

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, August 14, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Backflip on hospital amalgamations

IN July 2023, the Victorian Department of Health commissioned an Expert Advisory Committee to examine the design and governance of Victoria's health services system. Over 10 months, they explored many of the challenges experienced by patients, communities and our health workforce within the system.

The committee have now developed the Health Services Plan which provides a number of recommendations for a more connected system that delivers the right care, at the right time, in the right place, for all Victorians.

The plan is outlined through three key pillars of reform: Establishing Local Health Service Networks (LHSN), geographic groupings responsible for planning and managing care so that it meets the population health needs of their communities; Formalised relationships between each network and a women's, a children's and a major tertiary hospital, ensuring every Victorian has seamless access to specialist care and expertise when they need it; and a Victorian Role Delineation Framework, which will support collaboration across the system through setting out the roles and responsibilities of every health service site, aligned to their size and capability.

The government will accept 21 recommendations in full and accept in principle five recommendations.

Recommendation 4.6: Likely amendments to groupings and boundaries based on further consultation with the sector. The government will provide guidance to health service boards on principles to underpin Local Health Service Network groupings. Health services will then be able to propose groupings for their region for approval by government.

Recommendation 6.1: The department will undertake further work to consider this while ensuring no reduction in service provision.

Recommendation 7.2: Hospitals will not be forced to consolidate to form LHSNs.

Recommendation 8.1: The department will continue to support those health services that wish to consolidate. The government does not accept the recommendation on forced consolidation of health services.

Recommendation 9.2: Further work is needed to understand the impact of these reforms across healthcare the Commonwealth is responsible for.

The government does not accept recommendation 7.1 relating to directed consolidations of health services outlined in the report.

Further work will now be undertaken on the accepted recommendations. Hospital budget changes are yet to be announced.

Kim Flanagan, Chair of the Board of Directors at Alexandra District Health (ADH), added Alexandra hospital's position following the release of the report.

"There are many positives that have come out of the Health Services Plan, such as, the standardisation of patient records systems, centralised payrolls and sharing of resources across services. We do already share services with Yea and District Memorial Hospital, such as People and Culture, and Financial Services, however, it will allow us to look further afield to share other services that will be of benefit to our communities.

"There will be no forced amalgamations of services, however, we will be exploring partnerships with other entities and see where we can gain efficiencies and improve service delivery.

"Some of the complexities in the announcement have to be worked out with the Department of Health over the next few weeks.

"It is the goal of the Alexandra District Health Board of Directors and Executive Management to enhance and explore how can increase service offerings to the community," Mr Flanagan said.

The full report of the Health Services Plan can be found at health.vic.gov.au/research-and-reports/health-services-plan



Sacred Heart Primary School students who participated in the Boite Schools Chorus event at the Melbourne Town Hall last week. The chorus is an un-auditioned choir project for schools and community youth choirs. It has been operating since 2004 and involved schools from around the state. -S

Yea and Alexandra hospitals to retain local leadership

by Ian Marshman, Yea and District Memorial Hospital board chair

IN a major announcement last Thursday, the Premier Jacinta Allan and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas announced that the government would not proceed with forced amalgamations as part of its new Health Services Plan.

This means that Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) will retain their local boards and local CEOs. This is a major win for the communities of Yea and Alexandra who really rallied in support of their local health services in recent months.

The proposal for forced amalgamations of Victoria's 76 health services had been a key recommendation contained in the report of the Expert Advisory Committee which had presented its Health Services Plan recommendations to the government in April this year.

In making the government's announcement on the Health Services Plan, the Premier and Health Minister advised that a further \$1.5 billion would be allocated to Victoria's health services for 2024/25 to restore hospital budgets closer to previous levels. While details as to how this additional funding is to be allocated, it is anticipated that priority will be given to ensuring clinical services are not cut and elective surgery levels are maintained.

Health services were advised last Thursday that funding would also be available to restore block grant funding for small rural hospitals back closer to previous levels. This would be a huge boost for YDMH which had earlier been advised of a 32 per cent reduction in state grant funding for 2024/25.

The Health Department has advised health services that details of increased rates of funding for 2024/25 would be communicated to individual services within the next week with budgets to be finalised by the end of August.

The Premier and Health Minister released the Health Services Plan last week. The Plan is designed to improve

Victoria's health system by increasing the level and quality of coordination between Victoria's hospitals. Priority will be given to providing more services closer to home for Victorians living both in Melbourne and in rural communities.

The government has agreed, at least in principle, to accept 26 of the 27 recommendations in the report, with the proposal for forced amalgamations being the only recommendation specifically rejected.

Central to the proposed changes is the planned formation of 11 Local Healthcare Networks, with five in regional Victoria and six in Melbourne. A number of hospitals will be clustered within each network which will include a major hospital and linkage to one of Victoria's tertiary referral hospitals. Local healthcare networks will have their own boards which will be responsible for regional planning of services and identifying ways of increasing coordination and cooperation within the network.

Amalgamations of services will be encouraged where they make sense in terms of service delivery but, importantly, they will only occur through agreement of the parties involved.

Yea and Alexandra Hospitals have been included in the Hume Local Healthcare Network for which Goulburn Valley Health and Albury Wodonga Hospital are the major health services. By placing Yea and Alexandra in this rurally focused network, the plan makes clear that arrangements will continue for the natural flow of Murrindindi patients to Melbourne hospitals if their care needs dictate this as a necessity.

A copy of the Health Service Plan report is available online.

Staff and board members of Yea and District Hospital remain extremely grateful for the support received for their local hospital over the past four months. This has been so important during a period of huge uncertainty.

This support has also contributed in no small way to an outcome that ensures YDMH can continue to do what it does best, providing high quality care and expand service delivery through innovation and collaboration.

Alexandra District Health

5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital

5736 0400

In an emergency dial

000

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

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NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

YDMH Board says ‘Thank You’

I write on behalf of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) to thank everyone in the Murrindindi community who rallied to show support for their local health service over the past four months.

Thousands of people contributed in all sorts of ways. Around 4700 people signed the Save Yea Hospital petition which will now be subject to parliamentary debate. Hundreds attended the public meeting in the Yea Shire Hall in June. Others wrote letters to our elected representatives, many helped with the petition, managing social media, arranging mailouts and purchasing of signs. Murrindindi Council advocated strongly for its local health services.

The result of this championing of our health services is that the Victorian Government has listened and acted to retain local leadership and boards of small rural health services.

Local leaders have the greatest insight into the needs of their communities and can respond accordingly.

The community’s support has also given all who work at YDMH immense assurance that the community has our back, and respects the care and services we provide.

We will continue to do all we can to live up to this vote of confidence in Yea and district’s own health service. We will continue to strive to provide the highest level of care, be responsive to community needs

Grants to improve Men’s sheds

THE Victorian Government recently announced the opening of applications for the 2024-25 Men’s Shed Funding Program grants.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to build new men’s sheds, which includes converting a building into a men’s shed, and refurbish, extend or upgrade existing men’s sheds.

The state government is enabling Men’s Sheds to provide a strong support system for men at every stage of life, through the ability to work on meaningful projects, talk about issues and seek support from peers in a healthy and inclusive environment.

Activities for shedders are diverse and range from community projects such as making toys for local childcare groups to assisting with emergency responses and preparedness.

There are more than 350 men’s sheds across Victoria, with an estimated 20,000 engaged members.

Applications for Men’s Shed Funding Program grants are open until October 16. For more information or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program

IT’S NOT OKAY

To yell at our staff.

To swear at our staff.

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If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

If you have a problem or complaint, we are happy to listen if you discuss this with us politely, please don’t take your anger out on us.

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NEWSPAPERS

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN:

To whoever made the decision to closely plant eucalypts all down Melbourne Road. You have just created a wild fire conduit from the hazardous old schools plantation straight into the heart of Yea township.

THUMBS DOWN:

Why can’t we get a Coles in this town? The local supermarket never has the things that we would like and no point asking about it because they take no notice at all. Not to mention their prices on milk. It is a disgrace. I will be going to the federal member in regards to this issue. We need competition in this town and I am going to fight for this issue. I am going to get a petition started. We should not have to travel to Seymour to get things that we can not get in this town. They’re in for a fight over this issue.

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

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

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179

Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086

Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY

1st Mon St Luke’s Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099

1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057

2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888

Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

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NEWSPAPERS

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

Weekly Weather

August 14 - August 20, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	19	Wednesday	7	20
Thursday	8	20	Thursday	8	20
Friday	9	16	Friday	9	16
Saturday	8	15	Saturday	8	15
Sunday	6	16	Sunday	6	17
Monday	8	16	Monday	8	16
Tuesday	7	15	Tuesday	7	16

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.35	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.55	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.56am Mon	0.75	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	9.24am Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.27am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	1.07	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.56	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.70	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.16	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.49	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.35am Mon	1.20	steady	

**ISSUED AT 12.16PM ON MONDAY, 12 AUGUST 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 0mm

Buxton..... 0mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 1mm

Flowerdale..... 0mm

Jamieson..... 2mm

Kinglake..... 0.4mm

Lake Eildon 0.8mm

Mansfield..... N/Amm

Taggerty 1mm

Yarck 0.4mm

Yea.....N/Amm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....286.18m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....89.4%

Metres below full supply.....2.72m

Daily inflow2500ML

Release..... 1850ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....53.7%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate

Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services

Thursday noon

Early General News

Thursday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

Sports Editorial

Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor

Monday 9am

Thumbs up/down

Monday 10am

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

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Local councils to receive bushfire safety grants

GRANTS have been awarded to Victorian councils for work to reduce bushfire risk in partnership with local communities. A total of \$1.66 million will be awarded to nine councils over the next two years as part of the Safer Together Strengthening Local Government Partnerships program.

Locally, Murrindindi Shire Council and Mansfield Shire Council were successful in a joint application for \$300,000 over two years. The funding is for the LEAPINing into Resilience Extension. They will work with communities to design Local Emergency Action Plans, identify local risks and strengthen local community networks.

The grants are part of the Victorian Government's support for councils across the state, enabling them to design and implement community centred approaches to reducing bushfire risk.

Since 2016, Safer Together, led jointly by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the CFA has supported Victoria's bushfire management sector to work in partnership with communities to reduce bushfire risk at a local level. The Strengthening Local Government Partnerships program was established in 2018 to further support this work and in total has now awarded almost \$4 million in funding to support community based initiatives.

A full list of funded projects is available at safertogether.vic.gov.au/strengthening-local-government-partnerships

Median rents in Murrindindi

THE median rent in Murrindindi Shire has increased significantly, but the supply has decreased in the years since 2018, according to data from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

The data explores the private rental market across Victoria, broken down by local government area (LGA). The data below relates to three bedroom houses in Murrindindi Shire, as only scattered data is available for the other sub categories, including units and houses with a different number of bedrooms.

In Murrindindi in 2018, there were 105 rental properties available, with an average weekly rent of \$318.75.

By 2019, there were 107 properties available, with a median weekly rent of \$311.25.

In 2020, there were 102 properties available, with a median weekly rent of \$333.25.

In 2021, there were 88 properties available, with a median weekly rent of \$350.

In 2022, there were 85 properties available, with a median weekly rent of \$380.

In 2023, there were 86 properties available, with a median weekly rent of \$415.

In the first quarter of 2024, the median weekly rent was \$420.

That's an increase of 31.76 per cent.

More information can be found at dffh.vic.gov.au/publications/rental-report



Students from Yea Primary School outside the Melbourne Town Hall, where they took part in the Boite Schools Chorus on August 8. -S

Grants to slash bushfire risk

THE state government is making sure schools across Victoria are well-prepared for the upcoming bushfire season by providing grants to slash vegetation growth and reduce the risk of fire.

Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, recently announced 332 government schools across 348 campuses will share in more than \$8.4 million to carry out essential maintenance work through the Bushfire Preparedness (Vegetation) Program (BPVP).

In Murrindindi Shire, there are 18 sites receiving funding across Flowerdale, Kinglake, Marysville, Eildon, Thornton, Toolangi, and Buxton. Of these, many are local primary schools and kindergartens, and a few are campuses.

The program was introduced in 2018 to help schools undertake essential vegetation clearance around school buildings prior to

the bushfire season and in accordance with municipal fire danger periods.

"We know how devastating bushfires are and just how long-lasting their impacts can be, and that's why we're continuing to support schools to be as fire-ready as possible.

"These grants will help more than 330 schools at risk of fire clear vegetation to protect their classrooms and facilities in the event of a bushfire," Mr Carroll said.

Schools receiving funds are listed on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR), with the work aimed at mitigating the risk of harm to the school's community and buildings in the event of a bushfire.

The BPVP also provides a School Support Program, where an accredited Bushfire Planning and Design consultant visits a school twice a year to help them prepare for the upcoming bushfire season while also

making sure they complete a Vegetation Management Plan every three years.

The state government is ensuring local schools are as safe and prepared as they can be, and continue to provide Victorian students with access to world-class environments for learning and thriving in the education state.

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Never leave your cooking unattended

VICTORIA’S fire services are reminding the community never to leave cooking unattended as it remains the leading cause of fires in the home.

CFA responded to around 250 fires that started in the kitchen across the state last year, an increase of 20 from the previous year.

McLeish responds to health plan

LIBERAL MP Cindy McLeish said, “We have seen the most spectacular backflip from the Allan Labor Government [last] week and while they say they are not going to force amalgamations there are still too many questions to be answered.”

The state government have pulled away from planned amalgamations for the moment and announced \$1.5 billion in additional funding for 2024-25. The distribution of these funds and what specific funding health services and hospitals in Murrindindi will receive is unknown.

“I’m so proud of how quickly and effectively locals worked together to hold rallies and collect signatures to put pressure on the government to prevent hospital amalgamations,” Ms McLeish said.

“It is incredible that the government had no understanding how budget cuts and forced amalgamations would impact local health services and local communities.

“Those 15,050 signatures across the Mansfield and Murrindindi Shires really made a difference.”

Ms McLeish said, “We have had months of uncertainty and while amalgamations are on hold at the moment, local communities and health services across Victoria deserve to know exactly what funding they will be receiving and when.”

Shadow Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier, said, “Victorians cannot trust Labor to manage our health system. Their chaotic decision making has proved that. There are still too many questions to be answered. They are going to provide some top up funding for one year, but are not ruling out amalgamations in the future, so there will be amalgamations by stealth.”

A new governmental department under the banner ‘Hospitals Victoria’ will be formed.

“Sounds like back of the envelope planning to me,” Ms McLeish said.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said unattended cooking was one of the most common causes of preventable house fires.

“We know a fire in your kitchen can cause extensive damage and high level injuries, and unfortunately we saw this occur four times last year,” Jason said.

“We know that 6pm is the peak time for fires, and most are due to unattended cooking or mechanical failure.

“Make sure your kitchen appliances are in good working order, and ensure your stove top, grill, oven, rangehood and cooking area are free from built up grease, dust and oil.

“While most fatal fires occur in sleeping areas, it is important to note that most residential fires start in the kitchen.”

Fire Rescue Victoria Deputy Commissioner Community Safety Joshua Fischer said it was

essential to maintain awareness and pay close attention to the stove when cooking to reduce the risks of a fire starting in the kitchen.

“Cooking is a part of everyday life, but no one can afford to be complacent about the fire safety risks. Ensuring you don’t leave your cooking unattended may save your life and property,” Deputy Commissioner Fischer said.

“If a fire does start in the kitchen, turn off the stove if it’s safe to do so. Use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket only if you are confident to use them. Evacuate everyone from the home, close the kitchen door if safe to do so, and call Triple Zero.”

Deputy Commissioner Fischer said all Victorians should have working smoke alarms powered by a 10 year long life battery in all sleeping and living areas of their home.

”If affordable, we recommend installation of interconnected smoke alarms, so when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound throughout the house,” Deputy Commissioner Fisher said.

Other tips to cook safely this winter and avoid starting a blaze can also include, always supervise children, keep them away from the stove top and oven. Things that can catch fire such as tea towels and paper towels must be kept away from cooking and heat sources. Make sure kitchen appliances are clean and in good working order and keep pot handles turned in. A fire extinguisher and fire blanket should be stored within easy reach but away from the cooking area. Victorian Fire Services recommend that you only use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you feel confident to use this equipment safely.

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*.

Make sure your enrolment details are up to date for the October Murrindindi Shire Council election. Visit vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment to check or update your details.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Meet the Masons. Alexandra Masonic Centre invites the men of the district to meet the Freemasons of Alexandra. Family members are welcome, supper will be provided. Enquiries to David 0428 630 022.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

The Yarck Market is on again with CWA morning tea and cake stall. From 9am. For enquiries or stall bookings contact Sharon 0407 879 612.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

The Vietnam Veterans' Service will be held at 11.30am at the

Alexandra RSL hall memorial garden. All welcome.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

UGFM AGM will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For the meeting link or to nominate for the committee, contact the secretary at info@ugfm.org or call 5772 2722.

Government responds to concern around lead bullet ban

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) were contacted to provide their thoughts on the new Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024 found on the Engage Victoria website. The updated regulations closed for feedback on Monday, July 29.

DEECA were asked to provide advice on the concerns from the local hunting community that lead-free ammunition isn't available or manufactured for the majority of legal deer hunting calibres.

According to the East Victoria Deer Control Plan, "impacts to a wide range of environmental, economic, and social values have been attributed to wild deer in Victoria. ... Population modelling indicates that if we do not act, deer populations in the east will continue to grow with impacts intensified, and act as a continuous source for spread to other parts of Victoria."

DEECA were asked to comment on wild deer populations, and how the proposed regulations might reduce deer hunting, potentially leading to further environmental issues, at odds to the environmental reasons behind the phase-out of lead-based ammunition.

In the way of background, DEECA provided the following information: We're consulting with the community on a number of proposed changes to the Wildlife (Game) Regulations, including a transition away from lead based ammunition for deer hunting. The remaking of the regulations provides an opportunity to introduce common sense changes and reforms to ensure recreational hunting can continue in a safe, sustainable and responsible way... The government will consider the community's feedback carefully.

A Victorian Government spokesperson said, "Hunting matters to thousands of Victorians who love the great outdoors, but more than that, it supports regional communities and economies.

"We're supporting recreational hunting to continue in a safe, sustainable and responsible way."

Deer association speaks about proposed lead bullet ban

COMMITTEE member for the Victorian Deer Association (VDA), Guy Layton, spoke about the potential impacts of the phasing out of lead-based ammunition.

Of particular interest was the cost of copper ammunition, which is slated to replace toxic lead bullets.

"They're very expensive," Guy said. "For example, a legal round for a .308 would be about \$50 for 20 lead bullets, would be a deer legal calibre. And then you're looking at over \$100, up to \$150 [for copper bullets]. For the bigger magnum calibres, you're looking between \$120 to \$200 for 20 [copper] bullets.

For a box of 20 bullets, you're looking at \$7, \$8, \$10 per shot."

He also spoke about the lack of legal calibres in non-lead ammunition.

"The calibres that you can currently shoot deer with, no-one makes them. The biggest manufacturers in the world, Remington, Hornady, you're talking about international large arms manufacturers for bullets, they don't even make non-lead bullets in these calibres, because they're not designed to be able to handle it, to be able to do what needs to be done."

The question that was posed to both the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the VDA, was what the environmental impact of phasing out lead based ammunition would be.

Guy responded, "The most volume of bullets in areas where these animals are prevalent and at risk is in the national parks, where they're currently shooting deer in aerial culling, and on-ground culling when they close the park, or close an area, whether it's state park or national park, at night time.

"They use thermal optics, and close off an area, performing a culling operation of deer and other pest animals. It doesn't really matter what the animal is. They're worried about raptors, birds of prey ingesting this lead. That's where the bulk of the shots are coming from, in the areas where those animals are more prevalent.

"The biodiversity is quite high, and I understand they want to keep that, but they're going up there and using lead bullets in the first place. That's one of the big issues, and why everyone is a bit upset with it all," he said.

Guy concluded with his thoughts on the rapid change from lead-based ammunition to non-lead.

"There's going to be potentially less deer shot, and we've got a growing population of deer. And there's going to be 60,000 licensed deer hunters in Victoria trying to get copper ammunition for their guns in two and a half years. That's not enough time."

Why should lead bullets be banned for deer hunters?

IN the proposed Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024, one of the key reforms is the phasing out of lead-based ammunitions in game hunting. According to the Engage Victoria website, this reform is "to mitigate environmental impacts by phasing out toxic lead ammunition from all game hunting."

A study from 2022 titled 'Highlighting the risk of environmental lead contamination for deer management in Australia', showed the effects of lead bullet fragmentation on carcass contamination.

The study, conducted in 2021 and 2022, looked at lead-based and lead-free ammunition in a hog deer culling program. The ammunition used was .308 Winchesters, and hog deer were specifically chosen for their smaller size, which allowed them to be x-rayed in the field.

It was found in the study that animals shot with lead bullets featured a greater spread of bullet fragments within the carcass. From this, concerns arose around the consumption of potentially lead-infused meat by humans, as well as the impacts on predators such as eagles and dingoes which eat the lead-infused carcass.

What's important at this stage is considering the difference between lead and copper ammunition, with the latter being touted as the viable replacement for lead ammunition.

Lead bullets are created by combining a soft lead core with a harder copper outer jacket and expand or fragment when punching into an animal. This causes greater damage, and more likelihood of an instant humane kill.

On the other hand, copper bullets are solid, being made only of copper with no jacket. This means that they stay in one piece as they pierce into an animal, leading to smaller wound cavities and less chance of an instant kill without millimetre-perfect accuracy.

Copper bullets are better for punching through thick bone and muscle and are better at closer range, as well as performing better at high velocity. This makes them ideal for big game hunting.

However, given the fact that copper is lighter than lead, copper bullets are often created longer to make up for the weight difference, which can lead to feeding issues. They are also more expensive than lead bullets.

Murrindindi Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

Vote by post this October

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Murrindindi Shire Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at vec.vic.gov.au/redirections, or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

Early votes

If you will be away during the voting period (7–25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 10 am on Wednesday 18 September.

The Murrindindi Shire Council election office is at:

Murrindindi Shire Council Yea Office
15 The Semi Circle
Yea

How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Murrindindi Shire Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.

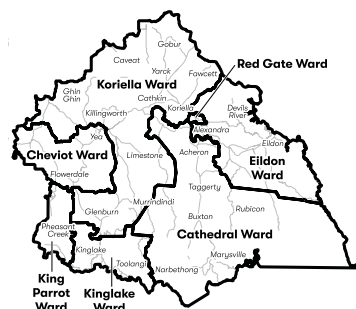
To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.

Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.



Candidate information session

6 pm Thursday 5 September at Election Office, Murrindindi Shire Council Yea Office, 15 The Semi Circle, Yea

Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to week three Values Award winners, Kyson, Jack, Madeleine, Evan, Lucy, Rory and Logan

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Sophie, Charlie, Ryder, Velvet and Matthew for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



A warning to motorists. -S



The yellow paint highlights the potholes. -S



We do not condone swearing, but that's a large pothole. -S

Frustrations about potholes boiling over

by Valerie Pallaoro

LOCAL concerns over potholes have seen some people take matters into their own hands. We do not condone these activities and do not suggest that other people emulate it. As the writer suggests, try using Snap Send Solve to report your local potholes. -Ed

ON the back of the complaints about the horrid pot holes littering our roads, shredding our tyres, taking up time and not being addressed by VicRoads, there's a glimmer of hope.

On the road between Yea and Kinglake some of the potholes that I first saw travelling to Melbourne and back have just gotten deeper and deeper, not to mention larger and more crusty. They've blown tyres, caused angst, created an us versus them attitude. Vic Roads has an unenviable job.

But, someone has gone out of their way to assist us all and save our cars and wheels, and mentality, from harm. They've gotten a can of bright yellow spray paint and painted the bigger holes brightly so drivers can see them in the distance and drive the line that's safer.

The first notice you see, just after the Flowerdale Hotel on the Whittlesea-Yea Road to Melbourne, is a very clear exclamation point and the words 'Next 100m' with an arrow pointing down the road.



There's a big hole ahead. -S

And, obligingly, for the next 100 meters there's potholes galore, decked out in yellow spray paint, to make them more noticeable and easily avoided.

Our hero even got creative with the bigger holes and wrote 'Big hole' and 'Holy s**t' at the Pheasants Creek Bridge, gave me a laugh and I saw the pot hole, even in the shade of the trees. I missed it, as did other oncoming cars that I witnessed.

The person with a spray can hasn't done all of them, there's still a fair few unmarked potholes so, it still pays to be road aware to spot them.

I used an app called Snap Send Solve and it works. VicRoads responds to it in a timely manner. I've taken pictures of destroyed road signage, potholes on the Maroondah Highway,



Warning that the next 100 metres is a risky drive. -S

and local potholes in Yea. All these have been addressed, and quickly too.

It's a big job managing a state road system. I couldn't be on top of it and I suspect neither could you. Further, expecting a state government to reign in cost over runs and also to fix every pothole on our roads without even knowing it exists? That's some wizardry right there.

So, I recommend, call it in, use the app, take photos and send them to VicRoads, the GPS coordinates are embedded in the photo if you send it by the Snap Send Solve app as well.

Let's make our local roads top priority and safer for ourselves as well as everyone else.

(This is not a promotion for the Snap, Send and Solve app. I just like using it 'cause it does the job.)

Knock knock. Who's there? Not energy providers

THE Victorian Government is protecting vulnerable Victorians from harmful and intrusive sales tactics with a ban on doorknocking for the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program now in effect.

The bans follow extensive consultation over the past year on high-pressure sales tactics and other inappropriate marketing practices under the VEU program.

This ban has been designed to protect consumers and promote professional conduct by the industry to deliver the program that consumers can trust.

As the independent regulator, the Essential Services Commission will actively monitor compliance of the ban through an expanded range of tools and will take strong enforcement action for breaches of the ban.

A ban on telemarketing under both the VEU and Solar Victoria also came into effect on May 1. Doorknocking for Solar

Victoria programs has been banned since September 2021.

The VEU reforms strengthen the 2022 VEU Code of Conduct, VEU accredited providers and participants can still use digital and traditional media advertising, and direct marketing such as social media and email.

All Victorian households and businesses are eligible for VEU discounts, which cover heating and cooling, hot water, and more.

Through the VEU program, a household can save about \$900 when installing a reverse-cycle air-conditioner to replace an old gas heater, saving about \$150 to \$200 off their annual energy bill, or save about \$3600 when replacing a gas ducted system with a reverse-cycle system, saving about \$500 to \$600 off their annual energy bill.

Victoria's nation leading Gas Substitution Roadmap demonstrates the importance of homes and businesses going all electric, it

saves money on energy bills, is better for the environment and healthier for families to live and work, according to Minister for Energy and Resources, Lily D'Ambrosio.

"All-electric homes are healthier, cleaner and cheaper to run. Victorians need information they can trust on how to get there, and we're making sure they get that appropriately and effectively," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

"These bans strike the right balance between ensuring the program is accessible to all Victorians but protects them from unwanted contact or high-pressure environments."

Victorians should report breaches of the VEU door knocking and telemarketing bans via 9032 1310 or veu@esc.vic.gov.au

For more information on the VEU program, visit energy.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades

Pay increase for early childhood education sector

THE federal government will fund a 15 per cent wage increase for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workers.

This wage increase will be tied to a commitment from Child Care Centres to limit fee increases. This is to make sure workers can be fairly paid without the costs being passed on to families.

This commitment from the Federal Government will help retain existing early childhood educators, who are predominately women, and attract new employees.

In the announcement made it was stated that "by improving access to quality early childhood education and care we can also boost productivity and workforce participation in the short and long term.

"Significantly, the wage increase also applies to workers in outside school hours care services, creating benefits for the parents of school aged children too.

"This significant wage increase is an important next step in the government's reforms to the sector, building on the successful Cheaper Child Care changes."

These new changes will be phased in over two years, and include a 10 per cent increase from December 2024, and a further five per cent increase from December 2025.

This \$3.6 billion investment from the government recognises the vital role that ECEC workers play preparing children for school.

To be eligible to receive funding for the wage increase, ECEC services won't be able to increase their fees by more than 4.4 per cent over the next 12 months from the date of the announcement last week.

Nominations open for Clean Up Australia awards

THE Clean Up Australia Community Awards are open now for nomination submissions and consist of five award categories. These include the Individual Community Champion Award recognises a volunteer for their service, taking into consideration the number of Clean Up Australia events they have participated in and how they have promoted the event within their local community. Submissions can be made on behalf of someone or can be self-nominated.

The Group Community Champion Award recognises community groups and community-based organisations who have

shown consistent participation in Clean Up events and promoted this within their local community. Community groups and community-based organisations of all sizes can nominate for this category.

The Schools Sustained Environmental Award recognises education champions for how they have implemented and sustained environmental change within their school or educational institution.

The Outstanding Council Award recognises outstanding councils for their commitment, support and taking into consideration the longevity of their relationship with Clean Up Australia.

The highlight of the awards will be the announcement of the Ian Kiernan Impact Award, highlighting a particular individual or group from the entries received who are a stand-out nominee and have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the environment.

One winner and two highly commended awards will be presented for each of the four categories, and there will be one recipient of the Ian Kiernan Impact Award.

Nominations for the Clean Up Australia Community Awards are open until September 30 at cleanup.org.au/clean-up-awards

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The deadliest fires start when we're sleeping.
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vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms
or scan the QR code.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.



Ambulance performance improved in the busiest time

PARAMEDICS and first responders across Victoria have faced the busiest quarter on record, with crews in the Hume Region responding to 5623 Code One emergencies.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Hume Regional Director, Steve Doyle, said paramedics across Victoria reached Code One patients faster on average than a year ago, despite a five per cent increase in demand.

“The entire health system continues to be extremely busy due to seasonal illness such as flu, COVID-19 and RSV circulating within our communities and our workforce,” Mr Doyle said.

“Our dedicated paramedics and first responders in Hume do an incredible job in the face of record-breaking demand, providing best care to our communities every day.

“It is important that everyone does their part. If your matter is not an emergency, consider using alternative care options and keep our highly skilled paramedics available for patients most in need.”

Mr Doyle said April to June was AV’s busiest quarter ever with more than 102,000 Code One cases across Victoria, breaking the previous record of 100,238 Code One cases set in October to December 2022.

“That’s nearly 5000 more ‘lights and sirens’ cases compared to the same time last year and a huge 35.2 per cent more Code One cases before the pandemic five years ago,” Mr Doyle said.

From April to June 2024, paramedics across Victoria responded to 64.2 per cent of Code One cases within the statewide target of 15 minutes. The statewide

average response time to Code One emergencies was 15 minutes and 37 seconds.

Performance against the 15 minute target for Code One cases improved in 55 of Victoria’s 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) compared with a year ago. In the Hume Region, the biggest improvements were in the Indigo, Murrindindi, Strathbogie and Wodonga LGAs and the major population centre of Kilmore.

Over the past year, Code One response times decreased by two minutes and 21 seconds in the Murrindindi LGA.

Executive Director of Regional Operations, Danielle North, said AV constantly monitored demand and ambulance availability in real time and worked with hospitals to help transfer patients as promptly as

possible, to ensure ambulances can get back on the road sooner.

“We also review and adjust the ambulance call taking and dispatch grid, based on research, clinical expertise and our large body of clinical data, to ensure it remains suitable for the Victorian environment,” Ms North said.

“We continue to work with our partners at Triple Zero Victoria to support the call taking and dispatch process, noting that about one in five calls to Triple Zero (000) do not need an emergency ambulance response.

“You can connect directly with the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) at vved.org.au anywhere, anytime in the comfort of home and avoid a trip to hospital.

“Other options include your local Priority Primary Care Centre (PPCC), GP or pharmacist, or Nurse-On-Call on 1300 606 024.”

The nearest PPCC to Murrindindi Shire is located in Kilmore.

“From April to June, 41,704 people who did not need an emergency ambulance were instead connected to more appropriate care by paramedics and nurses in AV’s Secondary Triage team.

“In 2023/24, paramedics referred more than 30,000 patients to the VVED and 9574 patients were referred to the VVED following assessment in Secondary Triage.

“Staying up to date with your yearly flu and COVID-19 vaccinations helps protect you, the people around you, and makes a difference reducing demand on our paramedics during this busy time.”

For more information about routine winter vaccinations or finding your nearest PPCC, visit the Better Health website at betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Here for You

AUGUST COMMUNITY UPDATE - GOULBURN VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT



TRADIES NATIONAL HEALTH MONTH

August is Tradies National Health Month (an initiative by APA) a special time to focus on the health of all tradies across Australia. This month helps raise awareness about the common health challenges faced by those in the trade industry.

A recent survey reveals that over 90% of tradies have suffered from work-related injuries or pain this past year. Many of these issues have worsened due to their demanding jobs, with knee and back pain as the most common injury. More than 76% of tradies say their pain affects their quality of life, with those in their late 20s to early 40s being especially impacted.

Survey results from tradies across Australia reveal some concerning issues:

- **76%** said that pain significantly affects their quality of life.
- **42%** described their pain as severe, with some suffering for months or even years.
- **87%** use medication or self-medicate to manage their pain, and **30%** resort to drugs or alcohol.
- **24%** worry they might need to retire early because of the stress on their bodies.

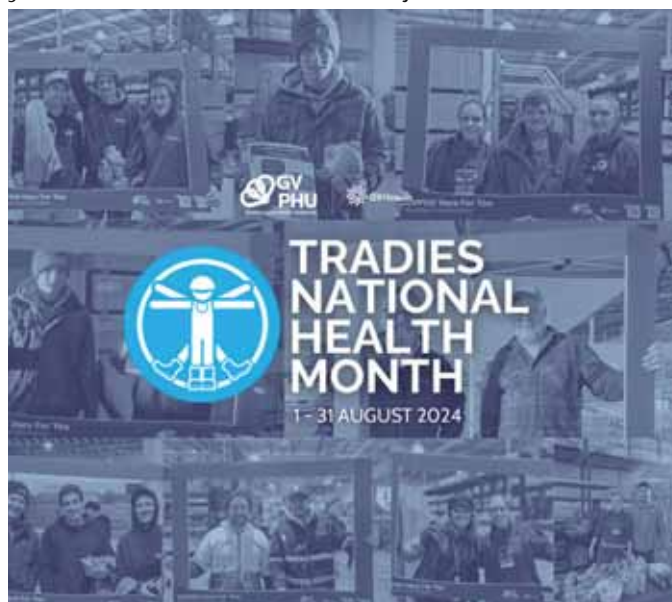
Source - <https://australian.physio/campaigns/tradies-national-health-month>

Tradies National Health Month is a great time to emphasise the importance of taking care of your health.

Top tips for Tradies:

- **Prevent Injuries:** Learn safe work techniques to avoid injuries.
- **Early Intervention:** Address pain early to prevent long-term problems.
- **Manage Your Pain:** Learn to manage your pain effectively by staying productive and enjoying daily activities.
- **Adapt as You Age:** Modify work habits to lower injury risk.

A reminder for all tradies, a healthy mind and body are your most valuable tools on the job.



PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT



There is an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Victoria. Legionnaires' disease is caused by Legionella bacteria, commonly found in natural water sources like rivers, lakes, creeks, and hot springs. It also thrives in spas, warm water systems, cooling towers, and potting mix.

Symptoms include: Fever, Chills, Cough, Headache and or Muscle Aches.

Other atypical symptoms may include: Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhoea and or Confusion.

There has been significant increase in the numbers of cases across multiple locations in metropolitan Melbourne since 26 July 2024. People who live in, work in or have visited metropolitan Melbourne and surrounding areas, and develop symptoms of Legionnaires' disease, should seek urgent medical care.

For further information, contact the Department of Health or visit their website - <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/> or GV Public Health Unit 1800 313 070



Do you know the rules around constructing a dam on your property? -Willem van Aken, CSIRO

Know your dam rights

PEOPLE are being urged to check they have the necessary licences and approvals before constructing dams on their properties to avoid unfairly impacting those downstream of them, unnecessary costs, and potential prosecution.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) General Manager Water Deliver Services Warren Blyth said improperly built or unauthorised dams could create various problems.

“One illegally constructed dam can have a severe impact on many different people,” Mr Blyth said.

“If a dam is not built to the correct specifications, it can be a hazard not only for the person whose land it is on but those downstream of them who may be inundated if it fails.

“Dams that are built on waterways without authorisation can also

prevent downstream customers from getting the water they are entitled to. In fairness to all customers, it is essential dams are licensed appropriately.”

People who build dams without the appropriate authorisation can be made to reinstate the land to its natural state at their own expense.

A licence must always be obtained prior to constructing a dam on a waterway. A waterway determination will clarify whether the land on which someone has proposed to construct a dam is classified as a waterway or not.

There are also some instances where off waterway dams require licences. These dams are labelled as “potentially hazardous” under Section 67 (1A) of the Water Act 1989.

However, Mr Blyth encouraged anyone planning to build a dam to contact GMW to confirm they were obtaining the correct permissions.

“There are various factors that determine if a dam requires a licence and what type of licence a dam may require,” he said.

“We want to ensure all dams that are built are compliant, so we are very happy to help people with any questions about the process.”

Further information on the licensing requirements for farm dams can be found on the GMW website g-mwater.com.au/farm-dams

People with any further questions can phone GMW on 1800 013 357 or email GMW’s Land and Licensing Team at licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au

VFF says transmission planning guidelines threaten food security

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have raised concerns over the recently released *Planning Guidelines for Transmission Infrastructure*, saying the Victorian Government continues to ignore critical farmer advice on planned transmission projects.

VFF President Emma Germano said that while the area targeted for infrastructure development would be further refined, the current approach is problematic.

“Since 2018, the VFF has called for a statewide plan for renewables and transmission. We warned the government that releasing these guidelines in their current form would only stoke confusion and fear in regional communities.”

“We don’t want to see half baked solutions. The key to having acceptance of this infrastructure in our backyard is to treat farmers with fairness and respect. So far, we have seen the complete opposite from the government and energy companies.”

Ms Germano said vast swathes of Victorian farmland could be subject to development.

“We have previously seen the government produce a report saying up to 70 per cent of Victorian farmland could be subject to infrastructure development. Despite the

government removing these references, these guidelines indicate that number could be accurate.”

Ms Germano stressed that food security must be at the heart of any plan.

“The VFF is seeking a balanced approach so we can protect strategic agricultural land while maintaining energy security. We shouldn’t have to choose between eating and keeping the lights on. A statewide plan for renewables and transmission must look in depth at the impact on agricultural production.

“It is not appropriate to host this type of infrastructure on our best soils and irrigated country. Including these districts as part of ‘areas of investigation’ in the government’s plan is unacceptable.

“We’ve seen how fragile supply chains are recently. Poorly planned and inappropriate energy infrastructure that’s in the wrong place will have an ongoing impact on our ability to produce and supply food.”

Ms Germano added, “Every Victorian should be looking at this issue seriously as it goes to the heart of both the Victorian economy and the generational farmers on the land. If we want a prosperous Victoria, we need a prosperous agriculture industry and thriving regions.”

Opportunity for women in Agriculture

THE Victorian Government is providing opportunity for women in agriculture to be part of the Victorian Rural Women’s Network Leadership and Mentoring program.

The program seeks to increase the representation of women in agricultural leadership roles by fostering their leadership capabilities, enhancing their skills, and instilling confidence in decision making.

Twenty women will have the opportunity to participate in specialised mentorship and leadership training, learning from influential leaders across industry and government.

The training is tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women in agriculture, providing participants with the tools, support and visibility they need to be leaders in their industry and communities.

To learn more about the program or apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

SAVE THE DATE

September 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**

October 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

November 1 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

November 29 Yea Saleyards

Spring Store Sale **9.30am**

December 6 Yea Saleyards

Spring Store Sale **9.30am**

Get in touch

Email: saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Phone 0419 722 570

AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for August, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The August theme is ‘your pet’.

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by August 31, 2024

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra

Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com

facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.



Breath testing drivers all year round

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

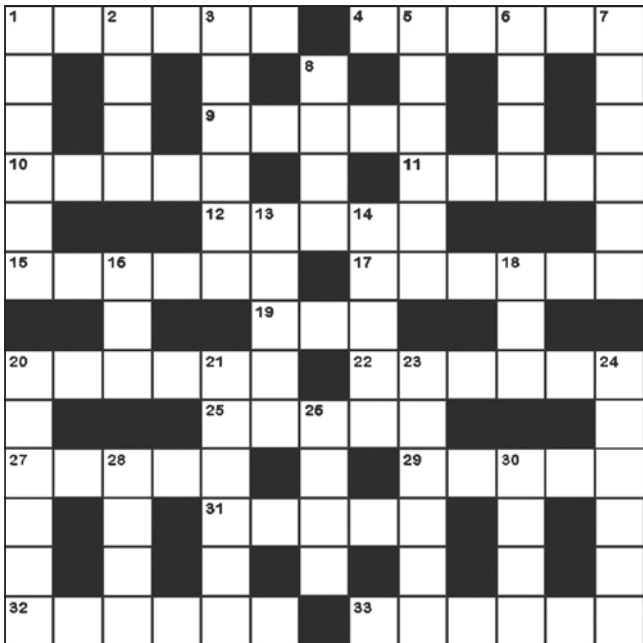
Crossword

ACROSS

1. A long and tedious speech.
4. Expressed in words.
9. Fritter away.
10. Anything with a spherical shape.
11. Bungle the job.
12. Take without permission.
15. Connect with.
17. Undiluted fruit juice.
19. Repetitive Strain Injury.
20. Finger and toes.
22. Empty areas.
25. Reject with disgust.
27. Regard highly.
29. More than is needed.
31. In a softened tone.
32. Go back again.
33. Calm and peaceful.

DOWN

1. Hang around.
2. Three performers.
3. Most up-to-date.
5. Three times as much.
6. Pulled tight.
7. Fuss about.
8. A small island.
13. Brief and to the point.



14. Liquorice-flavoured seeds.
16. Fall behind.
18. A muscle twitch.
20. Eat up greedily.
21. A small earthquake.
23. Promise solemnly.
24. A solid sculptured figure.
26. A course of action.
28. Tilt to one side.
30. Run out of energy.

Word Search

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

Dental Health

- BRACES ENABLE
BRUSH FILLINGS
CAVITY FLOSS
CHECKUP GUMS
CLEANING MOLAR
DENTIST TEETH

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
12				22				11

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					24			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		26					

$$\frac{A}{16} \frac{12}{12} \frac{17}{13} \frac{E}{22} \frac{E}{22} :$$

$$\frac{E}{22} \frac{13}{6} \frac{E}{22} \frac{17}{17} \quad \frac{E}{20} \frac{17}{17} \frac{E}{22} \frac{E}{22}$$

Math Square

3	+		-		5
-		-		+	
2	-		-		-10
-		-		-	
	+		+		14
-3		2		4	

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.

Consultation open for Victoria's Creative State Strategy

CONSULTATION is now open for the state government's new creative industries strategy, and it's time for Victorians to share ideas and insights that will shape the future of the state's creative sector.

Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, has encouraged the community to contribute to the consultation process which is now open to all Victorians, whether you are a professional artist, a bookworm, a filmmaker, a music fan or would like to see more creativity in your area.

"Our creative community impacts our everyday lives in so many ways by entertaining us, enhancing education, promoting social cohesion, improving liveability and wellbeing and boosting our economy and global reputation," Ms Symes said.

"I encourage locals to share their ideas through this consultation process, ensuring the views of our community are reflected in the strategy and that we can all experience the benefits of Victoria's creative and cultural life."

Northern Victorian residents can complete an online survey about what creativity means to them and how government should prioritise investments and initiatives for the next three years, setting the stage for longer-term success.

A discussion paper summarising current issues and opportunities for the sector, from the rapid expansion of AI to cost of living pressures, is also available and community members are invited to make a written

submission to share ideas, solutions and feedback to feed into the strategy.

Spanning music, visual art, film, theatre, dance, literature, design, digital games, comedy, fashion, circus and much more, the creative industries are a big part of life in Victoria.

More than 97 per cent of Victorians engage with creative activities, whether that's listening to music, reading books or attending performances, exhibitions or festivals.

The creative industries contribute \$40.3 billion to the Victorian economy, the equivalent to 7.5 per cent of the total state economy. Almost one in 12 Victorian workers are estimated to be employed in the creative sector, which is 318,244 people and translates to 8.6 per cent of the total Victorian workforce.

Since the state's first creative strategy was released in 2016, initiatives include the development of the inaugural First Peoples Art and Design Fair, investments to train the next generation of creative workers and board members, redevelopment of Geelong Arts Centre, and much more.

In addition to the online consultation, the Creative Victoria First Peoples Direction Circle is leading a parallel process to identify best support for First Peoples creative industries.

The Creative State Strategy consultation process is open to all community members, based in all parts of the state, until August 26. To find out more or submit your ideas, visit engage.vic.gov.au/creative-state-consultation

History repeats for the Yea hospital

GIVEN the discussion around the future of the current Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH), it is worth glancing back into the past to see what the hospital means to the community.

Not just now, but in 1988 also, the Yea community was quick to rally behind their local hospital. The article below shows the funds that were raised by community to support YDMH, and the positive community spirit.

Hospital chief speaks on future

by Norma Tobias, Acting President, Yea and District Memorial Hospital

THE Board of Management and Staff take this opportunity to thank the Yea community for their assistance with their fund raising activities during June and part of July. The total amount raised since June 1 is \$18,400. The annual appeal donation money received was \$9860 and the street collection in total was \$6500.

The following activities raised \$2475: RSL provided the Hall for the Bingo Night and the Bowling Club kindly gave up their right to the Bingo proceeds (\$289); Mr and Mrs

Lau provided a Chinese Meal Night and all proceeds went to the Hospital (\$630); the porker raffle won by Denis Slavin (\$515); various competitions (\$192); Ladies' Auxiliary Stall (\$715); Painting raffle, won by Jenny from Amble-Inn Cafe (\$135); and the hospital wine selling business is still in progress and proceeds unknown at this stage.

The board wish to advise the people of Yea and community that they are currently reviewing the existing accident and emergency facilities at the Hospital. At the same time they are addressing the upgrading of clinical standards of the Hospital, so that surgery services may be reinstated.

The Accident and Emergency Department is a very active area of the hospital, where many emergencies are treated by medical and nursing staff. Not only do the local people use this area extensively, but also the travelling public.

The recent mini-disaster experienced in Yea further emphasised that this area needs substantial upgrading.

The board will be addressing this problem in the near future. Experts will be asked for their advice on how best to use existing facilities and what further improvements will be required.

The public money raised this month will be exclusively used to purchase additional equipment and assist with the expected building/renovation expenses that are anticipated. As no Health Department funds are available to cover these costs, the hospital will need to cover the shortfall from capital funds.

Available capital funds are used yearly to finance budget over-runs as well as capital equipment purchases. It is imperative that some capital funds remain available to finance these items. The board, therefore, will appreciate any assistance and suggestions from the interested public to raise the additional required capital to finance the proposed renovations.

Finally, the board members and staff of your local community hospital thank you for your financial support, not only during the past month, but also for your past and future financial assistance. It is becoming more and more apparent that Health Department funding for special projects is unobtainable. In order to keep your hospital up to 20th century standards and expectations, your donations are greatly appreciated.

Earthquake at Woods Point

A 4.1 magnitude earthquake occurred at 3.48am near Woods Point on Wednesday, August 7. The earthquake was felt locally, and as far as Wangaratta, South Morang, Healesville, Yarra Junction and Dargo.

By the following morning, 2178 people reported feeling the earthquake.

In the shire, there were a large number of 'felt reports' reported to Geosciene Australia. Three were near Narbethong, 11 near Marysville, one near Buxton, one near Taggerty, two near Thornton, five near Eildon, two near Taylor Bay, five near Alexandra, one near Yea, three near Kinglake and two near Toolangi.

There was no reported damage resulting from the earthquake.

Sudoku

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Difficulty: Hard

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.

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CRYPTOGRAM

MARLEE - ELDER TREE

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

3	+	8	-	6	5
-		-		+	
2	-	5	-	7	-10
-		-		-	
4	+	1	+	9	14
-3		2		4	

Call for actions
to reduce risk of
farm drowning
hazards

LEADING safety agencies Kidsafe Victoria, Life Saving Victoria and Farmsafe Australia have urged regional families to set up safe play areas and actively supervise children around water, in a bid to reduce the number of drowning incidents on farms.

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of child deaths on farms. According to the latest statistics from the *Royal Life Saving Society of Australia's National Drowning Report*, 26 per cent of toddler (zero to four years) drownings in 2022/23 occurred in inland waterways such as lakes, dams, rivers and creeks. That figure rose to 43 per cent in the five to 14 year age group.

Jason Chambers, General Manager of Kidsafe Victoria, said that farms have a number of unique hazards which are not commonly found in a suburban home, including bodies of water.

"Farms and regional properties often contain a number of different bodies of water such as dams, troughs, irrigation channels, water tanks, rivers and lakes, all which can pose a potential drowning hazard for children.

"Creating a safe play area that is away from water and other farm hazards such as animals and machinery, is a great way to provide kids with a safe place to explore," Mr Chambers said.

In 2020, Shepparton mother Ash Napolitano endured every parent's worst nightmare when her two-year-old son, Hunter, drowned in a dam on a Goulburn Valley farm. In honour of their son, Ash and Matt established the Hunter Boyle Children's Swim program with Kidsafe Victoria to provide children in need in the Goulburn Valley region with free swimming lessons and water safety education.

Dr Hannah Calverley, Manager of Research and Evaluation with Life Saving Victoria emphasised the significance of teaching children how to swim and having an emergency plan to ensure their safety around water.

"We urge all families to prioritise enrolling children in swim classes to learn water safety and to keep their first aid and CPR qualifications current," Dr Calverley said.

Farmsafe Australia Chair Felicity Richards highlighted the important role that active adult supervision plays in keeping children safe on the farm.

"Always keep children within arm's reach and ensure they are never left alone near hazardous areas such as machinery, animals, or water sources. Being physically close allows you to respond instantly if a dangerous situation arises," Ms Richards said.

Farm water safety tips

Make sure children are actively always supervised by an adult when in or around water. For toddlers, this means having an adult within arm's reach; set up a safe play area away from water hazards such as dams.

The play area should be securely fenced, located close to the house, and equipped with adequate shade, as well as a range of fun and engaging activities for children.

Enrol children in learn to swim classes.

Ensure that water storage areas, such as wells and tanks, are securely covered.

Where practical, remove items floating in dams that may attract children into the water.

Dress children in brightly coloured clothing to help them be seen when on farms.

Fill in unused holes where water can gather, such as ditches, dips, and post holes.

Learn CPR and regularly update your skills.

For more information on farm safety and the Hunter Boyle Children's Swim Program, please visit kidsafevic.com.au

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MEETINGS



Upper Goulburn Community Radio

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact secretary via email info@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.



The Vietnam Veterans' Service will be held on Sunday, August 18, at 11.30am in the Memorial Garden at RSL Hall, Alexandra.

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DEATH NOTICES

SCOTT,
Joan Betty

03/01/1924 -
06/08/2024

Passed away at Rosebank Hostel, Yea aged 100 years.

Dearly loved mother of David, Delma and John. Mother in law to Dianne, Barry and Lee. Adored grandmother of Lisa and Jarrod, Kim and Peter, Russell and Sarah, Steven and Jenna, Rodney and Allison, Shelly and Ian, Michelle, Jarrod and Laura. Great grandmother to 21 loved souls and one great grandchild.

A long life well lived.

Rest in Peace.

SCOTT,
Joan Betty

03/01/1924 -
06/08/2024

Passed peacefully at Rosebank Hostel. Loved and loving mother and mother in law of Delma and Barry. Adored nanna of Russell and Sarah, Steven and Jenna. Great nan of Zali, Max, Archer and Willow.

You will be sorely missed and forever in our hearts.

FUNERAL NOTICES

SCOTT,
Joan Betty

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Joan will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at Yea Bowling Club, High Street, Yea commencing at 1pm.



A.F.D.A. 1800 080 909 www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

SCOTT,
Joan Betty

The family of Joan Scott wish to convey our heartfelt thanks to Drs Lowe and Teong and the staff and volunteers at Rosebank Hostel for their kindness and care offered to her during her recent residency there.



The Eastern grey kangaroo is a species of Kangaroo you will see throughout the shire. -S

Hop, skip and bump on the road

A PART of country life is watching out for wildlife, especially on the road. Sadly, many native animals are hit by vehicles each year.

Murrindindi Shire Council couldn't supply the numbers of deceased animals they remove from council roads each year, however wildlife can often be found on roads within township zones, as well as on highways.

In 2020, a kangaroo population survey was conducted by the state government. Murrindindi Shire came in second out of the top 10 'highest abundance of kangaroo areas', with a staggering 99,400 eastern grey kangaroos. Mitchell Shire came in first with 123,500 eastern grey kangaroos.

The survey was conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), now known as DEECA. They used experienced operators in aerial counting by helicopters to cover 3234 kilometres of transects. It's difficult to tell between the eastern grey species and western greys from the air. Crews covered 2195 kilometres of ground surveys across the state.

These results were larger than the 2017/2018 results, in fact, it was 36 per cent more. In 2020 it was estimated that there were 1,942,000 kangaroos in total, which grew from 1,423,000 in 2018.

In 2022, the kangaroo population survey took place again, however the data set was different compared to 2020 as it wasn't allocated into local government areas. Previously, Murrindindi Shire came under the central area in the study. The aerial survey from the central area showed 821,000 eastern grey kangaroos. In Victoria, the overall kangaroo population came to 2,418,000 and of this amount, the eastern grey species amounted for majority of Victoria's numbers, being 89 per cent.

Culling kangaroos is permitted in Victoria under strict requirements. The 2022 *Kangaroo Harvest Report* defines the two systems as the following, "The first mechanism is the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) provisions of the Wildlife Act 1975 (Victoria), which allows legal culling of wildlife, including three species of kangaroo, the eastern grey kangaroo, western grey kangaroo, and red kangaroo. The second is a commercial harvest of eastern grey kangaroos and western grey kangaroo (also through the Wildlife Act) where annually determined quotas allow for ecologically sustainable commercial use of meat and skins from both species of grey kangaroo. Collectively, the culling and harvest of kangaroos is termed 'offtake'."

Part of the *Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Plan 2024-2028* permitted commercial harvesting of eastern grey and western grey kangaroos on private land and some public land in designated areas of Victoria. In the Harvest Zones for 2024 for the period of January 1 to December 31, the state is divided into seven harvest areas. Next year, the harvest zones are changing to five zones instead of seven. Murrindindi Shire comes under the central zone in the harvest management plan.

The conservation of eastern and western grey kangaroos is considered secure in Victoria. The large populations seem to outweigh the increasing numbers deceased on the side of roads.

Kangaroos are fairly safe from non-human predators as their robust appearance seems to deter being preyed upon. Young kangaroos are at risk from foxes and wedge tailed eagles.

According to the *Victorian Harvest Management Plan*, dingoes are considered the only significant predator for a kangaroo but its more likely in pastoral areas, however, dingo populations would prefer sheep to kangaroo as prey, and dingo populations are small and unlikely to have meaningful impact on the state's kangaroo population.

Kangaroos are also seasonal breeders which also shows the growth over the years of these as numbers climb. Wildlife Victoria state that eastern grey kangaroos can breed throughout the year, however most births occur during summer, in response to favourable conditions.

Since these kangaroos only have few predators and appear untouchable in the animal world and are healthy breeders, numbers are likely to climb.

SPORT

Yea golfers keeping busy

by Phil Armstrong.

WITH conditions improving, 18 members turned out to contest the stoke and putting competition last Wednesday. Vicki Clements (26) nett 72 was a clear winner in the ladies event with Meryl Connell (25) nett 78 taking out second place. Vicki also collected the ladies putting trophy with 27 putts.

Micheal Spagnolo (8) was the best of the 11 men, returning a nett 72 to be declared the winner. Trevor Connell (20) won a three way countback to take out second place from Phil Armstrong (21) and Sam Wright (29). Anthony Coleman was declared the winner in the men's putting competition with 26 on countback from Michael Spagnolo.

There were no winners in the nearest the pin on the second hole from either ladies or men. John Renehan was welcomed back after a few weeks away and collected the coveted club award.

Simmo wins 54 hole event
by Alan Pell

BRIAN Simmons with another podium finish won the 54 hole event, finishing third again on each day. Brian's 24 points beat Alan Pell 20 and Zach Pell 16. Winner of the day's competition stroke and monthly medal was Peter Johnston (17) with 89 off the stick nett 72. Second with nett 73 on countback was Tony Rule (20) from Brian (12) third. The putting was won by Peter Johnston and Mic Spagnolo with 26 putts each. There was no nearest the pin on the 11th and Kevin Coghlan won the club award.

Sharon Grogan (29) won the stroke competition for the ladies with a nett 72 from Cindy Armstrong (35) with nett 76. Chooklotto worth \$100 was won by John Tanner, with unlucky Pelly and Penny finishing second and third.



Brian Simmons after his great games of golf. -S

Rounds in Euroa and Mansfield for winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

THERE were three matches in Euroa and one in Mansfield for Round 14 last Monday week.

Wappan welcomed Terip to Mansfield under grey skies with the hosts keen to avenge a two-game loss in their last encounter. Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle and Phoebe Macdermid were thankful to include Wappan's Agnes Kay in their side.

The opening sets went one each way with Jenny Bell and Rhonda Carpenter fighting hard for every game to win 8-2 while Cindy and Bec won 8-4 against Anna Speirs and Liza Karras in lengthy rallies. Balls found every part of the court, especially the lines, and everyone enjoyed the hard high-quality hitting.

Terip's superb placement allowed them to control play and the physical contest saw them find their best form. Agnes dominated at net with quick reflex touch for the visitors.

Terip were again victorious by two games to win 4/37 to 2/35.

In Euroa the home sides were comfortable against their visitors. Seven Creeks' Rosie Cameron, Ro Ellis, Kelly Hill and Kerry Hewlett defeated Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Jo O'Brien, Deb McCormack, and Deb Mims who had also included Jill Hayes into their team. Seven Creeks won 6/48 to 0/11.

Creighton's Creek Marja Wondergem, Sue Vaughan, Gayle Furphy and Ros Doxey were convincing winners over Moglonemby. Judy Sands, Marlene Hanrahan, and Lyn Johnson were joined by Benalla's Maureen Jewell and toiled hard all day, but the Creeks won 6/48 to 0/23.

Euroa's Lindall Bigland, Di Ellis, Ruth Nolan and Julie Harrington were challenged in both openers against Mansfield in a hard-fought contest. Michelle Pigdon, Amanda Steele, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham won the first eight-six while Euroa took the other in a tiebreaker.

The lengthy warmup suited the home side who took all the other sets, so Euroa won 5/46 to 1/ 35 to move back up into second spot on the ladder.

Four rounds remain with several teams still in contention to make finals. The semi finals will be played in Mansfield on September 9 and the grand final will be held in Euroa on September 16.

After Round 14 Terip has 92 points, Euroa 88, Benalla 79, Mansfield 72, Seven Creeks 65, Creighton's Creek 62, Wappan 59, Moglonemby 38 and Delatite 5.

opponent. Beth had too much experience for Matthew and took home the win with ease. 84 to 31.

Lucas versus Sam: Two games each with both battling for supremacy. Sam won the first and last game but took a hard loss in game three which ultimately led to his demise. Lucas triumphed. 65 to 60.

Jack versus James (fill in): The first half of the match was close with only a few points difference. There was a drastic shift in the second half where Jack seemed to lose the pep in his step, giving James the opportunity to ruthlessly gain points. James won the match. 91 to 35.

Orcas versus Stingrays

Blake versus Jess: In the beginning Jess was giving Blake a run for his money. Blake turned the tables to take the last two games and won the match. 58 to 52.

Kristelle versus Jodie (fill in): Keeping herself in the running, Kristelle kept the games close at the start. Come to game three and she lost her way, opening the way for Jodie to vastly increase her lead. Kristelle tried to claw her way back in the final game, but Jodie took the victory. 71 to 46.

Stuart versus Jim: Jim was on the ball tonight. Stuart didn't manage to get a single game. Jim won the match in a clean sweep. 69 to 47.

Squash:
Round four
never a bore

by Kristelle Leary

Blue Vein versus Gouda

ETHAN versus Lochlan: Lochlan played some long deep forehand shots while Ethan did the same on his backhand. The serving of both players is improving, and it was a close match. Ethan snuck ahead to take the win. 50 to 46.

Lee (fill in) versus Chris: An interesting match. Trying to stay in it, Chris persisted through the match. Lee stayed just ahead in each game for a clean sweep and the match. 57 to 43.

Pep versus Justin: A court of commotion is a given when these two are playing. Pep had Justin on the run all night. Justin didn't manage to get a game leaving Pep victorious. 73 to 52.

James versus Derrick: Never ending rallies were prevalent in this close high energy match. Utilising good depth, James crept ahead to come out the champion. 63 to 54.

Feta versus Mozzarella

Tyler versus Eric: Both players had great shots, but Tyler's killer serve proved too good for Eric. Tyler won the match. 68 to 44.

Sally versus Mick: Mick had a strong lead in the first three games. Sally fought back to claim the final game, but the outcome of the match was already sealed. Mick was triumphant. 55 to 35.

Ruth (fill in) versus Daniel: A great match. Ruth came out strong to take the first game before Daniel swung into gear to take the last three games and the match. 73 to 55.

Barracudas versus Piranhas

Matthew versus Beth: Doing his best Matthew ran the court in an attempt to take down his

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors

Seville	272.20	12
Healesville	249.92	12
Warburton Millgrove	195.01	13
Belgrave	152.53	8
Alexandra	188.67	9
Yea	111.10	8
Yarra Glen	37.14	2
Yarra Junction	33.86	2
Powelltown	22.37	1

Football - Reserves

Belgrave	463.29	14
Seville	366.85	12
Healesville	322.22	12
Warburton Millgrove	256.69	11
Yea	94.05	7
Alexandra	55.97	6
Powelltown	28.20	3
Yarra Junction	33.31	1
Yarra Glen	18.18	1

Football - Senior Women

Monbulk	52 pts	13
Woori Yallock	52 pts	12
Warburton-Wesburn	50 pts	12
Officer	34 pts	8
Wandin	30 pts	7
Emerald	30 pts	7
Seville	8 pts	2
Thornton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16

Euroa	78.57	11
Moama	64.28	9
Seymour	53.84	7
Alexandra	21.42	3
Yea	15.38	2
Broadford	14.28	2

Football - Under 14

Broadford	421.43	10
Wandong	211.34	6
Tabilk	123.72	6
Alexandra	132.53	5
Seymour	101.07	3
Yea	5.03	0

Netball - A Grade

Warburton Millgrove	183.89	13
Seville	161.69	13
Yarra Glen	149.72	10
Healesville	88.41	6
Alexandra	74.45	6
Belgrave	86.76	4
Yarra Junction	75.49	4
Yea	46.19	1

Netball - B Grade

Seville	68 pts	15
Belgrave	52 pts	11
Yarra Glen	52 pts	11
Warburton Millgrove	44 pts	10
Yea	36 pts	7
Yarra Junction	24 pts	4
Powelltown	24 pts	4
Healesville	20 pts	3
Alexandra	20 pts	3

Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	66 pts	14
Seville	60 pts	13
Warburton Millgrove	50 pts	11
Belgrave	48 pts	10
Yea	36 pts	7
Yarra Junction	32 pts	6
Alexandra	18 pts	2
Powelltown	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1

Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	12
Alexandra	73.07	9
Belgrave	65.38	8
Yarra Glen	61.53	8
Warburton Millgrove	57.14	8
Yea	23.07	3
Yarra Junction	14.28	2
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12

Wandong	48 pts	12
Alexandra	40 pts	10
Broadford	28 pts	7
Seymour	28 pts	7
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	12 pts	3
St Marys	0 pts	0

SPORT

Two Yea junior teams into the netball grand finals

Under 15
Yea Tigers 29 defeated Broadford Roos 25
 by Joanne Madden

THE under 15 Tigers headed into the first-round qualifying final having secured second spot on the ladder. Unfortunately percentage prevented them from achieving the minor premiership. The Tigers had lost twice earlier in the year against the Roos but when the full team was available towards the end of the year they were able to get those two wins back against them.

Having most recently beaten the Roos, Yea knew that they would be coming in strong, hoping to get back a win against the Tigers. The Tigers were determined to show that their last two wins weren't just luck.

The game was intense from start to finish. Jemma stepped up to start the game as centre. Maya and Sophie were again in the goals with Marley feeding as wing attack. The Tigers broke the Roos centre and with accurate shooting took the lead. Elsie was strong in wing defence, providing a consistent option for Yea's goal end defenders of Flynn and Sienna. At quarter time the Tigers had the lead seven to the Roos five.

Elsie and Jemma swapped positions in the second quarter with Ella stepping in as wing attack to assist Marley and Sophie who were now in shooting positions. Lily took to the court as wing defence to support Sienna and Flynn in defence. The Roos came out stronger in this quarter but the Tigers managed to hold

their nerve and it was goal for goal throughout this term. The Tigers managed to preserve their lead going into half time with scores Tigers 14 to Roos 12.

Elsie stayed steady in centre position at the beginning of the quarter with minimal other changes made across the team. Sienna and Flynn swapped their defending positions allowing for the Tigers to manage energy and stamina. Jemma and Ella both played in wing defence for the quarter and worked hard to be an option for getting the ball out of the defending end.

Maya in wing attack with all her shooting experience was an asset for reading the play and getting the ball into Sophie and Marley in the goals. Despite the Roos persistence,

the Tigers were able to outscore them in this quarter and gained another goal towards the lead. Scores at three quarter time were the Tigers 23 to the Roos 20.

The weather was warm and the players were beginning to get slightly weary but the determination remained. Jemma stepped back into centre for most of the final quarter. Elsie was back at her defending best in wing defence, taking several intercepts. Sienna and Flynn remained consistent in their defence causing play to slow down when it got to the Roos scoring end.

The attacking combination of Maya, Marley and Sophie had found their rhythm and were able to consistently convert when the ball was in our goal circle. The Roos defence were also relentless and rebounding did not come easy. Consistency and team effort saw the Tigers get one more goal than the Roos for this term and walk away with the win.

The Tigers get the week off next weekend before heading into the grand final on Sunday, August 25 at 1.15pm at King's Park Seymour. The Yea Tigers would love to have as many of their Tigers supporters there as possible to support the team and celebrate the 2024 season.

Under 13
Yea 29 defeated Alexandra 16

by Deb Schicklerling

FINALs are a nervous time for the players and spectators alike and the team that settles the quickest usually comes away with the win and this was evident in the under 13 preliminary final of Yea versus Alexandra Black at Broadford.

Both teams were visibly nervous with basic errors and a lot of umpire whistle while a large vocal crowd watched on. Alexandra Black are the only team that had beaten the Yea girls all season but the Tigers were instructed to play their game and just have fun and once the first couple of goals dropped the girls were away.

This team has been a strong united group all year with each player enthusiastically supporting each other on and off the court so weak links would have been hard to find. Changes were made each quarter with the rolling subs only being taken advantage of in the last by Coach Cronk but each combination worked with clean passages of play and strong intercepts.

Yea has a week off and a pass straight into the grand final.



Qualifying final players for Yea Tigers 15 years and under. -S



The under 13s were told to play the game their way, and have some fun. -S



The Yea under 13s took to the court for the semi finals. -S

Regional football and netball grants available

APPLICATIONS are now open for the latest round of the Victorian Government's *Country Football and Netball Program*.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for regional and outer metropolitan councils to apply for grants for sports infrastructure developments including court lighting

upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more, to benefit their local clubs and communities.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria, and Netball Victoria, the program has invested more than \$40 million

and delivered more than 575 projects since 2005.

The state government's *Country Football and Netball Program* is part of more than \$23 million invested in this year's budget and more than \$2.3 billion invested since 2014 to deliver world class community sport

infrastructure and programs that increase participation and improve accessibility for more Victorians.

Applications close on Monday, September 30. For more information on the program and to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding

The Chronicle Sport

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Life Membership for Ruth Hatty

by Viv Cavanagh

AT the Yea Bowls Club AGM held on Wednesday, July 31, Ruth Hatty of Flowerdale, was awarded a Life Membership in honour of her commitment to the club.

Ruth along with her husband, Ken, became members of the Yea Bowls Club in 2001.

They had bowled at both Keilor, and on the Gold Coast in Queensland before coming back to Flowerdale, where Ken had spent his childhood. Both Ruth and Ken represented Victoria in the State Bowls teams on several occasions. They were both very competitive players, winning many trophies over the years.

Ruth has been the Single's Ladies Club Champion nine times since she joined the club and has won the Pairs Champion with other players. Ruth was also part of the Central Bowls District Silver Anniversary Tray winners with Irene Artini, Joan Scott, and Muriel Perry in 2006; and with Joan Scott, Jeanie Higgins and Muriel Perry in 2007.

Ken was also a very distinctive bowler winning the Champion of Champions Trophy for the Central Highlands District in 2003 and was the Yea Bowls Club Champion four times from 2001 to 2006. Ken also won the Central Bowls Division Pairs Champion with Cec Cook in 2004 and 2005 and again in 2015 with Peter West as his partner before retiring from bowls.

Ruth and Ken played Pennant for many years competing in the Central Bowls District.

Apart from competing on the rink, Ruth committed a large amount of her time to the club, helping with all the meals the club supplied for functions.

This was not only for the many tournaments that required catering, but also for Pennant games twice a week during the season from October to March. The Yea Bowls Club ladies also catered for many funerals.

Monday social games usually had at least 40 players every week where the men played bowls and the women made the lunches. Ruth took on the main role of preparing these meals for the day, which included regular hot meals.

Ruth always made sandwiches and sponges for the over 60s games, which was the standard meal for more than 60 players and assistants who attended these events.

This catering enabled many upgrades to the clubrooms including the dishwasher, microwave, crockery, cutlery and any other equipment that was required.

Although she has in recent times stepped back a bit, she is still making sponges or anything else asked of her and helping whenever a function is held.

She has also been very keen to promote the etiquette of bowling and always informs players about the correct protocol on the greens, helping new players feel comfortable while she is still playing social bowls on a Monday at the age of 88.

Ruth's membership is a great attribute to the Yea Bowls Club and is appreciated by all.



Ruth with her bowling arm. -S



Ruth was the Singles Champion 2021 winner. -S



Ruth receiving membership from Leif -S