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Weekend sport

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An estimated 250 to 300 attended the Yea ANZAC Day Commemoration, with this image showing only part of the crowd. More images on page 6. -S

Invisible candidates disappoint

ELECTIONS are a time communications from any of for candidates to present themselves to the community, to divulge both who they are and their policies. It's about having an open democracy.

the other candidates.

The Yea Candidate Forum, which was expected to he held at 6pm on Sunday, April 27, had to be cancelled as only three candidates committed to attend. There are a total of nine candidates standing for the Seat of Indi.

Murrindindi Shire Community Awards

getting ready to celebrate its annual Community Awards at the start of National Volunteer Week, from May 19 to 25.

From January to March, council invited residents to nominate local individuals or community groups whose volunteering efforts inspire them. They received an impressive 45 nominations across four Community Award categories: Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Senior Volunteer of the Year, and Community Group or Initiative of the Year.

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inspiring stories, visit murrindindi. vic.gov.au/awardnominees

> Council is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Yea on Saturday, May 17, where the 2025 Community Award winners will be revealed. The festivities continue throughout the week, with free morning tea events across the shire, bringing volunteers and community groups together to connect and

"The incredible nominations we received this year prove the value of our volunteers across our communities. The Community Awards Selection Panel reviewed 45 nominations, six more than last year, demonstrating more people stepping up, giving back, and making a difference," Mayor Gallagher said.

"These nominees have all made a positive impact on our communities, and we are all better off as a result. I encourage everyone to visit our website, read the nominee biographies, and see how much these wonderful volunteers have impacted our communities.

There appears to have been a disappointing trend in recent years where some candidates choose not to respond to questions and do not present themselves at forums.

Three of the Indi candidates chose not to respond to questions from this newspaper, despite having significant time to respond.

Furthermore, bearing in mind that there have been communications from within our office to the Indi candidates, the has been only one press release received from a candidate in the last fortnight. It was from Helen Haines. There have been no

The Alexandra Candidate Forum went ahead. Six candidates were expected but three cancelled, meaning that there were only three candidates on the stage.

Informed voting is the exemplar of democracy, but if such information is withheld by the candidates themselves, then democracy fails and is replaced by base marketing and sound bites from party leaders. But perhaps that's what they want. The voters of Murrindindi

deserve better.

These nominees are the heart of our shire, giving their time, skills, and passion to make our communities stronger, kinder, and more connected. Council thank every nominator who helped shine a light on these local legends. To see the nominees and read their

be honoured.

The 2025 Community Awards will be presented by Mayor Damien Gallagher. You can watch the presentations live on Facebook, council's website, or listen on UGFM radio, starting at 6pm on Saturday, May 17. For more details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov. *au/communityawards*

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher highlighted the strength of volunteering in our community.

list **Democracy** sausage

DEMOCRACY Sausages are a vital part of many people's voting day, so we have compiled a list of the locations where they might be found.

There will be sausage sizzles in Alexandra, Taggerty, Marysville, Kinglake, Flowerdale (plus a bake sale) and Yea.

No snags will be available at Eildon, Toolangi or Narbethong. Sausage status unknown for Thornton and Glenburn.

"Murrindindi Shire has nearly double the state average of volunteering participation, making it clear how deeply community spirit runs through us. I cannot wait to celebrate the Community Award winners at the start of National Volunteer Week.

"While we'll be recognising winners on the night, on behalf of the entire community, council would like to acknowledge that every volunteer in our shire is a champion," added Mayor Gallagher.

The nominees list can be found on page 12 of this edition.



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Letters to the Editor

Candidates forum

WE are shocked that the majority of candidates standing in the Federal seat of Indi didn't accept our invitation to attend the *Yea Candidate Forum*, which was to have been held on Sunday evening, April 27. It was to be an opportunity for Yea locals to compare policies across the spectrum on issues that matter to us. Of the nine candidates, only three agreed to attend: independent Helen Haines, independent Mark McFarlane, and Michael White from Family First. Sadly, we had to cancel the event as this would not have provided our community with balanced information.

Is it that people don't have policies they wish to air with voters? Are they just complacent or lacking in knowledge about questions that may be asked, or just not concerned with this end of the electorate? It's not a good look and certainly not how a democracy works.

This event was funded by 2030Yea. No candidates or political parties provided funds. We organised this forum because we deem it to be an important step in the voting process. Not turning up is certainly a game changer in deciding who people might prefer to represent them in the Federal Government.

2030Yea Committee

Candidates forum

A QUICK recap from the organisers of the Alexandra Candidates Forum. The count was 87 in the room in total. Great for a Sunday afternoon.

All candidates had been invited, and by Good Friday, six were definitely coming. A Black Spur calliption knocked out one candidate last week. Then two candidates pulled out on the day of the forum, far out. As an organiser, I was pretty peeved, but a sick child email at noon, and a 'something unforseen has come up' apology at 1pm is just the way things roll, so the five candidates turned into three.

However this meant the audience really heard deeply from the three candidates, and

it was great. And they were very good with each other, respectful, with no party slinging or put downs. Excellent manners.

Questions were broad from the floor and UGFM listeners. The candidates were in agreement on many issues, including social welfare, health and transport.

Michael White and Mitch Bridges are first time campaigners and came across as lovely genuine people. And it was great to hear first hand how Helen Haines works on decision making (through engaging with our electorate) and the things she has changed for Indi in her term.

The afternoon tea at the end was vibrant with chatter, a testament to the successful event.

Thank you to those who attended, to the organising committee from Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) and Murrindindi Climate Network (MCN), to UGFM's Peter and Michael for the live broadcast, to Peter McKernan for sound and mikes, and especially to Bob Flowers for his calm influence as welcomer and facilitator. And to those who rallied with food.

In the name of robust discussion and hanging on to democracy.

Bev Dick, Acheron

Candidates forum

I ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts of local press, and local community groups, to give our community an opportunity to engage with the candidates who are seeking our support to be our representative in Canberra. It's very disappointing and an unwelcome outlook for democracy when candidates fail to submit themselves to the scrutiny of the constituency. Are all nine Indi candidates genuinely seeking to represent our community or is the aim to farm preferences? I implore candidates to genuinely engage the Murrindindi Shire community in the final days of the crucial 2025 federal election.

> Cr Damien Gallagher, Mayor Murrindindi Shire Council

Political Language

IT was disturbing to hear the Leader of the Opposition describe the ABC and left-ofcentre newspapers as 'hate media'. Having an alternate point of view is a disagreement, not hatred. Using overly-aggressive language is copying the tactics of MAGA and if it continues will take us down the same Trumpian path. Civil discussion and debate at Sunday's Candidate's Forum brought out different ways to address societies current problems, but none included abuse and division, a far better approach to politics. Many thanks to UGFM from those of us who couldn't make the forum.

John Walsh, Yarck

CFA fleet

I READ with interest the article, 'CFA's fleet evolution over 80 years', in last week's edition, with interest. As a volunteer of some 45 plus years, I have driven and operated many of the vehicles described in the article including the old Austin and Willys tankers. I have also been fortunate to contribute to the design and development of Pumpers, Pumper-Tankers, and Tankers including the current new generation Light Tanker.

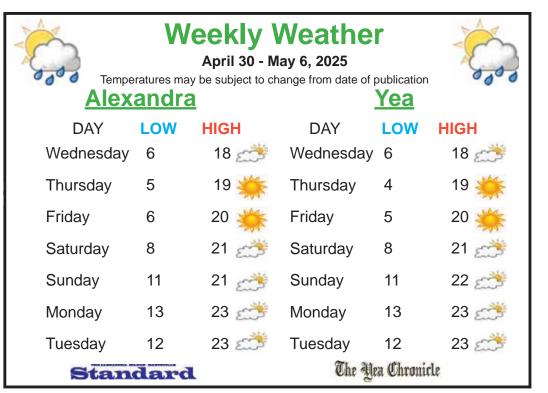
Unfortunately, Mr Jones' picture of the CFA fleet fails to describe the age of the fleet and the inadequate funding available to upgrade it.

Danny says "most vehicles are twin cabbed, air conditioned and have comfortable seating." He fails to mention the 700 plus tankers still in the fleet that are single cabs requiring crews to ride on the back exposed to the elements in all types of weather.

After the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, CFA was funded to replace all tankers with petrol engines or petrol driven pumps. Many of these single cabs remain in service with what is known as the ROPS area. This Roll Over Protection Seating area is open to the environment with nothing but lap seatbelts.

ALEXANDRA

Continued Page 3



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

Like us on Facebook The Yea Chronicle

for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.79	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.11am Mon	0.47	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	10.45am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.20am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	10.27am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.75	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	1.00am Mon	0.14	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.41	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.69	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.44am Mon	0.79	steady	
			1	1

**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 28 APRIL 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	12mm
Buxton	
Eildon (AWS)	13mm
Flowerdale	
Jamieson	7mm
Kinglake	20mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Mansfield	0.2mm
Taggerty	19mm
Yarck	11mm
Yea	22mm
Above details for 7 days to 9	am Monday
LAKE EILD	ON
Height above sea level this week Capacity as at 9am Monday Metres below full supply Daily inflow	61.3% 11.23m



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 end	quiries please do
not hesitate to cont	act the office on
5772 10	02 or
reception@alexandrar	newspapers.com.ai
We thank you for your	continued support



Continued from Page 2

These vehicles don't have air-conditioning in the cab let alone on the back. The rear seating is in no way safe by modern standards and in no way considered as comfortable. These aged vehicles, which belong in a museum not on a fireground, don't have modern safety features; such as ABS, airbags, hill-start assist, nor inertia lap-sash seatbelts throughout. They might be roadworthy, but are they fit-for-pupose by any modern measure?

It is time that CFA was properly funded by government to retire all single cab vehicles. Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) estimates that this requires a commitment of \$350m, not the \$10m promised to come from the proposed new fire service levy which they claim is for volunteers. Instead of truck funding, the new tax will send precious community funds to public servants and

Melbourne based bureaucracies. VFBV has determined only seven cents of every extra dollar collected will actually flow to CFA and SES combined, based on Treasury documents.

As we celebrate 80 years of CFA in 2025, we need a commitment by all sides of politics to give volunteers the best vehicles. Tankers dating back to the post Ash Wednesday era put volunteers riding on the outside of the truck in danger of heat, smoke and toxic fumes. The best present that volunteers could get after 80 years is a fleet devoid of antiquated unsafe single-cab tankers.

> Paul Denham AFSM, State Councillor, VFBV District 12 Council

New bins

I WISH to concur with the letter of the April 23 edition. We, too, have not ever needed to have our rubbish and recycling collected by the trucks that pass our address at Koriella. We are perfectly happy to pay about \$60 per year to take our small amounts of rubbish and recycling to the relevant depots, economically combining that with a trip to town for groceries, etc. We are really peeved that we are now expected to pay \$430 per year under the new rubbish and recycling collection scheme. This is an outrageous increase of 616 per cent. We are perfectly happy having our bins at the back of the house but now they'll have to live down by the gate, looking dreadful and ugly as one approaches our driveway. Can this situation be reassessed, please?

Veronica Hendrickson, Koriella

New bins

I HAVE just received three rubbish bins. I didn't ask for them. I don't need them and I don't want them. I'm an aged retiree with a long steep gravel driveway and I am not physically able to drag one of those bins up to the roadside for collection. I am now also expected to find an extra \$430 a year to pay for this unwanted and unnecessary burden.

When I rang the council offices and asked that they come and take the bins back they responded by saying that it was state government legislation and that I have no choice. To emphasise how ridiculous this stance is, council have also given some residents of Taylor Bay three bins each and these driveways are less than 50 meters from the Taylor Bay rubbish depot.

Is there anyone in council who can give exemptions to this forced ruling rather than just passing the buck and blaming the state government. It would be nice to get some feedback from the council because there are a lot of rural households that would gladly give the bins back.

I look forward to a sensible response from the council.

> Name and address supplied but withhheld by request

Accessibility at school polling locations

THERE is only one polling location in each of the shire's two largest towns. They are located at Yea Primary School and Alexandra Secondary College.

The former provides no wheelchair access to the polling station and the latter provides assisted wheelchair access only.

Given this, the Department of Education was asked to provide further information about wheelchair access in public schools, and what actions are being undertaken to ensure equitable access for students requiring wheelchairs, as well as for the additional services which schools provide, such as providing polling locations.

A Department of Education spokesperson responded, "Every child deserves the opportunity to fully participate, learn, develop and succeed at school.

"The Victorian Government's \$1.6 billion Disability Inclusion reform is helping every school deliver an inclusive education experience for every student with a disability or additional needs.

"The Victorian Budget 2024/25 provided an additional \$15 million for the Victorian School Building Authority's (VSBA) Accessible Buildings Program (ABP). The Accessible Buildings Program ensures that eligible students, staff and members of the school community with disability have equal access to and can benefit from school facilities."

Voting accessibility challenges

VOTING is compulsory, and for many this is a simple process, however for people with accessibility requirements, some further research into the facilities at the various polling stations is needed.

Exploring the different options available at the shire's polling stations does raise some wheelchair accessibility issues, and it's hoped that works will be carried out in the future to make these facilities more wheelchair friendly.

Hearing

Virtual Auslan interpreters are available at all of the polling locations in Murrindindi Shire. To access this, voters will need to use the Convo Australia app, and by scanning the QR code on the poster at the polling location.

Virtual Auslan interpreters are also available at all early voting centres, however there are none of these in Murrindindi Shire.

All voters are welcome to apply for a postal vote online if preferred. To find out more, visit aec.gov.au

Vision

No text to speech pens are available in Murrindindi Shire voting locations. These pens help voters by reading text out loud.

People who are blind or have low vision can cast their vote using the Australian Electoral Commission's telephone voting service. Call 1800 913 993.

Sensory conditions

Alternative voting rooms, for people with sensory and sensitivity conditions, are available at five locations, Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Toolangi, Marysville and Narbethong. This unfortunately means that some driving will be required away from the two major population centres of Alexandra and Yea.

In Narbethong, there are no other designated accessible parking spaces available, and in Kinglake, there are other designated accessible parking spaces available.

Assisted wheelchair access is available at Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Ruffy, Alexandra, Eildon and Marysville.

Accessible parking is also available at Flowerdale, Yea, Alexandra and Eildon.

If the voter is unable to enter the polling place because of any condition that prevents them from entering the polling place, they should call the 132 326 number to advise of their approximate arrival time to their chosen polling place. The Officer in Charge will be notified of this and will attend to the voter at their vehicle.

Assisted voting

If you need assistance to vote, you can ask someone to help you. Polling place staff are trained to assist you, or you can nominate a friend, relative or another person.

Dementia

People in the early stages of dementia, who are still capable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting, may be able to continue to enrol and vote. Further information for people with dementia and their carers is available via this link: aec.gov.au/ About_AEC/residential-care.htm

Residential facilities and hospitals

Mobile voting is an in-person voting service delivered by AEC staff. Mobile voting teams will visit many people who can't travel to a polling place including people living in residential facilities for people with disability, residential aged care, and in some hospitals and mental health facilities.



THUMBS UP: To father Mario from the Anglican Church who organised a magnificent combined church service for maundy Thursday. About 60 of us attended and Mario cooked us a delicious roast lamb dinner with help from the ladies. It was certainly a very special night. Thank you. Such a friendly atmosphere. After all we all worship the same God.

THUMBS UP: I would like to acknowledge Deirdre Penhale for her two hour superb presentation on her radio program on ANZAC Day. Her choice of music pertaining to the solemnity of the day, interspersed with poetry readings which included one of her own, showed warmth and empathy. Her guest on her weekly 'getting to know you' segment was also entertaining. Still a mystery where they sang together.

THUMBS DOWN: To people who disrespect ANZAC Day.

THUMBS UP: To Erin at Yea Veterinary Hospital. On ANZAC Day, my dog was in need of special care. Erin was sensitive, professional, caring and supportive. Much appreciated.

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

The Accessible Buildings Program (ABP) is run annually and is an application-based program which facilitates reasonable adjustments to school facilities.

Applications to the ABP are assessed on a case-by-case basis as the issue emerges for the relevant individual/s. This is due to the varied nature of accessibility requirements for eligible members of the school community with disability.

The Victorian Government promotes inclusive learning and teaching environments, including equal access to modern and functional school facilities that enable students and staff with disability to participate in regular school activities.

Wheelchairs

Only Kinglake and Narbethong are wheelchair accessible without assistance. In both Narbethong and Kinglake, only one parking space is compliant with Australian standards.



An additional note about clothing

It is also worth noting that the AEC does not regulate what voters wear, as long as it's not directing people to vote a certain way. Such clothing is forbidden within six metres of the polling place. Often polling officials will simply request that the person cover the clothing in question while they cast their vote.



• Alexandra • Yea • Eildon • Marysville and districts

Offering a caring and professional service throughout the Murrindindi Shire A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS

Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214 Chris Walsh 0407 194 037



An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat. 3 and Sun. 4 May

10.00am to 4.00pm each day 5 Giffard Street, Yea. VIC. 3717

or arrange another time 0421 378 451





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.

Sustainable House Day

THE Sustainable House Day will be a magical mystery tour. The event will take place on Sunday, May 4 from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

The free bus tour will see people chauffeured by minibus to five homes in and around Yea to discover energy efficient ideas that homeowners have used to make their homes comfortable, and to reduce energy costs.

The meet-up location will be disclosed when you book your ticket.

There are limited seats (10) on the minibus, so it is essential to book a ticket at events.humanitix.com/magical-mysterytour-y5wxjclh or you can call or text 0428 969 366.

The event has been sponsored by Murrindindi Shire Council.

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

nurch 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

* * * * * * * * *

FRIDAY, MAY 2

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

Free flu vaccinations for the farming community at Yea Sale Yards. Get your flu vax while you are at the store sale. For more information visit Yea Saleyards website or Facebook page.

* * * * * * * * *

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Darren Gilbert Open studio, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm each day. 5 Gilffard Street, Yea. Open at other times by arrangement 0421 378 451.

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

* * * * * * * * *

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery, Eildon open day 9am-3pm. Tours, cooking demonstrations and tasting, fun, free, kids activities and more.

* * * * * * * * *

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Yea Arts Inc are running a free Business of Art workshop in Alexandra. The first workshops in the series include photo and video essentials and social media and brand building for

creatives and are led by Sam Hicks. Spaces are limited. To book a spot visit yeaartsinc.org

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FRIDAY, MAY 9

Yea spring drop weaner sale. For more information visit Yea Saleyards website or facebook page.

* * * * * * * * *

SUNDAY, MAY 11

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

* * * * * * * * *



A beautiful wreath created by Gay Chatfield, president of the hall committee. -S

ANZAC Day commemorated in Flowerdale

by Steve Joblin

and Cr Eric Lording. -S

ANZAC Day belongs to all Australians (and too, our mates across the ditch). This truth was never more evident than at Flowerdale, where the observance came together with the generosity and commitment of many individuals and community groups, whether it be emcee Colonel Paul Galea, flag attendants from Flowerdale Primary School, wreaths from the school children including Flowerdale Primary and Yea High School, Member of Parliament Cindy McLeish, Cr Eric Lording as a service person and council rep, program printer Graham, ANZAC biscuit makers Kerry, Gay, Sal, sandwich queen Viv, champion sausage roll creator Trudie, scone maker Melinda (Vietnam veteran Frank, scored the scones a highlight of the

Terry Pollett and Paul Galea.

Members of community groups such as Flowerdale Landcare (auspicing the occasion) and Flowerdale Community Hall committee, formed the backbone of setting up and cleaning up. David Deans-Draper sang a beautiful rendition of *Imagine* drawing a few tears and provided the public address system for our emcee and anthem leaders Steve Joblin and Graham Scott. The primary focus of ANZAC Day is our service personnel, particularly those who never returned. But, we also recognise the importance of this observance in small communities as a community builder and cohesive occasion, so much so that the gathering of people and the warm conversations occurring beforehand, had to be set aside so we could commence the commemoration.

Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0435 953 777

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

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA Station Street Yea Sunday Service 11.15am Colin Whiteway Ph 0457 340 525

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

refreshments available), and above all our local service personnel, Frank Grigons and



Convenor Steve Joblin presenting Colonel Singing the Australian National Anthem at Flowerdale Hall with Colonel Paul Galea Paul Galea a seedling descended from the lone pine at Gallipoli. -S

This was the second time in the last 11 years that Flowerdale resorted to gathering inside the hall due to the beautiful rain that we have all been waiting for.

Thank you to all involved including more than 80 community members attending and making the remembrance memorable (Trudi, I went for a second sausage roll but they were all gone, all 73, no wonder Trudi has been such a valued CFA member for so many years).

ANZAC Day commemorations in Strath Creek

by Susan King

THIS year's theme was 'The Other ANZACs': The role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' in war.

Emcee Robin Campbell explained, 'On April 25, 1915, 16,000 soldiers of the ANZAC Corps landed on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. Around 2000 of them were killed or wounded that day. It's unknown how many, if any, Aboriginal soldiers were part of that first landing but we do know that at least 1000 fought in the First World War. Our theme... is 'The Other Anzacs' in which we honour these Aboriginal serving members whose stories are less told."

The history of the 'Other ANZACs' was told by Alana Ryan, an Aboriginal woman with Ngarrindjeri, Wotjobaluk and Gunditjmara heritage.

Alana's presentation included the historical context of the Aboriginal Acts

and Protection Boards in most Australian states that impacted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders treatment; service during the world wars; stories about the remarkable Aboriginal service of the Lovette brothers and Reg Saunders; the poor treatment of the Aboriginal soldiers upon return and lack of acknowledgement; and followed by social change.

Alana said, "More than 1000 Aboriginal men served in World War 1, and more than a quarter gave their lives. This included 70 Aboriginal men who served at Gallipoli and over 100 who served with the Light Horse brigade."

Local community members and people with connections to Strath Creek participated in the ANZAC program. Thank you to Dr Helen Haines MP for the donation of the Aboriginal and Torres Straight flags, and to Murrindindi Shire for the grant to partially fund this event.



The Indigenous, Australian and Torres Strait Island flags. -S



Refreshments in the welcomed rain. -S



Part of the audience at the Strath Creek event. -S



Wreaths around the Cenotaph. -S



Laying a wreath. -S



William Granter laying a wreath for Yea High School. -S

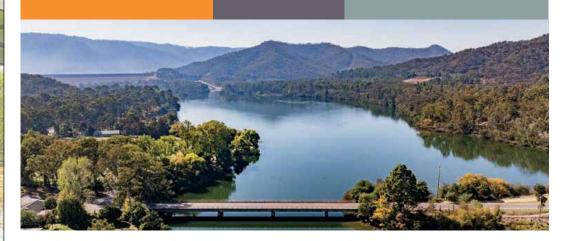


Lauren Elizabeth performed the national anthems for Australia and New Zealand. -S



Emcee Robin Campbell. -S

Alana Ryan and Colonel Paul Galea. -S



HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2025/26



Every year Council prepares a Budget to fund essential services and infrastructure. This year's Budget priorities were informed by community consultation for the new Council Plan.



Sustainable House Day Magical Mystery Tour

Visit 5 houses in and near Yea. Sunday, May 4, 10.30am to 4.30pm Book your ticket to learn more SMS or call 0428 969 366 to book

The Latest in Renewables with Q & A

Glen Morris, General Manager of Smart Energy Lab Thursday, June 26, 6.30 to 7.30pm The Butter Factory

Ethical Retirement Investments with Q & A

John Agostinelli and Ron Litjens Thursday, July 17, 6.30 to 7.30pm Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre How to Invest in the Energy Market with Q & A Ron Litjens and Ian Tobin Thursday August 21, 6.30 to 7.30pm with Q & A The Butter Factory

My EV and other electric battery powered equipment with Q & A Ron Litjens, Ian Tobin and Alister Huth Thursday, September 18, 6.30 to 7.30pm The Butter Factory

How to electrify a Classic Car Stall and Classic Car display Saturday, October 11, 5pm until dark Yea Cruise night on the median strip

Become a member of 2030Yea Community Energy now. Go to our webpage at 2030yea.com.au and follow the prompts.

② 2030yea.com.au

⊠ 2030yea@gmail.com

- 🛐 2030Yea
- @YeaCommunityEnergy

The draft 2025/26 Budget balances service delivery, infrastructure needs, rising costs, and limited revenue. It focuses on investing in infrastructure, improving efficiency and promoting sustainable growth.

Council will meet on Wednesday 30 April to adopt the draft Budget for public consultation, with feedback open from Thursday 1 May.

For details or to read the draft Budget, visit **murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget** or a Council Library and Customer Service Centre.

You can provide feedback by:

- completing an online form at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget
- submitting written feedback in person at Council's Library and Customer Service Centres or by post (Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714) or email (msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)
- speaking as part of Open Forum at Council's 28 May 2025 Scheduled Meeting (6.00 pm at Alexandra Council Chamber)

All feedback must be received by Wednesday 28 May 2025.

ANZAC Day commemoration in Yea

Jeffrey Swain, secretary Yea-Kinglake RSL

THE 'Luck of the Irish' was with us for ANZAC Day 2025 in Yea. A light drizzle during our preparation stopped just in time and we were fortunate to have a period of perfect weather for the Commemoration.

An estimated 300 community members and visitors participated in commemorating the 110th year since the Gallipoli landings.

On behalf of the Yea-Kinglake RSL Sub-Branch, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Yea Rotarians for their hosting and ongoing support, without which we would struggle to commemorate our ANZACs in this way.

This year, I particularly wish to name and thank some of the quiet, behind the scenes supporters for their contributions over the years. Thank you to Kevin Hughes and Adam for providing the sound system, to the Yea Football Netball Club which provides the wreath tables and chairs, to Phil Slattery for providing his military vehicles, to Murrindindi Shire staff, Kate, Andrew Paxton, Trudi Elkington and Donna Slevin for legals and public safety and to Kevin Harris and Joanna Gilbie who never fail each year to clean the Cenotaph and present the lawns and garden in immaculate condition. Thank you so much.

Across the Yea-Kinglake district, community support for the Dawn Services at Glenburn and Kinglake, the Flowerdale, Strath Creek and Yea Commemorations and the individual School Commemorations are proof that our ANZACs are not forgotten. Lest We Forget.



<image>

Some of the marchers arriving at the Yea Cenotaph. -S



Yea Football Netball Club members placing a wreath. -S



Way widow Flains White placing the Logacy wreath S



Flaine White reading The Requiem -S

War widow Elaine White placing the Legacy wreath. -S

Elaine White reading The Requiem. -S



Yea-Kinglake RSL member Glenn Milliken reciting The Ode. -S

Some of the wreaths after the Commemoration. -S



Hatchery Tours at the Snobs Creek open day. -S

Come take a tour at Snobs Creek Open Day

THE iconic Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery near Eildon will have its doors thrown open to fishers of all ages at its annual open day on Sunday, May 4 from 9am to 3pm.

Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling said the free event would draw a big crowd of keen anglers going behind the scenes to learn how fish are grown at the facility, which first opened in 1948.

'Our Snobs Creek hatchery is a truly impressive facility with a rich history. The open day has something for everyone, whether you've been fishing for years or you're a parent trying to get the next generation hooked," Mr Dowling said.

"We encourage families to make a weekend of it by combining a visit to Snobs Creek with casting a line into Lake Eildon, the nearby pondage or the Goulburn River to make some magic memories together."

A wide variety of species are grown at Snobs Creek, from the beloved Murray cod to threatened trout cod and Macquarie perch, brown and rainbow trout and the facility boasts the only captive breeding population of Chinook salmon in Australia.

hatchery staff to produce more 'Maccas' and trout cod.

Fishing-mad families can embark on self-guided tours, asking questions of expert hatchery staff along the way about all aspects of fish production, from counting eggs to monitoring tiny larvae and learning what fingerlings are fed before being released into Victorian waters as part of the record-breaking fish stocking program.

Work to recover threatened species will be highlighted at the Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery which is establishing populations of at least 10 threatened species in 10 years.

Victorian Fisheries Authority staff and the team from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute will be on hand inside the state-of-the-art facility which opened in early 2024.

Leaders from the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network will share fishing tips as well as how they are fostering inclusion to get more women involved in the pastime.

A sensory activity for kids from Festive Tribe includes the RiverScape Eco Play Space, with the aim to inspire observation and an empowered sense of care of the natural world. With even more activities in store, you can find more information on what the Snobs Creek Open Day at vfa.vic.gov.au/ snobsopenday

Enjoy and spoil Mum this Mother's Day

WHAT better way to say thanks and spoil Mum, show her how much she means to you and the family by enjoying Mother's Day Lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon on Sunday, May 11 from 12.30 to 4pm.

There are still a few vacancies for this relaxing afternoon with family.

A fabulous three course luncheon with prelunch canapes featuring local produce and all prepared in house by our catering team, and a special two course child menu for those under 12. Special dietary requests are well looked after, please pre-advise when booking.

Local musician Dave Beattie will be playing guitar and singing during the afternoon and roving Magician Nick will enhance the day entertaining both young and old with his magic.

Bookings can be made by calling the team at Holmesglen at Eildon on 5774 2631. The cost per adult is \$90, Children 12 years and under is \$30 and Infants three years and under are free.

Four star accomodation is on site if you would like to make a weekend of it and stay.

If you already have plans for Mother's Day, why not join us for our next seasonal event Christmas in July which is on Saturday, July 26, this will include a three piece band, dance floor, magician and even a visit from Santa with gifts for all those under 12.

Holmesglen at Eildon is an amazing venue in the shire, which only opens to public for its special seasonal events, owned by Holmesglen Institute (one of Victoria's largest TAFE colleges), the venue is an Award Winning Business Event venue which can accommodate up to 120 in four star accommodation.

Throughout the year the professional team of staff are exceptionally busy hosting Corporate and Government Conferences and trainings, as well as staff and students from its campuses in Melbourne who visit the Rural Retreat for their professional development programs.

It is tucked high up on the hill just a few kilometres before the Eildon township with its 660 acres adjoining the Snobs Creek Hatchery and overlooking the Goulburn Valley with spectacular views and gorgeous sunsets. Definitely worth a visit, and renowned for its professional service and low miles ethos with locally sourced food produce.

The team has even developed its own range of produce jars including HE jams. pickles, relishes and sauces, and a recipe book featuring many of its gourmet delights, all available for sale onsite as well as a range of hampers priced from \$32 to \$100, these are a great gift for any occasion.

For more information visit holmesglenateildon.com.au

Health data sought

ALEXANDRA resident Marie Bristow is lobbying for an increase to services at our local hospitals and is seeking information from residents who currently need to travel outside of Murrindindi Shire for treatments.

Marie stated, "I have been pushing for better options for dialysis patients in the area. To support our push to the government to provide better health services in our community so that people don't have to travel, I require information on the numbers of local people who currently have to travel outside the area for the following types of regular treatments, such as dialysis; iron infusions; and immunotherapies for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and some cancer.

"I also need numbers of local people who currently receive dialysis in their home or who are on the waiting list for dialysis treatment," she said.

Marie can be contacted on 0439 411 816 or by emailing *mariebristow@bigpond*. com



Work on a new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre will begin soon as part of a \$15 million investment from the Victorian Government into facilities at Snobs Creek and Arcadia, enabling

Planned burns progress update

FOREST Fire Management Victoria were asked how the recent planned burning is progressing in the Murrindindi Fire District.

Forest Fire Management Victoria, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy said, "Planned burning is part of our long-term strategy to reduce bushfire risk for people, property and the environment.

"It's not just about a single burn, or a single year, but an ongoing process aimed at creating a strategic network of fuel reduced areas on public land.

"So far this year, across the Hume region, we have ignited 45 burns covering an area of 26,737 hectares.

"Specifically in the Murrindindi District, nine burns have been ignited, fuel-reducing 4200 hectares of public land.

"Without planned burning and other bushfire risk management works, bushfires will be bigger and harder for our firefighters to control.

"We look for opportunities to deliver our bushfire risk management program all year round, when it is safe to do so.

"Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable."



Exotic animal trading crackdown

AGRICULTURE Victoria is leading a crackdown on an illegal network trading in exotic pest animals, with the aim of preventing serious biosecurity breaches with a joint operation alongside the Conservation Regulator and Crime Stoppers called Operation DJANGO.

So far, six people have been prosecuted to date, and two others have received infringement notices with fines totalling \$105,600. This includes the two largest fines ever issued under Victoria's *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, with one offender fined \$54,000 with conviction.

To date Operation DJANGO has seized eight African pygmy hedgehogs, two boa constrictors, one ball python, one sulcata tortoise, one green iguana, two Indian star tortoises, and one Chaco tortoise.

Operation DJANGO Project Manager Adam Kay said illegal animal traders are becoming more sophisticated and dealing with an increasing number and variety of species.

"We are cracking down on this illegal trade that puts a serious risk to native wildlife and often causes severe cruelty to animals."

"When smuggled into Victoria without proper quarantine, exotic animals can carry diseases that may spread to local wildlife, pets, and even humans," Mr Kay said.

Operation DJANGO also uncovered the illegal trading of native animals such as the saltwater crocodile, freshwater crocodile, green tree snake, olive python, and the Darwin carpet python.

Wildlife trafficking is the fourthlargest organised crime globally, worth over \$450 billion a year, according to the Wildlife Crime Research Hub.

The maximum penalty for illegally importing, possessing, or selling exotic pest animals in Victoria is a fine of up to \$95,000.

If you have information about the illegal trade of native wildlife or exotic pests, contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or online at *crimestoppersvic.com.au*



At the commissioning of the artwork associated with the Reconciliation Action Plan at the GB CMA Shepparton office were Yorta Yorta artist Tammy-Lee Atkinson, GB CMA chief executive officer Carl Walters and the CMA's Traditional Owner Partnerships senior officer, Carla Miles. -S

That's a RAP: CMA commits to reconciliation

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's continued dedication to reconciliation with First Nations peoples has resulted in the completion of its third Reconciliation Action Plan.

The CMA's Chief Executive Officer, Carl Walters said the authority has a long-standing commitment to reconciliation and partnering with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities to help heal culture and Country across land, water and biodiversity.

"This commitment involves our continuing work with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Taungurung Land and Waters Council to build and nurture relationships," Mr Walters said. "We strive to provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and increase our collective understanding and appreciation of First Nations cultures and self-determination aspirations.

"In this third edition of the CMA's Reconciliation Action Plan we have identified ways to stretch ourselves to lead and act on our commitment to reconciliation."

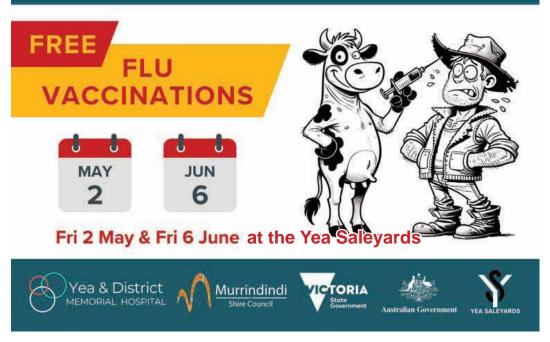
Planned actions include the CMA's ongoing procurement of services from First Nations businesses, planning and support for improved employment outcomes of First Nations peoples and partnering with landholders and other agencies to protect cultural heritage. Goulburn Broken CMA board member and Yorta Yorta woman Leanne Miller was a member of the RAP working group that developed the plan.

"The Goulburn Broken CMA Reconciliation Plan builds on strong local partnerships," Ms Miller said.

"This document recognises the role we all have to play in engaging in courageous conversations and actions that challenge the status quo."

A painting by Yorta Yorta woman Tammy-Lee Atkinson, which depicts the Goulburn Broken catchment, features on the front cover of the RAP document and was recently hung in the CMA's Shepparton office.

FREE Health Checks # FARMING COMMUNITY





2 ELDERS & NUTRIEN STORE SALE + FREE Flu Vaccine

9 NUTRIEN YEA SPRING DROP WEANER SALE

ELDERS YEA AUTUMN FEATURE STORE SALE

ELDERS & NUTRIEN STORE SALE

6 ELDERS & NU JUN + FREE Flu Vaccine

14

MAY

13 ALEX SCOTT & STAFF – CHRIS STANLEY STORE SALE (TBC)

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

Do you know how to make your vote count?

Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

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Green ballot paper – number **every box** in the order of your choice

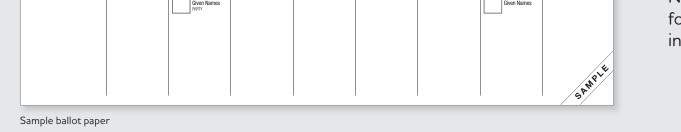
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EITHER

Vote above the line Number at least 6 boxes for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

OR

Vote below the line Number at least 12 boxes for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.



Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at aec.gov.au

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Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

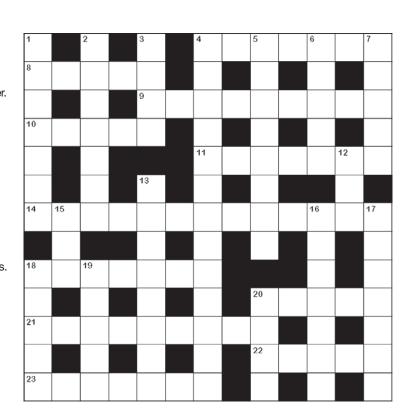
KID'S PUZZLES SOLUTIONS Page 11

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 4. Men's neckwear.
- 8. Cud-chewing mammal.
- 9. Referred to.
- 10. Put into systematic order.
- 11. Promote in rank.
- 14. A configuration of stars. 18. Lacking imagination.
- 20. Deliberate deception.
- 21. Childlike behaviour.
- 22. Collect funds.
- 23. Reduce in length.

DOWN

- 1. Stretchable fabric.
- 2. A dissenting clique.
- 3. Light fixture.
- 4. Unable tp reflect. 5. Mythical Greek monsters.
- 6. Athlete's foot.
- Give abilities to. 7.
- 12. As well.
- 13. Gained with effort.
- 15. Wooden paddle.
- 16. Falsely based.
- 17. Strips of pasta.
- 18. Dessert apple.
- 19. Make available.
- 20. Flowerless plant.



Word Search

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Outer Space

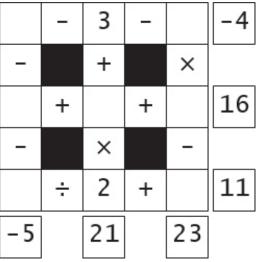
ASTRONAUT	PLUTO
ATMOSPHERE	SATURN
EARTH	SOLARSYSTEM
GALAXY	SPACESHIP
MOON	UNIVERSE

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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.





Colouring Page



www.CuteColoringPagesForKids.com

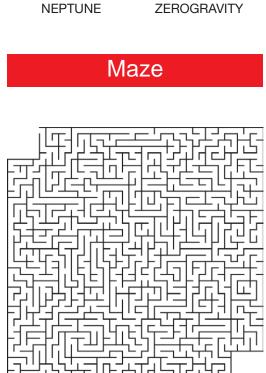
Word Search

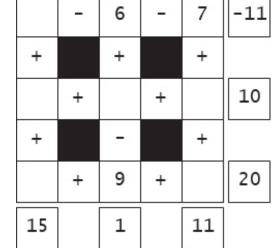
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Words starting with "B"

BACKYARD	BICYCLE
BALL	BLANKET
BALLOONS	BREAD
BANANA	BROCCOLI
BASKETBALL	BROTHER
BEACH	BUBBLE
BEAUTIFUL	BUNNY

Math Square





Fill in the missing numbers.

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

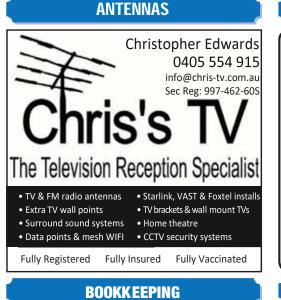
Jokes

- Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7? Q: Why do bananas wear sunscreen? A: Because 7, 8, 9.
 - **A:** Because they peel.

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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ELECTRICIANS



• Undergrounds



ANZAC Day at Yea hospital



The flags were raised to full mast. -S



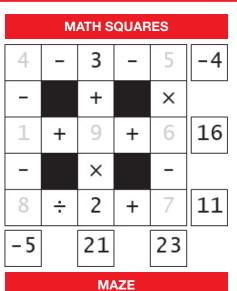
Ian Marshman speaking to the group. -S

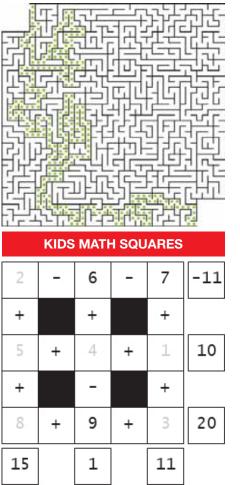


The service took place at the hospital's entrance. -S

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DEATH NOTICES

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Savoulla

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15/04/2025

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of the Alexandra

community for

many years, her

smiling face and

cheeky personality

will be sorely

missed by many.

A memorial will be

held in Alexandra,

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5772 2116

for details.

RIP Sav.

From Denise and

all the staff at

McKenzie Street.

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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.

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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.

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

IN MEMORIAM

O'CONNOR, GERARD (Gerry). 17/08/1932 -29/04/2010. It is now 15 years since you were called by God and his angels to lead you in to his heavenly home to be with your parents and your brothers and sisters. Gerry, I thank you for the 50 years we shared together along with our sons, Maurice, John, Martin, Brendan, Francis, and Christopher. I hope we can enjoy a cuppa in God's heavenly garden. My love forever, Peg, your Maggie.



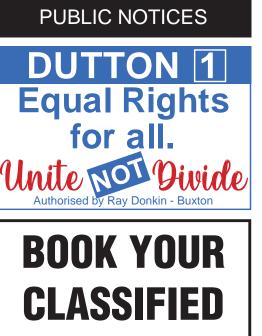
ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ROTARY Alexandra

Art Show. Raffle winner, Amanda Dean (Julian Bruere painting). Second, Karen Jarvis (accommodation at Summerlands).

Third, Libby Gobbart (hamper). Fourth, Sharon Hedger (hamper).

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club AGM will be held at the club rooms WINNER Alexandra on Sunday, May 18 at **RAR** wood raffle drawn 11am. Presentations and March 20. R Bowd Alexandra blue ticket B98.



Great data for cardiac survival rates

www.murrindindibusiness.com.au

of Victoria has the best cardiac survival rates in Australia and among the best in the world, with more Victorians than ever before using CPR skills to save lives.

Minister for Ambulance Services Mary-Anne Thomas has revealed new data from the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry (VACAR) Annual Report 2023/24 showing Victoria's highest ever cardiac arrest survival rate of 41 per cent, up five per cent from last year, for cases where a bystander witnessed a cardiac arrest and the patient presented in a shockable rhythm.

The 41 per cent survival rate means Victoria ranked first in Australia and third internationally in 2023/24 on the Utstein Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Registry for international cardiac arrest reporting.

A record 141 Victorians received treatment from a bystander using CPR and a public Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) while awaiting emergency care from paramedics, with a remarkable 47 per cent surviving, compared to only a 32 per cent survival rate when there is no bystander intervention.

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in Australia affecting over 30,000 Australians yearly, with survival

ANNUAL data has highlighted that the state dropping 10 per cent per minute without treatment, making bystander CPR and AED access critical.

Victoria has more than 7500 publicly accessible defibrillators, significantly improving the survival rates for cardiac arrest patients, who without CPR or AED intervention have only a five to 10 per cent chance of survival.

Ambulance Victoria's free GoodSAM app is also making a difference with 17,327 registered responders and 793 cases attended by volunteers in the last year. Integrated with Triple Zero, the app connects patients with registered volunteers who can provide CPR and defibrillation until an ambulance arrives.

Responding to the impact of increasing cardiac arrests, Ambulance Victoria's 2023-2028 Cardiac Arrest Improvement Strategy outlines its work to roll out community-based education and participation programs for both adults and children, including learning CPR and how to use an AED.

It comes as the latest quarterly performance data revealed Victoria's hardworking paramedics continue to face record demand, responding to nearly 100,000 code one cases this quarter, an increase of 3000 from last year.

Nominees in the volunteer awards

Volunteer of the Year Nominees

CURRENT Murrindindi Shire residents aged 26 to 64 years (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Kim Travers, (Flowerdale); Ron Litjens, (Yea); Jess Kennedy, (Yea); Tamara Fowkes, (Kinglake); Lucy Collins, (Alexandra); Sarah Hopkins, (Flowerdale); Kate Rose Turner, (Pheasant Creek); Paul Michael, (Flowerdale); Kerrie Malley, (Eildon); Michelle 'Shelley' Stafford, (Buxton); Danny Heal, (Kinglake Central).

Senior Volunteer of the Year Nominees **CURRENT** Murrindindi Shire residents aged 65 years or older (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Kath Hedger, (Alexandra); Judith 'Jude' Blakeney, (Alexandra); Margaret O'Connell, (Toolangi); Julie Hardy, (Alexandra); Gail 'Dolli' Dollimore, (Marysville); Dawn Sundblom, (Yea); Robert 'Bob' Burns, (Kinglake); Judith Hard, (Yea); John Hughes, (Eildon); Neil Guscott, (Marysville).

Community Group of the Year Nominees

COMMUNITY groups or initiatives by a group, event, campaign or movement. Individuals are not eligible for this category.

Kinglake Market, Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges; Christmas Tree Festival Committee, Alexandra; UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc; Sacred Heart Parents and Friends Yea; Eildon Community Opportunity Shop Inc; Kinglake Mumma's Community Support Group; Murrindindi Carers' Coffee Group, Alexandra; Tri Active Life (Registered as Tri Gym Inc), Marysville; Murrindindi East U3A; Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group Inc, Flowerdale; Kinglake Wildlife Support; The Alexandra Community Visitor Information Centre.

Young Volunteer of the Year

CURRENT Murrindindi Shire residents aged 12 to 25 years (at May 19, 2025, start of National Volunteer Week).

Ethan Hodge, (Eildon); Thomas White, (Yea); Layla Calder, (Flowerdale).

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Are Forestry Transition Grants helping forestry workers?

OUESTIONS have been raised in the community about how much the Forestry Transition Grants have been helping former forestry workers. The government was asked how many former forestry workers based in Murrindindi Shire have been employed as a result of the grants.

A Victorian Government spokesperson responded, "We're supporting forestry communities to find new local economic opportunities that will create more jobs.

"The Forestry Transition Program has provided \$6.4 million in the Murrindindi region alone to support workers and businesses to transition or expand their operations, creating and retaining 40 jobs."

It's understood that at this time, the information available to the Victorian Government shows that the seven native timber businesses in Murrindindi Shire which have received support from the Forestry Transition Program all currently remain operational.

Thirty-seven workers have registered with the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program in Murrindindi Shire. Of these workers, 78.4 per cent (29) have remained with their employer 21.6 per cent (eight) were made redundant of which 13.5 per cent (five) are in new employment and 8.1 per cent (three) have retired.

Three grants have been approved under the Forestry Transition Fund which will create 11 jobs.

Murrindindi Shire Council's April meeting

ON Wednesday, April 23 Murrindindi Shire Council held their April meeting at the Yea Council Chambers. Exciting plans have been developing for Yea and Alexandra, and she attended the strategic planning community

There were no apologies, requests for planned leave, and no disclosures of interests for the meeting being held. There were no petitions or community recognition, matters deferred from previous meeting, or urgent business.

Councillor induction program

THE Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024 introduced new induction training requirements for councillors, and specific training requirements for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor completed the required mayoral induction training on December 12 and 13, 2024. All councillors completed their induction training on February 5.

Council Plan Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Progress Report

EACH year the council creates a Priority Action Plan to guide the implementation of the four-year council plan. The Priority Action Plan for this financial year was approved on June 26, 2024. This item provides a progress report covering the third quarter of the year from January to March 2025. There are 68 actions in total: 66 of them are going well and are on track, one has been temporarily delayed and is being monitored, and one has been postponed due to budget constraints.

Cr Hildebrand wanted to add how there are two little tasks he is very proud of: council received 46 nominations for the community volunteer awards, and a big conversation was engaged in February and March to enable the community to input into the new council plan 2025-2029, now underway. The engagement involved five community workshops, pop up kiosks, target sessions, and a survey with 150 responses.

Mayor Gallagher questioned why one action is running slightly behind schedule and the reasons for the delay. The task is the Flat Lead Road project. It has started, just started slightly later. The site has been surveyed and laid out and ready for planting in spring. Part of delay is lack of rain and the trees have been ordered. Planting will begin between August and September.

Landfill Environmental Monitoring Tender

THE contract to undertake environmental monitoring activities and compliance reporting for up to five years to support the operation of the Alexandra Landfill and to meet council's general environmental duty in relation to closed landfill sites was awarded.

Council contracts external consultants to undertake the environmental monitoring activity to send samples to be lab tested and prepare reports. Reports for Alexandra landfill is reviewed annually by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to ascertain licence compliance. Exciting plans have been developing for Yea and Alexandra, and she attended the strategic planning community engagement sessions for Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan. It was great to see many residents come along.

Councillor Carpenter spoke about the new delivery of bins. The kerbside collection of four bin service is set to roll out soon. Community feedback has directly shaped councils' approach about the new four bin service following initial consultation in 2022 and engagement process last year, via surveys and pop-up sessions. FOGO in rural areas will remain optional reflecting the 89 per cent of respondents who already managed organic waste themselves.

Councillor Sandice McAulay also spoke about the Alexandra East Development Plan and the Yea Structure Plan to attract families, and retirees. The Yea Structure Plan also shows that we have adequate supply of residential zone land to accommodate growth for a number of years to come. It's important to note that the structure plan is within the focus of the township land and does not include rural living. The focus of both strategies is to encourage growth and sustainability of our community.

There are ongoing issues about camping illegally for profit on private land impacting neighbours and environment. It is asked people to be respectful of neighbours and the surrounding areas. All the issues and complaints are getting followed up. Officers can't share the details of a compliance case with the person who raised it due to privacy. There have been fines and others are progressing their way to the Magistrate's Court.

Council's Community Capacity Building program has been developed to help businesses, volunteers and community members, it is a dedicated training and development program and involves training and mentoring and networking opportunities. These will include grant writing, governance for not-for-profit organisations, etcetera.

Councillor McAulay wanted to give a shout out to the Buxton Progress Association, as they hosted Emergency Preparation sessions. This helped families to understand what to do in the first 72 hours following an emergency. It was a very informative opportunity for the community.

Councillor Eric Lording spoke about the roads and infrastructure program moving ahead as planned. The dry weather has been helpful. Regional Roads Victoria will be doing some needed works in Yea in coming weeks and delays can be expected.

He spoke about having the privilege of opening the Alexandra Rotary Art Show and over 250 people attended and purchased 20 artworks on the night. Councillor Paul Hildebrand shared highlights and reflections of his past month around the Murrindindi Shire. One highlight was the well-attended farmers breakfast earlier in the month in Alexandra and how farmers are doing it tough with dry paddocks and lack of rain. He is hoping for solid rain for farmers soon. Councillor Anita Carr spoke of busy Easter weekend especially in Eildon with a lot going on. She attended the football jumper presentation for Thornton Eildon women's team and mentioned the big win to kick off the season Mayor Damien Gallagher paid respect to his holiness the Pope Francis on his passing. He extended his thoughts to the faith communities. He spoke about his feeling of sadness and sorrow of the passing of local man, Bruce Luckman, who passed away on April 7 and how he extends his condolences to Lynn and the Luckman family.

In recent times, the mayors, CEOs and delegates from across the region came together in Flowerdale for an assembly of the Taungurung Local Government Forum.

Artists of all genres has been on the agenda this last month with the *Beyond the Beats* event in Eildon that celebrated young and emerging performing artists, while sculptures were on display in the gardens of Marian Rennie, and the Rotary Club of Alexandra hosted the annual Easter Art Show at the Alexandra Town Hall.

Mayor Gallagher hopes residents and visitors pause on ANZAC day to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australians in the defence of this country.

Mayor Gallagher speaks of the campaign representing Murrindindi Shire in the Federal election advocacy, asking for a fair go for our community and calling for investment commitments in our region.

"As the Federal election campaign has progressed, I have appreciated the discussions about democracy itself. Democracy doesn't thrive in noise, but in the quiet steady work of bringing people together, of disagreeing with respect and focusing on outcomes and not outrage. The Murrindindi Shire community famously moderates itself, it values respect, reason and local problem solving, people are tired of the negativity, they are fatigued by the noise and increasingly sharp edge of public discourse. We need our elective representatives, all of us to set a higher standard. This is the moment that leadership unites and not divides," he said.

CEO Livia Bonazzi was pleased to report council has received \$320,000 through the Forestry Transition Program. This funding will support two key projects. \$200,000 for progress innovation areas identified by community from Shaping Murrindindi's strategy, and \$120,000 to support a health and aged care work force strategy addressing workforce shortages and access challenges in rural communities.

In round two in the Forestry Transition there is a \$20,000 incentive for businesses to employ a former timber worker. Please see the state government website for information regarding what different rounds are for.

In relation to the upcoming new kerbside collection service, the bulk roll out of the bins is substantially complete and council are assessing the need for extra from members of the community with the need such as medical exemptions.

The draft budget for 2025-26 is available to view on council's website. There will be a special meeting of council in Alexandra on Wednesday, April 30 to adopt the new budget. Once endorsed community can provide feedback on the following day and community members are invited to provide submissions in writing or in person at council meeting on May 28. This helps shape priorities the year ahead. The plan to present the new budget will be at council meeting on June 25. At the March council meeting Mr Garry Angus and Mr Charles Exton raised concerns in the public forum about the Carey Road development in Killingworth and made reference to perceived delays and possible irregularities in council's planning process relating to this development. "Officers have undertaken a review and I can confirm no irregularities were identified and planning permit was issued well within the statutory period in 35 days once the applicants submitted all necessary information," Ms Bonazzi said.

Call to address 'ghost camping'

CARAVAN and Residential Parks Victoria has called on the Victorian Government to urgently address problems with its free camping policy and expand the initiative to include regulated parks to reduce the growing issue of 'ghost camping'.

They stated that the April school holidays, and Easter long weekend, again saw state government free camp sites remain near empty, resulting in significant economic losses for regional communities and frustration among genuine campers. Unlike unregulated free camps, privately operated caravan (tourist) parks operate under strict regulation and offer safe, affordable and family-friendly camping experiences with access to clean amenities, emergency infrastructure and professional onsite staff.

They also pointed out their vital role in regional economies, with tourist parks accounting for over 50 per cent of overnight stays in regional Victoria, contributing \$2.4 billion in economic value to the state, and supporting 17,000 jobs.

The organisation said that since December 1, 2024, private tourist parks have been operating in an unfair market, forced by the Victorian Government to compete with free, unregulated camp sites, eroding private park occupancy rates, revenue and profitability.

Caravan and Residential Parks Victoria CEO Scott Parker provided the Minister for Tourism Steve Dimopoulos with several options to support private tourist park businesses and the thousands of private park campers who have sought the same financial benefit as those camping for free in Parks Victoria campgrounds.

"If the goal is to make outdoor holidays more affordable and accessible, regulated tourist parks must be part of the solution," Mr Parker said.

"For example, providing campers in private caravan (tourist) parks with a voucher worth a similar discount to that which the government is providing campers in their own unregulated campgrounds would give Victorians more choice, provide much greater support for our small business operators and avoid some of the waste created by a poorly managed free booking system."

"Victorians would be able to redeem camping credits at either public sites or our regulated member tourist parks," Mr Parker said.

New RDA Chair appointed to lead Hume Regional Development Australia

HUME Regional Development Australia (RDA) has appointed a new RDA Chair for Hume and is recruiting new committee members.

RDA Chair Brett Luxford will support the Hume region as one of six RDA committees across the state with the goal of delivering economic success across Victoria by linking government, businesses and communities together.

Brett is an experienced local government professional having held various leadership positions across rural, regional and metropolitan councils in economic development, strategic planning, partnerships and governance.

Councillor reports

COUNCILLOR Jodi Adams acknowledged the dedication of the people raising much needed funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. The children loved seeing the flashing lights and volunteers. She attended Kinglake, Kinglake West and Pheasant Creek community led planning session at Kinglake Pub. Council has applied for a grant applied for to upgrade the Kinglake Memorial Reserve and recreation planning across the shire. Council will keep everyone updated with the outcomes.

Councillor Sue Carpenter spoke of the huge influx of visitors coming to Murrindindi Shire and enjoying the weather before the cold arrives. Most recently, Brett finished a four year tenure as CEO of Mitchell Shire Council where he delivered critical infrastructure projects and secured major investments while guiding the council through significant challenges including the 2022 and 2024 major flood events.

Outgoing RDA Chair Eliza Brown has served the Hume region for three years, helping pave the way for RDA's valuable work to strengthen regional Victoria's prosperity.

RDA Hume is focused on identifying solutions to address housing shortages, supporting local business and industry with growth and workforce demands, promoting the region's unique tourism offerings and investment opportunities, and advocating to the Australian Government on critical local issues, opportunities and challenges.

Applications for RDA committee member positions are open until today, Wednesday, April 30 at 5pm.

SPORT



Yea women's player Thea Hamilton making it count. -S

Stellar win for Yea women's football team

by Kylie Garlick

Yea Tigers defeated Officer 3.13.31-1.3.9

YEA Women's Football team secured their history making, first ever victory in a commanding performance over Officer, winning 3.13.31 to 1.3.9. In slippery conditions, the Tigers scored first and never looked back, delivering four quarters of relentless, team-first football.

From the outset, Yea showed their intent, applying immense pressure and dominating possession. Although the scoreboard didn't fully reflect their control of the game early, the team's persistence paid off. Abby Christie was a standout up forward, kicking two goals



Jordyn Beattie won't give up the ball. -S

and presenting as a constant threat. Emeli Brunt was clean on a wet day and also hit the scoreboard, capitalising on Yea's forward entries to add a crucial major.

The midfield group were at their dominant best, with Madi Albers and Jordy Beattie once again leading the charge through the middle. Their work rate and ability to break lines set the tone for the rest of the team. Billie Ross and Maddy Sawyer, who played predominantly on the wings provided plenty of drive and composure, while Thea Hamilton and Alicia Mcleod's attack on the footy at half back added to a strong backline group which continued with their exceptional start to the year.

The support from the sidelines was nothing short of electric, mirrored by the support shown on field. A significant, vocal crowd turned out to cheer on the Tigers, creating an unforgettable atmosphere and lifting the team when it mattered most. The pride in the black and gold is growing by the week.

This win marks a significant milestone for the Yea Women's Football team, the first of many to come. With confidence building and momentum growing, the Tigers will now set their sights on a Round four rematch against Emerald, away on the May 10.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Seniors			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Warburton Millgrove	530.30	2	Pakenham Lions	390.16	3
Pakenham	280.70	3	Seville	245.16	3
Seville	185.43	3	Warburton Millgrove	218.18	2
Yarra Glen	79.67	2	Yarra Junction	142.55	2
Powelltown	52.53	1	Yarra Glen	119.86	2
Yea	108.70	1	Alexandra	31.21	0
Alexandra	55.56	0	Powelltown	17.47	0
Belgrave	76.05	0	Yea	56.02	0
Yarra Junction	30.04	0	Belgrave	43.61	0
Football – Reserves			Netball – B Grade		
Pakenham	650.98	3	Seville	465.96	3
Seville	524.24	3	Pakenham Lions	448.00	3
Belgrave	225.24	2	Warburton Millgrove	170.37	
Yea	159.68	2	Yarra Glen	100.00	2 2 2
Warburton Millgrove	144.44	ĩ	Yarra Junction	90.08	2
Powelltown	33.16	î	Powelltown	40.00	õ
Alexandra	27.11	0	Alexandra	12.80	0
Yarra Junction	20.54	0	Belgrave	53.70	0
Yarra Glen	12.82	0	Yea	51.83	õ
	12.02	0		1010000	U
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	3	Seville	315.09	3
Emerald	100.00	2	Pakenham Lions	312.07	3
Wandin	66.66	2	Warburton Millgrove	178.26	2
Thornton Eildon	50.00	1	Yarra Glen	81.48	2
Yea	33.33	1	Yarra Junction	78.48	1
Seville	0	0	Powelltown	40.70	0
Officer	0	0	Alexandra	49.53	0
omeer	0	0	Belgrave	50.74	0
Football – 17 and under			Yea	42.86	0
eville 756.52 3		Netball – D Grade			
Pakenham Lions Gold	528.00	3	DI I I		
Warburton Millgrove	62.07	0	Pakenham Lions	561.54	3
Pakenham Lions Maroon	50.00	1	Seville	364.71	3
Powelltown	9.48	0	Warburton Millgrove	275.86	2
Alexandra	21.21	0	Yarra Glen	67.44	2
			Yarra Junction	67.95	1
Football – Under 18			Yea	65.43	1
rootban – Under 18		Alexandra	22.09	0	
Pakenham	8233.33	3	Powelltown	11.69	0
Seville	565.45	3	Belgrave	51.09	0
Yarra Glen	100.00	2			
Alexandra	8.04	0			
Warburton Millgrove	1.92	0			
Yea	26.14	0			
1.00	20.14				

Yea Seniors

Yea 5.12.42 defeated by Yarra Glen 8.12.60



Yea seniors played at home against Yarra Glen on April 26, player Aiden McSpeerin pictured. -S



Yea seniors player Jack Rennex -S

Yea Reserves

Yea 7.21.63 defeated Yarra Glen 3.6.24



Yarra Glen on Saturday, April 26. -S



Yea Tigers Reserves player Julian Mahon
won't let the ball get away at the game againstReserves player Hayden Gilmore using his
height to his advantage. -S

Yea under 18s

Yea 1.2.8 defeated by Yarra Glen 9.12.66



Under 18 Yea Tigers player Will Granter -S



Yea Tigers under 18 player Dusty Fisher. -S

SPORT

Yea Junior Netball Development Squad start up

by Jo Madden

THERE was a sense of excitement, and a few nerves, as the youngest Tigers took to the netball court for the very first time ever, facing off against Broadford. Under the enthusiastic guidance of Coach Maya, the team was full of energy and eager to get the game underway.

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Throughout the match, all players had the opportunity to experience different positions on the court, demonstrating versatility, and a fantastic attitude. Every player gave their absolute best effort, embracing the challenge with enthusiasm and showing impressive sportsmanship and teamwork for their first competitive outing.

Coach Maya expressed how proud she was of the entire team's performance, their positivity and willingness to support one another. It was a promising start to what is sure to be a wonderful season. We are already looking forward to seeing our young Tigers back in action next week when they take on St Mary's on our home courts. Well done to all players, the future is looking bright.

Awards

Under 11 Developmental: Yarra Valley Gas Coaches Choice Award:Lilly; Just Great Coffee Red Hot Go Award: Esme.

Under 11 Division One: Award winners: Madden Plaster Player of the Day: Cienna; Yarra Valley Coaches Choice Award: Brooklyn

Under 13 Award Winners: Always Contracting Player of the Day: Lexi; Yarra Valley Coaches Choice Award: Pippa

Under 15 Award Winners: Upbuild Player of the Day: Ruby; Yarra Valley Coaches Choice Award: Zara



Giving three cheers at the end of the match. -S



Development Squad with Coach Maya. -S



Under 15 Award Winners Ruby and Zara. -S

Under 11 Division One Award Winners Brooklyn and Cienna. -S



Under 13 Award Winners Pippa and Lexi. -S



Under 11 Development Squad Award Winners Lilly and Esme. -S

Yea's Four Ball Best Ball championships





by Alan Pell

THE Davis/Wills and Christie/Callander Trophies were played for last Saturday with 36 golfers enjoying cooler conditions and a dampened course after some steady rain the night before.

In the men's competition, the best score was achieved by Gareth Antrobus and JP Mullaly with 51 points but as JP is a visitor the Trophy went to Rick Wills/Tony Rule with 48 points. Third were Chris Keogh and Russ Wealands with 45 points. Tony Rule was nearest the pin on the 18th and the lucky Club Award \$10 went to Rob Gill/Sam Wright. Many thanks to Elders for the trophy vouchers.

In the ladies competition Cindy Armstrong/ Judi Newman were the winners with 43 points. Second were Nicola Rule/Christine Simmons with 41 from third Loraine Callander/Lorraine Christie with 38. Many thanks also to Yea Garden Centre for the vouchers with the trophy.

Last Wednesday saw 19 men in seven teams of three play Multiplier Stableford. The teams three stableford scores are multiplied each hole to give a team score. An interesting game where everyone want to not let the team down by not scoring on a hole.

Winners with 134 points were Phil Armstrong (19), Brian Priestley (26) and John Renehan (50). Runners Up were Bob Glenister (10), Neil Peterson (14) and Greg Millard (13) with 115 from third Glen Walsh (33), John Phillips (17) and Steve Rumney (24) on 112. Phil Armstrong was nearest the pin on the 18th and Mic Sheather/Anthony La Grutta/Rob Gill won the club award. Individual Winner was Brian Priestley with 38 points from second Phil Armstrong on 36. Ladies on Wednesday played

Cindy Armstrong, Lorraine Christie, Loraine Callander and Judi Newman. -S

for the monthly medal which saw Judi Newman (36) win on countback from Di Holdsworth (29) both with nett 73. Third on nett 74 was Jan Wealands also on countback from Sharon Grogan (24).

Yea defeated Alexandra Golf Club at Eildon on Sunday five to zero to earn a spot in next

Tony Rule and Rick Wills. -S

week's pennant final at Woodend Golf Club. Winners for Yea were Tony Rule one up, John Phillips 3/2, Brendan Chenhall one up, Tom White one up and Rick. Wills 2/1.The final will be against Marysville Golf Club starting 8.30am this coming Sunday, May 4.



The Chronicle Sport Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Yea junior footballers start their season

Under nines

by Lily Armstrong

THE Yea Tigers Under nines burst onto the field for their very first game of the season against Broadford, and what a performance it was. Full of energy, determination and smiles, the young Tigers showed brilliant teamwork and a fearless spirit from the opening bounce.

Congratulations to award winners: Just Great Coffee Most Determined to Kaden; Armstrong Plumbing Best Team Player to Eddy; Yarra Valley Gas Coaches Award to Matilda.

The club says a huge thank you to Coach Mitch Sundblom for guiding the team so brilliantly, and to all the parents and supporters who cheered them on.

If this first outing is anything to go by, it's going to be a season full of excitement for the tiny but mighty Yea Tigers.

Under 10s

by Hannah Burton

PROUD to be a Yea Tiger. What a beautiful day Broadford showed for the first game of Yea's 2025 season of junior football.

While there were a few nerves, everyone gave such a great effort to their first ever game as a team.

The standout for the coach, was seeing every single player on the team continue to give their best effort in an attempt to gain possession of the ball. The experienced players guided the newer teammates and everyone supported each other so strongly.

Congratulations to award winners: PJohnston Transport Award to Hamish Dalton; Yarra Valley Gas Award to Charlie Treharne; Yea Takeaway Award to Indi Ruffell. Under 12s Broadford 17.18.120 defeated Yea 2.2.14 by Lyndal Tait

THE Tigers started off the season against Broadford last week, with Charlie Grant stepping up as captain for the round. Short on numbers they had a 'loan' of five players for each quarter from Broadford.

Yea's team played well, demonstrated great sportsmanship and skills, and put in 100 per cent effort all game. Each player gave it their all, and with some playing their first ever game, Yea have lots of amazing things to look forward to throughout this season.

The final score was certainly not reflective of their efforts.

Congratulations to award winners: Duncan's Paint and Panel 'Red Hot Go - Player of the Day' award to Archie Armstrong; Sprout Wellness 'Being your Best' award to Logan Steiner; Yarra Valley Gas 'Coaches Award' to Sienna Duncan.

Under 14s Euroa 12.16.88 defeated Yea 8.3.51

by Brigitte Baynes

EUROA greeted Yea with sunshine, smiles and good sportsmanship, and a great game was had by all. Euroa loaned players and Yea played with an even 12 per side.

Goal kickers for Yea were Ashton, Hunter and Toby.

Congratulations to award winners: Whanregarewen Pastoral Award to Hunter; Yarra Valley Gas award to Toby.

Much appreciation to those who came along to barrack and help with game day.



U12 Award winners: A Armstrong, S Duncan, L Steiner. -S





The under 10 team ready for the season. -S







Under nine ruck gets competitive. -S

The under 10 award winners. -S

The start of a tackle from the Under 10 team. -S