

The Yea Chronicle

92 High Street, Yea. PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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Vaccine rollout commences

THE past week has marked a key milestone in the Commonwealth's COVID-19 vaccination program, with initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine being delivered to workers in Victorian metropolitan areas

who are most likely to come into direct contact with a suspected COVID-19 case.

This includes high-risk front-line health staff and public sector

residential aged care staff and residents.

Goulburn Valley (GV) Health has been nominated as one of nine COVID-19 Hospital Vaccination

hubs in Victoria, and will enable mobile outreach teams to health services and public sector residential aged care facilities in Shepparton, Numurkah, Nathalia, Cobram, Yarrawonga, Benalla,

Mansfield, Yea, Eildon, Kilmore, Seymour, Tatura, Rushworth and Kyabram.

Front-line healthcare workers in Shepparton and public aged care residents located at GV Health Aged Care facilities at the Shepparton, Tatura and Rushworth campuses will be the first to receive the vaccine.

Exact timing for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine across the GV Health vaccine hub catchment area, which includes Yea, is expected to be from Monday, March 22 onwards but is dependent on vaccine availability and allocation to the local region by the Commonwealth Government.

"We are excited that the vaccines will soon arrive at the GV Health vaccine hub and not too long after will be available to us in the Yea region," Louise Sharkey, Director of Clinical Services at Yea & District Memorial Hospital said.

"Our front-line healthcare workers and public sector aged care staff and residents will be vaccinated first as part of the Commonwealth's phase 1a rollout. We are working closely with GV Health to co-ordinate timings and logistics for the vaccine launch for our region."

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was the first COVID-19 vaccine to receive regulatory approval in Australia, undergoing a complete assessment and approval process and meeting high safety, efficacy and quality standards. Two doses of the vaccine will be provided at least three weeks apart.

More specific details about the first vaccinations being provided to front-line health workers and public aged care residents in the GV Health vaccine hub and for the Yea region will be advised soon.



Yea High School students on the Year 8 camp taking instructions from their activity coordinator. More on page 11. -S



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Deadline is 10am Monday

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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 1300 222222
Sun	Alanon Recovery Anglican Church, Alexandra 5.30pm.

MONTHLY

1 st Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
1 st Mon	St Lukes Seniors St Lukes Church Ph 5797 2281
1 st Thu	Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
1 st Sat	Yea Dance Group, 8pm Yea Shire Hall
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2 nd Wed	Yea Camera Club, 7pm RSL Hall. Ph 0429 200 762
2 nd Thu	Yea Garden Club Tennis rooms 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4 th Thu	Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 10.30am Ph 5797 2998
Last Fri	Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

For a \$5 annual fee for online, 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.



Letters to the Editor

Australia Day

IT is estimated that 20,000 to 60,000 Aborigines were killed in the conflicts in the 100 plus years after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. See *The Guardian* article *Why the number of Indigenous deaths in the frontier wars matters*.

The actions of the settlers many generations ago slowly gathered dust but the history can be uncovered. In World Wars I and II Australia lost 60,000 and 34,000 soldiers in the fighting, and we rightly commemorate their loss each year on a solemn day.

Change the date of Australia Day to the last Monday of January for a win-win solution for everyone.

Lachlan Fraser, Alexandra

Logging

LAST week, council passed a motion to protect nine coupes within the Snobs Creek Valley. It was a unanimous decision. If you listened in to the carefully considered decisions of each councillor, you came to understand that there were a multitude of issues surrounding the continued logging of this area. The value of biodiversity and ecotourism as well as climate change over-rided the small economic profit and job loss of the industry.

As a local resident of Yea, this forest is my local and following the 2019/20 summer bushfires I have found it to be a refuge and place of hope. This forest was untouched by the country-wide inferno, but has been quickly being snapped up by VicForests. Each time I visit, my heart breaks. Witnessing more and more disappearing before my eyes. Knowing the full extent of this loss having studied environmental science and working for Melbourne Water for many years post university. Now, in the dead of night, I find the animals rejoicing in the darkness. We cannot continue to allow our forests to fall and this motion has set a precedence. It is a monumental moment where a council, a group of influencers representing their community has stood up and called upon the government to listen, and listen they must.

Daniel Andrews should be making it a priority to come out to these forests and witness the destruction of the valley first-hand. Or maybe he is afraid that he will be convinced? Maybe, like these councillors, seeing is finally believing. There are no words or graphs drawn up by VicForests that can rationalise through skewed, inadequate and unjustified 'science' to justify how barbaric it is to plunder the last remaining, unburnt, intact, ecologically vital native forests of this country. It is time to transition the industry and save Snobs Creek Valley.

Alana Mountain, Yea

Logging

I AM writing in today to express my concerns about the logging being conducted in the Rubicon state forest. I have seen first hand the destruction Vicforest has caused within our shire, and I am horrified to know what areas are scheduled to be clear-felled next.

I have spent a lot of time exploring these forests, walking with my family and friends, kayaking down the rivers (including the Rubicon, Big River, Yea, and Goulburn Rivers), and work for the Outdoor Education Group that is based on the doorstep of this beautiful forest. I am concerned that if logging continues within our forests the water catchments that supply our shire will be affected and the attractiveness of these places will be degraded to the point people will stop travelling to this area to recreate.

I spent a lot of time last year exploring, surveying, filming in the forest, and interviewing locals about the effects of logging in Snobs Creek Valley. I made a small documentary that may interest you and provide insight into some of my concerns.

Leigh Redding, Yea

Tourism and events

THE Victorian tourism and events sectors are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many events on small and large scales have been cancelled across the state, often at the last minute. Event organisers have spent too long juggling the ever-changing restrictions or waiting anxiously for the Victorian Government to individually approve each and every COVID-19 safe event permit. Rightly so, people are nervous to travel and attend events due to Daniel Andrews' snap lockdowns and unpredictable decision making.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism contributed to 6.5 per cent of the Victorian economy and provided thousands of jobs. Now, due to the Andrews Labor Government's bungled handling of COVID-19, our visitor economy has haemorrhaged up to \$2.5 billion per month and is projected to shed 85,300 jobs by September 2021. Victoria's tourism and events industries are on their knees.

That is why Shadow Minister for Arts, David Davis and I successfully pushed for the Victorian Parliament to conduct an inquiry into both sectors. The inquiry will recommend exactly what support is necessary to get events and tourism back up and running.

Tourism and events play a critical role in Victoria. I was so happy that the Upper House recognised that and supported our call for this inquiry. It will hold hearings in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. I encourage members of the tourism and events sectors to make a submission, either in writing or via a public hearing to ensure their voice is heard. We will support these important sectors to get people back to work and get Victoria moving again.

To submit your application, please visit parliament.vic.gov.au/eic-lc/inquiries/article/4650. Submissions close on Friday, April 16.

Cindy McLeish MP, Shadow Minister for Tourism, Major Events and Sport

Politicians

LET'S talk about values. Politicians like to. Especially when discussing migrants and refugees. They talk about 'our Australian values' in a vague condescending manner as though such things were a DNA exclusive to those only born in Australia. I see values such as compassion, empathy, honesty, integrity, equality and freedom as being universal and not dependent on where someone lives or how they arrived in a country.

It's therefore ironic that our Federal politicians, in particular, can be so fixated on dictating 'Australian values' for new arrivals to our country when over the last couple of weeks, the 'Canberra Bubble' appears to be seriously lacking in such basic decencies.

Sadly, the allegations made by Brittany Higgins, and now other women who are coming forward should come as no surprise. Federal parliament was basically a boy's club for the first third of its existence.

It wasn't until 1943 that Enid Lyons and Dorothy Tangay were elected to the House of Representatives and although women make up more than half of our country's population, it was until 1975 that the first woman was admitted into cabinet.

Although all subsequent Cabinets have included women, overall, the numbers are so low as to be regarded as tokenism.

In an article entitled "Sex, Power and Politics," written for *The Age* in 2002, respected Canberra journalist Mungo MacCallum observed that, "when insiders describe Parliament House as a rabbit warren, they're not just talking about the architecture."

Apparently, liaisons among parliamentarians, staff and even journalist are not uncommon, given the highly stressful and isolating nature of that Canberra Bubble.

Rape has only recently been recognised as a war crime by the United Nations but it has been a criminal offence in Australia for a lot longer.

It is therefore disappointing to see one Member of Parliament, in an attempt at damage control, point out any such allegations as a matter of, "he said, she said." Which is quite true, but as it now appears to be, "he said, she said," it might be more appropriate to acknowledge and deal with this sort of culture that has resulted in such allegations, rather than reducing the language to that of a playground spat.

Under our judicial system one is innocent until proven guilty and no doubt if any of these allegations go to trial it could be a while before anything is resolved.

In the meantime, however, it might be timely for some of our Federal parliamentarians to look at those 'Australian values' they hold so dear and reflect. They could start with common decency and respect.

Pauline Roberts, Highlands

Logging

KINGLAKE Friends of the Forests is a not-for-profit environmental organisation established for people who want to learn about, discuss and advocate for the preservation of the native forests of Kinglake and the Central Highlands.

We are very concerned about ongoing logging of native forests in the region and the impact that will have on habitat for native animals, water catchment integrity, climate change, tourism and recreation opportunities and, not least, the amenity of having these native forests nearby for all to enjoy. We encourage the state government to assist forest industry workers to transition into plantation timbers and other industries.

We were delighted to hear that at the Scheduled Meeting of Council on Wednesday February 24, Murrindindi Shire Council resolved to request VicForests to immediately cease logging in several coupes at Snobs Creek owing to concerns about its adverse impacts of the logging on the environment and on tourism visitation to the area.

We express our thanks and gratitude to the councillors for moving this resolution, and we sincerely hope that VicForests will agree to abide by their request.

Kinglake Friends of the Forest Inc.

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DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday noon
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

Former Rotary Club member re-inducted after anonymous donation

THE Rotary Club of Yea was pleased to recently re-induct former member Tracey Ukosich into the club.

Tracey resigned at the end of 2020 as she was about to begin a journey of self-discovery in 2021 and had taken leave of absence from her workplace to do so.

With finances tight, Tracey reluctantly gave up her Rotary membership. However, due to a generous and anonymous member, Tracey's subs have now been paid for the year.

Tracey took the leave of absence to embark on a journey around Australia, aiming to ride as many Rail Trails as possible, but specifically to ride her bicycle across the Nullarbor.

Tracey has Multiple Sclerosis, a condition she has been dealing with for 13 years and feels that now is the right time to do something to give back.

Her diagnosis came after 18 months of various symptoms and since then, she has received treatment to stabilise her condition.

The treatment is free to Tracey, but costs about \$70,000 annually. About the only form of exercise that Tracey can

do pain free is riding a bike, hence the idea to do lots of riding and at the same time raise awareness and support research by fundraising.

Tracey is documenting her amazing journey in a Facebook blog titled 'The Long Road to Me' and links

are available on that site to Tracey's fundraising page which has been set up by the Multiple Sclerosis association.

The Rotary Club donated \$1000 as everyone in the club is fully supportive of Tracey and proud of her determination to challenge herself and assist others.

Tracey has just returned from a month's training in Tasmania, riding the various Rail Trails. While in Hobart in early February, Tracey had her bicycles stolen from the back of her vehicle while she was sleeping.

Despite this major setback, Tracey has discovered that so many people are kind, generous and supportive and she had a bike within days to allow her to continue.

The Yea community wishes her every success. If you wish to support Tracey, you can do so by going to doitforms.org.au/fundraisers/traceyukosich or just like and follow her adventures on Facebook.



Tracey at her induction. -S

A call for volunteers to help foster community connection

DO you want to make a difference and help people feel connected within your local community?

Or maybe you're an older resident who is interested in having someone visit you regularly for a cuppa and a chat?

Murrindindi Shire Council is encouraging community members to get involved in the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS).

Council's Community Engagement and Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor, Damien Gallagher said he is pleased to support such a wonderful initiative by promoting the CVS to community members in Murrindindi Shire.

"The CVS is a free service, funded by the Australian Government, which provides friendship and companionship to older members of our community by connecting them with local volunteers who arrange regular visits," Cr Gallagher said.

"The scheme provides a great way for volunteers to give back to their community, by helping to improve the quality and enjoyment of life for older people who may be feeling lonely or isolated. This is particularly important at the moment, during COVID-19."

CVS program recipient Marlene Sheridan has enjoyed the company of her volunteer Penny during COVID-19 as she has been limited to being able to see her family.

"My daughter lives in Melbourne and hasn't been able to visit much during the COVID-19 pandemic, so Penny has been my only regular visitor during this time," Marlene said.

"I love the Community Visitors Scheme and look forward to Penny coming to visit me".

"She is a lovely person and always brings me beautiful fresh flowers."

"I would just feel lousy if I didn't have Penny visiting me regularly."

To find out more about how you can be matched with a volunteer, contact the council's DindiLink team on 5772 0333, or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindilink



THUMBS DOWN: Please return my outside chair, which you took from outside Railway Place, Yea. I know who you are.

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

Have your say on Crown Land rules

By Tricia Mifsud

THE Labor Government is seeking the responses from Victorians regarding the proposed change of regulations for allowed recreational use of Crown Land near watercourses, both licensed and unlicensed.

The proposed changes will allow Victorians to camp on regulated land, with some minor restrictions to ensure the safety and comfort of themselves and nearby residents.

Further amendments will see a focus on protecting the environment, protecting the interest of licenses and managing the risk of fire.

In 2018, the government committed to guarantee access to fishing and camping on Crown Land that has grazing licences and water frontage.

For these commitments to be applied, Parliament passed amendments to the Land Act 1958 that removed the ban of camping on licensed river frontages. The Victorian Government will in turn create the set of regulations that support the changes made by Parliament.

Minister for Fishing and Boating, Melissa Horne said the Victorian Government recognises the enjoyment its residents have in the outdoors and is committed to ensure they get the most out of their recreational experiences.

"The public has a right to enjoy public land. With these changes, campers will be welcome to use Crown Land with water frontage free and in harmony with licensees and the environment, the same way that currently occurs in State Forests," Horne said.

"The land is already available to use for a range of recreational activities including fishing, but the addition of camping will mean more opportunities for families to

enjoy the great outdoors and camp free at more spots."

However, the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is concerned that landowners of the farming community have been forgotten by the Victorian Government.

VFF President, Emma Germano said that the VFF are very disappointed that the real fears of landowners are being ignored by the Victorian Government.

"There's no stopping campers from settling in for up to 28 days as little as 100 metres away from your home... it's a no brainer that if camping is to be allowed on grazing licences, then dogs should not be allowed," Germano said.

"Every livestock farmer knows the very presence of dogs will be smelt and seen by stock causing disruption and limiting their access to water."

As part of the regulations, landowners are restricted in erecting signs to distinguish private and public land. Landowners are concerned about their own, and their animals privacy and safety should campers take advantage of the proposed amendments.

"Clearly the regulation prohibiting the erection of signs needs to be clarified. It's entirely appropriate for licence holders to put up signs requesting gates to be kept shut, to indicate borders between private and public land and to identify biosecurity protocols," Germano said.

Germano suggest that a 12 month review should be considered if the regulations are approved, to ensure the satisfaction from both landowners and Victorian campers.

Should the changes be approved, Victorians will be allowed to camp in allowed areas from Wednesday, September 1.

To have your say, complete the survey at engage.vic.gov.au/regulated-watercourse-land-regulations/survey

Man arrested following crash

A 37 YEAR old man was arrested following an accident on Mansfield-Woods Point Road on Thursday, March 4, resulting in a car and caravan fire.

Investigators believe that a black Toyota Land Cruiser towing a bright green ski boat on a black trailer overtook a silver Subaru Forester towing a Scenic Galaxy caravan on Mansfield-Woods Point Road about 11.15am.

It is believed the Subaru was forced off the roadway and the car and caravan burst into flames.

The male driver of the car, a 73 year old Weir Views man and his female passenger, a 71 year old Weir Views woman received serious injuries and were air-lifted to hospital.

It is believed the black Toyota Land Cruiser overtook up to eight cars prior to this incident.

Investigators are appealing to the occupants of these cars or anyone with dashcam footage or any information to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

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International Womens Day morning tea

ON Tuesday, March 2, the Yea and District Memorial Hospital celebrated International Womens Day by holding a morning tea in the hospital's gardens.

Present were Mayor Sandice McAulay, and Deputy Mayor Sue Carpenter who pledged their commitment to challenging gender bias and stereotypes.

Health Promotion Worker at the Yea and District memorial Hospital and Alexandra District Hospital Heidi Stewart thanked those in attendance, and for sharing their thoughts on gender inequality.

"Thankyou Sandice McAulay, Sue Carpenter, and Ian Marshman for actively supporting the event with your presence and your insights," Heidi said.

"It's important to remember that gender inequality is an ongoing issue and that it is only made more significant with the added complexity of COVID-19. Don't forget to #choosetochallenge gender bias and inequality wherever you see it."

Heidi will be hosting another morning tea for International Women's Day at Alexandra District Hospital on Wednesday, March 10 from 9.30 to 11am.



Ian Marshman, Chair of Yea Hospital Board, pledges his commitment to #ChoosetoChallenge. -TM



Mayor Sandice McAulay and Deputy Mayor Sue carpenter pledge their commitment to #ChoosetoChallenge. -TM

This week's Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Kinglake.
Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
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Parish Priest Ph 0434 520 667
St Matthew's, Eildon Saturday 6pm
St Mary's, Alexandra Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea: Sunday 10.45am

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AUSTRALIA'S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY.

COVID-19 vaccines will keep Australia safe and protect our way of life. The people most at risk of serious illness and those most likely to be exposed to the virus in our communities will be vaccinated first, including:

- Quarantine and border workers
- Frontline health care, disability and aged care workers
- People living in aged and disability care accommodation

Vaccination offers the best protection from COVID-19, but it's also important we all continue to remain COVIDSafe.

To find out when it's your turn, visit australia.gov.au or call the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline **1800 020 080**.

BE COVIDSAFE

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Discover your backyard this autumn

CRISP morning walks, scenic country drives, and colourful, leafy parks and gardens, that's what autumn in Murrindindi Shire is all about.

Over the coming months, why not encourage your friends and family to visit this amazing part of the world and experience our shire's spectacular show of autumn colour.

Here's some suggestions to explore with the whole family this autumn.

Fishing from the banks of the Goulburn River

The mighty Goulburn flows through much of Murrindindi Shire and there are numerous great locations from Eildon through to Yea and beyond to drop a line in and try your luck. Take the family and visit a local tackle store for advice or book a guide to find the best fishing spots and learn some new skills.

Explore the Bollygum Playground

Inspired by the book 'Bollygum', this Kinglake playground is a favourite among locals and visitors alike. Set at the edge of bushland the playground is a great spot for a weekend picnic while the kids explore the beautiful timber sculptures and play areas that bring to life the book's characters and locations.

Ride the Rail Trail

Grab the bikes and ride

a section of the Great Victorian Rail Trail. There are some fantastic short rides to take friends and family along on including the 18km return trip from Yea to the impressive Cheviot Tunnel or the 40km trip from Alexandra to Yarck which takes in stunning views towards the Cathedral Range from high at the Eglinton Cutting.

Take an autumn drive

One of the best ways to take in all the glorious autumn colours is to take to the roads and see them in all their glory. Invite your friends and take a drive to Marysville via Buxton to see the spectacular colours of the poplars on the Gould Memorial Drive and then enjoy a long lazy lunch in Marysville, visit Steavenson Falls and stroll around the short Beauty Spot walk.

Hike high above the lake

If you're after something a little more challenging for your visitors, head out to

Lake Eildon National Park and tackle the Estate Spur or Blowhard Spur hikes which offer stunning views from high above the lake. Be sure to take a drive along Skyline Road to Eildon after your hike for some well-earned refreshment.

There's also great range of markets, music and art events to enjoy with friends and family, especially during the Easter holiday period. So invite your friends and family up to discover what's on offer in your backyard this autumn.

To find out more, visit discoverdindi.com.au/yourbackyard or drop into one of our Visitor Information Centres and chat with one of our friendly local volunteers and pick up an Official Visitors Guides (or call us and we will send you one).

You can share your photos and stories about your experiences along the way via Instagram (and tag @discoverdindi).



A couple enjoying a stroll through the main street of Marysville. -S



DISCOVER YOUR BACKYARD IN AUTUMN

While Bali, Boston and Barcelona might be off the list of places to explore for a while, why not invite your friends and family to visit over the coming months and discover Murrindindi Shire's spectacular show of autumn colour. Crisp morning walks, scenic country drives, leafy parks and gardens ... and all right on your doorstep! Discover the many great things to see and do in Murrindindi Shire this autumn.

discoverdindi.com.au/yourbackyard



@discoverdindi



CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE

Did you know that Victoria's first Gender Equality Act commences on 31 March? To recognise its significance, Council is encouraging community members to get involved in a number of great initiatives and events, as part of our 'Women's Month' initiative.

For more information and to get involved, please visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/womensmonth

COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME

Do you want to make a difference and help people feel connected within your local community? Or maybe you're an older resident who is interested in having someone visit you regularly for a cuppa and a chat?

Council is encouraging community members to get involved in the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS). The CVS is a free service, funded by the Australian Government, which provides friendship and companionship to older members of our community by connecting them with local volunteers who arrange regular visits.

For more information and assistance to become part of the scheme, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/dindilink or call our DindiLink team on 5772 0333.



Get in touch with Council

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au
5772 0333

DO YOU WANT TO HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Whether you're a long-term local, a regular visitor or someone who has recently decided to call Murrindindi Shire home, Council invites you to share your ideas and opinions on what you think is important for the future of your community.

Together, we'll create a refreshed community vision and your feedback will help us develop a new Council Plan, which will guide our work over the next four years.

To find out more, please give Council a call on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/shapingourfuture

TENDERS

Marysville Swimming Pool Vinyl Liner Installation

Council invites suitably qualified contractors to submit a tender for the supply and installation of a vinyl pool liner at the Marysville Swimming Pool.

Tender bids close at 3.00 pm on Monday 7 April 2021.

Division 6 Asbestos Inspections and Reports

Council also invites suitably qualified consultants to submit a fee proposal for Division 6 Asbestos Inspections and Reports.

Tender bids close at 3.00 pm on Monday 15 March 2021.

To download the tender specification and documentation for either of these projects, please visit Council's e-tendering portal at tendersearch.com.au/murrindindi/

All enquiries and submissions must be lodged through the e-tendering portal.



70 performance bulls on offer at the Kelly Angus second autumn sale

THE Kelly Angus Stud's second annual sale is set to be held on Thursday, March 25, the Kelly Angus team are offering 70, 18 to 20 month old bulls whose strong pedigree data and matching performance will add value to astute beef producers looking for that little extra to enhance their respective herds.

Based in the Murrindindi Valley, the Kelly Angus Stud has experienced an exceptional year in pasture growth. Stud manager Patrick Joyce said, "It is great to see livestock making a profit and buoyant cattle market sales having a positive flow-on effect to the broader economy and local communities."

All 70 young bulls in the sale line-up are progeny from leading industry sire lines including the standout USA sire, Black Onyx 5Q11, GAR Inertia, Texas K2, GAR Pro Active, PA Full Power and Hazeldean Jackpot M584.

Mr Joyce said, "The 70 bulls we are offering are a true representation of the breeding program we are running here with carcass quality throughout the catalogue. Over half of the bulls are suitable for heifer joining's yet retain the performance to be

used over an entire herd. We are extremely happy with how they have lined up.

"The bulls we are breeding with are clearly complementing our stud herd, and at the same time supporting our breeding objectives in respect to turning off moderate frame, highly resilient, fertile and easy doing cattle."

Hazeldean Jackpot was purchased to blend through the herd to develop even stronger females and stylish, high performance moderate framed bulls that are easy doing, feed efficient and whose weight gains are well in front.

A carcass driven bull, PA Full Power presents with high IMF and his progeny show good early growth data while keeping all other EBVs in proportion. Suitable for both heifers and cows, the Black Onyx sons present very well with great data sets and will deliver power early in any breeders' program.

The Texas K2 sons are powerful larger framed bulls which can be used to increase frame size and to add volume.

"Expanding the stud's capacity, introducing modern practices, and

continuing to focus on genomic enhanced EBV's in order to achieve predictable breeding outcomes ensures all bulls offered on sale day meet the high standards we have set for ourselves", said Mr Joyce.

Adding more power to future bull sales will be the progeny of powerhouse sire, Texas Powerplay DXTP613. This outstanding sire will be on display at the March 25 auction along with the stud's very own upcoming star sire, Kelly Angus Quinn GXNQ209, sired by Black Onyx 5Q11.

"Kelly Angus Quinn GXNQ209, is a 'curve bender' with exceptional calving ease, low birth weight transforming to an excellent growth spread offer quality carcass traits to match," Mr Joyce said.

Kelly Angus are commercially focused on breeding livestock that consistently performs well off grass, ensuring a positive on-flow for their clients to maximise their returns, by lowering costs. At the same time, the stud's focus on carcass quality achieves the end goal of producing high marbling prime grass-fed carcasses.

Mr Joyce said, "We continue to receive positive feedback from many of our clients



Kelly Angus Stud manager Patrick Joyce with stud principal Vicki Standish. -S

who state that Kelly Angus bulls' have amazing docility and adjust and adapt to a variety of conditions. We're looking forward to welcoming all new and existing clients on sale day."

The annual autumn auction is on-farm at 171 Nash's Road, Yea, at 1pm, with viewing in the morning from 10am. The auction will be conducted by Nutrien Livestock and interfaced with AuctionsPlus.

MP visit to Murrindindi Shire

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish together with Shadow Minister for Local Government, Tim Smith recently visited Murrindindi Shire Council to meet with acting CEO, Michael Chesworth and Mayor Sandice McAulay along with fellow councillors.

Ms McLeish said, "I was excited to bring Tim to Murrindindi Shire and for him to hear from the

Mayor and councillors from a small rural council first hand. It provided the councillors an opportunity to discuss what projects are being developed and relay what's important to the community. It's crucial to keep communication open".

Mr Smith said that it is important that local governments stay connected and work alongside each other.

"As Shadow Minister for Local Government, it is always important to understand the complexities and difficulties that small councils face including the ability to raise money and undertake large projects."

Mayor of Murrindindi Shire, Sandice McAulay said the meeting was a useful one to talk about some challenges facing Murrindindi Shire and

other small regional shires, including around funding sources, planning and development.

"One challenge in particular is that of how to respond to the increased interest we are seeing with people wanting to move to regional areas," Mayor McAulay said.

"We need to ensure as small rural councils we are supported in doing the



Cr Damian Gallagher, Mayor Sandice McAulay, Shadow Minister for Local Government Tim Smith, Cr Karine Haslam and Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. -S

necessary strategic work around land planning and zoning so that we can be more flexible and responsive to changing

circumstances. It was great to be able to talk through these important issues."



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Off-Grid Living Festival gets COVID-19 tick of approval

AFTER being cancelled in 2020 just one month out of the event date due to COVID-19, the Off-Grid Living festival has become one of the first events to be approved to go ahead in 2021.

The COVID-safe event has been given the official approval by government to take place in North East Victoria on April 10 and 11.

Event organiser Kate Nottingham said that there will be a number of measures in place to ensure the safety of those attending.

"This year we were still unsure if we could go ahead for the festival... in accordance to COVID-19 safety measures there will be hand sanitising stations, enforced 1.5 metre social distancing and wearing masks if you cannot maintain a safe gap between others," Kate said.

In terms of the event, not many other factors will need to be reviewed to align with the approved COVID-19 safety plan.

Capacity will not be limited due to the size of the land the festival is held on, but those attending are still urged to buy tickets as soon as possible.

"Our event always allowed for 5000 visitors per day to control things like parking. With the one person per two square metre restriction, we are allowed a maximum of this many visitors per day also so that hasn't changed."

Kate is also expecting a new demographic of people heading to the festival this year.

There has been an increase of metropolitan residents moving into regional Victoria during

COVID-19, and a festival like Off-Grid Living will allow for these individuals to get a real taste of living out in these areas of the state.

The event is also hoped to boost the local areas economy. Last year, so much of Victoria was affected by the bushfires before COVID-19 hit; this event will hope to make up for some of the lost revenue.

"After the bushfires last year many exhibitors and locals were looking forward to the festival to bring a significant boost to the local economy, but then Covid struck and set us all back by another year," Kate said.

"This years event will bring over \$1.5m into the local economy as many attendees stay in the area for multiple days and enjoy the North-Easts wonderful accommodation, hospitality, retail, food and wine and nature based tourism."

Kate and the other organisers are anticipating a big year for the festival, and have put in the work to ensure that the event is full with opportunities to reconnect with people and the community.

Stalls will be set up with exhibitors from the off-grid energy and transport sectors, home and building, waste and water and farming and permaculture.

"It's going to be a big year for the festival. People have been busting to go out, and this festival will be one of the first opportunities to allow people to do so."

To find out more on the event visit offgridlivingfestival.com.au

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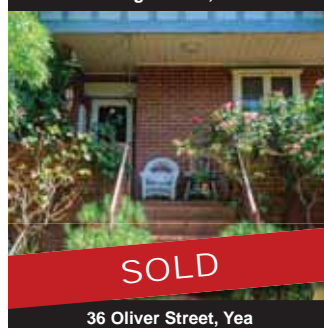
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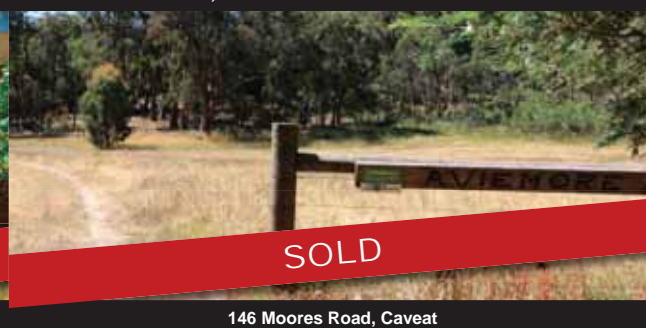
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KIDS PUZZLES

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS Page 11

Colour



Crossword

ACROSS

- The universal expression of greeting.
- A group of warships organised as a unit.
- A secret rendezvous between lovers.
- Arrange for the extension of a contract.
- The brother of your father or mother.
- Present as a gift to a good cause.
- A moralistic lecture.
- A mild expression of surprise.
- A public building for gambling and entertainment.
- Arranges things so as to be parallel.
- Fake or having a misleading appearance.
- To have an intense desire for.
- A portable battery-powered electric lamp.
- Inclined the head in a gesture of respect.
- Push into action by annoying gently.

DOWN

- Bred from different species or varieties.
- Inclinations towards something.
- Beat through cleverness and wit.
- An underground burial chamber.
- Something that will happen in time to come.
- A long narrative poem telling of a hero's deeds.
- Deep covered dish for serving soup.
- Your consciousness of your own identity.
- Salt water covering most of the earth's surface.
- Moved from one country to another.
- Threads spun by a spider to catch its prey.
- Settled into a cosy, secure refuge.
- Fungus that grows on trees and rocks.
- The part of a garment covering the arm.
- Invoke supernatural powers to bring harm.
- Shine brightly and steadily.

Word Search: Sonic the Hedgehog

C	O	J	U	W	A	P	X	V	E	G	S	U	V	M	CHARMY
H	K	I	J	G	S	M	Y	X	R	T	A	H	P	A	CREAM
A	W	C	E	K	Z	Q	V	N	O	O	L	Z	C	E	EGGMAN
R	O	M	I	W	A	V	E	R	V	A	T	V	F	R	ESPIO
M	O	J	X	N	M	Y	M	W	K	X	A	C	M	C	JET
Y	P	E	R	O	O	C	N	I	C	A	A	K	E	B	OMEGA
V	M	T	K	K	S	S	T	R	E	V	L	I	S	V	ROUGE
B	R	N	O	R	N	D	U	G	T	G	W	U	U	Z	SHADOW
A	D	F	L	B	D	S	F	L	T	Y	G	J	I	K	SILVER
J	M	E	R	T	I	V	F	E	Y	V	L	M	R	E	SONIC
S	H	A	D	O	W	W	Q	E	P	O	L	C	A	D	STORM
N	C	V	F	U	A	C	S	G	S	I	G	W	Z	N	TIKAL
W	J	Z	H	G	G	V	F	U	C	P	E	B	A	Y	VECTOR
F	M	Z	R	C	F	Y	S	O	L	V	I	U	J	Q	WAVE
F	J	X	K	J	R	N	Y	R	F	G	H	O	F	I	

Word Search: Mental health

C	A	H	B	A	E	Y	G	X	M	P	L	X	N	L	ANXIETY
O	M	W	H	N	J	T	Z	H	K	S	R	O	R	F	CASE MANAGER
U	H	V	O	N	J	E	B	U	X	D	I	E	I	U	COACH
N	N	T	T	N	E	I	N	S	B	S	G	T	V	P	COUNSELLOR
S	X	F	R	E	J	X	R	X	S	A	N	G	S	U	DEPRESSION
E	C	O	A	C	H	N	R	E	N	E	J	Y	C	O	EMOTION
L	Q	S	U	Y	Q	A	R	A	S	Q	C	C	Z	R	FITNESS
L	L	A	M	I	V	P	M	S	K	H	D	W	C	G	PSYCHIATRIST
O	Y	U	A	A	E	E	E	L	O	H	K	D	Z	T	PSYCHOLOGIST
R	E	B	Q	D	S	M	J	L	R	H	A	B	U	R	SOCIAL WORKER
S	O	C	I	A	L	W	O	R	K	E	R	L	E	O	SUPPORT GROUP
G	T	L	C	O	Z	G	O	T	W	N	P	V	S	P	TRAUMA
B	L	T	T	S	I	R	T	A	I	H	C	Y	S	P	
G	K	V	E	S	X	J	P	E	K	O	U	J	T	U	
A	U	G	T	J	A	F	L	Z	L	C	N	T	V	S	

Jokes

Q: Knock-Knock ...
...whos there?
figs ...
... figs who?

Q: Knock-Knock ...
... whos there?
police ...
... Police who?



Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 6.
Every row and column and every group of 6 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.

1			4	2	
			5		
				1	2
2	3				
		5			
	1	6			3

Trivia

Q: Where was the below image taken?

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

Feel Good, Look Good



Financial support to help women rebuild after family violence

A NEW financial support program for women experiencing family violence will help victim survivors to be safe at home, leave abusive situations and rebuild their lives.

The Domestic and Family Violence No Interest Loans (FDV NILs) program offers women a financial conversation which includes information about government supports, hardship provisions from utility companies and others, referrals to a range of other support services as well as access to \$2000 loans without interest or fees.

Good Shepherd CEO, Stella Avramopoulos, said the FDV NILs program would help women rebuild their lives, with the loans available to be used for rent and bond, furniture and whitegoods, removal and transport costs, car repairs, legal and security costs and other household expenses.

"Women need access to reliable information and support and a small loan can be life changing. Women tell us that finances are very often the key reason they cannot leave abusive, violent households," Ms Avramopoulos said.

"Women can't leave because they can't afford that first month's rent or the bond, they can't afford removal or transport costs or they can't afford to set up a new house. Think about a mother with children facing all the costs of setting up a new home to escape violence," she said.

Workers will be specially trained to be able to sensitively address any challenges the women may face in the situation. For example, they might not have access to bills and other records, so there will be flexibility in what can be provided to help these families.

NAB Personal Banking Group Executive Rachel Slade welcomed the new support program for women experiencing domestic violence.

"We are proud to support this program by helping to deliver No Interest Loans to assist domestic and family violence survivors in regaining their financial independence," Ms Slade said.

"Our teams hear first-hand from customers who are experiencing family violence and the loss of financial control that can come from this. It's important that we support those members of our community experiencing vulnerability with financial resources, education and microfinance."

The long-running No Interest Loans program has supported more than 300,000 low income people to get their lives back on track.

Anyone applying for a NILs loan is firstly offered a financial conversation, which may include information about negotiating with service providers, banks or landlords to have debts waived or paused, supporting people to access government support and referrals to other services such as family and domestic violence, legal, mental health and financial counselling.

To be eligible for FDV NILs, women must have experienced family and domestic violence in the past 10 years, be aged over 18, an Australia citizen/permanent resident or visa holder and able to pay back a loan if a NILs loan is issued.

More information about the FDV NILs program can be found at: 1300 031001 or goodshep.org.au/fdvnls

Local nominated for national Excellence in Family Day Care Award

TAMARA Ruffin shares her passion for family day care and what it would mean to her if she is the eventual winner of the Excellence in Family Day Care award after being shortlisted as the Victoria/Tasmanian national finalist.

What is your history in childcare? How long have you been in the industry and how did you first get into it child care?

I started my career in child care 18 years ago. During this time, I've had the opportunity to work around Australia, predominantly in long day care but also as a nanny. After having two children, my decision to become a family day carer was easy. After working in the industry for nearly 15 years, I decided to open my own child care service - Bee You Family Day Care Kilmore.

I started my family day care journey with another service and during my time, received fantastic training and support. However, like all good things, my time with that service came to an end. I wanted to grow and develop my skills so that I could help both myself and others.

I was thrilled that Murrindindi Family Day Care (MFDC) was able to take me on as a new educator. At the time, there were

so many new educators coming on board and I nearly missed out on the opportunity. MFDC offers a huge support network and provides a wealth of knowledge that has helped me to become the educator that I am today and enabled me to support many children and their families. Joining MFDC is the best decision I have made.

How and why were you nominated for the award? What do you love about Murrindindi Family Day Care?

This is the third time I've been nominated by my family for the Excellence in Family Day Care Awards. I was lucky enough to win the Educator Regional Award in 2019 and 2020 for the Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley region, but this is the first time that I have been the VIC/TAS National Finalist. Being named a finalist is a tremendous honour, considering over 5600 family day care educators were nominated this year; the highest number of educators ever nominated.

What would it mean to you if you are the eventual winner?

This past year has been challenging for all Victorians. For me, this Award represents 'hope'. Hope that the



Makenna Wilson (left) a child in the care of Tamara Ruffin (right) at Bee You Family Day Care Kilmore. -S

community will come together; hope that family day care remains open for children to attend through the pandemic and the hope that has helped get us through a year like no other.

And like any journey, it is not possible to win any kind of award without the help of others. I have been fortunate enough to receive support from our local community and this means a lot to me. This support has made me a better educator and has helped me provide additional learning and development opportunities to children who attend Bee You Family Day Care Kilmore.

Childcare centres recognised for oral health program

CHILDCARE centres in Kilmore and Kinglake have been recognised for their commitment to improving the oral health of their charges.

Kilmore Childcare Centre, Kilmore Community Centre and Kinglake Ranges Children's Centre were among a group of five centres to receive a Smiles 4 Miles award last month from Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership.

The awards celebrated their involvement in the Smiles 4 Miles program, an oral health promotion program for early childhood education and care services developed by Dental Health Services Victoria and implemented throughout the Mitchell and Murrindindi shire regions by Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership.

Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership system integration and projects coordinator Jaimie Poorter said the program was 'a great way to help children have healthy teeth and gums for life'.

"Good habits are formed early. Children take lessons they learn at a young age with them, right up to adulthood," she said.

"By promoting good oral health behaviours early in life, we can decrease the likelihood of poor oral health later in life."

There is currently a 79 per cent award rate across childcare centres in the Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership area.

Services achieve the Smiles 4 Miles award by implementing healthy eating and oral health policies, engaging with families about the importance of oral health and educating children through a variety of fun learning experiences based on the Smiles 4 Miles key messages – drink well, eat well and clean well.

Children are encouraged to drink tap water or plain milk and avoid sugary drinks like cordials, juices and soft drinks; eat a variety of nutritious foods each day and limit sugary foods, particularly between meals; and brush teeth twice daily. Adults should help children until at least the age of seven.

People can find out more about the program by emailing jaimie.poorter@lhpcp.org.au

Better mental health support for workers on its way

NEW laws passed by the parliament will make it easier for Victorian workers to get treatment and support for work-related mental health injuries as soon as they need it.

Delivering on a key election commitment, the *Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Provisional Payments) Act 2020* removes barriers for workers seeking urgent mental health support.

The new laws mean that Victorian workers who seek compensation for a mental health injury under WorkCover will receive

payments for reasonable medical expenses while they await the outcome of their claim.

Minister for Workplace Safety Ingrid Stitt said Parliament are proud to ensure that Victorians can access the help they need so quickly.

"All workers in Victoria can now be assured that if they're struggling, and put their hand up for help, they'll get the care and support they deserve," Stitt said.

Covering expenses such as GP visits, psychiatrist or psychologist appointments and medication, the payments scheme ensures workers will not have to delay

getting the care they deserve, while covering stressful out of pocket costs.

Mental health injury claims can be complex and take longer to determine than physical injury claims. Prior to this scheme workers could wait up to five weeks before receiving payments to access treatment or support.

These important reforms come at a time when work-related mental injury claims are growing significantly. It's expected they'll account for a third of all workers' compensation claims by 2030.

Giving workers the support they need early increases their chance of recovery and a successful return to work.

The scheme, which commences on Thursday, July 1 encourages all workers in need of help with a work-related mental health injury to make a claim and get the treatment they need.

Eligible volunteers, including Emergency Management Victoria volunteers, volunteer school workers and jurors, will also be covered, recognising their vital work and unique contribution to the community.

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6	4	2	5	3	1
5	6	4	3	1	2
2	3	1	6	4	5
3	2	5	1	6	4
4	1	6	2	5	3

SUDOKU

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

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R	E	N	E	W	P	U	N	C	L	E
I	I	I	T	R						
D	O	N	A	T	E	S	E	R	M	O
	G		G	E	E					
C	A	S	I	N	O	A	L	I	G	N
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W	L	T	O	R	C	H	T			
E	O	E	S	E	E					
B	O	W	E	D	E	N	U	D	G	E

TRIVIA

Yea Shire Hall 2019



Students participating in beach activities. -S

Yea High School year 8 surf camp

ON Monday February 22, Year 8 students from Yea High School journeyed down to the Mornington Peninsula for Year 8 Surf Camp.

YMCA Camp Manyung in Mount Eliza was host to the Yea students where they were able to participate in activities such as surfing, snorkelling and kayaking.

The students also learnt a lot about the local marine life and ecosystem on coastal walks along the bay. Students also had the opportunity for some team-building, working on initiative activities, learning a lot about themselves, their class mates and their teachers.

Year 8 student Ashlee and Angus said "the camp was tons of fun, the snorkelling and surfing was very good, it was cool to have fun and also learn new skills with your friends, we should be able to explore and do camps every year, they are the best."

The students also had the opportunity to work together in the kitchen, helping out with serving meals and learning about the new COVID way of doing things.

A great time was had by all, with students finishing their camp experience in the Main street of Mornington, enjoying the local street market and the opportunity to go sailing in the bay, courtesy of Mornington Yacht Club.

After all the adventures, teambuilding, new experiences and some tired teachers, Year 8 Surf camp was a blast and a memory students will have for a life time.



-Students and teachers relaxing on the beach. -S



Students ready to sail the Bay. -S

Call for volunteers at Visitor Information Centres

ARE you looking for a new direction or a different challenge? Do you love living in Murrindindi Shire and have some time to dedicate to promoting our wonderful region? Alexandra, Marysville (MiRa) and Yea (Y Water Discovery Centre) Visitor Information Centres are looking for new volunteers to give them a hand.

Council's Mayor Sandice McAulay said she was pleased to see visitor numbers to regional Victoria steadily increasing over the last few months.

"We're seeing an influx of visitors to the area and the Visitor Information Centres across the shire are in need of some enthusiastic volunteers to help promote our region," Cr McAulay said.

"Being a volunteer can really help people who have recently moved to the area find their feet and feel part of the community. You might be a local who'd like to share your passion for the region with the local community and visitors or maybe you are already involved in the tourism industry and you're looking at a career in travel and tourism."

There isn't a large demand required from you, shifts are scheduled for three to four hours and you will be rostered on twice per month. More if you like of course.

Full training will be provided to you, so there is no need to worry if you feel you don't have the right experience. There are a number of social events held throughout the year to allow you all the hands-on training you will need.

Zoe Havers, volunteer at Y Water Discovery Centre, said she really enjoys volunteering at the Visitor Information Centre in Yea.

"The people are so friendly and I love meeting new people from all walks of life. It's a great way to stay connected and a lovely calm environment in which to spend time in," Ms Havers added.

For more information and to apply to volunteer at any of the Visitor Information Centres in the Shire, please visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/visitorinfo or call the Y Water Discovery Centre on 5797 3394.

Dixon's Creek Primary speed limit

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, said that like many locals and motorists who use the Melba Highway regularly, she is cranky that speed limit signs outside the closed Dixon's Creek Primary School are still operational.

Dixon's Creek Primary School has been closed since the beginning of Term 1, and will not re-open this year due to lack of enrolments but the signs slow the traffic to 60km an hour each morning and afternoon.

Ms McLeish said, "I have written to the minister asking that the speed signs be disengaged. It is confusing for drivers and potentially unsafe."

There is also community concern as to whether speeding fines have been given to those travelling over the 60km/h speed limit.

Ms McLeish continues, "We will be seeing how many, if any, drivers receive unwarranted fines. This is a quick, simple fix that shouldn't have been overlooked to begin with."

Under Parliamentary guidelines the Minister has 30 days to respond to Ms McLeish's request.

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Yea

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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT OPEN GARDENS COMMITTEE INC AGM

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9.30am
at Embassy of Ideas 3 Bayley Street.
Alexandra. All welcome

Glenburn Rural Fire Brigade



BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7.30pm
Glenburn Fire Station, 3873 Melba Highway, Glenburn. Nominations for all positions can be lodged with the secretary by 4pm, Monday, March 22, 2021
PO Box 392, Yarra Glen 3775

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



Embassy of Ideas

Expression of Interest

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To request full EOI documentation, email embassyofideas@gmail.com or contact Sasha Barrow 0422 225 801.

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This role is funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

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FARM HAND POSITIONS

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Our aim is to "Delight Cherry Consumers" by producing great tasting, premium quality cherries and to do this we need great people.

Koala Cherries are currently seeking motivated people to fill Farm Hand positions at both our Yarck/Alexandra and Yarroweyah/Cobram farms.

You will provide support to farm managers to ensure all tasks and operational aspects of the farm are carried out.

Duties will include, but not be limited to:

- Safe operation of tractors and farm machinery
- Equipment maintenance and cleaning
- Application of fertilisers and chemicals as required
- Assisting with and supporting all harvest activities
- Irrigation operation and maintenance
- Tree planting

These positions are full time, with overtime hours available during our busy harvest period. The successful applicant/s will have great communication skills, have a high level of attention to detail and value working in a team environment.

You will hold a current drivers license. Skills and experience in operating tractors and farm machinery would be an advantage, but not essential.

For the right applicant/s, a great opportunity exists to start or further a career in horticulture. Formal training in Fruit Growing will be available.

If you have a love of the outdoors and are interested in being part of our team, please email your letter of application and resume to simon@koalacherries.com.au.

Position description available upon request.
Applications close Friday, March 26, 2021.



PART TIME

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REQUIREMENTS:

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- Excellent communication skills and phone manner
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Please email cover letter and resume addressing above criteria with three references to

manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Applications close March 26, 2021



DEATH NOTICES

DEAN, HAYDN

Passed away on Monday, March 1 aged 76. Brother to Loris (dec), Margaret (dec). Jan James, Allan and Geoff. To know him is to love him, to me he was the best. Wherever I go I will always know that Haydn is there beside me. Gone but not forgotten. Resting in Gods garden of beautiful memories. RIP Loved always.

MEETINGS



ALEXANDRA FIRE BRIGADE

The Biennial General Meeting and Election of Officers of the Alexandra Fire Brigade will take place at the Alexandra Joint Emergency Facility, 2-6 Shamrock Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 commencing at 7.30pm. COVID-19 restrictions will be enforced.

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT HOTELS & BALL ASSOCIATION
AGM will be held on Monday, March 15, 7.30pm at the Alexandra Bows Club to discuss the future of competition. Notices of motion to be in the secretaries hands by March 12, 2021. Greg Gilmore 0411 605 732.

THEACHERON CFA
Brigade Biennial General Meeting and Elections will be held at the Acheron Hall at 10.30am on Sunday, March 28, followed by morning tea. All welcome.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANDCARE GROUP HOSTS FORESTRY DISCUSSION

Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group will be presenting a discussion on forestry in **Murrindindi: Past, Present and Future** at the Fawcett Hall 655 Spring Creek Road, Thursday, March 18 at 7.30pm.

The topical discussion will feature Ken Deacon from the Rubicon Forest Protection Group and John Woodley from Taggerty Farm Forestry. Entry is gold coin donation. RSVP March 16 to allison.spratt8@gmail.com or 0466 038 779.

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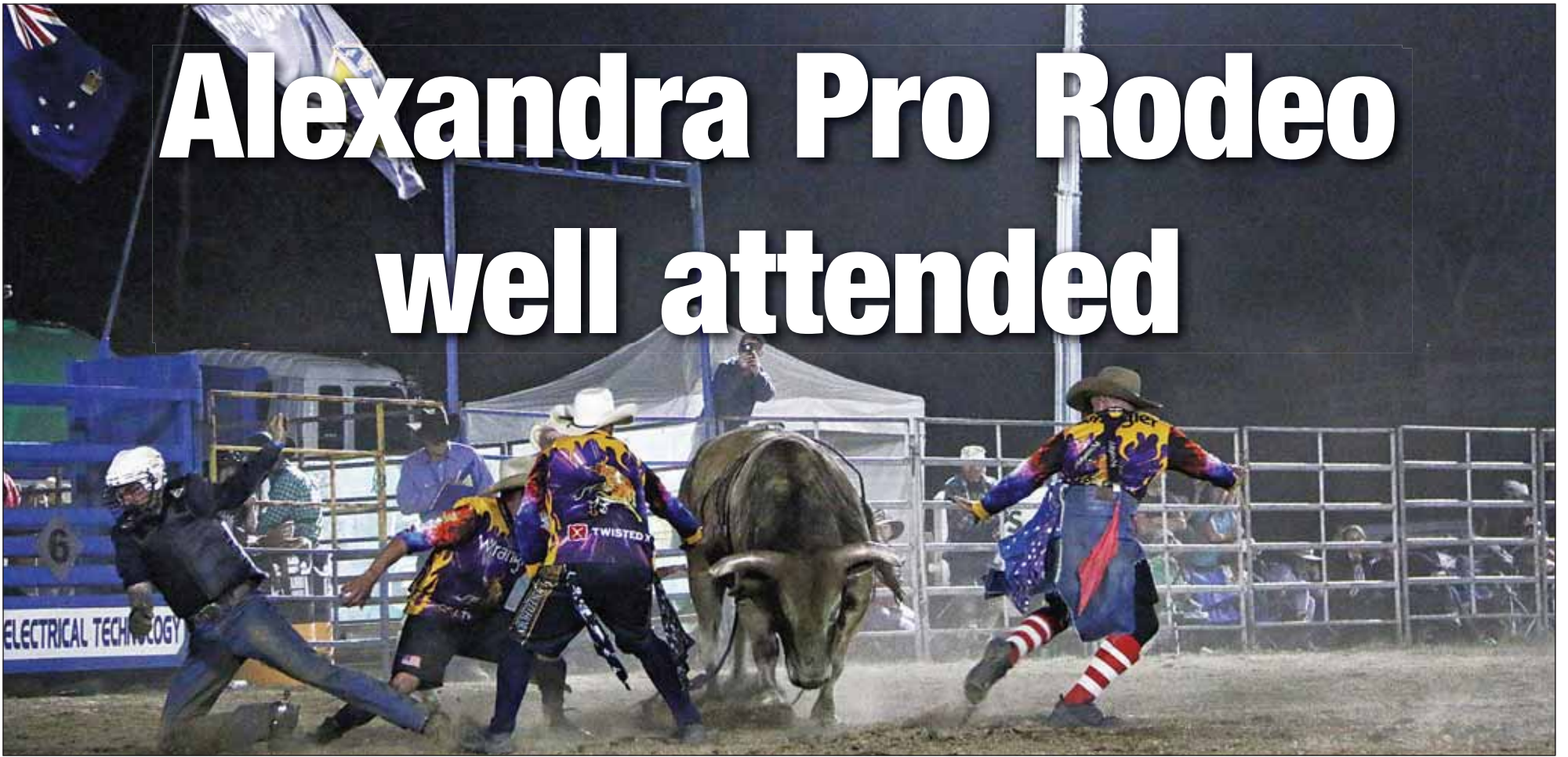
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Alexandra Pro Rodeo well attended



-Photos by AR

THE Alexandra Pro Rodeo, held on Saturday, March 6, drew a crowd of close to 4000 people, keen to watch the action and enjoy the music.

Organiser Andrew Embling said "It was a very successful rodeo... There was no trouble at all. The crowd totally enjoyed it. I think starting at five o'clock for families is a great change, so that the rodeo can finish at 9.30pm, and they can take the younger families home. That's why we changed it a couple of years ago from 6pm back to 5pm."

They had visits from COVIDsafe people at the event, and they seemed to be fairly happy with how the event was run. They'll be providing a written report.

Mr Embling apologised to attendees for the long queues to get into the rodeo, due to the QR code and temperature testing requirements, and thanked the local police for their assistance with the queues.

In terms of the rodeo itself, "The rodeo stock were very fresh. It was the first rodeo for 12 months, so they came out and they certainly bucked to the best of their ability. It was quite a good night."

The attendees were stretched around the grounds more than usual, and were more on the hill than down on the flat.

Mr Embling said that there were no problems following the event. The grounds were cleared out, and most of the people left when the band finished at about 12.15am. "They walked down the street expecting the hotels to be open, but they were all closed, so some of them then hung around and slowly went back to where they were staying, or back to the ground."

"All the cowboys were well behaved because many left early the following morning to attend the Chiltern Rodeo, after their morning coffee and breakfast of course. Mr Embling was also the announcer at Chiltern. Four Queensland cowboys attended the Alexandra rodeo, and having never been here before, they loved the atmosphere. "They came down because it was a two-rodeo weekend," Mr Embling said. Three of them out of the four all won prize money, and all told Mr Embling that they would definitely come back to Alexandra Rodeo, even if it was just a one-off rodeo on the weekend. "They loved it... As one of the cowboys said, 'You look up on the hill and there's all these people up there and making a noise.'"

Alexandra Police reported that around 15 people were removed from the event for various reasons, including intoxication, however they added that generally the crowd behaved well.



-Photos by AR



SPORT

A week of golf at Yea

by Karen Sangster

HERE we are again. Firstly I need to correct a mistake in my reporting of the Strathbogie 4BBB. Seems there were too many runner-ups for this old girl to figure out. Simple is the way to go these days girls. So, there was a winning team, which wasn't us, then comes the first runner-up, officially second place, that was us. The team of Cheryl Roberts and Doreen Lehmann on 46 points got that bit right. Then another runner-up on countback, third placing, also us, was Sue Aurisch and Helen Burnett on 46 points. Regardless, well done. So, with that all sorted, on we go.

Ladies Season has begun, opening on Wednesday, March 3 with a nine holes ambrose competition, a yummy lunch and for some a few wee beverages to boot. Coffee was very nice too. Twenty-six lovely ladies paired up, some existing members, and some new, and some possibly becoming members.

The morning was a little cool, but it did warm up, along with the swings. Firstly, the official part had to take place of course with captain Miranda Gill welcoming all and enlightening all on the days procedures. The first official ball being hit this year was by one of our life members, Barb Fisher, who over the years has taught many on the art of playing golf. Thank you Barb and it was a very nice hit at that. A little nerve wracking with all watching but you did not seem to care one bit.

With the official bit over all moved off to find a tee and enjoy the company, have a few good hits, and lots of giggles which could be heard all over the course. With the game over, all headed back to the clubrooms for lunch and the announcement of the winners. This year there was a very generous donation from a person who wishes to remain unknown for a voucher to purchase a club polo or vest. A big thank you to that person, it was very much appreciated. Drum roll - the winners were Margie Wright and Judi Newman, well done girls. The runner-ups were captain Miranda



Gathering for the official opening. -S



First hit for life member Barb Fisher. -S



Lachlan Wischer and Wayne Rowe on the 15th. -S



Lynne and Miranda with winners Judy Newman and Margie Wright. -S

Gill and newcomer Lynne Rieger. A great day was had by all.

by Alan Pell

WEDNESDAY, March 3 saw three visitors from Broadford join with us to make 11 teams of two playing Irish stableford. This involves taking the best score of two per hole on the first nine combined with both scores on the back nine. Winners with 59 points were Gary

Pollard (11) and Ray Partridge (25). Second with 57 points were Jeff Aurisch (16) and Alan Pell (12). Third on countback were Gary Pollard and Lachlan Wischer with 55 points. Nearest the pin on the second was Brian Simmons and Neill Peterson, and John Renehan won the Club Award. Individual winner was Russell Wealands (22) with 38 points on countback from

Ken Whitfort (6) second. Third was Gary Pollard with 37.

Saturday, March 6 saw a field of 24 men play the first of two stableford rounds for the Barry Moore Trophy. Winning the day's event, and now leading is Lachlan Wischer (14) with 44 points and 77 off the stick. Second with 42 points is Kevin Coghlan (21) with Brendan Chenhall (16) third with

40 points. Michael Sheather (39) finished fourth with 39 points. Wayne Rowe won the nearest the pin on the second and Chris Smith won the Club Award.

Next Saturday, Royal Yea is hosting the Murrindindi Masters. We are expecting a full field for the event. The second round of the Barry Moore Trophy will be held in early April.



Katerina Paul. -S

Snow Australia announces 2021 Nordic World Championships Team

FORMER Marysville Primary, and Alexandra Secondary College student, and ski squad member Katerina Paul of Taggerty, who has been sponsored by Lake Mountain Alpine Resort for a number of years has earned a place at the Nordic Ski World Championships.

Snow Australia has announced the five cross-country skiers selected as part of the national team which will compete at the 2021 FIS Nordic Ski World Championships in Oberstdorf, Germany, February 23 to March 7.

Led by two-time Olympian Phillip Bellingham of Mount Beauty Secondary College, who represented Australia at the 2014 and 2018 Winter Games, the team will feature three men and two women in a balanced mix of experience and fresh talent.

In the women's team, Katerina Paul is at her third participation in the World

Championships and will race alongside emerging 19-year-old Tuva Bygrave, who is making her debut representing Australia at major international competitions. Paul will target the Classic Sprint, while Bygrave will race both sprint and distance events.

"This has been a difficult season for everybody involved in snow sports, with many athletes not having a chance to travel and compete at the highest level," said National Team Head Coach Valerio Leccardi, who has remained in Australia this summer due to the pandemic.

"We've been fortunate that our top three men have been able to compete regularly on the World Cup circuit this season without any incidents. They are ready for the championships, where they will be joined by Kat Paul who has been racing mostly on the marathon circuit and Tuva Bygrave, who only just recently qualified for the championship, racing in the USA."

The Australian Team at the World Championships will be led by German coach Fabian Mauz, backed-up by Swiss-based Australian coach Alasdair Tutt, who together with Mauz supported the team at the early World Cup races this season. They are joined by three wax technicians from Switzerland, Germany, and Austria.

Notably missing from the team competing in Oberstdorf will be 2018 Winter Olympians Jessica Yeaton, Casey Wright and Aimee Watson. All three athletes qualified for the Championships but opted not to travel to Europe this winter due to the global pandemic, travel restrictions and quarantine requirements.

Competition kicked off on Wednesday, February 24 with the women's 5km and men's 10 km Freestyle qualification events. The men's 50km Classic will draw the curtain on the event on March 7.

SPORT

A night for records at Alexandra Speedway

Alexandra speedway report by Dean Thompson

WITH the opening night of the Alexandra & District Speedway Club race season on Saturday, February 27 over, much of the talk has been about the speed of the track, the Junior Sedan records that were broken, and the health of two racers who had a huge back straight crash, rolling their cars simultaneously before being attended to by rescue and medical crews as the meeting closed early.

Shaqkira Blake and Tenayah Barton both walked away from their cars with what was diagnosed as minor injuries while their cars will need some repair.

In the Speedway Sedan's Australia Juniors, the class raced under the two gradings of

Top Stars and New Stars. The New stars racing provided nine qualifying races full of action with Jacob Tinworth from the Hamilton club winning all three of his races as he qualified into the final. Other winners in the lead up to the main event came from Fletcher Barron, Toby Parks, and James Oliver while in a sub-section for new rookie drivers, Billy McBride won two heats and

Nathan Miles the other as the kids gained valuable experience among others with equal amount of racing experience.

In the feature race it was Christine Oliver who led from the drop of the green flag. Following her were Tinworth, James Oliver, Blake Glynn, and Maddy Capon who zipped in and out of traffic as they made their way around the 570-metre racetrack. On lap

seven though the race leaders race ended with mechanical concerns, and her brother James used traffic to advantage to hit the lead as he passed Tinworth.

James Oliver recorded the fastest time of the race as he secured an exciting win from Tinworth, Glyn, Capon, and Barron.

The Top Stars class for Juniors with two years' experience or deemed to have the ability to compete with the fastest of the Juniors also had their own trophies to race for. Six qualifying heats for their final saw wins to Jaxson Vella, Jayden Bryant, Rhys Meakins, Bryant once again, Vella a second time and Linken Paterson in the final qualifier.

A 15-lap final was slated to be held and the green flag got the race underway with Vella, Bryant, and Canberra registered racer Jack Murphy motoring along in the top three. Lap four though would see the end of the race due to a high-speed crash where Shaqkira Blake rolled six times almost landing on the crash crew vehicle in the safety zone. Tenayah Barton rolling at the same time, finished up just behind Blake on the infield. The race was declared at this point as the

positions were on lap four as the top few cars had crossed the line. Vella was declared the winner, Bryant second, Linken Paterson third, Murphy fourth and Dylan Barrow fifth.

Also competing for a feature event was the Victorian Speedway Council Junior Sedans, a handy field of competitors came together with the annual feature event gaining momentum as a must come to event. Dylan Barrow from the host club won heat one while Bradin Claridge from Bendigo won the next two in front of Barrow. Claridge secured a new heat race record along the way when he was two seconds quicker than the previous mark.

A very quick 15 lap final was then run with Claridge again displaying the development he has made over the last two seasons and proving to be too quick for Barrow once more. Another new record for Claridge, this time for 15 laps as he secured victory from Barrow, Rhys Meakins, Marcus Maclean, and Abbi Garlick.

The nights racing for the Sports Sedans and the Standard Saloons was declared on the top three points results with no features held due to the accident.

Healesville racer Steve Kershaw was declared winner of the Sports Sedans with Luke Fallon in second and Harry Orme third. Fallon and Kershaw were close to the class record lap time and if given a final, there was every chance that record could have been broken. Kershaw, Lee Beach, Kershaw again, Ricky Cornwall, Luke Fallon and Harry Orme all won heat races.

In Standard Saloon racing Aaron Meakins finished top points ahead of Aaron Price and his own daughter Courtney Meakins. Aaron Meakins won two heats and Price won the third and last heat.

The next meeting for Alexandra Speedway will be on March 20 with a Wingless Sprintcar feature along with the Unlimited Sedans and club classes.



Alexandra member James Oliver won the Junior Top Star Sedans. -S



Bradin Claridge from Bendigo won the VSC Junior Sedans. -S

Time running out to apply for sports grants

THE Victorian Government has announced funding through the *Sporting Club Grants Program*.

Support has been announced for grassroots sporting clubs impacted by the recent coronavirus circuit-breaker action.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence confirmed that grants of up to \$2000 are available under the *Sporting Club Grants Program's* Circuit Breaker Event Support category.

The new category is available for clubs that incurred costs that could not be recouped after events or activities were cancelled or postponed due to the February 12 to 17 circuit-breaker action. Costs that can be claimed include cancellation fees, lost booking fees and the loss of perishable goods.

An additional coronavirus recovery category is also being delivered to provide up to \$5000 for leagues and associations to help them get back on their feet after the pandemic.

Other *Sporting Club Grants* categories provide payments of up to \$1000 for new uniforms and equipment, up to \$5000 for training coaches, officials, and volunteers and up to \$5000 to improve club operational effectiveness.

The *Sporting Club Grants* program is part of the Labor Government's commitment to make community sport accessible and inclusive, stimulate local economies, build sustainable sport and recreation and volunteer opportunities, and increase local participation.

Applications for the Sporting Grants Program are open until March 18, or earlier if funding is exhausted.

Grassroots clubs and organisations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible at sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding. Past recipients of grants can also be found at this address.

Mansfield hosts Victoria Clay Target Association tower events

Mansfield Clay Target Club report by Marty McLachlan

A SPECIALLY scheduled Mansfield Clay Target Club shoot was held on Sunday of the Labour Day Long Weekend as Mansfield hosted the Victoria Clay Target Association, North East Zone, tower events in sunny and calm conditions. Competitors included club representatives from Alexandra, Echuca, Benalla, Euroa, Woods Point, Cobram, Kerang, and NSW.

The day comprised all tower events shot over-head from an oscillating trap and included a 10-target eye opener Point Score followed by the Zone shoots; 25 Target Single Barrel, 25 Point Score and 25 Double Barrel Championship.

Three squads comprising 17 shooters shot the card with AA and A Grade being combined and first prize being awarded in each event per grade. The eye opener was taken out by AA/A

Grade Peter Finn (Echuca) and John King (Euroa) 30/30, B Grade Paul McKendrick (Euroa) 24/30 and C grade Marty McLachlan (Mansfield) 28/30.

The first of the main events, 25 Tower Single Barrel was won by B Grade competitor from Kerang, Stephen Ash 24/25. AA/A Grade John King 23/25, and C Grade Mansfield's John Winters. With no shoot offs it was into the Point Score, Anthony Kirley was victorious 74/75, B Grade featured Paul McKendrick once again on 66/75 and John Winters 65/75.

The last event for the day was the 25 Target Tower Double barrel, as expected this was a fight to the end with the winner needing to be decided by a shoot off between Colin Finn, Peter Finn, Mick Ward and John Winters after all four returned a perfect score. Mick was first to go after missing his second target, John hung in for a further four targets leaving the Finn's to tough it out. Colin was eventual



High Gun winners Anthony Kirley (Mansfield), John Winters (Mansfield), Paul McKendrick (Euroa), Colin Finn (Echuca), John King (Euroa) and Peter Finn (Echuca). -S

winner with 35/35 over Peter 34/35. The grades went to Paul McKendrick 23/25, and for his third sash of the day John Winters had a great outing.

The overall high gun of the day is decided by combining the total over all events, missing only four targets for the day the deserving recipient was Anthony Kirley.

Club president Anthony Kirley and vice-president John Winters presented trophies and sashes on behalf of the VCTA North East Zone to the winners and place getters.

Mansfield Clay Target Gun hosts the next regular competition on the usual date, in two weeks'

time, being the third Sunday of the month; the next program will be conducted on March 21 and includes 25 Target Double Barrel, 25 Point Score and North East Zone mixed target event, 10 double, 10 single, 10 points and five pair double rise.

The club is very family focused with lunch provided and junior shoots sponsored by the club with all junior fees waived for all competitions.

Practice is conducted at the club grounds each Thursday through daylight savings commencing 4.30pm, Pikes Road Mansfield. If you are interested in attending just turn up or phone 0490 702 083.

The Chronicle Sport

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Yea cricketers. -TM

First A Grade premiership for Yea Tigers

Yea Cricket Club reports by Hamish Stares

A Grade

Yea 1/83 defeated Kilmore 10/79

AFTER a thrilling semi-final win against top side Broadford last week, Yea's A Grade secured the club's first A Grade premiership in its 20-year history with a resounding win over Kilmore in the Grand Final. Early wickets to Marc Steiner left Kilmore reeling at 2/8. After a 40-run partnership for the third wicket, Will Dalton dismissed Kilmore's captain, before a flurry of wickets began to fall. Kilmore lost their final seven wickets for just 19 runs, Yea's openers, Steiner, and Damon Malcolm picked up three wickets apiece. Will Dalton and Corey Malcolm also snagged two each, helped by tidy spells from Cameron Armstrong and Aidan McSpeerin to restrict Kilmore's scoring rate, as the batting side were dismissed for just 79 off 38 overs.

In reply, Yea's top order batted positively to put the result beyond doubt, racing to pass the target with the loss of only one wicket. Nathan Beattie was dominant, dispatching Kilmore's attack with eight boundaries on the way to an unbeaten 43 off 52 balls. Beattie was fittingly joined by club president Cam Armstrong, who finished with 29 not out. The pair's 74 run partnership secured the premiership, with Beattie hitting the winning runs in the 18th over. Captain Marc Steiner was awarded the Man of the Match for his 3/9 off six overs, and jubilant celebrations lasted well into the long weekend. After a long wait for finals success and several painful Grand Final losses in recent years, the Tigers had finally secured a long-deserved flag.

C Grade

Yea 10/103 defeated by Avenel 4/105

AFTER a brilliant effort to make the Grand Final, Yea's C Grade came up against an Avenel side that was too strong on the day. Yea won the toss and batted first on a good pitch at Chittick Park, but once again were

under the pump early with the fall of early wickets. Leo Halford got off to a promising start but fell for 13, and it was up to Paul Hildebrand and Gary Harding to steady the ship at 4/28. Both batted patiently for 12 apiece, helping to build towards a defendable score. Enter Lucas Zipsin, who knocked boundaries to all parts on his way to his highest score of the season, finishing with a brilliant 29. Positive batting from Yea's middle and lower order had again helped the

Tigers scrape together a defendable target, eventually being dismissed for 103.

After digging deep with the bat, Yea hit the field with enthusiasm, but the Tiger's efforts were frustrated by Avenel's openers, who posted a solid 35 run opening stand. Hamish Stares came into the attack and picked up a wicket with his second ball, and after Leo Halford followed suit next over and the pressure was back on Avenel. Smart batting from Avenel helped chip

away at the Tiger's total, but Yea's young side never gave up, Rhys Harding and Dom Ciantar toiling away with the ball. Hamish picked up another wicket late to finish with 2/16 off eight overs, and a great catch from Paul Hildebrand in the gully secured Rhys a wicket before Avenel passed the total four wickets down. Despite the disappointing end to the season, Yea's players were mighty proud of what was an incredible effort to reach a Grand Final.



The A Grade team. -S