

# The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, May 13, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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# Mother's Day Classic raises more than \$12,000

MORE than 100 participants gathered in Murrindindi Shire last Sunday for this year's Mother's Day Classic, raising more than \$12,000, and counting, in support of breast and ovarian cancer research.

With sunshine overhead and strong community spirit on display, locals of all ages took part in the run and walk event, helping continue the legacy of one of Australia's most recognised community fundraisers. Since its inception, the Mother's Day Classic has raised more than \$50 million nationally for vital cancer research.

Participants were treated to a fantastic community atmosphere throughout the day, with free barbecue and fairy floss, kids' games, and a raffle featuring generous prizes donated by local community sponsors.

Organisers extended their sincere thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who helped make the event such a success. Rotary members assisted with the barbecue, while UGFM broadcast live from the event, helping spread the message and celebrate the day with the wider community.

Kelly from Optair Eyecare kept the crowd entertained as emcee, and the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van was onsite throughout the event, providing a dedicated first aid space for participants and families.

The event highlighted the strength and generosity of the Murrindindi community, with attendees coming together not only for fitness and fun, but to support families impacted by breast and ovarian cancer.

Donations remain open until the end of May, with organisers encouraging anyone who could not attend to still get behind the cause. Contributions can be made online at [mothersdayclassic.com.au/fundraisers/progressionruncrew](http://mothersdayclassic.com.au/fundraisers/progressionruncrew)

Organisers thanked all participants, volunteers, sponsors and supporters for helping create a memorable day and reinforcing why the Mother's Day Classic continues to be a must-do community event each year.



Some of the young participants in the Mother's Day Classic. More images on page 4. -S

## Bouquet stall success

THE inaugural Yea Garden Club Mother's Day Bouquet Stall was a great success and garden club members wish to thank the community for the amazing support they gave.

Members were setting up at 8.30am when the first buyers began to arrive and although over 70 bouquets had been made by the members, the stall was sold out by 10.15am.

Many people came down the street especially for the stall and the club members were delighted to see so many children buying a bouquet for Mum, some with their own pocket money to spend.

Yea Garden Club members were given packets of seeds of autumn flowering plants at their Christmas luncheon last December specifically to grow flowers for the stall and many local gardeners also generously gave extra flowers from their own gardens this week. A common comment on the morning was "Where did you get so many flowers; there's nothing in my garden."

\$1500 was raised for the Yea 'Ideal Town' Fountain Restoration Appeal. Full details on this public appeal will be announced next week in the *Yea Chronicle*.



The bouquet stall. -S



**49th Historic Winton  
May 30 and 31**

## Your chance to WIN 1 of 10 double passes

Name.....  
Town .....,  
Phone.....

**ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD  
PHOTOCOPIES WILL NOT BE  
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Return this form by noon, Wednesday, May 20, 2026 for your chance to win. Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street, or PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic 3714.



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**Government's financial choices**

LAST week's editorial about a man, Shane Lewis, who was terminally ill and ended his life as he could not access help should be a wake-up call to all who live in regional Victoria.

Reading what Shane and Marlene his wife went through, with inadequate local medical assistance, and denied financial assistance from NDIS and the Aged Pension. It's ironic NDIS refused to help when over two per cent of people in Australia are getting financial help from them.

There have been several massive failures in our country this week which have wasted billions of dollars, making a man having to take his own life to take the unsustainable burden off his wife heinous and disgusting. Snowy River Two that will produce less than a billion if it ever gets up running now to cost \$42 billion. \$50 billion dollars per year that goes supposedly to Aboriginal people. The repatriation of terrorists set to cost \$1 million each per year while arresting our highest decorated soldier advocating a court case that will have spanned 20 years and will have cost \$1 billion dollars and for what?

All this pales to the fact an Aussie worked all his life became sick and his only recourse was to pay for his own life to be taken. All this on the 81st anniversary of the end of World War II Europe. What would our diggers think?

Rest in peace Shane, sorry your journey ended this way. Condolences to all family and friends.

*Tom Collins, Alexandra*

milligrams or roughly 0.005 per cent of the average human body weight. CO2 levels in the Mesozoic period when dinosaurs roamed the steaming swamps were roughly three to 10 times higher than levels at the start of the industrial revolution. Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) is now roughly 50 per cent higher than pre-industrial levels due largely to global CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels. Every day on fragile planet Earth we humans consume about 100 million barrels of oil and add about 100 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to our atmosphere.

*Andrew Bottomley, Alexandra*

**The Green Dream**

IN reply to Andy Millers letter in last week's *Standard*, given that that there is limited cobalt in present lithium batteries, I don't think that it is still right for the exploitation of slave labour to extract this from the ground regardless of where it is going to. Also, the nickel factories are supplying much CO2 to the atmosphere regardless of where it is going also. As for the interview with Bowen, he just refused to answer the question which was posed to him. We must also remember that as the ABC is a left leaning enterprise they are always looking to find something to have a go at right wing conservative views.

However, this present government's drive toward 100 per cent renewable energy sure has some interesting data unfolding to this present date. Let's see: 3700 turbines installed, 70,000 acres of solar panels installed, 8000 acres of land cleared for new transmission lines.

Overall, 180,000 acres of land has been covered or cleared for the above. To complete this transition to 100 per cent renewables, approximately 296,500 acres would have to be cleared or covered. To date over \$230 billion has been spent with estimates the total cost would be greater than \$700 billion. [probably heading towards a trillion dollars if this ever comes to fruition.]

Given that Australia's contribution to the world's CO2 levels is 1.1 per cent with estimates that with 100 per cent renewables, the reduction would be 0.4 per cent. This equates to our government spending close to a trillion dollars and destroying thousands of acres of beautiful forests and farming land to produce an outcome of 0.7 per cent. which would have virtually zero impact on the world's output. [One example China around 30 per cent] I'm having trouble getting my head around whether we are getting bang for our buck here.

Just another side to this, Victoria has 430 billion tonnes of brown coal in reserve enough for well over 1000 years. 220 trillion cubic feet of gas in reserve, enough for 17 years without new untapped discoveries, and 1.75 million tonnes of uranium underground which is the world's largest uranium resource base.

Another interesting note is, where are all the Greens and animal activists that tied themselves to the logger's equipment when logging was allowed, remembering that these areas were replanted for future growth? They should be seething at what is going on especially in the high country, but their silence is deafening. Remember that the roads cleared in these areas will never be regrown as when they must replace broken or burnt or worn-out turbine blades these roads will need to be kept open allowing the transport of this equipment.

I can only say that between the Labor / Greens coalition we are witnessing hypocrisy of the highest degree, for what outcome? But as we still have some form of democracy left, ask the farming fraternity, the voters of this nation especially this state will tell us which way we should go at the next election.

*Ken Collier, Eildon*

**David Attenborough**

MOLLY Waterhouse of Alexandra, worked for a time at the Desert Park in Alice Springs. She wrote to 99-year-old David Attenborough

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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**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**

1<sup>st</sup> Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099  
1<sup>st</sup> Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
4<sup>th</sup> Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888  
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 0409 819 040



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.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	8.00AM Mon	1.05	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00AM Mon	0.52	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.00AM Mon	0.63	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.51AM Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.49	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00AM Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	8.00AM Mon	0.75	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	8.00AM Mon	3.40	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	8.00AM Mon	0.38	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	0.97	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	8.00AM Mon	0.32	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	8.30AM Mon	1.36	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

\*ISSUED AT 9.09 AM AEDT MONDAY 11 MAY 2026



**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.



**Weekly Weather**

May 13 - May 19, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	20	Wednesday	8	20
Thursday	9	20	Thursday	8	20
Friday	11	21	Friday	11	21
Saturday	12	20	Saturday	12	20
Sunday	12	18	Sunday	12	18
Monday	9	17	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	8	16	Tuesday	8	16



**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	34mm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	36mm
Flowerdale	37mm
Jamieson	57mm
Kinglake	57mm
Lake Eildon	52mm
Mansfield	28mm
Taggerty	52mm
Yarck	27mm
Yea	23mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	269.37m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	40.3%
Metres below full supply	19.53m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	7500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	92%

**The Yea Chronicle**

**DEADLINES**

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbs up/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

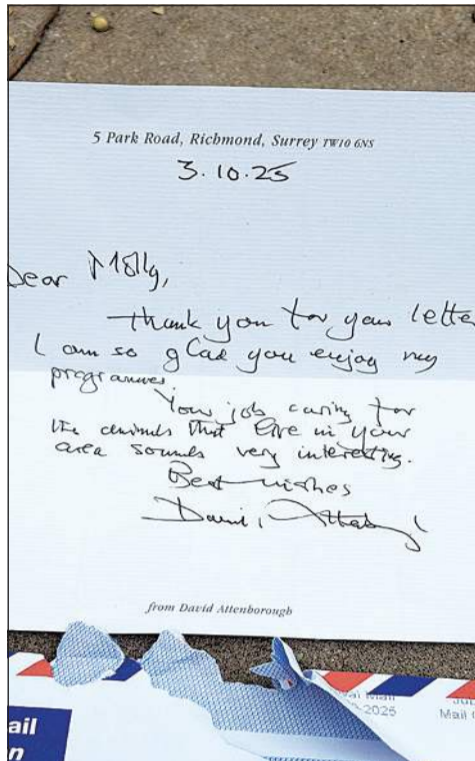
**Letters to the Editor**

**David Attenborough**

MOLLY Waterhouse of Alexandra, worked for a time at the Desert Park in Alice Springs. She wrote to 99-year-old David Attenborough to tell him about her work with endangered desert animals, such as ghost bats, bilbies and the smallest macropod in Australia, extinct in the wild, the mala. He replied to her hand-written letter with his own. How special is that.

Happy 100th Birthday Sir David. You are an inspiration to us all.

*Bev Dick, Acheron*



The letter states, "Thank you for your letter. I am so glad you enjoy my programmes. Your job caring for the animals that are in your area sounds very interesting. Best wishes, David Attenborough." -S

# 'The Beanie Song' for the Alexandra Beanie and Fibre Festival

ALEXANDRA'S *Ukulele Heaven* is hosting longtime favourite of the music scene, Bruce Watson, to teach his hilarious *The Beanie Song*,

at the upcoming Alexandra Beanie and Fibre Festival.

Bruce is an icon of the Australian music scene and

has a stack of prestigious songwriting awards to his name. He has produced eight albums, and appears on over 20 compilation albums alongside

artists such as *Yothu Yindi* and Christine Anu.

Alexandra Library will host two workshops on Friday evening and Saturday morning of May 22 and 23. Head along to one or preferably to both, then help Bruce in pop-up performances Saturday afternoon for festival visitors.

The workshops are open to any instrument and Bruce welcomes a mix of abilities, ages and instruments. At least one violin, some ukeles and several singers have already booked. Bruce has prepared a riff suitable for advanced players and indeed has a few songs to share.

As a singer-songwriter Bruce has performed at more than 200 music festivals and innumerable folk clubs and other venues across Australia, New Zealand and the UK, and had his songs covered by performers of the calibre of Eric Bogle, Joe Dolce and Greg Champion. Alexandra is very lucky to have him visit.

This event, proudly supported by Murrindindi Shire and Alexandra's Ukulele Heaven, will lift spirits. If you're at all musical, head along.

Ticket enquiries to Jeanne on 0456 583 611.



Bruce Watson with ukulele players. -S

## Man who lit campfire under Total Fire Ban conditions receives \$5000 fine

A COURT outcome in Mansfield has underscored the serious dangers and consequences of lighting a campfire during Total Fire Ban conditions.

A Shepparton man has been convicted and fined \$5000 for lighting a campfire in Victoria's north-east, during a statewide Total Fire Ban on December 26, 2024.

The 41-year-old was sentenced in the Mansfield Magistrates' Court last month, after failing to appear for the scheduled court hearing in relation to the offence.

Conservation Regulator and Forest Fire Management Victoria Authorised Officers discovered the campfire at the Blue Gum Flat campground while on patrol in the Delatite Arm Reserve during dangerous fire conditions.

The man was at the campground at the time and acknowledged that he knew campfires were prohibited that day due to a Total Fire Ban.

After admitting to lighting the campfire, the man was verbally abusive towards the investigating Authorised Officer.

Under Total Fire Ban conditions, lighting fires in the open air is illegal as it puts lives, property, and the environment at serious risk.

In sentencing, the Magistrate remarked on the man's "blatant disregard" for the Total Fire Ban and the seriousness of potential consequences, particularly given the local community's experience with bushfires.

While satisfied the fire was not lit with intent to cause deliberate harm, the Magistrate described the man's attitude towards the fire restrictions as "appalling".

The Conservation Regulator focuses on campfire safety across the summer months, through targeted compliance patrols,

## A year since Rodney McKenzie's disappearance

TUESDAY, May 5 marked one year since the disappearance of Kinglake local, Rodney McKenzie. The 71 year old was last seen by an associate at about 1.30pm when he drove him to the local shops in Kinglake.

After returning home, Rodney did not access his bank accounts or phone again, and there has been no contact with his family.

He was reported missing by his daughter on May 23 when she became concerned that she had not heard from him. She had gone to his house on Bald Spur Road and found the

residence unlocked, with his phone, wallet and vehicle still at the address.

Despite an intense search involving the police, SES and CFA, no trace of Rodney has ever been found.

His disappearance was considered to be out of character, and police believe that he may have met with foul play.

If you have any information, please contact CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000 or via their website, [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime)



Rodney McKenzie. -S

education and close collaboration with land and fire agencies to reduce bushfire risk and protect Victorian communities and landscapes.

Hume Manager of Regulatory Operations Greg Chant spoke to the importance of respecting Total Fire Ban regulations.

"Total Fire Bans are declared to protect the community and the environment, and ignoring them puts community and firefighters' lives and landscapes at extreme risk," Mr Chant said.

"An escaped campfire on a day of Total Fire Ban can have devastating consequences, and that's why campers must comply with the restrictions.

"This court outcome sends a clear message that breaches of Total Fire Bans will be taken seriously, with offenders prosecuted and held to account."

Where serious or deliberate breaches of campfire safety rules are identified, the Conservation Regulator will pursue appropriate enforcement action, including prosecuting offenders.

## The Beanie Song

**Bruce Watson comes to Alexandra May 22 and 23**  
Ukulele Heaven and the Murrindindi Beanie and Fibre Festival present a music workshop with renowned singer and songwriter Bruce Watson  
Bring your ukulele, voice or other instruments and lift your spirits



**Workshop times:**

Friday, May 22 5 - 6.30pm  
Saturday, May 23 10 - 11.30am

**Where:**

Alexandra Library  
Grant Street, Alexandra

**Tickets:**

\$10 covers both sessions. Students free

**Bookings:**

[events.humanitix.com/beanie-song](http://events.humanitix.com/beanie-song)

**Cash tickets:**

Ring Jeanne 0456 583 611

**Event enquiries:**

bevdick3903@gmail.com  
text 0428 384 410



# Out & About

THE items in Out and About are sourced from our current advertising. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have your say on council's Annual Budget for 2026/27. Submissions close 6pm June 2. Scan the QR code in this weeks paper for full details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TUESDAY, MAY 12

Friends of the Library Alexandra AGM. 6pm at the Alexandra Library. New members welcome. Nomination forms available by emailing the secretary [proctor@virtual.net.au](mailto:proctor@virtual.net.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

## SATURDAY, MAY 16

Yarck Market is back from 9am. Don't miss out on Devonshire tea, toasties, and all your favourite stalls including plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear and much more. For any enquires contact Sharon on 0407 879 612

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY, MAY 21

Free heart health checks at Alexandra Pharmacy 10am-noon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FRIDAY, MAY 22

Bruce Watson is coming to Alexandra on Friday and Saturday. Ukulele Heaven and the Murrindindi Beanie Festival present a music workshop with Bruce. Take your ukulele, voice and other instruments to lift your spirits. Workshops 5-6.30pm on Friday and 10-11.30am on Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Yea Water Tigers Amateur Swimming Club AGM will be held at Yea Community House from 6-7pm. General meeting will follow. Enquiries to [yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com). New members welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Mother's Day Classic raises more than \$12,000



## Church Services

### ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

### ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEAL

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

### CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEAL

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, YEAL

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

### UNITING CHURCH

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

# Draft budget approved and available for feedback

MURRINDINDI Shire Council conducted a special meeting on May 6 to adopt the annual 2026/7 budget.

Cr Adams and Cr Lording were both on leave. In introducing the topic, Cr Carr noted the impact of the recent fire and the uncertainties around operational, financial and workforce pressures, as well as assessments of asset damage, recovery costs and government funding support is not yet known.

She said that council was already facing significant structural financial challenges prior to the fires, including ongoing underlying operational deficits and declining cash reserves.

She said that the budget takes “a disciplined and stabilising approach, focused on maintaining services, support community recovery, and preserving council’s financial capacity while recovery impacts are better understood.”

The draft budget forecasts a modest operating surplus of \$570,000 on revenue of \$47.7 million. Within this, rates stand at \$26.4 million under the 2.75 per cent rate cap increase.

She said, “Capital works of \$15.6 million are proposed, with a strong focus on asset renewal, and a temporary reduction in program scope to manage risk associated with potential fire-related asset impairment. Excluding capital grants, Council continues to face a significant underlying operating deficit, resulting in an ongoing drawdown of cash reserves.”

Following consideration of all submissions, Budget 2026/27 will be presented for adoption at Council’s Scheduled Meeting on June 17.

Cr McAulay asked how reduced visitation and economic flow-on, a result of the fire, are being factored into planning and priorities.

Director of People and Corporate Performance, Michael Chesworth, replied that they have been mindful of the impact of the fires and the economic impact during the development of the draft budget. He said that they have not created a lot of new initiatives

or expansion of services. They want to be able to respond as the impacts of the fires become clearer. They are awaiting further advice regarding state and federal funding and what might be possible to assist people both directly and indirectly impacted by the fires. They are also looking to work with the community regarding the recovery plan.

Cr Carpenter asked about the difference between asset renewal and program scope in capital works. Mr Chesworth explained that the scope is the entirety of the capital works, with the bulk focused on returning assets to the level of service that they’re designed to provide (asset renewal).

Cr Gallagher asked about the constraints and challenges for small rural councils more generally. Mr Chesworth noted the recent fires and said that they are yet to be confident of the level of funding required to restore the assets. He also spoke about the challenges of ongoing financial sustainability more generally, including the state and federal inquiries into the topic. Council has been advocating to receive a fair share of bushfire recovery funding, as well as broader financial assistance to councils.

Cr Gallagher also asked about the community waste charge and any changes in the next financial year. Mr Chesworth explained that the charge is independent of the kerbside waste collection service and that it relates to the cost of running a landfill, resource recovery services, street bin cleaning, promotion for recycling and re-use, and the collection of dumped rubbish. Last year, this was \$149, increasing to \$155 in the next financial year, in line with standard increases. The rural landholder exemption due to drought conditions will no longer be in place in the new financial year.

Cr Gallagher enquired about the reduction in capital improved value of landholders in the fire footprint and how council might address revenue. Mr Chesworth explained that after the fires, they suspended the need to collect rate revenue from people who were fire impacted, to enable a re-evaluation process to occur. For people who have lost property, a revised rate notice for January

to December 2026 will be issued, which recognises the reduction in capital value. Once the capital values become clear, council will seek an adjustment from the government or a reimbursement of the difference between what council would have received and will now receive.

Cr Carr congratulated staff on their hard work on the challenging budget, supported by other councillors.

The draft budget was approved. The draft budget is now available for the community to review and provide feedback. Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget) for more information.

## Key initiatives in the draft budget

\$1 million to complete the Eildon Key Worker Accommodation Project (grant funded with borrowings approved in 2025/26). \$364,000 for renewal and upgrades at the Yea Saleyards. \$283,000 to continue the establishment of an Integrated Forestry and Carbon Offset Project in Yea. \$49,000 for strategic land use planning to incorporate housing development opportunities into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. \$36,000 additional funding to improve biodiversity and environmental management across council-managed roadsides and bushland reserves. \$1.4 million to upgrade the Kinglake Memorial Reserve oval (54 per cent grant-funded). \$194,000 to continue council’s Grants and Sponsorships Program. \$550,000 to support communities recovering from the January 2026 bushfires (fully grant funded). \$300,000 to upgrade lighting at the Thornton Recreation Reserve football oval (75 per cent grant funded). \$170,000 to continue the Leaping into Resilience Program (grant funded). \$75,000 to implement the Urban Tree Strategy. \$15,500 to improve maintenance of recreational areas surrounding Boundary Creek in Yea. \$768,000 for a new mobile library and customer service vehicle (fully grant funded). \$349,000 to develop the Nihil Street Alexandra roundabout to improve safety (grant funded). \$25,000 to support efficiency reviews and productivity improvements.

## Word on the web

### How would you react if you were served by an AI robot in a local store?

Caolan O’Connor: I’d argue that there are already examples of AI and robotics quietly operating in almost any regional town in Victoria. And we’re not generally blacklisting those businesses.

Kool Bass: In most supermarkets you have to scan and pack your own items and the scanners are a form of AI. Most people reading this now are either on a phone, tablet or computer, all of which are loaded with AI that they use every day without even realizing it. This concept of being served by a robot or AI figure isn’t that different. I’ve had some great people serve me in coffee shops and at other times, some I wish were probably this robot.

Grant Webster: Not quite sure which is worse. Serving oneself, thereby doing the unpaid work of people who should be paid and respected for doing it, or being served by an unpaid but costly robot. Neither is great in relation to the social aspect of buying in a shop or a cafe.

Jacobina Coby Petersen: No thanks, I like human contact. And I’d like to think there is work for my grandkids in years to come.

Margaret Talent: I wouldn’t be served by one because I’d be out of there as soon as I realised. I’d look for another store manned by real people.

Sophia Weaver: I wouldn’t buy from a store with an AI robot. I already quietly add places that use AI to make posters etcetera to my ‘do not buy’ list.

Jenny Petersen: I’d prefer human more personable

Vicky Ryan: When everyone has their strawman money (millions) would they still want to work?

Nicki’s Lawn and Property Maintenance: That’s a no from myself and my own business

Raymond Gleichmar: I’d walk out.

Sue-Anne Robinson-Witnish: They can stick that. I would not buy from there.

Joel Gaylor: Skynet has become self aware Terminator movies taught us nothing.



## Murrindindi Business Month

Your business, your future.

Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to announce Murrindindi Business Month, a month long initiative designed to support, strengthen and celebrate local business.

Running throughout June, this coordinated program guides businesses through a journey of recovery, growth and future planning, helping participants build capability, confidence and momentum.

Registrations are free and businesses are encouraged to attend multiple sessions and benefit from the full program.

For details:

- visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yourbusiness](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/yourbusiness)
- call 5772 0333
- scan the QR code.



Funding has been provided for this initiative by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.



## Have your say on Council’s Annual Budget for 2026/27

The draft Budget has been prepared following the January 2026 bushfires and focuses on maintaining essential services, supporting community recovery and managing Council’s finances responsibly.

This is your opportunity to share what matters most to you.

**Submissions close 6.00 pm Tuesday 2 June 2026**

Have your say:

- Scan the QR code to submit feedback online
- Provide a written submission
- Register to speak at a Council Meeting



[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget26-27](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget26-27)

# Four of our shire volunteers receive Orders of Australia

ON Thursday, May 7, four of our local heroes received their orders of Australia (OAM) from Her Excellency Professor the honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria.

The four were among 72 recipients from all around Victoria to receive the award.

Graeme Robb received his for service to the community through emergency response organisations; Gordon Simpson for service to the community of Alexandra; Gary Pollard for his service to the community of Yea (2025); and Geoffrey Penny for his service to Gobur and Terip Terip.

Congratulations to these men for this well deserved honour and for their dedication. In a way we can see while they have received this award, they represent all the hard workers out there who work tirelessly to make our communities safe and more liveable.



Graeme Robb, Gary Pollard, Gordon Simpson and Geoffrey Penny at Government House to receive their OAMs. -S



Wear orange on Wednesday, May 20 to show your support for the SES.

## Working bees at Mafeking Rover Park

WORKING bees are currently underway at Mafeking Rover Park to prepare the site for the Mafeking Open Day.

The organisers would like to thank those who were able to give up their time to help them clear some fence lines. The crew were able to get quite a bit of work done before the storm hit on Sunday, May 3.

They also saw the return of a couple old residents, wallabies, who seemed a bit reluctant to leave their comfortable van. A special mention to Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter for all their hard work in caring for many of the affected wildlife in the park and surrounding area.

If you are keen to lend a hand at upcoming working bees, they would love to hear from you. Fill out the form at [tinyurl.com/yc835byw](http://tinyurl.com/yc835byw), and if your skills and experience align with what they need, they will be in touch.



## Wear Orange Wednesday supporting SES volunteers

WEAR Orange Wednesday (WOW Day), held on 20 May, is the national day of recognition to acknowledge and thank State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers for their ongoing contribution to community safety.

Taking place during National Volunteer Week, it is a significant and proactive event within the VICSES calendar.

Over the past 12 months, VICSES volunteers have responded to more than 32,000 requests for assistance.

Our volunteers have been out there including providing support during the Longwood bushfires, clearing countless fallen trees from roads during storm events, assisting with road crash rescues and rescuing stranded boaties on the Goulburn River.

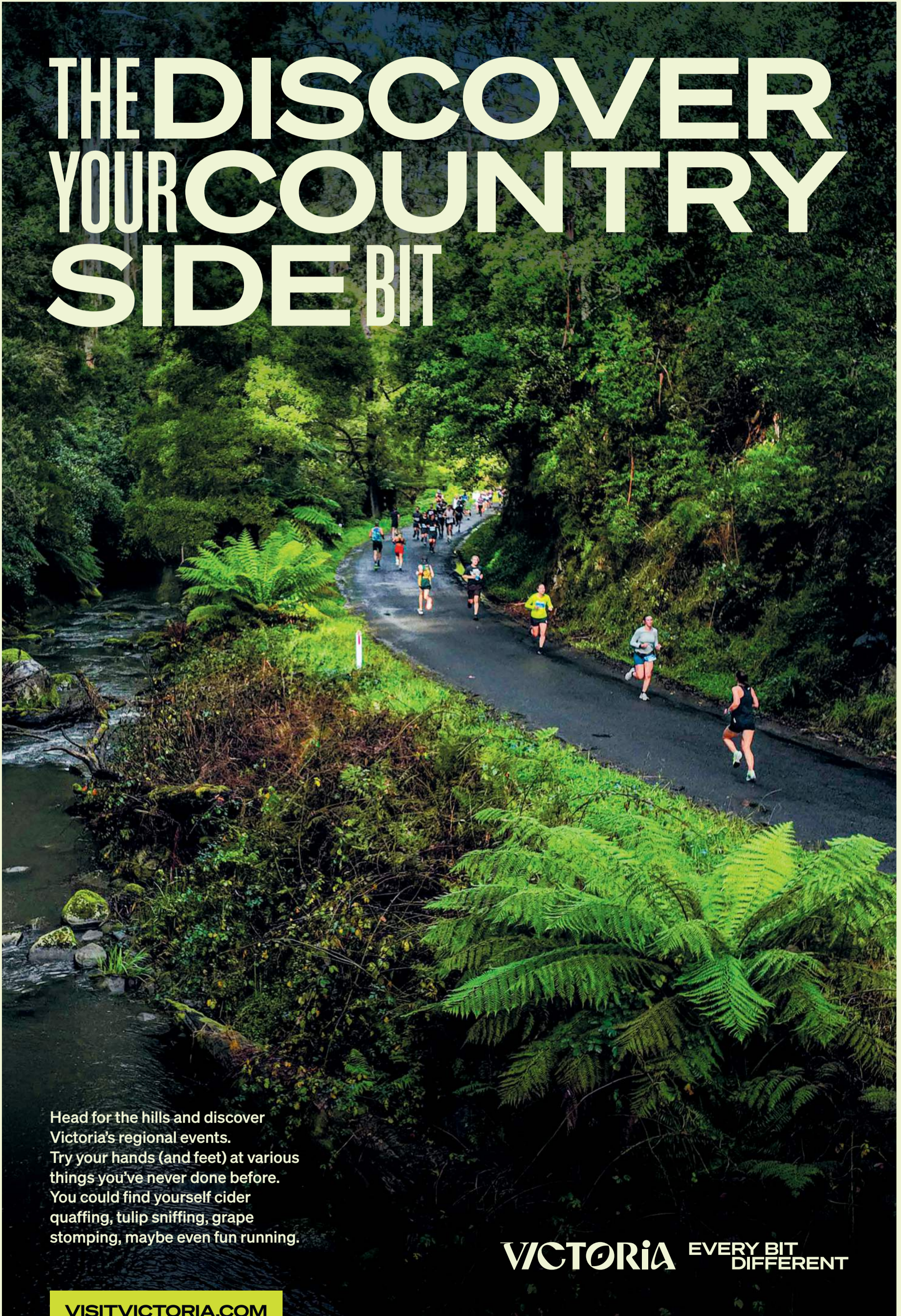
Alexandra SES Deputy Controller Shannon Mitrow said SES volunteers are often mistaken for paid emergency service personnel, however, VICSES is a wholly volunteer-based organisation.

“Members generously contribute their time, skills, and commitment to assist communities in times of need,” she said.

“Orange looks good on everyone, so please don some orange on May 20 this year. Even a splash of orange will show your support for State Emergency Services across Australia on WOW Day.”



# THE DISCOVER YOUR COUNTRY SIDE BIT



Head for the hills and discover Victoria's regional events. Try your hands (and feet) at various things you've never done before. You could find yourself cider quaffing, tulip sniffing, grape stomping, maybe even fun running.

**VICTORIA** EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

[VISITVICTORIA.COM](http://VISITVICTORIA.COM)

# Local childcare workers join Early Years Conference

THE 2026 annual Early Years Conference was held at Holmesglen at Eildon on Thursday, May 7, a day which also brought the first snow of the season to many parts of Murrindindi Shire, as well as Victoria more generally.

At the start of the conference, there was meant to be a Smoking Ceremony but this had to be cancelled when snow began to fall. A Welcome to Country was held inside instead.

There were over 60 attendees at the event, bringing together childcare workers from across the shire, as well as special guests.

After breakfast, the attendees were welcomed by Mayor Damien Gallagher and the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tracy Beaton, spoke and invited questions from the audience.

A break-out session was held with facilitator Catharine Hydon, where a case study was provided to the participants in small groups. It outlined a complex situation and the participants were invited to discuss a series of questions around the case.

This was followed by a panel discussion featuring the facilitator, Hayley Carter from DFFH Child Protection, Donna McKenzie from FamilyCare, Jamey Peterson from Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESO) and Beth Gammell from Maternal and Child Health.

After a lovely lunch, Robyn Papworth conducted a session titled Play, Move, Improve.



Holmesglen at Eildon provided an ideal venue for the event. -AR



Mayor Damien Gallagher. -AR



The panel discussion. -AR

## Government secures 10 million litre diesel reserve for Victorian farmers

VICTORIA has secured 10 million litres of diesel as a strategic fuel reserve for the agricultural sector, meaning Victorian farmers can be confident that fuel will be available when they need it most.

Victoria has now joined Western Australia as the only states in Australia with a confirmed fuel reserve.

### Why it's needed

Victorian farmers are the backbone of the nation's food supply. They produce more than \$22 billion in agricultural output annually and feed families around the country and world.

Victorian farmers have faced prolonged drought plus global economic uncertainty because of Donald Trump's war.

This reserve will help them make confident planting and farm management decisions for the winter growing season. That protects food security and keep grocery prices down for everyone.

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan said, "Our regional communities rely on a strong harvest. That starts with knowing fuel will be there when it's needed."

"Backing farmers means backing local jobs and businesses

and keeping grocery prices down for everyone."

Minister for Agriculture Michaela Settle added, "We're protecting supply at critical times and ensuring Victorian farmers can continue to produce world-class food."

### How it works

This reserve does not change day-to-day supply, it is a contingency so farmers can plan with confidence.

The reserve would only be released if Level Four of the *National Fuel Security Plan* is activated. It complements the Commonwealth's existing Minimum Stockholding Obligation for fuel companies.

There continues to be sufficient diesel available for Victorians to meet their needs, with supplies arriving in Australia in the required quantities and frequency.

## Car enthusiasts to hit the road

SOME of Murrindindi's most dedicated car enthusiasts are about to hit the road, as part of National Motoring Heritage Day, to raise funds for victims of the devastating Longwood fire.

Members of the Murrindindi Historic Vehicle Register will participate in the drive from Healesville to Eildon, then possibly on to Yea, on Sunday, May 17.

The drive, officially known as a cruise, begins at Beechworth Bakery at 10am, before travelling over the Black Spur to Narbethong, where participants from the Alexandra and Eildon area who have chosen to not drive to Healesville, will join the convoy at the Black Spur Inn.

Then the vehicles, tipped to number at least 20 historic and classic cars, will travel to Marysville, where they will drive down the main street to show participants, drivers and passengers, how the picturesque township has recovered after being almost wiped out by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire.

It also will give Marysville residents an opportunity to view cars dating back to the 1950s.

After the Marysville visit, the cruise will pass through Buxton, Taggerty and Thornton, then to Eildon, where Alexandra Lions will serve a sausage sizzle lunch at the golf club.

All money raised on the day will be donated to the Alexandra Lions fire recovery fund.

Bernie McKeegan, who is the Murrindindi Historic Vehicle Register's delegate to the Association of Motoring Clubs, said Sunday's event was being held with the association's backing.

He said that, in addition to raising funds for bushfire victims, the cruise would give the community an opportunity to see how the historic vehicle movement contributes to the national economy.

Mr McKeegan added that after lunch the group might extend the Healesville-Eildon drive on to Whanregarwen Road and Yea to give participants, especially those belonging to Melbourne-based clubs, the chance to see first hand the fire's devastation.

Suffice to say, participants in the cruise hope the weather gods will smile upon them on Sunday.

## Government adopts Haines' housing infrastructure plan

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of a \$2 billion investment in enabling infrastructure to unlock more housing, including dedicated funding for regional Australia.

Dr Haines said the announcement reflects years of advocacy to address one of the biggest barriers to housing supply in the regions.

"The biggest handbrake on building more homes in regional Australia is the lack of critical enabling infrastructure, the roads, water, sewerage and power that make developments possible," Dr Haines said.

"I've been building the case for targeted investment in this infrastructure, because without it, we simply cannot build the homes our communities need."

The government's decision to direct a quarter of the funding to regional Australia

reflects reforms long championed by Dr Haines, including her *Unlocking Regional Housing Bill*, introduced in 2023.

Dr Haines also moved amendments to the Housing Australia Future Fund to ensure regional Australia was not left behind in national housing investment.

"This is exactly the kind of practical, targeted policy regional communities have been crying out for, and it's encouraging to see the government has listened and adopting this approach," she said.

"As Indi's independent voice, my focus is on delivering practical solutions that improve everyday life, and this is a clear example of how strong, constructive advocacy can have national influence."

"There's more to do, but this is an important step forward in tackling housing shortages in regional Australia."

Victorian

## Law Week

May 18 to May 24

## AI and copyright: An undefined legal conundrum

WHO owns content generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)? It's an interesting question, because the creator of the content, AI, is not alive to hold a copyright. So then, does the company that runs the AI own the content? Or does it come back to the person who prompted the AI to create the content, giving it the original push and idea?

Further from that, AI-generated content, whether that be text or images and art, is not inherently new. It is a Frankenstein's Monster, in that it utilises existing media from across the internet, drawing facts, ideas and conclusions from other works to create its own response to whatever prompt the user inputted.

Research Fellow Pratap Devarapalli from The University of Queensland delved into this challenging topic.

"The legal questions surrounding the ownership and use of AI-created works are still up for debate under copyright law. Authors' rights and interests in their original works such as books, songs and paintings are protected by copyright law, giving them the right to control the copying, sharing, adaptation, performance and display of their creations," Mr Devarapalli said.

"However, copyright law has restrictions and exceptions such as fair use, parody, criticism, education and research. Additionally, works that are not sufficiently creative or original such as ideas, facts or processes are not protected by copyright laws."

Mr Devarapalli suggests utilising Creative Commons (CC) licencing as a way of perhaps rectifying the issue.

"CC licences could be used in numerous ways for AI-produced works. For instance, the user of the AI app or website could select a CC licence for the final product and provide credit to the creator of the AI app or website," Mr Devarapalli said.

"The individual who develops the AI app or website may decide to use a Creative Commons licence for it and its outputs while giving credit to the authors of the data sources."

Because AI is so new, it is difficult to define. There is currently no widely accepted definition of AI, other than it is computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence.

An information sheet titled 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Copyright' by the Arts Law Centre of Australia, goes into depth about AI and how vague the copyright rules around it are.

"Since this technology is so new, it is not clear that works created with the help of AI will be protected by copyright," the article reads.

"As a general rule, a work can only be protected by copyright in Australia if there is a human author who contributed 'independent intellectual

effort'. Because of this, it is possible that works generated by AI which don't have enough human input won't be protected by copyright.

"AI tools do not currently have a legal status and cannot own copyright. It is the human contributor who would own copyright if a work was protected."

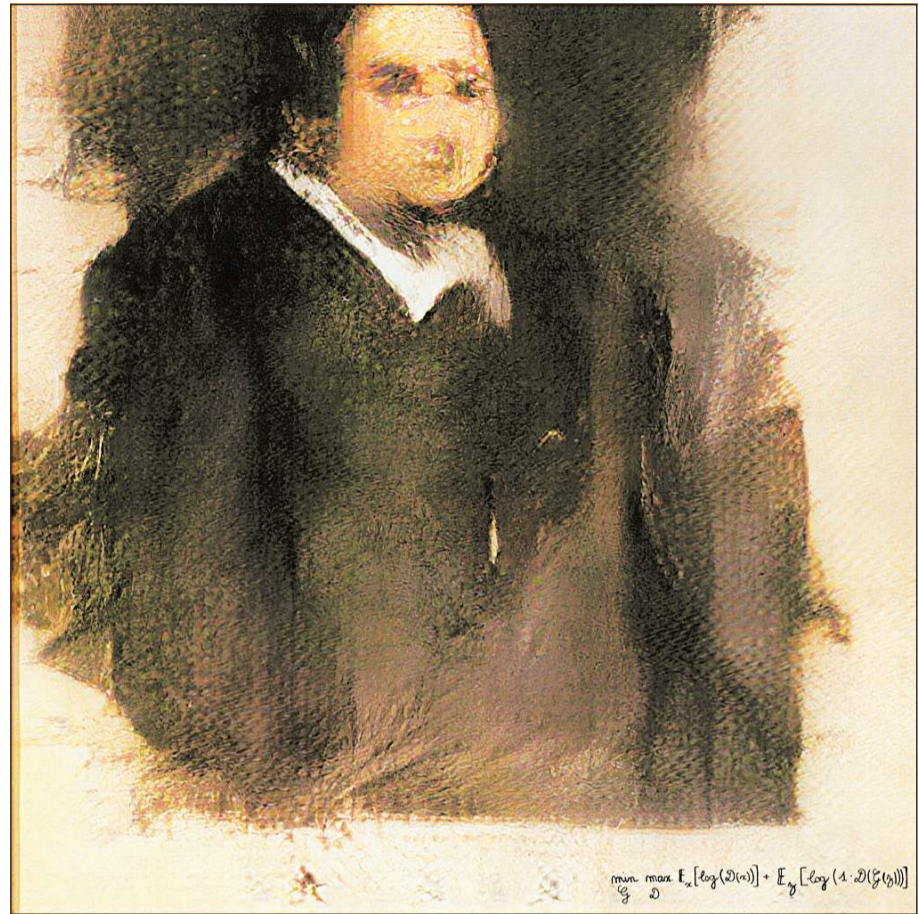
There are numerous examples of AI being used to generate various artforms, including music, poetry, movie scripts, etcetera.

The Australian music band 'Uncanny Valley' generated a song with AI that went on to win the Eurovision-style 'AI Song Contest' in 2020. With the rules around copyright and AI being so vague and undefined, it's hard to imagine that a song would be attributable to a specific band if it was created with AI.

Yet an AI-generated portrait titled 'Edmond de Belamy' was sold at auction for \$432,000 in New York by Paris-based arts collective 'Obvious'. It was the first AI portrait ever sold, and presumably 'Obvious' pocketed the money, not whatever company ran the AI system.

The discussion around AI-generated content and copyright is ongoing and widely debated, in a similar fashion to every ethical issue involving AI in this modern era. There are no specific copyright laws for AI because it is developing at a pace too quick for legislation and the legal system to monitor and control.

This begs another question: Should the human race be rushing into AI at the speed we currently are? If the law can't keep up, doesn't that mean that AI is acting in a lawless space, with potential for any variety of actions?



The AI-generated portrait 'Edmond de Belamy', which sold for \$420,000 at auction in New York. -PICRYL

## Legal help available following bushfires

IT has now been four months since January 7, when the Longwood bushfire tore across the hills and charged towards Alexandra, impacting various communities along the way. Affected people are in various stages of recovery.

For some, insurance claims might still be the focus, for others, clean up is in full swing. Some people are replacing fencing; some are moving stock back into formerly burnt paddocks.

Anyone who is still struggling with bureaucracy, particularly legal issues, this is a reminder that legal help is available, and there are people and services out there who can provide assistance.

ARC Justice's Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre can be contacted on 1800 310 900. Victoria Legal Aid has offices in Shepparton and Bendigo. The Shepparton number is 5823 6200; the Bendigo number is 1800 450 909. Whittlesea Community Connections also provide legal help. Their Epping office is contactable on 9401 6666. More generally, you can also call

Disaster Legal Help Victoria weekdays from 8am to 6pm. Their phone number is 1800 113 432.

Common issues post-disaster that these agencies can provide assistance with include issues relating to tenancy, insurance, property damage, problems with fences and parenting arrangements, among other things.

For more complex legal matters, some great services are available locally. Bell Legal and Planning provides a wide range of services in Murrindindi Shire and beyond, including planning and building advice, estate planning, probate, retail and commercial leases, Magistrates Court and VCAT representation, and subdivision lodgements.

Williams Hunt & Bett Lawyers and Conveyancers also have a range of services available, including business sales and purchases, commercial matters, conveyancing, criminal matters, family and divorce law, wills and probate, and disputes and litigation.

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# Let's eat, it's our treat

## Tips and inspiration for cooking fish

FISH can be a culinary delight, especially when prepared the right way. Think of pan-seared salmon with mashed potato and steamed vegetables, grilled barramundi with salad, or crumbed whiting with chips and tartare sauce.

Now imagine that you caught the fish. Our area of Murrindindi Shire has an abundance of prime fishing spots to choose from, including Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River, etcetera. Murray cod, brown and rainbow trout, redfin, yellowbelly (proper name of golden perch), and carp can all be fished in local waters.

To spare people's sensitivities, details on the part about field preparing a fish after it has been caught will be left out. Needless to say, make sure to dispatch the fish as humanely and quickly as possible after reeling it in, and then clean, scale and gut it immediately after. Keep the fish on ice until you are ready to cook it.

When it comes to actually cooking the fish, Matt Preston has a number of helpful tips, which he shared with *taste.com.au*.

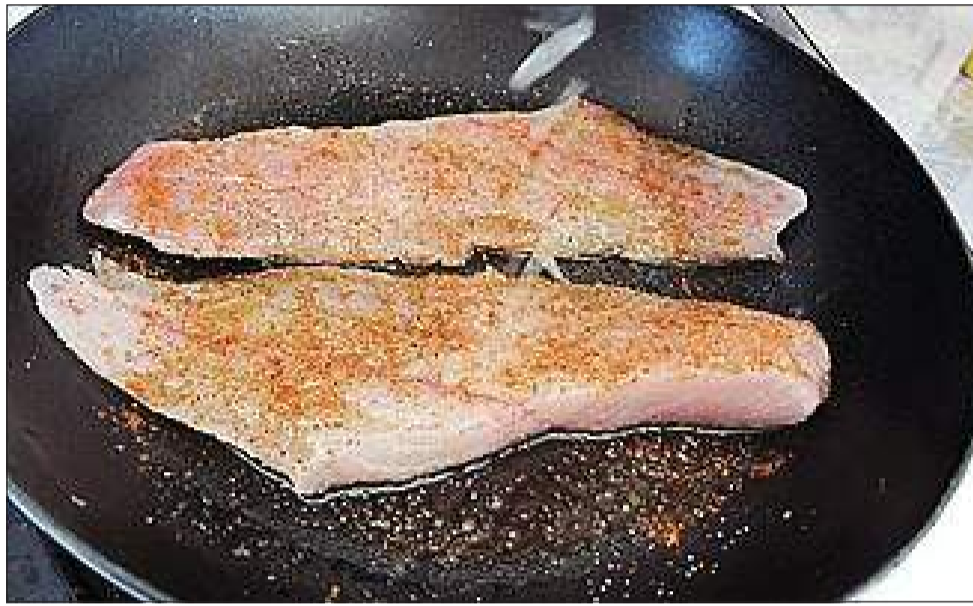
"For me, overcooked seafood is a crime, so I err on the side of underdone knowing the fish will cook a bit more when out of the pan," Matt says.

"Avoid snapper if you are a fish novice as it's easily ruined."

He suggests utilising subtlety when cooking fish, so don't destroy it's flavour by burying it under other flavours like spices, etcetera. Either pick or slice your fillets so they are around the same thickness, to make sure they all cook evenly and finish cooking at the same time.

Always cook fillets skin side down, to protect the vulnerable flesh of the fish. If you want crispy skin on ocean fish, start your fish in a cold pan and then flip it to just warm the topside at the very end of cooking.

Matt suggests baking rather than deep frying your fish. Twenty minutes at 180 degrees with a coating of herbs, cheese or spices can do wonders for fish fillets. He also says to use a lot of heat for a very little time.



Do you know how to cook fish well? -Jason Lam

"Slow it down for gentler white fish such as whiting or snapper fillets. Cook slowly in a pan, napping the fillets with foaming butter (spooning butter over the fish to cook the top at the same time)," Matt says.

"Or cook fillets confit-style under warm olive oil. I love to bake whole fish, but also think of steaming smaller whole fish in a covered bamboo steamer and wok. Room-temperature fish will take about 15 minutes per 500 grams, but this depends on its thickness, which is why we slash fatter-sided fish."

### Recipe ideas for local fish

To provide some inspiration, here are three recipe ideas for each of the fish that can be caught in Murrindindi Shire, including carp, so dispose of your prejudices.

#### Trout

Baked trout cooked in foil parcels: Seal trout fillets in foil with fennel, white wine and lemon, then steam and serve.

Pan-seared trout with garlic lemon butter: Coat fillets in flour, pan-sear with olive oil and butter for a short time. Add lemon juice, garlic, and parsley.

Crispy trout: Pan fry for crispy skin, then serve with bacon, toasted almonds and a side of beetroot.

#### Murray cod

Smoked Murray cod omelette: Smoke cod fillets in a smoker or under a grill, then flake the fish into an omelette. A good breakfast option.

Steamed cod: Steam Murray cod fillets with ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil and spring onions, then serve with steamed rice.

Barbecue cod with salsa: Lightly oil and season cod fillets, then grill until the skin is crispy. Pairs well with a salsa of spring onion, parsley, coriander, anchovy fillets and capers.

#### Redfin

Redfin burgers: Dust fillets with flour and pan fry, then serve on a buttered roll with cheese,

### Let's Eat April winner

THE winner of our April Let's Eat \$50 voucher was Charlie Bissett from Alexandra. Charlie will be having a \$50 feed on us at Sedona Estate. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at the venue advertised in this edition of Let's Eat; It's our treat. Remember to circle your venue of choice.

lettuce and mayonnaise.  
Thai-style whole redfin: Scale, gut and grill the redfin, then dust the whole fish with flour and deep fry until it's crispy. Serve with a spicy sweet and sour sauce.

Grilled redfish with white wine butter sauce: Grill the redfin, then serve with a garlic, shallots, wine and butter sauce alongside a salad.

#### Golden perch (yellowbelly)

Golden perch fish cakes: Mix cooked and flaked fish with mashed potatoes, chilli, fish sauce, shallots and kaffir lime leaves. Form them into cakes, then fry.

Parmesan-crumbed perch: Coat fillets in breadcrumbs, parmesan grated, garlic and herbs, then grill or pan fry until golden.

Fried perch with Cajun spices: Dip fillets in a milk and mustard wash, dredge in flour, cornflour and Cajun seasoning, then deep fry.

#### Carp

Smoked carp fillets: Brine fillets overnight, dry and then smoke for a long time. Helps to remove the muddy taste.

Roasted carp: Bake in the oven with some seasoning, then serve alongside vegetables or other sides.

Fried carp: Coat fillets in batter and fry until golden, then serve with lemon alongside your choice of sides.

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PHOTOCOPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

Return this form by noon, Thursday, May 28 for your chance to win. Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street, or PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic 3714.

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month. T&C: Only venues advertised in this feature are eligible to be chosen. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned. If you do not circle your choice of venue, your entry is invalid.

# PUZZLES

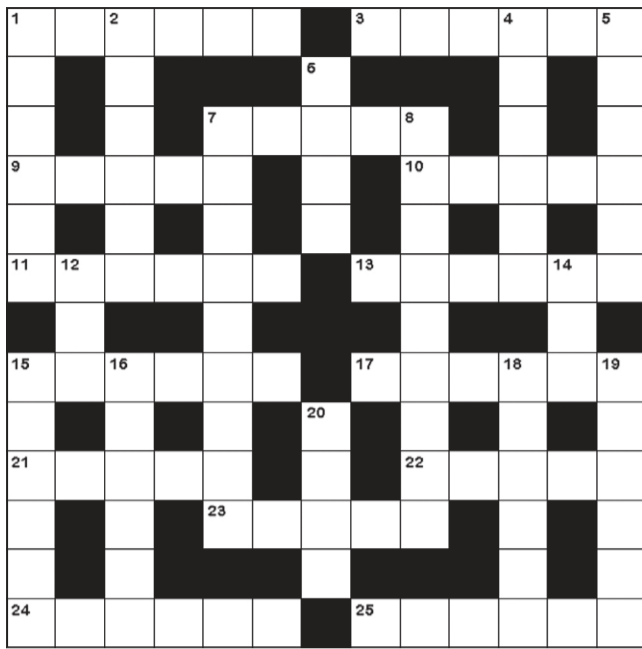
**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 12

# KID'S PUZZLES

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Marked by refinement in taste and manners.
- Great coolness and composure under strain.
- Wild plants growing where they are not wanted.
- A person who is of equal standing with another.
- The act or an instance of stealing.
- The belief in the existence of a God or gods.
- Develop gradually by a natural process.
- The brothers of your father or mother.
- Regarded with deep or rapturous love.
- A thin, smooth, shiny coating.
- Of or relating to the kidneys.
- Move in a rhythmical way to music.
- A government tax on imports or exports.
- A collection of things wrapped together.



- A feeling of anxiety for your safety.
- Words that were spoken in soft hushed tones.
- Worker who loads and unloads ships in a port.
- The adult female of the domestic fowl.
- Compete with or bid against for something.
- Requiring immediate action or attention.
- A fissure in the earth's crust.
- Talked in a noisy, excited manner.
- A torrent of rain causing flooding.
- A time or phase of gradual decrease.

### DOWN

- A legal document giving official permission.
- Of small or less than average size.
- A severe or trying experience.
- A soft, usually knitted shoe for a baby.

## Word Search

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

### Sports

- |            |          |
|------------|----------|
| BASKETBALL | NETBALL  |
| CRICKET    | POOL     |
| CYCLING    | RUGBY    |
| DARTS      | SNOOKER  |
| FOOTBALL   | SOCCER   |
| LAWNBOWLS  | SWIMMING |

## Math Square

	+		-		-1
x		x		+	
	+	8	+		15
-		÷		-	
	x	4	÷		14
23		6		8	

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

## Cryptogram

### Sports

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				4				3
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
1	21							

$\frac{T R}{21 \ 3 \ 25}$       $\frac{O R}{25 \ 4 \ 24 \ 3}$   
 $\frac{R}{18 \ 12 \ 3 \ 16 \ 26}$       $\frac{S T}{1 \ 21}$       $\frac{12 \ 14 \ 16}{}$   
 $\frac{O T S}{18 \ 12 \ 8 \ 26}$       $\frac{17 \ 4 \ 21 \ 1}{}$   
 $\frac{O}{4 \ 7}$       $\frac{7 \ 24 \ 14}{}$

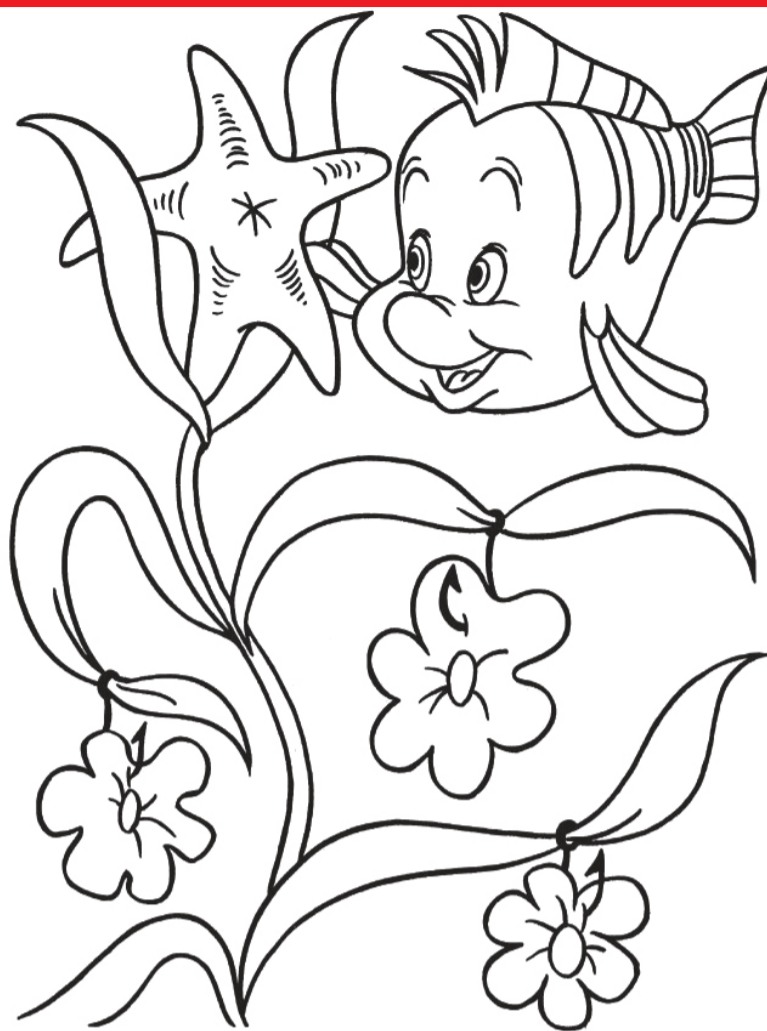
## Sudoku

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

### 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.

## Colouring Page



## Word Search - Words starting with "O"

OCEAN	V X F J O F I E O J M D H N O
OCTOPUS	R C N W A C F T C P V U E U C
OFFER	A I L Z K P N F S N E V H V E
OLIVE	E G N A R O P Q I V O N T V A
ONCE	O F F E R Y P X K X S S I A N
ONION	O S C A R O N A K P N U E N V
OPENING	U Q L F F E V M V E L P V K G
ORANGE	U J Q J A J C E D L U O I B O
OSCAR	K U G V J V D I R V U T L G R
OSTRICH	P F H W T G S C W C N C O E H
OUTSIDE	Q B V P H T H W O R O O A V K
OVEN	A Y X H U I O Z O D G A I X T
OVERCOAT	K R K O V U Y L N O Y H T N T
OWL	A H C I R T S O V F J F K V O
	Q I A S U I Q B Z G X C U L H

## 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.

2	+		+	3	14
-		-		-	
	+		+		21
+		+		-	
	+		-		0
0		2		-9	

## Jokes

**Q: What has no feathers or wings but still flies?**

**A: A helicopter**

**Q: What has one head, one foot and four legs?**

**A: A bed**

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**DEATH NOTICES**

  
**MUSSETT, Francis James**  
 30/11/1929 – 07/05/2026

**MUSSETT, Faith**  
 09/08/1935- 05/01/2026

The President, committee and members of the Yea-Kinglake RSL Sub-branch regret the passing of our esteemed members, Frank and Faith, and offer their deepest condolences to their family.  
**RIP Frank and Faith**

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**MEETINGS**

  
**ACHERON FIRE BRIGADE**  
 General and Biannual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 10.30am at Acheron Hall. All welcome.

**MEETINGS**

**YEA Water Tigers Amateur Swimming Club AGM.** Meeting will be held at Yea Community House. Wednesday, May 27th from 6-7pm. All positions declared vacant, three year cycle. General meeting will follow. Enquiries to the secretary [yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com](mailto:yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com)  
 New members are always welcome.

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**MATH SQUARES**

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

**KIDS - MATH SQUARES**

2	+	9	+	3	14
-		-		-	
6	+	8	+	7	21
+		+		-	
4	+	1	-	5	0
0		2		-9	

# Carp control virus back on the radar

THERE are two reasons for Australians to introduce non-native animal species. In the case of the cane toads in Queensland, they were deployed to eat the grey-backed cane beetles that were destroying cane crops. One, management. In the case of sambar deer from India and carp from Europe, it was acclimatisation societies that decided to introduce them, to make Australia feel more like home in Great Britain. Two, sport.

Perhaps it went like this: A group of old English gentlemen, living a new life in Australia but longing for the best parts of back home and bored with fishing trout from the river, decided in a moment of shining glory that they would introduce carp into Victoria's rivers.

‘Catching carp is fun,’ they might have thought, ‘and there is plenty of waterways here for them to spread into.’

Fast forward to today, and there are now some 375 million carp clogging up Australia's waterways. They are designated as a pest species and account for around 90 per cent of the entire biomass of fish in the Murray-Darling Basin. Carp exist on every continent in the world except for Antarctica.

## The issue

According to the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) carp are the most ecologically damaging non-native species globally.

They have a vacuum style of feeding that stirs up sediments from river and lake beds, increasing the cloudiness of the water. This cloudiness reduces sunlight's ability to penetrate the water, reducing aquatic plant growth that provides essential food and shelter for Australia's native fish.

Carp also cause erosion of riverbanks by removing aquatic plants, and compete with native fish for food, as well as preying on native fish eggs, larvae and juvenile fish.

Studies conducted by the National Carp Control Program (NCCP) estimate that the impacts of carp cost the Australian economy between \$11.8 million and \$500 million per year. This includes ecological, social, recreational, amenity downstream impacts from degraded water quality, infrastructure, as well as secondary impacts.

## Control and combat

In 2016, the Australian Government invested \$10.37 million in the National Carp Control Program (NCCP) to assess the feasibility of using the carp virus as a biocontrol agent to control Australian carp populations. The carp virus is a species-specific waterborne disease that only causes mortality in carp and koi carp.

In 2022, the NCCP published its key findings which involved extensive research, international collaboration, viral testing on other species, and community consultation, making it the most comprehensive biological control assessments ever conducted in Australia. In 2024, the Federal government announced a further \$3 million dollars in research funding to fill some remaining information gaps.



Carp are an invasive species that cause significant impact on Victoria's waterways and economy. -Thirdman

The VFA has nominated carp as a key threatening process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

If accepted by the Commonwealth Government, listing carp as a key threatening process will trigger preparation of a threat abatement plan, which can be used to guide various decisions relevant to controlling the carp population more effectively.

The VFA has also nominated carp for listing as potentially threatening process under Victoria's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. The nominations provide a foundation for building a coordinated approach to improve the health of Victoria's freshwater native fisheries and aquatic ecosystems by managing carp.

The VFA will continue to work closely with the scientific committees responsible for assessing the nominations. Carp is already listed as a noxious species under Victoria's fisheries legislation.

The Federal government is responsible for determining if the carp virus can be used as a biological control agent to reduce carp populations. In 2024, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) outlined a two phased roadmap for the Carp Biological Control Program.

The outcomes of the NCCP research will be used to inform Federal legislative approvals processes under the *EPBC Act 1999*, *Biological Control Act 1984*, *Biosecurity Act 2015*, *Water Act 2007* and *Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Codes Act 1994*.

If approved for release, state jurisdictions will play a key role in implementing the release of the virus requiring further consultation and approvals processes. The timelines for deciding on the release of the carp virus are not clear at this stage, but the VFA is leading the development of a Victorian plan to trial the use of carp virus initially within an enclosed and controlled waterway.

The plan will detail the experimental design, site identification and what biosecurity controls are needed, to test the mortality rates of infected carp held under a range of carp population densities.

A clearer understanding about mortality rates (currently estimates range from 30 per cent to 80 per cent) is needed to determine what, if any, carp cleanup operations are required if the virus is released.

Journalist for *The Weekly Times*, Peter Hunt, reported last week that the VFA is looking at several fenced Wimmera storages that were abandoned after construction of the Wimmera Mallee pipeline to conduct a controlled trial release of the carp virus.

In April, VRFish attended the Murray Darling Carp Summit in Nagambie, co-hosted by the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Australian River Restoration Centre, where the formation of a Murray-Darling Carp Action Alliance was proposed to ensure a collaborative, basin-wide approach to carp control.

VRFish Chair Rob Loats, said that carp control measures need to be a top priority.

‘European carp are the ‘rabbits’ of our waterways, they have a disastrous impact

on our water quality, native fish populations and cause environmental degradation to our rivers,’ Mr Loats said.

‘Now is the time to act. Recreational fishers are deeply concerned by the negative impact carp continue to have on our waterways and we are calling for a bipartisan commitment to implement carp control measures ahead of November's election.’

‘We are still waiting on the Australian Government's decision on whether or not biocontrol will be used following the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP). There is no clear timeline on when a decision will be made and, even if biocontrol is released, it will not be a stand-alone solution.’

## The carp virus

The carp virus is called cyprinid herpesvirus 3 and was first identified by a large outbreak at a carp farm in Germany in 1997.

It is a highly contagious, water-borne virus that does not affect humans, according to the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

Symptoms include reddening of the gills, excess mucus on the gills and skin, darkening of the skin, and eventually patches of skin necrosis (tissue death). Signs of the disease occur within seven to 14 days of infection, and death then occurs within a day or so.

There is no evidence that the virus can multiply in other fish, although the virus may be inadvertently transported on the surface of other fish for a short period of time.

Research on the virus and CSIRO testing began in 2006, and the virus only affects carp species.

# David Berry imprisoned over Yarck death

HIS Honour Judge Tiwana sentenced David Graham Berry on Monday, May 11. Mr Berry was the driver of a stolen vehicle which collided with an Alexandra motorcyclist in Yarck on May 8, 2024, resulting in the man's death.

Berry was charged with theft, culpable driving causing death, and failing to stop after a motor vehicle accident. He was also charged with a summary offence of unlicensed driving. Berry has previously pled guilty to all charges.

After being arrested five kilometres from the scene of the crash, he was tested for drugs and alcohol in his system. Dr Gaya provided an expert opinion and estimated that Berry's blood alcohol level was between 0.129 per cent and 0.187 per cent. He was also found to have 0.27 mg/L of methylamphetamine in his system.

The judge outlined the incident in his sentencing summary, as well as Berry's criminal history. Between 2000 and 2018, he refused to remain at the station for a breath test (one charge in 2000), exceeded the prescribed concentration of alcohol (four charges in 2004, 2008 and 2018), driving while disqualified (three charges in 2001, 2004 and 2005), and unlicensed driving (three charges in 2004, 2008 and 2018).

The judge stated, ‘You also have a significant non-driving history between 1996 and 2018. This includes offences of dishonesty, including handling stolen goods, seven offences of theft, four offences of burglary and two offences of attempted theft. On February 2, 2018, the County Court sentenced you to a term of four years and three months' imprisonment with a non-parole period of three years. You also have been dealt with by the courts for offences of violence, including intentionally causing

injury, unlawful assault, resist police, assault police, make threat to kill, common law assault, assault with intent to rob, recklessly causing injury. I also note the offending involving contravention of family violence orders, damaging property and offences subject to the *Bail Act 1977 (Vic)*.’

The deceased man's family provide heartbreaking victim impact statements to the court.

In sentencing, the judge said, ‘Having synthesised all relevant matters and circumstances, I sentence you, David Berry, as follows: On charge one, theft, you are convicted and sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment. On charge two, culpable driving causing death, you are convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. On charge three, failing to stop after a motor vehicle accident, you are convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. On

the summary charge of unlicensed driving, you are convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

‘The sentence on charge two will be the base sentence. Three months of the sentence on charge one and nine months of the sentence on charge three will be served cumulatively upon each other and upon the base sentence. The sentence on summary charge nine will run concurrently. This makes a total effective sentence of 11 years' imprisonment. I set a non-parole period of seven years and six months' imprisonment.’ 563 days was declared as time served.

The judge said that if he had not pled guilty, he would have sentenced Berry to 14 years' imprisonment with a non-parole period of 10 years.

The judge also ordered that Berry be disqualified from obtaining a licence for 10 years from the date of the sentencing.



# Koriella Night Strike exercise a success

*The participants in the event. -CFA District 12*



*Cutting up trees. -Sam Hicks*

THE Koriella Fire Brigade hosted their annual Night Strike training exercise on Friday, May 8 in the Fawcett and Koriella areas.

The event involved local brigades from the Alexandra Group, along with a visiting Task Force from District 8 which included six tankers, two ultra-lights and Forward Command Vehicles (FCVs). Over 50 CFA members took part.

The exercise aimed to strengthen skills and build relationships across districts, and to ensure readiness when it matters most. It was also important that the skills training occurred at night, as many callouts occur in the dark.

The mock incident was a helicopter crash. The helicopter had crashed into trees and started a fire. A tree had come down, so the teams needed to deploy their chainsaw skills in addition to firefighting.



*Drawing water for the trucks. -CFA District 12*



*Firefighters extinguishing the mock blaze. -CFA District 12*



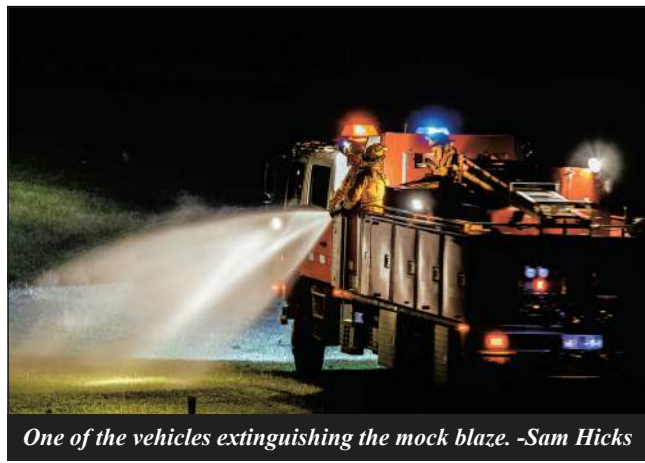
*The trucks lined up outside Fawcett Hall, ready to get started after the briefing. -CFA District 12*



*The Buxton tanker. -CFA District 12*



*Emergency lighting at the mock incident. -Sam Hicks*



*One of the vehicles extinguishing the mock blaze. -Sam Hicks*



*The mock helicopter crash. -CFA District 12*

## Club Mandalay and Ladies' Bowl for Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

YEA Golf Club had a different look last week, with the men travelling to the Mandalay club last Wednesday while the ladies hosted a Ladies' Bowl at Yea last Thursday.

Last Wednesday saw 19 men tackle the challenges of Mandalay with its fairway and greenside bunkers, very fast and expansive greens. The weather was mild during the day although the wind strengthened in the afternoon. With both stableford and four ball best ball competitions being played, the tucked pin positions behind bunkers added to the difficulty.

Winner of the stableford was Alan Pell (14) with 35 points from Jeff Moss (17) on 34 points. Third was Gary Pollard with 32 points. Alan teamed with Michael Spagnolo (7) to win the four ball best ball with 42 points, edging out Jeff Moss and Jeff Aurisch (24) on 41 points.

Last Thursday the ladies deserved medals simply for braving the cold and wet conditions throughout most of the round. A field of 45 competed, with Cindy Armstrong (28) and Sharon Grogan (21) the leading 'Yealiens', both finishing with 27 points.

Last Saturday featured the opening round of the NJ Murray Trophy with 24 men

contesting a stableford round. Anthony La Grutta (15) won on a countback with 35 points from Bill Dredge (28). Sam Wright (29) and Jim Redmond (23) both scored 33 points to finish third and fourth respectively, ahead of Zachary Pell (11) on 32 points.

Andrew Bohn claimed nearest the pin on the 11th while Gareth Antrobus won the Club Award. The second and final round of the NJ Murray will be played next Saturday.

In the Ladies' stableford, Jan Wealands (25) continued her strong form to win with 32 points from Cindy Armstrong (28) and Di Holdsworth (31), who both finished on 30 points.



Eleven and Under award winners Ivy Duncan and Lilly Ryan. -S



Thirteen and Under Yellow award winners Cienna Berbia and Kailey Anderson. -S

## Yea junior netball award winners



Fifteen and Under award winners Lexi Harris and Pippa Butterworth. -S



Thirteen and Under Black award winners Holly Cronk and Emily Wilsher. -S

## EDLWTA Round Two matches

by Deb Mims

AFTER magnificent weather last week, the 'Weather Gods' weren't so kind last week, reminding the players that winter is coming in the Euroa and District Ladies' Winter Tennis Association.

### Mansfield versus Creightons Creek 1-5, 19-45

Mansfield hosted Creightons Creek's team of Marja Wondergem, Lyndall Bigland, Ros Doxey and Kerry Hewlett, with a touch of sunshine, a slight rain delay mid second set, and a mixture of cool and not so cool temperatures.

Creightons Creek were on fire and Michelle Pigdon, Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Deb McCormack and Pat Howard returning as the fifth player after a long hiatus, battled hard. Mansfield had their own cheer squad of Loretta Armitage and Deb Mims, braving the elements to encourage their team. Despite some long and tough games Mansfield were only able to grab one set off Creightons Creek.

### Euroa versus Moglonemby 3-3, 41-37

Euroa were home team against Moglonemby, with the Euroa courts being home courts for both teams. Euroa's players, Faye Mollison, Deb Seach, Triona King and Mary Kelly fought hard against Moglonemby.

Tie breakers were a feature for these two teams, with half of the matches resulting in this heart stopping part of the match. The first two sets were tie breakers with Mollison and Seach falling over the line against Moglonemby's Sue Vaughan and Marlene Hanrahan. To even it up Moglonemby's Robyn Johnson and Kylie Ross took the other one against King and Kelly.

And so the battle continued with the last set also being a tie breaker, Moglonemby's way, evening up the sets. With a strong eight to one set Euroa's way, this put them in the position to take the win.

### Terip Terip versus Benalla 4-2, 46-26

Terip Terip welcomed Benalla team of Peta Kelly, Caire Sharp, Maureen Jewell, and Wendy Maxwell to their courts, with Benalla coming off the bye to play their first match for the 2026 season. Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe MacDermid and Suzanne Irvine of Terip were too strong for Benalla.

Mansfield's Wappan had the bye but were practicing to keep in form for Round Three this week, which will see Benalla versus Mansfield, Creightons Creek versus Euroa, Moglonemby versus Wappan and a bye for Terip Terip.

## Alexandra Squash Club: Round Three of Term Two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition Funnel Webs versus White Tails

LEIGH (fill in) versus Ethan: Ethan played very well and as this was Leigh's first game, he also did quite well. Ethan's experience triumphed. 58 to 35.

Randy versus Liane: Randy was overwhelmed by Liane's skill. It was a one woman show with Liane claiming the court, winning all four games and the match. 76 to 47.

Sam versus Travis: An entertaining contest. It was close for the first three games, but Sam ran away at the end to clinch the win. 68 to 53.

Ben F (fill in) versus Andrew: The games see-sawed with both players taking home two wins. Ben filled in up a level and played well,

but Andrew won his games with a greater margin to seal the win 60 to 50.

### Orb Weavers versus Trapdoors

Eric versus Tyler: It was well played by both opponents. Tyler has become the stronger player and showed this with his skills on the night. 60 to 38.

Jess versus Laura: A well fought out match. Jess kept up with Laura, but Laura stayed ahead in each game to accumulate points and win the match. 66 to 51.

Chris versus Mick (fill in): Mick put in a good effort but couldn't crack through Chris's consistency. Chris claimed all four games to claim champion of the court. 76 to 51.

Michael H versus Daniel W: A battle of great intensity. It was neck and neck throughout with a draw in game two. Daniel

pushed hard to win some extra points and come out victorious. 63 to 55.

### Wednesday competition Hornets versus Sand Flies

Nicole versus Ben H: Nicole hit the ground running and impressed with deep returning shots that Ben struggled to return. At the half-way point Ben had to contend with a 10-point deficit. Ben managed to win the final two games by tiring his opponent, however Nicole held onto the win by four points. 56 to 52.

Kristelle versus Jess: A seesawing first game. Jess made some incredible running and reflexive returns. Kristelle couldn't keep control of the game. Jess won the match. 64 to 50.

Ben versus Phil: There were some amazing rallies, and both players were fired up. Ben

fought hard, but Phil's tenacity and tricks brought Ben to his knees, winning Phil the match. 59 to 48.

### Bees versus Wasps

Marty versus Beth: The youth is bringing the heat on the court. Marty gave Beth everything he had and came up with the goods. His serves were giving Beth a lot of issues and helped raise Marty up for his victory. 62 to 52.

Lucas versus Daniel L: Daniel's power threw Lucas off in game one. Lucas altered his game to win the next two with a good margin to win the match. 63 to 52.

Justin versus Michael M: Game one and three were very close. Games two and four favoured Justin with Michael making friends with the tin. Justin won with a decent margin. 72 to 45.

# The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Dick Dashwood with his previous Sichlau Trophies. He is a four time winner, and still competed this year at the age of 96. -S



Sichlau Trophy winners Maurie and Angela Finn being presented the trophy by Margaret Sichlau. -S

## Sichlau Trophy back from hiatus at Yea Bowls Club

by Viv Cavanagh

THE Sichlau Trophy, a mixed pairs event first played in 1986, was revived last Saturday afternoon at Yea Bowls Club, after a lapse of five years. Dick Dashwood, who won the event the first year it was held with his wife Pam, and a further three times, competed again this year at 96 years old.

In near perfect conditions, 20 members competed in four games of six ends. Starting at 1pm, the final game was completed in fading light.

Three teams managed to win their first three games: Kym Cooper and Mick Barrot, Viv Cavanagh and Darren Sherman, and Angela and Maurie Finn.

Kym and Mick won their last game to make it four wins from four for the day. Viv and Darren and the Finns were drawn to play each other in the last game. Going into the last end, the scores were level and the game was in the balance until the very final bowl with Angela and Maurie coming out on top to make it four wins as well.

In the final analysis the Finns finished with a score of plus 36 to the Cooper/Barrott team plus 34.

Margaret Sichlau, representing the family, was on hand to present the coveted trophy to the winners. This was followed by delicious pizzas from Knead It, enjoyed by all players, which topped off a very enjoyable day.

### FoodWorks Fours Tournament

Another major club event will be held this coming Saturday with the FoodWorks Fours Tournament. This is a very popular event with the rinks fully booked and teams lining up to enter.

Teams will be coming from Bennettswood, Kilmore, Yarra Junction, Bendigo, Avenel, Kilmore, Broadford, Eildon, Upwey-Tecoma, Seymour and two teams representing Yea.

Starting at 10am the clubhouse will be open. Members of the public are most welcome to come along to watch the games in progress. Top class bowling is assured.

## Yea women's football team take victory against Emerald in tough week for Yea club

THE Yea Football Netball Club teams travelled to Emerald to take on Emerald teams last Saturday, May 9.

### Football

Emerald women's team 19 was defeated by Yea women's team 32.

Emerald seniors 197 defeated Yea seniors 47.

Emerald reserves 73 defeated Yea reserves 39.

### Netball

A Grade, Emerald 48 defeated Yea 30.

B Grade, Emerald 59 defeated Yea 31.

C Grade, Emerald 47 defeated Yea 28.

D Grade, Emerald 30 defeated Yea 12.

## Yea junior footballers play under lights in Nagambie

### Under Nines

by Kate Adams

WHAT a great night last Friday for the Under Nines playing under lights. The team brought plenty of energy and enthusiasm from the first bounce, making it an exciting game to watch.

The players showed great teamwork, with strong tackling, clever handballs, great kicking skills, brave marks and some fantastic running passages of play throughout the match. Everyone worked hard for their teammates and never gave up, even when the pressure was on.

Playing under lights added to the atmosphere and the kids handled it brilliantly, continuing to build their skills and confidence. A fantastic effort by all players and a great night for families and supporters on the sidelines.

A huge shoutout to last week's award winners: Asher, Just

Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Ted, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Austin, Progression Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player Award.

The club says thank you to Nagambie for a fantastic game and experience under lights.

### Under 10s

by Jess Robinson

Under 10's took to the ground last Friday night to play under lights for the first time with great excitement. The energy the kids brought to the field was contagious, huge improvement as a whole team was shown with a number of goals and points scored in a very competitive game.

Awards: Yarra Valley Gas Improvement to Olivia; Delux Rods Tiger Spirit to Ashton; Cathkin Farm Services Coach's to Josh.



Under 10 award winners Josh, Ashton and Olivia. -S