

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, June 5, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Landcare for all ages

EXACTLY five years ago, The Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare (UGIL) group was developed. The first event was basically a meet and greet and to capture people's interest.

Once COVID-19 hit, forms of meetings included online events, and luckily because it was regional Victoria some events could still occur being outside at various times throughout the pandemic. Now some years

later the group is out in full force helping the environment any way they can.

UGIL is targeted at the 18 to 30 year old groups, filling the demographic between the Junior Landcare which is primary and secondary students and the traditional

Landcare group that is generally retirees with a little more time on their hands. Either way, everyone is contributing to the cause.

Currently the group has five continual attendees and over time there has been big interest with up to 20 people attending events on and off over the years. Members are mainly from Murrindindi Shire and at times there has been helpers from Seymour, Mansfield, Euroa, and Melbourne.

A member from the group, Annette Cavenagh said, "Mostly projects we do are carried out in the Murrindindi Shire. We have done work at Merton as well. We want to capture as many people as we can, so we are pretty flexible. This year we have had a canoeing and weeding event up to Strathbogie, and March was Clean Up Australia Day in Yea at the wetlands and showgrounds."

"If there are any young people who want to get involved and be part of taking environmental action in the community get in touch," Annette said.

For more information visit, Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare group on Facebook.



The Intrepid Landcare group after one of their events. -S

New bushfire strategy envisions future

THE vision for bushfire management in Victoria for the next 10 years is set out in *Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy*, published last Friday.

Severe bushfires earlier this year once again highlighted the devastating impacts bushfires can have on communities, economy and natural environment. Unfortunately, climate change means these events are becoming more severe and frequent.

Their complexity also means fire agencies alone cannot tackle these challenges. Now more than ever, a shared approach for managing bushfires is required.

Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy is a joint commitment by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and other land and fire agencies on the direction of bushfire management in Victoria over the next 10 years.

It articulates an agreed strategic approach to managing bushfire in Victoria and spells out that everyone has a role to play in bushfire management.

For individuals, communities and businesses, this means staying informed and taking responsibility for their own safety and wellbeing to improve levels of emergency preparedness and build community resilience by understanding bushfire risk and being prepared for bushfires, preparing properties for the bushfire season, creating a fire plan and acting on it when required, and keeping up to date with emergency and fire danger warnings and acting as advised by emergency authorities.

The strategy sets out objectives across seven key domains: people and community safety, critical infrastructure and economic resilience, Aboriginal self-determination, ecosystem resilience and nature conservation,

informed decision-making, shared responsibility, and capability and capacity.

It brings together the work already being done with community, local government, scientists and industry, with the work that needs doing over the next decade.

It reflects the \$500 million investment the Victorian Government made into reducing bushfire risk following the 2019-20 bushfires, and considers how to mitigate and respond to bushfire on all land types, whether public or private. This includes what resources are needed, and how they will be used by government department or agency, municipal council, or landholder.

The strategy builds on two years of consultation. DEECA heard directly from Victorians they wanted greater transparency about government decision-making and a voice in how DEECA reduce bushfire risk, strengthen resilience and support recovery.

The strategy is supported by a rolling three year implementation plan and Victoria's Bushfire Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework.

Together, these products will not only drive accountability, but also make sure Victorians can have a say in designing actions taken into the future. They'll allow measurement and reporting on progress against agreed outcomes, maximising investment and driving continuous improvement.

The strategy was developed in response to recommendations from the Inspector-General for Emergency Management's *Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season* and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office's audit into reducing bushfire risks.

Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy and supporting documents can be viewed online at vic.gov.au/fire-strategy

★ OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JUNE 10 ★

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY FOR JUNE 12 EDITION

CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES - 2PM FRIDAY, JUNE 7 ★
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS, THUMBS UP/DOWN AND
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, JUNE 10 ★
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au AND sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EGR and TRADES advertising deadlines remain unchanged.



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

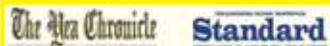
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Letters to the Editor

Alexandra Veterinary Clinic closure

AFTER 37 years of commitment and dedication to the health and wellbeing of animals large and small in the Murrindindi Shire, we announce our retirement and the closure of the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic.

For almost four decades, after purchasing the clinic from the late Bob Tate in 1987, it has been our privilege to devote our time and efforts, working tirelessly to provide the best care to our patients and support our community.

Our journey at the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic has been a rich and fulfilling journey. We have been privileged to meet many kind and thankful clients. Over that time, we have seen many new pets join their owners and helped the transition at the end of their time. Thanks in no small part to our dedicated staff that have helped over the years. Many a young vet has started their first job working at the clinic, gaining valuable experience in a wonderfully varied mixed rural environment. This clinic is renowned for having the most diligent and professional staff, with a special mention of Sue Powell and Raeleen Yuill, who have spent their entire working life at this clinic.

As we embark on the next chapter of our lives, it is with both joy and nostalgia that we announce our retirement and the closure of the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic, effective June 30.

To our community, we extend our deepest thanks for your unwavering support and trust over the years. It has been an honour and a privilege and we will carry the memories of our time together in our hearts always.

If medications or scripts are needed during June, please contact the clinic early to ensure continuity of medications.

For patient histories, please email alexandravetclinic@gmail.com with your name, address and pet's name.

With warm regards and best wishes for the future.

Doug and Anne Norman

Save our hospital

MY husband was in the Yea hospital for two months at the beginning of COVID-19. The specialist and Dr Martin cared for him there rather than the COVID-19 filled hospitals in Melbourne. Where else can you get a personalised service like this?

This is a local hospital for the local community so that they do not have to travel 150 kilometres to the nearest medical hub. Closure of this small rural health service would be a tragedy for many in our community, particularly the elderly and those reliant on public transport.

Our hospital is also the largest employer in Yea, closure of services will result in further economic decline, at a time when everyone is hurting financially.

Please save our hospital.

J Forde, Yea

Water quality

WELL, there we have it in black and white. Our lake and river water is not fit for human consumption under Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) management (Mansfield Courier, May 29).

"Customers are reminded that water supplied by GMW is not suitable for human consumption without first being properly treated."

What an indictment of that manager of our water. How is it that water from our mountains and forests is not able to be consumed as potable water? This shows failure of our water supply managers, and our catchment or watershed managers, who apparently don't understand that water flows from the top of the catchment to the bottom, and is affected by how all that land is managed.

That's why we must have (1) National Parks and State Forests managed primarily for quality water yield; (2) foresters who are first and foremost stewards of the trees and land; (3) farmers who minimize nitrogen and phosphorous use; (4) have run-off monitored by GMW, with penalties for bad land use

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.11	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.49	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.49am Mon	0.21	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.26am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	8.22am Mon	0.67	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.40	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.92	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.27	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.55am Mon	1.20	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024



THUMBS DOWN: To those who burn off on still, foggy mornings and on days when the fog does not lift. The smoke has nowhere to go and pollutes the area all day.

THUMBS DOWN: To the businesses and organisations who say they'll get back to you and you are forever chasing them up.

THUMBS DOWN: To the organisers of the Beanie Festival. People could not pay cash and get their beanie and take it home with them. They had to return some hours later to collect it. That's maybe okay if you live close by, but it's not well thought out.

THUMBS UP: To whoever organised the replacement of street signs in our district. They are now legible.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

practices; and (5) responsible deer hunters who take the whole carcass and dispose of the guts and bodies responsibly.

We cannot continue to pollute our waterways and lakes, causing blue-green algae outbreaks and opt out of responsibility by saying, 'Don't drink the water. It isn't safe any more'.

Ed Adamson, Diploma of Agriculture and Master of Environmental Science, Merrijig



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



Weekly Weather

June 5 - June 11, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	13	Wednesday	9	13
Thursday	6	16	Thursday	6	15
Friday	5	16	Friday	5	16
Saturday	6	15	Saturday	5	15
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	8	15
Monday	7	14	Monday	7	14
Tuesday	5	12	Tuesday	5	13

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	28mm
Buxton.....	52mm
Eildon (AWS).....	30mm
Flowerdale.....	28mm
Jamieson.....	52mm
Kinglake.....	26mm
Lake Eildon.....	35mm
Mansfield.....	63mm
Seymour.....	30mm
Taggerty.....	32mm
Yarck.....	37mm
Yea.....	23mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	286.43m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	90.3%
Metres below full supply.....	2.47m
Daily inflow.....	950ML
Release.....	900ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	.69%

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

Murrindindi Health Network unveils new website to empower local careers and community

IN a move to address workforce shortages and enhance professional development in the Murrindindi region, the Murrindindi Health Network has launched its highly anticipated new website, murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au

This initiative marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between six key community based organisations. These include: Menzies Support Services, Alexandra District Health, Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, and Kellock Lodge Alexandra. Together, these entities have embarked on a mission to elevate employment, training,

and career development opportunities for the local community, supported by the Victorian Government.

The new website aims to be a comprehensive resource for residents of the Murrindindi region, offering detailed information on job openings, fully funded training placements, professional development courses and career pathways. This digital platform is designed to be accessible and user friendly, ensuring that community members can easily find and take advantage of the myriad opportunities available to them.

Since its inception, the Murrindindi Health Network has been dedicated to empowering

individuals at all stages of their careers, from school leavers and those returning to work, to individuals looking for a career shift. The partnership with the Victorian Government has already paved the way for the provision of up to 100 full qualification training spots, the creation of numerous job opportunities, and the introduction of a wide range of professional development courses across the region.

As the Murrindindi region embarks on this exciting journey, the launch of murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and community spirit.

Don't miss the chance to explore new career paths, develop invaluable professional skills, and contribute to the flourishing of the Murrindindi community.

Conviction for truck driver on ice

DARRON Antees has pleaded guilty to being on ice during the Glenburn crash that killed 20-year-old model Saxon Fernandez in 2023. The court also found that he was driving while suspended when the incident occurred.

The *Herald Sun* reported that Mr Antees pleaded guilty in the Seymour Magistrates' Court to driving under the influence of meth, driving while suspended and possessing meth.

Mr Antees was found not at fault for the collision which killed 20 year old Camberwell man Saxon Fernandez.

The investigation by Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives found that Mr Fernandez entered Mr Antees' lane, causing the collision.

Mr Antees suffered minor injuries as a result of the collision.

The truck driver told Magistrate Allison Vaughan that he would be pleading guilty to the three charges.

Mr Antees told Ms Vaughan that his licence was suspended due to unpaid fines and he was not aware of the suspension as he had just changed address.

Ms Vaughan told Antees, "You must learn from this, the grief and the trauma will have a significant impact on you".

Mr Antees was convicted, had his licence suspended for a year and will have to pay a \$2000 fine to the court fund, according to the report.

Murrindindi Shire to launch Pre-Prep in 2025

MURRINDINDI Shire is one of Victoria's first local government areas to transition Four-

Year-Old Kinder to Pre-Prep, and enrolments are now open for 2025.

Led by qualified teachers, Pre Prep will provide a longer program of quality play based learning in the year before school, with four-year-old children in the local government area eligible for 16 to 30 hours of kindergarten each week, up from 15 hours, as the roll out progresses.

The extended hours give children greater opportunities to socialise, learn through play and prepare for their formal educational journey.

Free Kinder is available in Pre-Prep programs at both standalone (sessional) and long-day care centres. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.

Like the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, the delivery of Pre-Prep will be gradual to provide time to build additional

infrastructure and grow a strong and stable workforce to successfully deliver the reforms in partnership with the early childhood sector.

The roll-out of Pre-Prep will start in 2025 in six municipalities, which include, Ararat Rural City, Gannawarra Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Northern Grampians Shire and Yarriambiack Shire, before expanding to other LGAs progressively in following years.

Victorians have embraced Three-Year-Old Kinder, which last year saw 89 per cent of eligible children enrolled. Once Pre-Prep is rolled out across Victoria, children will have access to 1800 hours of funded kindergarten before starting school, comprising 15 hours per week of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and 30 hours per week of Pre-Prep.

If you're interested in learning more about Pre-Prep, visit the Pre-Prep information booth at the Grant Street Market, Alexandra, on Sunday, June 2 or visit vic.gov.au/pre-prep

Collision in Glenburn

ON Friday, May 31, emergency services responded to a collision near Glenburn. It's believed a car clipped a bus on Melba Highway at about 12.45pm, causing the car to collide with a second bus. No occupants on either bus were injured. A male occupant from the car has been taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The exact cause of the collision is being investigated. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Traffic diversions were in place for a number of hours following the incident.

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MURRINDINDI HEALTH NETWORK

Explore Career Opportunities with Murrindindi Health Network!

Visit our new website to discover job openings, funded training, and professional growth opportunities.

Join forces with leading local organisations to enhance your career in the Murrindindi region.

murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au



Visit us now and shape your future!

Native timber support available now

Native timber harvesting has ended in Victoria but support is still available.

Native timber businesses, workers and communities can continue to access a range of support including:

- **The Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program** – including payments and training, 1:1 case management, employment services, health and wellbeing support.
- **Business support** – including exit packages and funding to help diversify.
- **Community support** – health and wellbeing services and community development planning and funding.

For more information:

- Forestry Transition hotline - 1800 318 182
- Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program - 1800 122 001 vic.gov.au/forestry





COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
 UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazledene
 UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
 1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
 2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
 2nd Wed Moleworth Patchwork & Craft, Moleworth Hall 10am-4pm
 2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
 4th Wed Moleworth Patchwork & Craft, Moleworth Hall 10am-4pm
 4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
 Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
 0459 402 547

St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
 Immaculate Conception Parish
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea
 Sunday Service 11.15am
 Colin Whiteway
 Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

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

The Yea Chronicle

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- Alexandra Newspapers
- Alexandra Newspapers
- Alexandra Endeavour
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- Merton General Store
- Metro Narby
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Shell Thornton
- Yarck Meat and Produce
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Out & About

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 AND 9

Alexandra Speedway is on this weekend. 100 lap derby, standard saloon cup and VSC 1200

No more beef over beef

CATTLE Australia (CA) has welcomed China's reinstatement of export approvals for five out of seven Australian beef export processing plants, which have been suspended from supplying product to China since 2020.

Cattle Australia Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ivar Bisseling, said industry advocacy groups such as the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) and the Federal Government should be applauded for tirelessly advocating for the lifting of the suspensions.

"AMIC and the beef production supply chain peak industry bodies, in CA and the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), have worked tirelessly over the past four years, advocating on behalf of the beef industry and lobbying to Ministers of three different agencies, including two different trade ministers, two secretaries and three department secretaries," Mr Bisseling said.

"It has been a long haul, and the job isn't finished yet, but this step by China to reinstate these facilities is a great outcome for the processing companies involved, the beef producers and lot feeders who supply them, and the entire Australian red meat supply chain.

"We appreciate the efforts of Australian Government Ministers over the past four years to engage with their Chinese counterparts on this matter, and acknowledge the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to work with industry to resolve the suspensions on the remaining two exporters.

"It is the role of governments to open markets for Australian products, not close them, and to develop supply chains in conjunction with industry, and this is a great example of industry and government positively collaborating to achieve a tremendous outcome with an important international customer.

"We look forward to all establishments soon being able to export beef to China without restriction, and the resumption of full and unfettered trade with one of our key trading partners. This positive step today creates the opportunity to open new avenues of access to the Chinese market, for not just the beef industry, but Australian agriculture as a whole."

William Matthews Funerals



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juniors. Gates open at 1pm.

Alexandra Timber Tramway is running diesel trains on Saturday and Steam trains on Sunday from 10am-3.30pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

The Alexandra Standard office will be closed due to King's Birthday Long weekend. See front page for advertising deadlines.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Alexandra Community Shed/Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild Inc AGM will be held at the guild clubrooms in McKenzie Street. For further information contact Max 0419 653 991

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

ADH invites you to Winter Wellness community event, at Alexandra District Hospital 5-6.30pm. Includes winter warming

soup. Contact ADH for full details 5772 0900.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Online clearing sale - Multi vendor sale. Ends, Monday, June 17. Inspection day June 12 at noon. For full details see ad in this week's edition of On The Land or contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Let's Talk; A space for men. Yea Shire Hall, from noon, concluding at 2pm or stay until 3pm for a chat. Free entry, free pies, plenty of guest speakers. This event is for men, boys and anyone with an interest in the issues impacting men and boys. Network with community peers, discuss challenges of being a man in 2024, learn tools to improve relationships, unlock your community leadership potential. Register with the bar code in the ad in this week's editions or email communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Council asks community to help plan for the future

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting community input as it looks ahead to the next four years and celebrates the achievements.

They are inviting the community to reflect on the progress made to date on the Council Plan 2021-2025 and actively inform the next Council Plan 2025-2029.

A progress report has been released, showcasing some of the key projects and initiatives council has delivered, along with some background documents describing the changes since the community set the 10 Year Vision in 2021.

People can share their thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at the Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. A copy of the progress report is also available to read at these locations or online.

Council is encouraging community members to attend upcoming 'Warm Bowls, Hot Topics' sessions where council officers will be facilitating in person discussions and capturing feedback. These sessions will be held in the following locations:

Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake, July 8, 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semi Circle, Yea, July 10, 6 to 8pm.

Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road, Marysville, July 11, noon to 2pm.

Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street, Alexandra, July 15, 6 to 8pm.

Come and enjoy some soup while you chat and share your ideas. Council are also offering an online session for those who can't attend in person.

During June and July, council staff will be attending community events around the shire, discussing the project and seeking feedback.

By providing your feedback by July 21, you will also go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks vouchers.

For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Every four years, council prepares a Council Plan to guide the work we do for people who live, work and visit our shire. It's important we hear from as many people in our community as we can to help shape the path forward for the next four years. We want to know what you think about what we've been doing. Have we been focusing our efforts on the right areas? What other things should council be doing in the next four years? Your feedback is valuable to us as we plan for the future and help inform candidates for the 2024-28 council. Together, let's ensure our efforts truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our community."

COVID-19 impacting Kellock Lodge

TANIA Hunter, CEO of Kellock Lodge has advised that Kellock Lodge has been affected by the marked rise of community transmission of COVID-19 with over half of Kellock's population affected in the last two weeks.

Ms Hunter said, "Fortunately, with the timely support of our local GPs we have been able to administer antiviral medication and can report that all affected are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

"Kellock Lodge considers that all residents of aged care have the right to visitors. During an outbreak we restrict visitors to a named representative and offer support to those who would like to visit electronically via Facetime, Zoom or similar platforms.

"At all times when visiting aged care, please remember to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test prior to your visit. When visiting at Kellock Lodge you will be asked to present the test and discard it on entry.

"We ask for your support. If you don't feel 100 per cent, don't visit residential aged care facilities. Our community is vulnerable and COVID-19, Influenza and RSV are highly contagious.

"We must also remember our incredible staff who choose to work in regional aged care. The additional strain of an outbreak puts increased strain on a workforce that already puts in an incredible effort because they care. Our whole community matters."

There are currently no COVID-19 cases at Darlingford and Upper Goulburn Nursing Home or at Rosebank in Yea, part of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH). There is also no COVID-19 in YDMH's acute facilities.

Jo Forrest from Darlingford advised that, "Visitors are always allowed. Visitors' entry requirements include completing a RAT test (provided onsite) prior to entry and showing evidence of the negative test to the registered nurse in charge, or the administrator on duty."

Visitors also need to wear the face masks provided, and sign the entry register. Practicing good hand hygiene is vital to keeping residents safe at all times.

Elizabeth Sinclair, CEO of YDMH, said, "Visitors to YDMH are required to undertake a COVID-19 test before coming in and our staff also test regularly. It is of primary importance that we protect those most vulnerable."



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

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

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

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.



Sandice McAulay: What is it like being a councillor?

COUNCILLOR Sandice McAulay has announced that she won't be standing in the next council election. During her time with council, she has not only been a councillor but has also been mayor and deputy mayor, making her the perfect person to talk to find out more about what people might expect if they make the decision to stand in the local government elections.

What should new councillors expect when they start in the role?

I suppose it depends on why you stand. In our council, our members haven't tended to be aligned with any political parties, which makes it a lot easier. Even though local government is a political entity, I still don't feel like a politician. Hopefully, you can expect that it will be neutral in terms of political alignment, so you can actually talk to whoever the people are that are in power and you can use that to the best advantage.

Our council is probably a bit more down the track of informing new councillors about what it's like to be a councillor and all the governance. That came in last time, for the new councillors. You would expect about six weeks of really intensive governance training. It was really good and mind-blowing.

One of the things I would recommend is you get yourself organised right from the start, if you're going to be paper-based or if you're going to be electronic based, get yourself organised right from the beginning so that you can refer back to notes.

How much time each week needs to be devoted to the role?

I would say about 18 hours per week if you're a councillor, and you could easily double that or even more if you're a deputy or a mayor. There are a lot of events, and most are voluntary, but if you really want to hear what your community's about, it's good to get out and meet all the other ward councillors as well.

It's pretty overwhelming to begin with. There's the governance side and there's the formalities and the legal requirements. There would probably be at least a full day of reading each week, and then of course, you've got your monthly meeting and your weekly briefings.

When you go into your first meeting or your second meeting, you actually feel very informed. It's a really good process of gearing you up so that you actually have all of the information and you feel enabled when you're actually making a decision around the councillor table.

How robust are the discussions outside of council meetings?

Fairly robust. There's a lot of information-gathering, so you can ask for as much information as you like. It's important that you haven't made a decision until you actually go into the council chambers, because there's an opportunity for the community to speak, for community members to talk to items that are on the agenda or other items, so you might get given new information when you hear a community member speak. I have personally

gone in and thought, I'm fairly well down this avenue of thinking, and I'll listen to someone and go 'Ah, that's a completely different side to what I had heard' and I'm maybe going to vote the other way. It's important to go into meetings with an open mind. As much as you have your own personal opinions, you really have to put them to the side and listen to all sides of the story. There have been times when I have actually voted against what I personally feel, because it was in the best interests of the community or whoever was concerned. That can be really hard. It can be really, really challenging.

Is this one of the hardest aspects of being a councillor?

Because you make decisions based on people's desires and dreams, and sometimes you have to go against that because, you know, you find that you could agree with what they want and we could do that, but it could actually cost them more in the long run because it could go to VCAT. If you give them a false sense of council approval, it might not be approved in the long run and could well be out for thousands of extra dollars. You've got to be mindful of that as well.

How do you handle conversations with people in the shire who have strong opinions on different matters?

People can often come up quite angry, or phone you all hours of the day or night, because it's something that's close to their heart and they're usually quite stressed. I think the biggest thing is (a) Answer the phone or have that conversation, and just be frank. If you say 'I don't know', most people will understand that and they'll say, 'Well why not?' and I'll say, 'It's not something I've got knowledge on at this point in time, but I will find out.' And it's really important to get back to those people or for the officers to get back to those people and give them as much information as is available. That's how I learnt in the first four years, someone would ask me a question and I'd say 'no idea' and rather than just handing it on to an officer, I would actually then sit in that meeting and that was the biggest way of me learning.

What do you think you've learnt about yourself during your time as a councillor?

That you don't actually have to agree to work together. On many occasions, councillors don't agree with each other, they don't even have the same philosophy, but you do have to directly work with each other and be respectful of the differences around the table because that's how good decision-making happens. If I had all people the same as me, it would be very boring. The biggest thing is to listen to all sides of the conversation and then do your research.

With the ward boundary changes, it appears that Cathedral Ward might expand into Acheron and Whanagarwen. What are your thoughts on that?

The first offer was that they were going to expand across to Toolangi, so I was very pleased that they actually took the recommendation from council to go north.



Sandice McAulay. -S

Murrindindi will be an interesting one, how that fits in. But having said that, as a councillor, you represent your ward as well, but you've also got to have your bigger picture. You've also got to be able to be aware of what the issues are and often I'll get called up from different parts of the shire because it might be my portfolio or it's something that people know I'm interested in and I might have more information about. Yes, there's the physical side of that, but at the end of the day, you have to represent the whole shire.

What will you miss about being a councillor?

Being on the pulse. Knowing what's happening and being part of it, and just the education, the camaraderie. Sometimes it's okay to disagree and still keep friends with people around the table. And I love working with the officers because in our council, we've got really, really good officers who have the community at heart. We're all part of the community. We all work in the community that we live and work in, and I think that's a beautiful thing about our council. We have got a really nice council.

Are there any particular skills that people need as a councillor?

You do gain a lot of things. Lots of training is offered, there's conflict resolution, there's how to read spreadsheets, how to look at financial reports, how to run meetings. There's a whole lot of information. I think the most important thing that I took in was the ability to read quickly. It's really important to be well organised. If you've got a filing system, it doesn't matter how it is, you've got to be able to find things. You might have had a conversation six months ago or two years ago, and if you've got a good search system and filing system, you can find that information. Document the conversations you have. Write copious notes on everything you hear. You don't know when that information might come in useful.

The other thing is, it doesn't matter who you talk to, there's always a personal bias, and I think it's very important to remember that when you're listening to someone, there is always another side to the story. Before

you go off, make sure that you've at least had the opportunity to listen to what the other side is. Just interpreting that information, someone can misinterpret it and come up to you and say things, and if you've actually gone and found out, you can say 'I think you've misunderstood what was said in this case.' Sometimes, that interpreting can be really important as well.

You've really got to navigate your way through the communication pitfalls. It's important to listen to the two sides, or three or four sides often.

When you are the mayor or the deputy mayor, you get told how awesome and wonderful you are, and then when you're no longer mayor or the deputy mayor, you don't get told that much. It's the five minutes of fame. Don't get too caught up in it. Be mindful that it's an honourable position but with position comes big responsibility. People are very respectful, but at the end of the day, you're just there trying to do your best job and don't get too carried away with it.

What's next for you, after you finish this term?

Oh, who knows? There will be lots of big decisions and I will probably be looking for work as well, in the next couple of years. But there's definitely an escape away for about a month in the motor home.

Would you recommend being a councillor?

I can recommend going on council for at least a term. Give it a go. It's great to have on your CV. I have learnt so much about governance. It helps in all the other committees that I work in, and you meet some great people around the community, people I would never have got to meet otherwise.

Also remember that wherever you go, there's always food. Be mindful that there will always be food offered to you and if you don't want to look like a balloon by the end of the term, don't imbibe the five scones that are offered to you. Have a glass of milk before you go to a function, otherwise you'll eat your way through. Take a bottle of water with you too. It's always good.

Delivering for our community

My office assists thousands of constituents with Centrelink, Medicare, NDIS, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues.

If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please email, phone or visit my office.



Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

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helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

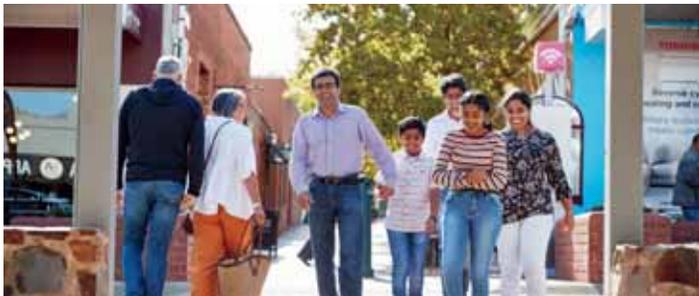
Mums and caregivers, are you navigating the beautiful yet challenging journey of breastfeeding? We're here for you!

We offer latch troubleshooting, milk supply guidance, bottle feeding tips and solid and finger food instructions.

Connect with us via:

- Telehealth: Connect with us virtually from the comfort of your home.
- Outreach Visits: We'll come to you! Available every second Tuesday.

For more information or to book a session, call Susan on 0436 659 910. This service is run by our dedicated Maternal & Child Health nurses.



REFLECTING ON COUNCIL'S PROGRESS

As we approach the end of the current Council Plan, we invite our community to reflect on our key areas of progress and help shape the strategic direction for the next four years.

A Progress Report has been released, showcasing key projects and initiatives we have delivered.

Your feedback on our progress is important as we start to prepare our new Council Plan for 2025-2029 and we'd like to hear from as many people in our community as possible.

You can share your thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. A copy of the Progress Report is also available to read at our Centres.

We will also be hosting "Warm Bowls, Hot Topics" sessions where you can chat with Council officers in person. These sessions will be held in the following locations:

- Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road
 - 8 July, 6.30 to 8.30 pm
- Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semi Circle
 - 10 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm
- Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road
 - 11 July, 12 noon to 2.00 pm
- Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street
 - 15 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Come and enjoy some soup while you chat and share your ideas. We are also offering an online session for those who can't attend in person.

By providing your feedback by 21 July 2024, you will also go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks vouchers.

For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress

STAND FOR COUNCIL

Want to stand up for change in your community? With the next council elections being held in October this year, consider standing for council and be part of the change you want to see.

In partnership with Victorian councils, Municipal Association of Victoria is delivering information sessions for the community and prospective candidates. These sessions can be attended either in-person or online. The sessions cover information about the role of a councillor, the electoral process and campaign tips.

Session dates:

- Tuesday 11 June: Goulburn Ovens Murray Session 1
 - Host: Strathbogie Shire Council
- Wednesday 12 June: Goulburn Ovens Murray Session 2
 - Host: Mitchell Shire Council

Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/standforcouncil or give us a call on 5772 0333 to get involved.



DRAFT KERBSIDE SERVICES POLICY - HAVE YOUR SAY

Did you know, Council will be introducing a four-stream waste system from July 2025? As part of this system, we'll be adding a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and a Glass recycling service. The FOGO bin (green bin) will be collected weekly and will allow residents to dispose of food scraps like citrus, dairy, bread, meat and bones, alongside garden waste. The Glass bin (purple bin) will be collected monthly.

Our draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy proposes the FOGO service as optional for properties in the Rural Zone and mandatory for properties in the Defined Urban Zone (township areas).

To learn more about the draft Policy, including proposed changes to the collection route, opt in options for commercial properties and how and where waste charges will be applied, and to have your say on the Policy, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside

SUBSCRIBE TO 'MURRINDINDI MATTERS' E-NEWS

Council would like to thank everyone who entered our e-newsletter naming competition. The top four name suggestions were Murrindindi Matters, Dindi Digest, wawa Dindi and The Yarn. As we received quite a few suggestions for both Murrindindi Matters and Dindi Digest, we selected the winners at random.

To stay up to date with the latest news from Council, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews

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To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

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murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our awesome Values Award winners from week six.

Ava, Nate, Xander, Kendyll, Eden and Charlotte

All students have demonstrated Respect, Resilience and Responsibility

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Murrindindi Shire Council set to change ward boundaries

THE ward boundaries for ten Victorian councils will be altered in time for the 2024 elections following a review by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and Murrindindi Shire Council is part of the new changes.

The state government has accepted the VEC's final reports and recommendations, ensuring fair and equitable representation through the new ward boundary arrangements.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the number of voters per councillor in a ward should not vary by more than 10 per cent from the average number of voters per councillor for all of the wards.

In February, the VEC advised that 10 councils were projected to have at least one ward with councillor to voter ratio imbalances at the time of the October 2024 elections.

In April, in accordance with section 17 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Minister for Local Government asked the VEC to conduct ward boundary reviews for these councils.

The VEC's reviews have been completed in time to allow for candidates and the VEC to

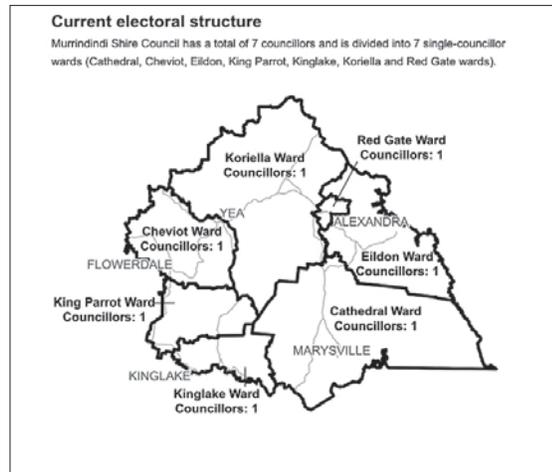
implement the necessary planning ahead of the general elections in October this year.

The 10 councils that will alter their ward boundaries include Bass

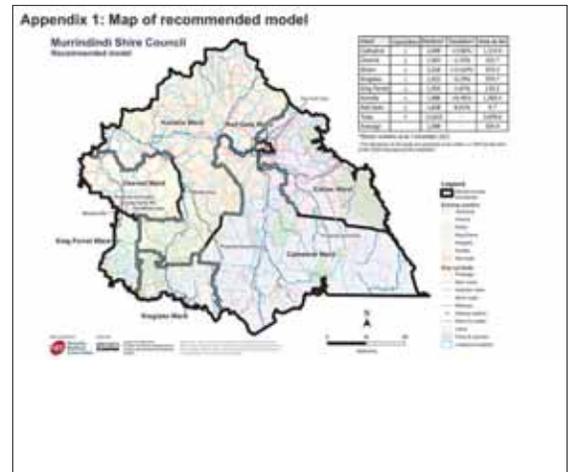
Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Boroondara City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, Loddon Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire

Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, and Wellington Shire Council.

The ward boundary details are available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance



The current electoral structure. -S



The map of the recommended model for Murrindindi Shire Council boundary changes. -S

More ways to take out the trash

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is pleased to announce the introduction of a new four bin kerbside collection service, starting July 2025. This new service aims to enhance waste management practices, aligning with the Victorian Government's policy requirements to improve recycling services, reduce landfill waste, and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

The four bin service will include the following bins, collected at different frequencies:

A general waste red bin, collected fortnightly; a mixed recycling yellow bin, collected fortnightly; a food and garden organics (FOGO) green bin, collected weekly; and a glass recycling purple bin, collected monthly.

To determine the most suitable service model, council engaged with the community in late 2022, receiving valuable feedback from over 200 residents. The overwhelming support for the four bin service helped shape the design of the service.

Now, council is seeking further input from the community on the finer details of the services, as outlined in the draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy. This policy includes proposed changes to collection routes, mandatory zones for the four bin service, optional FOGO service zones, and opt-in options for commercial and industrial properties.

Residents are invited to provide feedback on the draft policy by visiting Murrindindi Shire Council's online engagement platform,

The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside

You can also attend a pop-up event or register for an online community conversation session. Feedback closes on Sunday June 23.

Council will provide additional guidance to ensure the community understands these changes and how to adapt to the new collection services when they are introduced next year.

Council's Sustainability, Assets and Emergency Management Portfolio Councillor, Karine Haslam, said, "Council is preparing to transition to a four bin collection service from mid-2025. We aren't alone in this change, with all other Victorian councils required to introduce four stream household disposal system in line with the state government's policy.

"While we've decided on the format and frequency of our kerbside collection services, based on feedback gathered from the community in late 2022, we'd like to see what our community thinks about some of the finer details outlined in our Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy.

"This policy will guide the roll out of the four-bin services so it's important we get valuable feedback from our residents to make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible.

"We're also planning a comprehensive education campaign to help our community make the most of the new kerbside collection services. We are excited to move our shire closer towards a circular economy, for the benefit of our community and the environment," Ms Haslam said.

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Tools on your travels?

ON May 21, a Kinglake tradie lost a blue Makita heat gun, a red Milwaukee rivet gun, a Milwaukee rattle gun, a Milwaukee impact driver, a Milwaukee sander, a red Milwaukee circular saw and three black Milwaukee five amp batteries.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have located them in the vicinity of Kinglake-Glenburn Road and the Melba Highway. The tools were lost while driving in the vicinity of Kinglake and Yarra Glen. If anyone locates these items, please contact Kinglake Police Station on 5786 1333.

How many ATMs at the moment?

THE Murrindindi Shire spans over 3881 square kilometres and in the 2021 census it was recorded that 15,197 people reside in the shire, so why is it so hard to access your cash where you live?

Physical banks are the place you used to go to deposit money, withdraw money, talk to a staff member about your financial situation. There are only three of them left in the shire. One is in Yea, one in Kinglake and one in Marysville, and bank agents working out of non-bank premises. These are the same institution, Bendigo Bank, including the Yea and District Community Bank.

There are just over 10 ATMs listed in the Murrindindi Shire, and some banking services with Australia Post.

The four big banks have rejected the area completely, as we all know. The National Australia Bank (NAB), Australia and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) and Commonwealth Bank (CBA) have all exited the area.

It was recently announced that the ANZ branch in Lilydale will close its doors on Wednesday, June 19, and the closest southerly branch will then be at Eastland in Ringwood. There is also a branch in Mansfield. The nearest ANZ ATMs are in Lilydale (for the moment) and Mansfield. ANZ banking transactions are not currently available at Australia Post offices.

The nearest National Australia Bank branches are in Mansfield, Healesville and Chirnside Park, but they do retain an ATM in Alexandra. Banking is also available at Australia Post offices.

The Commonwealth Bank has branches in Healesville and Mansfield. They have an

ATM in Yea. Banking is also available at Australia Post offices.

There are Bendigo Bank ATMs in Eildon, Marysville and Yea.

ATMX ATMs are run by Armaguard, an organisation recently bailed out of their financial woes by the Australian Banking Association, and operated by Suncorp Bank. There is one in Alexandra. There are also a number of ATMs at businesses in the shire.

In the recent *Bank Closures in Regional Australia* report that was tabled in Parliament on May 24 it was recommended that the Australian Government adopt a policy recognising access to financial services as an essential service. To this end, it should commit to guaranteeing reasonable access to cash and financial services for all Australians. So, with hardly any banks and minimal ATMs operating in the area what happens when the one of the two ATMs in a town, or the only ATM in a town, stops working, especially on a peak season weekend? Not only is it a lack of financial services to locals but its also a big inconvenience to visitors who want to spend money in our towns.

At a recent community market, not all stores had payment squares for purchases and that is completely understandable when people are raising money for charities and small community groups with bake stalls and sausage sales. Tourists were inconvenienced as the ATMs in town weren't working all weekend. It seems locals are just used to it these days and have back up plans if need be.

With such a low level of banking services and ATMs in the area, there is a need for these services to be reliable to customers for day to day living as that's all there is to keep cash circulating.

EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST
AUDIT AND RISK
COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT
MEMBER



A vacancy exists for an independent member of the Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.

The appointment will commence in August 2024 for an initial term of three years ending 30 June 2027. Council provides an honorarium which is currently set at \$2,000 per year.

Council is looking for someone with a strong understanding of corporate governance, financial reporting and enterprise risk management. The ideal candidate will have experience serving on similar committees or boards for either public or private entities or Not-For-Profit organisations.

The following areas of expertise are preferred:

- local government experience or familiarity
- financial planning and management
- enterprise risk management

To be considered for this role, you need to submit an expression of interest detailing your skills, qualification and experience and your resume to hr@murrindindi.vic.gov.au by close of business 17 June 2024.

For further inquiries please contact Amanda Vogt on 5772 0333 or via email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



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Real Estate GUIDE

Vacant property crackdown expands

THE Victorian Government is cracking down on vacant properties across Melbourne to make more homes available to Victorians who need them.

Hundreds of properties in apartment towers have been identified as vacant for more than six months through a compliance investigation, making them liable for vacant residential land tax (VRLT).

These investigations aim to make better use of empty homes by encouraging owners to put them on the rental market to avoid paying VRLT.

In the five buildings targeted in the investigation, 177 properties were liable for VRLT, resulting in 337 VRLT assessments covering the 2019 to 2024 land tax years. The investigation will now expand to another 13

apartment towers, as well as houses in the inner and middle suburbs of Melbourne.

From January 1, 2025, VRLT will apply to homes across all of Victoria if they are vacant for more than six months in the preceding calendar year. The tax currently only applies to Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs.

The use of a vacant residential property in 2024 will impact its liability for VRLT in 2025. For example, an apartment not used as a principal place of residence will need to be rented out for at least six months to avoid receiving a VRLT assessment next year.

An escalating rate of tax will also apply, based on the number of consecutive years the land has been liable for VRLT.

Existing dwellings that are vacant for one year will still pay one per cent of the capital improved value, but those vacant for two

consecutive years will pay two per cent and those vacant for three or more consecutive years will pay three per cent, encouraging owners of vacant homes to make these properties available to live in.

Holiday homes are typically exempt from VRLT, and this exemption has been expanded to include properties held in trust or owned by companies. Any property that is exempt from land tax, including property used for primary production or owned by a charity, is also exempt from VRLT.

From January 1, 2026, the VRLT will also apply to empty residential blocks in the inner and middle parts of Melbourne, discouraging land banking and incentivising owners to build more homes.

Victorians can notify the State Revenue Office about a vacant property that could be used as a home or developed at sro.vic.gov.au/tipoffs

Information about the VRLT, including exemptions, is available at sro.vic.gov.au/vacant

Treasurer Tim Pallas said, "We know we need more homes for Victorians, and by cracking down on vacant properties we are easing the housing pressures being felt across the state."

"Expanding vacant residential land tax will free up empty houses for rent and sale, boosting supply and making homes more affordable."

Keeping Victorians energy safe

THE state government has tightened the reigns with *Energy Safe Victoria's* powers so Victorian customers are protected from dodgy retailers.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced the new obligations on energy companies, increased penalties, and enhanced powers for *Energy Safe Victoria* are now in effect following changes to energy safety legislation last year.

These changes will protect Victorians by ensuring the energy regulator has the right tools for preventing accidents, investigating incidents and ensuring safety compliance in the Victorian energy sector.

The amendments apply to the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*, *Gas Safety Act 1997* and *Pipelines Act 2005* and came into effect on May 16.

Major energy companies who breach general duties now face significantly larger penalties of up to \$1.66 million, while those found guilty of non compliance with accepted Electricity Safety Management Schemes, Bushfire Mitigation Plans, and Gas Safety Cases can face fines of up to \$1.11 million.

An owner or operator of electrical installations, such as renewable energy generators including solar and wind farms

and big batteries, will now also have duties and obligations in line with other major electricity companies.

Energy Safe Victoria and the Minister for Energy and Resources will also now have additional powers to force energy companies to rectify any breaking of energy safety laws without taking them to court by using enforceable undertakings.

Electricity suppliers and gas companies must preserve the sites of certain incidents until directed by *Energy Safe Victoria* and can now hold items seized under investigation for 60 days.

The changes also increase the period within which *Energy Safe Victoria* can commence prosecution, from three years from when an alleged offence occurred, to three years from when *Energy Safe Victoria* becomes aware of the alleged offence, ensuring no company can avoid being held to account due to a technicality.

This work follows on from the independent review of Victoria's electricity and gas network safety framework, which focused on strengthening the capabilities and regulatory approach of Victoria's energy safety regulator.

To see the Grimes Review's final implementation update visit energy.vic.gov.au

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Country roads take me home

THE number of city dwellers choosing a life in the regions has hit a 12 month high, with the latest Regional Movers Index (RMI) showing metro to regional relocations have surged in the first quarter of the year, now sitting at 20 per cent above the pre-COVID average.

The RMI is a partnership between Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), which analyses the quarterly and annual trends in people moving to and from Australia's regional areas.

Data from the just released March 2024 quarter RMI shows internal migration across the nation has soared in the first

three months of the year, with the regions recording their fifth biggest quarter of influx from city-slickers in the last six years.

Regional Australia Institute (RAI) CEO, Liz Ritchie, said the figures show the nation's regional renaissance is far from over, with 24 per cent more people moving from the city to regions, than the other direction.

Commonwealth Bank Regional and Agribusiness Executive General Manager, Paul Fowler, noted that in the 12 months to March 2024, areas within a 150km radius to a capital were among the most popular for metro movers.

Molesworth local wins agriculture scholarship

RURALBIZ Training is delighted to announce that Molesworth local Rhiannon Sandford has secured a full-fee scholarship to undertake the AHC50116 Diploma of Agriculture with RuralBiz Training (RTO 90782).

RuralBiz Training offer nationally accredited, flexible online training designed specifically for farmers, and have a range of agriculture-related courses on offer. Rhiannon and her husband Conrad began farming four years ago on a property that they lease from their family. They have a commercial Angus herd, currently joining 110 cows and heifers.

Rhiannon's passion for agriculture and sustainable land management was evident in her application, as was her desire to improve her farm business management skills.

Rhiannon said: "Growing up watching Mum on the farm, it embedded in me a deep respect for the role of farmers in land management, and the belief that farmers deserve recognition for this.

"I wanted to promote this stewardship and went on to work alongside agriculture in Landcare and Natural Resource management. Increasingly, I find myself drawn back to agriculture but lacking knowledge and skills.

"Now, working on the farm and trying to make sustainable and viable farm decisions, RuralBiz's Diploma of Ag offers immense opportunity to improve our farm business and at the same time strengthen my understanding, planning and business acumen to seek an ongoing role in Australian agriculture."

Only two scholarships are awarded each year and applications are very competitive Australia wide, with only students who are living in outer regional, rural and remote areas being eligible to apply.

The second scholarship was awarded to Ms Darcie-Lee Ashton from Cloncurry, Queensland.

Sarah Mosley, CEO of RuralBiz Training said, "For years we have been developing flexible, self-paced learning opportunities designed specifically for farmers who don't have the time, or resources to leave the farm to pursue further education so we have developed our courses, so they don't have to.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rhiannon as a scholarship recipient, her passion for agriculture and sustainable land management is representative of the kind of students we have, and we look forward to watching Rhiannon develop her farm management skills as she studies with us over the next two years."



Rhiannon Sandford. -S

Central Highlands consultation gets a two out of nine

An interview with the Chair of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement regarding the Future of the Central Highlands Forests was requested on six occasions, April 10, April 18, April 29, May 6 (in person), May 8 and May 22.

On May 22, the media advisor suggested that questions could be submitted in writing. Through Facebook, the community was asked whether they had particular questions around the engagement process or the upcoming VEAC report.

The following nine questions were asked.

For Chair of the Eminent Panel, Karen Cain: 1. Why were Murrindindi's public meetings (Marysville on April 23 and Alexandra on May 6) held so close to the final report due date? 2. Why was the 'sticky note' methodology chosen as the method of in-person consultation? 3. What response do you have to people who believe that the engagement process was too short and inadequate?

For Minister Dimopoulos: 4. Why are the Chair of the Eminent Panel for Community Consultation and the Chair of VEAC both on the Great Outdoors Taskforce, in addition to creating the report/research into the Future of the Central Highlands? 5. Will public access to land and activities currently undertaken in the Central Highlands be maintained? 6. If a National Park is implemented across the Central Highlands, how will it be operated and funded?

For the Chair VEAC, Mellissa Wood: 7. Why were no Murrindindi Shire or region representatives included in the Eminent Panel, beyond Indigenous groups? 8. Can Murrindindi Shire residents be reassured that their opinions from the public meeting will be considered in the report? 9. Have there been any economic impact studies undertaken in the communities which would be impacted if a National Park was recommended and/or declared?

Unfortunately, few of these questions were answered.

This is the response received.

A DEECA spokesperson said, "The Great Outdoors Taskforce is different to the Eminent Panel and it has not yet started its work to assess State forests in Gippsland and North East Victoria."

In answer to question 4, they said, "The taskforce is Chaired by Lisa Neville,

and membership includes people with a wealth of experience across recreation, tourism, communities, environment, transition, public policy development and engagement processes. This includes Terry Robinson from Destination Gippsland, Graeme Dear from Victorian Fisheries Authority, Mellissa Wood from VEAC and Karen Cain from the Eminent Panel. It is appropriate that individuals with this vast experience and knowledge be utilised to help inform government decisions on the future of public land management in Victoria."

Question 5 was vaguely answered with, "No decisions on the future use of state forests in the Central Highlands has been made and we look forward to receiving the Eminent Panel's report."

Eminent Panel Chair Karen Cain responded to her questions with, "The Eminent Panel has heard firsthand from more than 1000 people at nine open community sessions, including at Marysville and Alexandra. The panel is listening to all voices and perspectives on the future of our Central Highlands forests as we now start the important work of preparing recommendations to government."

The following information was provided as background. "At [the community] meetings valuable feedback was received and is being collated including short written submissions recorded through the facilitation process. Data is also being collated from the EngageVic website, with more than 60,000 unique page visitors and 14,000 unique survey responses. Numerous recreation and interest groups across Murrindindi Shire were also part of more than 60 in depth targeted engagement sessions.

We were also advised that "The questions to VEAC were misdirected, for clarification the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council conducted a scientific assessment of forest values in the Central Highlands. Along with community consultation this work is a key consideration of the Eminent Panel when preparing its report for the government."

These responses show no respect for transparent government, due process, or the communities which could be heavily impacted by the decisions made regarding the future of the Central Highlands.

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King's Birthday Long Weekend

CFA vehicles on display at truck show



A new ultra-heavy tanker. -S

CAPTAIN Chris Lynch of the Alexandra CFA Brigade, spoke about the new light tanker the brigade will be receiving in the future, and the brigade's presence at the Alexandra truck show.

"Latest information we have from CFA fleet suggests that we've got a light tanker, which is a part of our vessel grants, due between July and August. It's called a light tanker, crew cab, 2000 litres of water, and a nimble vehicle to enable us to get into tight areas of the bush in our patch," Captain Lynch said.

"We have some new vehicles coming to CFA that will be on display at the truck show. A new ultra heavy tanker, a brand new heavy four point four tanker which will replace a 34 C at Wallan. The light tanker, of which a prototype will be shown off at the show.

"At the truck show, the brigade will also be having a community safety trailer with general information for home and land safety. Alexandra Auxiliary Brigade will have a food stall at the truck show, with sausages and hamburgers, supported by the Thornton Butcher and local Alexandra Butcher.

"In the near future we are looking to receive a new light tanker, three years in the making."

Adding to the topic, Commander Paul Brislin commented on the rollout of new vehicles and the CFA's presence at the truck show.

"There are some new appliances coming into Murrindindi Shire. Alexandra Brigade will be receiving a new light tanker that is in the build phase at the moment, due for delivery later this year.

"Another light tanker in the build phase is going to Flowerdale. Across the Mitchell Shire we have just a heavy tanker, a 44 C, going online. There is still stuff in planning and we are aware of the ageing vehicles, it all comes down to watching them build it and whatever point in time due to budget," Commander Brislin said.

"We are organising a significant display at the Alexandra truck show, fairly wide range and a new truck that went online today will be on display, an ultra heavy tanker, a new prototype light tanker which is very similar to what Alexandra will be getting at the end of the year, and many things to look at.

"It's also an opportunity to bolster recruitment as it's a concern. We need more volunteers," he said.



A new tanker. -S



One of the local vehicles which will be in the CFA display. -S

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King's Birthday Long Weekend

Biggest Victorian race of the year for sedan fans this weekend at Alexandra

by Dean Thompson

ALEXANDRA and District Speedway Club's annual '100 Lap Derby' for speedway sedans is the feature event this coming Saturday and Sunday and has attracted a stellar line up to compete packed with local heroes, some of Victoria's best in many disciplines of speedway and a couple of Americans keen to be the first ever driver from the USA to win the big race with a history that spans decades in Alexandra.

From Trevor Peters in 1975 to Damien Miller in 2023, the event known as the 'Bathurst of Speedway' has seen many of the greats compete, with none greater than Nev Eltze from Horsham, having won the event eight times. Only one driver from outside of Victoria has won the event, Tasmanian

Maurice Jones in 1984, and never has a driver from overseas stepped foot on the great race's podium.

This year's event attracts over 90 entrants to do battle in the big race. Some of these include David Donegan, a frequent visitor to the United States who competes in similar endurance events, and Billy Meazell III and Wally Beaty racing under his team of three cars.

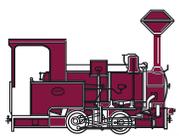
The event's current champion, Damien Miller, leads many drivers that could win and listing a few of them here does not mean that anybody not listed cannot win. Anything can happen in the great race and usually does. Miller's brother Brendan is another outstanding driver and is part of the track preparation crew at Alexandra and knows every nook and cranny of the track which

drivers will compete on on Saturday. Add in Tony Moule, a former national Sprintcar champion and winner of this event, Dylan Barrow a Modified Sedan, and Super Sedan racer of significant ability, especially in Modified Sedans where he has put himself among Australia's best.

Four-time event champion Lennie Bonnici from the nearby Nagambie club won his four all in succession. Darren Forrest a quick man at the derby always putting himself in the mix for the big race he and everybody else is so fixated on winning. Jamie Lock the Victorian Sports Sedan champion, Shane O'Brien a winner two seasons ago, Matt Nelson a star in every class he competes in and a multiple state champion, Luke Fallon a local Alexandra resident and businessman with four wins to his name also.

Warrick Taylor the fastest man ever around the dirt circuit dog leg track the competitors race on this weekend, Brad Warren the wheel man who can and does steer everything he gets behind the wheel of very well, David Donegan and his merry band of Americans as mentioned above, the two from a state unknown as far as the Alexandra event is concerned however with plenty of experience running much longer endurance events in the USA on short dirt tracks, and visiting from Western Australia, former Alexandra member Lenny Bates is another to keep an eye on and even with this short look at potential winners this weekend, there are plenty left out.

Racing is on at Alexandra this Saturday. You can arrive Friday night and stay all weekend, leaving on Monday morning for the trip home.



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King's Birthday Long Weekend

In support action the Standard Saloons annual 'Kings Birthday' Cup weekend feature event will be held with a strong list of entrants that includes Brodie Ardley, Mitch Blencowe, Matt Leek, Andrew Miles, Brad Hill, Rhys Lansdown a former Victorian champion and Wayne Sheerman as just some of the front running competitors out of a terrific field once again. Sheerman, an Alexandra favourite, is currently in a run of bridesmaid results in the state title, however he is keen to end the season with victory in front of home crowd fans.

Junior Sedan competitors in the Victorian Speedway Council 1200cc Sedans will also compete on Sunday only with star drivers including Andrew Mitchell, Blake Beach, Riley Taylor, Chase Doherty, Brad Marshall, Xander Baxter, and Will Fallon with Beach, Marshall and Fallon representing Alexandra. Other drivers in the race from the host club of Alexandra include Jaylen Knight, Brody Barton, Dayne Murdoch, and Maddy Beach.

For the kids there is the annual 'One Lap Derby' bike race around the Speedway track plus for some extra entertainment this season there is a handbag race. There are music acts across the weekend on stage and an overall great camping atmosphere with pit fires, and the usual trek campsite to campsite to chat with friends and competition.

Racing begins on Saturday from 1pm at Gordon Street Alexandra with a planned 9.30pm finish and again on Sunday from the same start time. Enquires can communicate via Facebook messages to the club.

Entrance cost for two days is \$150 for a family of two adults and three children between the ages of 10 and 16, with all children under 10 free. Adults on their own is \$60, concession holders are \$30 and children not entering on a family ticket are also \$30. For one day of racing only, halve the price for any of the tickets required.



Car number six is driven by Damien Miller, while car number 64, Dan Smith, goes on the attack. -Louise Norman

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King's Birthday Long Weekend



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Two of the horses housed at Gunyah. -AR



A 13 year old sheep. -AR



One of the turkeys at the property. -AR

Gunyah sanctuary calls for donations

GUNYAH Animal Healing Sanctuary, a haven for animals in need, is facing a critical financial crisis and is at risk of shutting its doors permanently.

Established 24 years ago by Kathy Munslow, Gunyah has single-handedly provided a loving home and essential care to over 70 rescued animals, many of whom have come from traumatic situations.

The sanctuary, like many charitable organisations, has been severely impacted by inflated costs of living over the past few years. The effects being felt in both increases in costs to run the sanctuary, in conjunction with the decrease in donations from public supporters.

Donations dropped significantly after supporters started feeling the financial strains of inflation, and despite efforts to cut costs and prioritise essential items, Gunyah is struggling to meet its financial obligations, as vet bills, volunteer support and sanctuary infrastructure have become increasingly difficult to action due to budget restrictions.

The team of amazing volunteers developed a website, created sponsorship opportunities,

and Gunyah merchandise, which have brought in much-needed funds, however, it's not enough.

Without immediate intervention, the sanctuary may be forced to close, leaving its 70 plus hoofed, feathered, and human residents without a home and care. The sanctuary needs to raise a minimum of \$60,000 per year to cover feed and nutrients for the animals, vet bills, and infrastructure. A figure that the sanctuary has fallen short of since the pandemic.

Struggling with her own health issues, Kathy expressed her deep concern, stating, "I can't even bring myself to think about animals going without essentials or Gunyah having to wind up after helping animals in need every single day for the past 24 years."

Gunyah is making a heartfelt appeal to the community for support. A small donation, equivalent to the cost of a cup of coffee a month, can make a significant difference in keeping the sanctuary operational. All donations, whether one-time or recurring, are greatly appreciated and will help ensure that Gunyah can continue its vital work.



Kathy with one of the horses. -AR

To donate and learn more about Gunyah Animal Healing Sanctuary, visit gunyah.org

The sanctuary is also introducing Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities for businesses to join Gunyah in making a positive impact on the lives of animals in need.

Kathy said, "Our passionate supporters already go above and beyond to donate what

they can. However, I believe that there are businesses out there that share our passion for animals. I also believe our team can provide social and financial benefits in return, as we believe in supporting those who support us."

For more information on corporate sponsorships, visit: gunyah.org/corporate-sponsorship/



A turkey posing for the camera. -AR



Kathy Munslow. -AR



A happy pig. -AR



Another of the turkeys. -AR



One of the many goats at Gunyah. -AR



One of the miniature ponies. -AR

PUZZLES

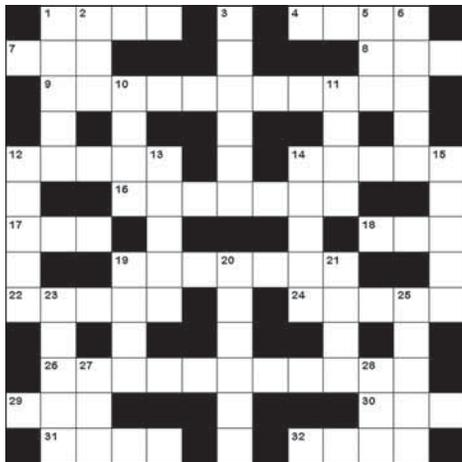
SOLUTIONS
Page 19

Celebrating National Reconciliation Week 2024

Crossword

ACROSS

- A small enclosure for sheep.
- Part of a three-piece suit.
- Set of enforceable rules.
- A slippery, viscous liquid.
- Aggressive and argumentative.
- The absence of war.
- A mock attack.
- The male ruler of an empire.
- Apply pressure and friction.
- A mongrel dog.
- Concerned only with yourself.
- Declare under oath.
- Having a mouth-watering flavour.
- An accomplished fact.
- A geological period.
- Not new.
- Torn part of a ticket held as a receipt.
- Green semiprecious gemstone.



DOWN

- A story about legendary persons.
- Be obliged to pay.
- Waggle and squirm.
- A male descendant.
- Person of great strength or achievement.
- Add a dash of spirits to a drink.
- At all times.
- The sounds of a contented cat.
- A glowing piece of wood left from a fire.
- Force onto another.
- Running late.
- Ribbon worn around the waist.
- Intensely passionate.
- Healthy and robust.
- Erodes from long use.
- The name of a book.
- Common fluffy household pet.
- A sign of agreement.

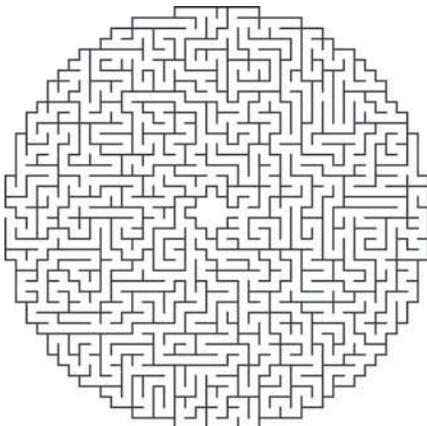
Word Search

JUNE 8
WORLD OCEAN'S DAY

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

- CRAB SHARK
- DOLPHIN SQUID
- EEL STINGRAY
- LOBSTER TUNA
- OCEAN WALRUS
- SEAWEED WHALE

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

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

Cryptogram

ABORIGINAL WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25				15				1								23							8		

20 A 25 3 3 A 25 4 25 : A 25 4 25 12 19 15 7

BUXTON Primary School hosted a memorable event to celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2024 in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council.

The event, held at Buxton Primary School, was a day filled with learning and celebration. The program included a heartfelt message from Mayor Damien Gallagher and Principal Sarah Irving. Welcome to Country from Aunty Lee Healy, a song performed in Language by the talented students, a guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail, and a delightful morning tea.

The participation in this event is part of council's ongoing efforts to respect and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations Peoples. Council is grateful for the community's support and looks forward to future events that promote reconciliation.

In 2018, Taungurung language and culture became the Language Other Than English (LOTE) program at Buxton Primary School. The students use Taungurung language daily in class for greetings, acknowledgements, and other learning tasks. This school community fosters a strong understanding of, and connection to, the Taungurung concept of custodianship of the land.

For information on Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/reconciliation or call 5772 0333.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to learn, to grow and to understand. Our goal is to progress together in harmony. This year's theme is timely, 'Now, more than ever'."

"The learning opportunities for young people in Buxton are outstanding and the strong collaboration between Principal Sarah Irving and Aunty Lee Healy is to be celebrated.

"In the spirit of reconciliation, council acknowledges the thousands of years of stewardship by the First Nations Peoples over the air, water, and land that we now know as Murrindindi Shire. This week, in particular, we pay respect to generations of Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elders, as the keepers of culture and identity of the longest thriving civilisation on earth.

"I am heartened by the enthusiastic community participation in the National Reconciliation Week events throughout the shire in 2024 and the active efforts of so many to realise our community's vision of vibrancy, resilience, diversity and inclusivity."



Mayor Damien Gallagher was present at the Reconciliation Week event. -S



Yea Primary School students attended the event and were interested in the QR codes on the Warrk Warrk Trail at school. -S

Local students encouraged to enter Parliamentary Prize

LOCAL school students have been encouraged to enter the annual Parliament of Victoria's Parliament Prize competition, with a chance to win \$500 for themselves and \$1000 for their school.

Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad said the competition was a great opportunity for students to have their say on an issue they feel is important and consider what they would say to Parliament if they were a Member of Parliament.

"Entries are now open for students in years five to 12 for this year's Parliamentary Prize. All that students need to do is submit a video of themselves presenting a Member's Statement," Ms Broad said.

"A Member's Statement is an opportunity for elected members to make a brief statement in State Parliament on matters of interest or concern to them and the people living in their electorate and can be up to 90 seconds long.

"Students entering the competition can record themselves or use an animated avatar if they prefer.

"This is a great project for students to undertake on their own or complete as a class project with their teacher.

"It's an opportunity to help raise the profile of issues in their community that are important to them, their families, and friends.

"My interest in politics came from an opportunity to participate in a parliamentary internship when I was a student, and I want to encourage more young people to get involved and learn more about our democratic processes."

Entries close on Friday, June 14.

For more information on the competition including entry terms and conditions visit parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/parliament-prize/

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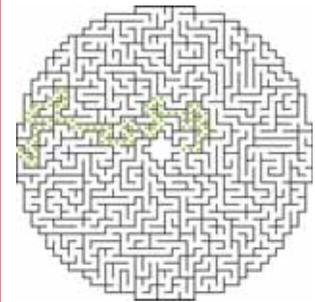
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FUNERAL NOTICES

BOARD, Ian

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Ian will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024.

Maysville Golf Club, 956 Buxton Marysville Road, Marysville. Commencing at 11am.

As per Ian's request please wear bright colours



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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY SHED / EILDON & DISTRICT WOODWORKERS GUILD INC.

The Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the guild clubrooms, McKenzie Street, Alexandra. All welcome. Any business items must be in writing and submitted to the secretary no later than Tuesday, June 4, 2024 which is seven days prior to the AGM. Any further enquiries, please contact Max May 0419 653 991 or email arthurmay2@bigpond.com

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Changing the laws and culture

VICTORIA has implemented all 227 recommendations of the Royal Commission to family violence. Reforms include opening 36 Orange Doors, providing immediate and simple access for women escaping violence and establishing the nation's first dedicated prevention agency, Respect Victoria.

Announced last week, a new package of reforms will change laws, change culture and deliver new support for victim survivors when they need it most.

The package will drive action at every stage by better responding to victims when violence occurs, delivering a stronger justice response that holds offenders to account, and continuing Victoria's world leading prevention response, stopping violence before it starts.

The Victorian Government will implement changes to ensure Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIOs) keep victim survivors safe for as long as they need, and avoid the retraumatising steps of reappearing in court. Currently, most FVIOs are between six and 12 months long. Victims can be required to return to court, retraumatising them in the process.

The government will introduce a presumption of a new minimum length for FVIOs, providing enduring protection for victim survivors. It'll put the focus on perpetrators and their behaviour, instead of requiring victims to prove they're not safe, again and again.

The government will also make changes to the service of FVIOs, so that protection can start sooner and putting a stop to perpetrators who deliberately avoid being served.

The government will work with Victoria Police and the courts on a proposal to give police the power to issue longer family violence safety notices.

The stalking offence will be changed as informed by the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Stalking Report and improvements will be implemented to Personal Safety Intervention Orders, with legislative changes to be introduced into the parliament in 2025.

Advice will be sought from the Judicial College and Sentencing Advisory Council regarding guidance for magistrates on sentencing for breaches of FVIOs to ensure they are responding to community expectations.

When it comes to changing our culture, building on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the government will deliver new action to stop violence before it starts.

The Respectful Relationships curriculum is delivering age appropriate lessons to students in all Victorian government schools and many non government schools, promoting respect and healthy relationships early.

More intensive training and support for staff across 1199 schools will be provided, and all remaining non-government schools will be invited to join, supported by startup funding and professional learning.

This in hope will counter the influence of Andrew Tate types by making sure more boys and young men have the right role models to build positive behaviours, expanding the Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) program.

Already being piloted in 100 schools, the program will be rolled out to 240

more, delivering intensive training to help 'MoRE Champions' establish a culture of healthy masculinity, as part of Respectful Relationships.

New learning resources will also be developed to help schools teach kids how to safely navigate online, providing age appropriate lesson plans on toxic masculinity, hate speech, pornography and coercive control. This will help parents and carers too by delivering more advice and resources from trusted sources.

Mandatory training will also be added to Victoria's RSA training requirements, teaching staff how to identify and prevent sexual assault and harassment in venues.

Respect Victoria will also launch a new advertising education campaign later this year, aimed at promoting healthy attitudes among boys and young men, including a strong focus on social media.

The best way to keep victim survivors safe is to keep perpetrators in view, so perpetrator accountability will be strengthened with a boost in case management, and more follow ups after behaviour change programs to make sure men who complete these programs are not lost to the system.

Building on existing efforts to keep women safe in their homes, the government are also supporting a 'Safe at Home' pilot by McAuley Community Services for Women, providing rapid safety planning and wrap around support to help women who are at risk of becoming homeless due to family violence.

A boost to the Personal Safety Initiative will support more victim survivors with measures such as home alarms, security assessments, external lighting, locks, fencing upgrades, security screens and personal duress alarms.

Where women can't stay safely in the home, the community housing sector will be able to draw funding under the Commonwealth's \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility, for crisis and transitional accommodation for women and children fleeing family violence, including more core and cluster models.

The government will also improve and upgrade the Central Information Point, which is an Australian first that consolidates information about a perpetrator of family violence into a single report, making the system easier and faster to use, so hardworking family violence workers can get the information they need sooner.

This package will deliver a new Justice Navigator pilot to make sure survivors of sexual assault can easily navigate support, recovery and justice options.

It will also deliver increased therapeutic support for children and young people to help with healing and recovery, alongside a boost in targeted legal services for victim survivors from communities who face additional barriers, like multicultural and First Nations families.

These new announcements build on reforms while accelerating efforts to drive down violence. The third Rolling Action Plan under *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's 10 Year Plan for Change* will be released later in 2024.

A Ministerial Action Working Group will continue to examine how to further keep women and children safe. The government will also continue to work through National Cabinet to deliver nationwide change.

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A successful training day for CFA women



Some of the women at the training day. -S

A TRAINING day was held at Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) Wangaratta for female firefighters on Sunday, April 21.

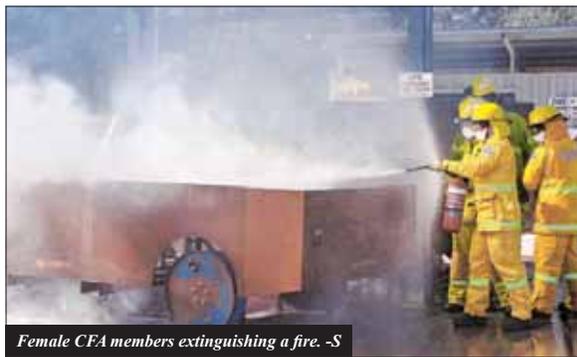
Fourteen female members of the CFA attended from across four of the North East districts, including three from Murrindindi Shire.

The day started with a meet and greet, followed by a briefing for the day. Once the day's activities were run through, participants suited up in personal protective equipment (PPE) and headed out to the training pad.

The day saw five pad instructors commit their Sunday morning to supporting female CFA members. The CFA thanks Mark Kohler, Ed Martin, James Stephens, John Mahoney and Mick Gidman.

The group was divided into two groups, with one starting at the petrol station prop and the other at the gas impingement shield, where basic pumping was undertaken to supply fog branches.

The scenario on the petrol station prop was focused on a car fire, a rescue and isolating the gas supply and use of a fire extinguisher.



Female CFA members extinguishing a fire. -S

There was instruction on best practices for pumping, water pressure requirements, and connecting to a hydrant.

The groups swapped scenarios over the morning's sessions.

The afternoon session provided the opportunity to take part in an internal search and rescue scenario in the two storey building filled with 'smoke'. Two members had the opportunity to update their breathing apparatus (BA) skills during this scenario.

Great feedback was received from all attendees that it was an informative and educative day, as well as those in attendance having a fun experience together.

The CFA gives thanks to Richie Gardner and the pad operators and again to the pad instructors.

The day was a District 12 Women's Network event to support women firefighters to develop their skills.

Daylight shines on drink driving

ACCORDING to new Victoria Police analysis one in five drink drivers fined in Victoria was caught during daylight hours and half of the detections were on a weekday.

The force is warning police are out anywhere, any time to make sure motorists aren't over the limit. It comes amid a danger month on Victoria's roads with 29 people killed in May last year with alcohol a contributor in multiple deaths. So far this May, 12 people have died.

Figures show about 1200 of the near 4900 drivers caught drink driving in the last financial year were nabbed between 6am and 6pm and more than 400 were caught between 6am and noon alone.

Victoria Police has been scheduling special daytime and early morning operations to keep drink drivers on their toes and remind all drivers police are out testing for alcohol anywhere, any time. The force conducts three million breath tests every year.

Not only do police deploy their booze bus fleet statewide but every police car also has breath testing capability.

The analysis show the night, 6pm to midnight, remains the most prolific time for drink drivers on the road with 1900 detected followed by midnight to 6am when almost 1800 were caught.

Saturday accounts for the most detections of any day with 1200 ahead of Sunday, Friday and Thursday.

About 400 drink drivers were caught on a Monday and 350 on a Tuesday.

Most drink drivers fined, more than 40 per cent, recorded a blood alcohol content between 0.07 and 0.10. About a third blew between 0.05 and 0.07.

Anyone caught drink driving faces heavy fines and a loss of licence. First-time drink drivers alone face a \$577 fine and being disqualified from driving for three months even for low level readings.

Figures analysed, covering July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 included only drink drivers who received a fine, which applied for readings up to 0.15.

Those with higher readings must go to court where a magistrate imposes a fine and driving disqualification period. About a quarter of all fatal crashes involve a driver or rider over the legal blood alcohol limit of 0.05.

Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, Road Policing Command said, "People might think drink driving is something that only occurs after dark but this data shows there's a lot of offending in the day. That's why police are out breath testing motorists around the clock.

"If you think you can run the gauntlet, be it day or night, think again...The consequences of a being involved in a crash are even more serious and last a lifetime. Drinking and driving simply isn't worth the risk."

Glasses for Kids now at more Victorian schools

AN extra 70,000 Victorian students will benefit from vision screening and free glasses as part of the Victorian Government's boost to the popular *Glasses for Kids* program.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll and Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne announced that the government is investing \$6.8 million to triple the capacity of the program to support more prep to year three students with free onsite vision screening and, if needed, free glasses.

The expansion will open the program up to an extra 473 schools, making it available to 74,000 more Prep to year three students through to 2027.

The *Glasses for Kids* program is managed and delivered by State Schools' Relief and offered to students from Victorian Government schools identified with high and medium levels of disadvantage, based on the school's Student Family Occupational Education Index.

The *Glasses for Kids* expansion is part of the \$287 million package also delivering a once-off \$400 School Saving Bonus which will help around 700,000 students with uniforms, camps, excursions and sporting events at school to make sure no child misses out on school activities due to financial stress.

The once-off bonus will be applied to school accounts for each child, but can be spent per family so a family with three school children will receive \$1200 in support to spend on school costs.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll said, "Too many kids fall behind in school because of undiagnosed and treatable vision problems and that's why we're expanding the *Glasses for Kids* program.

"We delivered a budget that's helping Victorian families, the School Saving Bonus, School Breakfast Clubs, Glasses for Kids and the Affordable School Uniforms program sit at the heart of our plan to ease cost-of-living pressures for families right across the state."

Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne said, "It's great to see this successful program being expanded to help even more kids access free glasses. Testing and fittings at schools means we make life easier for busy families' schedules."

Ensuring no drop in drop bear populations

THE National Koala Monitoring Program (NKMP) includes people from all over Australia, working together to monitor and help native koalas.

The program is a partnership between the CSIRO and the Australian Government, with the latter providing funding of \$10 million over four years for the program.

Two apps are used in the NKMP to monitor the koala population, both by citizens and researchers. The *Koala Counter* app is used for collecting survey data, while *Koala Spotter* is an app that is used for reporting koala sightings.

The program engages community, citizen scientists, First Nations people and researchers.

Quantitative biologist and CSIRO senior research scientist Andrew Hoskins leads the program. He spoke to the ABC about the benefits of getting the community involved in monitoring native koalas.

"Everybody knows what a koala looks like. They're really easy to identify, but they're really hard to spot. This makes monitoring them even harder," Mr Hoskins said.

"It's super exciting to work on a national-scale program that allows people to provide information in a useful and usable way that then we as scientists can make best use of to inform conservation of such an iconic species.



Koalas are sighted and reported by the public in the National Koala Monitoring Program, which then helps with keeping the population safe and vibrant. -Ethan Brooke

"[Working with citizen scientists] is efficient and it's also really inclusive because it lets anybody access and contribute information to the program in a meaningful way."

Data from the program can be used to inform local koala management strategies.

For more information on the National Koala Monitoring Program, visit nkmp.org.au/

Fun, fellowship and service to the community

TONY Jacobs, the outgoing chair of Yea Rotary, spoke about his time in the organisation. He's currently approaching the end of his second year in the role. Normally, there is a different president each year, but last year's president elect moved away from the district. Tony was therefore asked to take on the role for a second year.

He said, "It's been an interesting two years. I guess at the start, my aim was to try and lighten up some of the more formal procedures that we had previously adopted, just to try to make our meetings more attractive to new members. As with many other clubs, not just Rotary clubs but sporting clubs and service clubs, it's becoming harder and harder to attract new members, particularly members in the active age groups of 40 to 60. No disrespect to our older members. Our club's been going since 1986 and some of our original members are still with us and contribute just as much now as they always have. But the future of the club really depends on newer members."

The club had a goal to attract six new members last year and they attracted five. This year, they were seeking at least four new members, but to date there is only one. This reflects how difficult the challenge is.

Asked why people should become new members, Tony was quick to answer. "It's a great way to give service to the community so many fronts."

The club supports Rotary International in tackling polio and bringing children to Australia for much-needed operations, and other causes. They also contribute a lot

to the local community, including mental health initiatives, the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Walk and the Yea Cancer Society. They're also active regarding youth initiatives, including bursaries to schools, leadership training for children, scholarships for year 12 students (introduced last year), and supporting the incoming and outgoing Rotary exchange student program.

In addition, they conduct the Yea Australia Day ceremony, the Remembrance Day ceremony, and support the RSL with the ANZAC Day ceremony, plus there are a lot of smaller things that often go unnoticed to help individuals in the community.

"There's a great opportunity for service," Tony said. "And also, with our weekly meetings, we have interesting guest speakers most weeks. We have really good meals provided by the local schools, clubs and organisations. All of the money goes back into the community. Plus, we have a lot of fun as well in our weekly meetings. Fun and friendship are a big part of it."

He noted that through the club, people can also develop very good networks.

He was concerned that there may be a perception in the community that it's a closed club. "It's anything but," he said. "We welcome all people. One of the big things with Rotary is diversity and we certainly try to encourage that as well."

Tony first became involved with Rotary after being invited to attend a couple of meetings five or six years ago. When he found out more, he decided to join.

His working background was as the chief financial officer for a major Australian construction company based in Sydney, Hong Kong, Dubai and USA.

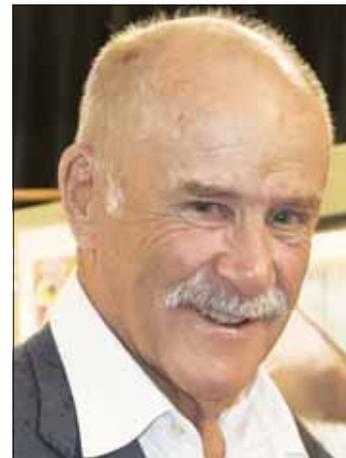
He ended up in the Yea area, and said, "I've always loved the Goulburn Valley. When I was a kid, I used to go trout fishing with my father at Woodcamp, Jamieson, Molesworth and the Breakaway. I've always loved it. I've always wanted to live here. Thirty years ago, my wife and I bought a property on the Murrindindi River, which was a weekend. Then we bought the little church which is part of the history of the valley, and then 20 years ago, we bought our small farm in the valley."

Asked what he was most proud of from his time as president, Tony replied, "I think introducing the Ruth Konig Memorial Scholarship, and introducing the Rotary Club of Yea Community Services Award which was awarded the year before last to the Yea Cancer Society and this year to the St Lukes Op Shop."

He said he's also been very lucky to have a very supporting board, a very strong secretary and treasurer, and a very receptive club in terms of the changes that have been made.

The club also rekindled inter-club visits, post-COVID-19. A couple of years ago, the club was visited by Kinglake, and this year, the club visited the Alexandra Rotary Club. They also hosted a visit from Seymour just a couple of weeks ago.

Tony also got all of the presidents and secretaries of Rotary Clubs in the district together last Rotary year for a round table discussion of common issues and problems.



Outgoing Yea Rotary President Tony Jacobs. -S

With his presidential term drawing to a close, Tony will be designated as past president and will remain a part of the board of the new president, Penny Paxman. As past president, Tony will look after the Rotary Foundation.

He added, "It will be very much Penny's board. She'll carry on with the tradition of all the presidents of Rotary and help serve the community as we've always done, and have a bit of fun as well."

SPORT

Tigers defeat Lions in Seymour

by Deb Schicklerling

Netball

Under 13

Yea 32 defeated Seymour 10
THE Yea under 13 Tigers lacked the height of the Seymour Lions however they didn't let that stop them.

Defence was the focus of the game and this was prevalent not only in the defensive end but in their offensive defence. There were no easy goals or passages of play for the Lions with the Tigers strong hand overs and chasing down any tips or loose balls.

The capitalising on turnovers, ball movement down the court, and smart positioning of the goalers was beyond their years and a critical element of Yea winning each quarter and keeping Seymour scoreless in the last.

Coach Lauren Cronk told the team in her post game address how proud she is of them all and how they make it very difficult to choose award recipients as they could go to every player every week for their efforts in playing all positions and giving it their all.

Marmalades best on court: Ruby McKay for her intercepts and strong leads down the court; Yarra Valley Gas most improved: Kensi Cronk for her reading of the play and drawing her defender away for her to then present forward.

Under 15

Yea Tigers 30 defeated Seymour Lions 27

YEA junior netballers travelled to Seymour to face the Seymour Lions in competition. It was a fierce match from beginning to end with both teams playing with intensity. The Tigers got off to a great start with Marley and Maya working well in the goals together and Flynn stepping back into centre.

Going into the first break the Tigers had the lead with the Lions four



Under 11 award recipients very pleased with themselves.

to the Tigers five. Gemma stepped into centre with Lily and Hannah taking over the wings in the second quarter. The Lions came out strong in this quarter managing to outscore the Tigers and take the lead heading into half time with scores Lions 13 to Tigers nine.

Some changes saw Flynn and his height get moved into defence with Sophie coming out of defence and back into shooting. Sienna and Flynn worked together in defending in the goal circle with Ella in wing defence and managed to hold the Lions to three goals for the term. Maya and Sophie had Elsie and Marley accurately feeding them the ball which resulted in Yea's greatest score for the term adding 12 goals to the total. Scores at three quarter time were Lions 16 to Tigers 21.

The intensity remained and despite being significantly outscored in the third term the Lions kept coming. Gemma was moved back to keeper with Flynn in goal defence but the Lion's shooter's accuracy increased and they managed to gain some goals. Sophie and Marley continued to work hard together for the Tigers and with almost every player on the team taking to the court at some stage during this quarter, the Tigers were able to hold off the Lions during their final push. Increased passing accuracy and speed as well as general improvement in health, saw the Tigers come away with the hard fought win.

Award winners: Marmalade's Player of the Week: Maya Cronk; Yarra Valley Gas 'Most Improved': Sophie Butterworth.



Award winners: Marmalade's Player of the Week: Maya Cronk and Yarra Valley Gas 'Most Improved': Sophie Butterworth. -S



Kensi and Ruby with their awards. -S

Kinglake local wins gold in Taekwondo

SUNDAY, May 26, saw Kinglake local Bruce Williams win gold at the state championships for Taekwondo in the 10 to 11-year-old male blue belt division.

Bruce's coach, Tim Huggins, from Tigers Taekwondo, spoke about the experience of the event.

"His first opponent withdrew, so he went straight into the final against a very strong club.

"He'd never played with the electronic scoring system before, that they use at state level, he'd only played at regional level and interclub level prior to this. So first time with the electronic scoring, and he did really well.

"It wasn't an issue for him at all. ... He wasn't even thinking about it, he was just concentrating on landing his shots.

"It's the winner of two rounds, basically, so he won his first round convincingly. In the second round against the same opponent he also performed really well and won with a clear points lead in both rounds, and that gave him the match and the gold medal," Tim said.

He also spoke to the elements of the competition, and how it is broadened for such young players.

"Contact Taekwondo sparring in the children's divisions is no face contact, so there's no punching to the head, it's contact punching to the body, and contact kicking to the body, and you get a various scale of points depending on what you land.

"Bruce mostly landed body kicks, which you get two points for, and he's very good at quick, and lands them well."

Bruce has been partaking in Taekwondo since after the pandemic and has had to work his way up to competing at the state level. His mother, Stacie Williams, spoke about his involvement in Taekwondo.

"He's been doing it about four or five years, so he's just a natural at it, he's just taken to

it. He has that passion and drive himself, I don't have to push him too much, he wants to compete and better himself. He's hoping to get to a black belt by grade six.

"He does a few regional competitions, and he's always come home with a medal at least, a gold or a silver.

"We travel down to Macleod on a Saturday sometimes. They have the club down there, so they train on some days of the week as well. So they run Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and we train up here on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Sometimes in the week before a competition coming up, we'll go down and do extra training and that down there, with more kids and that. He can get more experience," Stacie said.

Tim also praised Bruce as a student, speaking to the fact that Bruce is a good all-round student.

"The good thing about Bruce is that he's an all-round kid, at martial arts. So he loves sparring, but he also makes the effort to do his forms very well, and his self defense training. He's very focused on all areas of martial arts, not just competition sparring, however that is his love, he loves sparring and fighting, but he's a really good student.

"He actually gets medals in poomsae as well, in forms. ... He got a gold medal in the regionals the week before the state championships. He also got a silver in forms then as well. He's a very good student.

"The thing is too, he's a proper martial artist. He's got values, we teach values in martial arts first and foremost, so yes, he's a fighter, but he's not a malicious and nasty fighter.

"He doesn't set out to hurt people, he's just out there to do a job and score some points and if he can, win a match. That part of his personality is important in martial arts, that you're not just a brawler, but you learn self-restraint and self-control," Tim said.



Kinglake local Bruce Williams with his gold medal following a win at the state championships in Taekwondo. -S

Intense Squash pennant results



James G scrambles for the ball versus Charlie. S

By Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition

Eels versus Redfins

JAMES G versus Charlie: James held better court position in the first two games before Charlie began hitting longer to steal the momentum and the next two games. In the final minutes James went for a comeback but couldn't reign in the deficit leaving Charlie the winner. 60 to 54.

Justin versus Daniel W: A true battle. No one led by more than three points at any time. Justin snuck ahead in the end to win the match. 61 to 59.

Daniel K versus John: Daniel was on fire again. Not even the 'ever reliable' John could douse the flames. Daniel had all the tricks and pin point accuracy at his disposal to cruise to victory. 78 to 47.

Cods versus Yabbies

Kelly versus Lee: Great rallies and sneaky shots by both players. Kelly ended the match holding a few more points to take the match. 62 to 46.

Jared versus Pep: Pep's experience got the best of Jared in the first three games. Although Jared got the last game, he couldn't quite get the win. Pep was victorious. 58 to 56.

Jim versus Andrew: Jim found the zone and punished Andrew's wayward shots for the first three games. With only pride to play for, Andrew reversed the script for the final game to claw back twelve points, but the damage had already been done. 65 to 48.

Thursday Comp

Cherry Ripe versus Crunchie

Beth versus Aiden: Claiming the first two games Aiden was not messing around. Beth evened the game three for a draw causing Aiden to come back with a vengeance, taking the last game with a 10 point lead. Aiden crushed his opponent. 72 to 47.

Kristelle versus Lucas: Both players struggled with their serves against the wet wall. Balls were ricocheting at unexpected angles. Lucas adapted better, taking three games and the match. 69 to 60.

James W versus Michael: The wet walls didn't stop these two from having a cracking match. Michael stole game two, but James was too good overall, winning the match. 68 to 60.

Jaffas versus Smarties

Travis (fill in) versus Sam: Travis took a couple of weeks off which did not help his game. Both players are improving, but Sam is speeding ahead and it showed in the result. Sam won with an impressive lead. 76 to 52.

Jodie versus Jack: With a player dropping out Jack has stepped up to the plate. Having never seen him play, Jodie didn't know what to expect. Jack didn't disappoint and absolutely thrashed Jodie. 70 to 37.

Ruth (fill in) versus Stuart: A close match with see sawing games. Both players were determined to take the win. Ruth crept ahead to take the win. 63 to 61.

One point difference for Yea under 16s

Football

Under Nine

by Mick Beer

YEA Junior Football Club had a great day against Seymour for the first game of winter. Although it was a close game, Yea played a better game of football and came home with the win. One of the features of their game was their handball improvement.

Hamish Dalton was right up there as being one of the best players on the ground. What really impressed was his attack on the ball into the packs, his clearing handballs and voice on the field.

Ashton Augello's confidence has grown over the course of the season. He took solid marks and kicked some great long goals.

Fox Beer really impressed with tackling, chasing and long clearing kicks from full back. Another great feature of his approach to the game is the passion which is starting to show through.

Jake Alldrick's attacks on the footy were an impressive feature of his game. He was into the pack and made some great clearances, providing a strong example to the team.

Jake Wertz's marking and kicking was a real feature of his game which resulted in a couple of great goals, making him a worthy winner of the club's 'Encouragement' award.

Logan Steiner was a very worthy winner of the 'Best on ground' award. His attack

on the ball, tackling, clearing kicks and constant run was a great example to the whole team.

The club welcomes to the team Logan Mitchell, Harry Power and Doug MacGregor and says it is great to have them as part of the team.

Under 16

Yea 2.1 - 13 defeated by Seymour 13.18 - 96
by Tania Day

SUNDAY concluded the first half of the season with a game against Seymour at Kings Park. Numbers are still low but fortunately the club's under 12s stepped up yet again to fill the side and Seymour generously provided three players each quarter.

Yea was off to a great start with the first goal scored in the opening minutes. The first half went Seymour's way with them kicking 10 goals to Yea's one.

Al Tait stepped in as coach for the day and encouraged the kids all the way. The half time huddle fired them up and Yea's second half was excellent, the club managing to hold Seymour to only three goals. The Tiger's defence was strong and once again the entire team tried their hearts out and left the ground smiling.

Goals: A McGillivray kicked one and Reid Innes (Seymour) kicked one.

Awards: Louis McAlpin; Madison Sawyer.

The club thanks the volunteers, the under 12 players for stepping up and the Seymour Lions for ensuring the children can play a competitive game and have fun while doing so.

There is a Bye next week.

Under 16

Yea 5.7 - 37 defeated by Seymour 5.8 - 38
by Nick Fisher

LAST Sunday the Yea Tiger's under 16s travelled to Seymour to challenge the Seymour Lions. It was a sunny day with enough breeze to create a scoring end. Both teams came out with intent and for the first time Yea had a squad of 18. Seymour controlled the first quarter scoring 22 points to Yea's six.

This did not deter the Tigers who outscored the opposition in the second quarter. The second half of the game was an absolute nail-biter. Both teams gave it their best. With one minute to go the Tigers were only one point behind. Unfortunately, they ran out of time with Seymour taking the win.

The club is extremely proud of the way the boys played. The weekly awards went to Harry Dignam and Dustin Fisher. Next week the club have a Bye then they play at home against Euroa.

The Chronicle Sport

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Merry month of May comes to an end for Yea Golf Club

by Karen Sangster

SADLY, the last days of autumn have come to an end, although not without some interesting days of weather. Fog seems to have come thick and fast, not wanting to leave.

Finding the ball was also a bit of a conundrum. Hit said ball to find it disappeared into the fog, making quite an interesting exercise finding it.

Two annual competitions were completed this month, beginning with the Margaret Samblebe Brooch, played in one round of stableford. The brooch donated in memory of Margaret by her family beginning 1996. If you are fortunate enough to win, you can only receive the brooch once, but will have your name recorded on the plaque for multiple wins.

This year only four players competed, the winner, having a great day, Di Elliott (29) with 31 points. The other annual competition, the Mona Clark Shield, which saw two rounds of stableford. The first shield was presented by Mona in 1984, with Mona having been a member for over 50 years. Mona was a life member and a past president.

The first round of the Mona Clark was contested on May 15, with 10 players trying their luck. The daily winner was a new member Khai Mohamed-Noor (37) having a great 35 points. Runner-up was Margie Wright (22) 28 points. The second round was held May 29. Eight players on the day but only four players eligible, having played the two rounds. Once again the daily winner was Khai (37) having 33 points. Runner-up Meryl Connell (25) with 30 points. Meryl also won nearest the pin.

The lady, who took out this year's win of the Mona Clark Shield, having played both rounds, was Di Holdsworth. Di being over the moon saying this was her first win in 10 years, getting her name on a trophy.

The other two competitions were on May 18 with 11 players. Winner Jan Wealands (32) with 36 points followed by runner-up Vicki Clements (25) with 31 points. Nearest the pin was Karen Sangster.

May 25 saw nine players. The winner was Cindy Armstrong (32) with 35 points. Runner-up was Christine Simmons (28) with 34 points, who also won nearest the pin.

Bohn Wins Medal

by Alan Pell/Phil Armstrong

MONTHLY Medal for June attracted a strong field of 27 men players at Yea Golf Club last Saturday. Conditions were challenging following the mid week rain and strong southerly breeze.

Andrew Bohn (8) and Zach Pell (23) mastered the conditions best with Andrew Bohn collecting his first Yea Golf Club monthly medal. Zach won the countback to be first on the day with nett 71 but as a restricted member is not eligible for the Medal. Alan Pell (15) and Greg Clements (17) nett 72 also displayed good form to share the minor spoils. Greg Clements doubled up to take out nearest the pin on the second hole, while Ken Whitfort led the way in the putting competition with 27, beating Greg Clements and Jeff Aurisch on countback. Sam Wright (27) survived a countback to take out the club award with 93 nett.



Di Holdsworth (right) 2024 Mona Clarke Winner receiving her trophy from Acting Captain Karen Sangster. -S

Ladies numbers were down on recent events with eight ladies representing Yea Golf Club in the Victorian Par three championships at Kyabram last weekend. Jo Clayton (23) nett 79 took home the bacon from Margie Wright (22) in testing conditions.

Another five contests in the knockout competition were completed last Saturday with Tony Rule, Phil Armstrong, Allan Coates, Brendan Chenhall and Rick Wills all moving through to the second round. Alan Pell plays Peter Johnston this Wednesday to complete the first round.

Fifteen men on Wednesday played a stableford event with Phil Armstrong (21) showing great form to record 40 points and win by three from Martin Lowe (19) with 37. Third on countback was Mic Sheather (26) from Brendan Chenhall (14) with 36. No nearest the pin on the 10th for two and Bill Dredge took out the club award.

This coming Saturday is the second and final round of the Prideaux Cup.

Terip Terip tops the ladder in tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

THICK fog shrouded the courts in Mansfield for the start of both matches last Monday week. Terip and Benalla hosted Seven Creeks and Euroa for a sunnier start.

Players, initially reluctant to leave the warmth of the clubhouse, ventured out and the sun eventually peeped through. By midday blue skies became the backdrop for another glorious day of tennis.

Wappan and Moglonemby worked hard all day in the typically extended contest the Moglonemby women are renowned for. Wappan's Rhonda Carpenter and Kimberley Marsden, playing her first match in the competition, found their range together, winning eight to two against Mary Kelly and Lyn Johnston. Wappan's Anna Speirs and Jenny

Bell enjoyed a much longer tussle of baseline hitting against Judy Sands and Marlene Hanrahan who took the set eight to six.

Fun and frivolity filled the contest and Wappan took the next two sets eight to three and eight to five but Moglonemby won the next eight to three. Finishing long after others had left the court, the final lengthy set ultimately went Wappan's way eight to four for the win 4/41 to 2/30.

In the other match, a home derby between Delatite and Mansfield, Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham were victorious 6/48 to 0/20.

Michelle and Karyn battled it out in hard hitting rallies against each other with Mansfield coming out on top. Delatite had included Natalie Bergsma into their side, and

she gained confidence with low fast drives, and with partner Deb McCormack took their set to a tiebreak. Despite a calf injury Keira battled through successfully completing all her sets.

Over in Benalla, Euroa's Chris Ellis, Faye Mollison, Lyndall Bigland, Jenny Tehan and Ruth Nolan put on a master class against Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Helen Checucti and Wendy Maxwell defeating them 5/47 to 1/26.

Terip took all the sets against Seven Creeks 6/48 to 0/20 cementing their top spot with 51 points.

Ladder: Terip 51, Euroa 40, Seven Creeks 40, Benalla 36, Mansfield 35, Creighton's Creek 30, Wappan 27, Moglonemby 19, and Delatite two.