

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, March 5, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Dindi Daze draws a crowd



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New school leaders for Yea Primary



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Jameson descendants reunite at family home in Yea

by Bailey Dixon

SOME members of the Jameson family were reunited last Sunday at the family home in Oliver Street, Yea, for their ninth annual Jameson cousin's reunion.

The family have a long and proud history that includes much association with the

Yea township, with the reunion for the descendants of Michael Jameson, the fifth son of Hugh Jameson.

Alma Smith, who grew up in the house in Oliver Street and moved back into it when her parents passed, was a big part of the reunion. She is a well-known face around the

Yea township, with herself, her siblings, and parents Michael and Alma Jameson being part of local sport, the church, and various other community endeavours in Yea.

In the book of their family history, *The Jameson family in Australia: An Irish heritage*, written by Barry William Norton,

great grandson of Hugh Jameson, the full genealogical history of the family is traced.

"The Jameson family grew up in Yea in country Victoria, and while many later came to the city for work, they all still have a fond and firm attachment to their country beginnings," the book says.

The history of the family began with Hugh Jameson migrating to Australia from Ireland during the gold rush of the 1850s. He spent some time moving around NSW and Victoria, before moving to Beechworth in 1875.

There he met Annie Katherine Loftus, and the two were married on Friday, October 15, 1875. Their marriage produced nine children: Alexander, Kathleen, William, Rose, William, Hugh, Michael, Andrew and Thomas. Of these, only the second William, Hugh, Michael and Andrew lived past the age of six.

The family moved to Alexandra in late 1888, where Hugh continued his career as a Cobb and Co coach driver, driving the route from Mansfield to Kilmore as well as through Alexandra to Eildon.

The *Alexandra and Yea Chronicle* on Friday, April 18, 1890, reported a coach accident on page three.

"As Wednesday's afternoon coach from Molesworth was approaching Johnson's Creek, one of the traces [what attaches the horse to the carriage] gave way, causing the horses to become unmanageable. They bolted, and leaving the track, took the coach at full speed clear over a gap or pit in the road, the shock of its descent on the other side causing the driver (Hugh Jameson) to lose his seat and precipitating him with great force onto the ground," the article reads.

"Mr Wheeler proceeded to where the unfortunate man was lying and examined Jameson, who was in great pain, but less severely injured, apparently, than could have been expected."



The Jameson family met in Yea for their ninth annual reunion. Pictured are various members of the family and different generations. Alma Smith, a well-known face in Yea, sits in the middle. -BD

Continued Page 3

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

43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 57721002
email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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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The Yea Chronicle

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Letters to the Editor

How to Save Money on Your Power Bill

MY January electricity bill was \$110. This included the service charge of \$34.12, so the power was only \$75.88. This is because I didn't need to turn my air conditioner on. I have an electric oven and an electric cook top. Instead, I planted trees, vines and understory plants all round my house, and its paying off in dollars.

Ruth Selover, Alexandra

Duck hunting awareness training

READING the new Victorian government's GMA Duck Hunting Training in this newspaper, it looks like someone wearing a large White Guilt button badge has decided that it is so integral to hunting ducks that part of that requirement is an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness component.

It beggars the imagination on how Indigenous mythology relates to humane ways to harvest a duck.

Anyway its irrelevant as the wetlands will be drained, birdlife and wildlife scattered and pristine farmland and bushland destroyed by wind-driven electricity generator parks anyway despite cultural awareness. So sustainable duck hunting will drift into folklore among desecrated landscapes.

Malcolm Price, Alexandra

Anzac Day

I NEED to express my anger and disappointment after reading a Letter to the Editor that appeared in last week's edition, written by Robyn Walsh of Yarck. I am a proud Australian whose grandfather fought and was injured in the Gallipoli campaign.

I am insulted by your comments Robyn, as would all the families of the 50,000 Australians who fought in Gallipoli which resulted in 26,111 casualties of which 8000 never returned to our shores. You want us not to continue to acknowledge and thank them on Anzac Day? Unbelievable.

Wayne Miller, Alexandra

Anzac Day

HOW dare you put down the Australians who fought for our country, and your comment about removing Anzac Day saying Gallipoli was far away from our shores. That maybe so but there have been many more closer to our shores since then. The comradeship and sacrifices set in Gallipoli still exist today. Aborigines also fought for this country too and some of them paid the supreme sacrifice. If not for this, we would not have the freedom that we have today. Many of us have had returned soldiers in our families and most of us are glad to remember their sacrifices on Anzac Day each year. So hands off Anzac Day.

Lest we forget.

Pat Collier, Alexandra

Weekly Weather

March 5 - March 11, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
	Wednesday	15	33		Wednesday	16	34	
	Thursday	15	30		Thursday	15	29	
	Friday	15	31		Friday	15	31	
	Saturday	19	31		Saturday	19	32	
	Sunday	18	28		Sunday	19	29	
	Monday	17	29		Monday	16	29	
	Tuesday	14	26		Tuesday	13	26	

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

THUMBS UP

THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To council for the community consultation session on Tuesday, February 25, and especially to Ben for his leadership, sense of humour, understanding of the need for everyone to have a say, and his good listening skills. However, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating.

THUMBS DOWN: Not sure how Anzac Day is relevant to land theft. The Anzacs committed to protect the land with their lives for the benefit of the whole population not restricting access for all but some.

THUMBS UP: To Robyn and those who want to cancel Australia Day and Anzac Day. Let's just roll all our public holidays into one day that says it all, April the first.

THUMBS DOWN: To a local community member whose letter to the editor in last week's edition said in part, 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. Shame on you.

THUMBS UP: To Robyn Walsh of Yarck for her great letter of the February 26. It gave me a chuckle and pointed out that we should take back the word 'woke'. If being woke is caring for and cherishing others in our lives, society, history and around the world, then woke is one of the best things to be. I'm with her on Anzac Day too; you can't have it both ways. We either remember nothing of our past or everything, even if it's unsavoury.

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

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	2.41	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.38	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.42am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.48am Mon	0.08	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	5.39am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	11.56am Mon	0.06	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	4.22	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.27	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	11.15am Mon	-0.01	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	2.00	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	2.18	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2025				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	0mm
Buxton.....	0mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0mm
Flowerdale.....	0mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake.....	N/Amm
Lake Eildon.....	0mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty	0mm
Yarck	0mm
Yea.....	N/Amm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	281.24m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	72.1%
Metres below full supply.....	7.66m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release.....	7500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	66%

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

Dindi Daze draws a crowd

THE inaugural Dindi Daze took place last Saturday in Rotary Park in Alexandra, designed to highlight all that is good in Murrindindi Shire.

Running from 10am to 6pm, the event saw market stalls, children's activities, a petting zoo, live music and business awards, making it a day-out for many families.

Local police and CFA were in attendance to show off their equipment, and a number of classic cars parked on Grant Street for people to admire.

Uncle Ian Hunter performed traditional Aboriginal music, stories and dance, much to the delight of the children in attendance.

Live music acts in the afternoon included Tayla Arnett, Backo, Szara Fox and Andrew Darling, and Steve Paix and James Whybrow.

Alexandra Rotary Club presented business awards to four Murrindindi businesses around midday, including Grant Street Grocer, CountryTech, Alexandra Newspapers, and Ann Friedel Publishing.

One of the main organisers of the event, Ian Smith from the Rotary Club of Alexandra, spoke about how the event was designed to give back to the Murrindindi Shire community.

"Business awards are at midday, and that's recognising local Murrindindi businesses. It's a very community focused event. We've got a raffle at 5pm, and we're selling tickets to support victims of domestic violence," Ian said.

"This is being supported by Rotary, and Rotary has put money into this event, as has the Murrindindi Shire Council. We're not looking at this as a fundraiser. This is to celebrate all that's good in Murrindindi.

"There's no gold coin entry, it's free entry. A petting zoo for all the kids, that's free. Face painting is all free. The music's all free. We're really celebrating everything that's good in the region. People that are doing it tough are not going to find a financial barrier to coming along," he finished.



Steve and Sam Collins enjoying the live music and food on offer at Dindi Daze. More images on page 14. -BD

Firewood collection areas open in state forests from March 1

VICTORIANS will be able to collect free firewood for personal use from designated state forest firewood collection areas from March 1, 2025.

The autumn firewood season ends on June 30, 2025, but collectors are reminded individual collection areas may close earlier if there is no more firewood available.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Director of Forest and Fire Operations, Aaron Kennedy, urged collectors to play it safe and check local weather conditions as well as their planned route before heading into the forest.

"When collecting, please drive only on formed roads, be aware of the environment around you and the safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning," he said.

Mr Kennedy said people can collect up to two cubic metres per person per day with a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year. He encouraged people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to plan for their needs early. Collected firewood cannot be sold.

"Firewood needs at least eight to 12 months to cure and must be dry before use."

Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who need to buy firewood: ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support

Find your local collection area and information about collecting firewood at ffm.vic.gov.au

vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region

Maps will be live from midnight, Saturday, March 1. An interactive map includes details about vehicle access, while pdf maps include safety and other practical information.

Within designated collection areas, collectors can collect and cut wood that is on the ground due to natural fall or forest and fire management works. Heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a tree, living or dead.

Wood will be of varying sizes and may not be the same quality as the firewood sold by a commercial cutter. A wheelbarrow may be needed to transport wood to the vehicle as it cannot leave tracks.

"Most people do the right thing and stick to the collection limits, but people should know authorised officers from the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria will be patrolling to catch those who aren't," Mr Kennedy said.

Authorised Officers can issue fines of more than \$769 to those caught breaking the firewood collection rules. More serious offending can result in maximum penalties of \$9879 and/or 12 months in prison. Authorised Officers can also seize chainsaws, trailers, vehicles, and equipment that's used in the commission of offending.

Community members can find out more about collecting firewood and report any suspected illegal firewood collection by calling 136 186.

Road maintenance and repair spend

THE long-awaited Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) Freedom of Information request has finally been approved, with some surprising results.

We were seeking "The total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in the smallest increment (ie. region) which includes Murrindindi Shire, across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years."

We were provided with the following expenditure for the Hume region:

2014/15	- \$54.8m
2015/16	- \$49.4m
2016/17	- \$49.3m
2017/18	- \$78.3m
2018/19	- \$62.5m
2019/20	- \$89.1m
2020/21	- \$108.8m
2021/22	- \$103.5m
2022/23	- \$100.4m
2023/24	- \$164.2m

These results were particularly suprising, given the number of potholes on our roads.

Jameson descendants reunite at family home in Yea

Continued from Page 1

Shortly after the accident, the family made the move to Yea, the largest town in the region at the time. Hugh began working as a miner at the Ti Tree Creek gold mine in 1891, though all the alluvial gold had already been found at this point.

In 1898, Hugh died from Ileitis, inflammation of the small intestine, possibly still from the effects of the coach accident years earlier. He was buried in the Yea Cemetery.

Michael Jameson, the fifth son of Hugh and Annie, spent almost 62 years of his life working in the E.S. Purcell and Co. general store in Yea, which was owned by the Purcell family, some of the best-known early residents of Yea.

The premises that housed the general store are now preserved by the National Trust, with the store currently operating as 'Marmalades' in Yea.

Michael's eldest son, Andrew, completed his apprenticeship as a printer in the 1930s for the *Yea Chronicle*, back in the days when it was owned by F.G. Purcell.

Andrew later went on to marry Claire Elizabeth Hunt in 1954, and she is still alive today. Born in 1923, Claire currently resides in Seymour, and is 102 years old.

The Jameson family lineage continued. Michael Jameson married Alma Mary Ottery in 1913, and they had nine children: Fanny, Andrew, Mavis, William, Lydia, Michael, Neil, Leslie, and Alma, who was present at the family reunion last Sunday.

From here the children of the second generation of the Jameson family married and had children of their own, leading to a safe and secure legacy for the family.

The full story of the Jameson family can be found in Barry Norton's book, *The Jameson family in Australia: An Irish heritage*, which can be borrowed from the Yea Library.

William Matthews Funerals



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Correction

IN the photographs of the Yea Races last week, one of the images identified John Sinclair as standing next to Denis Smith. The person was in face Leonard Sheahan.

Alexandra Museum & Steam Train Rides



Open Saturday March 9,
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
or by contacting 0427 509 988

McCORMACK FUNERALS

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Obligation free appointments
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Bradley, Sam and Carly with some of the rubbish they collected last Sunday for Clean Up Australia Day. -BD

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.

Latitude37 pubs collect rubbish in Yea and Molesworth

STAFF of Latitude37 pubs were out in force on Sunday for Clean Up Australia Day, making an effort to collect rubbish in both the Yea and Molesworth townships.

Armed with gloves, vests and rubbish bags provided by Clean Up Australia, staff filled bags with random junk and litter left in parks around Yea and on the rail trail in Molesworth.

They met back at the Country Club Hotel in Yea afterwards to consolidate their rubbish for disposal, and to enjoy a bite to eat.

More information about Clean Up Australia Day can be found at cleanup.org.au



Joy and Mick with the rubbish that they collected in Molesworth, including random car parts. -BD



Carly with little Stella, both resplendent in high-vis clean up gear. -BD

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

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*.

gov.au/gmss for more details.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Marysville Market is on from 9am-1pm. All your favourite stalls, home made cakes, local honey, plants and more.

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 one of the pop up sessions and chat about solar energy, batteries, heat pumps and split systems. Learn how they work and more. Kinglake FoodWorks. Visit murrindindi.vic.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Alexandra races is on again. 2025 Alexandra Cup. Fun for all the family. Mini golf, music, magic and more. Gates open at noon. First race at 1.15pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Murrindindi Little Aths AGM and presentation night will be held at 5.30pm at Rotary Park in the barbecue area.

WHAT'S ON?



Sponsors, supporters, volunteers and members of the Alexandra Community Hub team at the launch event. -AR

New vehicle for Murrindindi Shire learner drivers

LAST Wednesday various community organisations and members came together to celebrate Alexandra Community Hub's new L2P car.

The new car, a silver MG sports utility vehicle (SUV) adorned with the branding of Alexandra Community Hub (ACH) as well as the various organisations who supported the purchase, will provide learner drivers in Murrindindi Shire with an opportunity to develop their driving skills.

ACH Manager and Coordinator Sue Sedelies made a speech at the morning tea to those in attendance. She spoke about the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P program both as a whole and within Murrindindi Shire.

The L2P program was inherited by ACH from Berry Street and has seen 157 learner drivers participate from 2009 to February 2025. There have been 66 mentors locally, around 4382 hours of driving, and 83 learners that have successfully become P platers under the program.

Sue spoke about how Murrindindi Shire can be a challenging area for learner drivers to obtain the experience they require, but that the L2P program can help with that.

"The program helps shape young people into lifelong safe drivers," Sue said.

Part of the requirements for the L2P program is that the car used must be under 10 years old, have a manual handbrake, and

have a certain ANCAP safety rating. This is the reason why ACH upgraded their L2P car to the new MG, as their old car had reached the age cut-off.

The community groups that helped fund the purchase of the new car alongside ACH were Alexandra Rotary, the Alexandra Country Women's Association, Foundation Murrindindi, and the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival. Murrindindi Shire Council supported the purchase with a grant as well.

If people are keen to find out more about the L2P program, or what else the Alexandra Community Hub offers, contact them on 5772 1238 or email admin@alexhub.com.au



Sue Sedelies with the specially decorated cake, shared at the launch event. -AR

KINDER YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find a three and four-year old kinder learning program they can count on.

1

LED BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER

The Kinder Tick recognises kinder programs that are led by a qualified teacher.

2

PLAY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

It highlights kindergartens and long day care centres that offer play-based programs to help children learn and grow, before they start school.

3

FUNDED AND APPROVED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

It also identifies services that are approved for Victorian Government funding.

LOOK FOR THE KINDER TICK

KINDERGARTEN

Victorian Government Approved

Find out more at vic.gov.au/kindertick

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from last week.

Keep up the great work Harry, Zara, Pippa, Holly, Oliver and Elias.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Josh, Patrick and Ivy 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



Free kinder kits for new kindergarteners

THE Victorian Government is giving a free Kinder Kit to every child starting three-year-old kindergarten, full of books, toys and stationery to help children get their best start in life.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes unveiled this year's Kinder Kits, which over 2500 children starting three-year-old kinder in the Northern Victoria region this year will receive.

"Kinder Kits are a helping hand at a time when every dollar counts. It's about giving children the best possible foundation for life. By providing these Kinder Kits, we're reinforcing the message that every child deserves access to the resources that support their learning and development," Ms Symes said.

Families have enough to worry about, and the cost of early learning materials shouldn't be one of them. Kinder Kits ensure that all children can enjoy the benefits of Free Kinder, with engaging activities that set them up for a lifetime of learning.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn spoke about the financial benefit of Kinder Kits.

"Victorian families are feeling the pinch, and every little bit helps. That's why we're supporting kids of get the best start to life with these free kinder kits and saving families up to \$2600 a year with Free Kinder," Ms Blandthorn said.

"With the cost of living rising, many parents are forced to make tough choices about where their money goes. The Kinder Kits ensure that

every child, no matter their background, has access to fun, engaging, and educational tools that support their development."

When children and families open their kits, they can get creative with playdough, draw with crayons, play with stacking blocks, plant alfalfa seeds and practice reading with stories from Australian authors. This year's Kinder Kits double as a backpack which can be opened into a felt playing surface for imaginative play.

Other fun, educational items for children include timber story rollers, a colouring book, a jumping frog game, a card game exploring maths concepts, and felt stickers that can be used to create stories on the backpack's lining.

Since 2022, the state government has given 227,000 families Kinder Kits, which are one

of the ways we're bringing families together by encouraging an interest in their child's learning. They can be used anywhere whether it's at home, the park or brought along to visits with friends and family.

Every item in the kits is recommended by education experts to support learning through play. More than 50 Victorian businesses have contributed to the kits since 2022, with products made, designed or printed in Victoria, written by a Victorian author, or produced by a Victorian business.

Kinder Kits are part of Victoria's *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, which are transforming early childhood education, saving families money and supporting parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.



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



Ella, Olympia, Patrick, Max, Ivy and Ainslie. -S

Mini Vinnies at Sacred Heart Primary

AT Sacred Heart School in Yea, students are continuing the proud tradition of Mini Vinnies, a junior branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mini Vinnies encourages young people to make a difference in their community through acts of kindness, fundraising, and service projects.

The Mini Vinnies movement has a long history of empowering children to see, think, and do good for others. It helps students develop empathy and leadership skills while fostering a strong sense of social justice.

This year, Mini Vinnies at Sacred Heart is introducing a new initiative, the 'Caught in the Act' award. This special recognition celebrates students who are spotted by their

peers doing acts of kindness, generosity or outstanding service.

Whether it's helping a friend in need, standing up for someone, or showing extra care for our environment, these small but significant actions will be acknowledged and celebrated.

Through Mini Vinnies, students continue to learn that even the smallest act of kindness can have a big impact. With their enthusiasm and compassion, 2025 promises to be another inspiring year of service and community spirit at Sacred Heart.

The school's 2025 leaders are Patrick Kelly and Ivy Lanigan who are joined by class representatives Ainslie Barry, Max Drew, Ella Toulson and Olympia Manning.



The 2025 school captains and vice captains at Yea Primary School. Indie-Lee Kleine, Stella Jolly, Harper Neilson, and Oscar Cunningham. -S



Yea Primary's Nelawon House captains Evie Madden and Darby Tait, with Jonah Maclean-Tato (vice captain). -S



The Barramul House captains Tommy Allen and Isla Anstey, with Mikaela Mann (vice captain). -S



The Bandiyl House captains, Elias Salloum and Bella Wood, with Chloe Martin (vice captain). -S

New school leaders and house captains for Yea Primary

YEA Primary School announced the new grade six leaders at a recent assembly. The school particularly thanked Councillor Sue Carpenter from Murrindindi Shire Council, and Jacinta Byers, Principal of Yea High School, for attending the event and being a part of celebrating the new leaders.



The Goorbil House captains, Kalliyan Wallace and Sienna Duncan. -S

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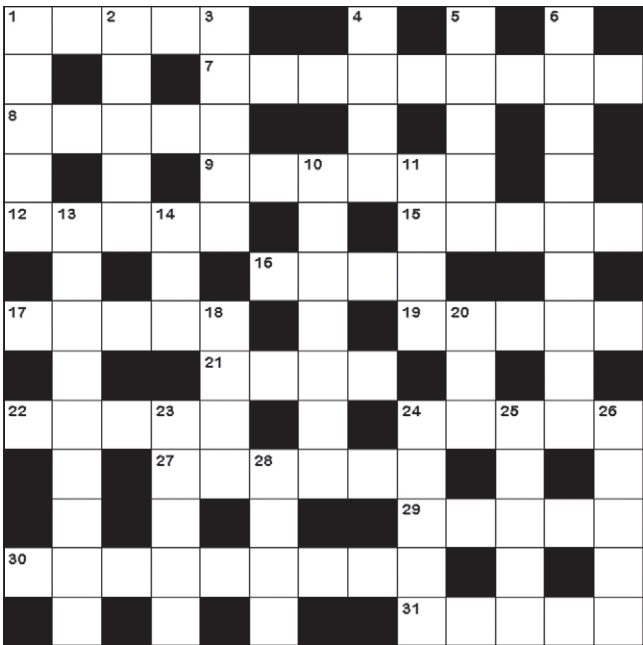
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 10

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Type of paper for plotting charts.
- 7. The earliest known inhabitants of a region.
- 8. An utter fool.
- 9. The dead body of a human being.
- 12. The soft moist part of a fruit.
- 15. Acquire knowledge or skills.
- 16. A complex system of paths or tunnels.
- 17. Internal organs of a butchered animal.
- 19. Consume alcohol.
- 21. Too dry to support vegetation.
- 22. Feel grief over a death.
- 24. Let sit in boiling water to extract the flavour.
- 27. A public promotion of a product.
- 29. Rigorously strict and severe.
- 30. A real or imagined cause for complaint.
- 31. A raised mark on the skin.



DOWN

- 1. Intense sorrow caused by loss.
- 2. Moving quickly and lightly.
- 3. Emerge from an egg.
- 4. Miss a step and stumble or fall.
- 5. Both hold a similar opinion.
- 6. The ability to cope with hardship and stress.
- 10. Come to understand.
- 11. A vehicle for coasting over snow.
- 13. Food remaining from a previous meal.
- 14. A resort area having mineral springs.
- 18. The solid part of the earth's surface.
- 20. Stuck in a boring routine.
- 23. Torn down and completely destroyed.
- 24. Scatter around here and there.
- 25. A large bird of prey.
- 26. A lever that is operated with the foot.
- 28. Meat from a calf.
- 20. Something additional.

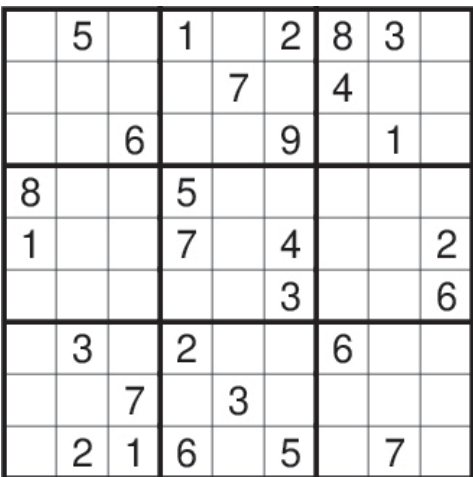
Word Search

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

BLUES	KANGAROOS
BOMBERS	LIONS
CROWS	MAGPIES
DOCKERS	SAINTS
EAGLES	SWANS
HAWKS	TIGERS

Sudoku

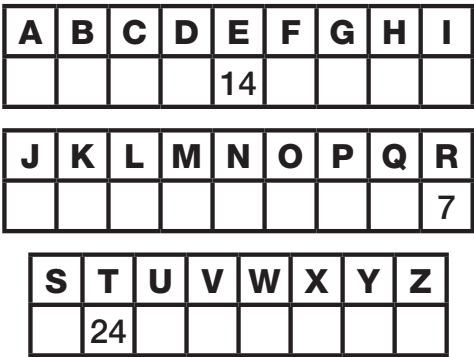


Difficulty: Very Hard

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

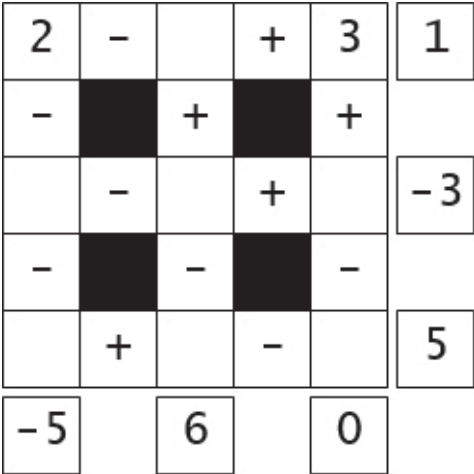
Cryptogram

AFL



$$\begin{array}{r} T \quad E \\ 24 \quad 15 \quad 23 \quad 14 \quad 15 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} R \quad E \quad E \quad R : \\ 9 \quad 4 \quad 7 \quad 14 \quad 15 \quad 5 \quad 14 \quad 7 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} T \quad T \quad E \\ 24 \quad 17 \quad 24 \quad 15 \quad 23 \quad 14 \quad 15 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} R \quad E \quad T \quad R \\ 26 \quad 7 \quad 14 \quad 15 \quad 24 \quad 5 \quad 15 \quad 7 \quad 23 \end{array}$$

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.



Dr Ananda-Rajah MP with Ian Marshman, Elizabeth Sinclair and Luke James. -S

Federal MP explores healthcare services in Yea

FEDERAL MP Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah, Member for Higgins, visited Yea and District Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, February 26.

She explained in an interview that she visited in her capacity as a member of the Parliamentary Health Committee, a committee which is interested in all aspects of health and wellbeing, and the services that provide that care.

She said, "I'm doing an exploratory visit through the regions. I've been to quite a few, places now, ranging from Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Mansfield and now Yea, to talk to people about their needs.

She added, "I am part of an inquiry which is looking into alcohol and drug use, which is a taboo within a taboo, if you like, within mental health, and it's important that we have regional voices contributing to this inquiry, and I would strongly encourage people to make a submission on the Parliament website.

She said that she was very impressed with Yea hospital and Rosebank Hostel. On a smaller scale, it's an example of integrated care and what can be possible for integrated care, and what that means for local small regional communities, because not only does it provide acute clinical care, in the sense of emergency medicine, but also aged care services, and it's also a sanctuary site, so in times of distress, whether it be natural disasters or emergencies, it's evident that people gravitate to the Yea hospital, which suggests that these places are actually very highly regarded, that they've got a trust built up overtime with the community. They are community hubs effectively. I think that's something that is unique to regional communities."

She added, "One thing I was very impressed with was this the sale yards program. This is an example of community outreach, where they're trying to reach into a cohort of people, farmers specifically, who have been historically resistant to presenting for care, and when they do present, they tend to present late. This is a great example again of a trusted provider in the community, with deep roots in the community, reaching out and identifying a gap and coming up with a solution that has been widely embraced by the people here."

With an election expected shortly, Dr Ananda-Rajah was asked about what election commitments Labor is making with regard to healthcare, in addition to an uplift in GP services being bulk billed.

She said, "This really builds upon a successful measure that we brought in a year ago, where we tripled what called bulk billing incentives for children up to 16 year old as well as concession card holders and pensioners. This has been running for about a year and we've been monitoring and watching closely and it's been a success. We've seen a two per cent uplift in bulk billing across the country and now, over 100,000 extra bulk billed consultations per week occurring because of this one change, so now what we're doing is we're effectively saying, great, we've trialled it, it's worked. Now we want to expand it to everyone and so we're underwriting it with an \$8.5 billion downpayment."

She said that she was particularly interested in seeing the impact that this has on regional areas.

One of the challenges of living in regional areas however is that there is a doctor shortage. Ms Ananda-Rajah was asked what actions will be put into place to increase the number of doctors in regional areas.

She noted that in Yea, it's effectively a nurse-run emergency department, which uses Telehealth to connect with the city hospitals. She said, "Part of this package which has just been announced includes skilling up 2000 doctors. It's not just about scaling up doctors or creating spaces for doctors. You've got to actually have those doctors trained in the regions, end-to-end for these programs, for them to stay there and see it as a career down the track. So in that regard, we've already funded 160 regional places."

There are 30 medical students completing their training in Ararat and Warrnambool, for example.

She also noted, "Having doctors work and stay and live in the regions has been a problem since I was in medical school. I think it's a hard nut but we have to try to crack it."

More broadly in the regions, she said that "Workforce is by far probably the biggest challenge, but I've also seen some examples where, because the quality of care and the culture is so great in some of these settings, whether they be in Yea hospital, Rosebank Hostel or an aged care facility, after an hour that they have this ability to attract and retain people. I think there is something to be said for small ventures, providing such a great experience for their workers that they are then able to poach them from Melbourne. I think going forward, I would really like us to look at how we can link these places up so that we can create a community of practice where they can share their ideas and their learnings with each other and then feed it up the food chain."

Dr Ananda-Rajah was also keen to talk about women's health. "We haven't talked about women's health for a very long time," she said. "I'm really pleased that we've put in over half a billion dollars towards better, cheaper oral contraceptives, putting them onto the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), a couple of them. We're putting a bunch of menopause medications on the PBS. That will save women hundreds of dollars a year. And we're also training up doctors to put in IUDs and the implanted birth control. That's important because when it comes to contraception, the implants are more effective than the oral contraceptive pill, and yet Australia has been lagging behind other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in uptake. We haven't had it on the PBS, and we haven't had enough skilled professionals who can actually put these in and take them out."

On a final note, Dr Ananda-Rajah said, "I think that people should, particularly if you've grown up and trained in the city, look seriously at moving up the regions. Some of the places I've been to are not that far away, we're talking about one and a half or two hours away from Melbourne and there is a lot to offer here... Whether you be a nurse or allied health professional or a doctor, you are going to be valued by the local community."



Let's eat, it's our treat

Re-opening of award-winning restaurant 'Turbine' at Trawool Estate



The 'Turbine' restaurant at Trawool Estate. -S

TRAWOOL Estate is celebrating the re-opening of their restaurant *Turbine*, with Executive Chef Sam Wills creating Mediterranean inspired delicacies in the atmospheric space.

A speakeasy style restaurant, *Turbine* focuses on vibe and experience, pairing good company with traditional tapas and palatable beverages. It won an award for Best Regional Restaurant in 2022, and is now re-opening with fresh pizzazz.

"It's a decadent cocktail bar where whoever you are there with, you just want to spend time with them, eat great food, drink great drinks and have a wonderful time," Amanda Smith from Trawool Estate said.

"You can shut yourself off from the world and have a great dining experience, that is the kind of place it is."

Turbine is lamplit and classically styled with an elegant bar, and seats around 40 people. The restaurant is not designed for young children but rather for adults to relax and enjoy themselves.

"It's amazing down there, very dark and different to the rest of Trawool Estate. It's a vibrant space, not the place you'd go for a quiet dinner, the vibe is more upbeat," Amanda said.

Speaking about the flair that Executive Chef Sam Wills brings to *Turbine*, Amanda said that "His history is Mediterranean. He's British, but he grew up in Spain, so that's where he started cooking and learnt about being a chef."

"The restaurant is a tapas restaurant. It's the perfect kind of food to have down there as well, when you're having cocktails, it can be nice to have a little bit or go full on and have everything on the menu."

The re-opening of *Turbine* means there are now four different areas to dine in Trawool Estate. *Wild Water Restaurant* features fine dining, while the *Granite Bar* is a more casual drinking and dining space where you can even enjoy a game on the TV. The *Herb Garden* pizzeria is the outdoor section of Trawool Estate and is only open in summer.

Turbine is currently only open on Fridays, but this will change to Fridays and Saturdays once March concludes.

The menu itself will also change somewhat regularly, with the chef's selection being an option and variety adding uniqueness to numerous visits. *Turbine* can also cater to dietary requirements and bookings are essential.

For full details about *Turbine*, visit the Trawool Estate website at trawoolstate.com.au/whatson/turbine



An example of the type of delicacies created by chef Sam Wills. -S



An Electric Daisy cocktail created at 'Turbine', perfect for relaxing and enjoying a Friday evening. -S

Congratulations Bruce

THE winner of our February Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Bruce Wilson from Alexandra. Bruce will be having a \$50 feed on us at Keppel Cafe in Marysville. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat.



Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

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Venue of your choice.....

(A business advertised on this page in this edition only)

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Thursday, March 27.

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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 advertised in this edition are eligible to be chosen. Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.

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The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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Mobile coverage obligation a step forward for rural Australia

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomed the recent announcement that the Federal Government has committed to introducing a Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO).

If enshrined by legislation, the world-first proposal means telecommunications companies will be legally bound to guarantee basic, outdoor voice and text mobile coverage across every corner of Australia.

NFF President David Jochinke, who attended the announcement at the NSW Rural Fire Service HQ, said the obligation would both create and safeguard a right for every Australian to access basic calls and text services from any location.

This announcement is made possible due to Low Earth Orbit Satellites (LEOSats) and the arrival of 'Direct to Device' technology.

"Mobile black spots are a huge source of frustration for people in the bush. Coverage gaps can compromise safety and make it harder to run a business," Mr Jochinke said.

"This new obligation will ensure that the safety of rural Australians, and their access to basic mobile services, cannot be put in the too-hard basket.

"This levels the playing field in a big way, making outdoor mobile coverage universally accessible, regardless of where you live, or which phone company you're with.

"Every Australian will feel safer knowing that with the right handset, they can call triple zero from anywhere they can see the sky."

The NFF has advocated for reliable and affordable mobile connectivity in the

bush for decades, including as a founding member of the Rural, Regional and Remote Communications Coalition.

"Mobile has long been the next frontier in universal protections for telecommunications users, and we're thrilled to see it becoming a reality. By locking in this satellite coverage, it becomes something people in the regions can rely upon, rather than a fortuitous benefit that may come and go in the future.

"The NFF applauds the Australian Government for introducing this policy, and urges all sides of politics to support this agenda to guarantee the safety and productivity of rural Australia," Mr Jochinke said.

The obligation would secure new mobile coverage across an estimated five million square kilometres of land, including more than 37,000 kilometres of regional roads.

The NFF warned however that this could not be seen as an excuse to reduce investment in the terrestrial mobile network.

"Land based coverage from mobile towers will still be the gold standard for years to come.

"Satellite based connectivity is just one piece of the puzzle, and the need for continued co-investment in mobile towers by telco providers and government isn't going away.

"We've still got a long way to go before the bush is on a level playing field with the city when it comes to connectivity. It's why in this election we are still seeking a commitment for a Regional Telecommunications Strategy and further funding for the *On Farm Connectivity Program*," Mr Jochinke concluded.



The Federal Government has committed to introducing a Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation, requiring telecommunications to provide phone coverage across all of Australia. -Web Donut

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

TAKE A SCREAMER: TO TAKE A GREAT MARK

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MEETINGS

**MURRINDINDI
Little Athletics Club.**
AGM/Presentation evening on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 5.30pm at Rotary Park Alexandra, barbecue area.

DEATH NOTICES

CASSEE, Jozina (Ineke).
27/05/1944 - 27/02/2025

Passed away peacefully aged 80 years. Dearly loved wife of John for 61 years. Beloved mother and mother in law of Shane and Tracey, Mark, Charlene and Scott, Jason. Adored Oma of Samuel, Isabella and Frankie.
Thank you for a lifetime of memories.

DEATH NOTICES

GRAHAM, Dorothy – 25/02/2025.
Rest in Peace dear friend. Your memory will never fade. From June and all your friends in Eildon.

GRAHAM, Dorothy – 28/05/1926 - 25/02/2025. Much loved sister of Frederick (dec) and loved aunty of Evelyn and friend of Helmut. My last aunty will be sadly missed. Rest peacefully, aunty Dot.

GRAHAM, Dot – 28/05/1926 - 25/02/2025. Mother of Diane and Wes. Grandmother and great grandmother. Sister of Harold, Fred, Alby, Jack, Maisie and Valda. Private ceremony and burial.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of intention to apply for a Licence to Construct Works (Bore) / Take and Use Licence for a Licensable Purpose

GMW Reference No: BGW0048-25

We Australia Truffle Pty Ltd

Of 3492 Whittlesea-Yea Road Flowerdale VIC 3717
Refer to Vic Roads Map 61 F7

Intend to make application to Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) for a Licence to Construct Works (Bore), and if successful:
This is our notice to amend our existing Licence to Take and Use Groundwater to include the bore and extract existing licensed volume of 38.0 ML/Year

The application is for 1 Bore to be constructed to a proposed depth of 180 metres
The water will be used for the purpose of: Irrigation
To be constructed and used on lands described as:

Volume	Folio	Lot No.	Plan No.	Plan Type	Crown Allotment	Parish
6614	789	1	395508R	TP		
6040	943				36	Flowerdale

Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the transfer of this Licence including any intended groundwater use, is invited to make a formal submission setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification.

To make a submission please read the information available to download from Make a submission about a licence application - Goulburn Murray Water (g-mwater.com.au)

refer to the Groundwater section or contact GMW to arrange a copy to be posted to you. Submissions must be lodged using the GMW template available by either mail or email to, licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au or PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616.

Book your classified ad TODAY! **Deadline: NOON MONDAY**

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PLEASE NOTE: All classifieds **MUST** be paid by cash, cheque or credit card at the time of booking



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FUNERAL NOTICES

CASSEE, Jozina.

A funeral service for Jozina will be held at Murrindindi Chapel on Friday, March 7, 2025 commencing at 11am followed by a private cremation.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to MND. Envelopes will be available at the chapel.



PETS & LIVESTOCK

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

Largest annual sheep and lamb slaughter in decades

THE latest quarterly statistics on livestock slaughter and meat production from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have shown that 2024 was the largest year for lamb and sheep slaughter in decades.

Numbers analysed by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) show that 26.6 million lambs were slaughtered in calendar year 2024, which is the largest number ever. Sheep slaughter also reached 11.7 million head, the largest since 2006.

According to Market Information Manager at MLA, Stephen Bignell, the record slaughter rates are significant for a number of reasons.

“These elevated slaughter rates seen in 2024 are due to a combination of a large

national sheep flock with higher percentages of sheepmeat breeds being processed, and generally drier conditions seen in South Australia and Victoria,” Mr Bignell said.

Sheep

Total lamb production for the year reached 634,706 tonnes. This makes 2024 the largest lamb production year on record, six per cent above 2023 lamb production figures.

“In the past two years production has lifted by 18 per cent. This is due to genetic improvements in the flock but also the demographic shift towards sheepmeat and shedding breeds, which is driving fertility and thus leading to productivity gains in the national flock,” Mr Bignell said.

For the previous quarter to December 2024, mutton production hit 90,847 tonnes, which was the largest quarterly sheep production since 1997.

“Across the country towards the end of last year we saw mutton production soar,” Mr Bignell said.

“Favourable prices at the end of the year drove this increase. Lamb prices reached \$10 per kilogram while mutton was at 300 to 440 cents per kilogram, making it more desirable to process mutton as opposed to lambs for many producers.”

Cattle

For quarter four last year, adult cattle slaughter reached 2.13 million head, which was 16 per cent above the same quarter in 2023.

Over the whole year, 8.3 million cattle were processed, which was the largest throughput since 2019 and 18 per cent higher than 2023.

All states lifted on the previous year, with Tasmania’s rate lifting four per cent and Western Australia at 10 per cent. New South Wales and Queensland had similar lifts at 15 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

“The largest lifts were seen in Victoria which had a 27 per cent increase and South Australia which had a 56 per cent higher slaughter rate compared to 2023,” Mr Bignell said.

“Dry conditions across the southern band of the country have forced stronger turnoff across those states as producers move to destock by selling interstate or processing excess cattle.”

Despite 2024 slaughter being 10 per cent below the previous slaughter record, production last year reached record volumes. Over 2.57 tonnes of beef was produced, up 16 per cent on 2023, and enabling the record exports seen last year.

The average adult carcass weight (cwt) lifted 2.6 kilograms from the previous quarter to 310.8 kilogram cwt, although this was 2.8 kilogram below December 2023.

A reduction in female turnoff is the reason for these lighter weights with female slaughter reduced six per cent and the female slaughter rate (FSR) down 52.2 per cent to 51.8 per cent.

The industry uses 47 per cent FSR as a benchmark as to whether the industry is in a restock, steady or destocking phase. A quarterly FSR of 51.8 per cent is the third consecutive quarter above this benchmark, which indicates the cattle herd has entered a destocking period.

Local grants available

THE QBE Foundation has opened applications for its Australian Local Grants Program, offering charities and community organisations working in both climate resilience and inclusion with the opportunity to receive a \$50,000 grant.

These grants will support a selection of high-impact community initiatives led by Australian organisations operating in Australia, New Zealand, or parts of the Pacific, helping them drive meaningful change in these critical areas.

“Through our grants program, QBE is proud to support organisations that are making a real impact in areas of need. We’ve seen how previous grant recipients have created meaningful change, and we’re excited to continue that momentum.

By supporting initiatives that enhance climate resilience and foster inclusivity, we’re helping to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future,” said Julie Starley, QBE Foundation Co-Chair.

For eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the QBE Foundation webpage, qbe.com/au/about/sponsorship-community/the-qbe-foundation

Applications will be accepted until April 3 (5pm AEST), with the recipients to be announced later this year, subject to change.

Landcare grants for young Victorians

YOUNG Victorians are receiving more support to care for our great outdoors thanks to the Victorian Government.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos last week announced the opening of Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants totalling \$450,000 to get young people out in nature to care for and learn about Victoria’s environment.

“We’re supporting this next generation of Victorians to work together and protect our state’s great outdoors,” Mr Dimopoulos said.

“Young Victorians are champions of nature, and these youth led programs will help restore and improve native habitats across the state for our native plants and animals to thrive.”

Victorian primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girl Guides, childcare centres, youth groups and Junior Landcare groups can apply for grants of up to \$5000.

Projects can focus on one of two areas, education activities to involve and engage young people and on the ground projects that focus on creating and restoring native habitats.

Last year, the state government provided grants to 103 recipients including planting native gardens, building habitat to attract native insects and birds and excursions to wildlife sanctuaries.

Over 47,000 young Victorians have taken part in Junior Landcare environmental projects since 2018, planting nearly 100,000 native plants, going on 1100 excursions and completing 270 biological surveys.

For more information on Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants

Rules for aviation around bushfires

IN Australia’s harsh climate, bushfires are a major hazard during the warmer months. With longer and hotter summers, the chance of a bushfire breaking out is increasingly likely.

Recent events have demonstrated the need for each state and territory’s fire service to prepare for busy bushfire seasons.

This means there’s a lot more activity in the airspace in rural and remote areas. This can have implications for general aviation pilots and drone operators.

Drones are great for getting that picture perfect shot, but they are a major hazard to aerial firefighting aircraft. Drones are small and difficult to detect.

You should never fly drones around or into bushfires.

For further information around rules for drone operation, visit casa.gov.au/knowyourdrone/drone-rules



It’s illegal to fly drones over bushfires. -Ibnalil

Netting a good option for dam protection

CONSTRUCTING a netting fence above your dam can reduce the amount of organic material entering during and after a storm.

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturmfels said while thunderstorms can produce needed runoff, they can also result in large amounts of dry grass, manure, soil and other material being swept into your dam.

“If left unattended, these materials will sink to the bottom and decompose, impacting water quality.

“Netting fence sediment traps are quick and easy to erect and can be made using second-hand materials.

“Netting fences slow the speed of water and trap large organic materials. As the water slows, heavier sediments drop to the bottom while the organic materials trapped

on the fence act as a filter for finer materials,” he said.

“To be most effective, the netting fence needs to be well supported with steel posts and follow the contour of the land.

“By making the base of the fence follow a level path, the water can spread out in both directions along the fence. The longer the fence, the more material that will get trapped. The ends of the fence need to be turned uphill to increase capture of materials.

“Commercial geo-fabric silt fences are great for trapping finer materials, however they transmit water very slowly and are not recommended for concentrated flows of water.

“Clean straw bales placed tightly together and pegged down with steel posts can also be used to create an effective sediment trap.

“Alternatives include synthetic silt fences, sediment ponds or a simple diversion bank with drop boards to manage flows into your dam.

“Regardless of design, all sediment traps should be regularly inspected, maintained and emptied following major storm events.

Mr Sturmfels said sediment traps can only do so much to prevent dam pollution, and the best strategy is to ensure you maintain good ground cover and fence out all larger dams.

“Stock access to water can be maintained using a hardened access ramp or by pumping to a tank and trough arrangement.”

For more information, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Councillors pay tribute to former councillor Ilona Gerencser

AT the Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) meeting, held on Wednesday, February 26, councillors paid tribute to former councillor Ilona Gerencser, who passed away on January 18. Mayor Damien Gallagher suspended standing order for this to occur. He stated to Ms Gerencser’s family, “On behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council and the Murrindindi Shire community, I offer our appreciation to you, Inga, for the life of your daughter, a passionate and dedicated servant of our community.”

He spoke about meeting Ilona in 2020, at the start of COVID-19. He said of her four year term, “She demonstrated a keenness to be the voice of her beloved communities of Toolangi, Castella and Kinglake.”

He also stated, “Ilona was a great listener, and to me a sounding board, an analyst, a joker, an inquirer, and to my wife and I, and many around this table, a friend.”

Mayor Gallagher “encouraged everyone not to dwell on her absence, but to enjoy the solace of having known her.”

Ilona’s family were presented with a gift of a framed photograph of Ilona.

Public participation

David Carabot was keen to talk about the planning process that he had recently been through, and to share those experiences with councillors. He owns a family farm on Break O’Day Road, and is a practicing architect. He encountered issues working with the MSC planning department when seeking “a pretty simple permit.” It took 12 months to achieve the permit for his wife, a marriage celebrant, to conduct wedding ceremonies (no reception) for up to 20 people at their property. They wanted to build a small chapel, but abandoned the idea due to the planning hurdles. Instead, they sought to change the land usage. He noted that it would have created both jobs and visitation in the area. There were no objections. It cost \$40,000 in reports and consulting fees. He said that one of the main challenges was the cultural heritage legislation interpretation. He wondered how many other applicants had given up or incurred unnecessary costs. He asked that council apply planning legislation “appropriately and efficiently.”

Grants and contributions

Council endorsed the funding of the following Sponsorship Grants as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel: Alexandra Community Shed approved for \$1500 for window block out, Alexandra Football Netball Club approved for \$2200 for the Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration, the Acheron Mechanics Institute Hall Committee approved for \$4800 for the removal of trees on the Acheron Tennis Court, and the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc was approved for \$3373 for the fifth Suicide Awareness Walk.

Council also noted the Quick Response Grants awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel during the November to January period. These were \$500 for Koori Kids’ NAIDOC Week School Initiative, \$625 for Thornton Eildon District Football Club’s playing bibs for off season community sports, \$2500 for Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism to retain governance design service to incorporate a new not-for-profit members association, and \$2400 for Yea Rotary for the 2025 art show.

Council endorsed funding for the following Community Project and Events Grants as recommended by the panel: Yea Bowls Club \$4846 for access and safety improvements, Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Inc \$2500 for Christmas Carols, Flowerdale Landcare Inc \$327 for Yarning for Unity, and Buxton Progress Association Inc \$500 for their annual celebration.

Councillors with conflicts of interest absented themselves during the vote.

Naming of the Eildon Splash Park

At its meeting on December 11, 2024, council resolved to seek community feedback on the proposed name ‘Baanh ba Djila’ (meaning ‘water and play’) for the Eildon Splash Park as a designated ‘feature’ within the reserve, while retaining the existing reserve name, Walter Moore Reserve.

Following the public consultation period, five submissions were received. Officers recommend proceeding with the name, given that there was minimal objection, with one objection appearing to misunderstand the intent, believing the reserve

itself was being renamed rather than the Splash Park as a feature.

Councillors unanimously acknowledged the submission, endorsed the naming, and requested that submit the proposal to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and subsequent gazettal.

Mayor Gallagher noted that the naming does not take away from the recognition of former councillors, Walter Moore and Thomas Marr.

Signing of the Small Business Friendly Council charter

Councillors endorsed signing the Small Business Friendly Council charter. Signing the charter is a commitment for council to work with the Victorian Small Business Commissioner in supporting small businesses. There is minimal impact on council’s current practices, but it will make further resources available. Cr Carr noted the importance of small business in Murrindindi Shire.

Audit and Risk Committee

Councillors noted the minutes of the committee.

Council Plan Quarterly Report December 2024

The Priority Action Plan contains 67 actions. Of these, 66 actions are ‘on track’ and one action is deferred subject to funding becoming available. Councillors noted the plan.

Councillor Values and Councillor and Staff Engagement Protocols

The Local Government Authority (LGA) Reforms introduced a mandatory model Councillor Code of Conduct which establishes core behaviours for the local government sector. The Model Code of Conduct is designed to replace each council’s Councillor Code of Conduct, although the reforms allow councils to develop complementary policies where needed. Councillors voted unanimously to adopt the protocols.

Review of Councillor Expenses, Professional Development and Support Policy

Council endorsed the Councillor Expenses, Professional Development and Support Policy (formerly titled the Councillor Expenses and Support Policy), which has been updated to include the mandatory professional development obligations.

CEO Remuneration and Employment Policy Review

The Chief Executive Office Employment and Remuneration Policy (policy) must be reviewed every two years and within six months of a general election. Since the last review in December 2022 there have been no changes in legislation or standards that require policy amendment. As a result, only minor changes are recommended to the policy to improve readability, with no changes to policies directions. The policy has also been reviewed by the council’s Audit and Risk Committee, with no further recommendations for changes. It was endorsed by council.

MAV State Council Draft Motion

It was proposed that council submit a motion calling for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to urgently advocate to the Victorian Government to commit to fully implement all 48 recommendations of the recent Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, and to work in partnership with the local government sector to deliver these reforms, ensuring councils are financially sustainable and able to meet their communities’ needs. Council endorsed the proposal.

Quarterly Financial Report to December 31, 2024

Forecast revenue for the year has risen by \$12.29 million, while forecast expenditure has increased by \$10 million. The increases in revenue are driven by increases in operating grants of \$8.7 million, primarily related to flood recovery and \$2.7 million in capital grants, including the first instalment of \$1.2 million for the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project and \$696,000 for the Roads to Recovery program. Additionally, user fees and charges have increased by \$430,000 for the Yea Saleyards and \$137,000 for Recycling and Waste Management. There is a forecast increase in expenditure of \$9.3 million for materials and services, partially offsetting the grant funding, \$8.2 million of which is related to funded flood recovery and repair works.

Overall, with these adjustments the operating surplus is expected to increase from \$2.9 million to \$5.2 million, while the underlying result, which removes capital grants from the calculation, remains relatively unchanged, with an underlying deficit of \$5.5 million. Council received the report and noted the budget adjustments.

Proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange - Cummins Road, Murrindindi

Statutory processes have commenced for the proposed deviation of part of an unused government road known as Cummins Road, Murrindindi. The deviated part of the government road will be exchanged for land owned by D Williams (Proponent) being crown allotment 18A, section B, Parish of Murrindindi, that will then be created as a road reserve and vested in council. Council voted to progress the exchange.

Capital Works Program Mid-Year Report - December 30, 2024

Key highlights for this period included the completion of the Eildon Splash Park, which was opened to the public just prior to the Australia Day long weekend with the entire project, including the regional playground, due for completion in early March; Completion of a majority of the sealed road resealing and gravel road resheeting programs; Commencement of the Kayigai Trail construction at the Yea Wetlands, which is nearing completion and; Bridge abutment repairs on Abes Bridge on Abes Lane in Molesworth. The bridge works expected to be complete by the end of February. Councillors were particularly pleased with the Eildon Splash Park.

Council received the report and approved the following additional projects: a. Flood studies for Yea River and King Parrot Creek (fully funded grant); Key worker housing in Eildon (grant and council Contribution, \$6,280,000); Motorcycle Road Safety Infrastructure design (grant \$50,000); Kinglake RAC operations centre \$105,000;. Flowerdale closed landfill rehabilitation \$718,118; and purchase of an excavator for the new Alexandra landfill cells \$250,000.

Councillor reports

Anita Carr

Deputy Mayor Carr spoke about the Eildon CFA and Lions Club Christmas party, the success of the Tanglewood Festival, Eildon Bowls Club’s Bingo with a Twist, the Murrindindi Shire citizenship ceremony in January with 13 new citizens, the Eildon Lions Club Australia Day Breakfast and congratulated former councillor Karine Haslam on her Lions Club award, Rubicon Hotel’s Under the Elms Australia Day event, and the departure of popular Eildon pharmacist, Anphy. She also spoke about the visits to Eildon by the Economic Development team to discuss the Key Worker Housing project and other council plans and the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association meeting. She commented on the popularity of the new splash park, and noted that the pools close for the season on March 10.

Eric Lording

Cr Lording’s report was read by Cr Gallagher. He commented on the upcoming Flowerdale meeting, the record resheeting works on unsealed roads, and the rescheduled closure of the Melba Highway, where there will be a one lane closure in the lead-up to the works, operated by automatic traffic lights.

Sandice McAulay

Cr McAulay spoke about the Business Breakfast Workshop and advisory service in Kinglake. Council also works with businesses at all stages and encouraged new and established businesses to contact council. She thanked people for the input into the Alexandra East Development Plan. The Yea Structure Plan has been funded via a grant, and there are engagement sessions planned for later in the year. Tourism North East date has shown a downturn in visitor numbers and spend of minus 14.06 per cent, similar to the rest of Victoria, however there has been a 25.61 per cent increase in international tourism. She spoke about the summer Discover Dindi campaign collaboration with Lisa’s Travel Diary, reaching 38,000 Instagram accounts and 49,000 video plays. She also spoke about the economic benefit of the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, as well as the unfavourable weather faced by Eildon opera.

Jodi Adams

Cr Adams commented on her visit to the Kinglake Pub, where they had a nurse from the McGrath

Foundation presenting about cancer care. She also spoke about the importance of Kinglake Rotary Club and encouraged people to join. Funds from the gate at next Kinglake Market will be donated to the McGrath Foundation, in honour of Ilona Gerencser. She asked that people submit nominations for the 2025 Murrindindi Community Awards celebrating the contributions of local volunteers and community groups, and said that she was looking forward to the upcoming community consultations in Kinglake to support council plans for the next four years.

Paul Hildebrand

Cr Hildebrand noted the Christmas and new year celebrations, including at Glenburn, and enjoyed the Yea Cruise Night 21st event celebration. He was also pleased with how well the Yea Sale Yards have been going, with a huge consignment of cattle sold in January. He thanked emergency service volunteers for everything they do, including fighting the large number of fires started by dry lightning during summer. He also spoke about the challenges during the brief closure of the Melba Highway and the rescheduling of the works. He said he was looking forward to the Molesworth Community Plan meeting.

Sue Carpenter

Cr Carpenter spoke about the various council assets and other public and business infrastructure, as well as its natural assets. She commented on the Yea pool temporary closure as a precautionary measure. She said that the Eildon Splash Park is due to be completed next week, and said that it is likely to be a popular destination. Long Gully Road in Flowerdale is receiving major improvements, and work continues on various council infrastructure and asset plans. Boundary Creek in Yea is to receive attention, including weed removal on the eastern side, with consultations to occur regarding the western side. She also spoke about the Yea Cruise Night and congratulated the organisers. The Big Conversation consultation in Yea was also successful, with much enthusiasm and discussion, and surveys are also available online.

Damien Gallagher

Mayor Gallagher spoke about the various activities across the holiday season, and commented on the successes of local students and educational organisations. He commented on the shire’s communication with the Mayor of Los Angeles regarding their recent fires. He said of Australia Day, “It’s important to reflect upon how acknowledging and reconciling our past unifies us and takes us closer to the vision of a single day of truly national celebration.” He also talked about the citizenship ceremonies, and council’s support of Australia Day celebrations in the shire and the Yea Rotary Art Show. Council’s advocacy includes the postponement of Melba Highway works, road flood water gauges on Home Creek on the Goulburn Valley Highway, and pressing for the re-opening of the Fraser Park Campgrounds. There has also been discussion about the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy, and council is closely monitoring the issue and advocating for a fairer approach through MAV, including taking the responsibility for collecting the levy away from councils. There was a recent business event in Kinglake, and he commented on the record sales at the Yea Sale Yards, and the recent coverage in WIN News and on the ABC. In addition, he acknowledged the work of the Murrindindi Carer Support Group.

CEO Livia Bonazzi

Ms Bonazzi spoke about Big Conversations gathering community input into council’s plans and vision. The draft federal government’s report into the sustainability of local councils has been released, confirming that councils are under increasing financial strain due to cost shifting. There are no recommendations as yet. She also noted that the Victorian Government has released its report into the 2022 Food Event, outlining a range of measures. She said it addresses some key issues, but leaves some questions unanswered for Murrindindi. Council will be reviewing the details around flood mitigation infrastructure, planning controls and support for emergency relief and recovery. She acknowledged the business successful in the first round of the Forestry Transition Fund, and encouraged businesses and other organisations to explore the fund. Council is also active in encouraging correct rubbish disposal, including releasing a jingle. Staff have also been active in educating the community on the topic. There has recently been a 300 per cent increase in the correct disposal of batteries.

SPORT



Recipients of Bronze, Silver and Gold personal best medals. -S



Club records to Makaylah Reece, Levi Campbell, and Cheyenne Richards. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletics Wraps Up a Fantastic Season of Saturdays

THE Murrindindi Little Athletics Club celebrated the final Saturday of its 2024-25 season with plenty of fun, competition, and camaraderie. While most athletes wrapped up their season, a select few will continue to the State Track and Field Championships over the March long weekend.

The day kicked off with a lively warm-up session, setting the stage for some impressive performances. Special presentations recognised athletes who broke club records, with Makaylah Reece setting a new mark in the under eight hurdles, Cheyenne Richards in the under 14 200 metre hurdles, and Levi Campbell claiming two records in the under 14 long jump and 90 metre hurdles. Some athletes were also awarded Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Blue ribbons for achieving up to 25 personal bests throughout the season.

Following the presentations, competitors participated in five events from the Program C timetable, showcasing the progress they had made in both technique and speed. It was evident that the hard work and dedication throughout the season had paid off, with some continuing to get personal bests.

Adding to the excitement, parents were invited to join the action, testing their skills in discus, standing long jump, and a 50 metre dash. The young athletes enthusiastically cheered on their parents, resulting in plenty of laughs and light hearted moments.

The highlight of the day was the 400 metre handicapped gift race, where every participant was a winner, receiving a delicious chocolate Easter egg as a reward for their efforts.

To cap off the day, a well-loved barbecue ensured that every member left with a smile and fond memories of a fantastic season filled with fun, fitness, and friendship.

The next event on the club's calendar is the much-anticipated presentation evening, set to take place on Friday, March 28 at 5.30pm at Rotary Park. It promises to be a wonderful evening to recognise achievements and reflect on another successful season of Murrindindi Little Athletics.



The parents having a blast in the 50 metre dash. -S



Recipients of up to 20 and 25 season personal bests Ethan, Levi, Chase, front Zoe, Charlotte, Cheyenne and Alisha. -S

SPORT

Yea Bowls Club into the grand final



Jan and Bob Hentschel, with Bob holding the certificate of appreciation presented to him by the Yea Bowls Club. -S

by Angela Finn

YEA Bowls Club have won through to the Grand Final for the third year running. Having won last year and lost to Kyabram the year before, Yea will be keen to turn the tables and win another flag this Saturday.

On Saturday, February 22, Yea got the points in a nail-biting finish over top side Colbinabbin, 58 to 55 shots. In the heat and blustery conditions, Yea finished the day with two rinks up and one down.

On rink one, Angela Finn, Barb Tanner, Neil Rieschick and skip Maurie Finn had a battle early in the game but gradually drew away to have a comfortable seven shot win 20 to 13.

Rink two had Mick Barrott, Terry Muller, Darren Sherman and skip Justin Branch. In recent weeks this group have been in excellent form, but on Saturday they had one of those days where nothing went their way. At one stage they were 24 shots to one down.

However, they persevered, and with great determination, picked up 11 shots in just three ends. They finished up going down 29 to 12, but their comeback had a massive impact on the overall results.

On rink three, Cliff Sinclair, Maureen and Rob Marks and skip Terry McInnes, kept the pressure on Colbinabbin all day, holding a handy lead to finally have a convincing win 26 shots to 13.

It was a great team effort to get the win in the second semifinal. Now Yea is looking forward to the Grand Final this Saturday at Shepparton Park Bowls Club, starting at 10.30 am.

Win or lose the club will be celebrating their efforts for the year. They will gather at the Yea clubrooms at approximately 5.30pm.

All members, family and friends are welcome to attend.

Yea Bowls Club farewell Bob

BOB Hentschel was recently farewelled by the Yea Bowls Club members as he embarks on a new lifestyle at Moama in New South Wales.

Bob first came to the Yea Bowls Club, having earlier shifted to Junction Hill, to join in the Barefoot Bowls sessions, from about 2008.

After participating in all the bowling activities, he became an accomplished bowler and was selected to play in the pennant team for many years.

He was elected to the board on several occasions and served two years as secretary from 2011 to 2013.

As he was interested in improving the club, he took it upon himself to make upgrades to the bar area, adding shelving to store the beverages and racks for the glasses. He also increased the range of glasses suitable for different drinks. To complete the efficiencies of the bar he bought and installed an electronic cash register.

He erected a hanging rack and shelving so that club uniforms could be stored adequately.

Outside in the grounds, Bob painted the seats along the post office side of the green and erected the handrails so that those with less mobility could easily enter and leave the green safely.

Still wanting to improve the grounds, he also built a fence to divide the bowling area from the garden and spent many hours organizing the garden shed.

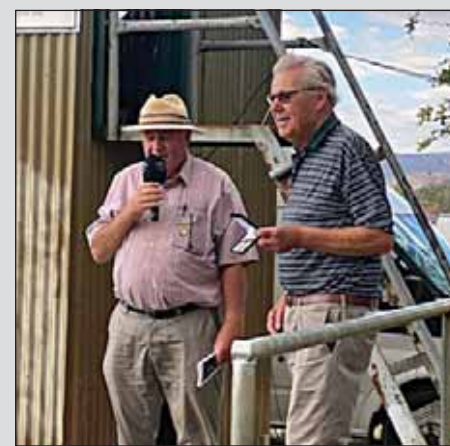
Bob was presented with a certificate of appreciation to acknowledge him as a valued and much respected club member, who contributed by his presence, his bowling and his involvement within the club.

Leonard Sheahan presented with Life Membership

AT the Yea Races on Sunday, February 23, following the presentation of the Frank Hargrave memorial at Yea St Pats Cup meeting on February 23, Yea Racing vice president Denis Smith presented a Life Membership Medallion on behalf of Yea Racing to Leonard Sheahan.

Leonard had been a stalwart treasurer of St Pats Racing Club under the late Frank Hargrave for 18 years before taking over as president for two years where he mooted then helped engineer the amalgamation of the club with Year Racing Club. Leonard served as the inaugural treasurer of the new entity for two years.

In Leonard's speech, he praised Frank Hargrave for both his inspiration to himself and the St Pats club as well as Frank's continuing support to many charitable organisations around Yea, citing Rotary and the Annual Art show as examples.



Denis Smith presenting Leonard Sheahan with his life membership medallion at the Yea races. -S

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The 'Working Class Girls' who provided a magnificent lunch following the finale of the Gender Challenge. -S

Keeping bellies full at Yea golf



The bartenders Sharon and Khai. -S

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Plenty of banter and fun for Yea Golfers

Wealands rustles up great round
by Phil Armstrong

SEVENTEEN members and guests assembled for last Wednesday's Stableford event at Royal Yea Golf Club. Course conditions were excellent for this time of the year and full credit must go to the fantastic team of volunteers that team together each and every week of the year.

Scores reflected the excellent playing conditions, none better than Russ Wealands (25) who rustled up 40 points. A close second was the ever improving Chris Keogh (34) who registered 39 points. Rob Gill (32) continued his recent run of good form to win a five way countback on 37 points from Neil Peterson (15), Stephen Rumney (25), Brendan Chenhall (16) and Peter Johnston (16) who all recorded 37 points.

No one claimed nearest the pin on the 18th hole and slamming Sam Wright was awarded the club award for his adventurous round.

The highlight of the day began when players returned to the clubhouse and were greeted by the "Working Class Girls" who provided a magnificent lunch, drawing the curtain down on this year's Gender Challenge. Another memorable day for everyone involved. Thanks to our amazing ladies group.

Gender Challenge Lunch A Blast
by Karen Sangster

HAVING to observe from afar, when I first spotted the photos, I didn't know if I wished to burst into song about "Being on the Road again", or perhaps a Slim Dusty song, *Waltzing Matilda* came to mind. Jumbuck in the tucker bag,

so to speak. It fitted the menu perfectly. Then good old farmer Brown popped up followed by the good old Aussie thong. No matter

what, you could not dispute the fact, it was definitely Aussie Aussie.

Once again, the girls outdid themselves, not only with creativity, courtesy of Sharon and Lois being

in charge, but, also another splendid menu. Made ones mouth water. Boys you are spoilt. I think maybe they rig the deal just so they can reap the spoils. The menu, fit for a king, Slow cooked Lamb (there goes the Jumbuck in the tucker bag), beef and pork (the farmer certainly had a look in there), potatoes, roast pumpkin salad and coleslaw. As if that wasn't enough, followed by Pavlova, apricot torte, apple crumble and lastly, fruit salad and ice-cream. If you were not amply satisfied there had to be something wrong with you. I do believe one man responded by message that it was of A1 quality, very much appreciated, having to leave early but not without sampling the goods.

Well girls, know you tried. Last day trailing a 70 point lead, battled bravely. Miranda Gill topped the last day (also winning the Mary Walker Trophy) but still, was not quite enough to topple the leaders. Sadly, for the girls, still a minus of 25. Next year girls, you all need to be waited on for a change.

Typical of the Good Old Aussie Spirit, the day's festivities were celebrated with much laughter and jolliness, a thing very familiar to all those that attend any function created by the folk at the Yea Golf Club. Happy golfing everyone, watch out next year boys, you're cooking.

Yea Golf Club Masters
Murrindindi

by Alan Pell

THE final round of the 24-25 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters was held at Marysville Golf Club last Saturday. The Yea Golfers took out many of the awards including the Men's Overall Master Champion going to Terry Chaplin. Marysville's Sabrina Stow was the Ladies Overall Master Champion.

Miranda Gill was the Ladies Mini Masters Champion. Rob O'Hanlon was the Men's Mini Masters Champion. Oakley Ness was C Grade Winner, Brian Simmons was A Grade Runner-Up, Chris Keogh was C Grade Runner-Up, Phil Armstrong was Nearest the pin on the 18th and Vicki Clements and Miranda Gill both won raffle hampers. Cathie from FoodWorks presented trophies and vouchers.



All the winners at Marysville for the Murrindindi Masters -S



The Ladies' Final Masters winners for 2025. -S



Rob O'Hanlon receiving his award. -S



Terry Chaplin, Men's Overall Master Champion, with Cathie from FoodWorks. -S



Miranda Gill with Cathie from FoodWorks. -S



Marysville winner Sabrina Stow Murrindindi Masters Ladies Overall Master Champion. -S



Chris Keogh receiving his award. -S