

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 28, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

Farmers and the Fire Services Levy

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish believes that the Victorian Government is favouring corporate-owned wind and solar farms, granting international proponents cheaper fire service levy payments, while Victorian farmers are being forced to pay the full amount.

Ms McLeish said that the government has given enormous concessions to the proponents of renewable projects, seeing them pay a collective total of \$600,000. Ms McLeish believes that this is an injustice to local farmers, many of whom are CFA volunteers, and who are being charged \$75.7 million in fire service levies this financial year, compared to \$47.5 million last year.

"The Allan Labor Government are clearly looking after the major corporate

and internationally owned companies while hanging Victorian farmer's out to dry.

"Farmers are the backbone of the Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires and play a major role in our community and economy yet are being financially slugged."

Wind and solar farm owners will see a 92 per cent reduction to their fire service levies, being classified as public figure rates, the same rates as schools and hospitals. Meanwhile, the farmers that live around those wind turbines, are paying 72 per cent more after this year's state budget.

"Many of our farmers also man the CFA trucks and are first responders to grass fires, bush fires and car accidents on our country highways. Through this levy, they

are effectively paying for the services they provide to our community.

"The Allan Labor Government continuously ignore calls from local CFA brigades for urgently needed funding, facility and equipment upgrades, leaving brigades to do so much of their own fund raising. It is a disgrace and again highlights that this government will forget about hard working volunteering Victorians.

"We know out of control wind turbine fires are a real threat. They cannot be easily extinguished and are typically left to burn out. This is a major concern as we lead into what will be a very dry summer. Our farmers and CFA Brigades need more support, more funding and upgraded equipment," Ms McLeish said.

Council statement on the proposed Seymour Wind Farm

MURRINDINDI Shire Council acknowledges the proposal by Fera Australia to construct a large wind farm called the Seymour Wind Farm in the area between Avenel, Longwood, Ponkeen Creek and Ruffy in Victoria. The proposed project is said to feature 80 to 100 wind turbines that are up to 245 metres tall and require approximately 30km of new 330kV transmission lines, proposed to be overhead, mainly across private and crown land within Murrindindi Shire.

While the Murrindindi Shire community generally recognises the potential benefits of renewable energy projects, council acknowledges the significant concerns raised by residents regarding the Seymour Wind Farm's potential social, economic, and environmental impacts in our 'culturally significant, environmentally sensitive, ecologically diverse and pristine' region.

Council believes it is important to carefully balance the need for renewable energy generation with the protection of local amenity, environment, agriculture, tourism, and social outcomes. We have reached out to Fera Australia to seek a more comprehensive and meaningful community engagement process to ensure community concerns are heard, considered and addressed effectively. Council has suggested that citizen panels could be effective in expressing and tackling community concerns, including consideration by Fera Australia for the undergrounding of transmission infrastructure to protect our significant and celebrated landscapes.

As the Seymour Wind Farm project is still in its preliminary stages, council encourages Fera Australia to step up community engagement efforts and conduct thorough environmental and social impact assessments. If a permit application is made to the Victorian Minister for Planning, who will ultimately assess and determine the project's outcome, council will provide a submission as a referral authority that will clearly reflect the community's views.

Murrindindi Shire Council remains committed to supporting sustainable development that benefits the local community while minimising negative impacts. We will continue to monitor the progress of the Seymour Wind Farm project and advocate for outcomes that protect the unique character and values of our shire.



Students from Sacred Heart Primary School, along with teacher Zanni Waldstein (right), presented the last three years' Kids Teaching Kids books to the Yea Library. The books of student work will now be on display at various libraries around Murrindindi Shire. -BD

Premier comments on state forests and transmission lines

THE Premier of Victoria, Jacinta Allan, made a series of comments in recent days about governmental decisions and proposals.

Speaking at the Bush Summit, she said, "There are eight million hectares of public land in Victoria – close to a third of our state. And there are pockets we must protect, areas we must conserve. But, to me, the most important thing we can do for our bush is make sure it's enjoyed. That's why today I want to be very clear: as Premier, and a proud country Victorian: I will never put a padlock on our public forests. It's not who I am, and it's not what I believe. I want to make sure our kids and grandkids can get out in the bush and fall in love the same way I did."

She also made a series of statements at the Rural Press Club of Victoria luncheon in Bendigo on Friday, August 23.

About hospitals, she said about not supporting the amalgamation recommendation in the Health Services Plan, "We know that local people at local hospitals do have a very clear sense of what their communities need. And just as those organisations listen to their communities, government should as well. And as I said, I know how much local health services matter and I'm extremely proud of the work we've done over a sustained period of time to make it even stronger."

As the premier was speaking at the event, protesters were outside the building, particularly concerned about transmission lines on farm lands.

When asked about this, the premier responded, "Rural and regional communities, primary producers and farmers are the most exposed to the challenges of climate change, they are the most exposed to the negative consequences of a change in climate... Part of the answer to that is delivering more renewable energy and delivering more renewable energy means that we provide better energy security."

The vice president of the Victorian Farmers Federation said, "Farmers are feeling increasingly frustrated. Death by 1000 cuts, whether you look at wild dog, pest transmission, renewables and welfare legislation and... Farmers feel extremely unheard. Are you open to committing to a holistic food and fibre strategy across the whole of Victoria that actually prioritises agriculture and rural regional?"

The premier responded, "We are working on an economic growth strategy at the moment, looking at those sectors of the economy that have served us well."

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

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

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison

manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au

accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Vasu

1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au

(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS

sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714

Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603

Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material. Print Post Approved - PP 100000292

Independantly owned and operated and in no way associated with any other media outlet.

Letters to the Editor

Supermarkets

IN response to the letter from Wayne Miller put in last week's edition to Letters to the Editor regarding supermarkets, you as a past business owner of course will stand up and back that supermarket.

Their prices are more than most other supermarkets, so they can make it look like they are supporting local clubs. Thats what you're paying for at the cash registers.

I know Aldi was knocked back on getting in up here. As for getting a McDonald's store or even other fast food chains which would support work for the young in this town and give them a start in life. That is why the young go down to Melbourne because there is no future in this dying town.

Until we get changes in this town, you might as well call this town an old people's retirement village because no-one in this town has the courage to stand up and get things done around the local area, but I will say that I am only one person that is going to push back against council and other local issues.

I have never seen so many people that are lazy to get of their backsides and fight for what they do or do not believe in.

In regards to this council they already know who I am. As for the prices at the local FoodWorks, they are a disgrace and they never order enough, especially where there are things on in the town such as long weekends.

That's why the locals go without. The out-of-towners buy up big on long weekends and the locals can not get there regular things. So people with attitudes like yours and many others nothing will change in this town, so I and others I know will continue to support other towns like Seymour because we get a much better deal than we and many others get in this town.

I just feel for the people who don't have access to a vehicle to get over there, where they can get what they want, when they want it, and don't give me that rubbish about freight.

If that's the case why don't all the other town's prices rise as well. You people just stick your heads in the sand and do nothing but complain about it. About time something gets done about it.

No point complaining to politicians because they are most of the problems. They do nothing, never have and never will. They can't even get our roads fixed up and they wonder why there are so many accidents, with pot holes and the roads just crumbling away.

We need to get rid of the Labor Government. They take our money in taxes and it is not spent in the country. It is wasted down in Melbourne on things that we up here will never use.

It's time people start and wake up as to what these people are doing. This is not government but it is bunch of communists. This is no longer a free and democratic country as they claim it is. We are just told what to do and if we don't they try and shut us down about time people stand up and be counted.

Ian Perry, Alexandra

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN: To the disgraceful condition of the only bus stop in Yea. The glass is all smashed and a hazard with glass all over the floor, and the curbing is all broken up along the edge, along with a huge pothole on the way to it. It is very dangerous, especially trying to climb in and out of a bus.

THUMBS UP: To our fantastic supermarket. Great service and excellent product variety and quality. I also am very grateful for all they provide and all they support.

THUMBS DOWN: To Murrindindi Shire Council for its Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024-2029. This is largely a work of fiction as council continues to avoid taking an active role in management of any of our kindergartens, a role now beyond the capacity of volunteer committees. All council did was to spend a grant from the state government on a consulting firm from outside the shire who just told us what we already knew.

THUMBS UP: Thank you to all who contributed to the beautiful daffodils. I still have a smile on my face.

THUMBS UP: To the Murrindindi Shire Council for the wonderful new gum trees recently planted down the Melbourne Road nature strip in Yea. These trees will help to provide habitat for wildlife and assist us with our fight against climate change.

THUMBS UP: To the person who thinks we need a Coles in Yea. Even though I don't think that will happen, we need something like that to pull FoodWorks into line, especially the management.

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

Weekly Weather

August 28 - September 3, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	14	Wednesday	8	15
Thursday	11	14	Thursday	11	15
Friday	9	17	Friday	9	17
Saturday	8	13	Saturday	8	14
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	9	17
Monday	4	14	Monday	4	15
Tuesday	5	17	Tuesday	5	17

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Like us on
Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	11.00am Mon	1.97	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00am Mon	0.63	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.25am Mon	0.88	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	10.22am Mon	0.36	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.12am Mon	0.73	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	12.38pm Mon	1.09	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	4.35	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.64	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00am Mon	2.21	rising	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00am Mon	2.38	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.39am Mon	1.64	steady	

**ISSUED AT 11.15AM ON MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 31.9mm
Buxton..... 37.2mm
Eildon (AWS)..... 26mm
Flowerdale..... 23mm
Jamieson..... 57mm
Kinglake..... 12mm
Lake Eildon..... 47mm
Mansfield..... 3mm
Taggerty 42mm
Yarck 59mm
Yea..... 25mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....286.09m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....89%
Metres below full supply.....2.81m
Daily inflow6000ML
Release..... 4200ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....70%

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

Call for candidates for Murrindindi Shire Council election

CANDIDATES ready to stand in the upcoming Murrindindi Shire Council postal election are urged to use the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC's) newly refreshed Candidate Helper to get their applications ready for submission when nominations open on Monday, September 9.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel reminded candidates that there are several important steps they must complete before nominating.

"If you want to represent your local community, make sure to confirm your

eligibility and complete the mandatory online candidate training through Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination. This rule applies to all candidates, including those who are currently or have previously been a councillor," Mr Bluemmel said.

The VEC's online Candidate Helper at vec.vic.gov.au/council-candidate allows candidates to pre fill their nomination forms before submitting them at their nomination appointment.

Candidates can also watch a series of videos on key topics such as the nomination

process, including the rules and procedures that apply. More information is available online at vec.vic.gov.au

The *Candidate Handbook* is also available on the VEC website.

Prospective candidates are also encouraged to attend the candidate information sessions being held in each electorate before the opening of nominations.

Prospective candidates must make an appointment to submit their nomination forms and pay the \$250 fee in person during business hours. They must provide evidence that they have completed the online candidate training, as this is required by law and will be shown on each candidate's nomination form.

Candidates must make an appointment to submit their nomination form in person at the election office by calling the Candidate Helpline on 8620 1316 between Tuesday, August 20 and Monday, September 9.

From Monday, September 9, candidates can call 131 832 and they will be directed through to the relevant election office.

Nominations close at noon on Tuesday, September 17. Late nominations will not be accepted.

More information on nominating is available at vec.vic.gov.au

Recipients of tourism grants for regional Victoria announced

REGIONAL Victoria will have even more amazing tourist attractions for people to visit with exciting local projects getting off the ground thanks to the Victorian Government.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Steve Dimopoulos, last Friday visited the Art Gallery of Ballarat to announce 29 projects across regional Victoria that will receive funding through the *Enabling Tourism Fund 2024*.

"Regional Victoria has so many unique attractions and this funding will ensure we have new and exciting tourism projects in the works for years to come," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"This is great news not just for our tourism operators, but for jobs and local economies in each of these regional areas."

The grants of up to \$500,000 will support regional tourism projects to reach investment-ready status by funding feasibility studies and designing future infrastructure.

In Murrindindi Shire, Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLAWC) was successful with regard to concept testing for a Taungurung Cultural Centre and Reddrops Management Group Pty Ltd have received funding for a Hotel Eildon Development Plan.

The *Enabling Tourism Fund* is part of a \$170 million investment to create more local jobs, support our important tourism businesses and attract more people to the incredible experiences on offer across regional Victoria.

To see a complete list of the Enabling Tourism Fund projects visit tourism.vic.gov.au/grants-and-support/enabling-tourism-fund

More support for tiny towns

BIG things are coming to Victoria's tiniest towns with new support from the Victorian Government, helping make our smallest communities even better places to live, work and visit.

Premier Jacinta Allan last Friday announced a new round of the government's \$20 million *Tiny Towns Fund* will be open for applications on Monday, August 26, with grants between \$5000 and \$50,000 to boost tourism, livability and community pride in towns with up to 5000 people.

"Supporting projects that make small communities great is one of the ways we encourage their vibrancy, making them even better places to visit and live," Ms Allan said.

From new barbecues, bike tracks and walking trails to club and community hall upgrades, the grants will support towns to bring to life projects that celebrate community spirit and make a positive difference to locals.

The first round of the government's *Tiny Towns Fund* is already supporting more than 200 projects in 181 towns across regional Victoria and interface councils, backing stronger communities by enhancing local towns. The fund boosts livability and local jobs and creates more reasons for people to visit Victoria's great regional towns.

"Now we're giving more tiny towns a chance to make their own projects a reality, creating local jobs, boosting economies and attracting more visitors to experience our great regional towns," Minister for Regional Development, Gayle Tierney, said.

In Mortlake in the Great South Coast region, the restoration of the Thomas Montgomery Pavilion will support more local events to uplift the town's identity and social scene.

In Glenrowan, the state government is adding to their investment that created the Ned Kelly Discovery Hub, with a \$50,000 grant for an augmented reality experience that will immerse visitors in the stories of the Kelly Gang's final siege in 1880.

Townships that have not yet received a tiny town's grant, or that have worthy project ideas to boost community resilience, recovery and economic growth, are encouraged to apply in this second round, with updates made to the application process to make it even easier for smaller, volunteer-run community groups to apply.

The fund is a part of the state government's record \$45 billion investment since 2014 in projects and programs that support regional and rural Victoria.

For more information visit rdv.vic.gov.au/tinytownsfund or suburbandevelopment.vic.gov.au/grants/tiny-towns-fund

Council to host Flowerdale and Yea LEAP community lunches

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is hosting community lunches in Flowerdale and Yea as the next step in developing each community's Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP).

LEAP involves working with communities to understand their local risks and the potential impacts and identifying community skills and resources to help prepare and recover from emergency events.

Previously, council held meetings to collect initial feedback and ideas on local risks, potential impacts and local emergency priorities. This second round of community meetings is an opportunity for all residents, including those who did not attend the first meeting, to assist in prioritising which actions and resources will be part of their communities' LEAP. Council encourages

new and long-time residents of Flowerdale and Yea to attend these lunches and build connections with the community.

The Flowerdale community lunch will be held at Spring Valley Recreation Reserve on Saturday, September 7 from 11am to 1pm.

The Yea community lunch will be held at Yea Community House on Saturday, September 21 from 11am to 1pm.

Visit the event pages to RSVP, including dietary requirements, or contact the LEAPing into Resilience Project Officer on 5772 0333.

The LEAPing into Resilience Project is supported with funding from the Australian Government, and is a joint project between Murrindindi, Strathbogie and Mansfield Shire councils.

POLICE REPORT

POLICE are hoping to return items left at an op shop in Yea last month to their owner. It is believed the jewellery and glasses were accidentally left behind and not intentionally left as a donation. If you believe the items belong to you, please contact Yea Police Station on 5797 2630.

POLICE are warning people to drive safely, particularly in poor weather conditions. Your safety, and the safety of other road users, depends on you. Slow down when the roads are slippery. Police are out and about, making sure that road users are following the rules.

Come join us at the Woods Point Commercial Hotel

NO MORE PARKS EVENT



It's time to send a message to the government that the bush is for everyone.

We need you to come, gather next to the Hotel and spell out "NO MORE PARKS".

Sunday September 8, 2024 12 to 2pm

- 4x4 clubs and drivers ● Dirt bike riders ● Prospectors
- Horse riders ● Free campers ● Hunters

IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND PROTECT YOUR HERITAGE, CULTURE, HOBBIES AND SANITY PLACE.



Authorised by Leonie Blackwell, Eastern Region Community Advocacy, 45 Commercial Pl, Drouin.

McCORMACK FUNERALS
Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
1800 080 909
Andrew, Robyn and Brooke
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
Obligation free appointments
Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
personalised funeral and memorial services
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PT. LTD.
ALL HOURS
● Alexandra ● Yea
● Eildon ● Marysville
and districts
Offering a caring and professional service
throughout the Murrindindi Shire
A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS
Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214
Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

William Matthews Funerals
45 Cavehill Rd, Lilydale
24 HOUR SERVICE ALL AREAS
BY THE MATTHEWS FAMILY
Pre Paid Funerals N.F.D.A Member
Large Chapel with after service facilities
for refreshments
Before you decide call
Bill, Narelle, Beau or Melanie
Matthews
9739 6868

Out&About



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

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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Yea-Kinglake RSL Ordinary general meeting will be held at 11.30am. Enquiries to 5796 9353.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Grand Ponderosa Cup Eildon Pondage. 8.30am briefing, 10am start.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary AGM will be held at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre meeting room, Yea. RSVP to Ruth Crockett 5797 3057.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Free health checks for the farming community. Mental health education and suicide awareness. Yea Saleyards. For further information visit yeasaleyards.com.au

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Walk. Registration 8.30am, event start 9am. Rail trail loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges. For more information and to register visit gvsag.org.au or phone 0417 907 278.

No more parks event. It's time to send a message to the government. You are invited to take part in No More Parks at Woods Point. Noon – 2pm. Authorised by Leonie Blackwell, Eastern Region Community Advocacy.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Alexandra Op Shop AGM will be held at 10am in the RSL Hall.

Yea Saleyards committee are seeking expressions of interest to fill a community-farming representative vacancy. Nominations will be accepted until September 9. For details contact Lisa Elward lward@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Yea Saleyards AGM will be held at 5pm at the saleyard canteen. For nomination forms contact Lisa Elward lward@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Eildon Community Opportunity Shop AGM will be held at 2pm.

ADTTA will hold their AGM at 6pm. All businesses invited to attend. For details visit alexandratourism.com/agm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Riddellvue Angus Stud 2024 Spring bull and female sale. On property Markwood and Auctionsplus. 35-18 month bulls and 19 registered females. Contact Ian Bates 0418 367 209 or visit riddellvue.com.au.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Preliminary Notice - Alex Scott and staff first Yea store cattle sale commencing at 9.30am, Yea Saleyards. Additional entries welcomed. Contact David 0409 443 473.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Alexandra Lawn Tennis Club AGM will be held at 5.30pm at The Corner Hotel, Alexandra. Existing and new members welcome. General meeting to follow. For further information contact Troy 0434 122 602.

IT'S NOT OKAY

To yell at our staff.
To swear at our staff.
To be rude to our staff.
To abuse our staff in anyway.
To be disrespectful to our staff.
To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

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.



Kids Teaching Kids books delivered



Zanni Waldstein presenting the Kids Teaching Kids books to Stephen Tate at the Alexandra Library. -BD



The Kids Teaching Kids books on display at the Yea Library. -S

Commemorating the fourth light horse regiment

by Joy Burchell

ON Sunday, August 11, an afternoon to commemorate 110 years since the 4th Light Horse Regiment was formed, was held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

My Uncle William Brown Kerr of Taggerty was in the first enlistment along with other locals; some of who are listed below.

No. 218 James William Arbothnot of Bonnie Doon; No. 226 Charles Bird of Mansfield; No. 532 David Keir Borrie of Yea; No. 232 Richard James Coles of Yea; No. 530 Charles Cookson of Alexandra; No. 242 John Robert Cusgrove of Yea; No.250 Clive Clarence Doyle of Seymour; No.252 Alexander Raymond Doyle of Seymour; No. 248 Donald William Drysdale of Yea; No. 276 Edward John Harding of Alexandra; No. 283 Henry Gibson Jebb of Mansfield; No.287 John Michael Kennedy of Bonnie Doon; No.288 Sylvester Daniel Kennedy of Bonnie Doon; No.286 William Brown Kerr of Taggerty; No. 290 Robert Kidd of Yea; No.289 Walter Knights of Mansfield; No. 297 Gilbert Lambden of Seymour; No. 307 James Stanley Mackrell of Merton; No number Robert Steven McAldin of Molesworth; No number Leslie Cecil Maygar of Longwood; No. 300 Kennedy McKay of Mansfield; No.299 Vivian Claude McKenzie of Yea; No.556 Harry William McLeish of Yea; No.314 Ronald McLeish of Yea; No number Roy Stanley McLeish of Yea; No.313 William Carlyle McLeish of Yea; No.336 William Shirley of Yea ; No.334 William Archibald Snodgrass of Yea; No.358 Curthen Waddell of Yea; No.359 James Francis Webb of Euroa.

Mrs Susan Meyer, President of 4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association is an active member arranging various dinners and reunions for members.



Light horse re-enactment group with members Joy Burchell and Lois Burgland both daughters of World War One Servicemen. -S

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
0459 402 547
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Immaculate Conception Parish
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

UNITING CHURCH

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



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.



Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week five.

Emily, Toby, Thomas, Isla and Tom have been showing all our school values and are fabulous role models for others. Well done.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Hayley, Austin, and Quinn 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



Half yearly meeting for Hume Goulburn CWA



Yarck CWA life member Norma Hodson, who has been a member of the CWA for 70 years. -BD

THE Country Women's Association (CWA) half yearly conference took place in Yarck last Saturday. A number of ladies were in attendance from all around the Hume Goulburn region, including Alexandra, Yarck, and Yea branches.

Group President, Margo Galloway, ran the meeting and spoke about its importance to the CWA.

"We have a half yearly conference. The one at the beginning of the year is our AGM as well. It's an opportunity for branches to catch

up, to let them know what's going on in the association, and just share in some fellowship.

"The ethos within CWA is our local communities first. When we do fundraising, our things don't go to outside charities so much, but rather our local hospitals, our local schools, aged care, any other projects within the community," Margo said.

Margo added that the CWA is always keen for new members to join, and explained how to get involved.

"We're always welcoming new members. Some branches are bigger than others. Here in Yarck, we have a very small pool of people to draw from, but we actually have people from all around the area who come to Yarck. I'm from Euroa, we have a lady from Eildon.

"It's a good way to learn new skills and just have that core group of friends that you know you can call on if you need to.

"They can contact their local branch if they know somebody there, otherwise they can contact head office via the website. They can fill out an expression of interest form, and then that information will be sent out to the local branch," Margo said.

The CWA website can be found at cwaofvic.org.au/



The CWA Hume Goulburn half yearly meeting took place inside the Yarck Hall last Saturday. -BD



A lovely stall with various goods was set up for the ladies to peruse. -BD



Attendees spoke about various issues at the meeting. -BD



Sue Wynn speaking for the Alexandra branch of the CWA at the Yarck meeting. -BD



Cheryl Wilkins speaking for the Yea branch of the CWA. -BD

Confusion surrounding green drought

ACCORDING to the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), farmers and regional communities are confused about whether they are eligible for drought assistance or where they can turn to for support as Victoria's green drought lingers and farmers approach the critical spring growing season.

VFF Vice President Danyel Cucinotta said the confusion was adding to the burden faced by many farmers and is the driving force

behind the VFF's proposed Victorian Drought Resilience Program.

"Farmers are telling us they are either unaware, confused or do not know that drought assistance is currently available or where they can access it. For those who do find assistance, it's not uncommon for them to encounter roadblocks when it comes to asset means testing, which is a huge problem.

"There's an urgent need for the Victorian Government to better communicate the current assistance available to farmers and explain that a formal drought declaration is not needed to access it.

"We need a centralised resource that clearly outlines the financial and mental health assistance available, and the dedicated organisations tasked with helping Victorian farmers," Ms Cucinotta said.

Ms Cucinotta said the VFF is currently engaged with the Victorian Government to progress the proposed Victorian Drought Resilience Program and streamline information for farmers and communities doing it tough.

"We see a real need for a one stop shop for drought information, resources and assistance available for all farmers and

regional communities that is available on a permanent basis.

"Farmers are doing it tough right now. We can get this up and running quickly to serve those immediate needs and use it as a permanent resource and hub for the future. We just need the government to get on board.

"Of course, there remains a number of roadblocks in place when it comes to certain types of assistance and this resource would help inform the VFF's advocacy in future.

"This hub would help plug the hole in drought information and be a resource where farmers can provide feedback on the issues they are facing. Roadblocks such as low asset ceilings preventing farmers from accessing assistance is some of the key feedback we're hearing and initiatives such as this hub would be invaluable in helping us fix the problems out there," Ms Cucinotta said.

Farmer worries on the rise

THE National Farmer Priority survey results have been released and the National Farmers Federation have said a growing number of farmers love what they do in their communities however, industry sentiment is deteriorating with half of farmers less positive about the future of family run farms.

One thousand and twenty-six farmers across Australia had their say on the survey and it showed farmers are worried about a wide range of policy pressures, with biosecurity, the market power of supermarkets, and federal environment laws topping the list.

Farmers are worried about farmer sentiment towards the Federal Government's policy agenda has continued to slide by up to 39 per cent in the second National Farmer Priorities Survey by the National Farmers' Federation in partnership with Seftons.

The survey found heightened levels of concern across a range of issues compared to last year, up by an average of eight per cent across all metrics.

Biosecurity topped the list of concerns with 94 per cent of farmers voicing concerns. The market power of supermarkets and processors fell to a close second place at 93.9 per cent. Federal environment laws ranked third at 92.5 per cent, both up more than 10 per cent on 2023.

The largest swings in concern levels, compared with 2023, were seen towards

biosecurity (up 12.7 per cent) and live sheep exports (up 12.2 per cent).

There has been a steep decline in farmers' confidence in the Federal Government, with ratings across four sentiment measures deteriorating by an average of 32 per cent in the past 12 months. This includes one in 10 believing the government has a positive plan for the farming sector, a drop of nearly 38 per cent from 2023.

However, in good news the survey found 89 per cent agree with the statement "I love what I do" and 78 per cent say their community is a "great place to live," with those measures rising by 18 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

NFF President, David Jochinke said, "The results are unsurprising. Critical issues like the live sheep export ban, biosecurity tax and water buybacks have weighed heavily on farmers.

"Particularly telling are the results around the live sheep exports. Despite only 10 per cent of respondents hailing from WA, it rated as one of the highest areas of concern.

"This clearly demonstrates when bad policy infiltrates one sector, it puts every other sector on notice that they could be next.

Mr Jochinke added, "With meaningful engagement from the government together we can build a more positive outlook for Australian agriculture and reach our shared goal to be a \$100 billion industry by 2030."



GREAT TARMAC RALLY

7 - 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

ROAD CLOSURES

LAKE MOUNTAIN T-JUNCTION TO REEFTON SPUR (SATURDAY 7TH)
EILDON - JAMIESON ROAD (SUNDAY 8TH)

FROM 7.30AM TO 5.30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

AUSTRALIAN TARMAC RALLY
www.australianarmacally.com
info@tarmacally.com
 03 9111 9929

Make a smoke alarm your next bedroom essential



Smoke alarm
From **\$20**

The deadliest fires start when we're sleeping.
Install a smoke alarm in your bedroom, before it's too late.



vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms
or scan the QR code.



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



Alex Scott and Staff heading to Yea

ALEX Scott and Staff will be holding their first sale in Yea on Friday, September 13. David Setches, their Livestock Manager, spoke about what lead Alex Scott and Staff to taking their cattle to the Yea Saleyards.

“Due to the closure of the Victorian Livestock Exchange (VLE) in Pakenham, we have a clientele base in the Yarra Valley, and northeast and west of Melbourne. Those points there have indicated to us that, from the logistical side, it’s a long way to get them down to Koonwarra freight wise, and we’ve been trying to get into Yea with Elders and Nutrien.

“The time has come now that we’ve decided to pull the trigger and have a go ourselves, and have our first sale on Friday, September 13,” David said.

“We have invited the other private agents who want to come onboard. On our sales basis, the more the merrier of private agents who want to come, because it will strengthen the sale.”

David elaborated on the challenges faced in selling at Yea.

“Elders and Nutrien said they were happy to sell our cattle off-site, and they couldn’t really



Members of the team of Alex Scott and Staff Livestock. -S

accommodate them numbers wise if we were to join in their sale, but they were happy to sell them on consignment, which doesn’t really make sense.

“Why would we give half the commission away to another agent when we can sell them ourselves?” David said.

“With Pakenham’s closure, the Yea Saleyards are one which

could potentially increase by 20, 30, 40,000 cattle per year. The facility really at 3000 cattle is about maximum capacity, so I can’t see any other option but Elders and Nutrien will have to have a bi-monthly sale.

“If you have 30,000 cattle per year, and 12 sales per year, they can’t fit them all in. Three thousand, when they sort of capped the

saleyards, they wouldn’t let us in on their sales, so we just picked a date opposite to them and we thought we’ll go then.”

David concluded by sharing the companies excitement to be back selling cattle in Yea.

“Alex Scott and Staff, in 2012, or eight years ago back when I started, we did initially sell in Yea. We were selling in Yea back in the day.

“We’re really excited to get back into the Yea district area and be an alternative option for anyone who may want to sell cattle up there and certainly look after our existing clientele that the company has on that side of the ranges,” David said.

For more information about Alex Scott and Staff, visit their website at alexscott.com.au

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

**Alex Scott & Staff are proud to announce our
1ST YEA STORE CATTLE SALE**

Friday 13th September 2024

Yea Saleyards, commencing at 9:30am

Additional Entries Welcomed

David Setches 0409 443 473

Tim Gibson 0420 306 599



rmanetwork. Accredited Member

Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476

Neil Darby 0418 595 265



Riddellvue spring sale offering at standout despite dry times

RIDDELLVUE Angus has faced poor seasons and falling cattle markets since moving to Markwood last year, but it hasn't hindered the continued improvement of its herd.

Principal Ian Bates said despite having to feed cattle through the winter, the spring sale bulls are looking as good as ever at Riddellvue.

"Old timers in this area are saying the season is one of the worst they've seen, so it has been a battle, but the bulls are going along really well," he said.

"This will be our fourth sale at Markwood, and since the move the climate in the beef industry has been very tough.

"And while opening new doors is harder in tough conditions, the locals have been really receptive to us in the area and past clients have followed us along, so it has been a good balance."

Ian will catalogue 36 angus bulls aged 18 months for the spring sale, to be held on-property and via AuctionsPlus on Thursday, September 12.

The offering will include sons of the \$64,000 Reiland Ricochet R952, a bull which has a TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation estimated breeding value in the top five per cent of the breed for calving ease and top 10 per cent for docility and intramuscular fat.

"When I saw the Ricochet bull I wasn't necessarily looking to buy a new bull but we went up to the Reiland sale at Gundagai and we liked everything about the bull. It had a great set of numbers, and he has proved the

ground that he is stronger than his 600-day numbers show, so to me it is a very special bull," Ian said.

"We will end up retaining 50 to 60 females, and he has been used heavily in the Reiland herd and other prominent studs. We have now sold him on to Merlewood Angus for stud duties."

It will be the first time Riddellvue will offer Reiland Ricochet progeny under the hammer, and Ian is excited for clients old and new to see the bulls.

"They have great temperament; confirmation and their feet are fantastic. I am really looking forward to them coming through the sale," he said.

As usual, Riddellvue will also offer 20 registered females at the spring sale, and there is a chance of Ricochet progeny to be included in that lineup as well.

One of the other prominent sire lines in this year's spring sale will be by Blackjack Genesis Q04, a son of Pathfinder Genesis with growth figures in the top 10 per cent.

"I've never seen such good feet as the Genesis bulls in this sale, and there is a bigger group of them," Ian said.

"It is just a great lineup of bulls across the catalogue, consistent right through and presenting really well."

With early bull sales in the north of the country looking promising, Ian is hopeful there will be a change of sentiment, and weather, moving into the spring.

"We've had 50ml this month, which has made a little bit of movement, and the days are getting longer so we are heading in the right direction, with a lot of crops looking good in the district," he said.

"The spring sales in the north are going well and Victoria is normally the cheapest place to buy bulls, which isn't a reflection of the bulls, it is just that there are a lot of good bulls in Victoria that people overlook."

Last year's spring sale at Riddellvue sold 21 bulls to a top of \$12,500 and average of \$6675, while in the autumn of this year a Genesis son made the top price of \$10,000 and the 21 bulls cleared averaged \$6450.

Gates will be open for a bull inspection day from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday, August 28



at Riddellvue, 153 Markwood-Tarrawingee Road, Markwood, Victoria.

The sale, on a new day this year, will follow at 1pm on Thursday, September 12, with pre-sale inspections available from 10am.

For the latest news and sale updates, visit riddellvue.com.au or the Riddellvue Angus Facebook and Instagram page.

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 12

2024 SPRING BULL AND FEMALE SALE
RIDDELLVUE ON PROPERTY MARKWOOD
AND AUCTIONSPLUS (refer ad for full details)

SEPTEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale

Free health checks for the farming community.

SEPTEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

OCTOBER 4, Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale

NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale

NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Weaner Sale

NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards

TOP TIER GENETICS | STRONG MATERNAL BLOODLINES



2024 SPRING BULL & FEMALE SALE

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER | 1PM
ON-PROPERTY MARKWOOD VIC & AUCTIONSPLUS

35 - 18 MTH BULLS & 19 REGISTERED FEMALES

FREE DELIVERY OF BULLS - FEMALES BY ARRANGEMENT

IAN BATES | 0418 367 209 | RIDDELLVUE.COM.AU



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

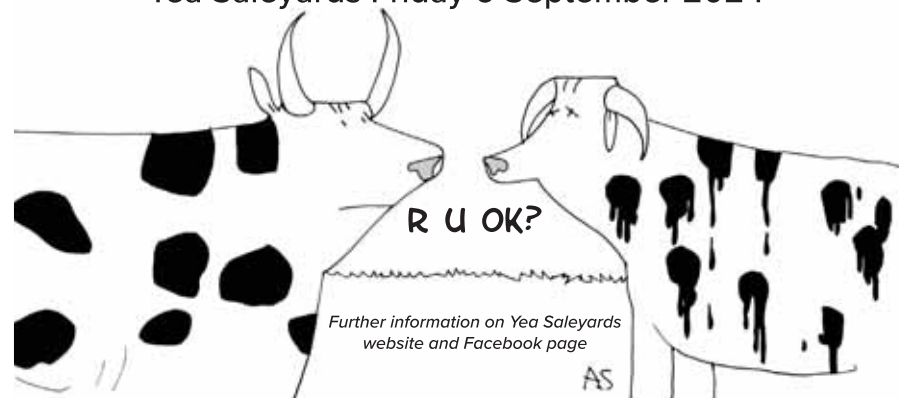
5772 1405

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.

FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community Mental Health Education & Suicide Awareness

Yea Saleyards Friday 6 September 2024



Job pathways for local government workers

THE Victorian Government is supporting more Victorians to get the training and skills they need to work in local government.

Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne announced a \$6.3 million pilot program to address workforce shortages in councils across Victoria, creating pathways to secure jobs with good pay and conditions.

The two year pilot will be delivered by a consortium of higher education providers led by RMIT University, filling skills shortages in areas like engineering, town planning and allied health.

Local government *Earn and Learn* program participants will commence training in 2025, creating more job pathways for local government workers wishing to retrain and new opportunities for jobseekers.

By connecting education providers with councils, the free program will help Victorians get the skills they need to work in local government and deliver important services and infrastructure across the state.

RMIT, Federation University, Swinburne University of Technology and Victoria University will collaborate with the local government sector to identify skills shortages and co-design training to directly address workforce need.

All 79 local councils in Victoria will be invited to participate in the program, addressing skills shortages across the state so that councils can deliver key services and projects.

It's understood that Murrindindi Shire Council has expressed their interest in being involved with the program, pending further investigation.

Information about the *Earn and Learn* program is available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/earnandlearnprogram



There were some great plant species for the Yea High School students to explore. -S

Green thumbs for Yea High School students

WEDNESDAY, August 21, Yea High School Agriculture students visited Humphris Nursery in Yellingbo.

The students toured the main production nursery and gained an understanding of the potting machine. They were also very mesmerised by the two hectare indoor plant glasshouses.



AG students from Yea High School experienced a great learning opportunity at Humphris Nursery in Yellingbo. -S

Spring firewood collection opens this weekend

FIREWOOD collection areas will soon be open on Sunday, September 1. People who rely on firewood as their sole source of heating and cooking are encouraged to plan and to make sure they are using firewood in the most efficient way possible.

The spring season firewood collection is September 1 to November 30, firewood cannot be collected outside these times.

There are serious penalties for failing to follow firewood collection rules. Forest Fire Management works with the Conservation Regulator to regularly patrol state forests and make sure people are adhering to firewood collection rules.

Maps of collection areas will be published at ffm.vic.gov.au from September 1.



Join us for a pause in time to reflect and remember.

Forth Annual
GOULBURN VALLEY
Suicide Awareness Walk
Sunday 8th September 2024

Registration 8:30 am; Event Start 9:00 am
Rail Trail Loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges

Walking to remember those lost, raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support families and friends in our Goulburn Valley community.

For more information, to volunteer, & to register:

 www.gvsag.org.au

 [gvsaginc](https://www.facebook.com/gvsaginc)  0417 907 278

If after reading this you need support, please ring:
LIFELINE 13 11 14 OR BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 48 36

In partnership with:



Register!



And proudly printed by Cindy McLeish MP



Parks Victoria hired a team of contractors to clear almost 3000 illegally dumped rubber tyres from Kinglake National Park. -S

Illegally dumped tyres

ALMOST 3000 illegally dumped rubber tyres were cleared from Kinglake National Park last month.

Parks Victoria employed a team of contractors to complete the task. The multiple piles of illegally dumped household waste were found by local rangers since the operation, highlighting a concerning rise in rubbish dumping throughout the park.

Just one example of the illegal activity across Victoria, between January to August this year, Parks Victoria recorded more than 375 instances of rubbish dumping on public land, with last year's period recorded at 304.

Parks Victoria informed that the highly involved process of removing rubbish costs Parks Victoria more than \$1 million each

year, diverting time and resources away from local rangers.

It also impacts the maintenance of facilities and implementation of conservation programs that protect plants, animals, historical and cultural sites.

While Parks Victoria hires techniques to identify rubbish dumpers, park visitors and neighbours are also an important source of information and deterrence.

Anyone witnessing rubbish dumping or littering in a park is encouraged to call Parks Victoria on 13 1963, the EPA Litter Line on 1300 372 842, or the EPA 'Report Litter' app.

Penalties for people caught littering or dumping rubbish can include fines and prosecution, resulting in convictions and even possible imprisonment.

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

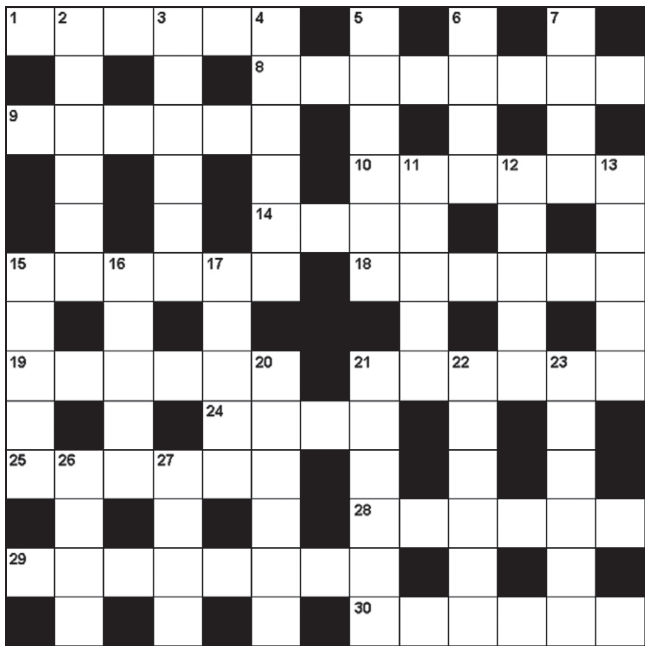
Crossword

ACROSS

- Morally pure.
- Inside the country.
- Fit snugly into.
- Japanese unarmed combat.
- Layers one atop another.
- Tempestuous weather.
- Conventionally correct.
- The earth's surface.
- Cloth with a crisscross design.
- State of prolonged unconsciousness.
- Smelled badly.
- A small hole for a cord.
- Reject a formerly held belief.
- Seen as necessary.

DOWN

- Not deceptive.
- A wooden or metal spike.
- That which has its own existence.
- Placed a bet on.
- A journey.
- Lager of high alcohol content.
- A playing field.
- Very attentive.
- Taken a meal.
- Used as a sweetener.



- A gas in the stratosphere.
- Cut into small pieces.
- Tried to avoid.
- A building licensed to sell alcohol.
- Move back and away from.
- Resist separation.
- God of love.
- Caress with the lips.

Word Search

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

Spring

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| BEES | RAINBOW |
| BLOSSOM | SEEDS |
| BUTTERFLIES | SEPTEMBER |
| FLOWERS | SPRING |
| GARDENING | SPROUTS |
| LADYBUG | SUN |

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Very 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.

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
13				18				22

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					11			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		25					

$$\frac{A}{13} \quad \frac{I}{14} \quad \frac{A}{22} \quad \frac{A}{5} \quad \frac{A}{13} \quad :$$

$$\frac{E}{15} \quad \frac{A}{26} \quad \frac{A}{18} \quad \frac{A}{13} \quad \frac{A}{6} \quad \frac{A}{13} \quad \frac{A}{5} \quad \frac{A}{19}$$

Math Square

	+		-	2	10
+		+		×	
	+		-		-5
+		+		-	
8	+		+		18
18		12		14	

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.

The challenges of car insurance in regional Victoria

IT is a well-known fact that life in regional Victoria has its challenges. Whether this is longer commutes to the shops or work, or the unavailability of certain products and services, regional life is significantly different to suburban lifestyles.

Other such challenges faced include wildlife on the road, the ability to get cars repaired following any incidents, and making claims with insurance companies.

According to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), "There was a 21 per cent surge in complaints about comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, meaning it overtook home building cover as the most complained about insurance product in 2023-2024."

"Claim delays accounted for a third of these vehicle complaints, and delay in claim handling remained the top issue in general insurance overall."

This comes alongside the data from the Insurance Council of Australia website that states the average comprehensive motor vehicle premium has been steadily increasing year on year, except for a 1.8 per cent dip in 2015. What began at 99.83 per cent in quarter one of 2004 is now 198.48 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

The comprehensive motor vehicle cost per policy has also increased over the years, from 96.54 per cent in quarter one of 2004, to 120.70 per cent in quarter one in 2014, to 216.89 per cent in quarter one of this year. There has been a steady rise in cost per policy since 2022 as well, with a 37 per cent increase over the last two and a quarter years.

Reaching out to various car insurance providers uncovered a few interesting details about car insurance in the regions.

Sophie Ryan, iSelect's comparison expert, was asked does damaging your car on a pothole or as a result of hitting wild animals increase your premium?

She responded, "Certain types of car insurance policies may cover the costs of repairing damage caused to your car if you accidentally hit a pothole or a wild or native animal on the road that was unforeseen or unexpected," Ms Ryan said.

"However, there can be exclusions and pay-out limits depending on the policy. This is one of the reasons why it's important to read the Product Disclosure Statement before deciding on any policy."

"When an insurer calculates your premium, they consider various factors. This can include any previous claims you've made and your incident history. It will, however, depend on your provider because each typically has its own way of assessing risk."

"Some of the reasons for an increase in car insurance premiums include higher rates of

reinsurance, natural disasters and claim costs, as well as inflation in the motor repair sector," Ms Ryan said.

A spokesperson for Allianz Australia discussed the details of car insurance for the regions compared to Melbourne.

"Allianz's average premiums in regional Victoria are materially lower than for Melbourne. This figure though is commercially confidential," the spokesperson said.

They also spoke to premium increases due to unforeseen circumstances, such as hitting a pothole or wild animal, and issues around getting your car repaired in regional Victoria.

"A claim where there is not another at fault driver from which the repair cost can be recovered may or may not impact the premium depending on the policy. For example, if the claim reduces a customer's 'no claim bonus' (NCB), there could be a premium increase when the policy is renewed. Alternatively, if the policy has Protected NCB, a single claim would not impact the premium."

"Allianz does not maintain a network of 'authorised' repairers. Our policies offer choice of repairer so policyholders can get their car repaired wherever they prefer (subject to the terms and conditions of the policy). Repair times can vary considerably in regional areas depending on the location, repairer's workload, availability of parts and other factors," the Allianz spokesperson said.

Furthermore, a spokesperson for Royal Automobile Club Victoria (RACV), suggested similar uncertainty around car repair in the regions.

"The average wait time for a motor repair varies based on the extent of the damage to the vehicle, and the availability of parts. Our claims and repair team will update the customer on the progress of the claim during the repairs."

"We have partner repairers across regional Victoria in places including Wallan and Seymour and can authorise repairs through non-partner repairers in areas including Mansfield," the RACV spokesperson said.

What the extent of this research reveals is that there is very little data available around the difference between regional and suburban car insurance. Individual policies will be affected by location and variable factors, but overall, there is not a lot of focus on how car insurance claims, repairs and costs differ in the regions.

With the Melba Highway recently being voted the worst road in Victoria, and potholes a constant issue for residents of Murrindindi Shire, perhaps there should be more transparency and concern around regional car insurance and the challenges faced by users of Victoria's regional roads.

Grants for young Victorians

THE Victorian Government has announced the opening of applications for *Engage! 2025-2027* to help young Victorians take the lead, build life skills and showcase their talents and contribution in the community.

Grants of between \$60,000 and \$180,000 over three years or \$20,000 to \$60,000 per annum are available for youth participation and engagement activities across Victoria.

The grants will fund community organisations, local governments, Aboriginal entities and social enterprises to work with young people aged from 12 to 25 to design and deliver activities that suit their interests and the goals they aspire to achieve.

There are three categories of activities funded in the program, they are, youth engagement and participation, youth

development, and youth celebration and events.

This includes activities that promote the voices of young people and their participation in decision making, help them develop new skills and showcase and recognise their contribution to their communities.

More than 70,000 young Victorians were engaged and supported in 2023 across more than 90 initiatives as part of the *2022-2024 Engage! Program*, including vocational training workshops, mentoring groups and local events that took place in metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Grant applications are open until September 23.

For more information about the program, or to apply visit vic.gov.au/engage-2025-2027

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Extra TV wall points
- Surround sound systems
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Home theatre
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured Fully Vaccinated

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

RIDH
EXCAVATIONS

SITE CUTS • DRIVEWAYS • DAMS
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

CALL RILEY
0490 850 174

PLUMBERS

ARMSTRONG PLUMBING PTY LTD

NEW AND RENOVATION WORK
ROOFING, GUTTER AND SPOUTING
SEPTIC AND DRAINS

LICENSED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER
MAINTENANCE AND BLOCKED DRAINS
JET CLEANER AND DRAIN CAMERA

85 Betts Road, Yea 3717
0417 356 428 | 0408 973 278
Master Plumber member 35 years - License No. 17255
info@armstrongplumbing.com.au

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

CRYPTOGRAM

ADINA :
PLEASANT

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

7	+	5	-	2	10
+		+		x	
3	+	1	-	9	-5
+		+		-	
8	+	6	+	4	18
18		12		14	

CAR DETAILING

ALEXANDRA CAR
DETAILERS

Brad 0419 518472

EXCAVATOR HIRE

--- FOR HIRE ---

D6T dozer
Cat 12 h/grader
16T excavator

D5M dozer
Tipper
Water cart
Hay and Silage

Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)
0429 931 127
ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

G (Jack) McMaster

Plumbing Lic No 29767 YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

- New work & Renovations • Domestic & Commercial
- Septic tanks, Water tanks • Pumps etc • Gas Fitting
- Roofing & Spouting • Trenching • Backflow Prevention

Ph 0428 972 386

CONCRETING

Fleetwood Concreting
If it's concrete you need, phone Mac!

Any style - any size

- Driveways • Paths • Slabs • Foundations
- Steps • Crossovers
- Plain • Coloured • Stencil • Slate or • Exposed Aggregate

All excavations and concrete cutting

Phone 0418 534 973

FENCING

McMASTER FENCING
CONTRACTOR

All general farm fencing, cattle yards, sheep yards, vineyards, on site welding and oxy work.
Tree plantation ripping
5 hydraulic post drivers and pneumatic drivers

GRASS SLASHING
4 extra heavy duty slashers

GENERAL FREIGHT
Hay, timber, wool, steel, grapes, machinery

GLEN (HORACE) McMASTER
5797 2921
Mobile 0417 529 809

SERVICE STATIONS

SimpsonS FUEL 70 YEARS

Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953 with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs with Mobil and ProLube lubricants, greases and solvents.

Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

CONVEYANCING

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY
TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

KITCHENS

Murrindindi KITCHENS Can design and build...

Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design, Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries, Creative design and quality, vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465
38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

E-TEC

Electrical Technology

- Eco Smart Electrician • Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds • Electrical Design
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations
- Grid Connect / Off Grid / Batteries

Ph 5751 0000
info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

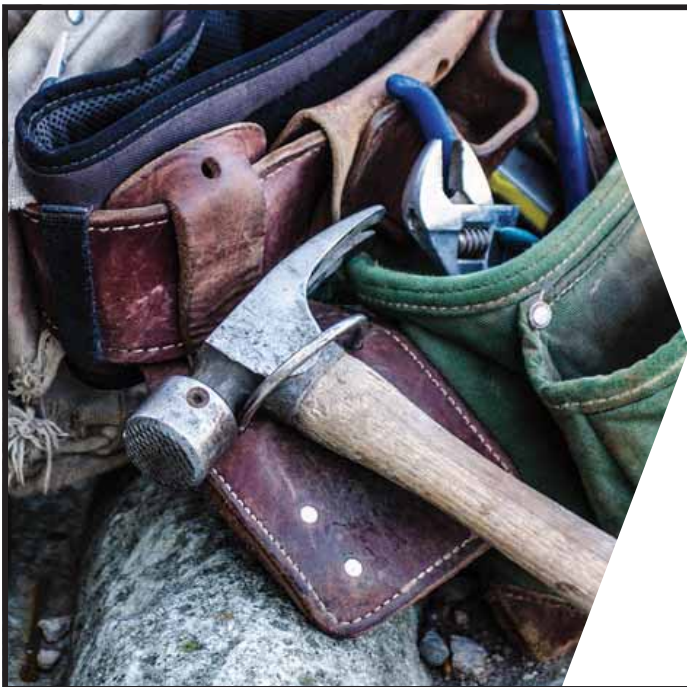
EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK
EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsexc@bigpond.com



BOOK YOUR SPACE IN
THE BUSINESS & TRADES
DIRECTORY TODAY!

Phone: 5772 1002
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays

43 Grant Street, Alexandra VIC 3714

The Yea Chronicle



Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now
to book your ad today!
Fax 5772 1603 or Email
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

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

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

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

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

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

Bargains under \$100

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

Animals

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

Refunds or credits

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

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

MEETINGS



YEA SALEYARDS COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE - NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND FARMING REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY

The Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee is a volunteer committee, responsible for overseeing the operations and management of the Yea Saleyards. The AGM will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, commencing 5pm at the Yea Saleyards Canteen.

The Committee is also seeking expressions of interest to fill a Community – Farming Representative position vacancy. Nomination forms will be accepted until Monday, September 9, 2024. For further information regarding the AGM or the vacancy, contact Lisa Elward via email lelward@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

SITUATION VACANT



WORK WITH US SEASONAL FIRE CREW

Alexandra, Benella, Myrtleford and Shelley Applications are sought for **Seasonal Fire Crew** (Summer Plantation Workers) for the 2024/25 fire season.

The paid limited tenure positions will run from early November 2024 to late March 2025 and will include physical outdoor work and firefighting.

The successful applicants:

- Must possess a current manual drivers licence
- Live within 30 minutes of their nominated work depot
- Be able to pass a pre-employment medical check and a drug and alcohol test
- Be available to attend all compulsory training throughout November
- Be available for regular rostered weekend standby within 15 minutes of the nominated depot

Plantation work is varied and involves four wheel driving, spraying, assisting with helicopter fertilising operations, track clearing, mapping, fire response and fuel reduction burning.

Current accreditations in chainsaw use, chemical use, first aid, firefighting and a MR licence are favourable.

How to apply?

Please send applications via our HVP Careers Portal
hvp.elmotalent.com.au/careers/hvRfjobs

Please scan the QR code for the **Skills Summary Form to upload as a cover letter.**

Applications close: **September 6, 2024**

Job Description



Skills Summary



Like us on
facebook
facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$30 each. Phone
5798 1868. Pick-up in
Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations
Joyce and David
FitzRoy on your
**65th Wedding
Anniversary**
on 31/08/1959.
Love and best
wishes from
your family.

FOR SALE

SOFA bed, three seater,
beige, in good condition,
\$150. Phone Trevor 0409
553 928.

SITUATION VACANT



WE ARE HIRING MARINE MECHANICS

- An associated trade with the ability to learn would be highly regarded
- Attention to detail is a must
- Willing to learn new skills
- Must have good time management skills
- Ability to work independently and also fit into a small team
- Hold a current drivers

Send your resume to
eildonoutboard@virtual.net.au
Ph 5774 2132
or drop in and say hi,
20 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon

PUBLIC NOTICES



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

Safety on Public Land Act 2004

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

I, Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, give notice pursuant to section 7(1)(a) of the *Safety on Public Land Act 2004*, that I have made a public safety zone declaration published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The declaration made on 5/08/2024 takes effect 01/09/2024 to 30/11/2024 inclusive.

They specify areas of State forest which have been declared public safety zones for;

- conducting fire operations and the maintenance of public safety.

The declaration specifies the period for which the areas have been declared public safety zones; the times or periods during which access to the public safety zones is restricted or prohibited; activities permitted, prohibited, or restricted in the public safety zones; restrictions or conditions (if any) applying to the public safety zones; and persons or classes of persons exempt from their operation.

A copy of the declaration, and maps showing the location of public safety zones, may be inspected at the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002 (by appointment with the State Planned Burning Coordinator, telephone 136 186).

A copy of the declaration is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>

A copy of the maps showing the location of fire operations is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/joint-fuel-management-program>

Chris Hardman,
Chief Fire Officer,
as delegate of the Secretary of
the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

DEATH NOTICES

CINCOTTA, Antonio
(Tony) of Eildon passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 18. His funeral will be held on Thursday, August 29 in Federation Chapel at Lilydale Memorial Park at 3.30pm.

NOLTE, Judith
Anne (McClure)

Judy, mum and gran'ma to Lisa, Graham, Cameron, Thu, Isaac, Jacob, Reuben, Asher, Elise, Amelie and Finn. Partner to Bill (dec).

A strong and independent woman who influenced many. Always curious and adventurous, with an abundance of gentle kindness, a sense of wicked humour and great fun.

Our thanks to all at Regis East Malvern and Home Instead for the wonderful care.

The funeral service to celebrate Judy's life will be in the Le Pine Chapel, 339 Warrigal Road, Burwood on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 10.30am.



BEREAVEMENT THANKS

CHANTER, Kathleen – We would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, visits and phone calls on the passing of our mum. We sincerely thank all the staff at Darlingford Nursing Home for the wonderful care they gave mum over the last six and a half years. Thank you also to Brooke and Andrew at McCormacks, Father Mario and the catering committee at the Alexandra Football Club. From all her family.

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

BAXTER boots, brown leather, elastic side, brand new, never been used, size nine, \$90. Ph 0408 173 338

PUMA black steel toe tap, lace up and zip side, half worn out in good condition, \$50. Ph 0408 173 338.

MEETINGS



Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary Annual General Meeting will be held on September 5 at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre Meeting Room at 20 Miller Street, Yea. RSVP Ruth Crockett on 5797 3057.



Yea-Kinglake RSL Ordinary General Meeting. RSL Hall, Friday, August 30, 2024 at 11.30am. Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

EILDON COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY SHOP INC. AGM, Tuesday, September 10, at 2pm. Fay Crimeen, President

THE ALEXANDRA OPPORTUNITY SHOP Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 10am at the RSL Hall.

ALEXANDRA, Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 5.30pm at The Corner Hotel, Alexandra. Existing and new members are welcome to attend. General meeting to follow. For further information, contact club president Troy Surkitt on 0434 122 602.

THE ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT TRADERS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION (ADTTA) will be holding their 2024 Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, at 6pm. All businesses invited to attend. For details please visit alexandratourism.com/agm.

IN a recent parliament sitting Helen Haines MP spoke about the state of regional telecommunications infrastructure.

She said, “Every three years, the government undertakes a regional telecommunications infrastructure review to examine the state of phone and internet connectivity in regional Australia. It looks at what’s working well, where the gaps are and what needs to be done better. Poor phone and internet connections are one of the top issues I hear about from my constituents. That’s why, in May this year, I helped bring together representatives of the nine local governments in Indi and the government’s Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. A public consultation at the Benalla Town Hall was also very well attended, with the unambiguous takeaway that the federal government needs to do better, because what I hear time and time again is that telecommunications aren’t up to scratch in regional, rural and remote Australia. More than ever, we work online, we study online, we access health services online and we keep in touch with our friends and family online, but we can’t do any of these things if we can’t connect. If we can’t connect then we fall behind.

“As the regional Independent MP, I made a broad-ranging submission to the review, recording the experiences of people in Indi and making nine recommendations that would help close the digital divide between the cities and the regions. In order for the government to deliver on its commitment to better regional connectivity, it must accept and implement these simple but impactful solutions.

Getting the most out of your food budget

WITH the recent cost of living increases, many people are choosing between heating or eating. When it comes to putting food on the table it’s a daunting task if you’re on a tight budget.

Whether you’re providing meals for just one person or a family, there are some ways to help your food budget go further.

Meal planning and weekly meal preparation is a great way to help your budget. You can cook bulk meals, giving you leftovers which are great for lunch and those nights where you can’t be bothered to cook, helping you to avoid the more expensive and convenient options. Through meal planning, you can incorporate what you have in your cupboards and fridge and then you’re using what you have.

Having a shopping list helps you stick to buying only what you need. You can get apps for you phone or devices where you can share the shopping list with your family and it can be added to by anyone who has access to it.

Whether you shop locally or travel to do your food shopping, looking around for the best deal is the way to go. Looking at different food shops and butchers can really make a difference on where to get the best prices.

If things are on sale, stock up and freeze or put away. Usually meat, vegetables and dairy can have quick sale stickers on them as their use by or best before date is close. Check if these are on your meal plan or adjust accordingly so you can get a cheaper deal.

Cooking from scratch is a great way to make meals in bulk and is usually a healthier option. You can bulk up meals like lasagna or spaghetti sauces with cheaper vegetables and pulses such as lentils and chickpeas, zucchini, carrot and onions. This will also help you get an extra couple of meals to enjoy for another day.

Using cheaper cuts of meat and making slow cooked meals are a great way to have a hearty meal with plenty of leftovers. The leftover meat could also be made into different dishes such as pies or dished up with pasta or rice.

Shopping for fruit and vegetables that are in season instead of sticking to the same items all year round can help keep costs down. If you want to save even more money, try and grow your own fruits, vegetables and herbs. There is nothing more satisfying than growing your own produce.

“Floods, fires or storms, extreme weather events are a common occurrence across north east Victoria, and too often our telecommunications networks are failing when extreme weather or emergency knocks out our power supplies. This is putting lives at risk. In the south of my electorate, Murrindindi Shire has highlighted the effects recent flood related power and telecommunication outages have had on local hospitals, emergency services and businesses. Further north, the people of Kariong still remember the weeks of isolation following the Black Summer bushfires. Outages like these threaten lives and undermine emergency services coordination, and the broader economic costs are significant.

“We must increase resilience now before the next fire or flood arrives, not after. We need to increase funding for programs that fund community energy nodes and power backup for mobile phone towers in extreme weather events. The town of Jamieson recently installed a community energy node at the memorial hall, with the support of Commonwealth grants, to provide residents with shelter and communication for several days in times of emergencies. In my submission, I recommend that the government expand programs that will fund similar projects right across regional Australia. Jamieson is a fine case study.

“Affordability is another major issue. I do not accept that a regional internet tax is the price that we must pay for living outside the major cities. The regional internet tax comes in many forms. It’s families paying for expensive satellite internet because the NBN won’t ever make it to them. It’s businesses that miss out on sales because EFTPOS machines drop out of connection. It’s farmers forced to buy expensive signal boosters just so they can run the farm using modern technology. This unfair burden falls onto regional Australians just because of where they live. It’s not right, and I’m disappointed that affordability is not a focus of this government’s review.

“It’s also why I’ve recommended an expansion of the successful On Farm Connectivity Program, which supports primary producers to invest in new and necessary on-farm technology. Working with my Indi Telecommunications Advisory Group, I’ve long fought for more funding to

fix the black spots that exist right across north east Victoria, and I’m proud to say that, under Independent representation, Indi has received more funding under the Mobile Black Spot Program than any other Victorian electorate.

“But I want that for everyone in regional Australia. We’re making progress, but there’s always more to do. Unbelievably, this program has no funding guaranteed beyond 2027. I’m recommending that the government make the sensible decision to provide ongoing, guaranteed funding for the successful Mobile Black Spot Program. The program relies on effective cooperation between government, telcos and local communities. Secure long-term funding would mean we could fix more blackspots sooner.

“With the final report due before the end of this year, I’ll be watching closely to see what this government’s plan is for closing the digital divide and ending the regional internet tax, because regional communities have had enough of second-rate services. It stops local communities and businesses from achieving their full potential, it threatens our safety, and it is a handbrake on regional development,” Ms Haines said.



SPORT

A great effort by Yea Reserves



In the elimination final last Sunday, the Yea Reserves were defeated by Warburton Millgrove, ending their season. The score was Yea 7.8 - 50 versus Warburton Millgrove 9.10 - 64. President of the Yea Football Club, Peter Armstrong, said, "The reserves played a good game, it was close. They only lost by 14 points. Unfortunately, they didn't make it to finals, missing out by two points to finish sixth. Overall though, we're happy with the season." The outcome bodes well for future seasons. -S

Winter tennis in full swing

by Rhonda Carpenter

THE courts were abuzz with activity as three matches played out in Euroa, and one in Mansfield, under blue skies last Monday week.

In a potential semi final preview Euroa and Benalla played out the longest match of the day. Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Di Ellis, Julie Harrington, and Ruth Nolan were determined, and after the teams split the sets two each way Euroa led by one game.

Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Helen Checucti made their move in the final pairings, winning one 8-3 and the other in a tiebreak. Benalla 4-38 defeated Euroa 2-33, firming up their finals credentials in second spot.

Wappan took a few games to get onto the scoreboard against Mogloneby who began strongly. Wappan's Anna Speirs, Liza Karras, Jenny Bell and Rhonda Carpenter ran hard in the contrasting sun and shade on Euroa's back courts.

Mogloneby's Robyn Johnson and Lyn Johnston needed to include Euroa's Ros Doxey and Lyn Pierce into their side and the match went the distance. Both teams found cross court angles and strategic placement but eventually Wappan found a way to overcome their opponent in lengthy sets.

Wappan 6-48 defeated Mogloneby 0-18.

Seven Creeks also needed to recruit late, and Rowena Ellis, Kerry Hewlett, and Genevieve Calvert included Mary Dewis to play against the ladder leaders. Terip's Bec Lyttle, Cindy Hayes, Phoebe Macdermid, and Jenny Martin controlled the play early and stamped their authority on the match. Not getting it all their own way, Rowena and Mary won their final set 8-5 in a tight battle.

Terip 5-45 defeated Seven Creeks 1-16.

Mansfield and Delatite met at home in Mansfield for an interrupted lop sided contest. Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Michelle Pigdon, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham were taking no prisoners, and Delatite needed to forfeit one set. Mansfield 6-48 defeated Delatite 0-10.

Thanks to the players who helped Mogloneby and Seven Creeks field teams. Creighton's Creek had the bye.

After Round 16 Terip has 110 points, Benalla 97, Euroa 91, Mansfield 89, Seven Creeks 74, Wappan 71, Creighton's Creek 65, Mogloneby 38 and Delatite 5.

Spring in the air for White Tee Stableford

By Alan Pell and Phil Armstrong

LAST Wednesday saw eight men play off the white tees with Peter Johnston (16) with 35 points winning from second President Gary Pollard (14) with 34. Bill Dredge took out the nearest the pin on the 14th and Phil Armstrong won the Club Award with 21 points. The Ladies Monthly Medal was won by Sharon Grogan (28) with nett 76 from second Jo Clayton (23) with nett 78.

Sunshine greeted the faithful who competed in Yea Golf Club's stableford event on Saturday. Overnight rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm with 18 members taking up the challenge. The course was presented in fantastic condition, considering spring is still a few weeks away.

Rick Wills (9) with 36 points was a clear winner in the men's event. Playing partner Brendan Chenhall (13) finished in second place with 34 points and Kevin Coghlan (21) collected third place with 32 points. Brian Simmons picked up nearest the pin on the 18th Hole and Billy Dredge defeated John Tanner on countback to collect the club award.

Penny Britton (33) shone brightly to continue her recent run of good form, taking out the Ladies event with 26 points. Cindy Armstrong (35) and Sharon Grogan (27) both returned with 25 points, but Cindy got the chocolates on countback for second place.

There were no winners of nearest the pin in the Ladies event.



A fine turn out for Yea Golfers. -S

Tight matches at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Blue Vein versus Camembert

LACHLAN versus Ethan: A really close match. Both players showed their skill and played some fabulous shots. Ethan took home the trophy, winning by two points. 48 to 50.

Matt versus Lee: Outstanding rallies that kept the match close all the way through. Matt had some great court coverage, but it wasn't enough to stop Lee sprinting to victory. 60 to 48.

Pep versus Jared: Sending Jared running in all directions, Pep didn't let up. Taking each game by a few points, Pep took the win with a good margin. 74 to 46.

James versus John: James was doing well at the end of the game. Turning the tables, John was pumped up in game three and squashed the small lead that James had. John kept James on the back foot to win the match. 62 to 50.

Feta versus Gouda

Tyler versus Eric (fill in): Tyler was playing exceptionally well and didn't let Eric get a look in. Tyler was the champion. 79 to 45.

Sally versus Chris: Chris had some great serves which Sally returned with equally impressive gameplay. Sally kept the games close, however Chris won all four games and the match. 65 to 53.

Phil versus Justin: Some incredible rallies and exceptional low deep power shots. Ultimately Phil's mix of gentle and power shots is what won him the match. 65 to 53.

Thursday competition Barracudas versus Hammerheads

Matthew versus Lachlan (fill in): Both players have been improving throughout the pennant. Lachlan did very well filling in up a level. Matthew got in his own head and made some unforced error which helped Lachlan hold onto his lead and win the match. 66 to 40.

Lucas versus Travis (fill in): A good match. Travis managed to keep the middle

games close, but Lucas won the first and last with a large lead. Lucas won the match. 67 to 47.

Phil (fill in) versus Michael M: Keeping a level head, Phil persisted throughout the match and Michael didn't have any trick to take him down. Phil was victorious. 66 to 44.

Orcas versus Piranhas

Matthew (fill in) versus Beth: Playing his second match for the night Matthew was in for a long match. Beth showed no mercy and obliterated Matthew. 79 to 32.

Kristelle versus Sam: An arm wrestle at the start with two close games. Sam outran Kristelle in the third, but she came back in the fourth with a dominant performance, however it wasn't enough to seal the win. Sam was the champion. 70 to 60.

Stuart versus Michael H: Stuart fought hard for every point and managed to win the last game. Unfortunately for him, Michael was in top form and did not want to go down. Michael's skill shone through to win the match. 70 to 55.



Justin awaiting Phil's smashing serve. -S

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Yea Tigers under 15 win the Grand Final

by Kelly Harris

IT was an anxious wait to see if the weather was going to hold off for the 15 and Under Netball Grand Final at King's Park Seymour. The Tigers had won through and after a week of rest were looking forward to hitting the court again.

The Seymour Lions had been building all season and Yea knew that they were in a great position to challenge the Tigers. The Tigers starting line up consisted of seven of the players that will be moving on from juniors next year.

Elsie started as centre with Marley supporting as wing attack and the combination of Sophie and Maya in the goals. The Tigers were quick to score and shot off to an early lead. Ella in wing defence worked with Sienna and Flynn who were defending in the goals to keep the Lions score to four for the first quarter. Scores at quarter time were Tigers 12 to Lions 4.

Some minor changes saw Jemma step into centre in the second quarter and Yea welcomed back Micayla as wing defence after a lengthy period of injury. Coach Megan cleverly used her rolling substitutions this quarter to keep the Tigers fresh and the pace up. Lily also had some time in wing defence. The rolling combination of Sophie, Marley and Maya in the goals saw the Tigers score the most amount of goals for the game in this quarter. Sophie managed to score the goal of the season when she saved the ball from going out of court while shooting a goal in the same movement. Yea's combination of defenders in the wing with Sienna and Flynn in goals, held the Lions to another relatively low scoring quarter. Scores at quarter time were Tigers 27 to the Lions 11. Elsie stepped back into centre for the third quarter with Jemma moving back into wing defence. Our newest squad member Hannah took to the court as wing attack and assisted with Ella and Marley in feeding the ball into the goalers of Sophie and Maya.

Goal shooting accuracy was excellent again in this term, resulting in the Tigers getting even further ahead. Flynn was moved into goal defence with Sienna going back into keeping, and this combination again showed how they could shut down the shooters and were almost impossible to win a rebound against. They kept the Lions to their lowest scoring quarter. The Tigers had the lead 41 to 14 heading into the final quarter. The final quarter saw every one of the Tigers take to the court with a variety of combinations effectively utilised to continue to build on their lead. Team work, determination and spirit kept the Tigers going right until the end. The whole team demonstrated continued growth and passion for the game and commitment to each other. This resulted in a convincing win with the Yea Tigers 50 defeating the Seymour Lions 22.

The Tigers should be proud of all of their efforts in season 2024. The club wishes all players that are moving on all the best in whatever future netball endeavours they have and look forward to seeing the remaining players on the court in season 2025. Well done Yea Tigers 15 and under team on an absolutely amazing season in 2024. Congratulations to Sophie Butterworth who was named player of the match.

The under 13 netballers put a good effort with their match but unfortunately were defeated by Alexandra with a score of 18-14.



The Yea Tigers under 13 team before their game. -S



The Yea Tigers under 15 netball team celebrating their victory against Seymour. -S



Sophie Butterworth, the player of the grand final for the Yea Tigers. -S



The under 13 team exhausted after their game against Alexandra. -S