

# The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, September 3, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

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

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## Are dog parks on the horizon for the shire?

CONFINING your dog to just the backyard isn't good for their physical and mental health. Having an extra place for them to explore and make friends and socialise is not only beneficial for the dog but also the owner.

Having a communal area for dogs to be contained is also beneficial for the wider community who may be unsure of dogs and their behaviour.

Earlier in the month Alexandra Newspapers asked the Murrindindi Shire Council how the feasibility work relating to off-leash and on-leash areas for dogs from the 2021 – 2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) was tracking.

A response was provided on August 22 with the following information.

"In Murrindindi Shire all parks are off-leash unless otherwise signed. Establishing dedicated, fenced dog parks requires significant budget allocation, and council has been engaging with community representatives about a possible site in Alexandra. We are also pursuing external funding opportunities to help make this a reality.

"The broader review of off-leash, on-leash and fenced dog areas will be included in the development of council's next Domestic Animal Management Plan (2026–2029). To inform this work, we recently sought community views on designated off-leash areas, including preferred locations, facilities and features. A summary of this feedback will be published on council's website next week and has also been shared directly with the 77 people who made submissions.

"Council is now assessing the sites identified through this consultation and gathering internal advice on their suitability. Once potential sites are confirmed, draft designated areas and the required legal instruments will be prepared for further community consultation.

"The new DAMP, including proposed off-leash and on-leash areas, is expected to be presented to council for endorsement by December 2025."

The DAMP Community Feedback Summary Report is based on consultation that took place over a 25 day public feedback period during July 3 to August 3.

There were 77 survey submissions through the consultation period and 27 different suggestions for potential off lead areas in the Murrindindi Shire.

To have off-lead parks in the shire, 75 per cent of respondents said they would regularly use a designated space and more than 60 per cent expressed a strong preference for fully fenced areas. These parks are seen as beneficial for dog socialisation, owner connection and community engagement.

The top five suggested off lead parks in the survey included Leckie Park in Alexandra being number one, followed by Eildon Oval, Yea Railway Reserve, the old tennis courts in Alexandra, and Kinglake West Reserve. Other suggested areas are also mentioned in the summary report on council's website.

The participants of the summary report showed most were aged 40 and 79 years old and identified as female, and 73 per cent of respondents currently own a pet and 96 per cent have owned a pet at some point.

The survey also showed the lifestyle benefits of having a pet, emotional connection ranks the highest as over 80 per cent see their pets as integral to wellbeing. Social and physical benefits were also widely reported as 50 to 60 per cent say their pets help them exercise more and build relationships.

All the feedback will be considered to help draft and deliver the Domestic Animal Management Plan for 2026-2029. Community consultation on the draft will commence in October 2025.



## Draft Boundary Creek Open Space Plan open for review and feedback

SINCE June, council have been working with the Yea community to plan how the Boundary Creek area can best be used for recreation, health, the environment and wider community benefit.

People's ideas have helped shape the draft Boundary Creek Open Space Plan (BCCP), a roadmap to guide how the area can be managed and improved.

In the first round of consultation, drop-in sessions were held and an online survey to hear people's thoughts.

There was interest in having a space to connect, a passive recreation and gathering

area with informal seating, picnic tables and nature-based play better access; safe and convenient links between Yea Springs Estate and the town centre, with emergency access included; and nature-inspired play with playful elements like carved native animals, mudstone rocks, step-up logs and seats with backrests.

Now it's time to have your say on the draft plan before it is finalised by council.

Feedback closes Sunday, September 7.

Share your feedback by visiting The Loop or call 5772 0333.



Boundary Creek. -S



Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital  
5736 0400

In an emergency dial  
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS

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with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.



Andrew Howie and Jane Bigham. -S

## McCormack Funerals welcomes Jane Bigham

by McCormack Funerals

MCCORMACK Funerals would like to thank Brooke Carter who has been part of their team for just short of a decade. Brooke's care and compassion to families within the community has been deeply appreciated by all. She will be profoundly missed, and McCormack Funerals extend their best wishes for the next chapter of her life.

They would like to introduce Jane Bigham who has joined McCormack Funerals based in Alexandra Murrindindi Chapel at 21

Johnston Street, who will be supporting Andrew Howie with all funeral services in the Murrindindi and surrounding areas.

Jane grew up in Alexandra and is actively involved in the community. She is currently a member of CFA and also studying a diploma in community services and a Cert IV in leadership and management.

Please feel free to call the office on 1800 080 909 or drop in for a cuppa and a chat if you would like to discuss their services.

## In honour of the fallen

ON the evening of Saturday, August 30, a community gathering was held at Flowerdale Community Hall to honour the fallen police at Porepunkah, and to sign a condolence book for the police family. The flag was raised from half mast by Emery McCarthy from the Yea CFA.

The two police were allegedly killed by Porepunkah man, Dezi Freeman, when they came to his door on Tuesday, August 26. A third police officer was also injured in the incident.

The alleged offender remains at large as this newspaper goes to print.



Paying respects. -S



The gathering to commemorate the fallen officers, with the Australian Flag at half mast. -S

The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks

Alexandra Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers

Endeavour Yea

Hazeldene Store

Merton General Store

Seymour Newsagency

Shell Thornton

Yea FoodWorks

Yea Newsagency

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Country Press AUSTRALIA

Audited Media Association of Australia

abc

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	12.00pm Mon	1.17	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.71	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00pm Mon	0.92	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarck	12.50pm Mon	0.38	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	4.33am Mon	0.62	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00pm Mon	1.34	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	1.00pm Mon	3.73	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.65	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.52	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.43	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.91	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.46	steady		

\*ISSUED AT 01:09 PM AEST MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 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

September 3 - September 9, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	6	14	Wednesday	6	15
Thursday	3	13	Thursday	3	14
Friday	2	15	Friday	2	15
Saturday	9	17	Saturday	10	18
Sunday	11	18	Sunday	11	19
Monday	8	17	Monday	8	18
Tuesday	6	14	Tuesday	6	15

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	43mm
Buxton	106mm
Eildon (AWS)	42mm
Flowerdale	63mm
Jamieson	102mm
Kinglake	48mm
Lake Eildon	59mm
Mansfield	27mm
Taggerty	77mm
Yarck	55mm
Yea	54mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	276.17m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	57%
Metres below full supply	12.73m
Daily inflow	11500ML
Release	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	40%

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



## Single vehicle crash

A MOTOR vehicle accident occurred at Molesworth early on Sunday morning, August 24.

An Ambulance Victoria crew enroute to Alexandra came across the vehicle that had crashed into the wire rope barrier near Killingworth Road on the Goulburn Valley Highway at 2am on Sunday morning.

The Ambulance Victoria crew checked the single occupant and

called for assistance from SES from Alexandra for lighting, and CFA from Molesworth, who attended until a tow truck cleared the highway.

There were no police available in the area to attend the scene to breathalise the driver as a number of police were involved with a search in Yea at the time, which included the police helicopter.



Emergency services at the site of the collision. -S

## Food insecurity in our own backyard

WITH the increasing cost of living, grocery prices are getting higher, and many people are wondering where their next meal will come from. The Foodbank Hunger Report 2024 released in October last year shows how Australia is grappling with a growing food insecurity crisis.

The report indicates that nearly two million Australian households have experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months.

Worry about food affordability remains a constant among severely food-insecure households, with 97 per cent concerned about running out of food before having enough money to buy more, and 93 per cent unable to afford balanced meals. These households also face challenges such as running out of food (79 per cent), skipping meals or cutting meal sizes (97 per cent), and adults not eating for a whole day due to affordability (50 per cent). There are groups that are at greater risk of food insecurity than the general population, in particular, low-income households (below \$30,000), those in regional areas and single parent households (69 per cent experiencing food insecurity, 41 per cent severe).

A positive outcome seen in 2024 is the increase in awareness of food relief services, with 47 per cent of Australians knowing where to get support if they couldn't afford enough food, this is compared to 34 per cent in 2023.

In the Murrindindi Shire food relief services have been ever growing in recent years in line with the food insecurity crisis many Australians are facing.

There are neighbourhood houses, community hubs, faith cupboards and local churches, and food pantries in schools and breakfast clubs in government schools.

One of the many services in the shire, Murrindindi Community Food Share has



been operating since May 2024, and it's been a steady climb in breaking barriers for community members to seek help when its needed.

In their first year of operating, 9100 kg of food was distributed in 12 months, and 1635 kilograms of fresh produce was distributed. Nine hundred and fifty-eight people were supported in the first 12 months, and not only

people, a total of 518 pets including dogs and cats were supported in the effort.

Even though the statistics are out on the countries levels of food insecurity, this reality for millions includes the local community. The combined effort of different services in the shire all has a shared vision and that is no one goes hungry. The services are available to anyone who needs it and there is no shame asking for a helping hand.

## Suspended postal services to the United States

ON August 26, due to recently announced changes to import tariffs for postal items sent to the United States and Puerto Rico, Australia Post temporarily suspended some postal services to these destinations, until further notice.

Letters and documents with no commercial value, and gifts valued under US\$100, are not affected by the new tariff rules or the temporary suspension.

This response is in line with actions taken by numerous

international postal operators. Items sent to and from the US may experience delays due to flight capacity issues, which has impacted postal operations and delivery services.

Dr Nicola Charwat, Senior Lecturer, Business Law and Taxation, Monash Business School said, "Australia has joined a growing number of countries suspending small parcel shipments to the US following the removal of a de minimis 'loophole' that has allowed

parcels valued under \$US800 dollars to bypass tariffs.

"The impact in Australia will primarily be felt by small businesses that sell directly to American consumers. This includes businesses specialising in sustainable clothing and gifts, as well as distinctly Australian goods such as cosmetics, food and wine. These parcels will now be subject to a 10 per cent baseline tariff.

"The real target appears to be major overseas retailers like

Shein and Temu that also export directly to consumers and avoid much higher baseline tariffs of 25 per cent or more that apply to Chinese imports.

"American consumers are the real losers, facing either restricted access to overseas goods from online businesses or substantially higher prices to cover the tariffs. This is unlikely to play well to American voters who may also find that parcels from friends and family overseas will be impacted."

## Firewood collection times now open

FROM this week until November 30 the spring season firewood collection is open. Firewood cannot be collected outside of these times. You can only collect firewood from designated collection areas in state forests during the specified times.

Firewood collection from roadsides is generally prohibited but may be allowed with a permit on select local government roads, Parks Victoria does not allow firewood collection in the protected areas they manage, including national, state, regional and metropolitan parks. It is always illegal to cut down standing trees without express permission.

You can collect two cubic metres of firewood per person per day. The limit for each household is 16 cubic metres per financial year. A single cubic metre of split firewood will fit into a standard trailer of about 1.8 metres by 1.2 metres if it's neatly stacked to a height of 50 centimetres.

Some households in regional areas rely on firewood for winter energy. Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who need to buy firewood.

When collecting, you can use small equipment such as a chainsaw, axe, or handsaw. You can't use heavy machinery, including a bulldozer, crane, excavator, forwarder, hydraulic log splitter, saw bench, skidder, skid steer loader, or a tractor.

To protect yourself and the environment never use a chainsaw during a declared Total Fire Ban, make sure your chainsaw is fitted with a proper exhaust and spark arrester, only refill chainsaw oil or fuel on a hard surface where liquid can't leach into the forest soil.

To ensure your safety always use necessary safety equipment such as chaps, gloves, boots, eye and ear protection.

Authorised Officers regularly patrol state forests targeting illegal firewood theft and run dedicated enforcement operations with other public land authorities. Authorised Officers can issue on-the-spot fines or pursue court proceedings so stick to the areas that are designated for firewood collection.

## Help shape Murrindindi with the draft Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting community feedback on the draft *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029*, which is open for comment until Sunday, September 14.

The draft plan outlines how the shire compares with the state average across a range of health indicators, highlighting key areas where Murrindindi residents experience poorer health outcomes. While prepared by council, the plan sets priorities for the whole community and calls for coordinated actions from all agencies.

Council's role in supporting health and wellbeing across the shire includes advocating, planning, funding and partnering with service providers, agencies

and community groups. The plan also emphasises the importance of addressing inequities and supporting priority population groups.

The draft was informed by community feedback, health data, a review of the current 2021-2025 plan and collaboration with key health partners. It sets out a shared vision between council and partners for supporting physical, mental, and social wellbeing.

The plan identifies children, young people and older residents as priority cohorts, recognising that different community members experience health and wellbeing in different ways. Council's initiatives will

focus on reducing barriers to equity and ensuring local voices guide this work.

Community members are encouraged to review the draft and provide feedback to help shape the final plan before it is presented to council for consideration in October 2025.

For more information and to share your feedback, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/hwp](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/hwp) or contact council on 5772 0333.

Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams said, "This plan is about working alongside our community to improve health and wellbeing for everyone in Murrindindi Shire. By focusing on

mental, physical and social wellbeing, and addressing the specific challenges faced by children, young people and older residents, we can build a healthier, more connected community.

"We know that health and wellbeing are experienced differently across the community. That's why your feedback is so important: this is your chance to ensure the plan reflects what matters most before it goes to council later this year."

"Council also thanks everyone who contributed feedback to the council plan, which helped shape the direction of this draft."



# Murrindindi Shire Council's August meeting

CR McAulay was an apology for the Murrindindi Shire Council August meeting, and Cr Adams requested planned leave from September 19 to October 10, which was approved.

Cr Carpenter noted her interest in item 4.1, a Quick Response Grant for the Yea Rotary Club, but stated there was no conflict because council is not being asked to make a decision on the matter. Cr Gallagher noted his interest in item 4.1 also, stating that he is a member of Thornton Eildon Football Club, but that there is no conflict because councillors are merely being asked to note a decision.

### Open forum

Linda Davis spoke in public participation about the removal of the planter boxes in Grant Street, detailing the events that occurred, and asked to know what compensation will be given to those affected by their removal and subsequent damage.

Cr Gallagher responded that “the provision for these planter boxes, they are basically street furniture on the roadside and that simply the trader would require a permit to home one of these planter boxes.” He also said that council will be conducting a review of Grant Street in terms of streetscape later this year.

Manwele Ghirxi from Alexandra Woodies also spoke about the issue of the planter boxes in Grant Street, saying that they plan

to refurbish them and put them back in the main street of Alexandra.

### Community recognition

Council recognised the incredible achievements of Flowerdale local Tayla Street in representing Australia at the FIM Women’s Speedway Gold Trophy in Croatia. They presented her with a small gift as well.

### Grants and sponsorships quarterly allocations

The applications for grants received between May and July 2025, along with the assessment panel’s recommendations, were presented to council for consideration.

Quick Response Grants made under delegation: Alexandra and District Kindergarten, \$2400 for environmental and cultural education for kindergarten aged children in a natural bushland setting; Thornton Eildon Football Netball Club, \$1500 for improvement of club facilities; Rotary Club of Yea, \$2500 for the Yea Garden Expo 2025; Highlands Community Hall committee, \$1247 for the purchase of a Hisense Laser Projector; Yea and District Riding Club Inc, \$2500 for an arena upgrade with sand top-dressing; Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges, \$400 for a defibrillator project in Toolangi; and Strath Creek Progress Association Inc, \$1200 for Christmas in July.

Council were then asked to endorse sponsorship and local event grants

recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel. These included: Daniel Kriss, \$500 for the Victorian Squash Championship; Triangle Arts Group Inc, \$5000 for Music in the Park Marysville; The Lake Eildon Rowing Club, \$1500 for the Grand Ponderosa Cup Rowing Regatta on Eildon Pondage; Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club, \$1000 for the annual anniversary fundraiser event; and Melbourne University Car Club, \$2500 for the 2025 Akademes Car Rally.

Project and major event grants for endorsement by council included: Strath Creek Progress Association Inc, \$5000 for restoring Strath Creek’s iconic and historic water wheel; and Joyride Mountain Bike Rookie Cup 2025, round three at Eildon, \$10,000.

Council noted and endorsed all the grants presented to them.

### Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy review

The Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy is required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and is designed to ensure transparency and integrity in decision-making arising from the receipt of gifts, benefits and hospitality. Murrindindi Shire Council’s policy was due for review, and a revised policy with a focus on improving readability, was presented to council for approval.

Council adopted the revised policy.

### Contract 25/1 Slashing Services Panel

A report detailing the procurement and evaluation process undertaken to appoint suitable contractors for council’s slashing work for an initial term of three years commencing October 2025, with the option for a two-year extension, was presented to council for consideration. The total contract amount over the five-year contract period totals \$2,400,000. The contract was awarded to multiple contractors, including: E-S Hadfield Contracting; Kupper Group Pty Ltd; Mt Beenak Earth Pty Ltd; C.G.M Pty Ltd; Glen McMaster Contractor; Fern Mowing and Maintenance Pty Ltd; Bells Civil Excavations Pty Ltd.

Council approved the report and its recommendations.

### Contract 24/11 Dry Hire Plant Panel

A similar report was presented to council for awarding a contract for plant maintenance machinery hire, to last three years, beginning September 15, 2025, with the option of a two-year extension. The total contract amount over the five-year contract period is \$1,500,000. The contract was awarded to multiple contractors, including: Rollers Australia Pty Ltd; Coates Hire Operations Pty Ltd; Porter Excavations Pty Ltd; Brooks Hire Service Pty Ltd; The Trustee for the Boda Family, ConX.

Council approved the report and its recommendations.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital  
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance  
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1<sup>st</sup> Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099

1<sup>st</sup> Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057

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

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

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion. Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala 0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew 0459 402 547 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm Immaculate Conception Parish Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482 St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea Sunday Service 10.30am Colin Whiteway Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

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

## Yea Community Bank celebrates 15th birthday

A DRIZZLY day couldn’t dampen the 15th birthday celebrations of the Yea and District Community Bank last Friday. Hundreds of passers-by enjoyed a free lunchtime sausage sizzle thanks to the Rotary Club of Yea who brought warmth to the chilly Yea day.

Later in the afternoon, Branch Manager, Jo Kilpatrick and staff, Kirsty Hilder and Amy Klavers, welcomed former staff and community members inside the branch for further festivities. Jo

Kilpatrick shared a moving history of the branch which, unlike corporate banking branches survives and thrives on the support of the Murrindindi community. In turn, the branch has directed many thousands of dollars back into community events and initiatives.

Representing the volunteer Board, Ian Marshman offered the appreciation of the community for Jo, Kirsty, and Amy’s professionalism and their dedication to local banking services.



Current and former staff with members of the community. -S



Current staff and members of the board. -S

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Free health checks for the farming community – mental health support and healthy eating. Yea Saleyards.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Alexandra Opportunity Shop AGM will be held on Monday, September 8, at 10am in the RSL Hall.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association will hold their AGM at 6pm All businesses are invited to attend. For more details visit alexandratourism.com/agm

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

There will be a public meeting taking place at the Molesworth Public Hall on September 10, starting at 7.30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate new committee members for the Committee of Management for the Molesworth Public Hall Reserve.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Maindample online clearing sale commencing noon September 11, concluding noon, September 15. Inspection day 101m-4pm, September 11. Pick up day September 17. New tools, chainsaws, old mowers, farm sundries and much more. Visit [emblingrural.com.au](http://emblingrural.com.au) for full list and details or phone Embling rural; Andrew 0418 266 038 or Ayden 0427 924 944.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Darren Gilbert open studio Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm. 5 Giffard Street, Yea or other times by appointment 0421 378 451.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Alexandra Race Club AGM will be held at noon followed by a light lunch. Presentation of annual reports and election of office bearers. All welcome. Enquiries to secretary 0467 413 767.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Goulburn Fishing Festival 2025 is a free event at Eildon. 9am-2pm. Vic Fish Kids clinics at the pondage, Snobs Creek Hatchery guided tours, live music, market stalls and much more. Fireworks at 7pm. [vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest](http://vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest)

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# RAR Indi regional forum takes place

ALEXANDRA Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) members and Mayor Damien Gallagher attended the recent Rural Australians for Refugees Regional Forum on Saturday, August 16.

A panel of people with lived experience sharing their stories was among the features of the Indi forum in Wangaratta.

Mayor Damien Gallagher commented, "The RAR conference was a powerful opportunity to learn from the very personal perspectives of those who've lived the challenges of seeking refuge and transitioning to a very different life here in Australia. The message is that despite some global turmoil, the most effective response is locally led, practical and pragmatic protection of those in need.

"Thank you, Rural Australians for Refugees for bringing people across Indi together to hear from important thoughtful leaders."

Held in Rowan Street's Uniting Church Hall on Saturday, August 16, the forum attracted more than 60 people, drawn from Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Corowa, Wodonga, Shepparton, Mansfield, Alexandra and as far as Marysville.

Highlights of the day included presentations by former Human Rights Commissioner and patron of RAR Australia Gillian Triggs AC, and by local Independent Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines, as well as the panel of four people with lived experience of being or working with refugees.

Ms Triggs said that in her broad experience, rural communities were the first to welcome and care for vulnerable and traumatised refugees.

She said that following World War Two, about two million people were displaced and sought refuge. In 2025, an estimated 122.6 million people have been forcibly displaced, and 4.3 million are refugees, of whom 40 per cent (and rising) are children.

She said less than one per cent of the two million refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been resettled in the USA, Canada, Australia and European states.

Ms Triggs said it was important to understand and respond to root causes of forced displacement, find local solutions to stabilise populations in their own or safe neighbouring countries, and to include refugees and asylum seekers in national social safety systems, access to work, school, freedom of movement, and building self-sufficiency.

She said the responsibility for refugees should be equitably shared, not only by governments but local communities, faith groups, refugee-led organisations, sports groups, schools and universities, parliamentarians, the private commercial sector, and international financial institutions.

Having the political, legal and moral responsibility to welcome and speedily process asylum seekers, and to address root causes and provide humanitarian and compassionate support, was also vital, according to Ms Triggs.

Dr Haines spoke about the deep commitment expressed to her by Indi constituents through

The attendees at the forum. -S



letters and personal representations, and of the advocacy she provides for refugees through her interaction with the government. She encouraged those attending the forum to write to her about their issues of concern, so that she could gain a true perspective of local attitudes.

The four-member panel of people with lived experience then outlined more of the reality of the refugee and migrant experience.

Hamida Samar, who worked in various local jobs after arriving in Mansfield from Afghanistan, described the barriers experienced by many refugees when seeking employment, including discrimination, and lack of information and follow-up from government-funded agencies.

A member of Mansfield RAR, and a strong advocate for women's rights and safety, Hamida is developing accessible information to assist newly-arrived people to apply for work and understand their work rights.

Rabya Jamshaid and her family arrived in Shepparton, and following her university postgraduate studies, she works as a professional migration agent with people and communities in the Goulburn Valley, specialising in refugee visas and family reunion.

She has worked with RAR Indi to develop the innovative regional sponsorship proposal, which has been supported by seven regional councils, and continues to advocate for women and children in Afghanistan.

Rabya said learning to speak English was the main barrier and challenge for women seeking information about services, employment to develop independence, and socialising.

She stressed the importance of overcoming this language barrier, and of the valuable support people can provide to refugees to locate essential and interpreting services, assist with school and TAFE, enrolments, open a bank account, and to share and connect with local community members.

Zahra Khademi arrived in Australia in 2001 with three young children, and lives with her family in Shepparton.

She has worked with the Victorian Education Department in educational support and as a family liaison officer for 15 years, and is a founding member of the Goulburn Valley Afghan Women's Association Shepparton, helping to engage women in the local community.

Zahra also mentioned the language barrier, and spoke about how trauma and mental health issues could isolate newly-arrived people,

A discussion at the forum. -S



especially women experiencing domestic and family violence, and the importance of welcoming and supportive services for language, safe housing and health care.

Sam Atukorala, who arrived in Australia as a student and now lives in Shepparton with his family, is the chief executive officer of the Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District, and works with regional communities, organisations and groups to help to break down barriers and provide greater opportunities for new arrivals to connect with and contribute to the community.

Sam said he initially had little understanding of the challenges faced by refugees before coming to Shepparton.

Being actively involved with diverse local communities, through sport, as a volunteer and professionally, has helped him to develop understanding, connections and networks.

He emphasised the importance and value of working with and learning from people with lived experience to identify priorities for local communities and determine how best to address them.

Following a lunch break at the forum, attendees divided into groups to identify and recommend actions for the future.

On the local front, Alexandra RAR continues to raise funds to assist just one family seeking safe haven from the Taliban in Afghanistan. Finding an employer is the biggest immediate hurdle, with visa entry to Australia also incredibly difficult to attain.

RAR Alexandra has 50 locals on its books including members from Marysville, Buxton, Yea, Flowerdale, and Highlands.

Anyone seeking more information about RAR is encouraged to contact convenor for RAR Alexandra, Reverend Doctor D Paul Dalzell [dalzoboy@gmail.com](mailto:dalzoboy@gmail.com) or Bev Dick at [raralexandra3714@gmail.com](mailto:raralexandra3714@gmail.com)



Human rights lawyer and president of the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2012 to 2017, Gillian Triggs AC. -S



Member for Indi, Helen Haines. -S

## In memory of Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart.

The thoughts of our community are with their loved ones and all of Victoria Police.

If you need support: Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636 | Lifeline: 13 11 14  
Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 | 13 Yarn: 13 92 76

Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677





## Student of the Week

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



### YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from weeks four and five. In week four, Ethan, Darby, Hendrix and Bella. In week five, our winners were Oliver, Ruby and Matthew. Congratulations to all our winners and thank you for being such positive role models for others.



### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Olivia, Indi, Ebony and Josh were recognised for their commitment to outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



# Historic signage unveiled

THE Murrindindi-Woodbourne community came together to celebrate their history and community achievements at a special ceremony on Sunday, August 31 when three large signage boards were unveiled at the combined Murrindindi Hub and CFA Station.

After attending the historic sign boards presentation at Limestone-Cheviot last year, the Murrindindi-Woodbourne community decided they would mark their proud history in a similar fashion.

Tony Jacobs, Murrindindi resident for the past 30 years, was the instigator and driving force behind the project with newer resident Mike Guerin researching much of the history of this outlying district. Apart from a small community grant from the Shire of Murrindindi, the costs were covered by members of the community.

The signage celebrates the community's history from the First Nations people, the squatters on the original Murrindindi Station, to the early settlers, the gold miners and the timber history. Many amazing photos of life in the early days of Murrindindi are included on the three new sign boards unveiled last Sunday before a crowd of about 60 past and present residents.

Representatives of three early settler's families, who are still resident in the area, were given the honour of unveiling the Story Boards.

The Hauser family, represented by Peter and Gerard Hauser and sister Margaret Mahon (formerly Hauser) unveiled the first plaque on First Nation and pioneering history.

The two Nash sisters, Jaqueline Mitchell and Carol Harris, unveiled the early settler history story board. A prominent photo of the old Murrindindi Hall is displayed on the board and the sisters recalled their father, Jack Nash, buying the old hall when the community decided to build a new community hub as he didn't want to see it just demolished. They recalled the many dances, 21st birthdays, kitchen teas and other celebrations held in the hall for almost 100 years.

The third sign celebrating the extensive gold and timber history of the district was unveiled by the Creed family, Henry, Shane and Joel, and the Creed family are still prominent residents of the district.

There were two pioneering schools in the Murrindindi Valley, Woodbourne and Murrindindi, both serving different ends of the valley. As was common in the early days, they shared the same teacher, operating two days at one school and the other three days at the other. The teacher usually walked from his lodging at one school to the other school, often with many of the students from one area walking to the other school with him each day. Hence the name Murrindindi-Woodbourne.



The introduction to the opening of the history boards was held in the CFA before the attendees were invited to venture outside for the unveiling. -AR



Nash sisters, Jaqueline Mitchell and Carol Harris. -S



Sarah and Daryl from the Murrindindi Hub. -AR



Henry, Shane and Joel Creed. -AR



Valerie Hauser, Peter Hauser, Margaret Mahon (nee Hauser) and Gerard Hauser. -AR



The history boards being unveiled. -AR





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# Flowerdale students celebrate 100 days of school



ON Wednesday, August 6 Foundation students from Flowerdale Primary School celebrated 100 days of school. -S



Young people from Flowerdale Primary School marking the occasion of 100 days of school. -S



## Let's eat, it's our treat

### Let's Eat August winner

THE winner of our August Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Bruce Marshall from Highlands. Bruce will be having a \$50 feed on us at Kinglake Pub. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at the venue advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat.

## Time to prepare for Father's Day: Perhaps a nice meal?

SEPTEMBER 7 is Father's Day, the specific day set aside for celebrating fathers and the happiness and support they bring to our lives is fast approaching, which means it is time to consider how you can make your dad's day special.


Perhaps you could make your dad a handmade card, with some special theme or wording that symbolises your bond. Poetry can be a thoughtful gesture, or a picture of a moment shared. Framed photographs of you and dad together, or group pictures of the family, can be a nice gift to adorn his desk or bedside table or the living room wall.

There are so many gifts to choose from that it can be difficult to decide, but particular thought should be given to what interests your dad. You could spring for something family-focussed like a board game or trivia cards that he can play, or go for a practical gift like a new gadget or tool. If you're older, a nice bottle of wine or whisky could be a good choice.

Another choice is to make Father's Day an experience, perhaps by taking your dad out for lunch or dinner. There are a number of excellent places to eat in Murrindindi Shire, including but not limited to Philip Lobley Wines and the Kinglake Pub.

A seared steak or a traditional parma with a couple of drinks and good company could easily make September 7 a day for dad to remember. Throw in some dessert like a piece of cheesecake or pudding, and you've made it extra memorable. Would he prefer a charcuterie board paired with various tastings of wine? The choice is up to you.

Or maybe dad would like a day out on Lake Eildon fishing, or to go on a walk? A day skiing up at Mt Buller? To go see some live music? There are plenty of options to make Father's Day special, that cover a range of budgets and timeframes, it's just a matter of picking something your dad will enjoy.



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# The Farmer's Ag News

## The deer issue is getting worse and something needs to be done

**Sam Hicks – Murrindindi Food and Wine**

MURRINDINDI Food and Wine Inc secretary, Sam Hicks explained that she contacted a large number of businesses across the shire to find out their challenges in time for the recent visit by the Small Business Commissioner. "One of the common themes was deer," she said, with vignerons saying that deer ate their crop, and farmers needing to pay to repair or install new fences.

Many beef farmers across the north east of Victoria are finding that there are more deer and kangaroos in their paddock than cattle. They're coming in looking for feed due to the drought.

"They're all complaining about it and saying that we should stop having them protected but have them as a pest species," Sam said.

In every other Australian state, deer are classified as pest species and some funds are available to deal with the deer as pests, but not in Victoria. On the flipside, if deer are classified as a pest species, then the 'cowboys' may come in keen to shoot on people's properties. People currently harvesting deer for human consumption need to go through an 12 month training program via DEECA, and there is a significant outlay involved, in the range of \$50,000 to \$60,000. Venison can sell for \$40 to \$200 per kilogram.

Sam also expressed concern about the reduction in abattoirs, and the distances people have to travel to get their meat, including cattle, processed. The larger abattoirs may also decide not to process less than a truckload, and a three month wait may be involved due to the destocking. Farmers have gone from paying \$60 per bale to \$330 per bale.

Sam said of the deer problem, "There needs to be some consistency Australia wide."

Having a local, legal abattoir, or even a qualified butcher in a mobile boning room, would be a great encouragement to hunters and "It would be an industry that the Forestry Transition program could get behind," Sam said. One of the challenges in this may be the Meat Safe regulations.

**Cindy McLeish MP**

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish said, "The deer numbers have absolutely exploded, and the government has been poor at managing this growth."

She said, "The destruction's one thing, and people have known about the destruction, but now more and more people are seeing and having collisions with deer, and there's more and more dead deer on the side of the road... The government has been really slack

in dealing with this. It's been an enormous problem for too long."

She noted that when people kill a deer and leave the carcass, it's a meal for the foxes and their numbers explode. She is also concerned that dead animals on the side of the road are not being cleaned up.

Since July 31, she has had a Questions on Notice pending with the Minister for Environment. It states, "The Victorian Deer Control Strategy has been in place since 2021, yet deer populations continue to grow across many regions. What funding, by year, for the past five financial years, including the 2025-26 year, has been allocated to the Murrindindi Shire Council for deer control activities." The same was also asked about the Yarra Ranges, Mansfield and Nillumbik Shires.

**Karine Haslam - Eildon**

KARINE Haslam from Eildon Events said, "This is ridiculous with the deer. They really are out of control and there is not a night that goes by without somebody hitting one on the Eildon Back Road and the Front Road, even in town it is incredible. Front yards, in the heart of town and the deer are in there.

"I've been away for nearly two months, my husband's been home, but when I got back and I saw the devastation, it broke my heart and he said, but there's nothing I can do. I've already put wire around some of the trees."

One of the pine trees in the garden was up to almost 10 foot, but has been stripped bare. They have also destroyed citrus trees, roses, hydrangeas, camellias, and pushed the fences in. "We're not alone," Karine said. "Everyone is saying the same thing, but it's more the risk to life because of the number of accidents."

There has been discussion around starting a petition to push the state government to do something about it, specifically asking that deer be classified as a pest species. As game they're protected.

She added, "You see a little Bambi around and you think, oh aren't they cute. Yes. Until they grow up."

Even in the Eildon township, they're in huge numbers.

**Wendy Dare - Eildon**

Wendy Dare from Eildon provided the following statement, "When the agapanthus are not just eaten, but chewed down into the root, when plants in your garden are chewed and broken, when your pot plants are dragged around and the contents chewed, only one suspect here, the deer.

"When you walk or drive around, regardless of time of day, what do you see, the deer. Now

in paddocks you can see the deer, looking back at you, we live here too.

"We are in a plague, not just a glut. Once they were choosey, but now there are too many and they are big and hungry, this winter is cold, they too need more food.

"Will they move back into the bush when the cold weather is over? All guesswork. Only time will tell.

"And what of our native animals also looking for food and competing with a bigger, more powerful, and abundant opposition.

"Think of the farmer with cattle and sheep to feed. Their animals must also compete with the deer. The farmers are trying to grow our food.

"Damage to properties, farms, the bush, gardens and cars, they are indiscriminate and relentless. Help, but where? Who? What? Are we too late? Is this now the new normal with the numbers increasing? Eildon township is legally impossible for legal firearms for deer eradication.

"And so you could fence off or electric fence your property, and at what cost, and it does not solve the problem.

"When night driving, deer are a huge risk and it is very worrying, they can cause a lot of damage to cars and with complete write offs of vehicles happening.

"We came for a tree change, did not sign up for a deer change."

**Sonja Herges – Murrindindi locale**

Sonja Herges from Sedona Estate said of the deer issues, "We've been impacted now for a number of years. It became a prominent problem for us around 2018 or 2019. 2019 was the first time that we actually had deer in our Merlot vineyards during the day, eating leaves. It is the vineyard that is closest to the cellar door and the parking area, so very concerning that animals, that shyness that we are often thinking of when we're talking deer, it most certainly wasn't there. The animal was just grazing happily on the vineyard during daylight, with cars and activity around."

She added, "The issue has grown since then... I can't tell you the exact cost, but it is huge. So what we did as a self-help, at obviously our own cost, we erected two metre high fence above from the vineyard line which helps to a degree, but of course they have other ways of getting in because they are grazing and wandering along Shannons Road, so they're using the front entrance to get in our property, so while we have created some protection from the top, it mitigates it a little bit, but the problem has obviously grown and they come from Shannons Road."

They are now investigating mobile electric fencing to protect their most precious vineyards at the appropriate time. The cost of installing electric fencing around the whole property would too high.

*Continued Page 13*

## WINNER

### AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

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August competition winner is Joanne Robinson of Alexandra

**The SEPTEMBER theme is 'Wattle'** - Submit your photo entry to [manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au) by noon September 24, with your name, town and contact number for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

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

## FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

### Mental Health Support & Healthy Eating



Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

**FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**



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KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS  
Page 11

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "T"

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| TALENTED    | THUNDER  |
| TANIA       | TIGER    |
| TANK        | TODAY    |
| TEMPERATURE | TOMATOES |
| TERRIFIC    | TORTOISE |
| THOMAS      | TRUSTING |
| THOUGHTFUL  | TWISTED  |

Math Square

4	-		-		-10
+		-		-	
	-		+		8
-		-		-	
3	+		+		17
3		2		-10	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

Q: Why didn't the teddy bear eat dessert?  
A: Because he was stuffed.

Q: What kind of room doesn't have windows or a door?  
A: A mushroom

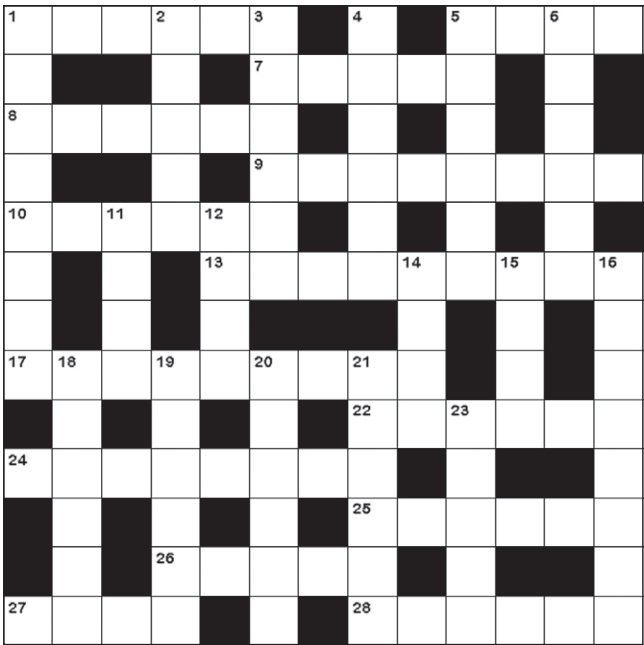
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Raised from a lower to a higher position.
5. Impossible to doubt or dispute.
7. Live without happiness in a bad situation.
8. Sometime earlier than the time in question.
9. Thought about at length and in depth.
10. Small or less than average size.
13. Wholly absorbed in a task.
17. Pass information on using arms or flags.
22. Moving toward a position ahead.
24. Events that differ from the expected values.
25. Fall suddenly and sharply.
26. Official permission to be absent from work.
27. Animal hunted or caught for food.
28. Money paid for the return of a prisoner.

DOWN

1. A type of statement that is slanderous.
2. A fish resembling a small trout.
3. Make stronger and more intense.
4. The one who comes first in the race.



5. Press home a point.
6. Fail to fulfill a promise or commitment.
11. Cut down to the desired size or shape.
12. A sudden and decisive increase.
14. A foreboding sign of things to come.
15. Series of books on the history of a family.
16. A pleasant wish that is unlikely to be fulfilled.
18. Used to remove pencil and ink marks.
19. With extreme enthusiasm.
20. A place where aircraft can be stored.
21. A list of names for individual turns.
23. An adult female human being.

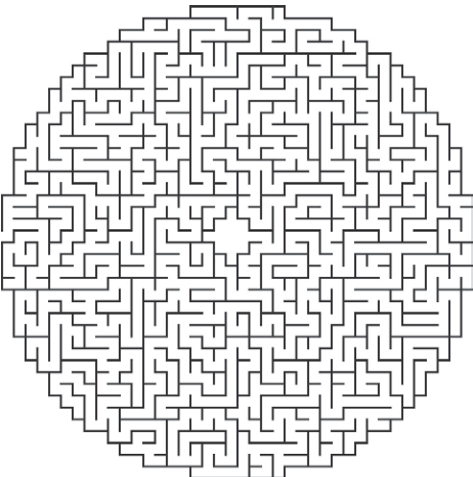
Word Search

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

Mountains of the World

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| CAMEROON     | KAZBEK      |
| ELGON        | KILIMANJARO |
| EVEREST      | PINATUBO    |
| FUJI         | SINAI       |
| GIANTSCASTLE | TAMBORA     |
| KARISIMBI    | VICTORYPEAK |

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Math Square

	+		-		1
+		+		+	
	+	2	+		12
+		x		+	
7	-		+		10
12		11		23	

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.



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# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

## CROSSWORD

L	I	F	T	E	D	W	S	U	R	E
I	R	E	X	I	S	T	E			
B	E	F	O	R	E	N	R	N		
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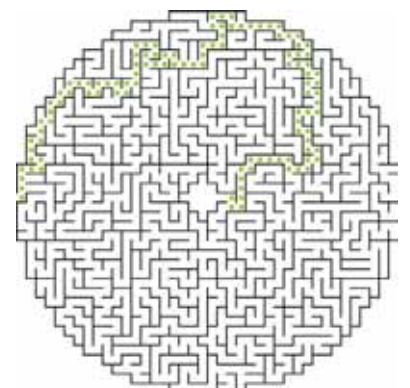
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8	4	6	5	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	8	2	3	4	5	1	6
4	5	3	8	6	1	7	2	9
2	6	1	7	5	9	4	8	3

## MATH SQUARE

4	+	5	-	8	1
+		+		+	
1	+	2	+	9	12
+		x		+	
7	-	3	+	6	10
12		11		23	

## MAZE



## KIDS MATH SQUARES

4	-	8	-	6	-10
+		-		-	
2	-	1	+	7	8
-		-		-	
3	+	5	+	9	17
3		2		-10	







# The deer issue is getting worse and something needs to be done

Continued from Page 9

Peter Ingham –  
Murrindindi locale

She said, “But the problem is, why do we have to do this and why do we have to do this at our own cost?”

They also engage a hunter with the appropriate permits, and notify neighbours of potential shooting nearby, “But the problem is beyond that,” she said.

“Why do we have to keep these animals out? The issue is really that these animals should be declared pest animals and they should be treated accordingly at state level. It’s a government problem. It is just out of control... They are non-native. They are causing a lot of grief, and also accidents which are unnecessary. It is well overdue the deer need to be declared as pest and then appropriate measure has have to be put in place to eradicate them.”

She wondered whether something might be done with reducing the fertility of female deer.

“The cost for us is huge. They don’t just eat the vineyard leaves. They also come in and eat a few tonne of Sangiovese and Karman fruit. But mind you, there were also some Kangaroos in the mix.”

Peter Ingham has a combination of hill country and river flats, with the hill; country bordering onto the state forest. He said, “What we’ve noticed for the first time in the last year or so is that there are a lot of deer coming down from the hills onto the onto the country that they wouldn’t normally visit... They’re coming down because they’ve got no feed in the in the bushland. Even the blackberries have been dying up there, so you know there’s nothing for them to eat so they come down.”

He expressed concern about the deer hooves eroding the banks of the river. He has also had to but more hay than may otherwise be required due to the deer eating the pastures, and noted the expense of repairing damage to fences caused by deer. He said that the cost has been huge this year, noting that kangaroos are also causing significant losses.

He believes that a controlled culling program needs to be put in place for both deer and kangaroos. He also questioned whether deer should be classified as a pest species, instead of game, but didn’t want uncontrolled shooter causing challenges.

He said of the deer issue, “It’s obviously an environmental problem, even in the bush, and a traffic hazard as well.”

## Do you have a bushfire plan ready?

AHEAD of the looming fire season, a recent CFA survey revealed that 40 per cent of Victorians living in bushfire-prone areas do not have a bushfire plan in place to save their family.

One in five people in these areas do not believe “leaving early” in a fire emergency is the best way to safeguard their loved ones, and 16 per cent would stay to protect their property.

CFA’s annual post-season bushfire community survey has been conducted every year since 2009 to understand the attitudes, behaviours and preparedness of householders living in bushfire risk locations in Victoria.

Despite the recent AFAC Spring Seasonal Bushfire Outlook indicating increased fire risk across several drought-affected parts of the state, the survey found that out of the 611 people interviewed, 24 per cent did not feel adequately prepared around their home.

Over the last two years, the survey shows the perception of a bushfire being a threat to Victorians and their property has declined from very large to small, with 50 per cent of people not showing concern and nearly 40 per cent are not alarmed enough to warrant direct interaction with CFA.

Worryingly, those least concerned, and less likely to be prepared were located just 500 metres to one kilometre from bushland.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan expressed his concerns about the distressing statistics, warning Victorians that now is not the time to be complacent with an earlier and more active fire season predicted.

“It is never too early to prepare. Don’t gamble with your safety this season. Residents living in high fire-risk areas must take their preparation more seriously,” Jason said.

“Take a moment to sit down with your household and make a plan so everyone knows what they need to do and where they need to go if a fire threatens your local area.

“It’s easy to panic and make poor decisions if you’re not prepared, and the last thing you want in an emergency is to become trapped. Leaving early is your greatest form of protection.”

A further 31 per cent of respondents would delay leaving until threatened by a bushfire, waiting for the danger to increase or for instructions from emergency services.

“It is vital you understand the risks of your residential area and where you are travelling this summer. The best way to do this is to download the VicEmergency App and set your watch zones to your locations so you are alerted to warnings wherever you are,” Jason said.

“Don’t wait for an official warning before you take action to protect your family.

“We have a number of resources available on our website to actively help you prepare before it is too late, and our volunteers are always happy to help you with any questions you may have.”

CFA will be running a Get Fire Ready weekend on Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, where many brigades will open their doors to connect with local community members, hoping to build public awareness and preparedness across Victoria.

“We’re seeing a concerning decline in property preparedness around Victorian households, so we’re really encouraging you to tidy up around your homes over coming weeks,” Jason said.

“Before the warmer weather arrives, ensure you move your winter piles away from your houses and sheds, give your trees a prune, clear your gutters and maintain the length of your grass.

“Get your emergency kit packed and ready to go, fill it with clothes, medications, toiletries, chargers and blankets and take it with you when you head to shelter.

“As we witnessed throughout the fires in the Grampians last season, the mountain of work done in the lead up to summer can make all the difference in lessening devastation on communities.

“We want to be really clear this summer. Our members will always be prepared and on hand to assist you, but fire safety is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play.

“We cannot have a fire truck at every property during a major bushfire. We need you to do your bit too and take small steps to be more fire safe this year.”

## If Meta was a miner we’d shut them down

Country Press Association president  
Damian Morgan

I’M often asked why Meta (owners of Facebook) should be forced to pay compensation to news publishers. It’s a fair question. On the surface, Facebook can be seen as a media disruptor, like Uber upending the taxi industry, or cars replacing horse and cart.

It’s easy to think social media is just the “new and improved” media. But Facebook isn’t a modern version of traditional media at all, it’s an entirely different thing. The core business of traditional media is producing content, primarily news and entertainment. We are a product business. Facebook doesn’t produce any content. Zero. Its business model is to ‘share’ other people’s content, without paying for it. This has never been done at scale before.

In the early days, many of us curated our Facebook feeds to include trusted news sources. That made the platform more important to us, more credible, and far more valuable. Credible journalism gave Facebook enormous legitimacy. It made the feed worth coming back to and helped Facebook build its empire.

Credit where due, Facebook was a brilliant pioneer of the internet, effectively inventing social media and colonising the World Wide Web. It offered everything for free, until we relied on it. Then they cashed in, creating one of the most powerful and profitable corporations in history.

But like all new boom industries, social media’s race to dominate the internet has left regulation in the starter’s blocks. There were no guardrails to protect people and organisations from the consequences of its domination. No recourse for scams or misinformation. No regard for the mental health of teenagers. No thought for the destruction of regional news services.

The benefits of social media are clear. But the full extent of the harms caused by Facebook, and the copycat platforms that followed, are still not fully understood, let alone addressed.

Facebook’s real ‘product’ is you. Your attention is what they sell. And they’ll serve up almost anything to keep it, along with your personal data, to advertisers, based on what you read, watch, click, and where you go online. Now, with Meta glasses, they’re even tracking what you see and say every day. The potential for harm is staggering.

While Facebook deserves credit for innovation, its refusal to engage with regulation is contemptible. Google has behaved differently. Its core product, search, is also vastly more valuable when it includes journalism from credible sources. For example, when you search for updates on a local bushfire or the war in Ukraine, those results are far more valuable when they include stories from trained journalists at credible news organisations.

Without trusted journalism in the mix, Google’s search results would be less relevant, less useful, and far less valuable. That’s why Google agreed to pay Australian news publishers after the introduction of the world-first News Media Bargaining Code in 2021.

Facebook initially complied. Then they walked away. They are now openly defying the Australian government and refusing to pay for the journalism that helped build their empire and continues to drive their profits.

The Australian Government is responding with the News Bargaining Incentive to force them to the table. So far, Facebook has responded with silence and contempt.

Let’s put this into perspective as the government stands up to the bullying tactics of Meta. Imagine for a moment that Meta was a mining company. It’s not a perfect analogy, but it’s a useful one. Mining companies don’t own the resources they extract, so they pay royalties because those resources belong to the people. Facebook doesn’t own the internet or the content it extracts, yet it refuses to pay anyone, anything.

Mining companies impact the environment, so they pay taxes, levies, and offsets. Facebook has damaged the information environment massively, spreading scams, misinformation, and harmful content, yet takes no responsibility.

Mining is dangerous, so companies are required to invest in safety, education, and emergency services. Facebook profits from dangerous content that fuels our mental health crisis, yet contributes nothing to public well-being.

Mining companies affect the communities where mines are located, so they invest in those communities as part of their social licence to operate. Facebook has pillaged and damaged local news in regional Australia. Now it refuses to pay for the journalism it profits from.

If Facebook were a mining company, we wouldn’t let them get away with it. We’d shut them down.

## Yea bowls club receive funding

THE Independent Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP has announced funding for 18 volunteer community organisations, sharing in \$57,925 through the latest round of the Federal Government’s Volunteer Grants Program.

Dr Haines personally phoned each organisation to share the good news. The successful applicants were recommended to the Federal Government for funding after being assessed by a panel of local community leaders.

“Throughout the year, I regularly visit community organisations, and almost always their existence is possible because of one common factor: volunteers,” Dr Haines said.

Grants ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 will enable community groups to support their volunteers by funding the purchase of equipment, covering fuel and transport costs, or providing access to training.

Locally, the Yea Bowls Club recently received \$2000 in funding for an exciting new project and are thrilled with the receiving the funds.

## Right to disconnect is activated

THE right to disconnect and the ‘employee choice pathway’ from casual to permanent employment both began for small business employees last week on August 26.

Small business employers and employees should have conversations about out of hours contact, with the right to disconnect starting for businesses with less than 15 employees.

The right to disconnect was added into the Fair Work Act as part of the Closing Loopholes laws, and began for employees of businesses with 15 or more employees in August last year.

Now small business employees have the right to refuse to monitor, read or respond to contact, or attempted contact, outside their working hours unless that refusal is unreasonable. This includes contact or attempted contact from their employer or a third party, such as a client.

Whether a refusal is unreasonable will depend on the circumstances, but certain factors must be considered in making this assessment. Those factors are: the reason for the contact the nature of the employee’s role and level of responsibility; the employee’s personal circumstances (including family or caring responsibilities); how the contact is made and how disruptive it is to the employee; and any relevant extra pay or compensation the employee receives for working additional hours or remaining available to work out of hours.

Fair Work Ombudsman Anna Booth said small business employers and employees should talk to each other about out of hours contact and set expectations suited to their specific workplace and the employee’s role.

“We hope that people working in larger businesses have already had conversations about out of hours contact and set expectations in the context of their workplace and the employee’s role; now it’s time for small business employers and employees to have that conversation,” Ms Booth said.

“It’s important to remember the right to disconnect does not prohibit employers from contacting their employees, nor does it prevent employees from contacting one another, including across time zones.

“We encourage workplace participants to educate themselves on the right to disconnect and adopt a commonsense approach.

“Like most employment matters, any dispute should first be discussed and sought to be resolved at the workplace level. Workers can be represented by a union if they are a member, and they want to be represented.

“If that resolution does not occur, the Fair Work Commission, not to be confused with the Fair Work Ombudsman can deal with disputes regarding the right to disconnect.”



SPORT

# Age is no barrier for Barry



Barry Moore still bowling at 90 years old. -S

by Maurie Finn

NINETY-year-old Barry Moore shows that age is no barrier to being involved at the Yea Bowls Club.

Barry recently celebrated his 90th birthday with members of the Yea Bowls Club and together with Jeff Green and Neil Rieschieck were the winners of the three bowl triples on the day.

During the lunch break Barry was presented with a beautiful birthday cake and a loud rendition of the song followed.

Barry was born in Yea in 1935, at the old Yea Hospital and went on to become a beef and sheep farmer and was very involved in a variety of sports over the years.

Barry has played bowls for about 40 years, and his sons Russell and Steven also played bowls in Yea. Steven is currently playing Premier League Bowls in Melbourne.

Barry has had a successful sporting career playing in multiple cricket premierships for Boundary Creek, Homewood, and Yea.

Barry was a very good all-rounder at cricket. A batter and medium pace bowler [with best figures of six for 19 in a Yea semi-final], he also did some wicket keeping when required.

Golf was another of Barry's passions with 18 Yea club championships to his name.

Barry played school football with his great mate Adie Sier, but following a serious ankle injury, was unable to continue his football career.

Congratulations on your 90th birthday Barry. Enjoy your bowling for many years to come.



Barry getting ready to cut his 90th birthday cake at the Yea Bowls Club. -S

## Great turn out for Yea's stableford event

by Alan Pell

A TYPICAL Yea day. Early fog, a few spots of rain, brilliant spring sunshine and cool finish was the order of the day for the 25 members who contested the stableford event last Saturday.

Margie Wright (23) showed the benefits of a round of 'virtual golf' with one our sponsors Five Iron at Ringwood to record 36 points and take out the ladies event. Cindy Armstrong (27) provided stiff competition, finishing with 35 points. Di Elliott (26) recently returned from three months in the northern sun, showed she still got it with a fine 32 points to claim third place. There were no winners in the ladies nearest the pin on the 18th Hole.

Eighteen men contested a stableford event, playing off the Red Tees and reduced handicaps. The shorter holes and excellent conditions provided the opportunity for good scores. None better than Brian Priestly

(19) who posted 37 points to take out the event on countback from Michael Spagnolo (four) – 37 points. Bill Dredge (19) also relished the conditions, finishing on 36 points to take out third place on countback from Andrew Bohn (four).

Brian Simmons provided a highlight to his round, taking out nearest the pin on the 18th hole. The club award was keenly contested, but Rob Gill was declared the winner after his three month lay off, travelling to warmer parts.

Last Wednesday's results for the men saw Greg Clements (17) post 37 points to be the only person to score above their handicap on the white course. Second with 33 points was Peter Johnston (14) with Mic Spagnolo (six) third with 32 on countback from Anthony La Grutta (17). Trevor Connell was nearest the pin on the 14th and Sam Wright took out the club award.



Spectacular scenes at Yea Golf Club. -S



### ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 18

POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Kill Bills	18	16	2	64
2	Buxton Hotel	18	15	3	60
3	Panthers	18	15	3	60
4	Arrowsmiths	18	10	8	40
5	Alex Bowls Club	18	10	8	40
6	Bucky Pub	18	8	10	32
7	On Pointers	18	7	11	28
8	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	18	5	13	20
9	On Point 26ers	18	4	14	16
10	Dart Vaders	18	0	18	0

RESULTS  
BUXTON HOTEL defeated ON POINTERS 7-4  
KILLBILLS defeated ALEX BOWLS CLUB 8-3  
BEERS, BULLS & BOOBS defeated DARTVADERS 6-5  
PANTHERS defeated BUCKY PUB 8-3  
ARROWSMITHS defeated ON POINT 26ERS 6-5

TONS  
K. Davies – 130, 117, R. Sproles – 108, 100, J. Masters – 180, 140, 125, 100, 100, 100, 140, B. Arnott – 140, 132, 100, 100, 100,  
P. Collyer – 121, 130, W. Nelson – 100, 140, 125, 100, 119, 140, B. George – 123, G. George – 121, C. Parker – 100, 100, G. Davies –  
111, G. Gilmore – 120, 100, 100, 100, 100, A. Hutt – 100, 100, 100, C. Hutchins – 121, 100, B. Mayfield – 100, S. White – 100, 100,  
R. Bates – 100, 100, 100, 100, A. Bull – 102, J. Smith – 100, 100, 115, C. Turner – 115, M. Backstrom – 114, Z. Kilroy – 140, 137,  
180, 140, 100, S. Kilroy – 100, 100, 102, 100, 123, 100, 134, 100, 100, T. Kilroy – 121, J. Billman – 132, 100, R. Welsh – 100, 100,  
120, 140, 125, 100, M. Robinson – 135, 115, 100, 125, 100, 125, 140, 100, 100, 102, D. Withoos – 180, 100, M. Jenkins – 101, 120,  
100, D. Cooper – 113, 123, 142, M. Edwards – 100, 100, 132, 140, 180, J. Farnan – 112, 109, L. Ronalds – 100, 100, S. Ritchie – 100,  
140, 100, 100, 100, 140, 100, 100, L. Turnbull – 119, 100, R. Penny – 100, 121

HIGHEST PEG – Dave Cooper 142  
180s – Daz Withoos, Mark Edwards, Jase Masters, Zane Kilroy



# Competitive matches for recent squash round

by Kristelle Leary

**Monday Competition**  
**Australorps versus Silkies**

JORDAN versus Lochlan: A fabulous see-sawing match. It was close, but Jordan nabbed some extra points with his impressive serves. 73 to 62.

Laura versus Liane: Two likable level-headed ladies lined up to take their shot at victory. Both opponents were well matched, and neither was backing down from the challenge. Liane was waning going into the final game, but perked up, rallying for a came back that she never quite reached. Laura was victorious. 56 to 53.

Chris versus Justin: Fuelled and ferocious Justin kept the ball speeding around the court. Chris started to get Justin's measure in the second half, but Justin was too far ahead. 72 to 56.

John versus Michael H: As one rises to the top, the other must fall. Michal opened with a decent game which John was using as a warmup. John got serious an improves with each game to claim the match with ease. 73 to 44.

**Leghorns versus Isa Browns**

ERIC D versus Tyler: In the beginning there was only a two-point difference. Tyler pulled away to claim the victory with his solid serves. 82 to 53.

Sally versus Jess (fill in): It was a close match all the way. Both players played some lovely shots and with a few extra well placed shots Sally slunk ahead to win. 60 to 56.

Ben versus Michael M (fill in): If we discount game three, Ben would have been in with a chance. Unfortunately, Ben lost all knowledge of how to put ball-to-racquet in game three and watched Michael rack up points, crushing any hopes Ben had of winning. 70 to 44.

Derrick versus Andrew: It was a tight game but there was room for only one champion on the court Andrew claimed the first half with a twelve-point lead. Scraping back some points John claimed the third. Reinforcing his lead, Andrew won the final game and the match. 63 to 50.

**Thursday Competition**  
**Golden Retrievers versus Labradors**

MATTHEW versus Eric F: Matthew is continuing to improve, and Eric seems to have his eye in now. With a slightly stronger can and a serious height advantage, Eric triumphed. 64 to 47.

Kristelle versus Jess: Kristelle dominated from the start and didn't let up. Jess struggled greatly with her serves and to top it off Kristelle added in some nonchalant killer return. Kristelle was victorious. 74 to 48

Mick versus Sam: After a hotly contested opening gambit, Sam got on a roll with a streak of good serves that had Mick rushing. Mick returned to contention with a serving streak of his own. Mick continued to have moments and stay competitive but Sam's ability to find the back corners and side walls kept him ahead in each game and win, 65 to 47.



Beth prepares to strike back against Blake. -S

Daniel versus Michael M: Daniel took the time out from his busy schedule to show us all how it was done sending Michael careening around the court with force. With ease, Daniel kept his status as champ. 62 to 34.

**Whippets versus Dachshunds**

BEN H versus Randy: Mercilessly Randy commanded the court. It was a very one-sided match resulting in Randy coming out on top. 83 to 44.

Beth versus Blake: Beth had hope when she won the first game. Changing the script, Blake upped his efforts to increase his point collection, winning three games and the match. 66 to 49.

Travis versus Lucas: A nice close first game but Travis took the lead. In the second Lucas came out very strongly, begin ahead by seven at one point, but Travis slowly came back to win by one. Game three was filled with rallies, great shots and more attempts at taking the overall lead from Lucas. It was too late, Travis was the winner. 57 to 52

Ben F (fill in) versus Daniel W: Ben put in the hard yards and kept it interesting, but he had a nasty habit of hitting it back to Daniel. Daniel slapped the ball all around the court, keeping the ball away from Ben and making him run. Daniel claimed the title. 75 to 50.

## Winter tennis round 15 report

by Judy Sands and Rhonda Carpenter

WOMEN playing in the Euroa and District Winter Tennis Competition were blessed with another glorious day for their matches in Benalla, Euroa and Mansfield last Monday.

**Terip versus Seven Creeks**

The ladder leaders furthered their finals aspirations with strong wins. Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe McDonagh and Jenny Martin took every set against Seven Creeks' Rowena Ellis, Julie Brook, Carmel Linehan and Mary Kelly who got close in two sets.

Terip won 6/49 to 0/19 to hold third spot.

**Creighton's Creek versus Moglonemby**

Creighton's Creeks team of Debbie Seach, Annabelle Hayes, Kerry Hewlett and Lyn Johnston played Moglonemby's Judy Sands, Marlene Hanrahan, Danielle Scottis and Lisa Krepp.

All the Creighton's Creek team have played for Moglonemby with Debbie and Lyn previous team members and Annabelle and Kerry both filling in for them this year. With everyone knowing each other's game you would think this should have been a

quick match, but this was not the case, with all players trying new shots to win the vital points.

Moglonemby won the first two sets eight to five and eight to three before Creighton's Creeks Annabelle and Lyn won eight to three while Judy and Danielle found themselves in a tiebreak and after losing in a tiebreak the previous week, they stayed focused and took the set eight to seven against Debbie and Kerry.

With only four games separating the teams, Moglonemby won the last two sets eight to six to win by eight games and hang on to second spot on the ladder, but next week they face Terip who are only 0.5 points below in third position and Wappan can also jump into second or third position if they have a good win over Benalla.

Moglonemby won 5/43 to 1/35.

**Wappan versus Delatite**

Wappan's Anna Speirs, Liza Karras, Rhonda Carpenter and Carol Watts hosted Delatite in a match of high-quality ball striking and counterpunching.

Delatite's Karyn Fraser hit hard flat balls and Carolyn Murray produced excellent returns in their opening set against Anna

and Liza who lifted for the eventual eight to five win.

Pitted against each other, Deb McCormack and Carol Watts made outrageous reflex volleys at net, and baseline balls lengthened the rallies as Deb Mims and Rhonda Carpenter found their range opposing each other on the day.

Wappan won the local derby 6/48 to 0/16 and retained their fourth spot on the ladder.

**Mansfield versus Benalla**

Mansfield travelled to face an undermanned side in Benalla. Maureen Jewell, Claire Sharp and Deb Siggers were challenged but really enjoyed the contest and entertaining company. They were particularly grateful to Euroa's Mary Dewis for stepping in last minute.

Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Natalie Bergsma and Peta Kelly combined superbly to win every set 6/48 to 0/19. The teams switched places on the ladder with Mansfield moving into fifth spot.

Euroa had the bye and picked up five points to cement their minor premiership with the final round yet to play out. While the other finalists are locked in, final

placings could change. The semi finals will be played in Mansfield on September 8.

Ladder: Euroa 106.5, Moglonemby 94.5, Terip 94, Wappan 88, Mansfield 72, Benalla 63.5, Creighton's Creek 47.5, Seven Creeks 35, Delatite 29.

Anyone seeking a hit on Wednesday afternoon is welcome to join the courageous souls who turned up before the hailstorm hit town last week. Players of all levels are welcome to join in if they're brave enough to battle the elements all year round.

Mansfield Tennis Association held its AGM on Monday, September 1 in the clubhouse. Summer competition gets underway with Juniors at 8.45am on Saturday, October 11 and night competitions start on Tuesday, October 14, Wednesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 16. Players need to register now for team selection for their preferred night. Entries close September 14.

To be added to the fill in list there is a new membership category for emergency players who fill in for summer competition. Specify which night/s by email. Any questions or assistance with memberships to: [mansfieldtennisassoc@gmail.com](mailto:mansfieldtennisassoc@gmail.com)



# Yea Tigers junior netballers grand final bound



The under 15 Yea team ready to make it count this week. -S

by Joanne Madden

CONGRATULATIONS to Yea Tigers under 11 and under 15 teams, who both won their preliminary finals last Sunday and will now advance to the Grand Final on Sunday, September 7 at Kings Park, Seymour.

The Under 11s defeated a very competitive Seymour Lions side, 25 to 18,

while the Under 15s claimed a convincing 54 to 26 win over St Mary's. The Under 11 Development Squad will also take part in a Grand Final Day round robin with Broadford and Alexandra. This will be a fantastic experience for our youngest Tigers, and we're grateful to the Broadford Junior Football Netball Club for organising this event. The round robin

will begin at 8.30am, with a presentation to follow. The Under 11s will face St Mary's at 10am, and the Under 15s will take on Seymour Lions at 12.05pm. We hope as many supporters as possible will come along to Kings Park next Sunday to cheer on our junior netballers.



The under 11 development squad are taking part in a Round Robin next week at the Grand Final. -S



The under 11 Yea team looking pleased with their win. -S