

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, July 1, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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Yea RSL Hall likely to be sold

JEFF Swain from the Yea RSL sub-group announced at the Yea Rotary changeover dinner that the Yea RSL Hall may be placed on the market.

Jeff explained, "We've had trouble getting a committee. There weren't enough expressions of interest to come on the committee to make it worth holding an election, which means we have no choice but to recommend the

RSL be closed as at December 31. Anzac House is looking at options to see if they can avoid that, but ultimately it means if we can't form a committee, we can't maintain our commitments under the Incorporations Act, which will mean we'll have to close the sub-branch.

"If the sub-branch closes, then the trustee of the land and the building... That ultimately

is the committee of RSL Victoria, then they will have to take possession of the hall and land in due course. It will be inevitable that that will be sold.

"The benefits of that sale will go to support veterans across the state of Victoria, so the money won't be lost to veterans," he said.

He added, "The big impact that we've been trying to avoid for the last seven years with

the help of Rotary and the Town Club, for example, is to maintain the hall so that small community groups that couldn't afford to hire the other venues in town, have access to a meeting place. That will be the impact."

The situation is common across Australia at present, as the number of veterans is diminishing, particularly in smaller rural areas, as there have been few wars since Vietnam.

Jeff said, "We're in that situation where we have sufficient members to continue to operate, although the number of veterans we've got has fallen below the threshold that would ordinarily trigger a review anyway, so it's not just a committee, it's also the number of veterans. The number of associate members or affiliate members is acceptable. But again, age and medical conditions means there's not many people who can do much work anymore.

"Financially we're okay, although the maintenance of the building is an issue for the patriotic fund, but in terms of the members' funds and so on, we're good for about three years, but the responsible thing is to close down in a managed way while we're capable of doing it, not just lurching to disaster and someone else has to come and clean up a mess."

Continued Page 3



Seven Paul Harris Awards were presented at the Yea Rotary Changeover Dinner, held on June 25. The very worthy recipients were Ian Marshman, Penny Paxman (sapphire), Lisa Carney, Kristie Luckman, Ian Lynch, Tony Jacobs and Terry Hubbard (double sapphire). They are pictured with outgoing president Darryl King (second from left) and incoming president Ann Drysdale (second from right). More on the changeover dinner can be found on page five of this edition. -AR

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THUMBS UP: Big thanks to the awesome young crew who helped out at the Fawcett community event, Alistair, James and Anne-Marie. Always happy to jump in, lend a hand and support the community.

THUMBS DOWN: To council for giving people who lost everything in the fires less than two weeks to pay the supplementary rates, and for charging people who no longer have a house for the bin service.

THUMBS DOWN: After reading that the fundraising money raised at the Yarck Hotel to help the five CFAs communities was given to Foundation Murrindindi, I, like many other people I have spoken to, will be very careful in the future who to donate to. I have also been told individuals are not entitled to this money. So sad. Ask the question before you donate.

THUMBS DOWN: How long do communities have to wait for the money raised to be dispersed to people who need it to help move on with their lives.

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

Change of owner for The Yea Chronicle

REGIONAL publisher North East Media (NEM) has reached agreement with the Mott family to purchase *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle* mastheads.

NEM publisher Hartley Higgins said he was pleased with the agreement as the mastheads come with strong historic connections and award-winning coverage of their towns and regional communities.

NEM has published country newspapers as a family business for over 100 years and have an acute appreciation of how important a local newspaper is for its community.

"We believe local newspapers should actively reflect the communities they serve and consistently promote the local economy and jobs," he said

CEO Edward Higgins said he felt that reader value can be added to local newspapers along with digital media services.

"These mastheads fit well with our regional newspapers at Mansfield and Euroa, and will be supported by our Wangaratta based print and publishing technologies.

"A local newspaper can and should be a vital part of any community; we plan to take on issues and champion causes, while providing a local medium to celebrate life's special occasions, whether it be in the classifieds for births and deaths, or milestone stories and obituaries.

"Local newspapers' future lie in their ability to reflect and promote the community they serve, especially in regional Australia where local reporting and trust are essential for community accountability," he added.

Alexandra Newspapers publisher Celina Mott said she would like to thank customers, advertisers, contributors, and current and former staff, who have contributed to maintaining the newspapers over the past 15 years.



Journalist Anne Richey with CEO of North East Media, Edward Higgins. -AR

"We will be handing over the reins on July 1 to a competent media outlet and are confident that the trusted news service that the community has relied on over the past 160 plus years will continue with well-informed coverage of local issues," she said.

Originally launched in 1868 as *The Alexandra Times*, *The Alexandra Standard* also covers Yarck, Taggerty, Thornton, Buxton, Eildon and Marysville.

The Yea Chronicle, which dates to 1890, originally started as the *Yea Telegraph*. It covers the western side of Murrindindi Shire, including Yea, Strath Creek, Glenburn, Flowerdale, Kinglake and Highlands.

The purchase follows NEM's acquisition of newspapers in the NSW Monaro, Riverina, and Central West regions in recent years.

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



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

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.

Weekly Weather
July 2 - July 8, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	12 ☁️	Wednesday	7	12 ☁️
Thursday	3	14 ☁️	Thursday	3	14 ☁️
Friday	5	13 ☁️	Friday	5	13 ☁️
Saturday	5	15 ☁️	Saturday	5	15 ☁️
Sunday	4	15 ☁️	Sunday	4	15 ☁️
Monday	5	13 ☁️	Monday	5	13 ☁️
Tuesday	5	12 ☁️	Tuesday	5	12 ☁️

Standard The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on Facebook

Standard The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	11.00am Mon	1.48	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00am Mon	0.48	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.00am Mon	0.54	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	11.22am Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.00am Mon	0.45	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00am Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	11.00am Mon	0.59	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	3.57	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.36	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00am Mon	1.16	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00am Mon	1.50	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	11.00am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 11:56 AM AEST MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	8mm
Buxton.....	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS).....	2mm
Flowerdale.....	8mm
Jamieson.....	2mm
Kinglake.....	39mm
Lake Eildon.....	1mm
Mansfield.....	2mm
Taggerty.....	2mm
Yarck.....	4mm
Yea.....	6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	276.36m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	57.6%
Metres below full supply.....	12.54m
Daily inflow.....	1000ML
Release.....	1100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	80%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Celebration of NAIDOC Week at Yea Wetlands

ONCE again, the Yea Wetlands are proud to be involved in the celebrations of NAIDOC Week, July 5 to 12.

The Sunday, July 5 event, run by Auntie Angela ten Buuren, is unfortunately now sold out, even after extra places were added. For the lucky ones, Auntie Angela will conduct a Welcome and Smoking ceremony and lead an immersive sculpture walk in the Wetlands, followed by lunch. It's something to look forward to next year if you have missed out on tickets.

On Friday, July 10, they are offering two craft workshops, one for school-age kids and the other for adults. They are lucky once again to have Cassie Fisher Patterson from Wild Blak Arts/Yanggurdi conduct these workshops. Cassie has been a regular participant at Yea Wetlands celebrations and is an excellent teacher. Cassie is a multidisciplinary artist, bushtukka woman and Waster Weaver with the Victorian Aboriginal Weaving Collective. Some of her weaving is currently exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne.

Cassie's deep connection to Country manifests in her extraordinary knowledge of plants, which she uses for food, medicine, art and craft. She creates bush-dyed fabrics, extracts ink from them for painting, weaves



Auntie Angela ten Buuren at the Wetlands Welcome ceremony in 2023. -S

the grasses and uses plants in a range of fashion creations. A passionate cultural communicator, Cassie enthuses those who participate in her workshops.

On Friday July 10 at 10am, she will teach kids to weave their very own special bush toys from materials found in the bush. This is a great activity for getting kids interested in the natural environment.

At 1pm on Friday July 10, Cassie will teach adults about plant based ink and how to paint and draw with it. This session will open new horizons for you whether you consider yourself a painter or not. What a treat.

For bookings, use the QR code in the ad, or visit trybooking.com/DNAEB

Bookings close on Wednesday, July 8.



Cassie Fisher-Patterson running a textile workshop for NAIDOC 2023. -S

Seeking local responses in Police Satisfaction Survey

EACH year, Victoria Police seeks community feedback on safety concerns through their annual Community Sentiment Survey. The responses help the police to identify the issues that matter most to Victorians. The fifth annual Community Sentiment Survey is open now.

The responses from the community will help inform and improve Victoria Police initiatives to keep communities safer.

Acting Senior Sergeant Adam Foley, Murrindindi East Cluster Manager (Alexandra, Eildon and Marysville) based at the Alexandra Police Station said, "We're seeking feedback from our local Murrindindi community on any safety concerns, how they would like to interact with their local police and where they would like us to focus our efforts to prevent and deter criminal activity. The community will directly help us identify the issues that matter to them the most."

"The survey is anonymous and takes about five minutes to complete. Our members will also provide the details to the survey's during the course of their daily duties. We will disseminate the results through our Benalla Eyewatch Facebook page in August."

There is also an easy to read version of the survey questions, with short sentences, everyday words and images to support understanding.

For more information and to find the survey, visit engage.vic.gov.au/project/vicpol-2026/survey/6585

Yea RSL Hall likely to be sold

Continued from Page 1

Having six month's notice about the impending changes gives the community groups and other groups in the area the chance to work out whether they can take it on.

Jeff was keen to make the point that the RSL and Legacy are organisations that are not designed to last forever. "When there's no more veterans or war widows needing assistance, then it's quite appropriate for us to close down," Jeff said.

He was very appreciative of the support from Rotary, not acknowledged that it will be a pity for the shire.

Rotary has helped to keep the RSL going for at least the past seven years, running Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies in Yea, and they have agreed to continue doing this morning forward. There will still be an RSL representative do *The Ode* and place a wreath.

Jeff added, "As long as there's a veteran in town, there'll be someone on those days to commemorate the fallen on each of those days."

Yea Rotary have assured Jeff that the memories of the club will not be lost.

Important information about H5N1 bird flu

H5N1 bird flu has been detected in Australia. If you notice multiple sick or dead birds including poultry or other animals, you should not touch them or get too close. Record your location and report it to the 24 hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Please do not handle or move sick or dead birds, as this may spread the virus.

For birds and wildlife: Avoid contact with sick or dead birds, wildlife or their environment. Record what you see and report it to DEECA using the online form

at forms.bio.vic.gov.au/wildlife-influenza-investigation or call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Report clusters of five or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

Report even one wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey marine mammal (ie. seal, sea lion, dolphin).

Following a report, DEECA will assess each report and decide if testing is needed.

NAIDOC Week 2026 at Yea Wetlands

School Holiday Fun at Yea Wetlands

Bush Toy Weaving



Ages 5 up

Come and learn to weave toys from natural bush materials!

Friday July 10 at 10am at Yea Wetlands

\$5

SCAN



Hurry, bookings limited!

A workshop for adults

Plant-ink based Painting



Learn to create beautiful ink paintings with Cassie Fisher Patterson, Wild Blak Arts/ Yanggurdi

Friday July 10 at 1pm at Yea Wetlands

\$10

SCAN



Hurry, bookings limited!



Backing Murrindindi campaign launched ahead of Victorian election

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has officially launched its advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, calling on all political parties and candidates to commit to backing rural communities and investing in Murrindindi's future.

The campaign, titled *Backing Murrindindi*, outlines seven priorities designed to support thriving communities, stronger local economies and a more resilient future for Murrindindi Shire.

The campaign brings together well-established community priorities into a clear and unified case for state investment. It comes at a critical time for Murrindindi, following years of increasing pressure on rural communities and the significant impacts of the January 2026 bushfires.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the campaign was about ensuring Murrindindi's challenges, opportunities and future needs were firmly on the agenda during the election campaign.

"Backing Murrindindi is about making sure rural communities are not overlooked when major funding and policy decisions are made," Cr Gallagher said.

"Our communities continue to face significant challenges, from disaster recovery and ageing infrastructure through to financial sustainability, housing pressures and access to services.

"We are asking every candidate and party to make a clear commitment to back these priorities, fund them, and recognise the scale of need in rural Victoria. This is not about new ideas, it's about delivering what our community has been calling for, clearly and consistently, for years.

"We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair investment that reflects the realities of rural Victoria and the scale of the challenges our communities are managing."

The campaign outlines the following advocacy priorities: Fair funding for rural councils, Alexandra Relief and Community Centre redevelopment, Lake Eildon Master Plan implementation, Rural Road Rehabilitation Program, place-based Youth Services, Kinglake planning for water and sustainability, and Yea Oval reconstruction.

Cr Gallagher said the priorities had been shaped by clear evidence, strategic planning and direct community need.

"These are practical projects and reforms that will support recovery, strengthen

resilience and help secure the future of communities across Murrindindi," he said.

"Now is the time for candidates and parties contesting the state elections to step up and commit, but it is also time for our community to expect more, ask the questions and back the future we want.

"When our community speaks with one voice, it strengthens our case and makes it harder to ignore."

The campaign includes a dedicated advocacy booklet highlighting key community projects, supporting information and a message from the Mayor.

Council is encouraging residents, businesses, community groups and local

organisations to support the campaign by engaging with candidates, asking for commitment and reinforcing the case for investment in Murrindindi.

To learn more about the Backing Murrindindi campaign and view the advocacy booklet, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/backingmurrindindi

Congratulations to Philip Webb OAM

PHILIP Webb, founder of Philip Webb Real Estate and a past president of both the REIV and FIABCI (The International Real Estate Federation), was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours.

Over 50 years, he built one of Victoria's largest independent agencies from a business he started at 19, before merging with Barry Plant in 2022.

Philip also has strong links to the Yea area, having lived in Molesworth as a child and attending Yea High School.

He left Yea when he was 18 and got a job in Doncaster selling vacant blocks of land, as the suburb was being developed. At the time, blocks were just \$5000 to \$6000. He commented, "It's all a bit different now."

Philip very much enjoyed the real estate industry, although in his early life, he was keen to become an architect. He explained, "I didn't do well enough in matric exams to get in anywhere, so I thought selling real estate will do."

He's obviously been very well suited to the industry, co-founding his company in 1972 when aged just 19. By the time he sold it, he had around 140 staff working for him.

At the same time, he was president of the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) and was on the board for about 10 years. He was also past-president of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI).

He commented of these roles, "It certainly helps you understand the intricacies of the real estate market. I mean it's in a very interesting position at the moment and I'm not sure that it's going to perform the way that government's intended to and so forth, so we'll see what happens."

Returning to his childhood in the Yea area, he said, "I loved Yea. I really had the best education possible there, I believe. It was fantastic. It was only a small school. There was a group of us, we were the largest group at the time that ever had done matric, which was year twelve in those days. We did matric and most of it was done by correspondence. That's how it was in those days. We survived and some did quite well. I didn't do quite so well as I thought. I didn't know at the time when I was at school that I was dyslexic and it made it a little bit hard for me to keep up."

Asked how he handled having dyslexia during his career, he said, "I think I just had to work a bit harder. That's really all it was. I had to get up a bit earlier and try and keep abreast of everything. You work a little bit harder and things start to work out. I didn't have as much trouble with numbers and so forth, but I think for a long time they just thought I was a bit slow and 'he's a slow reader'. It was difficult reading things off a notice board and then translating that to your notes and so forth. It was an interesting thing at the time. I just thought I was dumb, but as it turns out, I'm probably not as dumb as I thought."



Philip Webb. -S

Philip and his family have a farm on Break O'Day Road in Glenburn which they purchased about 20 years ago. They've gradually purchased small parcels of land around them as well.

He said of the farm, "We love getting up there. I spend probably half the week up there, at least two or three days at Glenburn each week and we live in Melbourne, still in Canterbury."

His daughter and son-in-law have moved up to Glenburn live there full-time and are going to take over the running of the farm as well. His son-in-law is a farmer from the western districts.

Philip added, "I still have a lot of friends in Yea. It's just full of decent people. An amazing area... I'd probably say that some of my best times on this planet have been associated with the Yea area. That's why we've got a farm up there."

During his time in real estate, he was also engaged in a lot of charity work, including creating 600 hampers for people in Melbourne's east going through challenging times in the lead-up to Christmas. The hampers include food and festive treats.

He said, "We really look forward to that and really get a lot of satisfaction out of being able to help people... It's just a little thing that we do but it's become quite a big logistic thing each year and a lot of friends have helped and a lot of friends have donated and a lot of friends have helped pack the bags and pack the hampers and it's just a nice thing to wake up Christmas morning knowing you've helped a few people."

This used to be done through the business, but now that the business has merged with Barry Plant, he continues with the hampers as an individual. If people would like to help out with the hampers, Philip can be contacted on 0418 550 990.

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest
Ph 9717 6482

St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

Out & About



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

THURSDAY, JULY 2

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

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Eildon Events Inc will be holding their AGM on Tuesday, July 7 at 4pm at the

Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Contact Sue McLaurin for nomination forms at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Eildon Art Class happens every Wednesday courtesy of Murrindindi Shire Council. It runs from 10am to 12pm every Wednesday at the Information Centre in Eildon, 1 Main Street. Bring your own art materials. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Space is limited, so contact Kati on 0407 812 536 to reserve your spot.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Bush Toy weaving will be taking place at the Yea Wetlands to celebrate NAIDOC Week

2026. For ages five and up, \$5 entry and bookings are limited. Will take place at the Yea Wetlands from 10am on Friday, July 10.

Learn to create beautiful ink paintings with Cassie Fisher Patterson, Wild Blak Arts / Yanggurdi. A plant-ink based painting workshop for adults, entry is \$10 and it will take place at the Yea Wetlands on Friday, July 10 at 1pm.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

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



The Rotary committee for 2026/7, Lily Cox, Ann Drysdale, Penny Paxman, Kristie Luckman, Ian Lynch, Glenda Woods, Gary Fitzgerald, Glen Milliken, Jill Heath, Tony Jacobs, Darryl King and Sam Wright. Absent: Tippy Anderson. -AR

Yea Rotary's changeover dinner welcomes new president

THE 41st Yea Rotary Changeover Dinner was held at the Yea Country Club Hotel on the evening of June 25. Despite the cold and foggy evening, members and guests ventured out for an genial evening of fun and food, with recognition of the amazing service that Rotary and friends have provided this year, particularly given the challenges of the Longwood fire.

Kristie Luckman emceed the evening, with special guests including Deputy Mayor Anita Carr, Councillor Sue Carpenter, and members of the Yea and Alexandra Rotary Clubs.

Outgoing president Darryl King led the Rotary toast, and Gary Fitzgerald completed it. Sharon Fox also spoke about the terrific efforts of Rotary in helping people to recover from the Longwood fire. She also thanked fellow Rotarian Penny Paxman for stepping into her role following the fire event.

Darryl also made a presentation to Josefa Mella Ruiz (Cucky) from Chile, the Yea Rotary exchange student for the past year. Cucky commented that she has "Genuinely enjoyed the Rotary meetings."

Darryl also recognised the work of Kim Chadband and Donna Slavin from

Murrindindi Shire Council for going above and beyond during the fire recovery efforts, and *The Yea Chronicle*.

Paul Harris Awards were presented to seven very worthy recipients. They were Kristie Luckman, Leisa Carney, Ian Marshman, Tony Jacobs, Ian Lynch (sapphire), Penny Paxman (sapphire) and Terry Hubbard (double sapphire).

The David Long Award was presented by Sharon Fox to Darryl King.

Ann Drysdale was then formally inducted into the role of president by Darryl King. She spoke about Rotary's plans moving forward.

The new committee were also presented, being secretary Glenda Woods, treasurers Gary Fitzgerald and Ian Lynch, club service Glen Milliken, membership Penny Paxman, vocational services Tony Jacobs, community service Darryl King and Sam Wright, international Jill Heath, new generation Lily Cox and Kristie Luckman, and Foundation director Tippy Anderson.

Jeff Swain spoke about the challenges of the local RSL sub-branch, and thanked Rotary for their ongoing support of the organisation.



Past president Daryl King formally inducting new president Ann Drysdale. -AR



President Ann Drysdale speaking about the plans for the next Rotary year, in from of the banner with the Rotary International slogan, 'Create Lasting Impact.' -AR



Lisa Carney, Reggie Bell, Steve Newman and Judi Newman. -AR



Diners enjoying the lovely meal provided by the Country Club Hotel. -AR

Menzies facing dire financial situation

THE following letter was sent to members of Menzies Support Services on Wednesday, June 24 from Menzies Support Services Chair David Beattie. It is republished here with permission.

Dear Members,

It is with some trepidation that I write to advise that a difficult decision has been made to list The Mount for sale.

For some time, Dame Pattie Menzies Centre (DPMC) has worked hard to protect this final asset in the hope that our financial position could be turned around. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, those hopes have not come to fruition.

Many interested parties have been approached with our request for support of our situation. So far we have failed to obtain the required support.

As you may have heard, Menzies has disengaged from Aged Care service provision as of June 30, 2026. This has been in the works for many months, and now as that approaches, it has not been soon enough.

As you all know, Menzies has suffered huge trading losses by anyone's standard, ongoing for many years, and all attempts have been made to steer the course back to a sustainable track. Menzies may be able to salvage its business operations by liquidating the land and buildings assets it holds, but not unless a buyer for the properties, or a financier willing to offer

mortgage support appears in the next month or so.

Rest assured all possible avenues of support are keenly pursued by the Committee of Management, but it is entirely possible that Menzies will need to close its' doors to prevent further losses being incurred.

Obviously, this is a very regrettable situation for all concerned. As President, I myself am very unhappy that the future looks so bleak, and would love to have been able to say, "All is well, and let's start a new chapter back at the Mount."

Menzies has previously engaged financial consultants to advise on any and all possible courses of action with very little to show for our money. So further investment in third parties taking no responsibility for our ongoing success has been ruled out.

I have had enormous trust in the staff of Menzies who have done an amazing job in tough times and shown me what loyalty and dedication really looks like. These are quality people who take their jobs seriously and have performed above and beyond their roles to get Menzies this far.

There have been fantastic events that we have all loved to share with our participants over the years, most recently the weekend entertainment groups and the Halloween party, and the coffee van training course from last year. The Dame has been a great success in its 18 months, and efforts to keep this alive as well will go on.



Pictured are Dame Pattie Menzies, shire President Kath Cooper, and Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, Commonwealth Minister for Finance, at the opening of the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in 1981. -S

So, to be absolutely clear: Menzies continues to operate at this time. The Mount (including approximately 30 acres and the residence), the Nihil Street office, and approximately 30 acres of farm/ industrial land have been placed on the market. Menzies has financial obligations that cannot be met without either selling or refinancing these assets. If sufficient funds cannot be secured in the near future, Menzies is likely to cease trading. If the sale or refinancing of our assets is successful, there remains a genuine opportunity for Menzies to continue serving our community.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and encouragement during this exceptionally difficult period. Whatever the outcome, the committee remains committed to acting in the best interests of Menzies, its staff, participants and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

David Beattie

Treasurer / President

DPMC Committee of Management

Murrindindi celebrates new citizens during Refugee Week

MURRINDINDI Shire Council marked an important milestone for 26 community members on Thursday, June 18, at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at Alexandra Shire Hall during Refugee Week.

Gayathri, Rithika, Sachin, Christine, Peter, Sam, Shrawan, Haolie, Matthew, Punyisa, Hannah, Klaus, Lalita, Steven, Hien, Kerry, Arun, Cory, Sadhana, Jill, Mohinder, Jayant, Viyan, Faith, Niroshan and Jeremy pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people and its democratic beliefs, and committed to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher presided over the ceremony which was attended by Deputy Mayor Cr Anita Carr, Cr Paul Hildebrand, Cr Sandice McAulay and Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi. Special guests included Ian Newman and Joy Burchell from Fawcett, Jonathon Tofts from Terip Terip, Shivaun Murphy and Graham Halliburton from Yarck and Daryl King, President of the Rotary Club of Yea, recognised for their contribution as volunteers supporting community-led recovery hubs and as pillars of their local communities.

Held during Refugee Week (June 14 to 20), the ceremony provided an opportunity to reflect on the courage and resilience of refugees and to recognise the important contributions people from diverse backgrounds make to Australian society and local communities.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the ceremony highlighted the strength and diversity of the Murrindindi community.

"Having taken your own unique journey to be here, I am in awe of the commitment you make today," Mayor Gallagher said.

"I acknowledge the thousands of generations of Taungurung People as the earliest custodians of the land we stand upon today and respectfully acknowledge Elders past and present. The memories, stories and traditions that each of you bring as new Australians enrich our community and complement the longest continuous civilisation on earth.

"This ceremony coincides with Refugee Week and provides a moment to reflect on the experiences of people who have been forced to flee persecution, conflict or



Conferees Niroshan, name withheld on request, Hien, Matthew, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher, Shrawan, Sadhana, Hannah, Punyisa, Jill, Arun, Jeremy, Gayathri, Kerry, Haolie, Sachin, Peter, Steven, Mohinder, Klaus, Cr Anita Carr, Christine. Front row from left: Viyan, Jayant and Rithika (far right), and children of the conferees. -S

violence and have found safety and a new beginning in Australia. Refugees make enduring contributions to our communities, enriching the social, cultural and economic fabric of Australian life."

Australian citizenship ceremonies are among the final steps in becoming an Australian citizen and are an important occasion for both new citizens and the wider community.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, visit the Department of Home Affairs website immi.homeaffairs.gov.au or call the citizenship information line on 131 880 during business hours.



CEO Livia Bonazzi, Graham Halliburton, Jonathon Tofts, Donna Slevin, Joy Burchell, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher, Cr Anita Carr, Cr Sandice McAulay, Ian Newman and Cr Paul Hildebrand. -S

RACV releases policy positions on automated vehicle roll-out

RACV has released its first policy positions on automated vehicles, calling on the Australian Government to progress national safety laws and the Victorian Government to update the road rules and registration system so that the technology can be safely deployed on Australian roads.

With self-driving capability now available in the car market, and self-driving robotaxi services expected to follow, RACV believes there is an opportunity for Australia's regulatory framework to better keep pace with the technology so that motorists have clear guidance on how automated vehicles can be safely used.

RACV Head of Policy James Williams said Australia was at an important juncture, with a significant road safety opportunity on the table.

"Human error is a factor in around 90 per cent of all crashes, so if we can get the settings right, automated vehicles have the potential to

deliver one of the most meaningful reductions in road trauma we've seen in a generation," Mr Williams said.

"If we move too slowly, however, there is a risk the technology will be deployed without the safeguards motorists deserve. Industry is already moving faster than government."

RACV's analysis suggests that Australian law continues to assume a human is performing the dynamic driving task at all times. In practice, there are already vehicles on our roads capable of steering, braking, accelerating and changing lanes without human intervention.

They stated that while the Australian Government has already accepted it has a role accrediting operators to ensure the safe operation of automated vehicles, in a similar way to humans needing a licence to drive, the government is moving too slowly.

"The role of the driver is shifting from performing the driving task to supervising an automated driving system, and it is important that our laws reflect that so that motorists understand what's expected of them and regulators have clarity on what they're enforcing," Mr Williams said.

RACV is encouraging the Federal Government to progress the introduction of

automated vehicle safety laws that regulate the Automated Driving System Entity (ADSE), including over-the-air software updates and automated technologies that are not classified by manufacturers as highly automated, and to establish the national in-service safety regulator to help assure the safety of automated vehicles across their full life cycle. They are also seeking a requirement for manufacturers to provide consumer education and awareness as part of their safety accreditation.

RACV is also calling on the Victorian Government to update the road rules and vehicle registration. As a priority, they are seeking an update of the definition of 'proper control' to clarify when a driver maintains control through supervision and monitoring rather than physical contact with the steering wheel. RACV's view is that a hand on the wheel should continue to be required for vehicles up to and including Level Three automation.

In addition, they are seeking an update to the Driver Licence Test and the development of public education campaigns to help motorists understand the levels of automation, the responsibilities of a fallback-ready driver, and the risks of distraction and fatigue when supervising an automated vehicle.

Mr Williams said that preparing motorists was just as important as updating the regulatory settings.

"Supervising an automated vehicle is a different skill to driving one. It requires sustained attention with relatively little to do, which can be challenging for any driver. Motorists would benefit from clear information, clear guidance and appropriate training before taking the wheel of a vehicle that can drive itself," he said.

RACV supports the deployment of automated vehicle technologies that can demonstrably improve road safety, and welcomes the introduction of self-driving robotaxi services in Australia under trial conditions.

Mr Williams said RACV would continue to work closely with counterpart clubs around the country, the Australian Automobile Association and governments at every level to encourage a nationally consistent approach.

"This is ultimately a national challenge, and it would benefit from a national response. Motorists shouldn't face one set of rules in Victoria and another over the New South Wales border. Australians would be well served by a clear, consistent and safety-led framework, and the time to start that work is now," Mr Williams said.

Haines pressures government over bank closures

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has called on the Australian Government to urgently respond to the Senate inquiry into bank closures, as regional communities continue to lose essential banking services.

Dr Haines raised the issue in Parliament on Monday, pressing the Treasurer on why the government has still failed to provide a response to the inquiry more than two years after its report was handed down.

"Regional communities too often feel like they're the last to get services and the first to lose them, and that is exactly what we are seeing with bank closures," Dr Haines said.

"Banking is an essential service, yet too many regional Australians are being left behind as branches continue to disappear."

The Senate inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia found that 596 regional towns that once had bank branches now have none, and recommended that access to financial services be formally recognised as an essential service, alongside guaranteed access to cash and in-person banking.

In Question Time, Treasurer Jim Chalmers acknowledged the importance of regional banking, stating, "local banks can be the lifeblood of country towns" and "we know how important they are."

The Treasurer also pointed to government measures including a temporary halt on branch closures, telling parliament, "We've negotiated a moratorium on branch closures for two and a half years."

He said the government had also introduced alternative services, including Bank@Post.

Dr Haines said while these steps are welcome, they do not replace the need for a clear, formal government response to the Senate inquiry and a long-term plan to guarantee access to banking services in the regions.

"This is not just about convenience. It is about fairness, safety and basic access to essential services," she said.

"For many people in regional communities, particularly older Australians, face-to-face banking that they rely on is not available.

"With unreliable internet and rising scams and financial misinformation, in-person banking is critical to staying safe and in control of finances.

"In towns like Alexandra in the southern part of my electorate, locals are now forced to travel up to two hours round trip just to complete basic over-the-counter transactions."

Dr Haines said the government has now had more than two years to respond to the Senate inquiry and must act without further delay.

"Regional communities deserve certainty. It is time to formally respond to the inquiry, recognise banking as an essential service, and guarantee real access to cash and in-person banking before more towns lose their last branch."



The TAC L2P program is transitioning from the Alexandra Community Hub to Berry Street in Shepparton from July 1. Pictured are members of the Alexandra Community Hub who have been involved with running the L2P program, including Sue Sedelies, Cindianne Slorach, Cass Groves and Jenni Bowles. -BD

Additional medications available direct from pharmacies

THE Victorian Government is expanding Chemist Care Now. From July, adult women can access the oral contraceptive pill directly from their pharmacist with a free consultation. No prescription or GP visit is required. They will only need to pay for the cost of the medication at the counter.

It's a big help for regional Victorians facing long GP wait times and limited access. The Alexandra Pharmacy is the only pharmacy in Murrindindi Shire participating in Chemist Care Now program.

The pharmacists who deliver this service have completed a postgraduate training module to keep women safe.

Before dispensing the medication, pharmacists must undertake a thorough consultation in a private consultation room and outline any risks. Consultations will include advice about other

options, including long-acting reversible contraception.

Also from July, Victorians will be able to access treatment for mild dermatitis and acne such as topical retinol and tretinoin.

Acute and mild musculoskeletal pain, including minor sprains, strains, and joint pain, can now be treated at your local chemist. Highly trained pharmacists can provide certain anti-inflammatory medicines for short-term use, with no GP visit required.

Since launching, Chemist Care Now has delivered almost 100,000 services.

Sixty-seven per cent of services have been for women, including more than 43,000 treatments for uncomplicated UTIs and more than 20,000 consultations for the resupply of hormonal contraception.

To find out more about Chemist Care Now, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/chemist-care-now

Women's Health Mobile Clinic to visit Alexandra

IN rural and regional Victoria, women and people with a cervix often face challenges in accessing essential sexual and reproductive healthcare close to home. That's why Breast Screen Victoria has partnered with the Victorian Department of Health to bring essential healthcare services right to people's doorstep through the new Women's Health Mobile Clinic. The Nina van is now equipped to offer a range of additional services.

The bus will be in Alexandra from July 1 to 24.

People can book a free 45 minute appointment with a nurse to talk about sexual and reproductive health, general wellbeing, and get important health checks like cervical and bowel screening. This service is available to women of all ages, including teenagers, providing care close to home.

Topics which can be discussed with the nurse include contraception, including long-acting

options such as IUDs and Implanon, pregnancy options counselling, sexually transmitted infections, cervical and bowel screening, menstruation, pelvic pain, perimenopause and menopause, bladder concerns, irregular bleeding, and any other women's health issue.

If you need to see a doctor, specialist, or another service, the nurse can help guide you and provide referrals.

The Women's Health Mobile Clinic is welcoming and inclusive, open to all women and people with a cervix. If you require any assistance, such as an interpreter or mobility support, please let us know when you book your appointment.

To book a free 45 minute appointment with the nurse, call 9675 0050 or visit breastscreen.org.au/community-engagement/womens-health-mobile-clinic

Council News



July 2026

Backing Murrindindi Victorian State Election Campaign

Council has launched an advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Election to ensure the needs of our rural communities are clearly heard by all political parties and candidates.

Following recent bushfires and ongoing challenges, Council has identified seven priority areas focused on recovery, infrastructure, services and long-term sustainability.

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

Public recycling basket trial in Murrindindi

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.

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).

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

Victoria's Top Tourism Town Awards

Alexandra was named a finalist in the 2026 Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards, in the Small Tourism Town category in June.

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

Thank you to everyone who voted, and we look forward to hearing the results when they are released in August.

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

2026 Immunisations

Did you know, a comprehensive childhood immunisation service is provided throughout the Shire and offered free to all children aged between 6 weeks old and less than 5 years old?

For more information or to book an appointment, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/vitavo or email immunisation@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Business Month

Thank you to everyone who was involved, participated and made June a great success.

To review the program, access resources and highlights, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mbm



National Tree Day Events 2026

Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event brings 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

Council adopts 2026/27 Budget

Council has adopted its 2026/27 Annual Budget, outlining a stabilising approach to maintaining essential services while supporting ongoing bushfire recovery.

The Budget includes a \$15.7 million capital works program to renew and upgrade infrastructure, along with continued investment in community recovery.

It balances service delivery, infrastructure needs and long-term financial sustainability in an ongoing challenging financial environment.

Community submissions were considered before the final Budget was presented to Council for adoption.

View the Budget at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget

Get in touch

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National Tree Day events in Murrindindi Shire

NATIONAL Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event, and there are plenty of ways to get involved across Murrindindi this June and July.

This year, Murrindindi Shire Council is working with local Landcare groups to offer a mix of activities for all ages, from learning opportunities and hands-on planting events to family-friendly programs at shire libraries.

Join the Love your Pollinators webinar

A free online webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 15, exploring the role of vegetation in supporting pollinators like moths and how you can create habitats at home.



The session will be presented by Zoos Victoria and will also be broadcast at Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea libraries for those who prefer to attend in person.

All participants will receive a free pollinator-friendly plant, with collection available after the event.

To learn more, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Explore/Events-and-Activities/Whats-On/National-Tree-Day-Talk-2026-Webinar-Vegetation-and-Moths

Take part in local tree planting

Community tree planting events will take place across the shire, including a council-led planting day on Sunday, July 26.

These events are a great opportunity to get outdoors, connect with others and contribute to local biodiversity. Additional planting activities will also be delivered by Landcare groups, with details to be shared as they are confirmed.

To find events near you, visit tinyurl.com/34vt3xft

Read, learn and win at your local library

From June 8 to July 31, children can join the 'Read, Learn and Win' draw by picking up free activity books at Murrindindi Shire libraries.

By completing the activities, children can enter the draw and learn more about trees, pollinators and the natural environment along the way.

Get involved

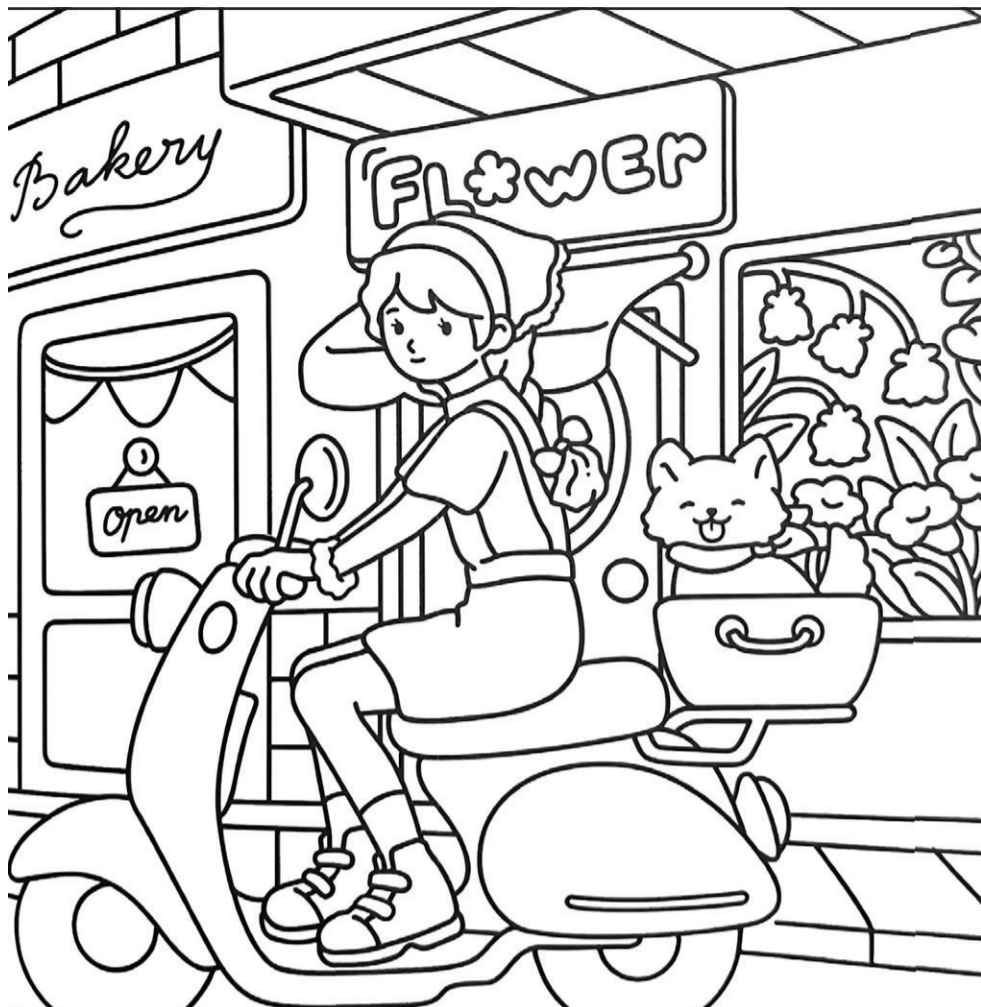
Whether you join a webinar, plant a tree or take part in a library activity, National Tree Day is an opportunity for the whole community to learn, connect and care for the environment.

Visit council's events page for more information on these events.

KID'S PUZZLES

Colouring Page

SOLUTIONS Page 10



Word Search - Words starting with "V"

VALLEY	Y	V	B	A	V	W	V	A	Y	X	E	C	Y	V	P
VAN	T	O	Y	U	J	F	F	E	X	R	P	I	I	R	R
VANISH	J	L	V	A	L	L	E	Y	I	E	C	S	P	J	L
VASE	A	C	S	B	J	M	O	P	L	N	I	W	R	I	E
VEGETABLE	T	A	H	X	N	R	S	B	H	T	X	I	G	V	X
VEIN	I	N	R	K	I	Y	A	W	V	N	I	L	O	I	V
VIBRANT	V	O	A	K	O	T	J	A	P	Z	J	P	K	B	H
VIBRATE	X	A	B	R	E	S	S	Z	C	K	H	I	H	R	T
VIOLET	O	W	N	G	B	E	U	A	N	L	S	K	B	A	E
VIOLIN	T	S	E	I	F	I	S	R	U	B	I	E	F	T	L
VIRUS	I	V	G	X	H	C	V	X	I	B	N	N	L	E	O
VISIT	P	H	M	M	B	L	L	X	T	V	A	U	X	V	I
VOLCANO	N	Y	N	W	N	B	I	I	A	P	V	H	Z	J	V
VOTE	K	C	X	C	Z	W	Y	O	F	V	A	D	H	G	I
	P	T	D	X	H	E	T	O	V	Q	X	B	B	B	O

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.

	+		-		14
+		+		-	
	-		+	7	6
+		+		+	
5	+		-		3
14		15		2	

Council call for extension of free bushfire waste disposal

MURRIDINDI Shire Council is urging the Victorian Government to extend free bushfire waste disposal at council sites until June 30, 2027.

Council says ending the current support on June 30, 2026, would prematurely withdraw recovery assistance and shift the financial burden directly onto fire-affected residents, many of whom are still cleaning up from the January bushfires.

By the end of June 2026, council expects to have received about 14,000 tonnes of bushfire debris at its landfill, equivalent to around seven years' worth of landfill in just a few months, placing significant and unplanned pressure on local infrastructure and resources.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the extension is needed to avoid shifting recovery costs onto residents who had already been through enough.

"Recovery does not happen to a government deadline," Cr Gallagher said. "Many people are still working through insurance, demolition, safety issues, contractor availability and the emotional toll of what has happened. It would be deeply unfair to make them pay full disposal costs from July 1 simply because their clean-up is taking longer."

Without an extension, council would need to charge the full gate fee from July 1. For construction and demolition waste, that would rise to \$362.59 per tonne in 2026/27. These fees include the cost to council to operate the landfill, GST and the Victorian Government EPA levy of \$155.95 per tonne. This effectively transfers state-imposed costs onto disaster-affected communities unless intervention occurs.

Cr Gallagher said council's request was practical, fair and time-limited. "This is not an open-ended subsidy. It is a targeted extension to help people finish the job safely, legally and without being hit with costs they cannot avoid," he said.

"Behind every load of fire-damaged waste is a household trying to rebuild, a family trying to move forward, or a property owner trying to make their land safe again."

The Victorian Government, through Forge Solutions contractors, continues to work through the devastating impact on the community. However, many properties have been deemed ineligible for state-supported clean-up, leaving owners to manage the work and costs themselves.

Emergency Management Victoria figures from June 16 show 291 properties in Murrindindi have registered for clean-up, with 125 eligible for state government assistance. Of those eligible properties, 78 are either underway or complete.

Council says many other properties, including sheds and outbuildings, are not eligible for state support but still need to be made safe and cleaned up.

Council says removing support too soon could delay clean-up, increase risks of illegal dumping and place more pressure on residents already dealing with the long road to recovery.

Council is calling on the Victorian Government to fully fund the disposal of debris from the clean-up, including reimbursing council landfill operating costs and waiving the EPA levy, to ensure disposal remains free for residents and does not create a secondary financial impact from the disaster. This is consistent with the arrangements for previous disasters in Victoria.

Cr Gallagher said the extension would give residents certainty and help the clean-up continue safely and responsibly.

"Our community has carried enough. Extending free waste disposal until June 2027 is a simple, fair step that would make a real difference," Cr Gallagher said.

Yarck Hall returns to business as usual

YARCK Hall has announced that almost six months after the fire, the hall is returning to its usual business as a community hub. They will continue to support the community to recover, but won't be stocking material aid anymore. They felt that it was the right time to make the change and added, "We're so proud to be a part of this resilient community."

To all of the volunteers and friends of the Yarck Hall, you have done an amazing job and should feel incredibly proud of what you have been able to achieve.



Yarck Hall in earlier days. -S

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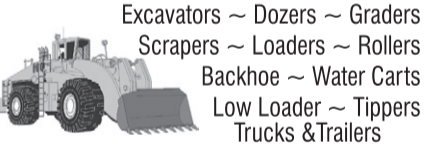
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Wild dogs killing 20 to 40 lambs a night

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish has called on the Victorian Government to urgently strengthen wild dog control efforts, warning attacks are escalating across regional Victoria and leaving farmers with devastating financial and emotional scars.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms McLeish highlighted horrific attacks across her electorate, including at Glenburn where one sheep producer has suffered repeated attacks killing between 20 and 40 lambs a night.

The issue was also raised by Gippsland East MP Tim Bull and Ovens Valley MP Tim McCurdy, who reported similar attacks and concerns in their districts.

Ms McLeish said Labor's current approach did not go far enough.

"The government is always happy to talk about boosting efforts through its new Vertebrate Species Management Program that includes feral pigs and foxes, but no-one is screaming about feral pigs and foxes," she said.

"It is wild dogs that are destroying farming businesses, tearing livestock apart, leaving some animals with their entrails dragging on the ground and causing enormous distress for farming families.

"Farmers from Glenburn, Toolangi and the Yarra Valley through to Mansfield, Merrijig and across Victoria are reporting the same thing, more attacks, more losses and more frustration."

Ms McLeish said it is not just about livestock losses, there is also a threat to native fauna, bushwalkers and school groups.

"It is also the emotional toll of seeing animals torn apart and years of breeding programs wiped out in weeks," she said.

Ms McLeish called on the Minister for Environment to increase resources, strengthen control programs and give frontline doggers the tools they need before more farming businesses are pushed to breaking point.

Rail trail update

EMERGENCY Management Victoria (EMV) were asked for an update regarding the rehabilitation of the Great Victorian Rail Trail following the devastating Longwood fire. The rail trail was very badly impacted, with three bridges identified for full replacement and at least seven sustaining significant damage.

An Emergency Management Victoria spokesperson said, "Emergency Management Victoria is helping to remove dangerous fire-damaged trees alongside the Great Victorian Rail Trail to support the recovery of communities affected by the January bushfires."

Fire damaged trees removed from along the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be taken to locations within Murrindindi Shire for processing and management by council.

Registrations are still open for the clean-up program. The program removes damaged structures from homes, businesses and community assets that don't have insurance, or not enough insurance. Anyone who may be eligible is encouraged to register online at vic.gov.au/register-for-cleanup or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 (select option 3) to discuss their circumstances.

Let's Eat winner

THE winner of the May 'Let's Eat' \$50 voucher was Mike Bossonnet from Alexandra. Mike will be having a \$50 feed on us at Lake Eildon Hotel.

Be sure to get your entry form in a coming edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in *Let's Eat; It's our treat.*

The Yea Chronicle

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PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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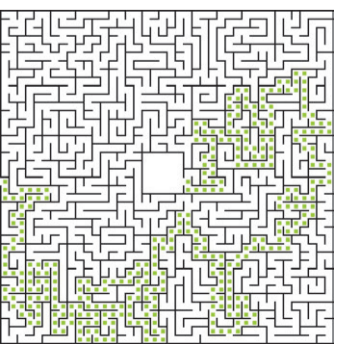
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MAZE



KIDS - MATH SQUARE

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Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that Optus Mobile Pty Limited has applied under Section 51 of the Forests Act 1958 for a lease for telecommunications purposes over Crown land at the following

Location:
Mt Gordan Road, Marysville
Site Codes: M1094

The proposed lease area forms part of Crown Allotment 2, Parish of Carruno, comprising approximately 48 square metres (more or less).

The land is proposed to be used for the purpose of inspecting, installing, constructing, operating and maintaining telecommunications infrastructure and services in accordance with the Telecommunications Act 1997.

The proposed term of the lease is twenty-one (21) years.

SITUATION VACANT



Home Economic Assistant

This position is for 20 hours per week. The position is available from July 20, 2026 in an ongoing role.

The ideal candidate will have the following skills matched with relevant experience:

- *Order goods as required and arrange for safe delivery and storage.
- *Undertake specified cleaning and maintenance tasks.
- *Undertake preparation for practical classes and assist teacher during class as directed.
- *General Cleaning of school eg: sick bay
- *Possibly working within the classroom to aid student learning.
- *Other duties as directed by the principal.

Enquiries and position descriptions are available from Nigel Lyttle.

Please email applications to nigel.lyttle@education.vic.gov.au by July 11, 2026.

DEALS ON WHEELS

Volkswagon Jetta – 2013 1.4ltr TSI DSG 118kw auto. Top of the range. 113,000km. Full service history. 1CP 9QK. \$8,000. Call 0433 225 389.

FITNESS

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
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Treadmills, X-trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.
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LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS – POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

MEETINGS

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



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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher, Governor-General Sam Mostyn and shire CEO Livia Bonazzi. -S

Mayor and CEO advocating for Murrindindi in Canberra

MURRINDINDI Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher and CEO Livia Bonazzi travelled to Canberra last week, sharing Murrindindi's story.

Damien presented on Disaster Management Fatigue at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on June 23.

Damien and Livia then went to Parliament House alongside Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Scott Jeffery and CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi to discuss their collective power and telecommunications resilience concerns in the office of Federal Communications Minister, The Hon Anika Wells MP.

Damien thanked the Municipal Association of Victoria for hosting them for debrief discussions late in the day.

The following day, June 24, they engaged in some powerful discussions

about bushfire recovery with the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Local Government, Kristy McBain MP. They were joined by Strathbogie Mayor Scott Jeffery and CEO Rachelle Quattrocchi.

Damien explained, "It was all about conveying the recovery experience of Murrindindi Shire and Strathbogie Shire residents."

This was followed by one of the most important discussions of the week with The Hon Emma McBride MP in her capacity as Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.

Damien and Livia outlined how our community is struggling, and support is just not landing. The recovery gap is being filled, unfunded, by local professionals and philanthropically funded champions.

They spoke at length of the criticality of support for impacted residents and farmers for whom the protracted recovery is just bloody tough. The shire representatives also proposed some sensible, efficient, and achievable solutions.

Damien said, "The great honour of the day came representing the special stories of Murrindindi first responders, council staff, and dedicated community members who stepped up and mobilised community-led recovery hubs for impacted friends and neighbours at Highlands, Terip Terip, Yarck and Fawcett, and continue to do so, almost six months on.

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, offered a caring ear and sincere concern for Murrindindi community member wellbeing.



Mayor Damien Gallagher presenting on Disaster Management Fatigue at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. -S

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS Pty Ltd

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Celebrating achievements at Yea High School

THE conclusion of Yea High School's term two assembly was an ideal platform to celebrate the outstanding achievements of their students.

The music students, led by Mr Treloar, presented a spectacular performance that featured Will's exceptional solo, which garnered widespread applause.

School captain, Jasper, reviewed the semester's accomplishments and offered words of encouragement to year 12 students for the months ahead.

Students were also recognised for their achievements in sports, attendance, and exemplifying the school's values. The school also said farewell to exchange student Cucky and wished her all the best heading home.



Rego rebate reminder

MORE than three million Victorians have now applied for 20 per cent off their rego.

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 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

Minister for Cost of Living Paul Edbrooke said, "More than three million Victorians have already claimed 20 per cent off their rego. If you haven't yet, it takes minutes."

Federal budget axes critical regional connectivity funding

THE Federal Government's axing of regional communications funding shows contempt for more than 10 million Australians who live in regional, rural, and remote Australia, according to Shadow Minister for Communications and Digital Safety, Sarah Henderson, and Shadow Minister for Regional Communications, Anne Webster.

The budget papers state that the government has axed the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia* (BCP) by 'reprioritising' this funding which comprises \$116 million in 2026-27 and a further \$49.6 million in the forward estimates.

The BCP included future rounds of the Mobile Black Spot Program, the Regional Connectivity Program, the On Farm Connectivity Program, disaster and telecommunications resilience measures, the Regional Tech Hub and the National Audit of Mobile Coverage.

"Labor's Budget is a real kick in the guts for Australians who deserve mobile connectivity, no matter where they live," Senator Henderson said.

"The axing of the Mobile Black Spot Program, which funded more than 1300 new or upgraded base stations under the former Coalition government, demonstrates that Labor could not care less about the needs of regional communities... In 'Supporting Connectivity' in the Budget papers (BP2 p130), the government is shamefully not delivering one new dollar for connectivity other than \$15 million to expand Auslan video relay services which will be paid through an increased levy on the telecommunications industry," Senator Henderson said.

Shadow Minister for Regional Communications Anne Webster said regional Australians are crying out for better connectivity.

"Australians need better connectivity right now, but this budget has callously slashed funding for regional communications programs rather than increasing it," Dr Webster said.

She added, "The Albanese government's so-called commitment to universal outdoor mobile coverage is deeply flawed, and won't come into effect until the end of 2027, if the technology is ready by then. No funding has been committed for its implementation.

"The axing of crucial funding to combat mobile black spots and support regional connectivity, as well as the Regional Tech Hub, shows Labor's lack of commitment to the regions."



Celebrating achievements at Yea High School



New RBA report shows cash is making a comeback

NETWORK upgrades in the Murrindindi Shire area occasionally cause internet disruptions and eftpos outages, making cash once again a viable option in this digital world. A survey by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) shows, however, that cash usage is making a comeback overall.

Cash use in Australia: What the 2025 Consumer Payments Survey tells us states that in 2025, around 15 per cent of payments were made in cash and around half of Australians used cash in a typical week. This directly follows a rapid decline in the use of physical money during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2007, cash accounted for 37.7 per cent of the total value of payments made by Australians (not the number of payments). This reached an all-time low of 7.6 per cent in 2022, before bouncing back to 8.3 per cent in 2025. A definite comeback.

Perhaps a contributing factor to this was the Federal Government's commitment to mandate cash acceptance for essential purchases, such as fuel and groceries, from January 1 protecting the use of physical money.

Looking at the demographics for people that use cash in Australia, the RBA survey states that "about 1.5 million adults rely mainly on cash to make payments. These high cash users, defined as those who used cash for at least 80 per cent of their transactions, made up around seven per cent of respondents.

"High cash users are somewhat more likely to be older and have lower household incomes," the survey says, and "regional respondents were a little more likely to use cash than those living in capital cities."

The biggest declines in cash use were for dining out and takeaway food, as well as transport.

An article titled 'Why cash has made an unexpected comeback in Australia: new study', published in *The Conversation* by John Hawkins, Head of the Canberra School of Government, University of Canberra, addressed why people might prefer cash.

"A third of Australians highly value being able to pay with cash. They say they would face a major inconvenience or hardship if they could not use it," Mr Hawkins writes in his article.

"The most common reasons were they transact with sellers who only accept cash; find it simplifies budgeting; prefer it for giving money to family and friends; or have security or privacy concerns.

"Another reason why consumers may prefer to use cash is to avoid surcharges imposed by many merchants for using alternatives. From October 2026, these surcharges will be banned."

The ban on card surcharges was announced earlier in the month by the Reserve Bank of Australia in a conclusions paper as to the decisions of the Payments System Board (PSB),

who were tasked with conducting a Review of Merchant Card Payment Costs and Surcharging.

The paper stated that "the PSB has decided that it would be in the public interest to remove surcharging by lifting the prohibition on 'no-surcharge' rules for all designated card networks (debit, prepaid, credit). This decision covers eftpos, Mastercard and Visa cards."

Mr Hawkins article further discussed the benefits of having cash on hand in case payment systems fail, or in the case of an emergency.

"Even people who rarely make payments with cash often like to keep some in their wallet. Three-quarters of Australians hold some cash in their wallets. The median amount held is \$65. The most common reason stated is concern about the reliability of electronic payment methods," Mr Hawkins said.

"The Red Cross has suggested families keep some cash, as payment systems may not operate in an emergency.

"While there is still substantial demand for cash, it is becoming harder to access. There are fewer bank branches. The number of automated teller machines, particularly those owned by banks, has fallen from a peak of more than 30,000 to under 25,000, the Reserve Bank said."

To view the full RBA report, 'Cash use in Australia: What the 2025 Consumer Payments Survey tells us', visit rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2026/apr/cash-use-in-australia-what-the-2025-consumer-payments-survey-tells-us.html

SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round 10 of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Orb Weavers versus Red Backs

ERIC versus Matt: Both players were trying their best, but Matt took no prisoners in this match, applying pressure from start to finish. Matt will need to have his grading reviewed after this match. 78 to 30.

Jessica versus Sally: A game of momentum swings. During the middle two games Sally was able to read the play and cut off many shots from Jessica. Sally used her placement and applied pressure to gain the advantage on the score board. 60 to 55.

Chris versus Mick: Mick looked to have a winning lead after three games, but Chris raised the intensity in game four, refusing to give an inch, clawing back an eight-point deficit to win the match. 68 to 64.

Michae H versus Jim: A match where good serves made the difference. Games one and three were both ties but Michael had Jim on the ropes in game two and capitalised by putting away loose shots. Game four Michael only needed to defend his lead, but Jim had other ideas, focussing on placement and the back corners where Michael floundered to get the ball back. Scores were tied with 10 seconds to go and Jim used his skills to finish of the match and win. 51 to 49.

Trapdoors versus White Tails

Tyler versus Michae H (Coach): A very good game to watch. Tyler has come a very long way and his game tonight was excellent. A great training match with Michael winning the match. 53 to 40.

Laura versus Liane: Laura had the edge due to her pinpoint backhand placement that Liane could not get to. It was a close match. Laura claimed the match. 62 to 50.

Rob versus Travis: High energy game, lots of running and long rallies. It was a battle of the drop shots that Rob won, winning the match, 61 to 56.

Daniel W versus Andrew: You would pay to watch these two. Great long rallies, neither could get the edge and ended in a draw. 55 to 55.

Wednesday competition

Hornets versus Mosquitoes

Nicole versus Jordan: Despite having a sore wrist, Jordan managed to dominate general play early in the match and made the most of Nicole's return shots. Nicole stayed in the game thank to some wayward serving. As the match went on Jordan pulled away to claim the win 67 to 60.

Lucas (fill in) versus Mick: See-sawing games with incredible down-the-line shots from Lucas. Mick had a strong comeback in

the last, but Lucas was just too good with his returns and serves. 65 to 61.

Ben F versus Justin (fill in): Superb squash. Both controlling their shots beautifully to create long and exciting rallies. In the final minute Ben made an amazing comeback for victory. 67 to 58.

Sandflies versus Wasps

Ben H versus Beth: What a great game. Ben held it for most of the time, but Beth made a massive comeback in the last game and only lost by two-points. 58 to 56.

Phil versus Michael M: After both players missing last week Phil felt rusty while Michael appreciated the break. Phil shot to an early lead as Michael lamented shots that just missed the mark. In the third Michael managed to intercept Phil's drop shots with dives that brought within range of the match. Phil was able to close out the last game winning the match. 63 to 53.



Funnel Webs were winners of Monday nights. Pictured are Randy and Sam, with John absent. -S



Sandflies were the winners of Wednesday nights. Pictured are Phil, a stand in for Jess B, and Ben H. -S

Pellicans win Ambrose at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday was the coldest day for golf at Royal Yea Golf Club this year, with 22 hearty players contesting a two-person Ambrose event. Many were rugged up in beanies and double gloves as they braved the conditions. Despite the heavy ground, the course was in pretty good shape, reflecting

the excellent work of the club's volunteers.

Winners on the day were Alan Pell (12) and Zachary Pell (12) with 72 off the stick for a nett 66, narrowly ahead of Luke Gregory (9) and Anthony "Pro" La Grutta (13), who finished with 75 off the stick for nett 69.5. Third were Tony Rule (17) and Di Holdsworth (33) with nett 70.5, while

Jeff Aurisch (24) and Sue Aurisch (31) were fourth with nett 72.25 on countback.

There were no winners for the nearest the pin on the 18th, while Judi Newman and Rob O'Halloran collected the Club Award.

Last Wednesday saw 17 men contest a Stableford event, with Luke Gregory (9) continuing his good form to win with 37 points from Anthony La Grutta (14)

on 36. Jim Redmond (24), Bob Glenister (10) and Brian Priestley (25) all finished on 33 points. Luke Gregory also claimed the nearest the pin on the 18th, while Glen Walsh won the Club Award.

The ladies played the third round of the Silver Spoon, with eight players competing. Sharon Grogan (22) won with 33 points from Christine Simmons (24) on 32 points.

Wins against Powelltown and Seville for Yea footballers and netballers

THE Yea Football Netball Club hosted Powelltown for games of football and netball, with the exception of the women's team who competed at Seville.

Next week the Yea footballers and netballers will take on Alexandra at home, while the women's team host Thornton Eildon.

Football

Women's team

Seville 9 defeated by Yea 25

Seniors

Yea 150 defeated Powelltown 8

Reserves

Yea 114 defeated Powelltown 20

Netball

A Grade

Yea defeated Powelltown 44

B Grade

Yea 64 defeated Powelltown 40

C Grade

Yea 47 defeated Powelltown 21

D Grade

Yea 30 defeated by Powelltown 35



-Photos by Savannah Gregory Photography



Last winter tennis round before school holiday break

by Deb Mims

THE last Euroa District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) round before taking a break due to the school holidays saw Mansfield once again at home, hosting Moglonemby.

Mansfield versus Moglonemby 2-37, 4-37

With a last minute illness and an injury, Mansfield had to call in some help. Kiera McDonagh and Sophie Yencken joined forces with regulars Cathie Anderson and Loretta Armitage to battle against Moglonemby's team of Judy Sands, Sue Vaughan, Lisa Krepp and Robyn Johnson.

A battle it was and despite finishing equal on games, Moglonemby took the major points with taking four of the six sets. Oh those tie breakers. If only they had both gone Mansfield's way, then a whole different result would have been on the score sheet.

Despite Pat Howard withdrawing last minute due to a non-tennis related injury, she still showed up with her famous sponge kisses and to cheer the team on. Thank you Pat.

Euroa versus Wappan 0-16, 6-48

Mansfield's team, Wappan headed over to Euroa for a top of the table clash, to discover

that the Euroa team thought they were playing in Mansfield. Phew, lucky they realized before they left Euroa and Mary Dewis came to the rescue with sandwiches for afternoon tea.

After some confusion and I'm sure laughter as to what could have been, all took to the courts for very close matches, despite the scores saying otherwise.

Wappan showed their strength against Faye Mollison, Julie Harrington, Triona King and Mary Kelly taking that vital point of each set to give them the major points. Anna Speirs, Jenny Bell, Kimberley Marsden and Rhonda Carpenter hit the courts firing on all four cylinders, taking all six sets.

Terip Terip versus Creightons Creek 4-45, 2-32

Terip Terip hosted Creightons Creek with Frances Lawrence, Phoebe MacDermid, Meg Ford and Jenny Martin battling against Lyndall Bigland, Deb Seach, Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes.

A couple of tie breakers, one each way showed how closed the match was with Terip taking the major points by securing four of the six sets and ahead on games.

Benalla had the bye so will return to the courts first week back after the school holidays.

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Yea junior footballers visit Wandong for matches

Under Nines

by Lily Armstrong

THE Under Nine Yea Tigers made the trip to Wandong last Sunday for an exciting clash against the Wandong Warriors, treating spectators to a terrific game.

From the first bounce the intensity was electric with both sides flying into the contest and refusing to give an inch. The Tigers showed incredible passion and determination where they worked hard to move the ball, shared it well with teammates and never stopped chasing.

There were fierce tackles, strong marks, great kicks, plenty of second efforts and defensive play that really stood out.

A huge congratulations to last week's award winners: Joey, Just Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Russell, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Eddy, Progression Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player.

It was a strong team effort and all players should be proud of the commitment and sportsmanship they showed throughout the match.

Under 10s

by Jess Robinson

After a few typical foggy days in Yea, the Under 10s saw some sunshine in Wandong, which lifted everyone's spirits, with 12 keen Tigers taking the field.

Super consistent football is now the forefront of our game; all players contributed to an exciting match. The progression and confidence in the entire team deserves recognition they should all be proud of their growth.

Congratulations Jake on your two goals.

Award winners: Yarra Valley Gas Improvement, Elliott; Delux Rods Tiger Spirit, Xander; Cathkin Farm Services Coach's, Olivia.

Under 12s

by Belinda Johnston

The Tigers Under 12s beat Wandong on Sunday, June 28, in a strong team performance.

Toby J. celebrated his first-ever goal for the club with a calm set shot from just outside the 50. The bench erupted as the ball sailed through.

Sienna, Archie and Darby each kicked multiple goals: Sienna used her pace to break away and snap quick majors, Archie took strong marks inside 50 and converted reliably, and Darby won contests, fed teammates and finished well himself.

The Tigers defended strongly, chased hard and moved the ball quickly through midfield to create scoring chances. Well done, Tigers. Great teamwork and a deserved win.

Award winners: Sienna, Josh, Toby.



Yea Under 10 award winners. -S



Yea Under 12 award winners. -S

Yea junior netball award winners



Yea Black 13 and Under award winners Ava McDonald and Holly Cronk. -S



Yea Yellow 13 and Under award winners Stella Jolly and Tahlia Waghorn. -S



Eleven and Under award winners Ivy Duncan and Lilly Ryan. -S