

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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A successful fundraiser for Yea Fire Brigade



The Yea Fire Brigade conducted a tin rattle from last Wednesday through to Saturday and raised an amazing \$25,000 to go towards station renovations. The brigade is very grateful to the community for all their support. -BD

Gary Pollard awarded an OAM

GARY Pollard of Yea was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in the King's Birthday Honours List, for service to the community of Yea.

Gary has held a large number of volunteer roles within the community. As a member of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital board since 2015, he held the role of vice chair from 2018 and is currently chair of the Finance Committee.

He's also active within the golfing community, being a life member of the Yea Golf Club and president since 2020.

His other community roles include chair of Murrindindi Community Enterprise Pty Ltd from 2010-2019, current member of the Yea Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, former chair of the Yea Tourism Association, inaugural member of the Yea Rail Trail Steering Committee in 2005, a member of the Yea Streetscape Committee in the 1990s, chair of the Yea Sewerage Authority for 31 years, and a life member of the Apex Club of Yea since 1989.

He's also a life member of the Yea Cricket Club (now Yea Tigers Cricket Club) and a

former president, and currently a life member of the Yea and District Cricket Association.

Gary was shire president in the Shire of Yea (a precursor to Murrindindi Shire) from 1981 to 1983 and a former councillor.

He's also owned the Yea Pharmacy for the past 44 years, and is Yea born and bred.

When asked how he found out about the award, Gary said, "I received a preliminary email notification a couple of months ago to say that I was being considered and asking me whether I would accept. So I accepted and then I got a follow up email five or six days ago confirming that the award had been given to me."

Although his wife knew about it, he commented, "It is pretty hard to not say something."

As Gary has spent a lot of time volunteering in the Yea community, he was asked about the importance of volunteering.

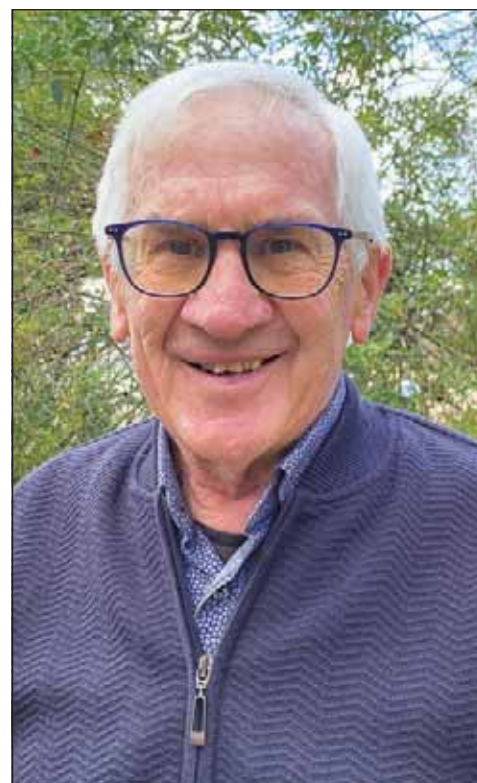
He said, "It's just got so many benefits. Apart from performing a service, it does something for yourself and your friends as well because it provides the social aspect.

When you're volunteering you're normally with other people, so you've got the social contact, you make new friends. Quite often you learn new skills and of course then there's the community benefit, which gets to be shared by a lot of people or help a lot of people so. I reckon it's just a, a really important part of our lives."

Gary was also keen to acknowledge his family and friends, saying, "I suppose I've been involved in a lot of things for a long time and you can't do that sort of thing without the help and cooperation of your family. And I suppose in many ways the person getting nominated or getting the award is a representative of their family and friends in many ways.

"I've been very fortunate to have great family life and great support. I'm really appreciative of it. I just love small communities and I feel very fortunate to be part of the Yea and Murrindindi communities.

There were also two OAM recipients in areas close to Murrindindi Shire, with Nola Evans from Bonnie Doon and Andrew Dwyer from Jamieson also awarded.



Gary Pollard OAM. -S

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Police urge snow travellers to plan ahead as Alpine season begins

POLICE are looking forward to this year’s snow season and are issuing a reminder to the community about the importance of planning ahead to ensure a safe trip for all.

Last year, 1471 vehicles were turned back at Mt Hotham alone for failing to carry legally required wheel chains, placing themselves and others at serious risk on icy roads.

With a growing number of people travelling to the snow for single-day trips, police have seen many arriving without understanding the road rules, weather risks or equipment requirements for alpine travel.

Police and authorised officers will again be conducting checks across key routes into alpine resorts including Mt Buller, Mt Hotham, Falls Creek, Mt Baw Baw, Lake Mountain and Mt Stirling.

A zero-tolerance approach will be adopted for drivers who are not properly equipped for the conditions.

All vehicles entering alpine areas during the declared snow season are required by law to carry wheel chains and fit them when instructed. Failing to carry chains may result

in a \$395 fine, while failing to fit them when required may attract a \$988 penalty.

Wheel chains are essential for navigating steep, icy roads and can be the difference between staying on the road or sliding off it.

Eastern Region Division Four Superintendent, Joy Arbuthnot, spoke about the importance of snow chains.

“Last year, in Mt Hotham alone, police turned back 14 drivers a day who didn’t have snow chains. That’s not just a statistic, it’s almost 1500 drivers who put themselves, their passengers, and others on the road at serious risk,” Ms Arbuthnot said.

“Without snow chains, your car simply won’t grip on icy roads. We’ve seen cars slide off the edge of mountainsides, families stranded in dangerous conditions, and collisions that could have been avoided.

“Visiting the snow is a popular tradition for many, and an exciting trip for tourists, but it’s important to remember it can quickly turn into a very serious situation if you’re not prepared.

“If you arrive without snow chains or the proper preparation, you’ll be turned around.

“We want people to enjoy their time in the snow. But your safety, and the safety of everyone else on the mountain, starts before you even leave home. Take responsibility. Be ready. Don’t put lives at risk.”

Police will also maintain a visible presence across the snowfields with local police, highway patrol, the Heavy Vehicle Unit, Liquor Control Victoria officers and dedicated alpine police conducting proactive patrols and enforcement during the season.

These officers have undertaken specialised training in alpine conditions and are prepared to respond to collisions, maintain public order, and assist in search and rescue operations.

Police responded to 16 incidents during last year’s snow season. One was a serious head-on collision on Mt Buller Road involving multiple vehicles. The crash occurred 800 metres west of Mirimbah Gate where a number of people received injuries, including four children. The road was closed for more than two hours while emergency services treated and evacuated those involved. One

of the drivers was allegedly travelling on the wrong side of the road.

In another incident, a family travelling from Gippsland to Mount Hotham entered the destination into their vehicle’s GPS and followed a recommended route. The navigation system directed them onto the seasonally closed Dargo High Plains Road, which is a remote and unsealed track unsuitable for winter travel. The vehicle became stranded in deep snow and required assistance from police to safely return to Gippsland. The incident serves as a reminder that GPS systems may not give the correct destination for Alpine resorts, seasonal road closures or hazardous alpine conditions.

Police also assisted in the rescue of an experienced solo hiker on Mount Feathertop, who lost sight of the track during a cold front that brought approximately 15cm of snow. The hiker became disoriented and was required to camp out overnight in freezing conditions. As the hiker was well equipped and had adequate survival gear, police and emergency services were able to locate and safely escort them back to Harrietville the following morning. The incident serves as a reminder of the importance of preparation and how quickly conditions can change in alpine areas.

Police also detected several impaired drivers across the snowfields last season, including those caught driving over the legal alcohol limit or under the influence of drugs.

Those planning a snow trip, particularly day-trippers, are urged to familiarise themselves with alpine road rules and conditions, and ensure they have a backup plan in place should the weather change or access be restricted.

Other key safety tips for those heading to the snow include: Ensure your car’s radiator is filled with anti-freeze and if diesel use Alpine Mix; drive cautiously with gradual pressure on the accelerator to avoid wheel spin; brake gently and avoid unnecessary gear changes; maintain a safe braking distance from vehicles in front, especially in poor visibility; let someone know where you are going and how long you will be; regularly check weather and snow conditions as conditions can change quickly; if lost, stop, seek shelter, call Triple Zero (000) and wait.

Budget cuts for emergency services bring ESVF into question

MASSIVE cuts to the budgets of Victoria’s emergency services agencies have been implemented by the Victorian Government, bringing the legitimacy of the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund tax into question.

Parliament’s Public Accounts and Estimates Committee last week heard that the 2025-26 budgets for Fire Rescue Victoria, Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service had been slashed by a collective \$165 million as compared to the 2023-24 budgets.

The figures were revealed in a government gazette published on Friday, May 30, which also revealed significant reductions for agencies such as Triple Zero, Forest Fire Management and Emergency Recovery Victoria.

This comes despite the state government repeatedly insisting that its new \$3 billion emergency services tax is necessary to support Victoria’s emergency services agencies.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O’Brien, said the figures showed Victorians are being saddled with massive tax increases during a cost-of-living crisis on a false pretence.

“These figures reveal dramatic cuts to our frontline emergency services agencies despite the government ripping over half a billion dollars of extra tax next year from Victorians,” Mr O’Brien said.

“This reveals the lie behind this new tax. It was never about supporting emergency services; it was always about the government trying to plug holes in the budget because Labor can’t manage money and now every Victorian is paying the price.

“Premier Jacinta Allan needs to explain why Victorians are paying more in taxes and yet our hard-working emergency services, including the volunteers, are getting less.”

The gazette reveals the CFA budget is cut by \$42 million, FRV by \$115 million and the SES, which the government has repeatedly hidden behind to justify its new tax, has been cut \$8.4 million.

Shadow Treasurer, James Newbury, said “This big, new tax is about making Victorians pay the price of Labor’s financial incompetence.

“It was never about better funding our volunteer and front-line services and the Treasurer’s own figures now prove this.

“The figures also reveal the new tax will fund \$464 million worth of agency budgets previously funded out of consolidated revenue, a massive saving to Labor’s budget bottom line at the expense of additional taxation on all Victorians.”

The government gazette with the full details can be read at [gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2025/GG2025S269.pdf](https://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2025/GG2025S269.pdf)

Rainfall
welcome
but we
need more

THE Kings Birthday long weekend provided some welcome relief from the drought conditions.

On Saturday, June 9, Yea recorded 3.2mm. On the following day, 18.2mm was recorded. At the time of going to print, Yea had recorded 25.4mm for the first nine days of the month.

This was well up on the monthly total for May of 11.6mm. The median rainfall for May is 51.5mm.

While this rainfall event will be heartening for farmers, a lot more will be required to ensure feed during winter and a good growth season in spring.

Farmers are reminded that On Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants are available. For Murrindindi Shire, this is limited to \$5000, and it’s by application. A dollar-for-dollar co-contribution is required from the grant recipient.

To find out more about the grant, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/dry-seasons-and-drought-support/grants-and-financial-support/on-farm-drought-infrastructure-grants

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

The shire buys a trailer

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has said that they are taking a more visible and responsive approach to community connection with the launch of a new mobile community trailer. It's designed to facilitate council's presence at local events, share information and support specific key services.

The trailer will serve as an information hub at markets and events, assist in emergency response efforts and enable targeted council support directly to communities across the shire, when and where it is most needed, complementing council's existing service delivery.

The trailer was developed in response to community feedback following recent

extreme weather events, and the success of pop-up health services at the Yea Saleyards.

Since the October 2022 floods, the shire has experienced seven declared extreme weather events, many of which left residents without power, water or shelter. This new asset enhances council's ability to respond more quickly and support local recovery and resilience.

Designed with adaptability, accessibility and sustainability in mind, the trailer is fully self-sufficient. It features solar panels, battery storage, a generator, device charging stations, fridge, awning, display panels and a smart TV, making it ideal for use in diverse environments.

The trailer will be used across council functions and can also support pop-up activities such as health promotion information sharing and community consultations.

The project was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

"We're really proud to launch this mobile resource," commented council's Integrity, Finance and Resilience Portfolio Councillor Paul Hildebrand.

"This trailer is a practical investment that improves how we connect with communities, whether in times of crisis or through day-to-day engagement. We can now provide information and support more directly and flexibly, helping strengthen resilience and relationships across the shire."



The shire's new trailer. -S

Key recommendations for The Orange Door Network

THE state government has failed to complete key recommendations from the Victorian Auditor-General (VAGO) to improve The Orange Door network, according to Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Cindy McLeish.

She said that a recent VAGO report found the government had failed to complete essential governance reforms, leaving local governance group members unclear about their roles and responsibilities, and that the report also identified major deficiencies in cultural safety training, with the government unable to verify whether frontline staff across the network had completed the mandatory Aboriginal cultural safety modules.

"The failure to adhere to its own guidelines for mandatory cultural safety training has made it difficult for staff to deliver consistent and appropriate support of local Aboriginal communities leading to poorer outcomes," Ms McLeish said. "This has come at a time the state government has reduced family violence delivery and primary prevention funding by \$32.5 million."

She added, "The Orange Door has become an important service within Victoria, having conducted over 176,000 client assessments in 2023-24. The hardworking staff and vulnerable Victorians who rely on this service need better.

"They deserve better organisational support, stronger governance and a government that takes prevention seriously.

"There were more than 100,000 domestic violence call outs to police last year, with 2024 being the first time that the annual number of family incidents has surpassed 100,000.

"Services like The Orange Door are clearly in high demand and critical to the wellbeing of women and children.

VAGO reported the department still has outstanding work, including implementing its plans to deliver the full-service model including after-hours services and integration with related service systems; updating and developing key documents related to integrated practice, demand management and performance monitoring; rolling out a statewide tool for child wellbeing and risk

assessments finishing its review of The Orange Door governance arrangements.

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Natalie Hutchins responded to the concerns, saying, "Every woman deserves to be safe at home, in her workplace, community, in relationships and online. That's why we are changing laws, changing culture and delivering more support for victim-survivors of family violence.

"Our nation-leading Orange Door network is now in more than 60 locations including networks, safety hubs and specialised Aboriginal Access Points, which have helped more than half a million Victorians, including more than 200,000 children."

The government said that the the Victorian Auditor General's Office found that DFFH has fully implemented actions relating to the adequate planning of The Orange Door network, delivered on integrated practice training and support, ensured Aboriginal cultural safety was supported and determined that the systems were up to the task of managing client information.

Ninety-one per cent of the Orange Door workforce reported that they understand what integrated practice means.

Orange Door are operating specialised Aboriginal Access Points in Barwon and Bayside, and are establishing a third one in the Mallee region, as well as having staff from Aboriginal services available to support people where required.

Yarck Hall to feature historical display

THE Management Committee of the Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library (Yarck Hall) are installing a historical display of local memorabilia and photos in the hall supper room.

Exhibits from the local primary school which closed in 1993 (also Gobur Kanumbra and Fawcett schools) will be displayed along with historical photos of the area.

Approximately 2000 photos are available and the plan is to change the display on a regular basis. Entry is free to view on Yarck Market days on the third Saturday of the month.

Yarck Primary School opened in 1874 under the name Home Creek State School until 1903 when it was renamed Yarck Primary School no 1331. The school closed in 1993.

Public education in the colony of Victoria only began in 1872.

An afternoon tea to mark the opening of the exhibition will be held at 3pm on Sunday, June 22. All residents of Yarck and surrounding districts, especially former students, are invited to attend.

For catering purposes RSVP by June 20. To RSVP, contact Sharon Fox on 0407 879 612 or Graham Halliburton on 0407 807 104.

Night works on North Street

TRANSPORT Victoria have informed Murrindindi Shire Council that they are conducting asphalt works on North Street, Yea, just south of the Goulburn Valley Highway intersection.

The works began yesterday, Tuesday, June 10, and are expected to be

completed by week's end, as long as the weather permits.

North Street will be open during the day, and overnight works will be completed under a shuttle flow arrangement. Transport Victoria anticipate there will be up to five-minute delays for the public at certain times throughout the night.

Based on a map showing the approximate start and end of the work, it appears that Melbourne Road will still provide a route from High Street to Whittlesea-Yea Road.

For more information on the works, contact VicRoads.

Workcover premium relief for Victorian businesses

THE average Workcover premium will remain at 1.8 per cent for a third consecutive year.

The government previously made the commitment that once WorkCover returns to financial sustainability, any savings will go back into the scheme to ensure better outcomes for workers and lower premiums for businesses.

Last financial year, WorkSafe provided \$3.4 billion in tailored support to more than 104,000 injured workers while helping more than 26,000 injured workers to return to safe and sustainable work.

The average premium rate has remained unchanged since the 2023-24 financial year, when the government introduced reforms to modernise the WorkCover Scheme to ensure it remains financially sustainable and can continue to support injured workers into the future.

An independent statutory review will be conducted in 2027 to ensure the reforms are working as they should.

While the average premium rate will remain steady for 2025-26, individual premiums for Victorian employers are determined by factors that can vary from year to year, such as how much they pay their workforce and their own claims history.

Individual premiums are also based on more than 500 specific industry rates, which are set annually based on how dangerous that particular sector has been compared with other industries in recent years.

Premium renewal notices for the 2025-26 financial year will be available via WorkSafe's Online Employer Services (OES) portal in July.

National parks petition takes fight to Parliament

THE Allan Labor Government has again been urged to stop the creation of any new national parks after a history-making petition was tabled in Parliament.

The Nationals' Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad said the petition was signed by 40,208 people, a record for a petition in the history of the Victorian Legislative Council.

Ms Broad said the petition was an overwhelmingly strong statement in response to the Victorian Government's plans to create three new national parks.

"The Nationals are opposed to new national parks because we believe the government should be focused on taking care of the existing ones," Ms Broad said.

"When it comes to state forests, our public land is public land, and it should remain accessible to the public.

"We know there are many proven benefits, including mental health benefits, to being able to enjoy our great outdoors.

"We do support ongoing and active land management of parks, not neglect. Under-resourcing leads to increased bushfire risk and to an increase in feral animals, and we have seen weeds get out of control.

"Under this government we continue to see city-based decisions being imposed on rural communities and regional communities with little regard for the people that live there.

"It's clear Labor cannot manage our parks and regional Victorians are paying the price.

"The Nationals will continue to stand up for regional communities, for fairness and for practical, sustainable land management. I do thank my Nationals colleague Melina Bath for sponsoring this petition and every single person who signed it."

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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*.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Alexandra RSL general meeting will be held at the RSL hall, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

Saladin Lodge 1188 Maroondah Highway, Narbethong will be holding an equine photography exhibition 2-5pm. This is a free event, all welcome.

Clearing sale, Goulburn Valley Highway, Yea from 10am. Farm machinery, sundries, vineyard equipment, trucks, tools, hardware and more. Contact Embling Rural for further details 5772 3110.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

- 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 Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL
ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF
KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea
Sunday Service 10.30am
Colin Whiteway
Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

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



Congratulations to Dylan Boyle and Jess Godden on the birth of their new baby, Ryder James Boyle. Ryder was born on May 29 at Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton, weighing 3885 grams. Ryder is the first baby for the couple, and both mother and bub are doing well. Jess works at the Yea Community Bank. -S

Truck show
generosity
will improve
access
to health
services

Ian Marshman AM, chair Yea and
District Memorial Hospital

THE 2025 King's Birthday Weekend has highlighted once again what a special community we have in Murrindindi.

Over the space of just 24 hours the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show raised over \$100,000 for Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) to deliver a major community health initiative across the whole of Murrindindi.

Funds raised will be used to purchase a specially fitted-out mobile health clinic to be used to deliver health services in communities throughout Murrindindi. A key focus will be on providing mental health support.

This initiative will enable YDMH to put its highly successful Yea Saleyards health clinics 'on wheels' to provide services in many small Murrindindi communities without ready access to health services.

Murrindindi does not perform well across a number of health and well-being indicators. In particular it rates poorly in terms of access to general practitioner and key allied health services and has high levels of mental health illness. The mobile clinic will be an important initiative in improving access to a range of primary health services.

The board and staff of YDMH are enormously grateful to Ayden Embling and all the organising committee for championing the mobile clinic as part of this year's Alexandra Truck Show. We are in awe of all the sponsors and donors who gave so generously and spontaneously for this worthy cause. We acknowledge in particular Andrew Embling for his leadership and extraordinary passion for this cause.

A mobile health clinic dedicated to serving communities across Murrindindi is yet another illustration of the value of local health service leadership working together with their communities across regional Victoria.

Thank you, Murrindindi and the Alexandra Truck Show.

More images from the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show can be found on page 14 and 15 of this edition.

Opportunity for kids to go
free to AFL round 21

MINISTER for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos recently joined AFL CEO Andrew Dillon at Marvel Stadium to announce that tickets will be free for all kids aged 14 years and under for round 21 in Victoria.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos said, "Sport should be accessible to all kids, no matter their background.

"We are the sporting capital of Australia, and this partnership means even more people can get caught up in the excitement of footy as Victoria gears up for finals fever."

Australian Football League CEO Andrew Dillon added, "Being accessible and affordable is a key pillar for the AFL, and with thanks to the Victorian Government we

are able to deliver for families in Victoria in round 21, with Kids Go Free.

"We understand the challenges around cost-of-living pressures, and we hope this initiative will allow families to enjoy a day out at the footy with five blockbuster matches during round 21."

Round 21 begins on Thursday, July 31 and kicks off the final month of the home-and-away season. The round includes five blockbuster matches across Melbourne and Geelong.

Kicking off on Thursday night, the Western Bulldogs host GWS Giants at Marvel Stadium, which will also welcome Melbourne and West Coast on Saturday afternoon.

A rematch of the 2023 Grand Final takes centre stage at the MCG on Saturday night as Collingwood takes on the Brisbane Lions.

On the Sunday, the Saints and Kangaroos meet at Marvel Stadium and Geelong Cats face Port Adelaide at GMHBA Stadium.

This year's Kids Go Free round builds on the success of the initiative's debut last year. More than 6000 kids got to see their teams play in Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat thanks to last year's Kids Go Free round, more than a quarter of the total general admission tickets for that round.

The initiative is part of the state government's AFL Events Package which includes support for the 2025 Toyota AFL Grand Final Parade and Footy Festival. This will provide a huge boost for young Victorian footy fans and their families looking to cheer on their team before finals in our world-class stadiums.

Tobacco licensing scheme to start next month

THE Victorian Government's tobacco licensing scheme will begin next month to break the business model of organised crime, delivering boots on the ground to crack down on those breaking the law and backing the work of Victoria Police to disrupt the illicit tobacco trade.

Applications for licences will open from July 1, giving retailers time to apply for a licence ahead of boots on the ground enforcing from February 2026.

Backed by more than \$46 million in the *Victorian Budget 2025-26*, 14 licensing inspectors from the new regulator Tobacco Licensing Victoria will hit the streets to hold illegal operators to account, with the toughest penalties in the country in place for those breaking the law.

Under the licensing scheme, any person found to be selling illicit tobacco will face fines of up to \$355,000 or up to 15 years in jail, while businesses will face fines of more than \$1.7 million.

Inspectors will also support police with extra intelligence gathering in the fight against serious organised crime. It builds on the work of Victoria Police's Taskforce Lunar, which has already seen more than 130 offenders arrested and more than \$37 million worth of cash, vapes and illegal tobacco products seized.

Licences will only be granted to fit and proper people passing a strict test, with the regulator able to refuse a licence based on a person's history or known associates.

Licensing fees will be lower than New South Wales and Tasmania, with initial

licences valid for 17 months from when enforcement begins in February 2026. The initial fee will be \$1176, to avoid businesses applying for a licence twice in the same year. It will be \$830 every year thereafter.

The regulator will have the power to cancel a licence and disqualify a person from applying for a licence. Victoria Police will also play a role in ensuring the suitability of licensees under the scheme and will have powers to impose further licence conditions, backed by more than \$4.7 million in the budget for this function.

This scheme will help protect legitimate businesses from being undercut by organised crime syndicates and prevent those with criminal affiliations from having anything to do with the legal tobacco trade.

Victoria Police's search powers will be beefed up to make it easier and quicker to raid, search and seize illicit products from a retailer suspected of having links to organised crime.

For more information on the licensing scheme regulations visit vic.gov.au/tobacco-licensing

Minister for Police Anthony Carabine said, "This will back the work of Victoria Police who are coming after crime lords. If you are doing the wrong thing and dealing in illegal tobacco, you will get caught and you will face the toughest penalties in Australia."

Empowering schools to help keep students safe

EFFECTIVE from day one of term three this year, Victorian school principals will have the authority to suspend or expel students when their behaviour outside school or online puts fellow students and staff at serious risk. This was a power previously restricted to within the school gate.

NSW and South Australia already have such rules in place. It is aimed at addressing concerns around harmful behaviour that happens outside school hours, particularly online, but affects student and staff safety.

School principals will use these expanded powers only when necessary to protect their school community. With these expanded powers, the state government is putting in place the appropriate framework to ensure school leaders have the authorisation to act where necessary. The school mobile phone ban is already in place.

The state government is also investing \$4.2 million to ensure students who have experienced sexual harm and abuse from another student, including online, receive targeted therapeutic support through Sexual Assault Services Victoria, with support also provided to students using these behaviours to prevent further harm.

VESEP grants open

APPLICATIONS for the 2025-26 round of the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) are now open.

This year the government has announced an additional \$15 million in funding for VESEP.

Under the program, the Victorian Government matches every \$1 paid by volunteer groups with a \$2 co-contribution to a maximum contribution of \$250,000 (up from \$150,000).

Eligible services include the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria, and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue units.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward, announced that \$30 million is available for this year's grants, double last year's amount and the most ever available in one round, thanks to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

"It's really exciting to be able to offer volunteers the most funding ever through VESEP. This popular program receives a

high amount of applications each year, so it's fantastic this change will allow even more groups to access the support they need," Ms Ward said.

"These grants give volunteers the freedom to determine the best way to benefit their service, ensuring they receive precisely what they need to help support and protect their communities."

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said brigades and groups from across the state are encouraged to apply for the life-saving equipment which helps protect communities.

"VESEP supports volunteers by providing funding to replace or purchase equipment such as vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft, trailers, and can also include minor facility improvements," Jason said.

There are five categories under which funding is available: Tankers; specialist and support vehicles; operational equipment; volunteer amenities costing less than \$5000; and minor works costing less than \$250,000.

"One of the key focuses of the program will be aiding those brigades that have not previously benefitted under VESEP and may face challenges with fundraising," Jason said.

In the previous round of funding, CFA received more than \$11 million across 167 successful VESEP projects, including six light tankers, 15 Ultralight tankers, six new Big Fills and the replacement of 18 Field Command Vehicles.

The 2024-25 round also funded more than 40 brigades for minor works at their station.

Brigades or groups can only apply for one project per funding round as per Emergency Management Victoria guidelines.

Application documents, vehicle flyers, the program guidelines and further information is available on members.cfa.vic.gov.au/brigades-operational/brigades/vesep

Applications for the 2025-26 funding round close July 28 with the announcement of successful projects expected later in the year. For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant visit emv.vic.gov.au/vesep

More hours, more learning, more play



Children in Murrindindi Shire can now have more time to learn through play, with 16-20 hours of free Pre-Prep every week.

Learn more at vic.gov.au/pre-prep



Student of the Week

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



SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Congratulations to **Mikaela, Emily, Eden, Saxon, Tyrese and Logan**, winners of the Values Award this week. Well done for being such excellent role models at our school.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Young Victorians caring for the environment

THOUSANDS of young Victorians are going out into the great outdoors to learn how to care for our land, waterways and native wildlife.

The Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos has awarded \$450,000 in grants to support 111 projects across schools, Scouts, Guides and youth groups through the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants program.

Grants of up to \$5000 were awarded for nature based educational activities that engage children in conservation and for on-ground projects that create, enhance or restore habitat for native plants and animals.

All projects funded provide an important opportunity to connect young people with nature by getting them out and experiencing firsthand how to care for our unique native wildlife.

Locally, Sacred Heart Primary School received \$4441.00 for their Indigenous Blue Tongue Garden.

Since 2018 the Victorian Junior Landcare grants have provided \$3.2 million to 778 successful projects that combined have led to more than 57,000 young people being involved in environmental projects including 1500 excursions, 847 nest boxes installed and the planting of 124,000 indigenous plants.



Solar rebates can save your household money. -Freepik

Grants to celebrate LGBTIQ+ pride

THE state government is backing new ideas and local events that celebrate LGBTIQ+ pride in the lead-up to Victoria's Pride 2026 festival.

Minister for Equality Vicki Ward has opened expressions of interest for the Victoria's Pride Regional Activation Program, supporting regional and rural events that showcase LGBTIQ+ artists, voices and experiences.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for community groups, councils and organisations to deliver inclusive events that help connect LGBTIQ+ communities and celebrate pride across the state.

The regional program gives more Victorians the chance to support and celebrate rainbow communities, while amplifying the stories, creativity and contributions of LGBTIQ+ people.

The Victorian Government has invested \$6.8 million for Victoria's Pride to celebrate LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Applications are open from now until Tuesday, August 5. To apply or for more information, visit midsumma.org.au/regional-activation

More rebates for Victorians

THE state government is helping Victorian families lower their energy bills and boosting local manufacturing jobs with bigger rebates for Australian made products.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced that Solar Victoria customers that choose an Australian made hot water system will get an extra \$400 on their rebate, making it cheaper to install quality local products while supporting local jobs.

From July 1, households that choose an eligible hot water system made in Australia will receive a higher rebate of \$1400. The \$1000 rebate is still

available for customers that choose to install other hot water systems.

This is backed by a \$29.7 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* to help more Victorian households lower their energy bills by installing electric appliances in their homes.

Installing a heat pump hot water system alone can save a household up to \$330 a year on electricity bills, accounting for as much as 30 per cent of total energy use, making them one of the largest contributors to energy consumption in the home.

Heat pumps are the most popular part of the Solar Home Program,

which experienced a 151 per cent increase in the number of installations on the previous year.

Customers still have a choice when deciding which product is right for their home, while ensuring Australian businesses and workers benefit from the Victorian Government's investment in hot water rebates.

Solar Victoria will consult with industry and unions ahead of its July 1 implementation, including developing the requirements to demonstrate local content.

To apply for a hot water rebate, visit solar.vic.gov.au/hot-water-rebate

Keep an eye on the state of your fireplace this winter

IF it hasn't been lit already, most people in the shire will be starting up their woodfires to continue burning for the next six months. It's important to keep your fireplace clean and efficient for the safety of you and your family.

If there is a day where you are not burning and you've ensured the inside of your fireplace is cold, inspect and clean your chimney. You can hire a professional chimney sweep to make sure your fireplace is clean, and the chimney is assessed for any blockages.

In terms of damage, it's important to check for excessive creosote buildup. Creosote buildup is a tarlike substance

that can lead to chimney fires. Creosote buildup is often due to burning wet or green firewood, poor air flow and cool flue temperatures.

When you get your chimney assessed make sure the chimney cap is put in place to stop animals entering your chimney.

Now the next job is a dusty one, clean the interior by removing ashes and debris. Check the fan is working and check for damage such as cracks and water damage on the fire bricks, the seals and the baffle plate. Inspect the damper to make sure it's working properly by allowing proper airflow.

Whether your fireplace is an open fire or coonara style, having a fire guard in front of it can prevent sparks from escaping and protecting people from burns, especially children as they are most curious about flames.

When it comes to your firewood make sure it's seasoned properly as clean wood keeps your fireplace cleaner.

While your fire is lit make sure any clutter near the fireplace has been removed and always take care putting washing on clothes horses near the fireplace.

Keeping a close eye on the state of your fireplace can make a big difference for everyone's safety this winter.



Keeping an eye on the state of your fireplace will provide you better heat throughout winter. -Pöllö, Wikimedia Commons

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



HELP SHAPE YEA'S FUTURE

The draft Yea Structure Plan is open for community feedback. This long-term plan sets a clear direction for Yea's growth and development, reflecting local priorities like better connectivity, housing choice, infrastructure and tourism.

Informed by recent community input, the draft guides future investment while protecting Yea's unique character.

Share your feedback by Wednesday 18 June 2025 at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/draftYSP

Supported by the Victorian Government through the Regional Partnerships Program.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29 AND 10-YEAR COMMUNITY VISION

Over the past year, Council has engaged in over 1,000 conversations with community members about what matters most for the future of Murrindindi Shire. This feedback has shaped a practical roadmap for the next four years and a vision for the next decade, organised around three strategic directions:

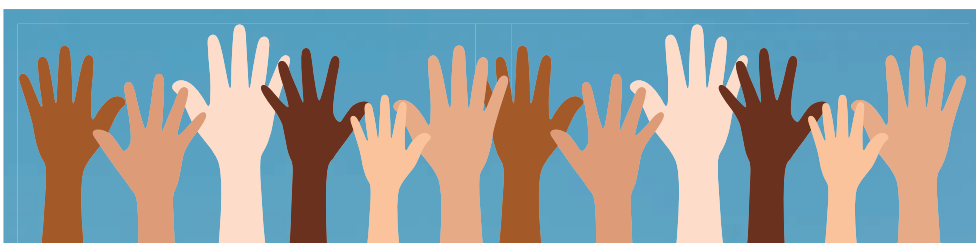
- A Thriving and Prosperous Shire
- Healthy, Inclusive and Resilient Communities
- Trusted Leadership and Sustainable Services

Our 10-year Community Vision outlines the long-term hopes and aspirations our Shire's people. It is a shared statement of intent that requires strong partnership and collaboration. Thank you to everyone who contributed; your ideas helped shape the refreshed Community Vision and the priorities guiding this Council Plan.

We now want to check in – have we heard you correctly?

We'd love your feedback on whether the Plan reflects the priorities you shared.

Read the draft Council Plan and Community Vision, answer a short survey, and provide your feedback at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan2025-29 until **Wednesday 25 June 2025**.



FIND YOUR MATCH AT THE VOLUNTEER EXPO

In the spirit of this year's National Volunteer Week theme, 'Bringing Communities Together', Council is hosting groups from all over the Shire to help you promote your group, your cause and find your perfect volunteer match.

When: Saturday 5 July from 1.00 to 5.00 pm
Where: Alexandra Football and Netball Club, 53 William Street, Alexandra
Reservations: Free, but essential

Registrations close **Monday 23 June**.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteerexpo for more information or call Council on 5772 0333 and speak with our Community Capacity Building Officer.



BRINGING COUNCIL CLOSER WITH OUR NEW TRAILER

Council has launched a new mobile community trailer to improve its presence at local events and enhance service delivery. The trailer will act as an Information Hub, assist in emergency responses and provide direct support to communities across the Shire when needed.

Developed in response to community feedback after several extreme weather events, the trailer is designed for adaptability and sustainability. It is fully self-sufficient with solar panels, battery storage, a generator, charging stations and more, allowing Council to better support recovery, share information and engage with residents across a range of settings.

For more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trailer

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Council joined communities across Australia to mark National Reconciliation Week 2025 and reflect on the theme Bridging Now to Next. The week was an opportunity to listen, learn and strengthen relationships with Traditional Owners, especially the Taungurung and Wurundjeri peoples.

Council hosted a staff Lunch and Learn session, supported a cultural immersion at Yea Wetlands and encouraged community involvement through local library activities. Thank you to everyone who took part in building a more respectful and inclusive future.

Read more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/nrw

COMMUNITY BUS HIRE FOR LOCAL GROUPS

If your community group would like to organise transport to your next event, why not enquire about Council's Community Bus?

Council's Community Buses in Alexandra and Yea are available for hire by local community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

Each bus seats 10 (including the driver), has automatic transmission and a wheelchair hoist, and helps connect people with essential services and activities.

For more information including pricing and how to book, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/bus-hire or call **5772 0333**.

STAY INFORMED

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

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
 5772 0333

The Farmer's Ag News



Michael and Anne Green from Buxton were selling their cattle last Friday. -BD



A decent crowd filled the laneways, with prices drawing plenty of interest. -BD



Nutrien and Elders were the auctioneers for last Friday's store sale. -BD



The wild weather held off for the cattle sale in the morning. -BD

Strong prices continue at Yea Saleyards

by Bailey Dixon

THE June Elders and Nutrien Store Sale took place last Friday at the Yea Saleyards, with large yarding and strong prices driven by continuing demand from up north.

There were various breeds on the day, with a mixture of Hereford, Charolais and red Angus cattle padding out the traditional black Angus trend.

The first row of the sale was occupied by pens of cows and calves, fetching a top price per head of \$1875.

Steers sold for strong amounts, many pens fetching over 400c/kg. The top pen, with a

top weight of 534.6 kilograms, sold for \$2380, making 445c/kg.

Heifers were a little bit lower in terms of price, but still decent. The top heifer pen fetched \$1900 with a top weight of 520.7 kilograms, making 365c/kg.

The overall average weight per head for the sale was 289 kilograms and the average price per head was \$1097, equalling out to a positive 380c/kg.

Prices in this strong range and wet weather over the weekend were sure to help instil some happiness in farmers and some confidence in the industry.

The next cattle sale in Yea is the July Elders and Nutrien Store Sale, taking place on July 4.

CLEARING SALE
SUNDAY 15th JUNE 2025 10:00AM
Goulburn Valley Hwy, Yea



**FARM MACHINERY, FARM SUNDRIES,
VINEYARD EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS,
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Director: Ayden Embling - 0427 924 944

STOCK REPORT 6 JUNE 2025				
Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	3,407			
Average \$ per head	\$1,097			
Average weight per head	289kg			
Top price per head		\$2,380	\$1,900	\$1,875
Top weight		534.6kg	520.7kg	
Turnover	\$3.6 million			

The Farmer's Ag News

Does action need to be taken on kangaroo numbers?

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad said a better kangaroo management strategy was needed, as driving on regional roads was now like driving through a minefield, with increasing vehicle crashes, train strikes and damage to farms.

"Aerial and ground surveys were undertaken last year to estimate the kangaroo population across Victoria. The data, which excludes some areas, shows that there are over 2.4 million kangaroos," Ms Broad said.

"Kangaroo-related vehicle collisions are the most common wildlife hazards on our roads. These incidents are particularly dangerous for motorcyclists, who are over-represented in fatal crashes.

"For anyone who drives on regional roads, especially in the early morning or after 5pm, it is like driving through a minefield. You do

not know when a kangaroo will jump into your headlights, and the consequences can be devastating."

Ms Broad said the most reliable statistics on accidents involving kangaroos are from insurance companies and wildlife rescue teams. The RACV and Wildlife Victoria reported last year that there were nearly 10,000 collisions, but the real number is likely to be higher as many go unreported.

"There is also a significant impact on our farmers, who are already battling drought. Kangaroos compete directly with livestock for feed and water, and the pressure on agricultural land is growing. The current management tools are slow, bureaucratic and often ineffective," she said.

"I have spoken with local residents who say the authority to control wildlife program is

flawed and the kangaroo harvesting program should be expanded. While Victoria grapples with over 2 million kangaroos, only \$200,000 has been allocated in the budget for kangaroo harvesting next year."

Ms Broad said the government should expand the market for kangaroo leather and meat.

"Sustainable harvesting provides a way to manage kangaroo numbers while also unlocking a valuable source of leather and meat. Kangaroo leather is renowned for its strength, lightness and durability. It is widely used in footwear, gloves and sporting goods, where strong, lightweight leather is important.

"Our communities are doing their best to coexist with native wildlife, but it is time for a more balanced and proactive approach that prioritises community safety. Labor cannot

manage our kangaroo problem and regional Victorians are paying the price."

Ms Broad encouraged people to have their say by making a submission and completing a survey for the current Parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrike in Victoria. The survey closes on June 30 and can be found at parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/WildlifeRoadstrike/Survey/

Scholarships programs for young farmers

THE state government has announced the opening of the 2025 *Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program* to encourage early-career farmers to apply and gain the tools they need to thrive in Victoria's agriculture sector.

The program offers scholarships of up to \$10,000 for farmers aged 18 to 40 including up to \$5000 for training or study, and another \$5000 to apply those skills on-farm through practical investments.

Participants can pursue learning in areas such as agronomy, irrigation, land management and conservation, alongside core business skills like marketing, accounting, and HR.

After completing their training, recipients can use the second half of their scholarship to invest in farm planning, new technologies, professional development, or equipment that supports innovation and growth.

Since 2015, the program has empowered 133 young farmers from across the state, helping to make Victorian agriculture more capable, adaptable and ready to take on future challenges.

Melissa Willard, who is a small-scale farmer in the Central Highlands, used her scholarship to complete training in holistic management and bio-intensive growing, with the investment helping her purchase a polytunnel for her market garden business.

Applications are now open to young farmers who have been working in a farm business for at least three days a week for the past three months, with a minimum of two years' total on-farm experience.

To apply visit vic.gov.au/youngfarmers. Applications close 5pm on Wednesday, July 23.

Are your livestock fit to load?

AS drought and difficult conditions continue across Victoria and livestock producers consider further destocking, Agriculture Victoria is issuing a timely reminder.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Industry Development Officer Dr Hannah Manning said it's important to consider the condition of animals under your care before transporting them. Dr Manning said there have been recent reports of stock arriving at livestock exchanges in poor condition.

"It's important to make early decisions to minimise welfare impacts on livestock," Dr Manning said.

"Body condition of livestock must be factored in when making a decision to sell to ensure they are strong enough to make the journey ahead."

Dr Manning said as part of its drought support Agriculture Victoria is offering a one-on-one advisory service to help farmers with stock management strategies, decision

making, and planning for managing these difficult seasonal conditions.

"Animals being sold via a saleyard can have long transport journeys ahead of them depending on the buyer, and therefore careful planning and preparation is needed to ensure their welfare is appropriately managed," Dr Manning said.

"All people involved in transporting livestock have a responsibility for their welfare from the original owner or person in charge that decides to sell the livestock, through to transporters, selling agents and the purchaser.

"If you have any concerns about the condition of your animals before they are transported, contact your veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria."

Information relating to Fit to Load standards is available on the Agriculture Victoria website and Meat and Livestock Australia's national guide titled 'Is the animal fit to load?'

Indicators that an animal is not fit to load include: Not able to walk normally or bear weight on all four legs. This may be due to a recent or old fracture, injury, a deformity or any other condition likely to further compromise its welfare during transport; not strong enough to make the journey; suffering from severe distress or injury; in a condition that could cause it increased pain or distress during transport; blind in both eyes; in late pregnancy.

"Unfit to load animals should be either treated appropriately and then reassessed for transport once recovered, or humanely euthanised on farm or via knackery service in some areas," Dr Manning said.

Resources to assist fit to load decision making and on-farm disposal of livestock are available on the Agriculture Victoria website. For more information on drought and dry seasons support and the technical decision-making support, visit their website at agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

Australia the world's leading goatmeat exporter

AUSTRALIA has cemented its position as the world's leading goatmeat exporter as revealed in Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) new 2025 Global Goat Snapshot.

In 2024, Australian goatmeat production surged 47 per cent year-on-year to 54,017 tonnes carcase weight, the highest volume ever recorded.

Exports climbed 53 per cent to a record 51,489 tonnes shipped weight in 2024, with export value rising 50 per cent to \$354 million. This is 40 per cent higher than the previous high set in 2022. Australia accounts for 55 per cent of global goatmeat exports by volume, far ahead of competitors such as Kenya and Ethiopia, which represent 22 per cent and 13 per cent respectively of the global export market.

Australia's growth has been driven by favourable seasonal conditions in key production areas leading to a rapid increase in flock size, and the expansion of processing capacity, with total goat slaughter in Australia rising 41 per cent to 3.4 million head in 2024.

According to MLA's Managing Director, Michael Crowley, Australia's goatmeat production has boomed in recent years at the same time that demand has soared from overseas markets.

"Australia has tripled goatmeat production since 2020 and also set a new benchmark for global supply," Mr Crowley said.

"Our goatmeat is highly regarded for its quality and sustainability credentials which are resonating strongly with buyers and consumers worldwide.

"The increased supply, together with the expansion of goat-specific processing plants, has improved the availability and consistency of Australian goat meat, boosting buyers' confidence to grow imports of Australian goatmeat."

Key markets include:

United States: Australia's largest market, receiving over 27,500 tonnes in 2024, a 90 per cent year-on-year increase. Demand continues to grow in ethnically diverse cities particularly in the east and west coasts of the US.

South Korea: Imports rose 44 per cent to a record 8639 tonnes. Australian goatmeat is highly valued for its health benefits, especially during the traditional summer Sambok period.

China: Despite a dip from 2023 peaks, China remains the third-largest market with over 5100 tonnes imported in 2024. Trading dynamics are expected to support future growth.

The Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago imported over 2000 tonnes, making it Australia's fifth-largest market.

In comparison to other proteins, goatmeat is less prevalent in Australian meals, with around five per cent of all goatmeat produced remaining in Australia last year. However, there has been a long, steady upward trend in the average number of goatmeat serves over the years.

JUNE PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for JUNE, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The JUNE theme is **'anything you chose' (in Murrindindi shire).**

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon June 26, 2025

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra
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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire.

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11

Colouring Page



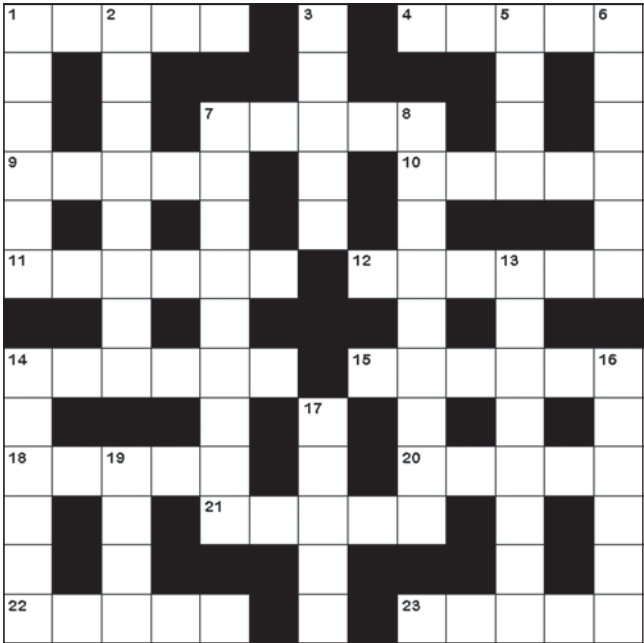
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Full of good humour and high spirits.
- 4. Have a bet.
- 7. Sour or bitter in taste.
- 9. Fine tune for peak performance.
- 10. A system of reasoning.
- 11. Using no manners.
- 12. One who is engaged to be married.
- 14. Copy published material illegally.
- 15. Deliberately arranged just for effect.
- 18. Fruit of the oak tree.
- 20. Resulting in death.
- 21. Rigid and inflexible.
- 22. Live in fear or terror.
- 23. A line of people.

DOWN

- 1. A clown employed to entertain a king.
- 2. A shade of very pale violet.
- 3. Open and honest.
- 5. Alcoholic drinks.
- 6. Save from harm.
- 7. Scandals in cupboards.



- 8. Person who brings an action in a court of law.
- 13. Having no positive features.
- 14. Calm and unruffled.
- 16. Elegant and sumptuous.
- 17. A group of lions.
- 19. A seeping, thick messy substance.

Word Search

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

Words starting with "H"

- HABITAT HELPFUL
- HAMMER HERBERT
- HAMSTER HOLIDAY
- HAPPY HOPPING
- HAWAII HOTDOG
- HEATHER HOUSE
- HELICOPTER HUNGRY

Math Square

	+		+		16
-		+		-	
	+		-	8	-4
+		-		+	
9	-		-		1
10		0		1	

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.

Jokes

Knock Knock..
Who's there?
Nobel!
Nobel who?
Nobel.....that's why
I knocked

Q: What is the leading cause of dry skin?
A: Towels.

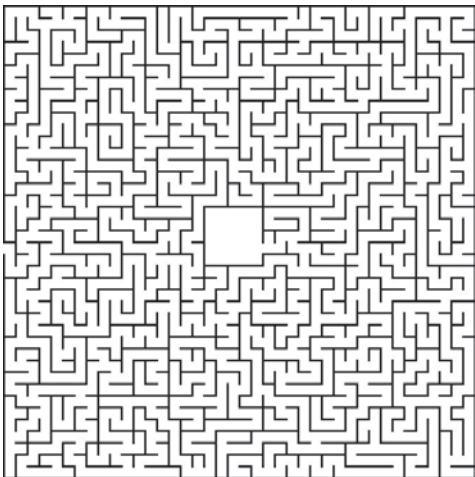
Word Search

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

Pet Names

- BELLA MILO
- BUDDY PICKLES
- CHARLOTTE ROVER
- CHESTER RUSTY
- HAPPY SPOT
- MAXIMUS TIGER

Maze



Sudoku

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

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.

Math Square

	-		-		1
÷		-		+	
	+		-	9	-1
+		-		+	
	+		-	7	3
4		-12		20	

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
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States road toll at an all time high

WITH the recent Kings Birthday long weekend and the number of lives lost at a 16 year high, Victoria Police are urging drivers take extra care on the roads.

At the start on the long weekend, Friday, June 6 police ramped up enforcements across the state to drive down road trauma.

Before coming into the long weekend last week, statistics show a terrible period on Victorian Roads as 37 lives have been lost during May, this is the worst May fatalities on record in over 20 years, since 2004.

Before the long weekend there has now been 136 lives lost on Victorian roads in 2025, up 14 per cent on the same time last year.

The last time 136 or more lives lost had been recorded at this point of the year was in 2008, with 137.

Data from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) shows in the Murrindindi Shire in the last 12 months there has been three fatalities on our local roads. This included one driver fatality and two motorcycle fatalities.

Police have been particularly concerned about the increase in fatalities involving vulnerable road users, with eight motorcycle fatalities during May and a further six pedestrian deaths.

Excessive or inappropriate speed, rider inexperience and unauthorised riding have been identified as key contributing factors in motorcycle trauma.

Driver inattention and failing to give way are both major factors in collisions involving vehicles and vulnerable road users.

With winter officially now underway, police are urging drivers to take extra care and pay attention behind the wheel, particularly with reduced daylight hours and inclement weather impacting visibility and conditions.

Those heading to the snow are being urged to monitor conditions prior to travelling and ensure they're carrying and using appropriate wheel chains as legally required.

Road Policing Command Acting Assistant Commissioner, David Byrt said "Driving during winter presents additional challenges, such as navigating slippery roads and poor visibility, and there is less room for error.

"Whether you're travelling across the state... or heading to the alpine regions, please take extra care on the roads and be sure to drive to the conditions.

"We're approaching the halfway point of the year and the amount of trauma we've experienced is extremely concerning.

"These road trauma numbers of course represent actual people. People who have been killed, or whose lives are changed forever, simply from travelling on our roads.

"We're appealing to everyone to make road safety their number one priority, every time they get behind the wheel or are out using our roads, to eliminate this unnecessary and avoidable trauma."

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SALE



Nola Evans OAM. -AR

Nola Evans awarded an OAM

NOLA Evans was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in the King's Birthday Honours List, for service to the community of Bonnie Doon. Nola is also well known in Alexandra community, having worked as a nurse at Alexandra District Health for 33 years.

She has been highly involved in the Bonnie Doon community, including taking on the presidency of the Bonnie Doon Community Group since 2001 and editing The Bridge newsletter.

She is also a volunteer and supporter of a wide range of community organisations, including Bonnie Doon's tennis club, fire brigade and Trash and Treasure. She also wrote the book, *Reflections in time : Bonnie Doon 1978-2003*, published in 2003.

Nola found out about the award via an official email and was delighted. She commented that she attended a leadership course back in the late 1990s which, "showed me the way," she said.

She said of Bonnie Doon, "It's been very good to see the town grow and newcomers come here. I think when the school closed, one of the community group's good achievements was being able to save the land and building with the help of the state government and turn that into a community centre."

She added, "I always enjoyed working at the hospital and I enjoy meeting new people. So that's all been good experience."

She said, "Volunteering is an important thing. I know we wouldn't have a community centre without volunteers and I'd like to recommend volunteering. People, give it a go. I know we have some very good volunteers... There's lots of different opportunities in general. And I think it's important that you get to know people and it's a very good feeling to be able to help others in some way."



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A group shot of the various emergency service agencies involved in the exercise. -S



The train that was used to simulate the incident. -S

Yea CFA participates in mass-agency training exercise

ON Friday, May 30, the collaborative efforts from Trawool CFA, Seymour SES, Yea CFA and various other emergency service partners delivered a major multi-agency exercise in Exercise Diolkos.

The exercise simulated involved a train versus truck incident at a level crossing, with the truck carrying dangerous goods.

With minimal information available before arriving on the scene, crews from Ambulance Victoria, CFA, SES, Victoria Police, V/Line, St John Ambulance and the Department of Defence were responded from the staging area at the Seymour Cricket Club.

Upon arrival crews were confronted with chaotic and vocal scenes as the train was blaring its horn while up to 50 casualties between the truck and two train carriages were pleading for help.

Immediately police established that unknown liquids were leaking from drums labelled TOXIC and pulled all responding crews back, this further elevated the intense nature of the scene.

CFA crews were under time-critical parameters as they were then responsible

for identifying the drums and establishing the safe distance so the health and rescue response could proceed.

The formulation of the Emergency Management Team was crucial to gain control. Agency commanders were under extreme pressure to ascertain all details pertaining to the scene, create strategies and implement plans with clear focus on HAZMAT security and patient outcomes.

Crews worked for over two and a half hours to triage, extricate and treat casualties all while a HAZMAT response was coordinated to treat and clear the chemical.

After a few false starts and a near-cancellation, a six-week window opportunity arose to coordinate and deliver this scenario. The Exercise Planning Team comprising of representatives from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, St John Ambulance, CFA, SES, V/Line and the Department of Defence utilised real-life incidents and reports to design this exercise and bring this exercise vision to life.

Just under 200 personnel were on scene for the exercise.

Captain of the Yea CFA, Emery McCarthy, spoke about the Yea brigade's involvement with Exercise Diolkos.

"We were notified in the month leading up to it that the exercise was happening, but we had no information as to what the exercise was until the night," Emery said.

"Our instructions were for the brigade, the crew, to meet at the staging area. They would get a brief on safety and operational stuff but nothing about the incident. And then our responses were staggered from the staging area in line with our response tables.

"For Yea, being support to Seymour SES, it's roughly 20 minutes for Yea to get to Seymour. So the local brigades responded straight away, but our brigade was kept at the staging area for an extra 20 minutes, same as if it was real life. That accounted for our travel time.

"Once they got on scene, it was as it would be any other incident in a real-life situation, where you don't have any information until you get on scene, and then the crew leader had to speak to the incident controller and get a task from there. It was enacted like it was a real-world situation."

Emery praised the exercise, saying that it was also good training for the Yea CFA brigade.

"It was amazing. This is the second one we've done that the organiser has done in the last two years. He did a really great job of incorporating what it would be like in a mass casualty incident and scenario," Emery said.

"As we would in a mass casualty incident like that, all the agencies responded. It wasn't just a CFA and SES joint venture, it was all the agencies that would have to respond in that situation.

"It's really good. In rural areas, we don't get to experience these major situations and scenarios very often."

An exercise of this magnitude would not have been possible without the significant contribution of exercise sponsors, such as the Seymour Railway Heritage Centre, who allowed the use of their land, equipment and overall willingness to assist and bring the exercise to life. The involved organisers would not have been able to deliver the exercise without their assistance and would like to personally thank them for their hospitality and accommodating nature.



CFA participated in the train versus truck simulated exercise. -S



Various agencies were involved in the exercise. Pictured is an exercise briefing. -S



The exercise took place at night, and the staging area was a bustle of activity. -S



SES and other agencies inspecting the truck from the exercise. -S



The staged injuries and casualties were treated as they would be in a real scenario by those involved. -S



Paramedic students from La Trobe University posed as casualties for the exercise. -S



Caolan O'Connor with the winner of the Best Log Truck.
-Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



One of the utes on display. -AR



A youngster having fun at the bouncy castle. -AR



The showbags proved to be very popular. -AR

A rainy Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show

THE 2025 Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show was very successful with good numbers, despite the rain. Everyone knew that the rain was needed in the area, so spirits remained high.

Organiser Andrew Embling estimated that around 12,000 to 13,000 people attended, which was only slightly down on last year, and around 240 trucks participated. Only the utes and rods were down a little bit due to the weather.

The woodchopping events again proved popular, and the auction was well-attended, making almost \$28,000.

They also raised over \$50,000 at the truck show dinner, held on the Saturday night. In total, the truck show raised around \$100,000.

The funds will go towards purchasing a mobile medical clinic for Yea and District Memorial Hospital, also used by Alexandra District Health, across the Murrindindi Shire area. Further funds will also be needed for the operation of the clinic.

The community also benefitted from the truck show, with a lot of custom for local businesses and community groups operating food stalls.

Police were pleased with the behaviour of the crowds throughout, with no issues reported, and Andrew commented on the great work of police controlling the intersection. The streets were again open to traffic by 6pm on Sunday evening.

Andrew commented, "It's great for the town. It brings so much money back into this town. People started arriving on Thursday to camp. The showgrounds were packed. The whole event was well attended. Thanks to the townspeople."



Billie-Jo Porter. -AR



The rain didn't deter the young and young-at-heart having fun at sideshow alley. -AR



Trucks parked at the top end of Grant Street. -AR



The trucks lined up in the early morning. -S



The woodchopping was very popular with the spectators. -AR



One of the beautiful vintage cars. -AR



An old Ford. -AR



A ute adorned with flags. -AR



The Victoria Truck Drivers Memorial. -S



SES members at their display. -AR



Raindrops on one of the Mac trucks. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



Four children watching the woodchopping. -AR



A display truck from Craig Membrey Transport. -AR



Andrew Embling on the microphone. -AR



Andrew Embling and Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



Blake, Julie, Julie and Pam from the Alexandra Show held a stall. -AR



Alexandra Kindergarten held a barbecue. -AR



Kenny the Kenworth from Healthy Heads in Trucks and Sheds and the TradeMutt truck. -S



Russell from Berwick and Ian from Eildon. -AR

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Tight one point victory at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition

Eagles versus Falcons

LOCHLAN versus Eric: Some great rallies. Eric's serve let him down, gifting Lochlan a number of free points to help him claim the win. 81 to 43.

Sally versus Mick (fill in): Sally had great placement and was reading the game well, pushing Mick for much of the match. Mick managed to break away in the third game to win the match. 67 to 51.

Michael M versus Matt L (fill in): It was an intriguing match. Michael took two games with his usual panache but in a surprising turn of events, Matt snatched game three with 12-point lead to put himself ahead. Matt

kept his lead until the final buzzer for victory. 61 to 60.

Hawks versus Kestrels

ETHAN versus Jordan: A close match. Ethan had the lead going into the final game until Jordan made a brilliant comeback to draw the match. 56 to 56.

Jared versus Oli: A great game by both. Oli had some good shots across the walls, but Jared held strong, played consistently and closed out the match victorious. 67 to 55.

Andrew versus Jim: Neither player could hold the upper hand. Andrew would eke out a lead with his low error count, only for Jim to push back. The final game saw Jim find a streak and shoot forward briefly before Andrew steadied, taking advantage of every error to claim the win. 58 to 53.

Thursday Competition

Blue tongues versus Dragons

BETH versus Liane: Beth had some nice finesse shots and managed to draw the third game. Liane dominated the court from the beginning and went home with a commanding win. 72 to 42.

Sam versus Travis: Always a close match with this pair. Travis took the lead and did his best to hold onto it. Coming in with other ideas, Sam decided to claw his way through to steal the match. 67 to 61.

Daniel W versus Justin (fill in): Extreme intensity and chaos. There were some wild shots made, and they ran a marathon. Both players took home two games, but Daniels tenacity saw him triumph. 64 to 61.

Frill necks versus Geckos

BLAKE versus Randy: Randy put in a good match, but Blake keeps improving and took control of the games to sail through to victory. 75 to 50.

Kristelle versus Jodie: A fun contest. By utilising her serve and some tricky returns Kristelle had set herself up with a five-point lead going into the last game. Jodie tightened her serves in the final game, throwing her opponent off and ultimately winning herself the match. 61 to 59.

Stuart versus Phil: It was a closer game than the score suggests. Phil was on the ball tonight and his finishing shots were deadly. Phil took home a sizeable win. 71 to 43.

Welcome Rain

by Alan Pell

SATURDAY saw the start of rainfall in Yea but fortunately from 10am to 4pm allowed golfers to get a round in. The second and final round of the Prideaux Cup was contested by 14 men with Greg Clements (17) with 71 points winning on countback from Rob O'Halloran (19). Third on countback was Alan Pell (12) from Mic Spagnolo (8) both with 70 points.

The daily winner on Saturday was Tony Rule (17) with 37 points on countback from Greg Clements. Third with the best 36 points was Peter Johnston (16) from Rob O'Halloran (19). There was no nearest the pin on the second and Kevin Coghlan took out the club award.

Last Wednesday saw a stroke and putting event with 18 men playing. Winner with an excellent nett 67 was new member Anthony La Grutta (19). Second was Alan Pell (13) with nett 70 from third Gary Pollard (13) with nett 72. Fourth was Peter Johnston (16) with nett 73. Anthony La Grutta made it a very successful day by winning the nearest the pin on the second and Glen Walsh won the club award. The putting was shared by Allan Coates and Brian Simmons with 25 putts each. In the ladies there were 10 competitors with Judi Newman (36) with nett 75 winning from Cindy Armstrong (25) 76 and Jan Wealands (27) and Margie Wright (22) both with nett 77.



John Phillips (last year's winner) presents Greg Clements with his trophy. -S

Funding for sports clubs to promote road safety

THE state government is calling on grassroots football and netball clubs to promote road safety in their communities for a share of \$700,000 thanks to the Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) Club Rewards Program.

This year's program aims to empower clubs to develop a culture where all players and members consider road safety before getting behind the wheel.

Now in its sixth year, the TAC Club Rewards Program allows AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs to apply for rewards of up to \$10,000 to spend on club initiatives like club transport, new equipment and uniforms or facility upgrades.

A further \$100,000 has been added to this year's funding pool to support more clubs in spreading the message.

More than 230 clubs earned a share of last year's pool, with many motivated to take part after being affected by road tragedy.

As part of this year's program, clubs will be asked to start conversations and be part of the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline, "Be the difference".

The launch last week comes as 133 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads, with more than 60 per cent of deaths happening on the same regional roads that footballers and netballers travel on for games every week.

More information on the Club Rewards Program can be found at play.afl/victoria/tacclubrewards

Tight tennis for round six

by Rhonda Carpenter

MANSFIELD'S three local teams, Delatite, Wappan and Mansfield, were all playing at home last Monday. Terip hosted Seven Creeks and Moglonemby met Creighton's Creek in Euroa.

Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Kass Thomas and Loretta Armitage welcomed Wappan onto the groomed courts under grey skies and perfectly still air. Mansfield would host Benalla alongside them.

Wappan's Anna Speirs, Liza Karras, and Rhonda Carpenter had included Mary Reilly for her very first match. Kass and Loretta got off to a flier taking five to zero lead before Rhonda and Mary could get a game on the card. Delatite steadied, continued their great form and took the opener eight to three.

Everyone enjoyed hard baseline hitting while sole supporter Pat Howard watched devotedly from the sidelines as the sun peeped through to warm her back. Anna was the perfect partner for her teammates, winning every set in style. On debut Mary found her rhythm, ran and retrieved, and ultimately won her first set.

Carolyn and Kass went game for game, geeing themselves up, against Liza and Rhonda until consecutive missed shots unravelled the pair into paroxysms of laughter. Wappan took advantage of the lapse, stole the lead and never looked back.

Wappan won the tight contest 4/40 to 2/27.

Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Natalie Bergsma and Sophie Yencken were in strong form for their match against Benalla.

Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maus Jewell and Deb Siggers snatched an opening set and a final one, but Mansfield won the others to win 4/43 to 2/29 in a match of high quality hard hitting.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe Macdermid and Meg Ford had all the answers in their contest against Seven Creeks. Ro Ellis and Gayle Furphy put up a challenge in their opening set, but Terip took the chocolates 6/48 to 0/16.

Moglonemby warmly welcomed back Marlene Hanrahan and Robyn Johnson, to join Judy Sands, Lyndall Bigland, and Danielle Scotis for their match against Creighton's Creek.

Faye Mollison, Ros Doxey, Kerry Hewlett, and Lyn Johnson fought hard and to win two sets, but Marlene was enjoying being back

on court after time out and won both her sets eight to one.

Moglonemby won 4/39 to 2/23. Euroa had the bye.

Ladder Round Six: Euroa 41, Moglonemby 37, Terip 36, Wappan 36, Mansfield 25, Creighton's Creek 21, Benalla 15, Seven Creeks 15, Delatite 14.

Round seven will be played on June 16 after the Kings Birthday holiday with matches in Benalla, Euroa, Mansfield and Terip. Two further rounds will be played before the mid-winter holiday break.