

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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The Yea Cruise Night and Yea Community House team who run the Yea Cruise Night. More images of the Yea Cruise Night on page 3 of this edition. -S

Murrindindi Shire Council responds to flood inquiry

MURRINDINDI Shire Council provided their statement in response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event.

It states, "Murrindindi Shire Council acknowledges the release of the Victorian Government's response to the *Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood event* and welcomes the recognition of key issues affecting flood-impacted communities.

"The government's response highlights the need for stronger coordination between state and local government in emergency response and recovery and commits to reviewing floodplain management strategies, planning controls, and emergency warning systems. Council welcomes the support for improved flood mapping, clear and updated planning controls in high-risk areas, and the recognition of local knowledge in emergency response efforts.

"However, while some recommendations align with council's advocacy, others fall short of delivering the certainty and funding

needed for long-term resilience, both physical and emotional.

"There is no clear commitment to changes in Lake Eildon's flood management, despite its impact on downstream communities, and no guaranteed investment in strengthening critical local infrastructure such as roads, culverts, bridges and levees.

"Without a commitment to long-term resilience, damaged assets will remain vulnerable to future flood events, increasing risks to communities and compounding recovery challenges.

"Additionally, the failure to support a resilient homes program for flood-affected residents is a missed opportunity to assist those most at risk.

"While council welcomes the focus on improving flood preparedness and response, we will continue to push for firm commitments on flood mitigation, infrastructure resilience, and long-term disaster recovery funding to ensure regional communities like Murrindindi are not left behind."

David Graham Berry trial date set

THE trial of David Graham Berry is set to be held in the County Court in Shepparton starting on November 10. The trial is expected to last for 10 days.

The delay was allowed by the judge to enable the prosecution to reexamine the DNA.

He was remanded in custody until the directions hearing, set for July 24.

Mr Berry faces 14 charges, eight of which are indictable and six are summary offences. They relate to alleged actions including theft of a motor vehicle from Euroa, and driving a motor vehicle in a way that was dangerous to the public and caused the death of a Murrindindi Shire man, who the court has not named. He is also charged with failing to immediately stop the motor vehicle at the site of the collision, and failed to immediately render assistance.

Police allege that Mr Berry was unlicensed at the time of the incident, and that he drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and a drug to such an extent that he was incapable of having proper control of the motor vehicle.

Vegetation works at Boundary Creek in Yea

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) are working together to remove noxious and environmental weeds, reduce fuel loads and rehabilitate the environment around Boundary Creek in Yea.

In March, council contractors will remove noxious and environmental weed species in a select area adjacent to Boundary Creek. Weeds to be removed include hawthorn, desert ash, prunus, cotoneaster and other garden escapees. Some native vegetation, such as small trees, shrubs and grasses, will be planted along the creekside to help bind soil and enhance biodiversity.

Council expects to complete the removal works within one week, with planting to follow. It is expected to be completed by end of July, weather depending.

While the works are happening, residents and people nearby may hear noise, and see workers and machinery in the area. Council appreciates your patience and understanding as they work towards a healthier, safer and more appealing landscape.

For further information on these works, call council on 5772 0333.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900
Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400
In an emergency dial
000

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ALEXANDRA
 NEWSPAPERS

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The Yea Chronicle

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Letters to the Editor

ANZAC Day

IN defence of Robyn Walsh's letter on February 26. Irony. It's about using irony as a teaching tool. Of course we don't want to disrespect our past and present soldiers in arms. Of course we don't want to stop celebrating their valiant attempts to protect our country from evil. Of course we miss the contribution the fallen could have made to our culture, our land, our society, our ancestral lives. Some of us, even, miss grandparents, parents, and siblings who paid the ultimate price for doing this.

But you can't have it both ways. You can't remember one lot of Australians and elevate their lives and then forget the others. Heck. Our Aboriginal soldiers fought alongside us, herded our cattle, were policemen for us, served us, helped us to live on the land, were our friends, helpmates and family.



THUMBS DOWN: To the thoughtless vandals who destroyed the brachychiton tree planted in Rotary Park, Alexandra, in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, and hurled a rock through the window of the Yarck Hall over the weekend on Mach 1 and 2. The maintenance of the hall is undertaken by a committee of volunteers, as was the fund-raising for the tree plantings. These volunteer committees work hard to enhance the amenity of our community are disheartened by such wanton destruction.

THUMBS UP: Finally we have flood depth indicators and an electronic river flow gauging station installed at Molesworth. Well done to all involved.

THUMBS DOWN: Flood depth indicators will not be very effective on the Goulburn River and Home Creek bridge decks. These have never flooded but the low-lying areas adjacent to the bridges is usually where the flood water flows. Might be best to relocate these to a more effective level which indicates actual flood water depth.

THUMBS UP: To all the positive posts. Nice to read.

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 cognitive dissonance that allows people to say we must revere and extol the virtues of one lot over the other is amazing.

If we have to remember the horror the ANZACs went through as part of our cultural history, we also have to remember the same sort of horror we extended to the people actually on the land when we got here. We shouldn't, as caring and generous human

beings, do one and omit the other. That's just unconscionable.

Robyn's use of irony escapes you because you can't see the right of it. Give over and stop making light of our full-on Australian history and support all parts of it. ANZACs and Aboriginal.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandra



A small fire on the Goulburn Valley Highway caused the road to be closed between Koriella and Cathkin on the afternoon of Thursday, March 6, due to smoke over the road. -AR

Fire at Koriella



Motorists were forced to detour via Yarck or Whanregarwen Road. Fortunately, firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire. -AR

Weekly Weather
 March 12 - March 18, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra **Yea**

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	18	32	Wednesday	18	33
Thursday	19	32	Thursday	19	33
Friday	19	33	Friday	19	33
Saturday	16	28	Saturday	16	29
Sunday	12	23	Sunday	12	23
Monday	11	22	Monday	11	22
Tuesday	12	24	Tuesday	12	24

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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

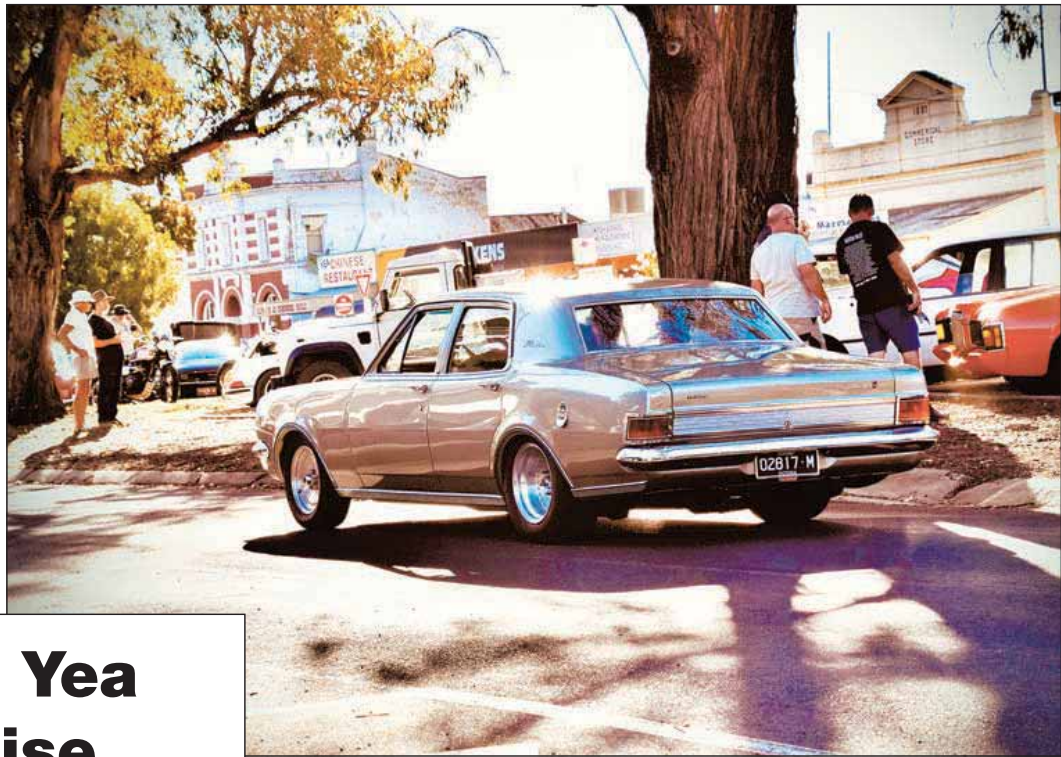
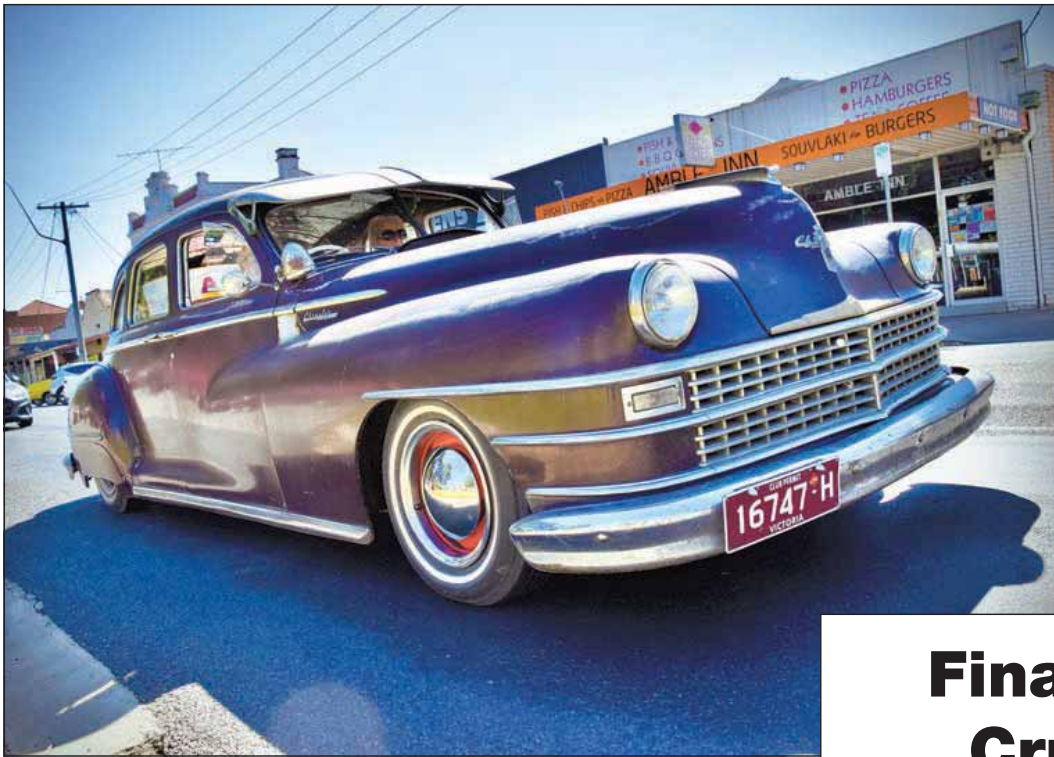
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 can be submitted via email to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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.

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Final Yea Cruise Night for the season

by Dale McKeon

The final Yea Cruise Night for the 2024/25 season was held in perfect weather. The season finale coincided with International Women's Day and following a suggestion from local lady, Storm Wolstencroft, the event focus was on women, with priority parking for women's rides only. There were some sensational vehicles.

Overall, it was a fantastic turnout of vehicles and everyone had a great time. Appropriately on International Women's Day, this month's fundraiser barbecue was hosted by the Yea Country Women's Association who also held a raffle on the night.

Yea Cruise Night and Yea Community House would like to thank everyone who supported the event over the season.

Yea Cruise Night season 2025/26 kicks off on Saturday, October 11 with the resumption of daylight saving time.



-Photos by Dale McKeon (Plymouth Dale Photos) and Amanda Price

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POLICE
REPORT

ON the evening of Saturday, March 8, at 9.20pm, emergency services received a call about two bushwalkers who had not returned to camp in the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve area by nightfall.

Fortunately, the caller was able to make a call via satellite as there was no mobile reception.

Police from Yea and Alexandra attended, and they were fortunately able to call in the police helicopter which was returning to Melbourne after attending a job in the Howqua Hills.

The police helicopter used a spotlight to locate the two 27 year old women, and police on the ground were then able to walk in and help them to return to camp.

The walkers were located on an island in the middle of the river and due to the darkness, had been uncertain of the river depth.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9

Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9

Flowerdale / Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5

Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Thu

Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179

Sun

AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086

Sun

Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY

1st Mon

St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099

1st Thu

Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057

2nd Sat

Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

2nd Wed

Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2nd Thu

Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315

4th Wed

Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu

Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888

Last Fri

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

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For a \$5 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.

Out&About

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Alexandra races is on again. 2025 Alexandra Cup. Fun for all the family. Mini golf, music, magic and more. Gates open at noon. First race at 1.15pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

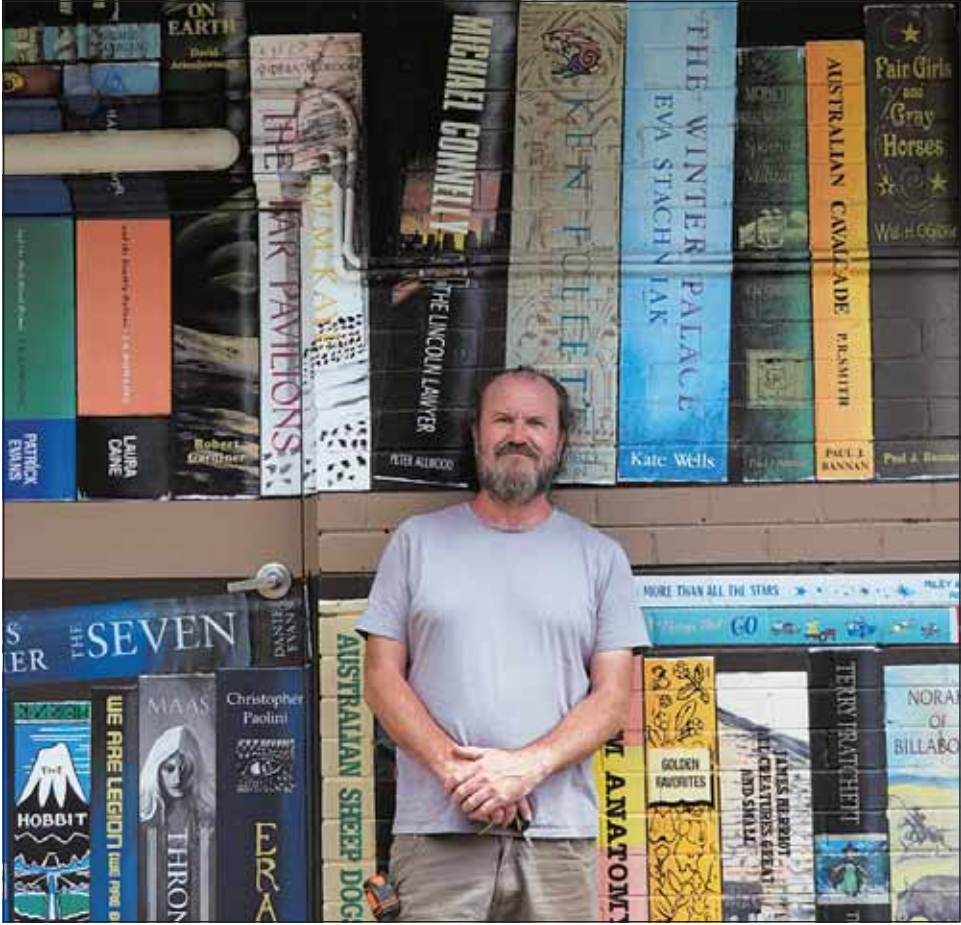
Cathkin Molesworth Cemetery Trust AGM will be held at 11am at the Molesworth Hall.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Market at Yarck is on from 9am in Yarck and includes CWA morning tea and cake stall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held at noon, followed by a light luncheon.



The book mural, initially conceived by former councillor Rebecca Bowles and created by Mark Klein, is now complete. The shelves are now fully stacked and is looking magnificent. It can be found one the side of the Yea Council Chambers. A launch event is being planned. Pictured is artist Mark Klein. -AR

John Walsh retires from CRLLEN after 14 years

CENTRAL Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network (CRLLEN) last week announced the retirement of local councillor and former mayor John Walsh, who served on the CRLLEN Board for 14 years.

John is passionate about education and training options for young people in his community and this is what attracted him to the work of CRLLEN. In his final term at council John was passionate about bringing an Education Hub to Yea, as he firmly believes that all people deserve the chance to engage in education and training without having to move away from their hometown to do so.

Fast internet and tutoring support for study in times that suit their lifestyle were also key messages of the hub. John has been volunteering on the CRLLEN Board since 2010 and for many of those years acted as Treasurer.

CEO Nicky Leitch said his experience, financial know-how and love of Taylor Swift, certainly made some of the Board meetings interesting.

“While I am relatively new to CRLLEN, I certainly know that John and Laura (one of our younger Board members) were full on Tay Tay fans and many a meeting was spent discussing costumes and songs.

“What I really enjoyed about working with John was his no-nonsense approach to our work. He liked to get the job done and could always cut right to the chase, especially if he was advocating for young people in his beloved hometown region. It was always great to have him on our side.”

John has a beef and berry farm at Yarck in the north of the Murrindindi Shire. Before moving to Yarck, John ran his own company providing risk management and project

management services, skills learned during a career as an officer in the Australian Army.

John made many significant contributions to CRLLEN and his local knowledge and passion for his community has left a lasting legacy in that local community. He has helped navigate the organisation through a number of challenging financial times and leaves the group in a strong financial position.

After 14 years of volunteering with CRLLEN, John has handed over his Treasurer responsibilities to his Tay Tay co pilot Laura Crozier.

CRLLEN Chair Faye D’Helin, thanked John for his service to the group.

“Thank you John for your incredible service to the CRLLEN and the young people we support, we will miss your drive and sense of humour.”

John himself commented on his time at CRLLEN.

“I enjoyed my time on the CRLLEN Board because I was a part of an organisation focussed on improving the chances of young people to succeed. There was a constant stream of new challenges which, through innovation and drive, were surpassed by an impressive set of achievements.

“It was fun to even just have a vicarious association with such activities although I never got on top of all of the Department of Education acronyms.”

CRLLEN are now on the hunt for new Board members. If you are passionate about your local community and keen to make a difference in young people’s lives, then they would love to hear from you.

To learn more about CRLLEN visit centralrangesllen.org.au/

WHAT'S
ON?

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Murrindindi Little Aths AGM and presentation night will be held at 5.30pm at Rotary Park in the barbecue area.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Alexandra Community Hub AGM will be held at 6pm at the Historic Court House at 38A Downey Street Alexandra.

Resilience on the menu at Molesworth Community Planning dinner

MURRINDINDI Shire Council would like to thank everyone who attended the Molesworth and District Community Planning Project event on Friday, February 28. Held at the Molesworth Public Hall, the event was a great success, with turnout exceeding expectations as residents came together to share ideas and discuss ways to strengthen their community.

The evening provided a valuable opportunity for residents to have their say on what would make their township a better place to live, work and visit. Over a meal, attendees connected with their neighbours and contributed to a shared vision for the future of the Molesworth area.

Participants heard from several speakers about community resilience and the impact of community-led initiatives in addressing local challenges. They then worked in groups to discuss key issues and voted on priority actions that best reflect the needs and aspirations of their community.

Some of the key topics voted on included environmental works in the reserve, including increased water levels, wetland development and walking tracks, signage for public spaces and historical sites, public toilets for travellers and users of the rail trail or recreation reserve, and development of community events in Molesworth, such as an annual fair, sporting events, film screenings and the re-establishment of the Easter Bazaar.

These sessions were initiated by the community following the October 2022 floods, which had a significant impact on the region. Council will continue working with residents to support planning for the future of the Molesworth and district area in line with local priorities.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, highlighted the significance of the event, stating, “It was heartening to see so many people come together, united by their passion for the community. The conversations were thoughtful, insightful and, most importantly, led by the people who live and work here. We’re eager to see these ideas take shape and to continue working alongside the community to bring them to life.

“Council is looking forward to hosting more community planning sessions and encourage residents stay engaged and watch for upcoming opportunities to get involved.”

Murrindindi Shire Council received financial support for this event from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments under the jointly funded *Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* (DRFA). For more information on Community Planning events, please contact council on 5772 0333.

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON

Don't miss nominating a volunteer, community group or initiative for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards.

Nominations close on Sunday 16 March. Criteria and nomination forms are available at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2025Awards

You can also pick up a paper nomination form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, and the Mobile Library.

The 2025 Award winners will be announced and acknowledged at a volunteer appreciation event held during National Volunteer Week (19-25 May 2025).

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH EASE

Attention community groups and event organisers! Did you know you can promote your event on Council's website? There are two types of events we support.

Community Events: Organised by volunteers and community groups for the benefit of locals. You can now add and manage your own events. Register an account, then start listing events!

Tourism Events: Larger-scale events attracting locals and visitors. We recommend event organisers list their events on the Australia Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW). Any tourism events added to ATDW will automatically feature on Council's website.

You can start promoting your event today, or find out more about running an event at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events

POSITIONS VACANT

Council is currently recruiting for multiple Infrastructure Maintenance Officers to join the Roads and Parks outdoor team on a permanent full-time basis.

For more information and to apply, please visit Council's website at murrindindi.vicgov.au/jobs

GET READY FOR FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL THIS AUTUMN!

As we enter autumn, it's the perfect time to tidy up your garden. From April 1 to April 30, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

This offer includes domestic quantities of garden waste. To ensure your green waste is accepted, please make sure it:

- Is not mixed with other materials
- Is no longer than 1.5 meters in length and less than 25 cm in diameter (larger branches and stumps will incur a fee)

For more information on green waste disposal, call us at 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste

Happy gardening! 🌿

EMERGENCY BROADCASTERS

In an emergency, it's important to get information only from verified sources. One of the most reliable ways to stay informed is by using a battery-powered AM/FM radio because they:

- don't need an internet or power connection
- provide regular updates and emergency broadcasts directly from agencies
- can be used while traveling

If you don't have a battery-powered radio, check if your car radio works. For more information and a list of local radio stations, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/EmergencyContacts

SMS RATES OVERDUE PHISHING SCAM

Council is aware of a SMS Phishing scam targeting Murrindindi Shire residents. The message states that their rates are now overdue and demand payment through a link. Do not click on this link. Council will never send a SMS message demanding payment for overdue rates.

If you are unsure of whether a text or phone call is legitimate, please contact our customer service team on 5772 0333.

SLEEP AND SETTling INFORMATION SESSIONS

Join our FREE online Sleep and Settling Information Sessions, facilitated by our Maternal and Child Health experts. Topics include frequent overnight waking, bottle dependency, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition and catnapping.

There are Toddler sessions from 10.00 - 11.30 am, and Infant sessions from 1.00 - 2.30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 1 April
- Tuesday 8 July
- Tuesday 30 September
- Tuesday 9 December

Reserve your spot at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch

STAY INFORMED

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Student of the Week

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YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to Caden, Ivy, Ashton, Dean, Ethan, Belle, Teddy, Chloe, Bohdi and Ella.

All students have been showing all our school values, we are so proud of you all.



Congratulations to Ainslie and Ebony for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch

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Celebrating 50 years of VICSES

VICSES Alexandra Unit Controller Peter Weeks and VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Denis Brain have both been with VICSES throughout the organisation’s entire 50 year existence. They attended the official launch of VICSES’ 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is proud to recognise the incredible efforts of thousands of their dedicated volunteers and members, as they celebrate 50 years of service to the state.

Incredibly, 16 current volunteers have served their communities throughout the entire 50 years.

VICSES has built a legacy of dedication, providing critical emergency assistance to thousands of Victorians each year.

The Civil Defence Organisation which formed in 1950 evolved into VICSES on March 5, 1975, and remains as we know it today, playing a lead and critical role in managing floods, storms and rescues, as well as supporting other emergency services.

Over the past five decades, VICSES volunteers have stood on the frontline of Victoria’s most challenging emergencies and severe weather events, including major flooding in 2010-11 and 2022, severe storms in 2021, the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires, the 2019-20 Victorian Black Summer Bushfires, the 2021 Victorian earthquake and so much more.

The unwavering commitment of so many VICSES volunteers has saved lives and safeguarded communities across Victoria.


VICSES is built on the dedication of its volunteers, such as Peter Weeks, who joined the Civil Defence Organisation in 1971. Inspired by his father and his passion for radio communications, Peter now serves as the Unit Controller at the VICSES Alexandra Unit.

Peter has been involved in critical response efforts, including the 2009 bushfires, high profile search and rescue operations, and assisting people stranded in the Goulburn River during major riverine flooding events.

VICSES has 154 units across the state and operates with more than 5000 volunteers. In the past year alone, VICSES volunteers responded to over 40,000 requests for assistance, demonstrating its crucial role in Victoria’s emergency response network.

Peter Weeks commented, “This is a big year for VICSES as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. While much has changed since 1975, our core values remain the same, to provide emergency assistance to Victorian communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. I’m so proud to be a VICSES volunteer, from the get-go.”

For those interested in joining VICSES or learning more about becoming a volunteer, visit ses.vic.gov.au/join-us



VICSES Alexandra Unit Controller Peter Weeks and VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Denis Brain have both been with VICSES throughout the organisation’s entire 50 year existence, and were joined by 18 month VICSES Footscray Unit volunteer Amy Bracks (centre) at the official launch of VICSES’ 50th anniversary celebrations. -S

Walk in the footsteps of Anzacs

THE Victorian Government will give a dozen Victorian students the opportunity to embark on a fully funded 11 day study tour to Gallipoli, Türkiye, where they will retrace the footsteps of the ANZACs.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman on Monday invited students in years nine to 12 to apply for the 2025 Spirit of ANZAC Prize and gain a deeper understanding of Australia’s wartime history.

“For 20 years, the premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize has given young Victorians the wonderful opportunity to gain a profound appreciation of our nation’s history and the sacrifices made by those who served,” Ms Suleyman said.

“I encourage eligible students to embrace this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our heroes and be part of the legacy that continues to educate and inspire future generations.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize, ensuring that Victorian students continue to learn about our veterans’ service and sacrifice. This milestone is particularly significant as students will visit Gallipoli on the 110th anniversary of the ANZACs landing on April 25, 1915.

By walking the same ground as those who served, students will gain a profound appreciation of the resilience, mateship, and courage that define the ANZAC spirit.

As part of their application, students will reflect on their interest in wartime history, their understanding of ANZAC values, their contributions to their school and community, and the knowledge they hope to gain from this unique experience.

More than 4000 students have submitted applications in the last 20 years, with more than 500 of these given the opportunity to visit historic battlefields and memorials across Europe, Southeast Asia and Australia.

The state government continues to support this program, ensuring that future generations recognise the contributions of our veterans through educational programs, school initiatives, and commemorative events.

Through opportunities like this, the government is fostering a deep respect for history so the sacrifices of past generations are never forgotten.

Applications are open until Monday, April 28, 2025. To apply or find out more visit vic.gov.au/soap

Cost-of-living crisis continues to bite animals in the north-east

by Belinda Dent, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader North-East

AS the Team Leader for RSPCA Victoria’s Inspectorate North-East region, my team and I see first-hand how the cost-of-living crisis affects people and their pets every day. People are struggling, and when people are struggling, their pets are affected. Those struggling to care for their pets are certainly not alone.

Heartbreakingly, RSPCA Victoria receives an average of almost 16 calls every day from people wanting to surrender their pets for a variety of reasons, including financial difficulties.

Out on the road, we see first-hand how pet owners are struggling in the cost-of-living crisis, with many cases of animals with insufficient food or water.

We’ve also seen people struggling to provide their pets with appropriate flea and worming treatment, as well as unregistered pets going missing or abandoned by their previous owners.

We don’t only deal with cases of malicious animal cruelty, but unfortunately, that doesn’t always make it easier for the animals affected.

Many of the cruelty cases we see stem from neglect due to circumstances outside their control, such as unexpected illness, injury or hospitalisation, those affected by domestic violence, and many others.

We’ve seen many owners who simply have too many animals and are unable to adequately take care of them.

Situations like this are often due to a lack of desexing. An unplanned litter of animals can be a heavy financial responsibility at the best of times, and it is a challenge best avoided.

We’re extremely grateful to the community for their ongoing vigilance in reporting animal cruelty. Over the last six months, we received 964 cruelty reports from the north-east region, resulting in the rescue of 215 animals. Last financial year, 413 animals came into our care, and sadly it seems we’re likely to repeat this total again by the end of June.

As we enter what is historically the busiest time of year, we urge everyone in the north-east to remain vigilant for animal cruelty in our area and to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling 9224-2222 or online at rspcavic.org/cruelty-report

The community support we see every day keeps us going and makes each day just a little bit better.

It cost approximately \$10.7 million to operate the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate in

How can we help support young people in our community

AUSTRALIAN Psychology Society president, Dr Sara Quinn MAPS GAICD, spoke to us about some of the challenges facing youths today, and the challenges parents may face in dealing with wayward youths. It's a complex situation, but the ability to ask questions and to listen goes a long way.

How can parents best support their children when they are showing behavioural issues?

If you as a parent are concerned that your child might be engaging in those behaviours, it's important to approach the situation yourself with a calm, curious, supportive approach. That attitude of curiosity goes a long way in order to approach that conversation in a way that's going to be helpful for the child. We know that when a child is acting out or distracted, experiencing conflict at school or with their peers, falling behind in their education, having trouble relating to their peers, there could be a range of health, learning or psychosocial factors at play. There is not just one thing and it's important that parents and caregivers have open and honest conversations with their child and help them really get both to the bottom of why that might be happening, but also to understand what sorts of support you might need to deal with the underlying causes of their behaviour. What we want to do is avoid threats and other reactions.

Where a consequence is actually required for behaviour, ensure that it's appropriate for the context and for the person's level of development, and we want it to ideally incorporate a positive learning experience or a restorative approach, so help them learn how to do things differently.

We've got a lot of psychologists in our schools, who are best placed to help some young people navigate those complexities in relationships and investigate the underlying causes. It also sometimes is helpful for the young person to have someone that might be independent from their parents or caregiver to have that conversation with, if it's too difficult for them and their parents at the time.

Do you suggest that following the conversation they may be get in touch with the school or local psychological services?

I would say it's when we see the behaviour of some young people, it's a community that needs to respond. We often know that young people are in this time in their lives, especially in adolescence, where they start to rely more on their peers and their friendships more than they do on their parents. And that's a really important part of their development. Parents and caregivers might not be the ones that actually are able to provide them with all of the support that they need. So enlisting the support of the school, the school psychologist, maybe even ensuring that you perhaps are having conversations with your children's friends parents, maybe doing something like that. It's a community approach as well.

How can parental control versus encroaching adulthood be balanced?

This is a tough one for many parents. Ultimately, the key is to balance being supportive and also a guide. You want the young person, your child, to take responsibility for their actions and their decisions, and to do that you need to create a space where your child feels safe having a discussion. That's not just a discussion about what it is that you're worried about, the behaviour or the problem. It's actually to provide a safe space for the child to discuss their feelings, their experiences and their struggles at the time, so we would recommend asking open ended questions. I don't mean put words into their mouth. I mean actually asking a question like, 'That sounded like that was really tricky. Tell me what happened' or 'how did you feel about that?'

It can be difficult to get teenagers to open up. How would you handle that?

If they grunt, listen without judgement. If they know they're not going to be judged by you, they might grunt, and then say that that's an interesting response. Is anything else that you would like to share? Do you feel comfortable talking to me? Would you like to speak to

somebody else about that? This is difficult to talk about. I find it difficult to talk about.

You can be honest about your own emotional experience of that as well, and not wanting to push them, but really wanting to be able to help them because at essence what we're doing is we're trying to understand why they engage in some of those risky behaviours. Is it peer pressure, is it a desire to be close or belonging to some people or someone, are there more underlying departmental health concerns going on for that young person? We need to balance setting clear expectations and boundaries, with clear reasons why this is important, and often that's something that we do miss. We need to say why we're putting that in place. Then then the next step is. We need to find and support the child to find healthy outlets for their energy and frustration. We know that involvement in positive activities can actually reduce exposure to environments that might actually promote more delinquent types of behaviours. Whether or not it's creative, like music or art, or whether it's more social, or more physical to get out energy. Promoting that and supporting them to find those healthy outlets is important and in supporting them to continue to engage in those behaviours. That's where a lot of this can come from. Those stronger emotions that they may not necessarily have the tools and the strategies to manage yet, and what's most important in that conversation is that you as the parent manage your own emotions.

How much do you think boredom plays a part in it?

I think it's very difficult for children these days to be bored because there is always such a barrage of information coming from the screens, from their phones and from the environment, far more so than any other generation. So it is actually difficult for a young person to experience boredom, and I guess that's where being able to understand why they're engaging in some of these behaviours and being able to support them, to find healthy outlets is really important. I



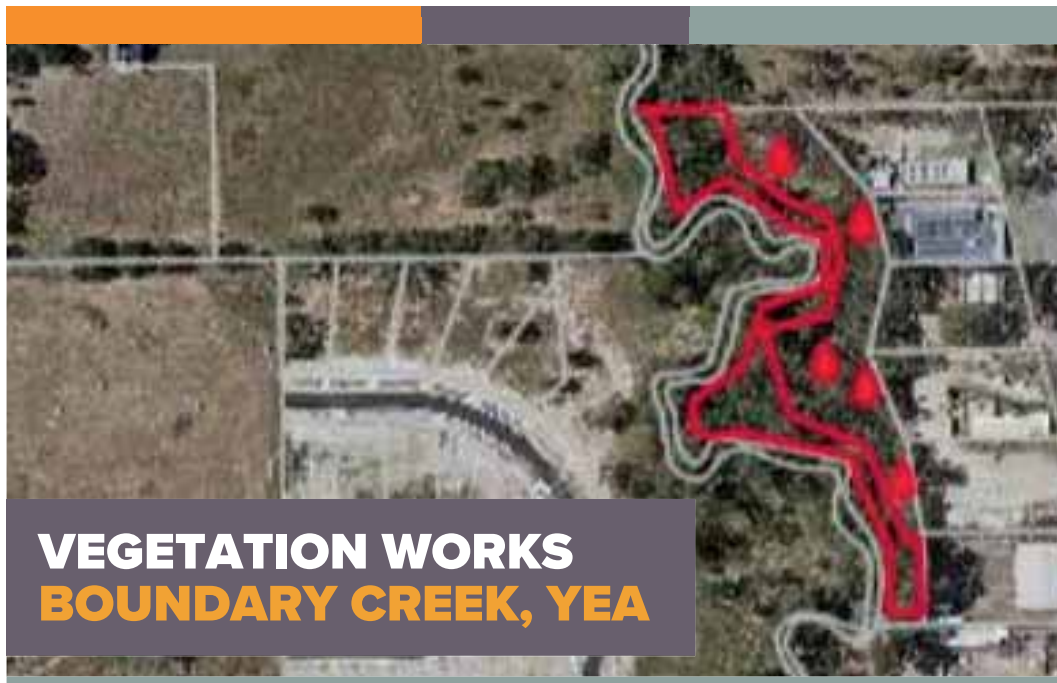
Dr Sara Quinn. -S

think boredom can be experienced by a child as a very strong emotion and don't know what to do with it, so it would be your role then to understand what they're feeling and to direct them to some activities that might be really helpful for them and doing so in a way that promotes what it is that they're into and excited by. Maybe it is that they really like being on their screens, but maybe they'd like to do that with others and gather together with their friends and their peers to do that, ensuring that you're aware of what's going on for them and why they might be engaging in that behaviour.

Are you able to elaborate on the causal factors behind youth delinquency? Is social media and the online space more generally, perhaps playing a part or is this just an easy place to lay blame? Or is it drugs and alcohol?

I'm going to give you a very frustrating response. I'm going to say it's not just one thing. We know adolescence is a pretty challenging time for any of our youth, and I think it would be it would be easier for us to be able to say it's one thing, but what we know is during that period of their lives, they're navigating friendships and they're doing that alongside significant personal, social and academic changes for them, and they are actually often figuring out who they are in the world and exploring the different aspects of their identity and how they might

Continued Page 8



Murrindindi Shire Council and Country Fire Authority (CFA) are collaborating to remove noxious and environmental weeds, reduce fuel loads and rehabilitate the environment around Boundary Creek, Yea.

In March, Council contractors will target weeds such as Hawthorn, Desert Ash, Prunus, Cotoneaster and other garden escapees.

The removal works are expected to take one week.

During this time, you may notice noise, workers and machinery in the area. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

For more information, please call Council on **5772 0333**.

Murrindindi Shire Council is pleased to advise that funding for this project was made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), and Country Fire Authority (CFA)'s Vegetation Management Grant (VMG).



VICEMERGENCY APP TRAINING SESSION AT YEA LIBRARY

Wednesday 26 March 2.00 - 3.00 pm

Curious about getting crucial emergency updates without being a tech expert? Council is partnering with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) to bring a VicEmergency App Training Session to Yea Library. EMV representatives will show you how easy it is to use the app to stay informed and safe during emergencies such as fires, floods, storms, and earthquakes. Don't miss out on this chance to learn and feel confident using this vital tool.

RSVPs are essential as light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP and for more information or to request assistance:

- visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/appsessions
- scan the QR code
- call Council at 5772 0333
- drop-in to Yea Library

Scan to RSVP for a
VicEmergency Training Session



We welcome people of all ages and tech-literacy, so please share this information someone who might benefit from this session.

Murrindindi Shire Council is pleased to advise that funding for these sessions is made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Continued from Page 7

The Murrindindi Library Service also offers a broad program of activities for people of all ages. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries to

Under 5 hours sleep? 4 times more likely to crash.



Fatigue is a contributing factor in 16-20% of all road crashes in Victoria.

If you're feeling tired, arrange an alternative mode of transport, postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.

TAC

VICTORIA
State Government



ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

UGLN cleans up the shire

THE Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) hosted their own Clean Up Australia Day event recently, picking up rubbish around Murrindindi Shire.

Participants included Homewood Landcare Group, Cathedral Landcare Group, Home Creek, Spring Creek Landcare Group, Strath Creek Landcare Group, Kinglake Landcare Group and the Friends of Marysville Walks.

Murrindindi Shire Council also supported the day.



Kinglake Landcare Group. -S



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group. -S



Cathedral Landcare Group. -S



Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group. -S

New flood markers the result of advocacy

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and its Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) have welcomed Transport Victoria's installation of 'Road Subject to Flooding' signs and 'depth of water' markers on the Goulburn Valley Highway near Cathkin, an area that floods two to three times a year.

This follows long-standing advocacy by local agencies to improve road safety in flood-prone areas. While a simple addition, these markers provide critical real-time information, helping drivers and emergency service agencies assess floodwater depths in this 100 km/hr zone to make safer decisions.

In the past, some motorists have underestimated the depth of floodwater in this area, leading to stranded vehicles and emergency rescues. These new markers aim to prevent such incidents and reduce the risk to volunteer responders. Transport Victoria has installed flood markers between Ridds Road and the eastern entrance to Molesworth.

Council is urging all motorists to follow road safety advice and never drive through floodwaters.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher commented, "This is a great outcome for our community and a testament to the dedication of our emergency management teams. These markers will help prevent accidents, protect our volunteer responders, and, most importantly, save lives."

"Council is pleased that it's advocacy on behalf of the community was supported by the Roads and Road Safety Minister. I want to thank everyone involved for their persistence and commitment to making our roads safer."

SES Unit Controller, Peter Weeks stated, "The Goulburn Valley Highway is often subject to flooding between Cathkin and Home Creek by the Home Creek breaking its banks, following heavy rain and storm events. Over the years, Alexandra SES has performed numerous rescues on this section of the highway, due to road users



Two of the new flood depth indicator boards can be seen next to the road signs in this image, along with signs warning that the road is subject to flooding. -AR

entering floodwater unaware of the depth and becoming stranded. On some occasions, we have seen the water depth well over one metre across the highway.

The new 'Road Subject to Flooding' warning signs and depth gauges are a welcome addition and road safety feature on this busy highway.

Road users are reminded to never drive, ride or walk through flood water. Don't enter water that is over 150mm deep, as you can be washed away, become stranded, and you cannot see whether the road or pavement has been washed away ahead."

For more information about staying safe during emergencies, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencies

ABARES predicts strong year for agriculture industry

THE value of agriculture in 2025-26 is expected to be the third highest on record at \$91 billion.

Including fisheries and forestry, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) expects the sector to reach \$98 billion, according to Executive Director Dr Jared Greenville.

"While this is slightly down on an exceptional 2024-25, particularly strong results are forecast for livestock and livestock products, expected to reach a new record value of \$40 billion," Dr Greenville said.

"Demand for red meat is reflected in both strong export volumes and rising export prices, which has led to the total value of

meat exports expected to hit \$22 billion this financial year.

"Agricultural exports are also looking healthy next year, with the value forecast to remain relatively steady at \$72 billion, or \$77 billion if we include fisheries and forestry.

"On the cropping front this year, national winter crop production is estimated to have increased to 59.8 million tonnes in 2024-25, 27 per cent above the 10-year average and the third largest on record.

"Summer crop production is predicted to fall slightly in 2024-25 but will remain 28 per cent above the 10-year average at 4.7 million tonnes.

"Conditions for winter crops were favourable across most of New South Wales and Queensland with timely rainfall in Western Australia. However, both Victoria and South Australia faced poor seasonal conditions resulting in lower crop yields.

"Based on the back of these livestock and cropping trends, average farm financial performance is estimated to increase for broadacre farms.

"On average, national broadacre farm cash income is forecast to rise by \$89,000 in 2024-25 from \$124,000 to \$213,000, mostly driven by higher livestock prices and greater crop production.

"Next financial year average farm incomes are expected to increase further, to \$262,000

per farm as input costs ease and higher prices support both crop and livestock receipts.

"That said, dry conditions in parts of South Australia and Victoria led to below-average farm financial performance in 2024-25 in those regions, but they are turning a corner. Improving climate conditions in these states are expected to lift production and profitability next financial year."

The *Agricultural Commodities Report March 2025* can be read at agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook

The *Crop Report* can be read at agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Big yarding amid dry conditions

by Bailey Dixon

SOME 2600 cattle were yarded last Friday at this month's Elders and Nutrien Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards, with a mixture of cows and calves, steers, heifers, and bulls. Angus were the top yarding breed, backed up by other British and Euro X breeds.

Dry conditions continue to affect cattle producers, with challenges around feed and water. Recent cattle sales around Victoria have seen producers quit stock early and prices drop, with the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator dropping some 18c/kg recently.

This was not the case in Yea, with the average price per head being \$1142 and an average weight of 330.7kg, leading to an

average of 345c/kg. This is some 21c/kg higher than the February store sale in Yea.

The top steer pen fetched \$2240 with a top weight of 505.6kg, making 443c/kg.

Continuing the trend of steers fetching more than heifers, the top heifers made \$1690 per head with a top weight of 625.5kg. This resulted in 270c/kg, some 173c/kg lower than the top steers.

The first row sold at the sale was pens of cows and calves, with the top pen fetching \$1875. The top bull for the day made \$640.

Upcoming cattle sales at the Yea Saleyards include an Elders and Nutrien Feature Store Sale on March 28, followed by the regular monthly Elders and Nutrien Store Sale on April 4.



Noreen and Kevin Foster were viewing the large yarding of cattle at the saleyards. -BD



Another green and pink store sale last Friday with a large yarding. -BD



Tim, Mike and Mark were looking at purchasing cattle on the day. -BD



Farmers during the selling of cows and calves at the Yea Saleyards last Friday. -BD

 STOCK REPORT 7 MARCH 2025				
Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves, Bulls
Number of head	2,606			
Average \$ per head	\$1,142			
Average weight per head	330.7kg			
Top price per head		\$2,240	\$1,690	Bulls \$640; Cow & calves \$1,875
Top weight		505.6kg	625.5kg	
Turnover	\$2.94 million			

MARCH PHOTO COMPETITION

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

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Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon March 28, 2025

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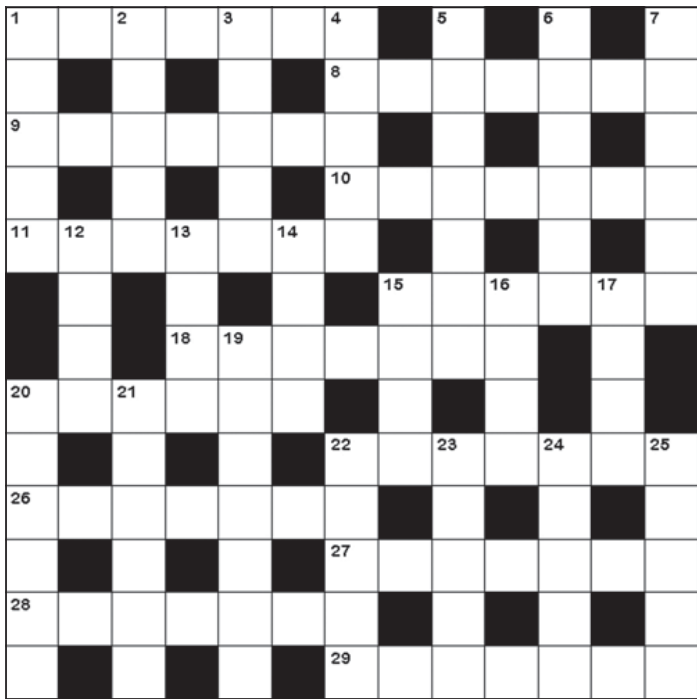
T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 13

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1. Put money into a bank account.
 - 8. The state of the world as it actually is.
 - 9. Resembling a lion.
 - 10. The one closest to you.
 - 11. Voted into office.
 - 15. More conceited than others.
 - 18. Claim to have certain knowledge.
 - 20. Not actually noticed.
 - 22. Appeared very large and looming.
 - 26. Decorate a plate of food with parsley.
 - 27. Starts to burn.
 - 28. A lack of sophistication.
 - 29. Events that merge different elements.



- DOWN
- 1. Look into deeply and intensively.
 - 2. Provide evidence of the truth.
 - 3. Moving very fast.
 - 4. The direction things seem to be going.
 - 5. A bunch of curved yellow fruit.
 - 6. Very common grey and white birds.
 - 7. A shellfish that contains a pearl.
 - 12. Thin and lacking any fat.

- 13. Deal with difficulties successfully.
- 14. Very dark black.
- 15. A vote that blocks a decision.
- 16. A small island.
- 17. Give relief from.
- 19. No longer working for a living.
- 20. Requiring immediate action or attention.
- 21. Injure a joint by a sudden twisting.
- 22. A criminal who steals property.
- 23. Currents of fast moving air.
- 24. Degree of relation between two similar things.
- 25. Measured portions of medicine.

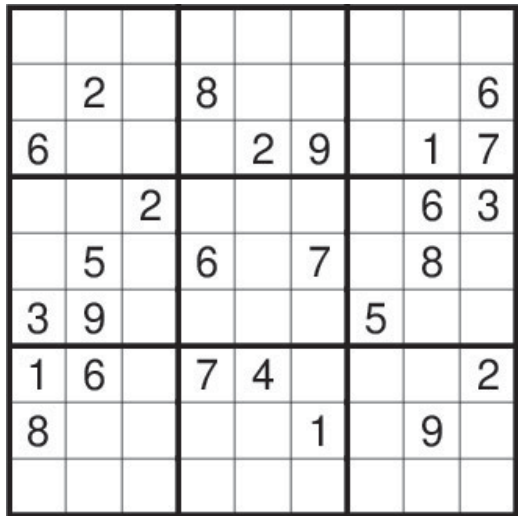
Word Search

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

AFL Nicknames

BLUES	KANGAROOS
BOMBERS	LIONS
CROWS	MAGPIES
DOCKERS	SAINTS
EAGLES	SWANS
HAWKS	TIGERS

Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

Cryptogram

AFL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
								14
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
	21							1
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
7								

$\frac{K}{21} \frac{I}{14} \frac{K}{10} \frac{I}{21} \frac{I}{14} \frac{I}{6}$

$\frac{R}{6} \frac{R}{8} \frac{R}{1} \frac{R}{23} \frac{R}{17} \frac{R}{22} \frac{R}{8} \frac{R}{6} \frac{R}{8} \frac{R}{19}$

$\frac{I}{3} \frac{I}{14} \frac{I}{22} \frac{S}{7} \frac{S}{6} \frac{I}{14} \frac{K}{10} \frac{K}{21} \frac{S}{7}$

Math Square

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

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.



Students and teachers from Sacred Heart Primary School Yea at the Halogen Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne. -S

Sacred Heart students attend Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne

LEADERSHIP, resilience, and inspiration were the key themes of the Halogen Young Leaders Conference, held in Melbourne on March 3, where every Year Six student from Sacred Heart School in Yea took part.

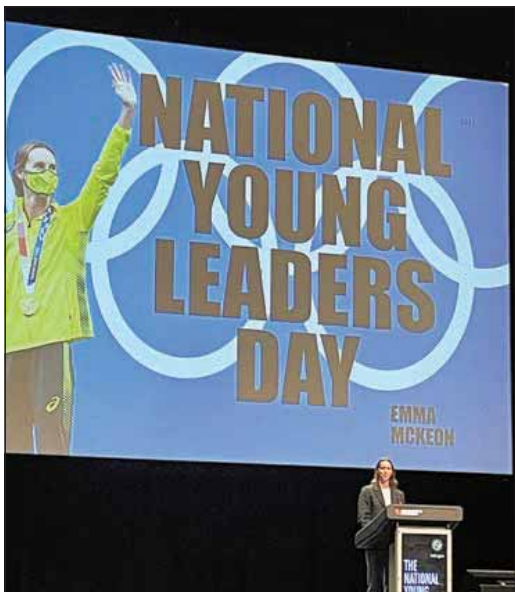
The annual conference, designed to empower young people with leadership skills, featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Australia's most decorated Olympian, Emma McKeon, and former AFL star Majak Daw.

Students listened intently as McKeon shared her journey of perseverance, training, and achieving greatness in the pool, while Daw's powerful story of overcoming adversity as a refugee to play professional football left a lasting impression.

For Sacred Heart's Year Six students, the day was an opportunity to engage with like-minded peers from across Victoria, gain valuable insights into leadership, and reflect on how they can contribute positively to their school and wider community.

Sacred Heart students have a strong tradition of leadership, taking on roles such as House Captains, community leaders, social justice leaders and stewardship leaders.

With their leadership skills further strengthened, these young students are ready to take on new challenges and make a positive impact in their final year of primary school.



Emma McKeon made a speech to the various Year Six students in attendance at the conference. -S



A few of the students from Sacred Heart with Thomas Duncan-Watt, a screenwriter and author. -S



The Year Six students from Sacred Heart Primary School outside the Young Leaders Conference. -S

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SPORT

Close matches for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Cappuccino versus Espresso

LOCHLAN versus Tyler: Both players had a great game. It looked like Lochlan would win easily in the second game when he won with an enormous lead. Tyler pulled out some tricks to reduce Lochlan's lead in the last game but still lost in the end. 60 to 55.

Sally versus James G: James came to play early and held a commanding lead for the first game. Sally found her range and it saw a more competitive match. James had a cruisy 24-point win. 69 to 45.

Michael M versus Justin: If Michael was expecting an easy match, Justin soon disabused him of this notion. Justin kept the balls in play to draw plenty of error from his opponent to lead at the halfway point. Michael ran like a mad man to steal the match by only two-points. 58 to 56.

Jack versus Derrick (fill in): A very tight match with some amazing rallies. Going into the final game there was only one-point difference. Jack ran out of steam, losing a few points at the end, seeing Derrick win the match. 50 to 46.

Latte versus Mocha

JORDAN versus Ethan: Some cracking points and rallies that seem to never end. It was a very tight match with both players winning two games. Ethan pulled ahead to win by one measly point. 46 to 45.

Daniel W (fill in) versus Simon: The ball got a good hiding in this match. Simon ran the court and kept Daniel moving. Daniel won three games, all by a few points to take home the victory. 66 to 53.

Thursday Competition Darjeeling versus Earl Grey

ROB versus Travis: Taking the lead, Travis won the first game. Rob responded by taking the next three games with a decent margin to win the match. 64 to 53.

Phil versus Daniel W: A tight match. By the halfway point the score was even. Daniel lost a lot of point on strokes and lost his groove in game three. Daniel finished the match with a win, but overall lost to Phil. 56 to 48.

Oolong versus Rooibos

STUART versus Jim (fill in): Stuart had high hopes, winning the first game. The second game saw Jim find his length and take control of the match. Jim won three games and the match. 71 to 47.



Justin lines up a backhand against Michael. -S

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

**KICK IT
THROUGH THE
BIG STICKS**

SUDOKU

5	1	3	4	7	6	9	2	8
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MATH SQUARES

9	-	2	+	7	14
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The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

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ROTARY Dindi Daze raffle winner, Pam Petersen. Second, Martin Lewis. Third, Graeme Pullen. Thanks to all.

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MEETINGS



General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, March 16, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

MEETINGS



Annual General Meeting

Monday, 31 March 2025, 6pm
Historic Court House
38A Downey Street Alexandra

New Board Members Welcome (Voluntary)

Are you looking to contribute to your community in another way?

Make a difference, exciting opportunities exist to be part of Alexandra Community Hub.

A not for profit community organisation, supporting and facilitating local opportunities for learning, activities and vital services. Alexandra Community Hub Board meets monthly.

We promise you, you won't be bored on the Alex Hub Board.

Email admin@alexhub.com.au to register your interest or call Sue on 5772 1238 (Mon to Thurs) for more information.



Clay Hilder, Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder at Victorian Track and Field. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletes shine at state championships

THE 2024-25 Victorian Track and Field Championships at Casey Fields, Cranbourne, saw a weekend of high temperatures and high achievement as athletes from across the state put their best foot forward in the season finale.

Among the standout competitors were brothers Clay and Chase Hilder, who had only just returned from the Australian Interschools Mountain Bike Championships in Thredbo. Despite their packed schedule, the duo

showed their determination and resilience on the track.

Under 12 athlete Clay Hilder secured a personal best in the 1500m Race Walk, finishing in an impressive ninth place. Meanwhile, his older brother Chase, competing in the under 14 division, claimed 17th place in the 200m Hurdles with a personal best time and 18th in the 90m Hurdles. Chase also shaved six seconds off his best 1500m time, earning him 19th place in a highly competitive field.

Hot off his recent success at the New Zealand Colgate Games, under 14 athlete Levi Campbell showcased his talent in multiple events. Levi placed 14th in the 400m sprint and 20th in the 200m, while his jumping ability was on display with a 16th place finish in the Triple Jump and 20th in the Long Jump.

Zoe Collier also made the trip to Cranbourne with her family, competing in the under 12 Javelin event. Her best throw of the day earned her a commendable 21st place.

The club gives a big shout-out to team manager Kim Campbell for her support, as well as to the club members who cheered on the athletes via the live stream, sending messages of encouragement throughout the competition.

Despite the scorching temperatures, the athletes found a refreshing highlight of the meet, the misting fans, which provided much-needed relief between events. Congratulations to all competitors for their outstanding efforts in representing Murrindindi on the state stage.



Zoe Collier competed in the under 12 javelin last Saturday. -S

New round of grants for regional football and netball clubs

THE Victorian Government is getting behind regional football and netball clubs ahead of the new season, with grants to make sure more Victorians get the chance to play the sport they love close to home.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence and Member for Frankston Paul Edbrooke recently announced seven new projects will share in more than \$1.4 million from the Country Football and Netball Program, as well as announcing a new round of grants has opened.

"Nothing brings regional communities together like country footy and netball. Through this program we're supporting hundreds of clubs by giving them

facilities the whole community can enjoy and get around," Ms Spence said.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria, the program has invested more than \$40 million and delivered more than 580 projects since 2005.

Applications for the new round of grants close on Monday, July 7, 2025. Regional and outer metropolitan councils can apply for grants of up to \$250,000 for sports infrastructure developments including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more.

For the latest information and successful grant recipients visit sport.vic.gov.au

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE
Standard
The Yea Chronicle

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Congratulations to all the members of the 2024-2025 pennant team. Terry McInnes, Terry Muller, Michael Barrott, Arthur Parish, Leonard Sheahan, Rob Marks, Neil Rieschieck, Viv Cavanagh, Dick Dashwood, Darren Sherman, Cliff Sinclair, Maurie Finn, Angela Finn, Maureen Marks, Barb Tanner. Absent: Justin Branch. -S

Yea bowls goes down in tight grand final tussle: Community Challenge begins

by Angela Finn

IN the Grand Final, Yea Bowls Club went down by just three shots overall in a tight tussle against Kyabram on Saturday.

With the game allocated to start at 10.30am, Yea had an early start to get to Shepparton in time for a practice at 9.30am.

In beautiful conditions, the game was tight from the start, with Yea holding a slender lead after 12 ends, 32 shots to 30. In the following four ends, Kyabram fought back to take control with a 51 shots to 36 lead. Yea fought back very well from that point on to go down narrowly 60 shots to 57.

Rink one with Mick Barrot, Terry Muller, Darren Sherman and skipper Justin Branch were 13 to 10 up after 12 ends, slipped to 13 to 16 down after 16 ends, before flying home in the last five ends to win their rink convincingly 25 to 17.

Rink two with Cliff Sinclair, Maureen and Rob Marks and skipper Terry McInnes, were six shots all after eight ends, fell behind 11 to 21 after 20 ends, but finished with three shots on the last end to go down 14 to 21.

Rink three with Angela Finn, Viv Cavanagh, Neil Rieschieck and skipper Maurie Finn, started well to hold a 13 to eight lead after 12 ends. However, Yea went from holding multiple shots, to going multiple shots down on successive ends, which led to a change in momentum.

Yea was then down 13 to 18 after 16 ends. The last five ends were hotly contested, with the final score 18 shots to 22 in Kyabram's favour.

The club says congratulations to Kyabram for winning the day, but also congratulations

to Yea on a mighty effort to make the Grand Final again after going up a division, following the premiership win last year. Several of the Yea bowlers were playing their first year of pennant and, as sobering as it is to lose a winnable game, it augers well for the future.

Nutrien Harcourt Community Bowls Challenge Begins

THE Nutrien Harcourt Community Bowls Challenge began on a beautiful, balmy evening last Thursday, March 6.

The evening began with a sausage sizzle and a drink before eight teams each consisting of three players, took to the rinks for two games of five ends.

After the first game, scorecards were collected. Winners played winners in the second game and losers played losers.

At the end of the night, the best two game winning team was JPO – Peter Johnson, Neil Peterson and Rob O'Halloran.

The best winning team of the losers games also received a prize.

A novelty 'Spider' event where a box of chocolates was placed in the very middle of the green and each bowler took one bowl and bowled toward the chocolates from all around the rink. The winner of the chocolates was Jim from the Nutrien Harcourt team.

There was also a small cash prize given to any bowler who managed to get a resting toucher throughout the two games, with three bowlers accomplishing this.

It was a very enjoyable evening and the club look forward to Community Challenge week two this coming Thursday evening from 6pm. It is not too late to get a team of three together. Just ring Maurie Finn on 0417 228 649.



Winners of the first week of the Community Challenge, Peter Johnson, Rob O'Halloran and Neil Peterson. -S

Merton cricketers take on Rovers at home

MERTON cricketers hosted Rovers Bruck United in the last home and away game before the finals with both teams already qualifying in the top six.

Rovers being the inform side and sitting third on the ladder and not dropping a game since Christmas with Merton coming off the bye and looking for a strong performance before finals.

The visitors won the toss and batted making 5/152 on a lightning quick outfield. Andrew Balfour opening made an impressive 58, however when he was brilliantly caught in the outfield by Tyson Garlick off the bowling of Berriman with the score on 101.

In the 22nd over some tight bowling and impressive fielding saw the home side restrict Rovers in the latter overs. Jai Lerch-

Mackinnon 2/25, Rohan Berriman 2/22 and Luke Berriman 1/10 the wicket takers.

Vance Curran 32 was the other consistent batter for Rovers. Merton's innings started with the loss of opener Berriman in the second over however from that point the home side punished anything loose with Luke Benton 39 and Ross Mackinnon 31 pushing the score along.

After the dismissal of Mackinnon son Jai really stepped up taking on the Rovers bowlers making 64 off 38 balls in an entertaining innings which included six fours and four sixes.

Merton passed Rover's total three wickets down. S.Godfrey 1/39. J Aykroyd 1/32 and L Obrian 1/13 the Rover's wicket takers. The two sides play again next Saturday at Wangaratta in a must win final for both sides.

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Season 2025 up and running

by Karen Sangster

IT'S official, Yea Golfing Ladies Season has begun.

This year the club went above and beyond to start this year's festivities. Firstly, arranged, a pre opening dinner, attended by 24 lovely ladies, not necessarily all players, but in some shape or form all involved in the club. One of the sponsors, The Royal Mail Hotel, hosted the somewhat jovial crowd. Strategically placed around the corner, out of sight, we will tell ourselves it was for privacy but, secretly I think it may have been to save the other customers ears. None the less, we were all oblivious to what else was going on. Understand the night was really enjoyable, food, refreshments and most of all the enjoyment of comradery, something greatly appreciated among the Yea Golf members and partners.

The club held a little presentation to top the night and were very pleased to have back in our midst past member and Club Champion Adrienne Anglin. Adrienne has moved onto another chapter to her life and we wish her the most very best for the future. So, in appreciation for all the things she had contributed to the club during her time with us, we presented a small token of wine and, of course chocolates. What girl doesn't appreciate these fine things. Thank you Adrienne and enjoy.

Sadly it was time to end our night and maybe all were looking to go to bed, as we know we had another big day tomorrow. The official get together, striking the first ball for the season.

This year we were privileged to have a long standing member, and a many time Club Champion, Laraine Callander, to strike the very first ball, and that she did, without a care in the world, and I must say a very fine hit it was. The Season officially opened.

Teams were chosen and it was off for a nine hole Ambrose. I, for one was very pleased it did not go to far into the day, as the temperature was rising. Once again lots of laughs as those new or those out of practice

tried there luck hitting that famous little round ball.

Fun over, it was into the Club House to partake, as usual, the cooks at Yea surpassed themselves with the abundant supply of food glorious food. There are some really awesome cooks. Bellies filled, it was time for the formalities for the day.

Today's winners, none other than our past champ Adrienne and her lucky sidekick Vicky Butler took the honours. Margie Wright and her partner Tina runner ups. We were lucky to have ten teams to participate. One major highlight was an amazing Birdie on the 11th accomplished by, one of our new comers, Jenny Bennett. Keep that up and you are sure to be a star.

Lastly but not least the Presentations of the Gobblers, Birdies and the eclectic scores for the past year. This year it was a wee bit of a scoop for member Sharon Grogan, taking the honours of Birdies and both the Scratch and Handicap Eclectic. Gobblers belonged to Cindy Armstrong, our social activities butterfly. Prizes, we were once again spoilt by the donations of our Life Member Miranda Gill.

Yea Golf Booming

by Alan Pell

WHILE the ladies had their opening on Wednesday, 17 men in nine teams of two played an Irish Stableford round. Stableford points are recorded with the best score of two on the first nine added to both scores on the back nine. Winners with 60 points were Brendan Chenhall (16) and Russell Wealands (24). Runners-Up were Allan Coates (9) and Chris Keogh (33) with 58 points. Third were Peter Johnston (16) and Brian Simmons (11) with 55 points. Allan Coates was nearest the pin on the second and the club award went to Ron O'Halloran/Brian Priestley with 52. Individual winner was Allan Coates with 40 from Brendan Chenhall 39.

Saturday saw the mens/mixed opening of the season with an ambrose event which attracted 43 players. Conditions were good and we can thank ourselves fortunate to

have water to irrigate our course. Best nett score went to a four person ambrose team of W.Rowe, G.Antrobus, K.Coghlan, and M. Bett with 58.5.

Winners of the three person ambrose were Tony and Nicola Rule with John Phillips having a nett 59.33 on countback from second Chris and Taris Dunne and Luke Barclay. Third were Alan and Zach Pell and Robert Herbert with 60.17 nett. Nearest the pin on the 11th was Josh Cunningham. No club award this week.



Laraine and co first ball getting hit. -S



Adrienne receiving her chocolates and wine. -S



Sharon Grogan and Captain Jan Wealands. -S



Tony and Nicola Rule with John Phillips. -S



Miranda and Sharon with the presentations of the Gobblers, Birdies and the eclectic scores. -S