

# The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, May 20, 2026 \$2.50 inc. GST

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## Truckloads of plants donated to fire-affected communities

TIM Drewitt and the team from Red Earth Bulbs in Silvan have done it again. After successfully running bulb potting workshops and handing out blooming sunflowers at the Yarck Colour Run in February and facilitating a display at the Melbourne Flower Show 2026 themed around the Longwood bushfires to raise awareness, they brought two truckloads of plants and flowers to Yarck last Friday to give to the fire-affected local communities.

The event was held at the Yarck CFA Station and in partnership with Bunnings Australia, with Channel Nine reporting on the day.

Tim and his team arrived in Yarck around 6am and found people waiting for them. The Yarck main street from the Yarck Hall to the CFA station was buzzing with eager people for hours.

Tim said that there were over 17,000 plants and bulbs that they were donating free to the fire-affected communities, with a value of around \$200,000. It took 12 Red Earth Bulbs staff three days to prepare all the plants.

Bunnings chipped in with transport for the plants, to get them from Silvan to Yarck, and cooked bacon and egg rolls at the event.

Attendees were invited to peruse the broad array of different flowers, plants, shrubs, etcetera, and take whatever they needed for their gardens post-bushfire.

Tim and the team also presented the Yarck CFA with a smaller version of the banner they displayed at the Melbourne Flower Show, created with Yarck's truck name on the top, for the brigade to keep.

It's understood that plants were also taken to some of the other community halls, including Terip Terip and Fawcett, where they were very well received.



Tim Drewitt from Red Earth Bulbs. He organised the Longwood fire flower display at the Melbourne Flower Show and the delivery of the morning's plants to Yarck, and has been supporting our communities since just after the bushfires. -BD

## Stockists of the Yea Chronicle

WITH the closure of the Yea Newsagency, readers may be wondering where they can now purchase their weekly copy of the Yea Chronicle. Just pop into FoodWorks in Yea or visit the Yea Endeavour Petrol Station and you'll be able to find it.

For the more digitally savvy, you can also subscribe online at [alexandranewspapers.com.au](http://alexandranewspapers.com.au) and have it delivered straight to your inbox.

## A Stawell Gift to Highlands local post-bushfires

OVER 50 years ago, Highlands local Bernard (Bernie) Moss claimed victory in the 1973 Stawell Gift running race, for which he received a sash and medal and recognition. Following the loss of his home and subsequently his commemorative memorabilia in the Longwood fire, the Stawell Gift Committee made a special trip to Yea to present him with a new sash and medal.

Held in the Maranatha Hall at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, the event was attended by members of Bernard's family and friends from the Highlands community, the Stawell Gift Committee, and Murrindindi Shire Council staff and councillors.

Bernard's friend Larry Taylor, also from Highlands, contacted the Stawell Gift Committee about a replacement sash and medal and spoke at the event.

"I was fortunate enough to be with Bernard when he received a phone call from Wendy [at the Stawell Gift Committee]," Larry said.

"Losing his memorabilia was certainly tough. He didn't seem to want to worry about it too much. He said it was all part of history.

"But he's part of an elite amount of people, to go and get where he got, and win a Stawell Gift. I thought, this man deserves all the accolades he can get."

Attendees were treated with a presentation of the 1973 Stawell Gift that Bernie Moss claimed victory in, which is available for viewing on YouTube. Visit [youtube.com/watch?v=IA4Lpf9sGiQ](http://youtube.com/watch?v=IA4Lpf9sGiQ)

The 1973 carnival was the first run under the new metric system, with Bernie's event changing from 130 yards to 120 metres. The new VAL qualifying system was also introduced whereby runners were required to have recorded a win beforehand, otherwise they were automatically handicapped on the novice mark of six metres.



Bernard Moss with his family to celebrate the occasion. Pictured are Nya, Andrew, brother John, Jay, Bernard, sister Kath, and son Matthew. -AR

Continued Page 5

# Update on investigation into Longwood fire cause

POLICE media were asked whether there has been any police progress on determining the official cause of the Longwood Fire, as it's now been almost four and a half months since the event. They were also asked to provide information on the delay, the actions that Victoria Police are undertaking to determine the cause, and for an estimation on when the

information will become formally available.

Around one third of the Murrindindi Shire area burnt in the blaze, and the shire suffered around 48 per cent of the total structures lost in the Longwood fire.

Police media stated, "Victoria Police continue to work with its partner agencies following the fires across the state, including the Longwood blaze."

"The investigation into the cause of the Longwood fire and the associated death is being led by the Arson and Explosives Squad.

"Such investigations are complex and when we are in a position to provide confirmed information about the cause of any fire, we will do so.

"The body of a person located deceased in the fire has been formally identified as a 78 year old Terip Terip man. Police will prepare a brief for the coroner."

# Great news from Yea hospital

YEA and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) is proud to announce the launch of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) Project, commencing on June 10. YDMH along with four other rural hospitals are excited to be a part of the state-funded VVED in a trial that will see the virtual admission of patients into these hospitals over a 12 month period.

This initiative means that YDMH can facilitate the admission of patients even when there is no doctor available onsite. As a result, their ability to provide access to healthcare closer to home for the local community will be strengthened.

Through VVED, and YDMH Urgent Care Centre (UCC) patients who require hospital admission and meet the admission criteria will now be able to be admitted directly into YDMH, helping patients receive care locally wherever clinically appropriate.

This means faster access to care, a reduced need for transfers out of the region, more support for patients and families close to home, and improved continuity of care within the community.

The project represents another important step toward building a stronger, more sustainable rural health services for the people of Murrindindi Shire.

YDMH said they are incredibly proud of their staff and partners who have worked tirelessly to bring the initiative to life.

More information about the VVED Project and how it will operate will be provided in coming weeks.

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

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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## Letters to the Editor

### The Green Dream

IF you did happen to watch *Spotlight: The Green Dream* on 7+, as implored to by Ken Collier, I recommend you follow this up by watching *Media Watch*, screened on ABC on Monday, April 27.

I'm looking forward to continuing discussions, based on factual information, about renewable energy alternatives.

*Diane Gaylard, Buxton*

### Rubicon solar farm

IT is of no concern to left wing Australians whether it be Uyghurs slaves or little Congolese children overseas, they don't care. They are not the only ones having their lives destroyed, whether we believe the media or not. The ABC don't have a good track record of getting it right either.

So I can tell you, there are people having their lives devastated in our local area, and beyond. Anyone forced to contemplate living next to a solar/battery factory, whether it be here in this shire at Rubicon Valley, Meadow Creek in the King Valley, Boree in NSW and now Dookie near Shepparton, all projects planned to go on good grazing and agricultural land.

No one cares, we are saving the planet. Do you really believe that, do you believe our power prices will come down, do you really believe our climate will change for the better?

We know the climate at Rubicon will change, we know we will be subjected to noise pollution and toxic runoff into our creeks and into the river, it may not be cobalt, but there are a lot of

toxins in PV solar panels, lead being the main one. Do we really want our rivers being polluted?

But the main issue is the proximity to our forest and the bushfire risk. It was only due to a wind change during the Longwood fire that saved the forest from devastation this time, only a kilometre away.

We as a community are faced with that truth every catastrophic fire day, and in fact all year, we will always be looking over our shoulders in case one of the proposed batteries catches on fire, one out of 200. Yes think about that, 200 shipping containers, plus 150,000 solar panels, what are the chances?

Please sign our petitions, we need your help to save our farmers.

*Concerned Rubicon Residents*

**COMMUNITY DIARY**

**Local Radio Frequency**  
 UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands  
 UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene  
 UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

**WEEKLY**  
 Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179  
 Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086  
 Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

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

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00AM Mon	0.91	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00AM Mon	0.66	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00AM Mon	0.74	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.31AM Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.59	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	9.00AM Mon	0.46	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00AM Mon	0.55	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00AM Mon	3.16	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00AM Mon	0.62	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00AM Mon	0.64	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00AM Mon	0.32	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	0.94	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	below flood level

**\*ISSUED AT 9.24 AM AEDT MONDAY 18 MAY 2026**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

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**Weekly Weather**  
 May 20 - May 26, 2026  
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	6	15	Wednesday	7	16
Thursday	4	16	Thursday	4	16
Friday	6	16	Friday	5	16
Saturday	8	16	Saturday	8	16
Sunday	7	14	Sunday	6	14
Monday	5	14	Monday	6	14
Tuesday	6	15	Tuesday	6	15

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	13mm
Buxton	58mm
Eildon (AWS)	11mm
Flowerdale	47mm
Jamieson	14mm
Kinglake	5mm
Lake Eildon	14mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	25mm
Yarck	18mm
Yea	4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	269.45m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	40.5%
Metres below full supply	19.45m
Daily inflow	1800ML
Release	400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	60%

**The Yea Chronicle**

**DEADLINES**

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

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 We thank you for your continued support

## Extension of free fire waste disposal program

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has welcomed the extension of the free bushfire recovery waste disposal program until June 30, providing much needed relief and continued support for residents cleaning up after the January 2026 fires.

The six week extension will be of great assistance to those who are still working through rebuilding their lives. While this extra time is welcomed, council believes a full six-month extension will be needed to meet the needs of the many residents who are continuing to recover from the disaster.

Mayor of Murrindindi Shire, Cr Damien Gallagher, said the extension was a positive step and reflected the impact of council's continued advocacy on behalf of fire-affected communities.

"This is a positive step, and we're pleased that our fire-impacted residents were listened to," Cr Gallagher said.

"Murrindindi has continued to share the lived experience of our community and advocate strongly for recovery support that reflects the scale of impact experienced here.

"We're aware that many people in our shire are not yet able to properly begin clean-up and recovery."

More than 280 Murrindindi property owners registered for the Victorian Government's on-site clean-up program, however, to May 14, only seven have seen any activity on their property.

Some residents have reportedly now given up waiting for the Victorian Government program and have withdrawn from the process, while many others have been deemed ineligible.

The free bushfire recovery waste disposal program at council facilities has been highly regarded and appreciated, and council encourages the community to make use of this free service prior to June 30, if possible.

However, with 133 properties either deemed ineligible or having withdrawn, and a further 62 still waiting to learn whether they will receive a Victorian Government clean-up service, closing this option in June will again place pressure on those least able to absorb it.

Reports indicate that many residents are only now beginning the difficult process of clearing fire-damaged properties, as the need to secure temporary accommodation ahead of winter becomes increasingly urgent.

Delays to clean-up can also have a compounding impact on mental health and wellbeing, with residents continuing to confront the extent of damage to their properties.

Cr Damien Gallagher, said many residents were still only at the beginning of what would be a long recovery process.

"Some residents are only now gaining safe access to their properties, while others waited in good faith for state programs that continue to progress slowly. While we welcome this extension, we expect to again call on the state government in coming weeks to extend the program for the full additional six months needed to continue supporting our residents," Cr Gallagher said.

Of all councils and municipalities affected by the January 2026 bushfires, Murrindindi experienced the greatest impact, accounting for approximately 48 per cent of the state's structural losses.

While all impacted councils and municipalities have received recovery funding, Murrindindi has received only around eight per cent of the total funding provided. Council continues to advocate for recovery support that is equitable and proportionate to need, as this level of funding is clearly not aligned with the 48 per cent of impact experienced by Murrindindi.

"Support needs to keep pace with the level of impact and be delivered fairly, providing the same level of service that communities across Australia receive after a disaster. Right now, it is not, and that needs to change quickly," Cr Gallagher said.

# A huge thank you to all of the volunteers

NATIONAL Volunteer Week runs this week, from May 18 to 24, with the theme of 'Your year to volunteer'. It highlights how Australians are continuing to support their communities in ways that are more flexible, informal and responsive to everyday life.

In our area, the efforts of local volunteers have been particularly relevant with January's Longwood bushfire. CFA volunteers put in a tremendous effort to combat the initial fire, and then communities rallied to provide support in the aftermath, especially volunteer-run community hubs like Yarck Hall, Highlands Community Hub, Fawcett Hall, etcetera.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said that the recent crisis demonstrates the resilience of the people of Murrindindi Shire.

"Murrindindi is indeed privileged to have so many dedicated people supporting others, and we have certainly seen that in action following the January 2026 bushfires," Cr Gallagher said.

"During and after the fires, volunteers and community members worked in difficult conditions, including isolation, damaged infrastructure and limited communications. They adapted quickly to changing conditions, using local knowledge, skills and teamwork

to support their communities, and, for many, that work continues today."

Council would normally hold its annual Community Awards presentation during National Volunteer Week, but this year that has changed. Cr Gallagher spoke to the reasoning.

"It would not feel right to single out a small number of individuals when, this year, the strength of the bushfire response came from so many across the community," Cr Gallagher said.

"Instead, we are focusing on acknowledging the collective contribution of everyone who has volunteered, supported neighbours, stepped into leadership roles, or simply shown up for their community when it mattered the most."

The challenges of the Australian economy are having an impact on volunteering, however. Rising rent, fuel costs and time pressures are changing how people engage. Australians are doing their best to volunteer in ways that fit around their lives, and National Volunteer Week acknowledges their hard work.

CEO of Volunteering Australia, Mark Pearce, emphasised the importance of removing structural and financial barriers to participation and ensuring volunteering remains accessible, flexible, and inclusive for all Australians.

"The National Strategy for Volunteering is about making it easier for people to get involved. We know there is a strong willingness to contribute across the community, but systems, structures, and expectations haven't always kept pace with how people live today. By reducing friction and improving access, we can unlock even more participation," Mr Pearce said.

"At a time when Australians are under increasing pressure, what stands out is not that volunteering is declining, but that it is adapting. We're still seeing people show up for their communities, but they are doing it in different ways, in more flexible ways, and often in ways they don't even recognise as volunteering."

Cr Gallagher added that volunteering plays an important role in building strong, connected and resilient communities, and encouraged anyone considering volunteering to explore opportunities across the shire.

"There are so many ways people can get involved and make a difference in their local community," he said.

"If you have ever thought about volunteering, this is a great opportunity to take that first step. Whether you can contribute a few hours or take on a regular role, every contribution matters."

To learn more about some of the volunteering opportunities or to register your organisation to have it listed across Murrindindi Shire, visit: [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/volunteerhub](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/volunteerhub)

## Sedona wins gold in London

TUCKED into the rolling landscapes of Murrindindi, just ten minutes from Yea, Sedona Estate is quietly building a reputation that stretches far beyond the region. Blessed with a unique microclimate, the boutique vineyard has garnered national and international acclaim for over two decades.

Most recently, Sedona Estate was recognised on the global stage at the 2026 London Wine Competition, taking home Gold for its 2021 Reserve Merlot and Silver for the 2022 Reserve Shiraz, further proof that exceptional wines are being crafted in this hidden wine region of Victoria.

Behind each bottle is the experience and passion of owners Paul and Sonja, whose 30 years as vigneron have taught them exactly which parcels of their vineyard yield the finest fruit.

"Concentrated and plush, our Reserve Merlot reveals layers of dark fruit, chocolate, vanilla and spice, with the promise of graceful ageing for those willing to wait," winemaker Paul Evans said.

The 2022 Reserve Shiraz continues to be a standout among Sedona Estate's offerings, particularly favoured by locals and many loyal wine friends. Since 2015, this Sedona Reserve Shiraz has consistently demonstrated its quality on the international stage, now adding another prestigious Silver award to its growing list of accolades.

This winter, Sonja and Paul are inviting guests to experience the first intimate fine dining event at the cellar door.



Sonja Herges and Paul Evans from Sedona Estate. -S

Acclaimed Yarra Valley chef Ryan Frost has crafted a four course seasonal feast, thoughtfully paired with the estate's award-winning wines.

Frosty's Winter Feast will be held on Saturday, June 13, at the Sedona Estate cellar door, an evening designed to be savoured slowly, by the fire, with good company and excellent food and wine. With just 24 seats available, this is a rare opportunity to experience Sedona Estate at its most personal.

Bookings are essential and it is expected to fill quickly. Contact Sonja at [wine@sedonaestate.com.au](mailto:wine@sedonaestate.com.au) or call 0432 435 180 to book. Sedona Estate is located at 182 Shannons Rd, Murrindindi.

The Sedona Estate Award-winning Reserve wines are available at many local eateries and bottle shops across the Murrindindi Shire.

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# Were you on Whittlesea-Yea Road at 5.10pm last Friday?

LANA Fitzgerald's son Seth (23) was coming to visit her near Yea for a delayed Mother's Day on Friday, May 15. He was travelling along Whittlesea-Yea Road at approximately 5.10pm, about 10 minutes from Yea, when a large dark-coloured 4WD with a bull bar came up behind him. Seth estimated that it was travelling at around 60 kilometres over the speed limit.

This occurred in an area where there were double white lines. A vehicle was travelling in the opposite direction, so Seth moved close to the centre line as he had nowhere to go.

The 4WD hit the back passenger side of Seth's vehicle, flinging the car. The driver's door hit the guardrail on the other side of the road and went over it, flipping a few times down the embankment, sliding on the roof before hitting a rock and righting itself. The 4WD kept going.

Lana commented, "Seeing the photos, I have no idea how Seth actually got out or even survived."

People travelling on the road after the incident wouldn't have been able to see the vehicle where it landed.

Lana said, "He crawled up the embankment and flagged a car down. The person who stopped said she actually thought he was a hitchhiker and thought I'm not stopping. But then she saw he had a blood nose and he was leaning on the guardrail like the guardrail was holding him up."

"She stopped and he had obviously adrenaline and stuff. When he rang me, he obviously didn't want to alarm me and he went, 'I've just had a little bit of a car accident. I'm okay, the car's kind of not, and I can't find my phone. So, that's why I'm on a different phone.'"

The lady who stopped said that she would take him to the hospital, but Lana said that she would meet them in Yea. "She was great," Lana commented.

Lana took Seth to the Alexandra hospital and then on to Shepparton where he was kept overnight. His scans came back okay, but he's still sore following the incident.

Lana added, "He's obviously a bit devastated because he only had third party insurance." Seth is a student on Centrelink and needs to travel three days a week for his course.

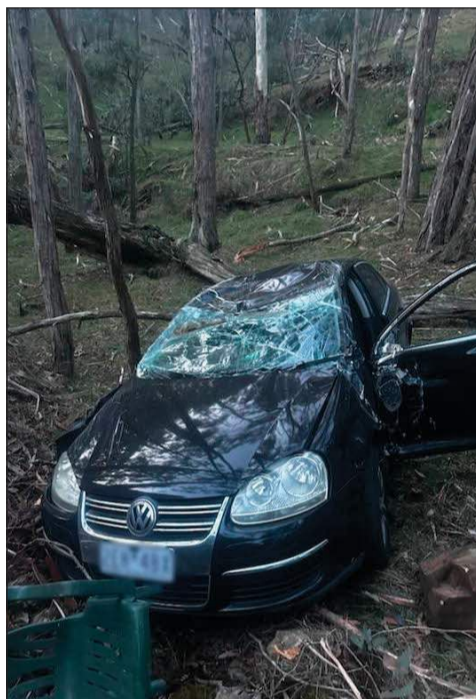
She added that he's also been notified by the police that he'll be liable for the cost of car extraction as well as the cost to repair the guard rail, all because the other driver didn't stop. The insurance excess is \$1900 and then there's the young driver excess on top of that, so it may cost him about \$4000. It's not yet known whether the insurance will cover the crane extraction of the vehicle, the guard rail damage or the farm fence.

They are currently seeking people who may have driven along Whittlesea-Yea Road at the time in question, particularly people who may have dash cam footage. Contact the Yea or Kinglake Police, or make a report via Crimestoppers, if you are able to help.

Lana said to her son afterwards, "You've got an angel on your shoulder because I've got no idea how the hell you walked away from that. And I am glad that he actually did, because as I said, you can't see the car from the road, so if he'd had internal injuries or was knocked out or anything... They found his phone was on the road, on the corner of the road. The driver's window was down so as the car's been flung, his phones went out the window."

She added that her son never touches his phone while driving. "He won't even bluetooth his phone for music or maps," she said.

They are looking to create a GoFundMe page and hope that people may help him.



Seth's vehicle following the collision. Fortunately, he was able to walk from the crash and seek help. -S

# Rotary and YDMH delivering benefits for the community

THE partnership between the Rotary Club of Yea and Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) continues to deliver important benefits for the local community, combining innovation in healthcare with support for grassroots community events.

A standout example of this collaboration is the recent launch of a world-first mouth mapping

service designed to assist in the early detection of mouth cancers. The cutting-edge initiative, made possible through Rotary funding support, provides local residents with access to advanced screening technology close to home, highlighting the shared commitment of both organisations to improving community health outcomes for rural people.

On a lighter note, Rotary members also played a key role in supporting YDMH in its running of the local Mother's Day Classic fun run. Approximately 70 runners, walkers and supporters took part, raising valuable funds for research into the prevention and treatment of breast and ovarian cancers. Rotary not only fed participants and their families but used left over food to create delicious meals for fire affected communities.

The strong partnership between the two organisations demonstrates how community groups and healthcare providers can work together to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents while fostering community spirit and connection.



Darryl King and Tony Jacobs from Yea Rotary with Yea and District Memorial Hospital's Dr Jennifer Keast and CEO Elizabeth Sinclair. -S



A group gathered at the Murrindindi Health Bus. -S

## Church Services

### ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

### ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

### CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

### CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest  
Ph 9717 6482

St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

### SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

### UNITING CHURCH

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

# Financial boost for fire recovery

THE Australian and Victorian Governments are continuing to support communities recovering from the January 2026 bushfires.

Nearly \$33 million will provide more than 100 temporary modular homes for people without adequate insurance whose home was significantly damaged or destroyed.

Navigating insurance and housing issues can also be complicated, so \$4 million will fund more legal services for families, small businesses and primary producers.

Support will be delivered by Disaster Legal Help Victoria and other existing legal centres.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) will also receive an \$880,000 boost to employ more financial and wellbeing

counsellors. The services will provide free, confidential support to farmers as they work through the financial impacts of the bushfires. This includes analysing their business position, negotiating with lenders and accessing government support. The wellbeing counsellors will support the mental health of their clients. The Rural Financial Counselling Service can be accessed by calling 1300 771 741.

This funding brings the total recovery assistance provided for the January 2026 bushfires to more than \$420 million including cost-sharing under the DRFA.

For more information on the DRFA packages and supports provided, visit [vic.gov.au/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements](http://vic.gov.au/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements)

Federal Minister for Emergency Management Kristy McBain said, "We will continue to work together with the Victorian Government to make sure that effective assistance gets to where it's needed and communities are able to move onto the next stages of recovery."

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan said, "We were there from day one and we'll continue to stand with the impacted communities to deliver the practical help they need to rebuild and recover."

The state government was asked how many of the modular units would be placed within Murrindindi Shire. The answer will be provided in an upcoming edition.

# Out & About

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, MAY 21

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### FRIDAY, MAY 22

Bruce Watson is coming to Alexandra on Friday and Saturday. Ukulele Heaven and the Murrindindi Beanie Festival present a music workshop with Bruce. Take your

ukulele, voice and other instruments to lift your spirits. Workshops 5-6.30pm on Friday and 10-11.30am on Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SUNDAY, MAY 24

Alexandra Bowling Club AGM will be held at noon at the clubrooms. Presentation and barbecue to follow. All welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### SUNDAY, MAY 31

Clearing sale Maroondah Highway Yarck. Farm machinery, farm sundries, general tools and hardware, cattle showing gear and more. Contact Embling Rural for more details 0418 266 038.

\*\*\*\*\*

Whanregarwen Fire Brigade will hold its AGM at 9am at the fire station. All welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eildon Bowling Club AGM will be held at 11am at the bowling club.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Former Yea High School student jailed

HER Honour Judge Karapanagiotidis in the Melbourne County Court sentenced former Yea High School student Brent Younger to six years and two months in jail with time served being 805 days. The judge declared at the hearing, held on April 23, that the non-parole period be three years and four months.

Mr Younger pled guilty to the charges relating to incidents in January 2023, when Mr Younger was aged 35, and April 2025 when he was aged 37.

The judge outlined the events in the 2023 case. He stated that an Audi SUV was stolen from a rental car business at Tullamarine. The vehicle, with false number plates, was

observed by police being driven erratically by Mr Younger in the Melbourne CBD.

A police vehicle's lights and sirens were activated and they indicated that Mr Younger pull over. The Audi came to a stop and then unexpectedly accelerated, moving through an intersection when the traffic lights were red without attempting to slow down. The vehicle remained on the tram tracks as it continued. It was considered that the driving may have placed persons in danger of serious injury.

The chase was called off and the airwing called in. The aircraft captured the vehicle's movements in North Melbourne, including the driver exiting the vehicle. Airwing notified police on the ground. Mr Younger was apprehended by police in the hallway of a restaurant, with assistance from two bystanders.

As police approached the hallway, Mr Younger dropped keys and a phone. The keys were later found to be the keys of the Audi.

The Audi was searched and police located 1,4 Butanediol, identification cards in various names which the prosecution alleged were the proceeds of crime, and two false registration plates in the front centre console. In the rear passenger compartment, police found various items of drug paraphernalia, and two white one litre bottles labelled 'glue' and containing a clear liquid substance, later determined to be 1,4 Butanediol. In the boot, police found further eight white one-litre bottles labelled 'glue' and containing a clear liquid substance, later determined to be 1,4 Butanediol. The total of 1,4 Butanediol was just under five kilograms. 1,4 Butanediol is an industrial chemical that acts as a potent prodrug to GHB when ingested. Once consumed, the body metabolizes 1,4-BD into GHB, causing sedative, euphoric, and depressant effects on the central nervous system. It is often misused as a 'club drug' and is considered dangerous, addictive, and potentially lethal.

In the April 2025 incident, the judge outlined how Mr Younger and co-accused John Likiardopoulos forced the front door of an address in Maribyrnong. A woman

was at home sleeping, and the male resident of the address, who was not home at the time, received a notification from his security camera. He called the police.

Mr Younger was carrying an imitation firearm during the incident and Mr Likiardopoulos a crowbar. The two accused collected items from inside the residence.

Police attended the address and met the male resident outside and on entering, found that Mr Younger and Mr Likiardopoulos were no longer present. The woman had slept through the incident and was uninjured.

Mr Younger was arrested three days later. Police found a crowbar during a search on the vehicle suspected to have been used in the home invasion. Mr Younger did not respond to police allegations and refused DNA sampling and photographing. These were later involuntarily collected. Mr Likiardopoulos was arrested during the following days.

The judge also outlined Mr Younger's background. He was raised in Bundoora with his parents and siblings. The family later relocated to Kinglake for approximately 20 years. Mr Younger lived there for several years. He completed up to year 12 at Yea High School before working for a further 10 years in the family business. He later became a labourer and forklift driver until the COVID-19 pandemic.

The judge stated, "At the age of 14, you started using alcohol and cannabis with friends. This progressed to amphetamines at the age of 18, transitioning into methamphetamine use at the age of 21 which soon became a daily habit. From the age of 28, you began using GHB." This use continued on and off for the following years.

The judge also said, "You have an extensive and relevant prior criminal history and have served a variety of sentences in the past. Your criminal history consists of dishonesty and driving offences, including for dangerous driving, possess weapons and drug offences, including for trafficking in drugs."



Bernard Moss with the Stawell Gift Committee. Pictured are Heather Seaman from the Stawell Quilters, Ian Seaman, Bernard, President of Stawell Athletics Club Robert McIntosh, and Wendy Hopwood. -AR

## A Stawell Gift to Highlands local post-bushfires

Continued from Page 1

On April 24, 1973, *The Canberra Times* ran an article headlined 'Moss just wins gift after lunge at tape'. It describes Bernie's experience of the event.

"Bernie Moss, the 10/1 on favourite narrowly won the final of the professional footracing classic, the Stawell Gift, this afternoon," the article reads.

"Moss won by inches with a desperate lunge at the finishing tape. Only half a metre separated the first four placegetters.

"Third place went to St Kilda policeman Kelvin Peart, Peter Boase of Pascoe Vale was fourth, and Les Ralph of Ararat was fifth.

"Moss clocked 0:12.1, 0.2 seconds slower than his winning time in the gift semi-final earlier this afternoon.

"He said after the race that he thought he had lost with 40m to go.

"With Peart and Thomas up with me, I thought I was a goner,' he said. 'I just had to grit my teeth and try to get the extra bit to win.'

"Moss and Peart, both pitched forward to the track, overbalancing when driving for the finish and both skidded along the grass into the arena fence, but were not injured."

Robert McIntosh, President of the Stawell Athletics Club, spoke about Bernard's connection to the Stawell Gift family.

"In athletics, I've been involved in the Stawell Athletics Club for 26 years. I go around to other meetings, starting events and things. We say, being in that is like a big family, and Bernie, you are part of our family," Robert said.

"When we hear of somebody that loses everything or does things, we like to do what we can for members of our family. That's why we're here today."

Robert presented Bernard with a new sash, medal and framed victory photo. Because of the changed formatting of the 1973 race from imperial to metric, Bernard's original sash was still inscribed with 130 yards as the race distance instead of 120 metres. The new one that he was presented with last Wednesday maintained the 130 yard race distance inscription, in a subtle nod to history.

Heather Seaman, wife of Stawell Athletics Club Treasurer Ian Seaman and member of the Stawell Quilters, also presented Bernard with a colourful quilt that the group made for him, to help him on his post-fire recovery journey.

Bernard was overcome with emotion thanking the Stawell Gift Committee for their presentation and the attendees for their support. He posed for photos with his family and the Stawell Gift Committee wearing his new sash and medal.



President of Stawell Athletics Club, Robert McIntosh, presenting Bernard Moss with a replacement framed victory photo. -AR



Bernard Moss with the quilt given to him by Heather Seaman and the Stawell Quilters. -AR



## JOIN GOULBURN VALLEY WATER'S CUSTOMER PANEL

Our Customer Accountability Panel is a key customer voice in planning for our future and reflecting on our promises and actions.

**We're seeking new members to join the panel - here's your chance to be involved.**

The panel meets annually to represent our entire customer base. You don't need any experience in the water sector - we'll provide everything you need to participate.



Find out more about the panel and submit your interest by scanning the QR code.



Expressions of interest close 31 May, 2026.

# The inestimable value of the Yea Community House

NEIGHBOURHOOD Houses across the shire were invaluable during the recent Longwood fire, as well as in other emergencies. In quieter times, they provide a central contact point, helping to ensure the wellbeing of local residents. Their value is inestimable.

It was therefore deeply disappointing to those associated with neighbourhood houses across the state when no further funding was announced in the recent Victorian Budget.

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria has been lobbying for a 25 per cent increase in the amount of funding received by the Houses, taking their fight to the steps of Parliament House in a memorable display of yellow and pink on February 18.

Natalie Fulford and Carlie Stegenwaldner from Yea Community House feel strongly about the issue and attended the event.

Following the news that Neighbourhood Houses would receive no further funding, the Yea Community House posted on their Facebook page, “We’re disappointed, and frankly concerned to share this update with our community. After years of funding erosion, the state Labor government has declined to restore funding in real terms to the Neighbourhood House sector. This decision ignores the growing pressure on community services and the vital role Neighbourhood Houses play across Victoria. Through our Keep Our Doors Open campaign, we called for fair and practical support, including a 25 per cent funding increase so that at least 20 per cent could be directed toward essential operational costs, not just wages. This was not an ambitious ask. It was a necessary one to keep services viable.

In an interview at the Yea Community House last week, Natalie explained, “The community house is a catch all... The fire stuff was just sort of what we already do, but on a much bigger scale. Support, help, finding things for people, finding conversations.”

She said, “We’re funded for 25 hours per week. That doesn’t even cover one full-time person. Originally 80 per cent of the funding was supposed to cover the wage, plus super and everything else that goes with that, but 20 per cent was also to go to running costs, so heating, cooling, electricity, water, and all of those things. The funding never changed, and over the years it’s just been eroded. So now we struggle to find the money to actually cover us, to employ us. It doesn’t cover any programs. It doesn’t cover anything else. Not even our wages. We’re only 0.9 of a full time employee (FTE). It has eroded over the years to a point now where houses are dropping staff hours. They’re also dropping staff. And closing.”

Carlie added that “50 per cent of Neighbourhood Houses are reporting a loss in the last financial year. Some of those are significant, like tens of thousands of dollars.”

Of the February rally, Natalie explained, “We were only asking for an increase of 25 per cent.”

The last time there was any increase was in 2018. Carlie said, “That in itself was problematic because instead of increasing, all they did was increase hours. So we went from a 20 hour house to a 25 hour house. So it didn’t really change that much... It just meant that we could work an additional five hours, but it also increased our PAYG tax and all that sort of stuff.”

Natalie commented, “It’s really hard to keep up, especially with additional demand. Probably even before COVID-19, we had programs running which have increased substantially, and they are food relief programs. We’re not funded to do that at all. We’re lucky that we’ve got some really good supporters in this community that do back us.”

These include the people who hire rooms, paying their \$3 or \$4 for line dancing, mahjong, Dungeons and Dragons, or other activities. That money goes into a pool of money that helps to fund everything.

“Because we’re just like any other small business, not-for-profit, we’re trying to cover electricity, phones and all of those things,” Natalie said. “People do donate to us. We had a lot of fire donations which were used up during that time very quickly. We had also people during that time who just donated specifically to help us keep our doors open, which was really good, and they say use it as you please, and that’s even better for us



Carlie and Natalie at the Yea Community House. -AR

because we can put it towards the electricity. Everything went up because the building was open for 24 hours.”

They were also running three buildings during the fire recovery, not just one. St Luke’s allowed them to use their hall for non-perishable items that weren’t food related, such as medical supplies, and they also had all of the clothing in the Pioneer Reserve building.

They have used some of the funds raised to go towards additional shelving and cupboards to enable easier storage.

The Yea Community House is very small compared to others that they have visited, in terms of both community size and building size. While their capacity is small, they do however manage to do a lot with their time.

Carlie said, “A long-term donor has been St Luke’s Op Shop since we started. They’ve given money every month towards food programs. More recently, CWA Yea and the Catholic Parish. We’re super lucky because that’s secure for our community.”

They have also received one-off donations here and there from Yea Rotary, which have been helpful. Those funds usually go towards a specific thing as that’s how Rotary works.

Given the challenging financial situation in which Neighbourhood Houses now find themselves, they’re asking the community to call their government representatives and express their concern for local community houses. They’ll be putting information on this onto their Facebook page.

“We’ve got our fingers really crossed that houses are going to be one of the announcements made before the election,” Carlie said.

While Neighbourhood Houses fill so many roles in a community, the government argues that the houses not funded to fill some of these roles. Unfortunately, some of the organisations that are funded to support the area aren’t present in the community. A lot of the larger houses are able to run side-businesses that generate income, but the Yea Community House is unable to do this for a variety of reasons.

The house is under the management of a volunteer committee, and Natalie said, “They are great. They’re really good to us and they’ve been a good committee. We’ve got mostly volunteers running all of our groups. The people that step up to be a facilitator of a group and sign that paperwork, they’re a volunteer... They are really successful groups then because they don’t cost us anything to have a facilitator.”

Some paperwork is required at the start, but after that is organised, it’s minimal. These groups are technically auspiced by the house, either a financial auspice or a group auspice.

The house is also the organisation behind the Yea Cruise Night and the Yea Railway Market, doing all of the legalities and paperwork. Dale, Amanda and Cassie are all members of their committee.

The Yea Community House is also still facing uncertainty over the proposed tertiary education hub, with the shire looking at using the community house building if funding is received for the project.

Their plan moving forward from the urgency of the fire recovery effort is to “Support Neighbourhood House Victoria with their call to action, which is the next stage of the campaign, and we’re really hoping our community will come on board and have members from Murrindindi Shire ring, once they see that that’s what the next stage is.

“They’re also asking people with real life stories that have been part of a group or have a positive experience with a particular community house to come forward and tell their story. Neighbourhood House Victoria will use that in their media. They’re going to really be pushing over the next few months for more funding,” Natalie said.

Unfortunately, given the stasis in funding, the Yea Community House may have to “drop back on things that we do. We’re so hesitant to apply for things because we just can’t stretch any further than we already are,” Natalie said.

“We had a meeting with Neighbourhood House Victoria where they were talking about this next step in the campaign and it was an eye-opener because we had 120 people, coordinators like us, attend. And the disappointment that they expressed, we had people crying, people were trying to talk and then just, yeah.”

Another challenge for the state of minds of the people working at various neighbourhood houses around the state was that the fires arrived during their holiday so they’ve had little rest.

Carlie said, “If you think about what a community looks like without a community house straight away. I know things would start back up again in some way or form, but for a while, doors are closed. I guess the library then picks up a lot of things. I don’t know. But you think of communities without them, particularly smaller communities, and it’s pretty frightening.”

There is also still a lot of need in the community post-fire. “The need is growing,”

Natalie said. “We are seeing more and more double income families with either mortgage stress or rental stress that we’re supporting. It’s really sad and it’s only going to get worse.”

The Yea Community House is mandated for 25 hours per week and they are to deliver 50 hours of programs to the community. Every activity that happens every week is recorded and reported on. The house nearly triples that 50 hours.

All of the fire donations that the house coordinated and support that they offered was all in addition to their official mandate. No additional funds were provided to the Yea Community House during the fire effort.

“Any of our food relief or homelessness work or anything like that isn’t the government, we’re not funded,” Carlie said.

“The role has really morphed, but the department on reviewing our guidelines didn’t want to change and adapt the guidelines, even given that over the last 20 years our roles really have changed just for the demand of these things,” Natalie said.

The Yea Community House has helped during a variety of emergencies, including both fires and floods. Carlie said, “The good thing is we are in a building that has a generator. We have done so many grants and programs about self-sufficiency, sustainability, emergencies, so we were ready to go. We could give out cooktops with pots, we had phones, we had everything right then to go. And a lot of houses do. And I just think that’s so important for emergency situations. And that in itself, if houses close, leaves a massive gap for the community. We had families sleeping here from January 8 onwards, before the fire went through, because they wanted to evacuate early. Without that space, what would have they done?”

Not everyone has enough money to kind of go and stay for a week in a hotel. There were also family reasons which meant the people needed to stay local.

The Yea Community House was also taking donated good up to Highlands and then it was getting through to Ruffy in the immediate post-fire environment.

Carlie added, “Community houses are ace,” and said that the funding they are looking for is not much in the grand scheme of things. There are five neighbourhood houses in Murrindindi Shire. If they were to each receive an extra \$80,000, that’s just \$400,000. That’s nothing compared to the amount of good they do.



See our *Free* conversation guide for parents

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Available in Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Punjabi and English

[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/parent-vaping-guide](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/parent-vaping-guide)



# VICTORIAN Education Week

May 18 to May 22

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch



## YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Jesse, Matilda, Shaelee and Ava for their commitment to living our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



# Free TAFE continues with budget funding

SUPPORT for the state government's Free TAFE (Technical and Further Education) initiative continued in the recent *Victorian Budget 2026-27*, with \$459.4 million dedicated to investment in skills and training.

This investment is expected to support an additional 15,000 students, on top of the

current 60,800 students currently enrolled in the program.

According to the state government, Free TAFE has saved more than 245,000 students more than \$816 million in tuition fees since its introduction in Victoria in 2019.

There are 80 different qualifications and short courses offered through Free TAFE,

at more than 90 campuses around Victoria. These courses are linked to industries where skills are in high demand, such as nursing, cyber security, accounting and bookkeeping, early childhood education, construction, plumbing, etcetera.

Free TAFE does not mean that the course is completely free; the program covers tuition fees. Not included in government funding is student fees and course material fees. For example, a student studying a Youth Work related course is required to pay \$140 to obtain a National Police Records Check and a Working with Children Check, separate to the tuition fees. Information about these in relation to specific courses can be found through individual TAFE providers.

Residential status is required to be eligible for Free TAFE. This means that Australian citizens, permanent residents and New Zealand citizens training in Victoria are all eligible. You can undertake your first Free TAFE course no matter what previous qualifications you might hold.

In the case of priority pathways, Free TAFE may cover subsequent study. For example, you can progress from a certificate to a diploma in the same study area, with Free TAFE covering tuition fees for both courses, as long as they are completed in sequence.

You can also undertake more than one Free TAFE short course without it affecting your eligibility for a Free TAFE certificate, diploma, priority pathway or pre-apprenticeship. Short courses count as skill sets. You can undertake a maximum of two at the same time, and can only start a maximum of two short courses in a calendar year.

Premier Jacinta Allan said that Free TAFE offers savings to students.

"Free TAFE is already saving Victorians thousands. It's a huge cost-of-living boost for anyone building their career," Ms Allan said.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Colin Brooks added, "it's now easier and cheaper than ever for Victorians to pursue a long-term career."

For more information about the Free TAFE program and the courses and training on offer, visit [vic.gov.au/free-tafe](http://vic.gov.au/free-tafe)

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School



St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
welcomes enrolments for Foundation 2027

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Alexandra, offers the richness of Catholic Education and tradition to the growing child in a safe and engaging environment.**  
**At St Mary's School we experience and promote the gospel values of love, empathy, trust, respect, honesty and fairness.**  
**We aim to develop the whole child spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.**

**School Tours can be arranged by:**  
**In person at our front office**  
**Phone call: 5772 1500**

**Email: [reception@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:reception@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au)**

**During your tour you will meet with our staff, see our classes, playground, learn about our curriculum and have the opportunity to ask questions.**

**Enrolments, expressions of interest and more information can be obtained by either using Enquiry tracker, calling on 5772 1500 or emailing the school at [reception@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:reception@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au)**

**If you would like to register your interest and to make an appointment for an enrolment tour please call reception to book a time.**

10 Myrtle St (PO Box 151) Alexandra Vic 3714  
Phone: 03 5772 1500  
E-mail: [principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au)  
Web: [www.smalexandra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smalexandra.catholic.edu.au)

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

At St Mary's school we encourage an inclusive, learning community that values safety, love and faith.



# Fire at Yea laundromat

THE Yea laundromat on High Street in Yea caught fire in the late afternoon on Monday, May 11. Yea Fire Brigade Captain Emery McCarthy said that at approximately 4.45pm, the brigade was paged to a structure fire. Emery said, "On the way to the station, it was quite visible that it was fully involved. Smoke was issuing from the building."

"We responded the Yea tanker and Yea pumper. As soon as we responded, we escalated to 'make tankers five' so we had more brigades coming to support, as well as the Alexandra pumper with additional breathing apparatus operators."

"Once on scene, the front of the laundromat was fully involved with flames issuing out the front windows, and then upon closer inspection had progressed into the property at the rear of the building."

"It took approximately 45 minutes to bring it under control, and then we were on scene for another three hours to do overhaul and ventilation," he said.

The Yea brigade was supported in their efforts by Molesworth, Limestone, Glenburn, Homewood and Alexandra Fire Brigades. Emery explained that this was

more for "crew power, additional water, and Alexandra for their assistance as a urban brigade with internal structure firefighters."

He added, "All persons were accounted for. No injuries were sustained. Unfortunately, by the looks of it, there will be a complete loss of both the laundromat and the residence at the rear, but we're still waiting for the Murrindindi building inspector to make that call."

The fire brigade certainly did a great job in ensuring that the fire didn't spread any further.

Emery said that the fire "started in the dryer area of the laundromat," but as yet, no official definitive cause has been determined. He said that there have been three shop fires in Yea in the last three years.

Emery added separately, "People need to ensure that they are cleaning their lint filters out regularly, and try not to put oily tea towels in the dryer."

Building owner Russell said, "I'd like to sincerely thank the Yea Fire Brigade and the supporting brigades, and everyone helped at the scene."



Firefighters tackling the blaze at the Yea laundromat with bystanders watching on. -Dale McKean, Plymouth Dale Photos



Choosing the right plants for new gardens post-bushfire. -BD



The plants arranged on the Yarck CFA station lawn, and people collecting them. -BD

# Truckloads of plants donated to fire-affected communities



Karen and Marty Shaw from the Yarck CFA. The Yarck Fire Brigade hosted the event at their station, spreading the plants around the driveway and yard. -BD



Quite a crowd gathered early last Friday morning to collect a share of the donated plants. -BD



The event was held at the Yarck CFA station and the truck was on display. -BD

# PUZZLES

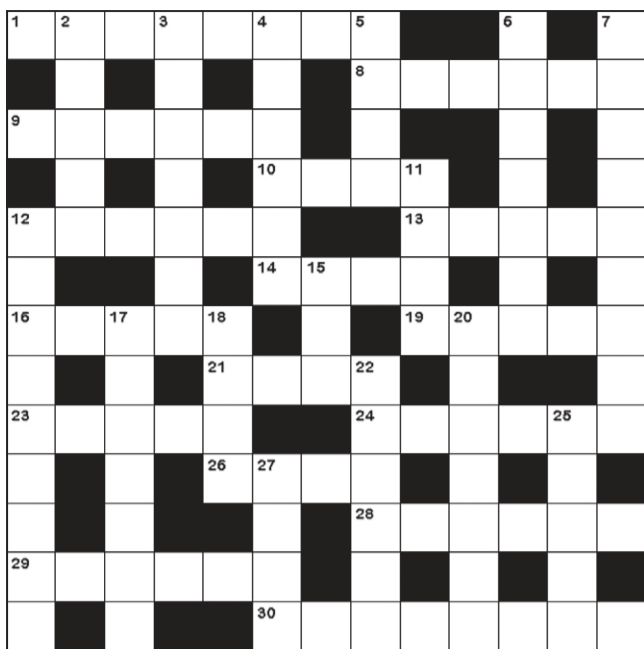
**SOLUTIONS**  
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# KID'S PUZZLES

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- A motley assortment of bits and pieces.
- Ornamental sunken panel in a ceiling or dome.
- Payment for the return of a captured person.
- Cattle that are reared for their meat.
- To grow vigorously and flourish.
- The smouldering coal or ash of a dying fire.
- White bird that is the symbol of peace.
- A drink from the fermented juice of apples.
- A glossy surface given to textiles.
- The sense organs we use for hearing.
- Give a false appearance of something.
- Become invisible or unnoticeable.
- Unswervingly faithful and loyal to friends.
- Water cut off from the sea by a reef of sand.
- Gave a sneering, or suggestive and sly look.
- A seemingly endless time interval.



- To deprive of the power to feel or move.
- A small, sour dark purple plumlike fruit.
- Find fault or criticise for petty reasons.
- Complex system of paths or tunnels.
- Fixed charges for professional services.
- Handle a delicate situation with diplomacy.
- An implement used to propel a canoe.
- A wanderer who has no home or job.
- Regular payments by a tenant to a landlord.
- Small easily carried firearm, such as a pistol.
- Graceful, slender and moving with ease.
- A young piglet just after weaning.
- Socially incorrect, impolite and offensive.

### DOWN

- The event that terminates a life.
- A weapon that is thrown or projected.

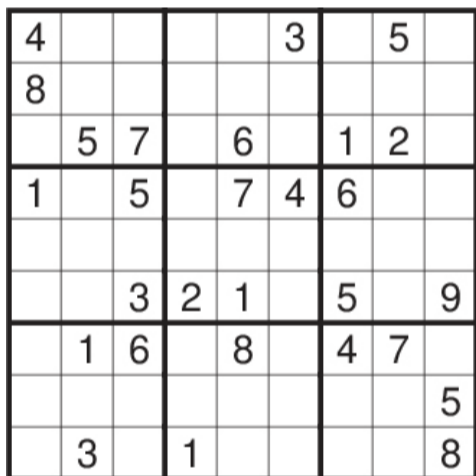
## Word Search

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

### Boys names

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| ANDREW  | JOHN   |
| ANTHONY | PAUL   |
| CRAIG   | PETER  |
| DAVID   | PHILIP |
| EWAN    | ROSS   |
| JAMES   | WALTER |

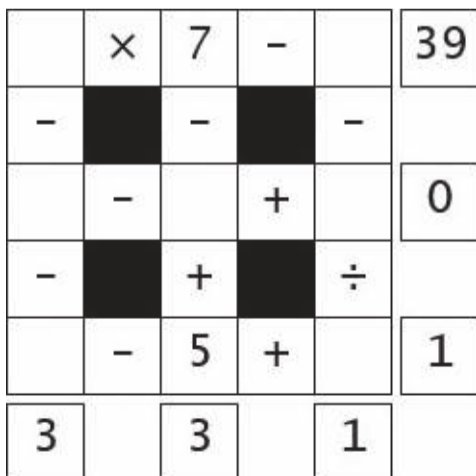
## Sudoku



### Difficulty: Easy

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

## Math Square



### Fill in the missing numbers.

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

## Colouring Page



## Word Search - Words starting with "P"

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

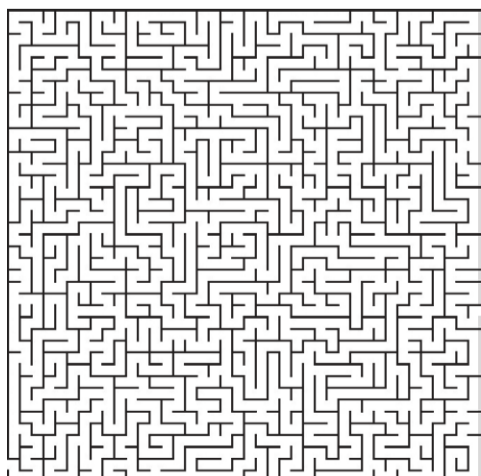
PAINTING  
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PICTURE

PLANETS  
PLANT  
PLAYSTATION  
PLEASE

PRINCESS  
PUMPKIN

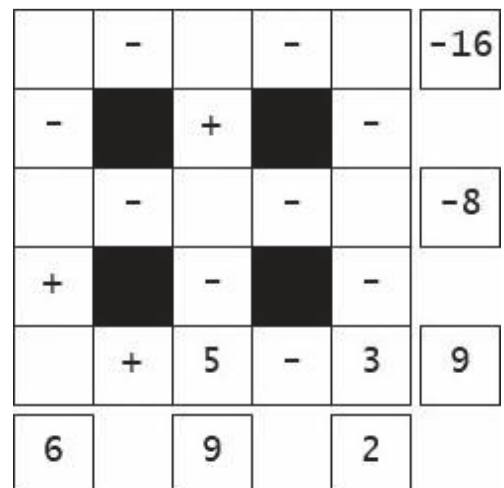
## Maze



## Math Square

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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



# The Farmer's Ag News

## Rabobank outlook: Strong global demand paints positive picture for Australian beef

AUSTRALIA'S beef industry is set to remain on a firm footing through 2026 despite record production levels, supported by strong global demand and resilient export markets, Rabobank says in its newly-released *Australian Beef Seasonal Outlook 2026*.

The annual report, by the agribusiness banking specialist's RaboResearch division, says while record supply levels, with high cattle inventories and peak slaughter volumes, present risks, particularly if seasonal conditions deteriorate, continued demand from international markets, led by the United States, is providing an important support for prices.

Report author, RaboResearch senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said successive years of favourable seasonal conditions have allowed the Australian cattle industry to rebuild inventory levels to what RaboResearch believes to be the next cyclical peak.

"This will generate record cattle slaughter and production volumes in 2026," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"Despite these record volumes, a strong global market is supporting record export prices and, in turn, historically-high cattle prices, particularly for finished cattle."

RaboResearch projects this strong export market will continue through 2026 and into 2027, driven largely by import demand from the US market.

However, the report says inflationary pressures of the Iran war and the impact on consumer sentiment will need to be watched.

"The strong export market is expected to provide support for the Australian domestic cattle market, and we believe should hold prices around levels seen through Q1," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

A deterioration of seasonal conditions would be the largest risk in the system, he said.

"With high cattle inventory, dry seasonal conditions, like those conditions being experienced in parts of New South Wales, could force producers to sell stock rapidly into a market flush with cattle," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"Slaughter volumes are already at historically high levels, adding an additional 10 per cent to these levels as we have seen in previous drought conditions would test the capacity of the system."

### High inventory

"High cattle inventory, and subsequently record slaughter volumes, means Australia is operating close to our maximum processing capacity," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

The report says current weekly slaughter numbers (of around 160,000 head) are getting close to the historical highs of 2014, of approximately 178,000 head.

"Currently these volumes are being accommodated but if seasonal conditions were to force an additional 10 to 15 per cent of cattle on to the market, as the sector saw in 2013 and 2018, it would place serious pressure on the system to keep up."

### Chinese import quotas

Mr Gidley-Baird said the new Chinese import quota for Australian beef for 2026 (205,000 tonnes) will have some timing impacts.

Based on current export volumes, RaboResearch believes Australia will reach the quota limit in May or June. This may

affect processor-buying activity around that time as they look to pivot to other markets.

"China is Australia's second-largest market for grainfed beef behind the domestic market," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"The commencement of a new quota year in January 2027 may provide an opportunity for increased grainfed beef exports to China in Q1 2027 which in turn may mean an uplift in demand for feeder cattle in September/October 2026."

### Middle East conflict

While the Middle East is only a small market for Australian beef exports and a relatively small player in global beef markets, Mr Gidley-Baird said the current conflict in the region does have the potential to increase costs and cause disruption in beef supply chains.

"Higher fuel and freight costs may impact sourcing strategies for livestock buyers," he said.

"Inflationary pressures may also impact consumer-spending patterns in export markets. Asian markets are possibly more exposed, given their higher reliance on Middle East oil supplies."

### Cattle price outlook

Mr Gidley-Baird said finished cattle prices are expected to hold steady, at the high end of the 10-year range.

RaboResearch modelling indicates heavy steer prices should remain close to early 2026 prices through the remainder of the year and into 2027, around \$4.50/kg lwt (live weight). Weaner cattle prices are expected to hold steady at around the five-year average in 2026.

"Strong export markets and demand for finished cattle should help support demand for weaner cattle and store stock," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"But high cattle inventory and seasonal conditions are likely to mean there is little upside movement and prices are expected to hover around the five-year average, about AUD \$4 to \$4.50/kg lwt, with potential for downside movement."

### Financial health

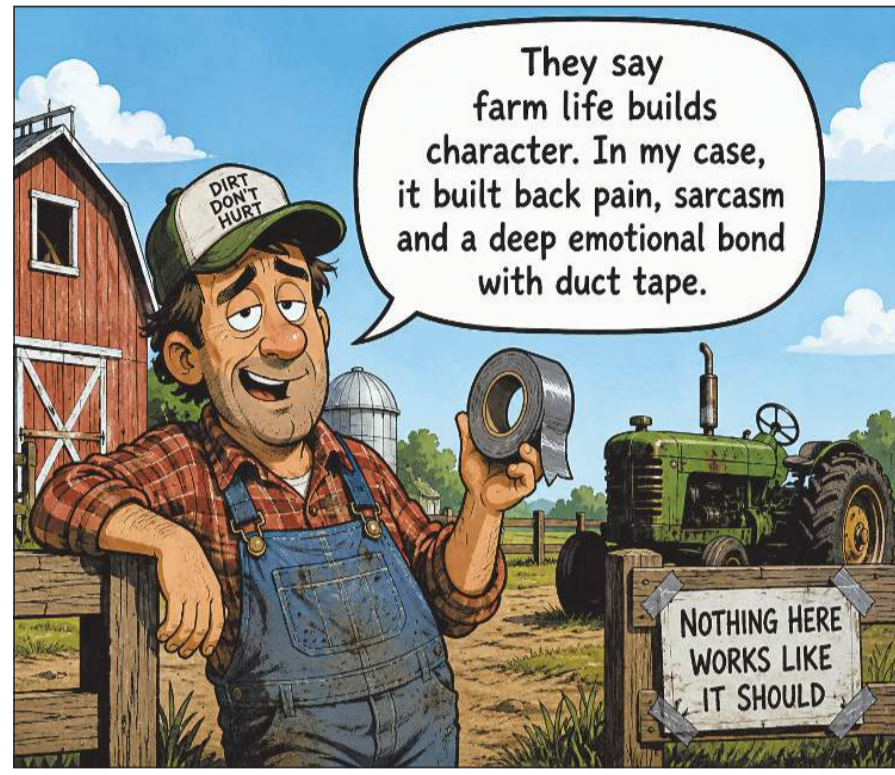
Mr Gidley-Baird said the ongoing high cattle turnoff and good cattle prices are leading to expectations of higher incomes for many beef producers, which are anticipated to offset an increase in costs, resulting in a positive financial outlook for 2026.

"Conflict in the Middle East is expected to add costs to budgets, in particular through increased fuel, fertiliser and freight costs," he said.

"However, these costs only account for about 10 to 15 per cent of total beef cattle farm operating costs and therefore are expected to have only a limited impact on farm budgets. Rising interest rates (accounting for about an average 10 per cent of costs) will also add to the increasing costs."

Mr Gidley-Baird said results from the Q1 national Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey indicate Australian beef producers largely expect incomes to stay the same in 2026.

"The Q1 2026 Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey, conducted in February, prior to the Iran war, indicated that 54 per cent of Australian beef producers expect incomes to be the same, with 31 per cent expecting incomes to be higher and 12 per cent expecting incomes to be lower," he said.



## VFF says regional Victoria left wanting in Victorian Budget

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says regional Victoria has been left wanting after the *Victorian Budget 2026-27* largely ignored much-needed critical funding and left unanswered questions for the state's multi-billion dollar agriculture industry.

VFF Acting President Peter Star said many in the regions would be disappointed at the lack of clarity surrounding key regional issues.

"For many this budget will be seen to kick the can down the road during an election year," Mr Star said.

"Farmers and regional Victorians have been extremely vocal in their opposition to the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund Levy changes. They've been left in the dark as to its future and we'll be continuing to call for it to be scrapped entirely.

"The much-hyped \$1.04 billion for road repairs and resurfacing is a step in the right direction, but fails to deliver the level of investment required to fix Victoria's deteriorating road network.

"The budget has been sold as Victoria's vision for the future, but is lacking when it comes to detail for regional Victoria.

"The agriculture industry contributes more than \$22 billion annually to the Victorian economy. The government's \$84 million investment to support farmers and agricultural industries must be dramatically increased and we need a roadmap to grow and build for the future," Mr Star finished.

The VFF welcomes: \$5.9 million for farmer and rural mental health support, wellbeing and safety; \$7.6 million biosecurity investment; \$4.9 million agricultural sector electrification and emissions reductions; \$12.7 million to build more CFA fire stations; \$75 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund; \$127 million to improve the flow of regional freight rail.

"Victorian farmers and regional Victorians are doing it extremely tough in the face of sustained drought and exploding cost pressures with ongoing overseas tensions. During this election year we're expecting to see much more support in the months ahead," Mr Star said.

"Help at the farm gate eventually flows to consumers and it's a win-win during a cost-of-living crisis to get the support to primary producers who are being forced to pass on these huge price increases."

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# Sacred Heart Students support 'Do It For Dolly' Day

ON Friday, May 8, students at Sacred Heart Primary School proudly participated in a special 'Do It For Dolly' Wellbeing Day, joining schools and communities across Australia in promoting kindness and standing against bullying and cyberbullying.

Students dressed in blue clothing to commemorate the day and show their support for the important message behind the initiative. Throughout the day, students took part in classroom activities and discussions focused on kindness, respect and caring for others.

As part of the celebrations, families and special guests were invited to enjoy a lovely blue-themed Mother's Day afternoon tea. Students enjoyed the opportunity to spoil their mums and important people in their lives while continuing the theme of kindness and connection.

The day provided an important reminder to students that treating others with respect, care and kindness is something that should happen every day. Sacred Heart was proud to support such a meaningful cause and help raise awareness for the wellbeing of children and young people across Australia.

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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T	S	B	E	E	F	B	E	Y					1	8	5	9	7	4	6	3	2
T	H	R	I	V	E	E	M	B	E				2	4	9	6	3	5	7	8	1
A	L	D	O	V	E	L	L	I					6	7	3	2	1	8	5	4	9
C	I	D	E	R	A	S	H	E	E	N			9	1	6	5	8	2	4	7	3
F	E	I	G	N	V	A	N	I	S	H			7	2	8	3	4	6	9	1	5
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## DEATH NOTICES



### McCormack, Jill.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Jill, a long serving secretary of the Whanregarwen Fire Brigade. She will be fondly remembered as an efficient and hard working member and her homemade morning teas are unsurpassed. Our sincere condolences to Jill's family and friends.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### Mussett, Francis 'Frank'

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Francis 'Frank' Mussett will be held at St Luke's Anglican Church, Yea on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 commencing at 1pm



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## MEETINGS



### AGM 2026

The Whanregarwen Fire Brigade will hold its AGM on Sunday May 31, 2026, commencing at 9am at the fire station. All welcome.

**ALEXANDRA Bowling Club** Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 24 at noon in the clubrooms. Presentations and barbecue to follow. All welcome.

**EILDON BOWLING CLUB** Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 31 at 11am at the club, Sixth Street, Eildon.

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

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Trustee Sue Carpenter. -S

## Yea Cemetery Trust celebrating completion of major projects

by Trustees, Yea Cemetery Trust

ON April 15, the Yea Cemetery Trust (YCT) met for its regular scheduled meeting. The Trust's primary function is the care, control and management of the Yea public cemeteries, ensuring they are operated respectfully, safely and in accordance with the law. In April, the trustees considered financial statements and expenditure, and a routine application to alter a monument. They also received a report on recent works in the Lawn and Old Cemeteries.

Flooding events in 2023 and 2024 caused serious erosion and tunnelling

under gravesites in the Old Cemetery, representing an amenity impact and safety risk. The trust secured *Disaster Recovery Funding* to remediate the cemetery with the support of Murrindindi Shire Council.

The trust was also successful in securing a generous grant from the Victorian Health Department's *Cemetery Grants Program* to bitumen-seal internal roads and to reshape spoon drains and kerbsides to manage water flow at the Lawn Cemetery.

The projects ran concurrently, with clean fill from the Lawn

Cemetery supporting repair works at the Old Cemetery. The Trustees are celebrating some wonderful community outcomes, offering families and friends an attractive and safe place to reflect on the lives of loved ones and Yea pioneers.

As always, the YCT welcomes feedback from the friends of the Yea Cemetery. The cemetery has benefited from those who volunteer their time to do some gardening and general beautification. The Yea Cemetery Trust Annual General Meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026 and all members of the community are invited to attend.

## Council calls on Federal Government for reforms to rural funding system

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has urged the Australian Government to act decisively to reform a local government funding system it says is no longer fit for purpose for rural communities.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher and Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi appeared before the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability last week, outlining the lived reality facing small rural councils and warning that the current system is placing essential local services and long-term community resilience at risk.

Council told the Inquiry that existing funding models fail to reflect the real costs, risks and responsibilities faced by rural municipalities, while relying heavily on revenue sources outside local government control.

Speaking to the Inquiry, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said councils like Murrindindi are being forced into increasingly difficult decisions.

"We're asking for a system that recognises what it actually costs to keep a place like Murrindindi running. We are talking about the basics: roads people can drive on and services communities rely on," Cr Gallagher said.

"Local options have been exhausted. What we are facing now are not efficiencies, they are heartbreaking compromises."

Council said these pressures are already being reflected in difficult budget decisions, including reduced investment in services and infrastructure renewal programs despite existing constraints and growing community need.

Residents are increasingly feeling the impact through higher rates,

lower levels of service, and the consequences of deferred renewal of critical infrastructure.

CEO Livia Bonazzi said the challenges facing Murrindindi were not isolated, but the predictable outcome of longstanding structural issues in local government funding.

"This is not an anomaly. It is the inevitable result of a system that no longer matches the reality it is meant to fund," Ms Bonazzi said.

"Right now, rural councils are not just underfunded, they are structurally set up to fail."

Council also highlighted the inequity of current disaster recovery funding arrangements, pointing to the January 2026 bushfires as clear evidence of systemic failure.

Murrindindi Shire experienced approximately 48 per cent of the state's structural losses during the fires yet received only around eight per cent of municipal recovery funding.

"We were on the frontline of this disaster, but we have been at the back of the queue for support," Ms Bonazzi said.

"When a funding system cannot respond proportionately to disaster impact, it is not fit for purpose.

"The shortfall does not disappear, it falls directly onto councils and communities."

The Inquiry heard that existing funding mechanisms actively disadvantage small rural councils, including: Financial Assistance Grants declining in real terms and not being distributed according to need; the Minimum Grant principle prioritising population over fiscal capacity, geographic scale and disaster exposure; competitive grant programs requiring co-investment

and resources many small councils simply do not have.

Murrindindi Shire Council is calling on the Commonwealth Government to: Restore untied Financial Assistance Grants to one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue; reform funding distribution models to better reflect need, risk and cost; increase untied funding support for small rural councils; reform grant programs so funding follows need, not advocacy capacity or available cash reserves.

Mayor Cr Gallagher said rural communities continue to step up and support one another but warned volunteer effort cannot continue to compensate for systemic underfunding.

"Across communities like Murrindindi, people are stepping up every day to support each other, often without funding," Cr Gallagher said.

"But resilience should not depend on volunteer effort filling systemic gaps left by government funding models."

Council warned that without meaningful reform, financial pressures on rural councils will continue to escalate, placing essential infrastructure, local services and long-term recovery at risk.

You can read Murrindindi Shire Council's 2026 submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability, including council's 2024 submission, at [aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Regional\\_Development/Infrastructure\\_and\\_Transport/LocalGovernmentFunding/Submissions](http://aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Regional_Development/Infrastructure_and_Transport/LocalGovernmentFunding/Submissions)

### BASSETT, John 1935-2026

Passed away peacefully at home on May 17, 2026. Loved husband of Vera. Father to Trevor, Kerryn and Alan. Grandad to Sarah, Nathan, Bec, Hayden, Aaron, Aoife and Maimi. Great grandad to Ollie, Jack and Rory. Much loved and already missed.

### MUSSETT, Francis James 'Frank'

31/11/1929-07/05/2026  
Cherished husband of Faith (dec), adored father to Michelle and Nicole, father in law to Kerryn. Much loved grandfather to Kaitlin, Lillian, Lulu and Perry, grandfather in law to Amy. Great grandfather to Lottie, Soren and Atlas. Loved uncle to Lisa, and great uncle to Megan and Erin. Forever in our hearts, at peace now.



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# SPORT

## NJ Murray at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

A FIELD of 28 men contested the final round of the NJ Murray at Yea Golf Club in excellent conditions, with the course presented in wonderful order.

Young gun Oakley Ness (18) produced a superb round to win the day with 42 points. Rob O'Halloran (21) finished second with 35 points on countback from Peter Johnston (15) and Alan Pell (13). While John Renehan (46) claimed fifth place with 34 points.

Nearest the pin on the 14th went to Jeff Aurisch, while Tony Rule took out the Club Award.

The overall NJ Murray winner was Alan Pell with 65 points, narrowly edging out Rob O'Halloran on 64, with last year's winner Bill Dredge close behind on 63.

### Wednesday golf report

A typical Yea winter's morning greeted players, with early fog clearing to a delightful sunny day.

Seventeen men competed in a three person Irish stableford event, with Rob O'Halloran, Tony Rule and Brian Simmons combining well to win with 72 points. Runners-up were Bob Glenister, Zac Pell and Gary Pollard on 70 points.

Jim Redmond (23) recorded the best individual score of the day with 38 points, while Bob Glenister (11) also impressed with 36 points.

There was no winner for nearest the pin on the 11th, and the Club Award cash jackpot was collected by Peter Johnston, John Phillips and Phil Armstrong.

### Ladies' report

Foggy conditions greeted the ladies for the first round of the Mona Clarke Trophy last Wednesday.

Christine Simmons leads the event after posting 36 points, followed by Cindy Armstrong on 34, with Marg Bailey third on 33. The second round will be played on June 10.

In last Saturday's stableford round, 10 players enjoyed glorious sunshine and a course in excellent condition. Sharon Grogan led the field with 38 points, closely followed by Christine Simmons on 37.

There were no nearest the pin winners, but plenty of highlights on the course. Lois and Vicki both recorded gobblers, Addison Scott marked her return with a birdie gobbler on the 16th, and Christine Simmons added a gobbler and a birdie on the fourth.

## Merton Cricket Club celebrates premiership at presentation night in Mansfield

MERTON Cricket Club recently celebrated their premiership winning season at their presentation night, held at the Commercial Hotel Mansfield.

Club champion and the bowling award went to 17 year old Henry Berriman with 37 wickets at 9.5. This award complemented the league b grade award for best bowling. Henry was also a handy lower order batsmen making 50 runs in six innings without losing his wicket.

Open batting went to Luke Benton with 320 runs at an average of 37. James Benton won the under 21 batting, most improved and the captain's award. Luke Berriman won the wicket keeping award, player of the finals and runner up club champion.

Harry Craddock won the Munro/Glass duck award, Jarrod Mahoney won the fielding award while Murray Sutton and Henry Berriman were presented the match balls after taking five wickets in an innings.

Club president Burnie Cummins was made life member after 30 years and six premierships in his time at the top job showing great commitment to the role as president. Trudy Berriman won the Tom Jones best club person for her off field work over 25 years.

The Merton committee would like to thank their sponsors and supporters in the premiership winning year and hoping to continue as one of the top sides in the Wangaratta and District Cricket Association.



Harry Craddock, Luke Benton, Bernie Cummins, Will Benton, James Benton, Henry Berriman, Trudy Berriman and Luke Berriman. -S



Luke Berriman with his awards. -S



James Benton with his awards. -S



Henry Berriman with his awards. -S

## Alexandra Squash Club: Round four of term two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition

Red Backs versus White Tails

MATTHEW versus Ethan: The game started quite close. It looked as if it was going to stay that way, but Matt just had too much class and pulled away. A great match to watch. 70 to 49.

Jessica (fill in) versus Liane: A very close contest until the third game when Liane put it all together to create a match winning the lead. 68 to 53.

Mick versus Travis: A great contest for three games as the momentum swung between the players depending on who was in control of the points. Mick lost his timing in the final game, and the wheels fell off while Travis capitalised on his opportunities to surge ahead. 66 to 54

Jim versus Andrew: Four evenly matched games as neither player could take control

of the contest. Both players dug deep into their book of tricks. Andrew caught Jim off guard several times using a tactical boast while Jim mixed up deep lobbs and a short game to keep Andrew guessing. In the end Jim was on top by two-points. 52 to 50.

### Funnel Webs versus Trapdoors

Daniel W (coach) versus Tyler: Daniel was kept on the run to push him. Daniel made Tyler work for his win. Tyler finished the match with more points. 53 to 42.

Randy versus Laura: Randy fought hard, but Laura had the upper hand until the last round. There were lots of good rallies throughout. 70 to 46.

Sam versus Rob: Good running from both players. Sam took control with this serves and beautiful depth with his shots, combined with reading his opponents shots he claimed the match with a commanding lead. 80 to 47.

John versus Daniel W: The points were square after the first game. John then took control in games two and three to claim the match for victory. 63 to 50.

### Wednesday competition

Bees versus Sand Flies

Marty versus Ben H: Ben was switched on early and got the early jump on his young adversary. Marty kept his error count low in the second game and the contest came in. Ben employed a combination of harder shots and sheer luck to jump to an imposing lead in the third. With economical shots Ben continued to dominate and took home a 15 point win. 66 to 51.

Lucas versus Jess: Starting as a close contest the match slowly drifted to favour Lucas as time went on. Increasing his margin with every game Lucas closed out the match with the victory. 68 to 45

Justin versus Phil: This match resembled a charging bull being subdued by an eastern

philosopher. Phil's ability to arrest the momentum of the ball and manipulate it around the court had Justin struggling to find court position and timing. Justin was hitting the ball with depth and angles, however Phil could intercept and place the ball short. Justin wore away at Phil's system but could not get enough points as Phil cruised to an imposing win. 66 to 48.

### Mosquitos versus Wasps

Jordan versus Beth: Jordan is improving quicker in the higher level. He kept the pressure on Beth to take game three. Beth still had some tricks and experience to draw on in order to defeat Jordan and claim the win. 68 to 65.

Ben F (fill in) versus Michael M: There were some beautiful drives and great rallies. Ben had some awesome backhand control and changes of serve that helped push him forward to victory. 63 to 37.

# Slippery conditions for Yea junior netballers

by Joanne Madden

ANOTHER wet Sunday greeted Yea's junior netballers for their home matches, with teams facing a strong range of opposition across all age groups. The 11 and Under side came up against Alexandra Black, 13 and Under faced ladder leaders Seymour, while the 15 and Under team took on Broadford.

## Eleven and Under

Yea's 11 and Under team played out an exciting contest against Alexandra Black, with the match finishing in a four-all draw. The young side continued to show significant improvement in their footwork, passing and movement around the court, producing a strong team performance in challenging conditions.

Madeline and Eden were recognised with the team awards.

## Thirteen and Under

The 13 and Under side battled hard against top-of-the-table Seymour. Yea matched it with the visitors throughout the first half before Seymour gained momentum after the main break. Despite several key absences, the Yea girls showed plenty of determination and resilience in the wet conditions, eventually going down eight to 22. Charlotte and Tahlia received the awards for their efforts.

## Fifteen and Under

Yea's 15 and Under team produced another dominant display, defeating Broadford 64 to

13. The side continues to build strongly as the season progresses, combining well across the court and playing with great confidence. Charlotte and Lexi were named award winners for the game.

## Award winners

Eleven and Under: Just Great Coffee Player of the Day, Madeline Lynch; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Eden Benefield.

Thirteen and Under: Sprout Wellness Player of the Day, Tahlia Waghorn; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Charlotte Grant.

Fifteen and Under: Harris Gardenscapes Player of the Day, Charlotte Armstrong; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Lexi Harris.

# Victory in five of seven matches for Yea Football Netball Club

YEA Football Netball Club's senior football teams claimed wins, as did two of four netball teams, against Yarra Junction Eagles and the Wandin Football Netball Club.

## Football

Yea women's team 39 defeated Wandin women's team 3.

Yea Seniors 108 defeated Yarra Junction Seniors 15.

Yea Reserves 146 defeated Yarra Junction Reserves 30.

## Netball

A Grade, Yea 43 were defeated by Yarra Junction 52.

B Grade, Yea 53 defeated Yarra Junction 42.

C Grade, Yea 43 defeated Yarra Junction 18.

D Grade, Yea 19 were defeated by Yarra Junction 28.

# Euroa and District Ladies Winter Tennis: Round three

by Deb Mims

## Moglonemby versus Wappan 2-4 27-45

MANSFIELD'S Wappan journeyed across to Euroa to play against Moglonemby. Playing on Euroa's grass courts was a first for Kimberley Marsden and Mary Reilly, who also had another first on the day. It was her first playing in the Euroa and District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) competition and by the sounds of things, not her last.

Combined with regulars, Anna Speirs and Rhonda Carpenter, Marsden and Reilly helped Wappan take the major points with winning four of the six sets. Moglonemby's, Sue Vaughan, Kylie Ross, Lisa Krepp and Lyn Johnson fought hard with some close sets including a tie breaker, but had to settle for runners up last week.

## Creightons Creek versus Euroa 0-6 32-48

Being the home court for both Creightons Creek and Euroa it was just a matter of who was going to supply afternoon tea, and the tennis balls of course.

Euroa's regular players, Faye Mollison, Julie Harrington, and Mary Dewis were able supported by fill-in Judy Sands, and were greedy taking all six sets off Creightons Creek team, Lyndall Bigland, Ros Doxey, Lyn Pierce and Kerry Hewlett.

Once again, a tie breaker was played and a couple of close sets that unfortunately didn't go Creightons Creek's way. Creightons Creek was the home team serving up a superb feast that was enjoyed by everyone.

## Benalla versus Mansfield 6-0 48-20

Mansfield's Sophie Yencken jumped ship for the day and played for Benalla against Mansfield. Peta Kelly, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell welcomed Sophie on board taking all six sets against Karyn Fraser, Cathie Anderson, Carolyn Murray, Deb McCormack and Loretta Armitage.

Played on Benalla's superb grass courts, a glorious day, delicious afternoon tea and lots of chatter, despite not taking a set, was enjoyed by the Mansfield ladies. And again a tie breaker was thrown in there among the scores.

Terip Terip had a bye.



Eleven and Under award winners Eden and Madeline. -S



Thirteen and Under award winners Charlotte and Tahlia. -S

# Positive games for Yea junior footballers

## Under Nine

by Kate Adams

WHAT AN awesome game from Yea Football Netball Club's Under Nines last week. The team came ready to play and gave 100 per cent effort from the first bounce to the final siren. Ball movement, teamwork, and pressure around the contest were fantastic, and it was great to see everyone getting involved.

The highlight of the day was goal kicking. Players attacked the goals with confidence and were rewarded with some exciting goals.

There were plenty of brave moments, strong tackles, clever handballs, and second efforts all game long. Most importantly, the players encouraged each other, celebrated team success, and showed excellent sportsmanship.

A huge shoutout to this week's award winners: Caleb, Just Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Eddy, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Max, Progression Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player Award.

The club is super proud of the whole team. Keep having fun and playing for each other. The club also says a big thank you to Seymour Lions for a fantastic game and to the wonderful families for cheering the team on.

## Under 10

by Jess Robinson

Yea's Under 10s took on Seymour Lions at home in the rain, wet and slippery conditions



Under 10 award winners Logan S, Nullah and Charlie. -S

brought some additional challenges and excitement to the game.

The little Tigers are really coming into their own, consistent footy is being played with goals and points flowing, you can see the skills being practised at training, showcased in the games.

Awards: Yarra Valley Gas Improvement, Nullah; Delux Rods Tiger Spirit, Logan S; Cathkin Farm Services Coach's, Charlie.

## Under 12

by Belinda Johnston

Last Sunday saw the Yea Tigers take on Seymour Lions at home in very wet and slippery conditions. The Tigers came out

strong early, with Logan Steiner kicking the opening goal of the game and giving Yea plenty of momentum from the outset.

Seymour's response was intense, applying strong pressure around the ground, while Yea's backline worked tirelessly throughout the match and showed plenty of determination and teamwork despite the challenging conditions. Unfortunately, Seymour proved too strong on the day and the Tigers were unable to come away with the win.

Congratulations to last week's award winners: Logan Steiner, Nullah Vincent, and Rory Bohn.

The club says well done team for your effort, resilience and determination in tough conditions.

# The Chronicle Sport



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## FoodWorks Fours Tournament at Yea Bowls Club

by Maurie Finn

ALL rinks were full at the picturesque Yea Bowls Club last Saturday, as they hosted their annual FoodWorks Fours tournament. FoodWorks have been the major sponsor of this event for many years now.

Sixty-four players from far and wide competed for the major prizes. There were teams from Avenel, Bennettswood, Cockatoo, Bendigo, Eildon, Broadford, Kilmore, Tatura Hilltop, Yarra Junction, Upwey, Tecoma and of course Yea.

In near perfect conditions, the competition was fierce, with little separating teams after three games of eight ends.

Tatura Hilltop came out narrow victors winning their three games on 45 points defeating Kilmore also three game winners by a narrow margin of 44 points. Third place went to Bendigo, winning two of their three

games, finishing on 37 points. The best of the Yea teams won two of three games and finished in sixth place on 33 pts.

The raffle was very popular, with a selection of great prizes. Many thanks to the Yea Golf Club, the Royal Mail Hotel, and Bunnings for making this possible.

Not only was this day a success for the Yea Bowls Club. It is a boost for local businesses supplying fuel, food and accommodation.

Already quite a few teams have committed for next year's event, which is a compliment to the members of the Yea Bowls Club for their generous hospitality.

### BPL Cup

Another major event coming up on May 30 is a regional Bowls Premier League Cup. This is a first for Yea. This event is played Australia wide with the finals played in Brisbane later in the year.



With so many sides fielded, the green was packed with balls. -BD



Happy Kilmore bowlers. -BD



Giving advice on shot placement with a smile. -BD



Winners Tatura-Hilltop with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S



Many teams participated in the tournament in glorious autumn conditions. -BD



Best last game, Broadford, with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S



Second placed Kilmore with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S



Third placed Bendigo with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S