

The Yea Chronicle

Wednesday 29 July 2026

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

alexandranewspapers.com.au

\$2.50 inc GST



One thousand trees for Longwood

Page 3



Hunt continues for Miss Bettye in the final round

Page 4



Yea junior footy Sit Down Round

Sport

Search for missing kayaker called off

THE search for missing kayaker, Shane Wilson, has been called off without success. The 53 year old man was last seen kayaking in the Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin on July 18.

Police have advised that they will revisit the area if there are any further developments.

A Victoria Police spokesperson said, "Sadly, with the passage of time and environmental conditions in the area, police hold grave concerns for the man's welfare and have been working to recover his body."

Victoria Police, the SES and CFA, along with Lifesaving Victoria were involved in the search. It's understood that Mr Wilson was not wearing a lifejacket at the time of the incident.



Hospital opens new Virtual Admission Ward

Yea and District Memorial Hospital launches new initiative to improve local services

YEA and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) has announced the opening of their new Virtual Admission Ward. The new service opened yesterday, Tuesday, July 28 and will be available from 8am to 4pm every day for people aged 16 years and over.

Andrea Steele, Director of Clinical Services at YDMH, explained that when she started working at the hospital early last year, she began considering how they could improve their service delivery and optimise care for our local community, as well as trying to minimise the need for people to go to Melbourne for hospitalisation.

After discussions with CEO Elizabeth Sinclair, she began speaking with Rural Ambulance Victoria to find out how many local residents were being transferred to Melbourne and what type of patients they were.

From there, they began a discussion with the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) about the possibility of developing a 'virtual ward admission' at the Yea hospital. The idea quickly developed into a pilot program, with four other small rural health services coming on board, being Kyabram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Cobram. The pilot program has

been endorsed by the Victorian Department of Health.

Asked what the pilot will mean for local patients, Andrea explained, "The initiative is providing service to eligible patients, so they will have access to hospital level care while being able to remain at home."

"VVED has contracted doctors to run the virtual ward. Patients that fit specific clinical criteria will be eligible for admission they'll have care provided by the local nursing team in partnership with the virtual ward doctors."

Yea hospital operates under a nurse-led model, so they already utilise VVED for any presentations

that come to the Urgent Care Centre. As a result, the nurses are experienced and used to managing it.

Andrea said of the pilot, "Rather than that individual patient having to go to Melbourne for admission for let's say, some antibiotics, they can actually be admitted into Yea hospital under the virtual ward doctor and then have their care managed by that virtual ward doctor for the length of period of their admissions." This will be supported by the hospital's nurses.

The pilot is predominantly for respiratory conditions, such as chest infections needing intravenous antibiotics, or an exacerbation of asthma.

They can also help people with gastroenteritis or some gastrointestinal problems, management of nausea symptoms, some IV therapy such as hydration, and wound infections and management. Anything that doesn't require surgery.

Andrea said they discovered during their research phase that an average of 10 people per month could have been admitted directly to the Yea hospital instead of travelling to a Melbourne hospital. An additional benefit is that it also makes the Yea hospital more sustainable.

If the pilot is a success, the state government may look at expanding it in the future.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

The Sea Chronicle

NEM

NORTH EAST MEDIA

LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES:

Alexandra

Yea

Wednesday3 - 103 - 11

Thursday2 - 113 - 12

Friday2 - 142 - 14

Saturday4 - 144 - 14

Sunday5 - 155 - 15

Monday4 - 124 - 12

Tuesday4 - 144 - 14

RAINFALL:

7 days from 9am Monday

Alexandra7mm

Buxton5mm

Eildon (AWS)9mm

Flowerdale3mm

Jamieson5mm

Kinglake9mm

Lake Eildon9mm

Mansfield5mm

Taggerty6mm

Yarck5mm

Yea3mm

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level274.01m

Capacity as at 9am Monday51.3%

Metres below full supply14.89m

Daily inflow4,000ML

Release1,950ML

Eildon Pondage47%

DEADLINES

Advertising

Wednesday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday 12noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submitted via email to

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or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers

PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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which is offensive, threatening or containing

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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

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Now is the time to step up for Menzies

By JANINE CRESP

AT the recent community meeting, Alexandra residents made it clear that they care deeply about the future of Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc and want the opportunity to have a meaningful say.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from community members who would like to join the Committee of Management.

A strong community organisation needs more than support from the sidelines. It needs people who are willing to contribute their time, ideas, experience and local knowledge.

We welcome people from all backgrounds, particularly those with skills or experience in governance, finance, fundraising, communications, business, community services or community engagement.

The Committee of Management will play an important role in helping guide the organisation's future and ensuring it can continue supporting the Alexandra and surrounding communities.

If you attended the meeting, asked how you could help or wanted the community to have a greater voice, this is your opportunity to get involved.

To express your interest or find out more, contact Menzies Support Services on 5772 1888 or visit menziessupport.org.au

Beanie festival supporting the community

TWO cheques were recently handed over to the community from monies raised during the weekend of Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival (MBFF). The funds went to Buxton Primary School and the Rotary Club of Alexandra.

Both the Rotary Club of Alexandra and Buxton Primary School have been supporting the festival for most of the 12 years that it has been running. Alexandra Rotary members also provide much needed and valued help in setting up each year.

The MBFF committee would like to thank all those in the community for their support, in turn helping to cement this fabulous fun event as a must-attend each year in May.

2026 was a very successful year for the festival with the highest number of school students and community groups creating works for display.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL: Emmett, Mitchell and Ava, all senior students from Buxton Primary School, with festival secretary Pam Petersen, festival event coordinator Carolyn Weeks and Buxton Primary School Principal Sarah Irving receiving the cheque to go towards the construction of a new picnic table for the school, created by the students and guided by a teacher. It will be placed on the veranda of the classroom building. The timber was supplied by local arborist John Coyne and was dressed and prepared by the Marysville Men's Shed.

ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRA: The second cheque handover was for the Rotary Club of Alexandra to continue their work providing wood in winter for the elderly or those in need in the community. Pictured are festival committee members Sue Wynn and Marcia Turner with Rotary treasurer Ian Gibb.

Motor vehicle accident at Taggerty

A motor vehicle accident took place on Tuesday, July 21 in Taggerty. Emergency services were called to assist when a single vehicle left the Maroondah Hwy at Taggerty near Southam Drive. Ambulance from Alexandra attended, transporting the patient to hospital with Police from Yea and Mansfield on scene investigating. Fortunately, the single vehicle occupant was not severely injured. SES from Alexandra and CFA from Taggerty, Buxton and Acheron assisted with traffic and removal of trees that had been impacted. The accident scene was cleared just after midnight.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

Station Name	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	8.00am Mon	1.44	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00am Mon	0.69	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.00am Mon	1.07	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.28am Mon	0.38	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.39am Mon	0.67	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00am Mon	N/A	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	8.00am Mon	1.42	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	8.00am Mon	3.85	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	8.00am Mon	0.69	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00am Mon	1.59	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	8.00am Mon	0.36	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	8.00am Mon	1.88	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00am Mon	1.35	steady	

*ISSUED AT 8.54am AEDT MONDAY 27 JULY 2026

Community safety in focus at Benalla Police Forum

THE Benalla Policing Forum was held online on the evening of Thursday, July 23.

Murrindindi, Mansfield and Benalla Shires, along with Mount Buller, are within the Benalla Police Service Area (PSA), so participants were able to gain plenty of insight into current operations and policing tactics.

These will be outlined in a series of articles in coming weeks, each focusing on a different topic.

The first speaker at the event was Superintendent Brett Kahan who provided an overview of the police community-first operating model which guides their decision making about where to invest effort and resources and how to structure

the workforce and how to adapt to emerging risks and challenges.

He said, "Our values are courage, compassion, integrity, professionalism and respect."

Police operations and focus

Acting Inspector Steve Cardin said that the Benalla PSA has a population of over 41,000 people and covers 10,100 square kilometres with 10 police stations.

He said, "A lot of our policing activities are around reduction of road trauma and the reduction of serious violent crime and increasing the community trust and confidence in police."

He commented on the significant policing, emergency services and community challenges posed

by the recent Longwood fire.

He said, "There was a time during the Longwood fire where we had warnings for bushfire, flood and landslide all in the one week. That's how diverse our community is here."

He also spoke about the police Community Sentiment Survey which finished in June. The top three issues of concern for the community according to the survey were the safety of property, drugs and alcohol, and road safety.

He said of safety to property, "We have a finite amount of police resources covering 10,100 square kilometres, and sometimes it's difficult to be everywhere at once," but added that they have made a change

in Benalla to increase on-street policing.

Of drugs and alcohol, he said, "Drugs in the community obviously have an impact that sometimes drive issues with youth, issues with family violence and road user behaviour."

He also said with regard to road policing, "I would back it in that every person in this room... will have been affected by road trauma or someone that you know has."

He added, "We try to have deterrent by presence because at the end of the day, police presence equals a deterrent effect... and there's far more likelihood that offenders will be interrupted before their offending occurs."

Council progressing road safety improvements for Kinglake-Glenburn Road

MURRINDINDI Shire Council acknowledges the concerns raised by Glenburn residents regarding road safety on Kinglake-Glenburn Road and West Bridge Road and recognises the importance of improving safety for all road users.

Through the TAC's Safer Local Roads and Streets Program, council has developed a proposal that combines speed limit reductions with targeted infrastructure improvements designed to improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The proposal to reduce speed limits and improve safety along this section of road has been under development since July 2025 and has involved consultation with the local community, Victoria Police, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Council continues to work closely with the department to progress the remaining approvals required to deliver the project.

The proposed works include extending the existing 50 km/h speed zone further north past the Orchards Road intersection; reducing the speed limit from 80 km/h to 60 km/h in areas with closer property frontages; reducing the speed limit from 100 km/h to 80 km/h on winding sections of the road; installing additional guideposts, curve warning signs and advisory speed signage to improve visibility of sub-standard curves; sealing the bell-mouth at the Orchards Road intersection; and introducing kerb and channel adjacent to the shared path near Thomson Lane and Hawkins Drive to improve separation between cyclists and traffic, subject to available project funding.

Following development of the proposal, Victoria Police endorsed the speed limit changes, and the project received funding approval from the TAC in January 2026.

The proposal is now awaiting approval from the Department of Transport and Planning for the proposed speed limit changes. As the department is the responsible authority for approving speed limit changes on this road, council cannot finalise the detailed design or commence delivery until that approval is received.

Council remains committed to working with the Department of Transport and Planning and other partners to progress this project and will keep the community informed as it moves through the remaining approval process.

Large explosive activity scheduled at Puckapunyal Training Area

THE Australian Defence Force (ADF) Puckapunyal Training Area will be conducting a larger than usual explosive live fire activity over the period July 27 to 31, 2026 that may be audible around areas in Murrindindi Shire's west.

The activity will involve several detonations of explosive line charges designed to introduce a landmine clearing capability into the ADF.

The activity will include up to five very loud explosions through the week, with a maximum of three explosions per day. These may be louder than what you hear from time to time currently.

The blasts will only occur during daylight hours and will be scheduled to avoid air traffic. A safety perimeter of at least two kilometres will be established for Defence personnel.

To reduce noise and vibration impacts, the five major blasts will be unlikely to be initiated in cloudy weather.

Nearby residents can expect to hear and possibly feel loud explosions which may rattle glass windows, surprise young children, pets and livestock. The magnitude of the effects will depend on local weather conditions and wind direction.

Residents are advised to consider the potential impacts and take appropriate actions to minimise any negative effects.

Residents seeking further information should contact the Senior ADF Officer's office at sadfo.pma@defence.gov.au



IN a kind gesture of community support and generosity, Speciality Trees will donate 1000 bareroot trees this August to the fire affected residents impacted by the Longwood January 2026 bushfires.

As a longstanding grower of advanced trees supplying the landscaping industry including councils, Speciality Trees grows its deciduous bareroot tree material in the nutrient-rich soils of Benalla. While not directly impacted by the fires, the surrounding countryside, particularly around Yarck, provides a constant reminder of the devastation.

Only by sheer luck did its Benalla site evade impact, but the emotional and physical aftermath of fire upon the community is deeply shared.

"It's all about growing again and growing better together" owner and Managing Director, Hamish Mitchell said.

"Donating 1000 trees to our regional community represents a sizeable portion of our own 2026 bareroot supply. We wanted to help the community in a practical way and we felt this was the best way to do that."

No stranger to the impact of natural disasters sitting on the fringe of the 2009 Black Saturday fires and in the very middle of a freak hailstorm 12 months later wiping out 80 per cent of their tree stock, they understand first-hand the heartache that comes with devastation.

As advocates of the value of trees as assets of healthy people and healthy communities, they also understand the need to continue greening in a time of a challenging and changing climate.

"When our environment is impacted and livelihoods are affected, replanting trees, like rebuilding structures, helps to knit the environment together and keep community connected both physically and mentally.

"We're digging trees now so it's the perfect opportunity to give back to the community and to co-ordinate distribution via our annual Benalla Clearance event."

This is not the first time Speciality Trees has donated trees for fire recovery. Other tree donations have been made to the communities of Cobargo and Quaarra in the Bega

Alexandra seniors club

By honorary secretary MIKE JENNINGS

THE bridge players got together on Wednesday afternoon for a few games, and members enjoyed the 'Christmas in July' lunch at the Rubicon Hotel last Friday.

The social committee are meeting up at 10.30am on Friday, August 7 to plan activities for the remainder of this year. The business meeting is at 1pm.

The club welcomes new members so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a game head along and join them.



Look out for the
End Polio Baton Relay
and special events hosted in August
by these Rotary Clubs
Yea
Alexandra
Kinglake



COMMUNITY DIARY

LOCAL RADIO FREQUENCY

- UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon
- UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain
- UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
- UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
- UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

COMMUNITY GROUPS WEEKLY

- Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
- Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
- Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
- Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
- Fri Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas PH 0422 225 801
- Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
- Sun ALANON meeting; 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086
- Sun AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

- 1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
- 1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
- 1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
- 1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am--noon @ Embassy of Ideas
- 2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
- 2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
- 2nd Wed Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
- 2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
- 2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
- 3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
- 3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
- 3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
- 3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
- 4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
- 4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
- 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

Contact Alexandra Standard and Yea Chronicle to add your event on 5772 1002 or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au. For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

3 Share certificates

9 Disconcert

10 Learned man

11 Tree

12 Bring into being

15 Find the place of

17 Narrates

18 Salt (chem)

19 Malaysian coin

20 Found out

22 Location of Leaning Tower

24 Hail!

25 Headwear

26 Said again

28 Eggs

29 Lair

30 Expects with alarm

33 Fuel

34 Gaudy

35 Waterway

36 Baleful

37 Freshest

38 Plied the needle

DOWN

1 Region

2 Metal

3 Thin strips of wood

4 Cover with wax

SOLUTION

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Who senses a Census?

THE 2026 Census of Population and Housing will be held on August 11 and will provide an opportunity for Australians to tell the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) about themselves and help make a difference for the community. The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS, and the data supports decision-making across government, business, and community sectors.

It informs the allocation of billions of dollars in Commonwealth funding, guides infrastructure planning, and helps determine electoral boundaries. From schools and hospitals to roads and aged care facilities, Census data underpins the services Australians rely on every day.

This year, the Census includes updates to several questions and the addition of one new topic. They were the result of public consultation, an engagement process, assessment against criteria and then testing.

Remember, the Census is compulsory. If you do not complete

and submit your form, the ABS will contact you to encourage participation first. If you still do not respond, you may be served a direction in writing to complete the Census. This is a formal legal instruction to complete the Census.

Failing to comply with a direction is an offence under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. If you do not complete the Census when directed, you can be prosecuted and fined up to \$364 per day. Knowingly providing false or misleading statements or information is also an offence and can result in a fine of up to \$3640.

New topic

The 2026 Census will include new questions on gender and sexual orientation for people aged over 16. These updates will provide valuable insights into the experiences of LGBTQ+ Australians and support the development and delivery of targeted health and social programs and services.

The 2026 Census will ask questions on both sex recorded at

birth and gender. Sex is understood in relation to sex characteristics. ‘Sex recorded at birth’ refers to what was initially determined based on physical characteristics observed at birth or infancy. Gender encompasses social and cultural identity, expression, and lived experience.

People aged over 16 will also be asked about their sexual orientation.

Updated questions

Changes have also been made to existing questions to improve data quality and ensure inclusivity. These include allowing respondents to report up to four ancestries, enhancing the third response option on the sex recorded at birth question, and updating the wording of the country of birth of parents questions.

The question on number of children a woman has given birth to will return to a once-per-decade collection and will not be included in the 2026 Census.

There will also be the inclusion of an e-bike checkbox as a method of travel to work.

Jobs still available

The Census field workforce plays a crucial role in supporting participation in the Census. They will be hiring more than 30,000 people for the 2026 Census. The workforce will reflect the diversity of people and communities in Australia.

Census field jobs are temporary. Some may only last a few weeks, while others may be for six months or longer. People can choose the hours they work and fit them into their schedule.

The ABS needs people in every part of Australia, and more than half the jobs don’t require any prior experience.

The jobs which are currently available include field officer, field manager, community field officer, remote area management team member, mobile field representative and local engagement officer.

More than 16,000 Field Officers are needed to support the 2026 Census.

For more information, visit info.census.abs.gov.au/careers



The hunt continues for Miss Bettye in the final round

THE Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop in Alexandra is hosting the final round of their ‘Find Miss Bettye’ mannequin challenge to celebrate the arrival of their new mannequin.

Residents of Alexandra and surrounds are invited to look at the photo of the mannequin included in this edition, with the purpose of locating whereabouts in town the photo was taken.

Participants are then invited to attend Redgate Bazaar Opportunity Shop to fill in a supplied ticket with their name and contact details and their guess of the location of the mannequin to ‘Bettye’s Barrel’ at the op shop.

The winner of a \$20 op shop voucher will be drawn on Saturday, August 8, at the op shop’s close of business, and announced in the following edition of the paper.

The Redgate Bazaar Op Shop is an Anglican Mission that supports the community wherever possible. The shop’s opening hours are 10am to 3pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

WHERE’S MISS BETTYE: Name the location of Miss Bettye and fill out your ticket at the Redgate Op Shop for your chance to win.

McLeish concerns about fire recovery

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish has expressed concern about various aspects of the fire recovery effort.

All of the impacted shires in the January 2026 fires received the same amount of funding, \$750,000, from the Victorian Government, despite some shire areas suffering far greater impacts than others.

Murrindindi Shire was terribly impacted during the fires but received the same amount of money as shires which only saw small incursions.

Acknowledging that there were also terrible impacts in the Harcourt area, she said, “Murrindindi has been left to carry the can here and they can’t afford that and that’s really disappointing.”

She was also concerned that

\$340,000 of the money donated in the Victorian Bushfire Appeal had not been spent.

She said, “That really gives me the pip because when you read the website, it talks about immediate relief and stuff. People gave that for immediate relief. People didn’t give that for them to sit on it for six months and work out what to do.”

She added, “I worry because Murrindindi are doing everything right it seems, and have the best intent, but they’re a little bit hamstrung. People still need assistance with housing and getting back on their feet. Fencing and cleanup are still issues.

“I know someone who’s just got a caravan delivered last week. I was driving past that area and it was like three degrees and it was probably zero earlier that day

and it was full of fog and they had been living in suboptimal conditions, makeshift sheds and stuff like this.”

She also said, “Too often I’m hearing of caseworkers with their hands tied because they’re trying to get things done and it’s just not happening quickly.”

In addition, she commented that some of the guidelines placed around support made it impossible for many people to gain support.

“Recovery doesn’t happen quickly,” she said. “And people need to be supported.”

The clean up was another point of contention. “I just drove down from Cathkin to Alexandra. I was on the Yarck Road yesterday. Huge bales of wire were in the paddocks. You know at some point that’ll get

taken away but there were rows and rows and rows of it where damaged fencing is all just being rolled up and put here and then the next lot’s been rolled up and put there and at some point that’s got to be taken away too. There’s a lot with cleanup and it’s not just sheds and houses, it’s a cleanup of the fencing that needs to be moved and it’s just too slow.”

A further challenge is that Murrindindi Shire Council can’t access the full lists of houses and properties burned, and the people impacted, from the Victorian Government due to privacy concerns. Ms McLeish plans to look into the legislation around this.

Ms McLeish strongly advised people to contact her office if they were facing challenges around fire recovery support.

Yea Probus celebrates winter Christmas

YEA Probus members enjoyed Christmas in July recently at the Yea Country Club Function room. A decorated Christmas tree, festive table decorations, traditional Christmas food; and many lucky door prizes all added to the Christmas spirit, plus the wintry weather outside.

The Probus Choir "The Mommas and Poppa" entertained with lovely carols before urging all to join in a Christmas sing-along. Many members dressed in theme or wore something red.

Probus events managers, Barbara Martin and Jenny Purvis, organised the occasion including all the Christmas decorations and treats, making the day very special for all to enjoy.



Enjoying the dessert course, Judy Henwood, Pauline Callander, Peg O'Connor and Alma Smith.



The Momma's & Poppa Choir John Handsaker, Jenny Purvis, Val Hauser, Rosemary Simon, Delma Moore.



Eddy and Maree Magee always dress for the occasion.

Holidays with a dinki-di, Aussie touch

GLENBURN farmer Andrew Lenffer is a man of imagination and as a parent with two youngsters he wanted annual holidays to be of an alternative nature and to be forever memorable instead of rushing here, stopping there and living out of a suitcase.

Andrew had the vision of building a Horse-Drawn Romani-style Gypsy Wagon. This passion project took Andrew close on seven months to complete. All he needed to finish the project was to hitch two of his Clydsdale horses and the Lenffer family were on their way to discover more about the great Australian outback.

The family became a popular sight on the highways, and byways, going where they wished, no deadlines to meet. The solar powered wagon is fitted with all essential comforts with Sue and Andrew Lenffer sleeping inside the wagon and kids camping outside.

One memorable school holiday was from Katamatite in Victoria's north following Broken River for 210 km before finishing at Barah.

After seven years of adventure holidays the travelling Lenffers have decided to auction the wagon, along with a farm full of trucks, tractors, motor cycles and equestrian equipment. Only thing missing is the Clydsdales.

Andrew is happy to explain where such horses can be purchased, or hired. Happy holidays. The online auction is on Saturday, August 2 at 10am. For more details call 0418 509 134.

Community invited to help write the next chapter of Murrindindi's libraries

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting the community to help shape the future of one of Victoria's highest-performing rural library services, with community consultation now open on the *Library Strategy and Action Plan 2027-2030*.

Last year alone, Murrindindi Library Service welcomed more than 70,000 visits, delivered almost 78,000 loans and downloads and attracted more than 8000 people to library programs. While books remain at the heart of the service, today's libraries are also places where people learn new skills, connect with others, access technology, attend events and find trusted information and support.

Council is now asking the community to help guide how library services continue to evolve over the next four years.

The new strategy will build on the strengths of today's service, helping council understand what the community values most and ensuring Murrindindi's libraries continue to reflect local needs while making the best use of resources into the future.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the new strategy presented an opportunity to build and strengthen an already successful service while ensuring it continues to meet the changing needs of the community.

"Our libraries are among council's highest-performing and most valued services, and

we're incredibly proud of what they deliver for our community every day.

"They're places where children discover the joy of reading, students study, people learn new digital skills, community groups come together and residents connect with one another. They're about much more than books.

"Now we're asking our community to help write the next chapter of their library. Whether you visit every week, every now and then, or have never used our library service before, we'd love to hear your ideas."

Manager Customer Experience Anna Cullen said the strategy was being developed from a position of strength.

"Community feedback consistently tells us our libraries are welcoming, trusted and highly valued places, while independent benchmarking shows Murrindindi continues to perform exceptionally well compared with library services across Victoria.

"This isn't about fixing something that's broken. It's about understanding what our community values most, responding to changing needs and identifying opportunities to continue delivering an outstanding library service into the future.

Council is seeking feedback from library users and non-users alike to better understand:

- how people use library services, or why they don't

- the programs, collections and spaces that matter most

- barriers to accessing library services

- opportunities to strengthen learning, wellbeing and community connection

- ideas that will help shape the future direction of library services.

Community feedback will be considered alongside community input, service data, research, demographic information, sector benchmarking and available resources to develop the *Draft Library Strategy and Action Plan 2027-2030*.

Community consultation is open from Monday, July 27 to Friday, August 28, 2026.

Residents can get involved by: Completing the online survey at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/lsap; sharing ideas on the online ideas board; emailing feedback to mls@murrindindi.vic.gov.au; completing a paper survey at Alexandra, Yea or Kinglake libraries or on the Mobile Library; calling council on 5772 0333 to arrange a phone conversation; speaking directly with the Coordinator Library Services during community drop-in sessions.

Community drop-in sessions are scheduled for Alexandra Library on Monday, August 3 from 10am to 4pm; Yea Library on Wednesday, August 5 from 10am to 4pm; and Kinglake Library on Thursday, August 6 from 10am to 4pm.



AUCTION CLEARING SALE

Sunday 2nd August 2026 at 10am

GLENBURN VIC 3717

Kenworth Truck, Deutz-Fahr Tractor, 1974 Chrysler Valiant, Indian Motorcycle, Holden Rodeo Motorhome, Horse-Drawn Romani-style Gypsy Wagon, Hyster Forklift, Grey Fergie Tractor, Deutz 4006 Tractor, Clydsdale Horse, 20Ft Container, Honda Dirt Bike, Quad Bike, Gypsy Wagon Trailer, Horse-drawn Carriages, Tri-axle Livestock Trailer, Livestock Transport Crate, Tradies Trailer, Frost Boss Frost Protection Machine, Southern Cross Centrifugal Pump, Farming Implements - Grader Blade, Seeder, Slasher, Harrows, Grain Feeder, Seed Drill, Rotary Hoe, Scarifier, Farm Gates, Irrigation Pipes, Timber, Fence Posts, Fuel Tank, Ajax Pump, Lathe, Kansai Generator, Welder, Air Compressor, Rover Compost, Drill Press, Pipe Bender, Lots of Horse Gear including Saddles, Collars, Bridles, Rugs, Hames, Straps, Reins etc. Bird Aviary, Bird Breeding/Nest Boxes, Mercury Platform Scales, Vintage Trunk, Parts Washer, Workshop Tools and much more!



Onsite Viewing
Saturday 1st August 2026 from 12pm to 2pm
meauctions.com.au



ME Auctions - The Clearing Sale Specialists Ph: (03) 9744 4211

CHURCH SERVICES
- ALEXANDRA

ANGLICAN

St Johns Alexandra
9am Eucharist each Sunday
Children welcome.
Rev Mario Hendricks -
Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.
Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St Andrews, Downey Street,
Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
0408 123 581
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street , Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

CHURCH SERVICES
- YEA

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 4.30pm
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

Kindness of Alexandra man saves off-course journey

LORRAINE Dexter-Parker was travelling from Sunshine West to Alexandra when her trip went awry. A missed exit, shredded tyre and no mobile reception meant that she was struggling to make it to her destination. The kindness of an Alexandra man helped get her on her way again.

On Tuesday, July 14, Lorraine from Mallee was driving from Sunshine to Alexandra when road work signs confused her and she missed her exit on the freeway.

“I’m going along, following the GPS and I followed the road sign and there was all these road works and road work signs. Because the road signs on the freeway aren’t clear with all the road works, I missed the turn,” Lorraine said.

“I was looking for the next turn to get around and go back, there was nothing.

“In the end, I just started looking for towns I remembered. I came across a sign for Kinglake, and I thought that’ll get me to Yea. I don’t know what happened, but I ended up in the middle of the forest. No GPS, nothing would work. No phone reception.”

She managed to travel from Kinglake to Alexandra through the state forests. The condition of one of her tyres had started deteriorating when she hit a pothole, and the rocky tracks sealed the deal, shredding what was left of the tyre.

“It started from a pothole and then into the state forest and that just shredded it completely,” Lorraine said.

“The rocks in those mountains shredded my tyre. I was driving in the wet and was sliding, and I thought, thank goodness I’ve done a four-wheel-drive course.

“I thought, I can’t stop. I’ve got to keep going because there’s no-one knows I’m in here. I was supposed to be coming from the other direction.”

After following the compass in her car through the forests, Lorraine spotted what appeared to be the Alexandra hillside.

“I finally saw what looked like the Alexandra mount, the hillside. I kept going and I pulled up in front of a house that had numbers on it, an address. I still had no phone service,” she said.

One man came along and checked in on her then kept going.

“Another car came along with a trailer, and he stopped and got out. He goes, are you okay? I said it was my tyre and I couldn’t get out of the car because I was too sore. Osteoarthritis and such. I had actually met the man last time I was here,” Lorraine explained.

That man was Ian Gibb, who is a part of the Rotary Club of Alexandra.

“He stayed with me, helped me, changed the tyre over, except the spare tyre in the back wouldn’t fit the front, so we had to change over again and put a back wheel on the front. The jack gave up, which dumped the car a bit. Luckily, he had tyres under it.

“Eventually I got mobile signal and called the RACV. They arrived in about 15 minutes, and he waited



JOURNEY GONE WRONG: Lorraine’s shredded tyre after it was taken off the car. The damage was caused by a pothole and rocky state forest tracks.

until they arrived before leaving.”

Lorraine expressed her concerns about the lack of mobile service around Victoria. She also feels that the signage in the state forest needs to be more clear and provide directions to the major towns nearby in case people do find themselves lost.

“Honestly, the lack of phone service across Victoria is nonsense. It’s not a big state, we should have service everywhere. Especially when we pay a fortune for our phones, and there’s monthly fees,” she said.

The house with the address that she pulled up in front of was about 8km outside Alexandra, and she still had no mobile signal.

“I’m concerned about communication. Telstra and all that, there’s not enough service. When the fires were on, how much service were people missing out on when they lost their homes? Stuff like that,” she added.

She finished by thanking again the kind man who stopped and helped her change her tyre, praising the kindness of strangers.

River access plan sparks rural backlash

VRFISH, the peak body representing Victoria’s recreational fishing, is calling on the state government to work with recreational fishers and farmers to open up more public access roads to our rivers.

VRFish Chair, Rob Loats, said “Victoria has hundreds of kilometres of crown land river frontage that is inaccessible to recreational fishers because they can’t cross private land. Unused road reserves often provide important intersections between public roads and public river frontage providing vital access for recreational fishers.”

As more and more families seek out fishing opportunities, recreational fishers are raising concerns with VRFish that there are less places to fish or that they can’t access waterways due to former access points being fenced off or unknowingly blocking access to fishers.

“We want to work with the government and farmers in a pragmatic way to identify key areas to access our valued waterways. If a particular track doesn’t work, let’s find one that does,” Mr Loats said.

As per information from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Action (DEECA), a licence over an unused road provides personal permission to enter and use the

land for a specific purpose and does not offer exclusive use to the licensee.

“The sky won’t fall down every time someone goes fishing and farmers shouldn’t be pitted against fishers. We should be working together to get the right outcome for all Victorians,” he said.

VRFish are fully aware that our valuable farming community do the right thing and allow public access to crown land, in line with their licence conditions, and in general fishers are respectful and aware they must seek permission to enter private property.

“We’re not asking for vehicle access past farmhouses or sheds, but we want meaningful, commonsense access points to go fishing while enjoying our natural environment,” he added.

Recreational fishing is an important tourism contributor to regional economies, with recreational fishers investing hundreds of dollars per trip in buying food, fuel and accommodation as they travel through regional towns.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has rejected this key plank of VicFish’s 2026 state election platform, warning that a proposal to open ‘unused road reserves’ for public access to waterways would funnel recreational traffic straight through working farms and repeat the mistakes

of the state government’s Crown frontage camping changes.

VRFish’s ‘roads to rivers’ proposal seeks government funding to ‘activate’ unused road reserves to improve public access to rivers. The VFF says the plan ignores the reality that many of these reserves are anything but unused. They run through the heart of family farms, where they have been fenced, grazed, cropped and cared for by landholders for generations under long term lease arrangements.

VFF President Ryan Milgate said activating these corridors would create serious biosecurity, safety and management risks, with no clear benefit that could not be delivered through established public access points.

“Recreational fishing is a great Victorian pastime, and farmers are happy to share the bush, but ‘roads to rivers’ is the wrong way to go about it. Many of these so-called unused roads are not unused at all. They run through the middle of working farms that families live on and care for, and turning them into public thoroughfares would create real problems.”

“This is a serious biosecurity risk. Every vehicle, boot and dog that travels down a farm track can carry weeds, soil and disease onto a property. At a time when farmers are on high alert

for emergency animal and plant diseases, the last thing we need is taxpayer money spent opening up uncontrolled access across farmland. Add open gates, wandering stock, fire risk and the safety of the families who live and work on these properties, and you can see why farmers are alarmed.”

“We have seen this before. The Crown frontage camping decision was announced as an election promise with almost no consultation, and it caused years of conflict, biosecurity worry and mistrust in the bush,” Mr Milgate said.

The VFF is calling on all parties and candidates to rule out activating unused road reserves that cut through farmland, and to consult directly with the VFF, affected landholders and licence holders before considering any change in access. It says genuine access improvements should be delivered through established entry points that do not send the public across private and licensed land, past homes, sheds, stockyards and machinery.

“Farmers are not the enemy of fishers, but you cannot improve access by creating a new set of problems for the people who live and work on the land. Our message to every candidate is simple. Talk to us first,” Mr Milgate said.

Country Education Foundation launches second year of the Tim Fischer Fellowship

THE Country Education Foundation (CEF) has officially opened applications for the second year of the Tim Fischer Fellowship, building on the momentum of the fellowship's inaugural year. Individuals passionate about making a difference in rural and regional Australia through the power of education are encouraged to apply.

The fellowship supports a recipient with up to \$50,000 in funding, mentorship and networking opportunities to help turn their bold ideas into reality. The proposed project must include an education element, whether through communities, workplaces, youth, students or other educational contexts to create meaningful change in regional and rural communities.

As applications open for the 2026 fellowship, inaugural recipient Annabelle Hudson has reflected on the significant progress made in delivering her initiative, True North, a practical, student-centred program designed to recognise their strengths, expand their sense of possibility, and approach future education and career decisions with greater clarity and confidence.

Originally from Young in regional New South Wales, Ms Hudson is developing True North to address a gap she observed among regional students; not a lack of talent or ambition, but unequal access to exposure, tailored guidance and opportunities to explore what might suit them.

Ms Hudson has worked closely with students, educators and community stakeholders to refine and pilot the program, developing practical resources that help young people identify their strengths, values and interests, and turn those insights into achievable goals.

"True North has evolved from a powerful idea into something real and deeply meaningful," Ms Hudson said. "I've spent time listening to students and educators in rural and regional communities and shaping the program around what they have shared to genuinely reflect their experiences, aspirations and challenges."

"What has stood out most is just how much potential exists when young people are given the space and support to recognise their strengths."

"Many students already have the capability to achieve incredible things; what they often need is greater self-belief and clearer pathways. True North is about helping them see what's possible and giving them practical steps to move forward with confidence."

Country Education Foundation Chief Executive Officer Wendy Mason said the fellowship's first year demonstrated the power of backing individuals with bold ideas and strong community purpose.

"Annabelle has embodied everything the fellowship stands for: innovation, dedication and a genuine commitment to improving outcomes for rural and regional Australians through the power of education. Her progress over the past year reinforces why this program matters."

Ms Mason said applications are now open for the second fellowship and encouraged Australians from diverse professional backgrounds to apply and submit a project that includes an education element, whether through communities, workplaces, youth, or students that ensures lasting impact across rural and regional Australia, regardless of the industry.

"This fellowship is about investing in people with the drive to create practical solutions to real challenges in country communities," she said.

"It could be someone in agriculture, education, health, science, technology, the arts or other; what matters most is a compelling idea and the commitment to turn that idea into lasting impact, through an education element."

Country Education Foundation Chair, Nick Burton Taylor said the fellowship continues to honour Tim Fischer's belief in the transformative power of education and opportunity.

"Tim believed deeply in the potential of people from regional Australia," Mr Burton Taylor said.

"He understood that talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not always equal. This fellowship continues his legacy by helping bridge that gap and supporting people determined to create positive change."

Applications for the 2026 Tim Fischer Fellowship are now open and close on August 24.

U3A AGM celebrates new leadership and Life Membership

THE U3A Annual General Meeting celebrated new leadership, recognised outstanding service and featured an inspiring guest speaker.

Members elected Jeanne Roberts as the new President, succeeding Deirdre Penhale, who was warmly thanked for her dedication and leadership over the past three years. During her presidency, Deirdre worked tirelessly to support members and guide the organisation through another successful period of growth.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of Life Membership to Greta Vallance, recognising her exceptional contribution to U3A since its inception.

The award was presented by incoming President Jeanne Roberts.

Greta has served the organisation in a variety of committee roles, including President, Vice President, Secretary and General Committee Member. Her leadership, commitment and willingness to volunteer have played an invaluable role in the success of U3A. She has also been



U3A: LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO GRETA VALLANCE.

a passionate and dedicated tutor, generously sharing her knowledge through a wide range of classes and activities that have enriched the experiences of members over many years.

Following the AGM, outgoing President Deirdre Penhale introduced guest speaker Lesley Scott, who spoke about her book *Once Were Wild*. Lesley captivated the audience with the story of earning the trust of two wild brumbies living in the rugged Mount Beckworth State Forest, highlighting the patience and perseverance behind her remarkable journey.

The meeting concluded with members enjoying a delicious lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and cakes, prepared and served by the Alexandra Show Ladies Auxiliary, providing a wonderful opportunity to catch up and celebrate another successful year for U3A.

Student of the week

Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake Disticts

Proudly supported by





Cooper Armstrong
Alexandra Primary School



Lillian Fraser
Eildon Primary School



Marli M
St Mary's Primary School

Government expands paid placement scheme for allied health professions

THE federal government will expand paid mandatory placements to a further 10 allied health professions.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Thursday, July 23 at Labor's national conference that student paramedics and those studying physiotherapy and occupational therapy, clinical psychology, pharmacy and podiatry, speech pathology, audiology, radiography and rehab therapies will become eligible for the Commonwealth Prac Payment of around \$338 a week from June 1, 2027.

The Health Services Union (HSU), as well as federal MPs such as Indi Independent Helen Haines, welcomed the decision after having lobbied for years for an expansion of the program to address what Dr Haines termed "placement poverty" among Australia's future health workforce.

Allied health students are required to complete hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of hours of mandatory placement before graduating, often forcing them to give up the paid employment they rely on to cover rent, food, transport and other essentials.

Students reported skipping meals, falling behind on bills and considering abandoning their degrees because they could not afford to complete their placements, despite Australia facing serious shortages across the allied health workforce.

Dr Haines, who last month presented the prime minister with a petition with 47,000 signatures call-



ALLIED HEALTH: Dr Haines in Parliament with Senator David Pocock and the petition signed by more than 43,000 people calling for the change.

ing for expansion of the scheme, said students, universities, professional bodies, health services and parliamentarians from across the country had been united around a simple principle: no community should miss out on care because future health workers were priced out of their training.

"At a time of urgent health workforce shortages, particularly in rural and regional Australia, we cannot afford to have financial pressures preventing students

from completing health degrees," she said.

"This is fantastic news for allied health students across Australia and will alleviate enormous pressure they face when trying to juggle study and their day-to-day bills."

HSU national president Kate Marshall said the expansion will help more students complete their qualifications and enter the health, aged care and disability workforces.

She said the HSU campaign is set to continue until all allied health

students undertaking mandatory placements receive financial support.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) will also be continuing to campaign for medical students to be included in paid mandatory placements scheme.

AMA president Dr Danielle McMullen said the government's continued exclusion of medical students from the scheme made no sense, and it must explain why students - who undertake about

2000 hours of unpaid clinical placements - aren't being supported, given the need for doctors across communities.

Elizabeth Sinclair, CEO of Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) said, "YDMH welcomes this initiative by the Albanese Government and hopes it will encourage allied health students to pursue learning opportunities in rural settings and, ultimately, to establish their careers in rural communities such as Yea."

July meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

COUNCILLOR Adams was an apology and there was no open forum participation.

Adjustment to user fees and charges for 2026-27

Council adopted the 2026-27 schedule of user fees and charges on June 17 as part of the annual budget process.

Small adjustments have been identified since.

Proposed amendments include the addition of a missing land information certificate fee, minor corrections to building and planning fees and descriptions, updates to statutory lodgment fees set by the state government, and adjustments to landfill related fees to reflect the state government's increased landfill levy for 2026-27.

Until the revised schedule is adopted and published people will continue to pay the applicable 2025-26 fees.

The amendments are administrative in nature, meaning that no community consultation is required.

Council voted to adopt the updated schedule.

CONT25/30 Plant 3120 Landfill Waste Compactor

This report is designed for council to appoint a supplier for contract CONT 25/30 Supply and Delivery of a Landfill Compactor to replace the current compactor.

It is a lump sum contract.

Tender for this procurement closed on May 8, 2026, and three submissions were received.

Based on evaluation, it was recommended that Tenderer 3 be awarded CONT 25/30 for the supply and delivery of a Landfill Compactor for the lump sum of \$957,300 excluding GST.

This comprises the base compactor purchase price of \$860,000, a modified bucket at an additional cost of \$62,200, and a five-year or 4000 hours extended powertrain plus warranty package at a cost of \$35,100.

The old vehicle (17-years-old) will be either traded in or sold at auction.

Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

CONT25/21 Plant 1613 Motor Grader

This report guides council in appointing a supplier for contract CONT25/21 Supply and Delivery of a Motor Grader.

It is also a lump sum contract.

Tender for this procurement closed on May 8, 2026, with two submissions received.

Following analysis, it was recommended that Tenderer 1 be awarded the contract to supply and deliver a motor grader and roller control system for the lump sum of \$562,525 excluding GST.

Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

Multi Branded Fuel Card (Procurement Australia)

The report presents options for the supply of fleet fuel card services for council's fleet of vehicles.

Evaluation determined that uti-

lizing fuel cards provides a low-risk and efficient procurement pathway, reducing administrative effort and providing competitive pricing.

Council identified Business Fuel Cars Pty Ltd as the preferred supplier until March 31, 2029, and voted to accept the recommendations.

Councillor reports

Cr Carpenter urged people to get skin checks regularly.

In her portfolio area of sustainable population growth and land use planning, they will be seeking detailed designs for the enabling infrastructure for the Alexandra East Development Plan.

The Yea Structure Plan has been exhibited over the last few weeks and will come back to council for adoption in August.

There are no delays in planning.

Cr McAulay said that stakeholder consultation continues on council's streamlined event project, with work focusing on making it easier for event organisers to navigate council's processes.

Planning is underway for Dindi Winter Fest.

Council has also appointed a consultant to develop the Murrindindi Manufacturing Strategy.

They are also partnering with Alexandra and Yea hospitals to deliver the Beyond the Business Supporting the Supporter events.

Council is closely monitoring the H5 Avian Influenza situation.

Cr Hildebrand reported that bushfire recovery works are progressing well.

Around 18,000 cubic metres of fire affected timber has been collected with 7000 cubic metres processed and 400 cubic metres returned to local communities.

Community consultation for the Alexandra Movement and Place Study will begin soon.

Cr Lording returned from his personal leave.

He spoke about the National Tree Day plantings planned across the shire at the end of July.

The EPA Landfill Levy for general tipping will increase by more than four per cent in 2026-27.

Cr Carr said that community consultation around the Murrindindi Library Strategy and Action Plan 2027-30 will open on Monday, July 27, and remain open until Friday, August 28, inviting residents to help shape the future of library services in the shire.

Drop in sessions will be held for community members to discuss ideas and ask questions at Alexandra Library on August 3, 10am to 4pm; Yea Library on August 5, 10am to 4pm; and Kinglake Library on August 6, 10am to 4pm.

Cr Gallagher said that council attended a community meeting called by members of the Rubicon and Thornton communities to share concerns about the proposed solar farm.

He said that council is not aware that a planning application has been lodged with the Minister for Planning yet.

He also attended another com-

munity-instigated meeting regarding concerns around operations of Menzies Support Services.

Cr Gallagher spoke about continuing advocacy efforts by council.

CEO report (given by Acting CEO Michael Chesworth)

Mr Chesworth reported that council have been successful in securing external funding for a number of initiatives over the past month.

They have received \$45,000 under the Federal Government's Australian Heritage Grants Program to develop a heritage management plan for the Yea Flora Fossil Site.

They've received \$500,000 from the state government's VicHealth Partners in Place Program, for a five-year project to embed universal health education and literacy in early years education across the shire.

Council and the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee have received \$134,000 from AusNet for the installation of new solar panels and a battery at the Yea Saleyards.

State funding has also been approved for several local development strategy projects through the Forestry Transition Fund.

Current projects include the Murrindindi Health Network Plan, Beyond the Black Spur Tourism Initiative, etcetera.

Six more projects are expected to be announced shortly, and another two applications are currently being assessed.

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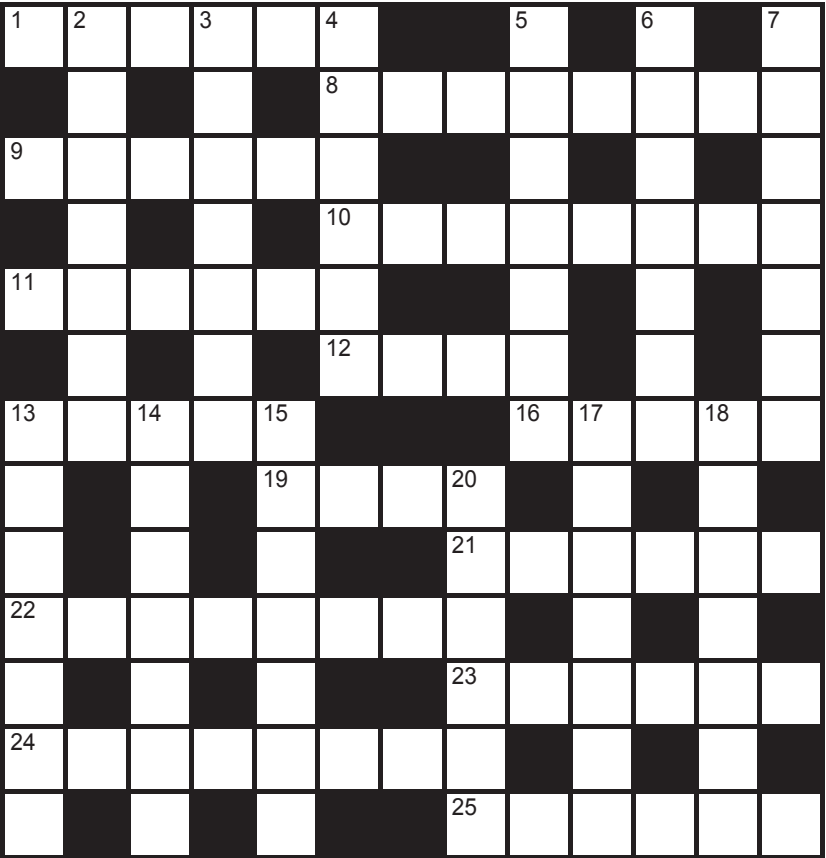


Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

1143

- ACROSS**
- 1 Name things that are reduced to a state of ruin (6)
- 8 To be devious, is to be what (8)
- 9 Who was one of a pair of US comedy film actors (6)
- 10 Name another term for a quarrel or a private feud (8)
- 11 Having bounds or limits, is to be what (6)
- 12 What is the character played by an actor (4)
- 13 What are adult male deer (5)
- 16 Name ballads or lyrics (5)
- 19 To engrave, is to do what (4)
- 21 What, in Australia, is the wattle tree known as (6)
- 22 To be strange or odd, is to be what (8)
- 23 Name a common black and white bird (6)
- 24 To disallow arguments of a person, is to do what (8)
- 25 What is a crafty scheme (6)



- 6 What is a part cut off or separated (7)
- 7 What are tresses of hair (7)
- 13 What is a sign or indication of something (7)
- 14 Which term describes Parisian gangsters (7)
- 15 Name an English comedian and character actor, Peter ... (7)
- 17 Name some edible citrus fruits (7)
- 18 To be making progress, is to be doing what (7)
- 20 To have injured, is to have done what (6)

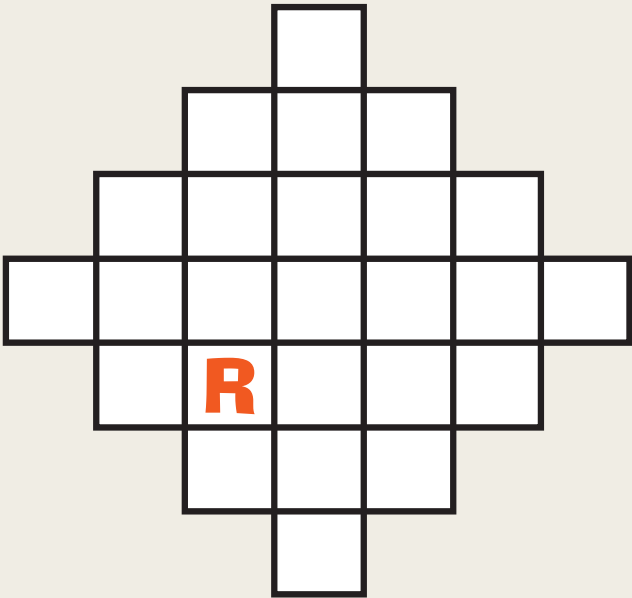
- DOWN**
- 2 Which person tends to view things as they are (7)
- 3 Name a type of large sharp knife (7)
- 4 Which metallic element has the symbol Ag (6)
- 5 Name, in golf, scores of one stroke under par (7)

E-QUATIONS

453

Letters A to Z have a number value. Some are shown in the right-hand cells. Create remaining values using clues in centre cells.

H	N+R	15
L	O+Z	
N	R-W	7
O	W×O	
R	Z+Z	
W	L-H	
Z	L÷Z	



BIYWORD

183

Build it yourself using the clues and each of the twenty-four letters once only to form ten words: five across and five down. A key word (bold clue) builds on the letter set in the grid.

- CLUES:**
- Attempt (3)
- Loiter (5)
- NSW/Q sedimentary basin (5)
- Overpowering fears (7)
- Quod erat demonstrandum (3)
- Small star (7)
- Standard (abb) (3)
- Telephone (abb) (3)
- Two pints (5)**
- Waggish (5)

A	L	R	T
A	L	R	T
D	L	S	T
D	O	S	T
E	Q	S	U
E	R	T	Y

SUDOKU

143

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

QUICK THINK

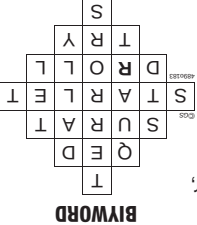
453

Solve the crossword.
Each answer has four letters.

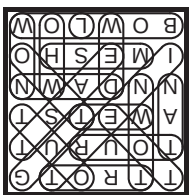
- ACROSS**
- 1 Natural hideout
- 5 Consumer
- 6 Economical
- 7 Chronicle
- DOWN**
- 1 Veneration
- 2 Offshore
- 3 Wiener schnitzel meat
- 4 Coastal raptor

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

SOLUTIONS



R:8, W:1, Z:4
H:15, L:16, N:7, O:12,
3 Veal, 4 Erne.
DOWN: 1 Cult, 2 Asea,
6 Lean, 7 Tale.
ACROSS: 1 Cave, 5 User,



1 (a) Absent-minded 2 (a) Liab to err

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			



HANDS IN GROUND: Henry, River and Spencer planting trees. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



THUMBS UP TO TREE PLANTING: Ryder Clacy, Max Bristow and Griff Thomas after getting their gloves dirty planting trees. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



OUTDOOR FUN: Stella Brewer, Millie Roche and Kendelle Ward from Alexandra Primary School. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



CARING FOR TREES: Isabelle and Matilda with a tiny tree to be planted. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



A GROUP EFFORT: Oli Laverty, Kendelle Ward, Stella Brewer, Millie Roche, Ricki Birch, Millie Ferguson and Matilda Woehl at the tree planting activity. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



STAKES FOR SUPPORT: Ryan, Jett and Dusty adding stakes to the surrounds to protect the newly planted trees. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



TREE GUARD: Buxton students learning to put tree guards around plants. PHOTO: Anne Richey

Local schools participate in Tree Day

SCHOOLS Tree Day took place on Friday, July 24, and local schools joined in with gusto. The aim of the day was to bring environmental learning to life, with students taking action for a greener world.

Schools Tree Day was a great way to inspire students to learn about the local environment while playing an active role in their community.

Through hands-on planting activities, students connected with nature while supporting environmental education, teamwork and community involvement. Established by Plane Ark, the event was supported locally by Landcare.



NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEARN: A student planting a tree at Buxton Primary School. PHOTO: Anne Richey



A FAMILY OCCASION: Hayley with her child, River, and Flowerdale Primary School student Wyatt. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



QUITE THE EVENT: Flowerdale Primary School students and teachers planting alongside the creek. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



MARYSVILLE: One of the students planting a tree on the Marysville Primary School grounds. PHOTO: Anne Richey



GUIDANCE: Student Jamie and Steve providing direction on caring for the land. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



IN THE DIRT: Jake and Malakye plant trees beside King Parrot Creek. PHOTO: Bailey Dixon



LEARNING ABOUT TREES: Students listening to Zanni Waldstein. PHOTO: Anne Richey



DIGGING A HOLE: A student using a hole digger. PHOTO: Anne Richey

Set the standard for farm water safety this National Farm Safety Week

PARENTS, carers and farmers are being urged to make water safety a priority this National Farm Safety Week, with experts reminding Victorians that the behaviours adults model can have a lasting impact on children's safety.

This year's National Farm Safety Week theme, Set the Standard – Show 'Em How It's Done, encourages everyone living, working and visiting farms to lead by example in demonstrating safe practices and creating environments where children can safely learn and explore.

The reminder comes as drowning continues to be a leading cause of child fatalities on farms. According to the Royal Life Saving Society Australia's 2025 National Drowning Report, more than a quarter (27 per cent) of toddler (zero to four years) drowning deaths in 2024/25 occurred in inland waterways like dams and lakes. For older children aged five to 14, rivers and creeks posed the greatest danger, accounting for 55 per cent of all drownings in that age group.

Kidsafe Victoria CEO Sarah Sexton said farms provide children with wonderful opportunities to explore and learn, but they also present unique water hazards that require careful planning and supervision.

"Farms are full of potential water hazards that aren't typically found in suburban backyards, including dams, tanks, troughs, irrigation channels and septic pits," Ms Sexton said.

"Young children are naturally curious and don't recognise danger the way adults do. That's why it's so important for adults to set the standard by actively supervising children around water, securing or removing hazards where possible, and modelling safe behaviours every day.

"Children learn by watching the adults around them. When they see parents and carers taking water safety seriously, they're more likely to develop safe habits that can last a lifetime."

Andrew English, Senior Manager for Media, Marketing and Communications at Life Saving Victoria, said that while prevention is always the priority, preparation is equally important.

"Water safety isn't just about the beach or the local pool. As the data shows, many tragedies occur in inland waterways such as dams and creeks, often close to home," Mr English said.

"We encourage families to enrol children in swimming lessons from an early age, while adults should regularly refresh their CPR and first aid skills. In an emergency, those skills could save a life."

Ms Sexton said that setting the standard for farm water safety is as simple as taking small, practical actions.

"Setting the standard doesn't require major changes; it means making safe choices every day. The small actions adults take can make the biggest difference in preventing a tragedy."

Kidsafe Victoria's farm water safety tips: Always actively supervise children around water. For toddlers, this means staying within arm's reach. Establish a securely fenced safe play area near the house and away from water hazards, machinery and livestock. Cover water tanks, ensure septic lids are secure, and fill or fence ditches and post holes where possible. Enrol children in swimming lessons from an early age. Learn CPR and refresh your skills regularly. Dress children in brightly coloured clothing to improve visibility around water. Regularly check dams and creeks for changing conditions, including water levels, slippery banks and debris, and remove floating objects where practical that may attract curious children.

For more information on child water safety on farms, and to download the Farm Water Safety Checklist, visit kidsafevic.com.au



TREE PLANTING IN EILDON: Wendy, Ann and John at the Eildon tree planting site.

PHOTO: Judy Maloney

Local volunteers grow a greener future for Eildon

A SMALL group of dedicated Eildon Landcare volunteers is making a big difference to the local environment, continuing revegetation work near the Pondage Bridge as part of this year's National Tree Day activities.

Last week, four volunteers spent the morning removing weeds before planting native grasses donated by Murrindindi Shire Council, helping restore the area with species that are natu-

rally suited to the local landscape.

The ongoing project aims to improve the health and appearance of the reserve while creating valuable habitat for native birds, insects and other wildlife. Native grasses also help stabilise the soil and reduce the spread of weeds, ensuring the area remains attractive and environmentally healthy for years to come.

Although only a small team was on hand, their efforts reflect the

dedication of Eildon Landcare members who regularly volunteer their time to care for local public spaces. Their work not only benefits the environment but also enhances an area enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The planting forms part of National Tree Day, celebrated across Australia throughout July, encouraging communities to work together to protect and restore their local environment.

Eildon Landcare thanked council for its generous donation of native grasses and acknowledged the ongoing commitment of volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work continue to make a positive contribution to the township.

New volunteers are always welcome to join future working bees, with every helping hand contributing to the preservation and enhancement of Eildon's unique natural surroundings.



YEA GARDEN CLUB: Unloading the plants.



A WELCOME SIGHT: Local residents selecting plants for their gardens.

Garden plants to Highlands

AFTER the devastating Longwood fires Yea Garden Club, along with many other local organisation and clubs, were wondering how they could help our friends and neighbours along the Highlands Ranges.

The members recognized that although many would be very upset at the loss of their gardens, everyone had a higher priority in the loss of homes, shedding, stock and fences. All that was left of their homes also had to be cleared with heavy machinery working all over their gardens causing more devastation.

Yea Garden Club members decided the best way for them to help was by potting up plants for the Highland gardeners for when they ready to start replanting.

Last Saturday, Yea Garden Club took several car and trailer-loads of plants, cuttings and bulbs to the Highlands Hall where residents were invited to come for a soup and roll luncheon, followed by a cuppa and cake, and to take home armfuls of giveaway plants.

A very social day was had by all and the three varieties of beautiful hot homemade soups for lunch were a welcome treat on a very cold foggy day.

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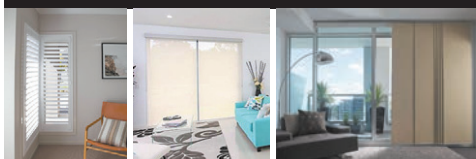
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Farmsafe Australia launches National Farm Safety Week with Safer Farms Report

LAST week was National Farm Safety Week, with Farmsafe Australia launching their 2026 *Safer Farms Report*, proudly supported by WFI Insurance, alongside a national campaign encouraging every person in agriculture to recognise the influence they have on the people around them.

The Safer Farms Report has become Farmsafe Australia's flagship annual publication, bringing together the latest national injury and fatality data, emerging issues, information on practical resources and the voices of farmers leading change across Australian agriculture.

More than a snapshot of statistics, it provides insight into the opportunities we have to strengthen safety culture and create safer, healthier farming communities.

New figures released in the report reveal 53 lives were lost and a further 182 people were seriously injured on Australian farms in 2025, bringing the nation's farm death toll to 427 lives since 2019, more than one person every week for seven consecutive years.

The figures are a reminder that while Australian farmers produce the food and fibre that keeps the nation running, too many families continue to be affected by preventable injuries and fatalities on farm. They also reinforce the importance

of continuing to build safer farms, stronger safety cultures and better outcomes for the people behind Australian agriculture.

WFI Insurance Executive General Manager, Damien Gallagher [Not the mayor of Murrindindi Shire] said the report reflects the value of industry working together to create meaningful and lasting change.

"For many years, WFI has proudly supported the Safer Farms Report because meaningful change starts with understanding the risks, challenges, and opportunities facing Australian agriculture. This report combines evidence, practical ideas and the voices of farmers themselves to help strengthen safety across our industry."

Mr Gallagher said improving farm safety was a shared responsibility.

"Every conversation about safety has the potential to prevent an injury, strengthen a business and protect a farming family. We're proud to support initiatives that encourage practical leadership and help create safer outcomes across Australian agriculture," he said.

This year's National Farm Safety Week campaign, 'Set the Standard: Show 'em how it's done', is built around a simple idea: the standards we demonstrate every day influence the standards others adopt tomorrow.

Farmsafe Australia Chair Felicity



FARM SAFETY WEEK: Tractors continue to be a leading cause of fatalities on farms, and National Farm Safety Week aims to highlight issues with farm safety.

Richards said while the report highlights the challenges facing Australian agriculture, it also provides reason for optimism.

"Most incidents don't happen because people don't care about safety. They happen during routine jobs, busy periods and moments of pressure when shortcuts begin to creep in," Ms Richards said.

"Whether we realise it or not, those moments matter because they become the standards we set and the standards others follow."

"Every day on Australian farms, people are watching. They watch how we approach a task, how we respond under pressure, what we

walk past, what we accept and what we choose to challenge."

With tractors, side-by-sides and quad bikes continuing to be the leading causes of fatalities on Australian farms, Ms Richards said the industry should focus on the small, everyday behaviours that help build a stronger safety culture.

"It's simple things like wearing a helmet, putting on a seatbelt, reducing speed and using rollover protection that can make a real difference."

Throughout National Farm Safety Week, six Safer Farmers Ambassadors from across Australia shared their own experiences and practical insights into creating stronger safety cultures.

Poultry Operations Manager Brad Vinecombe encouraged farmers to pause and reassess before routine and pressure influence their judgement. Queensland bull handler Sophie Halliday believes the small habits people demonstrate every day have the greatest influence on those around them.

Tasmanian sheep producer Josie Chester reminded farming families that children are always watching and so it's our job to set them up for success.

Cotton grower Gavin Dal Broi called on farmers to rethink the culture of pushing through fatigue and time pressure and avoid treat-

ing it as a badge of honour. New South Wales cattle producer Katie Saul encouraged farmers to recognise that safer cultures aren't built with a tick and flick mentality.

And finally, South Australian Robbie Davis believes stronger safety cultures begin with stronger leadership throughout the entire agricultural sector. From boardrooms to conference stages, safety needs to be on the agenda.

Ms Richards said together, the ambassadors demonstrate that safer farms are built through thousands of everyday decisions.

"Culture isn't built through posters or paperwork alone. It's built through what people see; a helmet worn, a seatbelt buckled, a decision to stop and reassess, a conversation about fatigue or someone having the confidence to speak up," she said.

"This National Farm Safety Week, we're asking every person in agriculture to think about the example they're setting. Because the way we work today shapes the culture we'll leave for tomorrow."

'Set the Standard: Show 'em how it's done', Farmsafe Australia's National Farm Safety Week campaign, ran from July 19 to 25, 2026.

For more information and resources, visit Farmsafe Australia. The 2026 Safer Farms Report is available at tinyurl.com/39pa26a5

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Winner of Alexandra Rotary Club firewood raffle is:
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Thanks to all who bought tickets.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
Alexandra and District Garden society
Will conduct its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday August 11th at 2pm at the Alexandra Municipal Library.
It will be followed by our regular monthly meeting. Visitors welcome.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
The Eildon Golf Club is seeking expressions of interest from non-profit organisations, to host the annual charity day at the Eildon Golf Club scheduled for November 2026. Interested organizations please contact club secretary Karen Reece via email. karenmreece1959@gmail.com

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DEATH NOTICES
DARMODY, Steve.
It is with great sadness that Alexandra Secondary College acknowledges the passing of Steve Darmody.
Steve gave dedicated service to the College as Groundsman from 1998 to 2015. His contribution to our school community is remembered with gratitude.
We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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A gathering will be held for family and friends to celebrate the life of Lex Noble at the Alzburg Resort at 39 Malcolm Street, Mansfield on Friday, August 21 at 1pm.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EILDON ACTION INC.
The Annual General Meeting of Eildon Action will be held on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre – 1 Main Street Eildon, Vic, 3713.
The Agenda of the meeting will be to report on the finances for the year July 1st to June 30th 2026, confirm Office-bearers and set Membership fees for the next year.

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Community invited to help shape the future of Grant Street

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting residents, businesses and visitors to help shape the future of Alexandra's town centre through a new Grant Street Safety and Streetscape Improvement Plan.

Council has already secured funding for several important safety improvements within the Grant Street precinct and is now asking the community to help identify priorities for the next stage of improvements. Community feedback will help shape a long-term vision for the town centre, strengthen council's advocacy to other levels of government and position future projects for funding opportunities.

Grant Street is the heart of Alexandra, connecting local businesses, schools, community services,

events and public spaces. Council is seeking feedback on how it is used, where improvements could be made and what opportunities could be considered to create a safer, more accessible and more vibrant town centre.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the project gives the community a genuine opportunity to help shape the future of one of Alexandra's most important public spaces.

"Grant Street is much more than Alexandra's main street. It's where people come together. It's where people shop, meet friends, access services, attend events and experience the best of our town," Cr Gallagher said.

"We've already secured funding for several important safety im-

provements, and now we're looking beyond those projects. This is an opportunity for the community to help shape a long-term vision for Grant Street so we're ready to advocate for future investment as funding opportunities arise."

"The people who use Grant Street know what works well and what could be improved to make Alexandra even better. Whether it's increasing safety and accessibility, supporting local businesses or creating a better town centre experience, we want to hear those ideas."

Council is progressing several grant funded safety projects in the precinct, including upgrades to the Nihil Street roundabout, improvements around the Grant Street Ro-

tunda and upgrades to the Webster Street school crossing.

While these works progress, the Grant Street Safety and Streetscape Improvement Plan will help identify longer-term priorities for improving safety, accessibility, walking and cycling connections, landscaping, public spaces and the overall experience of Alexandra's town centre.

Consultation is open now and closes on Sunday, September 6.

If you live, work or visit Alexandra, have your say on the future of Grant Street. Whether you have two minutes for a quick poll, want to complete the full survey, attend a pop-up session or join a guided walk-through, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

The first pop-up session will be held at Alexandra Library from 10am to 4pm on Monday, August 3, providing an opportunity to meet the project team, learn more about the project and share your ideas in person.

The project area extends from the Nihil Street roundabout to UT Creek Bridge and from Webster Street to Bayley Street. It includes Grant Street, Bakers Lane, the Grant Street Rotunda, Webster Street school crossing connections and surrounding public spaces.

For more information, to complete a survey or view upcoming engagement activities, visit council's engagement platform, The Loop, at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grantstreet



CORNÉLIA SELOVER IS OUR ARTIST OF THE MONTH

LOCAL artist Cornélia Selover is now exhibiting her wares at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre. Her wide range includes clothing, accessories such as handbags and purses, gift cards, playing card and original artwork.

Cornelia studied art at RMIT Melbourne and illustration at the prestigious Fashion Institute of

Technology (FIT) in New York.

Her inspiration comes from the world around her. One example is from a visit to friends living in the Mallee. She was mesmerised by the seemingly never ending straight lines of the roads and fences contrasting with the impossibly blue sky, drawing her eyes into the unknown distance.

Leather and natural cow hide

are the media for her handbags and purses and make an excellent accompaniment to any outfit. Her high-quality casual clothing is eye catching and stylish. The rain cloak on display (and for sale) at the Information Centre is perfect for Alexandra's winters.

The Alexandra Information Centre not only provides tourist

information, but is a great outlet for local artists and craft people, offering a range of quality, individual and quirky gift products. Cornélia has recently joined the team, so why not drop in and have a chat while perusing the extensive range of products. Maybe you might like to volunteer too? The centre is always looking for more volunteers and artists.

Vegetation management at local schools

SIX schools across the Murrindindi Shire are among more than 300 in Victoria which will share in \$8 million to clear vegetation around buildings well ahead of the dangerous bushfire season.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll said the funding is going to schools on the Bushfire at Risk Register, which are mostly in regional Victoria where families need this protection most.

The local schools to receive funding are Buxton Primary School \$19,979, Flowerdale Primary School \$23,252, Kinglake Primary School \$22,705, Kinglake West Primary School \$24,749, Marysville Primary School \$23,155 and Rubicon Outdoor School \$25,167.

Minister Carroll said the government is also making sure bushfire-prone schools which receive Bushfire Preparedness Vegetation Program grants get the expert ongoing support they need to stay safe.

He said schools will get two visits every three years by an accredited bushfire planning and design expert.

"The experts will give the schools a unique vegetation management plan... This means schools are kept safe as conditions and their school communities evolve," Minister Carroll said.

Funding to strengthen support for children and families

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has welcomed the announcement by VicHealth of the Partners in Place grant, providing \$500,000 over five years to support the health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families in Murrindindi.

The grant will support initiatives that strengthen the systems, relationships, and environments that influence health outcomes across the municipality. The project recognises that the health challenges faced by our communities can-

not be resolved through individual programs alone, and that lasting change requires collaboration and commitment across organisations, services and the community.

Working alongside community partners and local stakeholders, council will help design and deliver initiatives that respond to local needs and strengthen the support systems available to children and families. The project aligns with council's commitment to supporting positive health and wellbeing outcomes through the Municipal

Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Throughout the project, council will work closely with community members, service providers and key stakeholders to ensure local knowledge and experience shape future initiatives. By strengthening partnerships and creating more consistent support networks, the project aims to deliver long term benefits for children, families and the broader Murrindindi community.

Council welcomes this investment by VicHealth and looks forward to maximising the impact of

the funding and creating meaningful, sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes.

Community members will have opportunities to provide feedback and participate throughout the life of the project. Further information about the project and engagement opportunities will be shared as they become available.

Mayor Damien Gallagher acknowledged this is an exciting and important investment in the future of the community.

"It recognises that lasting change

happens when organisations, services and communities work together to address the factors that influence health and wellbeing," he said.

"We are pleased to be working alongside our community partners to deliver initiatives that are informed by local knowledge and designed to create positive, long-term outcomes for children, young people and families."

For more information about the Partners in Place initiative, visit vihealth.vic.gov.au



TEAMWORK: Peter Cairns sizing up his options of how to progress the ball.



TAKING ON THE FIGHT: Reserves player Jesse Elks fighting for possession of the football in foggy conditions.

REBELS SMASH POWELLTOWN AT REBEL PARK



PASSING IN THE DAMP: Under 17s player Taya Barkley passing the netball to her open teammate.



IN THE AIR: A Grade competitor Marli Collier challenging for the netball in mid-air.

Mosley scores birdie on seven despite his shoe falling apart

By DAVE SILVERMAN

THERE was an optimistic feeling in the air late last Tuesday morning at Alexandra Golf Club, as it became obvious that the fog really was lifting. As a result, nine players set off at noon with a song in their hearts, only to be confronted, when the fog did clear, with 100 per cent cloud cover. Nature can be so cruel sometimes.

With the course drying, and the conditions a little better, the

scores were a bit more respectable last week, with all three placegetters recording 34 points. Miscore did a countback, and decided that the winner was Brad Newton, second was Bill Wind and third, yours truly.

Nearest the pin on seven went to Nigel Waterhouse, who narrowly missed a hole in one and Russell Purcell took 17, along with a run-down voucher. The other voucher went to Frank Devries.

Play of the day award last week

went to John Mosley, who, with one shoe literally falling apart, putted from off the green on seven to score a birdie, his ball cannoning perfectly off Leo Dynes' ball and into the cup.

Only four ladies turned up last Wednesday, the threat of rain a possible factor in that, so no competition was played. The four played a round, and put their cards in. Well done, ladies.

Travis Capp Plumbing were the sponsors for last week's Stableford

round on Saturday. With a little rain overnight and a foggy, damp start, it was unsurprising that only seven members felt the urge to get out there and have a go.

Dan Burns was the winner with 35 points, on a countback from Brad Kidd, who filled second spot, and third went to James Kidd, who had 34 points.

Only three of the available five nearest the pins were claimed, with two going to Russell Purcell, seven to Brad, and 18 to Dan.

54-hole event starts at Yea Golf Club

By ALAN PELL

WITH many members 'up north' or unavailable, only 11 players participated in the first of three rounds for the 54-hole event at Yea Golf Club.

Leading the day was Phil Armstrong (17) with 36 points from second Jonathan Fisher (10) with 35 on countback from Zach Pell (12) third. No nearest the pin on the 18th and John Tanner collected the Club award. Five ladies also played stableford with Margie Wright (20) with 34 points winning from Sharon Grogan (23) with 33.

Last Wednesday saw 16 men play Pair 22 Stableford with Anthony "Pro" La Grutta teaming with Brian Simmons to win with 292 points from second. This was Anthony's fourth win in a row. Second with 270 points were Bob Glenister/Gary Pollard from third Alan Pell/Brian Priestley with 264.

Luke Gregory was nearest the pin on the 18th and Greg Clements/Jim Redmond won the Club Award. Individual winner was Alan Pell with 33 points from Luke Gregory with 30.

Nine ladies played Stableford with Christine Simmons (25) with 36 points had a win from Penny Britton (32) with 26 on countback from third Di Holdsworth (33).

Nick Munro takes victory and more

By PUTTAMATIC

HELLO everyone and welcome to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. Last week the club played their July Monthly Medal and with the weather threatening, 13 players rolled up to take on the challenge of the stroke competition.

Nick Munro finished on top taking out the Monthly Medal with a nett score of 69, runner up Leith Munro nett 73, ball run winners Brad Newton nett 77, Michael McLear nett 78 and Phil Dally also with a nett 78. Phil Dally scored drinks for his group with a birdie on the birdie hole 15th, no birdies on the other birdie hole eighth.

Nearest the pin winners last week, Nick Munro on the third with his second shot, Brad Newton took out the fifth and 14th, Phil Dally on the 11th and Michael McLear on the 14th.

Other winners Nick Munro was the recipient of the entry draw and tried his luck with the swindle draw. Congratulation to all winners and look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

Alexandra Squash Club: Round two of term three pennant

By ANDREW BROWN

Monday competition
Team One versus Team Three

ERIC versus Tyler: Both players were reading the ball well and making creative use of the side walls. Tyler eased a little further ahead each game to accumulate the win 63-46.

Randy versus Will: An enjoyable game to watch. Some lovely shots from both players. Will, settling in quickly in only his second match, took the victory 66-58.

Simon versus Sam: Simon played a very controlled game. Although Sam fought hard to stay in the contest in the last few games, errors cost him points and Simon dominated to win 83-49.

Phil versus Jim: Phil took the lead early with some crafty play. Jim then tightened his serve and worked out Phil's tactics, to reverse the momentum. A technical battle of wits throughout. The final game was a draw, but Jim had done enough in



ON THE COURT: Phil returns Jim's forehand drive.

the middle two games to win 55-45.

Team Two versus Team Five

Holly (fill in) versus Bec: A game played in great spirits. Bec, in her first game, drew upon her badminton experience and had a comfortable win 78-43.

Sally versus Jessica: Once they had warmed up on a chilly night, the match provided some great rallies.

Jess was comfortably ahead until the third set, however a strong last game from Sally turned the match around and Sally emerged in front 62-56.

Stuart versus Mick: What was shaping as a very close contest was unfortunately interrupted when an injury stopped play.

Andrew versus Daniel (fill in): Andrew kept the ball moving around to try to take

the edge from Daniel's power game. A high-pressure match throughout, but some uncharacteristic unforced errors from Daniel helped Andrew to victory 65-48.

Wednesday competition

Team Two versus Team Five

Matt (fill in) versus Jordan: A close and see-sawing game. Matt finally winning by a narrow margin 67-63.

Liane versus Matt: Front-

ing up for his second match in a row, an energetic Matt exploded to a nine to zero lead before Liane fought back to level the first game. Matt took the lead in the second game through superior shot depth. Liane pulled out a few tricks to tie the third game. The last game was full of great rallies but the boy in the golden sneakers outlasted Liane to bring home a 13-point win 44-57.

Team One versus Team Three

Nicole versus Marty: Great serving and court coverage by Marty. Although Nicole won the fourth game, Marty's lead was too great to overcome, and Marty had a strong win 72-52.

Jess versus Travis: Although close in the first two games, Travis then locked in, to storm home 70-47.

Michael versus Ben: A tightly contested game throughout. Michael fought back in the third to make it a one-point game but Ben held his nerve in the last to take the match 58-52.

Yea Tigers Cricket Club looking for coaches

THE Yea Tigers Cricket Club are looking for enthusiastic coaches to join their cricket teams for the upcoming season.

Multiple positions are available for their junior programs, as well as senior opportunities. They are also seeking assistant coaches and team managers.

Positions available include: A and B Grade coaches for Saturday games; Under 16 coach with games to be confirmed; Under 13 coach for Saturday morning games; two Under 11 coaches for Friday night games.

For more information or to clear up any enquiries, email yeatigerscc@outlook.com.

Expressions of interest close September 1, 2026.

YEA SENIOR WOMEN FOOTBALLERS CONTINUE UNDEFEATED STREAK

THE Yea Football Netball Club Tigers took on the Yarra Junction Eagles last weekend, with the exception of the Senior women's team, who took on Officer at the opposition's home ground.

Football Seniors

Yarra Junction 22 defeated by Yea 95

Reserves

Yarra Junction 59 defeated Yea 56

Senior women

Officer 21 defeated by Yea 45

Netball A Grade

Yarra Junction 43 defeated Yea 42

B Grade

Yarra Junction 39 defeated Yea 37

C Grade

Yarra Junction 20 defeated by Yea 29

D Grade

Yarra Junction 26 defeated Yea 17

IN THE AIR: Yea were putting up a tough fight against Yarra Junction competition.

PHOTO: Savannah Gregory Photography



TIGERS BRING ENERGY: Yea's Under 10 award winners Archie, Charlie and Ava.

Yea junior footballers bring energy to Sit Down Round

UNDER 10

WHAT a fantastic morning for Sit Down Round against the Lions in Seymour. Despite a foggy start, Yea's Under 10 Tigers certainly brought the energy.

The team kicked things off by warming up in the changerooms with some pump-up tunes, plenty of laughs and great team spirit. The positive vibes carried straight onto the field, where the Tigers played with confidence, determination and plenty of

enthusiasm from the very first bounce.

The girls were first to split the big sticks, with the boys quick to follow, sharing the goals around and celebrating each other's success.

It was wonderful to see so many players getting involved, backing each other up and playing as a true team.

Ball movement, communication and willingness to work together were outstanding all game. Every player contributed, whether it was through

courageous tackles, chasing hard, creating opportunities or encouraging a teammate.

The Tiger spirit was on full display, and the sportsmanship shown by players made the club incredibly proud.

A huge congratulations to award winners Archie, Charlie and Ava on well-deserved recognitions for their outstanding efforts.

The club couldn't be prouder of the way this group continues to encourage one another, play as a team and represent the Tigers with such passion.

It's all coming together for TEDFNC TAC Round

By SOPHIA WEAVER

LAST Saturday, spirits were high and confidence was soaring for the Thornton-Eildon District Football Netball League (TEDFNC) Roos as they took to their home ground. A home game always brings a distinct sense of energy, with minimal travel and the comforting familiarity of local surroundings.

As part of the Outer Eastern Football Netball League's TAC Round, players from both teams united before the game wearing TAC armbands to promote a critical message to the community: slow down on the road.

When play got underway, the Roos started strong. Their renowned defence effectively neutralized Woori Yallock's scoring attempts, allowing the Roos to claim the first score of the game, a goal expertly finished by third-year player Lilah Galbraith. The early score sparked a passionate celebration from players and local supporters alike before the team reset to focus on the battle ahead.

Throughout the remainder of the match, the Roos added three more points to their total. While their defensive squad fought valiantly, limiting the Tigers to 44 points against the Roos' nine, it was still a high-water mark for the Roos, marking their highest score of the season.

Following the final siren, the club announced that Coach Tash Hay will be stepping down at the conclusion of the season. The afternoon concluded with the presentation of the gameday awards and the Thornton



TAC ROUND: The teams came together before the match to promote driving safely as part of the TAC Round.

Butcher's Meat Tray Raffle, which was won by Mitch Rowntree, who also volunteered as goal umpire for the match.

Gameday award winners: Lilah Galbraith, Club Voucher; Krystle Welsh, Dindi Kids Award; Siobhan Bell, VADHSS Award.

The Roos host their final game of the season on Saturday, August 1. The community is invited to head down to the Thornton Recreation Reserve at 1.30pm to enjoy the atmosphere, grab a drink, and cheer on the team in their season finale.



A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT: The team celebrating Lilah Galbraith's momentous goal.
PHOTO: TEDdy Photography

Tash Hay steps down as Thornton Roos Coach, ending an era

By SOPHIA WEAVER

AFTER eight years of dedication as player, captain, player-coach, and coach, Tash Hay has announced she will be stepping down as head coach of the Thornton Roos at the conclusion of this season.

Reflecting on her journey with the club, Hay shared her gratitude for the community and the growth of the team over her tenure.

"I have been at the club for eight years as a player captain, player coach and coach," Hay said.

"Last season I was gonna step aside from coaching, however I felt Thornton wasn't in a strong position to be able to continue the club and I didn't feel it was the right time for me to step aside. But I'm really grateful that I didn't because I got to meet so many new people that joined our

club, players, friends, family and I'm proud of what we created."

Hay noted that while making the call to step down was challenging, she leaves the role confident in the direction of the club.

"I can feel the strength back in this club and I can feel the passion that lies amongst all the people around the club today. This is a challenging decision but I feel the club is in a strong position for me to step aside next season allowing someone else to lead this amazing team."

Although she will no longer be at the helm, Hay emphasized that she isn't leaving the Thornton community behind. She plans to remain a constant fixture around the club, supporting match days, dropping in on training sessions, and cheering from the sidelines.

"My heart is for

Thornton and always will be," she added.

"Thornton is more than a football club, it's a community, it's a family."

Her final game in charge will take place next weekend during the club's "Golden Ticket" round. Hay extended an open invitation to supporters, friends, and past players to come out and mark the occasion.

"So what I'd really love is for you all to join me in celebrating my last game coaching at Thornton next weekend. Golden Ticket round, 1.30pm home game. Come down and cheer on the Roos."

Anyone who has played alongside Tash, been coached by her, or simply wants to celebrate her contributions to local sport is encouraged to head down to Thornton Rec Reserve on Saturday, August 1, for the final game of the season and Tash's last match coaching the Roos.



END OF AN ERA: Thornton Eildon coach Tash Hay will be stepping down at the end of the season.
PHOTO: TEDdy Photography

Alexandra Under 16 footballers take the fight to Euroa

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

UNDER 16

Alexandra 85 defeated Euora 55

AWARDS: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Josh Northmore; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Naz Edmund; Kazza's Diner, Lucas Crane; Gilligan Plumbing Award, Jordan Carr; Coaches Award, Chase Wright.

UNDER 14

Alexandra 15 defeated by Echuca Murray 68

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Eli Van Lierop; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Cooper Rennie; Kazza's Diner, Ben Strochnetter; Coaches Award, Jack Kidd.

UNDER 12

Alexandra 14 defeated by Broadford 66

Awards: Reddrops Foodworks Award, Joey Creed; Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Logan Heard; Kazza's Diner Award, Sam Grech; Coaches Award, Bodhi McKenzie; Phil Savage Award, Vander Kaiser.

UNDER 10

Awards; Kazza's Diner Award, Leo Jager; Canteen Voucher, Angus Hedger; Footy Cards, Noah Knight and Dusty Manning.

UNDER NINE

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge Award, Noah Dyson; Sherrin Bounce Footy, Riley Wings; Phil Savage Award, Sonny Crouch; Footy Cards, Arlo McKenzie and Teague Welsh.

JUNIOR NETBALL

UNDER 11 RED

Alexandra 3 defeated by Seymour 25

Awards: Annabelle Hill and PJ Smith.

UNDER 11 BLACK

Alexandra 15 defeated by Yea 9

Awards: Zara Crouch and Lalah Goodman.

UNDER 13 RED

Alexandra 12 defeated by Broadford Blue 35

Awards: Jayde Stewart and Olivia Laverty.

UNDER 13 BLACK

Alexandra 30 defeated Broadford White 12

Awards: Scarlett Pearce and Lila Friswell.

UNDER 15 RED

Alexandra 6 defeated by Yea 16

Awards: Ella Palmer and Ruby Friswell.

UNDER 15 BLACK

Alexandra 44 defeated Broadford 16

Awards: Asher Mullins, Tehya Vine and Asha Vine.



ELEVEN AND UNDER: The entire team was awarded the Just Great Coffee awards and Yarra Valley Gas award for their efforts.



THIRTEEN AND UNDER YELLOW: Award winners Zoe Alldrick and Isla Anstey.



THIRTEEN AND UNDER BLACK: Award winners Charlotte Grant and Tahlia Waghorn.

Tigers shine in a wonderful day of home netball

By JOANNE MADDEN

IT was a beautiful sunny day in Yea, with all Yea Tigers netball teams playing at home, creating a wonderful atmosphere and an exciting day for players, families and supporters.

The 11 and Under team took on Nagambie Red in a fantastic game. The skill development displayed by the youngest Tigers continues to be phenomenal, with the team

conducting themselves in an exemplary manner.

Their smiles, encouragement of one another and obvious enjoyment of the game make them a pleasure to watch. Their coach clearly agrees, awarding the Just Great Coffee awards and Yarra Valley Gas Awards to all players, she simply couldn't choose.

In the 13 and Under competition, Yea Yellow faced a much-improved St Mary's Green side, who really

gave the Tigers a run for their money. In a hard-fought contest, Yea Yellow secured a narrow 18 to 16 victory.

Both teams displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the match.

Congratulations to Zoe Alldrick, Deluxe Rod Shop Player of the Day and Isla Anstey, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award winner.

Also, in 13 and Under, Yea Black recorded an impressive upset against Seymour.

It was a fiercely contested game from start to finish, with Yea Black eventually securing a thrilling 24 to 22 win.

Congratulations to Charlotte Grant, Sprout Wellness Player of the Day and Tahlia Waghorn, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award Winner.

The 15 and Under girls displayed their dominance against Alexandra Red, recording a convincing 58 to 20 victory.

The team showcased exceptional

skill, with tight defence and excellent goaling supported beautifully by the mid-court players. The girls were also complimented by the Alexandra umpire on their wonderful manners, making the whole club very proud.

Congratulations to all the Yea Tigers netball teams. It was wonderful to have everyone playing at home together in the sunshine, making for a most excellent day of netball.

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