

# 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

Ph: (03) 5797 2468 or (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5797 2257; Email: [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, March 31, 2021 \$1.50 inc. GST

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Children participating in previous Y Water Discovery Centre holiday programs. -S

## Holiday programs at Y Water Discovery Centre

EASTER and the school holidays are fast approaching and the Y Water Discovery Centre will be conducting some exciting environmental activities as part of its school holiday program.

Why not bring along your primary school-age children or grandchildren to discover the delights of the Yea Wetlands and its inhabitants on Wednesday, April 7 and Wednesday, April 14 from 10 to 11.30am.

As numbers are limited bookings are essential. Please call 5797 2663 or just drop into the centre.

## Rotary working with RSL to save Anzac Day in Yea

by Elaine White

THE announcement last week on the possibility of no future Anzac Day Commemorations at the Yea Cenotaph caught many in the community by surprise.

The Rotary Club of Yea, at their meeting last Thursday, felt very strongly that the community should be given the chance to honour all those who have fallen and all those who have served in all wars and conflicts to keep Australia the free and safe country it is today.

A decision was unanimously supported by Rotary Club members, that the club

would like to offer assistance with keeping this vital Anzac Day tradition alive and many members volunteered to be involved.

These members are in close consultation with RSL President, Jeff Swain, and members of the Yea and Kinglake RSL on how they can work with them to secure an Anzac Day celebration in Yea for 2021, and into the future.

It should be noted that in large part the announcement in the local press was made reluctantly and was driven by dwindling numbers of active RSL members but also by

COVID-19 restrictions, some of which have since eased.

When you hear details such as 5000 young volunteer Australians being killed in the Battle of Fromelle in one day, you can understand why Australians today still want to honour these brave young men. In many of the battles in Gallipoli and the Western Front and in many other wars, these men knew they were going 'over the top' against impossible odds, and still they went.

Full details of the preparations for the 2021 service at Yea Cenotaph will be provided next week.



**BONUS HOUR OF SLEEP:** Daylight saving ends on Sunday, April 4 at 2am. Put your clock back one hour and gain an hour of sleep.

**EASTER CLOSURES - GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2 & MONDAY, APRIL 5  
RE-OPEN 9am TUESDAY, APRIL 6**

### EARLY DEADLINES APPLY

★ EGN - 5PM WEDNESDAY MARCH 31. ARTWORK - 5PM WEDNESDAY MARCH 31. ★

★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES - 5PM WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 ★

★ TRADES WILL REMAIN THE SAME - NOON THURSDAY ★

★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, APRIL 5 ★

43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 57721002  
email: [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA, EILDON, MARYSVILLE  
Standard

ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**LETTERS MUST NOT EXCEED 300 WORDS**

Submitted letters will be edited at the discretion of **Alexandra Newspapers**. Letters larger than **300** words, will not be published. Letters which are offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks will not be published. All letters must contain contact details of writer; name, address and telephone number, (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details **will not** be published. Deadline is 10am Monday

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



## Letters to the Editor

Discussion about forests

ON Thursday, March 18, Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare hosted an engaging discussion on the past, present and future of the forestry industry within Murrindindi Shire. Ken Deacon from the Rubicon Forest Protection Group and John Woodley from Taggerty Farm Forestry were our speakers. Ken and John came with a wealth of experience both within the industry and as close observers of a temperate rainforest they believe is in crisis.

Our Landcare group's mission is to educate and make people aware of local land management issues. Having previously engaged retired forester and native logging advocate Ross Rummails, we wanted to balance the argument with a different perspective.

The historic Fawcett Hall attracted close to 50 concerned residents including councillors, environment professionals and landowners from across the shire.

Ken presented a story of rapid and ongoing destruction by the logging industry in the Rubicon and Royston River catchments. Believing our post 1939 near-old growth forests have

unique biodiversity value for both wildlife and eco-tourism, Ken made a strong case for stopping logging. Scarred forests have no benefit for the wellbeing of our visitors, local businesses and residents of Murrindindi Shire.

Next, John Woodley spoke of his pledge to prove Lloyd Gould wrong, believing he could grow a better quality saw log than the native forest. Anyone who has visited John's plantations could not but be inspired by his magnificent trees. By creating the best conditions for saw logs, John has shown that it needn't take a lifetime to grow high quality timber and believes that farm forestry is a more sustainable model than taking from our native forests.

Our Landcare group plans to host a farm forestry field day in the near future.

Home Creek Spring  
Creek Landcare Group  
committee

Logging

LOGGING destructs and causes pollution. Smoke pollution from fuel reduction burns is a necessary inconvenience. However smoke pollution from the cleaning up of harvested timber crops is another

reason for why we should call a halt to the logging of our pristine temperate rainforests.

We live in our shire because we enjoy a clean air environment yet the weekend of March 20 was terrible. The smoke affected our eyes, our lungs and could even be detected on the washing on the line.

Why can an industry supporting a few so severely inconvenience a majority?


Cutting down our mountain ash forests reduces our capacity to sequest carbon, scars our landscape and destroys a unique ecosystem for generations to come.

When will clear thinking prevail? Logging our forests is all about money. Short term gain causes long term pain.


Every day when I see massive B-double trucks roll past carrying huge logs, I think of the proud monarchs of our temperate rainforests that only recently stood tall.

The current logging in the Snobs Creek catchment completely defies logic and common sense, as this clear mountain stream, it's water quality now threatened, is the crucial, vital ingredient for our Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery.

Don Deelen, Alexandra



THUMBS UP



THUMBS DOWN

**THUMBS UP:** To council for their efficiency and promptness in responding to three separate requests. Very impressed.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the person who took the motorised wheelchair from outside Francis Street in Yea. Please return it.

**THUMBS UP:** To Michelle (Shelley) for the wonderful help given to me on renewing my application for a parking permit with the new system. She was excellent. Thanks Michelle. You are an asset in the shire along with Christie. Well done ladies.

**THUMBS UP:** To the Kinglake Friends of the Forest for holding the greater glider spotlighting tour on Saturday, giving locals a chance to see some of the amazing animals living in Snobs Creek Valley and raising awareness about the negative impact of logging in the area.

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](mailto: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



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## COMMUNITY DIARY

**Local Radio Frequency**

UGFM	88.9	Yea / Highlands
UGFM	98.9	Flowerdale / Hazeldeene
UGFM	94.5	Kinglake Ranges

**WEEKLY**


Thu	Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun	AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 1300 222 222
Sun	Alanon Recovery Anglican Church, Alexandra 5.30pm.

**MONTHLY**

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



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.



## Weekly Weather



March 31 to April 6, 2021

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	HIGH	LOW	DAY	HIGH	LOW
Wednesday	25	10	Wednesday	25	9
Thursday	24	11	Thursday	25	9
Friday	26	12	Friday	27	12
Saturday	26	12	Saturday	27	12
Sunday	25	9	Sunday	24	10
Monday	22	9	Monday	21	9
Tuesday	22	10	Tuesday	21	10



## Sacred Heart Easter Week Service Times 2021

Holy Thursday: **April 1**  
Yea 7.30pm Alex. 7.30pm

Good Friday: **April 2**  
Stations Yea- 10am Stations - Eildon 10am  
Passion Yea - 3pm Passion - Alex 3pm

Easter Vigil: **April 3**  
Yea 7.30pm Alex 7.30pm

Easter Sunday: **April 4**  
Yea 10.45am (AEST) Alex - 8.45am  
Eildon - 11am.

## Happy Easter

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00pm Sun	1.25^	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.49	falling	
Acheron R at Taggerty	10.54am Mon	0.62	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	10.42am Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	10.45am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor
Yea R at Yea	9.27am Mon	0.53	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.38	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.36^	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.98^	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.02^	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	11.00am Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	9.12am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 11.16AM ON MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra*	N/Amm
Buxton	12.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	19mm
Flowerdale	14mm
Kinglake	32mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Marysville	24.9mm
Strath Creek	N/Amm
Taggerty	10mm
Yarck	11mm
Yea	8mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
*Alexandra totals supplied from <a href="http://www.alexandraweather.org">www.alexandraweather.org</a>	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week	277.43m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	60.6%
Metres below full supply	11.47m
Daily inflow	600ML
Release	1500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	47%



## 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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
We thank you for your continued support



# YDMH farewells Lorina Gray

YEA and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) recently said farewell to long-time Director of Nursing and Manager Lorina Gray. Lorina commenced leave in February as transition to official retirement in August.

2021 is a special year for Lorina as it marked 50 years since she commenced her nursing training at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Importantly, it also marks nearly 30 years in her role as Director of Nursing at YDMH.

In the early part of Lorina's time at YDMH she also provided support to Darlingford Nursing Home in Eildon and served as Acting CEO for the then Murrindindi Community Health Service.

Lorina's dedicated service and leadership has enabled YDMH to continue to play such an important role in the local community, both as a provider of health care and as a major employer.

There has been a lot of change under Lorina's stewardship. The hospital has had

to adapt to the changing requirements of being a small rural health service to meet the many requirements for accreditation in all areas of the organisation. This has occurred on a firm foundation committed to building and growing a strong team approach.

One of two major events occurring in Lorina's time at YDMH was undoubtedly the Black Saturday bushfires. These had a profound effect on Yea and the surrounding communities. The hospital was inundated with people presenting in the immediate aftermath for care, treatment and support. Lorina's leadership that allowed both the health service and its staff to cope with a situation that could not have been either imagined or prepared for.

The other major event has of course been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. While Yea has been fortunate in having no active cases, 2020 was a year that required extraordinary leadership in coordinating all the contingency planning, dealing with the demands of a rapidly changing and at times confused regulatory environment, ensuring continuity of care for YDMH's patients and residents during the COVID-19 restrictions and continuing to look after the welfare of YDMH's 60 staff.

Lorina is looking forward to her retirement time where she can rest, relax, and indulge in her passion for reading in her new abode by the sea.

A 'farewell gathering' hosted by YDMH will be held for Lorina on Friday, May 7 from 3.30pm at Beaufort Manor, Yea to which the community are cordially invited. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Jacky Baynes on 5736 0410.

In the interim term Louise Sharkey has been appointed as Director of Clinical Service/Manager. Louise has been employed as Quality and Risk, Education and Infection Prevention and Control Manager at YDMH since late 2019 and has worked in leadership roles within health for the past 15 years in Victoria. Formerly Louise has been a resident with her family in the Yea township and so brings to the role a good understanding of our community.

The Board of YDMH will commence the formal process for recruitment of a new Director of Clinical Services/Manager in the near future.



Lorina announces her retirement. -S

## Funding available for community-led initiatives

TWELVE years on from the devastating 2009 Victorian bushfires, FRRR is offering another round of funding to support impacted communities as they continue to rebuild, reconnect and recover.

Supported by the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF), the funding is available through FRRR's Grants for Resilience and Wellness (GR&W) program and the Grants for Resilience & Wellness Kinglake Ranges (GR&W Kinglake) program.

The grants of up to \$20,000 will support not-for-profits and community-based organisations to lead projects that aid recovery and build community resilience.

The GR&W and GR&W Kinglake Ranges programs fund initiatives that improve mental health and wellbeing of communities and individuals; enhance wellbeing and resilience of pre-school, primary and secondary school-aged children and young people; strengthen community connections, sense of place and community identity; and increase the community's ability to prepare for future disasters.

To date, FRRR has awarded more than \$4.5 million in grants to local groups, thanks to VBAF funding, which comes

from the generous contributions by the general public following the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.

Through this round of funding there is a total of \$360,000 available for GR&W grants and a total of more than \$700,000 available for GR&W Kinglake projects.

Nina O'Brien, FRRR's Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lead, said that the impact of COVID-19 has increased the need to support recovering communities to reconnect socially and continue to enhance their wellbeing.

"Despite the restrictions that the pandemic has put on people coming together, local groups report services and activities that

enhance wellness and resilience are still well attended," she said.

"The GR&W programs provide flexible support to respond to issues as they emerge. More than a decade since the fires, communities are focusing on building resilience for the future."

Applications for both GR&W and GR&W Kinglake close at 5pm on Wednesday, April 21.

Potential applicants should visit the FRRR program webpages at [frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/](http://frrr.org.au/funding/disaster-resilience-and-climate-solutions/)

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**Exhibition Opening**  
**Meg Heres paintings**  
**April 1, 2021**  
5pm - 6.30pm  
Marmalades of Yea, 20 High Street  
Enquires: 0400 340 279



## Fire Danger Period ends

THE Fire Danger Period for Murrindindi Shire ceased on Monday, March 29, however even though we are starting to experience milder conditions, there is still potential for fires to occur.

If you burn-off, please be mindful that the vegetation is still very dry and it is easy to lose control of small burns. Take care and make sure you have water available at all times and never leave your fire unattended.

Your local CFA brigade can provide you with advice on how to burn off safely, and how to prepare yourself and your property for the next fire season.

Before lighting a burn-off, people are urged to contact their neighbours and register their burn with the Burn-Off Notification Line on 1800 668 511.

Always check and adhere to council's local laws and regulations before burning off. Further information can be found at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Emergency-Management/Bushfire-Prevention-and-Planning](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Emergency-Management/Bushfire-Prevention-and-Planning)

Council requires that people have adequate means available at all times to prevent the escape of fire and to extinguish the fire; the burn area must be cleared of flammable material for a minimum radius of three metres; the fire must be extinguished if you are directed to do so by an authorised officer; ensure all ashes are spread and thoroughly extinguished at the completion of the burn; the smoke must not cause a nuisance; the burn pile must be suitably dry and not include damp or green materials; and the fire must be adequately supervised, with an adult person present at all times.

If your land is less than one hectare, the burn pile must not exceed one metre by one metre.

If your land is more than one hectare, the burn pile must be no more than 20 cubic metres, the fire must not be lit if wind speed exceeds 15 kph, and the burn pile must not be located closer than five metres to the property boundary or five metres to any building.

Any fire that does not meet these conditions requires a permit from council.

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# Out&About



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

*Alexandra Newspapers* will be closed on Friday, April 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, April 6. See advertisement in this edition for deadlines.

Alexandra P&A Ladies Committee will hold their AGM this morning, Wednesday, March 31 at 10am in the admin office at the Alexandra Show Grounds. All welcome.

Alexandra And District Darts Association AGM will be held tonight, Wednesday, March 31 at Rubicon Hotel at 7pm.

Exhibition Opening Meg Heres paintings April 1 from 5-6.30pm at Marmalades of Yea, Enquires to 0400 340 279.

See this edition for Easter Church Services.

Darren Gilbert Exhibition Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday over Easter. 10am-4pm each day. 2742 Highlands Road Highlands.

Alexandra Rotary presents the 51st Easter Art Exhibition. Opening night Friday, April 2 from 6.30pm. The exhibition will continue all through Easter until noon Monday, April 5.

Alexandra Speedway is back on April 2 and 3. Two big nights SSA Street Stock Vic Title, also featuring sport sedans, standard saloons, SSA Top and new star juniors and VSC open juniors. Gates open at noon, racing starts at 4pm.

Head to the Marysville Market on Sunday, April 2 and pick up an Easter bargain.

**Easter weekend garage sales:**  
**ALEXANDRA:** 5 Aitkin Street from 8am-3pm, Saturday and Sunday. **EILDON:** 802 Back Road, from 9am, Saturday and Sunday. **YARCK:** 6486 and 6639 Maroonah Highway, from 9am Saturday and Sunday. **YEA:** **SHED SALE** rear 7 Station Street (Cnr Anne Street) Saturday and Sunday from 8am.

Murrindindi Shire Council will be running renewable energy workshops throughout April between 5.30 and 6.30pm at the Yea Library. For dates and further details see advertisement in this edition.

The Yea Show AGM will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 7.30pm at the tennis club rooms. For further details contact Rodney Ridd 0417 340 838.

Tuesday, April 13 at Yea Library, 3pm Virtual Tour of the National Portrait Gallery. RSVP by contacting 5772 0333. For full details see this week's edition of *The Yea Chronicle*.

Eildon Primary School are holding a drive-in movie night on Saturday, April 24 at 6.30pm. \$30 per car, \$5 walk in. Children under 16 must have parental supervision.

## The Yea Chronicle

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- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Strath Creek Post Office
- Whittlesea Newsagency
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency



## This week's Church Services

**ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Kinglake.  
Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.  
Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala  
Church Office: 9716 2042 or 5716 2028

**ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA**  
Sunday Service time  
9.30am all year  
Mother Eden Nicholls Ph: 0437 937 433

**CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA**  
Parish Administrator, Father Vinh Nguyen  
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

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

**SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA**  
Station Street Yea  
Enquiries: Val Borrie, Secretary Ph 5797 2286  
Sunday Service 9am

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

## JobKeeper payments comes to an end

ON Monday, March 29, the temporary emergency support program JobKeeper came to an end. The federal government said that it has achieved its objectives of supporting businesses and saving jobs, preserving employment relationships and delivering much needed income support across the economy.

JobKeeper was an economic lifeline which helped keep around a million businesses in business and 3.8 million Australians in a job at the height of the pandemic. The Reserve Bank of Australia estimated that JobKeeper saved at least 700,000 jobs.

When JobKeeper was announced on Monday, March 30, 2020, Australia was standing on the edge of an economic abyss.

Treasury feared double digit falls in GDP and a tripling in the unemployment rate to 15 per cent with more than two million Australians potentially unemployed.

Following the announcement of JobKeeper, consumer confidence recorded its largest weekly gain on record and went on to increase for nine consecutive weeks.

On Tuesday, July 21, 2020, the federal government extended the temporary JobKeeper payment for an additional six months from September until March with two tiers of payment to account for full and part time workers.

As of the end of February, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) data indicates around 680,000 businesses employing 2.8 million people have graduated from JobKeeper with the unemployment rate today at 5.8 per cent.

While JobKeeper comes to an end, the government's economic support does not, with around \$100 billion of \$251 billion in unprecedented economic support still to flow.

As Australia moves to the next stage of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan, private sector activity will continue to be boosted through a number of measures including tax cuts, unprecedented business investment incentives, more skills and training places, new infrastructure projects and targeted support like the \$1.2 billion aviation and tourism package.

The continued easing of restrictions together with incentives for households and businesses to spend will help unlock more than \$240 billion of savings accumulated throughout the pandemic and now sitting on household and business balance sheets.

As Treasury has indicated, the JobKeeper program must come to an end as the economy strengthens.

The federal government said that to do otherwise would be counterproductive for the Australian economy, as the continued operation of the program would hamper labour mobility and people moving to more productive roles in the labour market.

## Wheelchair stolen and burnt

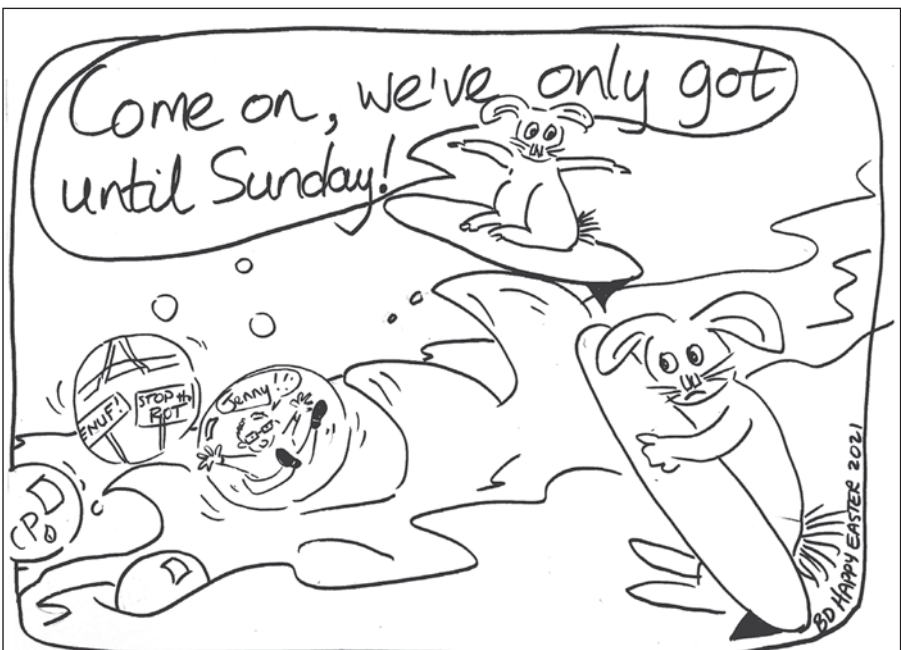
AN electric wheelchair was stolen from a unit in Francis Street in Yea on the evening of Monday, March 22 or early the morning of Tuesday, March 23.

It was later found burnt out in a private driveway on Hill Street..

Police are investigating the incident, and have asked that any witnesses contact them on 5797 2630.



The stolen electric wheelchair was found burnt out. -S



Cartoon by Bev Dick.



# Funding for art on Great Victorian Rail Trail

THE Great Victorian Rail Trail will receive \$1.2 million in State Government money for standout art installations and signs, with a further \$1.7 to develop a new rail trail in Eildon.

The trail is one of 30 regional Victorian projects announced last week to receive funding through

the \$46 million Regional Tourism Investment Fund – Stimulus Round.

Mitchell, Murrindindi and Mansfield councils, in conjunction with Regional Development Victoria, are behind the rail trail project.

The funding will go towards creating large scale ‘x-factor’ art installations along the trail, which aims to boost new and repeat visitors.

Sign upgrades from Tallarook to Mansfield and Alexandra will provide interpretation along the route and also guide users into

town centres to support economic activity and business.

The trail funding is a fantastic outcome for the Murrindindi, Mitchell and Mansfield shires.

The Great Victorian Rail Trail is a standout tourism asset, as evidenced by record numbers of visitors in the past year.

Residents and visitors alike are seeking to discover the natural beauty of the area.

The Regional Development Victoria announcement builds on the work that the three councils have done to set out a three-year strategic development plan to enhance and elevate the rail trail to the next level.

These pieces of ‘x-factor’ large scale sculptural art installations and wayfinding signage will improve and innovate the trail experience to provide a premium visitor experience.

The artworks are expected to become tourist attractions, and it is expected that the art installations have the potential to become as iconic as the silo art trails in regional Victoria.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula said the fund was part of the \$465 million Victorian Tourism Recovery Package.

“Victoria has many natural appeals but the main reason we lead the country in tourism is because we invest in our attractions and its people,” he said.

Murrindindi Shire Council also received \$1,700,000 for a rail trail between Blue Gums and the Eildon Rail Trail. The aim is to “connect tourists and cyclists from the tourist precincts and Outdoor Education Centre to Eildon townships and businesses.”



## March council meeting report

THE March Ordinary Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 24 via a Zoom meeting with all councillors in attendance.

### Questions of council

Jack Russell of Yea asked what pre-emptive practices are currently in place for council to identify risk matters such as pre-site inspections and reporting scheduled sites for rectification for a critical risk, and how many employees of council are assigned to monitor reports on all three levels of risk on a committed daily basis with the total hours on an annual basis.

Council responded by detailing a comprehensive risk reporting and management system is implemented that all staff can use to report risks, incidents and potential hazards identified. For public infrastructure, council employs a Road Management

Plan inspector, inspects all public playgrounds monthly and conducts regular asset condition audits on all of their assets.

All employees undergo regular training, workplace inspections occur routinely, and council has Snap Send Solve in place to assist the public with reporting hazards and risks. Council’s Enterprise Risk Management Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee meet on a regular basis to oversee, Risk Management policies, procedures, audits and progress.

### Grants and contribution program – monthly allocations

Officers approved the following grants and contributions; \$4948 for Upper Goulburn Landcare Network’s Connecting Through Compost, \$5000 for Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc’s Put Murrindindi On Your Table,

\$2200 for Alexandra Football Netball Club’s Anzac Spirit and Community Celebration, \$16,200 Park Life Alexandra Insta Home – Rapid Built Housing Project and \$248 for Marysville and District Kindergarten’s bus hire for excursions.

### Councillor representative appointment - Rubicon Outdoor School

Rubicon Outdoor School requested that Council appoint a representative to its school council and upon discussion, have appointed Councillor Damien Gallagher as the Councillor Representative.

### Councillor’s report – inclusive Australia Day celebrations

Mayor Sandice McAulay said, “With respect to our desire to ensure Australia Day celebrations

are inclusive of our indigenous community, we recently had a very productive discussion on the matter with Matthew Burns, CEO of the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.”

“Matthew indicated that the best outcome would be for change at the highest levels of government to ensure there is adequate recognition of the impacts and consequences of the European settlement on the Aboriginal land. Simply moving the day of Australia Day without addressing the underlying need for this recognition could simply sweep the matter under the carpet and not advance the cause of indigenous recognition.”

“With this valuable input from the CEO of the Taungurung Land and Waters we will continue this important conversation going forward with the community.”

### Councillor’s report – supporting Gender Equality Month

Councillor Damien Gallagher urged that during Gender Equality Month, and as Victoria prepare for the implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2020 on Wednesday, March 31, young people choose to not act like those currently in Federal Government.

“At this pivotal point, I say to young people, young men and young women do not take your cues on appropriate behaviour from the recent disgraces of our national parliament and reflect instead upon the advances of immediate region.”

“There is more work to do of course, but I am proud to be associated with the Murrindindi Shire Council organisation at this time as leaders in the implementation of our inclusion and equity policy.”

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## Trade rules for the environment and irrigators

THE Victorian Government is consulting the community to manage delivery risks for Victorian irrigators and help protect rivers from unseasonal high flows.

Acting Minister for Water Richard Wynne released a regulatory impact statement (RIS) for consultation on proposed new operating rules for Goulburn to Murray inter-valley trade arrangements.

"We know that delivery risks in the Murray are real, that's why the rules we're proposing will make sure that water traded from the Goulburn can be delivered each year. We want to support our irrigators that rely on trade without affecting others or damaging the environment," Mr Wynne said.

"The arrangements we've had in place over the last two irrigation seasons worked to keep flows to more reasonable levels, we're now proposing a new rule that makes sure we can deliver trade under more sustainable lower flows."

In 2019, the government announced a review of the inter-valley trade rule for the Goulburn River, following two consecutive years of sustained high flows over summer and autumn that caused damage to the banks and ecology of the river.

The high flows are driven by low water availability from New South Wales and increasing trade volumes in recent years.

The initial review showed that the current rules are not protecting the environment of the lower Goulburn River and do not provide a level playing field for all water users to trade water.

Releasing the RIS is the next step for establishing new long-term operating, trade and tagging rules to support trade opportunities, protect existing entitlement holders across Northern Victoria and minimise damage to rivers.

Consultation will run online and face-to-face for six weeks, closing on Friday, April 30. Feedback from the community will be considered before a final decision prior to Thursday, July 1.

For more information go to [engage.vic.gov.au/goulburn-murray-trade-rule-review](https://engage.vic.gov.au/goulburn-murray-trade-rule-review)



## Illegal trail bike riding and four-wheel driving increasing in Victoria

VICTORIA'S parks, forests and reserves have become more popular than ever for trail bike riding and four-wheel-driving over the last 12 months, and while there is an extensive network of roads and tracks open to the public, illegal off-road activity is increasing.

The Conservation Regulator has issued more than 100 infringements for off-road vehicle use by trail bike riders and four-wheel-drivers since Friday, January 1.

Riding and driving off-road can cause soil erosion and damage native vegetation. The ecosystems in our forests are fragile and vehicles can destroy wildlife habitat.

Authorised officers are patrolling key locations across the state, targeting illegal trail bike and four-wheel driving activity, and on the spot fines of \$165 apply. The maximum fine for riding or driving on closed roads is \$3300, while damaging wildlife habitat can result in a fine of more than \$8000.

Most riders and drivers do the right thing by following normal road rules that apply on public land. The Conservation Regulator works closely with recreational groups and asks them to consider these key points.

All vehicles including trail bikes must be registered and trail bike riders must hold a current motor bike licence.

Stay on the formed roads and vehicle tracks. Do not ride on natural terrain, in streams, or on informal single tracks.

For your own safety, always ride with others and wear full personal protective equipment (PPE), including a helmet. Always carry a first aid kit, as well as a reliable means of communication. Unload and start your trail bike away from residents adjoining state forests. Keep your speed and noise down when in, or near, camping and picnic areas, or approaching other forest users.

For more information on the rules and regulations please visit [ffm.vic.gov.au/recreational-activities/trail-bike-riding](https://ffm.vic.gov.au/recreational-activities/trail-bike-riding)

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# COVID-19 settings change and hotel quarantine set to resume

ON Tuesday, March 23, it was announced that Victoria would further relax its COVIDSafe settings, allowing for more visitors in the home, reduced mask wearing and an increase in the number of people allowed in live music venues and other settings.

Acting Premier James Merlino and Minister for Health Martin Foley announced that following reduced exposure risk and low community transmission, new COVIDSafe settings would commence on Friday, March 26.

Masks are no longer be required in retail settings but Victorians will still need to carry one with them at all times and wear it on public transport, in rideshare vehicles and taxis and in sensitive settings such as aged care facilities and hospitals.

Victorians will be able to host up to 100 people in their home per day. Outdoor gatherings in public places such as the beach or the park can have up to 200 people.

Density limits in venues still operating under more restrictive settings, such as casinos, karaoke venues and nightclubs, have moved from one person per four square metres to one person per two square metres. This is in line with cafes, pubs and restaurants.

Additional people are also allowed in indoor non-seated entertainment venues with an increase from 50 per cent to 75 per cent capacity however, the limit of 1000 people per space remains. Dancefloors have the same density limit of the venue and the 50 patron cap has also been removed.

There are no longer limits on class sizes for outdoor and indoor physical recreation or fitness classes, and unstaffed gyms have moved from a density limit of one person per eight square metres to one person per four square metres.

In a boost for the economy, the 75 per cent cap on private and public offices workers has been removed, which coincides with a

revised flexible work policy for the Victorian Public Service (VPS).

While all workplaces are still required to ensure people can work from the office in a COVIDSafe way, with a density limit of one person per two square metres, they are no longer required to permit workers to work from home.

In further good news for AFL fans and following a successful first round, crowds are now able to increase to 75 per cent for round two.

On the day of the announcement, Victoria had had 25 days with no new cases and there were no active cases in Victoria.

For more information on the new coronavirus settings visit [coronavirus.com.au](https://coronavirus.com.au)

It was also announced on Thursday, March 25 that there will be a return of international travellers to Victoria from Thursday, April 8. The arrivals cap in Victoria will start at 800 people per week and scale up to 1200, subject to capacity and the completion of ventilation works.

Also on March 25, the government released its response to the final report from the Hotel Quarantine Board of Inquiry and said that they are taking action to implement in full or part each of the 81 recommendations.

Of these recommendations, which include the 69 recommendations from the Interim Report, the government has accepted and already acquitted 49 recommendations, accepted and already acquitted four in part, accepted and will implement eight in full and referred 20 to National Cabinet to ensure a nationally consistent approach.

Following the Board's Interim Report, major changes were made to Victoria's quarantine program, including strengthened leadership, oversight and training, embedded public health and enforcement expertise across the program and additional Infection Prevention and Control measures.



## ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT (APP) SCHEME

Do you hold a Disability Parking Permit? The Victorian Government has made changes to the way you will renew your permit and for any new permit applications.

When you apply for or renew your permit, you will now do so through the Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Scheme and online administration system. The new APP Scheme aligns with the national Australian Disability Permit Scheme (ADPS) and streamlines the application process, making it simpler and consistent across the state. Councils across Victoria administer this scheme for the Victorian Government.

If you need to apply for, renew or replace your disability parking permit, you will need to apply through the new application process. For more information about these changes, including how to apply, please visit Council's website and search 'disability parking permit', give us a call or drop in to one of our service centres.

## 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 about what you think is important for the future of your community.

To find out more, please visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/shapingourfuture](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/shapingourfuture) or give Council a call.



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## JOBS AT COUNCIL – CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR

Do you value connecting with customers and delivering a quality customer experience? Are you innovative and motivating? Are you system-savvy and love using data to support change? If you answered 'yes, yes, yes' - we'd like to talk to you.

Council is looking for a Customer Service Coordinator who can help us continue our 'Customer First' journey, so we ensure our customers are at the centre of all our interactions and processes.

For more information, including the position description, and to apply, please visit the 'jobs' section on our website.

## EASTER CLOSURES

Kerbside waste collection will operate as normal over the Easter long weekend. Resource Recovery Centres are open as normal, with the exception of Good Friday, 2 April, when they are all closed – visit Council's website and search 'RRC' for details of opening hours.

Council's Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake will be closed over the Easter break, from Friday 2 April – Monday 5 April. We will reopen at 9.00 am on Tuesday 6 April. Our Mobile Service will also be closed, and will resume its normal timetable on 6 April.

For matters such as stock on roads, dog attacks or unsafe road conditions, including fallen trees over roads, please call 5772 0333 at any time to be connected to a member of our Community Safety or Infrastructure team.

For more information about changes to Council services during this period, please visit our website and search 'Easter' or give us a call.



## HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Complete our online survey and tell us what you think is important for the future of Murrindindi Shire. Your feedback will help us develop a new Council Plan, which will guide our work over the next four years. Visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future) and complete our survey by Saturday 24 April.

If pen and paper is more your thing, drop in at one of Council's Library and Customer Service Centres, including our Mobile Service, to complete a paper survey.

**Get in touch with Council**  
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# What happens to your recycling

RESIDENTS of Murrindindi, Mitchell and Strathbogie Shires were invited to attend a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, March 24, to find out what happens to the items we put into our recycling bin. It explored not only some useful dos and don'ts, but also took the participants through the cycle at the processing plant, providing a fascinating insight.

The session was run by Douglas Blair from Rethink Education Centre, and supported by Grace Davis-Williams, Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer working with Murrindindi Shire Council.

After our recycling bins are collected, the trucks drive to a material recovery facility (MRF). The MRF for our area is located in Bellfield, near Ivanhoe. At this facility, the contents are sorted into five different types of recyclables. Paper is the largest, with the other types being glass, plastic, and steel and aluminium.

Paper includes cardboard, with milk cartons sorted with plastics. Glass recycling can only include glass bottles and jars as they have a specific melt temperature. Drinking glasses and panes of glass cannot be included. Plastic can only be rigid plastic, not plastic bags or other soft plastics, with some exceptions detailed later. Once they have been through the initial sorting process, they are taken to another facility where they are sorted into codes from one to seven. Metals are sorted into steel and aluminium, and even spray cans can be included, as long as they're completely empty.

The first step is that the truck backs into the receiving area and drops the load onto the floor. At this point, it becomes the property of the re-processor. The pile eventually gets about two storeys high. From there, it's loaded onto a conveyor belt and taken into the building.

Manual sorters remove garbage items by hand, and these items are transported to a waste compactor and are buried in landfill. Next comes the removal of large items, such as boxes and big olive oil bottles.

The remainder of the recyclables then start their journey in the automated process. Mechanical screening machines, known as trommels, are used.

The material is dropped into trommel one (T1) and things which have a degree of weight to them are sorted from the other items. This separates out a lot of the paper, such as newsprint and cardboard, although 50 per cent of the paper remains to be collected.

T2 is the second trommel, removing broken glass and therefore potential contamination. The remaining material then bounces up the steep conveyor belt where matter drops to the middle. As flat paper can't roll, it's separated out.

The third trommel removes garbage which might have been missed, followed by more manual sorting to remove sheet paper from sheet plastic. This needs to be manual as there's currently no way for a machine to tell the difference.

Sheet plastic shouldn't go into the recycling bin in the first place. Sheet plastic includes plastic bags. They can only be recycled via the Redcycle bins in some supermarket chains, who make it into things like landscaping screens. Unfortunately, it's an exclusive contract, so Redcycle bins are unlikely in the area any time soon. Likeminded people could consider taking each others' sheet plastic when they go to areas with Coles and Woolworths supermarkets.

Once sheet plastic had been removed from the sheet paper in the factory, the paper is then squeezed into a one tonne bale, ejected and stacked for transport. Around 380 tonnes of material go through the MRF every day, with around 190 tonnes being paper.

Paper is the lowest price product, and most won't be traded but instead used by a company for a secondary resource, such as a paper mill making feed stock for corrugated cardboard, or backing for plasterboard.

By the time the paper is baled, it's below four per cent contamination, with glass and soft plastic being the main issue. Cleaner paper is worth more, so the price is lower due to the contamination.

Steel is the next thing to be sorted, and this of course can be done through magnets, in this case an overhead belt magnet. It's then baled and put into a furnace to remove the organic materials.

The recycler is then left with aluminium, plastic, liquid paper cartons (such as milk cartons) and glass.

Glass is next as it's heavier. Everything is put into an air classifier, where air blows across the conveyor belt. Lightweight materials lift and are carried up into a cyclone. This is the last process through which all paper is removed.

In the T4, the holes are not round but rectangular, and are the right shape for aluminium cans as most are the same size. Everything with a different shape remains.

Some cans get bent out of shape, but as aluminium is valuable, another machine then used, known as an eddy current separator. In the process, magnets used south/south and north/north to make the cans into mini magnets through changes in the magnetic field. Small amounts of electricity are generated inside the cans and when it encounters a like field at the end of the conveyor, the cans can fly while everything else drops.

Plastics remain. They all need to be squeezed and compressed. There's no need to remove plastic lids from plastic bottles when putting them in your bin as the bottles



are all spiked so the air can escape. If this didn't happen, the lids would fly off during the compression creating a very dangerous environment. Everything is then baled together and taken to a super-MRF in Springvale where they use an optical sorter to separate the plastics into the different codes. It is at this point that the liquid paper cartons are removed.

All of the glass is now likely to be broken. It's put into another trommel to separate the small pieces of broken glass from the larger pieces. The different sized pieces are stored in a hopper as it can't be baled. They are taken to Laverton for crushing, where they need a mix of small and large pieces. The Laverton facility also uses technology to separate out the three glass colours – green, clear and amber. They can process a tonne of glass with only one gram of contamination. In Spotswood, it can be repurposed as glass packaging, road base or aggregates in concrete. There is also work being done to develop further markets.

Another Rethink Recycling session is set to be held on Thursday, June 3 from 7 to 8.15pm. To book, visit [rethinkrecycling21.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)



## Tuesday Talk Virtual Tour of the National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in Canberra hosts a fantastic collection of portraits of prominent Australians.

The Yea Library invites you to join us as we take a live and interactive video tour of this popular exhibition.

We'll be chatting with our very own guide throughout the tour and you'll be able to ask questions, see the collection and hear some of the stories behind the portraits. Pull up a comfortable chair and enjoy the tour!



Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown 2006 (printed 2020)  
by Peter Brew-Bevan  
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra  
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Tuesday 13 April | 3.00 pm | Yea Library  
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## Recycling quiz

1. Are McDonalds cups recyclable?
2. Are milk cartons recyclable?
3. Can batteries be put in your recycling bin?
4. Which item is the hardest to separate out in the recycling process?
5. Can shredded paper be recycled?
6. Can heat-activated receipts be recycled? These receipts are the ones which turn black when left in the sun).
7. Should you crush the aluminium cans which you put in the recycling bin?
8. Should you do anything special with aluminium foil or trays before they go into the recycling bin?
9. Can you recycle aluminium containers lined with paint or plastic?
10. Can you recycle steel bottle tops?
11. Can you recycle pet food sachets?
12. Can you put green waste into a recycling bin?

### Answers

1. No. The cups are made from liquid paper with a low amount of plastic in the cup. It's not worth the time to re-process at the moment.
2. Not at the moment as they're made from liquid paper, but this may change in the future so you can keep putting them in your recycling bin. Trials are underway and new markets are being sought. They are currently sorted and then used as thermal mass to offset fossil fuels.
3. No, as they can start fires in the truck or in the processing facility. They can be recycled though. They can be dropped off, free of charge, to council disposal depots.
4. Paper bags.
5. No. It ends up as paper dust and damages the machinery. It's best not to shred paper, but if you must, then use it in your compost bin. Consider using a black marker to cross out important details instead of shredding the paper.
6. No. It contaminates the paper being sorted and is not valuable.
7. No. The machines are designed for the standard aluminium can shape and size.
8. Yes. Roll them up into a ball. This means that it's in a shape which doesn't resemble paper. Consider rolling all of your easter egg foil together in a ball.
9. Yes. The furnace will deal with it.
10. Yes. Consider putting them in a steel can and closing them in. More steel is used for bottle caps than cars. They're important to recycle.
11. No. Metalicised plastics can't be recycled.
12. Absolutely not. It can lead to the whole collection in the truck being taken to landfill.



# Greatest Shave at Yea High School

CONGRATULATIONS to the Yea High School student leaders on raising awareness and much needed funds for The World's Greatest Shave. The event was held over two days, with a total of \$570 being raised.

Students and staff were provided with a selection of home-made cakes, slices, biscuits and muffins, along with lolly bags and everyone's favourite, sausages in bread.

Face painting and hair colouring were also on offer for a gold coin donation. The two days provided a wonderful and fun atmosphere around the school.

Thank you to the student leaders for their time and effort and to the Yea High School community for supporting and participating in this event.



## Feel Good, Look Good



## Ambulance worker safety improvements

AMBULANCE Victoria's (AV) 6000 paramedics and first responders will soon be using a tool to predict violent and unacceptable behaviour when responding to patients in need of care.

Developed in Norway, this is a world first for any ambulance service and makes it safer for frontline healthcare workers to do their job.

Ambulance Victoria paramedic Brook Sumner has been responsible for the rollout of the Behaviours of Concern (BOC) tool and said it's a game changer.

"Every year, 600 incidents of occupational violence are reported by our workforce and while physical assaults are rare, our staff

regularly report spitting, verbal abuse and close calls," Mr Sumner said.

"We know the emotional toll from the 'near misses' can be particularly damaging. That's why we've invested heavily in better equipping the workforce with the skills and knowledge to avoid occupational violence."

Last year, 400 paramedics went through an initial trial using the BOC tool, which has been successfully utilised in more than 1000 cases.

In coming weeks, all 4800 paramedics and 1300 first responders will undergo training in BOC, a simple to use six-item checklist which can assess the level of risk during a callout for medical assistance.

Paramedic Anita Stirling suffered physical and psychological injuries when she was grabbed by a substance-addicted patient who became aggressive last June. "I have no doubt the BOC tool would have benefitted me greatly had it been available at the time," she said.

"It may well have prevented the situation from occurring, but importantly, paramedics and First Responders now don't have to rely on a sixth sense or gut instinct."

AV attends about 33,000 cases with Victoria Police annually, many involving agitated patients affected by drugs, alcohol and or experiencing a mental health crisis.

"As difficult as it is, we can't, and won't turn our backs on patients with mental health issues or those who are affected by drugs and alcohol and this new tool will make it possible for crews to care for these patients more safely.

"We would like to make a BOC score a universal metric to help communicate risk when interacting with other emergency and healthcare services, including hospital emergency departments, police and correctional services," Mr Sumner said.

"For us, caring for the community is why we come to work each day. We appreciate

the community continuing to support us in our work and respecting our staff."

Ambulance Victoria Union's General Secretary Danny Hill said it is a shame that such measures are needed but members are regularly confronted by situations where they experience violence and aggression.

"The union fully supports any measure that reduces risk of occupational violence against paramedics and ambulance workers," Mr Hill said.

"This initiative is designed by paramedics to recognise the signs of potential aggression early and remove themselves from the scene if they identify a risk. They must put their own safety first."

The Alfred's Emergency and Trauma Centre have also adopted a similar BOC tool, called the Broset Violence Checklist, to further boost staff and patient safety.

Emergency and Trauma Centre deputy director Dr Eleanor Junckerstorff said occupational violence has risen over the past few years and the team is always looking at ways to prevent violence occurring.

"This tool complements the excellent supports and strategies we already have in place to manage patients who are in distress and may become aggressive," Dr Junckerstorff said.

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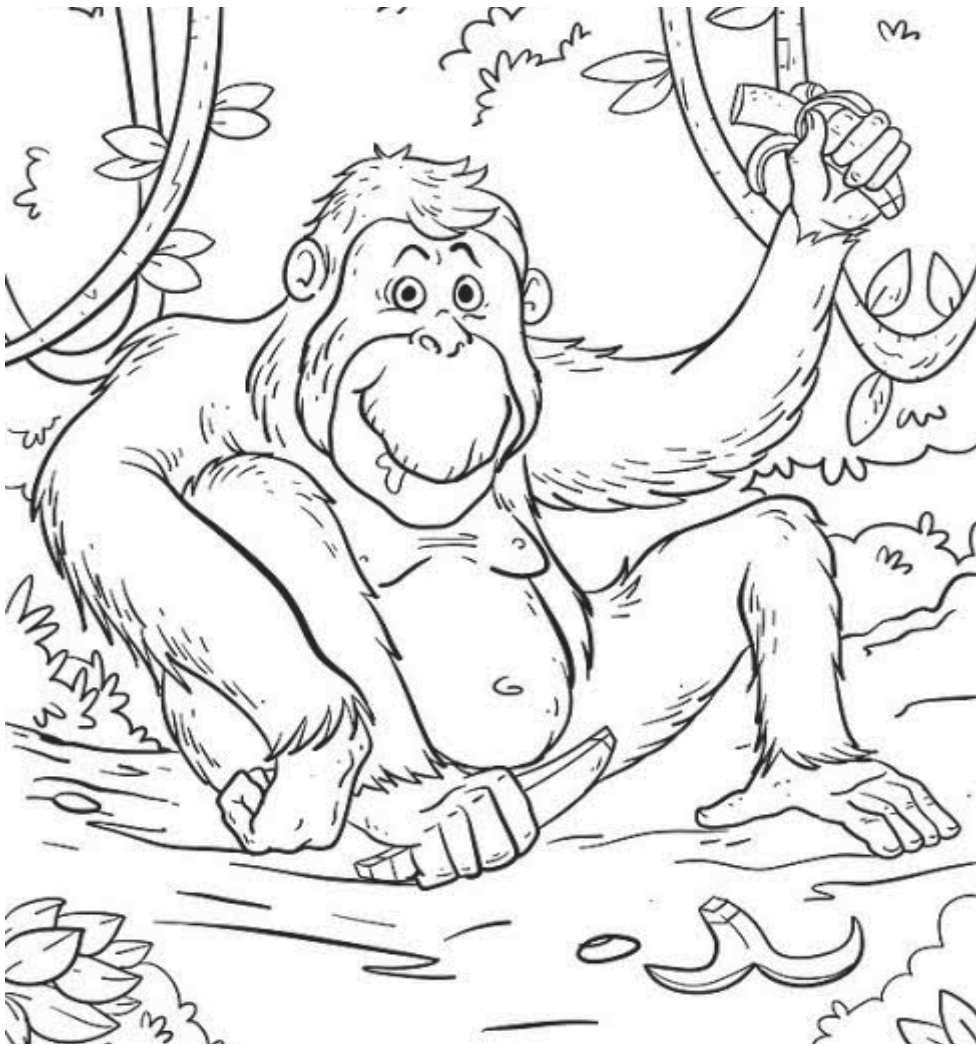
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# KIDS PUZZLES

## Colour



## Word Search: Tangled

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E S A C Q Z A G N W G Q N K M  
O O T G S Y M S M Y D H E H A  
W I Y T F P P O C T L C G S E  
W E I L E Z N U P A R F U W R  
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BANDIT  
DREAMS  
EUGENE  
FLOWER  
FLYNN  
GOTHEL  
KING  
LANTERNS  
MAXIMUS  
MOTHER  
PASCAL  
QUEEN  
RAPUNZEL  
TOWER  
WITCH

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

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 12

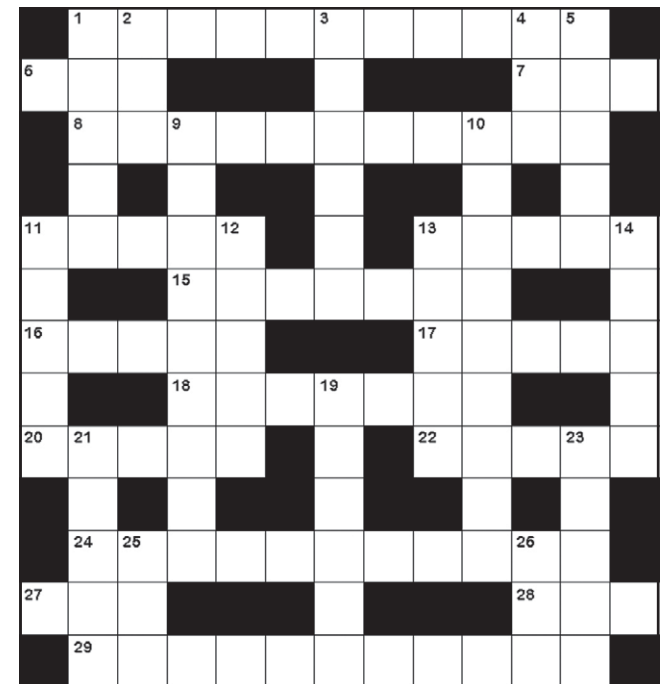
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- A doctor who studies the nature of disease.
- The waging of armed conflict against an enemy.
- An immeasurably long period of time.
- Effectively organised and simplified.
- Round close-fitting brimless cap of soft wool.
- Possum nests high in trees, made of sticks.
- Even more thoroughly unpleasant than usual.
- Relating to or associated with the moon.
- A story about mythical beings or events.
- A raised muffin cooked on a griddle.
- Totally devoid of everything.
- In accord with accepted standards.
- Knows and comprehends what is said.
- The smallest whole number.
- Over The Top...slang abbreviation.
- Preservation from loss or danger.

### DOWN

- No longer current or in fashion.
- The creation of beautiful or significant things.
- A passionate expression of mourning or sorrow.
- Find out or learn with certainty.



- Liquor with water, sugar and spices and served hot.
- Performed again for a second time.
- An account describing incidents or events.
- Show to be untrue or be in contradiction with.
- Linger and leave slowly or hesitantly.
- Submit to another's wish or opinion.
- Cleaned away the dirt with a broom or brush.
- A preparation used in hair styling.
- A natural elevation, like a small hill.
- An urgency of movement and action.
- Indicating the maiden name of a married woman.
- A licensed medical practitioner.

## Word Search: Air Pollution

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

ACID RAIN  
ASH  
ATMOSPHERE  
BREATHE  
CARBON DIOXIDE  
CARPOOL  
CLEAN AIR  
DISEASE  
DUST  
EXHAUST  
FILTERS  
LUNGS

## 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.

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



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**The Yea Chronicle**





# The Bushrangers Act and its consequences

Alexandra and Yea Standard, May 26, 1905

IN order that the reader may understand the powers given to those “dressed in a little brief authority,” or those who chose to assume it—whether convict, constable or free labourer desirous of showing his superiority over a “new chum” in any district then occupied—I subjoin a copy of the “Bushrangers Act,” which was passed by the Governor and the Legislative Council in 1830. It runs as follows:

1. Whereas crimes of robbery and housebreaking have increased to an alarming degree, and it is becoming necessary to restrain the same, as much as possible by temporary provisions, suited to the emergency of the occasion. Be it therefore enacted that it shall be lawful for any person whatsoever, having reasonable cause to suspect and believe any other person to be a transported felon, unlawfully at large, immediately himself or with the assistance of other person, and to take him, or cause ‘to be taken, before any Justice of the Peace for the colony for examination as hereinafter provided.

2. Every suspected person taken before a Justice of the Peace shall be obliged to prove, to the reasonable satisfaction of such justice that he is not a felon under sentence of transportation, and in default of such proof such justices may cause such person to be detained in safe custody until he can be proved whether he is a transported felon or free; and in every such case the proof of being free shall be upon the person alleging himself to be free. Provided always that every Justice of the Peace may at his discretion, cause every such suspected person to be securely removed to Sydney to be there examined, and dealt with in like manner as aforesaid.

3. And be it therefore enacted that every person whatsoever who shall be found on the roads or in other parts of the colony, with firearms or other instruments of a violent nature in his possession, under circumstances affording reasonable ground for suspecting that such person may be or intend to be a robber, every such suspected person shall be liable to be apprehended and taken before a Justice of the Peace in like manner and be dealt with in all respects as hereinbefore provided; and in every such case the proof that such firearms or other instruments of a violent nature were not intended for an illegal purpose shall be upon the person in whose possession the same shall be found.

4. And be it therefore enacted that it shall be lawful for any person on having reasonable cause for suspicion and believing that any other person may have any firearms or other instrument of a deadly nature concealed about his person to search or cause to be searched every such suspicious person; and in case of discovering any such

firearm or instruments of a deadly nature apprehend or cause to be apprehended any such person and take before any Justice of the Peace to be dealt with.

5. And be it further enacted that it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace having credible information that any robbers or housebreakers are harboured in the county or district to grant a general search warrant to any one or more constables to search any dwelling house or tenement or other place within or reputed to be within such county or district; and it shall be lawful for such constable in virtue of such general warrant to break, enter or search, by day or by night, any dwelling place, tenement, or other place, and to apprehend every person whom such constable shall have reasonable cause for suspecting and believing to be a robber or house breaker, and to seize and secure all firearms or other arms or instruments of a violent nature, and all goods and chattels which such constable shall have reasonable grounds for suspecting or believing to be

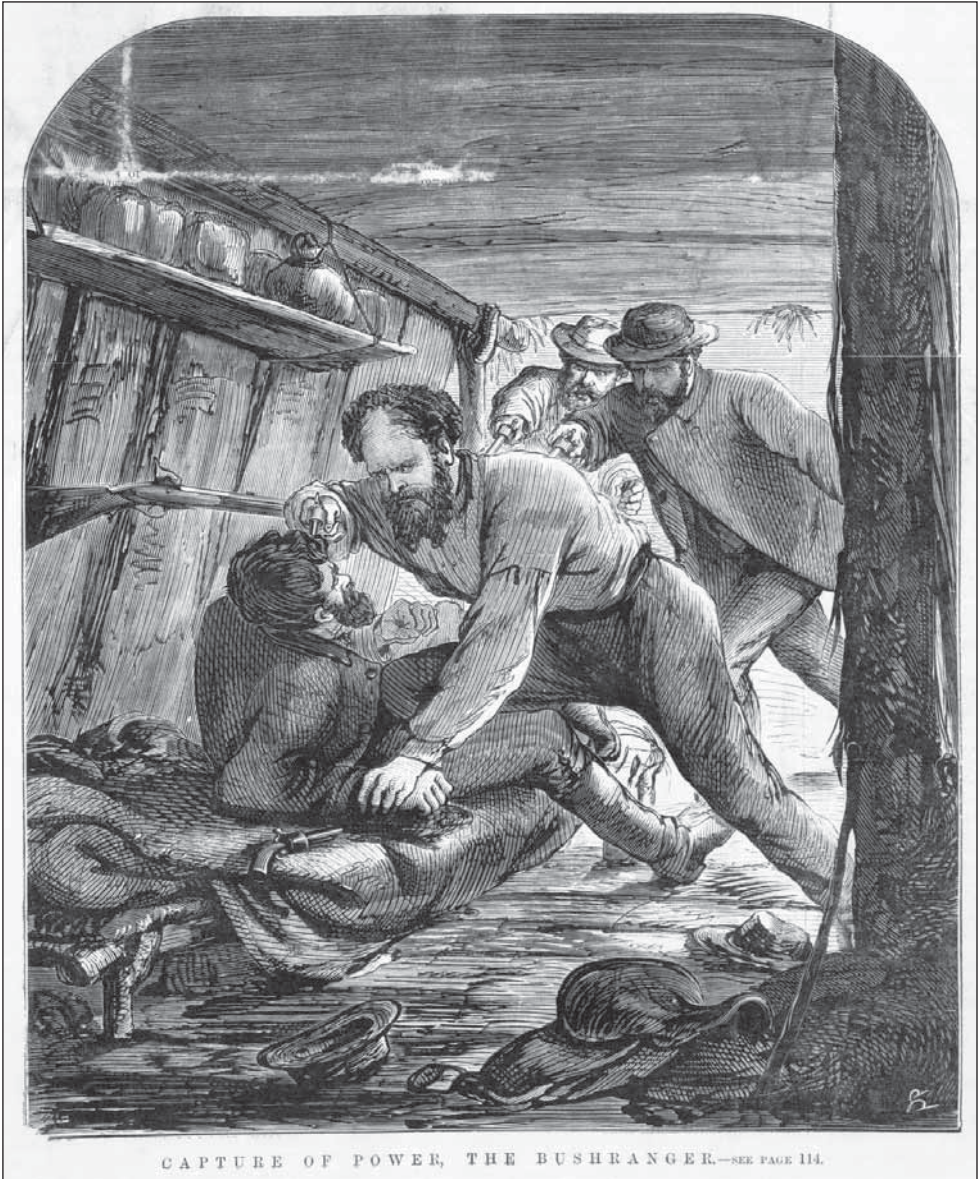
stolen, and also to apprehend all persons found in or about any such dwelling house, etc, and all whom such constable shall have reasonable ground for suspecting or believing to harbour or conceal any such robber or housebreaker; and all persons, arms, chattels and goods so found, seized and apprehended shall by such constable be taken before a Justice of the Peace for examination, and to be further dealt with according to law.

6. And whereas it is expected that robbers and housebreakers shall be tried and punished as speedily as may be consistent with the ends of justice, be it therefore enacted that all persons who shall be fully committed for the crime of robbing or of entering and plundering any dwelling house, with arms and violence, shall be brought to trial as speedily as possible, and being lawfully convicted and sentenced to suffer death, shall be executed according to law on the day next but two after sentence has been passed; unless the same shall happen to be

Sunday, and in that case, on the Monday following; such sentence shall be passed immediately after the conviction of such offender, unless the court or jury shall see reasonable cause for postponing the same.

3. And be it further enacted that every person who shall be found with firearms or other instruments of a violent nature in his possession, and shall not prove to the satisfaction of such Justice of the Peace that the same was not intended to be illegally used, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanour, and being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be liable at the discretion of the Court to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three years.

This Act was renewed from time to time, and frequent proclamations were issued offering gratuities to convicts who would assist in apprehending bushrangers. The authorities had good and sufficient reason to know that rogues would, without scruple, “sell” their fellows for the sake of personal gain.



## Entries now open for Victorian Community History Awards

THE Victorian Community History Awards are held annually to recognise the contributions made by Victorians in the preservation of the state’s fascinating history.

Presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the awards celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling their local stories and help Victorians to better understand their past.

Entries are now open for 2021 across the following categories: Victorian Premier’s History Award \$5000, Collaborative Community History Project \$2000, Local History Project \$2000, History Publication \$2000, Local History (Small Publication) \$1500, Digital Storytelling \$1500, Community Diversity \$1500, Historical Interpretation \$1500, Oral History (presented with Oral History Victoria) \$1500, History Article \$500.

Past award-winning and commended projects have included local history publications and exhibitions by history groups and museums, sports histories by local clubs and fans, honour boards and displays by RSLs and schools and individual documentary projects, publications, apps and websites by individuals seeking to share the stories of their towns, businesses, and local people.

The 2017 Victorian Premier’s History Award winner, John Burch spoke about the importance of the awards to preserve community history.

“Community History is a precious commodity. Across Victoria community organisations are rediscovering and preserving our history, often without any outside assistance,” Mr Burch said.

“The Victorian Community History Awards offer these organisations two things, recognition of the importance of what they do and inspiring models of what can be done.”

All entries must be received by 5pm Wednesday, July 7. Visit [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au) for details.

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

### KIDS - SUDOKU

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

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## Classified information

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#### Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared numerous times and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TERMINATION

#### Fire Restrictions

A reminder that CFA and Forest Fire Management Vic fire restrictions (Fire Danger Period and Prohibited Period, respectively) are scheduled to cease.

The Fire Restriction Period will terminate at 0100 hours on the dates shown.

Municipality	Date of Termination
Mitchell Shire Council	29/03/2021
Murrindindi Shire Council	29/03/2021

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Restriction Period. Information about fire restrictions within the Country Area of Victoria can be obtained from [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au), your local CFA District Office or Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

Information about fire restrictions within the Fire Protected Area can be obtained from [www.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au), or your local Forest Fire Management Victoria Fire District Officer.

**Jason Heffernan**  
Chief Officer – CFA

**Chris Hardman**  
Chief Fire Officer – Forest Fire Management Vic



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The successful applicant is required to possess a current and valid 'working with children' check and is subject to a satisfactory criminal history record check.

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## SITUATION VACANT



### CLEANER

part-time casual position

New position exists due to increasing cabin numbers for a cleaner to join our new friendly team at Breakaway Twin Rivers Caravan Park, Acheron.

Please email: [admin@thebreakaway.com.au](mailto:admin@thebreakaway.com.au)



### St Mary's College Seymour College Nurse

St Mary's College is a Foundation  
Year 10 Catholic College

Applications for a College Nurse position, commencing Term 2 2021, are invited from enthusiastic and committed nurses to join our wonderful college community. The position is full time equivalent, fixed term for 2021 with the possibility of becoming ongoing.

The successful applicant will be a Registered Nurse (Division 1) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (ANMF), provide high quality nursing care, manage a fluctuating workload, possess excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to work autonomously and collaboratively, and have a demonstrated commitment to Catholic education and to the safety and wellbeing of children. Knowledge of school nursing and child and adolescent health development is desirable.

Please contact the Business Manager, Mrs Felicity Melville via email at [felicity.melville@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:felicity.melville@smseymour.catholic.edu.au) for a detailed role description and an application form.

Please forward a resume, covering letter addressing the selection criteria and a completed application form to the Principal, Mr Wayne Smith at [employment@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:employment@smseymour.catholic.edu.au) by 4pm, Wednesday April 7 2021.

**This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.**



### Plan Manager (NDIS)

Menzies Support Services is committed to providing individualised, person-centred support to people and their families. Individuals are supported to develop to their maximum potential in all areas of their lives, and be valued and included in the community.

#### The role:

We are seeking a new Plan Manager and support for our Finance team.

The role of Plan Manager is to ensure NDIS participant plans are implemented as intended within budget, using a responsive and supportive approach. This is achieved by working creatively and resourcefully with participants in how they utilise their support budgets to achieve their goals. This entails a high level of customer service, communication, time management, ability to prioritise and ability to manage budgets and deadlines.

#### To be successful in this role you will have:

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- Demonstrated ability to learn quickly with excellent attention to detail and a passion for helping others.
- Experience in a Plan Management business or an accounting environment highly advantageous.
- Accounting or bookkeeping qualifications with a minimum of 3 years bookkeeping experience.
- Proficient with technology and experience with MYOB, Client Management Systems and Microsoft 365 applications.
- Commitment to NDIS and procedural compliance
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

Prior to commencing you will need to have an NDIS Worker Screening Check and National Police Check.

**To apply:** Please provide a brief covering letter outlining why you feel you are the best candidate for this role, along with your resume to [careers@menziessupport.org.au](mailto:careers@menziessupport.org.au).

## BIRTHS

### QUICK-DICIERO

Emma and Sandy welcome Philippa (Pip) Joyce into the world on March 23, 2021. Third granddaughter for Di and Ron.

## DEATH NOTICES

### BOOTE, Mary (Marge)

Louise

16/06/1927- 25/03/2021

Passed away peacefully at Kellock Lodge aged 93. Devoted Nan to Amanda and Matt Dean, adored Gran to Chloe, Ella and Hannah. Finally able to rest alongside her dearly missed son Philip (dec). Nan, rest now and always remember just how much you were loved. Enjoy catching up with Dad, I know how much you've missed him. Fly with the owls, Love forever Amanda, Matt, Chloe, Ella and Hannah. NO FUNERAL as per Nan's wishes. Private cremation.

### BOOTE, (Dwyer)

25/03/2021

Our dear sweet aunty Marg, the owls took you on their wings to a peaceful pain free place, will miss your loving smile and laughter. Lizzy, Alan, Andy, Dean and their families.



## DEATH NOTICES

### KYLSTRA, Wytze

(Vince)

After a brief illness Wytze Kylstra passed away on Sunday, March 28 at home surrounded by his family. In the last two weeks of his life, he was buoyed by your messages of love. Thank you for supporting us while we treasured these last moments of care with him. Details of the celebrations of his life at a later date.



### MEADE, Tom

The committee and members of the Yea Football Netball Club would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends on the passing of Tom Meade. Tom was Yea Senior Coach in 1971 and 1972.

### STEWART, David

09/08/1946-22/03/2021

Loved husband of Heike, loving father of Steven, Jeffrey and Trevor. Loving father-in-law of Ann and Megan. Loved poppy of Connor, Asher and Caleb. Passed away peacefully at home.

### STEWART, David

09/08/1946-22/03/2021

Dearly loved father of Steve, father-in-law Ann. Died peacefully at home. RIP. Steve and Ann.

## SITUATION VACANT

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Endeavour Petroleum is a successful family business committed to our staff and the communities we work with.

We are seeking confident and experienced staff to join our existing team at our Endeavour. Alexandra and BP Yea Service Station sites. We offer a secure future with a company that has been operating for over 30 years.

#### Job Responsibilities

- Delivering high level and professional customer service at all times
- Assisting with stock management, store merchandising, cleaning, and maintaining the store to the Endeavour Standard
- Compliance with health and safety standards is essential

#### Ideal Experience

- Previous customer service experience, preferably in retail
- Sound communication skills
- Availability to work weekends, early and late shifts.

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WITH THANKS

**STEWART, David**  
Thank you to Dr Vohra and Fiona, District Nurses Simone and Robyn, Palliative Care ladies and most of all my three awesome boys and daughter-in-law Ann. I couldn't of managed without you all. Heike Stewart.

**WILLIAMSON, Ross.**  
The family of Ross Williamson would like to thank Russell, Mitch Sunbloom and Ambulance staff for their help on the morning of March 15. Thank you to Steve Bennett, Neil Beer, CFA members, friends and the community for all their support and thoughts. Jane, Bec, Wayne and Family.

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MEETINGS



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Rodney Ridd - secretary  
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Supporting families with special needs children

By Tricia Mifsud

ACCORDING to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 7.4 per cent of Australian children in 2015 had some level of disability and four per cent had a severe or profound level of disability.

With these percentages equating to approximately 519,000 Australian children, the question can be asked what support is there available for families with children who have special needs.

More importantly, why is there little community discussion about it?

CEO of Inspired Carers Liz Callaghan said that there needs to be more conversation within the community regarding how parents and guardians can be supported as they raise their children with special needs.

“These things [how to support special needs children] are the things that people don’t even think of speaking about when given the opportunity to voice their opinions on important matters,” she said.

“The only way that change will happen is if awareness grows.”

The changes that Liz refers to isn’t just about the number of support groups available, or having someone to talk to.

Specialist local government watchdog appointed

LOCAL government wrongdoers have been put on notice, with the appointment of Michael Stefanovic AM as Victoria’s new Chief Municipal Inspector.

Mr Stefanovic will protect the integrity of local governments by monitoring and investigating complaints about council operations, elections and prosecuting anyone in breach of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Playing an important role within the Local Government Inspectorate, Mr Stefanovic will make sure Victorian councils play by the rules, while encouraging transparency and accountability across the sector.

Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes said that Mr Stefanovic’s 35 years of previous experience will bring a wealth of knowledge into the position and will ensure the councils are adhering to the rules.

“Michael Stefanovic has investigated corruption and misconduct in some of the world’s toughest conditions, we have every confidence he will uphold our councils to the high standard we all expect,” Ms Symes said.

“Mr Stefanovic brings tremendous experience and most importantly, a pursuit of fairness and accountability. I would like to congratulate him and look forward to seeing the positive impact he’s bound to make.”

An expert in his field, having led teams specialising in fraud, corruption and misconduct investigations with the World Bank in Washington DC, he also served as the Director of the Investigations Division at the United Nations in New York.

Since November 2020, he has been the Director for Compliance Operations with COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria. Prior to this, Mr Stefanovic was the Director of Investigations for the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.

His experience extends to post-conflict environments, having served as a United Nations (UN) war crimes investigator in The Hague, Chief Resident Investigator in UN peacekeeping missions and a member of specialist teams engaged by the US State Department to investigate crimes against humanity in Myanmar (2018) and Darfur (2004).

In 2018, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, following significant services to international relations.

Supporting families with special needs children refers to also accessibility of resources, whether that be a playground that is all user-friendly, all the way to the medical services available close to the family.

“Families have to move a long way to enable their child access to services which suggests there aren’t services available where they live. That’s a big deal, to pack up your family and move for one child,” Liz said.

Contributing to the lack of resources is the need for more funding. However, without discussion in the community about needed more accessibility, funding simply will not be allocated.

For Murrindindi shire residents, Liz says that opportunities like the council’s Shaping our Future initiative is the perfect place to voice concerns about issues such as this.

“Consultations are happening at the moment in council around the Shaping our Future. These are the things that should be spoken about but are often forgotten about. It therefore does not then become addressed in future plans.”

Further lacking in the discussion of families with special needs children is that research and data collection often neglects studies comparing opportunities for able

children and children who require more care.

This makes it extremely difficult for organisations like Inspired Carers to target areas where they can provide extra assistance for the families they support.

In the meantime, the best thing families who need support can do is to reach out. The more they do, the more apparent it becomes that more help needs to be provided to these families.

Liz acknowledged that it can be tough for someone to ask for help but assures that families will reap the benefits when they take the first step.

“To ask for help is difficult, it makes you look vulnerable,” Liz said.

“I am always more than happy to reach out to families, but they need to be willing to take that first step and admit that they need some help.

“The help received is tailored to your needs, and how comfortable you are. Sometimes, I may never meet a parent or guardian face-to-face because they prefer phone conversations and that’s completely okay.”

If your family or a family you know would like to find out more about Inspired Carers, visit their Facebook page.

**Record broken for auctions cleared**

RECORDS were shattered last month with February recording the highest ever auction clearance rate for the month of February in Victoria.

Real Estate Institute of Victoria data shows that February 2021 recorded an 84.8 per cent clearance rate from more than 3000 auctions. It’s the highest rate in 11 years, beating out an old 2010 record with an 84.0 per cent clearance rate.

While lockdowns, international border closures, and tightened purse strings have affected many markets it has not spelled disaster for the Victorian property market as many doomsayers said it would.

Some 17 suburbs were a hot commodity last month, having cleared 100 per cent of listings.

This year’s performance has been boosted by support measures such as incentives for First Home Buyers, mortgage repayment holidays, and low interest rates. High demand across the state has also been fuelled by an increase in activity following Victoria’s devastating lockdowns which saw thousands of auctions cancelled.

While the times are ripe for Victoria’s property market, there will be pain ahead for mum-and-dad investors. Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act coming into effect at the end of this month will disrupt the market with more red-tape and increased ownership costs.

Mother’s Day brunch for bowel cancer prevention

THE Jodi Lee Foundation have launched a new initiative for Mother’s Day, a way to celebrate the mum at the table and the mum in our hearts.

The Jodi Lee Foundation encourages Australians to participate in this fundraiser by either hosting a Mother’s Day brunch in the month of May at home or celebrating at your local eatery with your family and friends and collecting donations to support women who are diagnosed with bowel cancer.

It’s a special way to honour mothers who have been impacted by bowel cancer and particularly those who have lost their lives to the disease, which is the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia.

Funds raised will assist the Jodi Lee Foundation continue to spread awareness about bowel cancer prevention and to deliver other services to the community, such as their Workplace Program and online symptom checker.

Hosts who raise over \$300 for the foundation with their Jodi Lee Foundation Mother’s Day Brunch will go in the draw to win a beautiful diamond pendant from Mazzucchelli’s valued at \$1129. The pendant is part of the ‘Every Child is a Diamond’ collection where the movement of the diamond in the middle of the pendant is designed to represent the heartbeat of each child.

More than 15,000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year. The Jodi Lee Foundation educates the community about the importance of screening from age 50, acting quickly on symptoms and living a healthy lifestyle for the prevention and early detection of bowel cancer, because if detected early, over 99 per cent of bowel cancers can be successfully treated.

For Jodi Lee Foundation Community Engagement Manager, Samantha Herbut, this cause is extremely close to her heart.

“Since my mum’s passing, I always find this time difficult, especially given it is also a few days before her birthday. By being a part of this initiative and raising awareness, it helps to heal old wounds and take time to honour my mum. It makes me feel like I am doing something I know she would be proud of,” she said.

The foundation is hoping that the Jodi Lee Foundation Mother’s Day Brunch also raises awareness around ways people can prevent bowel cancer; being healthy and active, taking a screening test, acting on symptoms and also exploring your family history.

If there is a history of bowel cancer in your family, you may be at increased risk. Regardless of your age, consult your GP to understand your risk and discuss bowel screening methods best suited to your situation.



# Avoid holiday heartbreak this Easter long weekend

THE Victorian Government is encouraging Victorians to holiday locally and do their research when booking travel and accommodation over the Easter break.

The warning comes after Consumer Affairs Victoria received more than 4500 queries and complaints related to travel services and holiday accommodation during 2019/2020.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne said that it's important for all Victorians to research their holidays thoroughly before handing over any personal details, including credit card details.

"It's understandable that Victorians are eager to book trips away with family and friends in the lead up to Easter, but it's important to do your research before handing over your credit card details," Ms Horne said.

"Consumer Affairs Victoria has done an amazing job helping Victorians with advice

on travel and accommodation throughout the pandemic, but it's up to everyone to take the time to understand exactly what they're paying for when booking trips away."

"The advice is simple, read the reviews, check websites to see what other travellers have to say, and always check the company's cancellation policy."

A consumer named Emma purchased what she thought was a 'two-for-one' deal on a cruise in late 2019, only to find she had actually paid for a voucher that could only be put towards a cruise if she paid additional costs.

Emma had to go through a solicitor to get her funds back and is hoping her situation can be used to warn others of the importance of reading the fine print and terms and conditions.

Avoid being disappointed when booking travel and accommodation by researching the accommodation or travel provider by

reading reviews and comments on travel websites and blogs.

Book with a business whose website displays clear information regarding booking cancellations, so you know the process if something does go wrong.

If possible, pay by credit card, or debit card using the 'credit' function. If consumers do not get what they paid for, they may be able to seek a chargeback from their bank.

Take out travel insurance to offer extra protection should you need to change or alter your booking due to an unforeseen circumstance, such as injury or illness.

Travel businesses should take care to make sure their promotional material is accurate, their terms and conditions are clear, and inform consumers of any increase in costs or changes as soon as possible.

Further information on how to protect yourself when booking travel and accommodation can be found at [consumer.vic.gov.au/products-and-services/problem-with-a-service/booking-travel](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/products-and-services/problem-with-a-service/booking-travel)

## Boost for emergency services but local groups miss out

THE Victorian Government has invested \$2,166,363 in emergency services in Northern Victoria to provide essential operational equipment, vehicles, appliances and minor facility improvements for local volunteers.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced 31 local Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victorian State Emergency Services (VICSES) would receive additional funding to help protect their local community.

"These important projects will give our hardworking CFA and VICSES volunteers in Northern Victoria the equipment and amenities needed to effectively carry out their duties," Ms Symes said.

Locally, \$2263 is going to Acheron CFA for operational expenses, \$193,333 for vehicles and appliances to Alexandra Fire Brigade, and \$48,000 to Buxton CFA for minor facility improvements.

\$120,000 is also going to the District 12 Headquarters for vehicles and amenities.

Unfortunately, the other CFA stations and SES groups in our area missed out this time around.

The investment is part of the government's 2020/21 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) which is providing more than \$14 million to 240 grant recipients across Victoria.

The annual grants program gives volunteer emergency service groups the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 to purchase equipment including vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers, and for minor improvements including refurbishments and amenities, such as kitchens and change rooms.

The government matches every \$1 paid by volunteer groups with a \$2 co-contribution

For more information about the VESEP, visit the Emergency Management Victoria website [emv.vic.gov.au](https://emv.vic.gov.au)

## River frontage licence holders, you must have your say

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish is urging river frontage licence holders to comment on the recently proposed regulations to camp on licensed water frontages. This comes after landowners were put to the bottom of the list during the Victorian Government consultation process.

Consultation via the Engage Victoria website is open now and it is imperative people comment on the proposed regulations.

Ms McLeish says it is disappointing that the Victorian Government has not taken the opinion of river frontage licence holders into higher consideration. It was a missed opportunity to learn from landowner's knowledge and experience before drafting the proposed regulations.

Ms McLeish said, "10,000 farming families did not have a say when the change was made to allow campers on licenced river frontages. Now, it almost seems too late for the state government to learn from their expertise as the regulations are already drafted."

"I have had river frontage licence holders, Landcare groups and farmers contact me, expressing their distress about the increased risk campers can cause to biosecurity and biological controls. There is also concern about fires left burning, pollution to water supply with human waste and environmental damage."



The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have shared similar concerns about the proposed regulations and fear that landowners have been forgotten by the state government.

Some of the proposed regulations have raised concern. These include campers being allowed to set up 100 metres away from a family home for 28 days. There are questions around the budget for camping location signage, enforcement staff and maintenance of designated portable toilets.

"I hope the state government listens to landowners, licence holders and Landcare groups very serious concerns now. But I'm not holding my breath," Ms McLeish said.

Land regulation consultation closes on April 19, with the official changes coming into effect from September 1.

## Grants to support volunteers in Indi

HELEN Haines has announced that \$132,000 is available to support volunteer groups in Indi as part of the 2021 Volunteer Grants program.

The Independent Member for Indi is calling for eligible, not-for-profit community organisations in Indi to submit their expressions of interest before Monday, April 19.

Volunteer Grants of \$1000 to \$5000 will help volunteers and volunteer groups to buy small equipment for volunteers, by reimbursing volunteer fuel, transport or training costs, or support promotional activities.

Last year, the volunteer grants funded 18 projects in Indi worth \$63,000 including sporting clubs,

CFAs, Landcare groups and health organisations.

Dr Haines said that volunteers were the backbone of the community through a hard 18 months.

"During the bushfires, whenever I visited a recovery centre in Corryong or Walwa or Wangaratta, I was always greeted by volunteers. None of those recovery efforts would have happened without thousands of volunteer hours committed," she said.

"Through the pandemic, volunteers came out of the woodwork whenever people needed a feed, or social interaction, or a hand in getting groceries or medicines. It's great to be able to give something back to those volunteer organisations".

In order to receive funding, organisations must have been nominated by their Federal Member of Parliament and meet the eligibility criteria.

Each Member is able to nominate organisations to apply for funding in their electorate. The Department of Social Services will then send an application form to nominated organisations to apply for funding in May 2021.

Successful applicants will be announced in November 2021.

To lodge an expression of interest, visit [helenhaines.org/resources/grants](https://helenhaines.org/resources/grants) and submit a completed form by Monday, April 19 by sending it to [helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)

## Reforms to making renting fairer

RENTERS across Victoria are embracing more than 130 reforms now in place thanks to the Victorian Government's reforms to make renting fairer and safer for all Victorians.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne joined renter Heidi at her home in Brunswick to talk about the positive impact the rental reforms have already had for so many Victorians.

"These reforms are about giving renters the right to safe, secure and affordable accommodation, while ensuring rental providers can continue to manage their properties effectively," she said.

"We're delivering on our promise to make renting fair for all Victorians, whether you're a renter or a rental provider, the new

laws will make a positive difference to how we view renting in Victoria."

Since March 2020, renters have been able to keep pets after asking their rental provider. For renters like Heidi, this small change has contributed to making their house feel more like a home.

Heidi's rescue cat Bentley and bearded dragon Larry proved to be fantastic companions during the coronavirus lockdown.

Victorians will now also benefit from even more rent rule changes, such as: the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal will only be able to issue possession orders requiring a renter to vacate if it is reasonable and proportionate to do so; a continuation of one of the important coronavirus emergency measures rental

providers will need to give a valid reason to end rental agreements. They will not be able to give 'no specified reason' notices to vacate, and a new process for repeated late or non-payments of rent, which will ensure renters in financial distress can only be required to leave when they have paid late when it is fair to require them to do so while giving rental providers more certainty.

Rental providers will also see the benefit of these new laws with stronger accountability for renters, clearer obligations and modern regulation and processes.

The rent reforms affect private rentals, caravan parks, rooming houses and residential parks. More information on the rental reforms can be found at [consumer.vic.gov.au/rentrules](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/rentrules)



# The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Scott Seacombe is competing in the Victorian Titles for Street Stocks. -Dean Miller Photography

## Two big nights of speedway this Easter

Alexandra speedway report  
by Dean Thompson

ALEXANDRA Speedway plays host to one of the biggest and most popular Victorian Speedway titles this Easter long weekend when 40 of Victoria's, South Australia's, and New South Wales best Street Stock drivers arrive in town on Friday and Saturday evening to put on a show not to be missed.

Racing begins on Good Friday from 4pm with three rounds of racing for the Street Stocks supported by Speedway Sedan's Australia Junior Sedan racing, Sports Sedan and Victorian Speedway Council Junior Sedan racing.

Drivers then come back again on the Saturday night to compete in some more qualifying before cars are scheduled into main events.

In the Street Stock line-up nine Alexandra club members will be vying for champion honours with Matt Nelson from Woori Yallock, the current Queensland Champion, the number one driver in that

list. Dale Morrison, normally the Alexandra Speedway Club chief steward, recently finished sixth in the South Australian title and is primed for a good run on a track he is a member of, plus add in Adrian Lawrence, Tyler Barton, Dylan Campton, Greg Parks, Kevin Brogmus, Ricky Cornwall and Adam Barkby and the members are ready to defend home turf.

The toughest competitor to defeat in the line-up is Anthony Beare from Mount Gambier. Beare is a four times national champion and a multiple times state champion around Australia, including having won six Victorian titles, the last at Mildura.

Stiff competition will not be limited to the before mentioned, Nelson, who won back-to-back Queensland titles, Morris Ahearn, Steven Watts, Mick Dann, Jacob Mills, Jason Duell, Adrian Lawrence, Dale Morrison, Jason Degoldi, Stuey Robinson, and Shane Roycroft are just some names.

Fans should come prepared for two days of action with overnight stay on the



Matt Nelson from Woori Yallock is the Queensland Champion. -S

property allowed and should adhere to Covid restrictions.

On Friday, the very fastest Sports Sedans compete along with the Speedway Sedan's Australia Junior Sedans and Victorian Speedway Council Junior Sedans. On Saturday, the Sports Sedans and Speedway Sedan's Australia Juniors return, and Standard Saloons join the action.

Spectators, please note anybody coming on Friday night will have to buy a two-day pass. If that spectator for one reason or another then comes to the gate staff at the end of Friday night needing to leave and not return, the second day's costs will be refunded.

On Friday gates open from 8am, entry fees are \$40 for a two-day adult ticket, \$20 for a two-day aged or disabled pensioners ticket and a ticket for a child aged 10 to 16 years. Children under the age of 10 can attend for free. A family ticket for two adults and three children between the ages of 10 and 16 is \$100.

For Saturday night only, racing starts from 4pm, gates are open from 8am at a cost of \$50 for a family of two adults and three children between the ages of 10 to 16, \$20 per adult and \$10 for children aged 10 to 16 and aged and invalid pensioners. Children under 10 years of age enter for free.

Anybody who requires information can contact 0438 700 124.

## Quiet at home but good time had by golfers

Yea golf report by Karen Sangster

IT was very quiet on the home front at the Yea Golf Club last week with many away playing at Lakes Entrance and surrounds and no doubt having a jolly good time, golfing, and socialising. Those left behind played the very humbling game of par. Seven ladies braved the 18 holes, one player nine holes and another adding to her cards for the new handicap. One of the newer

members, Judi Newman (54), outdid herself to come in with a +5. Go Judi, down comes the handicap to 52, congratulations. Judi also managed a gobbler in her efforts. Penny Britton (43) was runner-up with a -1, also coming down in her handicap, now 42. And another new member Chris Kellett also scored a gobbler. Well done girls top effort. There were 12 men playing stableford on Wednesday with Lachie Wischer continuing his good form with 37 points from second Ray Partridge

35 and Bill Dredge third on 34. Lachie was nearest the pin on the 18th.

The last round of the Murrindindi Masters was played at Eildon on Saturday. Cindy Armstrong won the B Grade Ladies. Judi Newman was drawn out to win \$100 for playing two of the three rounds of the Masters. Bec Lee from Marysville and James Kidd from Alexandra won the respective Major Master Trophies.

Yea men's pennant team played Eildon on Sunday at Alexandra. Yea won 3½ to 1½, Lachie Wischer, Greg Clements and Chris Smith had wins with Kevin Coghlan squaring his match.

Bob Glenister won the player of the week at Lakes Entrance. He won on Monday at Lakes Entrance with 36 points, third on Wednesday at Kings Cove Metung and had 31 points at Orbost on Thursday. Many thanks to John Tanner for the great trophy won by Bob.



Bob Glenister with his trophy. -S