

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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Rotary Club of Yea celebrates 40th birthday

THE Rotary Club of Yea celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday night, May 2, since being chartered on May 1, 1986. That's 40 years of a rich and varied history of community service both within the local community and beyond.

The emcee for the evening was Rotarian David Anderson (aka Mr Golden Tonsils) and he kept the evening moving along nicely. Special guests for the evening were charter president Daryl Callander together with his daughters Gina (the club's first ever exchange student) and Adele.

Also present were Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, District Governor (DG) of District 9790 Emma Davis and Mayor of Murrindindi Damian Gallagher with his wife Maree, plus presidents of nearby Rotary clubs and lots of guests and friends of Rotary.

With the Yea Shire Hall decorated in a sea of blue and gold, there was lots of memorabilia on display which certainly promoted plenty of discussion and brought back fond memories for many.

Guest speakers were charter members Les Hall and Gary Fitzgerald, who remember Rotary as being rather different back in the



Living Legends with DG Emma Davis and president Darryl King (third from right), John Sinclair, Les Hall, Rodney Ridd and Gary Fitzgerald. -S

day, with it being much more formal and rules based and not to mention men only. Carol Hogg was the other speaker. Carol was the first woman inducted into the club and helped paved the way for what the club is today, one with almost as many women members as men.

It was special to acknowledge four Legends, all still active members, recognising their continuous service. Congratulations to Gary Fitzgerald, Les Hall, Rodney Ridd and John Sinclair. Between them they have served our community with passion and commitment for just on 40

years. Such a lot of dedicated service between them. The club is lucky to have them as members.

The club has a rich history of being involved with the Rotary Youth Exchange program, both in sending students to other countries

(outbounds) and hosting students in return (inbounds). Gina Callander went to India as the first outbound student way back in 1986. Also present was Andrew Foster, who returned from 12 months in Germany back in January this year. Guests also heard via video links from four former inbound students, Lara from France, Carolin from Germany, Fabio from Switzerland and Haru from Japan. And of course, the club is currently hosting Josefa Mella Ruiz (Cucky) from Chile.

No birthday party is complete without a birthday cake, which was cut by current president Darryl King, charter president Daryl Callander and DG Emma Davis. To complete the evening, those who still had some energy left did some bush dancing to the music of *Blackberry Jam*. That was a whole lot of fun and there was lots of laughter as well.

Here's to the next 40 years of service to both the Yea community and beyond. Happy birthday Yea Rotary.

More images on page 10.



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INDEPENDENTS SECURE WIN FOR AGED CARE

After persistent advocacy from Independents in Parliament, the Government has scrapped aged care co-payments for essential daily care.

This is a win for older people across Indi and the nation - and for the families and carers who spoke up about what these changes mean for their daily lives.

Helen Haines MP

Wangaratta: 117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta | 03 5721 7077
Wodonga: 79 High Street, Wodonga | 02 6024 6284
helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au | helenhaines.org



ADVERTISEMENT

Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St, Wangaratta VIC 3677.

Improving access to healthy foods

NOURISHING Neighbourhoods is a VicHealth-funded partnership working to strengthen the local food system across Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires. The three year project runs from June 2025 to December 2028.

The partnership aims to improve access to fresh, affordable, nutritious and culturally

appropriate food while supporting strong communities, a healthy environment and a resilient local economy.

Community members, groups and organisations involved in the local food system are invited to submit an expression of interest to participate in year two of the program, which begins on July 1.

Eligible participants include community gardens, neighbourhood houses, schools, market farmers, educators, food relief organisations and others involved in food production or distribution.

Submit your expression of interest by 7pm on May 13 with Mitchell Shire at tinyurl.com/ycywh492

Opposition claims fire inquiry confirms the under-resourcing of the CFA

THE state Opposition said that the government's chronic underfunding of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) was laid bare at a Parliamentary Inquiry on Friday, May 1, with recent government funding announcements falling well short of reversing the damage.

CFA Chief Executive, Greg Leach, said the organisation was not meeting fleet renewal benchmarks, including the turning over of tankers at 20 years of age and pumpers at 15.

He said that a \$65 million per year investment would be needed just to maintain the current age of the CFA fleet, a far cry from Labor's recent \$10 million per year promise for the next ten years.

He also revealed there are 802 single-cab tankers in the CFA fleet. This contradicts earlier Department of Justice and Community Safety evidence that put the figure at 627 during Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings six months ago.

CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan, told the inquiry that CFA staff shortages led to "some deficiencies" in affected districts. He confirmed he had formally raised concerns with the Emergency Management Commissioner ahead of the fire season, and issued a "qualified attestation" about the CFA's readiness ahead of summer due to the staff shortages. This attestation has not been made public.

He also said unfilled vacancies existed in District 22 at the time of the Longwood fire in January, but could not say how many.

Fire Services Implementation Monitor, Niall Blair, warned the inquiry the vacancies were "leaving vulnerabilities across the state."

Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien, said Labor continued to under-resource the CFA and leave regional Victoria vulnerable.

"We knew the CFA was under-resourced going into the fire season and not getting enough support to upgrade fire trucks. Today's hearings confirmed this.

Pre-sentence hearing over Yarck death

SEYMOUR man, David Graham Berry (44) returned to County Court for a pre-sentence hearing last week before Judge Pardeep Tiwana.

Berry pleaded guilty to theft, culpable driving causing death and failing to stop after a motor vehicle accident, and unlicensed driving.

The court heard that on May 8, 2024, Berry found keys to a Ford Ranger inside a Euroa hotel and stole the vehicle. At the time, Berry only had a learner's permit and had never held a full licence.

Later that afternoon, a witness called the police regarding the vehicle travelling at excessive speeds, higher than 140km/h.

On the Maroondah Highway in Yarck at 4.16pm, Berry drove the ute on the wrong side of the road, into the path of oncoming motorcyclist from Alexandra. The motorcyclist died at the scene.

Berry exited the Ford Ranger when it came to a stop about half a kilometre away. He was found just before 7pm, 5km from the scene of the collision.

The court heard that Berry was under the effects of methamphetamine and alcohol, and that he was experiencing cognitive impairment and impaired decision-making. His blood alcohol levels were between 0.129 and 0.187. As a learner driver, he was meant to have a blood alcohol level of zero.

The court heard victim impact statements from his ex-wife and their two daughters. The judge said their statements spoke "eloquently of the loss the family endure."

Berry will be sentenced in mid-May, having already spent 720 days in custody.

"The ageing firefighting fleet will only get older under this government, with volunteers forced to sit in the open air in single-cab trucks, exposed to the smoke, dust and heat, for another decade if Labor win again in November."

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

Renewable energy

KEN Collier would be absolutely correct in his assessment of the renewable energy issue, if the *Spotlight* expose was correct. Unfortunately, *Spotlight* chose to omit certain facts and mislead their viewers. *Media Watch* (available on ABC iView) did an excellent article covering these omissions, untruths and misdirections and I encourage everyone to watch this before rushing to criticise renewable energy.

There is a serious and shameful war being waged against renewables by those with vested interests and deep pockets. Similar tactics to those used in the defence of tobacco are being deployed, with similar deleterious outcomes. Unfortunately, we can no longer rely on honest reporting by some sections of the media.

Andy Miller, Alexandra

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
 1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
 2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
 2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
 2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
 4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
 4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
 Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 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)	8.00AM Mon	1.85	steady	below flood level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	8.00AM Mon	0.60	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.00AM Mon	0.73	steady	below flood level
Home Creek at Yarck	7.32AM Mon	0.23	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.27AM Mon	0.52	steady	below flood level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	8.00AM Mon	0.42	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	8.00AM Mon	0.40	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	8.00AM Mon	3.86	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	8.00AM Mon	0.45	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Trawool	8.00AM Mon	1.54	steady	below flood level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	8.00AM Mon	0.29	steady	below flood level
Goulburn River at Seymour	8.30AM Mon	1.81	steady	below flood level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	8.00AM Mon	0.79	steady	

***ISSUED AT 8:54 AM AEDT MONDAY 4 MAY 2026**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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

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Weekly Weather
 May 6 - May 12, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra **Yea**

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	15	Wednesday	5	16
Thursday	6	8	Thursday	6	9
Friday	9	13	Friday	10	14
Saturday	9	15	Saturday	9	16
Sunday	7	17	Sunday	8	17
Monday	7	19	Monday	7	19
Tuesday	7	20	Tuesday	8	20

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	22mm
Buxton	43mm
Eildon (AWS)	24mm
Flowerdale	22mm
Jamieson	37mm
Kinglake	26mm
Lake Eildon	30mm
Mansfield	12mm
Taggerty	25mm
Yarck	18mm
Yea	16mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	269.41m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	40.4%
Metres below full supply	19.49m
Daily inflow	2500ML
Release	4000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	63%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
 5772 1002 or
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Claire Palmer commences as Interim CEO of Alexandra District Health

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) has welcomed Claire Palmer as Interim Chief Executive Officer, commencing Monday, April 20.

Claire brings more than 25 years of nursing and health service experience to the role, including almost two decades with ADH. Since joining the organisation in 2007, she has held several senior leadership positions, including Nurse Unit Manager Acute and Urgent Care, Deputy Director of Nursing/Quality Manager, Director of Quality and Risk, Director Clinical Services/Nursing, and Acting CEO.

A local at heart, Claire grew up in Violet Town and now lives in Yea with her husband and two sons on their Angus cattle farm.

Claire said she is proud to step into the role and lead ADH during an important time for the service and community.

"I care deeply about our staff, our patients and our community. My focus is on supporting our team to continue delivering safe, high-quality care for the people who rely on us every day," Claire said.

"ADH is a unique place. We have a strong culture, a supportive team and highly skilled staff who are committed to achieving the best health outcomes for our patients. We provide care across every stage of life, from young children in urgent care through to end-of-life care, and we do it in a very personal way.

"I'm excited about what's ahead, including expanding our oncology infusion clinic to two days per week in partnership with Eastern Health, and introducing a post-discharge

cardiology clinic from May so patients can access follow-up care closer to home."

ADH Board Chair Kim Flanagan said Claire's strong connection to the organisation and community positions her well to lead the health service.

"Claire knows ADH inside and out. She is a highly respected leader with a deep commitment to quality care and to supporting our staff," Mr Flanagan said.

"We are confident Claire will continue to build on the strengths of our service and ensure we deliver the high-quality care our community expects."

The Boards of Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health have formally recommended a voluntary amalgamation to strengthen access to care closer to home for the Alexandra and district community.

The proposal is with the Minister for Health for consideration and approval under the *Health Services Act 1988*. No changes will occur unless Ministerial approval is granted.

ADH continues to focus on strengthening local healthcare access, including initiatives that reduce the need for patients to travel, while maintaining high-quality, community-based care.

Big increases in drug use over the past year

REPORT 25 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program has recently been released, based on data collected from December 2024 to October 2025, covering 57 per cent of the population of Australia.

In the CEO report, it states, "Australia's major illicit drug markets continue to demonstrate sustained growth. In year nine of the program, consumption of methylamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and 3,4-methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA) continued to increase, with a record combined weight of 26.8 tonnes consumed nationally between August 2024 and August 2025. This amounts to a 21 per cent combined increase from the previous year, with the following increases individually methylamphetamine 23 per cent, cocaine 17 per cent, MDMA 20 per cent and heroin 23 per cent.

The estimated street value of these last four drugs in year nine was \$14.3 billion, up from \$11.5 billion in the previous year.

Australia has the second-highest rate of consumption of methylamphetamine out of the 34 SCORE countries (Sewage Core Group Europe), covering Europe, North and South America and Oceania.

The data is also broken down on a state-by-state basis, with the Victorian data below.

Since August 2022, the estimated alcohol consumption of regional people has fallen and is now only slightly above urban consumption rates.

It's a different story with cannabis however, with regional cannabis consumption at double the rate of people in urban areas.

It seems that people in urban areas prefer cocaine, with the rate being almost double that of people in regional areas.

The rate of fentanyl usage in regional area has fallen in the last year, and is now similar to urban usage.

Heroin usage is three times higher in urban areas.

Ketamine usage is also higher in urban areas, but not by much.

MDA usage in regional areas is double that of urban areas.

The rate of MDMA and methylamphetamine use is similar between urban and regional.

People in regional areas smoke more nicotine, with their rate being a third higher than in urban areas.

The oxycodone usage rate in regional areas is double that of urban areas.

AusNet Energy Resilience Community Fund final round opens

COMMUNITIES across AusNet's electricity distribution network are invited to apply for the final round of grants from AusNet's \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund (ERCF), which is now open.

Established in response to the major storms of February 2024, the fund is helping communities better prepare for prolonged power outages and emergencies.

Since launching the fund, AusNet has provided grants to almost 100 energy resilience and education projects including the creation of more than 60 community energy resilience hubs providing power, connection, critical services and community support during severe weather and other emergencies.

AusNet Energy Resilience Community Fund Manager Kim Sullivan said the grants are helping strengthen local resilience and keep communities safe and connected when it matters most.

"Reliable energy is critical to how our communities function, particularly during extreme weather and prolonged outages," Ms Sullivan said.

"Through this fund, AusNet is supporting practical, on-the-ground solutions, from back-up power and solar and storage, to community facilities that will help people access vital services and stay connected during emergencies."

The ERCF is open to community and not-for-profit organisations, local councils and essential small businesses across AusNet's electricity distribution network area.

In this final round, AusNet is offering Energy Resilience Grants of \$5000 to \$50,000 for projects such as generators, solar and battery storage, back-up power for critical businesses, electrical infrastructure upgrades, and generator-powered mobile facilities including cool rooms, kitchens and showers. There are also Energy Education and Literacy Grants of \$5000 to \$25,000 for initiatives that improve energy knowledge and capability through learning resources, multimedia tools and community education campaigns.

Ms Sullivan said all Energy Resilience Grant projects must be capable of operating during outages.

"These projects must be 'islandable', meaning they can deliver power when the broader network is unavailable."

Applications close at 5pm on Friday, June 12. More information and application details are available at ausnetservices.com.au/ercf

CFA conducts emergency stabilisation works

THE Country Fire Authority (CFA) is conducting its largest emergency stabilisation works in history following the devastating January 2026 bushfires.

These works are taking part across the southwest, west, northwest and northeast of the state and remain a key focus in CFA's post fire recovery for landholders.

CFA volunteers and staff, Forest Fire Management Vic (FFMVic), Victorian State Emergency Service (SES), Coast Guard, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and contractors have been, and some continue to be, out on the ground in fire affected areas repairing and replacing private infrastructure that was impacted as a result of suppression activities during fire response, including fencing that was cut, gates that were damaged, and replacing water that was used.

The reinstatement of soil and stabilisation of control lines on private property remains a priority and involves extensive work using dozers and graders to push back soil and apply erosion control measures to protect the land and water quality.

CFA established a dedicated Incident Control Centre (ICC) at Seymour specifically for the emergency stabilisation works for the Longwood-Berrys Lane fire.

CFA's Vegetation Management Team Leader and Deputy Incident Controller/Stabilisation Manager for the Seymour ICC Daniel Idczak said the Longwood-Berrys Lane fire is the largest fire CFA lead this season, impacting more than 1800 properties predominantly on private land.

"The perimeter of the fire is 540km and we have mapped around 889km of control lines so it was a very large fire," Daniel said.

"We've assessed all that area aerially and crews are working on all sectors of the fire footprint with around 60 per cent of the control line now stabilised.

"We have a number of CFA volunteers and staff in teams out there, working alongside partner agencies to make this happen. It's sector-wide and it's a big job, so we need all the resources we can get."

CFA is working through properties on a request basis. Daniel says some landowners may not want parts of their property repaired.

"People often ask us to leave the control line in place as they want to maintain it as a permanent asset going forward," Daniel said.

"We've received really positive feedback from residents as a result of these stabilisation works, some have made permanent changes to their properties to allow easier access for emergency services in the future if required.

"We're moving as quick as we feasibly can to get to properties. There's a lot happening out there and a lot of people have been impacted but we're doing our best to get there as quickly as we can.

"We're working closely with those impacted and traumatised community members so there's many challenging conversations taking place."

CFA is also working with the community to repair a football oval used for staging areas, cleaning the halls that were used for community hubs and replacing the water used for aviation purposes.

The emergency stabilisation works have largely been completed for the fire impacted areas of Natimuk, Streatham and Larralea, while works for the Mount Mercer fire is scheduled to be completed by the end of April and in the next couple of months for Harcourt and Longwood.

Landholders who have been impacted by fire can submit a form to request repairs at their property that were a direct result of fire suppression activities from emergency services. All fencing and water replacement work is reactive to requests from landholders.



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The Yea Chronicle

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Lyn at Yea Newsagency for the many years of dedication to her business.

Good luck Lyn with your future endeavours.

From May 6, copies of the *Yea Chronicle* will be available from Yea FoodWorks

Fire inquiry: Shire CEO's opening statement



Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi. -S

“RECOVERY is underway in Murrindindi, but in some areas, we remain in relief. We are still making properties safe, clearing dangerous trees. And we are still receiving new requests for help -months after the fires. The evidence before you is unfolding.

Murrindindi Shire was the most heavily impacted municipality in Victoria, with nearly half of the state's structural losses occurring here. But the defining issue before this Inquiry is not only the scale of the fire. It is what has followed.

Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes.

The recovery system treated impact as if it were evenly distributed. It is not. And this mismatch is now shaping outcomes on the ground, in the pace of recovery, in the visibility of services, and in the widening disparity between communities.

Recovery is the point at which we either restore communities, or quietly lose them.

People compare, across municipalities, across services, across time, and when they see that disparity, confidence erodes.

But the deeper consequence is this: Under-funded recovery does not just delay rebuilding. It compounds trauma, because people are required to keep retelling their story, waiting for support that arrives unevenly or never arrives.

A system that is not proportionate in design becomes re-traumatising in delivery.

We entered this fire season already carrying the impact of floods, storms and prolonged disruption. Infrastructure was already compromised.

Recovery frameworks assume events occur in isolation. Communities experience them as cumulative, layered and unfinished. Local government sits at the centre of this. We are the recovery coordinating authority. We are the delivery layer. We manage infrastructure. We enable rebuilding. We support community wellbeing and local economies. Half our workforce was directly impacted by this disaster. They are living the recovery while delivering it. At the same time, volunteers and Community-led hubs have been essential.

But community is not a substitute for a system that is properly resourced. The core issue before this committee is not just the fire. It is the system that follows it.

Resilience is not a funding model.

When recovery funding is standardised against unequal impact, the burden shifts onto communities, onto volunteers, and onto small rural councils with limited capacity to absorb it.

And when that happens, costs do not disappear, they are deferred, amplified, and returned later at greater expense. Our

submission sets out 15 practical, evidence-based recommendations. This Inquiry does not lack solutions. What is required now is implementation.

There is a further reality this Inquiry must confront. Local government is the recovery coordinating authority under the Act. That is an operational, legal and continuous responsibility, but this responsibility assumes a system that is resourced to deliver it. Right now, that assumption does not hold.

In Murrindindi, recovery has been carried by a small workforce working sustained, 14-hour days, week after week, coordinating services, managing infrastructure, supporting communities, and filling the gaps where the system has not reached. This is not a sustainable model of delivery. And it is not what the system was designed to rely on.

Murrindindi is already a financially constrained rural council, and we are expected to absorb one of the most significant disaster recovery tasks in the state. Council cannot realistically discharge its statutory coordinating role if the funding that underpins it is not proportionate to the task, because the consequence of that gap is borne by communities.

As CEO of this council, I have a responsibility not only to deliver recovery, but to ensure it can be delivered safely, lawfully and effectively. Under current settings, that

assurance is difficult to provide, and unless there is urgent, structural correction in how our recovery is funded, resourced and supported, we will need to consider whether this function can continue to sit with local government in its current form.

Because we cannot accept a model where responsibility is assigned without the capacity to fulfil it, and where the risk of that gap is carried by the very communities we are here to support.

We will continue to stand with our community. The question is whether the system and government will stand with us.

What's happening with the post-fire clean up?

MURRINDINDI and Strathbogie Shires have called on the Victorian Government to urgently extend council's free bushfire waste disposal program beyond its current end date of May 12.

The councils are calling for a further six months to be added to the program to ensure recovery continues to be properly supported for households impacted by the January bushfires.

In January, the Victorian Government provided two programs for bushfire impacted property owners to use following the January 2026 fires, free waste disposal at council-managed landfills and Resource and Recovery Centres available to all bushfire impacted property owners/tenants until May

12, and on-site clean-up for eligible property owners however it must be a primary place of residence, under-insured or uninsured. No deadline has been provided for the end of the latter program.

Over 275 Murrindindi property owners registered for the Victorian Government's on-site clean-up program, however only 27 have been accepted with just five seeing any activity at their property. Strathbogie has seen 131 property owners registered with 14 accepted and four seeing any activity at their property.

Some people have reportedly now given up waiting for the state government program and have withdrawn from the process while many others have been deemed ineligible.

Demand has been high for the council operated, fee-free waste disposal services, with a years' worth of waste being registered in the first four months of the year at the Alexandra landfill site.

The free bushfire waste disposal at council facilities is currently providing a critical safety net for those with no other viable recovery pathway. With a high number of people still waiting for their assessments, closing this option now would unfairly shift pressure onto those least able to absorb it.

Of the many municipalities affected by the 2026 fires, these two shires were the most impacted, yet the scale of state-funded recovery support has not yet matched the level of damage experienced locally.

Reports are still coming 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. The delays to clean up have also had a compounding impact on mental health and wellbeing with residents continuing to confront the extent of damage to their properties.

Mayor of Murrindindi Shire Council, Cr Damien Gallagher, said the community was increasingly anxious about the looming end date.

“For many people in our shire, recovery hasn't even properly started yet. Some residents are only now gaining safe access to their properties, while others waited in good faith for state programs that are still moving slowly,” said Cr Gallagher.

Mayor of Strathbogie Shire Council, Cr Scott Jeffery said “We have seen many people take advantage of the free waste disposal at council's sites over the past few months.

“Many residents in Strathbogie are not eligible for the on-site state-provided clean-up program, so this service [free waste disposal] simply provides essential support for people least able to absorb further pressure. Without accessible and affordable disposal options, there is also a heightened risk of environmental harm and illegal dumping, which could further impact already vulnerable landscapes and waterways.

“We're seeing strong use of the service and many of these people are already carrying enormous financial and emotional strain. Without an extension, these residents will be left with no viable pathway to safely and affordably remove fire-damaged waste,” Cr Jeffery said.

Both councils are urging the state government to act quickly to avoid compounding hardship for already vulnerable households.

“Behind every load of fire-damaged waste are families trying to put their life back together, businesses trying to reopen, and communities doing their best to move forward,” Cr Jeffery added.

“Support needs to keep pace with impact, especially for those who have the least capacity to carry more. Right now, it's not and that needs to change and quickly.”

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

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 7

Free heart health checks at Murrindindi Foodshare 9am-noon- access via Bayley Street carpark.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Confetti and Chaos at Trawool Estate. This fabulous five star experience has fun and mayhem bursting from the seams of a wedding dress, with entirely original comedy that pulls out all the stops; including quick

fire character changes and quick fire laughs. From arrival through to seating, eating, and dancing, audiences will become part of a classic wedding reception gone wildly wrong. The most hilarious wedding reception ever. A perfect gift for your mum for Mother's Day. Book now 5792 1444 or trawoolstate.com.au/whatson/confettiandchaos

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Yea Garden Club announces it's inaugural Mother's Day bouquet sale outside Yenckens Yea from 9am until sold out.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Enjoy Mother's Day in Wild Water restaurant at Trawool Estate. Dine from the usual all day

menu, or enjoy the specials available just for this special day. Booking essential on 5792 1444 or trawoolstate.com.au/booktable

TUESDAY, MAY 12

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

THURSDAY, MAY 21

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



Murrindindi calls for reform after fire inquiry hearing

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has renewed its call for targeted structural reform to Victoria's disaster recovery system following its appearance before the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires.

Council's submission, reinforced through council's testimony at a public hearing held in Alexandra on Friday, April 24, sets out 15 practical, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen preparedness, response and long-term recovery.

The evidence presented to the Inquiry points to a fundamental issue at the centre of recovery.

Murrindindi was the most heavily impacted municipality in Victoria during the January fires, with almost one third of the shire affected and nearly half of the state's structural losses occurring locally, including 216 homes, more than 520 outbuildings and widespread destruction of farming infrastructure and fencing.

Impact assessments compiled by Emergency Management Victoria show that Murrindindi experienced around 48 per cent of the state's losses.

Despite this, council received approximately eight per cent of recovery funding including the same \$750,000 Council Support Fund allocation as most of the other 18 impacted councils.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said this misalignment between impact and funding was central to council's evidence.

"Frontline in the disaster, back of the queue in recovery. That's the reality for Murrindindi," Cr Gallagher said.

"By any measure, Murrindindi sustained close to half of the state's impact, yet received a fraction of the recovery funding," Cr Gallagher said. "Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes for our communities."

Council's submission outlines how this one-size-fits-all approach has created visible gaps in recovery, particularly in rural municipalities managing large-scale damage across dispersed communities with limited workforce capacity.

"When funding does not reflect impact, it affects the pace of recovery, the visibility of services, and ultimately confidence in the system," Cr Gallagher said.

Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi told the Inquiry that while recovery is underway, many parts of the shire remain in relief, with new requests for assistance continuing months after the fires.

"The defining issue before this Inquiry is not only the scale of the fire, but how recovery has unfolded," Ms Bonazzi said.

"Equal funding did not result in equal outcomes. The recovery system assumed impact was evenly distributed. The evidence shows it was not."

Ms Bonazzi said the consequences of this mismatch are now shaping recovery on the ground.

"Recovery is the point at which we either restore communities or quietly lose them," she said.

"Under-funded recovery does not just delay rebuilding, it compounds trauma."

Council's submission highlights broader systemic challenges exposed by the fires, including telecommunications and power failures that left communities isolated, the absence of fit-for-purpose local relief infrastructure, increasing pressure on volunteers and local government capacity, and gaps in coordination, data sharing and recovery delivery.

It also reinforces the cumulative impact of repeated disasters, with Murrindindi communities still recovering from floods, storms and drought prior to the 2026 fires.

"Recovery frameworks often assume events occur in isolation. Communities experience them as cumulative, layered and unfinished," Ms Bonazzi said.

A key focus of council's recommendations is the need to move from short-term recovery responses to proportionate, place-based funding models that reflect verified impact and support long-term recovery.

Ms Bonazzi said local government's role as the recovery coordinating authority must be properly resourced to remain effective and sustainable.

"Local government sits at the centre of recovery. We are the coordinating authority, the delivery layer, and the connection point to community," she said.

"But this is not a sustainable model if the funding that underpins it is not proportionate to the task."

"Resilience is not a funding model. Without structural reform, rural communities will

continue to carry a disproportionate burden", Ms Bonazzi said.

Mayor Cr Gallagher said the Inquiry must now focus on ensuring its findings lead to real change.

"There is clear scope for this Inquiry to deliver meaningful recommendations for reform, particularly in addressing recovery funding inequity," Cr Gallagher said.

"What matters now is that those recommendations are adopted and implemented by government, not left sitting on a shelf."

Council representatives, including Chief Executive Officer Livia Bonazzi, Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher and Director of Community and Development Andrew Paxton, appeared before the Inquiry at Alexandra Shire Hall to present evidence on behalf of the community.

While the public hearings have concluded, council is continuing to encourage community members to continue sharing their experiences to ensure the full impact of the fires is understood.

"The hearings may have concluded, but the story of recovery is still being written," Cr Gallagher said.

"We encourage our community to continue telling their story, because every voice contributes to the change needed to build a fairer, stronger recovery system."

To read council's full submission to the Inquiry, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Advocacy-and-Partnerships/Parliamentary-Inquiry-into-the-2026-Summer-Fires-Across-Victoria

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The Farmer's Ag News

May store sale at Yea Saleyards

THE May Combined Agents Store Sale took place last Friday at the Yea Saleyards, followed by the launching of Yea and District Memorial Hospital's Mouth Mapping program.

Some 1912 head of cattle were yarded, with an average price per head of \$1505 and an average weight of 315kg, equalling out to an average of 478c/kg for the day, a strong result.

The top price per head for steers was \$3060 with a top weight of 633.8kg, resulting in 483c/kg.

Heifers went for a top price per head of \$2520 and a top weight of 567.5kg, leading to 444c/kg.

There will be two more cattle sales held at the Yea Saleyards in May, with the Nutrien Yea Spring Drop Weaner Sale on May 22, and the Combined Agents Feeder and Weaner Sale on May 29.



There were the usual four vendors at the May Combined Store Sale, being Alex Scott and Staff, Elders, Nutrien Ag and Victorian Livestock and Property (VLP). -BD



Attendees watched the sale with significant interest to gauge the sale climate for the month ahead. -BD



Nutrien Ag auctioneers were wearing blue shirts instead of their usual green to promote the Dolly's Dream charity. -BD



Anne and Michael Green from Buxton. -BD

YEA SALEYARDS		STOCK REPORT 1 MAY 2026		
Combined Agents Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,912			
Average \$ per head	\$1,505			
Average weight per head	315kg			
Top price per head		\$3,060	\$2,520	\$3,500
Top weight		633.8kg	567.5kg	
Turnover	\$2.83 million			



Cattle and crowd at the first of three May sales at the Yea Saleyards. -BD

News Bargaining Incentive a win for regional communities

by Country Press Australia

REGIONAL news publishers have welcomed the release of draft News Bargaining Incentive legislation and urged all Members of Parliament, regardless of party, to support its passage.

Damian Morgan, President of Country Press Australia, which represents more than 240 regional and community news publications and their digital news services across the country, said the proposed legislation was an important step toward restoring fairness between Australian news publishers and major global digital platforms.

Country Press Australia recognised the work of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Minister for Communications Anika Wells and Assistant Treasurer Dr Daniel Mulino in progressing the draft legislation and acknowledged the constructive engagement that has occurred with the regional news sector through the policy development process.

“This is fundamentally about fairness, but it is also about truth, facts and the future of informed communities,” Mr Morgan said.

“Professional journalism costs money to produce. Large digital platforms derive value from that journalism, but they do not employ the local reporters, editors and photographers who create it. The News Bargaining Incentive is designed to encourage fair commercial agreements so Australian journalism can remain sustainable.”

In simple terms, the NBI would require large digital platforms, including Meta, TikTok and Google, to pay a charge unless they have reached commercial agreements that fairly compensate eligible Australian news organisations.

Country Press Australia said the proposed legislation builds on the News Media Bargaining Code introduced by the former Coalition Government, which established the important principle that powerful global technology platforms should contribute to the cost of the news content from which they benefit.

Australia has led the world in confronting this challenge. That leadership has been bipartisan, and Country Press Australia is calling for that same spirit of cross-party support to continue.

“Local news is not a Labor issue, a Liberal issue, a National Party issue or a Greens issue. It is an Australian issue,” Mr Morgan said.

“Every community deserves access to reliable, professionally produced information. Every community deserves journalists who are prepared to ask questions, check facts, attend meetings, report decisions and give local people a voice.”

Country Press Australia acknowledged the genuine contribution technology companies have made to modern life, including connectivity, commerce, search, social connection and access to information.

It also recognised that Google has continued to engage constructively with Australian news publishers and has shown that commercial agreements between global technology companies and Australian media businesses are possible.

“We acknowledge Google’s constructive engagement with the news industry,” Mr Morgan said.

“But the responsibility cannot fall on one company alone. All major digital platforms that derive value from Australian journalism must accept their responsibility. No company should be able to benefit from the credibility, relevance and public value of professional news while avoiding a fair contribution to the cost of producing it.”

Country Press Australia said it was important the final legislation encourages genuine commercial deals and does not create an incentive for platforms to reduce, remove or downgrade access to Australian news.

“Reliable news must remain visible and accessible to Australians,” Mr Morgan said.

“The answer cannot be for platforms to avoid responsibility by making trusted news harder to find. At a time of rising misinformation, Australians need more access to facts, not less.”

Country Press Australia said the issue was especially important for regional, rural and local Australia, where local news media is often the only professional source of verified local information.

Together, Country Press Australia members form the largest regional digital news publishing network in the country. They reach millions of Australians across digital and print each day, and publish more than 1000 news stories online every day, produced by local journalists who live in, understand and are accountable to the communities they serve.

Country Press Australia members cover councils, courts, emergency services, schools, sport, agriculture, local business, community groups and the decisions that affect people’s everyday lives.

In many communities, if they are not there to record, question, explain and publish, often no-one else is.

“That matters deeply,” Mr Morgan said.

“Without local news media, communities lose more than a publication or a website. They lose a trusted public record. They lose

scrutiny of local decision making. They lose a place where facts are checked, rumours are challenged and local stories are told with care and accountability.”

“At a time when misinformation can spread quickly and loudly, the work of professional local journalists has never been more important. Country Press Australia members do not deal in anonymous claims, conspiracy theories or algorithm driven outrage. They stand behind what they publish.”

Country Press Australia said the consultation process must ensure regional and community publishers are properly recognised in any future commercial arrangements, not left behind while only the largest metropolitan media companies benefit.

“Regional Australians must not be treated as an afterthought,” Mr Morgan said.

“Our members are often the only professional news media voice in their communities. They

are the ones making sure regional people are seen, heard and understood.

“The choice is not simply between local news and no local news. It is between trusted journalism and an information vacuum. It is between facts and unchecked misinformation. It is between communities with a voice and communities left out of the national conversation.”

Country Press Australia urged Parliament to pass legislation that delivers fair, practical and lasting outcomes for eligible Australian news publishers of all sizes.

“This reform is about keeping facts in front of Australians,” Mr Morgan said.

“It is about protecting local journalism, strengthening democracy and ensuring regional communities continue to have a voice.”



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Australian Government



The many medical faces behind the Mouth Mapping Screening Program, from Yea and District Memorial Hospital, University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. -BD



Associate Professor Tami Yap from the University of Melbourne. -BD



Dr Jennifer Keast, the Rural Health Academic Network Co-ordinator for YDMH. -BD

World-first Mouth Mapping program launched by YDMH at Yea Saleyards

YEA and District Memorial Hospital's (YDMH's) new Mouth Mapping Screening Program was launched last Friday at the Yea Saleyards, following the conclusion of the cattle sales. A partnership between YDMH, the University of Melbourne and Yea Rotary brought the project to fruition.

Ian Marshman, Board Chair at YDMH, officially launched the program, and attendees heard from speakers such as YDMH CEO Elizabeth Sinclair, Tony Jacobs from Yea Rotary, the Rural Health Academic Network Co-ordinator at YDMH Dr Jennifer Keast, and Associate Professor in Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology at University of Melbourne Tami Yap.

The Mouth Mapping Screening Program, or MouthMap, is a world-first oral cancer screening program being undertaken at the Yea Saleyards by YDMH and Melbourne University. It uses high-quality medical photography to take detailed images of a person's mouth, which are then sent away to be reviewed by specialist doctors. This save locals from long journeys to Melbourne.

MouthMap will be delivered as part of the YDMH Saleyards Program of free health clinics held alongside monthly cattle sales at the Yea Saleyards. The initiative was funded by Rotary Club of Yea.



YDMH Board Chair Ian Marshman officially launching the new Mouth Mapping Screening Program at the Yea Saleyards. -BD



YDMH CEO Elizabeth Sinclair talking about the initiative. -BD



The assembled crowd listening to the various speakers talk about the new initiative. -BD



The forces behind the new Mouth Mapping initiative. Pictured are YDMH Board Chair Ian Marshman, YDMH CEO Elizabeth Sinclair, Associate Professor Tami Yap from Melbourne University, Dr Jennifer Keast, Dr Virginia Dickson-Swift from La Trobe University, and Yea Rotary's Tony Jacobs. -BD



WIN News from Shepparton were in attendance to promote the new Mouth Mapping program. -BD

Council News



May 2026

Council lodges submission to 2026 Fires Inquiry

Council has lodged its submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires, ensuring the experiences of our community are formally represented.

With nearly half of all structures lost across Victoria occurring in Murrindindi, Council is advocating for a fairer, impact-based approach to recovery funding and stronger support for small rural councils.

Community members are encouraged to read the submission and stay informed as the Inquiry progresses.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireinquiry

AusNet Energy Resilience Projects Grants now open

Applications are now open for the final round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Grants. There are two categories: Energy Resilience Grants, and Energy Education and Literacy Grants.

These grants provide funding for projects that strengthen local energy resilience and help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from prolonged outages, emergencies and severe weather events.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ausnetgrant

2026 Murrindindi Children's Network Annual Conference

Join us on Thursday 7 May for a day of activities and discussions focusing on child safety.

Changes in early learning are currently a major topic of discussion, and keeping children safe remains a central focus of our work with children and families.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/childrensconference26

Murrindindi Business Month

Council is proud to announce Murrindindi Business Month, an initiative designed to support, strengthen and celebrate local business.

Throughout June, this coordinated program guides businesses through a journey of recovery, growth and future planning.

Businesses can register for free, attend multiple sessions and take part in the full program. Strong local businesses support a strong community.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessmonth

Draft Annual Budget 2026/2027

Council is preparing a draft Annual Budget for the next financial year. The draft Budget is scheduled to be made available to the community for comment during May.

Notice of reinstatement of Road Management Plan

The Longwood Fire Event significantly impacted Murrindindi Shire and Council operations. In response, Council temporarily suspended the Road Management Plan at the end of January 2026 to prioritise fire response, community safety, and recovery efforts.

As of Tuesday 7 April, the Road Management Plan has been reinstated across all roads in the municipality, except those directly affected by the Longwood Fire.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rmp

Have Your Say on the LEAP Project

Council is inviting residents who participated in the *LEAPing into Resilience Project* to complete an online survey for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

The survey is open from 1 May to 30 June 2026 and seeks feedback from Mansfield, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire communities that have already taken part in the Project.

Participate online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leapsurvey

Free firewood collection extended

Council is continuing its free firewood program for residents affected by the January 2026 bushfires, with more collection times now available.

Eligible residents can book a maximum of two collection times with a permit.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/freefirewood or call Council on 5772 0333 for assistance applying.

Events Forum 2026

The Strath Creek Progress Association, supported by Council, will host the Murrindindi Events Forum in Strath Creek on Wednesday 13 May, from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. The Forum will bring the community together to build more sustainable events across the region.

This event is part of Council's Community Capacity Building Program, made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Community Development Fund.

For details, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eventsforum26

Get in touch

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Some of the dancers in the barn dance, Nina Lunde, David Anderson, Miffy Sinclair and Michael Cox. -S



DG Emma Davis cutting the birthday cake with help from president Darryl King (back) and charter president Daryl Callander (front). -S

Rotary Club of Yea celebrates 40th birthday



The birthday cake. -S



The first bush dance. -S



Some of the memorabilia on display. -S



Rotarians Lily Cox and Lachlan Cooper looking at one of the displays. -S



Some of the attendees. -S



DG Emma David with Rotary president Darryl King. -S



Legend John Sinclair being presented his certificate by DG Emma Davis. -S



DG Emma Davis with Rotarian Sue Carpenter. -S



Speeding? Expect a minimum fine of \$254.

If you speed, even a little over the limit, you can expect a minimum fine of \$254 and 1 demerit point. Police and speed cameras can be anywhere, so why take the risk? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

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Anzac Day at Strath Creek

by Carmel Murphy on behalf of the Strath Creek Progress Association.

THE Anzac Requiem read by Sue Martin in Strath Creek on Anzac Day honoured the courage, sacrifice, and comradeship of Australian and New Zealand soldiers, particularly those who fell at Gallipoli, and in subsequent conflicts.

The following is an excerpt from the requiem and one line in particular paid homage to the women who stepped up during war and served courageously alongside the many men who fought and died for our freedom. The theme for this year's commemoration, compiled by Strath Creek locals, was 'Women in Service'.

"On this day above all days we recall those who served in war and who did not return to receive the grateful thanks of the nation. We remember those who still sleep where they were left.

"We think of those of our women's services who gave their lives in our own and foreign lands and at sea, and of those who proved to be, in much more than name, the sisters of our fighting men.

"We recall too, the staunch friends who fought beside our men on their first Anzac Day, with men of New Zealand who helped to create the name ANZAC. We recall all those who gave their lives in the Royal Navy, the British Army, the Royal Air Force, the Merchant Service, and in other British Commonwealth and Allied Forces.

"We shall be ever mindful too, of those brave men who left our shores and died in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Afghanistan and in Peacekeeping Forces, helping to safeguard the Commonwealth and other countries of the free world. This freedom was won from two world wars and cost the lives of 100,000 Australians.

"May these all rest proudly in the knowledge of their achievement, and may we and our successors in that heritage left to us, prove worthy of their sacrifice."

Colonel Laura Sinclair's words about Anzac Day reminded the 100 or so gathered in Pioneer Park, Strath Creek, that Anzac Day is about memory. Laura is an Australian Army Psychologist, a veteran with extensive operational experience and too many qualifications to list.

"It is about sacrifice. It is about courage. A story of the women who have served Australia, quietly, bravely and powerfully, across every generation of conflict," she said.

"In 1899, when Australian troops deployed to the Boer War, women stepped forward to serve as nurses. They were not carrying rifles. They were not marching in formation. But they stepped toward war all the same. Toward the wounded. Toward the unknown. Toward suffering. No certainty of return. No recognition waiting for them. No guarantee that anyone would remember their names. Just a quiet decision, "I will go."

"And in that moment the story of women in Australia's military service began. By the time of the First World War, that courage was being tested in unimaginable ways.

"Women served in military hospitals, casualty clearing stations, on hospital ships and sometimes within earshot and reach of the front line. And while the image of war is often defined by trenches and gunfire there was another battlefield of broken bodies, infection, exhaustion of grief that day after day, night after night.

"One of those women was Victorian nurse Rachael Pratt. She treated wounded soldiers under bombardment while shells fell around her. Not trained as a combat soldier. Not equipped for war fighting. She was there holding pressure on wounds. Making decisions in seconds that meant life or death. No weapon. No armour. Just courage. Skill. And an unwavering sense of duty.

"For her bravery, she was awarded the Military Medal, one of the very few nurses to ever receive it. She served because service was needed," she said.

"The other battlefield was the home front. Thousands of women across Australia answered that same call. And their service looked different. They held families together. They worked in factories. They managed farms, businesses, communities. They carried the uncertainty. The letters that stopped



Wreaths of mostly native flowers surrounded the memorial in the Strath Creek Pioneer Park. -S



Squadron Leader Paul Egan organised a flyover by the RAF Air Show Team, with Major Astrid Hagqvist and Colonel Laura Sinclair CSC. -S



Michelle Mussett on the bagpipes. -S



The flag raising by Nick and Prue Brown of The General Store. -S

arriving. Because war is never fought only on battlefields.

"By the Second World War something had shifted. The scale of conflict demanded more, and women stepped further forward. Not just alongside the military but within it.

"They joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, the Australian Women's Army Service, and the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service. Women were formally integrated into defence structures. They operated radar stations, watching the skies in darkness. They repaired aircraft ensuring missions could continue. They worked in intelligence, shaping decisions that affected entire operations. They became essential. And importantly they began to lead.

"So many women crossed oceans without recognition, served without applause and changed history without ever asking to be seen. And when the world finally learned

their names it was because they had already changed the world.

"Today we honour them. The women. The men. The known. The unknown. We honour courage that is loud and courage that is quiet. And we remember.

"Lest we forget."

Emcee Sue Cross acknowledged the contributions of many locals who contributed to the 2026 commemoration including Major Astrid Hagqvist reading the declaration, the local CFA brigade; Graeme Parncutt 'I vow to thee my country' accompanied by Adrian Scott supported Bobby Valentine with the audio set-up. Graeme is a regular visitor to Strath Creek for nearly 40 years with connections LandCare and the platypus survey. Sue Martin, a local resident for 25 years, a member of the CFA, Land Care and Tyaak Cemetary Trust.

Prayer of Peace: Cassandra McKeown, a Strath Creek local, grew up in a military

family and is no stranger to conflict zones, having worked for the United Nations in Gaza helping Palestinian refugees in Syria, Lebanon, and the West Bank. Now based in Strath Creek, she is a member of the CFA and continues humanitarian work with the Salvation Army.

Jack Fowles' beautiful singing of *Bring them home* was an emotional and powerful reminder of loss. The Fowles family have lived in the Strathbogies Ranges at Longwood and Upton Hill for 25 years with family connections to the district going back generations.

Declaration: Major Astrid Hagqvist is a local member of the Strath Creek community and an Engineering Officer in the Australian Army Reserves, where she has deployed domestically in remote Aboriginal Communities, the Indo-Pacific and as well the Middle East. Thanks to Robin Campbell for the booklet.

The Unbreakable Farmer

by Dianne Goschnick

The Unbreakable Farmer is an amazing man

He travels for miles across this wide land.

To share his story and support people living far and wide

The way he presents, you would think he takes it in his stride.

But it has not always been easy for this once farming man

Life was bloody tough as he farmed his land.

About to give up when he faced financial and emotional stress

He once felt his life and land was in such a mess.

Though he found a way to find purpose and rebuild his life

To be there for his family and his loving wife.

Nothing more important than good health and happiness

So when he reflects back, it was more his mind that was in a real mess.

The Unbreakable Farmer now so strong, he is there to support

So find the time to have a conversation with him, you really ought

He will help you find your way and hope it all makes sense

The least you should worry about is that damaged fence.

Some things can wait, but life is much more in the fore

And taking each day at a time, it will help for sure.

There's always tomorrow to tend to those many things

So please hold onto those that matter and the love and peace it brings.

Life on the land can be so mighty tough, there is no doubt

Especially with bushfires, floods, so often followed by drought.

With financial ruin and times of complete despair

You can often wonder "what's the use" or why are you here.

The Unbreakable Farmer's wise words can help guide you through

And will help you make sense with what you can do.

He stresses the importance to tell your story and be sure to be heard

Never a truer situation, please believe these words.

The Unbreakable Farmer is more like a long lost friend

I'm sure you will agree and with gratitude you will send.

To thank him for helping to ease the heartache and pain

And to help see the big picture and what you will gain.

There is hope for the future and a full life to live

Despite all the desperation you felt with so much more to give

Never give up, it is so important to be heard

As are the Unbreakable Farmer's wise and encouraging words.

Missing: Homewood Station name board

MANY will remember the celebration of the completion of the Station Name Boards project by Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

The project was made possible through grant funding, volunteers and community support, with the final signs installed in late October 2025.



The Homewood sign on the Great Victorian Rail Trail. -S



The Homewood sign is now missing. -S

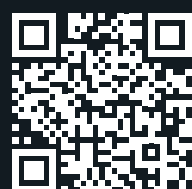
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Australian Government

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PUZZLES

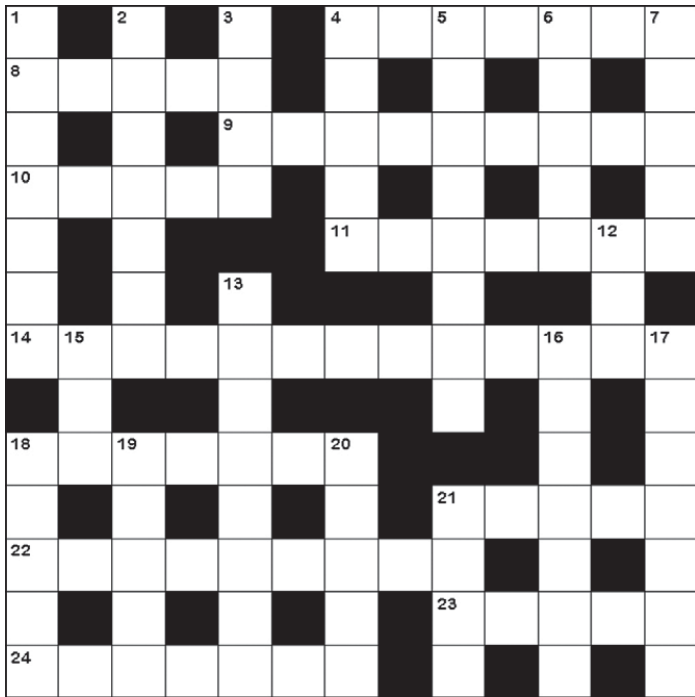
SOLUTIONS
Page 15

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

ACROSS

- Layers of pasta with sauce, cheese and meat.
- Large black-and-white bear from China.
- Smooth-skinned variety of the peach.
- The popular taste at a given time.
- Hung down loosely and swayed to and fro.
- Inclined to judge other people too severely.
- A long-handled pan used for frying foods.
- Timeworn and banal from constant repetition.
- A gradual beginning and becoming visible.
- Show a response to someone or something.
- A point that sticks out and attracts attention.



DOWN

- Words written in memory of one who has died.
- Wrap around or enclose completely.
- A group of musicians playing popular music.
- Capable of thinking with a clear mind.
- Become stale or foul from lack of movement.
- A cooking surface of parallel metal bars.
- Much further advanced than the others.
- A major division of geological time.
- An introduction to a play or a novel.
- Large long-haired wild ox of Tibet.
- Something funny that evokes laughter.
- A complete outfit for a new baby.
- Cooks slowly and for a long time in liquid.
- Completely or highly satisfactory.
- Doctrine accepted to be true without proof.
- A limited period of time.

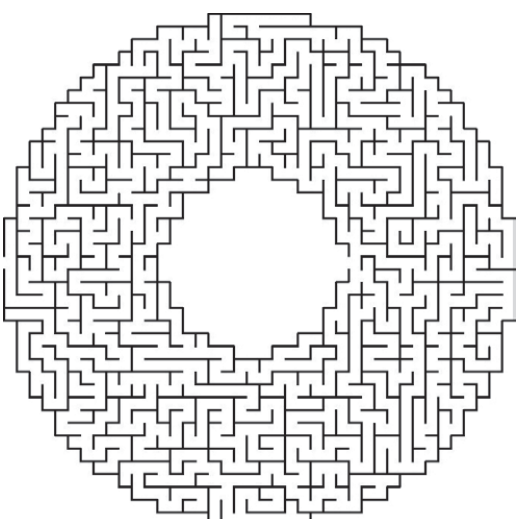
Word Search

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

Winter

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| COATS | OPENFIRE |
| FROST | RAIN |
| GLOVES | SCARF |
| GUMBOOTS | SKIING |
| HOTCHOCOLATE | SNOW |
| JUMPER | WIND |

Maze



Sudoku

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

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.

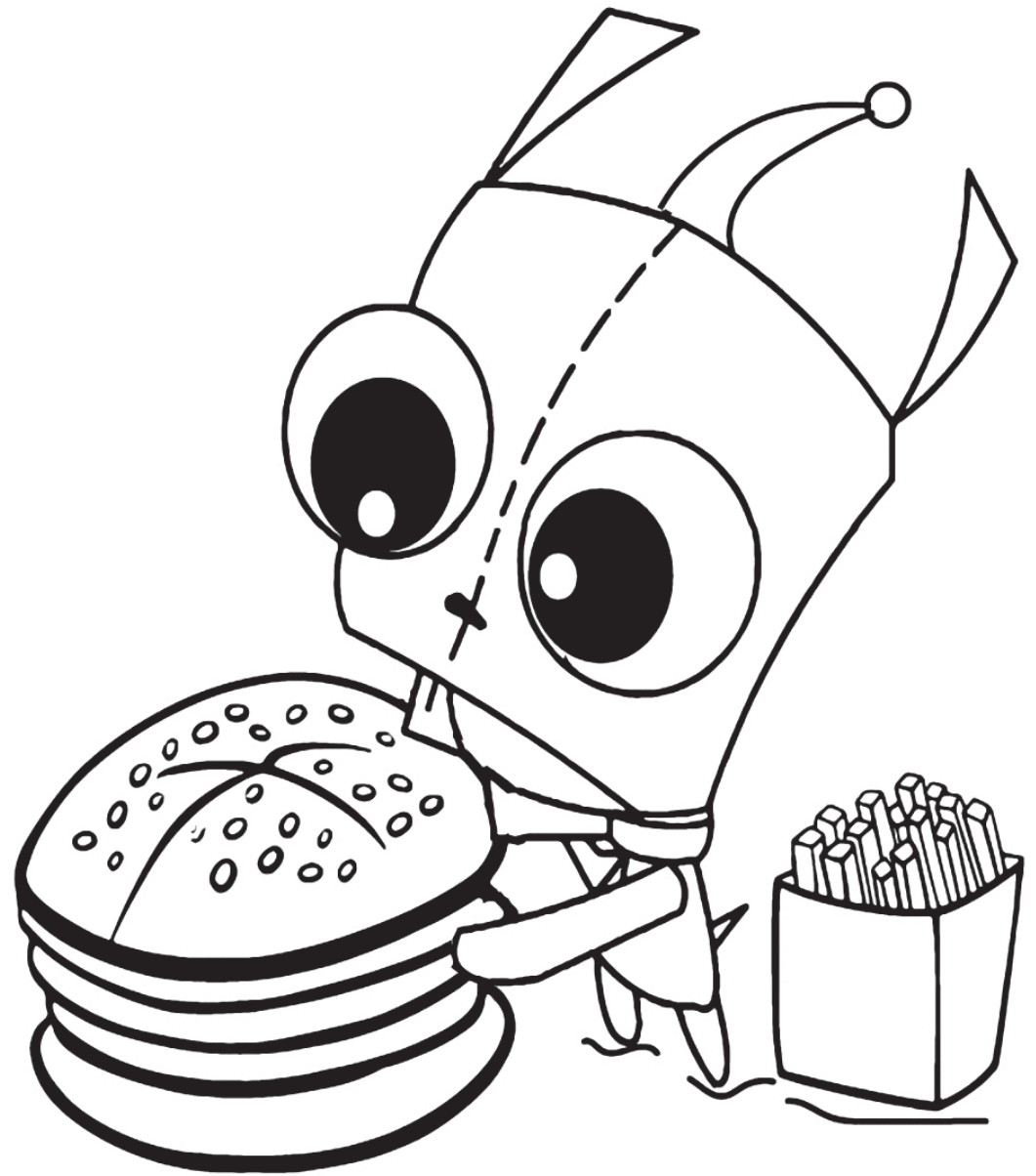
Math Square

	+		-		5
+		-		-	
	-		+		4
-		-		+	
8	÷		÷	2	1
4		-3		6	

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 "N"

NACHOS	P	Y	T	N	D	F	W	N	W	F	H	J	Y	Q	A
NAME	E	K	J	O	S	R	E	B	M	U	N	Y	T	M	S
NATURE	G	R	U	T	I	X	N	D	S	O	Y	E	H	Y	Q
NAUGHTY	X	C	U	E	T	Z	O	Y	O	N	M	O	G	W	W
NEARLY	N	Z	U	T	J	Y	O	T	S	A	Z	N	U	J	E
NEVER	W	I	Q	J	A	E	D	D	N	I	A	E	A	D	M
NEXT	S	V	G	S	A	N	L	E	G	C	C	S	N	B	E
NICE	L	U	A	H	Y	D	E	Q	H	I	L	I	B	U	N
NIGHT	B	S	W	W	T	I	S	O	N	N	H	W	Q	K	I
NINE	Y	Y	E	Z	X	Q	S	A	R	E	V	E	N	K	N
NOODLES	Y	L	C	U	L	G	K	P	M	R	H	Q	V	G	D
NOTE	I	E	R	A	E	I	A	K	J	R	G	S	L	L	B
NOUN	Y	P	O	A	Y	H	N	O	U	N	F	K	O	B	Y
NUMBERS	B	H	K	Z	E	C	M	A	K	E	M	P	K	A	U
	D	T	P	G	Q	N	Q	U	Q	G	A	O	K	I	Q

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.

	+		-		10
-		-		+	
	+		-	4	4
-		+		-	
	-		+	7	3
-3		10		-2	

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Mansfield Football Netball Club president, Bo Christopher (centre, left) with BlazeAid Alexandra camp coordinator Cheryle Foster (centre, right) with the \$6000 cheque before football and netball players at training last week. -S

Eagles help out with fire relief and BlazeAid

by Pam Zierk-Mahoney

INSPIRED by an ABC Landline program focusing on the effects the 2026 bushfires had on sports persons in local football and netball games and other sports, Mansfield Football Netball Club has chipped in with funding support.

The program also focused on the BlazeAid volunteer organisation that helps rebuild affected farms.

MFNC president Bo Christopher said, "As a club we wanted to do something to help not only the farmers but those who help with the recovery. Many sports participants could not take part in their local matches due to commitments either with firefighting or farm recoveries, so we decided to do some fund raising to help out. The best way we could help was to raise some money and donate to BlazeAid who are helping our local farmers and who came in straight after the fires to help replace fencing. What a great community group this is.

"We reached out to our Melbourne network for mainly three major items which we could auction off," Christopher said.

The Victorian Racing Club, Carlton United Breweries and the AFL Victoria all came

up trumps and donated items to the value of around \$5000.

"At an auction in the clubrooms following the Easter Saturday games those items were auctioned and raised \$6000.

"Auctioneer was Tom Davies from Nutrien Mansfield, and they were very appreciative of his assistance."

A cheque presentation was held last Thursday to BlazeAid camp coordinator for the Longwood/Alexandra region's Cheryle Foster in front of MFNC footballers and netballers while at training.

Ms Foster said the money was very much appreciated and the donation from the football netball club will go a long way to supporting BlazeAid in the Longwood fire recovery efforts.

She said a total of 1500kms of fencing is the task before BlazeAid in this area alone which covers, Merton, Alexandra, Ruffy, Highlands, Gobur and all the way down to Eildon.

"This will be a long-term recovery effort for BlazeAid which will be here to help out for as long as it takes," she said.

Ms Foster also said BlazeAid was looking for more volunteers for this recovery project and anyone willing to take up a challenge can contact her at the Alexandra BlazeAid camp.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

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

MAZE

KIDS - MATH SQUARE

8	+	3	-	1	10
-		-		+	
6	+	2	-	4	4
-		+		-	
5	-	9	+	7	3
-3		10		-2	



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The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

DEATH NOTICES

BARBARA Doyle.
 Lovely lady, beautiful smile. Condolences to the Scorch and Doyle families. Love Aileen Tossol.

DOYLE, Alison Barbara
 14/02/1961-28/04/2026
 Loving wife to Leo (dec.). Loving daughter to Colin (dec.) and Elizabeth (dec.). Loving sister to Janet, Roger and Katie. Loving sister in law to Ian and Leanne. Friend and companion to Jim. Loving aunty and stepmum. Rest in Peace.

MCCOLM, Jillian Mary
 14/03/1939-25/04/2026
 Loved wife of Ken (dec). Loved mum of Paul, Catherine and Alexandra. Loved Nan of Sarah and Jamie. Much loved friend and companion of David. Rest in Peace.

MEETINGS

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

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MEETINGS

Notice of Rescheduled Annual General Meeting



Friends of the Library Alexandra & District Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of FOL Alexandra & District Inc., originally scheduled for April 7, 2026, has been postponed due to lack of quorum.

New date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6pm
 Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra
 New members welcome
 Nomination forms for committee positions available from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au



having a celebration?
need invitations?



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FUNERAL NOTICES

DOYLE, Alison Barbara
 The funeral service to celebrate the life of Alison Barbara Doyle will be held at The Alexandra Shire Hall on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 commencing at 1pm. A private cremation will follow the service.



McCOLM, Jillian Mary

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Jillian McCole will be held at The Murrindindi Chapel, Alexandra on Monday, May 11, 2026 commencing at 1pm.



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It's almost Biggest Morning Tea time

CANCER Council Victoria is calling on Victorians to rally their family, friends and workmates for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and turn a simple cuppa into a powerful way to support those impacted by cancer.

With one Australian diagnosed with cancer every five minutes, the same time it takes to boil the kettle and take a tea break, every single morning tea held across the state has the potential to make a life-saving difference.

While the official date of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is Thursday, May 21, Cancer Council Victoria is encouraging people to host events anytime across May and June.

Head of Fundraising and Communications at Cancer Council Victoria Lyrian Fleming-Parsley said the iconic fundraiser continues to unite people and communities for a cause that touches so many.

"Almost every Victorian has been impacted by cancer in some way, and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a meaningful way to come together and make a difference," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"Tackling cancer takes all of us. Whether it's a small catch-up with friends, a workplace event or a large community gathering, every morning tea helps fund life-saving cancer research, prevention programs, and support services."

As Cancer Council Victoria marks its historic 90th year supporting Victorians living with cancer and their families, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea remains one of the charity's most enduring and impactful community fundraisers. This year, almost 6000 Victorians are set to host morning teas across the state, connecting more than 60,000 people.

Cancer Council Victoria aims to raise more than \$4 million across the state this year, contributing to a national fundraising goal of more than \$17 million.

Among those leading the charge are Lisa Pham and her colleagues at Berth Restaurant and Events in Melbourne's Docklands, who have been proudly hosting events for their network of passionate friends, family and clientele for more than a decade.

What began in 2012 as a small gathering raising a few hundred dollars has grown into a major annual event, last year welcoming more than 100 guests and raising more than \$40,000.

"Each year we see familiar faces come together to honour loved ones and support those going through cancer," Ms Pham said.

"It's incredibly special to create a space where people can connect, share stories and know they're making a real difference."

Ms Pham and the team at Berth will host their 2026 event on Thursday, May 28, with a high tea-style brunch that continues to draw strong community support year after year.

Fellow long-time fundraiser Anna Worsnop is also encouraging others to get involved. She has hosted a morning tea every year since losing her father to stomach cancer more than two decades ago, with her passion for the cause deepening after her mother passed away from leukaemia 12 years ago.

While Ms Worsnop's event started as a personal tribute, before long it developed into a much-loved community event, and has raised more than \$60,000 for Cancer Council Victoria.

"Hosting my morning tea has always been about bringing people together and doing something positive in the face of cancer," Ms Worsnop said.

"I love that it connects people who've been touched by cancer in all kinds of ways. So many people have reached out over the years to share their stories, and it gives them a chance to do something meaningful for someone they love."

This year, Ms Worsnop will host her event on Saturday, May 30 in Melbourne's southeast, once again bringing together strong support from local community members across the region.

Since its inception in 1993, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea has raised more than \$200 million nation-wide, helping Cancer Council fund vital research and provide support services for people affected by cancer.

"Thanks to the incredible support of the community, we've made significant progress in cancer research, prevention and treatment," Ms Fleming-Parsley said.

"But with cancer still the leading causes of death in Victoria, and with the state recently recording its highest-ever number of diagnoses in 2024, there is so much more to be done. That's why every cup of tea counts."

Ways to support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Host an event: Plan a morning tea at home, work or in your community this May or June.

Donate: Support a local event or make a contribution online.

Get involved: Attend a morning tea near you and be part of the cause.

To register, donate or find out more, visit biggestmorningtea.com.au

Policies that impact Murrindindi Shire in government's pre-budget announcements

THE *Victorian Budget 2026-27* was announced on Tuesday, May 5, but the Victorian Government had already made a number of pre-budget announcements. Not all of them are relevant to the Murrindindi Shire, but the ones that are may prove useful for residents.

Car registration discount

With war in the Middle East continuing to affect fuel prices and following the implementation of free and half-price public transport, the state government has announced a 20 per cent refund on registration.

Light vehicle registration can cost up to \$930.70 every year, for every car. With 20 per cent off registration, a driver with one car will receive up to \$186, and a family with two cars will receive up to \$372.

According to the state government, this cut in government fees and charges represents around \$750 million in foregone revenue.

The discount works through Service Victoria. From June 1, eligible vehicle owners will be able to apply for the 20 per cent discount. Applications will be open until July 31, making a two-month window to claim the rebate.

The rebate will refund people back 20 per cent of their registration payment for 2025-26. It is open to Victorians who own light vehicles for personal use, including cars, utes, and anything under 4.5 tonnes. People can claim rebates for up to two vehicles in their name, regardless of how many vehicles are in the household.

Premier Jacinta Allan said on the registration rebate, "Like cheaper public transport, this won't fix everything, but it's immediate action I can take to make a difference. We can afford it because it's one-off cost-of-living help right now, while we are delivering a surplus."

Road repairs

The *Victorian Budget 2026-27* is set to invest \$1.04 billion in rebuilding, repairing and resurfacing roads across the state. Allegedly, that's enough to get rid of 200,000 potholes, 200,000 graffiti tags and more. The government has said that 70 per cent of the

funds will be going to regional Victoria.

The money will: Rebuild, repair and resurface arterial roads; maintain bridges and traffic lights; deliver emergency roadworks; mow, slash and spray grass and weeds along roadsides; repair or replace signs.

A \$36.9 million investment will clean up Victoria's 10 busiest freeways with rubbish and graffiti removal, mowing and more. These include the Monash Freeway, Princes Freeway West, Western Freeway, West Gate Freeway, Hume Freeway, Calder Freeway, Western Ring Road, South Gippsland Freeway, Mornington Peninsula Freeway and Tullamarine Freeway.

The state government says that over the past year, their road maintenance crews have repaired 187,000 potholes, cleaned up 127,000 square metres of graffiti, mowed 1.9 million metres and replaced 31,000 signs. They have invested almost \$3 billion over the past three years in road maintenance.

Ambulance Victoria boost

Ambulance Victoria (AV) is set to receive a \$50.7 million boost under the budget, designed to create faster emergency care for Victorians and more paramedics back on the road sooner.

Of that, \$28.6 million will go into AV's Secondary Triage team of paramedics, nurses and mental health specialists, who handle almost 20 per cent of the total calls to Triple Zero Victoria. They connect people who don't need an ambulance with the right care, such as self-care advice or alternative options such as the Virtual Emergency Department.

Some \$9.7 million will improve how Triple Zero Victoria calls are triaged, reviewed and classified, ensuring that the most time critical emergencies get an ambulance immediately. A further \$2 million will ensure AV's clinical triage team can continue to support frequent Triple Zero callers.

A \$10 million investment will continue an existing pilot underway to improve ambulance transfer times during peak periods in emergency departments. It includes spaces with additional staff and equipment in emergency departments so multiple ambulances can offload patients at the same

time. This frees up paramedics to get back on the road and patients are assessed and receive care sooner.

Minister for Ambulance Services Harriet Shing said, "our hardworking ambos are some of the best anywhere in the world and we will always back them. We're making sure the sickest Victorians get the emergency care they need, when they need it."

"Victoria's Code One ambulance response times are continuing to improve and are now among the fastest in Australia, but there's always more to do."

More kinders and kinder funding

The *Victorian Budget 2026-27* invests almost \$500 million to deliver up to 22 kindergartens at school sites, five Early Learning Victoria (ELV) centres, and grants for 27 new and expanded kinders.

It is unclear where these will be implemented, with the government stating that more kinders on school sites and government-owned ELV centres will be delivered where they're needed most. The budget also invests \$9.8 million to continue the Building Blocks Improvement and Inclusion Grant program.

The budget is set to invest \$3.6 million in bilingual kinders through the Early Childhood Language Program. This program will support 197 kindergartens to teach 21 languages, including Arabic, Auslan, Cantonese, Chinese, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Punjabi, Spanish, and Vietnamese, plus six Victorian Aboriginal languages.

As part of the program, kindergarten teachers and language teachers work together to incorporate language into play, art, music, singing, dancing and stories.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn said, "Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, play and thrive at kindergarten. Free Kinder, new kinders, new schools; this is what backing families looks like."

Restructuring the VCAA

Issues with the 2024 exams left families, students and schools feeling unconfident in exams. The *Victorian Budget 2026-*

27 is investing \$222.2 million to rebuild the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

This funding boost responds directly to Dr Yehudi Blacher's independent review. The funding addresses two key recommendations: Making the VCAA's budget sustainable and upgrading technology so operations are more reliable.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll said, "Victorian students deserve a world-class education, and this investment makes sure the VCAA can deliver it. The review left no stone unturned in identifying what went wrong with the exams, and we're fixing them."

"A stronger, more accountable VCAA means students, families and schools can have full confidence in VCE exams."

Extended Go Fishing Victoria program

The *Victorian Budget 2026-27* includes \$5 million to extend the popular Go Fishing Victoria program. More fish will be released into Victorian waterways over the next year, giving families a fun way to spend time together outdoors. Fishing boosts regional economies by drawing visitors to local towns, tackle shops and cafes.

The funding will also support the expanded Arcadia and Snobs Creek hatcheries which produce Murray cod and golden perch fingerlings. Victoria has stocked 10 million fish in three of the last four years.

Fish species stocked include brown trout, rainbow trout, chinook salmon and tiger trout along with native species like Murray cod, golden perch, Australian bass, estuary perch, silver perch and dusky flathead.

More than 200 lakes and rivers across the state have been stocked to improve recreational fishing opportunities.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Enver Erdogan said, "Fish stocking brings people into our regional towns and gives families a fun, affordable reason to get outdoors and make some memories."

"No other state comes close, 10 million fish in the next year shows Victoria is leading the way on fish stocking."

SPORT

Yea junior football reports

Under Nines

by Kate Adams

WHAT a fantastic game of footy. The Under Nines came out full of energy, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship across the ground. Exciting goals were kicked that had everyone on the sideline cheering loudly.

One of the highlights of the game was the teamwork. Players were looking to handball and pass, bringing others into the game and showing great awareness.

A huge shoutout to this week's award winners: Mason, Just Great Coffee Encouragement Award; Charlie, Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award; Joey, Progression

Physiotherapy and Performance Best Player Award.

The effort from every single player was outstanding. The club says thank you to Wandong for a great game and to the wonderful families for cheering the players on.

Under 10

by Jess Robinson

Under 10s had their first full team of the season, each and every player had their own moments of brilliance, the rain in the fourth quarter didn't dampen anyone's spirits, finishing the game with a goal on the siren.

Congratulations to Elliot on taking out Yarra Valley Gas Improvement Award, Xander took out Cathkin

Farm Services Coach's Award and Ava took out Delux Rod's Tiger Sprit Award.

Under 12

by Belinda Johnston

Last Sunday the Yea Under 12 team came up against the Wandong Warriors. The weather was definitely not on their side with a very wet first bounce.

Nullah Vincent scored his first goal in the second quarter along with Archie and Sienna both scoring behinds. Unfortunately there was thunder and lightning which forced the game to be cancelled.

Awards for the day: Toby Johnston; Zach Fairchild; Nullah Vincent.



The award winners for Yea's Under 10 team. -S



The award winners for Yea's Under 12 team. -S

SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round Two of Term Two pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Funnel Webs versus Redbacks

Randy versus Sally: Sally took an early lead in an attempt to overwhelm Randy. Digging in for a strong finish, Randy overcame Sally and claimed the victory. 69 to 61.

Sam versus Mick: Great rallies throughout. Sam lead from the front to build a substantial lead. Mick won the last game but it was too late to change the result. Sam won the match. 68 to 54.

Ben F (fill in) versus Jim: Incredible squash. Well run points and dedication, it was impressive to witness. Ben dug in to win the crux points. Jim had trouble with his placement, furthering Ben's opportunities and helping Ben in his win. 55 to 48.

Orb Weavers versus White Tails

Eric versus Matthew (fill in): Great game to watch. There were some great rallies, but Matthew was on fire and proved too strong for his opponent. 81 to 35.

Jessica versus Liane: A see-sawing match. Jessica took a commanding lead in the second game but Liane got revved up and fought back in the second half to overcome the deficit, taking the lead to win the match. 59 to 52.

Chris versus Sam (fill in): A high energy game of squash, lots of long rallies and lots of running around the court. Sam took the lead in game two but had some push back by Chris who persisted to claim the victory. 67 to 59.

Michael H versus Daniel W (fill in): Daniel's power and court speed makes him a difficult opponent, but Michael has many tricks and used conventional shots to stay in the game. Eventually the timer rang and the point were level when the match ended. 60 to 60.

Wednesday competition

Bees versus Mosquitos

Marty versus Jordan: The youngest player in the pennant had a tough assignment against Jordan who has developed a fair arsenal of shots. Marty played some good strokes, but Jordan won without needing to engage top gear. 71 to 58.

Lucan versus Mick: The score was tight it the midway point with only a two-point difference. Lucas kept the pressure on Mick to pull ahead in games three and four to finish on top. 57 to 48.

Justin versus Daniel W (fill in): Extreme intensity and vigour in this match. Neither opponent wanted to give more than they had two and both fiercely wanted to win. Daniel managed to hoard some extra points early on which he held onto and greatly helped him in his victory. 63 to 60.

Hornets versus Wasps

Nicole versus Beth: These opponents were quite evenly matched which made for a great game. Beth started strong, but Nicole got a read on the play and came back to win by one-point. 53 to 52.

Kristelle versus Daniel L: A sibling match. Both players were a bit too relaxed and ambled around the court. Kristelle needs to watch her serve from the left box, as there were a lot of high serves. Daniel did well in the last minute of each game to run away with the match. 69 to 55.

Ben F versus Michael M: The first game was an absolute slaughter with Ben taking a 17-point lead. Michael took control for the next two games to make up some ground, but Ben wouldn't concede, finding his footing to claim the win. 54 to 43.

Serious matches underway for Euroa and District winter tennis

by Deb Mims

HAVING had the Round Robin the previous week to blow out the cobwebs for some of the players at the Euroa and District Ladies' Winter Tennis Association, the 'Weather Gods' produced another glorious day for the ladies to take to the courts for the now serious, social stuff.

Moglonemby versus Mansfield 3-3, 35-39

The Mansfield team consisting of Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Muymray and Loretta Armitage ably supported by Michelle Pigdon and Belinda Cipa, were up against reigning premiers, Moglonemby, over in Euroa.

Sue Vaughan, Marlene Hanrahan, Lyn Johnson, and Lisa Krepp fought hard against Mansfield, with two tie breakers going Moggy's way. Some seesawing matches saw the end result going Mansfield's way, kicking off the season with the major points.

Creightons Creek versus Terip Terip 4-2, 43-37

Playing at the same courts, Creightons Creek took on Terip Terip who were runners up in last year's comp. Marja Wonderjem, Lyndal Bigland, Ros Doxey, and Kerry Hewlett flying the flag for Creightons Creek showed they were a force to be reckoned with.

Up against Cindy Hayes. Frances Lawrence, Phoebe McDermid, and Jenny Martin, Creightons Creek took the win. Once again two tie breakers were played going to Creightons Creek, which made the difference in the number of sets apiece and the final score.

Wappan versus Euroa 2-4, 29-42

The third match was a home game for Mansfield's Wappan, Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter, Carol Watts and Kimberley Marsden up against Euroa's Faye Mollison, Deb Seach, Triona King and Mary Dewis. Euroa was too strong for Wappan winning four of the six sets. Once again a tie breaker was played showing just how close the matches can be.

As always to end off the day a lot of chatter and a late lunch early afternoon tea was enjoyed. Benalla had the bye.

This week sees Mansfield hosting Creightons Creek, Euroa a home game against Moglonemby and Terip Terip hosting Benalla. Wappan has the bye.

Dunne boys dominate at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

Men's golf report

LAST Wednesday saw 18 men play a Stableford event in beautiful autumn conditions, with Vice-Captain Phil Armstrong (19) continuing his strong form to win with an excellent 39 points.

Second place went to birthday boy Robert O'Halloran (21) with 36 points. Rob celebrated his 80th birthday on Wednesday and continues to play highly competitive golf, giving the rest of us plenty of hope for the future.

Third on the day was Clint Rose (22) with 34 points. Clint also claimed nearest to the pin on the 10th for two. Anthony La Grutta (13) finished fourth, also with 34 points, winning on a countback from Brian Priestley

(25) and John Renehan (46). Mic Sheather collected the Club Award.

Last Saturday saw 25 men contest the third round of the Sichelau Trophy along with the Monthly Medal, with the Dunne boys dominating the competition.

Cody Dunne (27) and Jobe Dunne (17) both returned excellent rounds of nett 65, with Cody winning on countback. Third place went to Steve Rumney (23) with nett 68, ahead of Greg Clements (17) who also finished with 68 nett on countback. Fifth was Mic Spagnolo (7) with nett 71.

Greg Clements claimed nearest to the pin on the second, while Rick Wills won the putting competition with an impressive 28 putts. Gareth Antrobus managed to sneak away with the Club Award ahead of several other relieved contenders.

Yea ladies' newsletter

by Meryl Connell

Greetings fellow golfers, it has been a busy golfing week, with the first event being the Callander-Christie Championship. This event was played on Saturday, April 25 as a four ball best ball Stableford team event.

Four ladies' teams competed on the day with Vicki Clements and Di Elliott winning the day with 49 points. Cindy Armstrong and Judi Newman claimed second place with 46 points.

It was another big day for several ladies last Monday as they headed to Seymour to compete in the Pennant competition. Yea's representatives, Christine Simmons, Di Elliott, Judi Newman, Penny Britton and Sharon Grogan competed well but were eventually defeated by Lancefield, three to two.

Christine reported that it was a lovely day with the course in excellent condition. Yea's two "new-to-Pennant" ladies, Penny and Judi both won their matches so a big shout out to them for controlling any nerves and getting the job done. Their fellow team members, Sharon (also new to Pennant), Christine and Di had "valiantly fought out losses" (Christine's report).

As a club, the golfers are all very proud of the whole team and thank them for representing Yea. They also photographed beautifully in their club shirts.

Last Wednesday, April 29 was round two of the Kath Homewood Trophy. The trophy is played in honour of life member Kath Homewood who was Ladies' Captain, President and Pennant player over many years.

The stroke event was played in superb conditions with the winner of the trophy being Jan Wealands, who played yet another very fine round and backed up last week's amazing golf with some very consistent play. Winner of the day's stroke event was Cindy Armstrong (29) with a lovely round of 70, while Jan (26) placed second.

Nearest the pin was won by Meryl Connell. The "Hole of the Round" was also won by Meryl who managed to rack up a 12 on the 15th thanks to a very tricky flag placement and some very poor putting. Christine Simmons however, didn't want to putt that nasty green at all so just chipped in.

The day was made extra lovely by being able to celebrate Di Holdsworth's birthday with a lunch (including birthday cake) generously provided by Di E and Cindy. Thanks so much girls and Happy Birthday, Di.



Yea's representatives in Seymour for the pennant competition. -S



Lining up for a kick while the crowd watches on.



Trying for an intercept to stop a goal.



Keeping the Pakenham side away from the ball.

Yea Football Netball Club hosts Pakenham teams

THE Yea Football Netball Club teams took on Pakenham at home in Yea, with the women's team claiming points after Woori Yallock forfeited.

Football

Yea Seniors 60 were defeated by Pakenham 108.

The Yea Reserves team 43 were defeated by Pakenham 102.

Netball

In A Grade, Yea 26 were defeated by Pakenham 53.

B Grade, Yea 22 were defeated by Pakenham 83.

C Grade, Yea 26 were defeated by Pakenham 46.

D Grade, Yea 13 were defeated by Pakenham 66.



Yea putting pressure on the Pakenham netballers. -Photos by Savannah Gregory Photography



The Yea footballers trying to prevent Pakenham from marking.



The players enjoying themselves on the court.

The Chronicle Sport



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Great day at the office for Yea junior netballers

by Jo Madden

THE 11 and Under team took on Alexandra, with the match called off early due to lightning. At the time, Yea were up by one goal, so they'll take that win.

In the 13 and Under Yellow game, Yea had a strong 25 to 10 win over Broadford White. Broadford played the whole match a player short, and their positive attitude and effort really stood out. It was great to see such strong sportsmanship from both teams.

The 13 and Under Black team also had a solid win, defeating St Mary's Green 28 to 16 with a consistent team performance.

Yea's 15 and Under girls had a fantastic result, beating Alexandra Red 50 to 19. They played through the heaviest of the rain, making the win even more impressive.

It was a tricky round for all clubs, so a big thanks to the Yea umpires, Maya Cronk,

Lauren and Kensi Cronk, Cindy Hayes and Fiona Tanner, who stepped in to help out other clubs where needed. The club really appreciate your support in making sure the kids could get out on court.

Awards

11 and Under: Just Great Coffee Player of the Day, Skye Helder; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Ainslie Barry.

13 and Under Yellow: Sprout Wellness Player of the Day, Evie Madde; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Brooklyn Waghorn.

13 and Under Black: Deluxe Rod Shop Player of the Day, Milly Krickic; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Hayley Krickic.

15 and Under: Harris Gardenscapes Player of the Day, Ruby McKay; Yarra Valley Gas Ignite Award, Lilly Fanning.



Thirteen and Under Yellow award winners Evie Madden and Brooklyn Waghorn. -S



Thirteen and Under Black award winners Hayley and Milly Krickic. -S



Eleven and Under award winners Ainslie Barry and Skye Helder. -S