

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, June 18, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Three students off to regionals



Page 5

Yea Rotary annual report



Page 7

Sacred Heart at Camp Manyung



Page 11

Weekend sport



Pages 13-16



The guest speaker at the Probus Club of Yea last week was Haru, who has been the Rotary Club of Yea's International Exchange Student for the past 12 months. Haru is pictured with Rotarian Christine Kellett who is Yea Rotary's Chair of Rotary Youth Exchange. Haru, who will return home to Japan next month, charmed Probus members with her delightful personality and demonstrating her cultural dances. -S

New Probus members inducted

THE Probus Club of Yea has inducted seven new members over the past two meetings and have another three being welcomed into the club next month, making a total of 79 members.

When Probus was first formed the 'pro' initially stood for professional and the 'bus' for business. While these ideals do not necessarily form the basis of Probus clubs today, with retirees from all walks of life welcome to enjoy, the motto of Probus Clubs remains 'Fun, Friendship and Fellowship'.

Probus clubs are one of Rotary's greatest success stories, with Probus being the retirement arm of Rotary. Since the inception of Probus in New Zealand in 1974 and Australia in 1976 they have continued to provide social activities and fellowship to those members of the community who are either semi or fully retired. They continue to provide companionship, fellowship and mental stimulation for retired people.

In Yea, where there are a large number of retirees moving into the district to enjoy the more relaxed and peaceful environment of a small country town, Probus provides a unique opportunity for these people to make new friends and feel involved in their new community.

New members bring new ideas and stimulus to the club and it is amazing to learn how many have led extraordinary lives.

The Yea Probus Club has regular organised coffee mornings, monthly lunch outings,

day trips to interesting places and there is an annual coach holiday week-away visiting fascinating places in Victoria or interstate. There is a guest speaker every meeting on an eclectic range of topics, and themed meetings such as celebrating AFL Grand Final week or Melbourne Cup Day and any other fun event we can tap into.

While not every member will participate in every activity, the goal is to create activities and opportunities for members who do not usually socialise with each other to get to know each other and form new friendships.

Another small benefit is the partnership program which facilitates a range of exclusive benefits and services for Probus members such as Over 50s Insurance, travel companies offering benefits and services, and trade discounts and offers.

Visitors or prospective members can attend three meetings before deciding if they would like to become a Probus member and participate fully in the club's activities. The club meets at the Yea RSL Hall on the first Thursday of each month.



Sacred Heart Primary School students on their visit to Camp Manyung. More on page 11. -S



Marlene and Greg Mason and Peter and Andrea Allwood were inducted as new members in the Probus Club of Yea last week. -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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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Your local brigades need you

WHILE the official fire season may have ended, the risks remain. Dry conditions continue to pose a threat for grass and scrub fires, and as winter approaches, house fires become a significant concern. Now is not the time to be complacent. It's the time to step up.

Our local fire brigades are made up of volunteers, people just like you. They are parents, grandparents, colleagues, and

neighbors, everyday community members dedicated to making a difference.

Why Join the CFA?

Becoming a CFA member is a rewarding experience with countless benefits, including community engagement and social events, the satisfaction of protecting and serving your community, leadership training opportunities, hands-on firefighting training including

General Firefighter certification, specialised skills such as chainsaw use, breathing apparatus training and heavy truck licensing, structure fire training and thermal imaging camera use, crew leadership development and much more.

Even if firefighting isn't for you, there are plenty of ways to contribute. Fire brigades rely on non-operational members for crucial roles, such as community involvement through engagement and social events, supporting emergency responders with a rehab vehicle at incidents, station and grounds maintenance, social media administration and community engagement, organising social activities and wellbeing support, and handling administrative tasks like secretarial and treasury duties.

Junior brigades developing future firefighters

Buxton, Marysville, and Narbethong Fire Brigades proudly support a junior brigade, providing young community members with the opportunity to learn essential firefighting skills, teamwork, leadership, and emergency preparedness. These programs help shape the next generation of CFA volunteers while fostering a strong sense of community and responsibility.

Workplace support for CFA volunteers

Employers can also benefit from supporting CFA members, including recognition as a volunteer-friendly workplace and enhanced community perception, as well as Federal Government payroll tax exemptions for wages paid to employees attending emergencies

If any of this sparks your interest, or if you'd like to share your skills and contribute in other ways, visit the CFA website to submit an Expression of Interest and select the brigade closest to you.



Vicky and Shirley from the Yea Fire Brigade. -S

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.09	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.19am Mon	0.46	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.42am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.21am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.00am Mon	0.26	steady	below minor
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.48	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.20	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.38	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.63	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.87	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.58am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2025

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers

PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

June 18 - June 24, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	11	Wednesday	3	12
Thursday	2	11	Thursday	1	12
Friday	2	13	Friday	2	13
Saturday	5	15	Saturday	5	15
Sunday	9	15	Sunday	9	16
Monday	6	13	Monday	6	13
Tuesday	5	12	Tuesday	6	12

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	1mm
Buxton	0.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	1mm
Flowerdale	4mm
Jamieson	3mm
Kinglake	7mm
Lake Eildon	2mm
Mansfield	21mm
Taggerty	1mm
Yarck	2mm
Yea	0.5mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	276.68m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	58.4%
Metres below full supply	12.2m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	60%

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

Council welcomes ESVF levy cap for farmers, but says more must be done

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement to cap the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy for primary production properties at 2024-25 levels for the next financial year.

The cap offers much-needed short-term relief for farmers facing the worst drought conditions in over a decade, and follows strong, coordinated advocacy from farmers, local communities, council, and industry bodies.

"This is a positive step and a direct result of rural voices coming together,"

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said.

"We thank the Treasurer for listening, but a one-year cap won't fix a system that continues to impact residents, hurts commercial and industrial property owners, and remains deeply unfair to many primary producers, especially those managing multiple land titles."

Farmers across Murrindindi are dealing with escalating freight costs, feed shortages, and water scarcity. Many have had to destock or euthanise animals due to poor conditions and limited options. The emotional toll is

growing, with the wellbeing of farming families under increasing pressure.

Council has also welcomed the formation of the Victorian Government's Drought Response Taskforce, which will advise on drought relief measures for farmers, businesses and rural communities. Cr Gallagher, representing Murrindindi on the Hume Region Local Government Network, has joined other mayors in putting forward a clear case for further action.

The group's advocacy includes calls for: A drought declaration to unlock Disaster Recovery Funding; Emergency funding

for water cartage and feed; Permanent abolition of the ESVF levy; Local delivery of mental health support; Relief for those already impacted by issued levy notices; Action on freight and fodder price gouging by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

"Supporting emergency services and supporting rural communities shouldn't be a trade-off," Cr Gallagher said.

"We'll continue to work alongside our community and regional partners to push for a fairer, more durable approach."

Glen Morris Q and A hosted by 2030Yea

JOIN Glen Morris, solar energy expert and off-grid pioneer from the Smart Energy Lab, who will explore the latest in solar power and home battery storage; what's new, what works, and what's coming next.

He'll also unpack the *Cheaper Home Batteries Program*, launching July 1, and what it means for households looking to cut energy bills and boost energy independence.

Head along to this Q and A with your questions and get practical insights to power your home the smart way.

This is a free 2030Yea community event, held at the Yea Butter Factory, 13 Rattray Street, from 6.30-7.30pm. Funded by a Murrindindi Shire Council Quick Response grant.



Glen Morris, solar energy expert and off-grid pioneer from the Smart Energy Lab, will be participating in a Q and A session in Yea. -S

Operation Regal results from King's Birthday weekend

ON the King's Birthday weekend Operation Regal showed that over the state one in every 335 drivers were caught drink driving.

Despite challenging weather conditions across the long weekend, police conducted around-the-clock roadside alcohol and drug testing.

There were 205 drink driving offences detected from 68,673 preliminary breath tests, a strike rate of one in every 335 drivers.

A further 168 drug driving offences were detected from 2740 roadside drug tests, a strike rate of one in every 16 drivers.

More than 40 per cent of all offences detected were for speeding, with the majority of those caught between 10km/h and 25km/h over the speed limit.

Over 430 drivers who shouldn't have been on the road at all because they were either unlicensed, disqualified or suspended from driving were caught during the operation.

Police also issued 499 infringements to motorists for disobeying traffic signs or signals, 174 for mobile offences, and 90 for seatbelt noncompliance.

The total 6005 traffic offences detected during Operation Regal included 2638 speeding offences, 499 disobey signs/signals, 435 disqualified/suspended/unlicensed drivers, 205 drink driving offences from 68,673 preliminary breath tests, 174 mobile phone offences, 168 drug driving offences from 2740 roadside drug tests, 107 vehicle impounds, 90 seatbelt offences, and 546 unregistered vehicles.

In the Hume Police Service area, police charged one drink driver and two disqualified drivers. No other offences recorded over the long weekend.

With wet weather and poor visibility increasing as winter sets in across Victoria, police are urging motorists to take extra care on the roads and be on the lookout for vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians and motorcyclists.

Police will remain highly visible on the roads across the state, with targeted operations to take place over the coming weeks focusing on vulnerable road user safety.

Operation Regal ran from Friday, June 6 until 11.59pm on Monday, June 9.



The Latest in Renewables with Q & A
Glen Morris, General Manager of Smart Energy Lab
Thursday, June 26, 6.30 to 7.30pm
Yea Butter Factory

Ethical Retirement Investments with Q & A
John Agostinelli and Ron Litjens
Thursday, July 17, 6.30 to 7.30pm
Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre

How to Invest in the Energy Market with Q & A

Ron Litjens and Ian Tobin
Thursday August 21, 6.30 to 7.30pm with Q & A
Yea Butter Factory

My EV and other electric battery powered equipment with Q & A
Ron Litjens, Ian Tobin and Alister Huth
Thursday, September 18, 6.30 to 7.30pm
Yea Butter Factory

How to electrify a Classic Car
Stall and Classic Car display
Saturday, October 11, 5pm until dark
Yea Cruise night on the median strip

Become a member of 2030Yea Community Energy now. Go to our webpage at 2030yea.com.au and follow the prompts.

Enquiries and bookings, text or call 0428 969 366 or 2030yea.com.au

2030yea@gmail.com 2030Yea @YeaCommunityEnergy



GET YOUR FREE TICKET FOR THE VOLUNTEER EXPO

Why volunteer? It's a win-win! Give back to your community, learn new skills, and feel amazing doing it.

In line with this year's National Volunteer Week theme, 'Bringing Communities Together', Council is hosting a Volunteer Expo to help you 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 by Monday 23 June

Enjoy some light refreshments, connect with local groups, and hear from experienced volunteers.

To book your ticket or stall, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteere expo

For more information, speak with Council's Community Capacity Building Officer by calling 5772 0333.

This event is part of Murrindindi Shire Council's Community Capacity Building Program, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



Historical Memorabilia Display

Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library
- Circa 1888 -

More commonly known as the Yarck Hall
6583 Maroondah Highway, Yarck

You are invited to celebrate the Display Opening and Afternoon Tea
Sunday, June 22 at 3pm

Please **RSVP** by **Friday, June 20** to Sharon Fox 0407 879 612 or Graham Halliburton 0407 807 104



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*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Whispering Sky-Tenzin Choegyal in concert; A Tibetan-Australian artist, composer and Grammy-nominee will be presented at MiRA Marysville at 2pm. Bookings on trybooking.comDBIUF

Market@Yarck is on again, including CWA morning tea and cake stall, from 9am. Plants, soap, jewellery and much more.



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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

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library (Yarck Hall), invites you to visit their historical memorabilia display opening and afternoon tea at 3pm. RSVP by Friday, June 20 to Sharon Fox 0407 879 612 or Graham Halliburton 0407 807 104.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

The latest in renewables with questions and answers from Glen Morris, General Manager of Smart Energy Lab. 6.30-7.30pm at Yea Butter Factory.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Get your free ticket now for the Volunteer Expo. 1-5pm. Alexandra Football Netball Club. Reservations are free, but essential by Monday, June 23. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with local groups and hear from experienced volunteers. For more information contact council's Community Capacity Building officer on 5772 0333.



Letters to the Editor

Garbage collection policy

THE new garbage collection policy has certainly stirred the emotions of many rate payers, especially those who live in units or those living as a single person. They would have very little waste after they cash in their bottles and cans at the CFA for recycling. I can see the CFA will be the big losers in this debate.

The charges of \$410 to \$560 should be more equitable to those in the above circumstances.

I note council claims 55 per cent support for their new policy. I wouldn't claim that as a strong mandate for its implementation.

I have also been informed that bins left on the council nature strip, not private land, if stolen, the rate payer will be charged for the replacement. I would doubt very much whether this would be enforced by a court of law. I have also spoken to the Mansfield Shire Council, they are in discussion with the state government, for a better deal for their rate payers.

Ray Donkin, Buxton



The volunteers having a barbecue and a catch up. -S

Corporate planting day with Upper Goulburn Landcare Network

RECENTLY with the help of volunteers from ANZ Bank, the Uppper Goulburn Landcare Network recently planted 350 indigenous plants along a fenced creek on a farm in Glenburn.

This revegetation project has been funded by BirdLife Australia to create habitat for woodland birds and it is part of the Birds on Farms program.



The ANZ corporate volunteers set out to plant many indigenous trees on their visit to Glenburn. -S



A sea of green plant protectors as the group get stuck into the planting. -S

Three students from Yea Primary School head to Regional Cross Country

STUDENTS from Yea Primary School Archie Armstrong, Hudson Roberts, and Zoe Alldrick proudly represented their school at the Regional Cross Country event held in Benalla on Friday, June 13. It was a beautiful,

sunny day and all three students gave their best efforts, running strong and determined races. Archie finished 22nd and Hudson 24th.

A special congratulations goes to Zoe, who delivered an outstanding performance

to finish 10th in her event. This impressive result qualifies her to compete at the State Cross Country Championships next month, a fantastic achievement.



Archie, Zoe and Hudson representing Yea Primary School. Zoe is off to State Cross Country Championship next month. -S

Country football and netball grants now available

FOOTBALL and netball clubs across Northern Victoria have a chance to apply for state government funding to improve their facilities.

The Nationals' Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad encouraged all football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations across the region to apply for the latest round of grants under the Country Football and Netball Program.

Applications can be made for grants of up to \$250,000 to develop facilities.

Ms Broad said potential projects could include new change rooms, upgrades to lighting, improved water efficiency and more.

"Grassroots football and netball is the backbone of many regional communities, and having great facilities encourages more participation and in turn provides great social and health benefits," Ms Broad said.

Applications for the current round of the Country Football and Netball program close on Monday, July 7.

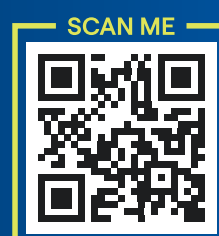
Clubs must register their interest through their local council.

For further information visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding/country-football-and-netball-program



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**MADE
FOR
MORE**

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Congratulations to **Zoe** for being a resilient student, being able to keep going when learning tasks are challenging.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Increase in COVID-19, flu and RSV in Victoria

THE Chief Health Officer sent out a health alert last week as there is an increased risk of respiratory illnesses heading into the winter months. In Victoria the increase in COVID-19 cases between April and May this year were 2.5 times higher than the same time as last year, with hospitalisations increasing. The flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases are also on the rise.

Immunisations are available for many respiratory illnesses such as influenza (flu), COVID-19 and RSV.

People most at risk of severe illness with respiratory conditions include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children under the age of five years old, elderly people, pregnant women, those who are immunocompromised, and those with certain medical conditions including diabetes, cardiac disease and chronic respiratory conditions.

Symptoms of respiratory illnesses such as flu, COVID-19 and RSV can be quite similar and include fever, coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, body aches and fatigue. These illnesses are very infectious and spread via droplets produced through coughing and sneezing, or by coming in close contact with infected people.

To protect yourself the best way possible against these illnesses and to stay healthy is: wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly and regularly, particularly before and after touching your face; cough or sneeze into your elbow; stay home if you are unwell; wear a face mask if you have symptoms or visiting sensitive settings, such as aged care facilities; talk with your doctor now if you are at higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or the flu. Discuss what to do if you get sick, including testing options and whether you are eligible for antiviral treatment, and if you experience serious symptoms, seek medical attention.

Illegal disposal of dead pythons punished

A MAN has been ordered to pay \$10,000 to the court fund after pleading guilty to charges arising from the illegal dumping of dead snakes at Mount Disappointment.

The 26 year old South Morang man appeared in Heidelberg Magistrates Court on five charges relating to his burying of 32 dead carpet pythons in the Mount Disappointment State Forest.

He was found guilty without conviction, was ordered to pay \$10,000 to the court fund and placed on a good behaviour bond for two years.

The man had a private wildlife licence to own the captive-bred carpet pythons but euthanised them when some became infected with a disease.

The man buried the snakes in the state forest where there was a significant risk of the disease spreading to native wildlife. He also failed to keep accurate records as required in the conditions of his licence and gave false or misleading information to an authorised officer when asked about the snakes.

In passing the sentence, the Magistrate described the offending as 'very reckless'.

Conservation Regulator spokesperson, Greg Chant, said, "Disposing of privately kept wildlife in this manner is reckless and represents a significant biosecurity risk for native wildlife and the community.

"The case is a reminder to people who own wildlife as pets that they need to keep accurate records of the animals in their care and take appropriate care with diseased or dead animals.

"The conditions in permits to keep wildlife as pets need to be taken seriously so that the privately kept wildlife, native wildlife and the community are protected."



FFMVic taskforce headed over to Canada on Monday, June 9. -S

North East Firefighters assist with Canada's Wildfires

FOREST Fire Managment Victoria (FFMV) has sent a taskforce of 20 arduous firefighters, supported by an agency representative, to help Canadian firefighting colleagues as they respond to wildfires in the province of Alberta.

The taskforce left Australia on Monday, June 9.

Four FFMVic firefighters from north-east Victoria are part of the deployment. They are Steven Le Brun from Ovens, Sam Schwarz from Broadford, Nicholas Panuccio

from Benalla, and Eilis MacInerney-Parkinson from Alexandra.

The Victorian contingent is joining a larger group of 96 firefighters and incident management personnel from Australia deploying to Edmonton, Alberta Province.

The deployment is expected to be up to 36 days comprised of two 14 day rotations.

The fire situation in Canada has become worse over recent weeks, with over 100 fires burning across the country and thousands of people evacuated.

More than 2.6 million hectares of land has been burnt this year.

This taskforce will face challenging conditions in difficult terrain, but will gain valuable firefighting experience that they can bring home to our Victorian communities.

The Canadian terrain may be challenging and the trees and wildlife very different but FFMVic staff are experienced in fighting fires in these conditions. Their skills are sharpened through overseas deployments where they learn from different environments, fire behaviour and international colleagues.

Canadian firefighters were last deployed to Victoria during the 2019/20 during Black Summer.

Deployments for emergencies have been in place between Australia and Canada for more than 15 years.



Hume firefighters from left to right: Sam Schwarz, Steven Le Brun, Eilis MacInerney – Parkinson, and Nicholas Panuccio. -S

Rotary Club of Yea's annual report

IT'S been another busy year for the Yea Rotarians, with successful annual events as well as new initiatives.

President's Report

In her President's Report, Penny Paxman spoke about how the club has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months.

She said, "The Rotary International Theme chosen for the year, 'The Magic of Rotary', helped tremendously as it gave us the chance to create fun along the way. We set out to increase our impact. While continuing to maintain projects and events the club has undertaken over many years, we tweaked things where we could to include additional benefits to the community. One example of this was providing a barbecue or sausage sizzle at extra venues where possible, eg. Yea Cruise Night. Darryl King kept the barbecue trailer sparkling so it could go out at very short notice and as a result Rotary has been seen around town a lot more this year."

She thanked Glenda Woods for her work in promoting the club's activities, and Les Hall for providing regular events geared towards service to the community, such as the Seniors' Christmas Dinner. She also thanked Tony Jacobs for his initiative regarding a joint project with the Yea and District Memorial Hospital, which the club is now working on.

Yea Rotary has also been able to help individuals with an immediate need, including house painting for the survivor of an accident, and a laptop which ensured the ability to take on tertiary study.

The club's finances remain healthy, thanks to treasurer Gary Fitzgerald, and as a result, the club has been able to assist financially in different areas over the past year.

They also opened up their weekly meetings to members of the public, and invited some speakers to attend via Zoom so that members could hear from Rotarians doing extraordinary things in other parts of the world.

They conducted vocational visits to the Lake Eildon houseboat industry, with other clubs joining them on the trip. Their collaborations with other Rotary groups include Cycle Dindi (with the Rotary Club of Alexandra) and Youth Exchange (with the Rotary Club of Broadmeadows).

The Youth Exchange program brought Yea the delightful Haru from Japan, with visitors from Taiwan and Chile expected over the next 12 months. She thanked Chris Kellett for her work in finding host families.

Penny said, "Lily Cox took on the role of Youth Director and she and her team have focused on organising bursaries and scholarships awarded in 2024. Our club attracted a large donation to enable a new scholarship to be awarded to a secondary student in 2025.

"Tippy Anderson continued her work in Thailand with English speaking corners in three schools. Our club has maintained contact and members have donated books and toys to support them as well as participating in a Thai/Japanese night hosted by our club for members and guests."

They focused on fun this year, realising that having fun achieved more and attracted new members.

There was also interest in more focus on service and less on fundraising.

She finished by saying, "It has been my pleasure to lead the Rotary Club of Yea for 2024/25 and I am delighted with all we have achieved. I am excited to welcome incoming President, Darryl King and his board and wish them all the Magic of Rotary for the coming year."

Events

Community service director Les Hall spoke in his report about the Yea Garden Expo, Open Gardens, the provision of a barbecue at Yea Cruise Night, assisting with the Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day commemoration, the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner, the Yea Christmas Carols barbecue, the Yea Art Show, the Australia Day breakfast, Rotary's services on the gate at the Yea Races, the provision of a barbecue for the Field Day at Paringa and Cycle Dindi. They will also be working the gate for the Yea Football Netball Club to thank the club for their help with the art show.

Rotary Foundation

David Anderson wrote about the Rotary Foundation on behalf of Tony Jacobs. He said that the club has donated \$230,000 to the foundation during its 39 years, helping to enable the foundation to conduct charitable works and 'do good in the world'. This year, the Yea Rotary Club has been in the top 10 of clubs in District 9790 in total giving to the foundation and per capita. The focus of the foundation remains the eradication of polio. Two recent cases in Papua New Guinea reinforce this need. The club is also a financial sponsor of Jeffrey Xia from Mulgrave, undertaking studies at Stanford University.



Outgoing Yea Rotary President Penny Paxman. -S

International Service

Tippy Anderson, director of International Service, wrote about the international nights, held in Yea with a focus on Thai and Japanese food. The night focused on raising funds for a small project in Sri Bun Rueang, Non Bua Lamphu Province, and Sri Chompu, Khonkaen Province. These volunteer groups attend fatal road accidents and support poor families with coffins for loved ones and family members who could otherwise not provide a decent burial for their loss. Soft toys and books were also donated to Posri Sa'art Wittaya School in Non Bua Lamphu, and financial contributions were made towards Interplast and Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC).

Youth Service

Outbound, Nakaiah Kerr had an unforgettable 12 week exchange in Taiwan, and Andrew Foster has been enjoying Germany. Inbound, Yea has hosted Japanese student, Haru. School bursaries were awarded to Jake Wertz from Flowerdale Primary School, Ella Harris and Declan Fulford from Yea High School, Matthew Jensen from Sacred Heart Primary School, and Finn Duke from Yea Primary School. The Ruth Konig Scholarship was awarded to Madilyn Flynn, and the club supported Haylee Fyfe's participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA).

Portable long service leave that moves with your workers.

Community Services

Contract Cleaning

Security

Employers in Victoria's community services, contract cleaning or security industry must be registered with the Portable Long Service Authority.

By registering you can ensure your workers are eligible for portable long service leave - leave that moves with them - even when they change employers in the same industry.

So, make sure you and your workers are registered.

To register your workers and find out more

➔ plsa.vic.gov.au



Ambulance Victoria urges people to prep for winter with a health check-in

AS the winter chill sets in, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is calling on all Victorians to prepare for the colder months by looking after their health, checking in on vulnerable loved ones, and getting vaccinated against the flu and COVID-19.

With seasonal illnesses on the rise and colder temperatures increasing the risk of injury and illness, especially for older people, paramedics are encouraging the community to take some simple steps now to stay safe and well.

AV Executive Director Regional Operations Danielle North said winter can bring extra health risks, particularly for older people and those living on their own.

“Simple things like a fall in the bathroom or a faulty heater can quickly become serious,” Ms North said.

“Now’s the time to check that your heating is safe, that rugs and cords aren’t trip hazards, and that walkways are clear and well-lit. A few small steps can make a big difference.”

Ms North said vaccination remains one of the most important ways to protect against seasonal illnesses and encouraged Victorians to do their part to ensure AV’s highly skilled paramedics and first responders were available for patients most in need.

“There are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice but don’t need an emergency ambulance, including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinics,” she said.

“We know demand on our hard-working paramedics and first responders will rise as

we head into winter and we tend to see a surge in respiratory illnesses like flu and COVID-19.

“Getting vaccinated is still the best protection, and there’s still time.

“That’s why we urge Victorians to book in their annual flu vaccination, keep regular check-ups with your GP or specialist and stay home if unwell. We can all help to protect ourselves and people most at risk in the community.”

Know your options before calling Triple Zero (000)

Victorians are reminded that for non-urgent health concerns, there are trusted services available:

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) has 24/7 access to emergency doctors and nurses. Just visit vved.org.au

Urgent Care Clinics feature GP-led care for urgent but non-emergency issues.

Nurse On Call has free advice from a registered nurse, 24/7, on 1300 606 024.

Your GP or local pharmacist can also be of assistance.

“These services are a great first port of call and help save Triple Zero for genuine emergencies,” Ms North said.

To learn more about staying healthy this winter and how to book your routine vaccinations, visit: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/stay-well-this-winter

Big boost for small-scale projects in schools

MINISTER for Education Ben Carroll last week announced that applications are now open for the Capital Works Fund, which supports projects that upgrade the condition, character or inclusiveness of Victorian schools.

“We know that small projects can make a big difference, whether it’s fixing a leaky roof, upgrading toilets or building an inclusive playground, these upgrades make schools better places to learn and work,” Mr Carroll said.

“This fund is about making sure every student, no matter their needs, has a safe, inclusive and welcoming school environment.

“We’re backing school communities with the funding they need to get on with the upgrades that matter most to them.”

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* includes an extra \$25 million for the fund, helping more schools deliver essential works, including \$9.2 million for toilet upgrades at 21 schools across the state.

The Minor Capital Works Fund (MCWF) was established in 2020 and replaced in 2024-25 by the Capital Works Fund (CWF). As of April 2025, the fund has supported 560 projects with a total of \$166.8 million in upgrades.

Schools can apply for one of three funding streams: Up to \$50,000 for small-scale priority or condition-related projects; up to \$300,000 for student inclusion projects; up to \$500,000 for larger-scale priority or condition-related projects.

Projects can include classroom refurbishments, toilet upgrades, roof repairs, improved playgrounds and ovals, bike shelters, covered walkways, outdoor learning spaces, fences and flagpoles.

The inclusion stream supports projects that cater to all students’ educational and social needs, including children with disability or additional requirements, such as inclusive play equipment or learning areas.

The state government has invested more than \$18.5 billion to build new schools and upgrade more than 2300 existing ones, supporting more than 30,000 jobs in construction and related industries.

Applications for the funds are open until Friday, July 4. Schools with successful applications will be notified by the end of this year.

For more information and to apply, visit: schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/capital-works-fund

Shaun Lawlor awarded AFSM

SHAUN Lawlor of Lima was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medals for distinguished service as a member of an Australian fire service.

Mr Shaun Lawlor commenced service as a firefighter with the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) in December 1989 in Heyfield (formerly the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands).

Since that time, Mr Lawlor has performed his primary fire role as an air attack supervisor for 28 years and his secondary fire role as an operations officer for 31 years at numerous fires. His substantive position is the regional manager for Forest and Fire Programs, in the Hume region of the Forest and Fire Operations Division.

Mr Lawlor has attended every major fire in Victoria in the last 35 years including 1998 Caledonia fire, 2002-03 Alpine fires, 2006-07 Great Divide fires, 2009 Black Saturday fires, 2013 Harrietville fire, and 2019-20 Black Summer fire either as

air attack supervisor or in his role as an operations officer.

Mr Lawlor has represented DEECA at the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission which included preparation of the 2009 Beechworth and Murrindindi fires presentation and preparation of the narrative for the Emergency Services Commissioner chronology of events for the 2013 Harrietville - Alpine North bushfire.

He has led the implementation and delivery of integrated fire management programs including the Reducing Bushfire Risk program, the Strategic Fuel Breaks program and the Joint Fuel Management program.

He has also led the establishment of the Hume region Continuous Improvement Program in 2013. Key achievements since its inception are development of the Model of Bushfire Response, the initiation of the Securing Water Supplies in Remote Areas for Firefighting project, fuel treatability mapping and enhanced fire management zone categories to assist with landscape mosaic burn identification and planning.

How can we make older homes more resilient?

by Subha Parida, Lyrian Daniel and Michaela Lang, first published in *The Conversation*

IN Australia, the national construction standards have been in place since the early 1990s. Over time, the standards have expanded to include more fire-resistant features, such as fire-resistant external walls.

By contrast, older homes are more likely to be built of flammable materials such as wood and untreated timber. Older homes are also more likely to have mature trees and shrubs closer to the house, which can increase fire risk. But as the CSIRO Bushfire Best Practice Guide points out, “trees can also be used to shield against wind, absorb radiant heat, and to filter embers [...] when located at a safe distance from the house”.

More exacting construction standards apply for homes built in areas considered at risk of bushfire. State and territory governments have interactive maps of these areas.

Unfortunately, climate change is expanding these areas at risk. As the LA wildfires show, warmer climates mean fire can attack suburbs and cities thought to be safe from bushfire.

Climate change is also making home ownership more expensive, as insurance premiums rise in the wake of more expensive disasters. Analysts predict banks may begin rejecting mortgage applications for properties in areas at high risk from fire.

Older homes remain highly sought after, but for these homes to be brought up to modern standards of bushfire resistance, they often require significant retrofitting. These retrofits can drastically reduce the risk of ignition.

Five ways to protect your older house:

1. Upgrade external vents. Traditional external vents are designed to ventilate rooms and roofs. But they also permit embers to gain access to attics and crawl spaces and spark a fire. Upgrading to ember-resistant vents can directly improve your home’s resilience.
2. Install ember gutter guards. Ember-resistant gutter guards are made of metal and have finer mesh than normal gutter guards. These help to prevent the build-up of dry leaves and twigs and stop small embers from landing.
3. Upgrade windows and walls. You can cut your risk further by installing bushfire-resistant shutters for windows, using fire-resistant material for wall insulation and replacing combustible material with better alternatives such as metal roofing, fibre cement siding for walls and tempered glass windows.
4. Check your deck and verandah. Wooden decks and verandahs are risky in high-risk areas. If they need to be rebuilt, choose fire-resistant materials.
5. Make space around your home. In fire-prone areas, removing trees and shrubs within 20 metres of the house can reduce risk. A well-managed area of pavers and low-density plants and shrubs close to the home acts as a fire break.

Ahead of fire season, making and updating an evacuation plan is equally vital. Homeowners should prepare emergency kits with essential documents, medications, and protective gear.

Goals for Victoria’s water corporations

THE state government is aiming to reduce emissions with all Victorian water corporations on track to be powered with 100 per cent renewable electricity by the end of 2025.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney announced all 18 of Victoria’s water corporations are on schedule to meet their target to source all of their electricity from renewable sources by the end of 2025.

Water corporations have also set a target to reduce their emissions to net-zero by 2035. More than half of them have brought that target forward, aiming to reach net-zero by 2030.

The shift to powering operations with renewable electricity has seen water corporations reduce their emissions by 42 percent, the equivalent to removing around 136,000 cars off Victoria’s roads.

Investments in renewable energy will help lower power bills for water corporations, which means they can continue to deliver affordable water and sewer services to the community.

The changes are being delivered alongside the recent announcement that the State Electricity Commission (SEC) signed retail contracts to supply all Victorian Government operations with cheap, renewable electricity.

The Farmer's Ag News

Scammers fake hay while the sun shines

THERE have been reports of farmers across Victoria being scammed on Facebook while trying to purchase hay. This is a particularly callous move by the scammers, given the current drought conditions.

When purchasing on Facebook, always look at when the seller joined Facebook and how many friends they have on the site. This can be a key indicator. Look at their profile page as well as their seller page. If they joined in recent days and they only have a few friends, there may be reason for suspicion.

Their account may be a duplicate of a real person on Facebook. Most regular users will have received friend requests from people who they are already friends with. While sometimes this may be legitimate, it should also ring very loud warning bells and care should be taken before re-friending. Your friendship may be used to legitimise scam sales or other scam posts, and your friend may know nothing about it.

Never, under any circumstances, send money in advance. This includes deposits.

Purchase only from reputable suppliers and be very careful if you decide to source hay via online marketplace ads.

As the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) says, "Scammers advertise hay for sale and ask for a deposit, with the balance payable in cash on delivery. But the hay never arrives and the scammer stops all communication. Never pay money to someone you only know through social media. If you're making an online purchase, use secure payment methods such as PayPal or credit card."

If you've transferred money or shared financial information, contact your bank immediately. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch, <https://bit.ly/4cGFMEEx>

Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.



Be cautious if purchasing hay via social media site. -Flagstaffphotos

Growing the next generation of farming leaders

MINISTER for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced the opening of the *2025 Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program*, encouraging early-career farmers to apply and gain the tools they need to thrive in Victoria's agriculture sector.

"The *2025 Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program* is a great opportunity for farmers looking to broaden their skills and resources, helping them pursue training to enhance their agricultural practices," Ms Spence said.

"By supporting young farmers to build capability and resilience, we are investing in a stronger, more sustainable future for agriculture across the state."

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.

Clay Gowers, Chair of the Young Farmers Advisory Council, encouraged young farmers to make the most of this opportunity.

"I encourage Victoria's young farmers to apply for the *2025 Upskill and Invest Young Farmers Scholarship Program*. It's a great opportunity to boost the productivity of your farm business, enhance sustainability on farm and improve your own skills."

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.

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

NFF says wage growth must be matched by productivity gains

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has acknowledged the Fair Work Commission's decision to increase the National Minimum Wage and modern award rates by 3.5 per cent.

NFF Chief Executive Troy Williams said that while the commission had adopted a measured approach, albeit with an outcome a little higher than employers may have wanted, it is critical that future wage increases are underpinned by genuine and long-term improvements in workforce productivity.

"Australian farmers continue to face rising input costs, acute workforce shortages, and significant exposure to global market volatility," Mr Williams said.

"As price takers, farm businesses have limited capacity to absorb higher labour costs without a corresponding uplift in productivity. Without this link, wage growth risks undermining the viability of many small and family-run farm operations."

NFF emphasises that lifting productivity is central to the agricultural sector's long-term vision.

"The NFF's 2030 Roadmap sets an ambitious target to grow Australia's farmgate output to \$100 billion by the end of this decade. Achieving that goal relies on smart investments, technology adoption, and a workforce framework that rewards performance and drives efficiency," Mr Williams said.

NFF believes that the Fair Work Commission must continue to ensure that wage decisions reflect productivity trends and regional conditions to protect rural employment and business sustainability.

"Real wage growth must be earned through real on farm productivity gains. That's how we ensure fairness for workers and resilience for the farming sector," Mr Williams said.

The NFF will continue to advocate for a balanced wage-setting system that sustains the economic health of Australian agriculture while supporting its people.

Victorian food and fibre exports leading the nation

DESPITE the challenges that Victoria's Primary Producers and food manufacturers are currently facing they have still delivered another year of record-breaking exports, leading the nation and hitting the state's \$20 billion target six years ahead of schedule.

Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson last week released the *2023-24 Food and Fibre Export Performance Report*, which shows Victoria is Australia's top food and fibre exporter, capturing 27 per cent of the total national export value.

The results cement Victoria's position as the nation's premier state for food and fibre, building on two consecutive years of record-breaking numbers and seeing the state exceed the government's ambitious target of \$20 billion in food and fibre exports by 2030.

Victoria was one of only two states to record growth in food and fibre export value in 2023-24.

Butter exports surged by an incredible 81 per cent, a testament to the quality of our produce, sustainable practices and safety standards.

China remained Victoria's largest export market, totaling almost \$5 billion in value in 2023-24. Victoria saw growth in export value to many of our key markets in addition to China, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and India.

The government's *Economic Growth Statement* identifies Agribusiness as a priority sector and trade as a critical driver of economic growth. Agriculture production is an integral part of Victoria's regional economy, which is home to around 75 per cent of the industry's workforce.

To read the report, visit global.vic.gov.au/victorias-export-performance

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)**.

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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 12

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "I"

- IAN
- INDIGO
- ICECREAM
- INDOORS
- IGLOO
- INFANT
- IGNORE
- INSECT
- IGUANA
- INSTRUCTOR
- IMAGINE
- ISABELLE
- IMPORTANT
- ISLAND

Math Square

	-		-		-3
+		-		-	
7	+	8	-		9
+		+		-	
	+		-		-3
15		-3		-13	

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

Q: Did you hear about the two rowboats that got into an argument?
A: It was an "Oar-deal".

Q: What kind of dog does a magician have?
A: A Labracadabrador.

Crossword

ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
					8						
				9							
10							11				
			12	13		14					
15		16				17			18		
					19						
20				21		22	23				24
			25		26						
27		28				29		30			
				31							
32						33					

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

Word Search

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

Fairytale Characters

- ANASTASIA
- RAPUNZEL
- ARIEL
- ROBINHOOD
- CINDERELLA
- SHREK
- JASMINE
- SNOWWHITE
- PINNOCHIO
- TINKERBELL
- PUSSINBOOTS
- TOMTHUMB

Cryptogram

ANZAC Day

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
24								

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				21				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	4						

A 24 O 12 21 11 6 T 4 10 18 23

A 24 6 21 O : O 21 11 1 23

O 20 22 21 11 A 24 T 4 10 18 23

Math Square

	-		-		-6
+		÷		+	
	÷		+		3
+		-		+	
7	+	6	×		61
16		-2		13	

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.

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.
Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.



Sacred Heart Primary visits Camp Manyung

SACRED Heart's year five and six students recently returned from an unforgettable adventure at Camp Manyung, where they embraced challenge, fun and friendship in the great outdoors.

Located on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, Camp Manyung offered senior students a wide range of exciting activities designed to build confidence, teamwork and resilience. From heart-pounding high ropes courses to peaceful walks along the beach, every moment was packed with learning and laughter.

A standout for many was the giant swing, where students faced their fears and soared through the air with courage. The flying fox was another firm favourite, delivering a thrilling ride through the treetops. For those looking to

stretch their teamwork skills, crate climbing tested balance and communication, while the treetop adventures invited students to navigate high platforms and obstacles with steady nerves and helping hands.

The campers also enjoyed rockpooling at low tide, discovering marine life and taking time to slow down and connect with nature. Evening activities included international games like *Nine in the Air*, which brought lots of laughter and friendly competition.

No camp is complete without delicious food, and the students loved the chance to get hands-on in the kitchen, making their own woodfired pizzas from scratch.

Bike riding around the site's scenic trails gave students the chance to explore and enjoy the crisp sea air, while daily beach walks were a chance to reflect and reset as a group.

Throughout the week, Sacred Heart students showed what it means to live the school values. They demonstrated safety in every activity, encouraged one another with resilience, and showed respect for the camp environment, staff, and each other.

The staff are incredibly proud of the way the year five and six students represented Sacred Heart and challenged themselves. Camp Manyung was more than just a week away, it was a time of growth, connection, and unforgettable memories.



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Concerns over new home care package delays

INDEPENDENT Members and Senators have said they are concerned about the impact the Australian Government's decision to postpone the commencement of 80,000 new Home Care packages will have on older Australians.

83,000 new Home Care packages were due to be rolled out from July 1. This has now been postponed until November. There are currently some 80,000 Australians on the waitlist for a Home Care package.

It takes 12 to 15 months for someone to get a level four package. In that context a six month delay is consequential.

Research shows that the longer people go without appropriate Home Care supports, the higher their risk of injury, hospitalisation and earlier entry into residential aged care. The delay will also imperil the government's commitment that by 2027 no one will wait more than 90 days for a package.

The parliamentarians have signed an open letter calling on the government to, at a minimum, fund 20,000 new packages to commence on July 1 under the current Home Care Packages scheme, which can then be rolled over onto the new Support at Home program when it eventually commences.

ACT Independent Senator David Pocock said older Australians and their families couldn't afford to wait even longer for much-needed support in their homes. "Last term the Albanese Government made some good progress with multi-partisan support but now they need to prioritise implementation," Senator Pocock said.

"I regularly have families contacting me about the excessively long wait times for Home Care packages. We can't afford to delay this further. The 1400 Canberrans currently on the waitlist need help now, and each day we delay is another day they are put at risk of injury or of going into permanent care well ahead of their time."

"While the sector acknowledges this delay as a frustrating but necessary step, we need more home care packages now to bridge the gap until November," Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, said.

"In my electorate, people have approved packages but are waiting months for care because of a lack of providers. We also can't

delay the rollout of a pricing framework that fairly reflects the travel costs to deliver care in rural areas."

Independent Member for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan said older Australians were already waiting too long for support. "It's clear that the industry is not yet ready to implement the new Aged Care Act, and it makes sense to delay it," Dr Ryan said.

"However, older Australians shouldn't suffer because of the aged care system's failures. They're already waiting far too long for the help they need. The government should urgently fund an extra 20,000 home care packages to support older Australians stay safe and healthy at home, while it helps stakeholders transition to the new framework."

Allegra Spender MP, independent Member for Wentworth said action is needed now to help lower waiting times. "I regularly hear heartbreaking stories of parents and grandparents who are eligible for home care packages, but end up in aged-care facilities unnecessarily, because the home care package takes too long," said Ms Spender.

"The rationing of home care packages fails families and older Australians and simply places more burden and costs on our aged care system. The government needs to deliver on its promise to provide more home care package."

"While the additional time for the sector to transition to the New Aged Care Act is warranted, the 83,000 people waiting for a Home Care Package should not be made to wait any longer."

"The government can and must act on this without delay," Dr Sophie Scamps, independent Member for Mackellar, said. "These delays to Home Care Packages are putting pressure on families who are struggling to care for their loved ones and desperately need urgent support right now."

"The longer Tasmanians Seniors can stay home, the better off they are, delaying the promised rollout until November isn't acceptable. Both sides of politics have dropped the ball on this issue over the last 10 years. What the Minister calls 'a brief deferral' will directly impact the lives of older Australians," Senator Jacqui Lambie, Senator for Tasmania, said.

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A LONG TIME AGO; ONCE UPON A TIME

MATH SQUARES

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KIDS - MATH SQUARES

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DEATH NOTICES

LEARY,
Ethel Louise
06/02/1933 -
07/06/2025

Passed away peacefully. Wife to Bill (dec). Best mum to David and Anne-Marie (dec), Malcolm, Ian and Bronwyn and Peter.

Grandma to Stuart, Hannah and Dan, Brendan and Melissa, Justin and Laura, Kristelle and Daniel.

Great grandma (G.G) to Dallas, Tommy, Harry, Tess, Lilly, Luca, Oscar.

Reunited with Bill at Jesus feet.

DEATH NOTICES

WEBB,
Martin David
26/07/1945 -
12/06/2025

Brother of Philip and Brian.
Father of Trevor.
Son of Donald (dec) and Cath (dec).

A fun loving, inspirational deaf person. Will be sadly missed.

Funeral at 11.30am on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at St John's Catholic Church, 494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham.

FUNERAL NOTICES

LEARY,
Ethel Louise

A thanksgiving service for Ethel will be held on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Mt Cathedral Baptist Church, 37 Grant Street, Alexandra commencing at 1.30pm.

Please wear bright colors.



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For further information and an Expression of Interest document please email mark_beveridge@racv.com.au by midday 11/ 07/2025.

SPORT



Pep is poised as he awaits Matt's return. -S

Alexandra Squash Club report

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Falcons versus Owls

ERIC versus Tyler: Great rallies. Tyler's second game was outstanding with his serves finding depth and proving too good. Tyler claimed the win. 74 to 45.

Pep (fill in) versus Matt L: Two fellas that refuse to let the ball die. Pep stayed just ahead in the first half. Matt claimed the third game to even out the score, but Pep upped the ante in the final game to close out the match on top. 74 to 61.

Phil (fill in) versus John: Both players had great court coverage. Phil had the touch in the first two games followed by John's guile in the third game. Experience and speed were evident in game three with John taking a commanding lead. The final game saw John keep ahead to become victorious. 60 to 48.

Eagles versus Hawks

SALLY versus Chris: A great game with both players putting forth some beautiful winners. Sally had well played shots, but Chris's court coverage was too good and helped him greatly on his journey to victory. 71 to 56.

Michael M versus Jared: Very tight through the first three games with some sublime shots and extended rallies. Michael seized the momentum in the last set and stormed home. 59 to 47.

Derrick versus Andrew: Despite Derricks skilful improvisation he found himself playing catch up with an in-form Andrew. With control and single-mindedness of a squash Terminator, Andrew managed to exploit any loose shots and eke out a 13-point win. 69 to 47.

Thursday competition Blue Tongues versus Frill Necks

BETH versus Blake: Blake steam-rolled Beth in the first game gaining a 15-point lead. With persistence and some placement, Beth took the next two games. But Blake rallied to steal the final game and keep hold of his crown. 68 to 53.

Sam versus Kristelle: Taking an early lead, Kristelle's shots were coming off at all angles, misdirecting her opponent. Sam took control in the second half, utilising every opportunity he was gifted when Kristelle continued to put it into the tin. Despite taking control, Sam couldn't bring it back and Kristelle went home victorious. 66 to 64.

Dragons versus Skinks

LIANE versus Matthew: Liane came out blazing and didn't give Matthew any chances to take the lead. Holding firm, Liane triumphed with a commanding lead. 76 to 38.

Travis versus Lucas: A fun game to watch. Both players took home two games, but Travis had the upper hand on the night, pulling a fast one over on Lucas to win the match. 59 to 53.

Michael M versus Justin: The first and last games were neck-and-neck, but Michael's consistency and strength shone through to dominate the middle games and ultimately claim the match. 71 to 54.

SPORT

Yea senior footballers dominate Powelltown

Yea 16.13 - 109 defeated Powelltown 9.5 - 59



Zack Papadopoulos from the Yea Seniors Football Team. -S

ADNA Youth Netball round up

by Cassandra Fraser

ROUND four of indoor netball saw some pretty hot competition.

Diamonds versus Comets was hotly contested with Diamonds winners by eight points. On the night Diamonds had two fill ins Chloe Woehl and Samantha Fraser who added further strength to an already slick team. Best on court was impossible to choose with both sides working hard and playing well as a team.

Bandits versus Astros saw Charli Edwards fill in for Bandits and play a second sensational game for the night. Umpires Renee and Belinda needed their skates on to keep up with the pace of this game. Both sides were keen for possession of the ball with multiple intercepts and changes of direction, shooters for both sides were accurate and defenders fierce. Bandits won this game by five points. Best for Bandits: Tilly, Ava and Charli; Best for Astros: Matthew, Marli and Zoe.

The ladder after round four: Bandits: 12 points, 204 per cent; Astros: 12 points, 110 per cent; Diamonds: eight points, 77 per cent, and Comets 0 points, 58 per cent.

Yea Golfers' June monthly medal

by Alan Pell

WITH cooler weather but no rain, conditions at Royal Yea were pretty good on Saturday. The 30 millimetres received last weekend has seen a green tinge appear but further rain will be required for any substantial grass growth. The men were playing their monthly medal with 18 players. Winner with nett 70 was Captain Alan Pell (12) from Steve Rumney (23) on nett 71 on countback from third Martin Lowe (17). Fourth was Zach Pell (8) with nett 73 on countback from Bob Glenister (10). Brian Simmons was nearest the pin on the 11th and Kevin Coghlan again won the club award. Putting was achieved by Alan Pell with much astonishment with 25 putts.

Wednesday was also a cold day with 16 men playing a stableford round. The sun finally appeared as most players were finishing. Winner was Anthony La Grutta (18) with 35 points on countback from runner up Peter Johnston (15). Third was Brian Simmons (10) with 33 points. Steve Rumney was nearest the pin on the 11th and Brian Priestley won a four way countback for the club award.

The ladies played stableford on both days with Jan Wealands

(27) 34 points winning from Christine Simmons (23) with 29 on Wednesday. Saturday saw Sharon Grogan (24) with 29 points winning from Cindy Armstrong (25) with 25 second.

The monthly social night was a great success. A full moon and being Friday 13 didn't deter around 55 members and guests gathering for our Black Cat Bingo Social Night. After a delicious serving of Lamb Shanks prepared by guest Chef Polly Dorset it was eyes down for Black Cat Bingo. In an entertaining call all players were on the edge of their seats until No 99 was drawn out to decide the winner. The clubhouse erupted with glee as 34 players shouted bingo. Talk about a close finish. It was decided that the final dividend of \$3 each should be donated back to the club. A very generous donation. Lots of fun, lots of oohs and aahs and lots of laughter. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who manned the Bar and helped serving & cleanup in the Kitchen. Glen and Shirley Walsh headed back to Tea Tree Road with the Yea Meats, Meat Tray in their possession. Pity the Ravens failed to salute in the footy would have made it a double for Glen.

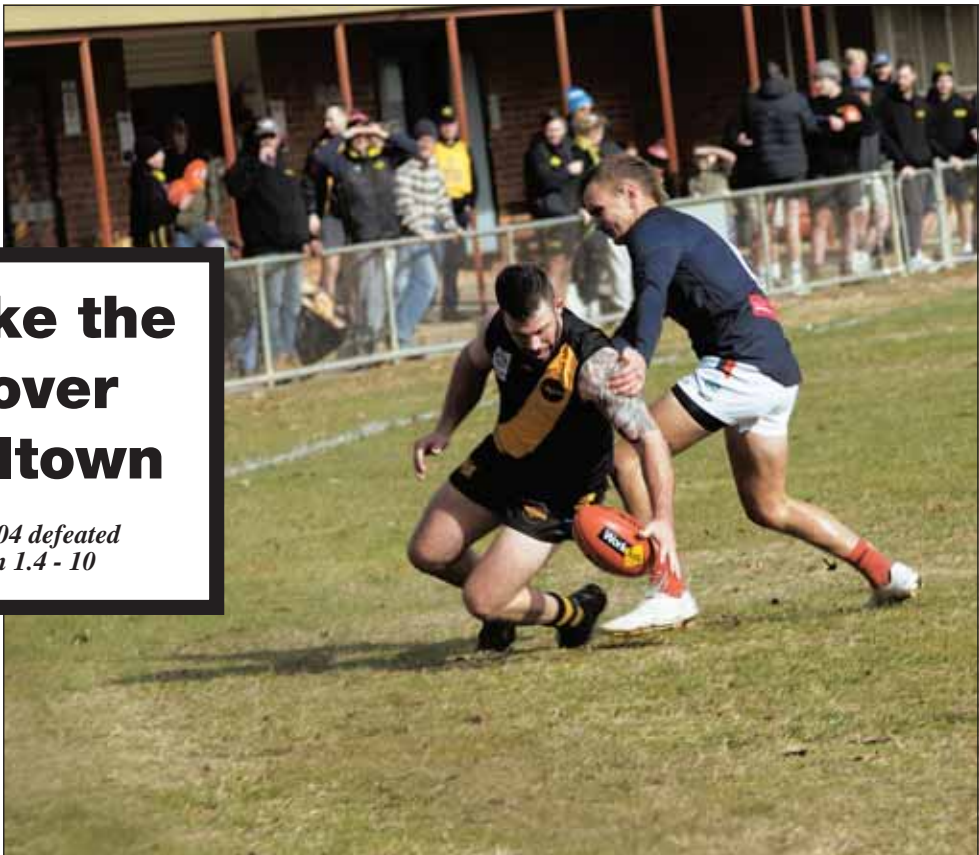


Glen and Shirley with the meat tray. -S

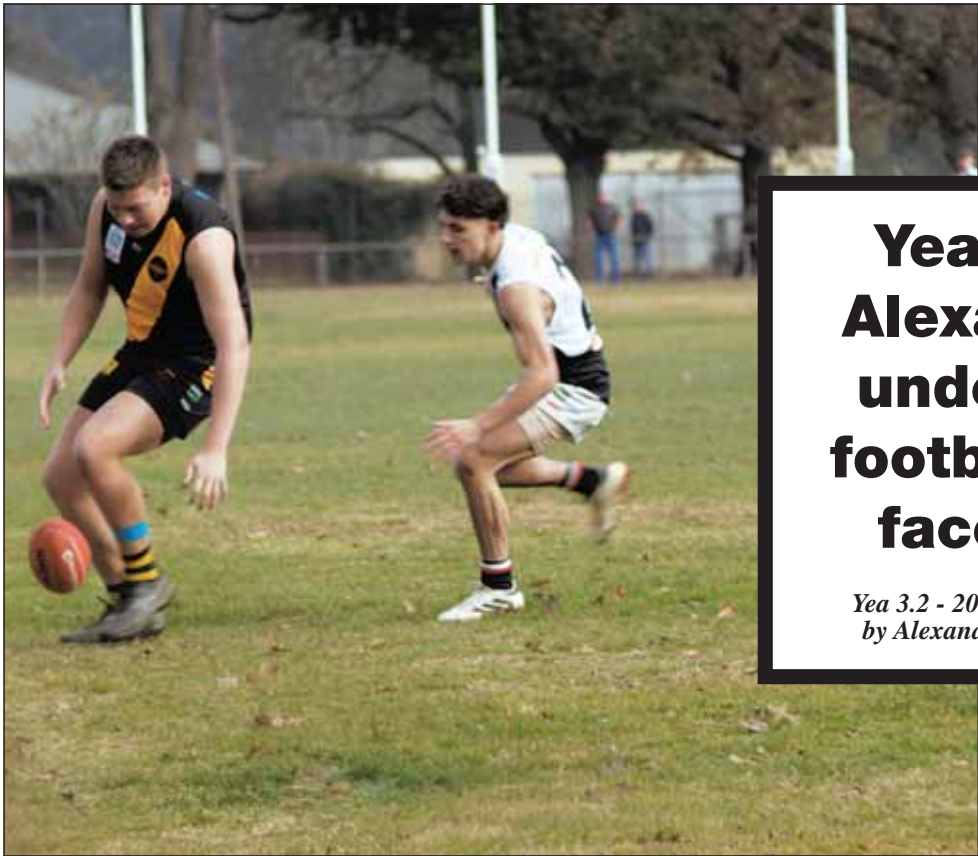
SPORT



James Simpson sending the ball on its way. -S



Ryan Sargeant under immense pressure. -S



Jack Purvis from the Yea Under 18 Football Team. -S



Dustin Fisher kicking with all his might. -S

Yea take the win over Powelltown

Yea 14.20 - 104 defeated Powelltown 1.4 - 10

Yea and Alexandra under 18 footballers face off

Yea 3.2 - 20 were defeated by Alexandra 12.13 - 85

Clash with Warburton for Yea women footballers

Yea 0.1 - 1 was defeated by Warburton 12.14 - 86

IT was a cold and foggy start to the day but the Yea women's team never gave up.



Madi Albers from the Yea Senior Women's Football Team. -S



Billie Bermingham from the Yea Senior Women's Football Team. -S

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Under 11 players Ivy and Sophia. -S



Ainsley and Olympia with their awards. -S



Under 13 netballers Kaylee and Tahlia. -S

Under 11 Yea netballers victorious

by Jo Madden

Under 11 Netball

THE Yea Tigers Under 11 netball team continued their outstanding season with a solid win over the Alexandra Rebels in a low-

scoring but spirited game. The Tigers came away with a 12-2 victory, with both teams displaying great sportsmanship throughout the match.

As always, the Tigers worked beautifully together as a team, showing excellent communication, passing and positioning on court. The players listened carefully and put into practice everything Coach Kath asked of them, demonstrating discipline and determination from the first whistle to the final siren.

This result sees the Tigers maintain their undefeated record and remain securely on top of the ladder. Well done to all players for another fantastic team effort.

Awards went to Ivy Lanigan: Yarra Valley Gas Coaches Award, and Sophia Garlick: Madden Plaster Player of the Day.

Under 13 Netball

THE Alexandra Rebels overcame a strong start from the Yea Tigers to claim a 29-22 win in a spirited 13 under netball clash. Yea dominated early, taking a 10-6 lead in the first quarter. But Alexandra responded with a powerful second term, outscoring Yea 10-3 to take a halftime lead. The Rebels extended their advantage in the third quarter with a 9-2 run, proving too strong despite a late push from the Tigers, who won the final term 7-4.

Awards given to Kaylee Anderson: Yarra Valley Gas, and Tahlia Waghorn: Always Contracting.



Hannah and Charlotte looking proud with their efforts. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves

	Percentage	Wins
Seville	545.40	8
Pakenham	389.11	7
Belgrave	269.42	5
Warburton Millgrove	150.52	5
Alexandra	106.53	5
Yea	95.10	3
Powelltown	33.25	2
Yarra Junction	13.77	1
Yarra Glen	21.18	0

Netball – A Grade

	Percentage	Wins
Seville	223.90	8
Warburton Millgrove	211.64	7
Pakenham	219.07	6
Yarra Glen	123.08	5
Yarra Junction	89.72	4
Alexandra	69.28	3
Belgrave	65.71	2
Yea	53.92	0
Powelltown	26.18	0

Football – Seniors

Warburton Millgrove	289.11	7
Pakenham	229.79	7
Seville	198.94	7
Yarra Glen	105.75	5
Alexandra	103.78	4
Belgrave	97.55	3
Yea	85.97	2
Powelltown	42.27	1
Yarra Junction	24.32	0

Netball – B Grade

Seville	362.09	8
Pakenham	234.60	7
Warburton Millgrove	147.86	6
Yarra Glen	114.38	5
Belgrave	86.71	4
Yarra Junction	59.95	3
Yea	65.31	2
Alexandra	51.40	1
Powelltown	40.08	0

Football – Senior Women

Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	8
Wandin	87.50	7
Emerald	68.75	5
Thornton Eildon	64.28	4
Yea	14.28	1
Seville	12.50	1
Officer	0	0

Netball – C Grade

Seville	333.85	8
Pakenham	192.50	7
Warburton Millgrove	182.11	6
Yarra Glen	97.83	5
Alexandra	78.59	3
Belgrave	72.84	3
Yarra Junction	68.89	2
Yea	48.57	1
Powelltown	36.58	0

Netball – 17 and under

Seville	391.58	8
Pakenham Lions Gold	213.24	6
Warburton Millgrove	104.69	4
Pakenham Lions Maroon	50.23	1
Alexandra	47.37	2
Powelltown	36.65	1

Netball – D Grade

Seville	376.92	8
Pakenham	284.82	7
Warburton Millgrove	186.58	6
Yarra Glen	89.86	4
Alexandra	77.27	4
Belgrave	74.16	4
Yea	47.68	2
Yarra Junction	52.78	1
Powelltown	21.09	0

Football – Under 18

Pakenham	1105.62	8
Seville	219.66	5
Yarra Glen	73.05	3
Warburton Millgrove	48.91	3
Alexandra	43.45	2
Yea	26.92	1