

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, November 5, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Murrindindi Shire Council facing challenging financial times

MURRINDINDI Shire Council held a special meeting of council in Kinglake West on Wednesday, October 29 to discuss the adoption of council's annual report and financial plan. Cr Carr was an apology for the meeting.

Financial Plan 2025-35

Cr Hildebrand introduced council's 10 year financial plan. He said that the strategy is to ensure financial stability while delivering essential services and infrastructure. The challenges include the persistent underlying operational deficits, insufficient rates and grant income declining, and spoke of the need for asset renewal.

He said, "To address these procedures, the plan identifies three key interventions that would make the most positive difference to the financial outlook." These are to seek

to raise rates above the rate cap, securing increased governmental financial assistance and debt funding for short life assets. It was noted that the plan also outlines internal costs management and services and infrastructure reviews in partnership with the community.

He added that council is committed to ongoing community engagement to refine financial objectives and explore new revenue opportunities and asset rationalisation strategies.

Cr Carpenter asked Director of People and Performance Michael Chesworth to explain the meaning of debt funding for short life assets. Mr Chesworth said that council borrows with a 10 year horizon and the borrowing is the life of the asset, "So we borrow and get the return from that asset at the same time, which is a more appropriate financial approach."

Mayor Gallagher also questioned Mr Chesworth over the report about the assumptions in the report. Mr Chesworth said that the rate cap was assumed at 2.5 per cent annually, and employee costs forecast to increase by three per cent per annum including CPI and other costs such as compliance to employment-related legislation. An example of this is the requirement that casual staff be transferred to part-time under certain conditions. Grants are assumed to grow by about four per cent per annum. Materials and services will increase by 2.5 per cent in line with the rate revenue cap. There is also an assumption of a 4.4 per cent interest rate on borrowings over a 10 year term. The assumptions are in line with the sector.

Mayor Gallagher asked, "If council were to continue its current rate of spending, underpinned by its current level of revenue,

how long until council's cash reserves are exhausted by those underlying deficits?"

Mr Chesworth responded that if other interventions were not explored, then at the current rates, by 2027/8 council would be "operating in a negative cash position. That's an unsustainable scenario and it's one that we have to avoid."

Mayor Gallagher asked what revenue increases would be required to deliver an underlying surplus. Mr Chesworth responded that if only focusing on rate revenue, council would need to fill a gap of \$12 million to \$14 million annually, "which is quite substantial. If we were to simply rely on rates in order to meet that gap we would be looking at a 42 to 55 per cent rate increase to cover that gap."

Continued Page 5



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Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677



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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Letters to the Editor

Closure of Yea Podiatry Clinic

AFTER 15 wonderful years of caring for the podiatry needs of the local community, I would like to let everyone know that Yea Podiatry Clinic will be permanently closing its doors on December 31.

I first established the clinic in 2010, and it has been an honour and a privilege to not only care for the podiatry needs of our local community, but also to get to know the

wonderful people who call this area home. The relationships and trust built over the years have meant so much to me.

The decision to close has been incredibly difficult, but ultimately an important one for me and my family. Yea Podiatry Clinic has been such a big part of my life, and I am truly grateful for the loyalty, kindness, and support I've received over the years. I will truly miss everyone.

My heartfelt thanks go to all clients, my amazing employees (Ashleigh, Bella, Ben, Barb and Jacinta), Yea Hospital, our local doctors, fellow businesses, and the broader Yea and surrounding community who have supported the clinic since the beginning. Although the clinic will soon close, the sense of care, connection, and community spirit it fostered will always remain with me.

With sincere thanks.
Erin Papadopoulos, Yea Podiatry Clinic

New station nameboards celebrate local history

IN partnership with the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail, Murrindindi Shire Council has recently installed five station nameboards inspired by vintage designs along the Great Victorian Rail Trail. This initiative honours the region's rich railway history and complements existing signage in neighbouring council areas and other points of interest along the trail.

Installed on October 14 by local council contractors with support from the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail, the signs feature laser-cut aluminium lettering and powder-coated steel, which closely emulate the original 1910s design of cast letters and timber backboards, honouring the historical character of the project.

Ross Vaughan, Secretary of the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail said, "This is a project we have been involved with for over two years, beginning with Mansfield and Mitchell Shire Councils. This final section brings the project to completion, and we are delighted to see it realised. We thank Murrindindi Shire Council for its support and look forward to the signs reconnecting the rail trail with its past."

Cr Sandice McAulay, Portfolio Councillor for Economic Development stated, "We are proud to support the installation of these evocative nameboards along the Great Victorian Rail Trail. They celebrate our region's rich railway legacy and enrich the experience for both visitors and the local community. Projects like this help preserve our heritage for future generations."



The Homewood sign being installed. -S

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	1.43	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.54	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.62	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarck	07.47AM Mon	0.17	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	08.24AM Mon	0.50	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00AM Mon	0.29	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.64	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.56	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.39	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.15	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.31	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	1.47	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	1.14	steady		

*ISSUED AT 10:42 AM AEDT MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
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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

November 5 - November 11, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	17	Wednesday	7	18
Thursday	13	21	Thursday	13	22
Friday	12	23	Friday	12	23
Saturday	10	18	Saturday	10	17
Sunday	7	17	Sunday	7	17
Monday	8	19	Monday	7	20
Tuesday	8	18	Tuesday	8	18

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	4mm
Buxton	5.6mm
Eildon (AWS)	2mm
Flowerdale	4mm
Jamieson	2mm
Kinglake	7mm
Lake Eildon	2mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	4mm
Yarck	4mm
Yea	6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	275.66m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	55.6%
Metres below full supply	13.24m
Daily inflow	2000ML
Release	1800ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	61%

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
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We thank you for your continued support

Seeking answers on the Forest Fire Management fleet

THE state Opposition has accused the Victorian Government of once again failing to provide any answers as to whether the Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic)'s G-Wagon's fleet will be repaired or written off for the upcoming fire season.

BOM trying to weather the website storm

THE Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has been facing a barrage of criticism following the release of its new website, with people taking to social media to express their opinion as well as via the bureau's website.

If you really hate the new website, you can still access the old one if you go to reg.bom.gov.au (instead of bom.gov.au).

Keen-eyed viewers may also have noticed that the About section refers to 'The Bureau', the term which they tried to implement back in 2022 to widespread criticism.

Following the backlash, Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt released a statement on October 28. It stated, "Today I requested a meeting with the Bureau of Meteorology Acting CEO, Mr Peter Stone, to discuss the public's concerns with its updated website."

"It's clear that the new BOM website is not meeting many users' expectations, with a significant range of feedback provided to the Bureau in recent days."

"In the meeting, I made clear my expectations that the BOM needed to consider this feedback and, where appropriate, adjust the website's settings as soon as possible. This includes urgent consideration of improvements to the website's functionality and useability."

"The Acting CEO confirmed that the BOM is considering this feedback and what adjustments can be made, while preserving the website's reliability."

"The BOM website is a critical tool to ensure public safety, particularly during the High Risk Weather Season and it must deliver the quality information our hardworking BOM staff are known for."

"In addition, I have asked the BOM to organise a briefing with State and Territory Emergency Services Ministers this week, to ensure they are fully briefed on the new website and the steps BOM is taking to improve it. This follows previous work by the Bureau to brief a range of stakeholders, including emergency management agencies."

"Australians deserve to have confidence in these important services. My office and I will continue to engage closely with the BOM and ensure public safety is its foremost priority."

"I strongly encourage Australians to continue to provide feedback to the BOM, to ensure changes can be made where needed."

The previous CEO, Dr Andrew Johnson, departed BOM in September 2025.

The Acting CEO of BOM released a statement on the following day. He stated, "We are listening and welcome your feedback on the new site. It's part of delivering a reliable service that every sector of the community can trust and rely on."

"We are moving quickly to act on the feedback received, and I am confident the community will start to see more improvements in the coming weeks," he said.

New content, features and upgrades will continue to be rolled out through regular releases, based on feedback.

Feedback can be provided at bom.gov.au/contact or by calling 1300 754 389.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien, said the government was failing to clarify if and when Victoria's firefighting fleet will be in full working order.

He said that in Question Time, Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, failed to provide any answers over the 290 Forest Fire Management G-Wagon firefighting appliances recently taken offline due to a serious fault.

When asked how many of those vehicles cannot be repaired and will be written off the Minister, for the second time in two weeks, refused to provide a clear answer, offering no timeline for when the fleet would be fully operational again.

Mr O'Brien said, "We're now weeks away from bushfire season and the Allan Labor Government can't even say when its fire trucks will be back on the road."

"Regional Victorians deserve confidence that when the next fires start, every available truck will be ready to roll."

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, said it was no surprise that Labor still can't explain how this issue will be resolved.

"This is another example of Labor taking more with its new \$3 billion emergency services tax and giving less," Ms Bath said.

"We're just weeks away from fire season and we're still waiting on urgent repairs or replacements for the faulty G-Wagon fleets."

The Victorian Government were contacted for comment and they supplied the same response as when the issue was first raised with them. The first response arrived on October 9 and the second on October 29, the latter being 20 days into the 60 day planned turnaround. The media representative was asked for a more recent update in light of this, but nothing was supplied.

Their statement, attributable to a Victorian Government spokesperson, said, "The safety of our firefighters is paramount, that's why regular safety inspections of vehicles and equipment are so important."

"FFMVic has brought online additional vehicles to continue undertaking critical bushfire season preparations and respond to bushfire emergencies."

"These repairs are being fast tracked over the next two months and FFMVic is working on agreements to secure additional emergency response vehicles from other states if required."

Routine inspections identified issues with chassis on a large part of the G-Wagens and UniMog fleet. As a result, all 290 G-Wagens and 59 Unimogs have been removed from service while they are checked, repaired if necessary, and returned to service. Several vehicles have been cleared and are returning to service.

DEECA has a contingency fleet available as well as Landcruiser vehicles, Fire Tankers and bulldozers for fire response. VICSES and CFA have also provided vehicles to FFMVic.



Cindy McLeish at one of the rubbish piles. -S

McLeish calls for roadside rubbish cleanup

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP has launched a survey to gather evidence of where rubbish is being dumped illegally along our roads and highways, in a bid to get things tidied up.

Ms McLeish said the Victorian Government has failed at keeping roadsides rubbish-free and preventing illegal dumping.

"Roadside rubbish is dumped too often, along roads right across the state."

"Piles are left for many months at a time, with some rubbish being blown around and eventually into waterways, creek and rivers, causing danger to wildlife and polluting their natural habitat."

The Melba Highway is a perfect example of large rubbish piles being left on the highway for well over six months.

"People consistently raise this concern with me. They are embarrassed about the state of our surrounds. It is unsightly and bad for the environment."

"This is the reason I launched the survey, so locals can voice their concerns to the state government and let them know exactly where the worst spots are for rubbish dumping."

In Parliament recently, Ms McLeish directly called on the Minister for Roads to ensure the Department of Transport and Planning

receive the appropriate budget to make an ongoing effort to clean up our roadsides.

The Minister responded, "As there are many road maintenance demands at any time, work that has the greatest impact on improving public safety is given the highest priority."

"Rubbish causing obstruction is dealt with immediately. Rubbish that does not impact road safety is scheduled for removal in line with the strategic prioritisation system."

Ms McLeish said, "The Minister has made it clear that if it is not a hazard, it is not a priority for moving."

"This is not a once off, done and dusted job. DTP are doing what they can with Labor's allocated budget, yet it is clearly not enough."

"The issue is so much more than one empty chip packet. It is large piles of building offcuts, rubble, mattresses, broken furniture, tyres, bags of clothes and rags, planks of wood, even washing machines."

"It is bad enough that we have animal carcasses from roadkill everywhere, but now we have piles of rubbish as well littering the roadsides."

Have your say and let the Victorian Government know where roadside rubbish is being dumped via the survey link, cindymcleish.com.au/survey/roadside-rubbish

Adventure awaits as seasonal roads reopen

WARMER weather and the onset of spring marks the reopening of seasonal roads across Victoria, with most tracks and roads reopening from October 31.

As the snow melts and access becoming safer, four-wheel-drivers are reminded to plan ahead and expect the unexpected before venturing into some of Victoria's harshest and remote environments.

Although the gates may be open, many of the seasonal roads will not have been travelled upon for many months. There may be fallen trees or other obstructions and conditions may still be waterlogged and slippery.

While most seasonal roads in north east Victoria will reopen, Bogong High Plains Road will remain closed until Friday, November 14, following road safety works.

Sensitive alpine areas remain vulnerable to severe damage from four-wheel-drive activity, particularly when wet. Check the forecast before heading out and consider an alternative route if rain is expected.

Staying safe on forest roads and tracks

Plan your trip and download the More to Explore App onto your mobile for full information (including offline maps) on state forest attractions.

Check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. Download the VicEmergency app and set up watch zones for the area you plan to visit. Check the FFMVic website (ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests) for warnings and road closures, and keep checking for updates. Download the Emergency Plus app bit.ly/45BpdaT to be located in an emergency. Radio is the only means of communication in many areas. Travel in a group. Expect rough and difficult terrain. Stick to formed tracks and roads. Never drive through floodwaters. Camp high and dry, at least 20 metres from the bank of any waterways. Regularly check the VicEmergency app for warnings and trail closures.

Scott Turner, Acting Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria said, "As seasonal roads reopen, we want visitors to remember that our forest road network is vast and conditions are unpredictable."

"Our crews do not regularly access some of our more remote tracks and conditions can be unpredictable. Over the winter months, trees may have fallen and tracks can be rough. Always plan ahead and drive with caution."

Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens said, "Authorised officers will be patrolling roads and recreation sites to support education and make sure forest users are doing the right thing. Following vehicle rules and staying off closed roads keeps people safe but also maintains healthy forests that will benefit everyone now and into the future."

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Rotary Open Garden Colouring Competition

AS a lead into Rotary Club of Yea’s Open Garden weekend, the club organised a colouring competition for the Primary School students of Yea, with both Sacred Heart and Yea Primary Schools taking part.

President Darryl King was pleased to announce the joint winners last week. Congratulations to Hamish Dalton and Ethan Pozzuto, both from Yea Primary School. Each student was delighted to receive an artist kit, containing coloured pencils and other art materials.

People can view all of the student’s posters on display in shop front windows in the main street of Yea.



The colouring competition winners. -S



The full window with wonderful colouring in from local children. -S

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

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, NOVEMBER 9

Marysville Market is on again. 9am-1pm, all your favourite stalls, home made cakes, local honey, plants, handcrafts and much more.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Yea Football Netball Club AGM will be held from 6pm in the main clubrooms, Yea Recreation Reserve.

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at EOI 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

Flowerdale Sports Club AGM will be held at 7pm at the sports club. All welcome. For more information email flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Join Buds and Blossoms in celebrating 20 years. Rosebank Activity room for a special afternoon tea from 1-3pm. All enquiries to Joy on 0477 482 504.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Acheron Hall AGM will be held at 9.30am All welcome. For more information contact 0423 802 772.

Acheron Fire Brigade general and annual meeting 10.30am at the Acheron Hall, all welcome.

Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at 11am at Briggs Oval.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Alexandra and District Kindergarten AGM will be at 6pm at the Alexandra Kindergarten. RSVP and apologies to the kinder office on 5772 1387 or email alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Alexandra and District Netball Association AGM will be held at 7pm at the Corner Hotel (Goldfields room) Contact president, Cassandra Fraser for more information 0418 538 964 or email junior.netball@gmail.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

You are invited to join council and Alexandra Rotary for the Walk for Respect at Rotary Park. For more information visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/walkforrespect

Vale John Benston

John’s CFA history has been provided by District 12 Assistant Chief Fire Officer Stephen Keating.

WE are saddened to advise of the passing of Limestone Brigade Life Member and ex-Group Officer - Yea Group, John Benston on Friday evening, October 24.

John’s health had declined in recent years, but he remained a staunch member of the brigade he had helped develop and been a significant part of for almost 72 years.

John first joined CFA as an active member with Flinders in November 1950 until 1959. He joined Yea Rural (now Limestone) in December 1962.

An active and involved member, he was Secretary from 1978 to 2004 and held Lieutenancies one to four alternately between 1973 and 1986.

Due to the unique nature of one brigade with two fire stations, at Yea and at Limestone, John was also Officer in Charge of Limestone Fire Station from 1973 to 2000.

Concurrently, he was also fourth Deputy Group Officer (DGO) with the Yea Group in 1986, third DGO in 1988, first DGO in 1990, third DGO in 1992 and then Group Officer for 10 years from 1994 to 2004.

He remained a firefighter until 2008 and continued his involvement with the brigade until his health precluded.

John received a National Medal in 1999, a 50 year badge in 2003 and an Outstanding Service Badge in 2004 at the conclusion of his decade as Group Officer.

In 2005, he was inducted as Yea-Limestone’s first Brigade Life Member, and at the new fire station opening in 2010, was presented his 55 year service medal and 60 year service medal in 2018.

John’s final visit to Limestone was for the unveiling of the recently commissioned brigade honour board, on which he features so prominently.

We were the beneficiaries of his service, his generosity, knowledge and experience.

May we remember John with fondness and gratitude for his dedicated and selfless service to his community.

Sincere condolences to wife Jenny and the Benston family, the members of the Limestone Brigade and community and to the members in the broader Yea Group.

The family have advised there will be a private service.

Murrindindi Shire Council facing challenging financial times

Continued from Page 1

Mayor Gallagher said that the 10 year document offers a long-term plan, and one critical intervention proposed is seeking an exemption from the rate cap, as mentioned. "What is the criticality of strong and immediate term interventions on the longer-term outlook?"

Mr Chesworth responded that if council were to gain a rate cap exemption, "The benefit to council would be to obtain that early in the life cycle of the plan because we would then benefit from the compounding effects of rate rises beyond that. The plan does talk about a rate cap of 2.5 per cent. If we were to get an exemption to that early, then those 2.5 per cents are on a much larger base and that would therefore be a much better financial outlook for us."

Mayor Gallagher asked how Murrindindi Shire's median rates compare to the rest of the sector. Mr Chesworth replied that Murrindindi's average residential rate of property is \$1920, which is above the Victorian rural council average and the statewide average for small shires, which is \$1816.

Mayor Gallagher asked what measures council is undertaking to reduce costs. Mr Chesworth spoke about the efficiency program which looks at streamlining processes, reducing unnecessary waste and improving productivity. They'll also be looking at shared service arrangements with other municipalities, saying that they've recently benefitted from a partnership with three neighbouring councils in job procurement arrangements for new business systems. "By joining with other councils, we get economies of scale," he said. He added that the capital works program is carefully managed and continuing to be scrutinised. They are also categorising services into those which are required from a statutory point of view and others that may be discretionary. They want to match the services with the cost of delivering the services, and have a conversation with the community about priorities for service delivery. In addition, they are looking at their asset rationalisation process, which means looking at how well council assets and other community assets are being utilised. They may look to consolidate so they don't need as many buildings or facilities to service and maintain.

Cr McAulay commented on the intention to consult with the community to review and refine the financial plan. She asked what that consultation might look like and how fast it might happen.

Mr Chesworth said that they are looking at a range of approaches. With regard to asset rationalisation, in coming weeks they will embark on a deliberative engagement process where a panel of community members will work with council to look at opportunities

to get better outcomes from council assets. They are also going to embark on a broader communication engagement process in the next two months around the terms of service categories to get a better understanding of priorities, and to inform people better on the way in which services are funded.

Cr Lording asked Mr Chesworth to explain the statutory requirements mentioned, so ratepayers know that council is required to provide these functions. Mr Chesworth said that in the land use planning area, council is the responsible authority under the Act to administer statutory planning services. Council must therefore provide it. School crossing supervision is an example of a service that "isn't really a local government originated service." He queried whether it should be an Education Department or Victorian Government responsibility, but nonetheless, council is involved in supporting and funding it. He said it's an example of the shift in cost from the state government to councils.

In speaking to the motion to accept the plan, Cr Carpenter said, "In our council plan, we made a commitment to be honest and transparent with our community, and this long-term financial plan is doing just that. It's clearly setting out the financial challenges that we are facing, including rate capping and cost shifting and the structural gap in funding among other things. By adopting this plan, we are taking some bold steps to secure that our services and our infrastructure will be able to continue and be able to serve our community. I really am confident that community consultation is absolutely needed and I do encourage people to participate because we want to ensure that the decisions that we do make reflect the shared priorities, the joint responsibilities that we have for our shire's long-term resilience." She also thanked the officers for their work.

Cr Lording commented, "Without a plan, you're caught bobbing in the ocean, but with this, we know where we've come from and we know where we want to go."

Cr McAulay commended the forward-looking approach of the plan.

Cr Adams said she was happy to hear that community input will be welcomed.

Mayor Gallagher said, "It's not a rosy picture but it's certainly a comprehensive picture." He also stated that "The Victorian Government has a critical role, headlined by a policy shift towards a fairer and more equitable distribution of government grant funding and implementation of the recommendation of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services which it commissioned."

"The VAGO has identified structural challenges and unique challenges that face rural councils. Some key risks identified by VAGO include the asset renewal gap,

inhibiting council's capacity to renew ageing assets, operating deficits because income doesn't match the cost of doing business, and liquidity concerns given the deficit gaps are filled with council's cash reserves. Addressing these challenges is crucial. I therefore commit to continuing to seek government intervention to support council's long-term sustainability and to assure our community of a continuity of value and services, including for future generations."

The report was adopted unanimously.

Annual Report

Prior to the financial plan presentation, the topic of the annual report was discussed. It was deferred from the October 22 meeting, pending the final audit report from the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO).

Mayor Gallagher introduced the topic, stating "In 2021, the Murrindindi community expressed its 10 year vision to be vibrant and resilient, welcoming and inclusive, where participation is encouraged and celebrated. The aspiration was to cherish our natural and built environment while valuing our heritage. The community embraced sustainable growth and leadership in waste reduction, and declared that we are open for business. This annual report highlights council's achievements in the fourth and final year of the Council Plan 2021-25, showcasing key milestones to both council and the Murrindindi community in pursuit of achieving its ambitious vision."

He said that there are many highlights in the report including the delivery of the \$12.65 million Capital Works program, including the Baanh ba Djila splash park in Eildon. They also invested in bridge and drainage, storm and flood recovery works. He also noted the adoption of the four bin system, the Road Management Plan, the Molesworth and District Community Plan, and the previous council's implementation of the Key Worker Housing Strategy.

The annual report acknowledges the contributions of John Walsh, Karine Haslam

and the late Ilona Gerencser, as well as return councillors.

He noted that in November 2024, the Council Plan 2025-29 was adopted, and council's advocacy was also outlined, including advocating for a continuation of the Red Cross Patient Transport in Murrindindi, a community voice in the management of the Central Highlands forests, funding for Kinglake Memorial Reserve oval renewal, NBN access in Marysville, healthcare for regional women, disaster recovery betterment funding to support the rebuilding of more resilient assets including Breakaway Bridge, revision of the Emergency Services Volunteers Levy and advocacy program that resulted in a cap for primary producers across the state. He thanked the community for their support, cooperation and collaboration in these matters.

He spoke about the various methods of reaching the community, and said that there has been a reduction in participation by youth in council activities and services due to state government funding cuts.

Mayor Gallagher said, "Together, we achieved a great deal in 2025 and I extend my sincere appreciation to residents, businesses, and generous volunteers, along with council's dedicated executive team management and staff who have proudly, professionally and passionately delivered the outcomes detailed in the report."

No questions were asked by councillors when the report was presented.

When moving the officer's recommendation, Cr McAulay said that the report demonstrates that council is looking forward constantly at long term solutions and planning.

Cr Hildebrand listed some of the highlights in the report, including attendance at aquatic facilities, and DindiLink which connected 440 people to practical emotional and social support.

The report was approved unanimously.



We invite all past and present participants to join us in

Celebrating 20 Years

Join us in the Rosebank Activity Room for a special afternoon tea to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Buds and Blossoms.

Enquiries: Joy 0477 482 504

Saturday 15th November at 1-3 pm

RSVP BY 10/11 - 03 5736 0400

Extras sought for television production

A CASTING call has been appearing on social media in the shire during the last week. Casting company Bayside Extras has been calling for extras to work on a television series shooting in the Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires. The roles are paid, and there is a focus on people who live nearby.

In the Murrindindi Shire, they are looking for people who live within an hour's drive of Lake Eildon, Taylor Bay, Thornton, Alexandra and Marysville. In Mansfield Shire, they are looking for people close to Jamieson, Mansfield and Bonnie Doon.

All types of roles are required. They are also looking for people in the Lake Eildon area who have boats, jet skis, water skis, etcetera.

You don't have to look like a Hollywood star to apply. They are looking for all shapes, sizes, ages and ethnicities, and no experience is required. People will need to have their own transport however, and must have the right to work in Australia. They must also not be represented by another agency.

People must have general availability and flexibility across one or more dates through to March 2026.

If people are keen to apply, they can fill out a form at form.jotform.com/252480649272866

The casting agency can also be contacted at office@baysidetalent.com.au

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Values Award winners this week. So many fabulous students, it was hard to squeeze everyone in.

Well done to Hayley, Brian, Skye, Rory, Oliver, Rusty, Elias, Aleah and Harry

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Treaty legislation passes Victorian Parliament

VICTORIA is the first state or territory in Australia to negotiate a Treaty with First Peoples, following the passage of the Statewide Treaty Bill through parliament last week.

The press release said, “This legislation paves the way for a new relationship between First Peoples and the Victorian Government, one built on respect, trust, and integrity.”

The Statewide Treaty Bill will be signed by the Victorian Government and First Peoples’ Assembly in coming weeks when the Governor provides Royal Assent to the Bill.

The Treaty Agreement will commence through a ceremonial exchange between the Victorian Government and First Peoples’ Assembly in a public event at Federation Square on Friday, December 12.

The government stated, “Treaty is a pathway to acknowledging the past and making real, practical changes to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria and close the gap.”

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins said, “Treaty is about acknowledging the truth of our past and working on a future built on mutual understanding and respect for First Peoples. This is a historic moment for Victoria. Today we’ve taken a major step forward in building a future that empowers and respects First Nations Victorians.”

Nationals Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad was not so impressed. She said, “This bill establishes a separate system of law and regulation based on race. It creates a statutory authority with far-reaching powers, exempt from ministerial oversight and key public accountability measures.”

She also raised concerns about exemptions from land tax, payroll tax, and freedom of information laws, as well as the exclusion of culturally sensitive records from public access.

“We must learn from history. Giving privileges based on race risks repeating past mistakes.

“Equality before the law has been the foundation of our success as a democracy and as a nation, and we should protect it.”

Ms Broad acknowledged the shared desire across parliament to support Indigenous communities but advocated for a practical, inclusive approach.

“We do not support Treaty as the best way to achieve these aims and are opposing the legislation currently before parliament to implement it. We have committed to repealing Treaty should we be elected to government next year.

“We believe that all Victorians should be given equal treatment, equality of opportunity and justice, irrespective of their race or background

“We believe in working with local communities to deliver real outcomes and remain committed to governing for all Victorians.

“There is a better way to support reconciliation, and it is by bringing people together, not through further division,” she said.

Some examples of cost-shifting onto council

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has spoken about cost-shifting from state government as one of the financial challenges they are facing. But what does this actually mean?

The following examples are drawn from Murrindindi Shire Council’s submission to the *Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services*.

Road maintenance

“Murrindindi Shire Council undertakes maintenance on behalf of the state Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on roadsides and medians along state-controlled roads in all urban townships in the shire. These works include mowing, garden maintenance, litter removal and street sweeping. The annual cost to council for these works is currently \$94,108. Council receives an annual contribution from DTP of just \$11,000, or 12 per cent of the total cost to council. This contribution increased from an annual amount of \$9500 in 2019. There has been no increase to this amount since that time.”

Building insurance

“Council provides building insurance cover for many building assets under the ownership of the Crown via the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA). Council often has no other role in the management or operations of these assets, which include public halls, sporting facilities and recreational assets typically managed by community committees under delegation from the Crown (DEECA). The cost of building insurance is prohibitive and often out of reach for these volunteer committees. The value of these assets (\$26.8 million) represents 15.3 per cent of the total value of building assets insured by council. For 2023/24 this component equates to \$99,080 in premium cost. Despite these assets being under the responsibility of the

state, there is no contribution provided to council toward this cost.”

Boat ramps

“Following a project to raise the height of the Eildon Dam Wall in 2005, the consortium that undertook the works agreed with the Water Storage Manager (Goulburn Murray Water) to build a new boat ramp adjacent to the Wall as a legacy for the community. As there had been community interest to manage the facility, GMW approached council to use its powers under the Local Government Act 1989 to form a Committee of Management to manage the ramp operations and maintenance, using the proceeds from ramp parking fees. In order to facilitate this committee arrangement, council agreed to take a license over the facility. This arrangement continued successfully over many years with proceeds from parking fees used by the committee to fund maintenance and leverage grant funding to expand the ramps facilities. In 2019 the Victorian Government introduced legislation to abolish boat launching or parking fees for boat ramp use across Victoria. It provided compensation equivalent to just one year’s fee proceeds. Without a means of raising revenue, the committee disbanded. This has left Council managing and maintaining an asset it doesn’t own, without a source of income to cover its costs, which amount to between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per annum depending on seasonal water levels in the lake.”

Rate cut

“Government policy restricts councils from increasing their total rates revenue in line with property improvements, pushing costs onto local governments. This hidden cap prevents councils from capturing additional revenue needed to support enhanced services and infrastructure demands resulting from property capital improvements,

straining their financial sustainability even when ratepayers improving their property have the capacity to pay, and indeed do pay higher rates than the pre-capital improvement amount. However, under the current rules, this marginal increase must be offset, so the other rate payers will receive an imperceptible reduction in their respective rates, in order to restrain the total rates revenue across the municipality. Most ratepayers perceive no value out of this arrangement, are unaware of this peculiar rule, which they find hard to comprehend when told, as the general expectation is that councils increase the total rates revenue pool following capital improvements such as extensions, renovations, new sheds or outbuildings. Lifting this hidden rates cut would not increase the rates burden on the broader rate payers, and it would enable councils to better align their revenue with the actual capital improved values, ensuring a fairer and more sustainable funding model.”

Reduction in RDV grant funding

THE Victorian Government’s Regional Development Victoria (RDV) annual report has revealed grants have been cut by \$15 million, or 11 per cent, compared to the previous year, according to the Opposition.

Four years ago, RDV had a total grants pool of \$370 million to support development in the regions. Last year, it was just \$118 million, a 70 per cent drop.

Employee expenses in the last financial year totalled \$27.9 million, up 17 per cent from \$23 million the previous year.

The Opposition said that at RDV, regional Victorians are paying more for public servants, but getting less in return in development grants.

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Liveability, Danny O’Brien, said “The great divide continues. Labor is leaving regional Victorians out in the cold.

“It is impossible to justify a 70 per cent cut in grants for regional development across the past four years.

“These grants are so important in supporting jobs, infrastructure and helping local economies flourish and thrive.”

Mr O’Brien also questioned the staffing cost blow-out. “If RDV is delivering less grants and programs, why is it spending more in wages? Clearly, there’s less work to do,” Mr O’Brien said.

The Victorian Government was contacted for comment.

Get Fire Ready drives increase in CFA recruitment

ALMOST 500 Victorians put their hands up to join CFA between October 3 and 29 on the back of the Get Fire Ready initiative.

The figure represents an 11 per cent increase in the number of new applicants during the same period last year.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the lift in applications reflects the overall message of Get Fire Ready, which wrapped up on October 31.

“Get Fire Ready was all about informing Victorians about their local fire risk, encouraging people to prepare early and make informed decisions ahead of summer,” Jason said.

“To also see so many people wanting to take the next step and join their local brigade shows the strong sense of volunteerism that runs through this state.

“The more people who step up, the stronger CFA becomes, which can only benefit the communities we protect.”

Of the 499 new applicants, 61 per cent were men and 36 per cent were women, around 66 per cent of applicants want to serve as firefighters while 33 per cent preferred non-operational roles.

Younger Victorians led the way, with around 38 per cent aged between 18 and 34 and 27 per cent aged 17 or under.

Jason said it was encouraging to see people of all ages signing up, but particularly the number of younger Victorians showing an interest in joining.

“It’s great to see so many young people wanting to get involved,” he said.

“They bring new energy, skills and perspectives that help strengthen CFA for the future.”

More than 530 CFA brigades across Victoria hosted Get Fire Ready events throughout October.

To learn more about volunteering with CFA visit cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers

Residents in high-risk bushfire areas can still order a Get Fire Ready information pack by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready

Time to act on Chilean needle grass

CHILEAN Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is a perennial tussocky grass that grows in clumps over one metre tall and 1.5 metres when in seed. It is a serious agricultural weed and a threat to native ecosystems.

Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) can displace palatable pasture species reducing productivity. It is nearly impalatable once in the reproductive stage and the panicle seed can readily attach to stock, particularly sheep, with its presence in wool downgrading quality of fleece.

CNG sharp seeds can burrow into the skin of stock, and sometimes muscle, and may cause ulcerations in the mouth. CNG out-competes native grass species threatening native grasslands and once established seed banks can be difficult to manage.

CNG is known to occur within Murrindindi Shire and landowners and council each have a part to play to contain and control this dangerous weed.

Council has been actively trying to contain and control the spread of CNG on council managed land for the last few years.

CNG is present on some council roads and reserves including the rail trail between Molesworth and Homewood. CNG is also present on Department Transport main roads such as the Goulburn Valley Highway and Melba Highway. In the past, treatment has consisted of spot spraying roadsides and reserves with glyphosate, a known herbicide suitable for treatment.

Despite consistent spot spraying, CNG is still persistent. Council will be using another herbicide this year, flupropanate, in addition to glyphosate. Flupropanate can kill the seedbank as well as the plant and reduce reinfestation.

Flupropanate is fully registered for control of CNG. It is a slow acting herbicide, absorbed through plant roots and can take between three months and 12 months after application for plants to die, depending on weather conditions. It has a long residual life meaning it remains present in the soil to



Chilean needle grass. -S

prevent germination of seed in CNG and other plants. To reduce the risk of ongoing residue and possible resistance to this chemical, Flupropanate is only used every two to three years and is applied as a spot spray, not a broad application.

Flupropanate has a withholding period and lactating cattle should not be allowed to graze on treated areas. The roadsides and reserves that council intends to spot spray should not impact on private enterprise however should you have concerns on moving cattle from one paddock to another via a municipal roadside within the Molesworth to Homewood area please contact council to discuss on 5772 0333.

Roads included in the program include Limestone Road, Station Street, The Parade, Killingworth Road, Carey Road, Deepdene Road, Murrays Road, Native Dog Road, Racecourse Road, Pelissier Street, and Abes Lane. Reserves included in the program include Yea Skate Park, Yea Railway Reserve, Pioneer Reserve, Sloan Reserve Picnic area, Molesworth Station, and Great Victorian Rail Trail.

Blue dye will be used in the spot spray to enable easy identification on roads within the treatment area. As flupropanate has a long residual life, treated areas should not be grazed or cut for stock food until

withholding period expiry and there is a permanent withholding period for lactating cattle and goats.

Landowners can check for this weed on their land. CNG produces three types of seed; panicle seed on seed heads, in the stem and at base of plant. Seeds can remain viable within the soil for years. It is a highly invasive plant and is spread predominately by vehicles and machinery. Slashing is high risk activity that infects other areas with seeds. Seeds can also be spread by water and soil movement, by animal movement, such as stock, native animals and pets, and also by the introduction of fodder to site. With the recent drought conditions experienced locally and the purchasing of fodder, now and throughout spring into early summer is the time to check the paddocks to determine its presence.

CNG is similar looking to the native spear grass *Austrostipa* spp. CNG has a heavy seed so stems can often be quite bent over with weight. *Austrostipa* spp has a lighter seed and stands more erect. CNG has long awns attached to the seed head. If you pull out an awn and you see a distinct corolla around the base of the seed head this distinguishes it from *Austrostipa* spp.

It is important to treat CNG if discovered on your property.

If you are moving stock on roadsides between paddocks, stop them grazing or moving on the roadsides so weeds are not carried into your property. Grazing on roadsides or droving stock longer distances require a permit.

If you notice CNG on your land or council-managed land, please report your findings to the Environmental Programs Unit of council.

More information on CNG can be found on the Weeds Australia website.

Any queries regarding proposed spray program please contact Environmental Programs Unit on 5772 0333.

WHAT KIND OF MAN DO YOU WANT TO BE?

We asked Victorian men about everything from fatherhood to relationships to online gaming to social media.

HEAR MEN'S STORIES

 RESPECT VICTORIA



Council News



November 2025

Free Green Waste in November

Council is offering free green waste disposal until Sunday 30 November at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season. Normal processing charges will apply outside this period. Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rrc

Community Leadership Program Introduction Session

Are you interested in making change in your community? Join Council's free online introduction session to learn about the upcoming 12-week Community Leadership Program.

The session will be hosted online on Wednesday 3 December from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm. To register visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leadership or call Council's Community Capacity Building Officer on 5772 0333.

Remembrance Day services in Murrindindi Shire

Yea Rotary are hosting a service that will assemble at 10.45 am for an 11.00 am service at Yea Cenotaph, The Semi Circle.

For more details on services across the Shire, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/remembranceday

Discover Frogs with FrogID

Council and the Australian Museum are hosting a webinar covering the FrogID Project, why frogs matter, local frog species, and how to get involved in FrogID Week (7 - 16 November 2025).

We will broadcast the webinar live on Wednesday 5 November, from 6.30 to 8.15 pm at Alexandra Council Chambers, Kinglake Library and Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, or you can watch online starting at 6.30 pm.

For those attending at a local venue, the evening will continue with an excursion to find frogs and use the FrogID App. Light refreshments will be provided.

To find out more about the in-person events, or register to attend online, scan the QR code, email environment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/FrogID

Aged Care Hub at Alexandra Library

Community members aged 66 and over are invited to visit the new Aged Care Hub at Alexandra Library, 49 Grant Street.

Sessions run until the end of November. Drop in to ask questions, explore resources and help shape a better aged care system.

For more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/carehub or visit the Hub during opening hours.



Walk For Respect

Join Council and Rotary Alexandra for the Walk for Respect on Friday 28 November from 11.30 am at Rotary Park, Vickery Street, Alexandra, to promote safety, equality and respect, and to take a stand against domestic and family violence.

Local groups and businesses are invited to get involved by hosting a stall, sharing resources or offering small tokens of care. The Alexandra CFA will be cooking up a BBQ, and the Alexandra Country Women's Association will be serving cake and hot drinks.

For more information, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/walkforrespect

Supported by Respect Victoria, Safe and Equal, Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra CFA and Alexandra Country Women's Association.

Pools opening in November

Our outdoor pools in Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville, Yea and the Baanh ba Djila splash park in Eildon are getting ready to open for another fun-filled season from Saturday 15 November.

Find session times, opening hours and the latest updates at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pools

Breastfeeding Support Program

Breastfeeding can be tough, but you don't have to do it alone. From 20 November 2025, qualified lactation consultants will offer free, personalised breastfeeding support at your local Maternal and Child Health centre or at home.

For more information, email mch@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Get in touch
5772 0333

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

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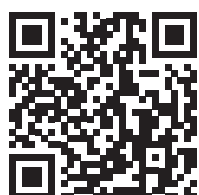
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For your chance to win a \$50 voucher, return this entry by noon, **Wednesday, November 26**
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PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

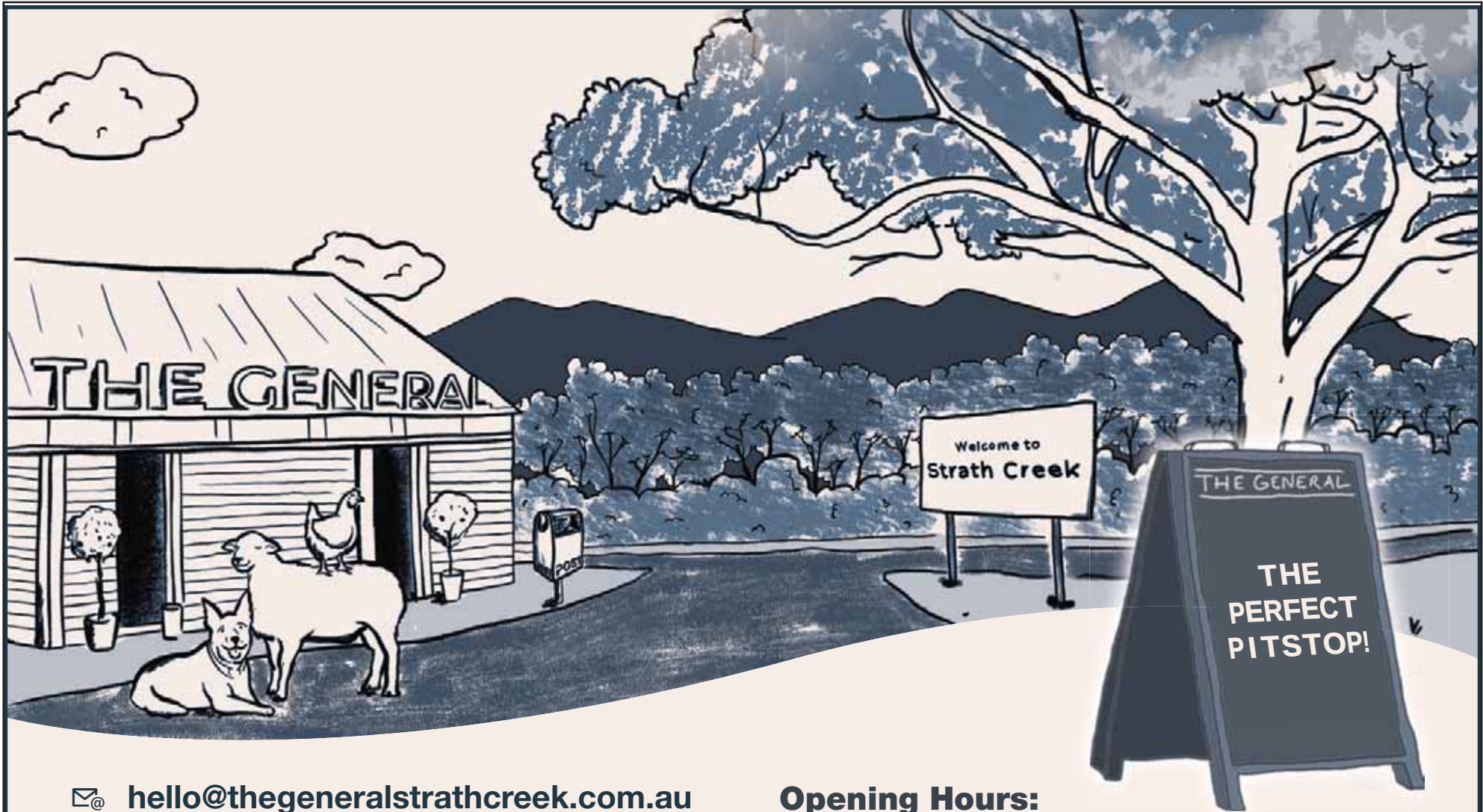
Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month.
T&C: Only venues listed above in this edition are eligible to be chosen. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.

Win a Let's Eat meal voucher

THE winner of our October Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Michelle Crowley from Alexandra. Michelle will be having a \$50 feed on us at The General Strath Creek.
Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at a venue advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat.



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The Farmer's Ag News

Farmers gaining confidence

SHEEP producers have led a lift in Victorian farm sentiment seen in the most recent quarter and are the most optimistic commodity sector in the state, the latest Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey has found.

A combination of strong prices for sheep and lambs and improving seasonal conditions, following some of the driest years on record in many of the state's key sheep production regions, are driving the improved outlook in the sector.

Overall, the latest Rabobank survey found Victorian farmers continue to gain confidence, with the state's net rural confidence reading rising to 21 per cent, up from seven per cent last survey.

Among Victorian farmers surveyed, there has been an increase in those expecting business conditions to improve in the coming year, to 41 per cent, up from 38 per cent previously, while 20 per cent expect worsening prospects in the next 12 months (down from 30 per cent previously). A further

33 per cent are predicting conditions will remain the same.

The quarter three survey, completed last month, found Victorian farmers to be particularly positive about strong commodity prices (cited by 56 per cent) and better seasonal conditions (52 per cent).

However, seasonal conditions were also a worry for many, with 40 per cent indicating they were concerned about drought (albeit down from 50 per cent last survey). Rising input costs were also a concern for 40 per cent.

By region, the survey found farmers in nearly all areas in the state gained confidence in the latest survey period, with the western district reporting the highest sentiment, at a net reading of 34 per cent (up from eight per cent previously). However, the survey found sentiment had declined among high country producers, with net rural confidence dropping to 33 per cent in the region (from 59 per cent), although it still boasts the second-highest rural confidence in the state.

By commodity, the survey found confidence has increased for nearly all sectors in the state.

Sentiment had declined among the state's beef producers. While 40 per cent have an optimistic view on the year ahead, this was down from 61 per cent in the previous survey. This resulted in an overall net confidence reading of 26 per cent for Victoria's beef sector, compared with last quarter's 50 per cent.

The survey found dry seasonal conditions were the major concern for beef producers. Many livestock producers have been feeding their stock for an extended period, which is an expensive undertaking, and sourcing fodder has been challenging with many competing for limited resources.

Farmers in the north of the state were keeping a close eye on irrigation allocations. For the current season, allocations are mixed with the Campaspe River system having the highest allocation at 100 per cent, followed by Vic Murray Water at 90 per

cent. However, the Goulburn River is only at 54 per cent allocation.

Overall, investment priorities for Victorian farmers remain similar to the previous quarter, with 62 per cent focusing on on-farm infrastructure (such as fences, yards and silos), the highest among grain producers at 73 per cent. There has also been a rise in appetite for adoption of new technologies across the state, nominated by 40 per cent of those surveyed, up from 30 per cent.

The intention to increase livestock numbers among Victorian farmers remain unchanged at 23 per cent.

The survey found the state's producers had a positive outlook on income for the 12 months ahead, with 38 per cent expecting their incomes to increase (up from 31 per cent) and 23 per cent expecting a decrease (down from 33 per cent). A total of 37 per cent were anticipating incomes to stay the same.

Farmers: seek support for financial hardship

VICTORIAN Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith is encouraging Victorian farmers experiencing financial hardship to seek support with their situation to plan a way forward, with confidential assistance available.

There was a 23 per cent increase in applications to mediate farm debts in financial year 2024/25, according to the Victorian Small Business Commission's (VSBC) Annual Report, tabled in parliament today.

"Farming families are enduring difficult conditions, from ongoing drought to difficult economic settings and global events impacting market prices. This is reflected in an increase in creditors approaching the VSBC to mediate farm debts in arrears," Commissioner McAlary-Smith said.

As a safeguard for Victorian farmers, the *Farm Debt Mediation Act 2011* (the Act) prohibits creditors from taking enforcement action against farmers in arrears on loans for farmland and farming machinery. The Act requires farmers and their creditors to mediate, or attempt to mediate, farm debt arrears to the satisfaction of the Victorian Small Business Commissioner.

Ninety-one per cent of farm debt mediations facilitated by the VSBC in financial year 2024/25 were successful.

"Farm debt is complex and challenging as it often involves significant sums of money, the weight of family history

and relationships. It can be incredibly emotional and stressful," Commissioner McAlary-Smith said.

Farmers who aren't yet in arrears can choose to seek mediation with their financier about their farm debt as a preventative step. If those farmers then fall into arrears, the creditor must still provide the farmer with the option of a mediation about that farm debt before they can pursue recovery action.

"Farmers can tackle financial challenges before they compound," Commissioner McAlary-Smith said. "Starting the conversation early, and seeking the right assistance, can result in a better outcome in the long-term."

"There's no wrong place to start the conversation either, be it with the VSBC or the Rural Financial Counsellors, we're all here to help."

The Rural Financial Counselling Service can provide free information and assistance on financial matters, including farm debt mediation. They can be reached on 1300 771 741.

The Victorian Small Business Commission can be reached on 1800 878 964 or vsbc.vic.gov.au

Beyond Blue offer a free and confidential mental health coaching service called NASBO by calling 1300 945 301 or by visiting beyondblue.org.au. A 24/7 support line is available on 1300 224 636.



Take stock of your water reserves

WITH summer on the way, now is an ideal time to take stock of your water reserves.

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturfels recommends that farmers consider the following questions: What is the condition of dams on my farm? How many are full, how many are yet to recover from the drought? How do they compare to the same time last year? Are water levels rising or falling? How do my stock numbers compare?

"It's important farmers have a good understanding of how much water is left in their dams, make plans and take timely action.

"Our dams, rivers, streams and springs have become less reliable after a lack of cool season rainfall, together with warmer average temperatures.

"Taking a stocktake of water reserves and livestock needs and reviewing your drought plan is important this time of the year.

"Measuring the water level in a dam can be a difficult task unless you have installed a permanent marker, like that used on some road crossings, or have an electronic water level monitoring device.

"A simple way to measure water depth is with the use of the dam deep device,

a tool made from a hand fishing line, a float, sinker and beads,' he said.

A video of how to make this device can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Mr Sturfels said farmers should take photos of their key dams at this time of the year as an easy way to track dam performance.

"While some are forecasting a wet finish to the year, this is unlikely to have much impact on dam levels unless a high intensity rainfall event occurs."

Agriculture Victoria has several tools to help farmers calculate dam volumes based on shape, length, width and depth, including the Farm Water Calculator and the Summer Water Calculator.

The Summer Water Calculator also helps to calculate how long the remaining water may last.

The Farm Drought Support Grants provide eligible farmers up to \$5000, and up to \$10,000 in south west Victoria, as a co-contribution grant to support activities like water infrastructure upgrades (pipes, tanks, troughs and dams), plus other activities.

Find more information about drought support at agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community Disability, Ageing and Family Support



Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER





Metro Tunnel opens **early December**

With construction now complete, get ready to explore five new stations and enjoy direct train access for the first time to Melbourne's major hospitals, universities and St Kilda Road.

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With more services arriving in February, the new Metro Tunnel gives you more ways to move.

more ways to move

Find out more at bigbuild.vic.gov.au



KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

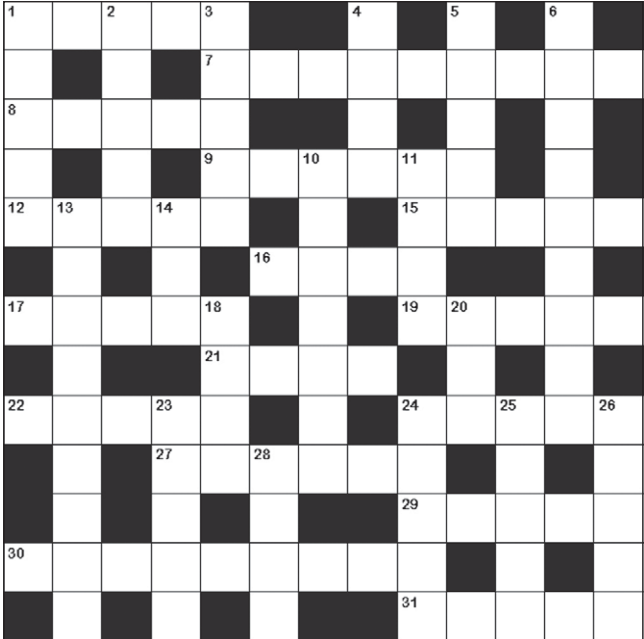
SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Colouring Page



Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1. Hide from everyone's view or knowledge.
 - 7. Offensive, objectionable and disliked.
 - 8. Sings out a song in a loud and forceful manner.
 - 9. Look forward to the birth of a child.
 - 12. Outbuildings used for storage.
 - 15. Anything of material value or usefulness.
 - 16. Large long-haired oxen from Tibet.
 - 17. Tatters along the edges from rubbing.
 - 19. A statement that has been verified as fact.
 - 21. A subdivision of a larger military formation.
 - 22. Stop performing an activity or action.
 - 24. Orders to be taken to another place.
 - 27. Give testimony in a court of law.
 - 29. Before the usual time or the time expected.
 - 30. Become invisible or unnoticeable.
 - 31. The daughter of your sibling.
- DOWN**
- 1. Raises to the third power.
 - 2. Judge the worth of something.
 - 3. Commonly grown sweetly perfumed flowers.



- 4. Act in a funny or teasing way.
- 5. Gives indirect suggestions.
- 6. Mentioned something as being worth a try.
- 10. A confection of nuts with caramelised sugar.
- 11. Assign a certain role to an actor in a play.
- 13. A clown with brightly colored diamond shapes.
- 14. The time after sunrise and before sunset.
- 18. The fat around the kidneys in beef.
- 20. The eggs of a female fish.
- 23. Dish of cold vegetables with oil and vinegar.
- 24. Severe and strict in making demands.
- 25. Hold in your arms like a baby.
- 26. The way in which something is done.
- 28. A person of a certain kind.

Word Search

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

Words starting with "AD"

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| ADAMANT | ADMIRE |
| ADAPT | ADMIT |
| ADDLE | ADOPT |
| ADDRESS | ADORN |
| ADHERE | ADULT |
| ADJUST | ADVERB |
| ADMIRAL | ADVICE |

Word Search

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

Yellow things

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| BANANA | DAFFODIL | RUBBERDUCK |
| BUTTER | EGGYOLK | SUN |
| CHEESE | LEMON | SUNFLOWER |
| CUSTARD | PINEAPPLE | SWEETCORN |

Math Square

	×		+		13
-		-		+	
	-	3	×		-10
+		+		-	
1	-		×		-62
-5		10		4	

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Cryptogram

Red Things

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
6				24				
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	13						

T E E
13 2 24 18 24 17 17 14 11

A A
5 6 8 6 7 18 23 25 8 15 23

A E A T
6 10 24 6 9 13 25 12 9 17

T E
13 9 8 24

Sudoku

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

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.

Math Square

	+		-		9
+		+		+	
8	-		+		2
-		+		-	
4	-		-		-4
10		21		4	

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Jokes

Q: What happens when it rains cats and dogs?
A: You have to be careful not to step in a poodle.

Q: Why was Cinderella so bad at soccer?
A: She kept running away from the ball.

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

MATH SQUARES

2	x	4	+	5	13
-		-		+	
8	-	3	x	6	-10
+		+		-	
1	-	9	x	7	-62
-5		10		4	

SUDOKU

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

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
6	10	5	16	24	12	15	2	25	22	4	17	20
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
8	14	21	3	7	23	13	9	1	11	26	18	19

THE YELLOW CANARY SINGS A BEAUTIFUL TUNE

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

6	+	5	-	2	9
+		+		+	
8	-	9	+	3	2
-		+		-	
4	-	7	-	1	-4
10		21		4	

Aged Care Act changes

THE new rights-based Aged Care Act commenced on Saturday, November 1, and will afford older Australians with greater independence, autonomy, choice and control regarding their care.

Demand for aged care projected to grow dramatically due to Australia's ageing population. A new Aged Care Act, framed in rights of the older person, was the number one recommendation of the Royal Commission into Quality and Safety in Aged Care's final report four and a half years ago.

The Act reinforces that older people have the right to make their own decisions, with appropriate support if they need it. The new regime also introduces clear responsibilities and consequences, ensuring that the autonomy and voice of the older person is respected in all decisions about their care and life.

Older Persons Advocacy Network CEO Craig Gear said the hallmark of the new Act is a Statement of Rights.

"This is an exciting new chapter for the sector, older Australians, carers and providers," Mr Gear said.

"At its core is the recognition that older people remain at the centre of their care, supported by those they trust, whether that's a family member, friend, advocate or provider.

"This is a transformational shift in power dynamics, and it is imperative that older people are empowered to make informed decisions that benefit them."

Along with the new Act comes strengthened quality standards and greater protections for older people receiving aged care. It also sees the commencement of the Support at Home Program which has higher levels of support, more packages and benefits such as restorative care pathways.

There is also an end-of-life pathway to support people who choose to die at home.

"Like with most significant reforms, there will probably be teething issues, as the changes have yet to be tested," Mr Gear said.

"This transition, and the potential for co-payments, may be of concern and people should call the My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or our Aged Care Advocacy Line on 1800 700 600 if they feel the changes have affected their ability to receive or pay for aged care in the community."

Operation Furlong held on long weekend

MOTORISTS were being urged to stay in their lane over the Melbourne Cup weekend as new data reveals the number of motorists being killed in head-on collisions is on the rise.

Police analysis shows more than 60 per cent of fatalities so far this year resulted from single acts of non-compliance, also referred to as one-off incidences or basic driving errors, rather than extreme driving behaviour.

Notably, there has been a 75 per cent increase in lives lost due to a single act of non-compliance involving a head on collision with another vehicle, with failing to keep left the most common factor.

Head-on fatalities are most frequent during the afternoon from 2pm to 6pm and on rural roads with a speed limit of 100km/h.

Police believe the growing trend indicates motorists are becoming momentarily distracted and drifting into oncoming traffic due to factors such as fatigue, inattention and mobile phone use.

With the number of lives lost on Victorian roads 18 higher than at the same time last year, police are warning motorists to remain alert and cautious behind the wheel, particularly when travelling on rural roads.

Victoria Police held Operation Furlong, a statewide road policing operation over the Melbourne Cup long weekend. There was a significant focus on major roads heading to areas in regional Victoria, with police on the lookout for speeding and distraction offences.

Last month, police detected more than 5000 traffic offences during the four-day Operation Scoreboard enforcement period over the AFL Grand Final long weekend, including 2179 speeding offences, 192 drink driving offences, 146 mobile phone offences and 138 drug driving offences.

Operation Furlong concluded at 11.59pm on Tuesday, November 4.

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

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

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

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

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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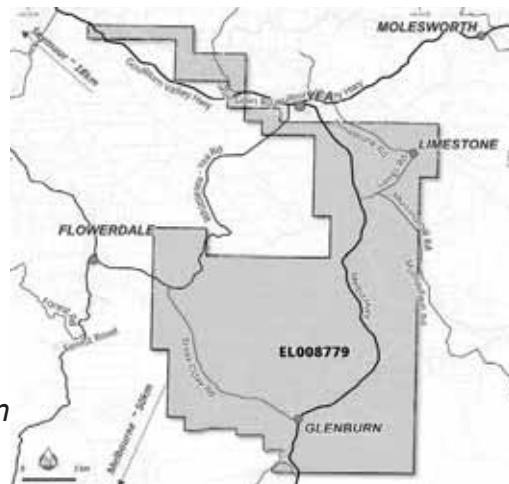
PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN EXPLORATION LICENCE

*Mineral Resources
(Sustainable Development)
Act 1990 – Section 15(5)*

*Mineral Resources
(Sustainable Development)
(Mineral Industries)*

*Regulations 2019 – Regulation
22(1) and Schedule 1*



1. Name and address of applicant(s):

Providence Gold Pty Ltd
C/-PO Box 563, East Maitland NSW 2323

2. Contact details of applicant (for map and other information requests):

Belinda Ingram. Ph: 0428 158 374. E: vic@amets.com.au

3. Applicant's Website: Further information about this application is available:

www.amets.com.au/victoria-tenements/ and https://resources.vic.gov.au/licensing-approvals/have-your-say

4. Details of the application:

Application number: EL008779

Locality of the land to which the application relates: 1km south and west of Yea, 3km east of Flowerdale, 22km north east of Whittlesea, including Limestone, Devlin Bridge and Glenburn

Approximate area of the application (Graticular Sections): 300

Date of the application: 24 October 2025

Term the licences are applied for: 5 years

Outline of the proposed programs of work: mapping, landholder negotiations, geophysical surveys, drilling

5. Objections and Comments:

Any person may object or comment to a licence being granted. (Sections 24 and 24A, Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990).

A person who objects or comments must:

- put the objection or comment in writing; and
- include the grounds on which it is made.

All objections or comments must be lodged within 21 days after the latest date on which the application was advertised and can be lodged online or posted to: The Minister for Energy and Resources, c/- Manager Licensing, Resources Victoria, PO Box 500, East Melbourne Victoria 8002

It is recommended that objections or comments are lodged online at https://rram-vic.gov.my.site.com/ObjectionSubmission to ensure timely consideration.

Enquiries can be made by writing to the Manager Licensing at the above address or by phoning Resources Victoria on 136 186.

6. Other Statutory Requirements

Subject to other requirements being satisfied, an exploration licence, if granted, entitles the holder of the licence to explore and search for minerals in the relevant land, but does not entitle the holder to undertake mining.

Further information regarding the statutory requirements that must be complied with prior to work being undertaken on a licence, including landowner and occupier consent requirements, is available at: https://resources.vic.gov.au/community-and-land-use.

GARAGE SALES

ALEXANDRA, 131 Grant Street. Sunday, November 9 from 9am to 5pm. Kitchenware, electrical stuff, general bric a brac.

GARAGE SALES

YEa, 1 Mulqueeny Lane. November 8 and 9. From 8am-4pm. Tools, furniture, old stamps, bikes, camping equipment, antiques, bric-a-brac and lots more.

SITUATION VACANT



Learning Support Officer

St Mary's Alexandra is seeking a reliable and enthusiastic person to join our team.

The successful applicant will:

- Hold a Working With Children Check and Police Check
- Have experience working with children
- Be passionate about supporting a positive and caring school environment

If this sounds like you,
we'd love to hear from you.

St Mary's Primary School Alexandra applications close on November 11 at 4pm. Please email your application to principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Nexus Primary Health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health will formally merge on January 1, 2026 and will be known as **Omnia Community Health**, a trading name of Sunbury Community Health Centre Limited.

On 1 January 2026, all client records at Nexus Primary Health will be transferred to Sunbury Community Health Centre Ltd, located at 12-28 Macedon Street, Sunbury VIC 3429.

For those accessing Nexus Primary Health services and programs, very little will change. Clients will continue to receive the same high level of care from the same location.

Tel: 1300 77 33 52
Email: info@nexusprimaryhealth.org.au
Web: www.nexusprimaryhealth.org.au
Nexus Primary Health
ACN 136 475 708

OPTUS

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION ON EXISTING LATTICE TOWER AT LAKE EILDON

1. Optus is proposing to upgrade an existing mobile phone base station on existing lattice tower at **off Karralika Heights Road, Lake Eildon VIC 3713 (M0172 Eildon)**.
2. In summary, this upgrade will comprise of: Removal of three (3) existing panel antennas, Installation of three (3) new antennas, Installation of temporary antennas to be used during construction and Installation and relocation of ancillary equipment.
3. We invite you to provide your feedback or request further information by contacting us at: at Wannan Bao, Indara, 02 9495 9000, community@indara.com or Level 1, 110 Pacific Highway, St Leonards NSW 2065. We will accept submissions until **5pm on Friday 21 November 2025**.
4. For more information, please visit www.rfnsa.com.au/3713001.

MEETINGS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6.15pm
Residents, families and members of the Alexandra and district community are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of Kellock Lodge - Alexandra Incorporated.

To be held at Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon Street, Alexandra.

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meetings held on December 2, 2024
2. To receive the Annual Reports for year ending 30 June 2025
3. To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 (KLA Inc.)
4. Questions and general business

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Applications are invited from members of the Alexandra and district community to join the Board of Management as a Director. The position is honorary, and Board Directors are required to be available for board meetings and committees. Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chair, Kellock Lodge 15 Bon Street Alexandra, Vic, 3714 (or by email to: info@kellocklodge.com.au) and include a cover letter and brief resume. Applications close of business **Monday November 3, 2025**.

Please **RSVP** your attendance for the meeting by close of business **Monday November 3, 2025**. Contact reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au. Teams link available by request.

Membership of KLA Inc. is welcomed, with forms available from reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au.

Reg. No. A 0037078E ABN 82 586 866 464

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!

DEATH NOTICES

BENSTON, John Brighton.
Died 24/10/2025 at Mornington. Past resident of Limestone community for 57 years. Much esteemed and respected Lieutenant/Captain of Limestone Brigade 1973-2000. Life member of Limestone Brigade and Yea Group Officer for 10 years. John was a tower of strength and leadership through many district fires. Remembered as always a firm friend and stalwart of the Limestone community. From members of the Limestone Fire Brigade and community.

DANIELI, Brett Anthony.
Much loved son, big brother, uncle, partner and father. Taken too soon. We will miss you for the rest of our lives. Love always, Mum, Rach, Daniel and Jackson. Ash, Dylan and Maeve.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

DEATH NOTICES

HALL, Peter.
Of Healesville, formerly of Marysville, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 27. Dearly loved husband of Naomi (dec), much loved father of Andrew, Kathryn, Fiona and Cameron. Cherished grandfather of Daniel, Gemma and Harry, great grandfather of Sienna and Blaire. Our eternal gratitude to his many friends who enriched his life and the caring staff at Holmwood, Healesville. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a commemorative service which will be held at St John's Anglican Church, 5 Symons Street, Healesville on Friday, November 7, commencing at 2.30pm. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Refugee Council of Australia.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

IN MEMORIAM

CREIGHTON, Neville Charles.
31/10/1948 - 07/11/2003. Death changes everything. Time changes nothing. We still miss the sound of your voice, the wisdom in your advice, the stories of your life and just being in your presence. So no time changes nothing, we miss you as much today as we did the day you died. 22 years today, we miss you dearly. Lots of love, Shaun and Amanda.

MEETINGS



ACHERON FIRE BRIGADE
General and Biannual meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov 16 at 10.30am at Acheron Hall. All welcome.

ACHERON HALL AGM will be held at Acheron Hall on Sunday, November 16 at 9.30am. All welcome. For more information phone 0423 802 772.

MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held on Sunday, November 16, 11am at Briggs Oval.

FLOWERDALE Sports Club AGM on November 10, 2025 at 7pm at Flowerdale Sports Club, 748 Spring Valley Road, Flowerdale. All welcome. For more information email flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com.



The Annual General Meeting of ADNA will be held at Corner Hotel (Goldfields Room) on Tuesday, November 25 at 7pm. (6.30pm if you wish to have dinner prior to the meeting). Contact President Cassandra Fraser 0418 538 964 or Juniorb.netball@gmail.com

SITUATION VACANT



Department of Health



Board Director opportunities at Alexandra District Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at Alexandra District Health. The positions start on July 1, 2026, for up to three years.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for persons with an interest in making a difference in the health sector and have the knowledge and skills for ensuring health care is delivered safely and effectively, with public money used to the benefit of all Victorians.

As a director you will be doing more than just contributing your time or knowledge. Being appointed to a hospital board places you in a position of trust. You will play an important role in providing leadership, accountability and integrity in the delivery of healthcare across Victoria.

Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of healthcare for the Victorian community. It is preferable that applicants reside in Victoria or, within the border community of those hospitals near the New South Wales and South Australian borders.

While Victorian public health boards are based on capabilities, boards are more effective when these capabilities also represent the richness of the diverse voices of Victorian communities. We encourage First Nations people, people living with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, gender equality, and upholding human rights.

Applications close at midnight Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website: www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications or contact Executive Assistant and Board Secretary, Jennifer Creed on 5772 0924.

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF AN AUTHORISATION MEETING FOR APROPOSED NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF TAUNGURUNG PEOPLE 23 NOVEMBER 2025CAMP JUNGAI – RUBICON VICTORIA

This notice is to advise that, on Sunday 23 November 2025, the law practice Malyon Law will hold an authorisation meeting for Taungurung People to decide whether or not to authorise a native title determination application under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) that is to be made over the area bordered with a black line on the map below.



THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

DATE:
Sunday 23 November 2025

TIME:
8 am – 9.30 am:
Registration and Verification

9.30 am – 3.00 pm:
Authorisation Meeting

LOCATION:
Camp Jungai, 475 Rubicon Road, Rubicon Victoria

Authorisation Meeting for a Taungurung Native Title Determination Application

This meeting is an important decision-making meeting for Taungurung People to decide whether or not to authorise a native title determination application under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

A native title determination application is an application which is made in the Federal Court of Australia for a native title determination under section 61(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). A determination of native title means that the Federal Court determines (1) who holds native title; (2) what the native title rights are; (3) the area to which the native title rights apply; and (4) which Aboriginal Corporation will represent the members of the determined native title group.

Malyon Law and Senior Counsel will be present at the meeting to answer any questions about the proposed native title determination application. The expert anthropologist and genealogist/historian will also be available at the meeting to explain their research and opinions and to answer any questions. If Taungurung People authorise the native title determination application on 23 November 2025, the application will be made to the Federal Court for a determination of native title.

Who is invited to attend the Authorisation Meeting?

The Taungurung People are invited to attend this meeting and only Taungurung People are entitled to attend the meeting. The Taungurung People are those Aboriginal persons who:

If you wish to attend the Authorisation Meeting on 23 November 2025, please register your attendance by email with Emily Loughron by email on eloughron@tlawc.com.au or by phone on 0427 480 056 by 18 November 2025. All meeting attendees must be verified by the expert genealogist/historian as descending from one or more of the Taungurung apical ancestors noted above.

This may involve the proposed meeting attendee providing information about parents and grandparents. If you have not provided this information previously, please contact us at eloughron@tlawc.com.au or on 0427 480 056 to obtain a family information form or to arrange a time prior to 18 November 2025 to meet with the genealogist/historian. If you have not provided information previously or you do not submit a family information form or meet with the genealogist/historian prior to the meeting on 23 November 2025, you will be asked to provide this information prior to the meeting before you are allowed to attend.

If you have any questions about this notice or the proposed Taungurung Native Title Claim please contact Malyon Law by email on kirstin@malyonlaw.au or by phone on 0407 157 737.

(a) descend by birth, or adoption in accordance with the traditional laws acknowledged and the traditional customs observed by the Taungurung People, from one or more of the following apical ancestors (listed alphabetically):

1	Berrut Dr Billy	born c.1812, died before 1871
2	Birdarak Thomas Michie aka Tommy Bamfield	born c.1841-44 Benalla, died in 1893 at Coranderrk
3	Bundowrok Mr W Cotton And Mrs Fulina Cotton	born c.1806 born c.1811
4	Burnie Jessie Hamilton	born c.1858 on the Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn or Kilmore, died at Cummerugunga in 1908
5	Charles Tattambo	born c.1790s, died in 1868 at Murchison
6	Coeyrun Peter Hunter	born c.1847 Merri Creek, died Coranderrk in 1881
7	Eliza Werry/Michie	born c.1832-35 Kilmore, died at Coranderrk in 1886
8	Ellen Norris	born c.1856-57 Kilmore, died Lake Condah in 1889
9	Jerkunning Lilly Hamilton	born c.1852 at Sugar Loaf Station near Kilmore, died in 1876 at Coranderrk
10	John Franklin	born c.1847 Broadford, died Yea in 1921
11	Talgium William Hamilton	born c.1851-52 Kilmore, died at Cummerugunga in 1897
12	Tooterie	born c.1810s
13	Wallambyne Polly	born c.1840 around Mansfield, died Coranderrk in 1900
14	Wyerdierum Dick Richards	born c.1835-39 Kilmore, died at Coranderrk in 1907
15	Yabbee Billy Hamilton	born before c.1820, died in 1851 near Reedy Creek

(b) identify as a Taungurung person; and

(c) are recognised and accepted as a Taungurung person in accordance with the traditional laws acknowledged and the traditional customs observed by the Taungurung People.

Please contact Malyon Law if you would like to confirm whether you are a Taungurung person and so entitled to attend the meeting. Contact details are provided at the end of this notice.

Purpose of the Authorisation Meeting

The purpose of the authorisation meeting on Sunday 23 November 2025 is for Taungurung People to decide whether or not to authorise the proposed Taungurung native title determination application over the area shown in the map above. The agenda of the meeting will be to consider whether the persons present:

- agree to and adopt a decision-making process
- agree to the proposed claim area for the Taungurung native title determination application to be made on behalf of Taungurung People (being those people invited to the authorisation meeting)
- agree to nominate specified Taungurung People, which persons accept that nomination, to be the Applicant for the proposed Taungurung native title determination application
- agree to authorise the proposed members of the Applicant to make the proposed native title determination application, and deal with matters arising in relation to it
- identify any conditions which should be imposed on the authority of the Applicant for the proposed native title determination application, and agree to impose those conditions

Registering to attend, verification process and travel assistance

The Authorisation Meeting is an important decision-making meeting and for this reason, meeting attendees must attend in person. Attendance by video-link will not be supported. Proxies will not be accepted at this meeting. Travel and accommodation assistance will be provided to enable attendance in person. This assistance will be provided by First Nations Legal & Research Services Ltd in accordance with its "Assistance to Native Title Holders/Claimants Attending Native Title Meetings Policy". This policy can be found at: <https://www.fnrls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FNRLS-Travel-Assistance-Policy.pdf>.

Council statement on Annual Report and 10 Year Financial Plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has adopted its 2024/25 Annual Report and Financial Plan 2025-2035 at its Special Meeting of Council on Wednesday, October 29.

Together, these two documents highlight council's strong performance over the past year and its clear direction on the action needed to build a financially sustainable future.

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of council's achievements, challenges and performance against the 2021-2025 Council Plan. It details the progress council has made across all five strategic directions: Resilient Communities, Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings, Growth and Opportunity, Our Protected Environment, and Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include the delivery of \$12.65 million in capital works, including the Eildon Splash Park and Reserves Redevelopment, the Yea Wetlands Kayigai Trail, in partnership with the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre Inc., and major road and drainage upgrades across the shire.

This represents an 89 per cent delivery against the original capital works budget, underscoring council's commitment to delivering value for money. Council also introduced the four-bin kerbside collection service, a significant step toward reducing landfill and supporting environmental sustainability.

Council delivered 72 community grants totalling more than \$147,000, continued flood recovery works, and strengthened its engagement with the community through Dindi In the Loop, pop-up sessions and local events. The report also highlights council's ongoing advocacy to state and federal governments for fairer funding, improved roads and transport connections, and more resilient community infrastructure.

While council recorded an accounting surplus for the year, this included one-off and advance payments which distorted the result. Once adjusted, the underlying result reflected a deficit, reinforcing the need for ongoing work to balance limited revenue growth with rising costs and service expectations.

Battery fires prove batteries don't belong in any bin

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to dispose of household batteries safely after two fires have recently occurred at the Alexandra Landfill.

The landfill fires, which were caused by the incorrect disposal of batteries, have put the safety of staff, property and the environment at serious risk.

"When batteries are mixed in with general rubbish or recycling, they can be compacted in our kerbside collection trucks or at landfill sites, where they may spark against other materials and ignite fires," Murrindindi Shire Council Sustainability and Assets portfolio Councillor Sue Carpenter said.

Council is reminding residents never to place any type of battery in kerbside bins, Resource Recovery Centre waste bays, or landfill.

Instead, batteries can be recycled safely and for free in specially marked battery disposal containers at Council's Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) in Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Kinglake, or at participating FoodWorks supermarkets across the shire.

To make your batteries safe for recycling, cover the terminals with sticky tape before dropping them off at a local RRC or supermarket.

"Battery fires can start small but spread quickly, putting our staff, emergency services and facilities at risk," Cr Carpenter continued. "By taking a few extra moments to recycle batteries correctly, you can help keep our community safe."

For more information about safe battery disposal and drop-off locations, visit council's Batteries page.

Council's Financial Plan outlines a 10 year financial strategy aligned with the Council Plan 2025-2029 and Community Vision 2025-2035. It identifies the structural challenges facing small rural councils and sets out key actions to address these challenges, which will be necessary to strengthen council's longer term financial position, in order to continue to deliver essential services and infrastructure.

The plan indicates that without intervention, council's underlying operating result will remain in deficit across the 10 year period, requiring significant borrowings to fund essential infrastructure. To address this and reduce the reliance on debt-funding, the plan details several key actions, including considering an early application to the Essential Services Commission for a one-year exemption to raise rates above

the rate cap, establishing a deliberative community panel to guide decisions about consolidating or disposing of under-utilised council buildings and facilities, developing a Service Planning Framework to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and affordability of council services, and continuing council's strong advocacy for fairer State and Federal funding arrangements to address the financial disadvantage faced by small rural councils.

These initiatives will help council plan responsibly for the future, protect essential services and ensure long-term sustainability.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the adoption of the Annual Report and 10 Year Financial Plan demonstrates council's commitment to transparency, accountability and responsible planning.

"Our Annual Report celebrates what we've achieved together as a community during

2024/25, and our financial plan looks at the work we still need to do to build a sustainable future for Murrindindi," Cr Gallagher said.

"We know the financial challenges are real. Council has been proactive in managing these pressures over time, and the financial plan outlines the next steps we must now take. Building on an already lean and efficient organisation, benchmarking strongly against the sector, we are continuing to tighten efficiencies, reviewing assets, and advocating strongly for a fairer funding model for small rural councils like ours. We're determined to ensure our communities continue to receive quality services, safe infrastructure and the support they need to thrive."

Both the Annual Report 2024/25 and Financial Plan 2025-2035 are available on council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/publications

Reading about rights at Children's Week 2025

FROM October 20 to 24, children and families across Murrindindi Shire joined council's libraries and Children's Services to celebrate Children's Week with a series of special Storytime sessions.

Children's Week is a national celebration which recognises the rights, talents

and achievements of children. This year's theme, 'Everyone should know about Children's Rights', highlights the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) and encourages awareness of

every child's right to be valued, heard and supported.

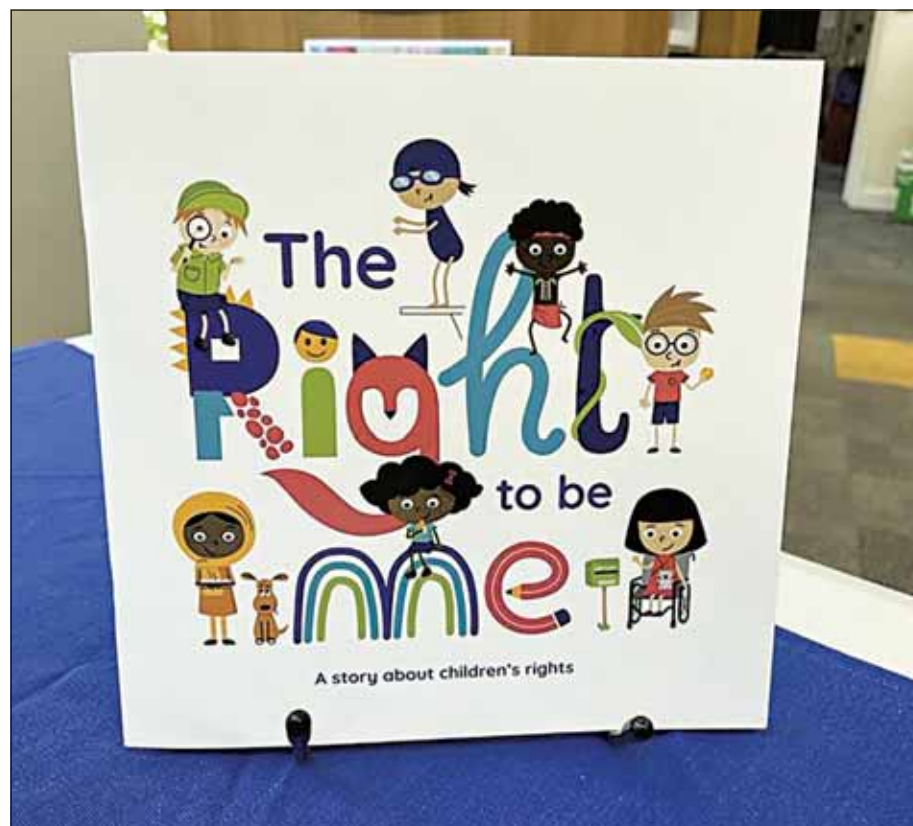
To mark the occasion, council's libraries hosted Storytime sessions featuring *The Right to Be Me*, a picture book by Allison Paterson and illustrated by Amanda Letcher. Every child who attended received a copy of the book to take home and enjoy.

Across the week, the story time sessions attracted a total of 49 children and 19 adults to the shire's libraries. Children enjoyed storytelling, arts and songs, engaging in creative activities, celebrating imagination, and the joy of reading. Stories highlighted the theme of children's rights including the right to be happy and healthy and gave the opportunity for parents to talk about the importance of emotional wellbeing in kids. Many families expressed interest in the books and planned to continue reading and exploring the stories at home.

Portfolio Councillor for Community Wellbeing Cr Jodi Adams said the Children's Week Storytimes offered a great opportunity to explore children's rights, creativity and the joy of reading together.

"Children's Week encourages us to recognise the voices and rights of all children. We extend a big thanks to all those who attended and encourage the community to come along to the library and encourage everyone to learn, imagine and share stories with confidence and comfort."

This Children's Week events were presented by council in partnership with the Victorian Government.



McLeish concerned over lack of road maintenance

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the Victorian Government has been caught out as new figures reveal a dramatic decline in road maintenance across Victoria, leaving motorists dodging potholes and driving on roads that resemble goat tracks.

The Department of Transport and Planning's latest annual report shows major patching works on regional roads fell by 45 per cent last financial year, while outer metropolitan areas saw a staggering 73 per cent drop.

She said Labor claimed to have allocated \$964 million for annual road maintenance last year, however the annual report shows only \$692 million was spent on road asset management, a shortfall of more than \$270 million. Her press release stated, "This is much more than a porky, it shows the government frantically trying to spin the situation."

She said Labor's patch works and budget cuts have been felt across the electorate as major roads and highways continue to crumble.

"The Allan Labor Government clearly does not have road maintenance as a priority.

"That's hundreds of millions of dollars that should have gone into sealing shoulders, repairing potholes and rebuilding dangerous sections of road. Our roads desperately need it.

"We have so many roads that are failing. The wire rope barriers between Molesworth and Yea have dings in 27 spots. The barriers themselves have been knocked down and never been replaced.

"Our road surfaces are failing on the Maroondah Highway in Buxton and in Ancona and Maindample. The Goulburn Valley Highway at Molesworth is in a dreadful condition. As is the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, south of Kinglake, and as usual, the Melba Highway has potholes opening again," she said.

"Despite this, the government brags consistently about road investments. For the past six years, each October, Labor has made the same 'Better Roads Blitz' announcement, and it is just spin.

"The government must drop the act and step up to make a real difference here."

When contacted about the claim, a Department of Transport and Planning

spokesperson responded, "During the 2024-25 Road Maintenance program, we focused on delivering long-term solutions rather than short-term measures

"That's because we recognised that in most instances, short-term measures provide immediate relief but are not the best long-term outcome for our road network or the community.

"Instead, we prioritised rehabilitation and resurfacing work, which deliver better long-term fixes. This is reflected in targets for these measures being exceeded for most of the state.

"The Victorian Government invested \$964 million towards maintaining Victoria's road network in the 2024-25 financial year, including \$692.3 million outlined in the DTP Annual Report as part of output costs, plus asset funding expenditure."

A performance measure around road patching was introduced in the last financial year due to recent road maintenance programs' focus on strengthening roads in response to widespread flood damage.

However, once the department began planning and delivering this program, they realised the benefit in refocusing the program

to deliver substantial rehabilitation works which completely rebuild sections of the road instead of delivering road patching which would only provide a short-term resolution.

By investing in long-term fixes to our roads, they said they are ensuring the road network remains a key connection for Victorians to stay connected to education, employment, family and friends, as well as keeping local industries connected to international and domestic trade opportunities.

The department also stated that the 2025/26 Better Roads Blitz will see crews out right across the state rebuilding, repairing and resurfacing roads to get Victorians home sooner and safer.

Drought resilience project announced

THE Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) will lead a five-year, \$5.9m project funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund via a national weed biocontrol consortium comprising CSIRO, Queensland's Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture Victoria and NSW's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The 'Nation-wide Weed Biocontrol Mass-Rearing and Release Network for Enhanced Drought Resilience in Australia's Agricultural Landscapes' initiative is one of eight projects under the Future Drought Fund's commitment to improving landscape function and ecosystem services for drought resilient farms and landscapes.

African boxthorn, prickly acacia, horehound, various cactus species and three aquatic weeds, cabomba, sagittaria and salvinia, are the species prioritised for biocontrol due to their impact on Australia's agricultural productivity, biodiversity and drought resilience. Aside from horehound, all are Weeds of National Significance.

The project will support the mass-rearing, release and monitoring of nine biocontrol agents, from a rust fungus to longhorn beetles and cochineal bugs to gall thrips, aimed at suppressing these invasive weeds and improving pasture quality, water security and environmental values ahead of future drought conditions.

CISS's Chief Executive Officer, Shauna Chadlowe said, "We're incredibly grateful to the Australian Government and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for their leadership and significant investment through the Future Drought Fund. Their support is what makes this ground-breaking project possible.

"We're also proud to be working with this group of outstanding delivery partners who bring not only technical expertise but also financial and in-kind support which lifts the total resources to drive this national collaboration to \$11m.

"For the first time in Australia, this project will establish a nationally coordinated, multi-jurisdictional consortium of partners to fast-track delivery of weed biocontrol agents through an Australia-wide biocontrol agent mass-rearing, release, monitoring and evaluation network.

"This project maximises on-ground outcomes by fast-tracking and upscaling the release of approved biocontrol agents and biocontrol research capability, facilities, and stakeholder networks.

"The weeds targeted by this project are among the worst in Australia. They degrade landscapes, threaten biodiversity, and reduce productivity. Some, like African boxthorn, with its harsh spikes, impacts graziers by preventing livestock from accessing water points. Others, like cabomba, sagittaria and salvinia choke irrigation channels and waterways, adding stress in times of drought when water resources are already scarce.

"We're proud to lead this ambitious project alongside our delivery partners. It brings together cutting-edge science, national coordination and bold thinking to deliver smarter, more sustainable solutions for tackling invasive weeds and strengthening Australia's drought resilience," Ms Chadlowe said.

Haines urges stronger focus on the regions in environment overhaul

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, will propose key amendments to new environmental laws to be debated in parliament this week.

Dr Haines welcomed the re-introduction of reforms to Australia's environment laws as long overdue, but stressed the need for greater

transparency and meaningful community consultation to be embedded in the legislation.

"These reforms are the most significant changes to Australia's environment laws in 25 years," Dr Haines said.

"Our laws must protect nature, give clarity to industry, and provide a clear path for community input and impact to be considered.

"These new laws move us forward in parts, but give substantial discretionary powers to the minister and fall well short in ensuring genuine community consultation.

Dr Haines welcomed the inclusion of bioregional mapping in the reforms but said it was imperative that environmental considerations extended to high value agricultural land and drinking water catchments, and would propose amendments to strengthen requirements on developers.

"Bioregional plans must consider and protect the sustainable maintenance of high value agricultural land and drinking water catchments.

"I'm drafting amendments to require a National Environment Standard for Community Engagement and Consultation that developers must address.

"For two years, I've been calling for agricultural land to be mapped to identify clear 'no-go' zones for large-scale renewable projects and give regional communities certainty.

"The government must outline how it will identify these 'go' and 'no-go' zones, and how they interact with state Renewable Energy Zones.

Dr Haines said the unacceptable impacts test, which would prevent project that present an "unacceptable impact" on protected environmental matters from being approved, is a welcome move.

"The unacceptable impacts test is a promising shift, environmental damage must not simply be traded away through offsets. I welcome tougher penalties. No company should treat environmental destruction as a cost of doing business."

Dr Haines encouraged the government to work constructively across the parliament to strengthen the reform.

"I'll work in good faith with the government to ensure the best protections for nature and genuine benefits for regional Australia. This is too important to get wrong."

Forum for Truth and Recognition

THE Victorian independent Forum for Truth and Recognition (the Forum) has commenced, and is now open for participation.

The forum, which has been established as safe and respectful space, is place where people can share their experiences of child sexual abuse in Victorian government schools and certain non-government schools prior to the year 2000. The inquiry delivered its report in February 2024.

The report made nine recommendations to the Victorian Government, including recommendation three, that they establish a state-wide forum for people who have experienced child sexual abuse in all Victorian government schools.

The forum will work alongside survivors and support them to share their experience.

The experiences shared will contribute to an important public record and a report delivered to the Premier of Victoria in mid-2026. The experiences will also contribute to Victoria building a stronger shared understanding of the lifelong impacts of child sexual abuse in schools so they are better equipped to prevent and respond to it now and into the future.

The method of participation is an individual decision. People can share their experiences with Angela Connors, Chair of the Forum, in an in-person or online personalised session or make a written or creative submission.

To participate and start the journey with the Forum, please contact 1800 967 933 (free call) or contact@truthandrecognition.vic.gov.au

Written or creative submissions can be sent by email or posted to Forum for Truth and Recognition, PO Box 256, Collins Street West, VIC 8007.

National Survivors Foundation (NSF) can support participants through the process. The NSF team is available to support participants from start to finish. Caseworkers are available on 1300 124 433 or by emailing hello@survivors.org.au

To find out more about the forum, visit truthandrecognition.vic.gov.au

POLICE REPORT

YEA Police were very pleased with the behaviour of motorists over the weekend. Over 100 random breath tests were conducted and no issues were detected. It is hoped that people also behaved well on Melbourne Cup Day, after this newspaper went to print.

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

facebook.com/AlexandraNewsapers

Alexandra Squash Club round four of term four pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Blue Vein versus Gouda
FILL ins versus Laura: Laura's opponent was a no show, so Sally and Eric stepped up to give her a match. The fill ins did a good job, but Laura was too skilled. 63 to 49.
Jared versus Ben F: The games were swinging strongly both ways, but the match was close. Ben took the first game with an eight-point lead, only for Jared to take the second by nine points. The last two games were much closer with Jared coming out with a two-point win. 50 to 48.
Phil (fill in) versus Michael H: An enjoyable game to watch. There was a lot of movement on the court with both players running down the balls. It started close, but Phil waned in

the second half allowing Michael to get ahead and take the match. 63 to 41.
Feta versus Mozzarella
Tyler versus Eric D: A great game. Tyler had great consistency in his serves and strokes. Eric had some great returns from the serve but didn't quite have enough to overthrow Tyler. Tyler with the victory. 77 to 51.
Liane (fill in) versus Sally: Always a classy battle between these ladies. Both were here to play but only one can take home the crown. Sally held the upper hand and had consistent wins in each game to win the match. 66 to 55.
Lucas versus Matt: Lots of long rallies and crafty shots. Matt's court coverage was impressive and helped him in his victory. 75 to 52.
Andrew versus Jim: With see-sawing games it was anyone's match. Andrew was

reading the game well, but Jim's placement won him the match. 58 to 50.
Thursday competition
Barracudas versus Piranhas
Matthew versus Ben H: It was a simple case of Ben being too good. He has picked up the game well and showed it in winning this match. 66 to 47.
Sam (fill in) versus Travis: An eternal row between these two always makes for an entertaining match. Sam had already played for the night, but he wasn't going to let Travis have an easy match. When the final buzzer went, Samy held the win by one point. 59 to 58.
Daniel K versus Daniel W: Daniel W tried to give Daniel K the run around, only to be shut down and put in his place by the superior

player. Daniel K won with a commanding lead. 76 to 24.
Orcas versus Stingrays
Eric F versus Beth: Impressive shots from both players. Beth controlled the middle and made good use of the corners and side walls. Eric pulled it together to draw the third in a final effort to take back the match. The win went to Beth. 63 to 49.
Sam versus Mick: Sam held a commanding lead throughout. Putting in a great last game, Mick just couldn't catch Sam. 69 to 46.
Michael M versus Ben F (fill in): Ben had the rub of the green with every shot landing. Meanwhile Michael M couldn't find the rhythm as a workable strategy. Ben ended up 11 points up in an upset. 61 to 50.

Paul Heyen leads AH Smith

by Alan Pell

Saturday competition

WARM and calm conditions greeted the 33 Yea Golf Club members who competed in the stableford event last Saturday. Course conditions were excellent and combined with the beautiful spring weather, made for some exceptional golf scores.
Paul Heyen (27) led all comers in the mens' division with 38 points. Chris Dunne (7) also had a great round with 37 points to finish in second place. Brian Simmons (13) survived a three way countback to take home third place on 36 points from Gary Pollard (13) and Andrew Bohn (7).
Rob O'Halloran took out the nearest the pin on the second hole and recently returned home Jeff Aurisch collected the club award and the \$10 Jackpot.
Nine ladies took advantage of the glorious weather and their scores also reflected the course conditions. Vicki Clements (24) continued her recent run of great form, recording 38 points, to take home first place. Cindy Armstrong (29) provided strong competition to record 36 points and claim second place on countback from Miranda Gill (19) and Jan Wealands (29), who completed the top four with a score of 35 points. There was no nearest the pin for the ladies.

Wednesday competition

Last Wednesday's men's golf saw 15 blokes play foursomes, alternate shots. Winners with a nett 67.5 were Zach Pell/John Renehan (32.5) from close runners up Neil Peterson/Rob O'Halloran (18) with nett 68.
No nearest the pin on the 10th for two and Allan Coates/Brian Priestley won the club award.
In the second round of the ladies' championships Vicki Clements (24) with nett 72, Miranda Gill (18) nett 75, Sharon Grogan (24) nett 76 and Penny Britton (30) also on nett 76 were the best performances. The final round will be conducted next Wednesday.

New season for Little Athletics



Murrindindi Little Athletics under sixes listening and learning the finer details of throwing. -S



Charlotte Boulton leaping into a new season of Little Athletics. -S



Jude enjoying the high jump in Little Athletics. -S

2025

SHOWTIME

NOVEMBER 8

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FAMILY TICKETS TO THE 2025 ALEXANDRA SHOW

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DROP YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ALEXANDRA STANDARD OFFICE BY NOON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.
ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY
Winning tickets will need to be collected prior noon, Friday, November 7.
(Tickets are for two adults and two children) *Staff and family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.