

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, July 30, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Tree planting in Yarck



Page 4

Strath Creek Country Market



Page 6

100 days of school at Yea Primary



Page 12

Weekend sport



Pages 14-16

Australian Government lifts trade restrictions on US beef

THE Australian Government last week lifted trade restrictions on beef from cattle raised in Mexico or Canada, and processed in the United States, and subsequently exported to Australia.

Australia banned beef imports from the US in 2003 due to mad cow disease being discovered in American cattle.

The US has had access to the Australian market since 2019, provided it could verify its beef came from cattle born, raised, and slaughtered in the US. Cattle from Mexico and Canada were still considered a biosecurity risk.

The report released last week is the result of a long-standing, science-based review by the Australian Government into the biosecurity risks posed by cattle raised in Canada and Mexico, but processed in and exported from the US.

Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins outlined the Australian Government's position in a press conference, assuring industry that they have undertaken the standard, science-based review process to protect Australia's biosecurity.

"The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is satisfied the strengthened control measures put in place by the US effectively manage biosecurity risks," Ms Collins said.

There are whispers from political figures that the ban on beef exports from the US was lifted to appease US President Donald Trump and help Australia's case for exemptions from US tariffs.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) explained the impacts of the lifted restrictions.

"The impact of US and Canadian beef entering Australia is expected to be minimal. It is unlikely there will be an adverse effect on Australian cattle producers," MLA said.

"The potential for US beef to be imported into Australia in large volumes is minimal, given the high demand for beef in the US, the low US cattle herd, the strength of the Australian dollar, our competitive domestic supply, and most importantly Australians' strong preference for high-quality, tasty and nutritious Australian beef.

"More than 99 per cent of beef available in Australian supermarkets, pubs and restaurants is Australian beef. Australia produces approximately three times more beef than needed to feed our population."

Australia's relationship with the US is deep and multi-faceted, underpinned by the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement. Free and fair trade relies on the reciprocal recognition of trusted standards and processes between trading partners.



'The Mommas and Poppa' Probus Choir, Jeannie and John Handsaker, Jenny Purvis, Delma Moore, Margaret Mahon and Margaret Kilmartin on keyboard. Several members of the choir were away. -S

Christmas in July at Yea Probus

THE Probus Club of Yea held a very successful Christmas in July at the Yea Country Club Hotel last Thursday.

Committee members Barbara Martin and Jenny Purvis decorated the function room and tables for the event and the Probus choir, *The Mommas and the Poppa* entertained with many beautiful carols.

John Handsaker recited two of Pam Ayres incredible poems which elicited much laughter. It was very happy and enjoyable event for all who attended.



Beverly Veale, Dianne Quick, Rosalie Collie, Barbara Martin and Jenny Purvis. This was one of the many tables enjoying the social get-together and beautiful Christmas lunch. -S

Bendigo confirms agency closures in Alexandra and Marysville

BENDIGO Bank has released a statement following concerns about the upcoming closures of the Alexandra agency. It appears that the Marysville agency will be impacted as well.

The statement read, "Following a review of evolving customer preferences, a reduction in business activity and an increase in costs and compliance obligations, Bendigo Bank's agency model will be retired.

"As a result, a number of Bendigo Bank agencies throughout the central Victoria region will be closing permanently. The bank is in the process of communicating this change to customers and apologises for any inconvenience."

Alexandra Agency will be closing on Wednesday, October 22 and the Marysville Agency will close on Friday, October 24.

The statement continued. "Bendigo Bank is proud of its regional heritage and has Australia's second largest regional branch network. Bendigo Bank is committed to its physical network and operates more branches per customer than any other bank in Australia.

"Established more than 30 years ago, Bendigo Bank's agency network enabled the bank to offer limited banking services via third party businesses in areas where there was not enough demand to sustain a branch.

"To preserve its ability to continue delivering for its customers and communities, the bank must balance its physical network with the need to continue investing in the changing preferences of our 2.7 million customers."

Customers have been advised that they do not need to take any action as there will be no impact to how their accounts operate, and are reminded that Bank@Post via Australia Post remains available, as well as internet banking, ATMs, the mobile app, and the Bendigo branches with the nearest being located in Yea, Kinglake, Mansfield or Upwey.

The agency closures are not expected to impact Community Bank ATMs in the region. No new ATMs were announced.

The branches closing in October in Victoria are in Welshpool, St Arnaud, Wedderburn, Wycheproof, Clunes, Alexandra, Boort, Myrtleford and Marysville. Around the country, Bendigo has announced the closure of a total of 28 agencies, all in October.

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
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject
to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the
company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts
no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such
material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post
Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated with no association
with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

New tool to attract, retain and train workers in hospitality and travel

AUSTRALIA's Tourism, Hospitality and Travel industries have a new tool to attract, retain and train workers with the launch of *eeger*.

The Australian Government, working in partnership with Accommodation Australia, has launched this government-funded, industry-led national careers and training platform.

Australia's Tourism, Hospitality and Travel industries help put Australia on the map, with the workforce that make up the industry becoming the public face of our world class experiences, accommodation and food offerings.

With workforce demand in the industry expected to grow by nearly 150,000 by 2033, *eeger* aims to ensuring the future sustainability of Australia's tourism, hospitality and travel sectors.

The visitor economy is vital to Australia. It supports over 706,000 jobs, that's one in every 23 jobs across the nation. It underpins more than 360,000 businesses, from hotels to tour operators, cafes to cultural centres. These are businesses that keep our communities vibrant and connected.

eeger brings together job vacancies, training programs and career development resources into one, easy-to-use, digital platform, connecting jobseekers, employers and educators across these rapidly growing sectors.

This groundbreaking initiative will tackle long-standing workforce challenges for the sector,

helping to build a stronger, more resilient visitor economy.

eeger was made possible by a \$10 million grant from the Albanese Labor Government to strengthen the country's visitor economy and secure the skilled workforce it needs for the future.

eeger isn't just a job board. It brings together job opportunities, training programs and career development in one place, making it easier for Australians to enter and grow within these vital industries.

Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell said, "The launch of *eeger* marks a pivotal moment for the industry, offering a national perspective

for tourism, travel and hospitality job seekers to find the right opportunities and for employers to access the skilled workforce they need.

"The Albanese Labor Government is proud to support this innovative platform, which will help rebuild and future-proof Australia's visitor economy.

"My first job was in tourism, and I know firsthand how magnificent this industry is to be a part of. I encourage businesses and jobseekers to sign up and make the most of this innovative platform and join this vibrant and important sector."

Virtual women's health clinic now open

THE Victorian Government's virtual women's health clinic is now open to all Victorian women and girls of any age, offering free, expert medical advice, treatment and care for a range of women's health needs.

Led by specialist nurses, the clinic can provide medical advice remotely via telehealth, either online or on the phone, including endometriosis and pelvic pain care, menstrual health, cervical screening, menopause care, breast health care and abortion.

Women in regional and remote Victoria will benefit the most, with services like contraception and abortion traditionally harder to access due to distance from major towns.

Operated in partnership with community health organisation EACH, it will reduce the barriers and delays in accessing care, helping to avoid detrimental impacts on a woman's health, their quality of life and the ability to participate in school and employment.

The team of nurses will deliver an initial health assessment and some treatment, while patients can also be connected with a GP or get referred to a relevant health practitioner as close to home as possible.

In addition to treating immediate health needs, referrals can also be made to various mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence community support services.

It comes as the government's mobile women's health clinic continues to travel across the state delivering care to women in regional and remote communities.

Operated by BreastScreen Victoria, the van is making free healthcare more accessible for all women and girls, with a focus on improving access to care for Aboriginal women.

It supports a range of women's health needs, including sexual and reproductive health advice, clinical services and referrals for medical abortion, contraception, and referrals to other necessary specialists.

All services are delivered by an experienced nurse or nurse practitioner who work to build connections with women, their community and local health services.

Both the mobile and virtual clinics are part of the landmark \$153 million women's health package transforming the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

The virtual women's clinic is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, by calling 1300 003 224 or via a simple, secure online form on the EACH website, each.com.au/services/virtual-womens-health-clinic

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said, "We're making it easier for all women and girls to get the specific care and advice they need no matter where they live, and we have made it free.

"There is no denying the gender health gap is real and it disproportionately affects women living in regional or remote areas of Victoria. Our new virtual women's clinic is helping to breakdown this and other barriers to care."

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

Alexandra Newspapers are
members of:

regional
media connect

Country Press
AUSTRALIA

Audited Media
ASSOCIATION of Australia

abc

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: A big thank you to the Yea Chronicle for hosting the 'It's Our Treat' competition. My hubby and I had a lovely meal at the Pavilion restaurant in Marysville.

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00am Mon	1.19	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.82	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00am Mon	1.12	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarck	9.21am Mon	0.51	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.22am Mon	0.70	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	7.00am Mon	0.53	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00am Mon	1.27	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	4.33	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.83	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	2.27	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.53	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	2.44	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.48	steady		

*ISSUED AT 09:39 AM AEST MONDAY 28 JULY 2025

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on
Facebook

Standard
The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

July 30 - August 5, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

3

13

Wednesday

3

13

Thursday

2

14

Thursday

3

15

Friday

2

13

Friday

3

13

Saturday

2

14

Saturday

2

15

Sunday

5

15

Sunday

5

15

Monday

7

14

Monday

7

14

Tuesday

5

13

Tuesday

4

13

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 49mm

Buxton..... 118mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 45mm

Flowerdale..... 81mm

Jamieson..... 67mm

Kinglake..... 88mm

Lake Eildon..... 53mm

Mansfield..... 46mm

Taggerty 51mm

Yarck 55mm

Yea.....39mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....276.02m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....56.6%

Metres below full supply.....12.88m

Daily inflow.....10000ML

Release..... 3000ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....65%

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

Government seeks right of entry onto farms

THE state government’s proposed Right of Entry Bill, which would allow public officials to force their way onto the land of farmers and other property owners is set to face vigorous opposition.

The government’s bill that is due to be debated in Parliament provides for extraordinary powers to be given to authorised officers under the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage Two Reform) Bill 2025.

Under the proposed legislation, individuals who resist the intrusion face fines of up to \$12,210 and up to \$48,842 for body corporates.

Government officers would be allowed to use reasonable force to enter land deemed necessary for the construction of electricity transmission towers across large swathes of the state.

They would have the power to remove any obstruction, with authorisation to cut locks and break open gates when undertaking involuntary entry onto properties.

Offences under the legislation include hindering, obstructing or delaying authorised activity; obscuring, damaging or destroying a notice of proposed entry; failure to provide identification; and providing false identification, address, or evidence of ownership.

The farming community, including the Victorian Farmers Federation and Opposition Members of Parliament have all slammed the bill as an overreach that undermines property rights, creates legal uncertainty, and opens the door to forced access without adequate consultation or compensation.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish commented, “Farming families and regional Victorians are once again copping a hard whack from the Allan Labor Government. In an effort to rush madly to renewables, the government has decided it’s okay to take away any voice landowners and regional communities might have. Regional communities should be consulted and have their say about what happens on their land. Many people are happy for renewables, but I can understand why people don’t want to have kilometers of transmission towers on their properties.”

She added that a Liberals and Nationals Government will oppose the Right of Entry Bill and restore normal rights.

Applications for community relief programs now open

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has encouraged local community and volunteer groups to apply for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief Program local grants.

Groups eligible for funding include neighbourhood houses, community and volunteer-led organisations, and social enterprises.

Ms Broad urged eligible groups to apply, given the vital work local community and volunteer groups provide across the region.

Ms Broad said the demand for food relief had increased dramatically across Northern Victoria.

“It is critical that organisations are supported so they can help those in need,” Ms Broad said.

“This new round of funding will help and support the work so many of our community and volunteer groups provide in our community. I urge all our eligible groups to consider applying for the latest round of the Community Food Relief Program.”

Applications for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief Program local grants close on Tuesday, August 19.

For more information and to apply, visit vic.gov.au/community-food-relief-program-local-grants

Council Plan 2025-29 adopted at July meeting

MURRINDINDI Shire Council officially adopted its *Council Plan 2025-29* at the scheduled meeting of council on Wednesday, July 23.

Shaped by input from more than 1000 community members, the plan outlines council’s strategic direction for the next four years and focuses on delivering practical outcomes for the people of Murrindindi, guided by what matters most to them.

Alongside the plan is the refreshed *2035 Community Vision*, which outlines the community’s aspirations for what Murrindindi Shire can become.

“Together, we are a vibrant rural community where everyone feels welcome and valued, young people see a future, every person is supported and empowered, and diversity is genuinely embraced,” the community vision says.

“Our heritage and landscapes are celebrated, and our economy is thriving. We cherish all that makes this shire unique.

“Murrindindi is the destination of choice, to live, to visit, and to enjoy.”

The council plan is structured around three strategic directions: A thriving and prosperous shire; healthy, inclusive and resilient communities; and trusted leadership and sustainable services.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the plan is council’s blueprint for action over the next four years, designed to advance the community toward its shared 2035 vision.

“This plan is a commitment to inclusion and follows one of the most comprehensive engagement programs council has ever undertaken,” Cr Gallagher said.

“It’s also about opportunity, from education and employment to health and wellbeing, we’re unlocking pathways that empower individuals and strengthen our collective resilience. It’s a bold and forward-thinking plan that balances growth with sustainability; tradition with progress.

“This is not just council’s plan, it’s the community’s plan. We all have a role in bringing it to life, as residents, businesses, volunteers and community groups. I’d like to thank every community member and every council officer who contributed to

this process. Their insights and passion have shaped a document that is not only strategic but deeply personal.”

Cr Gallagher acknowledged the economic and structural challenges facing rural communities and the importance of shared decision-making.

“We know we’re operating in a tough economic environment. That means making some difficult choices together. This plan helps guide those conversations, ensuring we stay focused on the priorities that matter most to our people, and continue advocating for a fair share of support from other levels of government.

“Most importantly, it gives us a clear and hopeful path forward, one that reflects our values and meets our ambitions with courage, clarity and care.”

The *Council Plan 2025–2029* and *2035 Community Vision* will be available shortly to view online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-Documents/Council-Plans

Printed copies will be available at council’s Library and Customer Service Centres.

Murrindindi Shire Councils Library e-Book service explained

PREVIOUSLY Murrindindi Shire Council had two platforms available for library customers to read e-books. The two platforms were Libby and BorrowBox.

The platform Libby is no longer available and Murrindindi Shire Council Library Service is proud to offer BorrowBox. This platform is a free and easy to use digital platform that gives the community access to a wide range of eBooks and audiobooks. BorrowBox offers a carefully curated, boutique collection that’s perfect for readers and listeners of all ages and interests.

In relation to the Libby platform (OverDrive), Murrindindi Shire Council said, “While the *Libby* platform (OverDrive) is no longer available through our service, this change has allowed us to focus on delivering a high-quality digital experience through BorrowBox without the significant cost of joining a new library consortium. Under the new model, the consortium required an additional \$16,000 per year for access to the platform. With only around 100 members currently using the service, the additional cost was not justified, particularly

as we have another quality option available for our members through BorrowBox.

“Library membership is free, and with that comes free access to BorrowBox as our digital alternative. Our Library staff have been helping customers make the switch, and we’re pleased to see many enjoying what BorrowBox has to offer. If you haven’t tried it yet, now’s the perfect time. Visit branches in Alexandra, Yea or Kinglake, or stop by the Mobile Library for help getting started. Our staff are here to support you every step of the way.”

Nominations open for Victorian Tree of the Year

THE National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year are now open.

Attracting thousands of votes each year, the annual competition celebrates the significant trees that have captured the hearts of Victorians and draws attention to the vital role trees play in our environment and communities.

As the state’s leading advocate for tree protection, the National Trust has remained committed to safeguarding and celebrating Victoria’s natural heritage. Since 1982, the organisation has classified more than 20,000 trees across 1200 locations through the National Trusts of Australia Register of Significant Trees.

To be eligible for the Victorian Tree of the Year, a nominated tree must be listed on this register. There are 22 Murrindindi Shire trees listed in the National Trust database.

Nominations can be submitted online until Sunday, August 31 via the National

Trust’s website at nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear. Each submission should include details about the tree and a description of why it deserves the title of 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year.

After receiving nominations by the closing date, the Significant Tree Expert Committee will then review all nominations and curate a shortlist of nine exceptional trees. Public voting will then take place online from Tuesday, September 23 to Thursday, October 23.

Collette Brennan, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), is encouraging all Victorians to get involved. “Being part of the Victorian Tree of the Year is an active and powerful way for our community to demonstrate how deeply we value our trees and their essential role in our lives. With Victoria currently lacking comprehensive policies around tree protection, it’s more important than ever to highlight the significance of these living landmarks and advocate for their preservation.

“Whether it’s the tree you pass every day on your way to work, the one at the heart of your favourite park, or a majestic giant that’s stood for generations, this is your chance to shine a spotlight on a tree that matters. We’re calling on tree enthusiasts, nature lovers, and anyone who values our natural heritage to make a nomination.”

The Victorian Tree of the Year aims to raise awareness about the conservation of the state’s natural heritage and highlight the many benefits that trees bring to our lives, from supporting biodiversity and wildlife, to improving air quality, wellbeing, and liveability. Many trees on the Significant Tree Register are also living landmarks that hold memories, stories, and deep cultural significance.

The winner of the 2025 Victorian Tree of the Year will be officially announced on Tuesday, October 28.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear

Wild weather buffets Murrindindi Shire

HEAVY wind and rain buffeted all parts of Murrindindi Shire in the early days of last week, leading to power outages and weather damage.

Unit controller for the Alexandra SES, Trevor Evans, spoke about how the wind and rain affected the eastern side of Murrindindi Shire.

“We’ve been pretty lucky this week. It seemed very wet over around Strath Creek and those sort of places. Alexandra seemed to miss out a little bit,” Trevor said.

“We had one tree down [last Tuesday] in the afternoon at the end of the deviation

and there was another one down on Maintongoon Road.

There were also fallen trees on Buxton-Marysville Road, leading to a lengthy road closure.

But considering, so far we’ve been pretty fortunate. There were a couple of outages in Kinglake and those areas, but nothing locally.”

Kinglake SES posted on Facebook last Tuesday detailing the response required from them after the extreme weather.

“Starting just before 7am this morning and going until approximately 2.30pm this afternoon, our crews have responded to 12 storm-related jobs, most trees over roads and driveways,” they said.

“The work has been difficult in unforgiving conditions. Some members needed to have hot showers to warm up and feel their toes again, but they wouldn’t have it any other way and approached every job today with smiles on their faces.

“Thank you to community members who have helped in whatever capacity.”

Out&About



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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Speak with council today, 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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Free health checks for the farming community. Diabetes, heart health and mental wellness at Yea Sale Yards.

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.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Alexandra Secondary College open night from 6-8.30pm. The entire collage will be open for families to take guided or self guided tours. Staff from different learning areas will also be available.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary will hold their AGM at 2pm in the Grace Bennetts Centre meeting room, Yea. Afternoon tea will be provided. RSVP to Kaye 0400 424 888.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Flowerdale Hotel is celebrating it's first year of ownership. From 11am there will be live music, games, food and much more.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Alexandra Garden Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the Uniting Church, Alexandra.

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

Two Murrindindi organisations receive Stronger Communities grant funding

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines recently announced \$150,000 in grant funding for community organisations as part of the Stronger Communities Program.

Fourteen successful organisations were awarded between \$5000 and \$18,855 to undertake projects across communities in Indi. These grants will support organisations to maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities and enable groups to purchase much-needed equipment.

"Hard-working community groups exist across every corner of Indi, and it is a privilege to recognise this through the Stronger Community grants," Dr Haines said.

The Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum received \$15,000 to build a new

disabled access carriage, improving access for all members of the community.

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre will use the \$10,000 they received to install new audiovisual equipment to improve access to digital services and connectivity for community members, including aged persons and environmental community groups.

"From Alexandra and Mansfield right across to Corryong and Wodonga, groups in Indi are coming up with fabulous initiatives and supporting our communities," Dr Haines said.

"These projects are occurring in shared spaces across our communities, in the community halls, recreation reserves, and sporting facilities. It is wonderful to know

the benefits of these projects will extend right across our communities.

"The number of quality projects we reviewed is a testament of the incredible projects happening right across Indi.

"Congratulations to everyone who was successful in this round of funding. I am looking forward to seeing your fabulous initiatives progress."

Sixty-two expressions of interest were received for the program across Indi, with each assessed by a community panel on their ability to encourage and support participation in local projects, increase community participation and contribute to vibrant and viable communities.



The Home Creek-Spring Creek Landcare Group were out planting trees along the rail trail at Yarck last Sunday for National Tree Day. They planted around 130 trees in an hour to an hour and a half in dreary conditions. -BD

Trees planted in Yarck for National Tree Day



The planted trees alongside the rail trail in their protective covers. -BD



The outdoor area at the Flowerdale Hotel. -S



Sarah and Andrew. -S

Flowerdale Hotel: One year on and loving it

IT'S hard to believe that it's been a full year since the Flowerdale Hotel had a change of ownership. New owners, Andrew, Jacqui, Sarah and Evan reflected on the trials and tribulations of a year of hotel ownership, from relative novices to working with a vibrant experienced team and enjoying every step of the way.

"To begin, we were massively anxious about making such a huge change to our lives," Andrew Stocker, hotel owner and mainstay for the last 12 months said. "Giving up teaching, which is a job I have loved and thrive in, and I know for all of us this was a huge new adventure."

The locals are loving the change. The hotel has added regular live music, trivia nights, homework club and regular community events that are a huge hit.

The 'pub regulars' can't stop talking about the 'refreshing change' that has 'brought a breath of fresh air' into the community of Flowerdale, and that seems to be at the core of the new publican's philosophy, to create a community hub, where patrons feel comfortable.

The hotel now features kids' areas, a library, a small retail section and a comfy lounge area. On a cold winter's night, it's fantastic curling up with a refreshing ale by the open fire.

"When we were looking to buy, we wanted a classic country pub, with a bit of history and character," Andrew said, "a place we can call home and build a connection to a loving community... This has been a dream come true."

The owners are keen to support their community, donating where they can to community groups, and providing support to staff and their families when times are tough. They rally to a cause and spread their care and compassion beyond the hotel walls, and they love an excuse to party.

To celebrate their 12 months, they are opening their doors to the broader community, with two live bands, *Stoked*, a local rock covers band, and *Wild Turkey*, a classic Rockabilly band, established in the 80s and still rocking today. Discounted food and drinks will be available and for those travelling you can book a hotel room, or just camp in the paddock for free.



Wild Turkey. -S



Catnip. -S



Wild Turkey rocking at the Flowerdale Hotel. -S



Join us for our

1ST YEAR OF OWNERSHIP CELEBRATION

Saturday August 9 from 11am

with live music, games, great food and more

Monday
Kids eat free and homework club from 5pm and trivia from 7pm

Wednesday
Meat tray raffle and darts competition

Regular
live music and karaoke
Check out our socials for updates
 [theflowerdalehotel](https://www.instagram.com/theflowerdalehotel)
 [FlowerdaleHotel](https://www.facebook.com/FlowerdaleHotel)

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

📍 3325 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Flowerdale ☎ 5780 1230
 enquiries@flowerdalehotel.com.au
 [flowerdalehotel.com.au](https://www.flowerdalehotel.com.au)

Road maintenance season finishes

A MEDIA release was received from the Victorian Government stating, "The Allan Labor Government is keeping Victorians moving smoothly in our regions, with the \$964 million 2024/25 road maintenance program wrapping up this month.

"Hundreds of kilometres of road across the state have been repaired, resurfaced or rebuilt to keep Victorians moving, delivering more reliable journeys for local drivers, tourists, and freight operators.

"Major road rehabilitation works have been undertaken on sections of key routes across the region drivers travel on daily,

including Kilmore-Lancefield Road, Heathcote-Kyneton Road, Heathcote-Rochester Road, Echuca-Mooroopna Road, Goulburn Valley Highway, Midland Highway and Murray Valley Highway.

"Crews have inspected roads and responded to calls from local communities, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, repairing almost 40,000 potholes and resurfacing kilometres of roads across northern Victoria.

"Thousands of signs have been repaired and replaced, more than 12,000 kilometres of roadside grass has been mowed and

slashed, and almost 800 safety barriers have been repaired on major highways in the region.

"Almost 70 per cent of the works undertaken during this major road maintenance blitz have been directed to Victoria's regional areas, including works to repair the Great Alpine Road, the Mallee Highway, the Monaro Highway, the Surf Coast Highway and the Western Highway.

"As part of more works kicking off later this year, crews will focus on delivering long-term solutions to repair Victorian roads, with rehabilitation and resurfacing

works prioritised to protect the longevity of our road network for years to come.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes stated, "We've used this unprecedented investment to repair and rebuild hundreds of kilometres of roads across the region. We know there's still more to do, that's why the Victorian Budget 2025/26 will invest a record \$976 million into future repairs and maintenance of our roads."

Strath Creek Country Market

Carmel Murphy on behalf of Strath Creek Progress Association

STRATH Creek's Pioneer Reserve, on Ferguson Street near the CFA, was a bustling hive of activity on Sunday, July 20 as scores of cars unloaded hundreds of people wearing

coats and beanies intent on exploring the market, grabbing a coffee and a bite to eat, and chatting while browsing for quality home-made wares and locally grown produce.

Strath Creek Country Market manager, Melissa Honeydew, was pleased with the

turn out. Melissa, who has her own nursery, Rigby Cottage, also manages the Tallarook Market and attends Woodend, Lancefield and Avenel markets as a stallholder. Melissa's experience and community-mindedness saw the inaugural Strath Creek Country Market get off to a great start despite the gloomy weather.

"There are 40 stalls here today," Melissa said. "We expect another 12 to join us next month. I'm stoked that people from all over the region and further afield took the time to explore the market so that we could showcase the amazing local talent for making, baking and growing.

"Our stallholders are great people and they tell me how wonderful it was to be able to connect with customers. They are so grateful for the support of the local community too.

"Every month, we invite two local community groups to have a stall for free as a way to further support the community," Melissa said.

Among the stallholders were Troy Pycroft from Goulburn Valley Pork who had plenty of pork cuts on offer from the family butcher shop in Wyuna. Vanessa and Michael Thomas from Nagambie Artisan Bakery offered 10 types of sourdough breads, pastries and focaccias. Coloured Wool and Fibre Co from Koetong, near the Corryong Pub, offered a wide variety of handwoven items lovingly crafted from wool from their sheep and alpacas. Megan said funds from selling her

wares went towards buying hay to feed the animals during the drought.

The market was the result of a vision of Strath Creek Progress Association (SCPA) president, Lisa Mack, to offer something to the community and wider region, to bring people together.

"The SCPA committee want to raise funds to repair the historic waterwheel in the reserve," Lisa said. "Current costs to repair the wheel are well over \$9000. Council won't provide any funds as they say the wheel is not council infrastructure and was originally put in the reserve by community."

While people shopped, chatted or made new connections, guitarist and singer Julian Laucius, a Flowerdalian, performed blues, jazz and rock'n'roll.

Future markets will feature local musicians and bands like *The Yaks* who will be at the next market on Sunday, August 17. *The Yaks* are a great fun band who are sure to bring the market to life.

That's just a snapshot of what's on offer at the Strath Creek Country Market, so mark your calendar for every third Sunday of the month for a great day out.

Getting out of your home and going to places like a park or a country market fosters a sense of community and belonging, making people feel more connected to the world around them. Studies suggest that strong social connections are linked to a longer lifespan and reduces stress, anxiety and depression. Who knew?



Melissa Honeydew's Rigby Cottage offered a variety of fruit trees and friendly ducks who were much loved by Aiki, Heli and Vivi who were with their mum from Apteds Orchards, Arthurs Creek. -S



Anne Made Things featured striking handmade jewellery coming from 20 years of experience in jewellery making that were very different from the usual offerings of jewellery. -S



Lisa Mack, president of the Strath Creek Progress Association, said the Strath Creek Country Market added another layer of community involvement for Strath Creek while showcasing local producers and supporting them in business. Her stall Country Vibes Vintage had great sales on the day. -S



For over 10 years Peter and Beth of Urban Cellar have made eight spirit varieties, whisky, wine, vodka, gin, liquors, rum and ready to drink cocktails. Taste them all if you can. -S

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11

Colouring Page



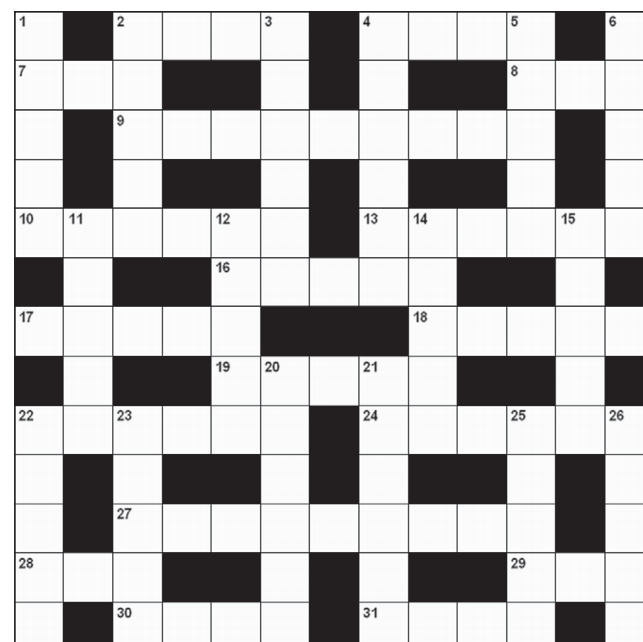
Crossword

ACROSS

2. Beef cattle.
4. Notes down.
7. Never been used.
8. Worthless dog.
9. Person who lives next door.
10. Curly-leaved salad plant.
13. Lag behind.
16. The spirit of a community.
17. Produce a smudge.
18. A deceitful scoundrel.
19. An expressive style.
22. Rotten egg.
24. Grants made by a law court.
27. A disposition towards silence.
28. A creative skill.
29. By way of.
30. Three feet.
31. The underside of a shoe.

DOWN

1. Bring together.
2. Had possession of.
3. Small lump of gold.
4. Sexual drive.
5. A young haddock.
6. A withered old woman.
11. A wanderer.



12. Incline in a certain direction.
14. Twisted to one side.
15. Furiously angry.
20. Swirled against the current.
21. Large black birds.
22. White, Nordic person.
23. Not pure or clear.
25. Fasten by passing through a hole.
26. Illegally occupy a house.

Word Search

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

Spring

BEES GERMINATION
BUDS GRASS
BUTTERFLIES POLLEN
FLOWERS RAIN
FRUIT STORMS
GARDENING WEEDS

Math Square

	×		+	8	14
×		-		-	
	+	7	+		16
-		+		-	
	-		-		-14
11		1		-6	

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

Spring

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
13								

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					17			19

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{O O} \\ 4 \ 6 \ 17 \ 17 \ 7 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{O R} \\ 11 \ 17 \ 21 \ 19 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{O} \\ 17 \ 11 \ 15 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{A} \\ 11 \ 13 \ 16 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{R} \\ 9 \ 1 \ 9 \ 19 \ 16 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{O R} \\ 2 \ 6 \ 17 \ 11 \ 9 \ 19 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{A} \\ 8 \ 13 \ 14 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} ' \\ 10 \ 22 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{O} \\ 14 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{O} \\ 17 \ 11 \ 15 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} \text{A} \\ 7 \ 13 \ 20 \ 10 \ 26 \end{array}$$

Sudoku

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

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.

Word Search

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

Words starting with "O"

OBEDIENT ONION
OBTUSE OPENING
OCEAN OPTIMISTIC
OCTOBER ORANGUTAN
OCTOPUS OSCAR
OFFERING OSTRICH
OLIVIA OUTSIDE

Math Square

	+		-	3	4
+		+		+	
7	-		+		9
+		-		+	
	-		-		-12
13		-1		15	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

Q: How do you make an artichoke?

A: You strangle it

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water



✓ Skills

✓ Income

✓ Community

Pines Learning providing accredited courses

Sally Brennan has been working in the adult community education sector for the past 35 years, and is passionate about what it can achieve in communities. As CEO of Pines Learning, Sally has been working with the Alex Hub to provide options and access for local people to get the support they need to achieve the qualifications they need for local work. Currently, Pines Learning is offering two pathways into work in the aged care and disability sector as well as early learning sectors.

Pines Learning is offering accredited courses in the second half of this year in Healesville, an option that might suit potential students from Murrindindi. The state government recently announced the Regional Disability Worker Scholarships to support people from regional Victoria to successfully participate in both Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability) as well as the Cert IV in Disability. "Both these courses are offered by Pines Learning, and the scholarship could significantly assist students to get through", Sally said.

Any students coming from Murrindindi could also be supported by additional study skills at the Alex Hub if they need it. "Sometimes students need extra help to get through", Sally said.

"These community learning environments build confidence, and are welcoming and engaging. Sometimes people don't realise their own potential, and the opportunity for extra support to get through can make a huge difference. It's all about filling those gaps for people."

Pines Learning is also offering traineeships as an option for training and employment. "This is a great option for people who want to work and study in their own communities, and particularly for people, say women whose children are getting that bit older, who want to explore aged care or disability support work", Sally said.

The aim is that "if learners need additional study skills, including literacy, numeracy and digital skills then the Alex Hub will provide that to the partnership. We recognise that not everyone's had the same journey, everyone is different," Sally said.



Sally Brennan. -AR

The two accredited training courses in Healesville are in ageing and disability, and early childhood. "Some of it's online, some is face to face, but it means that if there are people out here who want to study, it can be a more achievable option than travelling into the suburbs."

"If there are learners out here who are coming to Healesville, then there's the opportunity for them to utilise the Alex Hub for their study support and additional skills. The classes will be held in Healesville but the additional support will be available in Alexandra," Sally said. "For example, the

Hub is offering an Introduction to Aged Care course which will encourage people to discover whether it's something they want to do and give them initial skills."

"If people would like to find out more, please refer to the advertisement below for contact details which can be found on the website or just call us," Sally said. "We always welcome a phone call, and if you need any additional information just get on the phone."

"Our aim is to commence classes in the second half of this year. We want to support people and help them to achieve their dreams."

Learn Locally for In-Demand Jobs



Starts
Aug 11

CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care

Online 2 days per week and some face-to-face classes
Location: Healesville

Book a FREE info session today!

Contact: ✉ info@pineslearning.com.au or ☎ 9842 6726

Scan for
course
details



Hybrid study with \$0 TUITION FEES*

*For citizens and permanent residents only



Starts
Aug 18

CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing & Disability)

Online 2 days per week and some face-to-face classes
Location: Healesville

Book a FREE info session today!

Contact: ✉ info@pineslearning.com.au or ☎ 9842 6726

Scan for
course
details



Scholarship available!

Regional students enrolled in Certificate III in Individual Support (CHC33021) may be eligible for a \$3,500 scholarship.

Visit: dfhh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships

grow
Murrindindi

✓ Skills

✓ Income

✓ Community



Yea Arts calling for committee members

THERE'S something particularly satisfying about volunteering in your local community, putting names to faces, growing your circle and getting involved.

Yea Arts Inc has been around for more than ten years, evolving out of the Yea Arts Carnivale and YAPPERS, the community theatre group that's been entertaining locals since 2013. In that time Yea Arts has grown from a group of interested locals putting on plays, to a shire-wide concern offering workshops, travelling theatre, music events, professional shows and more.

This year alone has seen YAPPERS present live theatre with the hilarious and unhinged "They Came from Mars and Landed Outside the Farndale Avenue Church Hall", then the ShowTime team brought Keith Potger to Alexandra Shire Hall to celebrate 60 years of The Seekers. They ran "The Business of Art" workshops in Kinglake, Yea, Marysville and Alexandra, then just recently they engaged young people from across the shire in a weekend theatre lighting skills workshop.

In the next few weeks indigenous musician Dave Arden will perform at Homewood

Hall, then September will see the "HIGH VOLTAGE" extravaganza gather a veritable crowd of guitarists onstage in Yea. In October the one-woman theatre production "Niusia" will play on October 18, followed by an oral history workshop the next day. Finally, the year's activities will close with Yea Carols in December.

It takes a team of volunteers to make all of this happen

At the Yea Arts Inc AGM on October 28 the group will fill the roles of President, Treasurer and committee members. If you love the arts and like the idea of working with a fun team to make events happen, they would love you to come along and nominate. The work is collaborative, great fun, and you get to learn all sorts of skills along the way.

If this sounds interesting, talk to the Yea Arts Secretary, Adam Dennis, on 0488 670 077 or email them at YeaArtsInc@gmail.com

For more detail about what's involved, take a look at their website: YeaArtsInc.org



Some of the previous Yea Arts activities. -S



 **YEA ARTS INC**

We want to live in a thriving Arts community!

Are you looking to volunteer in the Shire, have fun, make people happy, do great work?

Yea Arts Inc is looking to fill Committee roles at our AGM this year. Will you come and join us?

AGM 28 October 2025

Find out more - call Adam on 0488 670 077

YeaArtsInc.org

The Farmer's Ag News

Time for a real Deer Management Strategy for Victoria

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Victoria has called for an end to Victoria's expensive and ineffective Deer Control Strategy, urging the government to take the next logical step toward a modern, inclusive Deer Management Strategy that delivers measurable outcomes and supports regional economies.

Over the past four years, the Victorian Government has spent more than \$20 million on a contractor-heavy control program that has excluded the state's 50,000 recreational deer hunters. Yet during that same period, recreational hunters have removed around half a million deer at no cost to government, contributing over \$800 million to the Victorian economy.

"This isn't about doing nothing, it's about doing what works," said SSAA Victoria Communications Manager Barry Howlett.

"The current strategy is costly, opaque, and ultimately unsustainable. We're calling for a shift away from ideology-driven control programs and toward genuine, evidence-based deer management."

Mr Howlett acknowledged that the government has made significant progress in working with recreational hunters over the past 18 months, through initiatives like new arrangements for duck hunting, new game regulations, new breeds for hound hunting, new areas for deer stalking and a renewed willingness to engage with the hunting community.

"That shift in tone and engagement has been really encouraging," he said.

"We now have an opportunity to build on that momentum by replacing a siloed, bureaucratic control strategy with a proper management framework that not only improves environmental outcomes but also enhances the state budget rather than draining it."

A real deer management strategy, according to SSAA Victoria, must focus on actual impacts, not simply numbers. It must be place-based, adaptive, and include robust monitoring to measure effectiveness. Crucially, it must also recognise recreational hunters as legitimate and effective partners in achieving those outcomes.

"Public money should be spent where it makes a difference," Mr Howlett said.

"Right now, we have a strategy that's focused on spending millions shooting deer to waste, while ignoring a community of hunters who are already making a real impact, and doing it sustainably, ethically, and at their own expense."

SSAA Victoria is urging policymakers to seize this opportunity to modernise deer policy and develop a strategy that delivers for the environment, regional Victoria, and taxpayers.

The price is deer

The Invasive Species Council provided data from a 2022 report by Frontier Economics. It stated that over the next 30 years, feral deer in Victoria would cost farmers between \$245 million to \$350 million due to avoided grazing on farming land by feral deer, and between \$106 million to \$144 million due to avoided time spent on managing feral deer.

They also stated that between \$269 million and \$365 million to forest industries due to avoided losses in forestry production. This is now a moot point due to the closure of the native timber harvesting industry, but it indicates the impact on our forest areas as well.

The report also indicated the significant benefits associated with deer hunting.

In the same company's report, *Counting the Doe*, it states, "Our analysis suggests that if management is taken in 2022, the cost of removing all feral deer could be between \$338m and \$581m (depending on the population scenario)."

They also stated, "In recent years the Victorian feral deer population and distribution have rapidly increased. Our analysis suggests that feral deer numbers could grow to between 1.7 million to 4.6 million by 2050, an increase of between 103 per cent and 217 per cent over the next 30 years."

In terms of impact, the report notes the significant impacts including damage to crops, fouling of pastures, deer management costs (including shooting costs, fencing and replacing damaged property), reduced native forest growth due to the deer eating young shoots and bark-stripping, deer-related vehicle accidents, and the cost of increased water treatment requirements. They may also reduce biodiversity due to spreading weeds, trampling and ringbarking trees. The presence of deer may also impact restoration works, increase food competition with native wildlife, reduce waterway health, impact Indigenous cultural heritage, and there is the risk of disease. Many of these issues are likely to be exacerbated following fires.

The report states, "The current approach [to reducing the deer population] is unlikely to be sufficient" and "further action is likely to be required to manage reduce the rapid increase of feral deer in Victoria."

They further state, "The costs of acting quickly and decisively to remove feral deer will be lower than the cost of feral deer on the community."

Peter Jacobs, executive officer of the Victorian Deer Control Community Network

(VDCCN), said deer are currently classified as protected species under the Wildlife Act and believes that this is no longer required.

"We don't need to be protecting deer, there's hundreds of thousands of them throughout nearly half the state, but they aren't declared a pest because they're considered to be a game species for a hunting resource."

"We'd argue that time has long passed. These are no longer an obscure animal that people hunt through the bush. There's far too many. They're causing far too much damage, and they're one of the biggest pests in Victoria. It's time the government called them out and said that we're no longer need to be protecting deer. We need to declare them a pest, just like foxes, rabbits, goats, pigs."

Asked whether it might be time to introduce a bounty, Peter responded, "I don't believe so. Bounties aren't necessarily shown as being very effective. Deer hunters do take quite a lot of deer out of the environment, but not nearly enough to deal with the population growth. We need to be removing about 35 per cent of the population just to hold it stable. What we do need is more concentrated control programs, particularly aiming in the areas where having the most impact and also places that we can actually start to exclude them from."

Deer are widespread in the forests of Murrindindi Shire, and it's hard to exclude deer from these locations, however the populations can be reduced in more isolated pockets.

Peter said, "The priority is to really try to pull the population back and remove them from areas which they can be eradicated from and start to contain them, and around particular big assets like agricultural assets or where there are particular issues with road safety, really concentrating on those. We need to be strategic about controlling deer, not just saying, we have to take this number out. We have to look at where and how we go about it."

"I'd be suggesting the government get serious about calling them a pest and supporting programs that are looking at controlling and eliminating them where possible."

He added that while recreational hunters do remove some deer from the environment, they're not so much a control program. He believes that this needs to be done in a controlled manner.

"Recreational hunters tend to just go where they want to go and take what they want, so that contribute to the numbers being reduced, but they're not the answer. It goes well beyond recreational hunting. We need to look at where recreational hunting conflicts with other users as well. Not everybody likes to be around people who are out hunting for sport," he said.

The deer population has massively increased both in numbers and spread over the last few decades, just showing that recreational hunting hasn't had really any impact on the growth and the spread of deer... So we've got to come up with some better solutions."

He believes in targeted programs where deer are causing the most impact, such as protecting Alpine peat lands, rainforest environments and some national parks.

Some areas, including around Eildon, are yielding results from planned programs. These can involve professional as well as people from sporting shooter associations. He said, "They're experienced people that are involved in property planned conservation programs as opposed to sort of weekend shoots."

He added, "Now Victoria is realising they're a massive issue and we need to stop pretending there's some sort of protected species."

At present, a lot of costs are being put on to farmers as a result of the deer issue, including installing higher fences and taking the loss on pastures.

That's part of the problem with deer not being a 'pest' because farmers and the community do get assistance with controlling pests through the Department of Agriculture in some circumstances. But here they can't because they're not declared a pest. They have got an unprotection order on private land where private land owners can control the deer if they're causing a problem without having to get a permit. But that's a pretty small-scale sort of solution. The fact is that farmers have to front up with all the funds and the resources to stop their places being destroyed by deer and get no support."

He finished by saying, "We can't just rely on recreational shooters. It's clear that's not controlling the deer population. We've just got to get serious about this growing issue. Victoria is the only mainland state in Australia that still protects deer. Every other mainland state now has declared them a pest."

FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

Diabetes, Heart Health & Mental Wellness



Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST



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.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV

The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured Fully Vaccinated

BOOKKEEPING

 **TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING**

*BAS *IAS *Superannuation
*Accounts Receivable
*Accounts Payable *Payroll

Ph Trevor Turner
0419 575 176

CARPET CLEANING

 **Green Carpet Cleaning**

- ✓ Stain removal
- ✓ Urine treatment
- ✓ Upholstery cleaning
- ✓ Carpet steam cleaning
- ✓ Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CONVEYANCING

 **Sargeants**

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY
TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

 **E-TEC**
Electrical Technology

- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310
info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

MM00042 Rec N°12906

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION – 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsexc@bigpond.com

EMC0082

FENCING

McMASTER FENCING CONTRACTOR

All general farm fencing, cattle yards, sheep yards, vineyards, on site welding and oxy work.
Tree plantation ripping
5 hydraulic post drivers and pneumatic drivers

GRASS SLASHING
4 extra heavy duty slashers

GENERAL FREIGHT
Hay, timber, wool, steel, grapes, machinery

GLEN (HORACE) McMASTER
5797 2921
Mobile 0417 529 809

EMC0072

PAINTERS

W. & J. GREEN

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

50 Years experience in all things painting

0407 134 756

PLUMBERS

G (Jack) McMaster

Plumbing Lic No 29767 YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

- New work & Renovations • Domestic & Commercial
- Septic tanks, Water tanks • Pumps etc • Gas Fitting
- Roofing & Spouting • Trenching • Backflow Prevention

Ph 0428 972 386

SERVICE STATIONS

 **Simpson's FUEL**

Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
with Mobil and Prolube lubricants,
greases and solvents.

 **Ampol**

Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

EMC0125

Farmsafe warns against ignoring mental health impact of burnout

IN a week where Farmsafe Australia is urging the sector to reflect on the lessons hidden inside every near miss, the message is clear: some of those lessons aren't physical.

As National Farm Safety Week continues, Farmsafe is highlighting the link between burnout, situational distress, and the often unseen mental health risks in farming.

"In agriculture, we're pretty good at pushing through," Farmsafe Chair Felicity Richards said.

"But what we're not always good at is recognising when that push becomes too much, or when a string of near misses, losses, or long days becomes something bigger than just being tired."

This year's *Safer Farms Report*, sponsored by Wesfarmers Federation Insurance (WFI), paints a stark picture. While physical injuries are easy to tally, the mental health impact of long hours, compounding pressure, and traumatic incidents, including near misses, are much harder to capture. But they're just as real.

"We often hear people say 'I'm just a bit off,' or 'it's been a big season', but that can mask burnout, chronic stress, or situational distress," Ms Richards says.

Situational distress refers to mental health strain that is triggered or worsened by difficult circumstances such as drought, injury, financial strain, or workplace trauma. On farms, it's particularly acute during high-pressure periods like sowing, harvest, shearing, or packing seasons, when sleep, decision-making and communication are all under pressure.

And when something goes wrong, even if no one gets hurt, the emotional toll and anxiety of a near miss can linger.

"This year's campaign is all about near misses," Ms Richards says, "But we want to be clear: sharing those stories is powerful, but it has to be done safely."

Farmsafe is encouraging individuals to take time before sharing a story to reflect on how it impacted them, and to consider the emotional safety of others, too.

"If it's too soon or too raw, that's okay," Ms Richards said. "You can share in private, or not at all. Sometimes, writing it down just for yourself, or sharing it with a trusted team member or mental health professional, is just as meaningful."

The campaign includes five key principles for safe storytelling: Share when you're ready,

there's no pressure to speak before you've had time to process. Focus on the outcome, what changed as a result of the near miss? How did it help improve safety? Avoid graphic details, especially when talking with kids, new staff, or others who weren't involved. Acknowledge the emotion, it's okay to say something was frightening, upsetting, or rattling. Point to support, whether it's a peer, a hotline, or a local service, include a suggestion for where to go if someone needs help.

The campaign also urges farmers to recognise when stress has shifted from temporary to dangerous and to understand that mental health is not just about depression or diagnosed illness.

"Burnout doesn't always look like lying in bed," Ms Richards said. "It can look like snapping at your team, feeling overwhelmed by small tasks, or finding it hard to focus on jobs you normally handle without blinking."

Other signs include trouble sleeping, increased reliance on alcohol or stimulants, constant fatigue even after rest, feeling isolated, unmotivated or numb, or difficulty making decisions.

In farming, where the line between personal and professional is often blurred, these symptoms can be missed or brushed off as 'just being busy.'

"But being busy and being unwell are not the same thing," Ms Richards says. "You can't afford to ignore the warning signs. On farms, your mental clarity keeps everyone safe including yourself."

The good news is that awareness is growing. Across the country, many farming families are taking mental health seriously; setting boundaries, building in recovery time, and having more honest conversations.

As National Farm Safety Week continues, Farmsafe is reminding everyone in agriculture: You are your most important safety tool.

"Safety isn't just about helmets and harnesses. It's about emotional bandwidth. It's about having the capacity to stop, assess, communicate and care. If your tank is empty, safety takes a hit."

Mental health support is available through Lifeline on 131 114, Rural Aid on 1300 327 624, Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636, Suicide Callback Service on 1300 659 467, or talk to a local GP or support worker.

Enhancing farm life for all abilities

THE state government is investing in a new all-ability initiative that is set to make farms safer and more inclusive, ensuring people of all abilities can fully participate in farm life with confidence and safety.

Acting Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney announced last week that \$25,000 in funding for Ability Agriculture will be made available. Ability Agriculture is an organisation which represents people living with a disability and promotes safety initiatives across the agricultural sector.

Ability Agriculture will create an online hub featuring resources and videos highlighting all-abilities modifications farm owners have made to support workers, family members and others.

The hub will feature videos with workers sharing their experiences, along with tips from occupational therapists on how to adapt farms and equipment to support all abilities.

It will be available on the Ability Agriculture website, which was launched last year.

The state government has also delivered \$44,000 to Monash University's Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit to better understand the context in which hospital-treated farm injuries occur in Victoria to inform future interventions.

This is in addition to the \$42,000 funding delivered to the University of Melbourne towards a project that identifies effective ways to support culturally and linguistically diverse people to work safely in agriculture.

This announcement came during National Farm Safety Week, between July 20 to 26, with the state government encouraging rural communities to keep safety and wellbeing front of mind.

To find more information on services, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

MATH SQUARES

3	x	2	+	8	14
x		-		-	
4	+	7	+	5	16
-		+		-	
1	-	6	-	9	-14
11		1		-6	

CRYPTOGRAM

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
13 4 26 5 9 2 20 8 10 23 18 6 7 15 17 24 12 19 14 22 21 1 11 3 16 25

BLOOM YOUR OWN WAY, EVERY FLOWER HAS IT'S OWN MAGIC

SUDOKU

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

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

1	+	6	-	3	4
+		+		+	
7	-	2	+	4	9
+		-		+	
5	-	9	-	8	-12
13		-1		15	

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today! Fax: 5772 1603 or Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Land Act 1958.

Notice of intention to grant licence for the purpose of grazing/riparian management.

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to grant a licence under Section 130 of the Land Act 1958 to:

M.S ROBB over Water Frontage to the Rubicon River, abutting lot 2 LP6557, Parish of Taggerty.

L.G.L PERRY over Water Frontage to the Steavenson River, abutting Crown allotment 27, Parish of Buxton.

Further information or comments can be lodged with the Crown Frontage Property Officer, Sarah Brown on 8508 0685 within 14 days.

MEETINGS



Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary Annual General Meeting
will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 2pm in the Grace Bennetts Centre Meeting Room at 20 Miller Street, Yea. Afternoon tea will be provided.
RSVP Kaye on 0400 424 888.

ALEXANDRA GARDEN CLUB AGM
will be held at 2pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Uniting Church Alexandra.

EILDON ACTION INC
will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre, 1 Main Street, Eildon. The agenda of the meeting will be to report on the finances for the year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, confirm office-bearers and set membership fees for the next year.

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

MEETINGS

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

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$28 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X-trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.
PH:0407 231 377

GARAGE SALES

ALEXANDRA, 46 Nihil Street.
Saturday, August 2. 9am - 1pm. Shed and house clearance. Trailer, ladder, gardening, chain saw, filing cabinet and furnishing.

YEA, 33 East Street.
Saturday, August 2, 9am-3pm. Moving house, lots to sell.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Finance Manager (Part time)

This is a strategic role in the overall financial management of the organisation.

Qualification required.

Contact us for a position description:

Email careers@menziessupport.org.au or
Ph 5772 1888



for all your commercial printing needs

Full colour and spot colour offset printing, colour photocopying, business cards, invoice books, flyers and more.

Alexandra Newspapers
Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant Street
Alexandra Vic. 3714
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Yea Primary celebrates 100 days at school



July meeting of council

Murrindindi Shire Council held their monthly council meeting on Wednesday, July 23 at the Alexandra Council Chambers.

Apologies and planned leave

Cr Carpenter requested planned leave from August 4 to August 23 and Cr Carr requested planned leave from August 4 to August 18. Both requests were granted.

No disclosures of interest were noted for the meeting held and no petitions or community recognition for the meeting.

Public participation

Eildon resident Cleveland Aitken talked about items 4.2. and 4.3 on the agenda, being the planning applications for development in Eildon.

He expressed his concerns that council is not undertaking the correct process for developing Eighth Street and 21st Street in Eildon, with concerns going back some 25 years.

Cleveland also referenced a petition to keep the land signed by around 150 people.

During his speaking time he made several claims that Mayor Gallagher stepped in to refute, leading to debate between the pair.

4.1 Eildon Key Worker Housing Project Background, Process and council's role

It was recommended that all items regarding this matter be deferred to a future meeting. The items relate to the Eildon key worker housing project however there was an error in the advertising on council's part. As a result,

the applications will be advertised for a further 14 days with signs on site to ensure anyone who relies on the signs be informed about the project and have an opportunity to vote.

Adoption of the Council Plan 2025-2029

Cr Hildebrand spoke about the adoption of the *Council Plan 2025-2029* and the process to get where they have gotten to today. The plan reflects community vision and community values and set clear direction for a thriving, inclusive and sustainable future.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy Review

The Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy was adopted by council on June 26, 2024. The policy provides clear guidance to staff and councillors on the use of AI in the workplace. It also informs the public on when council may use AI and the principles that will guide its use. The policy sets a clear expectation that council remains responsible for the decisions it makes and the information it provides, regardless of whether generative AI is used or not.

The 12-month review policy is now up for discussion and minor edits are to be made of the revised policy. Cr Carr noted the importance of 12-month reviews to keep up to pace as changes with AI evolve.

Adoption of the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to adopt a *Revenue*

and *Rating Plan* in the year following a council election covering a four-year period. The *Revenue and Rating Plan* provides the framework by which council will raise its principal sources of revenue in a fair and equitable way to meet its strategic objectives in the *Council Plan 2025-2029* and for the delivery of council's services and infrastructure to the community.

Mayor Gallagher questioned the Director of People and Corporate Performance, Mr Chesworth, "There are other levies which are charged to ratepayers on their rates notice but are not mentioned in the revenue and rating plan. May one assume that some state government levies are not treated as council revenues' and do not contribute to the delivery of council services?"

Mr Chesworth said on the rates notice council are required by legislation to collect the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) levy that was formerly called the Fire Services Property Levy. This is the levy charged by the state government to fund emergency services in the state. Council are the collection agency for this and added to the rates bill and send to state government.

Adoption of the Community Waste Charge Policy

The report seeks council's endorsement of the proposed Community Waste Charge Policy. The policy aims to establish a fair, transparent and administratively efficient framework for the application of a Community Waste Charge. The charge will contribute to the cost

of delivering garbage and recycling services across the shire, including the operation of Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs).

Cr Carpenter said this is a fair and transparent system where all of the community contribute to the cost of delivering rubbish and recycling service and that she thinks it's the fairest way to go for the community. This was seconded by the other councillors.

Snobs Creek Road upgrade and widening

Report to award contractor for upgrade and widening for Snobs Creek Road. The scope is to seal trafficable width of the first 2.9km of Snobs Creek Road from 5m to 6.2m to improve safety for all users of the road. The works to be completed in two stages.

Seven submissions were received at the close of tender and the contractor is awarded to Tenderer 1, TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd, for a total contract value of \$830,690.

Councillor reports

Cr Carr spoke of the busy school holidays and how it's good for the shire, as well as the Thornton women's football team and how well they are going and how they give back to the community. She spoke of the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme advocacy work she has been doing. At this stage there is no update, but she will keep people in the loop.

Cr Lording spoke about nearing completion on path and drainage renewal work in Buxton and preparing for new road contracts. The team have been advocating for Department of Transport and Planning new wire rope barriers on the Melba and Goulburn Valley Highways.

Cr McAulay spoke of the visit from the Small Business Commissioner, who came to Alexandra to sign the small business friendly charter. She also spoke of the change in new financial year for businesses and what businesses are facing.

Cr Adams attended events related to national tree day and more upcoming events, and reminded people to nominate your favourite street tree. She spoke on current projects related to wellbeing in the shire. The municipal public health and wellbeing plan draft is being developed and coming to council for future endorsement in October. There will be a project meeting about the Alexandra Early Learning Centre with the Victorian School Building Authority on August 13. The facility is to be government owned and operated, with the school site to be operational in 2028-29.

Cr Hildebrand spoke of much needed rain and the modest downpour giving farmers hope. In August two more 'Just a Farmer' screening events will be held. He also said that rates notices will be coming soon and to please contact council if you are experiencing difficulty.

Cr Carpenter is looking forward to spring, National Tree Planting week is a great time to get out in your garden and the public are welcome to get your hands dirty and help out. She mentioned that new kerbside service has commenced and thanks residents for getting on board and using the app to educate themselves about the future of recycling.

Mayor Damian Gallagher spoke of the kerbside rollout and communities' participation and council staff through the transition. He has been out and about and attended the announcement to receive \$875,000 from the Victorian Government for the Kinglake Memorial Reserve upgrade from the Community Sport Minister Ros Spence. He went to the Yarrack photographic exhibition showing great storytelling and the Alexandra Volunteer Exhibition. He thanked everyone who attended and said promising networks were established on the day.

CEO report

Council auspice the farm forestry innovation working group and grant application which were successful for \$130,000 for delivery of farm forestry projects.

There is an open council forum Wednesday, July 30 at Yarrack Hall 5pm to 7pm, an informal setting. The *Domestic Animal Management Plan* is out for consultation at the moment, and there is a survey online or you can talk to the team.

Treating wombat mange is always the best option

SHELLEY from Narbeview Wildlife Shelter has noticed an increase in wombats suffering from mange in the area, and was keen to let the public know that it can be treated.

She said that some people are concerned that their dogs, cats or cattle will catch it from the wombats, however this isn't always the case, and all can be easily treated if they do.

"Domestic animals will be fine," she said. "But if we bring wombats into care, because they're already immunocompromised, they don't do very well." Ideally, the wildlife carers can treat the wombats or their burrows on people's land.

While mange looks awful and the animal is suffering, treatment is still possible.

The wildlife carers can put a burrow flap if the location of the burrow is known. This will then be refilled about once a week across 14 weeks. If the carers are unable to find the burrow, then they will catch the wombat and treat it by pouring the medication down its back. While sometimes they can be hard to catch, they're generally quite sick with mange and stay around the same area. They also tend to be alone, as other wombats may try to kill it due to the illness.

Wombat mange is sarcoptic mange. It's a mite that burrows in under the skin and makes big crusts on the skin. They multiply under the skin and eventually die, because the crusts are so thick that the wombat can't move.

Asked how many cases she sees annually, Shelly responded, "Lots and lots and lots. It's so prevalent. It's a very big problem and it is wiping them out because it's very contagious too."



A wombat with mange. -S

Shelley added, "They're saying that foxes are spreading it... because they burrow share. Foxes and other animals go in the wombat burrows. This is how it's spreading. It doesn't come off the host until that host dies. It will stay on that wombat and feed off that wombat. That's why they're so immunocompromised. It takes every bit of nourishment and nutrition that they have. They look so terrible and they become emaciated and die."

While it can impact other wildlife, generally wombats are the most impacted.

Dogs generally get demodectic mange, but can also get sarcoptic mange from a wombat. Shelley said, "People have reported that their dogs have got it from a wombat... People are better off making sure that the wombats are treated properly to ensure the safety of their dogs and other creatures."

If anyone spots a wombat with mange, they should report it to a local wildlife

carer. In some instances, the wombat be may too sick and will need to be euthanised, otherwise it will be treated.

The other problem is disposing of the body properly. Shelley said that some people will shoot the wombat thinking it's the right thing to do and then just leave the body there in the paddock. That's how it's spreading, because the mange might then come off because that host has died, they can't feed off it anymore and they go looking for another host.

Shelley said that as a wildlife carer, she will dig a hole for a dead wombat with mange which is at least two metres deep and then cover it with lime. Foxes can't smell it because the lime gets rid of the smell.

"It's become quite an epidemic and we need to do something," Shelley said.

SPORT

Merton cricketers celebrate 2024-25 season achievements

MERTON cricketers celebrated the 2024-25 season last Friday night with their presentation night. The belated presentation was more like a pre-season get together with the players keen to go one better in the forthcoming season having lost to Yarrowonga in the semi-finals on a rain affected turf wicket.

Open club champion went to Captain Jai Lerch-McKinnon, his second for the club with co-captain Luke Berriman winning the under 21 club champion. Ross McKinnon won the open batting averages while son Jai won the batting aggregate most runs.

Henry Berriman won the open bowling most wickets and was presented with the match winning ball versus City Colts with 5/29. Noah Whittall won the bowling averages while Harry Craddock won the most catches in the field along with the most improved junior award.

Tyson Garlick won the captains award for his persistent efforts throughout the season. Daryl King was recognised for his work around the club from President Burnie Cummins. Luke Berriman received the score sheet from his maiden 114 in Merton's victory over Delatite.

The Tom Jones Memorial Trophy went to Tony Sloan-Simpson for his commitment to the club in his first year after many years out of the game.

At the recent Wangaratta and District Cricket Association AGM the league saw the application of potentially two new clubs with the B grade competition growing to 13 sides in the forthcoming season starting in early October.

The Merton cricketers would like to thank their valued sponsors and extend their invitation to any new players or returning cricketers to the Merton Cricket Ground.



Great sportsmanship shown at winter tennis. -S

Euroa Women's Winter competition returns

by Rhonda Carpenter and Karyn Fraser

THE sun shone brightly for the return of the Euroa Women's Winter competition last Monday. In Mansfield, Wappan hosted Euroa while Delatite hosted Moglonmeby and Seven Creeks met Creighton's Creek in Euroa on this sunny gusty day.

Wappan's Jenny Bell, Liza Karras, Rhonda Carpenter and Di Bergelin faced the top side, Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Ruth Nolan, Lyn Pierce and Mary Dewis. Both teams worked hard, hitting balls deep in lengthy rallies and multiple deuce games.

After the opening sets, and again after the second sets, scores were level. The match would come down to the wire. Ruth and Lyn

found top form in their final set and led 7-0 as Liza and Rhonda desperately sought answers to avoid the dreaded donut. The pair secured three games as their opponents struggled to close out the set. Lyndall and Mary also won their set 8-3.

Euroa edged out Wappan taking both final sets to win by 10 games and defeat Wappan 4/41 to 2/31.

Moglonemby regular Robyn Johnson was glad to have Chris Ellis, Maureen Jewell and Kass Thomas join her for their match against Delatite.

Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Jo O'Brien, Loretta Armitage, and Deb McCormack were in fine form after the break. Both teams enjoyed great hitting in every set with smart volleys keeping everyone on their toes. Chris and Karyn used slice serves against each other in their tussle, while Kass showcased her chase down skills.

Jo found some excellent crosscourt winners on her return, and with Loretta, who played solidly all day and owned the net, won 8-6. Karyn and Loretta stretched their set against

Chris and Robyn, ultimately unlucky to lose the tiebreak, with the visitors snagging the win.

Moglonemby won 5/46 to 1/23.

In the battle of the 'Creeks', Seven Creeks and Creighton's Creek produced the closest match of the round. Rowena Ellis, Nicola Enright, Mary Kelly and Carmel Linehan took the first two sets, including one in a tiebreaker.


Debbie Seach, Ros Doxey, Kerry Hewlett and Lyn Johnston fought back hard in lengthy rallies and far too many deuces, to win three of the remaining sets to even up the exhausting contest. Seven Creeks, however, had snuck home by two games to win the match 3/38 to 3/36.

Terip won on forfeit from Mansfield.

Round 10 Ladder: Euroa 75.5, Terip 63, Moglonemby 60.5, Wappan 54, Mansfield 46, Benalla 36.5, Creighton's Creek 25.5, Seven Creeks 24, Delatite 20.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	488.42	13	Warburton Millgrove	214.21	12
Pakenham	393.27	12	Seville	206.21	13
Warburton Millgrove	178.90	8	Pakenham	234.93	11
Alexandra	130.33	8	Yarra Glen	128.91	9
Belgrave	198.55	8	Yarra Junction	87.50	6
Yea	98.20	5	Alexandra	70.13	4
Powelltown	28.53	3	Belgrave	66.12	4
Yarra Glen	23.60	1	Powelltown	33.91	1
Yarra Junction	15.80	1	Yea	52.55	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	239.49	11	Seville	324.01	14
Pakenham	227.71	11	Pakenham	272.33	12
Seville	192.41	11	Warburton Millgrove	159.44	10
Alexandra	119.52	7	Yarra Glen	116.40	9
Belgrave	108.20	8	Belgrave	83.06	6
Yarra Glen	94.51	6	Yarra Junction	64.15	5
Yea	86.13	3	Yea	57.28	2
Powelltown	40.70	2	Alexandra	47.91	2
Yarra Junction	24.57	0	Powelltown	40.61	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	13	Seville	301.62	14
Wandin	76.92	10	Pakenham	222.67	12
Emerald	57.69	7	Warburton Millgrove	180.07	10
Yea	53.84	7	Yarra Glen	96.13	7
Thornton Eildon	37.50	4	Belgrave	77.99	6
Officer	15.38	2	Yarra Junction	78.32	5
Seville	7.69	1	Alexandra	77.54	4
			Yea	43.83	1
			Powelltown	32.97	0
Netball – 17 and under			Netball – D Grade		
Seville	454.33	12	Seville	360.12	13
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.56	10	Pakenham	325.81	12
Warburton Millgrove	76.08	5	Warburton Millgrove	210.87	11
Alexandra	49.10	4	Yarra Glen	82.80	5
Pakenham Lions Maroon	55.11	3	Alexandra	65.18	5
Powelltown	49.75	3	Belgrave	67.84	5
			Yea	51.41	4
			Yarra Junction	49.77	2
			Powelltown	31.19	0
Football – Under 18					
Pakenham	1057.75	12			
Seville	329.08	10			
Warburton Millgrove	42.51	5			
Alexandra	42.87	5			
Yarra Glen	42.49	3			
Yea	35.33	2			

<div></div> <div>ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 13</div>					
POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Buxton Hotel	13	12	1	48
2	Kill Bills	13	11	2	44
3	Panthers	13	11	2	44
4	Arrowsmiths	13	8	5	32
5	Alex Bowls Club	13	7	6	28
6	Bucky Pub	13	6	7	24
7	On Pointers	13	4	9	16
8	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	13	3	10	12
9	On Point 26ers	13	3	10	12
10	Dart Vaders	13	0	13	0
RESULTS KILLBILLS def DARTVADERS 10-1 BUXTON HOTEL def ARROWSMITHS 7-4 PANTHERS def BULLS, BEERS & BOOBS 7-4 ON POINTERS def BUCKY PUB 7-4 ALEX BOWLS CLUB def ON POINT 26ERS 10-1					
TONS E. Collett – 101, J. Masters – 100, 100, 140, 117, 135, 100, B. Arnott – 140, 100, 140, 123, W. Nelson – 101, P. Dalley – 125, 125 G. Lund – 100, C. Parker – 100, 100, 120, G. George – 100, G. Gilmore – 114, 100, 120, 100, 100, C. Hutchings – 119, 133, 140 A. Hutt – 100, 125, 115, S. Ferrier – 125, A. Bull – 104, 117, A. Wylde – 101, R. Bates – 116, 125, Z. Kilroy – 100, 140, 100, 130, 140, 140, 180, S. Kilroy – 140, 100, 140, 100, 140, R. Welsh – 100, 140, 100, 108, 100, 100, J. Billman – 100, 100, J. Smith – 100, 120 C. Turner – 100, 100, 140, M. Backstrom – 107, 100, M. Robinson – 140, 125, 100, 100, 100, 100, 140, 140, 180, 100, 140, 180 D. Withoos – 133, 133, 100, 133, 133, 133, 133, M. Jenkins – 100, 100, 100, M. Edwards – 100, 100, J. Farnan – 101, L. Ronalds – 100, S. Ritchie – 100, 100, 125, 135, 100, L. Turnbull – 140, 140, 100, 121, 140, 100, 100, R. Penny – 116, 100, 133, 104, R. McCullum – 138					
HIGHEST PEG – Craig Parker 94 180'S – Mark Robinson x2, Zane Kilroy					

Daniel Kriss crowned Victorian Squash Champion

DANIEL Kriss, local business owner of Country Tech in Alexandra, recently competed in two state squash championships and claimed victory in both.

The first competition was held in Geelong at the Leisuretime Squash Centre from July 10 to 13 and saw players from all over Victoria attend. Having reached the grand final, Daniel was down two games to zero, but managed to turn the match around and overcome his opponent three games to two and win the title.

The following weekend, July 16 to 20, saw the Victorian Open PSA Squash Competition held at Mulgrave Country Club. This particular championship is the most significant on the state calendar and showcases the best squash players in the state.

Daniel comfortably made it through to the semi-finals but faced a great challenger at this point. After a gruelling five set match, Daniel won the semi-final by two points. Two hours later, the grand final was played and Daniel was crowned the Victorian Open Squash winner for 2025 in division four.

This is a proud achievement for both Daniel, the Alexandra Squash Club and the Murrindindi Shire community.



Some great squash was played at the Victorian Squash Tournaments. -S



Daniel Kriss with his Victorian Squash Championship trophy alongside former number one for Australia, Sarah Fitzgerald. -S



Daniel looking proud as punch with his wife Jessica. -S

Chickens and dogs playing squash

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Australorps versus Leghorns

JORDAN versus Eric D: A one-sided match saw Jordan standing on top of the podium with an outstanding win. 100 to 40.

Laura versus Sally: Making her debut at the club, Laura did well to keep Sally running, but Sally was the more experienced and stronger player on the night. 71 to 44.

Chris versus Ben F: A good even contest with lots of good rallies. Ben opened his return to squash triumphantly with a win. 64 to 58.

John versus Derrick: Derrick started strong to take the first game. John pulled up his socks and got down to business, taking the next three games with a good lead to take the match. 69 to 44.

Isa Browns versus Silkies

Tyler versus Lochlan: Tyler excelled in the first and last game, while Lochlan took the lead in the middle. With more points in the kitty, Tyler took the victory. 67 to 43.

Ethan versus Liane: There was no doubt in who this match. Ethan has gone up a level and will have to up his game to keep up. Liane showed Ethan no mercy and took home the victory. 68 to 32.

Jared versus Justin: A well-paced match. Justin started strong with Jared taking the back some point as the match went on. It was a closed match, but Justin stayed ahead to claim the win. 72 to 59.

Andrew versus Michael H: What a tight contest. It was point for point with both players attempting to gain the upper hand. Michael held the win as the match ended. 64 to 60.

Thursday Competition Golden Retrievers versus Whippets

Matthew versus Ben H: The newbie against the young gun. Ben showcased in his first pennant match against Matthew. Getting his eye in, Ben did well to keep Matthew on his toes but couldn't overcome Matthew's experience. 66 to 48.

Kristelle versus Beth: It was a one-sided match. Kristelle wiped the floor with Beth for an overwhelming win. 8 to 46.

Mick versus Travis: Another close match. Mick kept Travis running, but Travis had more tricks up his sleeve and came out on top. 58 to 51.

Daniel K versus Phil: Phil put up a good fight, but Daniel's ability to read the ball put him in all the right places to win the match. 76 to 39.

Dachshunds versus Labradors

Randy versus Eric F: Playing in the pennant for the first time, Eric has something to learn but did a good job, against Randy. With a strong lead, Randy took the win. 98 to 37.

Blake versus Jess: A battle for victory. There were ups and downs throughout with neither opponent gaining the lead for long. As the buzzer rang, Jess won by a single point. 57 to 56.

Lucas versus Sam: Each player had a strong half. Sam won the first half while Lucas took the second. Lucas was better on the night, claiming the win. 61 to 57.

Daniel W versus Michael M: It was a tough slog for these two. Michael was rolling on the floor and Daniel was frustrated. Pulling through Daniel was crowned the victor. 57 to 54.

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Yea women footballers defeat Seville

Seville 0.1-1 defeated by Yea 9.5-59

THE Yea Tigers will travel to Warburton this coming Sunday, August 2.



The team got a little muddy in their clash against Seville. -S

Bowling is fun in August

by Viv Cavanagh

STARTING on Thursday, August 7, a new event will begin at the Yea Bowls Club. If you have been thinking about giving bowls a go, this is a great opportunity.

The format will be pairs, bowling three bowls each. There will be two games of eight ends, and cost to play will be just \$5.

Organise your own pair or sign up to be partnered each week. Ideally, bowlers will have participated in Barefoot Bowls or the Community Challenge event but anyone who just wants to try out will be made most welcome.

Come to the Bowls Club at 12.30pm to register your name or ring the clubrooms on 5797 2770 and leave a message.

The starting time will be 1pm and games will be completed around 3pm. Bowls are available at the club. Flat-soled shoes are required to be worn.

Why not give it a go because bowling is fun at the Yea Bowls Club. For more information ring Maurie Finn on 0417 103 127.



Give bowls a go in August at the Yea Bowls Club. -S