

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, February 26, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Go chasing waterfalls in autumn



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Yea Racing season ends



Pages 13, 14 and 20

Merton Skate Park open day



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Weekend sport



Pages 17-20

Yea CFA helps out near Kilmore

ON Saturday, February 22 at 5.30pm, Yea Tanker responded as part of Strike Team 1256 to a fire near Kilmore.

The Yea tanker took four members from the brigade for night shift duties and returned safely around 9am on the following day.

The conditions were difficult to work in, with the winds and temperatures persisting throughout the night and into Sunday.

While the Yea tanker was out, there was a step up tanker from Glenburn CFA so that the town still had fire coverage for any grass and scrub fires.



Members of the Yea CFA after fighting the fire near Kilmore. -S

Fatal crash in Kinglake

GREENSBOROUGH Highway Patrol officers are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal crash in Kinglake on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 18.

It is understood a blue Mercedes Benz sedan left the roadway and crashed into a tree on Heidelberg-Kinglake Road just after 1pm.

Emergency services worked on the driver, a 50 year old Heidelberg Heights man, but he could not be revived.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or with dashcam footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson said, "Any death on our roads is a tragedy and our thoughts are with all those who have been impacted.

"We'll work with Victoria Police to understand the circumstances and to provide support to the investigation where required."

Melba Highway re-opens

THE Melba Highway has re-opened following concerns expressed by the community. During the planned six week road closure from February 17, traffic was diverted, with many trucks taking narrow regional roads including the Black Spur, Healesville-Kinglake Road and Kinglake-Yarra Glen Road, instead of the long diversion via the Hume Highway.

Footage and images of near-misses received wide media and social media coverage, with many also commenting on their own experiences.

There were also concerns about the lack of signage to warn truck drivers well prior to the closure locations.

The Department of Transport said, "We have heard the communities' concerns about safety during landslip repair works on the Melba Highway.

"Despite these mitigations we have continued to see incidents in the area, and a decision has been made to pause the works while we undertake a review.

"In response to this, the project will be paused."

The Melba Highway reopened on Saturday, February 22 at noon.

The department added, "We will keep the community informed of next steps and any changes to traffic management."

The works to repair the landslips on the Melba Highway between Healesville-Kinglake Road and Hunts Lane are now expected to re-commence in September, after re-engineering.

The landslip work is expected to involve excavating and removing the damaged road pavement, building retaining walls, reinstating and stabilising the road asphalt layers, improving drainage, and reinstating safety barriers, signs and line marking.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said in a Facebook post, "For around six weeks now, council has been suggesting to the Department of Transport and Planning that more effective

communications was required to inform the community of impacts of important road infrastructure works on the Melba Highway down the 'Slide'.

"This week council was closely engaged with Minister Melissa Horne MP who acknowledged our request for a 'pause' on road works while more program and communications planning could take place.

"It's been great that Minister Melissa Horne MP, our local member, Cindy McLeish MP, Murrindindi Shire Council, and our community have worked so effectively with the united purpose of achieving this outcome. I look forward to similarly fruitful discussions guiding the next stage of the roadworks."

CLOSED LABOUR DAY - MONDAY, MARCH 10

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY

★ **EGN BOOKINGS AND ARTWORK** - NOON TUESDAY, MARCH 4

★ **TRADES** WILL REMAIN THE SAME - NOON THURSDAY, MARCH 6

★ **CLASSIFIEDS** - FOR SALE, MEETINGS ETC INC DEATH NOTICES - 2PM FRIDAY, MARCH 7

★ **EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** - 10AM MONDAY, MARCH 10

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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Avian influenza detected at third neighbouring property

AGRICULTURE Victoria has confirmed H7N8 high pathogenicity avian influenza (bird flu) on a third poultry farm in Euroa. This new detection is in close proximity to the two other infected properties.

Victoria’s Acting Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Cameron Bell said given the close proximity of these properties, this new detection is not unexpected, and that Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground working closely with industry to contain and eradicate the virus.

Control orders have been in place since H7 was first detected on a poultry farm on February 8, restricting the movement of poultry, poultry products, equipment, and vehicles on or off properties in designated zones around the infected properties to prevent disease spread.

These zones include a restricted area covering a five kilometre radius around the farms, with a broader control area spanning east of the Goulburn Valley Freeway, and including the townships of Euroa, Violet Town, Longwood, Ruffy, Avenel and Strathbogie.

“If you are in the control or restricted areas, you cannot move birds, products (including eggs and manure) or equipment into, out of, or within the area without permit,” Dr Bell said.

“This includes selling or giving away eggs from your poultry. These must not leave your property.”

With the confirmation of H7N8 on a third property, a housing requirement remains in place for properties with 50 or more poultry in the restricted area. This includes Euroa and extends approximately five kilometres from the affected properties in all directions.

To reduce the risk of further disease, birds on these properties must be kept in cages or sheds to avoid contact with other birds. This is a proven method to minimise direct contact between poultry and wild birds.

Poultry and bird owners are reminded to keep sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean, and to restrict contact with wild birds. They should ensure their footwear is clean and wash hands before and after handling birds or eggs. New birds should be quarantined before being integrated with existing ones.

“A strong biosecurity system relies on everyone playing their part,” he said.

“Immediate notification from poultry owners when they notice their poultry are unwell is crucial to us getting on top of this outbreak.”

Community members must report suspected disease and sudden poultry death by calling the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Dr Bell thanked the impacted properties for their cooperation and reassured Victorians that supermarket eggs and poultry products remain safe to consume.

For more information, including checking whether you are in the restricted area or control area, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To Holly Daze for being what makes her happy and being brave in telling us.

THUMBS UP: To the person who set the record straight about the roots of paulownias.

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Taungurung statement

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY agree with the sentiment expressed by Tom Collins in a recent letter to the editor. My response to the Taungurung statement would not have been so measured.

Trevor Hedge, Eildon

In Support of Tom

I SUPPORT Tom Collins’s right to speak and might I say I think he is becoming woker and woker the older he gets. He cares for the community he loves, is concerned for our mental health and is wanting to unite not divide us. How woke is that Tom?

He doesn’t want to be defined by what happened to local Aborigines so long ago. It is a burden Tom and others do not want to bare. To that end, I’d like him to support my movement to get rid of ANZAC Day. I don’t want my Aussieness defined by some old war campaign we lost. What did Gallipoli ever do for me. Nothing. Let’s get rid of it.

Robyn Walsh, Yarck

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	2.12	steady	below minor	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.44	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.43am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor	
Home Creek at Yarck	8.48am Mon	0.07	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	5.19am Mon	0.38	steady	below minor	
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.15	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	4.03	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.29	steady	below minor	
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	9.00am Mon	0.09	steady		
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.76	steady	below minor	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.99	steady	below minor	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	7.00am Mon	0.79	steady		

****ISSUED AT 9.45AM ON MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025**

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

February 26 - March 4, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	15	33	Wednesday	15	34
Thursday	18	33	Thursday	17	33
Friday	12	29	Friday	12	29
Saturday	13	30	Saturday	14	31
Sunday	12	26	Sunday	12	25
Monday	17	31	Monday	16	31
Tuesday	17	33	Tuesday	17	34

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	3mm
Buxton.....	6mm
Eildon (AWS).....	7mm
Flowerdale.....	0.6mm
Jamieson.....	6mm
Kinglake	2mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield.....	2mm
Taggerty	7mm
Yarck	3mm
Yea.....	2mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	281.66m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	73.5%
Metres below full supply.....	7.24m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release.....	5500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	91%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbs up/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. celebrates a Year of Success and Growth

MURRINDINDI Food and Wine Inc. (MFW Inc.) has wrapped up its most successful year yet, with the 2024 Annual General Meeting reflecting on major achievements that have put the region's food and wine industry in the spotlight.

One of the standout highlights was the *Murrindindi Harvest Celebration*, held in Yea, which brought together local producers and winemakers alongside celebrity chefs.

The event showcased the region's finest produce, allowing visitors to "Meet the Makers" and experience the best of Murrindindi's food and wine.

Over the past year, MFW Inc. has secured more than \$130,000 in funding to promote the region's producers and support local businesses.

This funding enabled key initiatives, including the Buy Local Campaign, encouraging residents to 'Put Murrindindi on Your Table', as well as a business training series featuring digital marketing expert Jenn Donovan.

The group also hosted its second Mini Jobs Expo, strengthening connections between local businesses, job seekers, and education providers.

In addition, the *Business Groups Flood Recovery Grants Program*, under the Murrindindi Resilience Program, supported

successful business breakfasts, which fostered collaboration and growth within the local business community.

As the team takes a well-earned break, planning is already underway for 2025, with exciting initiatives on the horizon.

Keep an eye out for the updated Supplier's Guide, the Murrindindi Winemakers Wine Weekend in May, and the return of the successful Buy Local Campaign later in the year.

For more information, contact *Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc.*

Police raid in Alexandra

ON Friday, February 14, Seymour Divisional Response Unit investigators and Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit detectives, Victoria Police K-9 unit and members from the Australian Federal Police executed two search warrants in Alexandra.

During the search of the premises, police will allege that a quantity of methylamphetamine was retrieved from a toilet from the address in Alexandra shortly after police forced entry to the property.

Police will also allege that firearms, silencers, ammunition, and other firearm related components were seized from the premises during the searches.

A 44 year old man from Alexandra was arrested, charged with multiple offences, and remanded in custody.

He appeared at the Shepparton Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, February 18. He was remanded in custody.

Victoria Police continues to encourage any members of the public to provide any information relating to criminal activity via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 where their identity can remain anonymous.

SMS Rates Overdue Phishing Scam

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is aware of a SMS Phishing scam targeting Murrindindi Shire residents. The message states that their rates are now overdue and demand payment through a link. Do not click on this link. Council will never send a SMS message demanding payment for overdue rates.

If you are unsure of whether a text or phone call is legitimate, we encourage you to contact our customer service team on 5772 0333.

Short stay levy affects family violence victims

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP, has slammed the Victorian Government's law to put a 7.5 per cent tax on those fleeing family violence who stay in short stay accommodation, including Airbnb's.

The organisations working with family violence victims, and the police, are often looking for temporary accommodation immediately available and Airbnb is one of those options.

Ms McLeish as Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence said, "These services are doing their best to help the growing number of domestic violence victims, and they can't afford to be paying an extra tax. The victims fleeing by themselves often have very little and need all the help they can get getting back on their feet.

"Victims of family violence are certainly not having a holiday, they are looking to find somewhere safe. I'm always hearing stories of those fleeing family violence who can't find accommodation and too often end up in motels.

"This was predictable and avoidable. The Coalition put up an amendment last year about waiving the tax in this situation, and the Labor government voted against it."

The Coalition will repeal this tax if elected in the 2026 election.

The Attorney-General at the time, Jaclyn Symes, made damning comments during the parliamentary debate, stating the proposed changes, "are not able to be implemented in a workable way because anyone could claim that they meet one of the exemption criteria and it would be therefore impossible to verify that.

History-making petition calls for no more national parks

THE Liberals and Nationals on Wednesday, February 19, tabled the largest petition in Legislative Council history, with concerns growing that the Victorian Government is pushing ahead with the expansion of national parks.

More than 40,000 signatures have been received for the *No New National Parks* petition.

Almost 34,000 concerned bush users signed up on-line, making it the largest e-petition in Victorian history for both houses of parliament.

Many concerned bush user groups gathered on the steps of parliament last Wednesday to raise awareness of their fight against new National Parks being declared.

The Nationals believe that Victoria does "not need more pad-locked national parks, which are poorly maintained and a fire risk."

They also say that "neglecting public land leads to overgrown tracks and, the proliferation of invasive weeds and feral

pests, which degrade the environment and pose a threat to native flora and fauna."

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, tabled the petition.

"Labor's flawed policies are not saving vulnerable species, through neglect and mismanagement it is placing them and Victorians at a greater risk of bushfire," Ms Bath said.

"The Liberals and Nationals will actively manage our public land for better environmental and recreational outcomes.

"Our historic petition is a voice for Victorians who cherish our bush and immerse themselves in nature through the traditional outdoor activities of dispersed camping, hunting, four-wheel driving, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, prospecting and fishing."

No decision has been announced regarding the creation of any new National Parks.

"...In fact if we were to agree to this amendment it would completely undermine the purpose of the bill in trying to have the effect of bringing more homes onto the market and supporting more social and affordable housing."

This is despite the Victorian Tourism Industry Council confirming that 40 per cent of short-stays are booked for purposes other than a holiday.

Ms McLeish continues, "We have a government that, on the one hand, pretends to care about the most vulnerable members of the community, those escaping domestic violence, but in reality, they are happy to tax everyone to fill budget black holes.

"Accommodation is a key factor in women's decision to flee family violence. They should not have to choose between a family violence crisis and homelessness crisis."

The Victorian Government's 55th new or increased tax, came into effect in January 2025.

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and heaps of other stuff

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Be aware, snakes are out

PARAMEDICS are urging Victorians to be safe through the rest of snake season after attending 129 suspected snakebites this summer. From December, 2024 to February 18, 2025, paramedics have responded to 28 incidents in Hume Region.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Director Emergency Management Dale Armstrong said of these cases, 125 people were transported to hospital.

“With hot weather continuing, the snakes are out, which means we need to be vigilant,” Dale said.

“Bites can often be avoided simply by being observant in areas that are likely to attract snakes, such as near rivers, long grass or sheds.Victorians can also take preventative measures around their home by keeping their property clear of rocks, logs and building materials, and keeping grass short.

“Most snakes in Victoria are venomous and a bite can be life-threatening. If someone is suspected to have suffered a snake bite, even if you’re not sure, you should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.”

Snake bites may cause pain and swelling around the puncture wound, or there may be

very few signs left on the skin. Symptoms that snake venom has entered your body may include dizziness, blurred vision, breathing difficulties, nausea, muscle weakness or paralysis.

Dale said there are some basic first aid steps people can take while waiting for an ambulance if they’re with someone who suffers a bite.

“If a snake bite victim is unresponsive and not breathing normally, you should begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR),” he said.

“If the patient is conscious, it is important to keep them still and reassured while waiting for help, only move them if it is too unsafe to stay put.

“Snake bites commonly occur on hands, feet or limbs, so applying a pressure immobilisation bandage to the affected limb can also make a big difference to the treatment and outcome of a snake bite incident.”

The Australian Resuscitation Council recommends applying a pressure immobilisation bandage (snakebite bandage) starting at the fingers or toes and working up the arm or leg as far as possible, ensuring that the bite site is covered. If a bandage has already been applied to the bite, or if the bite is covered with clothing, the pressure immobilisation bandage should be applied over this.

If you don’t have a pressure immobilisation bandage, use a firmly applied regular bandage or an item of clothing at least 10 to 15cm wide.

Keep the patient as still as possible and, if able, use a splint of some kind to prevent movement of the affected limb. Do not remove the pressure immobilisation bandage until the patient gets to hospital.

People should not wash the site of the bite, as venom left on the skin can be used to help identify the type of snake and the anti-venom required.

Caterpillars invade Yea Swimming Pool

READERS may have noticed some concerns on social media regarding rashes due to swimming in the Yea Pool.

Murrindindi Shire Council were asked about this. They stated, “Murrindindi Shire Council is aware of reports of skin irritations experienced by some patrons and staff at the Yea Swimming Pool. We take these concerns very seriously and are actively investigating the cause.

“As a precautionary measure, and in line with our commitment to community health and safety, we have temporarily closed the pool to allow for thorough testing and additional cleaning. Initial routine water quality tests indicated that all chemical levels were within the safe range for pools. Further testing has confirmed that chemical levels remain within the safe range as of Friday, February 21.

“Following inspections from our Senior Environment Officer, and consultation with affected patrons, it appears the presence of mistletoe brown-tail moth caterpillars may be the cause of the skin irritations. The hairs of this caterpillar can cause a temporary condition called caterpillar dermatitis.

“We are organising a pest control company to treat the facility.

“We will confirm the pool’s reopening after pest control treatment and reassessment.

“We would like to thank the community members who contacted us and look forward to welcoming the community back to the Yea Swimming Pool when it is safe to do so.”

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM	88.9	Yea / Highlands
UGFM	98.9	Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM	94.5	Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Thu	Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun	AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086
Sun	Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY

1 st Mon	St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1 st Thu	Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 nd Thu	Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Thu	Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
Last Fri	Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

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

Out&About

WHAT'S ON?

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Pop up information sessions to save energy and save money. You are invited to attend one of the pop up sessions and chat about solar energy, batteries, heat pumps and split systems. Learn how they work and more. Marysville Grocer 3-5pm. See below for further dates and times. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/gmss for more details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Dindi Daze at Rotary Park, Alexandra. A festival to celebrate all that is good in Murrindindi. Great food, kids activities, cocktails, live music, craft beer, face painting and much more. 10am-6pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Tarcombe Herefords 51st Annual Production Sale 1pm. Contact Tim Hayes on 0439 257 693 or email temagong@bigpond.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Pop up information sessions to save energy and save money. You are invited to attend

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Notice of Tuangurung Native Title Meeting at Broadford Town Hall 10am-3pm to provide information about the process of making a native title determination application to the Federal Court under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). Full details can be obtained by calling 0434 632 875 or by emailing Tobylee.Kirby@fnlrs.com.au RSVP by February 28.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Cathkin Molesworth Cemetery Trust AGM will be held at 11am at the Molesworth Hall.

Church Services

ST PETER’S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

Detour takes the Melba detour in their stride

COLIN Beer, owner of Detour Logistics and Mountain Valley Produce, spoke about the challenges being faced by trucking companies during the closure of the Melba Highway.

He said, “We’ve just detoured all our trucks through Melbourne. I’ve banned all my trucks coming on the Melba Highway.

“There is no point, thought or any concept that any truck should even remotely be on any of these back roads.”

He also noted the cost of the detour. “That’s costing us an hour,” he said. “It’s costing me thousands and thousands of dollars each week in extra fuel and tolls and time and labour. We’ve got no choice. I’m not risking damage to my trucks. At \$1.2 million a shot, I don’t need them to be driving down roads where trees hang over everywhere.”

He added, “My thing that I’m disappointed with, blanket shut. Shut it

at Yea. Blanket shut. All trucks banned. Get to Yarra Glen, all trucks banned. They’re not turning them around. They’re allowing them to go through Healesville and everywhere else.

“All trucks that need to be stopped at Coldstream. Don’t even let them go near there. Done.”

He said that communication about the closure had been “Absolute rubbish. It’s only that I found it on Facebook and stuff like that. We wouldn’t have even known.”

Detour Trucking is probably one of the major companies that’s got trucks using the Melba Highway, with eight to 10 trucks per day running in and out.

Mr Beer said, “I’ve just banned my trucks. Don’t want to know about it. Stay the hell away from it. Fix it. Tell us when you’re finished.”

He’s instead sending them up the Hume Highway. He said that by doing so, “We’re

losing an hour a day and we’re trying to make market. Losing an hour a day before we start and it’s just more pressure on the drivers for no reason.

He said that his drivers all received a blanket communication saying, “You turn on the wrong road and I’ve already told you shouldn’t be there, you stop the truck. Don’t go any further. You’ll let me deal with how I get you out of where you are.”

When told that sounded as though he was very responsible, he responded, “Oh I just can’t be bothered with all the bills.”

Given the price of their trucks, he certainly doesn’t want tree marks down them.

Fortunately, the issue has now been temporarily alleviated, with the reopening of the Melba Highway while the Department of Transport re-assesses the works.

Pause proposed for caged egg phaseout

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the state and Federal Governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages by 2036 until a reliable supply of eggs can be guaranteed.

VFF Egg Group President Meg Parkinson said ongoing impacts of avian influenza is severely hampering the supply of eggs to consumers and all forms of egg production must be utilised to maintain future supply.

“Recurring avian influenza outbreaks have demonstrated the need for a robust and resilient egg industry. We need a supply chain that is designed with consumers in mind and their needs. This includes eggs from all production systems such as barn laid, cage, and free range, and enables consumers to choose how their eggs are produced and at the same time ensuring supply of eggs is as resilient as possible.

“Caged egg systems provide a safer internal environment, significantly reducing the risk of avian influenza transmission through

contact with wild birds. The impending phaseout of conventional cages, coupled with a lack of clear transition planning from governments, has created uncertainty within the industry.

“Australian egg farmers invest considerably in strict biosecurity protocols and uphold world-leading animal welfare standards, ensuring consumers have access to the best possible eggs,” Ms Parkinson said.

Ms Parkinson added that action was needed to ensure a steady and reliable future supply of eggs.

“We’re calling for the state and federal governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages. If not, future shortages will also drive-up egg prices, placing additional financial strain on Australian families.

“The VFF urges governments to work closely with industry to develop a practical transition plan that ensures egg supply

remains stable and affordable for all Australians. Until such a plan is in place, the proposed phaseout must be paused to avoid unintended consequences for food security and local farmers.”

Road safety grants now open

THE Victorian Government has now opened the 2025 round of grants for organisations and community groups to develop and implement community-based road safety projects. This year a total of \$600,000 through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) grant will be awarded to recipients to help make roads in the community safer.

There are two categories including a Road Safety Support Grant of up to \$50,000 and Road Safety Collaboration Grant of up to \$150,000.

In 2024, six Victorian community groups and organisations received funding, sharing in \$350,000 to support local road safety projects.

These programs support the goals of the government’s *Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030*, which aims to halve deaths and reduce serious injuries on roads by 2030.

Applications for the 2025 TAC Road Safety Grant Program are now open and will close on Wednesday, April 2 at 3pm. To find out more, visit tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants

New rules to protect worker mental health planned

THE Victorian Government is providing new protections for mental health. They will introduce new regulations strengthening how psychosocial hazards are managed by the end of the year, recognising psychosocial hazards to be as important as physical hazards and creating new obligations for employers to identify and control them in their workplaces.

Psychosocial hazards are work-related factors with a potential to cause harm, such as bullying, sexual harassment, aggression or violence and exposure to traumatic events.

These changes are in response to recommendations made by the *Boland Review*, the *Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System* and the *Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health*.

They aim to strengthen workplace health and safety laws to better address mental health and align with regulations introduced in other Australian states and territories.

It’s anticipated the regulations will be made in October and take effect on December 1 this year.

A Compliance Code will be made to guide employers on how to meet their duties under the proposed regulations. Extra guidance will also be provided on how prevention plans can help identify actions they’ll take to control psychosocial hazards.

Victoria has experienced an increase in work-related mental injuries, which represented 18 per cent of all new WorkCover claims in 2023-24, up from 16 per cent the previous year and nine per cent before 2009.

WorkSafe provides support and guidance to Victorian employers to reduce work-related risks to mental health through the WorkWell program, which has engaged with more than 16,000 workplaces since its 2017 launch, through grants, learning networks and resources.

Road Closure on Molesworth-Dropmore Road

COUNCIL’S contractors will be conducting flood recovery works on Molesworth-Dropmore Road, Molesworth, to reconstruct collapsed culverts and damaged roadway sustained in the October 2022 Floods.

Works will commence Wednesday, February 26 and are expected to be completed by Wednesday, March 12, weather permitting.

These works will require the closure of Molesworth-Dropmore Road to all through traffic between Goulburn Valley Highway

and Highlands Road. Access will be provided for local traffic only to properties and residences to the north and south of the work site, which is situated approximately 10 km from Goulburn Valley Highway.

Please seek alternate routes via Highlands Road, Goulburn Valley Highway and Caveat-Dropmore Road.

If you have any questions, please call council on 5772 0333.

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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offer

MARCH

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310 ARTBOARD
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DOUBLE SIDED

TURNAROUND TIME AND PAYMENT

- 14 business days from artwork approval.
- Artwork will be commenced once signed returned quote is received
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- The cost includes two artwork proofs only, additional proofs will be subjected to extra costs.

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

43 Grant Street, Alexandra, Vic 3714

Ph 5772 1002

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Yea & District
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Are you interested in helping to shape health care services in your community? Becoming a community representative on our Community Engagement Strategy Committee will make a real impact!

Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) strives to deliver high quality health services, part of this is listening to our community to ensure we meet your needs.

This Committee will provide information, advice and feedback to guide priority issues in healthcare for Yea and surrounding communities and we need strong community voices at the table.

YDMH values diverse voices and lived experiences to ensure we deliver services that meet our communities needs. This is a voluntary role and would require a minimum of four meetings per year.

Expression of interest open until Sunday 16 March 2025.

ENQUIRE NOW



Naomi McNamara
03 5736 0400

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners this week, Emma, Toby, Delilah, Bella and Clancy. All students have been showing our school values and are great role models for others.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Alex, Max and Ella for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Do you know why autumn leaves change colour? -S

The colour of autumn leaves

THE vibrant colours of autumn are one of nature’s most striking spectacles, but the science behind why leaves change colour is both fascinating and complex. As summer fades into autumn, plants prepare for the colder months, and a series of biological processes leads to the stunning transformation of foliage.

The key player in this transformation is chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the green colour in leaves and their ability to perform photosynthesis. During the growing season, chlorophyll absorbs sunlight to create food for the plant, but as daylight hours shorten and temperatures cool in autumn, plants start to shut down this process in preparation for winter. As the chlorophyll breaks down and is not replenished, other pigments within the leaf become more visible.

One of the most prominent of these pigments is carotenoids, which produce yellow and orange colours. These pigments are always

present in the leaf, but the green chlorophyll typically masks them throughout the warmer months. As chlorophyll fades, the yellow and orange hues emerge, creating a golden autumn landscape.

In addition to carotenoids, anthocyanins play a crucial role in producing the rich reds and purples seen in some tree species. Unlike carotenoids, anthocyanins are not present in the leaf throughout the growing season. They are produced in response to the changes in temperature and light, with cooler nights and bright sunny days stimulating their production. Anthocyanins may also serve as a protective mechanism, helping to shield the plant from damage caused by excess sunlight or colder temperatures.

The interplay of light, temperature, and pigment activity culminates in the beautiful array of colours we associate with autumn, making it not only a time of transition but also one of nature’s most visually captivating phenomena.

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to emergency.vic.gov.au



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



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The Victorian Government is delivering Free Kinder.
And that means thousands of new jobs across the state.
Financial support to help you study and Free TAFE
courses are available.

Learn more at vic.gov.au/kinder



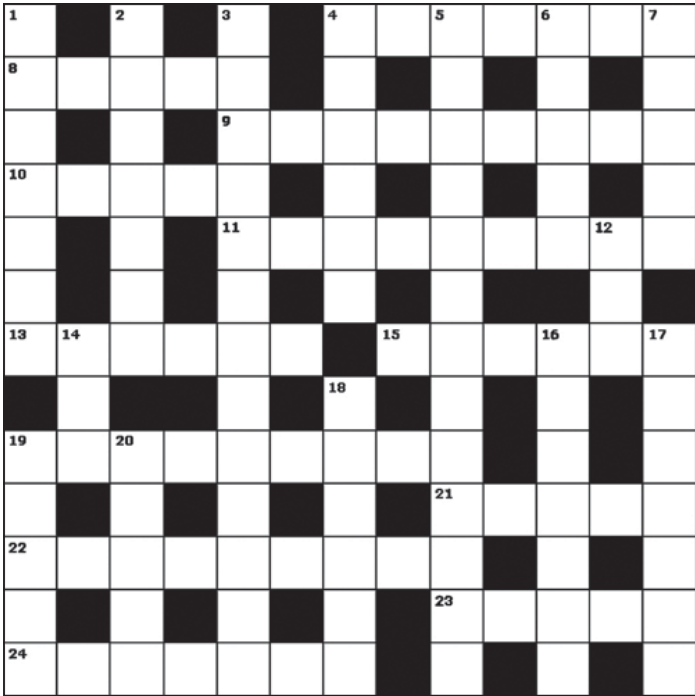
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 4. Sweet mixture poured over desserts.
 - 8. Doglike African mammal.
 - 9. Creating clothes from cloth.
 - 10. Farm consisting of a large tract of land.
 - 11. A means to an end.
 - 13. A fine cord used in sewing.
 - 15. Small cold-water silvery fish.
 - 19. Strict accuracy.
 - 21. Travels by ship.
 - 22. The male head of a family.
 - 23. Religious paintings in oil on a small wooden panels.
 - 24. A person who is being taught a skill.

- DOWN
- 1. A horse-drawn battle vehicle.
 - 2. A curve in a stream.
 - 3. Person skilled in the science of numbers.
 - 4. Curls tightly.
 - 5. Skill in fencing.
 - 6. Moving quickly and lightly.
 - 7. A finger or toe.
 - 12. A hard-shelled seed.
 - 14. Of a female.



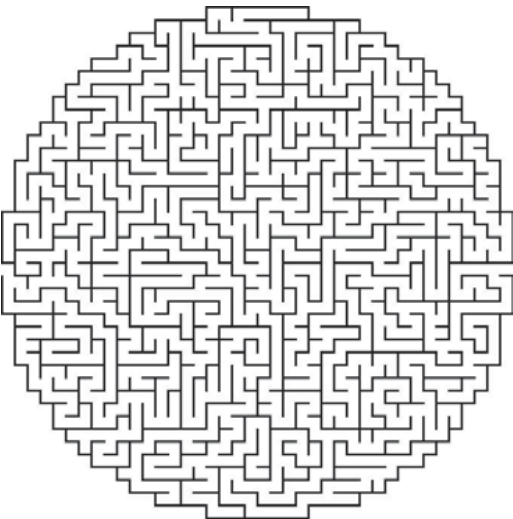
- 16. Reference book containing an alphabetical list of words.
- 17. Support oneself.
- 18. Ruthless in competition.
- 19. Small songbird.
- 20. Something additional.

Word Search

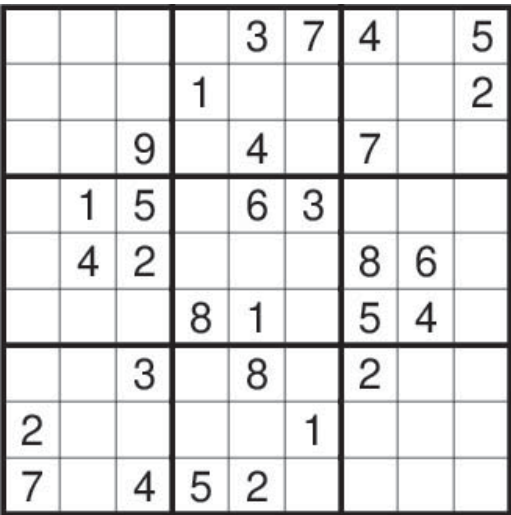
C W M J Y W J B G Q C K Q K B
D E C K C H A I R J I K J H X
T E K C I R C D R A Y K C A B
T D T R B M A M Y K D T U X U
N G L E L J N R Z M X H J N C
D E Q L O O P G N I M M I W S
S U E U A A W E K L E N N L U
E C V R M Q R V L P R R U R N
I X I M C U V A H H I K F I S
E E U N T S B J V C F R Y E H
P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

- Outdoors
- ALFRESCO
 - FAMILYFUN
 - BACKYARDCRICKET
 - NATURE
 - BARBEQUE
 - PICNICS
 - BEACHBALL
 - SUNSCREEN
 - CAMPFIRE
 - SUNSHINE
 - DECKCHAIR
 - SWIMMINGPOOL

Maze



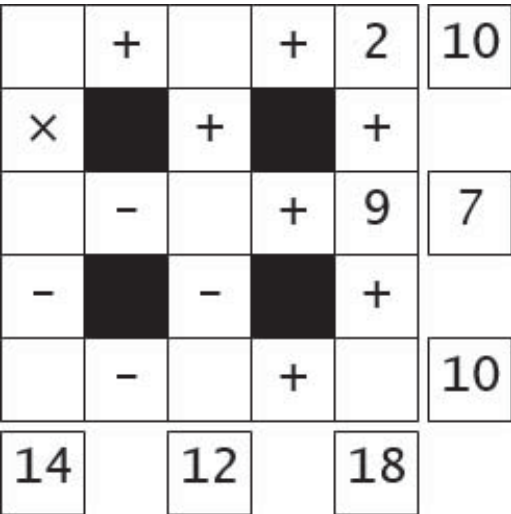
Sudoku



Difficulty: Easy

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



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.



Have you considered working in a kindergarten? -Woodley Wonder Works

Growing the regional kinder workforce

THE Victorian Government is strengthening the early childhood education workforce to support more kinder places for children and better support for working families.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn launched the latest round of the government's *Certificate III Upskill Support Program* and announced an expanded partnership with Deakin University, to help train more early childhood teachers particularly in regional and rural areas.

Applications are now open for the *Certificate III Upskill Support Program*, which will provide 400 places for educators looking to upskill to a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

This includes \$7000 in financial support, that can be used for living expenses while studying and working. This year, half of the places are reserved for students in rural and regional Victoria, meaning students can study and work close to home. In 2024, 416 students accessed the upskilling payment.

Deakin University is also offering online courses for early childhood education students who want to study while working. As part

of Victoria's *Early Childhood Tertiary Partnerships* program, Deakin is one of several institutions providing tailored study options.

Scholarships of \$25,000 for bachelor's students and \$12,000 for graduate diploma students are available through the *Early Childhood Scholarships Program*.

More than 200 places are available over two years, with priority access for applicants from selected rural and regional areas, including Ararat, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Southern Grampians, and Ballarat.

These initiatives will strengthen the early education workforce, meaning more kinder places for children and better support for working families.

Applications for the Certificate III Upskill Support Program close on June 13, for more information visit, vic.gov.au/financial-support-study-and-work-early-childhood#certificate-iii-upskill-support-program

Deakin is currently taking applications for its employment-based pathways, for more information visit, vic.gov.au/financial-support-study-and-work-early-childhood

First nations tourism grants are now open

FIRST Nations groups across the state can now apply for new grants to expand their First Nations tourism experiences.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos announced up to \$3.6 million in grants under the *First Peoples Tourism Industry Strengthening Program* are now available. These grants will create and expand tourism offerings that celebrate and empower family, community, culture and Country.

The program was developed based on feedback from the community and is now open for applications from Victoria's 12 Registered Aboriginal Parties, with grants of up to \$300,000 available. Registered Aboriginal Parties provide advice and knowledge on matters relating to Aboriginal places and objects in their region.

The new program will support First Nations tourism businesses across the state and builds on the state government's *Experience Victoria 2033 (EV33)* plan to strengthen Victoria's visitor economy through five key pillars: First Nations-led experiences, wellness, arts and culture, food and drink, and nature.

In 2023, more than 500,000 people visited Victoria and participated in First Peoples tourism experiences as part of their travels – spending a total of \$1.3 billion.

The First Peoples Tourism Industry Strengthening Program will provide even more support to this growing sector, backing these unique organisations to grow their one-of-a-kind tourism offerings.

Applications are open until Thursday, April 10. For more information about the program, visit tourism.vic.gov.au

Local schools receive planned maintenance funding

THE Minister for Education Ben Carroll announced last week that 158 schools would share in over \$47.9 million of funding from the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP) to undertake 162 maintenance projects between them. The program funds high-priority maintenance issues across Victoria's government schools.

The funding enables schools undertake essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as fixing roofs and replacing windows, maintaining ramps, painting, and resurfacing floors, as well as some external works like improving pathways.

Locally, schools that were granted the funding was Marysville Primary School receiving \$516,201.00, Middle Kinglake Primary School receiving \$181,606.02, and Toolangi Primary School receiving \$106,456.00.

Works are determined by a rolling facilities evaluation process, which provides up-to-date information on the condition of schools to create a faster and more targeted allocation of funding.

For a list of schools receiving funding under the Planned Maintenance Program, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program

Hello Autumn

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard
INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE THIRCK, GOSNELL, THORNTON, AND ACHESON EXPRESS

The Yea Chronicle

MURRINDINDI BEANIE & FIBRE FESTIVAL

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TEXTILES & FIBRE ART
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ALEXANDRA SHIRE HALL
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MARYSVILLE MARKET

Second Sunday of each month

March 9, April 20 & May 11
9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls along with home made cakes, local honey, plants, jewellery and handcrafts. Community sausage sizzle and live music.

To book please call 0494 329 695 or email marysvillemarketinc@gmail.com

Market @ Yarck

Including CWA/Hall morning tea and cake stall from 9am

Third Saturday of each month
March 15, April 19 and May 17

Plants, soaps, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more

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Grant Street

MONTHLY MARKET

ROTARY PARK ALEXANDRA
1st Sunday of the Month
9am - 1pm

A great range of craft stalls, pet supplies, plants, jewellery, and lots of local wares.
alexandraevents1td@gmail.com

DINDI DAZE

POWERED BY ALEXANDRA ROTARY

1ST MARCH 2025

10AM TO 6PM

ROTARY PARK ALEXANDRA

A FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE ALL THAT IS GOOD IN MURRINDINDI

GREAT FOOD KIDS ACTIVITIES COCKTAILS

LIVE MUSIC CRAFT BEER FACE PAINTING LOCAL PRODUCE

HISTORIC CAR SHOW PETTING ZOO ARTS & CRAFTS

Alexandra Rotary Club

Murrindindi Shire Council

Darren Gilbert
open studio

An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat 1 to Sun 2 March
Sat 5 to Sun 6 April
Sat 3 to Sun 4 May

10.00am to 4.00pm each day
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Open the first weekend of every month.
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f i

ALEXANDRA Speedway

Home of the 100 Lap Derby & 3 Hour Enduro

Gordon Street, Alexandra
(Next to Golf Course)

2025 CALENDAR

March 22 - VSC Ladies Standard Saloons State Title, V8 Dirt Modifieds, Compact Speedcars, Wingless Sprint, Sports Sedans and SSA Juniors

April 5 - VSC Ladies Sports Sedan State Title, Sports Sedans, Standard Saloons and SSA Juniors

May 10 - Crash N Bash Open State Tital, Sports Sedans, Division II's, SSA Juniors, Standard Saloons Open and Standard Saloons Ladies

June 7 and 8 - The 100 Lap Derby and Standard Saloons

August 2 - 3 Hour Enduro and the Crash N Bash Mick Corbett Memorial

alexandraspeedway.org.au alexandra-secretary@hotmail.com [alexandraspeedway](https://www.facebook.com/alexandraspeedway)

MINI GOLF



Come and have
some fun at
Mansfield's
High Country themed
18 hole mini golf



Enjoy good coffee,
cool ice-creams,
icy cold slushies
& hot donuts

Wed - Sun
10am - 4pm

EVERY DAY
during the
school holidays

Next door to
The Delatite Hotel
Mansfield

Go chasing waterfalls in autumn

Wilhelmina Falls

THE Wilhelmina Falls, cascading 75 metres down a steep granite rock face, is located at the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve at the northern end of the Toolangi State Forest. The walk is a six kilometre return trip that can take one to four hours, depending on your skills. The track is known to be very steep and is a good challenge for experienced bushwalkers.

The Wilhelmina track begins at Water Gauge Camp and heads over the suspension bridge along the Murrindindi River Walk. Enjoy the majestic view to the lookout at the top of the falls. The views boasts of the beautiful mountain range, Mount Despair.

To get there, drive south along Murrindindi Road for approximately three kilometres until you reach the Water Gauge camping area.

The walk has slow inclines, with short and steep sections to keep you on your toes.

Steavenson Falls Walk

ONE of Victoria's Highest waterfalls is in the Murrindindi Shire and is a real treat to experience. You can wander along the gravel path, with tall trees and lush ferns that lead you to a breathtaking experience. It is a must-do when visiting Murrindindi Shire.

The easy 700 metre return walk takes you to the 84 metre cascading falls. If you're feeling more adventurous, you can do the walk that takes you up to the top of the Steavenson Falls, following the stone steps and walking track to a magnificent viewing platform.

You can also enjoy the Steavenson Falls in the evening when it is flood lit between dusk and midnight.

Snobs Banyarmbite Falls

SNOBS Banyarmbite Falls is located in the Rubicon State Forest, this stunning waterfall drops over 100 metres and is a sight not to be missed.

The short 300 metre return trip has many steps and short steep hills and is for any walker, no extra abilities required.

The waters of these falls are an important supply to the nearby Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery that is located six kilometres below.

It was upgraded in 2022 to include a new viewing platform, upgraded car park and handrails and steps.

To get to this hidden beauty travel along the Goulburn Valley Highway towards Eildon, turn right onto Snobs Creek Road and drive for 5.7 kilometres.

Strath Creek Falls

STRATH Creek Falls is located in Mt Disappointment State Forest, starting from a quiet picnic spot you can take a short stroll along the walking trail to a beautiful waterfall.

The one kilometre return trip is signposted, with many steps and short steep hills to get you to your destination.

This historical waterfall has been popular with tourists for over 150 years, it is recommended on exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au that the falls are best viewed after heavy rain.

It is also advised that while in the forest, make sure to check out other recreation opportunities including bushwalking, mountain biking and horse riding.

Mount Disappointment State Forest is the traditional land of the Kulin nation. The Wurundjeri tribe looked after the land in the south and the Taungurung tribe looked after the land in the north.

The Great Victorian Rail Trail

If you've already been to all of the waterfalls, then check out the art on the rail trail. In 2023, the Art of the Great Victorian Rail Trail Project was officially opened as large scale artworks

and smaller works were placed along 134 km of the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

The trail was created along the historic railway line that operated between Tallarook and Mansfield, with an additional spur line linking the trail to Alexandra.

The artworks were a joint initiative between Murrindindi, Mansfield and Mitchell Shire Councils, aiming to improve the rail trail experience.

As the Rail Trail is in beautiful Taungurung Country, you will find many scar trees on your travels. According to greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au, "We, the Taungurung people of this Biik (Country), have been removing the bark from trees to use for various purposes, such as baby carriers, food collection vessels, bark canoes and thatching for our dwellings, for at least 2000 generations..."

"Along the length of the Great Victorian Rail Trail (GVRT), we have removed the bark from healthy eucalypts, and then carved a message in the sapwood.

"Each tree we have scarred has marks at the top that represent how our old people cut and scarred their bodies. This is how they demonstrated their relationships to one another. Underneath these marks, are the designs that tell different aspects of our connection to our Biik and each other."

You can see these scar trees starting from Tallarook all the way to Mansfield, as well as some incredible installations.



Steavenson Falls in all its glory. -AR



Live Music - Beer - Wine

SUNDAY SPIT SPIT ROAST

\$23 a plate with veggies

Sunday
9th of march
FROM 1pm





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Harvest Picnic

Sunday, May 4, 12.30pm

sedona estate

3-course banquet-style lunch \$95 pp

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Murrindindi Wine Weekend 3- 4 May 2025

Meet the Makers




Paul & Sonja



Philip






Adrian & Robert




Madge




Follow our socials to keep in touch on activities. Download the final program from the website.



MURRINDINDI WINEMAKERS



MARYSVILLE History Centre Museum

Founded in 1969, the society's museum provides visitors and researchers with an opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of Marysville and its surrounds.

The museum houses a unique collection of items focusing on our diverse and fascinating history including our pioneers, timber and tourism industries and the RSL.



Take a look and follow the society's Facebook page for a huge range of interesting stories and photos.

 Marysville & District Historical Society Inc

39 Darwin Street, Marysville

 historymarysville@gmail.com

 0417 551 091




LION FEEDING
1.30pm weekends and Victorian public and school holidays

MEERKAT FEEDING
After the lion feeding on weekends and Victorian public and school holidays

OVERNIGHT CAMPING
Bring your tent or swag, September 1 to May 31 each season

The Mansfield Zoo boasts over 200 native and exotic animals and many of our animals can be hand-fed by visitors.

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Alexandra 28th ANNUAL TRUCK UTE & ROD SHOW

SUNDAY 8 JUNE 2025

10am-4pm • LIVE MUSIC • EXHIBITIONS & TRADE DISPLAYS

- WOODCHOP
- MAJOR AUCTION
- CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENTS
- SHOPS OPEN

LIVE MUSIC

HELD ON BITUMEN IN ALEXANDRA'S MAIN STREET

FREE ENTRY

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ALEXANDRA ROTARY PARK Easter Fair

10am-3pm EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2025



- face painting
- live music
- wine tasting
- market stalls
- local food
- children's amusements



Contact: alexandraeventsitd@gmail.com / Gordon Simpson 0409 577 212

Sculpture 2025

Acheron

Friday April 18 to Sunday April 27

EAFTER to ANZAC

\$5 reciprocal gate entry with Alexandra Rotary Easter Art Show

Application forms and details
For those wishing to submit works go to www.marianrennie.com.au
Marian - marian@marianrennie.com.au - P 0412 109 129

Marian Rennie Gallery
132 Breakaway Road, Acheron - access via Alexandra

An exciting artistic event showcasing sculpture in Marian Rennie's historic 2 acre rural garden

Licensed cafe Open 10am - 4pm daily
Artisan Alley, sculpting workshops, Veteran's Tribute Concert, Paint and Sip

Opening Night Cocktail Party
Thursday, April 17- 5pm
Live music, canapes and drinks inclusive
\$30pp - Exhibitors free

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Ticketabo



Taggerty Hall 1898




Taggerty 4 Seasons Market
9am to 1pm
Easter Saturday April 19
Kings Birthday Saturday June 7
 5 Taggerty Thornton Road, Taggerty
 Stall enquiries Sandice 0419 376 206
 taggerty.vic.au

Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday March 22
Saturday June 21

Taggerty Hall Hire
 Bookings and enquiries hall@taggerty.vic.au

Check out our new website for our newsletter and all events and happenings throughout the year  taggerty.vic.au



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

**Sunday 11 May 2025
12.30pm - 4pm**

Let us spoil your mum this Mother's Day when she enjoys a complimentary glass of sparkling upon arrival. Savour a three course luncheon featuring beautiful local produce. Accompanied with spectacular views, great wines and live music.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY DINNER

**Saturday 26 July 2025
From 6.30pm**


Bring your family and friends and join us for a celebration dinner with all the trimmings; mulled wine, roast turkey, glazed ham and more. With a roving magician, Santa and music, this will be a truly magical event! Accommodation available.



GRAND ITALIAN FEAST

**Sunday 23 November 2025
12.00pm - 4pm**

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Ready for the race. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



Olivia with one of the ponies in the children's area. -AR



The jockeys preparing to race. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



John Sinclair and former race club president, Denis Smith. -Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



Jo and Deb from the Yea Tigers, serving at the bar. -AR



Club president Al Tait and owner of Downtown Man, Di Panckhurst. -AR



Yea Racing 2024-25 season finishes with St Pats Cup

The horses coming home in race one. -AR



Sponsors and the connections of the winner of race two, Smart Ace. -AR



Al Tait speaking to Shaun Cooper, the winning jockey of race two. -AR



Melinda McDonald, the winning jockey from race one, speaking to Al Tait. -AR



Bill, Tracy, Kylie, Diane and Peter, with Chloe and Ella at the front. -AR



People having fun in the sun at the Yea Races. -AR



Charlie enjoying a pony ride. There were plenty of fun activities for children at the races. -AR

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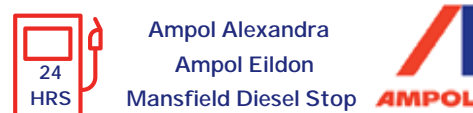
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Marysville and Yea Golfers have a good catch up after the day's game. -S

Marysville Golfers welcome Yea Players

by Lesley Rundle

ON Saturday the Yea golfers were unable to play on their course as it was being prepared for the picnic races but Marysville members were delighted to welcome a number of Yea golfers to the Saturday competition.

Both the men and the ladies played a stableford round. The ladies winner was Lesley Rundle (33) with 35 points followed

by Christine Simmons (25) from Yea with 33 points. Peter Lilley (14) won the men's section with 36 points and Alan Howard (15) was the runner up with 35 points.

The nearest the pins were won by Steve Berry, Richy Clark, Alan Pell (Yea) and Gail Leigh who also won the Golden Shot. The Yea players enjoyed the day, with one lady commenting that her golf could have been better but she enjoyed the scenery.

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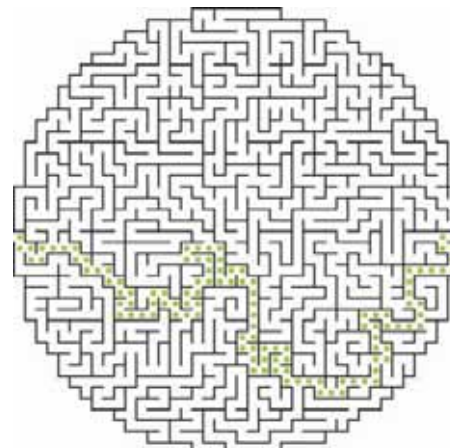
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FUNERAL NOTICES

HULL, Daryl.

A celebration of the life of Daryl Hull will be held at the Lakeview Room, Marysville Community Centre, on Sunday, March 16 at 2pm. All welcome.

MEETINGS

CATHKIN (Molesworth) Cemetery Trust.

Notice of AGM meeting. Sunday, March 16 at 11am. Molesworth Hall. All welcome.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ALEXANDRA and Eildon Lapidary Club raffle winners.

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Second prize - PURPLE D03, Amy.

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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT OPEN GARDENS

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 4pm at Embassy of Ideas, Alexandra.

Enquiries to Melinda Jackson at 0418 378 806 or email melinda.louise.jackson@gmail.com. Light refreshments will be available. All welcome.

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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A decent crowd was in attendance at the Merton Skate Park open day, including Mansfield Shire Council and a DJ providing music. -S



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish with Mansfield Shire Council Deputy Mayor James Tehan cutting the ribbon to officially open the Merton Skate Park. -S

Open day to celebrate new Merton Skate Park

THE Merton Skate Park was officially opened last Sunday with an open day for skaters to celebrate and demonstrate their skills.

After lots of hard work to bring the project to fruition from various parties and the community, the day provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievement.

Officials in attendance included Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Mansfield Shire Council Deputy Mayor James Tehan, representatives of the other businesses that brought the skate park into existence, and community volunteers that worked on the project.

Catriona and James Wilson, the parents of Mansfield Olympic skateboarder Hayley Wilson, also attended and awarded one lucky young skater with one of Hayley's professional skateboards.

The Merton Community Skate Park project group successfully applied for funding from Mansfield Shire Council's 2022-23 *Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund*, and the skate park was constructed by Mansfield construction company Tectonic Civil.

The open day was hosted by the Merton Recreation and Memorial Hall Reserves Committee and Mansfield Shire Youth.

Mansfield Shire Mayor Steve Rabie detailed how Mansfield Shire Council was proud to support the community-led initiative to construct the skate park.

"We're really grateful to our community members who came together to drive the Merton Community Skate Park project," Mr Rabie said.

"By contributing funding through our *Outlying Communities Infrastructure Fund*, council was able to get the best bang for its buck by supporting a community-led project.

"We want to make sure our growing communities have the facilities they need to support a healthy, active and connected lifestyle.

"It's fantastic that Merton now has a new local space where young people can get out and have a fun time with their friends," he finished.



The new Merton Skate Park at the Merton Recreation Reserve provides a great space for community skaters to enjoy. -S



The lucky young skater from Bonnie Doon, Arlington, who won Hayley Wilson's skateboard deck. Pictured with him are Hayley Wilson's parents, James and Catriona, and his mum Bec. -S

The story of Yarck test cricketer Ian Callen

by Bailey Dixon

FORMER test-cricketer Ian Callen's story is a loop, which begins at the Yarck Primary School, and loops back around to Yarck now in the form of the book he has written about playing cricket in the country.

Ian originally attended Yarck Primary School for the first several years of his education, before his parents moved with him to Melbourne in 1963. He was in grade two at the time.

"If my parents hadn't made the move to Melbourne, I never would have had the opportunity to play for Australia, I don't believe," Ian said.

He played in Heathmont while finishing his schooling, before becoming part of the Carlton Cricket Club. This path took him to playing in one singular test match, before injuries affected his career path.

"I went to Carlton. I did my back during the test match in Adelaide. Fractured vertebrates," Ian said.

"I toured the West Indies with the fractures and tried to play and made it worse. So I spent two years out of the game. Fought my way back, got to tour Pakistan, and then I did my knee. That was the end of test cricket."

Ian's passion for cricket was not quenched despite the setback.

"I came back and played first class cricket again in South Africa, and then I coached. I coached Carlton for a number of years. In my book it says, 'at one stage we had one metropolitan player on our team at Carlton,

and we had 10 cricketers from the country region'," he said.

"Trying to get them to training was impossible, and that's where I realised the problems young cricketers have trying to make it to the highest levels."

Aside from playing cricket, Ian has been involved in making cricket bats for over three decades, including his own bat-making company, Callen Cricket. This newspaper asked him about the process of making bats.

"You start with a tree, you've got to cut it down and process it and produce the clefts, and you've got to cut it into shape, and use your hand tools to carve it out. It's a bit like sculpting," he said.

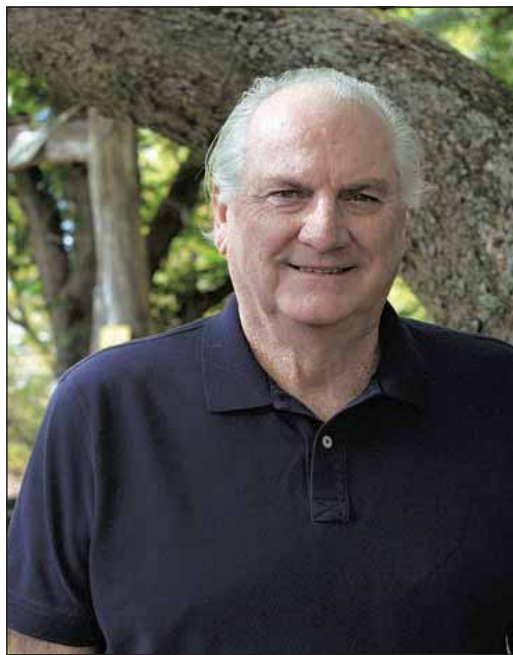
"You've got to be able to balance it, so the pickup is good. There's a lot of work involved. That sort of led me to getting some land and putting some trees in the ground. I nurtured them for years before I got anything out of them."

From all of his experience in the world of cricket, Ian decided to write a book about the sport in country areas, specifically the area around Yarck from which he originated. It is called 'The Legend of Mason Ironside' and includes cricket tips and strategies as well as the fictional story.

"I've written this book based on the fact that I came from Yarck, a country town. We had a Yarck Cricket Club, a Yarck Football Club, which folded. My dad was captain of the cricket club, and I dragged his cricket bat around all over the place," Ian said.

"It's fiction of course, because there is no longer a Yarck Primary School, but I'm saying there is. There's a new residential area, new zoning allotments put in Yarck. You never know, they might get enough kids there to open up a new school again.

"That's what this book is about. Once there was a Terip Terip school, a Ruffy school, a Gooram school, a Strathbogie school, a Merton school, and Yarck. They used to play cricket against each other, and so I've used my imagination to create this story."



Former test cricketer Ian Callen, who spent his early years living in Yarck. -BD

Sport grants to get more people involved

A NEW round of grants to upskill staff and volunteers for sports clubs are now open under the new *Sporting Club Grants Program*.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, as well as grants of up to \$4000 to help clubs deliver new programs to the community.

Clubs can also apply for grants of up to \$1000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are also available to participate in competitions away from home.

Since 2014, the *Sporting Club Grants Program* has injected almost \$18.4 million into the community and supported thousands of clubs across the state, improving the experience of local community sport for everyone involved.

The program is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* that is delivering infrastructure upgrades as well as the *Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund* to help more regional Victorians get active and be part of their local sporting club.

Applications for this round close Thursday, March 27. For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au

SPORT

Some fast bowling action with the Merton Cricket game. -S



Merton hosts City Colts

MERTON cricketers hosted City Colts from Wangaratta last Saturday in hot dry and windy conditions at the Merton Cricket Ground. Merton won the toss and batted making 7/168 with a solid 72 run opening partnership between top scorer Luke Berriman 49 and Daryl King 25 getting their team off to a good start.

City Colts bounced back restricting the Merton middle order and taking wickets

in the process. A sixth wicket partnership in the latter overs of 58 between Ross Mackinnon 29 and Josh Johnson also 29 saw a competitive score achieved by the home side although maybe a little under par on a quick dry outfield. Kent Braden 3/36 and Darcy Sanders 2/8 the Colts' better bowlers. City Colts had a few ex A graders on the team bus to Merton with opener Kent Braden taking the game away from Merton with a fine 92

with opening partner Ross Moore 28 the pair put on 77 for the first wicket. The home side bounced back taking 3/3 with Noah Whittall 3/29 and all rounder Luke Berriman 2/16 giving their team some hope for victory, however the experience of Nick Norris 35 not out saw the Colts pass Merton's total in the 34th over. Jai Lerch-Mackinnon 1/33 the other consistent bowler for the home side. Probably not quite enough runs and a few costly overs

against an experienced batting side the lesson learnt for the Merton side.

Merton have the bye next Saturday and then host the in form Rovers in the last round in the WDCA b grade competition.

Merton sit fifth on the ladder and will be hoping a few results go their way to ensure a top six finish to the season and the opportunity to play finals.

Murrindindi Little Athletics nears season finish

WITH just one week left in the 2024/25 Murrindindi Little Athletics season, it's been an action-packed journey filled with achievements, personal bests, and plenty of community spirit.

A huge congratulations to Declan Baker, Declan Armstrong, Charlotte Boulton, Levi Campbell, Chase Hilder, Clay Hilder, and Zoe Coller for qualifying for the State Track and Field Championship at Casey in Melbourne. Their dedication and hard work have paid off, and we wish them all the best as they compete at the next level on the March long weekend.

Last Saturday saw another round of Personal Best medallions handed out, with athletes pushing themselves to the limit in hopes of securing more before the season wraps up. Club records were awarded too, well done to Maverick Clacy in the 700 metre race walk, Alisha Abdulla in the 70 metre sprint, and Makayla Reece in the 60 metre hurdles.

A big shout out goes to the senior athletes for leading the warm up and demonstrating great sportsmanship and leadership for the younger kids. And, of course, none of this would be possible without the dedicated parents who arrive early to set up, stay late to pack up, and keep the club running smoothly. Special thanks to the barbecue crew, whose efforts are always appreciated by athletes and families alike.

As we head into the final week, let's finish strong and celebrate another fantastic season of Little Athletics in Murrindindi.



Gold, Silver and Bronze Personal Best medallion recipients. -S



Congratulations to Chase Hilder and Levi Campbell for breaking the Club Hurdles record last Saturday. -S



New club record-holder for the 70 metre Sprint is Alisha Abdulla. -S



New Hurdles Club record holder Malaya Reece. -S



Maverick Clacy with his club record for the 700 metre race walk. -S

Men win the Gender Challenge Round

by Alan Pell

DUE to the races on Sunday there was no Saturday Golf. The last round of the Gender Challenge was last Wednesday, the men finished up winners over the nine rounds by just 25 points.

Twelve matches saw Caroline Webber, Margie Wright, Miranda Gill, Jan Wealands, and Cindy Armstrong have wins for the ladies, while for the men, Bob Glenister, Peter Johnston, Russ Wealands, Brendan Chenhall, and Chris Keogh had wins. There were two tied matches. Di Holdsworth was nearest the pin on the 14th and Stuart Jarvis won the club award.

Miranda Gill (18) with 40 points was the daily winner. She also won the inaugural Mary Walker Trophy donated by the Quinlan Family. Second was Brian Priestley (29) with 39 points but due to handicap his score did not register with the Gender Challenge. Next was Cindy Armstrong (27) on countback from Peter Johnston (16) and Russ Wealands (25) all on 35 points. Fifth in the Gender Challenge was Margie Wright on countback from Phil Armstrong (21) and Allan Coates (9) all on 34 points. The team average went to the Ladies 30.9 to 29.3. The individual matches saw 60 points going to both teams. The girls won 60 of the 85 points available on the daily results, just finishing short overall with 435 to the boys 460.



The Gender Challenge was underway last Wednesday. -S



A great catch up at the end of the day. -S



Miranda Gill won the inaugural Mary Walker Trophy. -S



Racegoers at last year's event. -S

Alexandra Race Club's 2025 Cathedral Cup is coming

RECORD prize money of \$10,000 is offered for the 2025 Alexandra Race Club on Saturday, March 15. As the Victorian Picnic Season draws to a close and horse vie for a win, every race will be very keen and exciting.

The Alexandra Race Club is very grateful to Cathedral Golf Club for sponsoring the Cup again this year. In celebration of golf, between races, kids of all ages, can test their skill on a mini golf course. Members of several local public golf clubs will attend as guests of the club.

Other sponsors include E. Hadfield Contracting, Rubicon Hotel Motel, ATTA, Darlingford Waters Boat Club and Bet 365.

In addition to big horse racing there will be pony rides for little people as well as face painting and the wonder of Marqo the Magician. There is fun for all the family and everyone can enjoy the beautiful R & B music of Soloman and Lacey.

In recognition of current economic conditions, Racing Victoria is providing a free \$10 food voucher as part of its "Lunch is on Us" Campaign to the first 100 people to book their entry online through country.racing.com

Those lucky people will receive their voucher on entry. Several vendors will be present to accepted the voucher.

Please be aware that a No BYO policy was introduced at Alexandra Race Club this season. Year by year the liquor licensing rules around BYO tightened till it became too difficult for volunteers to oversee. The club decided that No BYO was the only way we could comply. The bar is reasonably priced, the range of drinks is good and the profits are ploughed back into the club. BYO can still be arranged by group organisers who must speak to the secretary six weeks prior to race day and apply for a temporary liquor licence. Such groups must then locate in the marquee area, obtain a \$90 licence and have an RSA bar person serving.

Again TAC and the club are providing buses to the races from Eildon and Marysville. The routes are designed so everyone in major towns and caravan parks can be picked up conveniently. Bookings are essential and there is a \$10 fee for a return ticket. Children 15 and under ride free but they need a ticket too. Book online via country.racing.com and see the pick up points and times. To ensure your arrive at the races and home again safely, book your bus ticket. Expect this service every meeting, every season from now on.

Gate open at 11am. General admission is \$20, Concession is \$15, Children 15 and under are free.

Squash players charged on caffeine

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition

Affogato versus Mocha

ERIC versus Ethan: Eric's returns and play have improved to create some points and rallies. However, Ethan's strong serve won him the match. 74 to 31.

Lee versus Chris: An even contest. Both players had good placement, but Lee edged ahead in the final game to take the match. 56 to 52.

Jared versus Simon: The majority of the match was tight, but a blow out in game two saw Jared behind by twenty points. This was unrecoverable and Simon stayed in front to win the match. 67 to 53.

Derrick versus Jim (fill in): Derrick was hitting shots between the legs often for the point of the pennant. Jim never gave in, but Derrick still claimed the victory. 58 to 50.

Cappuccino versus Latte

LOCHLAN versus Jordan: Lochlan has been improving his strokes and gave his opponent a scare. After taking a five point lead at the halfway point, Jordan lost the third and only just managed to claw back the win in the fourth game. 55 to 53.

James G (fill in) versus Jess (fill in): An evenly matched game with great hitting, consistent shots and good rallies all round. Jess nudged ahead in the end to take victory by a mere two points.

Michael M versus Justin (fill in): A fiercely frenetic fight. Both players missed targets early on and the score was deadlocked after two games. Michael rediscovered some long lost form and applied relentless pressure causing mistakes in Justins game. This was more evident in the final game and saw Michael take home the match with a twenty point lead. 68 to 48



Simon lines up his backhand to return Jared's shot -S

Thursday Competition

Chai versus Rooibos

RANDY versus James S: The first game was quite close as the players warmed up. James came out firing on all cylinder in the second game to win with a good lead and continued his good form to the end of the match. James was victorious. 77 to 49.

Sam versus Blake: Blake fought hard throughout the match. But Sam's placement was just too good and earned him a commanding victory. 90 to 33

Jim versus Daniel K: Daniel toyed with Jim for the first three games. Firing up to take final game by sixteen points, Daniel went home with a resounding win. 57 to 30.

Darjeeling versus Oolong

BETH versus Jess: Both players had beautiful serves into the back corners. Jess had a bit more spring in her step carrying her around the court to take the win. 64 to 50.

Rob versus Kristelle: A close game to start was instantly followed by a land slide for Rob, winning the second game with a thirteen-point win. Kristelle kept the next two games close, but her flat feet in the second game secured her loss. Rob won. 70 to 53.

Phil versus Daniel W (fill in): A competitive match. Daniel won the first and fourth games, while Phil took the second and third games. Neither wanted to lose but only one could prevail. Phil was the victor. 59 to 56.



*The end of race 6, the Thompson Racing Open Trophy Race Handicap 1600m.
More images on page 13. -Dale McKeon,
Plymouth Dale Photos*

Yea Racing 2024-25 season finishes with St Pats Cup

THE final meeting of the 2024-25 Yea Racing season took place last Sunday, with the Sister Olive St Pats Cup attended by over 700 people.

There were two millimetres of rain overnight on the Saturday, though it didn't affect the track on race day.

Eight Shout's was the winning horse for the 3000-metre race, ridden by jockey Sebastian Galea and trained by Troy Kilgower. This was followed by *Peace Process*, ridden by Ben Moffat, and *All Too Creedy*, ridden by Shaun Cooper, rounding out the podium.

Race one (1600 metre) winner was *Downtown Man*, ridden by Melinda McDonald. Race two (1600 metre) winning horse was *Smart Ace*, ridden by Shaun Cooper. Race three (1300 metre) winner was *Annoy'en One* ridden by Sebastian Galea again.

Race four (1200 metre) winner was *Bonsafox* ridden by Dylan Dean. Race five was the St Pats Cup, and the race six (1600 metre) winner was *Lord Cat* ridden by Craig Kirkpatrick.

With the final race at Yea for 2024-25 over and done with, Yea Racing President Al Tait reported it's been a great season and thanked the various community organisations involved with running the race meets throughout the year.

"Sacred Heart Primary School had another successful day in the canteen, and with their Devonshire tea. Rotary managed the carpark for the year and the gate. The Yea Football Netball Club helped by doing the bar all year," Al said.

"Thankyou to the track maintenance people, the committee, the volunteers. Everyone worked hard all year. Middle of October to February a lot of work had to go into keeping the track ready for four meetings, which was a lot of work from the track maintenance people.

"All in all it's been a terrific 2024-25 season. We have to be happy with our season. We've had a great year," he finished.



Jo, Judi, Steve and Paul. -AR



Denise, Wendy and Jenny, all from Melbourne. -AR