

# 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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, February 14, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Around 300 historic vehicles rolled into Yea for the Yea Cruise Night on Saturday, February 10, providing a great boost to the local economy. More images on page 6. -Plymouth Dale Photos

## Hospitals to work together more closely

YEA and District Memorial Hospital CEO Elizabeth Sinclair and Alexandra District Health CEO Jane Poxon were keen to dispel rumours of an amalgamation between the two organisations, however they are planning to work more collaboratively into the future.

In a joint statement, Ms Poxon and Ms Sinclair said, "We're looking for opportunities to collaborate so we can enhance the health services available to the Murrindindi community, however we're not discussing an amalgamation."

"We've recently partnered our Finance and People and Culture services to ensure both health services can benefit from and share in the expertise and resources available in our region."

"This includes our new Director of People and Culture who started at the beginning of February, and whose team will work across both Alexandra District Health and Yea Memorial District Hospital."



Acting Principal of Sacred Heart Primary, Kathryn Stuart is overseeing the school until a new principal is secured. -S

## Welcome to Sacred Heart's new acting principal

THE school principal is a significant role in the running of an educational facility, and for Kathryn Stewart she has double the responsibility. She's the principal of St Mary's Primary School in Alexandra, and has now been appointed as acting principal at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea.

Kathryn said, "Being a principal in two schools doesn't happen a lot, however it is becoming something that can be done if required."

Kathryn grew up in Sydney and lived in the Hunter Valley since 2014. She made the move to Victoria in 2022 to take on the role of principal at St Mary's in Alexandra.

Kathryn comes from a Catholic family and attended a Catholic high school. She completed her original degree through the Australian Catholic University. She recently finished her Master of Education in Leadership and Management through another Catholic university, Notre Dame.

Late last year, Kathryn was asked if she would take on the position of acting principal at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, in addition to St Mary's. Both positions are full time roles. The role of a principal is to oversee the day to day running of the school, supporting staff, being the face in the school community, overseeing the business side of running a school, the curriculum, the

learning of the children, and when it comes to Catholic education, it also involves being a faith leader in the school.

Kathryn described the change as interesting. "I've been splitting my time across both schools and support them both and be a face in both places."

"At Sacred Heart, I'm currently getting to know the community and understand their needs so I can best support them. I'm happy to be here and be part of such a lovely community and have felt very welcomed... which has been lovely. Being in education, particularly in a Catholic school, it's a privilege to support and serve the local communities."

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ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS





# More drivers needed

THERE is currently a need for more drivers with Community Accessibility in the Yea area. It is a vital service, transporting elderly people or people with a disability between appointments and daily activities.

Community Accessibility provides volunteers with all the necessary accreditation checks, including a police check, NDIS

worker screening check, uniforms and all training required for the role.

It offers many opportunities for volunteers of all ages, skills, and backgrounds. The volunteers enjoy flexible working hours, a wonderful team culture and fun volunteer gatherings. They are also able to sign off on work hours for people currently on JobSeeker.

For more information, visit [communityaccessability.com.au](http://communityaccessability.com.au)

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

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ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

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THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To council for its Reconciliation Action Plan. It's for all of us. Thumbs up also to Lachlan Fraser for his 'Make Australia Day Fair' Facebook group. Australia Day should be for all of us.  
  
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](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
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Alexandra 3714



The brand new Yea Primary School prep students for 2024, Molly, Matilda, Clancy, Ethan, Delilah, Clara, Jax, Nate, Teddy, Mason, Kyson, Aleah, Chet, Asher, Archie, Oliver, Sophia, Tanya, Hazel, Lucy and Maddie. Absent: Vince. -S

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	3.00pm Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Acheron R at Taggerty	3.00pm Mon	0.60	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yareck	1.21pm Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	2.39pm Mon	0.57	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	3.00pm Mon	0.51	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	3.00pm Mon	0.52	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	3.00pm Mon	1.34	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	3.00pm Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	3.00pm Mon	1.64	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	1.51pm Mon	1.21	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	3.00pm Mon	3.73	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 3.15PM ON MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2024

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

February 14 - February 20, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	22	Wednesday	8	21
Thursday	11	26	Thursday	10	26
Friday	13	29	Friday	12	29
Saturday	15	31	Saturday	15	31
Sunday	15	31	Sunday	14	30
Monday	15	31	Monday	14	30
Tuesday	18	31	Tuesday	18	31

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra ..... N/Amm  
Buxton..... N/Amm  
Eildon (AWS)..... 0.4mm  
Flowerdale..... 0mm  
Jamieson..... 0.2mm  
Kinglake..... 1mm  
Lake Eildon..... 0.4mm  
Mansfield..... 1mm  
Taggerty ..... 0mm  
Yareck ..... 0.4mm  
Yea..... 0.4mm  
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....288.15m  
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....97%  
Metres below full supply.....75cm  
Daily inflow .....1000ML  
Release..... 3000ML  
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....55%

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

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We thank you for your continued support



# A sign of the times?

A SIGN on the Goulburn Valley Highway near the Strath Creek intersection was damaged around October 2023.

The Department of Transport were contacted about the sign on November 15, 2023, seeking a timeline for the new signage to be installed.

Mr Anthony Judd, Executive Director (Hume), Department of Transport and Planning responded in November 2023, saying, "Our crews recently identified a damaged advisory sign on the Goulburn Valley Highway and will replace it soon. As part of our \$770 million investment in maintaining Victoria's road assets, crews will replace and repair thousands of roadside signs across the state over the next 12 months."

Almost three months later, the sign is still not fixed. When contacted again, Mr Judd said, "We thank the community for their patience while our crews work hard to replace signs and repair roads after recent storms caused significant damage to our road network. We've arranged for a replacement sign which will be installed as soon as it is received from the manufacturer."



The sign near the Strath Creek intersection on the Goulburn Valley Highway. -S

## Where will the disaster relief funding go?

ADDITIONAL support from the state and federal governments for Victorian Communities affected by the recent December and January storms and floods was announced last week.

It includes \$105 million for increased financial assistance to support the immediate and long term recovery and rebuild phase.

This assistance will be jointly funded under Category A and B of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and it includes emergency roadworks from larger scale works like the rebuilding of roads, bridges and culverts, and finding and fixing potholes, asphaltting and repairing road surfaces damaged by the severe weather events to get flood affected Victorians back on the road.

The Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said, "We're making a significant investment in fixing damaged roads to ensure that Victorians in storm and flood affected areas can get back on the road as soon as possible."

The Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien isn't impressed with the announcement, saying, the announcement of \$105 million is standard funding activated for emergency works after a natural disaster and not a new, designated roads package.

Mr O'Brien said it will be lucky to go close to addressing the worst damage caused by floods in spring and the current summer.

"Our roads were in a dire state before this season and at best, the funding will only get them back to where they were, that is, still disastrous.

"After a 45 per cent cut in road maintenance funding since 2020, our roads are suffering from tens of thousands of potholes, rough surfaces, cracking, rutting and broken shoulders.

"This has led to a 414 per cent increase over three years in compensation claims lodged by Victorian drivers who've suffered damage to their vehicles due to the poor state of our roads."

Mr O'Brien repeated his calls for a specific funding package to catch up on the backlog of roads maintenance plaguing the state.

"The \$165 million allocated by the Government after the October 2022 floods barely scratched the surface but we need at least that money again to begin much needed repair of our roads," Mr O'Brien said.

The \$105 million funding will also include the expansion of the Emergency Recovery Hotline which enables residents affected by disasters to access information about available programs that can help them recover and connect them with mental health, business, legal and financial support services.

Expanding the Recovery Support Program which can provide storm and flood impacted residents with access to a dedicated Recovery Support Worker, playing an important role to connect them to critical services and support programs specific to their recovery journey.

Additional mental health and wellbeing support including psychological First Aid training programs, face to face mental health and wellbeing support from the Bendigo Mental Health and Wellbeing hub, free and subsidised telepsychology services from Rural Health Connect, and proactive emergency outreach visits and group counselling sessions.

These additional support services will be available in the 28 Local Government Areas where disaster assistance is already available, including the *Personal Hardship Assistance Program* (PHAP), which continues to support eligible storm and flood affected Victorians, and support to councils to repair and restore essential public assets.

To access recovery support, impacted residents can call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. If you think you may be eligible for re-establishment assistance, you should contact council.

Information on disaster assistance, including PHAP is available on the Australian Government's website at [disasterassist.gov.au](https://disasterassist.gov.au) and the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing website [services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program](https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program)

## Quake rattles and rolls

IN the early hours of Thursday, February 9, a magnitude 4.3 earthquake shook much of Victoria.

The epicentre of the quake was close to Leongatha, with a depth of 10 kilometres.

According to the 'felt reports' on GeoScience Australia, the quake was felt from Seymour in the north, to Traralgon in the east, down to Wilsons Promontory in the south and across to Ballarat in the west. There were also reports of it being felt in Tasmania and South Australia.

There were a total of 5431 reports by noon the following day.

Locally, there were six 'felt reports' in Marysville, one each in Alexandra, Yea, Toolangi and Kinglake.

It was the largest Victorian earthquake since September 2021, measuring magnitude 5.9 with the epicentre near Rawson.

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

The Yea Chronicle

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Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
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St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

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Out & About

WHAT'S  
ON?

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*.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto: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](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards)

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Market @ Yarck from 9am. Plants, soap, preserves and jams, jewellery and much more. Contact Sharon for further information or regarding stall hire 0407 879 612.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Book now for Coffee and commerce: brewing up economic buzz, business breakfast 7-8.30am at On Point Brewery, Alexandra. It's free – book at [murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://murrindindifoodandwine.org.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

MULTI VENDOR - online clearing sales. Alexandra and Acheron. See ad in this weeks editon. Contact Embling Rural, for full details 0418 266 038.

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Public meeting, Buxton Memorial Hall at 2pm. To form a Buxton Open Spaces Committee. For further information email [secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au](mailto:secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

GOBUR – online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concludes March 4 at noon +2 min increments. Inspection on Tuesday, February 27. 9.30am-2.30pm. Contact Embling Rural for further information 0418 266 038.

Authorities sick and tired of cleaning up

ENVIRONMENTAL authorities are urging Victorian households and businesses to spare the environment and dispose of their used tyres legally and responsibly after more than 2700 car and truck tyres were found dumped on public land last year.

The Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria recorded at least 60 separate illegal dumping incidents involving personal or commercial quantities of tyres across Victorian public land in 2023, with the State's Environmental Protection Authority

(EPA) estimating that thousands more have been dumped, burned, or stockpiled.

Dumped car tyres can have serious impacts on human and environmental health. Old tyres also contain harmful chemicals that leach into the environment and groundwater as they break down, potentially poisoning plants and animals.

Discarded tyres also present a serious fire risk, as tyre fires are harder to control or extinguish than regular fires. As rubber burns hotter and more easily, tyres dumped in forests can fuel bushfires with devastating effects.

Legal disposal of old tyres reduces these environmental and safety risks, and recycled tyres can often be turned into other products, including roads and artificial playground turf.

Individual or small quantities of tyres can be responsibly disposed of at recycling centres, such as local council transfer stations, for a small fee so that they can be repurposed. Most tyre outlets will also accept old tyres as part of government recycling schemes, either for free if people have purchased new tyres from their shop, or for a small fee if brought from elsewhere.

When disposing tyres through one of the above options, people should check with their local council, recycling facility, or individual tyre seller to see if they accept them.

Victorian businesses also have legal obligations for safely storing and transporting large amounts of waste tyres. EPA Victoria produces guidance on managing these responsibilities, which can be found at [epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/manage-industrial-waste/waste-tyres](http://epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/manage-industrial-waste/waste-tyres)

In Victoria, it is an offence to dump litter or waste under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, with maximum penalties ranging between \$3,846 and \$230,772.

For more information on local council waste services, visit: [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home/recycling-at-home/council-waste-and-recycling-services](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home/recycling-at-home/council-waste-and-recycling-services)

The public can report illegal dumping on public land to 136 186 or to EPA Victoria on 1300 372 842.



FRRR  
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Regional Renewal



GOULBURN VALLEY  
SUICIDE  
AWARENESS  
GROUP



Community  
Grant Recipient  
2023  
Australia Post

This is a **recurring meeting taking place every fourth Saturday of the month** for anyone bereaved from suicide. This support group is run by volunteers of Lived Experiences and welcomes anyone aged 18 years and over.

Support groups are a space to connect with others, self reflect, discuss challenges, share experiences and self help strategies.



Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9.30am till 10.30am



Meeting Room, Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass Street, Yea



FREE

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# Plantation forest grants available

THE second round of grants for the \$74 million Support Plantation Establishment Program is now open for applications.

Farm foresters, First Nations businesses and the forestry industry are among those who will benefit from funding to support more new plantation forests in Australia.

Acting Deputy Secretary of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group Dr

Jared Greenville said the grants aimed to increase domestic timber supply, particularly construction and manufacturing timber.

“Australia’s plantation forest estate has been in decline for over a decade,” Dr Greenville said.

“Estimates from 2019 predict a shortfall in domestic production of softwood logs of 3.4 million m3 by 2050 based on 2015-16 production levels.

“That’s why this grant opportunity continues to play an important role to increase Australia’s future timber supply and reduce our dependence on imported timber.

“It’s also an important investment in regional and rural jobs and the new plantations will continue to contribute to Australia’s carbon emission reduction targets.”

The first round of the program has awarded more than \$3.2 million across seven projects in New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. It is expected that a further announcement of successful projects from the first round, which closed on January 24, will be made shortly.

“The Australian Government is providing funding of \$2,000 (GST exclusive) per hectare of new long-rotation plantation forest established,” Dr Greenville said.

“It can take some tree species 20 to 30 years of growing before they are suitable for harvest and can be processed into structural timber.

“This growing time is even longer for some hardwood species.”

Projects can run for one, two or three years and must be concluded no later than June 30, 2027.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit [tinyurl.com/2cz95e4s](https://tinyurl.com/2cz95e4s)



Plantation grants are now available. -Robert Linsdell

## McLeish claims back to school shock for Victorian families

MEMBER for Eildon Cidy McLeish has commented on the return to school this year, saying, “No doubt there were some excited kids and families that turned up at schools for the first day last week, eager for what lies ahead and the opportunity to receive an education that sets them up for their future lives. I am sure for many of the mums and dads that excitement will quickly turn to horror when they take a close look at what the education is costing them and what they are getting for their money.

“According to recent Futurity report, the total cost of a government education in Melbourne will be over \$108,000 over 13 years for a child starting school in 2024. This is more than any other state in the country.

“Families are already doing it tough with mortgage payments, energy bills, grocery costs and health services stretching the hip pocket. What should be an exciting event in their families lives is instead being dreaded as an additional financial burden to overcome. Many simply cannot afford what we all recognise is an absolutely necessity for our kids.

“In Melbourne, it costs \$14,000 more than in Sydney to send your child to a public school. A 2024 Smith Family survey noted nearly nine out of 10 parents and carers (88.3 per cent) were worried about being able to afford the things their children would need for school. Of the respondents, 45.6 per cent said they feared their children were likely to miss out on basics like uniforms and shoes, up from 29.7 per cent in 2023.

“Despite paying more, students are not necessarily seeing this translate to a better education. International data shows that Victorian student performance has been in steady decline over the past two decades with outcomes in maths, science and reading at record lows. Statistics are also showing nearly one third of Victorian students are failing to meet NAPLAN standards.

“Victorians deserve an education system that meets their needs and is not failing them in the basics. The government needs to invest in something other than digging tunnels in this state if there is to be any kind of future for our kids,” Ms McLeish said.

## Joining generations through play

ALEXANDRA is set to be a part of a six week pilot program of intergenerational playgroup, run by Playgroup Victoria and local organiser, Jess Slapp.

The idea behind intergenerational playgroup is to bring together multiple generations, supporting communities and nurturing relationships through play. In doing this, it fosters awareness, understanding and respect between generations and assists in breaking down social barriers and the isolation that is commonly experienced by new parents and ageing communities.

Jess explains her passion behind the project, “Personally, the idea has been bouncing around with me for a while. A few years back I’d heard a story about a community in England that was bridging their daycare shortages by linking retirees with local families and thought it was a fantastic idea.

“When I became a mum in 2022, I felt quite isolated having no family locally, and began to chat with others wondering how many of us were feeling this way. Chatting with people of all different life stages made me realise that isolation can happen quite often to mums and older people in our community, and then it felt obvious that these two groups of people would have more in common than we initially think.

“Then, I started watching the *Old People’s Home* series on ABC, and fell in love with the idea of enriching lives through unique connections in our community. I got in touch with Playgroup Victoria to see what established programs they could offer me to attend, and surprisingly my contact there mentioned that they hadn’t had much interest in these programs and that they’d like to pilot some programs around the state.

“Of course, I put our hand up, and got chatting with our local playgroup committee and a few friends from a couple of other relevant community groups about how great this would be.

“So the nuts and bolts started coming together, with a few key contacts supporting me from all sorts of places, including the Alexandra Playgroup, Murrindindi Shire Council Library and Murrindindi Shire Council community staff. We’re now here.”

Jess hopes the program establishes a base level of intergenerational connections across our community, and maybe creates some little glimmers in people’s day.

Jess added, “Even if the program doesn’t continue after its six week pilot, I’d love for the idea to continue blossoming in our community in whatever format that looks like. We’re all busy, but if we make a little bit of time for things like this, I think we’d all be better for it.

“I’d also love for the program to encourage other community members who find themselves in linking positions between community groups, to join me in establishing these programs. I have to admit, so far, it’s been so much easier than I thought it might be. I’m feeling very supported by our community in this endeavour.”

The program is open to anyone interested in hanging out with local parents and children in the community. So far, there is already some interest from Jess’s friends from Murrindindi U3A and Redgate CWA who are hoping to come along.

Jess suggested the program might also be a great opportunity for those who are part of local, intergenerational families to bring, say, an aunt along with your kids, meet some new people and go for a coffee after. Ideally, having repeat attendees to increase the amount of familiarity between the kids and adults present will be beneficial.

The sessions are free and will be held at the Murrindindi Library from 9am to 10am starting on Tuesday, February 20 until Tuesday, March 26. It is encouraged those planning to attend to register prior to give us a good indication of numbers. This can be done by registering at [playgroupvic.typeform.com/tinyandwise](https://playgroupvic.typeform.com/tinyandwise)

## COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

Nominate a community member, group or initiative!



**Do you know someone who’s made a significant contribution to our Shire? Would like to recognise the efforts of a local community group or initiative?**

Nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards are now open! Previously called Citizen of the Year Awards, this year we’re focusing on the wonderful people who volunteer in our community, and just like last year, Award winners will be announced and celebrated during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May 2024), providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate the contributions of volunteers in our community.

So, what are you waiting for? Nominations are now open for the following Award categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards) to nominate an individual or group for an Award.

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, as well as the Mobile Library.

**Nominations close on Sunday 24 March 2024.**





# 300 amazing vehicles at Yea Cruise Night

by Dale McKeon

THE weather forecast was fine and sunny on Saturday, February 10 for the penultimate Yea Cruise Night of the 2023/24 season, and the predictions were accurate. The beautiful summer weather ensured a big turnout of around 300 amazing vehicles in Yea.

The plantation was packed with people enjoying the night and listening to tunes from UGFM who were there broadcasting live from their outside broadcast van.

The Yea Bowls Club provided the sausage sizzle, as they had done in January, and did a roaring trade.

One of the highlights of the evening was a display of 23 Studebakers which were given priority parking in the Petchell Street road closure. Studebakers are a rare sight these days and to see so many of them in one place was fantastic for the many people who attended.

The organisers would like to thank Yea Community House, North East Light and Sound, and their many sponsors who contribute to make Yea Cruise Night such a fun monthly event for so many visitors and locals.

-photos by Plymouth Dale Photos





# Tyrrell seeks driver education for Victorian school students

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has appealed to the Victorian Government to introduce a driver education module in Victorian secondary schools.

In response to the tragic increase in deaths on Victorian roads in 2023, Ms Tyrrell wants a basic driver safety skills and basic vehicle maintenance program made available to all students in Years 10 to 12, to better prepare them for when they get their drivers licence.

Speaking during the adjournment debate in State Parliament, Ms Tyrrell highlighted the sad increase in road fatalities last year, including the tragic loss of 60 young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age.

"Many of these horrific deaths may have been avoided had our young drivers been exposed to a more thorough and rigorous introduction to our road rules, safety and the importance of vehicle maintenance," Ms Tyrrell said.

Ms Tyrrell said making a course available to all Victorian Year 10 to 12 students through their schooling would enable qualified educators to correctly teach vital

and potentially life saving knowledge as the students prepare to get their learners or probationary licences.

"Last year's road toll statistics show that many young drivers lack education, understanding and respect on our roads and while some parents and carers have outstanding road safety skills and knowledge to pass on to their children, a school based educational course dedicated to road safety, driving skills and basic vehicle maintenance would better prepare them for their first years on the road," Ms Tyrrell said.

"I do not wish to see our young people being lost on the roads because they were denied the time, patience, and correct guidance from those who are deemed responsible enough to show them how to be safe drivers."

Ms Tyrrell called on Education Minister Ben Carroll to implement a drivers safety skills and basic vehicle maintenance module into the Victorian secondary school curriculum, making it available to all students from years 10 to 12.

## Who are you really dating on dating websites?

ACCORDING to the National Anti Scam Centre, a team within the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), in 2023, criminals stole more than \$40 million in fake investments from people in Australia through dating websites and social media.

These financial scammers are pretending to be a real person who wants a relationship with you, spending weeks or months gaining your trust, then telling you to invest your money or cryptocurrency in 'opportunities' that turn out to be fake, leaving you broke and broken hearted.

The scam usually starts when someone you don't know contacts you through a dating app, website or social media. They show interest in developing a relationship with you, and follow this up with frequent messages expressing strong feelings for you. When you've built trust with them, they tell you about an investment scheme or platform where you can make money easily. The idea they pitch often involves cryptocurrency. They may offer to show you how easy it is to invest. You may

even make a profit quickly from a small amount you've invested. If you run out of money or ask for it back, they tend to disappear and unfortunately you can't get your money back.

To protect yourself, don't give out personal information or act on investment advice from someone you have only met online, always follow your gut instincts and if there is any doubt stop communicating with them.

Always keep in mind, the people you communicate with aren't always who they say they are. Scammers can use different profile picture and lie who they are. It's easier to do this with an online relationship.

Act quickly if something feels wrong, firstly, contact your bank immediately if you've invested or lost money. Contact the platform you were scammed on and let them know about the scam. Tell your friends and family, it helps to share your experience. They can support you and you can help protect them from scams, and report scams to Scamwatch at [scamwatch.gov.au](https://scamwatch.gov.au)

## Free community barbecue for Flowerdale Community Planning

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's Community Planning team is inviting local residents to help shape the future of Flowerdale.

There will be a free community barbecue on Sunday, February 18 between 3 and 7pm at the Spring Valley Recreation Reserve, 748 Spring Valley Road, Flowerdale.

Be there for a chat and a feed, with Barefoot Bowls happening at the same time.

Whether you're a long-term local or a newcomer to the area, if you own a weekend or you're a business operator, council wants to see you. All ages are welcome.

A core team made up of passionate local people is working with council to plan how the program will work in Flowerdale. New members are always welcome.

Please register for the barbecue by visiting council's The Loop website.

To find out more or get involved, you can also contact council's Community Planning Officer, Anna Paix by calling 5772 0333.

## Council's ward boundaries under review

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has been named as one of 10 councils in Victoria with ward boundaries to come under review.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is running the review at the request of the Minister for Local Government. Reviews occur regarding the internal boundaries (wards) of a council when the number of voters per councillor is forecast to be outside the legislated +/- 10 per cent tolerance in one or more wards at the next local council election. The aim is to make sure each voter is represented equally at the next local council election.

The VEC will share the options in a preliminary report and invite the community to have their say on these options. After considering factors including the requirements of the law, population data and your views, the VEC

will then make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

People can share their views in writing and draw a map of their preferred ward boundaries in a submission.

For Murrindindi Shire Council, submissions open on Wednesday, February 21 and close at 5pm on Wednesday, March 13.

Online information sessions are being conducted for people to find out more about the ward boundary reviews. Sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams at noon on Monday, February 19 and noon on Tuesday, February 20.

People can join from their computer or phone. The link and phone number to join will be available 30 minutes before the session begins at the website [vec.vic.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/council-reviews/subdivision-reviews/councils-under-review/murrindindi-shire-council](https://vec.vic.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/council-reviews/subdivision-reviews/councils-under-review/murrindindi-shire-council)

### WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW 2024

The Victorian Electoral Commission is conducting a review of Council's ward boundaries.

**At the request of the Minister for Local Government, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is reviewing Murrindindi Shire Council's internal boundaries (wards).**

These types of reviews happen when the number of voters per councillor is forecasted to be outside the legislated +/- 10% tolerance in one or more wards at the next local council election. This makes sure each voter is represented equally.

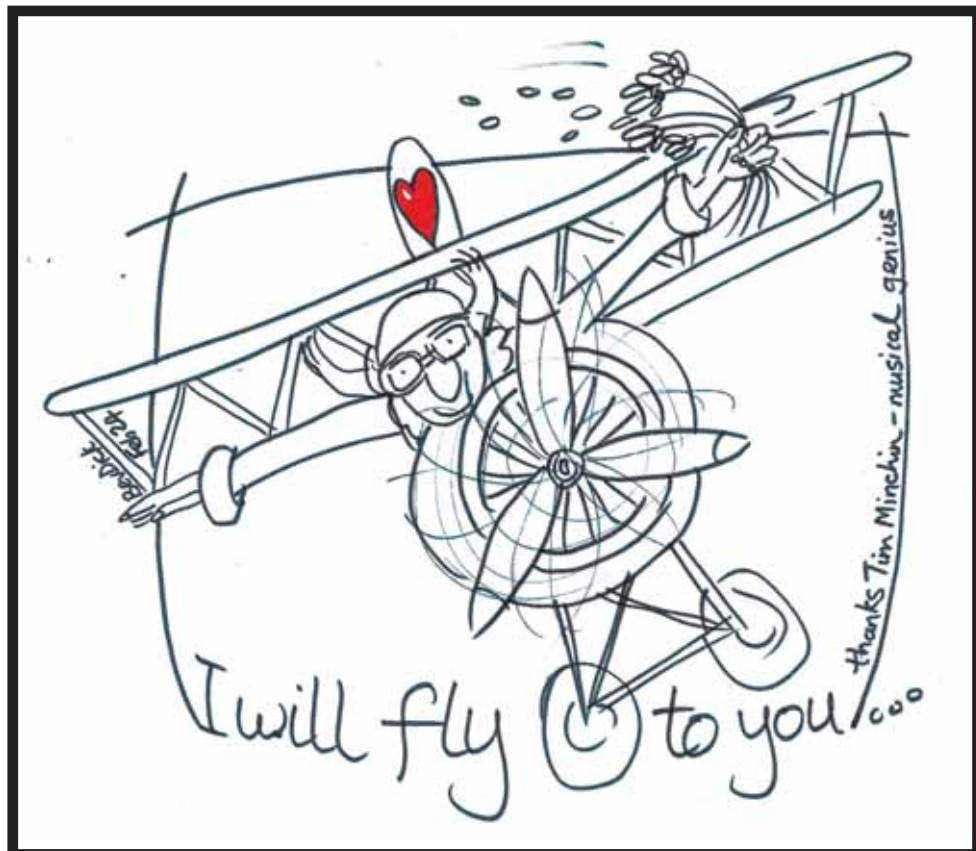
You're invited to have your say on the proposed ward boundaries, outlined in the VEC's preliminary report, and how well they represent your community. You can share your views in writing and draw a map of your preferred ward boundaries. This is known as a submission.

Submissions open on 21 February, once the preliminary report is made available, and close at 5.00 pm on 13 March.

To learn more, come along to one of the following information sessions:

- Monday 19 February at 12 noon
- Tuesday 20 February at 12 noon

To join a session (online or via phone) and for more information on the review, visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) and search 'murrindindi' or scan the QR code below.





## Student of the Week

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



## YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week one.  
Hudson, Rory, Evie, Taj, Jonah, Max, Isla and Clancy.

What a super start to the year.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



# Is blue dye the best solution for blue green algae?

IN recent years, Lake Eildon has been impacted by blue green algae during the summer months, impacting activities conducted by both tourists and locals.

The ABC has recently reported on Lake Nhill, where blue dye has been added to reduce blue green algae blooms. Lake Nhill has been closed many times in the past due to such outbreaks, and the locals have found that the dye works better than other algae solutions.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) was asked whether they are considering trialling blue dye in any of their water catchments, including Lake Eildon.

GMW Water Quality Coordinator Bianca Atley responded, "At present, there are no suitable options for treating blue-green algae in large bodies of water.

"Water authorities that provide town and drinking water are sometimes able to add chemicals to water supplies to treat blue-green algae. However, these methods are not transferable for storages such as the ones GMW manages for various reasons.

"Some chemicals used to treat blue-green algae are toxic to aquatic life and recreation users. Most chemicals also need to be manually injected, which would be logistically challenging at larger storages.

"When there is a rain event, a lot of different nutrients flow into water storages that could also compromise the effectiveness of any chemicals that have been used."

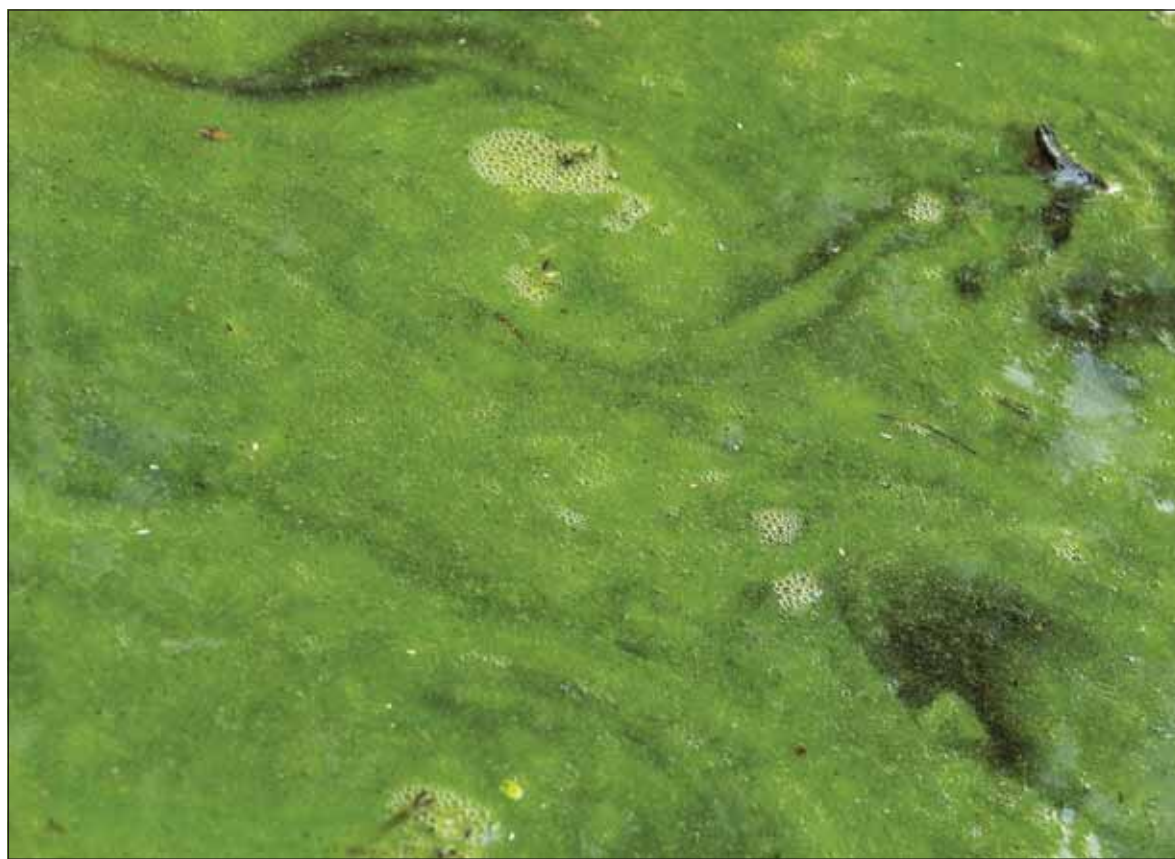
Many factors can influence the growth of blue-green algae including weather, water temperature and nutrient levels.

These and other more complex factors operate in combination, and no one factor can be pinpointed as a cause of high levels of algae.

While a solution such as dyeing the water may therefore be effective in one situation, it may be ineffective in another.

If a blue-green algae warning is issued, GMW does not have the option of trucking in water from an unaffected alternate source due to the large quantities of water GMW supplies and its large area of operation. Instead, GMW looks to isolate the high levels of blue-green algae to the storage it has been detected in.

If possible, GMW will lower the level at which water is released from the storage, so that the blue-green algae do not spread. This is because the algae often accumulate at the surface, lowering the offtake



Blue green algae. -Christian Fisher

level can therefore minimise the chance of transferring the algae downstream. GMW's ability to do this depends on the infrastructure at the storage.

GMW always samples downstream of its storages in order to determine if the blue-green algae has been successfully isolated.

More detail on blue-green algae along with current blue-green algae warnings can be found on the GMW website at [g-mwater.com.au/news/bga](http://g-mwater.com.au/news/bga)

People can also phone GMW's blue-green algae hotline on 5826 3785 anytime.

DEECA were also contacted for comment on whether blue dye might provide a viable solution in farm dams. They provided the following advice.

### Prevention principles

There are measures that can be taken to minimise algal blooms include: minimising nutrient level of water flowing into the dam; manipulating the concentration or cycling of nutrients within the dam water. Encourage diluting and flushing during wetter months; minimising sunlight load on the dam; minimise the temperature of dam water; encourage gentle mixing of dam water to avoid stratification of water into discrete temperature layers; prevent stock physically disturbing dam sides

and sediments, or defecating and urinating in the water.

### Planning and management practices

Keep a comprehensive vegetative cover on the catchment area. Maintain a vigorous cover of plants of reasonable height (ideally above 5mm). Avoid acidification, soil structural damage or fertility, which will reduce vegetative growth. Prevent the baring of soil as the result of overgrazing or preferential grazing. Minimise the time cultivated soils remain bare and time operations to enable rapid revegetation.

### Control soil erosion

Repair and reclaim eroding areas. Keep soil disturbance operations (roading, building sites, drains) to a minimum. Use judicious design, construction and maintenance of tracks and roads. Avoid cultivation of steep slopes.

### Use strategic fertiliser programs

Match fertiliser application soil and plant needs. Apply fertiliser at times of strongest plant growth. Do not spread close to drainage lines or dams.

### Locate and manage intensive animal operations

Minimise the production and concentration of animal wastes recycle wastes (extensively) onto pastures or appropriate crops.

Use storage ponds of adequate capacity to hold liquid wastes before recycling. Keep intensive operations away from streams and drainage lines.

### Drainage line management

Keep drainage lines well vegetated. Dense grassy swards are suitable for drainage lines in the upper part of catchments but tree based vegetation is needed around streams and waterways. Employ properly constructed drainage line crossings for stock and vehicle movement. Restrict stock access to beds and banks of streams. Fence as appropriate. Provide off-stream watering points. Do not allow roads, tracks or intensively cropped areas to drain directly into streamside areas or natural drainage lines.

### Dam design and construction

Use large deep dams to give lower water temperatures and reduce the intensity of temperature stratification of the water. Locate and size dams to encourage the regular dilution and flushing of stored water from catchment flows. Locate dam to minimise sunlight load where possible. Construct water entry path into excavation of the dam such that it does not cause excessive turbulence and scour.

### Dam management

Employ buffer or filter zones of thick vegetation immediately upstream of the dam to minimise entry of sediment and nutrients. Fence dam and reticulate water to troughs. Minimise erosion caused by wave action, but encourage a reasonable amount of wind action over the surface of the water to mix surface layers of water with lower layers. Do not allow surrounding vegetation to block too much of the wind. Occasionally de-sludge dam to avoid excessive build up of sediments and organic material. Minimise disturbance of bottom sediments by stock (including geese and ducks). The addition of filter alum (aluminium sulphate) to dam waters at the beginning of the summer season is another option for helping keep sediments on the bottom. Grow trees to give some shade to the dam. Do not plant trees on the embankment.

### If all else fails

Even with the best planning and good management practices, there is still a chance of getting an algal bloom.

If an algal bloom does occur there are a few essential steps. Stop using the water and use an alternative uncontaminated source. Only return to using the original supply if testing indicates it is safe to do so. Get professional identification of the algae and advice on particular action needed. Analyse why the bloom occurred and plan actions to avoid future recurrence.

### Treating with chemicals

Chemical treatments may have side effects such as killing aquatic life that feed and control the levels of beneficial algae will cause plants to rot, which in turn will cause a sudden decrease in oxygen levels in the dam that will affect aquatic life.

Some blue-green algae produce toxins which can persist in the water following treatment of the algae. These toxins can be poisonous to animals, humans and aquatic life.

There are registered chemicals to kill blue-green algae but chemical treatment should not be attempted unless absolutely necessary and after seeking professional advice.

Whenever using any chemicals, make sure the directions on the label are followed and all requirements for withholding periods are observed.



# Chest Pain at home? What to do if it happens to you

by Yea and District Memorial Hospital

THE staff at Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) want people to know that their health and safety is of YDMH's utmost concern. It is for this reason that if you are to call with the complaint of chest pain, we will always advise that you hang up and ring 000.

Immediate help is your best chance for survival if you are having a heart attack or another serious heart problem. The amazing Ambulance Victoria paramedics can not only diagnose your heart attack but can start lifesaving treatment en-route to hospital.

## What is chest pain?

Chest pain is any sort of pain felt in your upper body, from your jaw down to the bottom of your ribs, including your back and shoulder blades.

How do I know if my chest pain is serious? Chest pain can be a symptom of a heart attack or another cardiac condition, whether or not your chest pain symptoms include mild to severe pain, they should be considered heart-related until proven otherwise.

## What should I do if I experience chest pain?

If you have any of the symptoms below, call triple zero (000) immediately and ask for an ambulance. If calling triple zero (000) does not work on your mobile phone, try calling 112.

Call if your chest pain is severe, or worsening, or has lasted longer than 10 minutes; if your chest pain feels heavy, crushing or tight; if

you have other symptoms, such as breathlessness, nausea, dizziness or a cold sweat; or if you also feel the pain in your jaw or down your left arm.

## While waiting for the ambulance

Stop any activity and rest while waiting for an ambulance. Don't try to drive yourself to hospital. Loosen any tight clothing, such

as collar buttons, ties or bra. Tell someone how you are feeling. Don't have anything to eat or drink.

If you have been prescribed angina medicine, sit or lie down and take a dose of this under your tongue. If this doesn't relieve your symptoms in five minutes, try taking two more doses at five minute intervals. Chew 300mg aspirin straight away, unless

you're allergic or your doctor has told you not to. Do not give aspirin to anyone under 12 years.

## Yea and District Memorial Hospital – Cardiac Support Program

YDMH has a Cardiac Support program in place that provides a multidisciplinary approach to both prevention and early intervention

against Cardiovascular Disease. Cardiac health nurse, Shona, and our dietician, Chloe, work in conjunction with local GPs to facilitate the following services: blood pressure, heart rhythm and secondary symptom monitoring; dietary consultation and advice in relation to lifestyle and diet risk factors; and community education regarding early recognition of acute events and required action

Community members can make an appointment to meet with either Shona or Chloe at any stage to access any of these services.

To further support the community understanding their heart health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital is home to a Shane Warne Legacy Heart Health Station.

In just four minutes, this station measures body mass index and body fat, diabetes type two risk, blood pressure, heart rate and perceived stress level, ultimately providing your heart health age.

It provides the results directly to an app on your phone or to your email. Utilising the results, you can then have a discussion with your GP, or any of the YDMH team about your current health and whether there are any risks that need addressing.

To make an appointment to meet with the Cardiac Health Program team, call 5736 0400

To access the Shane Warne Legacy Heart Health Station, go to the Grace Bennetts Centre on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday between 9am and noon and a staff member will be there to support you.



Do you know what to do if you have chest pain? -Eric Chan

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.  
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL  
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Victoria's Biosecurity safeguards set to strengthen

THE state government has strengthened enforcement power and increased penalties to enhance capability to manage biosecurity incidents and protect Victoria's agriculture sector.

The Biosecurity Legislation Amendment (Incident Response) Bill 2024, passed in Parliament last week is aiming to strengthen Victoria's biosecurity response system to ensure it is fit for purpose and can respond to ongoing and evolving threats from diseases, pests, and weeds.

The legislation has set increased penalties for trespassing on agricultural premises, doubling them to up to \$23,077 for an individual and \$115,386 for an organisation.

Fines will also increase for not following biosecurity and traceability requirements during an emergency response, including for breaching movement restrictions under a Control Order, and for deliberately spreading an exotic disease.

Victoria Police will also be recognised as livestock inspectors to enhance their ability to effectively investigate farm crimes involving livestock theft. Inspectors will receive additional powers, including allowing them to direct vehicles in emergency animal disease outbreaks.

The legislation has also made it an offence to possess livestock whose identification tags have been illegally removed or replaced, preventing fraudulent practices that undermine Victoria's livestock traceability and access to export markets.

The administration of compensation for livestock owners and businesses impacted by emergency animal diseases has also been strengthened, ensuring fair payments tied to market value and more streamlined processes for replacement livestock.

Victoria's agriculture sector is already underpinned by strong biosecurity, but with ongoing and changing threats from diseases, pests and weeds, it's important the legislative system that protects our farms, animals, crops and plants continues to improve.

The state government has invested \$112.7 million in emergency animal disease preparedness this term to safeguard Victoria's agriculture sector from Biosecurity threats to it's future.

## Farmers urged to monitor damp haystacks for fire risk

THE CFA is urging farmers to ramp up their hay maintenance for the remainder of the season following a surge in haystack fires, with CFA responding to more than 50 since November.

Igniting predominantly in the western parts of the state across the Wimmera and Loddon Mallee, CFA has responded to 29 in the north west region and 12 in the west region.

The rise calls for the agriculture sector to monitor the moisture and temperature of their hay more regularly, to store in separate stacks and in sheds away from farming equipment and structures.

A recent haystack fire of over 1000 hay bales in Arapiles on a total fire ban day in the Wimmera and the Mallee serves as a timely reminder for the agriculture sector to ensure they are implementing the appropriate management tools to prevent fire risk.

CFA District 17 Commander Lindsay Barry said spontaneous combustion is the leading cause of haystack fires in Victoria and just one damp bale is enough to ignite a whole stack.

"We are currently in the storage phase of hay season, and there are some contributing factors that lead to ignition," Lindsay said.

"Unfortunately, at the beginning of the season, some bales weren't produced to industry standard, and were stored away with too much moisture.

"Green or damp hay is susceptible to overheating, so those two in combination will make a fire."

Lindsay said due to the significant rain we have received during summer, haystacks that were neither placed inside a shed nor covered with a tarp have been considerably exposed.

"The hay has been pressed for so long, and because of the summer we've had, the majority of fires are where hay has been stored outside and exposed to the elements," Lindsay said.

"Water and hay don't really mix, especially when they stack together. This creates organic decomposition which produces heat, and you end up with a hay fire due to spontaneous ignition."

Having experienced something similar this time three years ago, Lindsay recalls farms received over 100 millimetres of rain in one storm hitting their haystacks, and a trail of fires as a result.

"For farmers who own hay, or who manage haystacks, we need them to be more vigilant and ensure they're doing regular temperature checks," Lindsay said.

"If they are warm, put measures in place to break down and separate the stacks and use machinery to put in strategic breaks if you can.

"Because of recent weather, we can only implement maintenance and management now."

More information on how to prevent haystack fires can be found on CFA's website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hay](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hay)

## Stop the spread of invasive weeds

ALL Victorians can help protect our food growing communities, our biodiversity, gardens, lakes and places of cultural significance by helping to stop the sale of two of the world's most invasive aquatic weeds.

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Manager High Risk Invasive Plants Angela Constantine said the ongoing illegal trade of water hyacinth (*eichhornia crassipes* or *pontederia crassipes*) and salvinia (*salvinia molesta*) is putting the state at risk.

"We're running a campaign helping to raise awareness about the risks of these plants, as they can cause extensive damage by choking rivers, dams, lakes and irrigation channels," Ms Constantine said.

"The continued trade of these plants helps them to spread fast and once introduced to a new area, these weeds quickly cover waterways.

"These weeds may look attractive, but their ability to quickly spread harms native plants and wildlife, and reduces water quality for farming and recreation."

Water hyacinth and salvinia are primarily spread by people buying and selling them to go in ornamental ponds, dams and aquariums.

"It is illegal to buy, sell or give away water hyacinth or salvinia in Victoria, however in most cases home gardeners are unaware of the potential harmful impacts of these weeds," Ms Constantine said.


"When you consider that one water hyacinth plant can produce more than 3000 seeds over summer, you can see how easily they can be spread from a backyard pond. They also have extensive root systems that can generate other plants too.

"The plants can be carried by birds to other waterways and once established, the infestations can be costly and hard to control.

"Salvinia, also known as 'water spangles', is equally invasive, and can cover an entire dam in just one season."

Agriculture Victoria will safely treat, remove and dispose of state prohibited weeds such as water hyacinth and salvinia, at no cost to the land holder.

If you suspect you have water hyacinth or salvinia on your property, please take a photo of the plant and email it to [weed.spotters@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:weed.spotters@agriculture.vic.gov.au), or call the customer contact centre on 136 186. You can also make a report via the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/waterweeds](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/waterweeds)



Recipe kindly submitted by Redgate CWA

### MARIA'S ZUCCHINI BREAD

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3 eggs
- 2¼ cups caster sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla essence/extract
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup oil
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon bicarb soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- ¾ cup sultanas or raisins

**METHOD**


Beat eggs until light and foamy. Add the sugar, vanilla and oil gradually, and beat until thick (mousse like).

Add the zucchini and mix well. Stir the dry ingredients together and fold into the zucchini mixture and the chopped walnuts.

Pour into two greased and lined 500gram loaf tins and bake in a moderate oven (180 deg) for 1-1¼ hours.

Serve with butter or just plain and can be toasted under the grill as well and buttered.

Can also be frozen.





Hyacinth in a dam. -S



Salvinia in a pond. -S

### GOBUR

## Online Clearing Sale


### A/C ESTATE DAVID TUDGEY

**Commencing:** Thursday, February 29 – noon  
**Concludes:** Thursday, March 4 – noon (+2 min increments)


**Inspection Day:** Tuesday, February 27 - 9.30am – 2.30pm

Wide span cabin kit – still in packs, plan and materials list available on request.  
Army trucks, landrovers, army trailer, generators, horse jinker, saddlery,  
Land Rover parts, collectable toys, army metal boxes and antique items,  
large amount of ex-army clothes and collectables.  
Approximately 180 lots

All lots – photos online @ Embling Rural Clearing Sales  
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# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Watch those pests in Summer

A MALE Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) was found in Kinglake in late January. Murrindindi Shire Council is working with the Yarra Valley QFF Regional Coordinator, Bronwyn Koll, to help the Kinglake community manage the spread of this serious pest.

While there haven't been further reported sightings, council would like to remind everyone in Murrindindi Shire to be alert and take the necessary steps to manage and help stop the spread of QFF.

During summer, QFF becomes more active and adult female flies lay their eggs in a wide range of host fruits. You can help manage the spread of QFF by putting up special netting over your veggie garden and fruit trees, before the fruit ripens, to keep the flies out. You should also remove unwanted fruit trees from your property and clean up any fallen fruit.

If you suspect QFF has made a home in your garden or you think you might have seen it on your property, give council a call on 5772 0333 and they can help you identify it, as well as help you take the right next steps to remove it and prevent it from returning. It's always helpful if you can take photos of the damaged fruit, larvae, or the fly if you have trapped it, to assist in identification. By reporting sightings to council, it also helps council focus on weed management efforts, including targeting Blackberry.

Controlling the spread of QFF is the responsibility of all landowners, including council.

For information on what you can do to help slow the spread within your own property, please visit Murrindindi Shire website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/QFF](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/QFF)

You can also pick up a helpful 'No Flies On Us' information pack from your local garden centre

or hardware store, or you can call Council and they can arrange to have one sent to you.

Agriculture Victoria's Statewide Fruit Fly Co-ordinator Cathy Mansfield offered additional advice if you find QFF on your property.

"QFF can breed in many other home garden crops that are present in mid summer such as peaches, nectarines and berries, with fruit becoming increasingly attractive as it ripens. Fruit infested with fruit fly should be microwaved, frozen or placed into plastic bags and left in the sun for at least 14 days before being thrown in the rubbish bin.

"Keep damaged fruit out of the compost, the warm and humid conditions create the perfect environment to rear a new generation of flies," Ms Mansfield said.

"When it comes to netting, ask for fine insect netting at your hardware store or garden centre, the holes are approximately two millimetres in diameter, rather than bird netting which QFF can get through."

Ms Mansfield finally added, "Insect netting can be expensive but as long as it's UV stable should last for many years, which makes it a very affordable long term control method. You can also use QFF pheromone traps to catch male flies and this will help you to know whether there are flies present. If you do use baits or insecticides, follow the label instructions and maintain your program of applications to minimise the chance that you will miss a generation of flies."

For more great QFF control tips visit Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)



A Queensland fruit fly. -James Niland

## What's on the menu for your livestock

AGRICULTURE Victoria is reminding livestock owners that failing to provide proper and sufficient feed to livestock is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and are reminding owners to assess their feed situation.

Agriculture Victoria Senior Officer of Animal Welfare Morgan Cassell said producers need to make appropriate decisions regarding their livestock and ability to provide adequate feed.

Livestock owners and managers should ask themselves the following. What are the nutritional requirements for the class and number of livestock I keep? How much feed do I currently have on offer and is it meeting my livestock's energy and protein requirements? How much supplement feed do I need to be feeding? Will I have enough? Will I be able to source more and what alternative options do I have with agistment and destocking? If you aren't sure of any of the answers to the above questions, you need to seek advice or do your research.

There are many free resources and tools available to help and once you know the answers you can then make an informed decision, plan and take action.

For information on feeding livestock visit Agriculture Victoria's Feeding Livestock website [feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au](http://feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au) and you will find information on sheep and cattle nutrition, tools to help calculate feed on offer and interpret feed test results and templates to create a feed budget.

Otherwise, you can also put in a call to your local Agriculture Victoria Livestock Extension Officer on 136 186, Ms Cassell said.

Agriculture Victoria will investigate any allegation which concerns an owner or person in charge failing to provide proper and sufficient feed to an animal. Anyone wishing to make a specific complaint regarding livestock welfare can contact Agriculture Victoria at [aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au) or on 136 186.

## Alexandra Online Clearing Sale

A/C: MULTI VENDOR

**Commencing: Thursday, February 22 - noon**

**Finish: Monday, February 26 - noon**  
(+2 min increments)

**Inspection Day: Thursday, February 22**  
**9.30am – 2pm**

**ACHERON – A/C R Reid – 411 Acheron Road, Acheron (Property sold)**

John Deere tractor 5320 front loader – 1782hrs, tyres 65%, John Deere grab, towing ball, buggy, Honda CT 110 bikes, hay rings, cattle feeder, farm sundries, antique collectables, furniture....lots

**ALEXANDRA – A/C Est C.D. Munnerley, 39 Aitken Street, Alexandra**

Engineering tools, wood working tools, chain saw, Freedom mobility scooter – 5 years old, motor mowers, trailer, furniture – some antique – 155 lots

**ALEXANDRA – A/C Pavloff Family Trust**

2 x front end loader buckets, Cromtech diesel 6kVA generator – electric start, electric tools

All lots - photos on-line @ Embling Rural Clearing Sales

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## SAVE THE DATE

**March 1 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents – Store Sale

**April 5 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents – Store Sale

**Get in touch**

Phone 0419 722 570

Email: [saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

Yea Saleyards adheres to upholding the highest possible animal welfare standards and always aims to comply with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Saleyards and Depots*.

Yea Saleyards requires all vendors and transporters consigning or delivering livestock to the Yea Saleyards Facility to comply with the Industry Standards as stated in the MLA document *Is it Fit to Load?*

Livestock will not be accepted at the Yea Saleyards that fails to comply with the *Is it Fit to Load?* guidelines.



## PHOTO COMPETITION

Only a couple of weeks left to submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

February's theme is 'your choice' - feel good February. Full details in last week's edition.



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Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.





# Investing in children’s health to better their future

AN initiative across the Murrindindi Shire is focusing on children’s health and wellbeing to make changes for a healthier future. It has been working in the background across Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Alexandra District Health and support partners Murrindindi Shire Council, Nexus and Seymour Health.

The program started as RESPOND, a research project initially undertaken by Deakin University Institute for health transformation and global obesity centre, as a community-led, place-based approach to improving the health and wellbeing of children through the entire Murray, Ovens, and Goulburn Valley Regions in Victoria.

In 2019, RESPOND changed its name in the Murrindindi Shire to Grow Well Dindi where initial workshops began with the focus on improving healthy eating and physical activity levels of children across the shire.

Melissa Storey, co-manager of Grow Well Dindi explained the idea behind it.

“Our vision is to have the actions of Grow Well Dindi be self-sustaining. They are meant to be run by the community. Actions have been identified and possible solutions to barriers towards healthy eating and physical activity for children. The idea is community come up with the ideas, run it and sustain it.

“By building capacity and assistance with the ideas, it makes it more sustainable. We are here to help. Hopefully all the actions from the workshops are taken over by the community and we hope for the brand of Grow Well Dindi to grow in the community.”

Grow Well Dindi recently conducted three workshops. The first two workshops were for the community leaders and for the third meeting, the invitation was extended out to community members to brainstorm and identify challenges in the community and create action ideas.

The people who attended the workshops will be involved in the implementation of the action ideas. Working groups were developed from the workshops to tackle the action ideas and they come under the subgroups of education, social, physical activity, and healthy eating.


Action ideas from the workshop included the following areas to improve in our local community. Nutrition education for parents of young children, extracurricular activities for school aged kids, education for young people, parents, school staff, sport, and recreation facilitators. Advocating for more government funding for more transport, education around disability, football and netball food policy review, more opportunities for fun and physical activities which aren’t competitive, more community involvement making healthy options available, reactivating partnerships with local grocery shops regarding the positioning of unhealthy food, supporting volunteerism, increase volunteers in sport, healthy lunch orders and surveying what sports kids want to be involved in.

Hailey Docking, co-manager of Grow Well Dindi said, “We hope these changes we see in the community have an increase in healthy eating in Murrindindi Shire’s children. A lot of children nationwide don’t meet the fruit and vegetable requirements. We are hoping to increase the proportion in the shire of children who do meet the requirements. This also goes with physical activity, as a lot of children don’t meet the guidelines for their age. The long term benefits of this, if we increase healthy eating and physical activity from an early age, is that they will sustain those healthy habits later in life and it would decrease the risk of being overweight or obese, and related diseases such as cardiovascular disease.”

You might see a Grow Well Dindi marquee at future events in the shire, if you do, Hailey and Melissa are welcoming everyone to come and say hello and have a chat.

Melissa said, “If any of the action ideas interest you and you want to be part of the working groups, or have any ideas, please reach out to us at [growwelldind@gmail.com](mailto:growwelldind@gmail.com), we are also on Facebook and Instagram at Grow Well Dindi. We would love more followers, so we have constant direct line to the community. Please don’t hesitate to contact us.”














## Here for You

DECEMBER COMMUNITY UPDATE - GOULBURN VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Survive the Heat!





Happy Holidays for this December and holiday season! As the weather warms up, extreme heat can lead to illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which can lead to life-threatening condition like heatstroke.

### Understanding Heatstroke

Heatstroke is a medical emergency and requires immediate medical attention. It occurs when the core body temperature rises above 40.5 °C and the body's internal systems start to shut down. Many organs in the body suffer damage and the body temperature must be reduced quickly. Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

This Summer, protect yourself and your family from heat related health concerns.



### Survive the heat this summer with these simple tips:

1. Keep drinking water at frequent times and keep a full drink bottle with you.
2. Never leave kids, adults or pets in cars as the temperature can double in minutes.
3. Consider spending time in cool or air-conditioned buildings
4. Block out the sun at home during the day by closing curtains and blinds.
5. Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day.
6. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.

7. Eat smaller meals more often and cold meals such as salads.
8. Don't forget your pets – a cool bath, a wet towel to lie on, a place next to a fan and plenty of fresh water work just as well for animals.
9. Keep up to date with weather forecasts – watch the news daily, check the Bureau of Meteorology forecast online and read the current heat health alert on [health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au).
10. Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, older people, young children, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.

If you observe symptoms of heat-related illness, seek medical help. If you or someone you know is unwell, call Nurse on call at 1300 60 60 24 for 24-hour health advice or see your doctor.

In case of an emergency, call 000. For more information, head to <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/heat-stress-and-heat-related-illness>



### BOLO DECEMBER REPORT (Be On the Look Out)

#### COVID-19

COVID-19 is spreading in our community and we all need to help stop its spread. More people are getting sick in the community because our protection from both infection and vaccination decreases with time. No single new variant is to blame. We need to help and take care of people who are at greatest risk of getting sick – this includes older people over 65, people with a disability or other medical problems and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. If you feel sick or have any symptoms of COVID-19, it's important not to visit people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from the virus. You can get FREE RAT tests from your local council.

For more info visit: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-victoria>

#### GASTROENTERITIS

Gastroenteritis (or gastro) is a bowel infection that causes diarrhoea and sometimes vomiting. It can cause dehydration, especially in young children and babies or older people. Children in particular need to drink plenty of clear fluids. Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to prevent gastroenteritis infection. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against gastroenteritis. Keep your child away from others until 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. If symptoms persist, visit your local GP. For more information, head to <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/gastroenteritis>



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 14

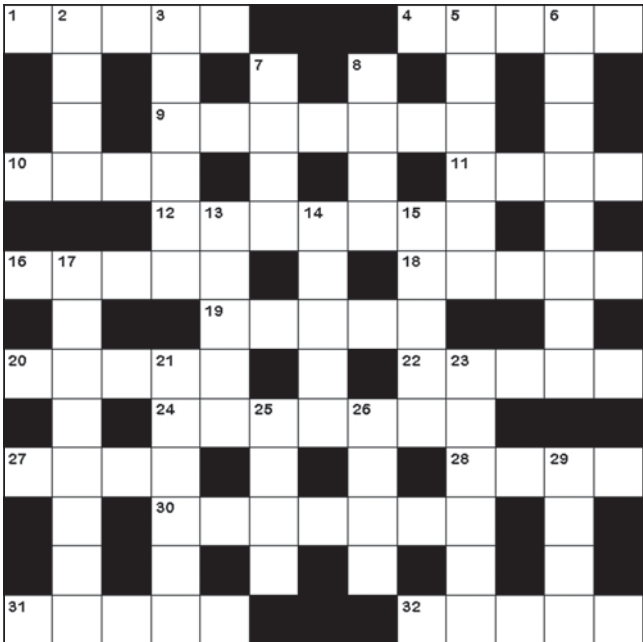
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Lacking taste or flavour.
- 4. Picture taken by a camera.
- 9. A wild duck.
- 10. Plant used for flavouring food.
- 11. Unable to hear.
- 12. Framework of a crisscross pattern.
- 16. Moving very fast.
- 18. Block on which metals are hammered .
- 19. Egg shaped.
- 20. A Mallee fowl.
- 22. A large natural stream of water.
- 24. Journalists who report the news.
- 27. In this manner.
- 28. Something that is owed.
- 30. A pleasant reception.
- 31. Happy and gay.
- 32. Learn by reading books.

DOWN

- 2. Ancient stringed instrument.
- 3. Moving quickly and lightly.
- 5. Kept out of sight.
- 6. Vitamin B1.
- 7. A horizontally level.
- 8. Cab for hire.
- 13. Make up for.



- 14. Work implements/
- 15. A group of activists.
- 17. Escape clause.
- 21. Reply or respond to.
- 23. Make a depression into.
- 25. Join together by heating.
- 26. State of mind.
- 29. Having no hair.

Word Search

Happy Valentine's Day  
February 14

- AFFECTION
- BOW
- CARD
- CRUSH
- CUPID
- DATE
- DIAMOND
- GIFT
- HUG
- LETTER
- LOVE
- ROMANCE



Double Puzzle

OWOLLDGI

Grid for OWOLLDGI puzzle

IATYHRC

Grid for IATYHRC puzzle

OISPSNOMAC

Grid for OISPSNOMAC puzzle

RYSTINEOGE

Grid for RYSTINEOGE puzzle

YAUMTNHI

Grid for YAUMTNHI puzzle

LNISIEKDN

Grid for LNISIEKDN puzzle

PNOYAPLITRHH

Grid for PNOYAPLITRHH puzzle

RNAUTSDNIDGEN

Grid for RNAUTSDNIDGEN puzzle

Grid for RNAUTSDNIDGEN puzzle

Grid for RNAUTSDNIDGEN puzzle

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.

Maths Squares grid with equations and missing numbers

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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.

Sudoku grid with numbers and empty boxes

Seeking better community engagement on renewables

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines is urging the government to fund measures to improve engagement with regional communities affected by renewable energy infrastructure projects in the Federal Budget, after the government received a report mapping out potential fixes for current practices.

The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Andrew Dyer's final report on the independent Community Engagement Review for renewable energy infrastructure projects was published on Friday, making nine recommendations for reform.

"Australia's renewable energy rollout is happening in the regions, but the failure to properly consult with regional communities affected by large-scale renewable energy projects and transmission infrastructure risks delaying or derailing this transition and selling regional Australia short," Dr Haines said.

"This report is a roadmap for improving how people are consulted when energy projects are developed in their communities, and I welcome its delivery.

"The renewable energy transition is well underway in regional and rural Australia. The government have agreed to the recommendations in principle, but the implementation of this report is a matter of urgency.

"However, this report shows the complexity of implementing these significant and urgently needed reforms, due to the shared responsibility across the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

"If the government is serious about meeting its net-zero targets and gaining community support for the energy transition, they are going to have to work quickly and effectively with state and territory governments, energy developers and regional communities to get the transition right."

Dr Haines said she has identified measures which could be funded quickly, including setting up an independent body

to design and operate a developer rating scheme, and for the government to set up a communications program that provides local communities with details and timeframes for the energy transition.

Dr Haines said she recognised the damage being done to regional communities by poor consultation and bad behaviour by some developer cowboys.

"Farmers, landowners and concerned community members in my electorate of Indi, like many across the regional and rural Australia have been disappointed with the lack of information and inadequate consultation by some renewable energy companies. They deserve to be engaged early and meaningfully in the development of energy projects happening at their farmgate," Dr Haines said.

"There is a power and knowledge imbalance between renewable energy developers and local communities, and the Federal Government needs to step up to ensure regional Australians get the information they need to make good decisions, and that they properly benefit from the renewable energy rollout. It shouldn't be up to local communities to do this work alone."

This was reflected in the surveys undertaken in the Review, which found that 92 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with the extent to which project developers engaged the local community, and 93 per cent disagreed that they received a satisfactory resolution to the concern they raised with the project developer.

"The mapping of suitable land for renewables development and 'no-go' sites such as high-value agricultural land, is something that I called for in my submission to the review, yet the report doesn't address the protection of prime agricultural land, increases in insurance premiums and emergencies management considerations in the way I had hoped," Dr Haines said.

A significant parliamentary apology

ON Thursday, February 8, the Premier of Victoria formally apologised to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care.

Before 1990, more than 90,000 children were placed in institutional care in Victoria. Many children experienced harm at the hands of those trusted to protect them. Some now carry trauma and grief with them as adults, at times leading to poverty or homelessness.

The new Victorian Care Leavers Redress Scheme is under development and will be co-designed with Victorians who grew up in institutional care.

The scheme will build on support available through the National Redress Scheme set up after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Until the scheme begins, the Victorian Government is providing Advanced Redress payments of \$10,000 to people who were physically, psychologically or emotionally abused or neglected as children in institutional care in Victoria before 1990, and who are now critically or terminally ill.

Applications for Advanced Redress payments can be made at [services.dffh.vic.gov.au/advance-redress-payments](https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/advance-redress-payments)

People who need support can contact Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) or Open Place (Relationships Australia Victoria). Crisis help is available through Lifeline on 131 114.

The full text of the Premier's Parliamentary Apology to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care is located at [premier.vic.gov.au](https://premier.vic.gov.au)

Low traffic offences for Hume Region

OVER the Australia day long weekend, Police performed Operation Amity, a four day statewide road policing operation, in an effort to reduce the road trauma over the state.

Speeding drivers made up almost half of offences, police detected 2261 speeding offences, with three quarters of those detections for speeding between 10km/h and 25km/h over the speed limit.

A total of 5206 traffic offences were detected during Operation Amity, including, 2261 speeding offences, with 1742 of these for speeding between 10km/h and 25km/h over the limit.

There was 301 disqualified, suspended and unlicensed drivers, 154 drink driving offences from 77,058 preliminary breath tests, 121 drug driving offences from 2,142 roadside drug tests, 221 disobey signs/signals, 211 mobile phone offences, 79 seatbelt offences, 77 vehicle impoundments and 447 unregistered vehicles.

Positive, low nuMbers for Hume Region with the above results not contributing much to the area. Hume region police service area reported only two speeding offences and one unregistered vehicle.

Sadly, there were two lives lost on Victorian roads over the long weekend, including a 59 year old Wodonga resident who died following a motorcycle crash in Guys Forest on Saturday, January 27, and an 89 year old Wallan man who died when his car collided with a tree in Whittlesea on Sunday January 28.

The long weekend's fatalities bring Victoria's lives lost to 22, compared to 28 at the same time last year.

Operation Amity ran from 12:01am Thursday, January 25 to 11:59pm Sunday, January 28.



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DOUBLE PUZZLE

GOODWILL, CHARITY,  
COMPASSION, GENEROSITY,  
HUMANITY, KINDLINESS,  
PHILANTHROPY,  
UNDERSTANDING.

MATHS SQUARES

7	+	2	×	8	23
+		-		×	
9	-	5	+	3	7
-		+		+	
6	-	1	+	4	9
10		-2		28	

SUDOKU

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

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The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS



# Classifieds

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**ALEXANDRA**  
NEWSPAPERS

## Classified information

## Office hours

**Alexandra**

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm  
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Deadline - Noon Monday

### Proofs

**Line ads** – proofs not supplied  
**Display** – will only be supplied if requested

### Payment

Payment is required when placing the advertisement. Cash, cheque or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

### Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation or authority from a direct family member or funeral director.

### Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled when sold.

### Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

### Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the microchip identification number and a source number of the animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

### Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared numerous times and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC MEETING

**Buxton Memorial Hall**  
**Saturday, February 24 at 2pm.**  
The Triangle community is invited to attend a public meeting for the purpose of electing at least five community members to form the inaugural Buxton Open Spaces Committee.

The committee will be responsible for advising Murrindindi Shire Council on the management of public open spaces in and around Buxton. This new committee replaces the Buxton Recreation Reserve Committee that was dissolved by council in response to the Local Government Act (Vic) 2020.

*This is an opportunity for people to have a say in the management and future of public open spaces around Buxton.*

Further information:  
secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au



## BARGAINS UNDER \$100

**FERRETS** hand reared  
10 weeks old, 3 black  
jills, 4 white jills, 3 black  
hobs \$50.  
Ph David 0413 299 154

## FOR SALE

**CARAVAN Ltd Edition**  
2005 Compass. As new  
inside and out, shower,  
toilet, air conditioner,  
solar panel, new battery,  
roll out awning, separate  
oven and grill, colour TV  
and ariel, microwave, 3  
way fridge, tandem axles,  
electric brakes, as new  
tyres. Registration no.  
480 293. Asking price  
\$32,500 ONO. 6 months  
registration.  
Ph 0428 310 807.

## PETS & LIVESTOCK

**ISA BROWNLAYERS** -  
POL, \$28 each. Phone  
5798 1868. Pick-up in  
Alexandra or Yea.  
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

## FOR HIRE

### FITNESS EQUIPMENT

**Rental and Sales**  
Alexandra  
Treadmills, X-trainers,  
exercise bikes, rowers  
and more.  
PH:0407 231 377

## GARAGE SALES

**LIMESTONE, 97 Langa**  
Road. February 17 and  
18. 9am onwards no early  
callers. It's a shed clean  
so plenty of bargains.  
Items include, building  
materials - bath, vanity  
cupboard, double sinks  
- big and small, laundry  
trough, shower base,  
taps, golf clubs - almost  
brand new, hand basin,  
TV cupboard, lathe (no  
tools), walker, kitchen  
and household. Hayes 6ft  
slasher, 2 rippers, grader  
blade, carry all, stand  
up fuel tank. Subaru G 5  
seater, (paddock bomb or  
do it up), welder and air  
compressor. Cash only.



**Standard The Yea Chronicle**  
**Book your classified ad TODAY!**  
**Deadline: NOON MONDAY**  
**Phone: 5772 1002**  
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reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
**PLEASE NOTE:** All classifieds **MUST** be paid  
by cash, cheque or credit card at the time of  
booking.  
**Alexandra Newspapers**  
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
Phone 5772 1002  
43 Grant St. Alexandra Vic. 3714

## FOR SALE

## BARGAINS UNDER \$100

Advertise for **FREE\*** in the  
classifieds in Alexandra Standard  
and Yea Chronicle

Maximum 28 words


Fill in the coupon, one word per box and drop into Alexandra Newspapers - 43 Grant Street, Alexandra or,  
92 High Street Yea or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au NO LATER THAN NOON MONDAY.

Name:..... Ph:.....

Address:.....

\*Conditions apply

## DEATH NOTICES



**COLLER, Ross**  
24/08/1939 -  
13/12/2023

Members of the  
Acheron Fire  
Brigade wish  
to express their  
condolences to  
the family of Ross  
Coller. Ross served  
from 1968 to 2000,  
with 10 years in  
leadership roles  
including Captain.  
Always level-  
headed and a  
pragmatic operator,  
his service together  
with the Comms  
and Secretarial  
work of his wife  
Nancy for over a  
decade, equated  
to them being a  
loyal and valued  
duo in the Acheron  
community.  
We thank them.

### GILMORE, Gary

My beautiful Gaz, we  
can't believe that you  
are gone - you have left  
a giant gap in our hearts  
and lives. Thank you for  
18 years of unconditional  
love and for our two  
terrific boys who have so  
many of your beautiful  
qualities. I will miss  
so much about you,  
especially your giant  
hugs, your beautiful  
smile, sense of humour,  
deep laugh and the light  
and fun you brought to  
our lives and the support  
you gave me. I wish we  
had so much more time  
together. I love you and  
I will look after our boys  
with everything I have to  
give. Love Sarah.

Dear Dad, I am so glad of  
the years I got with you.  
You taught me so much  
stuff and I learned a lot  
from you. Dad, two of  
the most important things  
you taught me was how  
to fish and hunt. I am so  
glad you taught me that  
because two months ago, I  
shot my first rabbit up the  
farm. You are the reason  
why I keep on trying with  
everything and never give  
up. Thank you, dad, for  
being the best dad anyone  
could have asked for. You  
are my idol. I will never  
forget you and I will  
forever miss you. Love  
Nicholas.

Dad, I love writing  
father's day cards and  
will miss doing that for  
you. I loved that you  
always taught me things  
that will help me up at  
the farm and in life and  
especially how to use the  
tractor. I will remember  
all the fun we had out on  
the boat and hunting up  
at the farm and when I  
would say something that  
made you laugh without  
me even knowing what  
I said. Also, driving cars  
up the farm and learning  
new things from you. I  
love you dad and I will  
miss you forever and ever.  
Love from Nathan.

## DEATH NOTICES



**HALIT, Patrick**  
10/11/1940-07/02/2024

Cherished  
husband of  
Jeanette, loved  
father of Lana,  
Shaun and Josh,  
father in law and  
great mate of  
Steve. Adored Pa  
of Emerson, Coco,  
Morgan, Satchi,  
Nic and Ali-Rose.  
You've left a  
heartache no one  
can heal, love  
leaves a memory  
no one can steal.

A celebration of  
Patrick's life will  
be on February 20,  
12-3pm, Alexandra  
Football Club.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### GILMORE, Gary

A service to  
celebrate the life of  
Gary 'Bull' Gilmore  
will be held on  
Friday (February  
16, 2024) at 11am  
in the William  
Matthews Funeral  
Home, 45 Cave  
Hill Road, Lilydale,  
followed by light  
refreshments. In  
honour of Gary's  
favourite activities,  
the dress code is  
highly encouraged  
and welcomed  
please wear as  
follows. Flannel's,  
work clothes,  
hunting, fishing,  
BRC Piling,  
Browns, Delta and  
Montrose FC shirts.

William Matthews  
Funerals

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### CLEANERS REQUIRED

**Lake Eildon and  
Thornton area**  
Part time shift.  
Monday – Friday  
from 10am - 2pm.

**Yea area**  
Monday – Friday  
key jobs  
commencing after  
4pm before 7am  
next morning.  
Two positions  
available. One at  
two hours/day. One  
at three hours/day.

Ph Joseph on  
0401 162 311.



# Are you ready for the new World’s Greatest Shave?

THE World’s Greatest Shave is arguably Australia’s favourite fundraising campaign spanning 26 years, with more than two million Australians taking part by shaving, cutting, and colouring their hair, to raise vital funds for the Leukaemia Foundation and people living with blood cancer, in Australia.

The World’s Greatest Shave, however, wasn’t immune to the devastating impact of COVID-19, which created the most formidable challenge the campaign has faced in its 26 year history. With the World’s Greatest Shave being the single biggest source of income for the Leukaemia Foundation, the organisation took a significant hit and saw fundraising figures drop dramatically.

The World’s Greatest Shave had to pivot, and this year they farewell the beloved chins as they launch a new era of the campaign, with a vibrant, bold, contemporary, and more personal approach, to support the growing number of Australians impacted by blood cancer.

The new-look World’s Greatest Shave celebrates the everyday heroes in our community doing ‘bloody beautiful’ acts of shaving, cutting, colouring or

donating. The new creative direction will feature real human participants and a catchy new slogan ‘That’s Bloody Beautiful’, which will resonate more deeply with Australians.

There has never been a more important time for World’s Greatest Shave to be back in force, with more Australians diagnosed with blood cancer now than ever before, underscoring the urgent need for increased support, additional resources, and more funds.

More than 140,000 Australians are currently living with blood cancer. Incidence of blood cancer has soared by 47 per cent in the past decade, making it a significant public health issue in Australia.

Funds raised through the World’s Greatest Shave ensure that the Leukaemia Foundation can continue to provide vital support to blood cancer patients and their loved ones, and fund ground-breaking research, in the hopes of one day finding a cure.

The foundation is urging the Australian community to sign up to shave, cut or colour their hair for World’s Greatest Shave by visiting [worldsgreatestshave.com](http://worldsgreatestshave.com)



## Report indicates pathway for making superannuation fair

LOWER paid women would have \$40,000 more at retirement if at this year’s Budget the Federal Government committed to paying super on Commonwealth parental leave and re-aligning tax offsets, a new report has found.

The Super Members Council (SMC) report, *Securing a Dignified Retirement for More Women*, provides new insights into the drivers of the gender super gap, highlighting that this Budget presents an opportunity for immediate action to improve outcomes for women while working towards further substantive, long-term structural changes.

SMC Interim Chair Nicola Roxon said poorly targeted tax concessions, the lack of

super on paid parental leave and inequities in both pay and workforce participation rates are all persistent barriers to many women achieving economic security in retirement.

“Super has transformed the lives of millions of Australians, yet for many women, who retire earlier and live longer than men, the system is still falling short,” Ms Roxon said.

Women typically retire with a third less super than men. Bridging this gender super gap will require considered, society-wide change over time. But action on long overdue policies at this Federal Budget would make a meaningful difference to retirement

outcomes for women, including: Paying super on the Commonwealth Parental Leave Pay scheme could mean a mother of two is \$12,500 to \$14,500 better off at retirement. This would benefit thousands of working mothers each year. Increasing the low-income superannuation tax offset (LISTO) so workers earning up to \$45,000 receive a full tax refund on their super guarantee (SG) contributions. This change would boost the super of more than 1.2 million Australians, 60 per cent of whom are women.

New SMC cameo modelling shows these measures combined could mean lower paid women retire with \$38,000 more, boosting

their final retirement balance by between 18 per cent and 21 per cent.

“Paying super on parental leave and better aligning tax offsets for lower paid workers can be enacted almost immediately and will make a meaningful difference to women at retirement,” Ms Roxon said.

“We need to ensure super tax concessions are directed to those who need it the most.”

The report adds further evidence to the many voices that have come before, including the Women’s Economic Equality Taskforce, to highlight the significant opportunity to improve equity in Australia’s world-class super system.

## Online learning platform for small business owners

ARE you looking at starting a new business, or do you have a new business and are struggling to keep up with your tax and superannuation obligations?

A new online learning platform is offering free courses to help small business owners has just been launched by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The *Essentials to strengthen your small business* website includes more than 20 short courses and a calendar of key lodgment due dates to support small businesses.

Deputy Commissioner Will Day said the new platform is designed for small business owners who want to enhance their knowledge of tax and super.

“Small business owners can now access short, free and flexible online courses to sharpen their knowledge of tax, super and

the core aspects of effective small business management.

“The new platform supports a variety of learning styles with videos, case studies, audio content and written information, as well as the option to test your knowledge with quick quizzes, making it easier for all small businesses to learn about important components of running a business.

“It also includes tips on areas where we see small business owners make mistakes, like goods and services tax (GST) and business deductions.

“We know that a lot of small businesses don’t have time to attend courses during business hours while they are busy running their business, so the beauty of our new platform is that you can do it at a time that

suits you, save your progress, and then pick it up again later,” said Mr Day.

The new platform is also a useful resource for tax practitioners, especially for those that are small businesses themselves, to share and use with their staff and clients.

The website was co created with small businesses and educational experts to deliver learning pathways that can be customised, depending on each stage of a business’s life cycle, structure and industry.

Minister for Small Business Julie Collins said the government is committed to reducing the time small businesses spend doing taxes and resources like this provide valuable practical assistance.

“I encourage small businesses to take up this great opportunity from the Australian Taxation Office with free courses

specifically designed for the needs of small business,” Minister Collins said.

“Our latest budget included new measures to help small business with taxes including longer timeframes to amend tax returns and expanding access to advice through the tax clinic program.”

Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman, Bruce Billson said this resource will be helpful to small businesses.

“Business know how and being able to benefit from the wisdom of others can be key to successfully turning an idea into an enterprise,” Mr Billson said.

The new *Essentials to strengthen your small business* learning platform is now live at [smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au](http://smallbusiness.taxsuperandyou.gov.au)

## Shared equity hits milestone

THE state government’s Victorian Homebuyer Fund has reached \$1.1 billion in shared equity contribution fund to help thousands of people achieve the dream of owning their own home.

The \$2.1 billion Homebuyer Fund has been progressively boosted since it was launched around two years ago and has now supported more than 7300 Victorians to secure a home, with two thirds being first home buyers.

The most recent \$500 million injection was part of the Victorian Government’s Housing Statement, with the aim of the strategy to expand housing supply and affordability across the state.

In the early 2000s, it took the typical Victorian household 3.6 years to save a deposit to buy a home, now it takes an average of 6.2 years. The Homebuyer Fund drastically shrinks up front costs for families and individuals who might otherwise struggle to get a foothold in the property market.

The fund contributes up to 25 per cent of a participant’s home purchase price and reduces the required deposit to just 5 per cent, helping to avoid the need for buyers to pay costly premiums for lenders mortgage insurance.

Homebuyers backed by the scheme would pay only \$30,000 for a deposit on a \$600,000 property, while the fund would contribute equity of up to \$150,000. The median purchase price of Fund participants is \$615,000.

Homebuyer Fund participants can earn up to \$130,485 individually, or \$208,775 as a couple, while the maximum purchase price is \$950,000 in metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong, and \$600,000 elsewhere in regional Victoria.

The government delivers the scheme in partnership with four lenders, including the Commonwealth Bank, Bendigo Bank, Bank Australia and Indigenous Business Australia.

Scheme participants can buy back the government’s share in their property over time through refinancing, using savings, or upon sale of the property, with proceeds recycled to support new participants.

Homebuyer Fund participants are eligible for Victorian first home buyer stamp duty exemptions and concessions and First Home Owner Grants of \$10,000, this separate support topped \$780 million last financial year.

## Take care with your campfires

FOREST Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is asking visitors to stay safe with their campfires during peak camping times, especially in summer.

“It’s the middle of summer, and the fire risk remains high, so if it’s hot and windy, use common sense and don’t light a campfire,” Forest Fire Management Victoria, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy said.

“If you light a campfire, it’s your responsibility to know the rules and regulations, and to ensure that it is attended at all times.

“Before you leave, make sure it’s fully extinguished with water, not soil, if it’s cool to touch it’s safe to leave.

“All it takes is one ember from an unattended campfire to start a bushfire which could then threaten people, property and the environment,” Mr Kennedy said.

Already this summer FFMVic firefighters have extinguished 70 unattended campfires in north east Victoria, all of which had the potential to become bushfires.

“Any fires that start this weekend could spread quickly, so people should monitor the conditions and use the VicEmergency app and listen to local emergency radio stations in case of bushfire, storms or flooding

“We are asking visitors to be extra careful when visiting our parks, forests and reserves given the impacts of recent heavy rainfall and flooding.

“Please take care, drive slowly and follow any closures. Before you travel, check the FFMVic and Parks Victoria closure pages,” Mr Kennedy said.

Authorised officers from Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and FFMVic will patrol areas so everyone can have a safe and enjoyable weekend, but they can’t be everywhere.

Report unattended campfires to 136 186 and call 000 to report a bushfire.

For more information on campfire safety rules and forest regulations, visit [ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-restrictions-and-regulations](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-restrictions-and-regulations).



# Malicious damage to Queen Alexandra statue



*The statue of Queen Alexandra. -Melburnian*

ON the morning of Friday, February 9, damage to the Queen Alexandra statue, also known as the Princess Alexandra statue, in Jack Shiel Gardens was reported to the police. The statue's head had been removed in a very terrible act of vandalism.

The act was met by widespread disgust in the community. Some wondered whether there was any connection with the felling of the royalty-associated cork oak in Fernshaw in 2022.

Police advised that exhibits have been recovered at the scene of the statue vandalism and that they will be DNA tested and fingerprinted.

If you saw, heard or know anything, please contact the Alexandra police on 5772 1040 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

The statue has been on permanent loan to Alexandra from the National Gallery since it was unveiled in 1939. It was created by Charles Somers, born in 1825. More on the history of the statue can be found on page 17 of this edition.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "I am just deeply saddened by the recent act of vandalism that targeted the Queen Alexandra statue in Jack Shiel Gardens, Alexandra.

"This statue commemorates Queen Alexandra as the Princess of Wales. Since 1939, Queen Alexandra has sat serenely and peacefully in Jack Shiel Gardens, a monument to our shire's important history.

"The vandalism of public property is a crime and cannot be condoned. Our community deserves better, and these types of acts only cause upset in our community.

"Council appreciates the efforts of Victoria Police in investigating this matter and we remain committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all residents.



*The statue of Queen Alexandra in Jack Shiel Gardens has been covered following the vandalism. -S*

"I urge anyone in the community who might have information related to this incident to contact Alexandra Police."

On the same night that the statue was damaged, a vehicle in Alexandra was broken into. This was followed by a similar incident on the following night, November 10. In addition, there was a burglary in Thornton.

Police would also like to remind people to beware of online scams, with a local person the victim of a criminal obtaining property by deception.

## How well do you know your council?

THE Know Your Council comparisons have been made available for 2022/23. The comparisons allow people to explore shire expenses and activities comparatively. For the purposes of this article, Murrindindi Shire has been compared to Alpine, Mansfield and Strathbogie Shires.

### *Animal Management*

The number of animals reclaimed from council was quite low in Murrindindi Shire with 39.8 per cent. In Alpine Shire it was 48.8 per cent, Mansfield Shire 82.4 per cent and Strathbogie Shire 67.9 per cent.

Murrindindi Shire did better with re-homing animals with 26.3 per cent compared to the other the shires. Alpine was 33.8 per cent, Mansfield 17.6 per cent and Strathbogie 6.3 per cent. The Murrindindi result was also better than 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The cost for rehoming animals was \$12.17 for Murrindindi, \$9.98 for Alpine, \$20.01 for Mansfield and \$11.02 for Strathbogie. Murrindindi's result was on par with prior years. Murrindindi was 100 per cent successful with its animal management prosecutions this year, but it is not known how many people were prosecuted.

On average, Murrindindi Shire took two days to action animal management requests. In Alpine Shire, it was 2.5 days, in Mansfield Shire 1.2 days and Alpine 1.5 days.

### *Aquatic facilities*

The cost of aquatic facilities per visit was \$21.91 in the last financial year, with council stating that the increase was due to lower attendances as a result of cooler weather. In Alpine, the cost was \$19.04, Mansfield \$21.40 and Strathbogie \$37.21.

Murrindindi Shire had one health inspection of aquatic facilities, as did Mansfield Shire, while Alpine and Strathbogie had none.

The number of visits to pools per head of municipal population was 1.6 for Murrindindi, 2.4 for Alpine, 0.9 for Mansfield, and 0.7 for Strathbogie.

### *Financial performance*

Murrindindi Shire has an adjusted deficit as a percentage of underlying revenue of 7.7 per cent, while the other three shires all had surpluses, Alpine with 10.6 per cent, Mansfield with 2.7 per cent and Strathbogie with 0.8 per cent.

In asset renewals and upgrades as a percentage of depreciation, Murrindindi Shire was at 124.9 per cent, Alpine at 158.5 per cent, Mansfield at 183.1 per cent, and Strathbogie at 135.4 per cent.

The average rate per property assessment was \$1850 for Murrindindi, \$1850 for Alpine, \$1640 for Mansfield and \$2250 for Strathbogie.

In current assets as a percentage of liabilities, Murrindindi was at 319.5 per cent, Alpine at 220.2 per cent, Mansfield at 192.2 per cent, and Strathbogie Shire at 230.8 per cent.

The expenses per property assessment were \$4000 for Murrindindi, \$3740 for Alpine, \$3330 for Mansfield and \$4920 for Strathbogie. Murrindindi Shire had no loans or borrowings during the financial year.

### *Food safety*

The cost of food safety per premises was markedly higher than the comparable shires with an average cost of \$782.48. In Alpine, the cost was \$264.09, Mansfield \$371.06 and Strathbogie \$540.45.

Murrindindi Shire followed up on 100 per cent of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications.

Murrindindi Shire also undertook 111.4 per cent of required food assessments. This was well above the other three shires, with Alpine on 78.3 per cent, Mansfield on 85.5 per cent, and Strathbogie on 32.4 per cent.

It took Murrindindi Shire an average of three days to action food complaints. In Alpine Shire, it was 3.7 days, Mansfield Shire 2.4 days and Strathbogie Shire 4.3 days.

### *Governance*

The level of community satisfaction with Murrindindi Shire's community consultation and engagement was on par with previous years, with 55 per cent. In April it was 50 per cent, Mansfield Shire 60 per cent, and Strathbogie Shire 50 per cent.

Fifty-two per cent of residents were satisfied with council decisions. In Alpine, it was 51 per cent, Mansfield 54 per cent and Strathbogie 47 per cent.

The cost of elected representation in Murrindindi also seems reasonable in comparison. For Murrindindi, it was \$44,960, Alpine \$40,180, Mansfield \$52,220 and Strathbogie \$59,350.

Only 0.6 per cent of Murrindindi Shire decisions were made behind closed doors. In Alpine it was 2.1 per cent and Strathbogie 0.5 per cent. Mansfield had a whopping 14.3 per cent.

Murrindindi also shone in councillor attendance at council meetings on 94.3 per cent. In Alpine Shire it was 91.8 per cent, Mansfield 92.5 per cent and Strathbogie 88.9 per cent.

### *Libraries*

14.3 per cent of Murrindindi Shire's population were active library users. In Alpine Shire it was 13.9 per cent, Mansfield 12.5 per cent, and Strathbogie an impressive 22.8 per cent.

The cost of the library service per population was \$38.66 for Murrindindi, \$32.30 for Alpine, \$37.67 for Mansfield, and \$24.44 for Strathbogie Shire.

The number of loans per collection item was 1.5 in Murrindindi, 2.4 in Alpine, 2.3 in Mansfield and 1.8 in Strathbogie.

57.9 per cent of Murrindindi's library resources are less than five years old.

### *Maternal and child health*

The cost of maternal and child health (MCH) per hour of service delivered is \$81.35 in Murrindindi. In Alpine Shire is \$73.44, Mansfield \$76.40 and Strathbogie \$88.83.

99.2 per cent of the shire's infants are enrolled in the MCH service. In Alpine Shire it's 101.9 per cent, Mansfield 104.1 per cent and Strathbogie 100 per cent. The data includes children who have migrated into the area.

### *Roads*

The roads comparison was published previously.

*Next week: Statutory Planning, Sustainable Capacity and Waste Collection.*



SPORT

Bus it to the Alexandra Races on March 2

PICNIC Racing returns to Alexandra on Saturday, March 2. Alex Races Rock is one of the most fun meetings of the season. *The Rockin' Tones* is a great, traditional rock band that will get you up and moving.

Getting to the races has never been easier. Buses are running on three routes, from Eildon, Marysville or Yea. People need to book online to reserve a seat. There is a small charge of \$5 return. Children 15 and under travel free but they must also have a reservation. Take the hassle out of getting to the races and book early at [trybooking.com/COPVA](http://trybooking.com/COPVA)

Dress up as your favourite rock idol or group for a chance to win some great prizes. Young people 16 and under can enter the air guitar competition. Marco the Magician and Jess the face painter will be there too. The big screen returns to make all the local and Melbourne races will be larger than life.

The organisers would like to thank sponsors FoodWorks, Whanregarwen Pastoral, Rubicon Hotel Motel Thornton, Ernie Hadfield Contracting, Bet 365 and Thompson Family Racing for their support of the day.

Attendees can purchase tickets at the gate for \$15 or \$10 concession. Children aged 15 and under are free.

Northern Victorian Women get a boost for sport

THE Victorian Government is encouraging women and girls in Northern Victoria to get involved in sports as applications have been annouced for the 2023-24 *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support community sport and recreation clubs or organisations to increase participation, build capability, promote gender equity and support the professional development of women volunteering and working in community sport.

In this round of the program there's also a strong focus on supporting club or organisation initiatives that encourage the equitable inclusion of women and girls from all backgrounds and experiences.

The program is part of the Government's *Change Our Game* initiative, working to make sport more accessible, increasing local participation and providing opportunities for all Victorians to be leaders in their local sporting community.

Now in its seventh year, the *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program has provided more than \$2.2 million towards 461 grants that have benefitted community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

Together with the Fair Access Policy, launched by the Labor Government in August 2022, *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* provides a great opportunity for clubs and organisations to extend equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure, and build participants skills and knowledge.

These grants are part of the Government's \$18.8 million investment in the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and the *Change Our Game* initiative since 2016.

Applications for this program close at 5pm on Monday, March 4. For more information about *Change Our Game* programs visit [changeourgame.vic.gov.au](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au)



Ross Mackinnon bowling. -S

No luck for Merton against Beechworth

by Rohan Berriman

B grade  
Merton 6/162 defeated by  
Beechworth Wanderers 9/172

Merton cricketers hosted Beechworth Wanderers at the MCG at the weekend. Both sides have had similar seasons getting close to victory in a number of games this year, but just missing out. Saturdays game was no exception, with the Wanderers just taking the points eight wickets down in the second last over against a depleted Merton side.

Merton batted first making 6/162 lead by Ross MacKinnon with 68; he and son Jai 36 put on a solid partnership to set up Merton's total, along with young James Benton making 45 not out in a mature batting display.

B Fitzpatrick 2/20 and J Dart 2/14 the best bowlers for the visitors. The Beechworth side started strongly making quick runs early off the Merton openers, as in previous weeks, the combination of Jai Lerch-MacKinnon and Henry Berriman slowed the run rate with Berriman again swinging the game back to an even contest taking 3/29 off eight overs.

Merton struggled to break a few middle order partnerships with top scorers D Poole 34 and G Cull 37 moving the score along. Both sides were always in the game in a tight last 10 overs but the Beechworth boys just did enough to pass Merton's total in the second last over.

R Berriman 2/19 and single wickets to the Benton brothers, Lerch-MacKinnon and a gutsy effort from Noah Whittall who bowled and fielded with what turned out to be a fractured hand. Losing two in the field in the last eight overs made it tough for the home side, but that's cricket. Merton travel to Wangaratta next Saturday to take on the Rovers at South Wangaratta.

**MERTON BATTERS:** Daryl King; b; Brandon Fitzpatrick; 0. Ross MacKinnon; c; Brandon Fitzpatrick; b; James Dart; 68. Jai Lerch-MacKinnon; c; Rama Schultz; b; Chris Beatson

36. James Benton; not out; 45\*. Noah Whitta; run out; Lachlan Fitzpatrick; 2. Henry Berriman; c; Gerard Cull; b; James Dart; 0. William Benton; b; Brandon Fitzpatrick; 1. Rohan Berriman; c; not out; 0\*. **Extras** 10 3WD 6NB 0LB 1B 0P

Total 6 / 162(36 Overs)



James Benton batting. -S



## SPORT

# Ladies Open Day at Yea Golf Club



On Wednesday, February 28 Yea Golf Club is holding their annual Ladies Opening Day at Yea Golf Club. It is a 9 for 9.30am start. Come along on the day or phone Jan Wealands on 0417 561 202 if you have further questions. Pictured is some training held at last year's event. -S



There will be a two person Ambrose event on the Open Day. It is an opportunity to come and give golf a try, have fun and meet new friends. If you don't have clubs that's not a problem. The organisers are encouraging any ladies thinking about golf to come along. Lunch is provided after the nine holes. -S

## Ladies extend gender challenge lead

by Phil Armstrong, acting captain

ROUND eight of the Yea Golf Club Gender Challenge was played in excellent conditions on Wednesday, February 7.

The course was presented in fantastic shape by our dedicated team of volunteers as they prepared to host last weekend's round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters.

36 members and guests teed off in a Par event with Di Holdsworth (30) the shining light registering plus four to take out top honours.

Club President, Gary Pollard (15) with plus three played a great round to take out second place overall.

Penny Britton (34) won a five way countback to secure third place from Rob Gill (41), Paul Clayton (11), Brian Priestly (28) and Vicki Clements (24) after they all finished on plus one.

Nearest the pin on the second hole went to Michael Spagnolo for the men and Meryl Connell for the ladies.

Club Captain Alan Pell made a welcome return to collect this week's Club Award.

After seven completed rounds the ladies lead with 310 points to the men's 285.

The Gender Challenge is proving very popular and has attracted 214 competitors so far this series. Leading individual points scorers to date are Di Holdsworth; 50. Margie Wright; 45. Penny Britton; 40. Jan Wealands; 40. Rob Gill; 35, and Gary Pollard; 30. The team average went to the ladies.

Ladies average was 2.23 and the men's was- 2.78. The ladies collected 50 points and the men 35 for the day.

# Nearest the pin at Murrindindi Masters



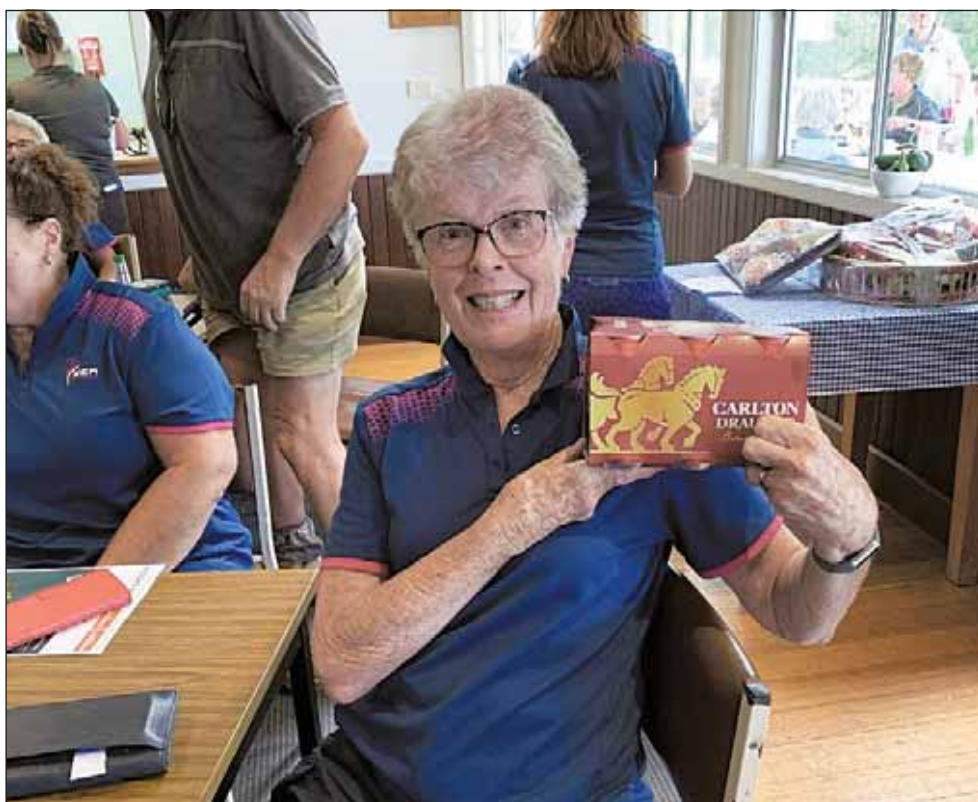
Nearest the pin winner, Brendan Chenhall, with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



Amanda Harris was the lucky winner of the Yea Meats meat tray raffle at the Friday social gathering. -S



Steve Rumney with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



The Lady's Captain won a prize in the raffle. -S



Nearest the pin winner, John Tanner, with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



# Murrindindi Masters finished

by Alan Pell

SATURDAY, February 10, saw the final round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters held at Royal Yea Golf Club. Around 108 competitors enjoyed excellent conditions

on the course. Many volunteers contributed to the day's success.

Yea had several winning performances with Trevor Connell winning the Mini Masters with 41 stableford points for the men. Wayne Rowe, with 38 points, won A grade on count back from Allan Coates runner up. Gary Pollard, the

club president won B grade with 38 points, C grade winner was Malcolm Bett with 40 on a count back from runner up John Tanner and Steve Rumney, all on a count back.

Sue Aurisch with 36 points was runner up in the ladies B grade. Yea also had three nearest the pin winners with Steve Rumney, John Tanner, and Brendan Chenhall.



Trevor Connell with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



John Tanner with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



Malcolm Bett with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



Gary Pollard with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



Wayne Rowe with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S



Sue Aurisch with FoodWorks representative, Cathie Harper (left). -S