

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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Darryl King: from hospital to helping out

DARRYL King is the new president of Yea Rotary. He spoke to us about his life and the experiences which led him to take on the role.

Darryl has been in the Yea area for 22 years. He initially had a small weekend hobby farm on the Melba Highway, before moving to what would eventually become "a five acre garden" on Murrindindi Road.

His plans were delayed by a significant medical incident. He initially had pins and needles in his fingertips and toes, so he went to hospital to be checked. It took him nearly 10 hours to get a ward and in bed.

"At 5.30 in the morning, I woke up and I was fully paralysed," Darryl said. "The only thing I could move was my face... It was really scary."

He was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome. He described how "It eats all the coverings off your nerves and they give you a certain drug to start the growth back, but it's a slow process."

He ended up staying in hospital for 10 or 11 months. "The whole time, I was just thinking about my garden. I was solely thinking that this little duck is not ready to go yet. I would bore the nurses every single day with what I was going to plant, where I was going to plant it, how I was going to do it. And they said, Darryl, I'm just exhausted listening to you. I said, I'm exhausted because I know I can't physically do it at the moment. That was driving me nuts," he said.

At one point, he caught pneumonia and was unconscious for five days on life support. He almost died, and the doctor told him how close he came to performing a tracheotomy on him.

During his time in hospital, he needed to be craned out of bed and fed by the nurses, and helped to drink water. "Everything had to be done because I could not do it. But I tried to stay positive the whole time. For anyone who is ill, just keep positive and there's a better chance you can get through it. Not 100 per cent, but a better chance," he said.

Darryl grew up around Heatherdale and then Lilydale, where his parents still live. He had a lot of involvement with horses for around 32 years, focused on Welsh Section A, as well as Section B and D. He would show at agricultural shows around the country, and was even invited four years running to show ponies in Wales, at the Royal Welsh Show. He didn't take his own ponies, but was asked to show other people's ponies which was a great honour.

He also travelled around Australia for two years as a qualified chef after completing his



Darryl in the hospital bed. -S

apprenticeship. He worked in greasy-joes right through to five-star hotels, including the Hilton in Darwin.

He then had a complete change, working as a storeman for a number of years, and then ended up with City of Knox, supervising 67 football ovals, looking after contractors, maintenance, irrigation and so on. He was with them for 35 years.

He left the job when he realised he was no longer able to return due to his illness. He added, "It hasn't stopped me volunteering. I'm just a bit slower than the average guy, but it certainly hasn't stopped me from getting involved with the Yea community, which I absolutely love."

When he was finally released from hospital, he returned to his property at Murrindindi Road, and has been there now for six years. He said that his garden is still a work in progress, but that he has nearly 550 roses, and deciduous trees. The fully five acres has been "planted out" and now it just has to mature. The garden has now been a part of the Yea Open Gardens, although in the first year, his location had to be cancelled due to flooding shortly beforehand.

Due to his illness, Darryl had to retire but he wanted to stay busy. He started with just helping a few people in their gardens, pruning roses and other jobs. He also began volunteering with the CFA. He explained that because he still has issues with his legs sometimes, he couldn't be an active



Part of Darryl's beautiful garden. -S

firefighter. He instead became their health and safety officer.

From there, he became involved in the Murrindindi Hub, where he has been the president for four years. They have functions once a month, where Daryl is also the chef. He said, "In one of my many roles in life, I was a qualified chef. And that does move into Rotary because I'm the 'Barbecue King,'" he said, "Which is a laugh in itself, but I do get involved in their functions, like the seating at functions, I do the canapes for the art show."

He was also involved in the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group, and was a counsellor when they had the Saturday mornings in Yea.

In addition, he can often be found doing the lighting or sound for the Yappers. He's been involved with the group since they did *Ladies in Black*.

He also provides Entertainment under the Oaks in his garden each January for the Yea Cancer Charity. Last year they raised around \$9500 through auctions and tin-rattling. It's been running for the past three years and is building. It's a private event, invitation only, due to insurance.

As though he didn't already have enough to do, he also cooks on Christmas Day for St Luke's in Yea, supplying a Christmas lunch for people to enjoy.

Last year Darryl won Murrindindi Shire Council's Volunteer of the Year Award. It



Darryl King. -S

was a real surprise to him when his name was called out.

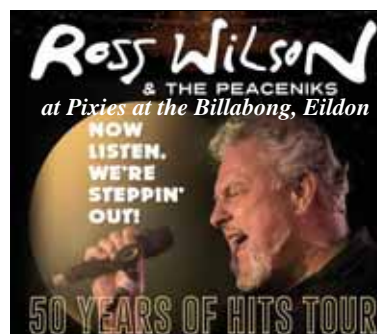
"I love volunteering," he said. "I got involved with Rotary because Rotary is really strong in the Yea community and I always tell people if you want to get to know your local town better or you want to strengthen your network for socialising, etcetera, you get involved with the strong community groups, and Rotary sort of hit it because we're always doing barbecues, we do the Cycle Dindi, we do the art show, we do the Yea Garden Expo. All the things I love. It was an easy transition to get in."

He said of the presidency role he's "a bit of a doer," and so he decided to take it on board, even though he felt that it may be a little early. He also felt more comfortable taking on the role as he knew that he would be able to ask advice from others in the club with a wealth of experience. "You're not trying to invent the wheel," he said. "Because Rotary such a strong, community-minded organisation and we do a lot for the community now."

His focus for the role will be on increasing membership and looking after the youth in the community, and so on.

He said of his year as president-elect, "I had a great year with Penny... I know Penny's still there, that if I need to know something. All I have to do is ask."

If you have an interest in joining Rotary, please visit yearotary.org.au or speak to one of their members.



Photocopied or emailed entries will not be accepted.

One entry per household

To enter, this voucher must be received by noon, Wednesday, July 23.
Alexandra Newspapers, 43 Grant Street
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Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are not eligible to enter.

Win one of two double passes to Ross Wilson and the Peaceniks
= 50 years of hits tour. Sunday, July 27, 3pm

NamePhone.....

Address

Email.....

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Recycling

AS a proud Murrindindi resident and full-time recycler, I'm a little concerned that some locals are treating the new four-bin system like it's optional, like coriander on a curry or unscreen on a cloudy day.

We've been upgraded. From the trusty two-bin setup, red and yellow, to a full four-bin system. That's like going from dial-up internet to NBN and still choosing to send a fax.

Why the change? Because in 2020, China stopped accepting Australia's rubbish. And so they should. We'd been shipping off unsorted waste and calling it recycling. Eventually, they said, 'No thanks. Deal with your own mess'. And so we should.

Because, we would never off our own back, and Government of Victoria responded with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*, a move to reduce waste and recover more resources. And the four-bin system is how we make that happen at home.

Here's the rundown: Yellow (mixed recycling), Green (food and garden), Purple (glass bottles and jars), and Red (landfill, the bin of last resort).

Change can be confusing. But we went from cash to cards, Melways to GPS, and somehow mastered QR codes during a pandemic. If you can binge-watch on Netflix, you can sort your bins.

Let's not be *That House* on bin night. You know the one. Overflowing red bin. Glass in the wrong spot. Even the cockatoos look disappointed.

Murrindindi, let's sort it out, literally. The rest of the world is doing it and so can we.

If your dog can learn which cupboard the treats are in, you can learn which bin to put things in.

Proud Murrindindi Recycler, name and address supplied but withheld by request

Clarification regarding Yea hospital and the Yea Medical Centre

IN response to recent community feedback, Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) would like to take this opportunity to clarify the relationship between the hospital and the Yea Medical Centre.

While the Yea Medical Centre is physically located on the hospital site, it is important for our community to understand that the two services operate entirely independently. The medical centre is a privately owned and operated general practice. It leases premises from the hospital but maintains its own staff, funding arrangements, governance structures, and decision-making processes. The hospital and the medical centre are not part of the same organisation and do not share operational or administrative functions.

That said, there are occasions where a doctor from the Yea Medical Centre may also be involved in providing care to hospital inpatients or aged care residents. When this occurs, it is under a separate, arrangement with the hospital and is undertaken in the individual doctor's professional capacity. Additionally, the hospital is able to assist community members to access a telehealth appointment through the free Victorian Virtual Emergency Department service. For more information about this service please contact the hospital directly.

Although these are two distinct services, YDMH values the positive, collaborative, and respectful working relationship maintained with the Yea Medical Centre. Both organisations share a strong commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our local community and work cooperatively, where appropriate, to ensure coordinated care for those who need it.

We trust this provides helpful clarification for our community, and we thank everyone who reached out to provide feedback and ask questions about how our local health services operate.

Elizabeth Sinclair, CEO, Yea and District Memorial Hospital

Four-bin kerbside collection service: a shared step forward

I'D like to thank residents who have recently shared their views in the *Chronicle* and *Standard* regarding council's new four-bin kerbside collection service. While many understand the environmental benefits and long-term cost savings, we recognise that others are feeling uncertain or concerned about the changes.

This is a significant shift, introduced not only to support better resource recovery and reduce landfill, but also to meet mandatory requirements set by the Victorian Government as part of the state's transition to a circular economy.

We welcome these conversations and would like to offer some additional context to help explain why this change is necessary, how it was designed, and how council is supporting residents through the transition.

Any major change to a long-standing service, especially one as routine and universal as kerbside collection, will prompt questions and adjustments. This is especially true for many rural residents who are now included in the kerbside collection service for the first time, and who have responsibly managed household materials for many years. We respect those efforts and have designed the system with flexibility in mind.

Rural properties along the service route have the choice to opt into the food and garden organics (FOGO) service if it suits their household needs. Many have chosen not to, and that's perfectly fine, however it's important to note that organic material must not be placed in any of the other bins, as this will be treated as contamination.

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The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks

Alexandra Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers

Endeavour Yea

Hazeldene Store

Merton General Store

Seymour Newsagency

Shell Thornton

Yea FoodWorks

Yea Newsagency

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Weekly Weather



July 16 - July 22, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	11
Thursday	3	10
Friday	3	13
Saturday	4	12
Sunday	4	11
Monday	7	13
Tuesday	6	12

Standard

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	12
Thursday	3	11
Friday	3	13
Saturday	4	12
Sunday	3	12
Monday	8	13
Tuesday	6	12

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	11.00am Mon	1.38	rising	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.65	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00am Mon	0.67	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarek	9.52am Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.52am Mon	0.50	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00am Mon	0.34	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.75	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	3.49	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.45	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.07	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.40	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00am Mon	0.79	steady	

**ISSUED AT 11:09 AM AEST MONDAY 14 JULY 2025*

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	8mm
Buxton.....	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS).....	2mm
Flowerdale.....	8mm
Jamieson.....	2mm
Kinglake.....	39mm
Lake Eildon.....	1mm
Mansfield.....	2mm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarek	4mm
Yea.....	6mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	276.36m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	57.6%
Metres below full supply.....	12.54m
Daily inflow	1000ML
Release.....	1100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	80%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate

Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services

Thursday noon

Early General News

Thursday 5pm

Classifieds

Monday noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

Sports Editorial

Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor

Monday 9am

Thumbs up/down

Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support



Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

The reality is that Murrindindi Shire only diverts 32 per cent of household materials from landfill, well below the state average of 49 per cent and 40 per cent for similar rural municipalities. This shows we have more work to do. The new system gives us the ability to catch up and keep more materials in circulation as valuable resources.

This is not just about compliance, it's about fairness for all rate payers now and for future generations, as well as keeping costs in check. The state government landfill levy is increasing, and the more we send to landfill, the more we all pay. If council had not acted, residents would be facing higher costs in the near future under the old system.

Some have asked why a property that generates little waste should be included. The answer is that the government's *Circular Economy Act* mandates multiple streams of waste collection for residents at the kerbside wherever practicable across the municipality. Murrindindi Shire Council's implementation has been carefully designed

to achieve consistency and equity. Like other shared services (roads, libraries, emergency support, etcetera), a universal base system ensures it's fair and functional for the whole community. Council also offers additional support, including extra bin capacity at no extra cost for households managing higher garbage volumes due to nappies, incontinence products, or medical needs.

It's worth noting that burning refuse on rural properties, while once common, is not an environmentally sound solution, contributing to air pollution and undermining resource recovery efforts. Safe, managed collection is now the best practice.

This change is about building a smarter system that treats materials as resources, not rubbish. Together, we can reduce what goes to landfill, reclaim more value, and shape a system that serves our community now and into the future.

Council has promoted the new system extensively through direct mail to every household, and paid advertising in local newspapers and on radio, Council newsletters,

and online channels. We have launched the *LoopedIn Councils* app to set reminders, check collection schedules, and know which bins to put out when. Comprehensive information, including feedback from the extensive community consultation that informed the service design, is available at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fourbins including a detailed Frequently Asked Questions section. Collection calendars can be downloaded from council's website, picked up from any

of council's Library and Customer Service Centres, or mailed out upon request. They are also available for collection from council's mobile library. If residents have questions or need support, we encourage them to get in touch. We're here to help.

We thank all residents for adapting, participating, and continuing to share feedback as we improve and refine the service.

Livia Bonazzi, CEO Murrindindi Shire Council

Alexandra bank agency to close?

MURRINDINDI Shire may see a reduction in the current services offered by Bendigo Bank.

It's understood that while it was announced that Bendigo Bank is set to close 10 branches in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania, other services including agencies and ATMs may also be reduced.

The Victorian branches set to close are in Ballarat Central, Bannockburn, Malop Street in Geelong, Korumburra, South Melbourne and Yarram, however Bendigo Bank agencies, in addition to branches, are also set to be impacted.

It appears that the Alexandra agency of the Yea Community Bank, which operates under Bendigo Bank at the Alexandra Newsagency, will close in October. The ATM in Eildon may also be removed. It will leave Alexandra without a brick and mortar bank, and Bendigo Bank customers will end up paying more to access funds without local ATMs. The services available via the post office in Alexandra will continue.

The status of the agency in Marysville, operating under the Upwey Bendigo Bank is as yet unknown.

The Yea Community Bank services in Yea are expected to continue as normal.

Bendigo Bank refused to confirm or deny the changes. A spokesperson from Bendigo Bank simply said in an email, "Bendigo Bank's purpose is to feed into the prosperity of its customers and the community. The bank has more branches per customer than any other Australian bank and operates Australia's second largest regional branch network. Bendigo Bank communicates changes to its business that impact its people, customers and communities promptly whenever relevant decisions are made."

The ABC reported on July 8 that the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank posted a statutory net profit after tax of \$216.8 million for the half year ending December 2024.

The big four banks, Commonwealth Bank, NAB, ANZ and Westpac, all agreed to keep the doors open on their regional branches until at least 2027, but it was too late for Murrindindi Shire where all of the branches had already closed.

Strath Creek Country Market coming soon

THE Strath Creek Country Market is going to be kicking off soon, with the inaugural market taking place on July 20.

Situated at Pioneers Reserve in Strath Creek, it's going to be a mix of local makers, bakers and growers showcasing their wares, along with hot food and coffee to warm the bellies of those attending.

Visitors will be able to stock up their pantry and support some of the best producers in the region. There will be live music, great spots to relax and even a playground for the children.

The market kicks off on Sunday, July 20, and will take place every third Sunday of the month from 9am to 1pm.

Follow the Strath Creek Country Market on Facebook or Instagram for more details, and stallholders can contact the market manager by email at strathcreekcm@gmail.com

Current stallholders include a wide variety of categories, from food to plants to homewares.

Food and drink stallholders: Bespoke Preserves and Pantry, Bee Kool Honey, Divine Mushrooms, Oh So Good Foods, Nagambie Artisan Bakery, Goulburn Valley Pork and Beef, Apted Orchards, Pammie's Baked Treats, Allenbee Fields Preserves, Dindi Dough Microbakery.

Wine and spirits: Young Tree Wines, Urban Cellar, Muto Wines.

Plants, pets, poultry and outdoors: Rigby Cottage heritage fruit trees, Royella Farm seedlings, Sunset Valley Chicks, Groovy Greys, Ironstone Park rare natives, Precision Planters, Seven Tails Naturals.

Hot food and coffee: OMG donuts, Luke's Wood-fired Pizza, Coffee by The General, Meltdown Toasties.

Health and home: Gate of Hope Chinese Apothecary, Soapie Goatie, Janelle Currie Pottery, Country Vibes Vintage, Cooper's Leather, Prim Botanicals, Kinship Textiles, LK Kreations, Creekside Crafts, Coloured Wool and Fibre Company, Koetong Soaps, Elementals Botanica, Kate Ryan Art.

Community groups: Strath Creek Landcare Group, Broadford CFA, Broadford Community Garden.

Check where your children's devices are charging

A KILMORE family is urging Victorians to install smoke alarms in their bedrooms and to not charge their devices on bedding after their house was recently damaged by a fire in the early hours.

Just after 4am on Monday, June 9, CFA crews attended the scene after an iPad that was on charge under a pillow caught fire.

Mother of four, Jessica, said the iPad, charging between the bedhead and the pillow on the top bunk in the bedroom of two of her children, exploded from the heat and ignited a large flame.

"I was alerted by my son yelling and screaming because he got burnt from debris falling from the top of the bunk. He woke us up by saying there was fire on his bed," Jessica said.

"I was in pure shock and surprise. All I wanted to do was make sure my kids were safe.

"My initial actions were to try and put the fire out, so we put water on it, and that obviously didn't work, so we closed the door and ran safely out of the house."

With no existing home fire escape plan in place, Jessica wishes she could go back in time, having had conversations with her family earlier about what they would do in an emergency.

"Although you often feel a charger heat up, you never think anything will actually happen," Jessica said.

"My son was extremely terrified. He is fully aware of the dangers and now doesn't charge his phone anywhere near the bed."

Due to the family closing the bedroom doors, the fire was able to be contained to the bedroom, however both Jessica and her son sustained injuries from the blaze.

"I got burnt on my toe, and my 14 year old got third degree burns on his arm," Jessica said.

With school holidays approaching and families spending more time indoors, Jessica strongly urges parents to ensure all their devices are not being put on charge inside bedrooms.

"Please be mindful of where you are charging devices. I'd recommend charging on benches away from any kind of fabric materials and preferably not overnight," she said.

Residents are reminded smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom and living area and to assist in helping your family to safety, interconnected smoke alarms are recommended, so that when one alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound.



The bedroom following the incident. -S



THUMBS DOWN: Why did my green bin not get emptied when my neighbour's did? Strange.

THUMBS UP: To the very helpful and thoughtful man at Yenckens for helping me with car products and tips. Service above and beyond as usual at Yenckens.

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

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

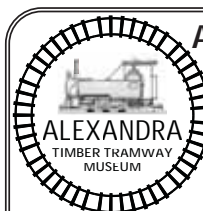
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LOCAL MAKERS, BAKERS AND GROWERS
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SUNDAY, JULY 20
9AM TO 1PM

Pioneer Reserve, Strath Creek

Enquiries to Mel at: strathcreekcm@gmail.com



Alexandra Museum
and Steam Train Rides

OPEN this
Saturday, July 19
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street,
Alexandra

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

Out&About



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

THURSDAY, JULY 17

2030Yea Ethical retirement investments with Q&A with John Agostinelli, Ron Litjens and Munira Chowdhury. 6.30-7.30pm at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club AGM will be held at the Bayley Street clubrooms at 1pm. All welcome.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Market @ Yarck including CWA morning tea and cake stall. Plants, soap, preserves and jams and much more.

Alexandra Museum and steam train rides 10am-3.30pm. For more information contact 0427 509 988.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

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

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

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



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

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 10.30am
Colin Whiteway
Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JULY 20

Strath Creek Country Market 9am-1pm.
Pioneer Reserve, Strath Creek. Enquiries to
Mel at strathcreekcm@gmail.com

MONDAY, JULY 21

Murrindindi U3A AGM will be held at the
Alexandra Bowling Club at 11am followed
by a light lunch. All welcome.

National Renewables in Agriculture Bendigo
2025. Hear from farmers and industry experts.
Scan the QR code in this edition for details
or visit renewablesinagconference.com.au

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Quiz for a Cause Trivia – Help Foundation
Murrindindi raise funds to support Food Relief
Programs across the shire. Alexandra Shire
Hall. Doors open 5.30. 6.30pm quiz start.

BYO table nibbles, drinks at bar prices \$35
per person. Scan the bar code in this edition
for tickets.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Speak with council at an open community
meeting in Yarck from 5-7pm at Yarck
Memorial Hall. See ad in this edition
for full details or email governance@murrindindishire.vic or phone 5772 0333.

Presentation of innovative Farmer Health Program at Rural Health Conference

ELIZABETH Sinclair, CEO of Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH), and Dr Jennifer Keast, a rural health researcher from the University of Melbourne, presented their successful abstract on the YDMH Saleyards Farmer Health Check Program to a captivated audience of researchers, healthcare professionals, and rural health advocates at the annual LaTrobe Rural Health School Research Conference in Bendigo.

The innovative program, which delivers on-the-spot health assessments for farmers at the Yea Saleyards, is designed to tackle barriers to healthcare access in rural communities.

They described the program's inception, implementation and partnerships along with early evaluation outcomes of the initiative, highlighting its strong engagement rates and the significant impact it's already having on preventive health awareness.

"Our farmers are incredibly hardworking, and often put their own health last," Elizabeth said. "By bringing

health services to where they are, at the saleyards, we're creating a critical bridge between rural life and essential healthcare."

Dr Keast noted the overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants and emphasised the importance of continued research and community partnerships. "Programs like this demonstrate how targeted, place-based interventions can address rural health inequities in practical and meaningful ways," she said.

The presentation drew praise from fellow attendees, with many commending the program's grassroots approach and its potential for broader application across rural Australia. The YDMH Saleyards Farmer Health Check Program is expected to expand in coming months, with plans for further evaluation and collaboration underway.

The conference served as a platform for celebrating rural health innovation, and the Saleyards program stood out as a promising example of community-driven healthcare solutions.



Yea and District Memorial Hospital CEO Elizabeth Sinclair and Dr Jennifer Keast, a rural health researcher from the University of Melbourne at the LaTrobe Rural Health School Research Conference. -S

Seminar challenges tradition

THE Yea Garden Club held a very successful seminar last Thursday featuring well known horticulturalist Craig Castree. Craig debunked many of the long-held traditions of gardening

and challenged all those in attendance to completely change their old habits and transform their gardens into edible gardens.

"By using the principles of companion planting, you will have a more productive and healthier garden with fewer pests and diseases," and "If you are not growing your own food you are letting someone else decide what goes in your mouth" were two of the principles Craig stressed throughout his very interesting presentation.

Although most in attendance were familiar with companion planting and healthy eating from your own garden, the best way to achieve and vastly improve these principles was the most challenging.

Craig's first talk was on *Healthy Soil and How to Achieve This* and explained how soil was constructed and how to retain and improve the natural condition of our soil, and this is what turned 100-year-old tradition in preparing your vegetable garden on its head. His second lecture explained how both floral and vegetable plants are best grown together and help and support each other with increased flavour, and insect and disease protection, as well as improving overall beauty.

Craig was an inspiring speaker supported by an excellent power-point presentation which made understanding the science behind soil construction easier to understand, and his photos of edible gardening inspired all to change their 'old habits'.

The setting for the seminar was the Country Club Function Centre and club members and guests were full of praise for the venue facilities and the lovely morning tea and luncheon provided. This is the second seminar the Yea Garden Club has presented and they are looking forward to the next.



Treasurer of the Yea Garden Club, Marlene Mason, Presenter Craig Castree and President of the Yea Garden Club, Melinda Jackson. -S

Smoking out illegal tobacco retailers

THE state government recently introduced the new tobacco licensing scheme as part of the crack down on the illicit tobacco and organised crime.

Retailers and wholesalers can now apply for a licence on the Service Victoria app or website. Licences will be required to sell tobacco products in Victoria from February 2026 when enforcement begins.

Anyone who sells tobacco will need to apply for a licence, including supermarkets, convenience stores, liquor stores, petrol stations, and online retailers.

Anyone found to be selling tobacco without a licence will face fines of up to \$355,000 or up to 15 years in jail, while businesses will face fines of more than \$1.7 million.

Licences will only be granted to fit and proper people who pass a strict test, with the regulator able to refuse a licence based on a person's history or known associates.

Victoria Police will also play a role in ensuring the suitability of licensees and will have powers to impose further licence conditions.

Licensing fees will be lower than New South Wales and Tasmania, with initial licences valid for 17 months from when enforcement begins in February 2026.

The initial fee will be \$1176, to avoid businesses applying for a license twice in the same year. It will be \$830 every year thereafter.

Fourteen licensing inspectors will be on the ground to ensure compliance and helping shut down illegal operators, while also supporting police with intelligence

gathering in the fight against serious organised crime.

Tobacco Licensing Victoria will also have the power to cancel a licence and disqualify a person from applying for a licence.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* delivered \$46 million to set up the new licensing scheme and regulator to help smoke out the illegal tobacco market.

For more information and to apply for a licence through Service Victoria, visit vic.gov.au/apply-tobacco-licence

Adjusting to changing road conditions key to winter safety says RACV

THE ability to adjust your driving to suit wet and frosty road conditions across Victoria is crucial to lowering the winter road toll, according to the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV).

As of July 7, 2025, 159 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads in 2025, a 12 per cent increase on the same date last year.

RACV Head of Policy James Williams said wet and slippery conditions dramatically increase the risk of crashes, especially when

drivers fail to adjust their behaviour to suit the changed conditions.

"During winter, roads are often slick from rain, frost or black ice, and that means you need to allow for longer stopping distances," Mr Williams said.

"Tailgating, following too closely behind another vehicle, is especially dangerous in these conditions, and we urge all drivers to leave plenty of space between their vehicle and the one in front."

The warning comes as recent Victorian Government data shows that 60 per cent of wet weather fatalities in 2024 had occurred at night and across regional Melbourne, further highlighting the dangers drivers face and the need for caution at this time of year.

In addition to driving cautiously in the wet, Mr Williams cautioned motorists that may be driving on roads that are covered by black ice.

"Black ice is a dangerous proposition for motorists because it's difficult to detect and can lead to a loss of control over your vehicle," Mr Williams said.

RACV recommends that when in cold conditions, to keep an eye out for a 'glossy surface' on the road, which can be black ice.

For motorists who encounter black ice on the road, RACV recommends: Gently lower your speed. A sudden and forceful hit on the brakes could cause the vehicle to skid; try to keep the steering wheel straight (if possible); if the rear of the car slides to the right or left, gently adjust your steering wheel to the direction of the slide. This helps realign the front wheels with the direction of travel.

Mr Williams also reminded motorists to check their vehicle's condition ahead

of the winter months to reduce the risk of breakdowns and improve safety on the road.

"Basic maintenance goes a long way. Check your tyres have sufficient tread, make sure your lights and windscreen wipers are working, and top up your coolant and washer fluid," Mr Williams said.

"It's also worth checking your battery, which can struggle in colder temperatures."

RACV's top winter driving safety tips include: Increase following distance in wet or icy conditions to allow more time to stop; avoid sudden acceleration or braking, especially on slippery surfaces; never drive through floodwaters, it's not worth the risk; prepare your car for winter by checking tyres, lights, wipers, and fluids; slow down and drive to the conditions, particularly in fog or low visibility; if entering a Victorian alpine resort in winter, you must carry snow chains, not only for your safety, but you can face substantial fines if you do not comply.

"Most importantly, plan ahead, check the weather and traffic reports before heading off, and be patient on the roads," Mr Williams said.

For more information on winter driving safety, visit the RACV website at racv.com.au



It's vital to drive to the conditions in winter. -Gillfoto

Murrindindi Shire Council receives Community Development Grant

MINISTER for Agriculture Ros Spence said that the Victorian Government is investing more than \$2 million towards several projects as part of Round Two of the Community Development Fund, to create jobs and help former forestry communities thrive long term.

"We're helping more businesses and workers transition to new and existing industries like agriculture and tourism, proving employment and boosting the local economy," Ms Spence said.

Among the projects, it was announced that Murrindindi Shire Council will receive a \$130,000 grant to go towards its Murrindindi Farm Forestry project. The project will analyse the current state of farm forestry in Murrindindi and identify future opportunities, establish a pilot Farm

Forestry Interpretive Centre, and develop a small-scale timber processing pilot project.

The project will explore the potential for small to medium-scale plantations on farming land, supporting income diversification through products such as sustainably harvested timber, firewood, carbon offset credits, eucalyptus oils and native food production.

Applications are now open for Round Three of the program which will make a further \$5 million in funding available to eligible organisations in and around the townships of Noojee, Alexandra, Taggerty, Buxton, Marysville, Yarra Ranges, Heyfield, Yarram, Nowa Nowa, Swifts Creek, Orbost, Koondrook, Benalla and Corryong.

For more information or to apply for Round Three visit deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry



SPEAK WITH COUNCIL AT AN OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN YARCK

Wednesday 30 July from 5.00 - 7.00 pm

Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community?

Council is hosting an Open Community Meeting in Yarck from 5.00 - 7.00 pm on Wednesday 30 July 2025 at the Yarck Hall, 6583 Maroondah Highway, Yarck.

You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you and your community, and you may be speaking in front of members of the public, as well as Council officers.

If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. Prior registration is not required, we'll greet you and collect your details on the evening.

For more information, email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call Council on 5772 0333



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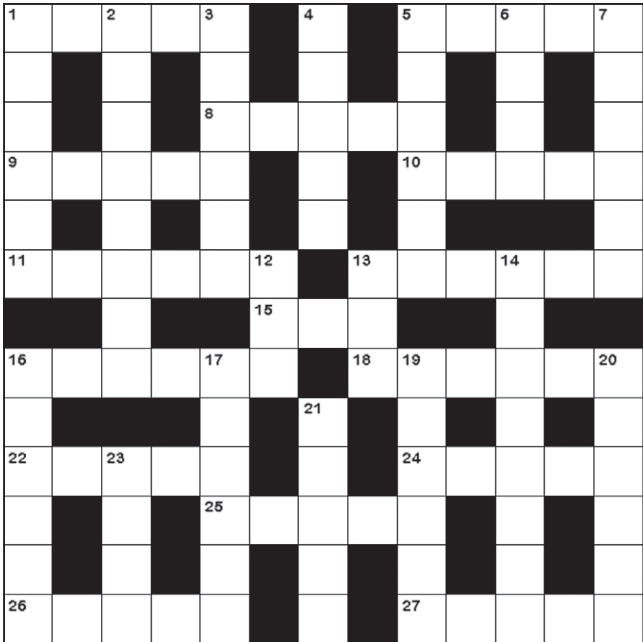
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 10

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. A steel tower supporting high-tension wires.
- 5. A measure of the weight of precious stones.
- 8. Assess or estimate the worth of something.
- 9. A large moving mass of animals.
- 10. Clothing suitable for formal occasions.
- 11. Coil around in a continuous series of loops.
- 13. A sculptured figure of a human or animal.
- 15. Have an obligation to pay a debt.
- 16. Requiring immediate action or attention.
- 18. A jerky pulling movement.
- 22. Competed in a speed contest.
- 24. An evil supernatural being.
- 25. Handwear that covers the hand and wrist.
- 26. The yellow, spherical portions of eggs.
- 27. A legal document of ownership.



DOWN

- 1. A style that arouses sorrow and sympathy.
- 2. Gaining skills and knowledge.
- 3. Prayers said on nine consecutive days.

- 4. A ballroom dance in triple time.
- 5. The positive balance in a bank account.
- 6. Very common and widespread.
- 7. To disarrange or rumple.
- 12. A parcel of land with fixed boundaries.
- 13. Repair with a needle and thread.
- 14. A rundown apartment building.
- 16. Lacking in restraint or discipline.
- 17. Pushes someone gently.
- 19. Small gnawing, furry animals.
- 20. Deal with a situation competently.
- 21. A solemn pledge of faithfulness.
- 23. A room where a prisoner is kept.

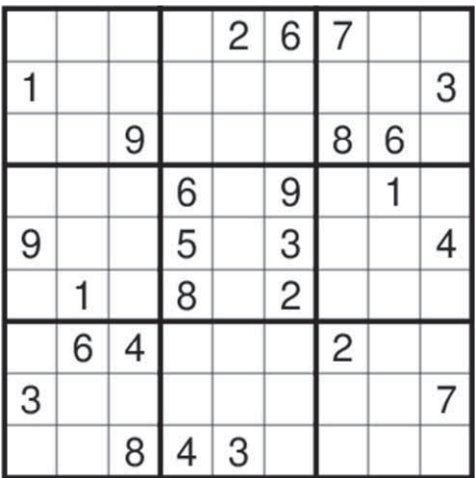
Word Search

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

Dr Seuss

- CATINTHEHAT
- HORTON
- CHILDREN
- ONEFISHTWOFISH
- FOXINSOCKS
- READING
- GREENEGGS
- SNEETCHES
- GRINCH
- THELORAX
- HOPONPOP
- YERTLE

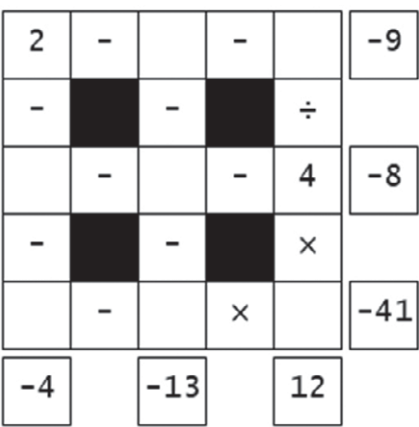
Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Cryptogram



A Bogong moth. -Ajay Narendra, Macquarie University

TLaWC monitoring dwindling numbers of bogong moths

MATT Shanks from the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) spoke recently with David Marr on ABC Radio National about their work investigating the dwindling numbers of bogong moth, or deberra in native language.

TLaWC are working with the University of Melbourne to undertake this task, given the cultural significance of bogong moths to the Taungurung people.

“They mean so many things. They were a source of food, I guess first and foremost, in that spring and summer season, to fatten us up to get through to winter. That migration of bogong moths is an indicator for seasonal change for our ceremonial and other obligations to Country,” Matt Shanks told ABC Radio National.

“It indicates a time to meet with other nations in these areas where bogong moths could be found in the summer periods for trade, for marriage, for dispute resolution, for ceremony and law. They’re a trigger for a whole bunch of things, and they serve a whole bunch of purposes for the Taungurung and for other nations in and around the alps.”

Bogong moths provide food for animals, birds and people, including the Mountain pygmy-possum, which the TLaWC has also been monitoring.

“We’ve supported research in collaboration with our monitoring for bogong moths and Mountain pygmy-possums for parts of the alpine country. Just that energy transfer [of possums eating moths] provides energy and food for plants and feeds our soils and travels down into our waterways. It’s an incredibly important resource and cultural indicator as well,” Matt said.

Asked whether they just disappeared overnight or if there were signs, Matt replied that they’ve been noticing strange behaviour for a while.

“There’s been fluctuations for some time with different kinds of disturbances, but it’s exactly those kinds of questions that we are collaborating with partners to start to try and

answer, because it has unfortunately been a lack of data that has meant a lack of action to support deberra,” Matt said.

“When you consider different land uses, there are considerations in and around light pollution and the changing climate. There’s a really specific temperature range that they look for that time of year when they estivate in the high country, and it’s changing.

“We’ve been involved in monitoring since the 2021-22 season, and before that we were heavily involved in monitoring for Mountain pygmy-possum and we started to notice some trends because pygmy possum’s food source wasn’t as prevalent then. It was through that project that our connections to the current research occurred.”

Matt also spoke about the factors required for bogong moths to breed in Victoria, given they are born in Queensland, migrate south to the Victorian high country to breed, and then migrate back.

“They navigate through observation of the Milky Way, so light and using Earth’s magnetic field, and they’re able to pinpoint quite small when you think of it in the grand scheme of things, elevation profiles that they require, which are upwards of 1500 metres. There’s not that many peaks that high in the high country that have the caves and the crags that offer the protection they require,” Matt said.

“We’ve worked with local landholders and catchment management authorities to come across a grinding stone in the Central Highlands of Yea, which only gets up to an elevation of 600 or 700 metres at the highest point. There’s lots of granite, so lots of candidate places for the bogong moth to be in the right time.

“These grinding stones, we have them analysed for bogong moth residue, so that tells us one of two things. Either we’re carrying this huge stone up to the high country to grind moths, or moths are much closer to that source. That’s telling us that moths at different times and in different climate conditions, are obviously lower,” he concluded.

Hot air ballooning in court

AN application has been heard in the Melbourne County Court, relating to a hot air ballooning incident which took place on December 31, 2021.

The plaintiffs boarded the hot air balloon near Glenburn and it travelled toward Yarra Glen. The plaintiffs suffered injuries when the balloon unexpectedly landed in turbulent conditions.

Sixteen passengers are understood to have been on board the craft at the time. The pilot of the aircraft was informed of increasing winds and attempted to land the aircraft urgently.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau stated in a media release following the incident, “During the approach the pilot manoeuvred the balloon to clear a fence before descending rapidly to avoid contact with nearby powerlines, and then landing hard. The basket then tipped onto its side and dragged for 30 to 40 metres. Two passengers sustained serious leg injuries.”

The plaintiffs reported suffering physical and psychiatric injuries and are seeking damages, interest and costs

in both proceedings from the operator, Picture This Ballooning.

The defendant sought that the statement of claims be struck out, proceedings dismissed and that the plaintiffs pay the defendant’s costs of the proceedings.

The defendant submitted that the Statement of Claim submitted on August 12, 2024, that amendments seeking to raise a cause of action, not included in a plaintiff’s original pleading, and where the plaintiff seeks to introduce a ‘new’ claim at a time when such a claim would be statute barred, should not be allowed.

The judge found, “I am satisfied the plaintiffs had filed ‘an action’ by way of Writ and indorsement of claim on November 10, 2023 and that the subsequent Statements of Claim filed on 12 August 2024 went further to particularise those facts and claims.”

He added, “Simply put, an action was brought, no new claim has been made, so neither the Indorsements nor the Statements of Claim require amendment.”

The defendant’s application was refused.

KID'S PUZZLES

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "M"

- MACHINE MONKEY
- MAGICIAN MONSTER
- MAMMOTH MOTH
- MARGARET MOTHER
- MARMALADE MOTORCYCLE
- MATTHEW MUSEUM
- MILKSHAKE MUSIC

Math Square

	-		+		0
-		+		+	
	-	6	-		-5
-		-		+	
	-	9	-		-12
-4		4		13	

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.

Jokes

- Q: My dog ate a bunch of scabble tiles, I took him to the vet to be examined.

A: Still no word yet.
- Q: Why was the picture sent to jail?

A: It was framed



Livestock handling workshop at Yea Saleyards

THE Victorian Farmer's Federation (VFF) Stock Sense department held a livestock handling workshop last Wednesday at the Yea Saleyards.

Participants asked insightful questions and shared their own experiences along the way, leading to strong engagement and a like-minded community conversation.

Around 30 people attended the workshop, which ran from 9.30am to 2pm and included lunch and tea and several guest speakers.

The workshop was funded by the *Cattle and Sheep and Goats Compensation Fund* and was aimed to help livestock producers maintain and improve their animal health and welfare. Stock Sense reported that they received great feedback from participants.

Stockyard design specialist Mark Bennett opened the event, speaking about how to design yards for best practice with stock handling. FarmSafe keynote speaker Dom Thurbon spoke about farm safety from the perspective of behaviour and science, and Jack Briscoe did a low stress livestock handling demonstration in the saleyards.

For future Stock Sense events, visit the VFF Stock Sense Facebook events page or visit their website at vff.org.au/stocksense



Those attending listened intently to the presentations on farm safety from Dom Thurbon. -BD



Jack Briscoe gave a livestock handling demonstration during the workshop. -S

The Farmer's Ag News

Local farmer receives cattle experience in New Zealand

by Bailey Dixon

MURRINDINDI local Oscar Lawson was recently announced as the 2025 recipient of the Trans Tasman Exchange through Angus Australia.

The program provides him with the opportunity to visit New Zealand and gain exposure to their cattle industry, broadening his experience in the field.

Oscar, who grew up in Murrindindi on his parent's farm, Paringa Livestock, said the program was an exciting opportunity for him as he looks towards working in the industry.

"I was somewhat surprised. I have been looking for an opportunity like this to leverage my career forward post-university, both internationally and domestically. I was shocked but very grateful to receive it," Oscar said.

"It's going to really help my involvement in the breed and the feedstock industry as well. Help me get my foot in doors once I graduate university."

Oscar is currently studying a Bachelor of Agriculture in business at Marcus Eltham College, a three-year course focussing on financial and productivity metrics in line with human resource management as well.

Oscar spoke to his studies, as well as prior experience in the Australian cattle industry.

"We visit farms for our case studies, and we try to unpack those metrics and apply them in a systematic process to understand what's driving different returns and how we can improve operationally to get the best returns per hectare," Oscar said.

"I had two years out of school working extensively in the Northern Territory and into Western Australia for Australian Agricultural Company and Teys Australia Charlton Feedlot. And this was along with working in the family business, in order to get some operational experience.

"Through Marcus [Eltham College] I've been able to leverage my knowledge of actually applying management and realising how important management is in a lot of ways. Farm managers have a huge role in the next 50 years, showing that correct management is the solution."

"Within that seedstock industry, having that influence in genetics is massive. It's still underestimated, the power of genetics in feed conversion. The impact that has on methane emissions is massive, and finishing cattle earlier, at a younger age."

The scholarship program gives him a mix of structured visits and personal opportunities, Oscar explained.

"It's a mix of structured visits and industry meetings and workshops, and then I've got the opportunity to also plan my own way, plan my visits," Oscar said.

"It's more an opportunity to visit a number of different systems over there, whether it is grass or grain-based systems, genetics or commercial, finishing systems; it's going to be a great opportunity to get my foot in the door and see some amazing business systems over there."

"Their [New Zealand's] system is so much different to ours, in terms of accessing commodities and running cattle, it's done a lot differently."

He has already lined up visits with Cleardale Station, Twin Oaks, Te Mania and Rissington Cattle Company while he is overseas.

"All three of them are bull producers with a big focus on natural capital grazing and have similar breeding objectives in maximising returns per hectare, dollars per hectare and kilograms of liveweight production per hectare. They are the biggest profit drivers in any livestock production system," Oscar said.

The Angus Australia scholarship program will help with his career aspiration to become a livestock manager.

"Obviously networking and meeting like-minded producers, I'm hoping that it will leverage my career and finding employment where I can maximise my farm involvement with any business," Oscar said.

"I'd like to thank Nancy Crawshaw from Angus Australia for organising this ongoing and amazing opportunity, and I look forward to my involvement within the breed in the future."

Oscar's adventures in New Zealand will be documented and made available on the Angus Australia website once the program ends. More information about the opportunities for leadership and growth in young people can also be found on the Angus Australia website.



Oscar Lawson working on the farm. -S

JULY PHOTO COMPETITION

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



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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

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The Yea Chronicle

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HALL, Marg. Vale Marg. Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club send their sincere condolences to the family and friends of our recently departed President. Rest in Peace, Marg.

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MEETINGS

FRIENDS OF THE YEA LIBRARY AGM will be held on August 12, 2025 at 2.30pm at Yea Council Chambers. Election of all office bearers. All welcome. Afternoon tea to follow. Ph 0417 429 441 for enquiries.

YEA Garden Club AGM will be held on Thursday, August 14 at 1.30pm at Yea RSL. All welcome. Ph 0418 378 806 for enquiries.



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DEATH NOTICES

HALL, Majorie (nee Lawson)
02/08/1939 – 10/07/2025

Loved wife of Brian Hall (dec).
Loving mother to Simone and Narelle.
Mother in law to Ross. Loving nanna to Jeremy, Hannah, Ayla and Che.

You touched our lives, taught us all to be strong, respectful and loving. We will miss you and your wise words. Always in our hearts, love you.

Private family service.
Afterwards, we would like to invite friends to come together to celebrate Marj's life, Friday, July 18, 1pm to 4pm at the Alexandra Bowling Club.

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Kids Save Lives program offered to more Victorian students

AMBULANCE Victoria's Kids Save Lives program has been expanded, offering life-saving CPR skills to even more Victorian students and all schools are encouraged to sign up to the life-saving program.

The Australian-first program has been developed by Ambulance Victoria for teachers to deliver and aims to improve cardiac arrest survival rates by showing students how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Last year Ambulance Victoria paramedics responded to 7545 out of hospital cardiac arrests. While Victoria has one of the best cardiac arrest survival rates in the world, every day about 20 Victorians suffer a cardiac arrest but only one in 10 people survive.

Around 80 per cent of Victorian cardiac arrests occur in residential settings, Ambulance Victoria Executive Director of Regional Operations Danielle North said it is important that both adults and young people know CPR and how to use an AED.

"Our Kids Save Lives program contains essential learning and life-saving skills," Ms North said.

"Students will not only be able to share their knowledge with friends and family, but also with their wider community. We hope this training will help save many Victorian lives."

Through Kids Save Lives, students are taught to recognise when someone is in cardiac arrest and to learn the three simple steps of Call (call Triple Zero 000), Push (perform CPR) and Shock (use an AED).

The program is conducted in partnership with the Heart Foundation, Monash University, Australian Resuscitation Council,



CPR skills are being taught to primary school students.
-Jon Phillips

Department of Education and Training and Heart of the Nation and was established by original Yellow Wiggle Greg Page who survived a cardiac arrest in January 2020.

The Heart Foundation's Victorian General Manager Chris Enright said Heart Foundation-funded research shows only half of Australian adults are trained in CPR, but that those trained are more willing to help others in emergency situations.

"Educating children is a successful way to reach the entire population as children can be encouraged to teach others. We know that CPR training programs in schools that have run overseas in Sweden, France, Denmark, Norway and the UK, have equipped participants with life-saving knowledge; these countries now have some of the highest bystander CPR and survival rates internationally," Ms Enright said.

"Working alongside our project partners, and with the support received from The Lionel and Yvonne Spencer Trust, and the Danks Trust, we are confident

students will learn the skills that could save the life of someone in their community."

More than 5300 students from 35 schools have already enrolled in the expansion pilot program, and Ambulance Victoria are calling on more Year Seven to 10 schools to get involved to help bring these life-saving skills to even more students in 2025.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends starting CPR training for children as early as age 12, and ideally, annually. The "Kids Save Lives" position statement, supported by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) and WHO, advocates for this approach.

"You don't have to be a paramedic to save a life, you just need to be able to perform CPR and know how to use an AED."

Victorian teachers who are interested in learning more about the free of charge Kids Save Lives program can email community.engagement@ambulance.vic.gov.au

Secure numberplate to avoid theft

WITH numberplate theft at record highs, Victoria Police is urging owners to fit anti-theft screws to their vehicles.

Across the state, numberplate thefts have surged by 50 per cent to the highest number recorded in the state, with 29,790 recorded over the last year, equivalent to 83 a day or one every 17 minutes.

Thefts of numberplates account for over a third of all items stolen from cars across the state, which continues to be the most common and fastest growing crime in Victoria.

Not only is it an inconvenience to car owners, numberplate theft is often at the centre of more serious offending.

Stolen numberplates are often used by offenders to hide the identity of a vehicle when committing other crimes such as burglaries, ram raids, petrol drive offs and to evade police. It is also believed stolen and cloned numberplates, along with stolen vehicles, have been used in incidents linked to several arsons at tobacco shops and associated businesses being investigated by the Lunar Taskforce.

The Crime Statistics Agency data indicates the top five areas for numberplate

thefts over the year ending March 2025 are: Casey (2139 numberplate thefts), Hume (1966 numberplate thefts), Greater Dandenong (1581 numberplate thefts), Wyndham (1449 numberplate thefts) and Brimbank (1414 numberplate thefts).

Police are regularly seizing stolen numberplates, particularly during operations utilising Automatic Numberplate Recognition Technology.

ANPR technology allows police to rapidly scan vehicles and immediately identify any cars bearing false or stolen numberplates.

There were 1414 thefts of numberplates over the last year, which has increased by 40 per cent.

Police are also urging the community to blur number plate details when advertising vehicles online, or when sharing photos on social media to avoid the likelihood of a vehicle's numberplate being cloned.

Anyone who has been the victim of a number plate theft or suspected cloning activity is urged to contact the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Joint statement on Treaty negotiations

VICTORIA'S path to Treaty has taken another step forward, towards a better and fairer state for all Victorians.

Later this year, the Victorian Government expects to introduce the Statewide Treaty Bill to Parliament.

Negotiations on Victoria's Statewide Treaty Bill are focusing on how to evolve the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria into an ongoing representative body to provide advice to Government and make decisions over matters that affect First Peoples.

Seatbelt complacency becoming common issue

THE Transport Accident Commission (TAC) is urging Victorian drivers and passengers to use life-saving common sense, with new research revealing a growing number of people don't always wear a seatbelt.

The TAC has announced findings from its Road Safety Monitor report, which found 4.7 per cent of people admitted to traveling unrestrained as a passenger in the past 12 months, a proportion that has more than doubled since 2020 (2.2 per cent).

More than 2500 people were surveyed for the report, which also found three per cent of respondents had driven while not wearing a seatbelt, a slight increase on the previous year (2.7 per cent).

Respondents aged 18 to 25 were most likely to travel as a passenger (10.5 per cent) and drive (6.4 per cent) not wearing a seatbelt, both proportions increased on last year's survey (7.7 per cent and 3.5 per cent).

Regional Victorian motorists were more likely than those in the city to drive while not wearing a seatbelt (7.2 per cent versus 2.5 per cent), as well as travel as a passenger unrestrained (8 per cent versus 4.9 per cent).

The findings come as the number of people killed on Victorian roads remains tragically high with 148 lives lost, compared with 136 at the same time in 2024. Of the 81 drivers and passengers killed on that state's roads this year, around one in five were not wearing a seatbelt, where seatbelt status was known.

"It has been a devastating year on our roads, and we are calling on all Victorians to stop and think about what they can do to keep themselves and the rest of our community safe," TAC CEO, Tracey Slatter, said.

"Seatbelts in vehicles have been mandatory in Victoria for 55 years and wearing one is the simplest form of protection we have that can be the difference between life and death," she said.

Ms Slatter said that while the research showed most people buckled up all the time, it was a concern that the minority was growing.

"It's hard to fathom that more people are risking their safety by not taking the most basic of actions in putting on a seatbelt for every trip," she said.

"We are seeing far too many lives lost and people seriously injured on the roads, and an inexplicable number of those are not wearing a seatbelt, there is no excuse not to wear one every time we get in a car."

The TAC is investing \$350 million into the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 Action Plan two, which will include a significant expansion of the state's mobile phone and seatbelt detection camera program, to reduce road trauma and deter risk-taking behaviour on the roads.

Since the cameras were introduced in 2023, around half of the more than 130,000 infringements detected have been seatbelt non-compliance, heavy penalties apply to those caught by the cameras.

The TAC continues to highlight the life-saving importance of wearing seatbelts via campaigns, with an enforcement-style seatbelts campaign set to roll out next financial year, the TAC also urges prospective car buyers to consider vehicles with safety features like seatbelt alert systems.

For the last five years, the First People's Assembly has been the independent, democratically elected body representing First Peoples in the Treaty Process.

Victoria's Statewide Treaty Bill is proposed to give the Assembly decision-making powers to make sure First Peoples' communities can design and deliver practical solutions for their communities.

The State and the Assembly are negotiating on how to provide for the Assembly to: Form the independent accountability mechanism that is required by the National Agreement to Close the Gap and provide concrete solutions and recommendations to improve outcomes for First Peoples; Make decisions and rules about specific matters that directly impact First Peoples, such as the confirmation of Aboriginality; Run an Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program, the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll and important events like NAIDOC week; Making certain statutory appointments for designated First Peoples' seats on government boards and entities, such as First Peoples appointments to the Heritage Council of Victoria; Celebrate over 60,000 years of First Peoples' culture, including by bringing it into the ceremonial life of Victoria; Lead ongoing truth-telling, healing and reconciliation across Victorian towns and regions, including capturing stories and

retaining an archive of this information to support education of the broader public about our shared history; Make representations and provide advice to the government, including being able to ask questions of ministers and creating a duty for ministers and departments to consult with the Assembly on laws and policies that are specifically directed to First Peoples; and Build on First Peoples' knowledge and leadership to strengthen self-determination in the Treaty-era.

Treaty is a pathway to acknowledging the past and making real, practical change to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria and close the gap.

The Productivity Commission found governments haven't fully understood the scale of change needed to meet their Closing the Gap commitments. It urged shared decision-making with First Peoples, and praised Victoria's Treaty process as a leading example.

The proposed body will sit within our existing parliamentary and democratic structures. It will not have veto power on policy or legislation, a power that does not exist under Victoria's parliamentary system.

Under Victoria's Statewide Treaty Bill, the proposal is that the First Peoples' Assembly would be a statutory corporation.

Treaty could also build on the strong community accountability demonstrated by the First Peoples' Assembly and legislate its ongoing public reporting, election processes, participatory governance and cultural oversight from Elders.

The proposed ongoing body would be subject to oversight bodies including IBAC, VAGO and Ombudsman.

The Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly recognise the delivery and tabling of the Yoorrook Justice Commission's final interim report, *Yoorrook for Transformation* and final report, *Truth be Told*.

The work of the commission will have a significant impact on Victoria, helping all Victorians to understand our history by bringing to light the truth of First Peoples since the beginning of colonisation.

These developments in negotiations are the latest on an almost decade-long path that Victoria has been on towards achieving Australia's first Treaty.

In Treaty negotiations, the Victorian Government is represented by senior Department of Premier and Cabinet executives, and appointed Member Negotiators represent the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.



Police are keen to speak to the individual seen in this CCTV footage. -S

Business break-ins reported

POLICE are investigating a series of break-ins at businesses in Murrindindi Shire across recent days.

In the early hours of Thursday, July 10, a break-in occurred at a business in Kinglake. On the evening of Sunday, July 13, two businesses in Marysville were also burgled.

If you have any information, please contact the police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

If you see something, say something.



A further CCTV image from the same evening at Keppel Cafe. -S



The damage behind the counter at Keppel Cafe. -S

VFA building a bright future for native Macquarie perch

CONSTRUCTION is underway on a multi-million-dollar Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre to bring 'Maccas' back to their former glory in Victorian rivers and creeks.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said the project was backed by a \$15 million Victorian Government investment in upgrading and expanding the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Snobs Creek and Arcadia fish production facilities to produce more native and threatened species.

The centre, at the renowned Snobs Creek Hatchery near Eildon, will produce up to 500,000 Macquarie perch fingerlings a year to help restore wild populations of the threatened native species which was once prevalent through northern and north-eastern Victoria.

"Macquarie perch are one of our treasured native fish and this dedicated hatchery facility and ongoing research work to 'crack the code' on producing Maccas will give us the best chance to restore wild populations," Mr Dowling said.

"While 'Maccas' are currently protected in Victorian waters, we hope re-establishing their numbers means opportunities for the

next generation of recreational anglers to enjoy catching these wonderful native fish."

In addition, up to 500,000 trout cod will also be grown in the recovery centre, making use of the cool water naturally available which is well suited to growing these species.

The build includes world-class water recirculation technology that can re-use up to 400,000 litres per day while the facility will give hatchery staff the ability to manipulate air and water temperatures and light levels to maximise production and mimic the natural environment.

The centre will house more than 100 tanks, troughs and incubators used to hold fish of all sizes, from large broodfish in 1000-litre poly tanks through to small fibreglass troughs where eggs hatch into larvae.

Incoming water from Snobs Creek itself will be treated using ceramic membranes filtration and UV sterilisation. It will then be recirculated throughout the system with underground sumps filtering, disinfecting, heating and re-oxygenating the water using innovative equipment and technology.

The centre will put into practice what is being learned through a three-year Governments to 'crack the code' on how to reliably breed Macquarie perch in captivity.

The Cracking the Code project is supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, a range of government, university and community organisations and research partners. It is examining nutrition, hormones, the timing of breeding and more to understand how to consistently produce fingerlings for stocking.

Further north at the VFA's Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery, construction continues on a major expansion that will see production capacity skyrocket toward six million Murray cod and golden perch each year.

Speaking on the phone, Brian Mottram, Senior Manager of Hatcheries for the Victorian Fisheries Authority, said, "We're building a purposely built centre to breed Macquarie perch into the future. Macquarie perch are one of our critically endangered fish. They're around the north east region in particular, then they had a bit of a demise over the 10, 20, 50 years. Things have changed. A little bit of climate stuff, but also predation from other species and habitat loss. We're doing lots with catchment management authorities to help improve the habitat. Stocking is one tool that we can use and we want to be able to breed them now.

"We're having some success with bringing wild fish [Macquarie perch] in, but we want to be able to breed them, keep fish in captivity like we do with other fish, like golden perch which we can keep in tanks, and other fish. We breed Murray cod and trout cod successfully as well. We want to be able to hold these fish at Snobs Creek. This building will allow us to hold adult fish at various ages and different genetics and we're working on the breeding techniques in the project called 'Cracking the Code' in collaboration with NSW and other stakeholders to look at getting the best result we can as far as breeding these fish into the future," he said.

partnership led by the Victorian and Federal

Asked about the challenges of breeding Macquarie perch, Brian responded, "That's what we're looking to find out. We aren't getting consistent results from holding them in captivity and being able to breed them. To be honest, we haven't had the space to hold them appropriately in tanks and give them the feed and nutrition that they need. Now, that might not be the only ingredient we need, but we're working with Deakin University on a feeding ration which will fulfill their diet so they can get into breeding condition."

He added, "The drought has affected waterways and we need to work with local people to manage that. We have rescued some Macquarie perch from areas where we thought they were. They were getting too isolated and there was a potential of the waterway drying up. We did that earlier in the year and those fish are being held and they might become part of the breeding program or some will get returned to their waterway."

Asked why the new centre is important, Brian responded, "This is going to give Macquarie perch a real focus. The breeding in the past hasn't given the space to allow us to efficiently hold and breed these fish. We'll have purposely built tanks. We can alter the water temperatures in those tanks to mimic what happens out in the wild. We can look at daylight, we can alter the daylight. We can alter things to give them the best opportunity to breed in captivity."

The building works are currently underway, with the earthworks completed and footings put down. The framework should also be up by the time this newspaper goes to print.

The building is expected to be finished around October, and it will then be fitted out with tanks and associated plumbing, sumps and filters. All works are expected to be completed by December. The building works are being done by a Mansfield company, Cronin Constructions.

Asked whether additional jobs would be created, Brian responded, "There's obviously jobs with the construction, and we're still working out our workforce at Snobs Creek as to how much extra work. It'll depend on how it works, but we're not expecting a major job increase but more a change in priority from some staff that are already there."

Murray cod have been bred at Snobs Creek for the past 20 years. The hatchery is unique in that it can grow both cold water species such as trout, as well as warm water species like Murray cod. The Murray cod breeding program will be moved to the new hatchery at Arcadia, freeing up more space for trout cod and Macquarie perch at Snobs Creek. They're not planning on adding extra ponds at this stage.

He added, "At the moment we get fish from the wild and we can breed about 100,000 fish a year. Our aim is to breed 500,000 fish a year. It's going to be a progressive stage, but in three to five years' time we want to be growing half a million of these fish and putting them out into local waterways where they can reestablish populations and become the fish that once was."

The endangered Macquarie perch cannot be taken by fishers from any waterway in Victoria.



A Macquarie Perch. -S



The building works for the new hatchery are well underway. -S

Home buyer fund extended

THE Victorian Government is extending the popular Victorian Homebuyer Fund to help more Victorians achieve their dream of owning a home.

Since it was launched in October 2021, the fund has helped more than 15,400 Victorians buy a home. More than two-thirds of the fund's successful homeowners are first home buyers, with 25 to 44-year-olds the largest group to benefit.

The short-term extension, until the government's investment of \$2.8 billion is exhausted will enable new applications to

be made beyond the original June 30 cut-off. This will help an estimated 2600 more Victorians buy their own home, bringing the total up to 18,000 homebuyers assisted by the fund since its launch.

After this, Victorians will transition to the Commonwealth's Help to Buy scheme, which will continue the important work of the ground-breaking Victorian scheme.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund's shared equity arrangement makes it easier for more people to buy a home, by reducing the amount of money eligible participants need

to enter the market and relieving Victorian homebuyers from the extra financial burden of lenders' mortgage insurance.

The median Victorian Homebuyer Fund participant's mortgage repayments are around \$250 lower per month, a saving of approximately \$3000 per year, compared to if they purchased the same property with a traditional 80 per cent loan to value ratio loan.

Participants are also eligible for other first home buyer supports, including stamp duty

exemptions and concessions and the First Home Owner Grants of \$10,000.

Since the fund's launch, more than 15,400 Victorians have been supported to buy their own home, with a median purchase price of \$615,000.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* is delivering initiatives to help more Victorians buy a home, including \$61 million to extend the stamp duty concession, slashing stamp duty on eligible off-the-plan apartments, units and townhouses for another 12-months.

SOMEWHERE around 1855 both Molesworth and Yea were officially named by government surveyor Thomas W Pinniger, though records of this event are scarce.

There are two possible options for where the name Molesworth came from, with both options being based around historical figures.

The first option is that Molesworth was named after Sir William Molesworth (1810-1855), a British Member of Parliament and colonial secretary.

Sir William Molesworth was the Chairman of the Transportation Committee that recommended the transportation of convicts to New South Wales be abolished.

The second, perhaps more viable option, is that the town was named after Lieutenant James Molesworth of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, who died in Crimea during the Crimean War.

The 7th Royal Fusiliers were an infantry unit led by Colonel Thomas Lacey Walter Yea, after whom the township of Yea is named.

An article in *The Sydney Morning Herald* from December 14, 1854, places the 7th Royal Fusiliers in Crimea.

“Meantime the English boats were nearing the shore, not in the order of the programme, but in irregular groups; a company of a regiment of the Light Division, the 7th Fusileers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Yea, I think, landed first on the beach to the left of the cliffs,” the article reads.

Nice warm
toes?
Remember
where the
smoke goes

VICTORIA’S environmental watchdog has some handy tips for everyone who has a wood burning heater keeping their toes warm this winter.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Victoria says the condition of the heater, the flue and the fuel you’re using all contribute to seeing more, or less, smoke from your chimney.

EPA’s Chief Environmental Scientist Jen Martin says you’ll get less smoke and more heat for your money, if you do it right.

“Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house,” Dr Martin said.

“Don’t leave it smouldering, it’s inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard.”

Wood heater owners have an obligation, under the EPA’s General Environment Duty, to minimise the smoke from their wood heater. EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours’ health and seek alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung conditions such as asthma, pregnant women, young children, those aged 65 years and over, people with diabetes and smokers.

“If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, take your regular medications, rest and seek medical advice if the symptoms persist,” Dr Martin said.

Another important tip is to avoid burning the wrong things, including coal, coke, driftwood, household rubbish, painted wood, chemically treated timber or the green-coloured pine logs used at parks and playgrounds.

The EPA website has more information for anyone who wants to be a good neighbour and create more heat and less smoke from their wood heater at epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA’s 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or visiting what pollution and waste you can report at epa.vic.gov.au/what-pollution-and-waste-you-can-report

A later article in *The Argus* from September 1855, tells of the Battle of the Great Redan, during which Colonel Yea was killed (and possibly Lieutenant Molesworth, under his command).

“Officers killed in the attack on the Redan. Major-General Sir Robert Campbell, who had the left attack, and Colonel Shadforth, who commanded the storming party under his direction, were both killed. There was also killed Colonel Yea, of the Royal Fusiliers, who had the right column,” the article reads.

The Surveyor General of Victoria at the time that both Yea and Molesworth were named was Andrew Clarke, who had served in Colonel Yea’s regiment of the 7th Royal Fusiliers. Given that Clarke potentially guided the township of Yea to be named after Colonel Yea, it seems likely that he guided the township of Molesworth to be named after Lieutenant Molesworth.

The Victorian Government’s Department of Transport and Planning website, VICNAMES, lists both theories under historical information regarding the town of Molesworth.

“Named in 1855 by government surveyor Thomas W. Pinniger, either after Sir William Molesworth (1810-55), British M.P. and colonial secretary (1855), or after Lieutenant James Molesworth (died Malta, 1854) of the 7th Royal Fusiliers – Colonel Yea’s regiment (see also Yea),” the website reads.

Records of the reason behind the name Molesworth, if they do exist, are virtually impossible to locate, and we are left simply with interesting possible theories about the origin.



A brush-Tailed phascogale. -Chris Tzaros

Feisty marsupial lives
a short, fast life

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is highlighting the importance of tree hollows for wildlife in its 2025 Year of the Tree Hollow community awareness campaign.

This month features one of the Goulburn Broken catchment’s carnivorous marsupials, the feisty Brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*).

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the brush-tailed phascogale was nocturnal and primarily arboreal, meaning it relies on healthy, connected forests and woodlands so it can travel through the treetops to search for nectar, insects, spiders, centipedes and bird eggs.

“As a hollow-dependent species, the brush-tailed phascogale will use several tree hollows in which to nest and shelter during the day, demonstrating how important tree hollow habitat is in our environment,” Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

“The use of several hollows by the one animal is possibly a predator evasion tactic but means the demand for nest hollows is further exacerbated.

“Fortunately, where natural hollows no longer exist, the brush-tailed phascogale readily uses artificial nest boxes, however nest boxes should not be seen as a solution to the tree hollow problem. Preserving



A brush-tailed phascogale in a nest box. -Orlando Talamo

large old trees and standing dead trees is the first priority.”

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said this important habitat was often removed for firewood, spelling disaster for the animals that rely on it for shelter and protection from predators. It’s therefore important that firewood collection is undertaken at designated areas to ensure valuable habitat is not degraded or destroyed.

“The brush-tailed phascogale leads a short, fast life. After mating in late autumn to early winter, the male perishes. As he is around just one year old, this makes the brush-tailed phascogale the largest known mammal to die after its first and last breeding season,” she said.

“The female raises her five to eight young from mid-June to early August, firstly within their pouch, a fold of skin on her belly rather than a true pouch, for seven weeks, and then within the nest until the joeys are five months old. A female will sometimes raise two litters in her lifetime. She typically dies before turning two.”

Ambulance Victoria's video triage system celebrates one year

AMBULANCE Victoria's (AV) groundbreaking video assisted triage (VAT) service has been helping save ambulances for emergencies for a full year.

The Australasian-first video technology allows AV's Secondary Triage team to connect with non-urgent callers to Triple Zero (000) via video call, to better assess their condition and determine the best medical care for them.

AV Director of Operational Triage Services Diana Zimmermann said it gives triage practitioners a clearer picture of a patient's condition.

"Being able to video call with patients and see their injury or see how sick they are is a game-changer, which helps us ensure each patient receives the right level of care," she said.

"With a more accurate video assessment, we can often safely refer patients to more appropriate care options such as the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) or their GP, freeing up ambulances for the most serious emergencies and saving patients a lengthy wait in a hospital emergency department.

"VAT also helps us recognise when a patient has understated their emergency, allowing us to upgrade the response and send an ambulance to them."

VAT was first trialled from November 2023 to February 2024 before being formally implemented in April 2024. It is the first time video technology of its kind has been used in an Australasian ambulance service.

Over its first year of operation (April 17, 2024 to April 17, 2025), more than 24,500 patients were assessed using VAT.

Of these, 63 per cent were assessed to not require an emergency ambulance, compared to 53 per cent when assessed with voice-only triage.

Diana said VAT is creating a better experience for patients, paramedics and triage practitioners.

"From the first trial, VAT made a huge, positive impact for our patients, with 93.2 per cent of patients assessed during the trial saying VAT improved their experience with AV," she said.

"Our triage practitioners also had more confidence in decision-making and were able to establish better rapport with patients by speaking to them via video call.

"With the success of the technology so far, we're now using VAT more. In the first month, three per cent of cases managed by

Secondary Triage used VAT, now it's 20 per cent and increasing.

"We want patients to get the right care, in the right place, at the right time, and that doesn't always mean sending an emergency ambulance or attending an emergency department."

About one in five calls to Triple Zero (000) do not need an emergency ambulance response.

As many as 900 calls a day are assessed by highly skilled registered nurses and paramedics in AV's Secondary Triage team and provided alternative care options including: Non-emergency transport, GPs and pharmacists, the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department; Urgent Care Clinics, safely treating conditions at home, and self-presenting at hospital.

SPORT

Great turn out for men's monthly medal

by Alan Pell

LAST Wednesday saw 10 men contest a stroke and putting round with Brian Simmons (11) with a nett 69 on countback winning from Zach Pell (17) second. Brian won the putting with 25 putts and Anthony La Grutta was nearest the pin on the 11th. The club award went to Alan Pell.

Saturday saw 19 men in the monthly medal with Jeff Aurisch (23) with nett 67 winning from Alan Pell (13) nett 70, Zach Pell (17) nett 71 and Rick Wills (8) nett 72 on countback from Mic Spagnolo (8). No nearest the pin on the 11th and Jono Ness won the putting with 24 putts. Brad Clements won the club award on countback from his father Greg.



Monthly Medal winner with Jeff Aurisch. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	438.85	11	Seville	204.22	11
Pakenham	351.21	11	Warburton Millgrove	199.71	10
Warburton Millgrove	161.30	7	Pakenham	238.22	10
Alexandra	115.86	7	Yarra Glen	127.22	8
Belgrave	189.09	6	Yarra Junction	93.18	6
Yea	109.29	5	Alexandra	72.77	4
Powelltown	33.65	3	Belgrave	55.88	2
Yarra Glen	24.98	1	Powelltown	34.48	1
Yarra Junction	17.88	1	Yea	54.11	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	232.58	9	Seville	298.53	12
Pakenham	212.65	10	Pakenham	269.23	11
Seville	160.19	9	Warburton Millgrove	140.55	8
Alexandra	119.06	6	Yarra Glen	109.50	8
Yarra Glen	98.49	6	Yarra Junction	74.11	5
Belgrave	99.35	6	Belgrave	73.44	4
Yea	94.38	3	Yea	62.54	2
Powelltown	44.54	2	Alexandra	50.16	2
Yarra Junction	27.17	0	Powelltown	42.21	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	11	Seville	285.27	12
Wandin	81.81	9	Pakenham	227.11	11
Emerald	62.50	7	Warburton Millgrove	164.86	8
Yea	45.45	5	Yarra Glen	94.01	6
Thornton Eildon	40.90	4	Yarra Junction	87.98	5
Officer	9.09	1	Alexandra	78.52	4
Seville	9.09	1	Belgrave	67.70	4
Netball – 17 and under			Yea	45.74	1
Seville	431.15	11	Powelltown	33.77	0
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.56	10	Netball – D Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	87.96	5	Seville	328.10	11
Alexandra	42.90	3	Pakenham	307.24	11
Pakenham Lions Maroon	49.30	2	Warburton Millgrove	187.98	9
Powelltown	42.32	1	Alexandra	69.10	5
Football – Under 18			Yarra Glen	79.82	4
Pakenham	1169.67	11	Belgrave	60.78	4
Seville	414.81	9	Yea	52.98	3
Warburton Millgrove	36.24	4	Yarra Junction	59.83	2
Yarra Glen	42.26	3	Powelltown	30.12	0
Alexandra	36.87	3			
Yea	33.25	2			



ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 11

POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Buxton Hotel	11	10	1	40
2	Panthers	11	9	2	36
3	Kill Bills	11	9	2	36
4	Arrowsmiths	11	7	4	28
5	Alex Bowls Club	11	6	5	24
6	Bucky Pub	11	5	6	20
7	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	11	3	8	12
8	On Point 26ers	11	3	8	12
9	On Pointers	11	3	8	12
10	Dart Vaders	11	0	11	0

RESULTS
ON POINT 26ERS def KILLBILLS 7-4
BUXTON HOTEL def BULLS, BEERS & BOOBS 9-2
ARROWSMITHS def DART VADERS 10-1
BUCKY PUB def ALEX BOWLS 6-5
PANTHERS def ON POINTERS 7-4

TONS
K. Davies – 114, J. Masters – 100, 125, 100, B. Arnett – 100, 100, 100, 100, W. Nelson – 100, 121, P. Dalley – 100, 100
P. Collyer – 100, C. Parker – 100, 100, B. Ettridge – 100, 121, 100, C. Sherman – 101, G. Gilmore – 100, 100, 100, C. Hutchings –
100, A. Hutt – 105, 100, 100, G. Elder – 125, S. White – 140, 100, 100, 140, A. Bull – 100, Z. Kilroy – 121, 100, 140, 140, 180,
R. Welsh – 100, 100, 100, 100, 135, 100, 100, 100, D. Kilroy – 125, 100, 100, 100, J. Billman – 140, 118, T. Crispen – 100, 121, 140,
140, 100, 100, 100, 125, 108, C. Turner – 100, 100, 110, L. Clequin – 100, 140, 100, M. Read – 114, 171, M. Robinson – 115, 100,
140, 140, 128, 140, 100, 140, 125, 180, 135, D. Withoos – 100, 125, 121, M. Jenkins – 140, 100, 100, 100, 140, M. Edwards – 100,
140, L. Ronalds – 118, V. Hodgson – 124, 105, S. Ritchie – 100, 100, 140, 100, L. Turnbull – 100, 100, 100, R. McCullum – 100, 100

HIGHEST PEG – Terran Crispen 108
180'S – Mark Robinson, Zane Kilroy



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Jacqui Graham under pressure from the home side of Thornton. -S

Yea travel to Thornton for winter football

Thornton 3.4-22 defeated by Yea 6.7-43

YEA women's football team travelled to Thornton, to take them on at their home ground. Yea came home with the win.

They will play host to Emerald on Saturday, July 19 at 4.45pm, right after the seniors.



Pressure was applied by the Thornton side, but Yea still walked away with the victory. Pictured is Sarah Arbuthnot. -S



It was a difficult task for Ebony Ockwell to keep the ball moving. -S