

# 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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, March 26, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

School leaders at Sacred Heart



Page 3

RSL donates to Rotary



Page 4

Morning tea to make lives better



Page 13

Weekend sport



Pages 15-16



Students from Yea Primary School took part in Ride to School Day last Friday. More images on page 5. -S

## Petition pushes for driving reform

A PARLIAMENTARY petition has highlighted concerns over the lack of standardisation in Australia's driving system, addressing issues regarding varying regulations on the minimum driving age and licensing requirements.

Spearheaded by Member for Northern Victoria Gaele Broad, the petition has called upon the State Government to lower Victoria's minimum probationary drivers' age from 18 to 17, citing young drivers' struggle in accessing education and employment in rural and regional Victoria as a barrier many face due to the age limit.

Ms Broad additionally highlighted the importance of incentivising and providing learner drivers with driver training programs, such as those that are currently used in New South Wales, and called for a similar system to be implemented in Victoria.

Under the neighbouring state's laws, if a learner driver completes a one-day safer driving course, they can earn 20 hours of credit on their logbooks, while undertaking 10 hours of professional driving lessons will entitle them to receive a further 20 hours of credit.

Ms Gaele said that she had been contacted by many residents, including young drivers, their parents, and grandparents, who were in support of lowering the age.

"I raised the issue in parliament last year but was told the minister had safety concerns with the idea," she said.

"As a parent of two P-platers and one L-plater, I agree that safety is crucial, and training is vitally important to ensure our young people are ready for the responsibility of driving solo. Any road accident statistic is a bad one, regardless of your age.

"I have been contacted by people across the state keen to see the law changed in Victoria, particularly in regional areas where there is limited or no public transport available, and not everyone has a parent or carer available to ferry them around.

"For young people who have done the hours of training and are ready to drive safely on their own, a driver's licence opens doors to educational and employment opportunities, access to health services, to

engage in community events and sports and to help others."

Despite the benefits highlighted by Ms Broad, the petition had only garnered 1687 signatures as of Wednesday, March 12.

Addressing Ms Broad's call, a Victorian Government spokesperson stated that the government was not considering lowering the minimum age requirement.

"While we're not currently considering lowering the driving age, we're always looking at ways we can improve the settings in Victoria," they said.

Transport Accident Commission Chief Executive Tracey Slatter shared a similar sentiment, emphasising that age is directly linked to road fatalities.

"Young drivers continue to be overrepresented in crashes resulting in death and serious injury compared with every other age group of drivers on the road," she said.

"That's why there is a driving age of 18 in place in Victoria."

Victoria currently enforces the strictest regulations when it comes to obtaining a

probationary licence, requiring drivers to be at least 18 years old and having recorded 120 hours of driving.

In stark contrast, the Northern Territory enforces the most lenient regulations, with learner drivers only required to hold their licence for six months before becoming eligible to apply for their 'Ps'. There are no minimum driving hour requirements, and with the learner licence available from the age of 16, drivers could be as young as 16 and a half when they first begin driving independently.

While the minimum age for every other state and territory is 17 years of age, the required driving hours varies significantly, with Western Australia requiring 50 hours, South Australia requiring 75, Tasmania requiring 80, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland requiring 100 each, and New South Wales requiring 120.

Ms Broad's petition can be found at [parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/reduce-probationary-driving-age](http://parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/reduce-probationary-driving-age), and will close April 30.



Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital  
5736 0400

In an emergency dial  
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Welcome to Country

I NOTE by way of phone text, our Murrindindi councillors' have fully endorsed the much criticized 'Welcome to Country' address, everywhere we go. Despite, in my opinion, the vast majority of people I have spoken to, are opposed to it.

I ask our councillors, where do they get the endorsement from for such a policy from their ratepayers? Not once have I seen any councilors campaign for this policy in council elections, or speak publicly about supporting this boring subject.

I was born in this country 88 years ago and I am sick of being welcomed to my country

over and over. I will always support what the people vote for, democratically. So, to determine or seek the endorsement of the rate payers of this policy.

Will the councilors hold a vote on this issue in the next council elections?

I suggest the council support more important matters, like seeing Breakaway Bridge reinstated.

Ray Donkin, Buxton

[Council adopted its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) on December 14, 2022. A reflect RAP is implemented over 12 to 18 months. Council is still delivering actions outlined in the Reflect RAP. There are different

types of RAPs designed to suit an organisation at different stages of their reconciliation journey. One of the actions in council's Reflect RAP is to "Continue to include an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of all council events, functions and larger meetings." An Acknowledgement of Country is different to a Welcome to Country. An Acknowledgement of Country is an opportunity for anyone to show respect for Traditional Owners and their continued connection to Country. A Welcome to Country is delivered by Traditional Owners, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have been given permission from Traditional Owners, to welcome visitors to Country. -Ed]

Planned burning to start soon

FOREST Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) will take advantage of favourable weather and forest conditions across the state to reduce the risk of bushfires on the community and environment.

FFMVic Deputy Chief Fire Officer Aaron Kennedy said planned burning is one of the key tools firefighters use to reduce the size, intensity, and impact of bushfires.

"Reducing fuels such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and small fallen branches means fires are less intense, slower to spread and safer for firefighters to control," Mr Kennedy said.

"Autumn is generally the best time of the year to undertake planned burns as the weather is more stable and fire behaviour is manageable and predictable."

"Given the limited opportunities to undertake planned burning, it is important

that we commence this work as soon as weather and forest conditions are suitable."

This year more than 100 planned burns across an area of 46,300 hectares are prepared and ready for ignition in north east Victoria.

Priority burns are planned in state forest, parks and reserves including Marysville, Toolangi, Kinglake, Glenburn, Woods Point and Howqua.

"While planned burning is our most effective tool to reduce bushfire risk, in locations where planned burning isn't suitable, we mulch, mow, slash and spray, build fuel breaks and upgrade and maintain the public land road network to keep Victoria safer," Mr Kennedy said.

"We work with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions, such as humidity, temperature and wind speed and will only carry out burns when

the conditions are suitable, and it is safe to do so.

"FFMVic is made up of skilled and experienced staff from Victorian fire and land management agencies. Our partners under the FFMVic banner include the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water."

FFMVic works with emergency sector partners including the Country Fire Authority, Fire Rescue Victoria and Emergency Management Victoria to manage bushfire risk, prepare communities and respond to bushfires and other emergencies.

Register for the latest updates about where and when FFMVic deliver planned burning at [plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)

The Yea Chronicle

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Weekly Weather

March 26 - April 1, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
	Wednesday	12	27		Wednesday	11	25	
	Thursday	15	28		Thursday	14	28	
	Friday	16	28		Friday	15	28	
	Saturday	14	26		Saturday	13	26	
	Sunday	12	23		Sunday	12	23	
	Monday	12	23		Monday	12	23	
	Tuesday	13	23		Tuesday	13	23	

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.27	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.25am Mon	0.44	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.47am Mon	0.11	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.20am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.48am Mon	0.29	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.17	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	4.15pm Sun	0.18	rising	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.97	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.18	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.58am Mon	0.79	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra .....	73mm
Buxton.....	19mm
Eildon (AWS).....	71mm
Flowerdale.....	22mm
Jamieson.....	55mm
Kinglake.....	15mm
Lake Eildon.....	78mm
Mansfield.....	16mm
Taggerty .....	16mm
Yarck .....	44mm
Yea.....	7mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	279.62m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	67%
Metres below full supply.....	9.28m
Daily inflow .....	600ML
Release.....	6000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	93%

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



## Tough Bail Bill is coming soon

THE first *Tough Bail Bill* was introduced to Parliament on Tuesday, March 18 with its first measures due to start immediately. Premier Jacinta Allan joined Attorney-General Sonya Kilkeny at Parliament to announce that key parts of the *Tough Bail Laws* package will be fast-tracked, so they will start immediately. The government will launch a bigger recruitment campaign for corrections and youth justice staff to get ready for an expected jump in the number of offenders on remand.

The first *Tough Bail Bill* will activate all but two of the major changes in the government's *Tough Bail Laws* package.

The bill will put community safety above all by making community safety the overarching principle for bail decision-making (for offenders of all ages), through an amendment to the guiding principles of the *Bail Act*.

The bill will also amend section 3B of the *Bail Act* to remove the principle of 'remand as last resort' for youths.

These changes are about reducing the risk of reoffending, but they will also ensure the justice system meets the expectations of the broader community.

The bill will also introduce bail offences to further reduce the risk of reoffending and establish real consequences for breaking the rules, because these are obligations that must be respected.

The offence to 'commit an indictable offence while on bail for an indictable offence' will be included in the *Bail Act*.

The offence to 'breach of condition of bail' will be a summary offence and, like previous offences of its kind, will apply to adults only. This also delivers consequences for bail breaches which are more administrative in nature, like failing to report or meet curfew, and can be considered by bail decision-makers as a reason to refuse bail.

Both offences will be punishable by up to three months imprisonment on top of any other sentence imposed for any crime committed.

Additionally, if someone on bail has been arrested for breach of bail, the Bill will also allow police officers to bring that person to court directly, rather than wait for a bail justice.

The above changes to elevate the principle of community safety, remove remand as a last resort and introduce bail offences will take effect the moment the first *Tough Bail Bill* is passed and proclaimed.

When this happens, the government anticipates a marked increase in the number of adult and youth offenders on remand, which will impact existing system capacity.

The bill makes further significant changes. Currently, many offences that most Victorians would consider serious and high-risk do not face tougher bail tests and retain the presumption to bail, making bail more likely.

The bill will toughen bail tests for a number of serious offences, which makes the granting of bail far less likely.

The following offences will now always be subject to the toughest bail test available on a first offence, these are armed robbery, aggravated burglary, home invasion, and carjacking.

These crimes are all extremely serious and life endangering, and highly susceptible to repeat offending. Aggravated burglary is of particular concern. More offences are occurring, because more people are home. Males in their mid-to-late teens, adults and youths, make up the most alleged aggravated burglary offenders by far.

Also under the bill, the following indictable offences will face a tougher bail test, with no presumption of bail: Serious firearms offences, serious arson, knife and other weapon offences; committing an offence involving a controlled weapon (including machete violence), prohibited weapon, or offensive weapon (including use of every day implements fashioned into or used as weapons such as baseball bats, kitchen knives and shivs); car theft related offences: theft of a motor vehicle when co-charged with conduct endangering life, conduct endangering persons, failure to stop, or possession of a prohibited weapon or controlled weapon.

Most Victorians would rightly consider these offences serious and high-risk. They will move to the *Bail Act* schedules where they belong.

Each of the above changes to bail tests are also on an accelerated timeline. Under the *Tough Bail Bill*, they will take effect at least three months following the bill's proclamation.

Because the changes to the bail tests are expected to result in another increase in the number of adult and youth offenders on remand, their commencement will be linked to system workforce capacity.

An expanded recruitment campaign is being prepared for corrections and youth justice workers, and further planning is underway to prepare the adult and youth systems for the increased demand.

The second *Tough Bail Bill* will be introduced in the middle of the year.

The second bill will create the proposed tough new bail test for serious, repeat offenders. It will also uplift the new offence of 'committing an indictable offence while on bail' to face a tougher bail test, triggering the second-strike rule. Safeguards will be developed so the uplift is proportionate.

The second bill is expected to result in a further increase in the number of adult and youth offenders on remand, for which the system must be ready.



**Alexandra Museum**  
& Steam Train Rides  
Open Saturday March 29  
10am to 3.30pm  
7 Station Street,  
Alexandra

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

## School leaders at Sacred Heart Primary

LAST week Sacred Heart Primary School welcomed Murrindindi Shire Mayor, Damien Gallagher to present official leadership certificates to the year six students at the whole school assembly.

This special occasion marked the beginning of an exciting journey for the young leaders as they step up to take on new responsibilities within the school community.

The presence of Mayor Gallagher made the event even more memorable, as he shared words of encouragement and highlighted the importance of leadership, teamwork, and service. The students receiving their certificates in front of their peers was a proud moment and affirming their commitment to being

role models and contributing positively to school life.

Leadership at Sacred Heart School is about more than just wearing a badge. The student leaders play an active role in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, assisting in school events, and setting an example of respect and responsibility for younger students. This ceremony was not just a recognition of their new roles but also a reminder of the trust placed in them by their school community.

Everyone looks forward to seeing our student leaders embrace their new roles with enthusiasm, integrity, and a willingness to make a difference. Congratulations to all the 2025 leaders.



Damien Gallagher with the 2025 Yea Primary School leaders group.

## POLICE REPORT

AS a result of an investigation conducted by Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit detectives in relation to a series of theft related incidents in the Eildon, Thornton and Caveat areas, a 26 year old Cranbourne North man was arrested and charged with six counts of theft on April 1, 2024. At the Dandenong Magistrates' Court on March 18, he was sentenced to a 16 month term of imprisonment. Further investigations conducted by detectives resulted in a 32 year old Narre Warren man being arrested and charged with six counts of theft in October 2024. On Wednesday, March 5, at the Dandenong Magistrates' Court, he was sentenced to a 12 month term of imprisonment.



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## SCHOOL TOURS

- Wednesday 26th March - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 1st April - 9am
- Wednesday 2nd April - 12pm



Amy Leahy - Principal  
03-57972723  
principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au





# Speeding vehicle reveals further crimes

ON March 9, police from the Mansfield Highway Patrol intercepted a speeding Holden Commodore Sedan towing two jet skis on the Maroondah Highway at Merton.

The 39 year old male driver returned a positive result for both methamphetamine and alcohol and was found to be disqualified from driving.

Further inquiries revealed he was not the owner of the vehicle, raising suspicions.

A vehicle inspection uncovered that the vehicle identification number (VIN) under the windscreen had been obscured, the VIN plate in the engine bay had been removed, and the plates on the car were handmade and cloned. A further check of the stamped VIN under the driver's seat confirmed the vehicle was an outstanding stolen car.

To top things off, the driver also had three outstanding warrants and was subsequently arrested and charged with multiple offences.

This incident highlights the importance of proactive road policing in detecting and preventing serious criminal activity.

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



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.

## 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*.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Sacred Heart Yea are conducting a number of school tours. Today at 2.30pm. For more information contact Amy Leahy, principal on 5797 2723 or email [principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au). More dates below.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 28

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

Chat with Solahart Eastern Ranges at Eildon Golf Club from 2pm. Find out how to reduce your energy bills, receive a current promo of \$750 off solar and battery, earn Eildon Golf Club \$200 when you install qualifying products. Light refreshments available. Phone 9131 8677 or email [admin@victoriansolar.com](mailto:admin@victoriansolar.com) for more information.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Alexandra Museum and steam train rides open 10am-3.30pm. For further information visit [alexantratramway.org.au](http://alexantratramway.org.au) or call 0427 509 988.

## MONDAY, MARCH 31

Alexandra Community Hub AGM will be held at 6pm at the Historic Court House at 38A Downey Street Alexandra.

You are invited to join Murrindindi Shire in developing a township structure plan to guide Yea's growth and preserve its unique character. Workshop will be held between 6.30-8pm at Yea Council Chamber. Register at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan). For more information or to get involved phone 5772 0333 or visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan).

## TUESDAY, APRIL 1

You are invited to join Murrindindi Shire in developing a township structure plan to guide Yea's growth and preserve its unique character. A drop in session will held between 3-5pm at Yea Library. For more information or to get involved phone 5772 0333 or visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yea-structure-plan)

Sacred Heart Yea are conducting a number of school tours, at 9am. For more information contact Amy Leahy, principal on 5797 2723 or email [principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au). Final date see below.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Sacred Heart Yea are conducting their final school tour, at 9am. For more information contact Amy Leahy, principal on 5797 2723 or email [principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shyea.catholic.edu.au)

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Alexandra Events and Murrindindi Shire are hosting a free breakfast and seminar for local farmers affected by current dry conditions. 8-10am at Alexandra Showgrounds Cattle Pavillion. You will have access to valuable information and resources designed to help you navigate current dry weather. Enjoy a free breakfast, tea or coffee and hear from a range of guest speakers. For more information contact council on 5772 0333.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Alexandra Race Club Country and Western meeting. Punting and ponies, Fashions in the Field, music, magic, and much more. Gates open at noon. First race 1.15pm. Children under 16 free. Bus available from Eildon and Marysville, book online at [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)



Rotarian Julie Lynch, RSL president Jeff Swain and Rotary Club of Yea President Penny Paxman. -S

## RSL provides generous donation to Rotary and seeks new members

THE Rotary Club of Yea is one of many volunteer organisations within the broader Yea Community and the club often has speakers from local groups come and talk to Rotarians about the work their group does within our community.

At a recent Rotary Club of Yea meeting, the Yea-Kinglake RSL Secretary, Jeffrey Swain, presented a generous donation from the Sub-Branch to Rotary Club of Yea President, Penny Paxman.

"This donation is to demonstrate our appreciation in a practical way for the support provided by Rotary and the Yea High School students to our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations," Jeff explained.

"The students from Yea High School give freely of their time and are valued participants in these annual commemorations. We hope this donation can contribute to the Rotary Ruth Konig Scholarships which assist Yea High School students with their Tertiary studies or further education"

President Penny was surprised but incredibly delighted to receive such support for the youth of Yea and the funds provided by the RSL donation will fund one student for three years of a Ruth Konig Scholarship.

"In addition, without the active support of the Rotary Club of Yea members joining and contributing over the last three years, the RSL in Yea would have closed down," Jeff said.

Jeff then updated the Rotarians on the current issues impacting Legacy and the RSL locally.

He explained that the Alexandra, Yea and Mansfield Legacy Group is changing structure to become a Branch of Melbourne Legacy Club.

"The advantage will be that professional case managers in Melbourne will provide a more comprehensive service to our local war widows. Legatees will remain the local face who knocks on the door and shares a coffee, but we will be spared the increasing burden of 'red tape' and governance," Jeff said.

"The local Yea-Kinglake RSL has 60 current members and is financially sound for at least three years. Unfortunately, like many local organisations, we struggle to find members willing to volunteer for election to the committee. As our members are aging, finding active members able to carry out the many jobs in support of our local veterans is also becoming increasingly hard," he said.

"If Rotary members had not volunteered to join and serve on the committee, the RSL in Yea would have shut down three years ago and the land and hall sold under the Trust Deed. This would have, and may still be, a great loss for all the small groups in Yea who find the RSL Hall both affordable and convenient," Jeff said.

"Unfortunately, if we cannot form a new committee early next year, then the threat of closure will be become a reality by mid-2026," he concluded.

When asked how someone could join the RSL, Jeff explained that membership was open to anyone who had served in the Defence Forces of Australia or an Allied Nation or had a relative who had served (even as far back as great grandparents) or if they have had six months active membership in the CFA, SES, Police Force or Coast Guard.

Jeff can be contacted on 5796 9353 for enquiries or to obtain membership forms.

Why not consider contacting Jeff to become a member to ensure that the RSL remains a strong and important part of our wonderful Yea community.



# Yea Primary School students creatively participate in Ride to School Day



Bikes were a popular choice for Ride to School Day. -S



Some chose to ride to school on four-wheel pedal-powered machines. -S



There were a variety of ways to get to school on the day. -S



One of the students even rode a horse to school. -S

## Free healthy breakfasts

MORE than 1100 schools across the state are now serving free, healthy breakfasts thanks to the Victorian Government's School Breakfast Clubs Program, giving busy families one less thing to worry about as they start the day.

School Breakfast Clubs provide free healthy breakfasts for every student, making sure they start the day on a full stomach, ready to learn. It also provides lunches, snacks and take-home food packs for students and families in need, delivered in partnership with Foodbank Victoria.

A \$21.1 million boost in the Victorian Budget 2024/25 has made the program available to every government school, building on the \$141.2 million invested in the program since 2016.

More than 100 new schools have opted-in during the last 12 months, with that number expected to reach 150 by June.

This will give more than 600,000 students across the state, including those in northern Victorian schools, access to free breakfasts that meet healthy eating guidelines, prioritising fresh and locally-produced foods. Menu options include cereals, fresh fruit, soups and rice dishes.

Since the program was established, School Breakfast Clubs have served 52 million meals. One hundred and forty schools have also hosted cooking classes for families to help them prepare healthy, affordable meals at home.



## UPCOMING SITE CLOSURES Kinglake Ranges Health Centre April 2025



### GP Appointments

During the month of April, there will be **no onsite GP or Practice Nurse appointments and site will be closed**. Our existing Kinglake patients will have access to Telehealth appointments with Dr. Kashif Murtaza.

**Telehealth appointments will be available** between 10:00am & 1:00pm on Monday's and Tuesday (excluding public holidays)

**After-hours services are available to patients** via the phone number 13SICK (137425) or via website - [www.13sick.com.au](http://www.13sick.com.au)



### Allied Health Appointments

**All allied health appointments** with Kylie (Diabetes Educator) or John (Exercise Physiologist) at Kinglake **will be onsite in the clinic as usual**.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact our **Customer Service Team on 1300 77 33 52**

## 'Where the Farck is Yarck'

**HERE** at the **First Annual Yarck Custom Car & Bike Show**

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
from 10am  
Behind the Yarck Hotel

**ENTRY** is by gold coin donation

**PIZZA** will be available to purchase at the event  
**LIVE MUSIC**



Y  
H

Proudly sponsored by the **YARCK HOTEL**



## Student of the Week

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



### YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners this week, Nate, Cienna, Aleah, Mila, Charlotte, Auroha, Austin and Logan. What excellent role models you are for others. Be Respectful. Be Resilient. Be Responsible.



Congratulations to Ashton, Sophie, Scarlett and Indi (not pictured) 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



Leonard Sheahan. -AR

# Leonard Sheahan focused on helping the community

LEONARD Francis Sheahan is the seventh of seven children. The children were all born at the Wycheproof hospital as his parents engaged in broad acre farming near the town, focused on wheat and sheep. It was a hard way to make a living as it's a dry area.

Leonard commented that it was particularly difficult for his father as he had lived "through the Great Depression, followed by drought, followed by war, followed by another drought, followed by good years, and the tide turned and things went good from there."

"They had huge struggles. I can remember that in the early 40s, I was born in 1939, dad and his brother-in-law, that's Mum's brother, taking the sheep down south to Daylesford area on the long paddock," he said.

The 'long paddock' is the wide roads that have very little traffic where farmers graze their sheep.

Meanwhile, his mother was at home looking after seven kids. Leonard regrets never asking her how she coped.

The family are Irish Catholic, and church was one of three things that were never missed. The other two were the Rosary prayer every day and sport on Saturdays. "No matter what happened, the family was bundled into the car and we went up for sports somewhere," Leonard said.

His favourite sport was cricket, but "I liked them all, I suppose. I was reasonable but not top class."

He also performed well in his schooling. He attended the Dumosa State School, which was a one teacher state school in the middle of a wheat paddock. He explained, "An unfortunate teacher came from Melbourne. perhaps 18 or 19 years old with one year of training to teach 16 to 20 children from grades one to eight."

He then attended a boarding school in Ballarat, Saint Patrick's College, the same school that all of his brothers attended. His sisters went to Sacred Heart, also in Ballarat. They usually attended for one or two years, with finances being one of the reasons.

Leonard said, "From there I joined an organisation within the Catholic Church called the Christian Brothers." He pointed to a box saying that he has been a Christian Brother for 70 years, and remains one.

He also achieved a science degree, focused on maths, and an education degree. He said that his spirituality is "very much based on the environment" and doesn't find that science and religion are in conflict. "I find that when I walk along the river down here, that is an expression of divine beauty and the expression of divine existence, the creation that comes through from that and from the surroundings and the birds and whatever else," he said.

When asked what being a Christian Brother means to him, Leonard responded, "It means that I joined an organisation who devote our lives towards the education mainly of children, of boys, but to assist those who are struggling in need in any way. It means that I did not marry. Christian Brothers don't marry. It means that I belong to the organisation and the organisation is central to my life, and any finances that I earn is channelled into that organisation and then the organisation attends to my needs. So do I own this house? No. The organisation owns it. Do I have full use of it? Yes."

Leonard was a primary school teacher with the church for 10 years in Melbourne, Warrnambool and Whyalla, and the administration of the organisation. He then did spiritual counselling in schools for 10 years and then managed a conference centre for 10 years.

Asked whether the Christian Brothers are active in Yea, Leonard responded, "No. It never was. In the year 2000, another Christian Brother and myself, Trevor Partham started a spirituality centre at Glenburn. It invited people of any race, religion or creed to come and enrich their spirituality and their life generally. Trevor was the up-front person who did various teaching groups for people. People would come on their own and just sit there and look at the creek run by, or listen to the birds singing. And it was a beautiful setting. He and I spent 20 years there.

"At that stage, both of us, our health began to deteriorate. We were in our late 70s and 80s, and so Trevor moved to Melbourne. I moved to Yea and the centre has since been sold."

Leonard is well known as both a lawn bowler and for his involvement in the Yea Racing Club. When asked which sport he prefers, he answered without hesitation, "Horse racing. Horse racing is not in our family, although my brother did have a couple of pacers that he followed around the countryside. But when I came to Yea and as a religious person within the Catholic Church, conducted St Pat's Race Club. If you went to church at St Pat's, you were automatically involved in running the St Pat's Races."

He commented on working with Frank Hargrave on the races, and said that he was a very talented person. Frank was the president for a long time, while Leonard was treasurer. "It was an enriching time for me," Leonard said.

When the St Pat's community was no longer able to run the race, the two clubs amalgamated and Leonard stayed involved for a couple of years, until his health became a challenge.

Leonard is also a keen lawn bowler, a sport he started playing while he was living in Melbourne, and continued when he came to live in Yea. He estimated that he's been playing the sport for almost 30 years.

Unfortunately, Leonard took a tumble at bowls in May 2023. He fell "like a bag of potatoes." He smashed the femur bone from the knee to the hip. He's had "too many" operations on it since then, and there are now 16 or 18 screws holding it in place.

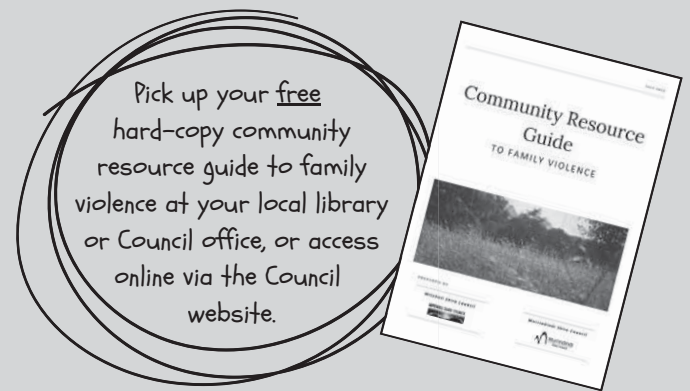
He's now back to playing bowls as has no pain whatsoever, but is just a little unstable on his feet.

He's certainly been active in the community, having been in the past the president of the Pastoral Council at the church, president of the Bowls Club and treasurer of the race club. He remains involved in the church but is no longer on the council, and he's not on the bowls club committee but remains involved. He's also taken up volunteering at the Yea Opportunity Shop, which he's found to be a lot of fun.



# A Little Respect

*Creating space for conversations in our community about important topics related to relationships, gender equality and family violence prevention.*



Nicola is the Community Development Project Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council and our guest author this month. With Lee as her mentor, Nicola is passionate about promoting mental wellbeing and supporting young people and their families to enjoy healthy relationships free from violence. Nicola has led various Council campaigns including R U OK? Day and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and facilitates the Youth Hangout in Yea. She believes we all have a part to play in improving the physical, mental and social health and wellbeing of Murrindindi Shire residents.

## Topic of the month: Have you heard of ARC Justice?

We caught up with a Managing Lawyer, Duty Lawyer and the Education and Research Lead from ARC Justice to learn more about who they are, what they do and how our community can benefit from their services.

### Who is ARC Justice and what do you do?

ARC Justice began as a tenancy rights and advocacy service in Bendigo but has since established two community legal centres covering the Loddon Campaspe and Goulburn Valley regions. Amongst other services, the Goulburn Valley community legal centre, based in Shepparton, provides free legal information, advice and representation for people experiencing family violence, applying for an intervention order or responding to an intervention order. The purpose of their work is to ensure that some of our most vulnerable community members understand their rights and receive accessible, confidential and equitable legal support.

### In your experience, how can family violence present itself in the community?

The definition of family violence is very broad, and while it's never acceptable, anyone can experience it. Family violence can affect people of all ages, genders, identities and cultures. While society traditionally understands family violence to present itself as physical or sexual abuse, the reality is, family violence is any behaviour that threatens someone, within a family or intimate relationship. It can be obvious or invisible, constant or occasional. Family violence is so varied and perplexing in nature it is often hard to pinpoint exactly if or when someone is experiencing family violence however, lawyers at ARC Justice frequently tell people that family violence is any sort of behaviour that makes you fear for your safety or wellbeing. While ARC Justice's work involves asking upfront if someone is experiencing family violence, the initial answer is usually 'no', but what often happens is that later in the process, people will disclose incidents that they themselves would not have classified as family violence but are actually against Australian Law. While this can be difficult for people to accept, ARC Justice is equipped to guide people through the subsequent legal options available to them.

### What is a family violence intervention order?

Often applied for by the affected family member or a police officer (the applicant), a Family Violence Intervention Order (FVIO) is a court order that protects family members, children and property from violence. Intervention orders have rules called 'conditions' that must be followed by the person accused of violence (the respondent). For example, the order may say the respondent cannot hurt or threaten family members or damage property. Intervention order conditions cannot be broken by agreement so regardless of your understanding or confidence of the conditions, it is always recommended that you speak to a lawyer. You are entitled to have an input into the order and its conditions.

### How can people access your services?

There are a few ways people who are experiencing family violence can access ARC Justice's free and confidential services.

- Self-referral: You do not need a referral to contact ARC Justice. To see if they can help you at court or

provide legal advice before your court date, you can contact the Goulburn Valley community legal centre via phone (03) 5831 0900 or 1800 310 900. You can also visit the Shepparton Office at suite 1/1 High St, Shepparton. When you reach out to ARC Justice, they will ask you some questions about your legal case and confirm your personal details. This information will help identify if there is a lawyer available to assist. If not, they will provide information about legal services that might be able to assist.

- Support Services: Services such as Maternal and Child Health Nurses, The Orange Door, the Centre for Non-Violence or 1800 RESPECT may refer you to ARC Justice. If you are comfortable going through the legal system, that's when duty lawyers would step in and help guide you through the process.
- Police: The police have a duty to protect family members, children and property from family violence and, upon receiving a family violence report, they must see if everyone is safe. Police will act if they believe someone is in danger, even if those involved don't want them to. One way they may act is by giving the respondent a family violence safety notice or applying for a FVIO on behalf of the applicant. ARC Justice strongly encourage applicants to see a duty lawyer before their court hearing, as duty lawyers can advocate for what the applicant would like to see, experience or aim for come court day.

### If people are anxious or afraid of going to court, what can they do?

The safety and wellbeing of family violence victims is paramount, including in court. At specialist family violence courts, such as Shepparton and Bendigo, there are designated safe waiting areas with separate entrances and exists. These venues also have quiet activities available for children to engage in if they are present. Alternatively, applicants can apply to appear in court via Webex (an online platform) rather than attending in person. They can also invite a support person to be present. If the police are acting on the applicant's behalf, the applicant does not have to attend court at all however, it is important they are connected with the right people and access the right support beforehand.

We would like to thank ARC Justice for their time and expertise in educating our community on the legal support options available for those experiencing family violence.

### Getting support

Call 000 in an emergency or if you are/someone else is in immediate danger.

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 7 32
- NTV men's referral service: 1800 766 491
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 773 352
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Rainbow Door: 1800 729 367 or visit rainbowdoor.org.au - A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?': areyousafeathome.org.au
- ARC Justice's Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre: (03) 5831 0900 or 1800 310 900 - free legal information, advice and representation services

## Would you like your own deck of Free From Violence Activity Cards?

Scan the QR code below to register your interest and we will get in touch make sure you don't miss out on this great conversational and icebreaker tool!





# ON THE LAND

## Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

### Non-tariff barriers pose a challenge for exports

A NEWLY published Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) insights report has emphasised concerns around non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and their sharp increase in recent years.

The report, *Non-tariff barriers: a multi-billion dollar burden*, sheds light on the costs created for Australian agricultural exporters from non-tariff measures across the world.

Executive Director of ABARES, Dr Jared Greenville, said the report's findings highlight the need for strong and sustained effort by government to combat the growth of NTBs to minimise their impact on trade.

"The insights report shows the rising burden associated with NTBs" Dr Greenville said.

"We are seeing the use of NTBs rise as tariffs fall, causing concern that one form of trade distortion is being replaced by another.

"NTBs impose higher costs for Australian agricultural exporters as they can restrict products entering a country due to licensing requirements and product labelling requirements, among others.

"While the average tariff on agricultural goods has dropped globally from 26 per cent to 12 per cent since 1995, we have seen a consistent and steep increase in NTBs growth across the world since 2014," Dr Greenville said.

While some non-tariff measures may increase trade, findings from the report indicate that at a product level, NTBs cause the equivalent reduction in trade as a 19 per cent tariff on average.

New modelling in the report shows that the removal of NTBs could result in \$4 billion in annual benefits for the Australian agricultural industry, but efforts to address NTBs must be specific and targeted.

"The rise in NTBs unfortunately reduces opportunities for businesses looking to participate in international markets.

"Better market access is important to Australian agriculture and the jobs its supports. It also supports efforts to diversify our export markets for our agricultural products."

To read the final insights paper visit: [agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/insights/non-tariff-barriers](http://agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/insights/non-tariff-barriers)



Cattle come in all different forms. Pictured are Charolais (white) and Angus (black) cattle. -BD

### The basics of understanding cattle

by Bailey Dixon

WITH the Yea Saleyards hosting at least one cattle sale every month, there is a large amount of cattle moving through the area.

For some people who aren't farmers or don't own a lot of land, or perhaps have simply chosen to run chickens, sheep or goats, identifying and understanding cattle is a challenge.

To begin with, all cows are cattle, but not all cattle are cows.

A calf is a baby cattle of either sex, male or female. Cattle remain calves until they are 11 months old, when they are reclassified.

For female cattle, they are reclassified from a calf to a heifer at 11 months of age, with heifers being young female cattle that have not yet given birth. Heifers become cows when they have given birth to at least one calf.

Male cattle are classed based on their ability to reproduce. If they are castrated, they are called a steer, but an intact male cattle that can still reproduce is a bull.

Cattle are primarily farmed for their meat, milk or leather. With these goals in mind, there are different cattle breeds that farmers can choose from that are more productive for each type. For instance, Angus steers provide good quality meat, while Holstein Friesian cows are good for dairy production.

Cattle bred without horns are known as 'polled cattle', such as poll Herefords. They can be easier to manage, as they don't have to be dehorned, and safer.

In terms of cattle breeds, there are a number of breeds currently very popular in Australia.

Angus cattle is popular for beef, and you will often see the Yea Saleyards full of Angus. These cattle are solid black or red in colouring.

Holstein Friesian cows are popular for dairy products, and very distinct with their patchy hide of black and white or red and white. Brown Swiss cows are also good for milk production.

Herefords are another beef cattle, with an easy-going disposition that makes them easy to farm. They commonly have white faces and a red coat.

Charolais are a French breed with versatility. They are a good beef producer, but Charolais cows can also be great for milking. They commonly have a fully white hide.

Galloway cattle tick all three boxes, with most people farming them for beef, but they can also be milked and their hides used. They are often black in colour, though can be found in red. Belted Galloway can have a white band that wraps around their midsection.

There are many more breeds of cattle than these select few, but these ones are popular and common and can be seen on many farms.

Other random bits of information about cattle include that they have a visual field of 330 degrees, which is almost all-around, they sleep only around 30 minutes in deep sleep per day, and they constantly move during grazing, meaning they can cover large distances each day.



### FARMING IN DRY CONDITIONS

#### Free seminar and breakfast

Are you a farmer feeling the heat? Join us for a morning of support, advice and great food!

In partnership with Alexandra Events, Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting a free breakfast and seminar for local farmers affected by these conditions.

Join us:

When: Thursday 3 April from 8.00 to 10.00 am

Where: Alexandra Showgrounds Cattle Pavilion on William Street, Alexandra

Here, you'll have access to valuable information and resources designed to help you navigate the current dry weather. Enjoy a free breakfast of bacon and egg sandwiches, served with a warm cup of tea or coffee and hear from a range of specialist guest speakers offering insights on managing livestock, maintaining animal health and improving farm sustainability during dry conditions.

This event also provides a great opportunity to connect with fellow farmers in the Shire, share experiences, and learn practical tips for coping with extreme weather.

For more information, please call Council on 5772 0333.

Murrindindi Shire Council is pleased to advise that funding for this event is made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



### FREE Health Checks for the FARMING COMMUNITY

Friday 4 April 2025

### ZOONOTIC DISEASE AWARENESS

including needle stick injury & hand hygiene



Dr Anna Manning





# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## ACCC report confirms fresh produce sector concerns

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomed the recent release of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) *Supermarkets Inquiry Final Report*, which confirms that market imbalances could have long-term consequences for Australia's fresh produce sector.

NFF President David Jochinke said the report's independence and thorough evidence gathering reinforce concerns raised by producers.

"The fact that the majority of the report's 20 recommendations focus on fresh produce supply chains demonstrates that our concerns were valid," Mr Jochinke said.

"For two years, debates have raged about supermarket market power, but this independent report provides clear confirmation. Fresh produce suppliers are facing serious, real challenges.

"While not all agricultural commodities are affected, fresh produce suppliers have been particularly vulnerable to market imbalances, information asymmetries, unclear supply and demand forecasts, and buyer incentives that undermine competition.

"The ACCC's conclusion that major supermarkets' use of market power could have lasting consequences for efficiency and sustainability underscores the urgency of action."

The NFF and its members, including the NFF Horticulture Council, played a key role in establishing this inquiry and providing evidence.

"It's now critical that these recommendations don't gather dust. We welcome the government's in-principle support for all recommendations and call for bipartisan commitment to their implementation," Mr Jochinke said.

"Whoever forms the next government must work closely with fresh produce suppliers to ensure these recommendations deliver meaningful change.

"We also acknowledge the government's \$2.9 million commitment to producer education on rights and protections, an important industry priority."

## Increased demand for water across the summer season

GOULBURN-Murray Water (GMW) has delivered more than a million megalitres of water to irrigators in the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District during the 2024/25 irrigation season.

This is more than 200,000ML more than the amount the water corporation had delivered to these irrigators at the same stage during any

of the previous 10 irrigation seasons and is well above the 10 year average of 628,000ML for the same stage in the season.

GMW Water Delivery Services general manager Warren Blyth said the water kept in GMW's lakes, dams and reservoirs had helped GMW meet this demand.

"This season has highlighted the importance of our water storages," he said.

"The water held in them has been a vital safety net for many irrigators during an incredibly dry period."

This dryness is highlighted by how little inflows GMW storages have received so far during the 2024/25 water year (July 1 to June 30).

So far, Lake Eildon has received less than half the inflows it usually would have at this stage in the year.

Lake Eppalock has received 14,500 megalitres during the 2024-25 water year so far. This is not only 12 per cent of the average inflows it usually receives by this stage of the water year but is less than a 10th of the inflows it received in one day during the 2022 floods.

The Cairn Curran, Laanecoorie, and Tullaroop storages have only received four to six per cent of their usual inflows.

However, Mr Blyth said water supply is still relatively healthy. "Some of our larger storages are designed to be 'multi-year' storages, meaning that once they are full, they have enough water to supply customers for multiple years, regardless of inflows," he said.

"The likes of Lake Eildon, Lake Eppalock and Dartmouth Dam are still between 60 to 85 per cent full, so despite the dry weather, this will support water availability in the following irrigation season."

Lake Eildon was at 68 per cent capacity on March 19.



Lake Eildon. -S

## Council helps to clean up the shire

COMMUNITY members and Murrindindi Shire Council joined forces for Clean Up Australia Day events across Murrindindi Shire in early March. Local events were held on Sunday, March 2 in Eildon, Glenburn, Kinglake West, Koriella, Molesworth, Taggerty, Toolangi and Yea, with a dedicated staff clean-up on Monday, March 4 at Acheron Cutting and surrounding roadsides near Alexandra.

Council supported volunteer clean-up event organisers by providing bins and vouchers for Resource Recovery Centres. We also reimbursed groups up to \$100 for refreshments, provided the event was held on public land and registered on the Clean Up Australia Day website.

Council would like to thank the volunteers from Kinglake, Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Home Creek Spring Creek, Homewood and Cathedral Landcare Groups, and Friends of

Marysville Walks for their outstanding efforts in cleaning up the shire.

Council's Sustainability and Assets Portfolio Councillor Sue Carpenter said, "Every year volunteers, community groups and schools take part in Clean Up Australia Day across Murrindindi Shire, and I want to sincerely thank all who contributed to cleaning up our shire this year."

"A wide variety of rubbish and recyclable materials were collected this year, including tyres, window frames, tent poles, vapes, cigarette lighters, car parts, shoes, beds (for both people and pets) and much more.

"The dedication of Murrindindi Shire volunteers has made a real difference to our environment, and I look forward to seeing even more volunteers next year."

Cr Carpenter added, "It's important to be environmentally conscious year-round and avoid littering or illegal dumping. Volunteer groups would be thrilled if there were no



Council officers Peter Hayward, Sue McNair, Rob Skinner and Vee Scott helping to clean up Australia. -S

waste to clean up. If you come across dumped rubbish please report it to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by calling 1300 372 842, or by using the Snap Send Solve App or website."

To find out more about Clean Up Australia and what you can do to help make positive change, head to [cleanup.org.au](http://cleanup.org.au)

## MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The March theme is **'sunsets'**.

Sponsored by




Email your photo and contact details to [manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au) by noon March 28, 2025

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra  
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[facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/](https://facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/)

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



**SEYMOUR**  
ALTERNATIVE TRAINING  
EXPO

4 - 6 April 2025  
Kings Park | Seymour

Drop the entry form into our office for your chance to win one of two family passes to the 2025 Seymour Expo

Photocopied or emailed entries will not be accepted.

ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD

To go in the draw, this voucher must be received by  
**2pm, Wednesday, April 2**  
Alexandra Newspapers, 43 Grant Street, Alexandra, 3714

\*\*Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Children under 5 free entry. Winners will be notified by phone. Tickets will be emailed to winners.\*\*




Tickets can only be emailed to winners. Please ensure you provide an email address.

Name .....

Address .....

Email .....

Phone .....



PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 11

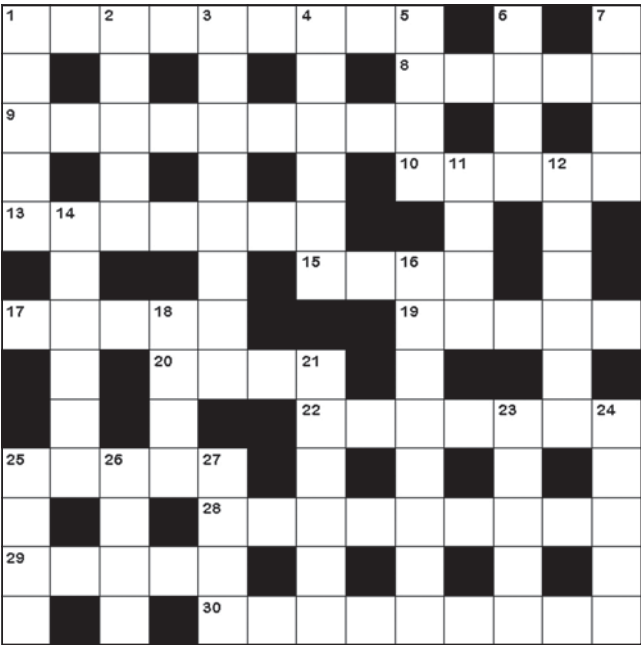
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Beat the other team by a mile.  
8. Prepared to go.  
9. A sweetheart chosen on February 14th.  
10. Keep under observation.  
13. Common chemical used in fertiliser.  
15. Challenge someone to take a risk.  
17. Fish with a hook and line.  
19. Very slowly crept closer.  
20. The first man.  
22. Excuses from a required duty.  
25. All monies that are owed.  
28. A long standing custom.  
29. Take care of the sick.  
30. Things that give enjoyment.

DOWN

1. An assembly of 13 witches.  
2. A small or young owl.  
3. Wrapped a wound with binding.  
4. Totally and utterly destroyed.  
5. Produced a picture with pencil and paper.  
6. Consideration of other peoples feelings.  
7. A widely held idea that is actually false.  
11. Overwhelmed with wonderment and dread.  
12. A notice of warning against certain acts.  
14. Refuse to pay attention to.  
16. Puts things right.  
18. The item at the end.  
21. Something that is a source of danger.  
23. Earlier in time.  
24. Musical compositions with words.  
25. Eat a meal.  
26. The sound made by a dog.  
27. A place for a foot on a ladder.



Word Search

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

Colours

- BLACK                      SIENNA  
BURGUNDY                TERRACOTTA  
GREEN                     TURQUOISE  
MAGENTA                 ULTRAMARINE  
ORANGE                    WHITE  
PURPLE                    YELLOW

Cryptogram

AFL

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

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 9 & 19 & 6 & 22 & 17 & 24 & 12 \end{array}$$

Math Square

	+		-		3
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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.



Seven people from the Yea Golf Club undertook a three and a half hour stroll along the rail trail from Yea to Molesworth last Thursday. -S

Yea golfers walk a long way to reach the 19th hole



The walkers gathered for lunch with their support staff in Molesworth. They thank all those who have supported them. -S

Bridge Works Complete in Fawcett and Molesworth

BRIDGE abutment and decking repair works have been completed on Abes Bridge, Molesworth and Weeding Bridge, Fawcett over January and February.

Bridge abutment repair works for Abes Bridge in Molesworth involved installation of new concrete sleeper and steel upright retaining walls to support the road on both approaches to the bridge.

Bridge abutment and decking repair works for Weeding Bridge in Fawcett involved replacement of existing timber retaining walls with concrete sleeper and steel upright retaining walls, and renewal of the timber decking.

Murrindindi Shire Council thanks the community for their patience while these bridges were closed, and works were carried out.

Opportunities for waterboarding

THE Victorian Government is seeking a wide range of community members to continue the safe, secure, affordable provision of water, to oversee our state’s critical water sector.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney opened expressions of interest for members of the community to join the boards of Victoria’s 18 water authorities, nine catchment management authorities (CMAs), and the Birrarung Council.

“A wide range of community members were appointed to board positions in 2023 and we want to continue to build on this in 2025,” Ms Tierney said.

“If you think you have the skills for the role, are committed to the public provision of water, and want to make a difference to our community, economy and environment, I encourage you to apply.”

Victoria’s public water sector is central to supporting jobs, economic growth, and the environment as Victoria faces a growing population and the impacts of a changing climate.

There will be around 120 board positions available across the state, overseeing the delivery of critical water services and regional catchments and waterways.

Water sector experience, governance and finance skills, an understanding of community engagement, and experience in land and infrastructure management will support applications.

The 2023 appointments process resulted in boards that more closely reflect the diversity of Victoria’s community, with women making up more than half of water board members across the sector.

Regional Victorians are encouraged to apply, bringing knowledge and expertise to these local challenges.

Applicants with an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge of how to manage land and water resources are also encouraged.

The selection process will be led by an independent panel. Expressions of interest close on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. For more information on board vacancies, visit [boards.vic.gov.au](#)



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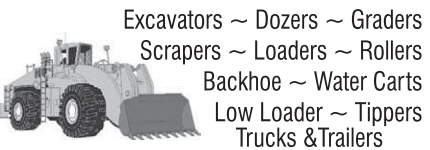
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**Our history: Road testing the Australian car***Alexandra and Yea Standard, November 5, 1948**ON November 29, 1948, Holden unveiled its first locally-made car, the Holden 48-215, known as the Holden FX. The vehicle was a huge hit, with a list of 40,000 waiting for cars. The plant was aiming to produce 20,000 cars per year.*

FOR a period of 10 years before the war it was the job of the writer to road-test cars. In that time he tested almost every new car or new model that appeared on this market, and his test reports were featured throughout the Australian Press. One reason for the popularity of his reports was that the performances of all cars were assessed comparatively, for he tested every car over one specially chosen route.

This is the first road-test report on the Australian car. It is a report that, as an Australian, I am proud to write. Also, it is a report I always hoped to write. Yesterday it became possible, and the Australian car was road-tested over the identical 86 mile route on which I 'punished' so many new cars in the past.

Now, as then, that course is, in my opinion, the best 'give and take' example of Australian road conditions that could be chosen.

But car owners seldom, if ever, punish a car as the Australian car was punished yesterday to learn exactly how it behaves, particularly on rough and potholed tracks, on muddy and water-channelled hills on loose gravel, and under many other conditions.

Yet day in and day out this car, and four others, have been making this identical drive, and under the same severity of handling, and one of them has exceeded 60,000 miles of this testing, equal to about 240,000 miles of normal driving. There is no overstatement in that claim. No car would normally be driven over this course at more than half the set, and timed, testing speeds. Nor would you subject your own car to the abrupt stops, starts, climbs, speed cornerings, accelerations, and other pounding tests that are normal for each test car on each run over this course.

That each of the five test cars has come through months of this severe testing with honours is in itself a tribute to the excellence of the design and construction of the Australian car. But it is my opinion that very few other cars now on this market would give equally good results on the same course.

This includes 12 miles of gravel, most of it loose and rough, but very good for testing steering, riding comfort, cornering and general stability. It includes four miles of unsurfaced hills, steep and greasy and deeply corrugated, also about eight miles of

broken macadam embracing long stretches of water-filled potholes.

Any car that can belt over those potholes at 55mph is a good car, but the Australian car did it easily and in complete control. At the same speed it cornered without tyre screech on both loose gravel and macadam, then on good surfaces went easily up to 75mph and held that speed without use of full throttle. Repeatedly it was accelerated from a slow roll to past 50mph in second gear, and always that speed was gained without nearing the power peak of the engine.

Finally, as a test of high-gear flexibility on a steep grade-varying from one in five to one in 10, the car was checked, back from 30mph to seven mph, then proved itself capable of accelerating a swiftly and easily up from that speed to nearly 50mph.

These things, and many others that the car did, are, the reasons I am proud to write this report, for the Australian car is better than good. It lacks nothing, and it has a dozen or more performance features, each of which hallmarks this car as one of exceptional merit.

Future owners of these cars may perhaps list these things in varying order, but in my opinion four dominant features of the Australian car are: Its inbuilt stability; Marked riding comfort on all surfaces and at all speeds; The excellence of the steering; and the effortless, flexible, always or silent flow of power given by its exceptionally economical engine.

Even to quote performance figures would give no true indication of the merit, of this car, for something of much more importance is the way it gives those performances.

As cars go today, the Australian car is not a big car, but it rides like one, has equivalent passenger comfort, and performs like one. It 'glues down' at 75 as safely and smoothly as any car I could name. It has the power for all-high-gear operation under most conceivable conditions; and it traverses rough going in a way that is only possible when a car is perfect in its weight distribution. In addition, clever design gives exceptional clear vision-in all directions for driver and all passengers, also the roominess and low build that are modern needs. I consider that this car is as skid-proof as any sedan type car yet designed, and in its usually direct steering, light and shock free, it has been given a feature that most-Australian car owners have hitherto sought for in vain.

Finally, and for the average private owner, this is a matter of extreme importance, I do not believe that this car will date in any way, and particularly not in appearance.

Alexandra district agents for this new Australian car, the Holden, are G E Courtney Motors.

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**MATH SQUARES**

1	+	5	-	3	3
-		+		-	
7	+	4	x	8	39
x		+		x	
2	-	9	+	6	-1
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## PUBLIC NOTICES



### Safety on Public Land Act 2004

#### NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

I, Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, give notice pursuant to section 7(1)(a) of the *Safety on Public Land Act 2004*, that I have made a public safety zone declaration published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The declaration made on 20/03/2025 takes effect 21/03/2025 to 31/08/2025 inclusive.

They specify areas of State forest which have been declared public safety zones for;

- conducting fire operations and the maintenance of public safety.

The declaration specifies the period for which the areas have been declared public safety zones; the times or periods during which access to the public safety zones is restricted or prohibited; activities permitted, prohibited, or restricted in the public safety zones; restrictions or conditions (if any) applying to the public safety zones; and persons or classes of persons exempt from their operation.

A copy of the declaration, and maps showing the location of public safety zones, may be inspected at the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002 (by appointment with the Joint Fuel Management Program Coordinator, telephone 136 186).

A copy of the declaration is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>

A copy of the maps showing the location of fire operations is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/JFMP](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/JFMP), or by appointment with the Joint Fuel Management Program Coordinator, telephone 136 186.

Active planned burns are listed on the Planned Burns Victoria Website ([plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)) as either 'Within 10 Days', 'Next 24 hours', 'Now' or 'Patrol'.

Chris Hardman,  
Chief Fire Officer,  
as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy,  
Environment and Climate Action



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## Councils aim to Make Good Happen this federal election

THE Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), the peak body representing Victoria's 79 councils, has launched its 'Make Good Happen' federal election campaign, signalling the Victorian local government sector's five highest priorities ahead of the federal election.

"All councils across Victoria are wanting to partner with the federal government to meet housing demand, fix potholed roads, deliver energy transition commitments, fortify our critical infrastructure to withstand fires, floods or storms, and promote active local democracy and cohesive communities," MAV CEO Kelly Grigsby said.

"With all of these challenges upon us, there has never been a more important time to advocate on behalf of our communities for policies, initiatives and investments that will help build a resilient and sustainable Victoria," Ms Grigsby added.

The MAV 'Make Good Happen' campaign will focus on: Making community infrastructure happen through delivering the infrastructure growing communities need to thrive; making safer roads happen through connecting communities and supporting a safer and more productive Victoria; making fairer energy happen by engaging communities in Victoria's energy transition; making resilient communities happen by future-proofing communities to withstand natural disaster; making local democracy happen by supporting stronger, safer communities and countering disinformation.

In each of these five areas the MAV campaign will showcase best practice programs and initiatives that can be replicated state and nationwide and call for supportive policy and funding.

Speaking in support of the campaign priorities and their importance in Murrindindi Shire, Mayor Damien Gallagher said "The upcoming federal election is a great opportunity for all councils to advocate on behalf of our residents. Working together on shared goals gives us a greater chance for success. The MAV campaign focuses on areas that we believe will have a lasting impact on our shire."

"Together, we are committed to advocating for infrastructure to support sustainable growth in our shire, pushing for safer roads across our large road network, and supporting our communities' interests in the transition to renewable energy, while protecting our local environment, farming viability and tourism.

"Our advocacy also focuses on building resilience to withstand natural disasters, including building back more resilient infrastructure. Strengthening local democracy and the fight against disinformation has always been important, however in the current climate it is even more crucial.

"By addressing these key priorities, we can ensure a brighter, safer, and more sustainable future for all residents of Murrindindi Shire," Cr Gallagher concluded.

The MAV Make Good Happen campaign is providing a unified voice for the local government sector as they advocate to bring about positive change within communities across the state. For more information visit [mav.asn.au/make-good-happen](http://mav.asn.au/make-good-happen)

## Koala Cherries signs enforceable undertaking

KOALA Cherries has signed an enforceable undertaking with the Victorian Workcover Authority. The commitments have been offered to WorkSafe under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. The enforceable undertaking will be in place for 18 months, with WorkSafe monitoring and receiving updates on the progress of the undertakings.

The undertakings are the result of four charges being bought by WorkSafe, alleging that Koala Cherries contravened the OHS Act.

An incident occurred in December 2021 where a labour hire employee's hand became entangled in a cherry grading network of conveyor belts. An emergency stop cable ran across all 23 lanes and was intended to cut the power to the machine if pulled. This did not function as intended at the time of the incident.

Despite the incident, and following successful medical treatments, the injured employee returned to work temporarily in April 2022. While the injured employee was unable to gain the same type of employment, she did secure employment to perform laundry work and able to pick/pack at a warehouse.

Following further medical treatments in December 2022, the injured employee returned to Malaysia in February 2023 and continues to live there. While the injured employee gained functionality of the injury, she has scarring on her hand and cannot fully stretch or bend her thumbs and forefinger.

It was alleged that Koala Cherries failed to reduce the risk to health and safety by installing a physical barrier between the machine and packing lanes, failed to maintain the plant which was as far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health, failing to provide information, instruction and training to enable employees to perform their work in a way that was safe and without risks to health, and that they failed to provide or maintain plant and systems of work that were, so far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health.

Koala Cherries regretted the incident and acknowledged the injury and WorkSafe allegations. The charges were withdrawn after the enforceable undertaking was signed.

Following the incident, Koala isolated the affected area of machinery and installed steel guards in response to the WorkSafe prohibition notices. In December 2021, WorkSafe found that they had complied with the four prohibition notices.



# A lovely morning tea to make lives better

A LOVELY morning tea was held by the Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary on Friday, March 21. There was a raffle, a lucky door prize and a lucky spot prize, as well as some wonderful food, so some much-needed funds were raised.

The funds go towards activities for Rosebank residents, such as a having a manicure or special lunches. In the past, the focus has been on purchasing items, but they are now focused on experiences and special things. It was noted how important activities and exercises are for the residents.

*Some of the ladies enjoying the lovely social morning. -AR*



*Joy, Kaye and Judy speaking to the audience. -AR*



*The ladies enjoying a wonderful morning tea at the fundraiser. -AR*

## Exploring renewables in Murrindindi

LAST Thursday evening at the Yea Butter Factory from 6.30 to 7.30pm, the first of 2030Yea's presentations for 2025 was held, about renewables across Murrindindi. The focus was on assessing and retrofitting older houses so they become more energy efficient.

The small but interested group watched a video of Tim Forcey (My Efficient Electric Home Handbook), assessing the energy efficiency of a Yea resident.

Local resident Penny Bristow who's also had an assessment of her home, talked about what she's learned and what she's done to make her home more efficient both in summer and winter.

Acheron resident, Bev Dick, asked about who can help make and install pelmets, given the big difference they make for keeping heat in, in winter. Any takers out there in our community?

She also asked how to increase the number of solar panels for her 12 year old system. The Solar Savers Project will address this, she was told. More on this can be found at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment/Goulburn-Murray-Solar-Savers](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment/Goulburn-Murray-Solar-Savers)

Yea local, Gary Tuck, had some questions about solar panels and batteries which will be covered as well in a later session.

Across the year there will be a magical mystery bus tour to local sustainable homes near and in Yea, followed by a discussion of useful ideas; a session on retirement investment while loving the planet; experiences with buying and using an EV; renewable tools for farm use; in fact eight presentations across the year.

This series of events is supported by a Quick Response Grant of \$2500 from Murrindindi Shire Council.



*Tim Forcey. -S*



## SPORT

## We manage Victoria's bushfire risk together

by Chris Hardman AFSM Chief Fire Officer Forest Fire Management Victoria

AS summer fades and autumn begins, we take a moment to reflect on the challenges of extreme heat, bushfires and storms over the past months have tested communities across the state, reinforcing the importance of preparedness, swift response and resilience.

We feel for the communities affected by these events, and I thank our crews, contractors, incident management personnel and partner agencies for the work they do to keep Victoria safer.

While the seasons may be changing, our focus remains the same, making sure resources are where they're needed, learning from recent events and strengthening our strategies for the future.

The seasonal outlook shows a higher chance of warmer maximum temperatures into early autumn which may delay the start of planned burning in some parts of the state. It also raises opportunities for planned burning targeting areas that are not usually available under autumn conditions.

We manage Victoria's bushfire risk in a holistic way, including, but not exclusively, through planned burning.

Large intense bushfires are a significant threatening process to the natural environment. Victoria's home to some of the world's most spectacular natural places, fire risk management needs to be balanced alongside land management to be effective.

Reducing the risk and impacts of bushfires requires a multi-faceted approach; there are no magic bullets. Victoria's approach includes having the right road network for accessibility, strategic fuel breaks, fuel management through planned burning and mechanical fuel treatment and advanced approaches to suppression through well-trained people and highly specialised plant, equipment and aviation.

Victorian firefighters and fire managers are world class. We rely on the latest, wide-ranging and global body of research and work with other jurisdictions, but we apply our experience and knowledge to Victorian conditions.

Planned burning is part of our long-term strategy. It's not just about a single burn, or single year, but an ongoing process aimed at creating a strategic network of fuel-reduced areas on public land. This network helps to slow the spread of fire and helps firefighters to reduce threats to communities, critical infrastructure and the environment.

Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable.

As soon as favourable weather and forest conditions arrive, we'll be making sure all available resources are delivering planned burning, with a strong focus on priority areas like Midlands, Yarra Ranges, Murrindindi, Ovens, Otways, and Latrobe Valley.

There may be some forest and road closures in place during and after planned burning. Visit the Planned Burns Victoria website before you travel to make sure your trip isn't affected.

If you live in or are visiting an area where planned burning is taking place, there's a good chance you'll see FFMVic firefighters preparing locations or delivering planned burns. They'll be the ones in our distinctive green firefighting uniforms.

Register for the latest updates if you want to know more about where and when we burn at [plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)



The starting line at the first-ever Eildon Pondage parkrun. -S



Some of the parkrun volunteers. -S



One of the participants receiving a place token at the finish line. -S

## Eildon Pondage parkrun up and running

AFTER months of planning, the inaugural Eildon Pondage parkrun event was held on Saturday March 22.

Seventy-four locals and visitors, aged from under 10 to over 70 years, met at the Ted Lech Drive barbecue area to walk, jog or run through the morning mist. This included plenty of locals who were completely new to parkrun and only signed up on the day.

parkrun is a free weekly timed event that is organised entirely by volunteers. Participants can walk, jog, run or volunteer, and spectators are also warmly welcomed. There are around 500 parkruns across Australia, with Eildon Pondage being the

newest. parkruns are also held every week in many countries all over the world.

Murrindindi's very own parkrun will now be happening every Saturday. Welcome briefing starts at 7.45am. The local team encourages anyone and everyone to come along and see for themselves. You can also contact the team to find out more via email [eildonpondage@parkrun.com](mailto:eildonpondage@parkrun.com) or call Anna on 0406 320 323.

Eildon Pondage parkrun was launched with support from the Eildon Opportunity Shop, Murrindindi Shire Council, Goulburn-Murray Water, AGL, Eildon Events Inc., and helpful community members.

For free one-off registration, visit [parkrun.com.au/register](https://parkrun.com.au/register)



Happy parkrunners posing for a picture. -S

## Over 500,000 consultations for VVED

AUSTRALIA'S first ever virtual emergency department is marking a major milestone, providing more than half a million consultations to Victorians in need with free around-the-clock urgent care, in the comfort of their own home.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas recently visited the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) to catch up with the dedicated team of doctors and nurses currently delivering more than 550 consultations every day.

"With more than 500,000 video consultations, the VVED has become a service Victorians rely on, and it is all thanks to the hardworking doctors and nurses who support patients 24/7," Ms Thomas said.

Starting as a pilot in October 2020, the VVED rolled out statewide in April 2022 and has provided clinical assessments, medical advice, treatment and referrals to Victorians of all ages, right across the state.

Since July 2024 through to Thursday, March 20, there have been 1576 total presentations to VVED from people in Murrindindi Shire.

This represents 0.9 per cent of all VVED presentations.

In the past year, the service helped 83 per cent of patients who would have otherwise gone to the hospital avoid an unnecessary trip to the hospital when they needed urgent care.

With health services busier than ever, demand for the VVED is high with almost 22,000 calls in December 2024 alone, making it busier than any other emergency department.

The service is also helping alleviate pressure on paramedics, with around 79 per cent of patients referred by a paramedic receiving virtual care at home, avoiding paramedics driving them to hospital and freeing them up to return to the road and assist patients with life-threatening emergencies.

The Victorian Government backed VVED with a \$235 million funding boost last year to continue the critical service and double its

capacity, so it can assist more than 1000 Victorians with consultations directly from home or work.

It will also support more direct referrals from aged care, paramedics in the field, primary health networks, the Nurse on Call service and self-referrals from the community, helping take further pressure off the health system.

The VVED is just one of the many initiatives established by the state government to support the busy health system and give Victorians more choice in where and when they get their care.

This includes the 29 Urgent Care Clinics staffed by GPs and nurses who can treat a wide range of conditions, such as burns and sprains. Since launching in September 2022, the clinics have seen more than 650,000 visits.

If faced with an emergency, Victorians should still call Triple Zero or present to their closest emergency department.

To access the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department, please visit [vved.org.au](https://vved.org.au)



## SPORT

## Good turn out for stableford round

by Alan Pell

LAST Wednesday saw 19 men including three visitors play a stableford round at Yea Golf Club. Winner with 39 points was Bob Glenister (11) from runner-up Russ Wealands (24) 37, third Rob Gill (30) 36 on countback from Brendan Chenhall (15) fourth. Nearest the pin on the 14th was Alan Pell and Mic Sheather took out the club award,

On Saturday 21 men contest the Monthly Medal with Captain Alan Pell (13) winning the Medal with nett 66. Second was Russ Wealands (24) again with nett 68 followed by Brendan "Trout" Chenhall (15) with nett 69 third. Fourth was Paul Clayton (9) with nett 71 on countback from fifth Allan Coates (8). The putting was won By John Phillips with 25 putts and Steve Rumney won the club award. Rick Wills was nearest the pin on the 18th.

This week Yea Golf Club is on tour to the Murray River. Tocumwal Monday, Cobram-Barooga Tuesday and Black Bull Yarrawonga Thursday will see 29 golfers and partners attend the pleasures of the River country up north.

## Merton cricketers just miss playing in the grand final

MERTON cricketers travelled to Mulwala for a chance to play the Wangaratta and District Cricket Association (WDCA) B Grade grand final versus the season's top side of the Yarrawonga Lakers.

Both sides arrived to the ground under blue skies and perfect conditions however over 40mm of rain on Thursday greeted both sides with a rain affected turf wicket which was quite damp in parts.

The toss was crucial as bowling first to make use of the conditions was key to the outcome of the match. Yarrawonga won the toss and sent Merton in with instant success with Mackinnon removed in the second over for zero. Berriman and King weathered the storm somewhat but really struggled to get going with the visitors failing to build any partnerships eventually being bowled out in the 28th over for 73.

L Berriman 20 and Jarrod Mahoney 19 the top scorers with Jyda House 3/23 the top wicket taker for the home side. The Merton

bowlers struggled to take wickets with a few chances not quite going Merton's way.

In a late twist with Yarrawonga at 2/67 the combination of Henry Berriman 3/10 and James Benton 1/7 saw the home side lose 3/6 in two overs, however Yarrawonga passed Merton's total in the 27th over finishing 5/74. Hudson Gillies 29 and Geoff Montgomery 31 really won the game for their side in challenging conditions. Harry Craddock 1/13 was the other wicket taker.

Yarrawonga will play Benalla at Stan Hargreaves Oval Yarrawonga in the grand final next Saturday. A disappointing season end for the Merton side although a great experience for the young players in the side against experienced cricketers. The Merton players wish to thank their sponsors, supporters and parents for a successful season and are hoping to build on this next season.

## That's not a fish. This is a fish

LOCAL man, Chris Simms, landed a giant 1.3m cod out of Lake Eildon.

Since January 15, he's caught six cod measuring over a metre, including 1.06m, 1.08m and up from there, including a 1.2m.



The full video of Chris Simms showing off his big cod can be found on the Alexandra Newspapers Facebook page. -S

The 1.3m cod was the largest he's ever caught. It was "just on dark, about 8.30pm" and it was caught on a spinner bait, as has been the case with his other fish.

Chris said, "They're fairly heavy. I've just got a big net and it's a lot of back pain for the next couple of days."

Most of his fishing is done solo, and he was on the boat by himself for the big catch as well. He said that although it's a challenge, "It's all worth it."

He releases the fish straight away, sitting them in the water for a little while, holding their mouth. Once they start swimming freely, he lets them go.

"I don't eat fish, and you're not allowed to keep them at that size anyway. I only do it for the thrill," he said.

He's been a fisherman for his whole life. His father started him off and it "went from there."

## Big wins for some squash players

by Kristelle Leary

### Affogato versus Espresso

ERIC versus Tyler: Quickly taking the lead, Eric claimed the first game. Tyler switched the script to win the next three games and the match. 60 to 49.

Matt J (fill in) versus James G: Starting off strong James held a solid lead after game one. Matt lifted his game to keep it close but still lost the match in the end. 62 to 48.

Jared versus Justin: A competitive game played in good spirits. The third

game being the deciding game with Justin pulling ahead in points. 63 to 58.

Derrick versus John: A killer first game for John with his finesse shining. Derrick gradually improved as with each progressing game to eventually win the match. 56 to 50.

### Cappuccino versus Mocha

LOCHLAN versus Ethan: A close game. Both players had some brilliant serves, returns and rallies between them it was entertaining to watch and Ethan won taking three games and the match. 55 to 47.

Jack versus Michael H: Jumping to a quick lead, Jack had a sixteen-point lead

at the halfway mark. Michael tightened up his game to take the last two games, but he couldn't overthrow Jack. With a respectable lead, Jack took home the trophy. 57 to 46.

### Chai versus Earl Grey

RANDY versus Chris: Randy didn't stand a chance on the night. Chris came out and stayed on the ball consistently throughout each game to win the match. 88 to 47.

Sam versus Travis: A close match. Travis had some good shots and won the second game. But Sam had the upper hand on the night, winning the match. 57 to 49.

Jim versus Daniel W: Amazing quickness and strength. There was plenty of ducking and strokes called in this match. Daniels hard hitting, was no match for Jim's precision. Jim claimed the win. 66 to 46.

### Darjeeling versus Rooibos

BETH versus James S: A convincing win for our new player. James didn't waste any time, collecting points at an impressive rate. Beth had no comeback for her opponent, allowing James to win with a solid lead. 72 to 44.

Rob versus Blake: Having gone up a level Blake is still finding his footing. Rob's intensity was too much for his opponent and saw him take home a devastating win. 89 to 30.

Phil versus Daniel: Phil has the amazing ability to keep the ball alive. Unfortunately, this doesn't necessarily translate into gaining points. Per usual Daniel left the court looking very unphased and with a massive win. 74 to 30.

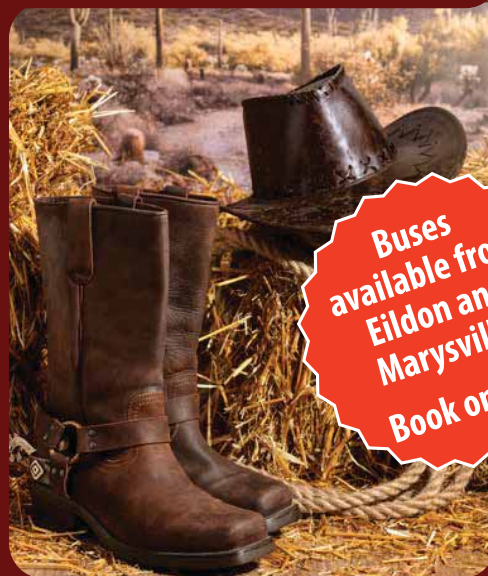


Michael sits back and waits as Jack returns his shot. -S

## AS REAL AS IT GETS

# ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY  
5 APRIL 2025



Buses  
available from  
Eildon and  
Marysville.  
Book online



## Alexandra Country & Western Meeting

Punting and ponies  
C & W Fashions in the Field  
Music, magic, photo booth, and much much more  
• \$15pp or \$10pp for concession card holders  
• Children 16 and under FREE  
• Gates open at noon ~ first race at 1.15pm

BOOKINGS: [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)





# The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



## Great games for Yea Bowls Club

by Angela Finn

YEA Bowls Club has been busy of recent times. The Nutrien Harcourt Community Challenge had another successful evening on Thursday, March 20. Eight teams took part in a hard-fought challenge. It began to rain quite heavily toward the end of the second game. 'And I thought golfers were mad,' was one comment heard as each team persisted to finish an end before play was abandoned with just one end to go.

The Nutrien Harcourt winners this week were Snoddies: Kevin Smith, Jan Gilmartin and Amanda Harris. The runners up were Dave, Chris and Ken.

Just one week to go. If you would like a game as an individual or team of three, please ring the Yea Bowls Club number on 5797 2770, or just turn up by 6pm.

The Subway Monday Triples was played in beautiful weather. As always, the competition was fierce, with no team winning or losing

all three games. The games were played in excellent spirit with lots of banter. The winners were Howard Geldard, Tony Butt, and Maurie Finn. The runners-up were Neil Rieschick, Dick Dashwood, and Barb Tanner.

On Friday, March 21 saw the Southern Ranges Schools hold their Regional Secondary Schools Competition. Approximately 70 children took part from Broadford, Mansfield, Euroa, FCJ Benalla, St Mary's College Seymour, and Seymour Secondary College.

Teachers from the schools organised teams and draws and members from Yea Bowls Club provided coaching tips to players.

A very enjoyable day was had by all and the standard of play improved markedly during the day.

On Saturday, March 22 a member of Bennettswood Bowls Club has booked the green for an afternoon of fun with extended family and friends, with bar facilities provided by Yea Bowls club.



Subway Monday Triples winners.



The Nutrien Harcourt Community Challenge winners. -S

## Practice matches for Yea women's team

YEA'S new senior women's football team will complete their pre-season activities this Friday night, March 28, when they meet Macedon at Broadford.

Yea are about to participate in the AFL Outer East competition for the very first time.

Leading the Tigers in their inaugural season is former AFLW and VFLW player, and local Yea physiotherapist, Jess Kennedy.

"Very excited with our journey to date. We have so many players new to the game, that our growth has no ceiling. Hopeful that with each exposure, enjoyment grows. Very much looking forward to the hit out and appreciate Doona having reached out," Jess said.

Macedon women's 2025 program is being headed up by one time Yea senior coach, Chris 'Doona' Nolan.

"For me it's all about the fun and the energy the girls bring. Our catchcry is that if we aren't winning we are learning and that's holistically as people, not just in a football sense," Nolan said.

"The craft and fundamental work has been done since late January so for the players it's now just about how that translates, looks and

feels in real game play against a community club I hold close to my heart" he added.

With involvements and interests still at higher levels of the women's game, both coaches are looking to transfer back their knowledge and experiences gained in football to their respective communities.

The game will commence at Harley Hammond Reserve at 6.30pm.