to most smartphones, smartwatches and tablets (but not Apple iPads). At the time of the test, a single Critical AusAlert test will be sent to every mobile device in Australia. Everyone with a compatible phone or other device in Australia can expect to receive the alert.

Devices will vibrate and play a siren-like warning sound for about 10 seconds. An AusAlert message will appear on device screens. It will clearly say it is a test. Exactly how it appears will depend on your device type and operating system.

You don't need to do anything if you receive a test alert. It is just a test. But in an actual disaster, an AusAlert will tell you the type of emergency, where it's located, how serious it is and what to do. It will also tell you the name of the emergency organisation that has sent the AusAlert and where to find more information about the emergency.

If you *don't* receive a test alert, you don't need to do anything. Your device might not be compatible or maybe it wasn't connected to a mobile tower at the time of the test.

To make sure you're AusAlert ready, always install the latest software updates on your device when asked. Be sure to restart your device after updating.

AusAlerts contain important information and should be turned on to help keep you safe. As the AusAlert national test is a Critical Alert, you can't turn it off via your device settings.

The only way to not receive a Critical Alert is to turn your mobile device off or switch it to 'airplane mode' for the duration of the test.

If receiving an AusAlert test message will disrupt you or cause you or a family member to feel unsafe, turn off your mobile devices or switch them to airplane mode before the scheduled test time in your location and leave them off for at least one hour.

1800RESPECT said that during the test, a loud sound will play on all compatible devices, even if they are on silent or 'do not disturb'. If a device is turned off, the alert will sound when it is switched back on. If you use a hidden or safety phone and are affected by domestic, family and sexual violence it's important you plan ahead. Call 1800 737 732, text 0458 737 732 or visit 1800respect.org.au for online chat and video call services.

Services Australia bus visiting

SERVICES Australia's Mobile Service Centre, Golden Wattle, will be visiting towns across North East Victoria and the Yarra Ranges in the coming weeks.

The mobile service centre will be offering the community easy access to Medicare and Centrelink services and can provide information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Department of Veterans' Affairs services.

The bus will be at Eildon on Tuesday, June 16, in front of the shopping complex on Main Street from 10am to 4pm.

It will be in Alexandra on Wednesday, June 17, adjacent to the town hall on Perkins Street from 9am to 4pm.

They will also be in Marysville on Thursday, June 18, adjacent to the information centre on Murchison Street from 9.30am to 4pm, and in Kinglake on Friday, June 19, near the Kinglake Hotel on Aitken Crescent from 9.30am to 4pm.

The mobile service centres are 20 tonne trucks operated by staff from Services Australia, providing regional and rural Australians with friendly face-to-face services and tailored support.

Staff on board can help with Centrelink claims, payment and services information, updating information, confirming documents and supporting information, myGov services, social work support and referrals, Medicare registrations, and accessing online services through a self-service terminal.

For more information, including upcoming stopping locations and times, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

If you could talk to the animals

IF, like Dr Dolittle, you could talk to the animals, what would you ask? And what would the animal say back to you? While artificial intelligence (AI) is likely to create many challenges in our society, there may also be some unexpected benefits. One of them might be allowing humans to communicate freely with animals.

While many people will have witnessed parrots learning to speak some words from our human language, AI is making inroads into making it possible for humans to speak animal languages, and to be understood.

The Earth Species Project is actively using AI to study and decode animal communications. The researchers are making some remarkable discoveries. It seems for example that many animals have their own grammar rules which can be mapped.

They have discovered that elephants call each other by individual names, and this can be replicated using synthetic sounds. Through playing that synthetic sound, a particular elephant will respond, the holder of that name. The animal may walk over by itself or it may respond vocally. The other elephants have been shown to ignore the sound as it doesn't relate to them. Marmoset monkeys have also been found to have individual names in the marmoset language.

The same technology found that elephants have the capacity to make a noise which is so low that humans cannot hear it, but it can be replicated.

Project CETI has been tracking whales across long periods of time, recording their sounds and actions. They have also been placing trackers directly onto the whales. Using unlabelled audio files, AI was able to discover the acoustic rules and hidden grammar of whale communication.

Project CETI states, "Despite their dramatically divergent evolutionary lineage, sperm whales have aspects within their communication system typically reserved for humans." They also discovered that whales are using a phonetic alphabet.

DolphinGemma, from Google, explores the sounds made by Atlantic spotted dolphins. AI can anticipate what the dolphins' next whistle will be, and it allows the researchers to respond in real time with synthetic sounds that the dolphin can understand and respond to. They even taught them a new word, as a sound they had trained into a pod as the word for sargassum seaweed which began being used in their community. This was the first known instance of a word passing from one species to another's native vocabulary.

The Earth Species Project has built Nature LM Audio, an AI model specifically built for interpreting the sounds of the natural world. AI can synthesise raw sound files into human text. It has also learnt to count the number of animals in a recording and to detect high stress calls. Birds have been found to use 30 to 40 distinct syllables, and to use them in distinct sentences.

In addition, researchers have been able to replicate the movements of bees using a robotic bee, and have the other bees respond to its actions and find food. These robot bees may in the future be used to encourage natural bees towards crops which need to be fertilised.

Through listening and processing via AI, scientists may be able to work out insect numbers in an area based on bird calls, for example. Whales might report on sea temperatures and micro plastics in the ocean through talking to each other. Sudden frog distress calls might indicate pollution.

Many people have conversations with their pets and both pretend to understand what is being said. Soon both we and our pets might know exactly what each other is saying. There will probably be some type of animal language gizmo soon to hit the market. Be prepared to provide more pats.

If the decoding of animal languages continue, and it becomes more widely available to the public, imagine what you might hear as you walk through our beautiful forests. Just don't tread on an ant.



The test message will be similar to the text in this image. -S

Parks staff industrial action

FRONTLINE rangers and operational staff at Parks Victoria are taking protected industrial action, with the Australian Workers' Union (AWU) calling for a reclassification and pay uplift that reflects the varied, skilled and often demanding work they perform every day.

They build campgrounds and amenities, carry out rescues, and protect and save wildlife. They are the reason Victoria's parks stay pristine and safe for the millions of people who visit them each year.

The AWU believes these workers are currently underpaid and under-classified for the work they do, and that a reclassification and uplift is needed to properly recognise their skills and responsibilities.

As part of the campaign, members will be taking protected industrial action that includes: Displaying campaign material

and information in workplaces, making statements in support of and explaining the industrial action including while in uniform, making media statements including while in uniform, placing campaign signage at parks and on employer vehicles, and setting email signatures and auto-reply to messages in support of the action.

The union has warned the action could escalate, from withdrawing duties such as cleaning and maintaining parks right through to locking the public out of parks, if Parks Victoria management fails to recognise the value of the work its members perform.

"Rangers and operational staff do complex, varied and at times dangerous work, and it is time their classifications and pay caught up with the reality of the job," AWU Victoria Secretary Ronnie Hayden said.

"Our members would much rather be getting on with their work, but they are prepared to escalate this action until management commits to the ranger uplift. This is squarely in the hands of Parks Victoria executives. We do not want to see them ruin the weekend for Victorian families who simply want to enjoy our beautiful parks."

AWU Organiser Lisa Pearce said the action reflected how strongly members feel about being recognised for the work they do.

"Our members build the campgrounds and amenities that families enjoy, they carry out rescues, and they protect and rescue our wildlife. They are proud of their work and they do it well," Ms Pearce said.

"They are simply asking to be paid and classified for the skilled work they actually perform, and they are standing together to make that case."

The union says the current offer on the table, combined with a firm commitment to the ranger uplift, would meet the needs of frontline operational staff. The provisions in the offer are the standard provisions found in all Victorian Government enterprise agreements.

The AWU believes its plan is consistent with the government's wages policy, with the savings from improved staff retention helping to offset the cost of the uplift.

"Every time Parks Victoria loses an experienced ranger, it loses years of local knowledge and skill that takes time to rebuild. The cost of that revolving door far outweighs the cost of retaining good people," Mr Hayden said.

"Our position differs from other unions because we represent the frontline rangers and operational staff who do this work on the ground, not the back-office staff in head office. Our priorities reflect the priorities of our members."

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
6	21	15	24	1	13	19	20	26	16	11	14	4
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
2	12	23	7	5	10	25	18	9	3	22	8	17

WEEKEND BARBEQUES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

MATH SQUARES

7	+	2	+	9	18
x		-		+	
1	+	8	-	6	3
-		-		÷	
4	-	5	-	3	-4
3		-11		11	

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

P	E	L	A	G	I	C	A	M	H	
I	L	R	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	
C	H	A	R	A	D	E	M	R	C	
O	M	I	N	E	W	R	O	U	G	H
T	R	A	I	N	E	E	S	I	I	
O	A	D	P	L	A	T	O	N	I	C
A	E	T	I	K	D					
A	D	V	A	N	C	E	D	R	L	
S	L	I	I	A	E	R	A	T	E	D
S	L	A	V	E	R	S	E	U	R	
U	B	B	C	T	W	A	D	D	L	E
M	A	L	T	E	S	E	C	O	S	
E	E	S	R	E	T	U	R	N	S	

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

4	-	2	+	9	11
+		-		-	
5	-	8	-	1	-4
-		-		-	
3	-	7	-	6	-10
6		-13		2	

Keen shoppers at the Yea Railway Market



Keen shoppers at the Yea Railway Market on Saturday, June 6. -AR



Stallholder Lauren with her array of baby clothes. -AR



People braved the winter chill to browse and buy. -AR



Eloise with her crochet items. -AR

SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round seven of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Funnel Webs versus Red Backs

JIM (coach) versus Matt: Matt showed his skills as Jim applied pressure by hitting the ball deep but still playable length. Matt worked hard to keep the ball in play but also disposed of any loose balls Jim threw up. Matt claimed more points. 56 to 54

Randy versus Sally: There was never very much difference in scores. Both players using good placement and court position. Sally won the match. 65 to 62.

Sam versus Mick: Sam had complete control for the first two games until a 'no let' call against Mick fired him into action and lifting the tempo to win the third game. Sam overall was too good at getting to the ball and had better placement to take the victory. 74 to 54.

Justin (fill in) versus Jim: A battle of wills as to who could set the pace of the game. Both bringing very different styles to the court, Jim was able to hold the court when the points mattered to win the match. 58 to 50.

Orb Weavers versus White Tails

Eric versus Ethan: Eric made a good effort, but Ethan was too good from start to finish winning the match with ease. 65 to 38.

Laura (fill in) versus Liane: Liane won three of four games but a blowout in the second gave Laura enough of an advantage in points to finish on top. 59 to 55.

Chris versus Travis: A great game. Travis played the ball into the back corners well making Chris work to stay in the game. A couple of loose lobs going high cost Travis the match in the final game having used this strategy to gain the advantage earlier. It came down to the wire with Chris winning the final game to win by a point. 59 to 58.

Michael versus Andrew: A hard-fought match all the way. Andrew just had the upper hand winning the match. 65 to 57.

Wednesday competition

Bees versus Mosquitoes

Marty versus Jordan: Expecting an easy match against a 10-year-old opponent, Jordan turned his flippancy levels up to 11. Marty just competed and let Jordans unforced errors do the job for him. The young player pinched the win. 72 to 63.

Justin versus Phil (fill in): Facing an opponent that routed him last time, Justin changed his method and attacked the backhand corner. This took away Phil's short game and it was point-for-point until Phil edged in front. Games two and three were grand theatrics. Mutual pressure caused each player to serve four faults in a row. Phil regained his mojo to win the match. 66 to 54.



Sally reaches to return Randy's shot. -S

Hornets versus Wasps

Nicole versus Matt: Nicole may have expected a kind run, but Matt is a dedicated squash protégé. His ability to pick-off easy shots has improved remarkably. He handed Nicole a harsh lesson in shot-selection and court craft via a 37-point drubbing. Matt won with a commanding lead. 82 to 45.

Kristelle versus Daniel L: It was an interesting sibling battle. Kristelle's serves gave Daniel hell, but with her wrist on the fritz she was having issues making shots in

rallies. The speed that Daniel's shots were moving proved difficult for Kristelle to read and pushed him forward for the win. 66 to 55.

Ben F versus Michael M: A very tight game. Both with some punishing finishers and great chase downs. The low scores show the length of the rallies. Ben had the goods to claim the match. 59 to 50.

The Alexandra Squash Club is hosting a beginners/new player night from 6 to 7pm on Tuesday, June 16. All are welcome.

The Chronicle Sport



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Prideaux Cup to Greg at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday saw preferred lies in operation due to the recent rain, with 25 men contesting the second and final round of the Prideaux Cup at Royal Yea Golf Club. Although conditions were overcast, the rain stayed away and players enjoyed a pleasant day on the course.

Continuing his winning form from Wednesday, Anthony La Grutta (15) took out the daily event with 35 Stableford points on a countback from Bob Glenister (11). Greg Clements (16) was third with 34 points on countback from Brian Priestley (25), Alan Pell (12) and visitor Luke Barclay (6).

Phil Armstrong claimed the nearest the pin on the second hole, while Jeff Moss won the Club Award. In the Matchplay Knockout, John Tanner recorded his first-round victory over Jeff Moss.

Greg Clements' 34 points were enough to secure the Prideaux Cup with a two-round aggregate of 64 points. Anthony La Grutta finished runner-up, with Michael Spagnolo and Brian Simmons also finishing on 63 points.

Last Wednesday saw 13 hardy members contest a mixed Stableford event. Anthony La Grutta (15) continued his good form, winning with 34 points from Tony Rule (16) on a countback, with Phil Armstrong (17) third on 32 points.

Bob Glenister won the nearest the pin on the second hole, while Brian Simmons collected the Club Award. In the Knockout, Tony Rule defeated Clint Rose to progress to the next round.



Terip Terip's Suzanne Irvine and Phoebe McDermid alongside the celebrating team of Jenny Bell and Carol Watts of Mansfield's Wappan team. -S

Cold weather for ladies winter tennis rounds

by Deb Mims

THE first day of June brought a significant drop in temperature, showing that winter is approaching. All teams across the Euroa District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) rugged up and played without a drop of rain falling from the sky. Not sure whether anyone actually broke into a sweat but tennis and afternoon tea was enjoyed by everyone at the various home courts.

Wappan versus Terip Terip 4-2, 43-28

Mansfield's Wappan hosted Terip Terip with Anna Speirs and Jenny Bell teaming up for their first match against Cindy Hayes and Phoebe McDermid, going Wappan's way.

Rhonda Carpenter and Carol Watts were fired up against Terip's Jenny Martin and

Suzanne Irvine, and a tight match it was with Martin and Irvine equalling the sets after the first round.

The rest of the sets were a see saw battle, but with Wappan taking four of the six sets, two of them in a convincing way, they came out victors on the day. Knowing how cold it was in Mansfield, that hot cuppa at the end of the day was more than welcomed by everyone along with a delicious afternoon tea.

Moglonemby versus Benalla 0-6, 27-48

Mansfield made the journey across to Euroa where not only was Euroa playing but with Moglonemby's home courts being at Euroa and they being the home team against Benalla, it was a very social day with all four teams joining in for afternoon tea together.

Despite being the visitors, Benalla was not holding back and the team of Peta Kelly, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Marg Clode took all six sets off Sue Vaughan, Marlene Hanrahan, Robyn Johnson and Lisa Krepp of 'Moggy'.

Euroa versus Mansfield 3-3, 37-33

A very tight match between Euroa's Faye Mollison, Julie Harrington, Triona King and Mary Dewis against Mansfield's Cathie Anderson, Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Loretta Armitage and Pat Howard with the day finishing up three sets a piece and Euroa pipping Mansfield at the post by four games.

For the first time since the competition started there has not been a tie breaker on any of the score sheets in this round.

Creightons Creek had a bye for the week.

