

The Yea Chronicle

92 High Street, Yea. PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5797 2468 or (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5797 2257; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, February 7, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Dr Martin Lowe to leave clinic

DOCTOR Martin Lowe has announced that he will be leaving the Yea Medical Centre after 35 years. His final day will be on April 4.

Dr Lowe commented, "I must say it doesn't seem like 35 years. It's been a great place to work and the working environment is great. The people I work with are great, and it's always a pleasure to go to work."

"Part of what I have really enjoyed is when I started 35 years ago, I saw a generation go through, and I looked after a lot of young kids from families and now I see the next generation go through. I have seen them grown up and now I'm seeing their grandchildren. As you can imagine it makes me feel old. It is a real privilege to look after two generations in that way and getting to know the family."

Dr Lowe grew up in Sydney and attended Kingsgrove North High School, a large, multicultural public high school.

He said, "Like most kids and teenagers, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I did well at the HSC (Higher School Certificate) and medicine was an option, so I decided to go with that and I'm very glad I made that choice. It was certainly the right career choice. I didn't realise that at the time but later, when you start working in the field, you realise you have made the right choice."

He attended the University of New South Wales and worked at Westmead Hospital for a number of years, doing his internship and residency. He did surgical training and then decided to specialise in



Dr Martin Lowe (right) with wife Vicky. -S

anaesthetics and intensive care, before making the decision to move to Yea.

Dr Lowe explained, "When I worked at Westmead, a good friend of mine was working in the emergency department at Westmead and his wife was working in the wards. They moved to Yea because their parents were living in Merrijig and they took over the [Yea] practice."

"They got busy very quickly, and they asked if I would like to come down and give them a

hand. I was just about to go on an anaesthetic training scheme. I said to my friend I will come down and help you for 12 months and then I will go and finish my anaesthetic and intensive care training. And as you can see it never really happened. We just loved being in the community like Yea. My fiancé, well my wife now, we never spoke about going back to Sydney. We just loved the life in Yea."

His plan is to take a couple of months off and look at what he wants to do. "There are a few

things," he said. "One thing as you know, in regional general practice, it's always so busy and we are always understaffed. It's always hard to get time off because of lack of locums. One of the things I hope to do, perhaps, is provide some locum coverage to relieve some doctors in the area and give them a break. There is some logistics involved but this is something I would like to try and do. I still think I would like to give back to the profession as well, and I think this is the best way to help out. I still want to work with

the community and the hospital, and the practice. I have spoken to doctors at clinic... and said, I'm happy to step in and help." This includes supporting doctors beyond the Yea area.

He added, "The community here is fantastic and, as I have said, it's why I have enjoyed my time working here. The support from the community has been fantastic, not just for myself, but for all the people who live in it."

"For example, I had a patient, an elderly lady who had a pet cat. I sent her to the sonographer for an ultrasound. It appeared she had acute appendicitis and she had to go to Melbourne to get operated on. She was quite upset because she knew no one to help look after her cat for her and, it only happens in the country, but the sonographer said, 'Don't worry I will look after your cat while your away and it really just helped to settle her anxiety about leaving her cat.'"

"Little things like that are amazing. If someone is particularly sick in the community and they are having trouble getting back on their feet, people just drop in food, company, sometimes they don't even know them and help out any way they can. I guess this is one of the reasons we all like living in regional areas. It's those little things where you get to know people better and people look out for each other and there is a real genuine help that people get."

Dr Lowe plans to continue living in Yea, and is likely to become more involved in community projects.

Terry Hubbard's remarkable contribution to Landcare

UPPER Goulburn Landcare Network would like to express their gratitude and acknowledge Terry Hubbard OAM, who is retiring from the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and Landcare Victoria Board, after many years of service.

Terry has been on the board since Landcare Victoria Inc formed in early 2017, from a merger of the Farm Tree and Landcare Association and Victorian Landcare Council.

Terry was heavily involved in the process of negotiating and seeing through this merger and leading the board through the redevelopment of Landcare Victorian Inc in 2020, to become a much more proactive and influential voice for the Victorian Landcare community.

Terry's impact with Landcare Victoria Inc has been enormous. He was elected chair of the newly formed organisation in April 2017 and has provided leadership in

many different capacities since then.

Prior to the formation of Landcare Victoria, Terry served on the Victorian Landcare Council for many years as a committee member and president and is the past chair of the National Landcare Network.

Terry has given long service as the past President of the Strath Creek Landcare Group, President of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and has served on several advisory committees, including the Riparian Advisory Forum, the Landcare Community Reference Group and the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce.

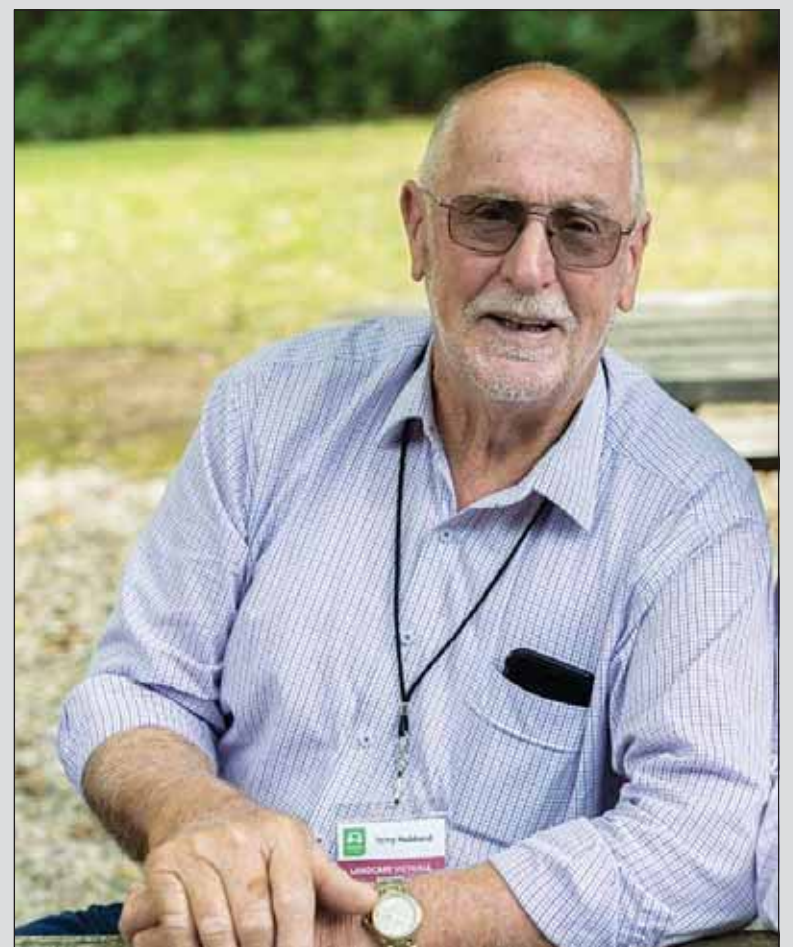
Terry was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to conservation and the environment, and in 2017 was acknowledged with the prestigious Joan Kirner Award.

Terry's Landcare journey began in 1989 when he and his wife Janet purchased their property,

'The Three Sisters' in Flowerdale. Terry and Janet embarked on a long term and ongoing restoration plan that has seen the once cleared, eroded and weed infested property become a model of best practice sustainable farming.

Terry's Landcare ethic is built on three critical elements; recognising the threat of land clearing, pollution and global warming, the value of Landcare for social connectivity, and an understanding of the importance of community partnerships. He values the need for grassroots collaboration that brings real landscape changes. He is always willing to provide local Landcare leadership and demonstrate what consideration of biodiversity values within productive systems can bring to Victorian landscapes.

The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network would like to thank Terry for his dedication, leadership, and for the profound impact he has made on Landcare in Victoria.



Terry Hubbard. -S

The Yea Chronicle

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Millennials spend big for love on Valentines Day

ACCORDING to recent research, Millennials are forking out double what the average couple spends for Valentine’s Day, with the average adult Australian will spend \$162 on their significant other on Valentines Day. Millenials are paying double this, and are shelling out a whopping \$334.35 for their partners gift on Valentines Day.

This is followed by Gen Z (\$185) and Gen X (\$142). Meanwhile, Baby Boomers appear to show their love in other ways, with the average senior spending just \$20 on Valentine’s Day.

The data also found that Victorians are likely to spend the most on Valentine’s Day than other states, with the average price sitting at \$266.80.

Melbourne is renowned around the world for its restaurants and dining experiences, so it’s highly likely that Victorians will wow their loved ones by wining and dining them.

However, if you’re in South Australia, you may be at the short end of the stick. The data shows that the average South Australian will spend \$47.37 on Valentine’s Day.

The results of the average spend on Valentines Day for each state have been released as the following, New South Wales \$106.27, Queensland \$145.79, South Australia \$47.37, Victoria \$266.80 and Western Australia \$128.34. Northern Territory, Tasmania and the ACT were excluded from



the results due to low sampling data in the Compare the Market report.

The good news with Valentine’s Day is that there are so many ways you can celebrate your love for one another that doesn’t cost any money. Some low cost but thoughtful options can include, cooking a social meal at home instead of an expensive restaurant, have a special movie night in, write a special note or card, bake something, make a play list on their music listening platforms (the modern day mix tape), or even just set some time aside out of your busy lives and spend some quality time together.



THUMBS UP: FoodWorks for the wonderful, friendly service and the great prices for a small player, especially if you shop cleverly when items are on special. It's also a bonus buying local as you save time, fuel, wear and tear. It's safer than driving distances and keeps locals employed.

THUMBS UP: Thanks to the Yea Saleyards skin and health check service. Especially nurse Shona. Sensitive and professional. Well done.

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

What are your thoughts on council?

FROM now until the end of March, you may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services. This agency has been commissioned to conduct a community satisfaction survey on behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council (and other councils across Victoria).

The survey has been designed to assess Victorian councils performance across a range of measures. This survey helps identify how we can improve and make our service delivery better for residents.

If you receive a call, it is legitimate. Please note that all your details and individual responses are confidential, and only the overall survey results are shared with council, not any of your personal data.

All Victorian councils are required to undertake a community satisfaction survey annually. You can find information on last year's survey at the Know Your Council website.

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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| RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|--|
| STATION NAME | TIME | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS | |
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S | 1.00pm Mon | 1.61 | steady | below minor | |
| Acheron R at Taggerty | 1.00pm Mon | 0.62 | steady | below minor | |
| Home Ck at Yarck | 12.41pm Mon | 0.19 | falling | | |
| Yea R at Devlins Bridge | 11.24am Mon | 0.58 | steady | below minor | |
| Rubicon R at Rubicon | 1.00pm Mon | 0.50 | falling | | |
| King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale | 1.00pm Mon | 0.57 | steady | below minor | |
| Goulburn R at Trawool | 1.00pm Mon | 1.42 | steady | below minor | |
| Sunday Ck at Tallarook | 1.00pm Mon | 0.32 | steady | below minor | |
| Goulburn R at Seymour | 1.00pm Mon | 1.72 | steady | below minor | |
| Whiteheads Ck at Seymour | 10.52am Mon | 1.23 | steady | | |
| Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin | 1.00pm Mon | 3.79 | steady | | |

****ISSUED AT 1.15PM ON MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

February 7 - February 13, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

| DAY | LOW | HIGH | DAY | LOW | HIGH |
|-----------|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|
| Wednesday | 10 | 27 | Wednesday | 10 | 26 |
| Thursday | 13 | 29 | Thursday | 14 | 29 |
| Friday | 13 | 28 | Friday | 13 | 27 |
| Saturday | 14 | 29 | Saturday | 14 | 29 |
| Sunday | 16 | 29 | Sunday | 15 | 30 |
| Monday | 16 | 30 | Monday | 15 | 30 |
| Tuesday | 15 | 30 | Tuesday | 14 | 30 |

Standard

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| DISTRICT RAINFALL | |
|---|---------|
| Alexandra | N/Amm |
| Buxton | 0mm |
| Eildon (AWS) | 0mm |
| Flowerdale | 0mm |
| Jamieson | N/Amm |
| Kinglake | N/Amm |
| Lake Eildon | 0mm |
| Mansfield | N/Amm |
| Taggerty | 0mm |
| Yarck | 0mm |
| Yea | N/Amm |
| Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday | |
| LAKE EILDON | |
| Height above sea level this week | 288.27m |
| Capacity as at 9am Monday | 97.5% |
| Metres below full supply | 63cm |
| Daily inflow | 1000ML |
| Release | 3250ML |
| Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change) | 93% |

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
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We thank you for your continued support

New citizens in the Murrindindi Shire



Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi, Henry Andrews and Robert Binghamy from Alexandra RSL, Gaelle Broad MP from The Nationals, conferees Clinton, Negin, Rajeshna, Alireza, Hector and Catherine, Mayor Damien Gallagher and Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MP from One Nation. -S

MURRINDINDI Shire Council proudly celebrated six new Australian citizens on Tuesday, January 23 at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chamber.

Clinton, Negin, Rajeshna, Alireza, Hector, and Catherine, have pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people, and its democratic beliefs, and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

In attendance were distinguished guests including Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, CEO Livia Bonazzi,

Cindy McLeish MP, Gaelle Broad MP, Rikkie Lee Tyrrell MP, Henry Andrews and Bob Binghamy from Alexandra RSL, and Sharon Fox from Rotary Club of Alexandra, who were pleased to congratulate the shire's newest Australians. An apology was received from Aunty Angela ten Buuren, a respected Taungurung Elder.

Murrindindi Shire Council extends its warmest congratulations to all the conferees, and wishes them all the best in their new journey as Australian citizens.

Council will proudly host a further three Citizenship Ceremonies throughout 2024.

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

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "This ceremony is a significant event in the lives of the conferees, and it is a privilege for our community to welcome our newest citizens. We are here to acknowledge their commitment and to celebrate their new journey as Australians."

Nominations open for Murrindindi Shire Community Awards

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting nominations for its 2024 Community Awards (previously called Citizen of the Year Awards) to celebrate the outstanding contributions of volunteers who demonstrate exceptional community spirit and a willingness to help others.

Council is encouraging all shire residents to nominate an inspiring individual or community group for one of the four award categories: Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year or Community Group or Initiative of the Year.

Community groups can be nominated for their valued contribution or for a special project or initiative they have delivered. This may include a group that was formed specifically to deliver a project, or campaign.

Tell us who inspires you, and how they make the shire a better place. Nominations close on Sunday, March 24. Entries will be judged from April 2, with winners of the awards announced and presented at a volunteer appreciation event during National Volunteer Week (May 20 to 26).

For more information on the awards, eligibility criteria, frequently asked questions, and to nominate an individual or community group, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024awards

You can also drop into council's Library and Customer Service Centres and complete a paper nomination form.

All nominations will be assessed by a judging panel made up of community members from across the shire. The panel will select the award winners and present their recommendations to council.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Council's Community Awards provide a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the work of local volunteers and groups.

"On behalf of council I encourage you to think about someone in your community who inspires you. They might be part of a community group or local initiative, or they might be a quiet achiever. Volunteering comes in all shapes and sizes, and we want to recognise those who make our shire a better place."

15th anniversary of the 2009 bushfires

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 marks the 15 year anniversary of the 2009 bushfires, one of the most devastating bushfire events in Australia's history.

Murrindindi Shire Council issued the following statement.

"The 15-year anniversary of the 2009 bushfires is a difficult time for many people in our communities, and across our country.

"On this day, council, like other members of our community, will commemorate the anniversary in a quiet and reverent way, reflecting our community's sentiment for continued recovery and growth.

"We will pause and remember the 100 people who tragically lost their lives in Murrindindi Shire, and the 173 lives lost across Victoria. We will reflect upon the devastating impact this natural disaster had on our community and environment, and other fire-affected communities across the state.

"The anniversary is also an important time to remember the overwhelming level of support provided by so many during, and in the aftermath of this crisis, from the incredible efforts of emergency service volunteers and first responders to those supporting the recovery effort over the months and years that followed.

"It is a testimony to the resilience of our communities to see the renewal, growth and recovery that has occurred across our shire following 2009. So, it is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate all that has been achieved through the determination and collaborative efforts of individuals, community groups, organisations and agencies to overcome adversity and chart a new path forward.

"To mark the anniversary, council will be flying the flags, located at our Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake offices, at half-mast on Wednesday to show our respect as we remember those who lost their lives.

"Murrindindi Shire Councillors will also visit and lay wreaths at the six bushfire memorials in Flowerdale, Kinglake, Kinglake West, Marysville, Narbethong and Toolangi-Castella throughout the morning of February 7.

These memorials provide an opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones lost in the 2009 bushfires, as well as all those who lost homes, animals and property. They provide a space to reflect upon all the ways the community and landscape was affected by the events which began on February 7, 2009, and forever changed our lives.

"We encourage community members to recognise this significant day in whichever

way feels right for you. Some community groups across our shire have organised local commemorative events, including Foundation Murrindindi and Kinglake West Fire Brigade. It is wonderful to see people coming together to support each other.

"If you or someone you know needs some extra support during this difficult time, there is help available. The 'Be Well in the Kinglake Ranges' program offers free confidential counselling and psychological support for those impacted across our shire. Visit kinglakeranges.com.au/be-well-in-the-ranges for more information. For crisis and mental health support services, you can contact Lifeline on 131 114 or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636."

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info@tarmacally.com
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Out&About



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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| UGFM 88.9 | Yea / Highlands |
| UGFM 98.9 | Flowerdale / Hazeldene |
| UGFM 94.5 | Kinglake Ranges |

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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
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

If you have been impacted by recent flooding and have waste to dispose of, including household and green waste, contact council's waste team on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

If you are paying your council rates in full, payment is due February 15. The third instalment is due February 29, 2024.

Nominations for council's 2024 Community Awards are now open. Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year and Community Group or Initiative of the Year. Nominations

close Sunday, March 24. Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Alexandra Timber Tramway is running the Heritage Train rides. 10am-4pm. Station Street, Alexandra.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Alexandra Pastoral and Ag Association AGM will be held at 7pm at the showgrounds/caravan park office. All welcome, new members encouraged. For more details contact the secretary pna.alexandra@gmail.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The next meeting of the Alexandra RSL will be held at noon. This meeting is an Annual General Meeting, followed by the normal monthly meeting with light lunch.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Long Lazy Summer lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Noon - 4pm. Three course lunch featuring local produce, free flowing bubbles from Snobs Creek Estate. Spectacular views. Accommodation available. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

The cost of Victoria's fire services

NEW data has been released by the Productivity Commission that the Opposition claims shows that Victoria continues to operate the nations most expensive fire services.

The cost of operating Victoria's fire services in 2022-23 was shown to have reached \$2.166 billion, 30.3 per cent greater than New South Wales and more than double the cost in Queensland.

Since 2014-15, Victoria's fire services expenditure has increased by \$687.9 million or 46.6 per cent.

The Opposition said that in 2022-23, the number of permanent paid United Firefighter Union (UFU) member

firefighters increased to 5255, up by 223 since 2021-22, while the total Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteer staff decreased by a further 998 across the same period.

Response times to statewide, major city, metro and inner regional structure fires all increased in 2022-23 when compared to 2020-21.

The data shows that the number of CFA volunteer firefighters has now fallen by 8038 or 21.8 per cent.

The most recent Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) annual report states that the agency recorded a \$132.5 million loss in 2021-22.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Richard Riordan, said, "Under

Labor, Victoria is broke and the Allan Government simply cannot manage money.

"With such dramatic cost increases year on year, it's clear Jacinta Allan has lost control of Victoria's fire services and every Victorian is being made to pay the price.

"More than one in five volunteer firefighters have now left the CFA, meaning local communities across the state are in a more vulnerable position.

"Victorians deserve value for money from their emergency services and the Victorian Government must explain why it costs so much more to run a fire services system here than anywhere else in the nation," Mr Riordan said.

Council's Reconciliation Action Plan progresses

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is continuing to make progress towards reconciliation, with several key initiatives being achieved during the first six months of implementing its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

A focus on improving cultural awareness and fostering cultural safety, council has completed a review of their workplace policies to ensure the organisation maintains a high standard of cultural safety for our employees and broader community.

Guidelines have been developed for engaging and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations. These guidelines support council in consulting and involving First Nations Peoples in decision making for key projects, leading to better outcomes for our communities.

Council has supported cultural training opportunities for councillors and staff to better connect with Country and First Nations Peoples, and strives to strengthen relationships with local Traditional Owner groups, including the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLWC) and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Council employees recently participated in a wawa biik cultural tour in Nagambie. The wawa biik tours are delivered through the cultural experiences area of TLWC and focus on connecting to Taungurung people and culture through 'On Country' experiences. Councillors and staff were moved by the inspiring personal stories the guides shared with them whilst having the opportunity to experience culturally significant sites, including Scar Trees and a boat tour of the Tabbilk Wetlands.

Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) are strategic documents that empower organisations to progress their reconciliation journeys. Reconciliation Australia has designed RAPs with three underpinning pillars. These include relationships, respect, and opportunity to help pave the way to reconciliation in Australia. Council will continue to implement the RAP over the next six months, as well as working with community to advance reconciliation in Murrindindi Shire.

To learn more about council's RAP, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'reconciliation'. To find out more about the wawa biik tours, head to wawabiik.com.au

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Strengthening meaningful relationships with Traditional Owner groups and local Aboriginal communities is a key focus in council's commitment to reconciliation. Thanks to the champions of council's Reconciliation Action Plan for supporting the pursuit for understanding and connection with our rich local heritage.

"I am immensely grateful to have enjoyed an immersive wawa biik experience and council is dedicated to progressing reconciliation through actions and initiatives from our Reflect RAP. We support councillors and staff to expand their cultural learning and experiences on the reconciliation journey and collectively, we look forward to deepening our cultural understanding."

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Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher, Uncle Shane, and council's CEO Livia Bonazzi. -S

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2024**

21 - 24 MARCH



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More free TAFE courses

THE Victorian Government's free TAFE initiative is introducing four new courses in hospitality, youth work, kitchen management and tourism to give more Victorians more opportunities to learn skills and develop their careers.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney encouraged prospective students to look at courses on offer through Free TAFE, providing Victorians with more access to vocational training.

Since the program was introduced in 2019 it has grown to include more than 80 TAFE qualifications and short courses. This has helped more than 156,000 students who have saved almost \$423 million in tuition fees since the program began.

The program has seen thousands of Victorians embark on a new career pathway, including a quarter of all Free TAFE students based in regional Victoria, more than 44,500 from multicultural backgrounds and more than 90,000 women.

With enrolments now open, students can kickstart their careers or upskill to gain new experience or qualifications across a range of sectors like nursing, building and construction, community services and cyber security.

The Free TAFE program is helping Victorians get the skills they need for the job they want, including in growth areas like clean energy, building the state's future workforce as we transition to net zero.

The Victorian Government is also backing the development of new clean energy skills and courses through the \$50 million Clean Energy Fund, including projects at Federation TAFE in Ballarat, TAFE Gippsland in Morwell and South West TAFE in Warrnambool.

Free TAFE courses are available to all Victorians, regardless of their existing qualification level. The program allows thousands of students to enter an in demand career without the worry of the cost of tuition fees. Students can also enrol in more than one Free TAFE course provided it's within the same priority pathway.

The Victorian Budget 2023/24 invested more than \$543 million in TAFE to help more Victorians get the skills they need with more subsidised courses and improved facilities. Victoria's TAFE network is a vital part of our state's education system, helping students become job ready faster and providing the skills we need to grow our economy.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses visit: vic.gov.au/free-tafe

This Way North comes back home

FOR their seventh year, *This Way North* is coming back to Fawcett Hall on Saturday, February 10 to showcase their pop indie music alongside their great mates, *The*

Tuckshop Ladies, and special guest Sal Kimber.

Vocalist and guitarist, Leisha Jungalwalla, explained her love for

performing at Fawcett Hall as it all started as a fun little show and became so much more for the group.

"The show became really special, it's a lovely way to honour where I am from, and it's a fun thing to do with our friends... It's just a beautiful night, most people have been there three or four times, it's a beautiful atmosphere. Generally, it's gorgeous weather and it's set up out the back and people have picnics. It's a relaxing night and just lots of fun," Leisha said.

This Way North have been working really hard over the years. Three years in the making, the album *Punching Underwater* is ready to be released. The first single, *My Love*, was released last October.

The single was filmed in Arctic Canada, and included Inuit throat singer, Chirstine Tootoo.

Leisha said, "It was an amazing opportunity, to go somewhere incredible and be able to record that."

A new film clip and single will be released in a couple of weeks times which the duo filmed at the Old Beechworth Gaol and pool.

"The album is named *Punching Underwater* and we set it up at the pool and filmed it there, and photographed our album cover there too," Leisha said.

This Way North will be performing at Fawcett Hall on Saturday, February 10. Doors open at 6pm and music starts at 7pm. BYO picnics, drinks, and lawn chairs. You can get tickets at trybooking.com/cnfks



This Way North coming to Fawcett Hall on Saturday, February 10. -S

Duck hunting to continue in Victoria

RECREATIONAL duck and quail hunting will continue in Victoria with the government adding some changes to ensure it "remains safe, sustainable and responsible." Not all are pleased however.

The Victorian Government announced its response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements, confirming that its position has not changed, and recreational duck and quail hunting will continue with common-sense changes.

The government is accepting seven of the Select Committee's eight recommendations in full or in principle. While the committee did not reach consensus in its report, the views of more than 10,000 Victorians and organisations were heard in the biggest response to a parliamentary inquiry ever in Victoria.

The government found that recreational duck and quail hunting is a legitimate activity, and it matters to thousands of Victorians who love the great outdoors, but it needs to proceed safely and sustainably.

The changes to be introduced from 2025 include improving hunters' knowledge and

skill by making education and training for hunters mandatory; stricter compliance levels, including further penalties for hunters breaking the rules; banning the use of lead shot for quail hunting; implementing the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan, to reduce the risk of wounding; and greater recognition of Traditional Owners' knowledge of hunting and land management.

To guide the length and conditions of each duck season, the science-based Adaptive Harvest Management process will be implemented from 2025.

The press release stated that after record-high native bird breeding in recent years due to the significant rainfall Victoria has received, the Victorian game duck population increased by almost three-fold.

The 2024 duck season will commence on Wednesday, April 10 and ending on Wednesday, June 5, inclusive. Hunting start times will be delayed to 8am for the entire season. There will be a daily bag limit of six ducks per day. The Blue-winged Shoveler and Hardhead cannot be hunted for the 2024 season due to their threatened status. Determinations will be made as part of

normal seasonal arrangements about sites where duck hunting will be prohibited.

Nationals Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad said, "Fortunately, common sense has prevailed, and the State Government has recognised recreational shooting as a legitimate pursuit."

Jeff Bourman from the Shooters, Hunters and Fishers Party said, "The government has done well to fashion a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting said, "It is unacceptable that taxpayers have funded an inquiry process only to have the findings and the voice of the majority of Victorians ignored."

Dr Liz Walker, RSPCA Victoria CEO, said, "For more than 30 years RSPCA Victoria has been advocating for duck and quail hunting to be banned, and when the Government's own Select Committee recommended it be banned we were cautiously optimistic we might finally see some change. Yesterday we were devastated to hear the Allan Government has gone against the evidence and the views of most Victorians who support a ban."

Tell me what is important to you

I want to hear from you.

What current challenges are impacting you and your family?

What are the key issues in your community that I need to know about?

Scan this QR code to answer my **Community Survey**.

I look forward to working with you on what is important to Indi in 2024.

Helen Haines MP

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MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



FIRE PLANNER AND CAN I OR CAN'T I?

Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world. All Victorians need to know how to plan for, and respond to fire. How you respond depends on your situation but by taking the time to prepare, you can reduce your risk and help keep your loved ones safe.

The online Fire Planner can help you get started in as little as 10 minutes, visit fireplanner.vic.gov.au

To find out what you can and can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period, and on days of Total Fire Ban, when fires in the open air are legally restricted, visit the CFA website and search "Can I".
cfa.vic.gov.au



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NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AWARDS OPEN UNTIL 24 MARCH!

Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to Murrindindi Shire? Would you like to celebrate the work of a local group or initiative? Nominate them for a Community Award!

Criteria and nomination forms are available at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from any of our Library and Customer Service Centres and the Mobile Library.

The 2024 Award winners will be announced at a volunteer appreciation event held during National Volunteer Week (20 - 26 May 2024).

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS PROGRAM

Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program?

Grant applications for Round 4 have just opened, and close 30 April 2024. Quick Response Grants are available all year round.

For more information, call our Grants team on 5772 0333 or visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Council would like to inform residents that from now until mid-March, your household may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services.

They are conducting a survey on behalf of Council. Similar surveys will be undertaken across all Victorian councils. It is designed to assess the performance of Murrindindi Shire Council across a range of measures and to identify ways to provide improvement or more effective service delivery to residents.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us with your valuable feedback. Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential and no identifying information is shared with Council.

National Field Services will:

- never ask for people by name
- always identify as National Field Services and introduce themselves by name
- always give an estimate of survey length
- always call from a landline, never a mobile number, usually beginning (03) 9977....



UPDATE ON ANNUAL ROAD PROGRAMS

Works are underway on a number of Council's Annual Road Programs including the Gravel Roads Resheeting and Sealed Roads Major Patching Programs.

For more information and the latest updates, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects

RATES REMINDER

Are you paying your Council rates in full? A friendly reminder that the due date for payment is 15 February. For those paying by instalment, the third instalment is due 29 February.

Council understands the impact rates can have. If you are experiencing financial difficulties that might prevent you from paying your rates on time, please get in touch with our Rates Team as soon as possible on 5772 0333 to discuss your situation, or for more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates

STAY INFORMED

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5772 0333

Farewell to long term Family Daycare educator

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's long term Family Day Care (FDC) educator, Lynne Barkley, has retired after almost 30 years of providing quality early childhood education and care for children in Alexandra and surrounds.

Lynne joined council as an educator in 1995 and has worked with hundreds of families in Murrindindi Shire during this time.

Lynne was often seen around town with children in tow, regularly offering the kids a fun outing to the park, the shops in the main street, storytime events at the Alexandra Library, and for a while attended the Buds and Blossoms intergenerational playgroup, giving the children a valuable experience that they all adored.

The children in Lynne's care were treated like family, and over the years Lynne has seen many of the children in her care grow up and have children of their own, placing them in Lynne's care too.

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said, "Lynne has been a beacon of dedication and love in our community. Her commitment to providing quality early childhood education and care for nearly three decades is truly commendable."

"Lynne's retirement marks the end of an era, but her impact on the lives of countless children and families in and around Alexandra will be felt for generations to come. On behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council, I want to express our deepest gratitude for her years of service and wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement."

"Becoming a Family Day Care Educator is an excellent option for people who want a rewarding and flexible career. There are a range of obvious benefits in becoming an Educator, including being your own boss, the ability to look after your own child while

looking after other children, flexible work days and hours, 24/7 support from council, and opportunities for career development and training."

"Murrindindi Family Day Care is also offering an incentive package for anyone wanting to kick start their career as an educator. Up to \$2500 is available to assist with the purchase of resources like printers, stationary, toys, and first aid training."

"With the current shortage of educators across the state, it's clear we need more wonderful Educators like Lynne. That's why we're encouraging people with experience in early childhood education, who might be thinking about trying something new, to consider a career as a Family Day Care Educator," Cr McAulay said.

For more information about council's Family Day Care services, please contact council's Customer Service team on 5772 0333, or visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/childcare



Lynne Barkley. -S

Committee of management needed for Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

NEW volunteer committee members are being sought for the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve Committee of Management.

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at the Toolangi DEECA Office at 6pm to elect the new committee for a three-year term.

The reserve was established in 1981, and is located at the northern end of Toolangi State Forest. It comprises 815 hectares of forest along the lower reaches of the Murrindindi River. Features include waterfalls, mountain ash trees, fern gullies and an abundance of native wildlife.

The Committee of Management plays a critical role in managing the area for the benefit of the community and visitors, and planning for future investment. Murrindindi Scenic Reserve is gazetted under Section 50 of the Forest Act. This enables appointment of a Committee of Management to administer the reserve. Committee members help inform management of the reserve.

Committees benefit from a range of perspectives to reflect the interests of the community. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people, and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Committee members bring their own experiences and views. Elected members are required to act in accordance with the Victorian Public Sector Code of Conduct.

The committee's role is to manage, improve and maintain the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve for the purposes for which it is reserved. The reserve was created to conserve the natural beauty of the area, and provide opportunities for recreation.

Committee members are required to commit to attending up to four meetings per year, undertaking any required training, and attending site visits to better understand any issues or opportunities.

Committee members are not required to have direct contact with the public. Its role is associated with decision making. On-ground works are delivered through DEECA staff and contractors.

The chair of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve is the DEECA District Manager, Lucas Russell.

Further information and nomination forms are available by contacting karen.l.brown@delwp.vic.gov.au

New prep students start school



Flowerdale Primary School's new prep students. -S



The new preps students at Middle Kinglake Primary School. Back row: Chase, Harry, Harrison, Denham, Piper, Freya and Amir. Front row: Toby, Max, Hayden, Hunter, Harper and Liia. -S



The new preps students at Sacred Heart Primary School are Scarlett, Oreti, Quinn and Austin, joining in with the prep/grade one class. -S



A golden whistler. -Daniel Cobern



The sacred kingfisher. -Daniel Cobern



The beautiful blue wren out in nature. -Daniel Cobern

From Yarra to Yea, Birds on Farms

PROJECT officer for Birdlife Australia's Yarra to Yea Project, Will Mitchell, recently ran a very informative bird survey training session with members of the Kinglake Landcare Group at a couple of local bushland reserves.

During the session participants learnt about bird monitoring surveys and habitat plans, and also got to see and identify many wonderful birds including gang gang cockatoos, golden whistler, eastern whipbird, and rufous fantail.

Birds on Farms is a Birdlife Australia project that assists landholders to identify, appreciate and manage birds and their habitats on their properties.

The Yarra to Yea Project works with rural landholders and communities from the north eastern fringes of Melbourne northwards through to the Yea district.

It provides participants with opportunities to be involved in the development of habitat plans, bird monitoring surveys and site visits, training workshops and educational events, and access to partnerships and subsidies for on ground works.

For information about how to get involved in the Yarra to Yea Project visit, birdlife.org.au/projects/birds-on-farms/



The Kinglake Group getting together and counting species. -S

Forced adoption redress scheme opens

THE Forced Adoption Redress Scheme opens today for Victorian mothers who had their babies taken through historical forced adoption practices.

The scheme includes a monetary payment of \$30,000, access to therapeutic services and a personal apology.

Eligibility extends to mothers who gave birth in Victoria, or were a Victorian resident but gave birth interstate, and were forcibly separated from their newborn baby prior to 1990.

ARMS Vic is the Association Representing Mothers Separated by adoption is a peer support organisation founded in 1982 supporting women living with the difficulties of having lost a child or children to adoption.

Jo Fraser, Secretary of ARMS Vic said, "The emotional toll of having our babies taken from us has been huge for so many women. Redress is not compensation: how can you compensate for the loss of a child? Rather, it is recognition of the harm done, and of our enormous loss. It goes a small way to ameliorating the shame and heartache and feelings of guilt that have been imposed on us for so long.

"\$30,000 is lower than other redress schemes. Many mothers are disappointed by this as it would suggest that our suffering is not as important as that of other groups. However, that is what is on offer, and it will definitely make a difference in some mothers' lives.

"This redress is acknowledgement by the government that what they did was wrong and we were the victims. We should not have been blamed and shamed. Their actions have affected our emotional, psychological and physical health throughout our lives.

"As well as the trauma of having our babies taken, we have missed out on the opportunity to raise our children, and they have missed out on the opportunity of being mothered by us.

"We look forward to the implementation of the rest of the Inquiry Committee's

recommendations, in particular amending the Statute of Limitations so that individuals can pursue civil claims."

VANISH (Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self Help) is a lived-experience not-for-profit established in 1989 and funded by the Victorian Government to assist adults affected by past and forced adoption practices.

Charlote Smith, CEO of Vanish, said, "Vanish congratulates the Victorian Government for opening the first Forced Adoption Redress Scheme in the world. We welcome the government providing counselling and psychological support as this demonstrates recognition of the lifelong trauma and grief.

"Some mothers feel strongly about receiving a personal apology. They want the head of the institution involved to say 'I am truly sorry, it was wrong, the shame is ours not yours.'

"VANISH hopes that the Inquiry has brought to light the devastating impacts of forced adoption practices and as a result support services will be fully resourced going forward."

Mothers applying for the Forced Adoption Redress Scheme will be provided support by the Redress Team in the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

A redress scheme for adopted people was recommended by the Inquiry Committee and is under consideration.

A Parliamentary Inquiry into Responses to Historical Forced Adoption in Victoria recommended in 2021 that the Victorian Government introduce a redress scheme for mothers, and immediately amend the Limitations of Actions Act 1958 to pave the way for legal cases.

In March 2022, the government published a response to the report and the former Premier Dan Andrews announced a redress scheme for mothers would be established.

For more information on the application process visit vic.gov.au/redress-forced-adoptions



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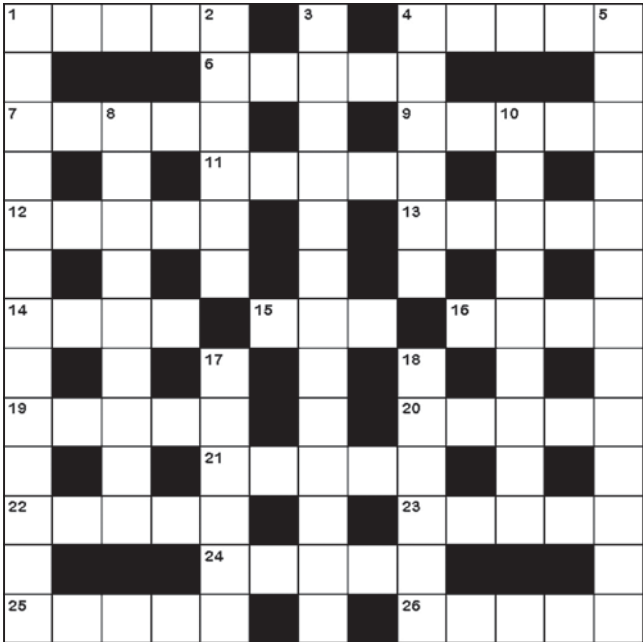

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Bar of gold.
- 4. Make yourself neat and tidy.
- 6. First in order of importance.
- 7. Become anxious and fearful.
- 9. Contest of speed.
- 11. A small natural hill.
- 12. Country life.
- 13. Senseless and idiotic.
- 14. God of love.
- 15. The quality of a colour.
- 16. A nasty, negative remark.
- 19. Familiar and overused comment.
- 20. Your mother's sisters.
- 21. The devil.
- 22. A fertile patch in a desert.
- 23. The colour of growing grass.
- 24. Excessively fat.
- 25. Reject with contempt.
- 26. Protective coverings on houses.



DOWN

- 1. Faults or shortcomings.
- 2. Gear used in fishing.
- 3. Favourable chances.
- 4. Strong-smelling seasoning.
- 5. Gives a false account.
- 8. Strong pain killing drugs.
- 10. Demand a contest.
- 17. Something learned.
- 18. Source of harm.

Word Search

International
Pizza Day
February 9

- BASIL
- CHEESE
- FIREWOOD
- FLOUR
- ITALY
- MARGHERITA
- MOZZARELLA
- NAPLES
- OVEN
- PEPPERONI
- PIZZA
- TOMATO

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

Double Puzzle

EBSTEWI

9 8 10

ADTA

9 8 10

WKTNR

2 3

HIIPGHSN

6

PEGBAWE

4

LSKIN

1

RTFSOWAE

9 10

EOSRRWB

5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 Y

Maths Squares

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

| | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|---|----|
| | ÷ | | × | | 14 |
| + | | - | | - | |
| | × | 5 | - | | 14 |
| × | | × | | - | |
| 9 | - | | ÷ | | 6 |
| 35 | | -26 | | 4 | |

Sudoku

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.

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

Second round of skin checks and health checks done and dusted

ONCE again the Yea Saleyards hosted the collaboration of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Murrindindi Shire Council Flood Recovery Project, and the Southern Skin Cancer Clinic to conduct a further 56 skin checks and an additional 10 cholesterol and blood pressure checks.

Of the 56 skin checks on Friday, 12 incisions and sections were sent for pathology. Over the two sales, approximately 152 people from the farming community participated in the free health services.

The farming community can look forward to other ancillary health services at the Yea Saleyards, including eye checks, hearing checks, and flu vaccinations to name a few, keep an eye on the website, yeasaleyards.com.au, and Facebook.

These events have been made possible through the contribution of the agencies listed above and funded jointly by the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Two of the practitioners from the Southern Skin Cancer Clinic, Dr Katrina White and Deanne Fitzpatrick. -S

Pick up your copy from The Alexandra Standard or Yea Chronicle office or we can post it to you \$22 + postage

Ph 5772 1002 or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

- A journey of -

150 YEARS

from The Alexandra Times to The Alexandra Standard (A collection of articles)

Compiled and published by Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 2020.

ON THE LAND

Yea Saleyards market report

by Will Phillips from Elders Yea

THE Yea monthly store sale, the first for 2024, was held on February 2 and yarded 2020 cattle.

It saw a good quality run of grown feeder steers and feeder heifers. The market trend was dearer across all categories. Buying interest was shown from across Victoria and New South Wales by feedlots, bullock fatteners and backgrounders.

The top priced steers were A/C R & A May, 760kg and made \$2120.

The top priced Heifers were A/C Whanregarwen Pastoral Co., 423kg and made \$1390.

Cows and calves topped at \$1950 for 13x13 A/C Dysart Angus.

Yea Saleyards next monthly Combined Agents Store sales are March 1 and April 5.



Another large crowd at the Yea Saleyards 1st Store Cattle Sale for the year -S

| STOCK REPORT 2 FEBRUARY 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Combined Agents Store Sale 2 February 2024 | Total Yarding | Steers | Heifers |
| Number of head | 2,062 | 1,143 | 809 (Cows & calves 110) |
| Average \$ per head | \$1,234 | | |
| Average weight per head | 371kg | | |
| Top price per head | | \$2,120 | \$1,390 |
| Top weight | | 760kg | 530kg |
| Turnover | \$2.48million | | |



Ian & Sue Wright and Hugh Homewood. -S



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SAVE THE DATE

March 1 - Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents – Store Sale

April 5 - Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents – Store Sale

| YEA SALEYARDS STOCK REPORT 2 February 2024 | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|----------------------------|
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| Average weight per head | 371kg | | |
| Top price per head | | \$2,120 | \$1,390 |
| Top weight | | 760kg | 530kg |
| Turnover | \$2.48million | | |

CATTLE SALES

Auction start time 9.30am

Mar 1: Store sale

April 5: Store sale



Recipe kindly submitted by Redgate CWA from Cookery the Australian Way.

BAKED GOLDEN SYRUP DUMPLINGS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup self raising flour (4oz)
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1 egg
- 2-3 tablespoons milk
- Syrup**
- 1½ cups boiling water
- ½ cup 1A sugar (4oz)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon golden syrup

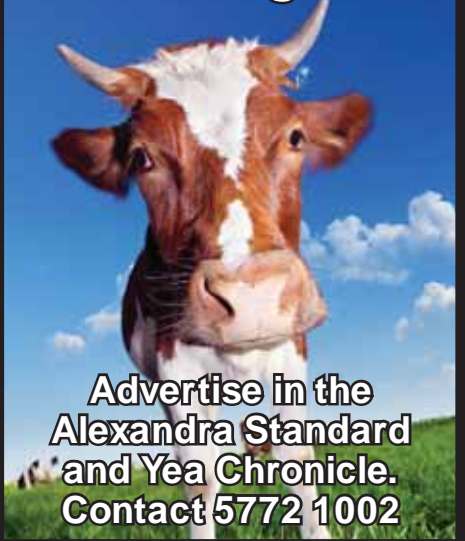
METHOD

1. Collect ingredients.
2. Sift flour and salt; beat egg, add milk.
3. Rub butter into flour, add liquid and mix to a soft dough.
4. Place ingredients for syrup into a saucepan, stir until sugar is dissolved and bring to the boil.
5. Place dessertspoons of dough into pie dish.
6. Pour syrup over dumplings and bake.
7. Serve with custard sauce, cream or icecream.

Optional cooking method: Rather than cooking in the oven, add a bit more water and place the dessertspoons into the liquid in a saucepan and simmer until cooked.

Number of serves: 6.
Oven temperature 375°
Cooking time: 20-30 mins
Utensils: greased pie dish

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PHOTO COMPETITION

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DEATH NOTICES

COLES, Joan May
13/10/1933 -
26/01/2024

Passed away peacefully after a short illness.
Wife of Ian (dec)
Loved mother of Andrew and David.
Grandmother of Sarah and Matthew.
Close to our hearts she will always stay, loved and remembered everyday.

FUNERAL NOTICES

COLES, Joan May

A memorial service celebrating the life of Joan will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at Yea Golf/ Race club, commencing at 1pm.
Please wear something bright and colourful.



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Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7pm at the Showgrounds/ Caravan Park office, 17 William Street. All welcome and new members are encouraged. Enquiries to the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com



COLES, Joan

The Yea and District Memorial Hospital Board and Staff and Yea Medical Centre Doctors and Staff send their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Joan Coles following her passing. Joan was a very influential part of our health services history and she will be greatly missed particularly within our community.

COLES, Joan. Forever in our hearts, so many happy memories of your laughter and smiles. Foundation member of the Naughty Nanas of Yea - Pat, Peg O, Pauline, Lilita, Peg L, Alma, Heather, Maureen, Kaye, Kerry, Helen D, Helen W, Shirley, Barb and Judy.

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Our history: Stories of 1941

by Yea and District Historical Society

THE Yea Historical Society had a research query recently which involved reading through all the 1941 *Yea Chronicles*. Unfortunately, we were unable to find the story wanted, as it either did not happen or was not reported, but as usual, the search took 10 times longer than expected because of all the fascinating historical stories we did find. Here are some of them.

One of the first reports was of the total rainfall for January 1941. It was a very wet January with a total of 443 points for the month. Everything very green and lush with several floods throughout the district. It was reported, however, that this total did not top the record of January of 1934 which received 484 points, the highest figure recorded since records were first kept in 1855. Our present January 2024 total is sitting just over 300 points.

1941 was in the second year of the 1939-45 war, and every week the *Chronicle* reported a list of all those locals who had enlisted. Early in the year it was a list of 'Men on Service' but later in the year it became a more specific list under those in the AIF, air force, navy, nurses, and others. Others included all those from other districts who had some earlier connection with Yea. The *Yea Chronicle* on April 25 reported the first local casualty. Basil Jeffrey was wounded at Bardia.

Weekly war reports were included as well as news from locals serving overseas. Obviously, parents either gave excerpts of letters sent home from the front, or in some cases, the whole letter was reported. One of these we will publish again soon.

The *Chronicle* was full every week of fund-raising balls, dances, carnivals, sports days, home parties, etcetera, to raise money for the war effort, including a special fund started to raise money to build another HMAS Sydney, after this flagship of the Australian fleet was sunk. I presume this was an Australia-wide fundraising effort.

On March 12, it was reported that, "All five continents now sound to the tramp of Australian feet from Canada to Cyrenaica, from Britain to Singapore. The first test has been won in Libya. Australian airmen, said Mr. Menzies after his tour of Libya, were very brown and extremely badly dressed, but he overlooked their inelegance in view of their record; 14 Italian machines taken down for every one of our own."

On March 26, the *Yea Chronicle* reported. "At the annual gymkhana, Mr Bill Roycroft won the Steer Riding Competition. The steer riding brought the public to the sports early and was easily the most spectacular item. Strong yards had been built for the sport and the steers were provided by Mr R McCracken of Switzerland and they were big and strong. The Victorian Champion (R Woodbridge) and other remount riders could not pace it with the locals."

On April 2, it reported that work was to start on the Providence Mine after Easter with 30 men employed. "This is splendid news for a struggling town," the paper said.

On May 14, it was reported that every buck rabbit that pops his head out of the burrow at the moment is worth 2/-, 6d for his carcase and 1/6 for his pelt, which nations are clamoring for at the moment.

On May 28, there was an article in the *RACV Journal* titled, *Scenic Beauty Marred*. It referred to litter left by campers at many beauty spots in the country after the Easter holidays. The article mentioned the beautiful King Parrot Creek through to Flowerdale. During Easter, it states, it was lined with tents and caravans. After Easter it was lined with newspapers, discarded clothing, sardine and jam tins and empty beer bottles."

More interesting tidbits next week.

Recent rainfall may have put your hay at risk

FARMERS need to be mindful that even well-made hay can still be prone to spontaneous combustion.

Agriculture Victoria Program Manager for Dairy, North, Brett Davidson said spontaneous combustion is usually caused by excess moisture at baling.

“Fires can also start due to heavy rainfall events which has soaked into stacks. Intense rainfall could compromise even well covered stacks, as water can pool at the base of a stack, seep into gaps or could be blown under covers.”

Mr Davidson said for those with moisture meters, ideally hay moisture levels should be in the ranges below for safe storage of hay.

The recommended moisture content ranges for baling hay is small square bales 16 to 18 per cent, large round bales 14 to 16 per cent, large square bales 12 to 14 per cent and export hay over 12 per cent.

Even at two to three per cent above the maximum moisture contents, hay will start to lose dry matter (DM) and nutritive value due to plant respiration or mould growth, resulting in heating of the bale or stack.

Higher moisture contents, well above the maximum (under four per cent), could lead to more mould and heating, possibly resulting in spontaneous combustion.

Mr Davidson said it’s vitally important to regularly monitor the stack from one week after rainfall for signs of heating.

He said the signs of heating are dampness on the tops of bales, steam rising from the stack, moisture build up on roofing iron or under tarps of outside stacks, unusual odours such as a pipe tobacco, caramel, burning, musty smell, sometimes the stack may slump in places and corrosion on underside of tin roof.

Mr Davidson said unfortunately, much of the heating will occur in the stack centre which is difficult to pick up.

“To try and get an idea on how hot a stack has become, use a crowbar pushed into the stack as far as possible and after a couple of hours, remove the crowbar and feel how hot it is.”

A rough guideline to check a haystacks temperature using a crowbar, is as follows if you can handle the bar without discomfort its over 50 degrees, and check the temperature daily.

If the temperature is around 50 to 60 degrees, you can handle the bar for a short time, you must check temperature twice daily

For a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees, you can touch bar only briefly. Check temperature every two hours and move hay from top layers to improve air flow.

For 70 degrees and above the bar is too hot to hold and there is a potential for fire, avoid walking on top of stack.

Mr Davidson said an alternative monitoring method can be achieved by using thermal couplings, which can be placed into various areas of the stack at stacking and monitored simply and regularly.

For more information vist agriculture.vic.gov.au

Women’s health issues are finally highlighted

VICTORIAN women’s health issues have been highlighted and confirmed that woman are living with pain, with the release of a landmark survey that was undertaken by the state government.

Results show that close to half of all women are impacted by issues related to their periods, pregnancy, birth and post natal care, or conditions like endometriosis and other gynaecological conditions.

Nearly 60 per cent of participants reported having had positive healthcare interactions, but one in three said they’d experienced insensitive and disrespectful practitioners who left them feeling dismissed and unheard.

Sharing the findings, Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Health Mary Anne Thomas also announced the new *Inquiry into Women’s Pain* which is the next stage of the Victorian Government’s nation leading \$153 million women’s health transformation.

The inquiry will examine systemic issues and solutions and hear directly from women across Victoria. Led by a panel of experts and overseen by the Women’s Health Advisory Council, submissions are earlier this week on January 30.

Putting women’s voices at the heart of the government’s reform, the *Listening to Women’s Voices* report comprises the insights of more than 1700 Victorian women who shared their personal experiences of our health care system.

Findings from the survey include four in 10 Victorian women live with chronic pain, and around half of participants reported that period related conditions such as heavy periods, cramping and PMS affected their health and wellbeing.

Similarly, about 50 per cent said that pregnancy and birth complications continued to impact their health.

Around 30 per cent said they were affected by the symptoms of perimenopause or menopause, and 30 per cent said conditions such as endometriosis, menopause and chronic pain led to poor mental health.

These issues are having affect in the workforce with one in three woman have health conditions that affect their ability to work and keep a job, and sadly, 20 per cent said they missed out on social connections because of their health.

The report also includes participants personal stories. In an all too common occurrence, one woman said she was prescribed antidepressants when she had acute pelvic pain that was stopping her sleeping and working, but was later diagnosed with advanced endometriosis.

Victoria has a proud track record of work to improve women’s health outcomes, from establishing Victoria’s first clinic for women’s heart health, delivering 11 sexual and reproductive health hubs, and launching the state’s first ever sexual and reproductive health phone line. But after these results

have been released, clearly, there is still more to do.

Work is underway to establish 20 new comprehensive women’s health clinics, which will be crucial to overcoming some of the barriers women face in accessing healthcare. Offering free, wide ranging care and support, the clinics will allow women to see specialists gynaecologist, urologist, specialist nursing and allied health, in one spot, making it easier and faster to access the world class care for conditions like endometriosis, pelvic pain and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).

The Victorian Government is also doubling the number of endo and associated surgeries, delivering around 10,800 extra laparoscopies over the next four years, as well as providing scholarships for 100 more women’s healthcare specialists.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said, “The survey results have highlighted that sadly, a systemic gender pain gap still exists.”

“It’s why we are transforming our health system, delivering new women’s health clinics, recruiting more women’s health specialists and establishing more dedicated sexual and reproductive health hubs across the state.”

Submissions can be made to the *Inquiry into Women’s Pain* from January 30 at health.vic.gov.au/public-health/inquiry-into-womens-pain

More free TAFE courses on offer for 2024

FOUR new courses in hospitality, youth work, kitchen management and tourism are now available through the Victorian Government’s Free TAFE initiative, giving Victorians more opportunities to learn new skills and grow their careers.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney encouraged prospective students to look at courses on offer through Free TAFE, providing Victorians with more access to vocational training.

Since the program was introduced in 2019 it has grown to include more than 80 TAFE qualifications and short courses. This has helped more than 156,000 students who have saved almost \$423 million in tuition fees since the program began.

The program has seen thousands of Victorians embark on a new career pathway, including a quarter of all Free TAFE students based in regional Victoria, more than 44,500 from multicultural backgrounds and more than 90,000 women.

With enrolments now open, students can kickstart their careers or upskill to

gain new experience or qualifications across a range of sectors like nursing, building and construction, community services and cyber security.

The Free TAFE program is helping Victorians get the skills they need for the job they want, including in growth areas like clean energy, building the state’s future workforce as we transition to net-zero.

The government is also backing the development of new clean energy skills and courses through the \$50 million Clean Energy Fund, including projects at Federation TAFE in Ballarat, TAFE Gippsland in Morwell and South West TAFE in Warrnambool.

Free TAFE courses are available to all Victorians, regardless of their existing qualification level. The program allows thousands of students to enter an in-demand career without the worry of the cost of tuition fees. Students can also enrol in more than one Free TAFE course provided it’s within the same priority pathway.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses visit vic.gov.au/free-tafe

Get up to date with vaccinations if you’re travelling

AS of last week three new cases of measles have been identified in Victoria in returned overseas travellers, who have attended several exposure sites while infectious.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can be spread from person to person and can lead to serious health complications and death. Measles can affect anyone but is most common in children.

Due to declining measles vaccination rates overseas the World Health Organisation have recently reported that there have been almost 45 times more cases in Europe in 2023 than the previous year.

With the resurgence of Victorians travelling overseas to countries where measles is a public health concern, there is an increased risk for under vaccinated and unvaccinated persons acquiring measles during their travels. Families and individuals planning to travel overseas should ensure they have received their recommended travel vaccinations several weeks prior to departure.

The Measles vaccination includes two doses of the measles containing vaccine given at least four weeks apart to provide optimal protection is recommended.

The Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is free in Victoria for children at 12 months of age as MMR vaccine, and at 18 months of age as MMRV (measles-mumps-rubella-varicella) vaccine as part of their routine National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule.

Infants from six months to over 11 months of age prior to overseas travel need to get vaccinated expecially if they are travelling to countries where measles is endemic, or where measles outbreaks are occurring. If an infant receives an early dose of MMR vaccine, they are still required to receive their scheduled NIP 12 month (MMR) and 18 month (MMRV) doses.

All people born during or since 1966 who do not have documentation that they have received two doses of measles containing vaccines, Vaccination is recommended, and for any individuals who are unsure of their vaccination history.

Always check that there are no contraindications to receiving MMR vaccine prior to vaccine administration. Report all vaccines administered to the Australian Immunisation Register.

Get in quick to nominate a young achiever

NOMINATIONS close soon for the 2024 Victorian 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards at midnight on Tuesday, February 13.

There is still time to nominate a young person 30 years of age and under, as of December 31, making a difference in your community.

Everybody knows an inspiring young individual, who we all wonder where they find the time to help others, paving the way for our future through innovative thinking and, who is a leader and role model for their peers.

We need to give thanks, and now you can by nominating them into one of the following categories. Thesen inlcude, the

Spirit Super Create Change Award, IKON Services Environmental Sustainability Award, Josh’s Rainbow Eggs Ethical Business Award, Kangan Institute Inspirational TAFE Student Award, National Protective Services Safety and Wellbeing in the Workplace Award, Saward Dawson Community Service and Social Impact Award, Strategic Alliance Network Small Business Award, The Victorian Government Group Achievement in the Community Award and the Yarn Strong Sista Indigenous Achievement Award.

Category winners will each receive a prize package worth more than \$2500, including six months of a one on one mentoring

package thanks to The Impact Collective, plus a beautiful trophy.

One of the category winners will be chosen as the 2024 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year.

To submit a nomination, simply go to youngachieverawards.com and select “VIC” and then click the gold “Nominate Now” button. Alternatively, make the process that much easier by calling us on 9720 1638 and passing on their details and we will take it from there.

Nominations close Tuesday, February 13. For assistance, please feel free to call the Awards Office or email vicyaa@awardsaustralia.com

Ambulance response data shows improvements

RECENT data is showing Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics are reaching patients nearly two minutes faster than a year ago despite another record breaking quarter for emergency ambulance demand.

Executive Director Clinical Operations Anthony Carlyon said, "While there is more work ahead of us, it is encouraging our response to Code One emergencies improved a full minute and 46 seconds compared to a year ago.

"The Productivity Commission's recent report on government services shows Victoria has Australia's most trusted paramedics and leads the nation in cardiac arrest survival and pain management.

"Our dedicated paramedics and first responders are to be commended for the outstanding care they deliver to communities across the state."

The last quarter of 2023 was the busiest in AV's history with 154,267 emergency cases. This includes 99,833 Code One cases, the second most on record, and 54,434 Code Two cases.

Between October and December 2023, paramedics across Victoria responded to 67.3 per cent of Code One cases within the statewide target of 15 minutes, up from 66 per cent for the previous three months and 7.1 percentage points better than 60.2 per cent a year ago.

As a result, the statewide average response time to Code One emergencies dropped from 16 minutes and 44 seconds to 14 minutes and 58 seconds.

In the last three months of 2023, paramedics responded to 3239 more Code One cases than the previous quarter and only 405 fewer than a year ago when Code One demand exceeded 100,000 cases for the first time.

Performance against the 15-minute target for Code One cases improved in 74 of Victoria's 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) compared to a year ago, with the biggest improvements in Melbourne's growing outer suburbs.

In the Murrindindi Shire, data showed for Code One cases, 33.7 per cent reached

the target of under 15 minute response time compared to the previous quarter being 32.2 per cent.

The average response time for code one cases in Murrindindi Shire was 24.22 minutes, a little bit slower than the previous quarter being 23.41.

The total number of first responses has increased in the shire. This quarter was 261, and last quarter was 229 which is 32 more responses for our ambulance personnel to attend to.

Code Two cases for Murrindindi Shire have improved with this quarter, being 48.20 minutes and last quarter being 49.17 minutes.

The total numbers of responders have increased for Code Two cases as the total number was 199 and last quarter was 176.

Mr Carlyon said improved performance followed increased use of alternative and virtual care services for people in the community who did not require an ambulance.

"From October to December 2023, 38,695 people who did not need an emergency ambulance were instead connected to more appropriate care by paramedics and nurses in AV's Secondary Triage team," Mr Carlyon said.

"There are now so many options for people in the community to get timely, non urgent health advice and save Triple Zero (000) for emergencies.

"For non life threatening matters, you can connect directly with emergency doctors and nurses at the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) from anywhere in Victoria, at any time.

"Since October 2021, paramedics have referred more than 56,000 patients to the VVED, while a further 5400 have been referred to the VVED following assessment by our Secondary Triage team.

"Other options also include your local Priority Primary Care Centre, your GP or pharmacist, or Nurse On Call on 1300 606 024."

SPORT



Top scorer Harry Craddock. -S



Henry Berriman. -S

Good win to Merton cricketers

by Rohan Berriman

**B Grade
Merton 7/115 defeated
Wangaratta Magpies 10/102**

MERTON cricketers travelled to South Wangaratta Oval to take on the Wangaratta Magpies at the weekend, in hot conditions on a slow outfield.

Merton went into bat first making 7/115; a respectable total considering a sluggish start due to some tight bowling.

Merton's middle order played their shots lead by top scorer Harry Craddock 31 and some late power hitting from returning player Andrew Lockhart also with 31, saw the runs flow. Merton's bowlers really toiled well in the hot conditions and backed themselves up in the field taking their catches.

In form off spinner Henry Berriman again helped bowl his side to victory taking 5/25 off eight overs, his first five wicket haul. Pacemen James Benton and Noah Whittall both with 1/10 off five overs also got into the action. Skipper, Rohan Berriman with 2/21 rounded out a steady performance in the field. The Magpies really took the game up to the visitors needing 22 off the last four overs, however Merton stayed sharp in the field and managed to bowl the home side out in the final over for 102. Merton host Beechworth Wanderers next Saturday at the MCG.

MERTON: Fall of Wickets 1-10 Jai Lerch-MacKinnon, 2-19 James Benton, 3-34 Daryl King, 4-41

Noah Whitta, 5-71 Henry Berriman, 6-71 Player, 7-115 Player.

MERTON: BATTERS Daryl King c: Harry Gorman b: Andrew Dean 13. Jai Lerch-MacKinnon

c: Andrew Dean b: Ned Gorman 2. James Benton c: Luke Sims b: Ned Gorman 3. Noah Whitta c: Luke Sims b: Dylan Corcoran 10. Harry Craddock not out 31*. Henry Berriman run out: Rhys Delahunty, Andrew Dean 13. Fill-in c: Rhys Delahunty b: Chandan Kulkarni 0. Fill-in b: Chandan Kulkarni 31. William Benton not out 0*. Rohan Berriman (c) DNB. David Rankin DNB.

MAGPIES: Fall of Wickets 1-8 Ned Gorman, 2-26 Andrew Dean, 3-31 Mitchell Benton, 4-47 Lenny Sims, 5-49 Luke Sims, 6-66 Rhys Delahunty, 7-71 Oscar Edwards, 8-95 Dylan Corcoran, 9-101 Sam Reid, 10-102 Harry Gorman.



The best bowler was Henry Berriman, with five for 25. -S

Bus to Alex Races Rock on March 2

COME on down for a day full of family fun and racing at the Alexandra Race Club's, Alex Races Rock.

In addition to the horses, great rock music, face painting and a magician, a bus service can take the hassle out of getting to and from the races. There will be a small charge of \$5 for a return trip however, children 15 and under are free. Bookings are essential. Please book via Trybooking on the link below.

If demand is strong enough we are prepared to run and early and

a later bus from each location. You need to book so we can offer you the best service.

On the day the buses will leave from the following places.

Bus one will start at the Eildon pondage caravan park then Eildon town centre, Thornton Hotel Motel, Big4 Breeze Holiday Park and Eildon Waters Holiday Park.

Bus two will start at the Yea Caravan Park information centre, then Molesworth Hotel and the Yarck Hotel.

Bus Three starts at Marysville Central, then Marysville Caravan

Park, Buxton township, Taggerty Holiday Park and Breakaway Twin Rivers Caravan Park.

Early buses depart from 11.15am and the late buses will be from 12.30pm. Return trips will leave from the track from 5pm.

It's a bargain at only \$5 for a return ticket. Kids aged 16 and under are free, but remember to reserve their seat because they need a ticket too.

Reservations are essential so please reserve your seat now at trybooking.com/COPVA



Alex Races Rock is set for March 2 and you can catch a bus to and from the event. -S

The Chronicle Sport

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Impressive performances at State Combined Events for athletes

IN a thrilling weekend at Lakeside Albert Park, rising athletes Zoe Collier and Eva Nardella-Morcom showcased their prowess at the state combined events.

Eva Nardella-Morcom, dazzled with an outstanding performance, securing four personal bests and accumulating an impressive 387 points using the Alberta system. A phenomenal effort by Eva, deserving of congratulations.

Zoe Collier, equally determined, left her mark with three personal bests and exceeded her season average in the remaining two events. Finishing 34th out of

63 competitors, Zoe tallied a commendable 681 points. Notably, she claimed the 10th best throw in shot put, showcasing her all-around athletic skills. Congratulations, Zoe, on a remarkable achievement.

Last Saturday's Little Athletics morning session celebrated hardworking members with well-deserved medallions for personal best achievements. The club extends best wishes to the 15 members competing at the Regional Championships in Shepparton this weekend. A friendly reminder to all other members that regular Saturday morning sessions will resume the week after the regionals.



Tahj, Hamish, Koa, Sonny, Zara and Sienna feeling proud after receiving personal best medallions. -S



Zoe Collier flying over a hurdle at State Combined event. -S



Zoe's big leap in the long jump at Lakeside Albert Park. -S

A tight tussle in gender challenge at Yea

by Phil Armstrong, acting captain

STRONG blustery winds greeted the 39 members who fronted up for Wednesday's round seven Gender Challenge for the Yea Golf Club, played as a stroke and putting event.

Scoring was difficult in the windy conditions, but several players shone through. None more so than Margie Wright (24) with 69 nett to lead. Stuart Jarvis (13) provided the highlight in the men's group with 72 nett to take out second place overall.

Evergreen Gary Pollard (15) and the very consistent Peter Johnston (18) both

recorded 74 nett to fill the minor placings for the men.

Ladies captain, Jan Wealands (31) nett 73 and Miranda Gill (17) nett 76 collected valuable points for the ladies team.

In the putting competition Jeff Aurisch was a standout and clear winner with 25 putts in the men's. Jan Wealands and Adrienne Anglin both registered 28 putts with Jan getting the nod on a countback. Not to be left out in the cold, Adrienne collected the ladies nearest the pin on the 10th hole. The men's nearest the pin went to Paul Clayton.

This week's Club Aard went to the rough cutter Brian Priestley. You can be sure the rough will be well cut this week.

Saturday, February 10, is the final round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Yea. Any members wishing to participate in this event should contact Vicki Clements to ensure they are allocated a spot on the time sheet.

Finally, it is really pleasing for all members to welcome home the men's club captain Alan Pell who has endured some health issues over the past month. Great to hear and hope to see you back on the course as soon as possible.



FoodWorks representative Cathie Harper with Sharon Grogan. -S