

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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Phalaris aquatica is the yellow grass in the background of this shot. -S



Phalaris aquatica. -S

These terrible deaths can be prevented

PHALARIS staggers is a terrible condition impacting kangaroos on the western side of Murrindindi Shire, and in other parts of Victoria. Kangaroos with the condition appear drunk or staggering, losing their balance and collapsing, and it's caused by the grass, *Phalaris aquatica*.

Kate Turner from Murrindindi Wildlife Rescue was contacted about the issue. She said, "I just euthanised another two in Flowerdale. I have honestly lost count of how many I've euthanised now, especially on the Broadford-Flowerdale Road, between Strath Creek and Flowerdale. There are some spots in Yea as well with it. There's been a couple out there that have been euthanised."

"Alexandra doesn't seem to have it as bad as everywhere else. They don't really have that much phalaris aquatica growing I don't think. I don't get out that side that often. It doesn't grow up Murrindindi, but Glenburn, Flowerdale and Strath Creek are covered in it, and Yea."

Shelley from Narbeview Wildlife Shelter advised that the issue is increasing on the Alexandra side of the shire as well.

Kate said that it was worse this year than ever before, "Because we've had such a bad season, the plants are under more stress than usual. When *Phalaris aquatica* is under more stress, it produces more toxins to protect itself. The roos are much worse. In previous years I've been able to save some. This year I haven't been able to save a single one. Even when I think that's only mild, they don't even last 24 or 48 hours."

It's not just Murrindindi Shire being impacted, with cases also reported around Mitchell Shire and most of Hume Shire as well.

She pleaded that farmers stop planting it and re-seeding it. She said, "It's planted because it grows well in all conditions... It's really, really hard to get rid of. It's almost impossible. You have to use a mixture of herbicides, burning and changing the pH of the soil to get rid of it. If we could stop planting new lots, that would be great."

She said that the grass has been recommended for around 30 to 50 years. "It was brought over a very long time ago because it's fast growing and grows in all conditions. It was the first grass to grow this season. It's the main one still growing because it doesn't need much. It grows very large and they can cut it for hay and it's good for cattle. It's good for filler."

Asked whether there was another similar grass which doesn't have the same toxic impact, Kate responded, "Cocksfoot. It's a great grass. It's another introduced one, but it has zero negative impact on native wildlife. If anything, I prefer to pick that for the roos because it's their favourite grass. But probably farmers wouldn't like that."

She said that *Phalaris aquatica* can also affect cattle and sheep, but they can be given cobalt before they eat it. She said, "That stops them from developing the staggers. Cobalt doesn't work so well on kangaroos. Plus, we have a bit of trouble getting them to eat it first. I have not seen it in wallabies or wombats, but that

doesn't mean it doesn't affect them. But I've not personally seen it."

She said that it's also impacting joeys. "Joeys in the pouch are often extremely thin or have malnutrition because mum's not been able to supply enough and she's also not able to toilet them and look after them in the pouch so they're usually pretty grotty."

"Yesterday, there were ones I couldn't get at a golf course, with eight kilogram joeys which were just as bad as their mothers. And I'm like, I need someone to come in here with the dart gun and we just have to go through and euthanise about 10 of these roos."

She added that sometimes she is able to save the baby, "but other times not so much."

Unfortunately, cobalt is of no help afterwards. In the past, they have been able to administer intensive fluid therapy with activated charcoal and syringe feeding, but it takes months for them to recover. Unfortunately, this is generally not viable due to space and time and the other cases building up. "I have to pick and choose which battle I can win," she said. "This year is really hitting me with this with the phalaris because it's something I previously had some success with and this year it's like, no, I'm just euthanising everything and I hate this."

Kate's key message is, "Don't plant it. If you see it, get rid of it, and report any roos that are acting drunk or are on their own for a significant amount of the day. Let's not have them suffering when they don't need to."

Phalaris staggers is a cruel disease and *Phalaris grass* should never be planted by

farmers seeking to reduce the number of kangaroos on their property. There are far more humane methods.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) was contacted about whether they are recommending *Phalaris aquatica* to farmers. A spokesperson responded, "DEECA partners with Traditional Owners and government agencies to target invasive weeds including *phalaris aquatica* on public land across Victoria, using a range of techniques including herbicide spraying, slashing and ecological burning."

When grown under certain conditions, the young growth of some *phalaris* grass species may become toxic to animals. Currently, there is no known treatment for this condition in wildlife.

Private landowners can explore a staged spraying of *phalaris* grasses that have a high risk of being toxic and replace this crop with alternative grasses. However, it is important to be aware that removing the grass could increase grazing pressures and put livestock at risk, and the use of a chemical spray could create a new toxicity risk.

Sightings of wildlife with signs of *phalaris* toxicity poisoning should be reported to your local vet, wildlife welfare organisation or the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186.

For further information about *phalaris* toxicity poisoning of kangaroos in Victoria, visit wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/kangaroos

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The Yea Chronicle

Standard

For more information on RSV, visit the betterhealth.vic.gov.au/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv



Guitarists of any experience level are welcome to participate in the free High Voltage event. -Luke Witcomb

Yea Arts Inc are calling guitarists across Murrindindi Shire

GUITARISTS across Murrindindi are invited to take part and rock out with internationally acclaimed artist and musician, Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) as part of High Voltage.

This August and September plug in and celebrate all things rock across the Murrindindi Shire with free workshops and an event called High Voltage that will happen on Sunday, September 7 at the Yea Shire Hall.

Anyone and everyone can sign up to be part of this event, so dust off your guitars and bass guitars and get on board. All skill levels and ages can participate and it's free.

Joseph O'Farrell says "I'm so excited to bring this work to the shire after returning from the United Kingdom. High Voltage is all about the universal joy of music and

participation. There's no audition, just sign up and you're in."

"High Voltage is going to be a really fun performance event for the shire, bringing together a whole heap of great community groups to rock out in Yea," JOF said.

Participants will be sent a song book with the tabs and playing instructions after registration. There will be multiple workshop opportunities in Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake and it's encouraged to attend as many workshops as you can to get the most out of the creative process.

All the details are on the registration form which is available via the Yea Arts Inc website, at yeaartsinc.org/high-voltage

Yea Arts Inc President Allan Thatcher says, "Yea Arts is really excited to bring to life this inter-generational event giving

everyone who can hold a guitar in the Murrindindi Shire a chance to be involved with so many others. It's going to be a blast."

High Voltage project is led by Yea Arts Inc and proudly supported by Murrindindi Shire Council to make it a shire-wide celebration, bringing local talent together for one High-Voltage concert to remember.

If you have any questions, please email local producer Cynthia Lim on: eventsyeaarts@gmail.com or call 0403 831 520.

This project is part of Murrindindi Shire Council's *Community Capacity Building Program*, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.

Local event explores how your super can support the planet

ON July 17, the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre hosted an informative session on ethical superannuation, organised by 2030Yea. The event, titled *Ethical Retirement Investments: How your super can last a lifetime while supporting the planet*, drew community members keen to understand how their retirement savings can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Local accountant John Agostinelli from Murrindindi, and Munira Chowdhury from advocacy group Market Forces led the discussion. They explored how everyday Australians can align their superannuation investments with their values, particularly when it comes to supporting environmental and ethical causes.

Superannuation plays a vital role in helping Australians retire comfortably, and its impact is significant. As of July 2025, Australians have invested between \$3.9 and \$4.1 trillion in super funds, according to KPMG. Around \$1.6 trillion of this is committed to responsible investing. However, as Munira and John pointed out, greenwashing (when companies overstate their environmental credentials) remains a serious issue.

John explained that most people seeking ethical investments want to avoid putting

their money into harmful industries such as weapons, tobacco, gambling or child labour.

Instead, they want their funds invested in sustainable ventures that also deliver strong long-term returns. "We don't need to sacrifice performance for principles," he said, citing research that shows responsible investment funds often outperform traditional ones. John highlighted several resources that help investors track sustainability, including the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) and the Sustainable Platform, which rates investments based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He also noted recent improvements in transparency, with new standards requiring super funds to report their investments more clearly, thanks in part to legislation like Your Future, Your Super.

Munira, who works with Market Forces, explained the group's mission, "We aim to follow the money and push for a world where finance protects the climate and nature, not harms it."

She pointed out that while Australia's major banks have pledged to act on climate, they've still poured over \$61 billion into fossil fuel projects. However, public pressure is making a difference. For instance, Commonwealth

Bank has recently scaled back its support for companies like Santos.

"We can all play a role," she said. "Talk to your bank. Ask questions. Consider switching. If enough people raise their voices, banks and investment firms listen."

Market Forces offers tools to help consumers compare banks and understand where their money goes. One useful feature is their Compare Banks table, available on their website, marketforces.org.au

The evening wrapped up with thoughtful questions from the audience. Ron Litjens asked how individuals can influence large financial institutions. Munira responded with practical steps: start conversations, switch banks, or support shareholder resolutions. It takes only 100 shareholders to legally force a company to put a resolution to a vote, regardless of how many shares are held by each person. Though the event was for a small local audience, the conversation was big on ideas and action. A recording of the session will be available online at 2030yea.com.au/videos/ for those who couldn't attend but are curious about making their super work for both their future and the planet.

The 2030Yea series of presentations has been made possible by a Murrindindi Quick Response grant.

Council questioned over four bin system for farms

A READER has raised some concerns about the four bin system in Murrindindi Shire after reading about the waste management system in Yarra Ranges Shire.

In Yarra Ranges Shire, people with a residential block of four hectares or more can opt out of the bin collection service (or part thereof), provided they meet the conditions. Murrindindi Shire Council was asked why a similar option was not being made available in Murrindindi.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges also has three optional bin sizes for the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), recycling and rubbish (80L, 120L or 240L), with associated reduced charges for the smaller bins. Murrindindi Shire Council was asked whether this would become an option in Murrindindi?

Murrindindi Shire Council responded that they "Understands there is community interest in how different councils deliver their four bin kerbside collection services. While we're aware that Yarra Ranges Shire allows residents on properties over four hectares to apply to opt out of part or all of the kerbside service, this option comes with strict conditions. Residents must demonstrate they have suitable alternative arrangements in place, and councils are required to carry out regular audits to ensure compliance under the Victorian Government's Circular Economy legislation.

"For a small rural council like Murrindindi, implementing and monitoring such a system would place a significant administrative burden and cost on both staff and the community. Council has instead chosen to take a consistent, equitable approach to kerbside collection, like we do with other shared services such as roads, libraries and emergency support. A universal kerbside collection service helps ensure that all residents receive the same standard of service and value for money, while keeping the system fair and sustainable.

"We do provide some flexibility for our rural residents, for example our food and garden organics (FOGO) service is offered on an opt-in basis for rural properties, unlike Yarra Ranges where residents must apply to opt out. We also offer additional support for households that generate higher volumes of general rubbish such as nappies, incontinence products or medical needs. This extra capacity is provided at no extra cost for residents who are eligible and apply.

"Council currently offers 120 litre and 240 litre bins as options for rubbish, recycling and FOGO. This decision is based on cost and practicality. Ongoing collection costs are the same for all bin sizes, however, vehicles would require specialised equipment to lift smaller 80 litre bins, which would increase services costs for everyone.

"Additionally, other rural councils have experienced issues with the instability of 80 litre bins due to the smaller footprint and propensity to tip over on uneven open roads. The main reason metropolitan councils offer 80 litre bins is the limited space that small urban lots have available. Our kerbside collection service is quite economical. For rural residents who use our three-bin system, the cost is \$410 this financial year, compared with \$509 in Yarra Ranges for the same bins and capacity, or \$480 for households using an 80 litre general rubbish bin.

"Council continues to monitor and adapt its kerbside collection services in line with community needs, government policy and best practice."



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
[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)
 or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988

A reminder that firewood thieves will be caught

TWO individuals who thought the cover of darkness would shield them, have been caught allegedly illegally cutting and splitting a freshly felled tree for firewood in Wandong Regional Park early last week.

With assistance from Victoria Police, Conservation Regulator Authorised Officers intercepted the two individuals at about 5.15am on the morning of Monday, July 14 as they were loading the freshly cut and split timber into a tandem trailer.

The trailer, two chainsaws, two block splitters, two mobile phones and the cut timber were seized on the spot.

The matter is still under investigation and forms part of ongoing monitoring and surveillance activities, including night patrols, across Mt Disappointment State Forest and the Wandong Regional Park through 'Taskforce Ironbark'.

Taskforce Ironbark is a state-wide initiative, led by the Conservation Regulator in partnership with Parks Victoria, aiming to crack down on commercial firewood thieves.

This type of crime will not be tolerated and the individuals are expected to face court over alleged firewood-related offences.

If community members observe suspicious firewood activity, they are urged to call 136 186. Reports can be made anonymously.

For more information, visit: vic.gov.au/sourcing-firewood

Conservation Regulator, Manager Regulatory Operations Hume, Greg Chant said: "Illegal tree felling is a serious environmental crime, Authorised Officers patrol at all hours in Victoria's state forests and parks to help protect biodiversity and ensure people follow the rules."

"If you're caught illegally harvesting timber from public land for commercial sale, you will be held accountable for the environmental damage, and risk facing prosecution and losing your equipment."

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

Council seeking community feedback on animal management plan



Have your say on the shire's Domestic Animal Management Plan. -Cayambe

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is updating its *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29* to improve services for cats and dogs in Murrindindi Shire.

During this process council is seeking community feedback on a range of animal management issues within the shire including: Council's animal management services; cat and dog behaviours; dog off-lead areas; cat confinement and mandatory desexing.

You can have your say by visiting council's online engagement platform, The Loop website, to fill out a survey or drop a pin on a map for a dog off-lead area, meeting a council officer in person at Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, or requesting a phone interview.

To arrange a phone interview, contact Peter Wright, Community Safety Officer, on 5772 0333 or email pwright@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Feedback closes on Sunday, August 3. Council's The Loop website can be found at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/

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*.

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 at 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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Yea and District Historical Society Inc will be having their Annual General Meeting at 2pm at the Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Eildon Events Inc Annual General Meeting at 5.30pm at the Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon road, Eildon. New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

UGFM Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email at secretary@ugfm.org

Urgent calls as ambulances cases rise

AN extra 100 Code One cases each day since April has prompted an urgent call to action from Ambulance Victoria (AV) for help to save paramedics and ambulances for the sickest patients.

Driven largely by respiratory illness, the increase in demand for life-saving paramedic care has put significant strain on the system.

AV Chief Executive Officer Jordan Emery pleaded with Victorians to consider alternative healthcare options for less-urgent medical concerns.

"We all have a role to play in ensuring paramedics are available to respond to the sickest people in our communities," said Jordan.

"We've seen a significant increase in Code One cases, on average 100 more each day compared to just a few months ago.

"This increase in life-threatening cases means we need to respond lights and sirens to administer life-saving medical care, and we can't do that if ambulances are being called to less-urgent or avoidable situations."

AV Acting Director Regional and Clinical Operations Jessica McGowan urged Victorians to ensure they're protected against season illness.

"Vaccination remains one of the best ways to protect against seasonal illness and if you're feeling unwell or you have flu-like symptoms, stay home to help stop the spread and protect those most at risk," said Jessica.

"Paramedics do not replace GP care. It is vital that if you are feeling unwell that you seek medical advice as soon as possible, before your illness escalates. That advice could be from a local GP or pharmacist, or the online Victorian Virtual Emergency Department is also a great option and it's free.

More access to Neighbourhood Battery programs

ACTING Premier Ben Carroll and Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio last week opened round three of the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program, backed by \$6.6 million to install more neighbourhood-scale batteries across Victoria.

Neighbourhood batteries return power into the hands of local communities, giving them a secure energy supply by soaking up cheap and clean renewable energy when it is plentiful and dispatching it when it is needed most.

The program is already delivering 90 neighbourhood batteries across the state, helping more Victorian families and community organisations to lower their bills. The program has also funded back-up systems at publicly accessible buildings to support communities through power outages.

The third round of the program will bring the total number of batteries to over 100, with up to \$400,000 in grant funding available per battery, and participating organisations able to apply for multiple batteries as part of a project.

Not-for-profit organisations, local government authorities, co-operatives, educational institutions, public entities, private sector businesses and agencies across Victoria are invited to apply.

Applications opened from last week, for more information visit energy.vic.gov.au/grants/neighbourhood-batteries/100-neighbourhood-batteries-program-grants

"Calling an ambulance when you don't need one could delay help for someone whose life depends on it."

"The message is simple," said Jordan, "save paramedics for emergencies."

There are many ways to get health advice and care outside of Triple Zero (000), including: Victorian Virtual Emergency Department: 24/7 free online access to emergency doctors and nurses via vved.org.au, Urgent Care Clinics: GP-led care for urgent but non-emergency issues, NURSE-ON-CALL: Free advice from a registered nurse 24/7 on 1300 606 024, or visit a local GP or pharmacist.

If you or someone you're with is experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.



The casual round table discussion at Elli & Ivy on Tuesday, July 15 with Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith and Murrindindi Shire's small business representatives and advisors. -MP



Attendees from the round table session discussing all the issues small businesses are facing in the Murrindindi Shire. -MP

Small Business Commissioner listens to shire's concerns

ON Tuesday, July 15, Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith joined business leaders and advisors from the Murrindindi Shire to hear about local business conditions and associated issues in the shire.

The meeting was held a day before the official signing of the Small Business Friendly Charter when Murrindindi Shire Council officially became a Small Business Friendly Council.

The round table discussion, held at Elli & Ivy in Alexandra, provided a relaxed atmosphere for the discussion on the various challenges small businesses are facing in the Murrindindi Shire.

The topics discussed included compliance and taxes including land tax, the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (ESVF), the importance of deer being reclassified as a pest species instead of a game species, the wild dog problem, the cost of living, business licencing, WorkSafe processes and costs, connectivity challenges including slow internet during peak periods when tap-and-go is most used, the loss of post offices in Murrindindi Shire, farmers losing money due to drought de-stocking, tourism challenges, empty shops, the challenges of employing key workers and clinical staff, and mental health challenges.

A further issue was the reduction in bank services, including the upcoming closure of the Alexandra agency of Bendigo Bank. There will be challenges in obtaining cash, and the importance of businesses being able to carry a float. If people need to travel outside the shire to obtain banking services, funds may also be lost to the shire if they decide to do their shopping at the same time.

Mayor Damien Gallagher also spoke of the recent challenges in the shire which are having an impact on small business, including recent flood events, the Flowerdale fire in February 2023, the end of the native timber harvesting industry, the impact of various weather events on farming, as well as Land Tax and the ESVF.

A similar session was held on the following day prior to the signing of the charter. Councillors and council staff were invited to make comment on the challenges faced by the shire, with many similar issues raised as well as some new ones, including insurance challenges, cultural heritage management plans, and increasing accommodation in the shire.

The Small Business Friendly Charter was signed following the discussion. The charter outlines six commitments that council and the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) will jointly work on. These commitments include minimising disruption to small business from infrastructure projects, supporting local small business networks, streamlining permit approvals processes for small business, promptly paying small business suppliers, delivering information and guidance for small business, and open communication between the VSBC and Murrindindi Shire Council on small business concerns.

Murrindindi is the 66th local council to sign the charter.

The charter states that the six commitments are to be delivered within 12 months, with council to report to the VSBC on its work at the end of financial year.

Council has already been working towards supporting small business by streamlining its approvals processes, building on the foundation of its Business Concierge service, business support grants and ongoing improvements to the business customer experience.

Commissioner McAlary-Smith said, "I commend Murrindindi Shire Council for making the commitment to becoming a Small Business Friendly Council. The charter's greatest power is to focus everyone within council upon the experience of small business. I'm pleased that Murrindindi Shire Council is wasting no time by already actively reviewing and uplifting its approvals processes for small business through the Business Friendly Council Initiative. I invite Murrindindi's small businesses to keep council and the VSBC jointly accountable for delivering upon the six charter commitments."

Mayor Damien Gallagher commented, "We are proud to sign the Small Business Friendly Charter, reaffirming our commitment to the small businesses that are the backbone of our rural community. This partnership with the Victorian Small Business Commission reflects our focus on building a more inclusive, resilient and connected business community."

"The Charter strengthens our engagement with local entrepreneurs, creators and service providers. It commits us to practical support that helps businesses succeed, especially during times of disruption. We value the leadership of the Victorian Small Business

Commissioner and the Commission's ongoing work to create a fairer, more transparent environment for small businesses across Victoria. We are pleased to stand alongside them in championing local enterprise."

Council CEO Livia Bonazzi added, "This charter comes at the right time as we enter the next phase of our Better Approvals Project under the Business Friendly Council

initiative. We are continuing to look across all areas of our operations to find better ways to support local businesses, from cutting red tape to improving customer experience."

"It is a pleasure to welcome the Commissioner to Murrindindi and a point of pride to be the first council since 2021 to sign the charter, reinforcing our commitment to local business."

Meeting the Victorian Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith

by Melinda Pullen

DURING the visit of Victorian Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith last week, Alexandra Newspapers sat down with her to find out what the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) does and how they can help small businesses.

Ms McAlary-Smith said, "We do alternative dispute resolution for business related disputes, for business to business consumers, business to government disputes. It can involve mediation where our staff talk to both sides to find out what's going on and find a resolution."

"We also do retail leasing disputes, in effect landlords really need to come to the commission to try and mediate with a tenant before they take certain actions with VCAT. We also do farm debt mediation... If a farmer really wants mediation they can get a certificate that prohibits the bank from acting. We get north of 90 per cent of a success rate with mediation on farm debt."

"We also cater for the gig economy, if someone is running a business such as Uber Eats, an Uber, Air Tasker, we do dispute resolution in that sense, as well and we also do dispute resolution services around owner drivers and forestry contractors."

Other areas the commission focuses on is disputes between taxis, hire cars and rideshare drivers and operators, and franchising disputes.

A particular focus this year, in addition to the standard activities, is that the VSBC will be supporting new entrepreneurs.

"We are doing a really big outreach program. We have a whole range of different webinars coming up around running a business how to avoid a dispute, de-escalate one if you have one, good money management skills as well. We see all these businesses where things go wrong and that gives us an insight if things have been done differently. Our focus is a lot on outreach education. Taking the expertise that we have and sharing it. We are doing partnerships with industries, associations, local councils and sectorial. Education and outreach is the focus," the commissioner said.

As the world evolves so does small business. With Australia opening its arms to the gig economy, and new features such as AI, there are both positives and negatives.

When asking the commissioner about what she has noticed regarding the gig economy, she said, "It's fascinating, we deal with a lot of people getting kicked off the platform they have lost access to, the platform that is where they are earning their money and all of a sudden because of something, they have been cut off. Sometimes that's because the platform has legitimate concerns about something that has happened or a number of complaints

and sometimes it can be a misunderstanding. That would be the biggest thing that we deal with. And we have really good success rates with that too. I have had people fighting with Instagram for a year and one afternoon we get them back on."

With AI getting used more in the workplace, it can have its benefits for those who may need the extra help if your open to it.

The commissioner said, "It's actually an exciting opportunity for business when we talk about some of this stuff around compliance and form filling. There is a lot of stuff we don't have a natural skill set for, for example you could punch into AI 'I need a new policy' and it will spit it out for you, but the challenge then is having the ability to critically analyse it and go is this right or not? I think it's an amazing opportunity for small business, but a lot are also scared of it."

"Some small businesses do some really great things regarding getting rid of some of the lower level stuff that they are doing in terms of time intensive paperwork, and they are making the most of it."

In the Murrindindi Shire we are in the midst of drought and small businesses are suffering. The VSBC can provide help if needed.

The commissioner urged the local community to seek support. "One of the key things we can do is the farm debt mediation we can certainly advocate for small business people who are impacted from the drought irrespective of what industry they are in."

"One thing I want to say about farm debt is a farmer doesn't have to be in arrears to come and get the mediation with us. They can call it early and come to use for mediation help and we can support them in that. It doesn't just have to be when things have become really bad. We can help in advance of that."

With the round table discussion held on Tuesday, July 15 the commissioner walked away with an understanding of what Murrindindi Shire businesses are facing.

The commissioner said, "One thing that is really positive in this region is councils' engagement and one good thing about signing the charter is it sends a signal, and it also brings accountability, and the community can hold them to account with that, in my experience is really important as well."

"Every regional community is different and that's one of the important things about these visits because sometimes in government you can bunch it into metro and regional and put regional all in one bucket. The local nuances and challenges are different and some regional communities thrived post covid and others are not doing as well. It's not consistent."



Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi, Small Business Commissioner Lynda McAlary-Smith, and Mayor Damien Gallagher as Murrindindi Shire Council formally signs on to the Small Business Friendly Charter. -AR

Alisdair Hutt on his first year as a seasonal firefighter

by Bailey Dixon

ALEXANDRA local Alisdair Hutt joined Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVIC) as a Seasonal Forest and Fire Operations Officer (seasonal firefighter) in 2024, spending the 2024-25 fire season in active duty.

The experiences of his first year as a seasonal firefighter taught Alisdair many things about both himself and what the role entailed, but he thoroughly enjoyed his eight months on the job and sat down with *Alexandra Newspapers* to share the details.

“To be honest, I wasn’t 100 per cent sure on what they [seasonal firefighters] actually did. It was quite a mystery to me when I was looking for a new job,” Alisdair said.

“I’ve been a carpenter for 14 years and I needed a bit of a change, but I was quite keen to stay in the area. It was quite daunting, but I applied for the job and then I think it was one of the best things I’d done for a long time.

“I ended up having one of the best seasons. You wake up in the morning and you’re actually excited to go to work. I haven’t had that in a long time.

“It’s something that really made a difference to me, was waking up and feeling like you’re a massive part of a huge family, a huge team that is all trying to achieve the same goal. That was one of the best things about it.”

There are a large number of tasks that seasonal firefighters with FFMVIC undertake, far more than the traditional firefighting aspect. Alisdair described these tasks as including general forest maintenance and management.

“There’s a lot of big machinery that we’re using to clean up tracks in the bush and making things more accessible. Cleaning up water points that we have for filling. There’s a lot of prep work for your fuel reductions, so we get out there as a team and are raking around trees, trying to protect habitat trees,” he said.

“There’s a lot involved in it, so it’s hard to say that you go out and do one thing, because you don’t. It’s very diverse. You clean campsites, you pick up litter off the road, just making a difference which feels good. We clean up the tracks at the start of the year.

“I didn’t know what I was expecting, it’s not secretive, but it’s quite hard to find out from the outside what they do for a job. A lot of it is looking after the bush and maintaining the tracks. There’s a lot of preparation for the summer season.”

The 2024-25 season was a larger one than normal, starting earlier and depriving FFMVIC of important preparation time. This kind of threw Alisdair and the other first-year seasonal firefighters in the deep end.

“They got hit pretty early last year. We didn’t actually have enough time to do all the things that we would normally do, and we spoke about that quite a lot,” Alisdair said.

“The first-year firefighters, which was myself and a couple of others, we were obviously green to it, so we don’t know what to expect, and so when we were straight into doing fires we thought that was the norm. They’re like, that’s not the norm, we’re usually still only prepping stuff.”

Alisdair started in November but had four weeks of first-year training beforehand and then was in active duty until the end of June. This was longer than a normal season. He also had some situations that challenged him to push himself.

“It was a massive season. I was never expecting that much. It was meant to be six months of work, and I think I ended up with a couple of extra months,” he said.

“Your days could be massive, but they are always protecting you as well, so they are really on top of your fatigue management.

“I think the hardest thing with a family and because you enjoy the job, is knowing that the job is going to end. I was in the motion and



Alasdair Hutt took a seasonal firefighting position with Forest Fire Management Victoria for the 2024-25 season. -S

the zone and becoming part of the team. I’ve got itchy feet to go back again.”

The sense of fulfillment that Alisdair felt from his work as a seasonal firefighter was evident during the interview.

“You’re doing a lot, from community protection to environmental protection, all that kind of stuff. It’s a hard thing to explain, but you feel such a sense of pride,” he said.

“My youngest daughter was in school and she drew a picture of herself as a firefighter. I’ve never had her draw a picture of herself as a carpenter. You get that feeling that they’re proud of you as well. When you put that shirt on and you go to work in the morning, you’re part of a massive team and you just

feel involved and you feel proud, you’re protecting communities.”

Alisdair concluded by offering advice to anyone interested in applying for a role as a Seasonal Forest and Fire Operations Officer.

“Give it a crack, 100 per cent. It gives you a fair bit of confidence. You might think it’s a big jump to get into the firefighting, and it is, and there’s a lot of learning to start, but you’re jumping into a big family, a big team of people that all want you to succeed,” he said.

“For any ages, there’s so many life lessons. It’s an open door. Once you get in, you can go in any avenue you want. If you’re thinking about, it is definitely something that is worth it. You get so much self-satisfaction from it,” Alisdair finished.

Former childcare operators comment on the changes in the industry

MARK and Helen Lewis, residents of Alexandra for the past 14 years, formerly owned and operated a childcare business in Ormond, Melbourne, and were keen to speak about what had changed in childcare and about the care that every child needs.

Ormond Early Learning and Childcare quickly grew into business which was much sought-after by parents for the impact on the children and they needed to expand the size of the operation by buying the property next door. This enabled the children to be separated into age groups.

One of the local primary school principals even told them that they could always spot children who had attended the Ormond business without being told, as the children were bright and aware due to the stimuli provided at the facility.

They held high standards, always ensuring that the children had good food. It was their belief that food was not a place where money should be saved.

They always had one or two special activities each week, including petting zoos, violin, piano and a comedian. They were critical of current childcare facilities using television as a child-minder.

Mark said that the philosophy and intention were the most vital elements in childcare, over and above making money. Another important factor was that they had both a staff and parent expectation list, to ensure that everything was appropriate and that there were clear guidelines.

Helen and Mark worked in the business for 14 years, working long hours, often from 7.15am to 6.30pm.

He said that they don’t believe that CCTV would solve the current issues in childcare.

Wife Helen later added that the real issue is a lack of supervision and a lack of planning by the people building the centre. She believes that glass between rooms is vital. She also asked how many visits are being made to centres by the government overseers. When they were operating, the oversight organisation would visit every few months to conduct inspections, as they would all centres.

She said of the recent news of paedophilia at childcare centres, “Now these people are getting away with things. It makes you wary of every childcare centre.” She added that it’s a challenging time for male childcare workers, saying “They’re getting such a bad press and there’s a lot of good ones out there. But on behalf of all the parents, when you’re an owner, you have to be very careful. They’re all supposed to have police checks... but there are still some rotten apples in the barrel. And that’s got worse since we were in it. It makes parents very wary of any childcare centre.”

Asked about what she would put in place in an ideal world, Helen responded, “I would do away with the private corporations owning centres. They own far too many. They’re only in it for the profit motive. They have shareholders who are their responsibility, not the children or the workers. I think it’s wrong. I think it was much better when there were couples like me and Mark running a centre. We knew all the parents. We knew all the children and they knew us.”

She later added, “You have to be serious and you have to be dedicated.”

She’s also a big believer in traineeships rather than university educations in childcare, learning and completing assignments on the job, adding that it’s also good for local employment.



Mark Lewis. -AR



Helen Lewis. -AR

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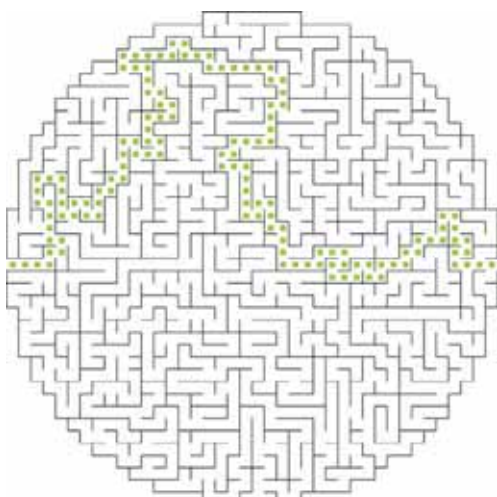
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MATH SQUARE

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MAZE



KIDS MATH SQUARES

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DEATH NOTICES

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MEETINGS



Eildon Events Inc.
Annual General Meeting, Thursday, August 14, 2025, 5.30pm at Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon Road, Eildon.

New members welcome.
Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary: eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

For more information please call 0409 050 494.
A normal committee meeting will follow the AGM.



Upper Goulburn Community Radio
Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email secretary@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.

YEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
Annual General Meeting Monday, August 4, 2025 at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

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Is there a future for Eildon's Container Deposit Scheme?

IN 2023 the Victorian Container Deposit scheme (CDS) opened in the Murrindindi Shire at various locations. One of the locations in Eildon was managed by Jason Lodge, who took the challenge on with determination and enthusiasm for bringing this new service into the township of Eildon.

Eildon being a popular holiday spot over the summer period made Jason a busy man and the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme hit their one millionth container on Monday, August 19 last year.

Fast forward to 2025, and this wonderful service for Murrindindi shire locals and tourists has come to a sudden halt.

Manager for the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme Jason Lodge explained what occurred in the lead up to the closure.

"We moved sites due to unfortunately closing Nanny Jan's down. We had to break our lease for Nanny Jans, and we were told one out all out, so unfortunately, we had to move sites (the container deposit site), so I moved, and with moving it brings a change of contract. The CDS contracts are site specific, so they had to come out and check out the new site and they denied the site.

"The new location is zoned farming, where the old hardware store was. The explanation they gave was "following a thorough assessment we have determined the proposed premises is not suitable as the use as a refund collection point under the scheme. Specifically, the proposed premises lack adequate amenities and to support the scheme operations and

raises concerns to the close proximity to residential dwellings."

Jason said, "To us it's a better site. It's secure. It meets all the criteria in my opinion. It met all the criteria the same as where we were.

"The new premise was even going to be undercover as well. There is a big warehouse there and they have a big carport off the side which is about the same size where I was operating before. Having a cover over it to would have made my life easier and I could be open more in rain, etcetera."

Jason was asked about the difference in facilities from the prior site to the new site. He said, "I've got the facilities there. It may be because when the other site ended, I had to move out pretty quickly. I relocated their assets, which was their bins, without prior consultation. I had made sure they were secure and looked after and I think they are grasping at straws. That's my opinion."

Jason has been working around the clock to get the service back up and running again.

"I got onto Anita Carr from Murrindindi Shire Council, and she has been fantastic, she got onto Cindy McLeish and Cindy McLeish contacted me yesterday (Monday, July 17) and she has drafted a letter to the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos.

Jason and his family are feeling the effects of this issue as he explained how the process has been quite lengthy.

"They have also taken six weeks to give me that answer, I haven't been able to operate for six weeks. I am paying rent with nothing coming in."

Jason is very humbled by the community's response to the closure of the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme.

"The support from the local people has been absolutely phenomenal. We have done almost two million containers. That's a return of \$200,000 to the community... helping places such as Buxton CFA, and the footy club in Alexandra. I just don't understand the reasoning behind it. I want to thank the community for their ongoing support through all of this," Jason said

Alexandra Newspapers contacted Visy to get some further information on this issue. Tim O'Donnell, General Manager Container Deposit Schemes at Visy said, "We're working with businesses and community organisations to make the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme as convenient and accessible as possible. There are three refund points in Murrindindi available for the community to use. We're also actively exploring new locations.

"The proposed new site for Eildon was deemed unsuitable as a recycling centre due to the proximity of residential homes.

"Residents can return their eligible containers at three CDS Vic over-the-counter refund points, all situated within the Murrindindi Shire. These include Pheasant Creek General Store and Hot Food at 884 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road in Pheasant Creek, Kinglake Pub and Pantry at 28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road in Kinglake, and Bourke's Ice Works at 17 Binns McCraes Road in Alexandra.

New inclusion coach to support clubs, schools and community organisations

VALLEY Sport has welcomed Jess Petreski to the team in her new role as an Inclusion Coach, employed by Leisure Networks and delivered in partnership with Sport4All as part of the All-Abilities Workforce and Sector Support Program (AAWSSP), funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Based at the Valley Sport office in Shepparton, Jess will support clubs, schools, and community organisations across the Moira, Benalla, Mansfield, Strathbogie, Mitchell, Murrindindi, and Greater Shepparton Shires to improve access and participation for people with disability in sport and active recreation.

"Sport should be something everyone can enjoy, no matter their ability," Jess said. "I'm really looking forward to working with local communities to help break down barriers and create spaces where people with disability feel supported and empowered to get involved."

Trained in the Sport4All and Learning and Development Hub programs, Jess will help deliver inclusive education and support local groups to identify opportunities, access resources, and develop inclusive practices.

Jess's role will involve building meaningful relationships with people and groups across disability, community sport and health sectors, supporting clubs and schools to create inclusive and welcoming environments, and promoting free training, tools, and resources through the Sport4All Learning and Development Hub, created by Disability Sport and Recreation Victoria (DSR).

Valley Sport Executive Officer Megan Carr said, "It's fantastic to have Jess join our team. Her knowledge, passion, and genuine commitment to inclusion will be a real asset across our region. We're excited to support clubs and communities in making lasting, positive changes toward greater accessibility in sport."

If your club or school would like to learn more or connect with Jess, please reach out. Together, we can make sport inclusive, welcoming, and accessible for all.



Jess Petreski. -S

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 7

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "N"

NACHOS NIGHT
NATURE NOODLES
NAUTICAL NORMAN
NAVIGATE NOTEBOOK
NECTARINE NUISANCE
NEWBORN NUMBERS
NICOLE NURSE

Math Square

2	+		+		8
-		+		+	
	+		-		9
+		-		+	
6	-		-		-10
0		0		11	

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: Why do we tell actors to break a leg?

A: Because every play has a cast

Q: What is worse than raining cats & dogs?

A: Hailing taxis

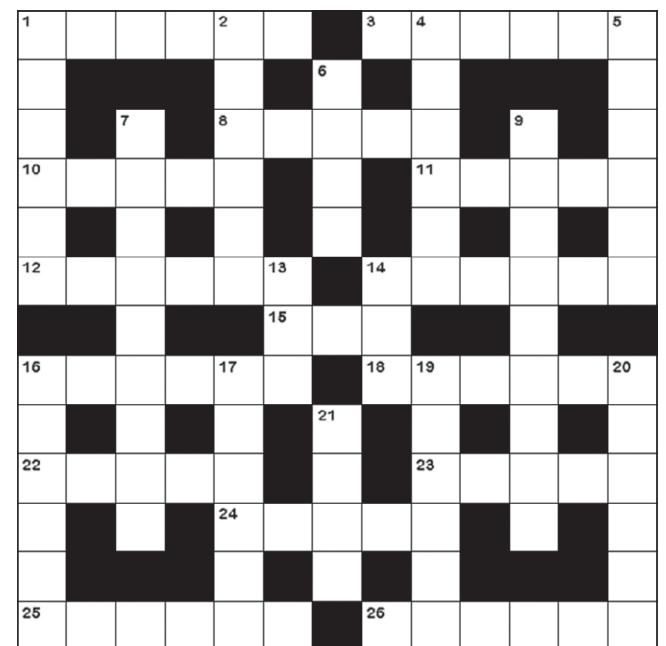
Crossword

ACROSS

1. A robe originally worn by Japanese people.
3. Make a financial gain.
8. Satisfies with over-abundance.
10. A sudden short burst of energy.
11. A small amount eaten or drunk.
12. Refused to recognise or acknowledge.
14. Sorrowful through loss or deprivation.
15. A single person or thing.
16. The reason behind the action.
18. Completely free of charge.
22. A short subdivision of a poem.
23. Have an intense desire for.
24. Stuff thrown away as useless.
25. Everywhere in great numbers.
26. The flat region on either side of the forehead.

DOWN

1. Touched gently with the lips.
2. Snuggle down into a comfortable position.
4. The sound of dry leaves blown in a breeze.
5. A warning of impending danger.



6. Come to a complete halt.
7. Objects that make a room ready to live in.
9. Vitrally important and absolutely necessary.
13. Mature female deer.
14. Ask for food or money for free.

16. Leaving one residence for another.
17. The one doing the watching.
19. Move back and away from.
20. Change direction abruptly.
21. A set of questions to evaluate knowledge.

Word Search

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

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WOODWORK

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5						6	
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	3						5
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Difficulty: Medium

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.

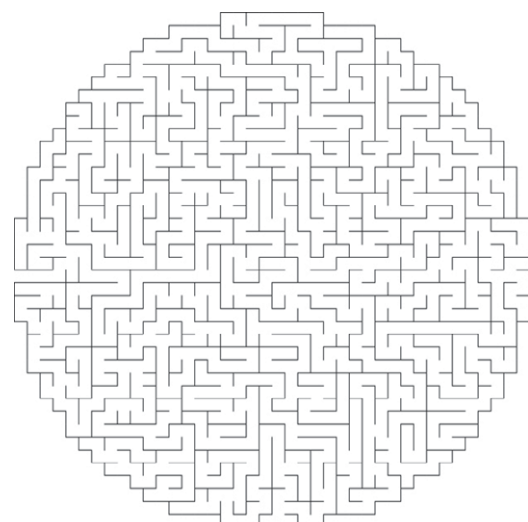
Math Square

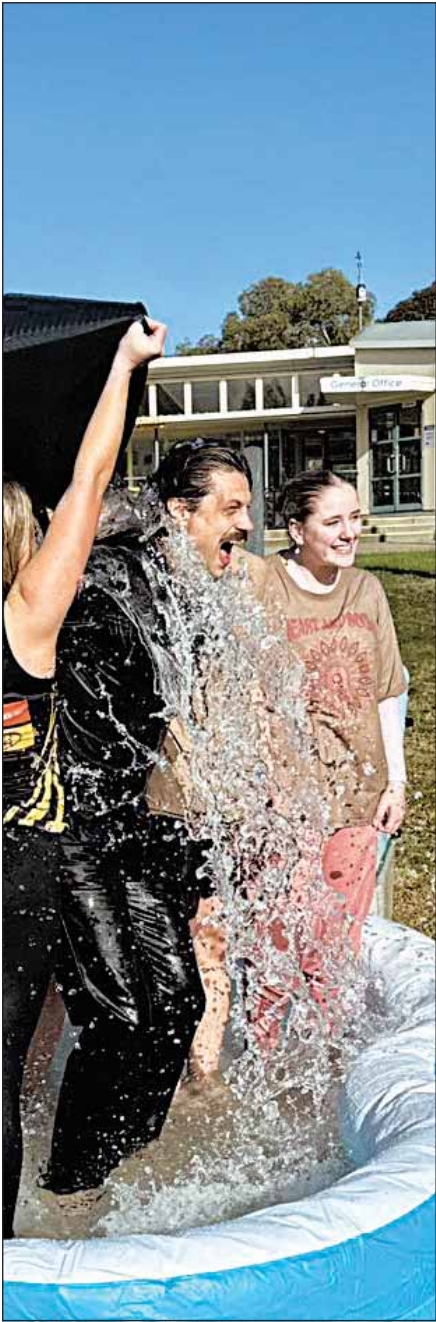
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	-		+		2
-		+		+	
9	-	4	-		0
-7		9		12	

Maze





School holiday fun for local youth



On day three, the children went to see Lilo and Stitch in Epping, with a stop-off at Timezone. -S



On the second day of the Flowerdale Community House school holiday youth program, 14 young people to UGFM Radio Murrindindi's Yea studio to see Teresa and Pammie Young. They took the children through how the radio station runs. -S



The children at the Yea Railway Station. -S



Having fun in the playground. -S



In the movie theatre for Lilo and Stitch. -S



The children cut chicken, seasoned it and fried it. They cut the lettuce and grated the cheese, then made their own taco up for lunch. There were also lots of other activities including jewellery making, paper crafts, lego, and an impromptu session on making slime. -S



One of the children frying chicken for lunch. -S



The young people enjoyed making chicken tacos and brownies at the cooking classes on day one. -S

The Farmer's Ag News

The disparity in drought funding

IN a press release on July 4, *Backing our farmers through drought*, significant additional support was announced for farmers in the south west of the state, including Ararat, Moyne, Colac Otway, Pyrenees, Corangamite, Southern Grampians, Glenelg, Surf Coast, Golden Plains, Warrnambool, City of Greater Geelong and southern parts of West Wimmera. The funding includes a 40 per cent rate reduction and household payments of \$1000. Some statewide support is also available.

The Bureau of Meteorology have published a map, pictured with this article. According to the map, Murrindindi Shire has a 'severe deficiency' in rainfall for January to June 2025, remarkably similar to the south west of the state.

According to the bureau's historical rainfall data for January to June 2025, Yea is down by 88.4mm on the mean average, Alexandra is down by 70.4mm on the mean average, Marysville is down by 208.8mm on the mean average, Eildon is down by 83.8mm on the mean average, and Kinglake is down 139mm on the mean average.

Given the bureau's map and the rainfall data, the government was asked why the additional support is not being provided in Murrindindi Shire, when the conditions are so similar to the South West.

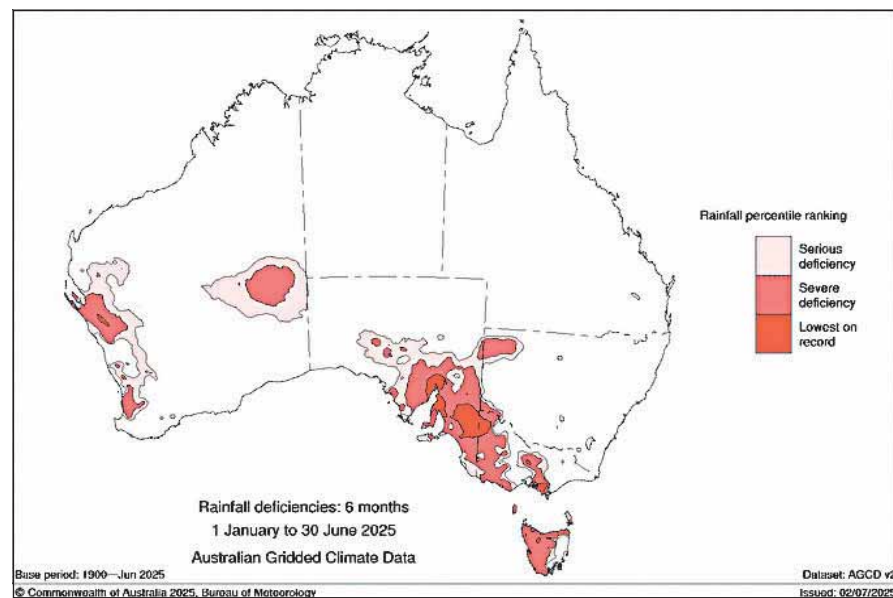
A Victorian Government spokesperson responded, "We know how tough dry

conditions can be on our farmers right across the state, it's why we have a range of statewide drought support measures available to all farmers including the Farm Drought Support Grants, technical decision-making support, mental health support and more.

"Our Drought Response Taskforce will continue to listen to farmers and regional communities across Victoria, and monitor seasonal, social and economic conditions in the months ahead."

They provided as background the following information: The south-west of Victoria has recorded rainfall deficits that equate to the lowest on record for over two years. The Victorian Government is investing a total of \$144 million to provide appropriate drought support to every primary producer in the state. All farmers can access the Farm Drought Support Grants program. Across the state, we're also investing a further \$5.9 million to continue critical technical decision-making support, mental health services, timely farm debt mediation and engagement activities for another 12 months. We're also reducing the costs of doing businesses for our primary producers with a \$6.3 million fee and duty relief package."

To view the full range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available to drought impacted farmers visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.



Rainfall deficiencies from January 1 to June 30, 2025. -Bureau of Meteorology

Grainfed cattle carbon emissions shown to be much less than previous estimates

WITH the release of Australia's *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report 2023*, the Australian Government has revised the feedlot industry's contribution to emissions.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has adopted a new Australian-specific equation to calculate enteric methane emissions from grainfed cattle following research conducted by University of New England (UNE).

This research was initiated and funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) on behalf of Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and revises the previous estimates of enteric methane emissions from Australian feedlot cattle downwards by 56 per cent on average in the last five years, and 57 per cent in 2021-22.

The National Greenhouse Accounts previously used the Moe and Tyrrell (1979) equation for predicting the beef feedlot sector's methane emissions. This previous equation used data from dairy cattle in the United States, where diet and production systems are markedly different from that of modern grain-fed beef cattle in Australia.

According to MLA Managing Director, Michael Crowley, the results gave the industry a much more accurate picture of the industry and path forward for addressing the Australian feedlot sector's emissions.

"The development of an Australian-specific methodology for calculating Australian grainfed cattle emissions is a helpful step-forward for the feedlot industry," Mr Crowley said.

"As technology has improved over time, measurements have become more accurate and now we have proven thorough research that grainfed cattle have lower emissions than previously thought.

"The grain-fed sector is adopting sustainable practices such as reducing methane emissions through advanced feed and management strategies.

"To have a more accurate method to calculate and analyse our emissions, we can focus more closely on addressing enteric methane emissions, making our product even more environmentally sustainable."

President of the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), Grant Garey, said the results showed that feedlots are committed to understanding their emissions and how to reduce them.

"ALFA and MLA have partnered in researching and developing tools to address the climate challenge for over 20 years. This recent advancement in accurate measurement of emissions gives us the tools to further target methane reduction within the feedlot industry," Mr Garey.

"The research provides lot feeders with accurate information to meet the growing demand for climate-related evidence and reporting."

Professor of Livestock Production at UNE, Frances Cowley, stated that researched evaluated equations for predicting methane emissions of beef cattle when fed tempered barley-based diets which are typical of the Australian feedlot industry.

"The research involved analysis of previous methane studies on livestock as well as new measurements of methane output at UNE's facilities," Professor Cowley said.

"The data collected supported the theory that Australian cattle that were fed a tempered barley-based diet, which is typical of the Australian feedlot industry, produced less emissions than what was calculated with the historic Moe and Tyrrell equation."

The full report can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yckc7z6n

To view Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Reports, visit: tinyurl.com/83txzy85 and view emissions online at tinyurl.com/muum9vn5

Don't sacrifice your perennial pastures

WITH good rain across most of Victoria, farmers may be looking to return stock to paddocks following months of containment feeding.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock and Land Management Extension Officer Neil James said returning stock too early may result in damage or death of deep-rooted perennials such as phalaris, cocksfoot and fescue.

"The loss of perennial pasture is primarily caused by over grazing, but when combined with extended dry periods, pasture decline can intensify," Mr James said.

"Perennial ryegrass, however, rarely survives prolonged dry periods, regardless of grazing pressure.

"Many pastures are already under stress due to the prolonged dry conditions. Late season rainfall will have triggered some green leaf growth.

"However, repeated grazing of these new shoots can deplete the plants' root reserves, ultimately leading to plant death.

"Ideally, livestock should be held in containment until pastures have grown sufficient leaf area to maximise photosynthesis and rebuild their root reserves. This may take four to six weeks following rain or longer, depending on the starting condition and temperature.

"Where stock containment is not possible due to the onset of lambing, or excessively wet conditions, farmers might consider containing stock in a paddock corner or using part of a laneway to form a small sacrifice paddock.

"Keeping the area small minimises paddock damage and reduces energy requirements of stock when compared with searching for feed over larger areas.

"Resowing perennial pastures is extremely expensive, often exceeding \$200/ha, and producers planning to sow new pastures are encouraged to review how those species have performed in environments similar to their own.

"The Pasture Trial Network developed and hosted by Meat and Livestock Australia, compiles data from independent trial sites assessing a wide range of pasture varieties.

"It can be used to compare the performance (seasonal and total dry matter production) of tested varieties of legumes and grasses."

For more information about perennial pastures, visit the Agriculture Victoria website. Contact Neil James for more information on neil.james@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For more information about drought and dry seasons support visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

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

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

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.

More paramedic recruits on the road as winter demand rises

THE first group of new Ambulance Victoria (AV) recruits for 2025-26 are hitting the road to help meet rising winter demand.

AV Chief Executive Officer Jordan Emery last week welcomed 59 new graduate ambulance paramedics who are starting their careers with AV.

“Working as a paramedic is an extraordinarily unique experience. Very few jobs will have such a profound and deep impact on peoples’ lives,” Jordan said.

“Our paramedics, first responders, volunteers and support staff are our greatest strength. It is through them that we lead the way in patient care, including the nation’s best cardiac arrest survival rates.

“We now have more than 5500 on-road paramedics delivering the very best life-saving care, everywhere, and it’s great to see more joining our ranks.”

Last financial year, AV met its target to recruit 229 new graduate and qualified paramedics.

The first intake of new graduate paramedics this financial year started on June 23, 2025 and will hit the road on July 21, 2025.

Three-quarters of the new paramedics are on their way to regional Victoria. For their on-road training: 14 graduates will be placed in metropolitan Melbourne (located at branches in Bayside, Hastings, Richmond, Altona, Manor Lakes, Brimbank, Melton, Coolaroo (two), the Super Resource Centre North, Epping, Watsonia, Oak Park and Preston). Forty-five will be placed in regional Victoria, including: two in the Barwon South West Region (Hamilton), 10 in the Gippsland Region (Korumburra, Moe (two), Traralgon, Churchill, Morwell, Warragul (two), Drouin and Sale), 17 in the Hume Region (Wodonga (three), Benalla, Broadford, Kilmore, Cobram, Mooropna, Numurkah, Shepparton (two), Yarrawonga (two), Mansfield (two) and Wangaratta (two)), 11 in the Grampians Region (Ararat, Daylesford, Ballarat (two), Sebastopol (two), Wendouree (two) and Horsham (three)), five in the Loddon Mallee Region (Kyabram, Swan Hill, Gisborne, Romsey and Woodend).

Jordan said the health system was extremely busy as seasonal illness circulates within our communities.

“Demand on our crews is increasing, as usual, at this time of year and will likely remain heightened in the coming months as cases of the flu and other respiratory viruses stay high,” Jordan said.

“We always plan ahead to meet extra winter demand, and that’s why we bring forward our first intake of new recruits for the financial year.

“As we hit the middle of winter, we also urge all Victorians to do their part to help reduce demand and ensure our highly skilled paramedics are available for the sickest patients.

“There are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice but don’t need an emergency ambulance, including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) and Urgent Care Centres.”

Having completed their university degree, all new graduates start at AV with a comprehensive four-week induction and training program giving them the ‘real world’ skills they need to hit the road alongside experienced paramedics.

During this induction, recruits learn vital skills such as safely moving and loading patients to prevent injuries, aggression and assault prevention, and safely driving ambulance vehicles.

Jordan said Victoria has remained a leader in paramedic education since the introduction of Australia’s first ambulance officers training course in 1961.

“Ambulance Victoria has some of the most highly trained and skilled paramedics in the world,” Jordan said.

“These graduates will continue training and development throughout their entire careers to ensure patients receive the very best, and most up-to-date life-saving care, and stay safe while they are doing so.

“I truly wish them all the best for long and rewarding careers at Ambulance Victoria.

“We receive hundreds of applications from graduate and qualified paramedics in Victoria, interstate and internally every year, and we select the best and brightest as part of a highly competitive recruitment process.”

SPORT

Sporting club grants announced

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced funding for sports clubs in the region through the *Sporting Club Grants Program*.

Alexandra District Netball will receive \$1000 to support with associated equipment costs.

Triangle Table Tennis will receive \$997.50 to purchase uniforms and table tennis racquets for an upcoming competition.

Yea FNC will receive \$1000 to purchase new equipment to increase female participation within the club.

The program provides funding for equipment and uniforms, taking the financial burden off clubs and support for volunteers and officials to learn new skills and deliver new programs, helping local clubs grow.

Since 2014, The *Sporting Club Grants Program* has invested more than \$19.5 million in local communities to support thousands of sport and recreation clubs across the state.

The program is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* which is delivering infrastructure upgrades and other programs including the *Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund* to help more regional Victorians to get active and be a part of their local sporting clubs.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* is also investing \$15 million to deliver the popular \$200 Get Active Kids Vouchers for another two years, helping more kids get involved in local sport and stay active.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said, “We are backing local clubs so more people in the community can get involved in the sports they love.”

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients sport.vic.gov.au

Light on for numbers for Yea Golfers

by Phil Armstrong


WITH the school holidays and warmth of the northern sun appealing, numbers were slightly down for Wednesday’s mixed four ball best ball event.

Seven teams contested the event with eventual winners Peter Johnston (16) and grand son Edison Waghorn (26) combining well to record 42 points. Vicki Clements (23) and Phil Armstrong (19) gave them a good run for the money falling just short with 41 points to claim second place.

Michael Spagnolo (8) recorded the best individual score of the day with 34 points, narrowly in front of Gavin Houldcroft, Edison Waghorn and Phil Armstrong all on 33 points. Michael made it a double taking home the nearest the pin on the 14th hole.

Saturday’s three person ambrose attracted 30 golfers with Kevin Coghlan (21), Andrew Bohn (8) and Gareth Antrobus (37) having a win with 68 nett 57. Second also with 68 gross were Peter Johnston (16), Eddie Waghorn (25) and Michael Waghorn (+1) nett 61.3. Third were Greg (18) Vicki (24) and Brad Clements (10) with 73 nett 62.3. Sue Aurisch and Andrew Bohn were nearest the pins on the 14th. Golf was followed by a wonderful afternoon tea. Many thanks to those who contributed.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders					
Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	472.08	12	Warburton Millgrove	214.61	11
Pakenham	351.21	11	Seville	201.39	12
Warburton Millgrove	183.65	8	Pakenham	238.22	10
Alexandra	132.04	8	Yarra Glen	128.91	9
Belgrave	181.31	7	Yarra Junction	90.73	6
Yea	107.45	5	Alexandra	72.23	4
Powelltown	30.68	3	Belgrave	60.61	3
Yarra Glen	23.60	1	Powelltown	32.91	1
Yarra Junction	16.90	1	Yea	54.47	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	246.58	10	Seville	311.46	13
Pakenham	212.65	10	Pakenham	269.23	11
Seville	182.54	10	Warburton Millgrove	153.40	9
Alexandra	123.70	7	Yarra Glen	116.40	9
Belgrave	99.83	7	Yarra Junction	66.98	5
Yarra Glen	94.51	6	Belgrave	78.22	5
Yea	94.29	3	Yea	62.78	2
Powelltown	41.83	2	Alexandra	49.06	2
Yarra Junction	25.04	0	Powelltown	40.18	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	12	Seville	291.95	13
Wandin	75.00	9	Pakenham	227.11	11
Emerald	57.69	7	Warburton Millgrove	181.69	9
Yea	50.00	6	Yarra Glen	96.13	7
Thornton Eildon	40.90	4	Yarra Junction	80.73	5
Officer	16.66	2	Alexandra	78.60	4
Seville	8.33	1	Belgrave	72.42	5
			Yea	46.44	1
			Powelltown	31.66	0
Netball – 17 and under			Netball – D Grade		
Seville	454.33	12	Seville	351.28	12
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.56	10	Pakenham	307.24	11
Warburton Millgrove	75.68	5	Warburton Millgrove	204.55	10
Pakenham Lions Maroon	52.27	3	Yarra Glen	82.80	5
Alexandra	45.43	3	Alexandra	69.14	5
Powelltown	46.21	2	Yea	55.56	4
			Belgrave	61.99	4
			Yarra Junction	53.73	2
			Powelltown	28.88	0
Football – Under 18					
Pakenham	1057.75	12			
Seville	330.43	9			
Warburton Millgrove	41.57	5			
Alexandra	38.54	4			
Yarra Glen	42.29	3			
Yea	35.57	2			

					
ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION					
COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 12					
POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Buxton Hotel	12	11	1	44
2	Panthers	12	10	2	40
3	Kill Bills	12	10	2	40
4	Arrowsmiths	12	8	4	32
5	Alex Bowls Club	12	6	6	24
6	Bucky Pub	12	6	6	24
7	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	12	3	9	12
8	On Point 26ers	12	3	9	12
9	On Pointers	12	3	9	12
10	Dart Vaders	12	0	12	0
RESULTS					
KILLBILLS def ONPOINTERS 11-0					
BUXTON HOTEL def ALEX BOWLS CLUB 9-2					
ARROWSMITHS def BULLS, BEERS & BOOBS 10-1					
BUCKY PUB def ON POINT 26ERS 9-2					
PANTHERS def DARTVADERS 8-3					
TONS					
E. Collett – 114, J. Masters – 100, 100, B. Arnott – 140, 100, 100, W. Nelson – 100, 100, 100, P. Dalley – 100, 100, 100					
G. Lund – 101, 121, 121, C. Sherman – 138, R. Sproles – 122, G. Gilmore – 100, 100, 100, 113, C. Hutchings – 140					
A. Hutt – 101, 100, 121, 160, D. Nicklos – 133, 114, 108, G. Elder – 100, 100, S. White – 121, 140, 100, 100, A. Bull – 112, 117,					
A. Wylde – 100, R. Bates – 100, 116, 100, W. Elliott – 100, Z. Kilroy – 100, 180, 100, 100, 100, 140, 140					
S. Kilroy – 121, 140, 123, 100, 100, 140, R. Welsh – 100, 100, 120, 100, 100, J. Billman – 140, M. Backstrom – 104,					
M. Robinson – 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 140, 100, 140, M. Jenkins – 121, 100, 140, 100, B. Jenkins – 104,					
J. Weatherald – 132, M. Edwards – 100, 100, 100, 100, J. Farnan – 100, L. Ronalds – 100, 100, S. Ritchie – 100, 100, 100, 100,					
134, 100, L. Turnbull – 100, R. Penny – 121, R. McCullum – 138					
HIGHEST PEG – Greg Gilmore 113					
180'S – Zane Kilroy					

SPORT

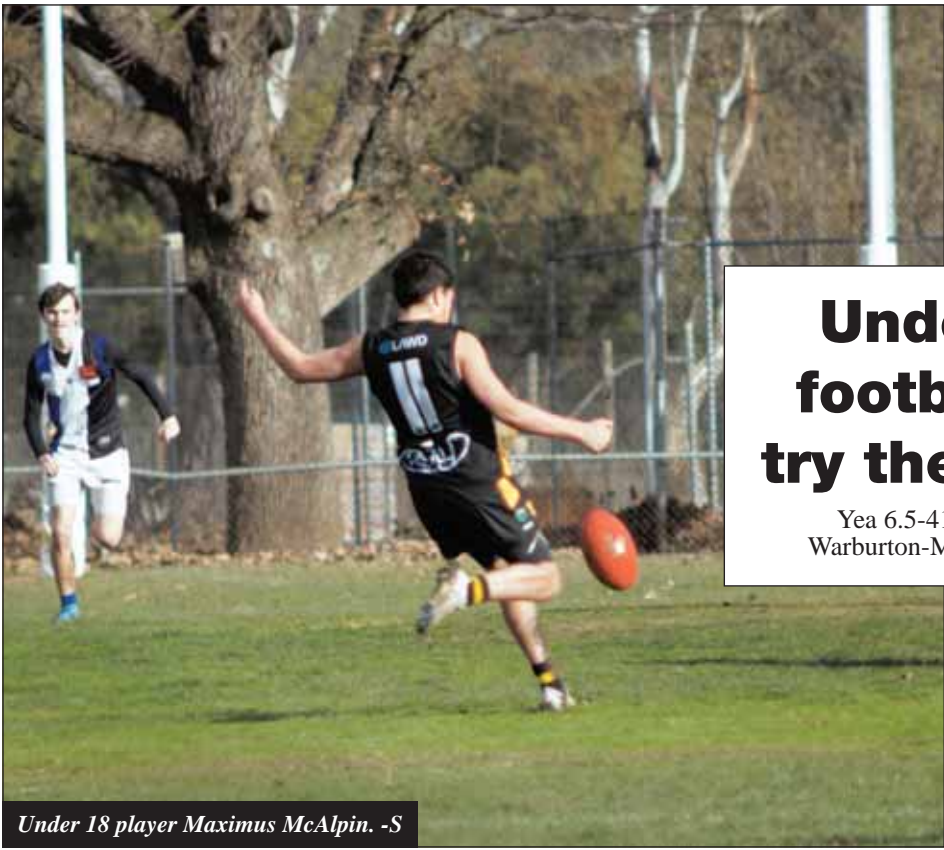


Andrew Dowling kicking far and wide. -S

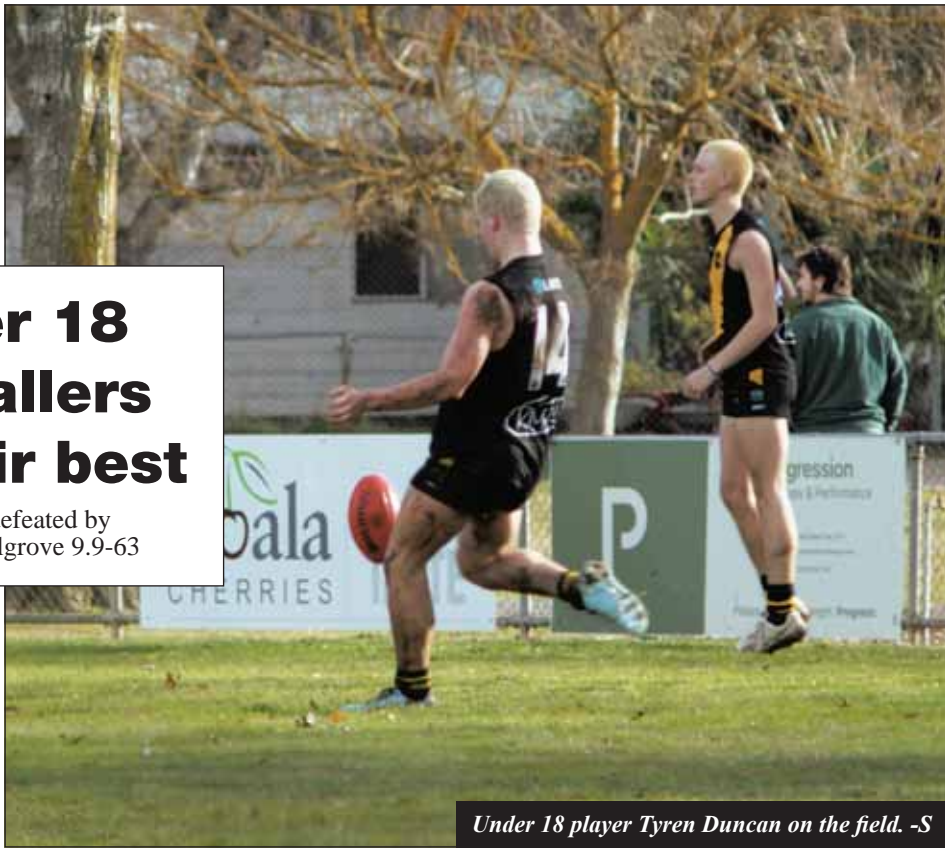


Nick Charles has his eye on the prize. -S

**Close match
for Yea
Reserves**
Yea 9.6-60 was defeated by
Belgrave 10.6-66



Under 18 player Maximus McAlpin. -S



Under 18 player Tyren Duncan on the field. -S

**Under 18
footballers
try their best**
Yea 6.5-41 defeated by
Warburton-Millgrove 9.9-63



Jess Kennedy, Yea women's footy team coach and player. -S

**Great win for
Yea Women's
Football**
Yea 3.4-22 defeated Emerald 1.4-10



Player Jess Waixel going in for a tackle. -S

SPORT

Toby Johnston celebrates his 50th game

by Lyndal Tait

Yea 0.1-1 defeated by Nagambie 12.10-88

A FOGGY start to the home game against Nagambie this week with Under 12 player Toby Johnston captaining the side for his 50th game and winning the toss. The Tigers got off to a good start, with a chance to score via Ollie who just missed a goal. Short on numbers, our Tigers played hard, with their never give up attitude for the entire game. Darby had a terrific game, despite a hard knock to the head, and Rory once again took on ruck for majority

of the game, while running the entire ground.

Toby Johnston ran hard all day, taking possessions and chasing down the opposition, as did Charlie Grant who is ever reliable in defence. Toby Geeson was set a task by coach Al to take on ruck and use his body in the final quarter and he followed through. It was great to have Archie back from injury, and although he was still in recovery, he put in a top effort. Sienna and Hudson ran hard in the midfield, and Judd and Fox were reliable in the backline. Josh and Logan (stepping

up from playing under 10's) once again had consistent games.

Despite the strength of the opposition, the Tigers never dropped their heads, encouraged each other and put in a strong game of defensive footy with a result that didn't reflect their efforts on the day.

Once again, we thank all our valued sponsors, volunteers and supporters for cheering us on, supporting and encouraging us each week. Special thanks to Jack Christie for umpiring, Tyren Duncan and Flynn Roberts for being Runners, Andrew Bohn for

goal umpiring, Cameron Grant for boundary umpiring, Marc Steiner and Hunter Steiner for running water, Lily Armstrong for First Aid, Beck Grant for Oranges, and Marco Ciantar for time keeping. We really appreciate the support of parents and family members each week.

Awards

Duncan's Paint and Panel 'Red Hot Go: Player of the Day' award: Darby Tait. Sprout Wellness 'Being your Best' award: Toby Johnston. Yarra Valley Gas 'Coaches Award': Toby Geeson and Rory Bohn.



Under nine football award winners. -S



Under 14 players H Steiner, A Fontana, A Barry. -S



Under 12 award winners -S



Under 13 award winners Stella and Charlotte. -S

Yea Tigers 10 was defeated by St Marys 37

THE Yea Tigers under 13 netball team hosted St Marys at home over the weekend in what proved to be a challenging match for the young squad. Despite a determined effort, the Tigers went down to a polished St Marys side, with a final score of 10 to 37.

St Marys started strong, racing ahead to a 10-1 lead by the first break. The Tigers settled in the second quarter, adding a couple more goals, but still trailed 3-15 at halftime.

After the break, the Yea team came out with renewed energy and delivered their strongest quarter of the game. They scored five goals to St Marys' six in the third term, showing improved ball movement and defensive pressure. The final quarter saw St Marys pull away again, but the Tigers continued to fight until the final whistle.

While the scoreboard wasn't in their favour, the Tigers showed resilience and teamwork throughout the match. Coaches and supporters praised the players for their persistence, particularly during the third quarter surge.

Awards

Always Contracting Player of the Day: Charlotte Grant; Yarra Valley Gas Coaches Choice Award: Stella Jolly

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Some keen young Yea Tigers ready to rumble. -S



Under 11 Award Winners Sophie and Ava. -S

Yea Under 11 Division one Tigers hold strong at the top of the ladder

by Jo Madden

THE Yea Under 11 division one netball team has once again demonstrated why they sit proudly at the top of the ladder, recording a convincing win over a developing Nagambie Lakers side on the weekend. The Tigers didn't miss a beat, showcasing not only their depth of talent but also their flexibility and teamwork.

Coach Kath and Team Manager Anastasia were kept on their toes with a constantly rotating bench, ensuring every player had time on court and experience in new positions. The Tigers adapted beautifully, with players stepping up wherever they were needed and embracing the challenge with enthusiasm.

Credit must go to the Nagambie Lakers, who showed noticeable improvement from earlier in the season. The young side worked hard throughout the game, displaying great spirit and determination. Their ability

to make strong leads and pick off some timely interceptions highlighted the progress they've made and the potential they hold for seasons to come.

But on the day, Yea's strength, consistency, and on-court leadership proved too much. The older, more experienced Tigers team maintained their intensity across all four quarters, keeping the scoreboard ticking over and their top spot on the ladder secure.

It was another great team performance by Yea, with all players contributing and gaining valuable experience in different roles on court. As the finals approach, the Tigers are shaping up as a formidable force.

Well done to both teams on a great game played in excellent spirit.

Awards

Madden Plaster Player of the Day: Sophie Garlick, Yarra Valley Gas Coaches Award: Ava McDonald

by Lily Armstrong

THE team had a couple of players out this week, but that didn't stop our team from staying fierce and giving it their all against a strong Nagambie side. From the first bounce, our Tigers showed determination, working hard to win the footy and support each other across the ground.

The kids showed great teamwork, with some impressive passages of play and strong tackles that kept the pressure on all game. Even with a few gaps in our line-up, everyone stepped up and played with heart, a real credit to their growing confidence and resilience.

Awards

Coaches Award: Teddy for his relentless effort and never giving up. Just Great Coffee Award: Tilly for her awesome energy and getting in the thick of the action. Armstrong Plumbing Award: Carl for being rock-solid all game and leading by example.

A huge thank you to local legend Riley Aldous for putting his hand up to umpire our littlest Tigers this week. The kids absolutely loved having him out there, he brought great energy, clear calls, and made the game fun for everyone. We really appreciate your support, Riley.

Well done team, another great week of growth and grit.