

# 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, April 23, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

[murrindindibusiness.com.au](http://murrindindibusiness.com.au)

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Members of the Australian Search and Rescue K9 group and Victoria Police members taking part in a training exercise in Kinglake. More on page 11. -S

## Funding boost for road safety in Yea

THE Victorian Government has announced that 38 local government authorities will share in more than \$2.5 million worth of grants to help councils address road safety concerns in their communities.

Murrindindi Shire Council received \$30,000 for a Yea Township Movement and Place Planning and Design Study in the latest round of the Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) Local Government Grant Program (LGGP).

The LGGP provides funding to projects that help prevent road trauma, particularly among pedestrians and cyclists, the most vulnerable road users.

Last year, 48 pedestrians and 12 cyclists lost their lives on the state's roads, in 2023-24, 556 pedestrians and 401 cyclists were hospitalised as the result of a road accident.

All funded projects have adopted one of the four focus areas of the 'Safe System' approach to road safety, safe roads and roadsides, vehicle safety, safe travel speeds and safe road users.

The 2025 TAC Local Government Grant Program will open for applications in mid-June 2025. For more information on the program, visit [tac.vic.gov.au/local-government-grants](http://tac.vic.gov.au/local-government-grants)

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said, "By supporting initiatives like these, we aim to create safer road environments and encourage the collaborative efforts to address localised road safety challenges throughout Victoria."

Transport Accident Commission CEO Tracey Slatter added, "The TAC is dedicated to supporting initiatives that foster a collaborative approach to road safety, by working alongside the Victorian community in addressing the specific road safety challenges facing them."

participation, tackle skills shortages, and keep our young people connected to opportunity. Strengthening Telecommunications for Safety, Resilience and Growth to remove vulnerabilities for residents, businesses and visitors in Murrindindi Shire posed by poor internet connectivity and mobile blackspots.

Each of these projects is supported by data, clear business cases, and strong community backing.

## Federal Election 2025 A Fair Go for Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has launched an advocacy campaign ahead of the 2025 Federal Election to ensure the needs of our rural communities are clearly heard by all candidates.

The campaign is Murrindindi Shire Council calling on the next Federal Government to commit to supporting nine priority projects that will make a big difference for the people who live, work, and visit Murrindindi Shire.

Council has named the campaign, A Fair Go for Murrindindi. This is council not asking for more than other regions, they are asking for a fair go.

The shire is a beautiful, diverse and a growing place. But we face unique challenges, we're geographically large, the population is spread out, and we experience more frequent

natural disasters. There is limited access to health services, poor phone coverage in many areas, and fewer options for further education and training.

Council has developed this campaign to highlight what support we need from the Federal Government to improve our roads, services, infrastructure and opportunities, not just for today, but for generations to come.

Murrindindi Shire Council has identified key priorities that need federal funding or policy change. These are: \$49 million for Lake Eildon tourism activation, through infrastructure upgrades and precinct development that will drive long-term regional economic growth. \$40 million for safer, more accessible visitor infrastructure to improve safety, inclusivity, and economic outcomes along key tourism routes and townships. \$10 million for resilient

road infrastructure to restore and upgrade our 720 km unsealed road network, critical to reducing some of the highest rates of road trauma in Victoria. \$8.8 million for Enabling infrastructure in Yea and Alexandra, to unlock hundreds of hectares of land for residential and industrial development, stimulating local jobs and housing supply. Fair and sustainable funding for rural councils like Murrindindi, including a rebalanced Financial Assistance Grants model that reflects our high service costs, low revenue base, and the scale and complexity of rural service delivery. Tailored health funding and service models, to address the major gaps in aged care, mental health, and primary health services across Murrindindi. Our population is ageing, our young people are isolated, and our services are stretched beyond capacity. A Regional University Study Hub in Murrindindi to lift tertiary

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

Standard

The Yea Chronicle



**Alexandra District Health**  
**5772 0900**  
**Yea & District Memorial Hospital**  
**5736 0400**  
**In an emergency dial**  
**000**

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**PUBLISHERS**

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## Letters to the Editor

### Kerbside collection

I have recently received paperwork from our shire telling me that I will need to pay \$430 for a kerbside collection that I have never had and don't want. I currently manage the small amount of waste and recycling I generate by taking it to the CDES Centre or the Resource Recovery Centre every couple of months, a very simple process that I am happy to pay for.

We live in a diverse shire, where not everyone lives in a town. Living outside of a township, on roads with no streetlights, and unpaved, rocky driveways means that it will be very difficult for older people to get their bins to the road each week.

It would be common sense for the council to allow people in such a position to elect not to receive the service, which by the way is not made compulsory by the state government, but left up to individual councils to manage. So far I have been met with resistance to this request.

I hope that common sense can prevail, and kerbside collection not be compulsory for those who will not benefit from the service, and for whom it would be difficult to use.

*Name and address supplied but withheld by request*

### Don't shoot the messenger

TO be here and now, in this human form, is such a gift. This gift you bestowed on yourself to be here and now and in this form you just don't remember.

We all have a soul mission. Some accept and yet still, so many fail to see their true purpose and their soul's mission. What did you come here to do? I mean it. What did you agree to?

Was it, a soul contract finalisation/s, life circumstances to learn and grow from or should I dare say evolve from? Lessons in life essential for the soul's evolution.

*Name and address supplied but withheld by request*

## POLICE REPORT

POLICE are taking action to address hooning across the shire, and will be very active in policing poor driving. People will be held to account. The police have asked that anyone witnessing such behaviour on our roads contact Triple Zero, and police will attend. Police members are also out patrolling roads.

OPERATION Compass is currently underway, with a focus on drug and alcohol-affected drivers. Analysis of collision data has uncovered that impaired drivers with passengers on board were involved in 385 collisions causing injury and a further 18 causing death over the past two years. Operation Compass concludes on Sunday, April 27.

## Consulting on consultations

THE Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee have announced an *Inquiry into Community Consultation Practices*, which is wonderfully meta but also much needed given some of the consultations which have been conducted about important issues in the last year, including the future of the Central Highlands forests.

The Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee is accepting submissions until Friday, June 6.

The aim is to inquire into, consider and report by February 28, 2026 on:

(a) Community consultation practices done by, and on behalf of, state and local government and statutory authorities, and providers of essential services such as utilities, in Victoria.

(b) The use of non-government providers to do consultations on behalf of government agencies.

(c) Standards of conduct, including preparedness, to be expected in community consultations.

(d) Groups or regions who are underrepresented by existing consultation practices, and options to improve their engagement.

(e) The Engage Victoria platform, its use and effectiveness, and areas for improvement, and

(f) Best practice community consultation in other jurisdictions in Australia and other comparable countries.

Further information can be found at [parliament.vic.gov.au/consultationinquiry](http://parliament.vic.gov.au/consultationinquiry)  
 People are invited to make submissions.

## Ceiling insulation discounts to lower energy bills

THE Victorian Government is lowering the cost of installing insulation in Victorian homes, to help families reduce their energy bills by approximately \$400 a year.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced that from early 2026, Victorians can access discounts on ceiling insulation through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program.

The VEU discount will halve the average ceiling insulation install costs of \$3000 to \$1500, based on current certificate prices.

Almost 60 percent of homes in Victoria either have no ceiling insulation or are under-insulated. These households are missing energy bill savings of more than \$400 per year on average.

The estimated 200,000 households with no insulation will be eligible for the first stage of the discount, with those wanting to top-up becoming eligible later.

New safety and quality standards for installation were also announced with the aim to prioritise safety. The program will include

an insulation safety and quality assurance regime including audits and oversight requirements. This will make sure that only high-quality products are used, including Victorian-made insulation, and well-trained installers.

Solar Victoria will work with industry, unions, training organisations and safety regulators on the implementation, with consultation kicking off today. Solar Victoria will also work with the Energy Efficiency Council to train, certify and expand the insulation installer workforce.

To date, the VEU program has helped more than 170,000 businesses and 2.4 million households upgrade their appliances and equipment, slashing more than \$440 million dollars off energy bills. The addition of insulation will help reduce emissions, support local manufacturing, and improve the energy efficiency of homes.

Insulation works by acting as a barrier to heat flow, making homes more comfortable year-round, reducing energy consumption, and lowering heating and cooling costs.

**The Yea Chronicle**

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**THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN**

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the dog owners who let their dog bark through the night, not to mention everything that goes past their place. Surely there is something they can do about it. You can't tell me that they don't hear the ruckus. It's your dog. Take some responsibility.

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](mailto: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

**Weekly Weather**  
 April 23 - April 29, 2025  
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	22	Wednesday	10	22
Thursday	9	20	Thursday	9	20
Friday	9	16	Friday	9	17
Saturday	9	18	Saturday	9	19
Sunday	8	18	Sunday	8	19
Monday	9	19	Monday	9	20
Tuesday	9	19	Tuesday	9	20

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**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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

We thank you for your continued support

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

can be submitted via email to [editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au) or [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto: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**

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# Our history: Flowerdale soldiers honoured

Yea Chronicle, Thursday, September 18, 1919

THE outlying portions of the Shire of Yea are vying with one another in welcoming and presenting tokens to the returned soldiers of their particular district, to show that those who were unable to take part in the great war fully recognise, and appreciate, the valor and sacrifices made by those who did enlist.

In this respect Flowerdale has taken a leading part, as for some time past it has been the custom of those residing in that portion of the shire to present gold medals to returned soldiers who reside, or have resided, in the parish of Flowerdale, as well as presenting them with a souvenir on their departure for the war an example which the people of Yea are about to follow and, as Captain J G Macdonald aptly said, in the Flowerdale Hall on Friday night, when presenting five more gold medals to returned soldiers, the residents of Flowerdale, although representing only a small percentage of the population of the Yea Shire, are also to be congratulated for the great trouble they go to in decorating their hall and providing a banquet, as well as amusements, on the occasion of presenting the medals, an expression of opinion that was endorsed by every visitor from Yea.

As on Friday night the Flowerdale Hall was very prettily and tastefully decorated with bannerettes, flags, bunting, greenery, etc., while long tables were placed down each side of the hall, and on the tables edibles and fruits of all kinds were tastefully laid out,

with wines and milder drinks for those who preferred them when drinking the toasts of 'The King' and 'The Guests of the Evening, Our Returned Soldiers', both of which were drunk with musical honours.

Although the night was dark and stormy, this did not deter those who wished to do honour to the soldiers from putting in an appearance, in spite of long journeys through teeming showers of rain, and it must have been very gratifying to the Flowerdale committee to see amongst the large gathering representatives from Toolangi, Glenburn, Strath Creek, Yea, and other places.

In opening the proceedings, Mr Jason Morrissey, the chairman of the Flowerdale Welcome Home Committee, who presided, apologised for the absence of Major Purcell, who is away contesting the Echuca electorate, and welcomed Or A McLure, president of the Yea Welcome Home Committee; Cr G S Lawrance, one of the West Riding representatives in the shire council; Mesdames Stuart and McLure, members of the Yea Welcome Home Committee, and Captain J G Macdonald (Yea Returned Soldiers' Association). Brief addresses were then delivered by the chairman (Mr J Morrissey), Ore. Lawrence and McLure, and Captain J G Macdonald, after which a programme of musical items were rendered by the school children, Miss E Logan, and Messrs F Hatty and R Taylor. Mr Macdonald gave a recitation.

The healths 'The King' and 'Our Returned Soldiers' were then drunk, and a bounteous and dainty supper was partaken of, after

which the most important item of the evening was announced, namely the presentation of gold medals to Corporal J Brady, Corporal G M Cunningham, Corporal M Byrne, Private E L Richards, and Driver J Collins, the presentation being made by Captain Macdonald on behalf of the residents of Flowerdale.

Each soldier suitably responded, special mention being made by them to the work done by the school children and Comforts Fund. Four other soldiers were to have received medals, but they were not present.

A most enjoyable dance brought a memorable evening to a close, the music for which was supplied by Mr G James (piano) and Mr R Taylor (violin). Miss Andrews played the accompaniments for the musical portion of the program, and Mr J Warnock officiated as master of ceremonies at the dance.

Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Collins for the loan of the piano, and to the ladies who assisted in decorating the hall, as well as those who provided the refreshments and waited on the tables, or in any way contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

## Australians urged to check vaccination status as flu and measles infections soar

AUSTRALIANS should take action to protect their health this Autumn, advises Professor Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Cases of preventable infections, such as influenza and measles have continued to rise, despite vaccination offering an effective way to protect from potentially serious illness. Australia has recorded more than 60,000 cases of influenza so far this year\*, more than the same period in 2024. Measles cases have also surged, with 54 cases currently recorded, compared to last year's total of 57.

"The rise in influenza and measles cases is alarming," says Professor Trent Twomey, National President Pharmacy Guild of Australia. "We know vaccines are critical in protecting public health, stopping these potentially deadly conditions from spreading."

"Vaccination is the best line of defence against influenza, measles, COVID-19 and shingles. They prevent infection, lower the risk of serious illness and are recommended for people over six months of age. The great thing is some vaccines can be co-administered, meaning in one visit to your community pharmacy you can get protected against a range of infections."

"One in four flu shots is given at a community pharmacy, which are open into the evening and weekend, making it easier for patients to get vaccinated."

Adults aged 20-49 who are unvaccinated, or under vaccinated, are particularly at risk from measles. This serious condition is easily preventable with two doses of the combination measles vaccine, which provides 99 per cent protection against illness and serious complications.

"Vaccines work. They reduce transmission and reduce your chance of getting sick. Community pharmacies are a convenient and accessible way to get protected," Professor Twomey said.



Part of the 1947 fleet, an Austin series one tanker. -S

apparatus vans, field operations vehicles, hose layers and educational units.

Today, most vehicles are twin cabbed, air conditioned and have comfortable seating compared to earlier vehicles. Safety features such as rollover protection systems, heat shields, vehicle sprinklers, window curtains, and remote-control monitors are common.

Crew protection systems installed into CFA's fleet was a major step in enhancing firefighter safety from 2006. Between 2011 and 2013, CFA also retrofitted the same crew protection systems to all existing pre-2006 tankers.

"This has been further extended over the years with all of CFA's ultralight tanker fleet currently undergoing and retrofit program to install crew protection," Danny said.

"This technology received significant laboratory, simulation and real fire exposure testing."

"Retrofitting all our vehicles gives our members the best possible chance of survival in a burnover."

The latest truck to join CFA's firefighting fleet is the Ultra Heavy tanker which has the capacity to carry 10,000 litres of water, more than some of our water bombing fleet. These trucks will greatly boost our ability to fight fires in remote rural areas with open grasslands.

CFA's progressive fleet department is always looking into new technology and prototypes to ensure CFA has the most advanced and safest vehicles for its firefighters.

## CFA's fleet evolution over 80 years

THE early days of fighting fires with beaters, buckets and knapsacks are long gone and while slipping a tank onto the back of a tray truck was the popular choice for many years, CFA's fleet has evolved dramatically over the past 80 years.

When CFA formed, the organisation inherited a mixed range of former war surplus trucks but most firefighting trucks in 1950s were Austins, the tankers being the work horse of the rural fleet for many years holding 400 gallons (1800 litres). The Austin pumper followed for urban brigades, which had a front-mounted pump and 350 gallons (1592 litres) per minute capacity.

CFA's Head of Fleet and Protective Equipment Danny Jones said CFA's financial focus in the 1950s was purchasing trucks and trailer units.

"By 1960, CFA had 773 vehicles in its fleet, 516 of them in rural brigades," Danny said.

"Small pumpers were then built which included more ladders, hoses, and larger pumps."

Small 4WD, agile Willys trucks were the forerunners to the current ultralights and slip-ons. The small 4WD tankers enabled crews to get in ahead of the larger tankers to bushfires to help knock the fire down quickly.

Danny said the size of our tankers and pumpers grew in capacity as new trucks became available, including those with diesel engines.

"CFA soon realised more types of vehicles were required for the variety of fire calls being attended," he said.

"CFA started to manufacture a range of specialised vehicles to suit our diverse needs which have continued to evolve over the years."

These included radio communication vans, hazmats, road accident rescue, high angle rescue, mine rescue, protective equipment, rehabilitation, salvage, lighting, telebooms, ladder platforms, aerial pumpers, alpine and tracked vehicles, sand tankers, breathing

**Alexandra Museum**  
Anzac Day weekend festival  
Steam Train Rides  
Open Saturday April 26  
10am to 3.30pm  
7 Station Street, Alexandra  
All information can be found at:  
alexandratramway.org.au  
/alexandramuseum  
or by contacting 0427 509 988

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## Groups oppose fisheries cuts

CONSERVATION, recreational and commercial fishing organisations in Victoria have united to oppose the state government's plan to axe fisheries officers. They are asking for an immediate reconsideration, warning that if they go ahead, the cuts pose significant threats to marine health, sustainable fish stocks and public safety on Victorian waters.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish), Seafood Industry Victoria and the Abalone Council Victoria anticipate devastating consequences if enforcement officers are reduced by two thirds in areas like Port Phillip Bay and replaced with 'engagement officers'.

"It's unprecedented for our groups to come together, but this alliance demonstrates the seriousness of the situation," VNPA Nature Conservation Campaigner Shannon Hurley said.

"We all agree that slashing frontline fisheries officers is a big mistake. When conservation groups and fishing interests stand together on an issue, the government should take notice."

"There is already a non-compliance rate of more than half in marine protected areas according to a statement released by the Community and Public Sector Union. If we cut the number of officers, people who fish illegally will likely feel even more confident breaking the laws without consequences," Ms Hurley said.

Ben Scullin, executive officer from the peak body for Victorian recreational fishers, VRFish agreed, stating, "Further reducing fisheries enforcement just undermines sustainable fishing practices and will ultimately harm the experiences of over one million recreational fishers."

Representatives from the seafood sector have also voiced concerns. Seafood Industry Victoria and Abalone Council Victoria say reduced oversight of marine waters would likely result in increased illegal fishing and sales of seafood by parties without commercial licences.

The cuts to fisheries officers follow significant reductions across other nature protection agencies. Parks Victoria faces \$95 million in budget cuts and an estimated 100 job losses, while 33 staff have been cut from the Officer of the Conservation Regulator.

"So many people depend on the health of our marine landscapes. You can't be serious about looking after it if you're cutting the frontline officers who work hard every day to protect it," Ms Hurley said.

The groups are calling for an immediate reconsideration of the proposed cuts.



## Yea Candidate Forum

**You are invited**  
Come and meet the candidates for Indi.

What are the key issues for you in the coming election?

Sunday, April 27 at 6pm  
Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre

Hosted by 2030Yea Community Energy  
Booking - call or text 0428 969 366



Out&About

WHAT'S ON?

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

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, April 28 at noon. Inspection day April 24 from 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Anzac Day services throughout the shire are published in this edition.

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum are offering steam train rides from 10am to 3.30pm at 7 Station Street in Alexandra.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Eildon Bowling Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

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Friends of Kellock Fundraiser 11am-3pm at 740 Whanregarwen Road, Alexandra. Picnic on the beautifully manicured garden and browse the classic cars on display. \$10 entry per person. Food and coffee van onsite.

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Maintongoon Road, Alexandra, clearing sale from 10am. Farm machinery, sundries, firewood, trailers, horse gear and more. Approximately 450 lots. Contact Embling Rural for further details 0418 266 038 or see ad in this edition.

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Alexandra Indi Candidates Forum at the Alexandra Shire Hall from 2-4pm. This is a free event that provides the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates before the upcoming election.

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Yea Indi Candidates Forum at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre from 6pm. An opportunity to meet the candidates before the upcoming election.

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FRIDAY, MAY 2

Free flu vaccinations at the Yea Saleyards, organised by Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

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Movie screening of *Just a Farmer* at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm, with the movie starting at 6.30pm. The movie explores themes of love, loss and the undeniable resilience of the farming community. After the film there will be a discussion with film producer and lead actor Leila McDougall and guest Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer. Supper and a cuppa provided. Contact Sasha to register on 0422 225 801.

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Election day. All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required to vote in the federal election.

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THURSDAY, MAY 8

Yea Arts Inc are running a free Business of Art workshop in Alexandra. The first workshops in the series include photo and video essentials and social media and brand building for creatives and are led by Sam Hicks. Spaces are limited. To book a spot visit [yeaartsinc.org](http://yeaartsinc.org)

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SUNDAY, MAY 11

Mother’s Day Luncheon at Holmesglen at Eildon. Bookings are essential for this three-course luncheon showcasing the finest local produce, and a complimentary glass of sparkling on arrival. Visit the website at [holmesglenateildon.com.au](http://holmesglenateildon.com.au) or call 5774 2631 to book.

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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

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> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

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

Church Services

ST PETER’S MEMORIAL

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds,

Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.

Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala

0458 113 099

ST LUKE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH

OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am

Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday,

10am to 11am - all welcome

Father Mario Hendricks

Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF

ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew

0459 402 547

St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm

Immaculate Conception Parish

Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am

Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF

KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest

Ph 9717 6482

St Mary’s Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea

Sunday Service 11.15am

Colin Whiteway

Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road,

Kinglake West. 9716 2330

# Our history: Soldiers who have returned

Yea Chronicle, Thursday, April 29 1920

SOLDIERS who have returned, honour the brave, presented to by the Residents of Yea.

In grateful appreciation of his services for King and country in the Great War, 1914 to 1920. He answered his country’s Call, signed on behalf of the residents. Robert S McAlpin, shire president. A Guthrie, shire secretary. April 1920.

Lieutenant Colonel Courtney, prior to making the presentation of the medals, paid a glowing tribute to the soldiers that had gone from Yea to the war, and said that no finer troops had left Australia. A great many of the Yea soldiers were included in his command, and everywhere on transport, in camp, or under fire, he had found that they were men that could be trusted to play their part honourably, He said he spoke as a soldier, without any desire to throw bouquets; and he had formed a very high opinion of the Yea soldiers, and was extremely pleased to be present to present medals to the Yea soldiers, especially so as many of them had fought under his personal command.

Referring to Gallipoli, Lieutenant Colonel Courtney said they had to recognise that Gallipoli, where so many fine Australians had lost their lives, was a failure, and a ghastly failure. But they also had to realise that it was very nearly a brilliant success. It was there that the Australian soldiers had first set up the high standard that ever afterwards Australian soldiers had striven to maintain right to the end of the war, and they had succeeded.

The man that carried the gun was it. A great many orders, and some silly orders, were received, but no matter how careful a general may have prepared his plans, it was impossible for him to carry them out if he had not good material in the ranks. Everything therefore depended on the men behind the guns, and they were it every time. The Australian troops had proved over and over again, by their dauntless courage, that they were soldiers of a very high order, and many a general had reason to congratulate himself on having such men to carry his orders into execution.

Mr M K McKenzie MLA thanked the Yea people for giving him the opportunity of being present on such a memorable occasion. He recognised that the men in front of him, and who had received medals,

had given gallant service for their country. As a result of the splendid service they had given, Australia had taken her place amongst the Council of Nations.

Marshal Hindenburg had recently paid a very fine tribute to Australia and colonial troops generally, when he stated that operations on the eastern front were fully justified because they occupied the attention of 100,000 of the best troops. The enemy had in the field. Mr McKenzie, in concluding his remarks paid a great tribute to the worth of the late Colonel McLeish and regretted that his death had taken place at such a critical time in the world’s affairs.

In the evening the returned soldiers entertained all war workers in the shire hall. This function was a brilliant success, as the returned men had left no stone unturned to make their guests feel that their efforts on their behalf during their absence had been fully appreciated.

A number of the soldiers went into the fern gullies of the mountains early on Monday morning and brought in a beautiful collection of ferns, and with them the hall was very prettily decorated, a large one being hung in the centre of the hall, and many remarked that never before had the hall been so prettily and tastefully decorated. Lady friends of the returned men attended to the decoration of the supper room, which was most artistically laid out with ferns, red, white, and blue streamers, and autumn foliage.

The University band gave selections in front of the hall prior to the commencement of the social evening, which drew a large crowd of interested listeners. When the proceedings opened at eight o’clock by the playing of the National Anthem by the band, the hall was packed, and a very pleasant social evening followed, the various items on the program being much appreciated, and warmly applauded and encored.

The following contributed to an excellent programme: Mrs Ritchie, Miss E Ramsden, Miss Winnie Wall, Miss Jessie Beth, Miss Nellie Redmond, Miss D Sullivan, and Messrs M F Kemp, Pemberthy, and AGuthrie.

Several selections were also given by the band, Bandmaster Short and the bandsmen willingly giving the Soldiers’ Association every possible assistance. At the conclusion of the program, the president of the Returned Soldiers’ Association (Major Purcell), on

behalf of the returned men, publicly thanked the following local bodies: The Red Cross Society, Red Cross Workers, Trench Fund Committee, Welcome Home Committee, Fathers’ and Mothers’ Association, the Salvation Army, the Agricultural Society, the state school children, and patriotic workers generally, in which he was ably supported by Lieutenant Colonel Courtney, Lieut. R S McAlpin, Sergeant Major T Johnson, and Corporal Robert Drysdale.

Acknowledgements were made by Mrs Stan Purcell (president of the Red Cross Society), the Rev. Martin (on behalf of the Trench Fund Committee and fathers and mothers), and Cr McLure (Welcome Home Committee).

At about half past 10 o’clock, various local committees were entertained at a sumptuous supper in the council chamber, the soldiers waiting on their guests, and they proved that they could also carry sandwiches, trifles, coffee, etcetera, as well as ‘carry arms’, and from the moment they ‘hopped over’ with the first plates of sandwiches and cakes until their guests showed the ‘white flag’ they paid them the same delicate attention as they had paid to ‘Fritz and his pals’ when other things besides cakes and sandwiches were flying about.

While the people were partaking of supper the hall was cleared for dancing, and an excellent orchestra, consisting of piano, violin, cornet and clarionet, was provided, and the younger people had a thoroughly enjoyable dance. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the quality of the music, and as the assembled guests gradually dispersed they did so with the feeling that they had had a thoroughly enjoyable time, and all were agreed that they would be able to look back with pleasure on the returned soldiers’ social of ANZAC Day 1920.

Medals and certificates were presented to the following : Medals for the deceased, from the Residents of Yea in grateful memory of war services, 1914-1919: J V Airey, S B Bruce, H R Bridges, M D Black, J Cantwell, O Dinsdale, T Dignam, E Dinner, C P Forbes, F J Gook, E F Billiear, L G James, W F Ker, N Kidd, R Kidd, W Mayman, E Minchinton, J Murphy, J T Murphy, L McKenzie, W C McLeish, R McLeish, D McLeish, Colonel D McLeish, J McLure, W Nash, J O’Connor, W G Purvis, W C Simpson, T H Templeton, C Tull, Robert Turnbull, G B Webb, J T Wentworth, N C Wilson, J Weaver, J Yoratou.



# Just a Farmer: a film about the challenges and triumphs of rural life

*Just a Farmer* is set to screen in Alexandra. It's described as "a heartfelt and powerful film that captures the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of rural life. Through an emotional yet inspiring narrative, the film sheds light on the challenges faced by farmers and their families, exploring themes of mental health, community support, and the unbreakable bond between people and the land they work on."

Producer, writer and actor Leila McDougall and *The Unbreakable Farmer* Warren Davies will both be attending the Q&A session after the screening.

Leila McDougall explained that she and her husband, Sean, started a not-for-profit about 10 years ago in their community of Tatyoon, near Ararat. The focus was on raising funds to support mental health and health of the community. Their main event was called *Mellow in the Yellow*, an event held in the middle of a canola crop which brought people together to celebrate farming and to talk about mental health. She said that at the time, mental health was very much a taboo topic, but it's now come a long way.

Their organisation also supports community initiatives such as mental health first aid workshops or farmer health checks, and they have donated money to resilience projects.

Leila said that during COVID-19, they were unable to run the events. They were watching television, as everyone was doing, and were trying to come up with new ways to reach a wider audience, to educate them about farmers and the sacrifices they make. They decided that making a movie would be the way to go.

She had no background in filmmaking at the time, "But we just sort of learned as we went," she said.

Unfortunately, they weren't able to get any experienced people to help them, but they decided to keep fighting and do it themselves.

She added, "I guess that as people say, or even Tarantino says, there's no better way to learn how to make a film than to make it yourself on a very low budget."

They went through the baptism of fire. "We definitely found out how to make a movie and made many mistakes along the way... It may sometimes look like it's a really big success, but we've had our fair share of battles along the way and still having them," she said.

Simon Lyndon directed the film, and Leila's husband Sean also provided significant help along the way, focused on authenticity and continuity, as well as organising crew. He also plays young Owen in the flashback scene. Leila's background is in fashion design, so the authenticity of the clothing was also an important element in the film.

Leila added, "We learned lessons as we went along and, it's a little bit like farming, when it's just problem solving the whole time."

They made sure that they had good cameras to shoot the film, and it's therefore of cinema quality.

She hopes that the film will be watched by "Everybody. We're trying to get it to as many people as possible. It's not really just a story for farmers, it's a universal story told through the eyes of a farmer, but it does also give people the understanding of what goes on a farm, the pressures of farming and what the toll is for providing the world with food. I think anyone who eats food needs to see it."

"...It's just a film that hopefully starts a lot of conversations... And actually have those deep conversations about how the film made them feel, or what it brought up for them because that was what it was designed to do... I want it to be a film that sits with people for a very long time."

Kelly Wandel, the community screening liaison manager for *Just a Farmer*, said she got involved after watching the *Australian Story* episode about Leila and Sean and reached out to them for a screening. She quickly became more involved.

She now helps to share the story across Australia and helps community groups to curate an event, as each community is different. She found that cinemas said no one's going to watch a film about farming, and it's really hard to market a story that is based around mental health and suicide, so it was a really hard story to market, but they also knew that there is demand for it in community. They now have an expression of interest list with over 330 inquiries.

She said, "There are two key things that we encourage the host to do. Sometimes the hosts are a farmer and sometimes the hosts are a neighbourhood or community house. The hosts all come from different backgrounds as well, but we teach them all that this movie was made to start conversations, so we encourage all community groups to hold a Q&A panel after the movie."

People are also encouraged to watch the episode on *Australian Story* featuring Leila and Sean as it takes people through the full story of how the film was made.



Leila McDougall. -S

## Screening information

Everyone is invited to a special screening of the movie, *Just a Farmer*.

This is a free community event inviting everyone to come together to celebrate the strength of rural communities and importantly brings awareness and spark important conversations about mental health.

*Just a Farmer* is a heartfelt and powerful film that captures the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of rural life. Through an emotional yet inspiring narrative, the film sheds light on the challenges faced by farmers and their families, exploring themes of mental health, community support, and the unbreakable bond between people and the land they work on.

Mental health in rural communities is often overlooked, and starting conversations can be tough. *Just a Farmer* movie screenings provide a safe space to bring these issues to light and foster real connections.

This event is not just for farmers, this movie is for everyone.

The screening will be held on Friday, May 2 at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm. People are invited to enjoy a cup of soup and a bread roll before the film.

The movie starts at 6.30pm. At the conclusion of the film there will be a discussion with special guest Leila McDougall (*Just a Farmer* film producer, writer and lead actor) and Warren Davies, *The Unbreakable Farmer*. Supper and a cuppa will be provided after the discussion with time to connect as a community.

Booking is essential for catering purposes. Book online at [events.humanitix.com/just-a-farmer-free-community-event](https://events.humanitix.com/just-a-farmer-free-community-event) or call Sasha on 0422 225 801. The film is suitable for people aged over 15 years.

Funding for this event was made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), with support from Murrindindi Shire Council, Embassy of Ideas, Alexandra Events, Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital and Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

## JUST A FARMER

A Community Event

VAN PARDOCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

### JUST A FARMER

LEILA MCDUGALL  
JOEL JACKSON

Mature themes, suicide themes and coarse language

This is a **FREE** community event inviting everyone to come together for a special movie screening that celebrates the strength of rural communities and importantly brings awareness and spark important conversations about mental health. This event is not just for farmers, this movie is for everyone.

## Friday 2 May

ALEXANDRA SHIRE HALL

DOORS OPEN 5.45PM  
MOVIE STARTS 6.30 PM

Booking is essential for catering purposes. Scan the QR code to register or contact Sasha 0422 225 801

**Refreshments**

Come eat before the film! Enjoy a cup of soup & bread from 5.45pm.

**Movie**

Just a Farmer is an award winning film shot in Western Victoria. This inspiring movie explores themes of love, loss and the undeniable resilience of a farming community in the face of tragedy.

**Discussion**

Join us for a discussion after the film with special guest Leila McDougall (*Just a Farmer* film producer & lead actor) and guest Warren Davies - *The Unbreakable Farmer*.

This event is made possible with support from

ADVERTISEMENT

## ANZAC DAY

Remembering those who have served and fallen for our country

Cindy McLEISH MP

STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

03 9730 1066  
CindyMcLeish.com.au

Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen





Fawcett history was on display, with a lot off information on well known families and the rural fire brigade. -MP



Local history and Alexandra Secondary College photos on display in the hall, all collated by Ian Newman. -MP

# Step back in time at Fawcett Hall

FAWCETT Hall was a historical dream on Easter Sunday as the carboot sale was on with some fantastic history to discover inside the hall.

There were Fawcett Hall history booklets, Alexandra Secondary College class photos from the 80s to the 2000s, and some detailed history from Fawcett and Koriella.



A visitor taking in all the history. -MP



Some people browsing through the carboot sale. -MP



Sandra and Sam getting into the Easter spirit. -MP



It was quite a busy morning at Fawcett Hall. -MP



Past students from Alexandra Secondary College. -MP



# Mayors chair: Four streams for the circular economy

by Murrindindi Shire Mayor  
Damien Gallagher

CHANGES are coming for waste collection, and they're as effective as possible for Murrindindi in a highly prescribed regulatory environment.

You see, a few years ago, the Victorian Government enacted the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021. Fundamentally, this law drives communities to make better use of resources, by separating waste into four key streams.

The circular economy is about giving valuable resources a second or third, or better life, recognising that virgin resources are finite, and that landfills across the state are approaching capacity. For example, glass can be made into new containers or crushed and reused in roads and construction; cardboard and metal get to be used again; and organic material can return to the soil to enrich it.

The four streams of waste defined by the government are: Green bin (food and garden organics, known as FOGO, collected weekly, Yellow bin (co-mingle recycling such as paper, cardboard and cans, collected fortnightly), Purple bin (glass, collected monthly), and Red bin (general rubbish ie. landfill, collected fortnightly).

Murrindindi Shire Council, and by extension, the Murrindindi community has been 'encouraged' to support the new Act with sizeable increases in EPA levies over the past few years to between \$68 and \$147 per tonne next year for rural shires. That's the tax payable by council (ie. the community) on all waste deposited into the Alexandra landfill including from kerbside collection and collections at Resource Recovery Centres.

The good news is, the Murrindindi Resource Recovery Team has found a way to introduce the four-bin system without increasing costs for residents who already receive kerbside collection.

The savings come from diverting more material away from landfill avoiding the levy and the cost of maintaining an expensive landfill site, for example glass (\$9/tonne), costs \$0 per tonne to process, compared to \$67 per tonne for recycling in the yellow bin. Plus, council's analysis has found that

around 60 per cent of our landfill waste is currently food and garden matter which will now be put to better use. What's more, the current co-mingle recycling system isn't ideal because when broken glass is embedded in paper or cardboard, the valuable recyclable material is considered contaminated and must be diverted to landfill.

And so, the implementation of a purple-lidded glass bin and the diversion of organic waste equates to savings.

The government has decreed that the four streams of waste be implemented wherever practical and so some residents in remote parts of the shire will be receiving a kerbside collection service for the first time. Those residents will see an increase in their waste charge as part of their rates notice, reflecting the cost of the expanded service. However, recognising that properties outside townships generally have systems to process organic food and garden material with compost and

mulching, their green bin will be provided on an opt-in basis. That is, if you live outside a township, please contact council ([tinyurl.com/fogo-opt-in](https://tinyurl.com/fogo-opt-in)) by May 15 if you intend to receive an organic bin collection service.

We've heard reports from other parts of Victoria where the rollout of the four-bin system hasn't gone as smoothly, including confusion about whether compostable kitchen caddy liners can be processed. In Murrindindi, our contractor Solo, can accept organic and starch-based bags, so you're good to go.

Some residents have asked why kitchen caddies (the small, bench-top kitchen bin) are being provided. These small bins are proven to help people get into the habit of separating food scraps. Others have asked why bags aren't provided and the simple answer is that nothing comes for free, and council has sought to minimise the cost of new kerbside services.

Given our small population, council's buying power is no greater than that of the individual consumer. Caddy liners are not mandatory so it is up to the individual household to choose organic, compostable bags which will be available from supermarkets, or some newspaper or paper towels to line their kitchen caddy. Council will work with local retailers to ensure they're aware of certified, compostable liners.

Council is pleased with the level of engagement from our community during this process. Resident and business feedback has shaped a system that is practical, cost-effective and ready to launch on June 30.

If you have any questions about the new waste collection services, or what goes where, then the following is a valuable resource: [tinyurl.com/msc-kerbside](https://tinyurl.com/msc-kerbside)

## Can't make it on Election Day?



### If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit [aec.gov.au/early](https://aec.gov.au/early)

**Your vote will help shape Australia.**



To learn more  
[aec.gov.au/early](https://aec.gov.au/early)  
13 23 26



Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra.

## Car Classic on the Goulburn

FRIENDS of Kellock are holding a fundraiser on Sunday, April 27 from 11am to 3pm. The Car Classic on the Goulburn Show and Shine will be at 740 Whanregarwen Road.

People are invited to picnic in the beautifully manicured garden and to browse the beautiful cars on display. There will be a food and coffee van onsite.

All car clubs and members are invited to display their classic cars at this inaugural event. To register your car, please contact Larry on 0418 576 167 or email [larry@fallons.com.au](mailto:larry@fallons.com.au)

Spectator entry is \$10 per person. There is also a \$10 entry per display car.



having a celebration?

**need  
invitations?**



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or email us on

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[alexandranewspapers.com.au](https://alexandranewspapers.com.au)

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 10

KID'S PUZZLES

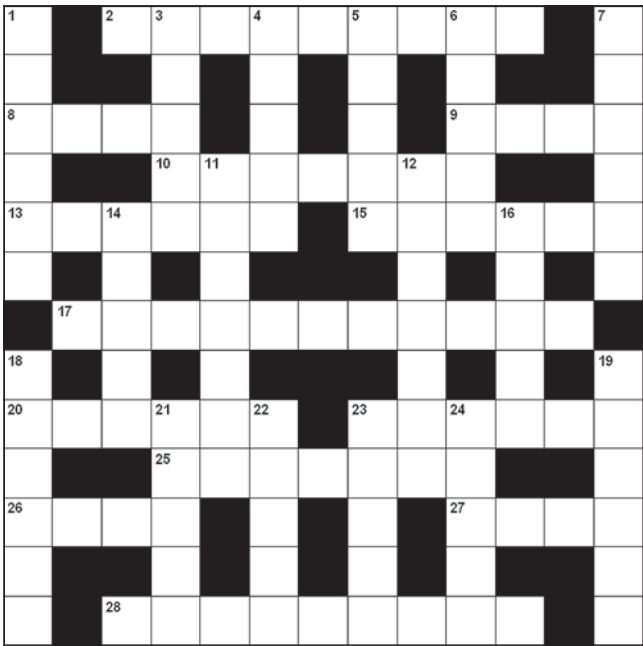
Crossword

ACROSS

- 2. Change from a liquid to a semisolid.
- 8. Diameter of a gun barrel.
- 9. A lecherous man.
- 10. Fixed regular allowance.
- 13. Deep, covered serving dish.
- 15. Stags with twelve antler branches.
- 17. Set apart from others.
- 20. Easily understood.
- 23. Largest state of the USA.
- 25. Saw worked by one hand.
- 26. Molten rock from a volcano.
- 27. Sheet of floating ice.
- 28. Part of a bride.

DOWN

- 1. Ruffles and frills on shirts.
- 3. Excessively fat.
- 4. A small hard particle.
- 5. The bile-secreting organ.
- 6. Slow in progress.
- 7. Metamorphic rock similar to granite.
- 11. Mexican liquor.
- 12. A short novel.
- 14. Watery discharge from the eyes.
- 16. Affirms as true.
- 18. A shelter from danger.
- 19. The movements of a trained horse.
- 21. A stage of development.
- 22. Brought to a conclusion.
- 23. A useful or valuable quality.
- 24. Exceptionally bad.



Word Search

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

ANZAC Day

- AUSTRALIA POPPY
- GALLIPOLI RESPECT
- HEROES RISINGSUN
- NEWZEALAND SACRIFICE
- PARADE SOLDIERS
- PEACE WREATH

Cryptogram

ANZAC Day

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				15				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
		23						

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	3						

$\frac{E}{17\ 15} \quad \frac{L\ L}{17\ 14\ 23\ 23}$

$\frac{E}{26\ 15}\ \frac{E}{2\ 15}\ \frac{E}{2\ 11\ 15\ 26} \quad \frac{T\ E}{3\ 18\ 15\ 2}$  ;

$\frac{L\ E\ T}{23\ 15\ 20\ 3} \quad \frac{E}{17\ 15} \quad \frac{E\ T}{1\ 22\ 26\ 8\ 15\ 3}$

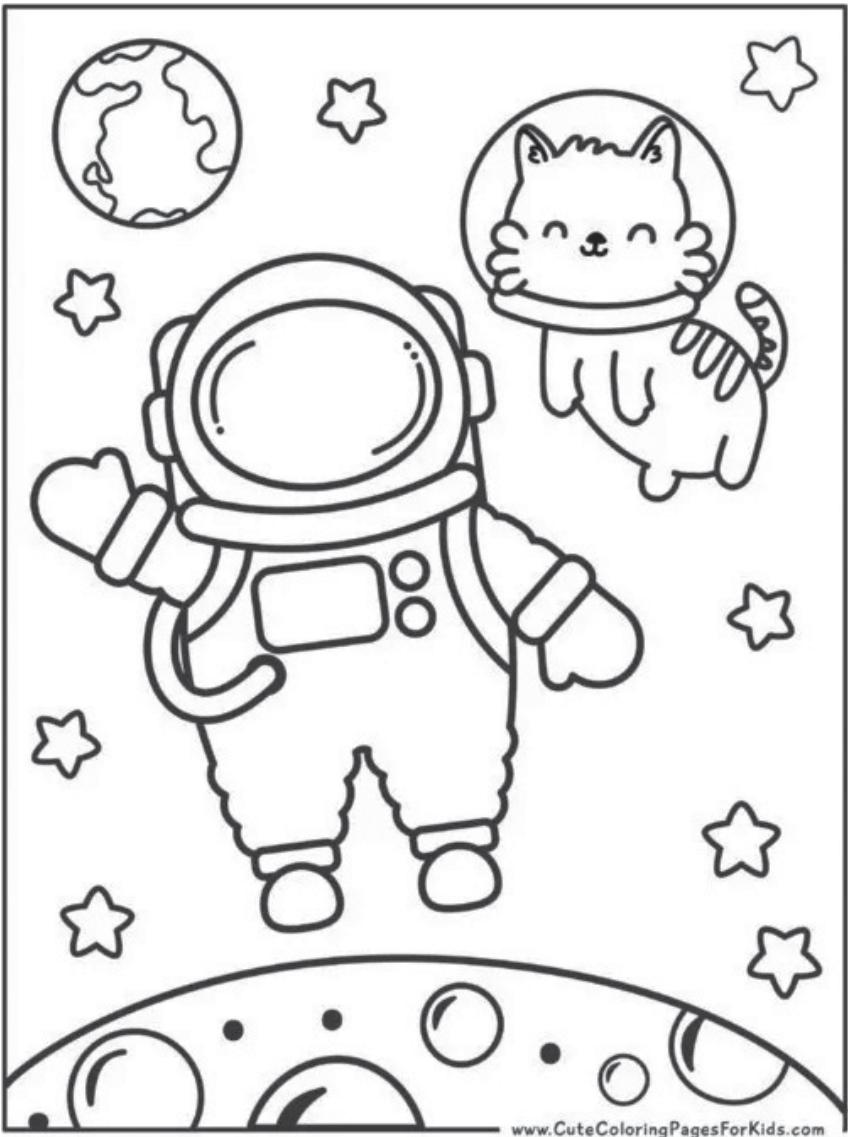
Math Square

	-	6	+		7
+		÷		-	
	+		+		8
-		+		+	
3	-		-		-12
6		11		15	

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.

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Word Search:  
Words starting  
with "A"

- ABOUT ANDREW
- ABOVE ANGEL
- ACTION ANIMAL
- AGAIN ANSWERS
- ALLIGATOR APPLE
- ALLOWED AROUND
- ALPHABET ART

Math Square

2	-		-	8	-13
-		+		-	
	-	4	-		-10
+		-		+	
	+		+		12
5		10		4	

Fill in the missing  
numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

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.

Jokes

Q: What do you call a Bear with no ears?  
A: B

Q: Why didn't the dog want to wrestle?  
A: Because he was a Boxer



# ON THE LAND

## Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

### Farmers call for serious investments in various areas this election

POTHOLED roads, inefficient supply chains and growing pressure on regional housing and services remain top concerns for farmers and regional communities heading into the Federal election.

National Farmers' Federation President David Jochinke acknowledged that while major parties and some independents had made funding commitments for supply chain infrastructure, too many crumbling regional roads remain ignored. He said the election was an opportunity to lock in a more sustainable pipeline of funding.

"The number one topic at any backyard barbecue is the state of regional roads," Mr Jochinke said.

"Potholes, blown tyres and detours aren't just annoying, they're slowing freight down and costing farmers time and money. We need reliable road and rail networks that keep supply chains moving and businesses productive.

"We deserve roads that get our food, fibre and people to their destination safely and efficiently.

"This isn't just about roads. It's about investing in the entire supply chain, from paddock to port, to keep Australian agriculture productive and competitive."

The NFF and its members are calling for continued investment in key programs, including, a further \$1 billion annually for Roads to Recovery, \$4 billion to reinstate the Roads of Strategic Importance to target key freight corridors through road sealing, flood proofing and pavement rehabilitation, one per cent of Commonwealth Tax Revenue to be allocated to Financial Assistance Grants for local government road repair and maintenance.

Mr Jochinke said the need for investment extended well beyond roads.

"Our regions are transforming rapidly. Internal migration is accelerating, and infrastructure, housing and services are struggling to keep up.

"As regional populations grow, we need investment that matches the demand and set communities up for success."

The NFF is also calling for a New program for farmworker accommodation. This includes \$175 million over four years for a farmworker accommodation stimulus package, with tax concessions and incentives to accelerate new builds and upgrades of farmworker accommodation.

"This idea will help attract and retain a skilled workforce and contribute to the overall growth of regional communities," Mr Jochinke said.

There is also a call for reliable connectivity and for the government to commit to the recommendations from the 2024 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, and provide \$20 million annually for the highly successful *On Farm Connectivity Program*. "Reliable phone and internet access is fast becoming the ballot-box issue for farmers and regional Australians. They're fed up with second-rate service compared to the cities."

There is a request to renew the National Water Grid Program, as northern Australia continues to develop and diversify, sustainable water infrastructure will be critical.

"Sustainable water projects will unlock the growth in the north and directly drive agricultural expansion."

There is a call to invest in new regional childcare centres, the NFF believes all parties should commit to the \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund to build more than 160 new childcare centres. "Building childcare centres alone won't fix this problem, but it's a big step in the right direction for regional families."

### Calls to scrap emergency services tax

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the state government to immediately abandon its proposed expanded tax for emergency services and instead focus on urgently reforming the existing Fire Services Property Levy to ensure it is fair, transparent and sustainable for all Victorians.

VFF President Brett Hosking said it comes after widespread community backlash to the government's new tax proposal, which would see families, farmers, and businesses slugged with massive bills without any guarantee of improved services.

"Victorians are already doing their fair share and this latest tax grab is unjustified and deeply out of touch. Farmers don't support it, firefighters don't, nor do businesses and local governments.

"Instead of piling on a new tax, the government should be fixing the broken levy system we already have," Mr Hosking said.

The VFF is urging the government to commit to meaningful reform, including a cap on levy increases by introducing a legislated cap so the Fire Services Property Levy cannot increase by more than the consumer price index year-on-year, similar to the rate cap applied to local councils.

A protection against levy shock to be introduced and implement an individual capping mechanism to prevent property owners from facing levy spikes due to extreme land value revaluations.

There is a call for fairer classification and rate setting, this will be done by conducting a full review of current land use classifications and rate structures to ensure they are equitable, particularly considering differing service levels between metropolitan and regional communities.

And finally, implementing the rebate for CFA volunteers. The government should keep its plan to provide a levy rebate to CFA volunteers to the existing fire services levy.

"Our CFA volunteers, so many of them being farmers, are disproportionately giving of their time and their funds to serve the community. It is only right that we look at providing a rebate against their fire services levy bill.

"Scrapping this expanded tax and committing to genuine levy reform would be a win for transparency, equity and trust," Mr Hosking said.

## H7N8 avian influenza update

AGRICULTURE Victoria has stated that the response to an outbreak of H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu) continues on four poultry properties near Euroa, and are continuing to warn all bird owners including poultry producers, bird keepers and pet bird owners, as well as recreational game bird hunters.

A restricted area with a radius of about five kilometres has been in place around the infected properties, and includes Euroa and parts of Longwood. This is part of a larger control area.

The control area spans about 40 kilometres from east to west, and 30 kilometres from north to south. Mandatory movement restrictions for birds and game no longer apply to Violet Town, Ruffy, Avenel or Strathbogrie.

All bird owners should regularly check their birds. Unexplained illness or deaths of birds should be notified to your local vet or by calling the VicEmergency hotline on 1800 226 226 or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

If you are located within the warning area and you own birds, you must follow all movement controls. These are: if you own birds, do not move your birds, eggs, chicken manure or poultry equipment into, within, or out of the control or restricted areas without an Agriculture Victoria issued permit.

Follow the updated movement controls, check the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza) - or call 1800 226 226 for detailed information on what you can and can't do in the restricted and control areas.

It is no longer mandatory for premises with 50 or more birds in the restricted area to house birds, however voluntary housing of birds is still encouraged. Recreational game bird hunting is not allowed in the restricted or control areas. This includes the hunting of duck, stubble quail and introduced game birds. Moving game bird carcasses and any equipment associated with game bird hunting into, out of or through the restricted and control areas

is prohibited unless under an Agriculture Victoria issued movement permit.

H7 bird flu can be spread to other animals by movement of eggs, birds, people handling birds, vehicles and equipment between farms, and by clothing, footwear, aerosols, water, feed, litter, wild birds, biting insects and vermin.

To help prevent the spread of disease to your birds you should restrict contact between pet birds, poultry and wild birds, prevent access by wild birds to food and water sources for your birds, keep equipment and yards or aviaries clean, limit visitors to your birds, and bird owners should wash their hands before and after handling birds.

Check for signs of H7 bird flu in your birds, these can include sudden death, birds with difficulties breathing, such as coughing, sneezing, or rasping, Swelling of the head, purple discolouration of the comb and wattles, rapid drop in eating, drinking and egg production. Ruffled feathers, dopiness, closed eyes, diarrhea, and occasionally nervous symptoms.

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# Know your campfire rules before you light up

FIRE and land authorities are urging people to be aware of campfire safety rules as now is a popular time for camping.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said before campers settle in for stories under the stars, they should make sure they know and are following campfire safety rules.

"This season, we've responded to almost 300 incidents involving campfires, including the Boroka Lookout Fire in the Grampians National Park where an illegal campfire turned into a large bushfire. If it wasn't for the efforts of our firefighters, that fire could have grown and destroyed the Halls Gap community.

"Campfires that escape are a big problem in Victoria. Always fully extinguish campfires with water, not soil and make sure it's cool to touch before leaving," Mr Hardman said.

Follow the rules, stay safe

"We want people to enjoy the bush safely. By knowing and following the rules for building and maintaining campfires, we can help keep the bush healthy and safe for everyone."

Parks Victoria Executive Director of Operations Kylie Trott said campfires are generally only permitted in designated fireplaces across most Victorian parks.

"Campfires aren't allowed in all parks or campgrounds. In most cases fires must be within a constructed fireplace, so it's essential to check the rules before your trip," Ms Trott said.

"Someone should always be watching the fire while it's burning, and ensure it is fully extinguished before you leave. The consequences of getting it wrong can be devastating."

Acting Chief Conservation Regulator Cal Heppell said escaped campfires are a cause of bushfires that are 100 per cent preventable.

"Ensure you know the rules and are up to date on weather conditions before you light any fire. Your fire is your responsibility," Mr Heppell said.

"Our authorised officers will be visiting campsites throughout Victoria's parks and forests making sure everyone is following the rules so we can all have a safe and enjoyable holiday."

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said that while fire pits will also be a great source of warmth, careful consideration is key to keeping everyone safe from injuries and fire starts.

"Last year CFA responded to 219 fire pit incidents, which could have been prevented by simply having a safer set up and fully extinguishing them before walking away," Mr Heffernan said.

"Make sure to give your fire pit plenty of room with at least three metres of space in all directions and place it on a flat, non-flammable surface.

"Have at least 10 litres of water or a hose nearby and an adult supervising the fire at all times so you can enjoy your long weekend without any surprises."

Before hitting the road, people should be familiar with local campfire regulations and safety measures to help protect the environment and local communities, visit CFA's *Can I or Can't I* webpage.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a day of Total Fire Ban is \$47,421.60 and/or two years in jail.

Report unattended campfires to 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.

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**MATH SQUARES**

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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

### DEATH NOTICES

**Carr, Phyllis Jean**  
Phyllis passed away peacefully at 90 years old on April 13, 2025 at Rosebank Nursing Home, Yea. Beloved wife of Leslie Donald (dec). Sister to Fred (dec) and Betty (dec). Mother to Peter and Robyn. Mother in law to Regina and Peter. Nanna to Megan, Raymond, Cameron, Bronwyn and Nikolas and partners John, Kerrie and Kylie Great Nanna to Owen, Heath, Wren and Percy. She was greatly loved and will be truly missed.

A private funeral service for Phyllis Jean Carr will be held at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

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### FUNERAL NOTICES

**MEADOWS - nee Cadge Beverley**  
A graveside service for Beverley will be held at Alexandra Cemetery on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 commencing at 11am

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### IN MEMORIAM

**ROBERTSON, Andrea Lee** - 11/08/1963 - 25/04/2024. May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here. Treasured niece of Val, Judy and Dot.

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### MEETINGS

**Notice given of a Public Meeting**  
to be held at Yea Racecourse and Recreation Reserve on Monday, May 5 commencing at 7pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three or more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on June 30, 2025. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries, please contact the secretary, John Quinlan on 0428 576 543.

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## Search and Rescue dogs train in Kinglake

ON Saturday, April 12 the entire Australian Search and Rescue K9 (ASAR-K9) group participated in a large scale collaborative training event alongside Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad and the Dog Squad in Kinglake.

In a unique and challenging exercise, Victoria Police strategically placed four missing persons and two articles of clothing across a 106 acre area, simulating an authentic search scenario within a dense forested environment.

The four operational dog teams divided the search area and successfully located all

missing individuals and items within two hours.

The ASAR-K9 group train every Saturday in various locations across Victoria. The volunteers train their own personal dogs to find missing people and human scented articles. The group consists of 20 members and four dog teams.

The group would like to thank HVP plantations for their support in allowing access to various sites for the K9 Training, and Victoria Police for their ongoing support.



Members getting one of the dogs ready for the training exercise. -S



Many people and dogs took part in the training exercise. -S



One of the dogs trailing a scent. -S



## PAGES 12 - 15

# CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

**CANDIDATES** for the House of Representatives in the upcoming Federal election, set for May 3, were asked a series of questions on key topics, so readers can work out which candidate's views best match their own. They have been included here in the order in which they were received. Unfortunately, no responses were received from Tim Quilty (Libertarian), Mitch Bridges (Labor) and Ben Howman (Legalise Cannabis Party).

## *The questions were:*

- 1. Are you able to provide a short biography outlining why people should vote for you?*
- 2. What is your vision for Indi in the next Federal Parliamentary term? [and specifically Murrindindi Shire].*
- 3. Are you able to outline some of the major challenges Australia faces in the next 20 years, and how they can be addressed?*
- 4. What are your thoughts on Australia's defence?*
- 5. What are your thoughts on renewable energy?*
- 6. What are your thoughts on immigration and refugee levels?*
- 7. What are your thoughts regarding the level of JobSeeker, pensions and disability payments?*
- 8. Do you have any other major policies you would like to share?*



# CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

## Alysia Regan - Greens

1. In a wealthy country like ours, everyone should be able to afford the basics: a home, food, and have access to world class health and education. Right now, one in three big corporations pays zero tax. We can't keep voting for the same two parties and expecting a different result. We should tax big corporations and billionaires to fund things we all need: Dental and mental health into Medicare, cap rent increases and regulate the banks to lower mortgages, see the GP for free, wipe all student debt and bring back free university, make supermarket price gouging illegal, free childcare for every family, and stop the major party's new coal and gas.
2. Strong Sustainable Local Economy: Financial incentives and advisory services for primary producers and regional processors to form cooperatives. The direct economic benefits of the conversion of rural land to renewable energy generation are fairly shared with farmers and regional communities. Increased support for new locally developed, owned and operated industries that are socially useful, support a healthy environment and provide fulfilling work. The development and implementation of strategies to attract new residents and retain existing residents, through the provision of appropriate financial incentives, housing, community services, and cultural engagement. Increased support for rural and regional arts, festivals and sporting fixtures.
3. Environment and climate crisis: No more coal, oil and gas, no nuclear. End native forest logging. A massive expansion of publicly owned renewables. Save koalas and our wildlife from extinction. End the billions in handouts to coal, oil and gas corporations. Environmental laws that actually protect the environment. And tax big corporations to pay for it. Housing crisis: Stop unlimited rent increases. Regulate the banks to deliver lower mortgages. Scrap the tax handouts to wealthy property investors with more than two properties, including negative gearing. Invest in a government build of good quality homes sold and rented at prices first home buyers can actually afford.
4. The Australian Greens are committed to building a peaceful and just world, seeking nonviolent means for resolving conflict when it arises. Where violence and militarism does arise, we are committed to using the resources Australia has to minimise and reduce the incidences of armed conflict and violence. We must also ensure that current and former defence and military personnel are treated fairly, appropriately and with the respect they are due.
5. The climate crisis is negatively impacting all aspects of modern life, contributing to disruption of ecosystems, biodiversity and human societies through sea level rise, extreme weather events, desertification and changing weather patterns, and threatening food security, water, the economy, social cohesion and the well-being of humans and other living things. Australia needs just transition to a net negative greenhouse gas economy through a range of mechanisms including a plan to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy through strong regulatory intervention and a strong effective price on carbon.
6. Australia has humanitarian and legal obligations to accept refugees and reunite families. Australian society benefits from immigration. Australia's cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity should be celebrated for greatly enriching our society and economy, and this diversity is enhanced by the immigration of people to Australia. Australia must uphold its humanitarian and legal obligations to people seeking asylum and refugees, grant refugees protection and reunite families as required by international human rights law and the Refugee Convention 1951 and its Protocol.
6. Poverty is a political choice. Over five million Australians are barely scraping by on Centrelink payment rates below the poverty line, and millions more are struggling with the cost of living. Young people are barely scraping by on Youth Allowance, older people
7. Greens pressure works. We've secured billions for housing and clean energy and last time there was a minority government, we



Alysia Regan. -S

are increasingly becoming homeless, and it's harder than ever to access the Disability Support Pension. The system is deeply broken. But it doesn't have to be this way. The Greens have a plan to end poverty in Australia and ensure support is there for everyone who needs it, no matter what. This starts with raising the rate of all Centrelink income support payments above the poverty line.

got dental into Medicare for kids. This is our chance to deliver it for everyone. We've been very clear that the Greens will never use our numbers to support Dutton becoming Prime Minister. That is a guarantee. We're doing everything we can to stop Dutton bringing Trump-style politics to Australia. The Greens are taking on the Liberals in every seat across the country. Last election, we won two Liberal seats, and this time, we're within reach of winning more.

## Mark McFarlane - Independent

1. I believe I am the right candidate for the seat of Indi because I am one of you. I represent no biased climate agenda, no corporation, and no one donor. I am the grassroots underdog in this race, on a shoestring budget, like most of us. I am a tradesman with extensive building experience and know how to get a job done. I have served in the military and helped to protect our country by helping bolster defence force numbers for nine years. I have been very involved in standing up for the rights of an individual, when it comes to government overreach and draconian laws that only do harm, and save no one. I feel it is time for a fresh start in Indi, and I am just the man to do it.
2. I want to see Indi become much more united in it's stance to protect our farmers, and our rights and freedoms. For too long now people have felt pushed by bureaucrats to do what they don't need to do. This damage is far reaching, but I will stand for those hurting silently. I will fight to bring income tax reform to ease the cost of government overreach, overspending and overbearing policies. Freedom to speak, choose, and live is what I am about, and the only way to do that is to have a true independent that serves you.
3. The future sure looks bleak when it comes to a top heavy government that only serves itself, and its own goals. Monetary waste of overseas projects and wars that have nothing to do with us needs to end. It is time for the people of Indi to prosper more from our own resources, and not have them sold off cheap. We are at a precipice of walking into a socialist nightmare, spurred on by evil intent. We also need a Bill of Rights, to protect and prosper individual constituents, that would serve to protect humanity.
4. Our defence force has been run down to a trickle by a government who would rather defend another sovereign countries, than our own. It is unconscionable that we have been left so vulnerable and weak, through the weak leadership of Albanese. We need battle destroyers added to our navy, more tradesmen and women in the army, as well as a doubling of our air defences, at a minimum. The defence forces have been turned into a civilian contracting, and woke idealistic nightmare. Double defence spending for three years would be a great start.
5. There is nothing renewable about solar panel, wind turbine and nuclear waste. There are so many other alternatives that don't do the harm of exploding lithium batteries and large solar array radiation. Leave smaller panel projects on roofs, and stop the rebate rip offs to domestic solar customers. Keep clean coal and gas plants for base load, that only greens the earth, while looking into ocean wave/ tidal power generators that are out of sight and silent. I would like to see thorium also explored, along with magnet technologies.
6. Refugee levels are unsustainable under this Green, Labor and Orange/Teal consortium. It is putting this next generation on the streets, and under stress, while facilitating a freeloading refugee tsunami of many who have no loyalty to Australia. The immigration levels must be paused for at least two years while we recalibrate our housing, medical and education systems, before it is too late. Refugees are still welcome during that two years in situations of impending danger and death if they are returned, but must be fully vetted and background checked.
7. I believe that JobSeeker and disability payments are well funded already. I want to see reductions in the areas of the NDIS, where rorting is occurring, while leaving more for those who really need it. Basic old age pensions need to be available to all of the



Mark McFarlane. -S

elderly who have paid taxes all their lives, but can't get the basic pension after retirement due to assets. They have earned their assets over their lifetime, and they deserve the pension, unlike many bureaucrats who retire on huge pensions like \$300,000 per year, while sucking off the little guy.

by having more people with more to spend on what these hard workers want. We need to put the people of Indi first, and not rorts disguised as climate change projects, for overseas beneficiaries. We need more long stay mental accomodation and help for the vulnerable. We also need removal of draconian medical mandates, so as many trained and experienced Aussies can return to work in their many medical fields.



## CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

### James Trenery - Liberal

1. I'm running for parliament because I believe it's time for change in Indi, to get Australia back on track. My wife Amanda and I own and operate a small business, run a farm at Talgarno, and like so many people across the North East, pay a mortgage and support our family. Just like you, we're feeling the cost of living pinch. Everything is so much more expensive now than it was three years ago, when Albanese and Labor came to government - that's why I believe it's time for change. Peter Dutton and our Liberal Plan will lower inflation, create cheaper energy, build affordable homes, create safer communities, and deliver quality health care. This is why people should vote for me, because it's time for change in Indi to get Australia back on track.
2. We need to get inflation under control and support our communities through this cost of living crisis, make housing more affordable, and create cheaper and more reliable energy. My main focus is going to be addressing cost of living and delivering support. We've been neglected for three years by Labor and Helen Haines. Only the Liberals will have a plan for immediate cost of living relief and long-term measures to bring down inflation. The Liberals will cut the fuel tax in half, and deliver a Cost of Living Tax Offset of \$1200 when tax returns are lodged for the upcoming financial year.
3. One of the biggest challenges we're going to face over the next 20 years is energy security. Under Labor and Helen Haines' 'renewables only' approach, the cost of energy has gone through the roof. Reliability is down. The use of fossil fuels, like coal, is up in Victoria. Energy is so important, because it underpins industry and the cost of everything we do. Only the Liberals have a plan to establish an East Coast Reservation to keep more Australian gas for Australians, and drive prices down, and invest in seven zero-emissions nuclear energy generators to replace decommissioning coal plants and to provide reliable energy for generations to come.
4. We need to invest in our defence force and in programs that strengthen Australia's position and partnerships as global challenges evolve. This includes continuing our investment and partnership through AUKUS, that will better defend Australia. This is something Helen Haines does not support.
5. Labor and Helen Haines' 'renewables only' approach to our energy system is resulting in high prices and a grid that is increasingly reliant on weather-dependent and unreliable energy sources. Labor promised to reduce annual electricity bills by \$275 by 2025. Yet for many Australians, electricity bills are increasing by up to \$1300 more than promised. Australia is the only country in the top 20 economies that is not using zero-emissions nuclear power, or taking steps to put it in the mix. Only the Liberals will deliver a balanced energy mix with renewables, gas, storage and zero-emissions nuclear, that will bring down prices.
6. Australia is the greatest multicultural nation in the world, something all Australians should be proud of. However, Labor has created an unsustainable migration program with significant consequences. Net migration to Australia reached almost 1 million people in Labor's first two years, 70 per cent higher than in any previous two-year period. A new person is migrating to Australia every 44 seconds. This is unsustainable and is severely impacting our social and economic infrastructure. We will rebalance our migration program to restore confidence and integrity, and to relieve pressure on housing and community services.
7. The Liberals will increase the amount older Australians and veterans can work without reducing pension payments, better supporting them and enabling more choice. We will also guarantee NDIS funding to support those with permanent and significant disabilities.
8. Australians are suffering from the worst cost of living crisis in a generation. Our living standards have collapsed. Australia has also recorded the longest per-capita recession on record. Australia has experienced the biggest fall in household disposable incomes of any developed country in the past two years. Only the Liberals will fight cost of living pressures. By getting inflation down and alleviating household cost pressures, our standard of living can be restored and Australians can get ahead.



James Trenery. -S

### Athol Thomas - One Nation

1. As a local mechanic and farmer from the Kiewa Valley, I am tired of Canberra's neglect. Indi's challenges include, housing shortages, farmland threats, economic and cost of living pressures. As your elected representative, I will genuinely listen to your concerns, ensuring true representation. One Nation's bold vision to protect agriculture, boost housing, and ease financial burdens will support farmers, cut red tape, provide immediate cost of living relief and boost Australia's economic future without reliance on hard working Australians to fund it. I'll fight for Indi's unique needs, safeguarding water resources, stopping unwanted renewable projects and increasing housing availability and affordability, while delivering prosperity. Vote for me to put Indi first with One Nation's practical, common-sense solutions.
2. One Nation is committed to slashing wasteful government spending and implementing significant federal budget savings of up to \$90 billion per year. I will advocate for some of these funds to boost the Financial Assistance Grants for rural councils. Working in conjunction with One Nation's state representative, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, we would ensure that these funds are directed where needed most and assist in getting funds allocated for projects in the Murrindindi shire like a regional university study hub and the Lake Eildon tourism activation plan.
3. Without common sense and practical policy Australia will face significant threats to our national sovereignty through the existing agreements with the UN, WHO and WEF in addition to the exacerbation of existing rising energy costs and unreliability, increased building costs and housing shortages, reliance on foreign fuel supplies and a crippling national debt that all, ultimately, increase cost of living pressures. The solutions for these issues have been addressed in One Nation's policy package that will bring industry back to Indi, reinstate coal and gas baseload power resources and supply, end mass immigration and cease excess government spending.
4. Australia's defence force plays a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's way of life and freedom. It is important to ensure that the defence force receives sufficient funding and support to always maintain a state of preparedness. The government should prioritise future military needs and avoid inefficiencies, such as those seen with cancelled submarine contracts.
5. While renewables have a place within the energy mix it is not the solution for Australia's long term energy needs. Wind and solar are intermittent and do not provide reliable and constant base load power supply. The shift to renewables has significantly increased electricity costs whilst also creating an increase in electricity shortages and blackouts. Clean coal (HELE) and gas whilst developing into nuclear power are the cheapest and most reliable solutions to our base load power needs with renewables making up peak demands. Grid scale solar should also not be placed on prime farmland, further impacting our food supply.
6. One Nation's immigration policy prioritises Australia's interests. We will cap net immigration at 130,000 yearly, focusing on skilled migrants who embrace Australian values. We will deport 75,000 illegal immigrants (those that have overstayed their visas, illegal workers and unlawful non-residents that undermine national security) who drive down wages and take advantage of public services meant for Australians. We will withdraw Australia from the UN Refugee Convention so we can decide who we take in and reintroduce Temporary Protection Visas as a proven, effective policy that prevents permanent residency through the back door and deters illegal arrivals.
7. JobSeeker, an essential tool to assist out-of-work Australians, must also be managed responsibly to avoid welfare dependency. Reducing net migration will enable more Australians to get back into the workforce quicker and One Nation will fight to allow both age
8. One Nation has sensible policies offering immediate cost of living relief. By halving fuel excise which will cut 26 cents per litre off fuel costs, Indi residents will be saving money at the pump, on travel and at



Athol Thomas. -S

and disability pensioners to be able to work (up to) full time without losing their pension, encouraging up to 600,000 experienced, qualified workers back into the workforce to help with skills shortages. Self-funded retirees will also be better off under One Nation by being able to earn up to \$35,000 before paying tax.

and the supermarket. Cutting electricity bills by 20 per cent and allowing couples with dependent children to file joint, income splitting, tax returns will mean significant savings for struggling families. One Nation have also committed to reducing housing costs by removing GST from building materials and supporting the continuation of the native hardwood timber industry in Australia making achieving the Australian dream possible again.



## CANDIDATES QUESTIONED

### Michael White - *Family First*

1. I live in Beechworth with my wife Alison and two teenagers Tyson and Becca. We moved to Beechworth eight years ago from Sydney. We love the character of Victorian towns like Beechworth, which we like to add to by ringing the local church bells. Indi is a great area to live in. In some ways Alison and I are an everyday couple, we care about the right schools for our kids, we take them all over to weekend sport and we help out our elderly parents. We have almost finished building our own stone cottage, perhaps not so everyday. We take the practice of our Christian faith seriously. I have worked as a gardener for many years and care about the world being that bit more beautiful. I've had a long interest in politics but was never inspired to run for a party until the better political story of Family First came along.

2. As well as caring about big issues for Australia, I'm also practically minded and understand the value of the everyday services that get delivered at the LGA and community level. The

demand for services is incessant, but the money to fund them is not. We have to be efficient. As an MP I would make it my business to examine services throughout Indi to find the cost per hour of service delivered. If the elderly getting their lawns mowed is costing north of \$100 per hour, something needs to get more efficient. I want to see careful planning for growth so that the character of our rural towns is maintained.

3. I'll name three. How we look after our kids. Do we want more babies and children in care, or do we want more parental time with our young? If the latter we need the right housing and family taxation policies and a renewed respect for motherhood. Getting the energy transition right. We need sensible policy. This means focusing on grid stability and affordability ahead of arbitrary dates for zero emissions. Defence. Australia is an extremely vulnerable part of the world that's a long way from allies. We can't

continue to sleepwalk on this.

4. Australia needs to dramatically increase the pace of new defence acquisition. This should be a full range of platforms, both traditional and asymmetric (drones). We need to be efficient with how we spend. There's too many generals, not enough missiles. We have one experience from our history where our defence situation changed overnight (Fall of Singapore); there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. Most of all we need to believe that we have something here worth defending. Not to love our country is a luxury we can't afford.

5. I see that Australia has great opportunities with solar power. I have an off grid system myself, but we need to get sensible with what we are doing with our grid. New gas power is urgently needed to ensure grid stability. Renewables are useful for reducing the demand on our gas supplies as coal closes but are not the answer on their own. The sensible future both

environmentally and economically is a gas/solar grid (with a bit of wind and hydro). We don't need solar farms in sensitive areas, there's plenty of room for solar within urban boundaries.

6. Our high immigration levels may not be having much effect on Indi, but it should be the focus of a Federal candidate to care about the major issues in Australia, not just what affects his or her electorate. Immigration has been too high and is causing strain on housing supply and transport in our cities. Governments of both sides use immigration as a mask for low per capita economic growth. We should be generous to refugees where we can, but choose carefully. It has been a major multicultural fail that we now have people who hate Jews in Australia.

7. The levels, probably about right. Efficiency of delivery is another thing. For instance, I would consider making the aged care pension universal and paying for it by less tax concession



Michael White. -S

on super. It would work out cost neutral for most, but we could get rid of the need for the complex arrangements people make to get the pension and the need for bureaucracy to check on compliance. Even in times of abundant jobs there are people who need one on one help to get into the work force. We need to help people get the confidence to participate in society rather than assign them to long term welfare dependency.

8. Family First is a party that builds its policy from

Christian foundations. We believe in the sanctity of human life and the biological truth about gender. We support free speech so that important issues can be discussed without lawfare and cancel culture. Your freedom of conscience is important to us as is your right to educate your children in a faith if you so wish. We are economically centrist, and approach policy with the commonsense objective of what will make Australian families, and hence our nation, thrive.

### Helen Haines - *Independent*

1. As Indi's federal independent MP, I have a track record working with both the Coalition and Labor in government. We set our priorities here in Indi and I develop solutions in consultation with our community and with the experts. It's how we do politics differently in Indi and what sets us apart from the major parties. My decision making is based on common sense, accountability, transparency, and fighting for a fair go for Indi and regional Australia. Whether that's fighting for stranded communities during the pandemic, relief after bushfires, shaping national housing solutions, or securing a National Anti-Corruption Commission, I've had local impact and national influence. I'll keep working for the infrastructure we need to unlock housing and improve health services, for access to childcare and better telecommunications. I'll keep working to hold the government to account, to restore integrity and stamp out corruption. I'll keep fighting for Indi.

2. The next parliament is on the cusp of a great opportunity to deliver governance that is more transparent and accountable to the people

than ever before. My vision for Indi is one where living in regional Australia means you get a fair share of funding - where our healthcare, our education opportunities, our connectivity, our roads and infrastructure supports us to thrive and excel. In Murrindindi I continue to work closely with the shire, local community groups and residents on issues that are important to the region, like housing affordability, telecommunications, home care services and higher education.

3. Cost of living, the energy transition and affordable housing are pressing challenges. In Indi, we play an active role in taking solutions for these issues to Canberra. Global instability underscores the need for cool heads, a clear focus and steady, principled diplomacy. As people feel the challenges are stacking up, people seek leadership that listens and plans for their future. Investment must be fair, considered, and transparent to ensure responsible spending of public money. Underpinning all of this is governance that serves the national interest, not vested interests, and delivers a fair share for regional Australia.

4. I support strengthening the Australia Defence Force and ensuring all three services are appropriately equipped to defend and protect Australia. As your Independent MP, I receive briefings from military leaders and the Defence Minister about shifting geopolitical situations that present fundamental challenges and opportunities to Australia. We must protect our economic prosperity, our national security and most importantly our sovereignty and democratic institutions. It is important that Australia is not overly reliant on any single international partner and continues to forge and maintain an array of alliances and partnerships that serve our strategic interests.

5. As our coal-fired power stations close, we must put more renewable energy into the grid to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy. However, I share the feelings of many regional Australians that the renewable energy rollout is happening to us and not with us. I understand the many legitimate concerns Indi communities have about renewable energy, about bushfires and risks to

biosecurity, insurance and visual amenity. We must have a system where community engagement and benefit are at the start, middle and end of every conversation about the renewable energy transition. We must also map suitable land for renewables and establish appropriate 'no-go' zones.

6. Australia needs a robust and effective immigration policy, but we also have obligations to ensure humanity and fairness, and we should be mindful and respectful of the extraordinary contribution of refugees and immigrants to Australia's social, economic and cultural development. I am concerned at the politicisation of immigration, the potential for misinformation, and the impact on social cohesion in our communities. I am also very alive to the importance of international workers to fill critical workforce shortages in industries like healthcare, aged care and construction.

6. Since I was first elected, the shockingly low rate of the JobSeeker payment has been consistently raised as a key concern of my constituents. It pushes people into poverty just when they need support the



Helen Haines. -S

most, and it's why I have consistently called to raise the rate of JobSeeker. In a country like ours I do not accept that when people lose their jobs or fall on hard times that they should have to choose between putting dinner on the table or switching on the heating. If re-elected I will keep fighting for increases to JobSeeker and other social security payments.

7. I'm working to establish a dedicated \$2 billion Building Rural Hospitals Fund, providing competitive and needs-based investment for new buildings, equipment and planning. I want more

doctors, nurses and allied health workers to train in rural hospitals and support for placement payments for medical and allied health students. My childcare policy seeks to increase access to childcare in regional communities and ensure sustainable outside school hours care services for small rural schools. My regional development policies will support regional councils that struggle to maintain local roads and help communities build energy and telecommunications resilience against power outages.



# The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



## Parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrikes

THE Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is holding a new parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrike incidents and investigating the current legislative and regulatory frameworks that exist and examining their application and enforcement.

Increased urban development, decreased efficiency of current measures and a lack of wildlife prioritisation have prompted the committee's inquiry.

Exploring preventive measures and establishing proper incident reporting services are another key focus.

Committee Chair Georgie Purcell outlined the need for new measures to protect wildlife

due to increased overlap of urban and natural environments.

"The rapid destruction of their habitat is moving them closer to areas that are populated, and in Victoria they are hit by vehicles at alarming rates," she said.

The true toll of this issue is unknown in Victoria, with currently no established mechanism for reporting incidents when an animal is struck by a motor vehicle.

"Part of the reason for this inquiry is because there is no set reporting on incidents of roadstrikes," Committee Chair Georgie Purcell said.

"Currently our response to wildlife is an afterthought at best, but with careful

consideration at the early stages we have the ability to heavily reduce the road toll."

The inquiry is also looking at both paid and volunteer organisations' contributions to animal rescue and rehabilitation and examining their involvement, training and expenditure.

"The majority of people who dedicate their time to care for native animals in Victoria do so voluntarily," Ms Purcell said.

"The overworked wildlife sector is burnt out and many volunteers are forced to work multiple jobs to self-fund their transport and rescue equipment in order to perform the work."

The Committee is searching for new strategies to implement, in addition to current preventative measures such as yellow road warning signs.

"There is a lot we can learn from experts both locally and internationally through this inquiry process," Ms Purcell said.

The impact of roadstrike incidents on motorists, including major traumas and vehicle damage is also being considered by the inquiry.

The Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is accepting public submissions until May 30. Visit [parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/WildlifeRoadstrike/submissions/](http://parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/WildlifeRoadstrike/submissions/)

## Thirty-two golfers for a stableford round

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday saw one of the biggest attendances of men to play golf in a club event for sometime at the Yea Golf Club. Thirty-two men played a stableford round with stalwart Rob O'Halloran (21) winning the day with 36 points from second Brian Simmons (10) on countback.

Third was Ken Whitfort (10) 35 from fourth Chris Dunne (7) also on 35 on countback. Fifth was Russell Wealands (22) on countback from Tony Rule, Anthony La Grutta and Zach Pell all with 34. Steve Wealands was nearest the pin on the 14th and Mal Bett won the club award.

Cindy Armstrong with 33 points won the ladies stableford on countback from Di Elliott.

Wednesday's event at 'Royal Yea' was stroke and putting with improving Chris Keogh (33) having his best round ever having 97 off the stick nett 64.

Second was in-form Rob O'Halloran (21) with nett 70. Third was new member Glen Walsh (35) with nett 72 on countback from Phil Armstrong (19). Sam Wright was nearest the pin on the 14th, Ocean Grove visitor Peter Simmons won the putting with 24 putts and Allan Coates won the club award.



Rob O'Halloran took out the stableford event, which drew a large amount of golfers. -S

The Yea Golf Club gives thanks to the many volunteers and members who continually give their time to maintaining the course and clubhouse.

## Safety comes first when your outdoors

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) paramedics are encouraging Victorians to know their limits and stay safe while outdoors.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Wilderness Response paramedics have recently responded to several calls for falls and high angle rescues across the state.

While it's great to see Victorians exploring all the state has to offer, AV Alpine Senior Team Manager Jonathan Hopkins said it was important to always be prepared and do activities within your limits.

"You never know what might happen, so it's important to be as prepared as possible before heading off on your next adventure," he said.

"Always carry some sort of communication device such as a phone or radio and let someone know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

"Make sure your clothing and footwear are appropriate for the conditions and bring plenty of water, food, matches, sunscreen and a torch.

"You can't predict when an emergency will occur, so our advice is to carry a first aid kit, know snake bite management and learn how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)."

You should also check the weather and be prepared for conditions to change, especially when heading to remote or unfamiliar locations.

Mr Hopkins said emergencies can happen in unfamiliar locations so it's important to familiarise yourself with resources available to help contact Triple Zero (000).

"Download the EmergencyPlus app which has a built-in GPS function to help you provide coordinates to the Triple Zero (000) call taker," he said.

"The app also contains the *what3words* software which works offline, so can be used in remote areas with poor data connection to quickly provide an exact location.

"You may also consider a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which, when activated, sends an emergency signal via satellite to emergency services."

Download the VicEmergency app or visit Vic Emergency to be notified of incidents and warnings in your area.

While your hiking always let someone know where you're going and when you're expected to be back. Be sure to bring enough water and food, and anything else you need to stay safe such as matches, a torch, sunscreen and basic first aid kit. Be cautious that, depending on conditions, there is a potential risk of hypothermia and heatstroke.

Resources on CPR, alternative services and staying safe outdoors are available in multiple languages on the Ambulance Victoria website at [ambulance.vic.gov.au/translated-resources/](http://ambulance.vic.gov.au/translated-resources/)



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