

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, April 2, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Optus fast-tracks 5G network in Yea



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Yea Pottery Club set to celebrate 50



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Sustainable farming field day



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Weekend sport



Pages 14-16



Mark Bartlett, Bev Bartlett, and Tristan Gabb at the Cheviot Tunnel during Cycle Dindi. -MP

Update on Boundary Creek

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked to provide an update on the works being done to protect residents from flooding from Boundary Creek in Yea.

They responded, "Murrindindi Shire Council appreciates the community's ongoing interest in flooding in the Boundary Creek area of Yea. We recognise the concern that recent flood events have raised and want to reassure residents that properties in the area have been built to withstand a one in 100 year flood, as required by planning guidelines. This is a consistent approach applied across state.

"The 2024 flood was a one in 200 year event. While roads and backyards were affected, houses sustained no over floor flooding. In response to this rare event, council has taken several steps to reduce future flood risks in the most affected areas.

"The old farm dam along Boundary Creek Boulevard has been reshaped and additional minor earthworks have been undertaken to reduce overland flow from the reserve. Additionally, council is working with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) to conduct flood modelling in Yea and other locations across the shire to better understand and manage flood risks.

"With support from joint funding through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and CFA's Safer Together project Vegetation Management Grant (VMG), council has been removing woody weeds from the creek area. This work not only improves the local environment and reduces fire risks but also supports better management of water flow.

"Council remains focused on building community resilience and continues to advocate for resources to support further recovery and resilience projects. We look forward to sharing further updates as this work progresses."



DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS:
Don't forget that at 3am on Sunday, April 6, daylight saving ends. Clocks will need to be turned back by one hour. While many clocks make the changes automatically, you will have to change the time manually on wall clocks, oven clocks, analogue watches, microwaves, and many car clocks. -Friedrich Haag

EASTER OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 AND MONDAY, APRIL 21

**EARLY DEADLINES
APPLY FOR APRIL 23
EDITION**

NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 17
★ DISPLAY ADS - BOOKING AND ARTWORK
★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES ★ TRADES

10AM MONDAY, APRIL 21
★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WILL REOPEN 9AM TUESDAY, APRIL 22



43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 5772 1002
email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA, EILDON, MARYSVILLE
Standard

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS**



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Letters to the Editor

Welcome ceremony

LAST week's letter from the person unhappy about the Welcome ceremony shows a disappointing lack of understanding. I challenge him to dig into history with his empathy pocket open.

A longtime resident, he enjoys raising cattle on river frontage and riding through the bush. He feels deep connection to the land, and I concur. We do live in a beautiful place, and our roots and sense of freedom is strong. Lucky us.

I challenge this man to imagine being forcibly removed from his land. His paddocks sold to others and no funds returned to him.

Imagine leaving with few clothes nor supplies. Not allowed to access his own food supply on his own land, unable to access his section of river to even catch a fish for tea. Law-makers prohibit his return. He argues with authorities that this isn't fair. Guns are pointed his way and he fears for his life. No chance to return to where he spread his loved one's ashes. He is both angry and bereft. As winter approaches he knows full well the death wish of frost.

That this happened to aboriginal people all over Australia, including in our valley, is a fact.

It is incredibly generous of current First Nations descendants to offer the ceremonial and symbolic Welcome to Country. They

could show us the finger instead, but they're bigger than that. They are offering a way forward. It's an olive branch.

I commend the shire for developing a Reconciliation Action Plan and I see the small steps taken to reconcile the past and build a positive future is based on empathy, fair-go and respect.

It is about fostering a mature and positive understanding and connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

I challenge people who are cross about Welcomes to dig into history with their empathy pocket open.

Dale Wakefield, Acheron

Mayor's Chair: My Country

by Cr Damien Gallagher

AS Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council, I'd like to share with you some of the reasoning and context behind my approach to Acknowledging Country.

When people come together as a community for discussions or meetings, I recognise that we have a complex history. I pay my respects to Elders of the past as the keepers of the traditions, knowledge and culture of this land. As often as possible, I explain *why* I offer an Acknowledgement.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* speaks of a type of sovereignty being the ancient and spiritual ties of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the land: To soil to which they will one day return, to be united with ancestors. It's this sovereignty that's never been ceded, and it *coexists* with Crown sovereignty. If you've had the opportunity to engage with local First Nations People, you would know first-hand that connection to Country is deep and mysterious, but closely resembles our own instinctive

relationship with a favourite picnic spot, or 4WD track, or quiet riverside getaway.

A Welcome to Country is offered by Traditional Owners as a special and very personal ceremonial invitation to visitors to enjoy safe passage on their journey on local lands. It's an invitation to experience that spiritual connection to place. As Mayor, the closest metaphor for a Welcome to Country is when I congratulate new citizens on behalf of all Australians immediately after their public commitment to Australia as they accept Australian citizenship.

An Acknowledgment of Country is a respectful recognition of the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to the land. Anyone may offer such an expression of respect at a meeting or event.

Professionals, educators, councillors and council staff, community leaders, and young people offer an Acknowledgement of Country for a variety of reasons.

My own motivations are heartfelt and considered: For a long time, Traditional Owners were excluded from history books, from our national anthem, and sadly, from Australian democracy. Even a modest but sincere Acknowledgement recognises that truth; Our community has articulated an aspirational vision of cultural respect, inclusion, and participation for all. In response, council adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan making the inclusion of this symbolic but important gesture of offering an Acknowledgement council policy; My Acknowledgement gives. It takes from no person; I embrace my sworn duty to ensure that Murrindindi Shire Council gives effect to specific governance principles, including "achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations". Our municipal community is comprised of Traditional Owners, ratepayers, those who live or do business here, and those who visit.

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The Yea Chronicle

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Alexandra Newsagency

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Endeavour Yea

Hazeldene Store

Merton General Store

Seymour Newsagency

Shell Thornton

Yea FoodWorks

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Weekly Weather



April 2 - April 8, 2025








Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	24 
Thursday	9	21 
Friday	9	19 
Saturday	7	15 
Sunday	10	17 
Monday	7	17 
Tuesday	8	19 

Standard

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	25 
Thursday	9	21 
Friday	9	20 
Saturday	7	16 
Sunday	10	18 
Monday	8	18 
Tuesday	8	19 

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.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.27	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.53am Mon	0.42	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarek	8.46am Mon	0.12	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.20am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.20am Mon	0.24	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.14	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	10.00am Mon	0.10	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.90	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.11	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.58am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	9mm
Buxton.....	3mm
Eildon (AWS).....	8mm
Flowerdale.....	8mm
Jamieson.....	5mm
Kinglake.....	11mm
Lake Eildon.....	16mm
Mansfield.....	15mm
Taggerty	3mm
Yarek	9mm
Yea.....	4mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	279.20m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	65.8%
Metres below full supply.....	9.7m
Daily inflow	3500ML
Release.....	6500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	90%

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

Optus fast-tracks 5G network in Yea

FROM Tuesday, March 25, local residents across Yea, Victoria, began enjoying the benefits of Optus fast-tracking its 5G network rollout, thanks to recent upgrades that include the activation of 5G on an existing site.

This upgraded site, now also offers Optus 5G+, which provides broader coverage and greater capacity compared to standard Optus 5G. This means a better mobile experience for eligible customers in the local area.

Optus's commitment to the Yea community, dates back to the region's first Optus tower in 2006. Alongside the 5G site, the broader Yea area benefits from six Optus 4G sites, ensuring residents, businesses, and visitors remain connected and supported as the region continues to grow.

Jayson Grool, Local General Manager at Optus, said Optus is committed to giving customers in Yea and surrounds access to great mobile coverage and fast internet.

"Local businesses and customers in the region will soon notice the positive impacts of Optus 5G connectivity as the roll-out continues over the coming months.

"The improved connectivity for Yea and surrounding areas will bring significant benefits, including faster data speeds and wider 5G mobile coverage as more 5G sites are turned on, helping the community to stay better connected," he said.

Optus was recognised by Opensignal as the provider with the fastest average 5G mobile network download speed for the seventh consecutive time and the most consistent network quality. They are proud to continue investing in the network and strengthening connectivity for communities like Yea.

Optus's plans to accelerate its 5G roll-out in the regions, fast-tracking the number of 5G sites in regional Australia to 1500 by the end of 2028 and 2444 by the end of 2030.



Yea's upgraded Optus tower. -S

Melba Highway landslip works

INTERIM safety works are currently underway on the Melba Highway at Dixons Creek, just south of the Healesville-Kinglake Road intersection. They commenced on Monday, March 31 and will be completed by Friday, April 4, from 7am to 7pm. The works will enable the reinstatement of the 80km/h speed limit.

The works include installing safety barriers, clearing drains and installing logs to stabilise the embankment and reduce further water impact. During works, one lane on the Melba Highway will remain open with reduced speed limits in place. Traffic controllers will be on-site to manage two-way traffic.

A reminder about our native wildlife

ALL wildlife is protected in Victoria under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, and it is illegal to hunt, take, destroy, injure, or interfere with wildlife without authorisation.

Offenders face maximum penalties of more than \$9,870 and/or six months imprisonment.

Further penalties under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* may also apply.

If you know or suspect someone is illegally harming or killing wildlife, you can make an anonymous report to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Mayor's Chair: My Country

Continued from Page 2

I have aspirations for my country. I believe we are finding our way there. In my country, treaty and reconciliation is not about 'getting it out' and 'moving on', they're about 'letting it in', and 'moving together'. In my country, we have an annual, truly unified day of national celebration free of sadness, anxiety, or guilt for any Australian.

Am I'm optimistic or overly idealistic? Have I just overexplained a well-understood convention? Hopefully it's clear now that my Acknowledgement costs \$0 and yes, we can walk and chew gum: That is, council can respectfully acknowledge our past while looking forward with optimism, delivering services, engaging in meaningful advocacy, and providing infrastructure outcomes for our diverse, inclusive, resilient community.

For thousands of generations, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people were the custodians of the land, the air, and the water we now call Murrindindi Shire. In a spirit of reconciliation, on behalf of the Murrindindi Shire Community, I respectfully acknowledge the First Nations leaders and Elders we live, work, and play alongside. I pay our respects to Elders of the past as the keepers of the traditions, knowledge and culture of this land.

I extend that respect to every reader, and I acknowledge your personal and evolving connection to this place.

Mayor, Murrindindi Shire Council

May 3 for federal election

ON Friday, March 28, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Government House to call the federal election for Saturday, May 3. The campaigns will last for five weeks.

Get those sausages sizzling, and mark the date in your calendar.



THUMBS UP: Congratulations to all those involved in the wonderful Cluster Sport Day at the oval on Tuesday. A huge thank you from a delighted great grandmother who thoroughly enjoyed seeing the young people competing, having fun and uniting with different schools.

THUMBS DOWN: With no seasonal rain and dirt dry paddocks, the sounds of bellowing, hungry cattle carry across the district 24/7. Thumbs down to those not supplementary feeding their hungry cattle or sending them to market.

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

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

CFA serving Victoria for 80 years

by Jason Heffernan, CFA Chief Officer

THIS week CFA marks 80 years as an organisation, protecting and serving Victorians through the commitment and dedication of our volunteers over the decades.

The volunteer brigade movement has been around in Victoria for greater than 170 years. The CFA was created following the findings of the 1939 Black Friday disaster, but our rich history mirrors that of the state, with the earliest brigades emerging on the goldfields in the 1850s.

This milestone encompasses an immeasurable legacy of sacrifice, commitment and stories which go to the heart of the Australian psyche, exemplifying mateship and the principle of being there for others in their time of need.

The iconic 'yellows' are instantly recognisable and synonymous with selfless service and bravery in preparing and protecting communities across Victoria and beyond.

Members and brigades can be found in every part of Victoria, providing a deep and unparalleled connection with their communities.

The CFA has learned from the many devastating events throughout history and continue to evolve and improve our understanding of fire, while ensuring that frontline firefighters and the community are as safe as possible as they carry out their work.

Fire prevention and suppression techniques have advanced significantly, boosted by the use of aerial appliances, telecommunications, improved weather modelling and cutting-edge predictive fire behaviour tools, as well as a focus on planned burning and other fuel reduction methods.

While many Victorians associate CFA with bushfire, our members and the work they do is so much more than that. The CFA attended more than 37,000 incidents in the past year alone, in addition to the continuing community preparedness activities which help communities stay safe.

The roles of CFA members cover a broad range of skillsets, from specialist rope rescue, air observers, road crash rescue, mine rescue, alpine, forest and coastguard operations and frontline firefighting and structure firefighting to research, community education and incident management.

As one of the most fire-prone areas in the world, CFA has been at the forefront of research and innovation to provide our members with the best possible equipment, training, tools and resources for their critical mission.

CFA's work depends on a whole of emergency sector response and we thank our partner agencies for supporting us in the work that we do.

The CFA also acknowledges and appreciates the support of the many thousands of employers who understand that when a call comes in, a volunteer must turn out to protect their community.

In recent months, we have seen just how volatile a fire season can be, with thousands of volunteers and staff responding across the state.

Victoria is a safer place thanks to the millions of hours of dedicated service provided by CFA volunteers and staff, and we are excited and inspired to continue our work for another 80 years.

This week, take a moment to thank CFA volunteers for their service by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au and leaving your thoughts.

Our office will be closed Friday, April 25

Early deadlines will apply

Display booking and artwork noon, Thursday, April 24

We will reopen Monday, April 28, at 9am

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to Marco, Matilda, Maddie, Joey, Sophia and Harper, recipients of our Values Award this week.

Well done for showing all our school values, we are very proud of you.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Hayley, Alex, Sophie, Olivia and Ryder on 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



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*.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

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

Darren Gilbert Open Studio Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm each day. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. Other times by appointment 0421 378 451.

Alexandra Speedway VSC ladies sport sedan state title, standard saloons and more. Racing starts at 4pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Beyond the Beats, live young, local music artists. A vibrant music event celebrating fresh talent and good vibes. 2-5.30pm at Pixies at the Billabong Eildon. Tickets via QR code in ad in this edition.

Rates increase under tabled ESVF legislation

THE Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) will replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) from July 1, 2025, with the legislation recently being tabled in Victorian Parliament.

According to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) website, the ESVF "will help support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

"The ESVF will fund up to 87.5 per cent of FRV's budget, and up to 95 per cent of CFA's budget."

The DTF website also says that the ESVF will fund up to 95 per cent of the budgets for the organisations listed above.

Both the old and the new levy have a variety of categories to determine the amount charged for contribution to Victoria's fire services, such as residential, non-residential, industrial and primary production, as well as a fixed charge and a variable component.

The fixed charge has increased by \$4 to \$9 across all categories under the new ESVF, while the variable rate has almost tripled in some categories.

For residential primary place of residence the variable rate has increased from 8.7 cents per \$1000 of capital improved value (CIV) to 17.3 cents per \$1000 of CIV. This is almost double.

In particular, the variable rate for the primary production category has increased from 28.7 cents per \$1000 of CIV to 83 cents per \$1000 of CIV for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Emergency service volunteers will be granted an exemption from paying the ESVF on their primary place of residence.

"That's why, from July 1 2025, active volunteers and life members won't have to pay the ESVF on their primary place of

residence (such as a house or farm)," the DTF website reads.

"Further details regarding eligibility will be provided following consultation with affected organisations."

There is also the potential that farmers with multiple properties that operate as a single enterprise may be eligible to pay a single fixed charge.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking spoke out against the proposed increase in the levy charges.

"This tax hike is just another cost farm businesses will be forced to pay and it's time to go back to the drawing board and find a better solution," Mr Hosking said.

"A one-size-fits-all approach clearly doesn't work when you've got some farmers facing a hike of up to 400 per cent. There's no way a rise of that much can be justified and for some, it could be the nail in the coffin for their farm business.

"Instead of placing a blanket levy on all property owners, the government should consider a more targeted approach that ensures the funds are distributed where they're needed most.

"Rural Victorians are already bearing the brunt of many challenges, from droughts to fires. This levy will add insult to injury, making it even harder for farmers to recover and thrive."

This newspaper contacted the CFA for comment and a spokesperson responded to say that the CFA is working out what the changes mean for their organisation.

"The government announced in December a \$250 million package and emergency service levy and changes to the Fire Service Levy, and CFA is working through what these changes mean," the CFA spokesperson said.

"The government has indicated eligible CFA volunteers and life members will be able to access an exemption through a rebate system, and we are working on what that will mean for CFA volunteers."

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish is critical of the increase in taxes and questions how the government decided on the figures.

"When the government runs out of money, they come after yours. This time they are unfairly targeting farmers with huge increases on the previous levy," Ms McLeish said.

"This is another big fat Allan Labor Government tax grab who have lost control of their finances and are expecting to gain an extra \$2.1 billion from this tax.

"There has been no transparency about how the government arrived at these rates and the eligibility around volunteers is unclear with a messy rebate system.

"Farmers have been doing it tough with floods and now dams are drying up quickly. Many have mortgages and are not the wealthy land barons that the city centric Labor government think they are. For the government to use our farmers as their cash cow is just completely reckless and irresponsible," Ms McLeish finished.

Continued Page 12

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

YOU'RE INVITED

SCENIC MARYSVILLE

■ Sunday, April 13, 2025 noon to 2pm ■ 4 Barton Avenue Marysville Vic

OPEN DAY

Over 3 years in the making, designed and built by the creators of Marysville Garden Cottages, is the brand-new **SCENIC MARYSVILLE**

Thoughtfully appointed 13 suite tourist accommodation, catering for adults seeking a rejuvenating retreat.

scenicmarysville.com.au



Members of the planning crew for Beyond the Beats with the stage set-up at Pixies at the Billabong. -S

All ages welcome at Beyond the Beats

BEYOND the Beats is happening on Sunday, April 13 from 2pm until 5.30pm at Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon. The event aims to showcase young, local talent, both on and off the stage.

Three young people from across Murrindindi Shire have attended fortnightly planning workshops to design the all-ages live music event (Tarni, Issy and Liv), with planning crew workshops having been held at council offices, online and at the event venue, Pixies at the Billabong in Eildon (with hot chips and visits to the new splash park).

The planning crew took the lead with the following tasks: Naming the event; designing and distributing advertising posters across the shire; discussing event logistics; drafting run sheets and online feedback forms; deciding on food and drink options; creating event signage; discussing important event safety measures (eg. where security would stand, child safety procedures, inclusive spaces, accessibility options, photography consent, alcohol/drug/smoke/vape/violence free, bag checks, no pass-outs, catastrophic weather events); designing venue decorations; communicating with venue managers; and much more.

Local artist line-up includes Lilah Galbraith, Alexis Farley, Samuel Harris, Tayla Anne Music, and Tacks Evasion, all of whom are young people living in Murrindindi Shire.

Two return bus routes are available for \$5 per seat, ensuring young people and their friends or families have access to safe transport options, to and from the event, from across the shire.

Bus Route West, stopping Kinglake, Flowerdale, Yea and Alexandra. Bus Route East, stopping Marysville, Buxton, Taggerty and Thornton. Buses are picking up from and dropping off to the Kinglake Library, Flowerdale House, the Yea Library, the Alexandra Library, MIRA Marysville, Buxton Primary School, Taggerty General Store and the Thornton General Store.

Event and bus tickets are available via Try Booking, with a QR code provided in the advertising poster. Can also be accessed via a link from council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/beyondthebeats

Adult 18 plus years: \$20; teen 12 to 17 years: \$15; youth five to 11 years: \$10; under four years-old are free. Return bus ticket is \$5 and is limited to 19 seats per bus route.

Planning crew and artists will be remunerated. This event will create opportunities for young people to get involved in community events, perform in a dedicated live music venue or enjoy an afternoon of live, local music. This event has been funded through *The Push All-Ages Grants Program* as part of the Victorian Government's 10,000 Gigs initiative and Murrindindi Shire Council.

Building respect at more Victorian schools

THE Victorian Government's Respectful Relationships program is being expanded to even more non-government schools to help embed a culture of respect and gender equality, delivering on commitments made in the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll announced that a further 81 new Catholic and independent schools are ready to roll out the Respectful Relationships initiative.

More than 2000 government, Catholic and independent schools are now signed up, including more than 450 non-government schools. Expression of interests for non-government schools to join are open until May 15.

Schools signing up to the program will be supported with startup funding of up to

\$20,000 over two years for eligible schools to implement Respectful Relationships in 2025.

Findings from a Respectful Relationships evaluation identified the most significant impact for students was improved social and emotional skills. Students reported having a better understanding of their feelings and emotions, improved coping strategies and their ability to articulate needs.

Since 2016, the Victorian Government has invested \$129 million to deliver training and support to roll out the Respectful Relationships program.

Respectful Relationships is part of a broader community approach to primary prevention of family violence. For more information please visit vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships

BEYOND THE BEATS

Live Young, Local music artists

A vibrant music EVENT celebrating fresh talent & good vibes!

DATE:
Sunday 13 April, 2025

TIME:
2:00 – 5:30 PM

LOCATION:
Pixies at The Billabong,
Eildon



IMPORTANT EVENT information

All ages welcome, Transport available across the shire

SOFT drinks, water and snacks INCLUDED

a family-friendly event for everyone!

a safe, inclusive space - Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking AND Vaping FREE

NO Pass Outs – once you enter, stay and enjoy the music!

Bag checks at entry – for safety, security, and a great experience

TICKETS via qr code
tickets available until sold out

Featuring... Tayla Anne Music
Lilah Galbraith Samuel Harris
Alexis Farley Tacks evasion

Music, vibes AND pure fun! Enjoy live performances, dance and celebrate local talent at Beyond the Beats!

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Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677



ADVERTISEMENT



Eight months of flocking and frolicking at the Flowerdale Hotel

IN August, last year Evan, Andrew and Sarah were thrown into the deep end as Steve and Viv embarked on the next phase of their life and entrusted them to take care of the historic Flowerdale Hotel.

Evan and Andrew said that they have been blessed with amazing staff and a community full of awesome characters who have embraced and supported them as they learned the ropes and earned the right to be a part of this very special place.

They have had some terrific functions at the hotel, including bike clubs, car clubs, 18th to 80th birthday parties, and the community day

where they cooked up an assortment of treats to share with locals.

They have had a chance to explore pulled pork and beef sliders, charcoal souvlakis and wood fired pizzas, while also keeping true to the tried and trusted favourites from the past, with a home-cooked pub-style standard menu. The feedback has been great, particularly around quality and portions.

The hotel is lucky to boast four very distinct spaces to accommodate everyone. They have the typical public bar with new air conditioning for the summer, a fire for the winter, the obligatory pool table and an

authentic old school vibe. There the dining room, a traditional bistro style area with a new lounge and a kids area. Out the front, where there is often a sea of motorbikes or classic cars, it's often the busiest part of the pub. They also have a beer garden where they have had bands, spit roasts, barbecues and a bunch of child-friendly toys.

Over the last few months, they have been exploring a range of live music options from 70s punk, 60s to 80s rock, and they've even had an acoustic soloist on the back of a Bedford truck, a new addition to the pub. Feedback has been fantastic and they will

keep trying to provide opportunities for local musicians to strut their stuff.

The kitchen staff have been having a great time exploring new specials every week to the delight of the regulars. The bar staff have also been busy adding some new flavours to the spirit shelf and a new wine cabinet for the budding sommeliers out there.

Evan, Andrew and Sarah feel truly humbled to have been accepted into this community and privileged to be allowed to continue the tradition of this 120 year old piece of history.

Please visit. They would love to hear your stories from the past as the business continues to grow with the wonderful community.



Sarah and Andrew. -S



The Flowerdale Hotel. -S



The outdoor area. -S

- Coming events**
- Saturday, April 12 - The Smash
 - Easter Saturday, April 19 - The Shaggy Soundlords
 - Anzac day, Friday, April 25 - Marty Monster Band
 - Monday Madness is every Monday - Kids eat free, Homework Club (Tuition) from 5pm, and Trivia from 7pm.
 - Wednesday's are the community day - Meat raffle and the darts competition.

About the team

Evan, Sarah and Andrew met more than 30 years ago, when they moved from various country towns to attend Melbourne for university. They all spent a great deal of time 'finding their feet' and experiencing life away from home. During these years, they worked in pubs and other jobs to earn some cash. They also worked together, organising events and functions for over 500 students in a university college, *The Student Village*. Even back then, they thought they'd love to own a pub.

Fast forward 30 years, Evan and Sarah are married with three great children and Andrew found himself a wonderful partner in Jacqui, who he married 14 years ago. They don't have children, but Andrew is (or was) a schoolteacher, and Jacqui is currently working as an archaeologist.

COMING UP

Saturday, April 12
The Smash

Easter Saturday
The Shaggy Soundlords

Anzac Day
Marty Monster Band

Monday Madness
Every Monday - kids eat free and homework club (with tuition) from 5pm, and trivia from 7pm

Wednesday Community Day
Meat raffle and darts competition

• Functions • Entertainment • Beer garden
• Pool table • Kids area • Air conditioned • Open fire

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theflowerdalehotel FlowerdaleHotel

Let's Eat winner

THE winner of the March Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Jillian Homan from Alexandra. Jillian will be having a \$50 feed on us at Turbine Restaurant at Trawool Estate. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of the venues advertised in this edition of *Let's Eat; It's our treat*.

Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....
(A business advertised on this page in this editon only)

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Wednesday, April 23.

Alexandra Newspapers, PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.
One entry per household.

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



Coral. -S



Members enjoying a feast. -S



Four of the Yea Pottery Studio members. -S



Margaret Mahon. -S



Lolita. -S



Members hard at work. -S

Yea Pottery Club set to celebrate 50 years

IN 1975, the Arts Train came to Yea. The Arts Train was a regional service that showed different arts and crafts to local towns. Five local Yea women attended: Verity Scales, Virginia Hope, Isla Creed, Laurie Hatchell Brown and Margaret Mahon.

After trying pottery on the ArtsTrain, they all wanted to explore and learn the art of pottery and created the Yea Pottery Club.

Originally using the craft room within the school, one night a week as they had children to look after during the day, they soon realised that the venue would not work, needing to set up and break down every time, and load and unload clay, equipment, etcetera.

The shire offered the Young Farmers Room on the hill behind the old school. A kiln was purchased, as up till now all pottery pieces had to be sent to Melbourne to be fired. The money for the kiln was raised through raffles, bake sales, and so on, and a grant from the shire. The main issue with the room was the steepness of the hill and steps, as there were older members of the club.

Margaret Mahon asked the shire if they could move the room down the hill to flat ground, but was told it would fall apart. Margaret approached the shire to be given half the new shed that was being built down the hill for the Men's Shed. This took five years to happen and during that time the club closed.

Finally the shed was finished and became the new home of the Yea Pottery Club and is still there. With the extra space, another kiln was able to be purchased and pottery wheels could be set up permanently.

As with most groups or clubs, it's a people's story. Many many people have come and gone over the past 50 years. The original five members learnt by reading library books, trial and error, using their hands to build, and once a fortnight having a teacher come up from Melbourne to show them how to use the wheel. They passed on their knowledge to new-comers and that's the way it works today.

Margaret Mahon was a founding member. She was the person who approached the shire for a home, asked and got funding, and fought for space in the shed. She even helped pull down the Young Farmers Room once it was declared unsafe. The original books from the first years are still with us.

Credit must be given to five women who were raising children, helping on farms and running households, who visited the Arts Train and decided to start a club. They used their own money and held fundraisers to raise money for clay and equipment, and fought for and found facilities through the years. They also taught up to seven people the joy of pottery.

After 50 years, now in her 90s, Margaret still happily and patiently passes on her accumulated knowledge, and still gets pleasure from creating with clay, or as she says, 'playing with mud'.

As a recent addition to the club (nearly two years) I for one am extremely grateful and bloody impressed.

Past members of the Yea Pottery Club are invited to join the current members for the 50th year celebration, to be held at The Shed, 1a Raglan St, Yea on Wednesday, May 28 from 10.30am to 1pm.

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and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.
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ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Packed schedule for Seymour Alternative Farming Expo

GET ready for an unforgettable experience as the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo returns for its 34th year.

Tickets are now on sale, and attendees can expect to see over 400 exhibitors showcasing the very best in farming innovations, agricultural practices, technology, and entertainment.

There is a jam-packed programming schedule filled with exciting attractions, live demonstrations, educational talks and hands-on experiences for all ages.

One of the event's major highlights is the Beloka Kelpies, renowned for their incredible working dog skills.

Watch these highly trained canines in action as they display their intelligence, agility, and natural herding instincts in thrilling demonstrations that will leave audiences in awe.

Adding to the excitement, whip cracking demonstrations will be a must-see attraction, showcasing the artistry and skill behind this traditional practice.

Attendees will also have the chance to try their hand at whip cracking, with expert guidance available during interactive 'come and try' sessions, a fantastic opportunity for both beginners and enthusiasts to learn the craft firsthand.

"Seymour Expo has always been a good show with really great crowds, who love to get involved", said Kiera Buzza of K&M Whipcracking.

"Our sessions are a great way to learn something new".

With something for everyone, the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo promises to be a standout event. Don't miss your chance to be part of the action, secure your tickets.

Seymour Alternative Farming Expo runs from Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6, from 9am to 4pm each day at Kings Park Reserve, Tallarook St, Seymour.



Farmers who attended the Paringa Livestock Sustainable Field Day were treated to a wide range of guest speakers with various invaluable perspectives. -Niche Perspectives

Sustainable farming field day at Paringa Livestock

ON March 14, Paringa Livestock welcomed 140 landholders, farmers, and soil advocates to their property in Murrindindi for a Sustainable Soils, Grazing and Enhancing Natural Capital Field Day.

The day was an opportunity for those in agriculture to learn and share around topics such as soil health, natural capital, and sustainable grazing. The key messages of the day were biodiversity, soil focus, plant diversity, and optimal grazing, which can help boost ecological health and provide profitable agriculture.

"Our sentiment was that it was extremely well-received. We had 140 RSVPs, so it was a sell-out. We were really happy. It was a day that we designed for farmers, as farmers, so it was designed to provide lots of practical insights," Olivia Lawson from Paringa Livestock said.

"A takeaway from the day is farmers sharing with other farmers, their own stories and challenges and opportunities. Bringing farmers together, there is a lot of positivity in that peer-to-peer learning. And because farmers are often working solitary, or quite isolated, it's great to bring people together to share ideas."

Joel Williams of Integrated Soils spoke about the three essential pillars of soil health, being physical, chemical, and biological. Microbes and minerals must collaborate to create resilient, productive soils, and biodiversity plays a part in this process.

He suggested that by increasing plant diversity above ground, farmers can enhance

microbial diversity below, leading to healthier soil. Grant Sims from Down Under Covers reinforced this message by talking about planting for biodiversity.

Hamish Webb from Precision Pastures outlined soil carbon projects for those in attendance, using his own personal carbon project on his farm as an example of the possibilities.

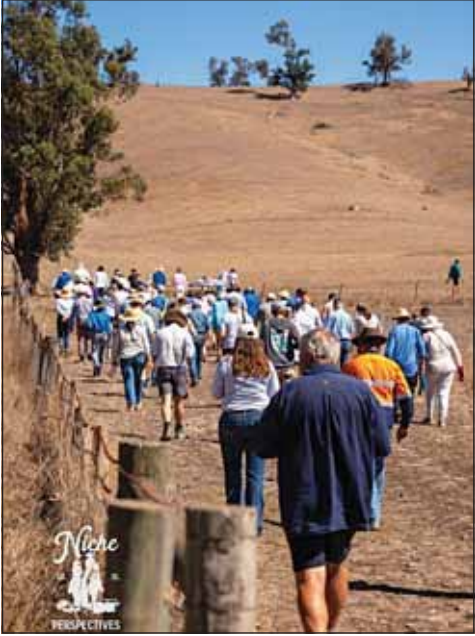
In the heat of the day, paddock walks were undertaken, with attendees splitting into two groups, one guided by Courtney Young of Soils for Life and Joel Williams. This group learned to assess soil quality by looking at key factors such as aggregation, porosity, and compaction, and covered simple at-home soil tests.

The second paddock demonstration was led by Tom Lawson from Paringa, Grant Sims and Stuart Austin. This group looked at the diverse planting done at Paringa, seeing firsthand the role plant diversity plays in driving soil health and enhancing farm resilience.

Lunch was locally sourced beef steaks cooked by members of Yea Rotary Group.

Dom Walker of RCS presented after lunch, talking about sustainable grazing management principles, and the importance of support and accountability in grazing.

Imogen Semler from Farming for the Future concluded the talks, sharing insights on how on-farm natural capital directly benefits business performance. She demonstrated a link between ecological health and farm profitability using the latest data.




The day was a mixture of hearing from guest speakers and demonstrations of how sustainable practices can apply to the land. -Niche Perspectives



By looking at how Paringa Livestock have applied sustainable farming practices to their land, attendees were able to understand how they can apply these practices to their own farming. -Niche Perspectives

The day focused on building healthier farming systems by understanding and nurturing the resources already available to farmers, rather than relying solely on external inputs. It was a great opportunity for bringing together farmers, experts, students and soil advocates, to drive agricultural practices into the future with more sustainable practices.



Drop the entry form into our office for your chance to win one of 10 weekend passes to the Off-Grid Living Festival 2025

April 12 and 13, Chiltern, Victoria.

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 9**

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

WINNER

MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

\$50 voucher kindly sponsored by



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March competition winner is Con Appelman - Alexandra.

The APRIL theme is 'PETS' - Submit your photo entry to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon April 24, with your name, town and contact number for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

T&Cs: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photo must be taken in the Murrindindi shire and are not to be digitally altered or enhanced. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

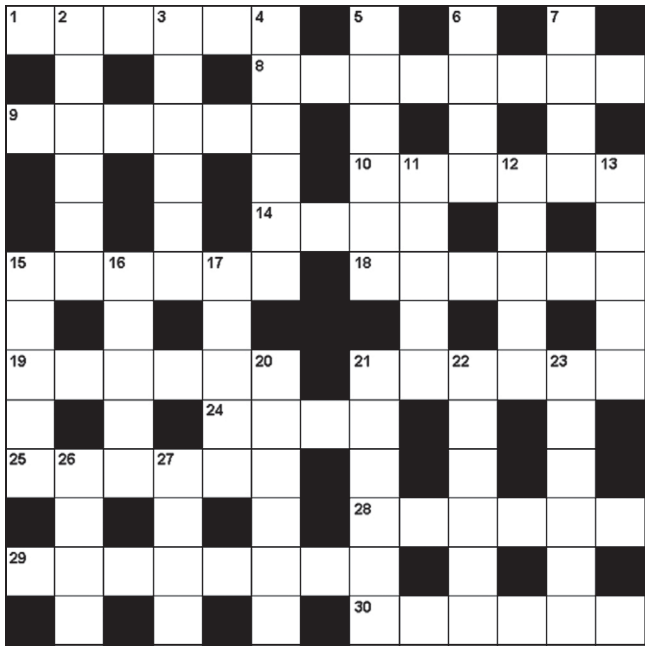
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Morally pure.
8. Inside the country.
9. Fit snugly into.
10. Japanese unarmed combat.
14. Layers one atop another.
15. Tempestuous weather.
18. Conventionally correct.
19. The earth's surface.
21. Cloth with a crisscross design.
24. State of prolonged unconsciousness.
25. Smelled badly.
28. A small hole for a cord.
29. Reject a formerly held belief.
30. Seen as necessary.

DOWN

2. Not deceptive.
3. A wooden or metal spike.
4. That which has its own existence.
5. Placed a bet on.
6. A journey.
7. Lager of high alcohol content.
11. A playing field.
12. Very attentive.
13. Taken a meal.
15. Used as a sweetener.



16. A gas in the stratosphere.
17. Cut into small pieces.
20. Tried to avoid.
21. A building licensed to sell alcohol.
22. Move back and away from.
23. Resist separation.
26. God of love.
27. Caress with the lips.

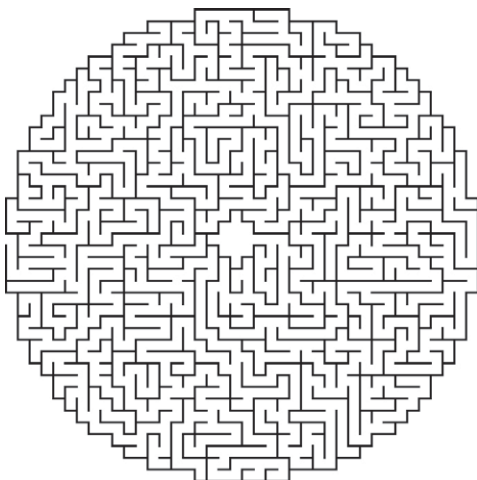
Word Search

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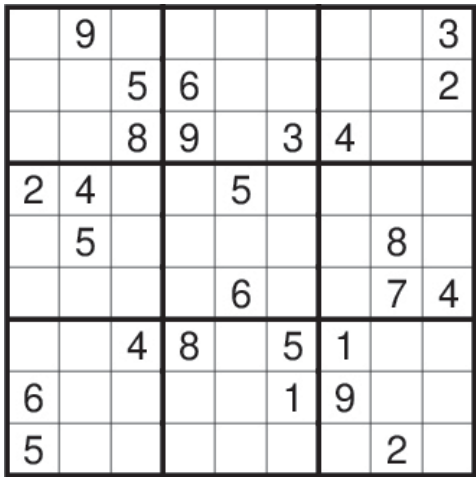
Italian Food

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| ARANCINI | MARINARA |
| CANNELLONI | MINESTRONE |
| CARBONARA | PIZZA |
| GELATO | RAGU |
| GNOCCHI | RISOTTO |
| LASAGNA | TIRAMISU |

Maze



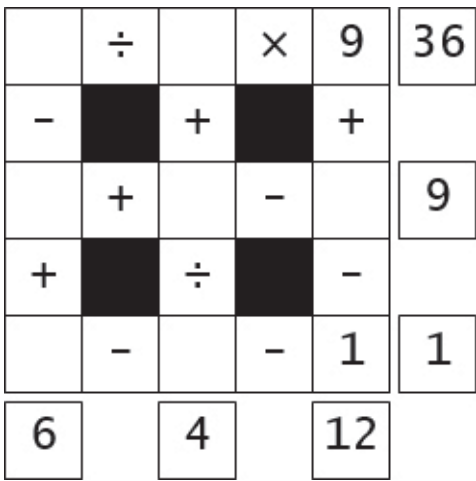
Sudoku



Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Murrindindi Shire Council's March meeting

THE March Murrindindi Shire Council meeting took place last Wednesday, March 26. There were no apologies or requests for planned leave and no conflicts of interest.

Public participation

Dr Sean Mulcahy spoke in support of item 2.5.1, which proposes council establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee in Murrindindi Shire.

Charles Exton from 45-47 Carey Road, Killingworth, spoke about the ongoing challenge of working on a development plan for his property to be subdivided, which has taken him over six years. Civil works have been done on blocks five and six over the Melbourne pipeline, while he is still waiting for his planning to be approved, and he wanted to know why.

Gary Angus spoke in support of Charles Exton. He also presented council with an envelope containing documents that "concern matters that may relate to alleged government breaches or procedural concerns, potential conflicts of interest, sensitive information, that's why it's in a contained envelope, not appropriate for open discussion."

Tom Sheehan, the civil contractor who did the work on Carey Road, spoke about his experience working on blocks five and six. He claims that he did work of estimated value \$700,000 and that he has not been paid by the organisers for that work. He is involved in ongoing legal action.

Petitions

A petition from Rainbow Local Government signed electronically by 13 residents of Murrindindi Shire requesting an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee. Council voted to receive the petition, that the petition be considered for submission to council's Big Conversation engagement and for the development of the council plan, and that the petition be referred to the Director of Community and Development for consideration and response.

Audit and Risk Committee report

Steve Schinck, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, spoke about the important processes being undertaken by the committee over the next six months, including auditing the annual financial accounts. They continue their work around risk management and cyber security. Council voted to receive the minutes of the March 13, 2025, Audit and Risk Committee meeting and accept the report.

Delegation

Cr Hildebrand presented a report that presents two instruments of delegation for council endorsement, with the first being a delegation from council to the CEO for more timely decision making and the ability to approve insurance contracts, and the second being a delegation from council to council officers for smoother day-to-day operations. Mr Chesworth explained in further detail what the changes mean. Council voted to accept the report and adopt the recommendations.

Asset and Environment Group reports

Cr Carpenter presented a report to award the contract for Snobs Creek Road landslip flood recovery works to Tenderer One for a total contract value of \$494,363.72, subject to approval by the Department of Transport and Planning.

Another report presented by Cr Carpenter suggested awarding the contract for Wilhelmina Falls Road reconstruction and sealing works to Tenderer One for the lump sum price of \$447,842.

Council voted to accept the reports and their recommendations.

Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Adams attended the Kinglake Community Consultation session for the council plan and is looking forward to attending the Community Planning session in Kinglake. She reminded people that dog registration renewals are due on April 10. Reminders have also been sent out in case people have forgotten to pay their rates. Cr Adams thanked everyone who submitted nominations for the 2024-25 Murrindindi Shire Community Awards, with the application period now closed.

Cr Carpenter walked the newly completed trail at the Yea Wetlands during the month. She is excited to advise residents that the new bins will be arriving soon, with the new service with the green and purple bins commencing in July. Council is also working towards planting more trees around the various towns of the shire.

Cr Macaulay spoke about council's support of businesses. Two more business breakfasts are being planned for later in the year after the success of the last one in Kinglake. Council will have hosted two community engagement sessions on concept plans for both the Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan by the time this edition goes into circulation.

Cr Lording met with Flowerdale residents who were affected by flooding and council's engineering department implemented fixes. Road grading continues, with some 270 kilometres completed so far. Cr Lording has been invited to join the new Flowerdale Sports Committee and has accepted.

Cr Hildebrand attended the Molesworth Community Planning meeting, with the meeting being well-received. He spoke to the large yarding at the March cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards, saying that "extra cattle were on offer due to the long dry spell. Despite the dry conditions, prices remained decent." Last Friday Murrindindi Shire Council officers travelled around the northern parts of the shire by bus to gain better understanding.

Cr Carr attended an Eildon RSL social night that included barefoot bowls. The Eildon parkrun kicked off its first week, and Cr Carr congratulated the organisers. She acknowledged the hard work of the Thornton Eildon Women's Football Team in preparing for the upcoming season. Beyond the Beats, an all-ages music event, is being held at Pixies at the Billabong on April 13, from 2pm to 5.30pm. Tickets are available on TryBooking, with shuttle buses available for the local area.

Cr Gallagher attended a number of events, including the inaugural Dindi Daze, the final Yea Cruise Night of the year, and the annual Buxton Community Celebration. He spoke about the advocacy of council in the form of ministerial correspondence outlining the community dissatisfaction with 4G and 5G telecommunications at the Yea Saleyards following the 3G shutdown and the success of new roadside flood level markers in Molesworth.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi spoke about joining the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and other organisations in a meeting advocating for changes in how financial assistance grants are allocated across all councils. Ms Bonazzi shared that council has secured funding for battery storage and expanding solar power at the Marysville Community Centre. A new variable message sign will be installed on Buxton-Marysville Road from April 7 to discourage visitors from stopping on the road to view and photograph the poplars. The Department of Transport will also be implementing a temporary speed limit reduction to 80 kilometres per hour.



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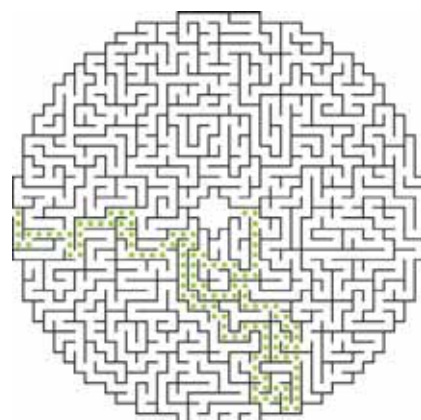
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MAZE



-Paul Korecky

What would an exotic disease outbreak look like on your property?

by Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer, Northern Region

IT is difficult to imagine a more stressful scenario for a producer, an exotic disease has been diagnosed on their property. What happens next?

Naturally there are numerous possible scenarios and the approach taken would vary according to the specific disease. A series of documents known as AUSVETPLAN are in place to guide the process to help ensure a consistent, successful outcome.

In general, the producer's property would be quarantined to limit the chance of the disease spreading to other properties.

Further samples may be collected to confirm the diagnosis and to help ascertain the extent of its spread on the property. These would be tested at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) at Geelong.

Epidemiological information, such as recent movements on and off the property, would be collected to help guide tracing and surveillance activities on other properties.

An Incident Control Centre would be established at a suitable location in a nearby town, whose activities would be directed by a State Control Centre.

Infected premises operations would be put into place to eradicate the disease on the property and to ensure contaminated material doesn't leave the property.

This would vary according to the nature of the disease. If destruction of livestock or property is necessary compensation would be paid.

Local movement controls may be set up through the declaration of restricted areas and control areas.

Eventually, when eradication of the disease had been achieved, proof of freedom testing would be necessary to prove to our trading partners that the disease had been successfully eradicated.

It sounds like a lot, but all of this would be necessary in order to preserve Australia's multi-billion-dollar livestock industries and to prevent the establishment of a new exotic disease.

Naturally, none of this will be necessary if we don't allow these diseases to enter Australia and to come into contact with our livestock.

We urge you to report any unusual signs or suspected cases of emergency animal disease immediately to the all-hours Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. Early reporting increases the chance of effective control and eradication.

For further information contact your local Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officer.

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Rates increase under tabled ESVF legislation

Continued from Page 4

The Victorian Government defended the ESVF and explained how the rebates will work under the new levy.

"Our emergency service volunteers give so much to our state, protecting communities and saving lives," a government spokesperson said.

"In recognition of their contribution, eligible VICSES and CFA volunteers and life members will be eligible for a rebate from the ESVF on their primary place of residence or farm.

"This is an added incentive for these community-minded volunteers, providing further benefits in addition to existing concessions that will still apply."

Background provided by the DTF states that: "Eligible VICSES and CFA volunteers and life members will be eligible for a rebate from the ESVF on their primary place of residence or farm, with rebates on farmland capped to the value of a \$5 million farm.

"Responsibility for administration of this component will be undertaken by the state government; it will not be administered by councils. Rates notices will show the full ESVF liability before any rebate is claimed. Information will be provided to volunteers about the rebate and how to access it."

H7 avian influenza restrictions reduced in northern Victoria

RESTRICTIONS on poultry owners near the H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu) outbreak near Euroa have been reduced, following no new detections since February 24.

On Monday, March 31, the current control area was reduced to about 40 kilometres from east to west, and 30 kilometres from north to south, including Euroa and Longwood. Mandatory movement controls are no longer in place for townships including Violet Town, Ruffy, Avenel and Strathbogie, as well as for game bird hunters and hunting activities in these areas.

The housing requirement for premises with 50 or more birds in the restricted area is now also lifted, with the voluntary housing of birds still encouraged.

The changes come after no further disease has been detected by the intensive surveillance activities that continue to be undertaken.

In addition, good progress has been made on the cleaning and decontamination of affected properties.

The restrictions will be kept under review as Agriculture Victoria continues to monitor for disease, progress decontamination of affected properties and eradicate the outbreak.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinary Officer Cameron Bell commended industry and the community for their cooperation to date.

"This easing of restrictions is thanks to the cooperation and hard work that industry, community and the impacted property owners have contributed since the first detection in early February.

"Our staff remain on the ground, working to clean and decontaminate affected properties, and we appreciate your ongoing support as this continues," he said.

Restrictions remain on the movement of birds, poultry products (including eggs and manure), equipment, and vehicles on or off properties in the new control and restricted areas. Game bird hunting is also not permitted in the control and restricted areas.

Agriculture Victoria has between 100 and 120 staff deployed to the response each day. Around 9000 bird samples have been collected by staff and tested at Agriculture Victoria's AgriBio facility since February 8.

To prevent and eliminate biosecurity threats, every producer should have an up-to-date farm biosecurity plan and be able to recognise signs of diseases that could impact their animals.

Poultry farmers and backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24 hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, or to your local vet.

More information on the current H7 bird flu response, including movement permits and maps are available at agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza or call VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Falling flu vaccinations and potential horror flu season

FALLING influenza vaccinations due to vaccine fatigue and misinformation, combined with the risk of a horror flu season like the one experienced in the northern hemisphere, could result in more lives lost from flu and other respiratory diseases this year.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen said there had been a fall in the number of flu vaccines in Australia, with data showing a drop in flu vaccines last year compared to the previous year.

"We know there's some vaccine fatigue out there following the pandemic, and some wildly misleading and damaging information on social media, and this is leading to fewer people getting their shots," Dr McMullen said.

"I can't be too blunt about this: thousands of people die each year from respiratory disease including flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Older people, the elderly and immunocompromised people; and babies, young children and pregnant women with underlying medical conditions; are particularly vulnerable to some of these respiratory viruses.

"People should get their flu shot each year well before June, when the flu season starts. This is also good time to think about a COVID-19 booster, particularly if you are aged over 65 or at higher risk of severe COVID-19.

"The best protection from flu is about three to four months after having your shot, which means people should get their vaccination around April or May.

"People need to start booking appointments now with their GPs, who are trained to ensure that people, including vulnerable cohorts,

such as the elderly and children, receive their vaccinations in a safe and timely manner."

Dr McMullen warned there was potential for a horror flu season in Australia following a severe season in the Northern Hemisphere.

"Countries like the United States had a very severe influenza season, with the Centre for Disease Control estimating at least 41 million illnesses, 540,000 hospitalisations, and 23,000 deaths from influenza during their season so far," Dr McMullen said.

Dr McMullen said it was critical that people were not dissuaded from getting their flu or other shots because of misinformation about vaccines spread on social media, vaccine hesitancy or complacency.

"If people have any concerns, they should speak to their GP who can spend time with them and answer questions," she said.

The Australian Government recommends everyone over the age of six months has an influenza shot every year. Flu is the most common illness that can be prevented with a vaccine.

Information about the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines, including who should get vaccines, can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website.

The influenza vaccine is free under the National Immunisation Program for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months and over; children aged six months to under five years; pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy; people aged 65 years or over, and people aged six months or over who have medical conditions that mean they have a higher risk of getting serious disease.

3G shutdown affecting regional communities

THE Independent Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP has called on the government and Telcos to provide financial support for people whose phone coverage has worsened since the 3G shutdown.

Dr Haines said that as a result of the shutdown, people living just outside regional towns like Beechworth and Benalla are unable to receive emergency warnings, information about power outages, or access banking and other government services.

"I am deeply concerned about this loss of service, which is contrary to Telstra and Optus' repeated assurances that people would not be worse off because of the 3G shutdown."

Dr Haines said that when people contact their provider, as recommended by the government, most are told that their only option if they want mobile coverage is to purchase expensive hardware such as antennas and boosters. These can cost thousands of dollars and is a cost burden falling onto regional Australians just because of where they live.

"I don't think that's a fair go for those that have poor service because of the 3G shutdown," Dr Haines said.

Earlier this month, Dr Haines asked the Minister for Communications about the 3G shutdown in Question Time. Following this, Dr Haines met with the Minister, Michelle Rowland MP, to discuss the issue.

"I met with the Minister and put forward the stories of people in Indi who have lost out, and who have felt unsupported by their provider.

"I strongly expressed my position that Telstra, Optus, and the government should do more to support people whose connections have gone backwards because of the 3G shutdown, and this should include financial support if antennas or boosters are required.

Dr Haines said that the Minister made clear that the government is following issues with the 3G shutdown closely and reiterated Telstra and Optus's commitments to maintaining equivalent or greater mobile coverage following the 3G switch off. The Minister has asked Optus and Telstra for weekly updates on how they are addressing customer complaints.

Dr Haines has also written to the CEO of Telstra on this matter.

"Since being elected in 2019, I have consistently fought for better phone and internet services in Indi. I will continue to pressure both government and industry to invest in connectivity that helps regional families and communities to thrive.

Calls for more action have been echoed by groups such as the National Farmers Federation and GrainGrowers. Acting CEO for the National Farmers Federation, Charlie Thomas, has said that "people don't want to sit on hold for hours only to be told that they need to purchase more equipment or, worse, there is nothing to be done."

Those experiencing issues because of the 3G shutdown should firstly contact the Telstra 3G Hotline on 1800 990 853. If customers wish to make a complaint about their provider's response, they should contact the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman on 1800 062 058.

SPORT

Last dance at the Alexandra Races this season

THIS Saturday is Alexandra Race Club's final picnic race meeting of the season and your last chance to join in the fun. Get ready for a rootin'-tootin' good time at the Alexandra Country and Western Races.

There is heaps happening. Enjoy boot-scooting music to get you moving by local C and W Duo, *Naturally Kerley*.

There is free face painting for all ages and pony rides for the little ones. Compete for prizes in the exciting competitions: best headwear for cowboy hat and cowgirl hat; best footwear for male boots and female boots.

And if that isn't enough, you can capture all your good gear in a free photo from the Magic Picture 'Photo Booth'.

The day will conclude with the end of season presentations of Geoff Purvis Leading Alexandra Rider's Award and Donate Life Alexandra Leading Trainer's Award. There is a real tussle between Shaun Cooper and Leigh Taylor for leading rider and Troy Kilgower, John Kean and Ashleigh Smith for leading trainer.

Gates open at 11am. General admission \$15, Concession \$10, children 15 and under are free.

Pack a picnic lunch, water and soft drinks or purchase vitals from Lions or the other vendors. Remember the club is now non-BYO so if you want hard liquor you'll have to buy it at the bar.

If you are coming from Eildon or Marysville or any place in between you can catch the bus for only \$10 return. Children 15 and under are free but everyone, including children, must book a seat.

For bookings visit country.racing.com/Alexandra

Lasso your friends and family and head along for a fantastic day of Country and Western fun.



Are you ready for the Alexandra Country and Western Races? -S



The winning Yea Tennis Club team of Harley Augello, Noah Boseley, Hayden Taylor and Ethan Moseley. -S

Young Yea team takes out tennis championship

A YOUNG team from Yea Tennis Club competed in the Broadford and District Tennis Association Summer 2024-25 competition on Saturday, March 29 in Kilmore and won.

After an hour's rain delay they played and won against Wandong and the scores were three sets to three, and total games won were Yea 29 to Wandong 26.

The boys finished second on the ladder for the competition and beat the top side to take out the championship, making their families very proud.

A night of celebration for local Little Athletes

LAST Friday night, families and members of the local Little Athletics club came together to celebrate a fantastic season of fun, teamwork, and achievements. The evening was filled with excitement as awards, certificates, and age group trophies were presented to acknowledge the efforts and progress of the young athletes.

The night kicked off with a delicious barbecue, expertly cooked by Phill and Stuart, before moving into the formal presentations. As always, the hardworking committee ensured the event ran smoothly, making sure every athlete was recognised for their dedication and improvement throughout the season.

Age Group Champions

Boys

Under seven: Emerson Fraser, Under eight: Harry Armstrong, Under nine: Ardan Woo, Under 10: Maverick Clacy, Under 11: Ryder Clacy, Under 12: Ethan Boulton, Under 14: Levi Campbell

Girls

Under seven: Hazel Dalton, Under eight: Shiloh Clacy, Under 10: Alisha Abdullah, Under 11: Amelia Kociancic, Under 12: Zoe Collier, Under 14: Charlotte Boulton, Under 15: Cate Caswell

Special Awards

Best Regional Representation: Levi Campbell & Zoe Alldrick, Attendance Award: Levi Campbell, Encouragement Award: Cheyanne Richards, Committee Award: Ardan Woo, Most Improved Male Runner: Chase Hilder, Most Improved Female Runner: Cheyanne Richards, Most Improved Male Jumper: Sam Mawson, Most Improved Female Jumper: Jayde Stewart, Most Improved Male Thrower: Sonny Crouch, Most Improved Female Thrower: Matilda McCarthy.

The club also recognised the people who make a real difference behind the scenes. Elissa Page-Hilder was named *Club Person of the Season*, while Ally Crouch was celebrated as *Volunteer of the Season*. A special thank you was given to the outgoing committee members, particularly Kim Williams, for her incredible contribution as President.

With a new season on the horizon, the club is in great hands as Jess Clacy steps into the role of President, alongside a fresh committee ready to support the next generation of little athletes. Congratulations to all the award winners, volunteers, and families who make this club such a wonderful community.



Most improved Jayde Stewart, Sonny Crouch, Chase Hilder, and Cheyanne Richards -S



Sonny Crouch, Emerson Fraser, and Hazel Dalton -S



Under nines Hamish Dalton, Darcy Simpson, Maverick Clacy, and Zara Crouch -S



Alisha Abdullah with her certificate and trophy. -S

Great rallies in round eight of squash

by Kristelle Leary

Cappuccino versus Latte

LOCHLAN versus Jordan and Tyler (fill in): Extraordinary shots from both players. Tyler played the first game for Jordan, putting in a good effort but losing the game. Jordan took control of the match with his brilliant serves, winning him the match. 68 to 51.

Sally versus Mick: Coming out strong, Mick was winning at the halfway mark. Unfortunately, part way into game three Sally injured herself and the match was inconclusive.

Michael M versus Matt: Michael was in control after shooting to a nine point lead in the first game. The match evened out after that. Matt's extreme running couldn't overcome Michael's ability to shut down the rallies with precise hard shots. 69 to 57.

Jack versus Andrew: A strong match for Jack. Andrew fought back in the second half of the match, but it wasn't enough to defeat Jack. 58 to 43.

Affogato versus Mocha

ERIC versus Ethan: Great show of sportsmanship for these gents. Ethan was on his best game tonight with a fast, strong serve. Eric put in a valiant effort but had to concede defeat. 72 to 36.

Lee versus James G (fill in): A wonderful game by both with equal hitting and long rallies. James had some fast-paced shots, but Lee was consistent throughout. James came out the victor after a great match. 50 to 49.

Jared versus Simon: What a terrific game to watch. The lead was see-sawing with some amazing rallies. When the dust settled after the final game it was a tied match. 56 to 56.

Derrick versus Michael H: The first half was deadlock with 25 points each. There were some extraordinarily long rallies. Michael's ability to hit the ball out of the tight corners gave him a one-point lead after the third game. Derrick gathered himself, finding top gear and proceeding to toy with Michael, stealing the final game and the match. 51 to 43.

Darjeeling versus Oolong

ROB versus Kristelle: Rob looked in control with his swift court coverage until Kristelle turned it on with accurate serves that took Rob out of the match. Taking the last three games, Kristelle was triumphant. 66 to 60.

Phil versus Stuart: A very exciting first game. Stuart made a six-point comeback to draw. Moving forward, Stuart came out with some tight shots and boasts to win the second. Phil mustered some serious power to take game three. The final game went to Phil, securing the match. 54 to 48.

Chai versus Rooibos

RANDY (fill in) versus Jess (fill in): It was a match made of serves. There were some good rallies sprinkled in, but both opponents struggled with the others serves. Randy's powerful serves just edged him ahead over Jess's beautiful lobs. Randy won. 69 to 54.

Sam versus Blake: Blake put in the hard yards, chasing the ball wherever Sam placed it. Sam was in good form and didn't give Blake a chance. The victory went to Sam. 77 to 40.

Jim versus Daniel K: This match had some amazing plays with great lobs and finishers. Jim kept the ball in play as much as possible, but Daniel continued to shut him down. Daniel won all four games and the match. 64 to 45.



Under 14 mates Levi, Declan, Chase, Charlotte and Cheyanne. -S



Tyler Cavil, Bennie Cavil, Bowe Nicholson, Josh Parth, Shiloh Clacy, Isaac Kociancic and Harry Armstrong -S



Under 12s Clay Hilder, Ethan Boulton, Jayde Stewart, Lila Friswell and Zoe Collier. -S



Cate Caswell under 15 champion. -S



Levi Campbell Best Regional representation and Attendance award -S



Age group champions Ryder Clacy and Amelia Kociancic. -S

SPORT



School children from various schools watching the 1500 metre race together -MP



Schools from Yea participated in the Cluster Athletics event at Leckie Park in Alexandra. -MP

Schools come together for great sporting event

LOCAL schools came together on Tuesday, March 25 for Cluster Athletics, held at Leckie Park in Alexandra.

Schools in attendance were Yea Primary School, Sacred Heart Primary School, Alexandra Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Eildon Primary School, Marysville Primary School and Buxton Primary School.

The events included the 1500 metres, 800 metres, 200 metres and 100 metre, hurdles, high jump, long jump, discus, shot put, triple jump and the 100 metre relay.

All of the children showed great sportmanship on the day.



All schools from the region participated in the days' races. -MP

Yea golfers travel all over the countryside

by Alan Pell

THE week started last Sunday with the Yea Golf Club Pennant Team winning their first match against Eildon at Whittlesea. Wins to John Tanner, Brian Simmons and Brendan "Trout" Chenhall saw a 3/2 victory. The club gives thanks to Sharon Grogan for assisting and Nutrients for sponsoring the new team shirts, the boys scrubbed up well.

Twenty-one golfers and eight partners attended the Murray River GW based in Yarrawonga. With everyone staying at the

NMRA holiday park in Mulwala, it was an ideal base for the trip. Last Monday saw 21 golfers play the President's Course at Tocumwal Golf Club. Winners of the four ball were Steve Rumney/Judi Newman with 43 points. Judy won the individual event with 35 points.

Twenty-one golfers at Cobram-Barooga Golf Club day two. Winners of the four ball were Tony Rule/Alan Pell with 43 points. Individual winner was Alan Pell with 36 points. The rest of Wednesday saw 14 participants in a wine tasting trip

to Rutherglen while others went fishing or relaxed in Yarrawonga-Mulwala.

Last Thursday, day three of golf was at the Black Bull Golf Club in Yarrawonga. Winners of the four ball were Sam Wright/Steve Rumney with 42 points. Individual winner was Lorraine Christie who joined the Yea golfers for the day. Lorraine has won 19 individual club championships at Yea. Playing off 25 now, she had 34 points to win the day's event.

Last Wednesday at Yea there was a mixed stableford event with Brian Priestley taking out the Stay at Home Cup with 38 points. Second was Caroline Webber with 36 points. Saturday saw another mixed stableford event with 29 players.

Zach Pell(21) with 39 points took the win from Phil Armstrong (21), Jono Ness (14), Peter Johnston (16) and Brian Simmons (11) all on 37 points. Nearest the pins went to Sharon Grogan for three and Rick Wills for two on the 10th hole. The lucky Club Award \$10 went to Rob Gill.



Yea golfers enjoying their time away in Yarrawonga-Mulwala. -S



Lorraine Christie showing her winning ball marker with Alan Pell who won the golfer of the week with 98 points over three rounds. -S



The members of Yea Golf Club who went travelling up around the Murray River. -S

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



At Nutfield there was quite a handy mode of transport for the riders to get back to their bikes. -MP



The working dog getting into the sheep to get them out into the yards. -MP



Working dog Sid with rider Elwin at Nutfield. -MP



Elizabeth Sinclair and Janet Forde on scone duty. -MP



A group of riders setting off from Yea. -S



Local Physiotherapist Jess Kennedy (Right) with Reece. -S



Alexandra Rotarian Melinda Jackson making damper. -MP

183 riders take part in Cycle Dindi

ON Saturday, March 29, Cycle Dindi was held again like a well-oiled machine thanks to local Rotary Clubs. The event covered the Great Victorian Rail Trail through the townships of Yea, Alexandra and Merton, with many exciting stops along the way.

The weather was cooler than previous years but it didn't stop 183 riders registering and taking on the great trails.

Riders experienced the historical Cheviot Tunnel, travelling to Nutfield farm for a Devonshire tea with a show of the kelpies rounding up the sheep and finishing off with lunch by the Goulburn River at Cathkin while listening to music and enjoying atmosphere the Murrindindi Shire has to offer.

The money raised from this event means that the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra have funds to put into supporting their youth programs, such as school bursaries and scholarships, and leadership programs such as RYLA and youth exchange.



Yea Rotarian Darryl King on the barbecue. -MP



Rotary's exchange student Haru helping out serving scones to the riders. -MP



Catherine and Lachlan from Melbourne about to start their journey in Yea. -MP



Janine, Val, Gina, and Karyn from Nillumbuk Bicycle group. -MP



There were some happy riders along the rail trail. -MP



Singer Julian Laucius putting on a great show at the lunch in Cathkin. -MP



All the bicycles lined up while the riders have a rest and some lunch. -MP