

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, July 12, 2023 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au



Eva, Nina and Coco enjoying one of the Alexandra Library school holiday activities, the evolving cubby house. It was a great activity where children could be creative or just play. The children had a great time and didn't want to leave. Eva and Nina also enjoyed playing the piano. Well done to the library team. -S

18 walkers rescued at Cathedral Range

ON Sunday, July 2, a group of 18 people were rescued from the Cathedral Range by the SES. This is understood to be a record number for the location.

Marysville SES Controller, Jo Hunter, said that the first emergency call came in at around 6.15pm. She said that the time was quite common at this time of year, with the early sunsets. The police were initially contacted by the group, and the police contacted the SES for assistance.

The group were stuck halfway up Canyon Walking Track, where there are quite a few rock scramble sections. The group reached a rock scramble right on dusk and were unable to get down any further.

The SES had done a similar job in the same location on the previous Tuesday night, so they knew they would need some experienced people to guide the group down. They sent out a group of six or seven people, including police, to first locate the missing people and work out what was needed.

Although there had been nice weather during the day, there was some localised weather over the Cathedral Range, making it foggy and rainy during the afternoon. As a result, the walkers were in a worse position than everyone else was experiencing.

Jo explained that "Two of us headed up to the rock scramble and met the group, and we were able to work out that there were 18 people there in total and that everyone was accounted for, which is a really important question to ask. They were reasonably well prepared in terms of warmth layers, so they weren't too cold, but there were a couple who were starting to get chilly, so we managed to warm them up with some of our warming devices. We've got space blankets and body warmers."

The walkers weren't carrying torches but had been using their mobile phones for light. They had departed at about 2pm, which is ample time to complete the loop before sunset, but not if running into trouble. They did however have food and water.

The SES established that the group of 18 were in fact from four different walking groups who had all reached the same point. As a group, they decided that it wasn't safe to go any further.

"It's a common thing on the Cathedral, where groups help each other out on the tricky ascension. They all sat down at one point where it does get a bit tough if you don't know the track," Jo said.

The group were provided with head torches and they proceeded to lead them down. With such a large group, this needed to be done in small numbers due to the confined area. They started with three at a time and then slightly more with the more confident walkers. It took a few hours to get everyone to the bottom of the rock scramble, and then send them out to the car park with guides from the SES.

In Jo's time, the highest prior number of walkers rescued at a single time was 11.

The SES finished at about 10.30 or 11pm and then had the gear clean-down back at the station.

All of the walkers were very appreciative of the rescue efforts, and all were planning to head out and purchase head torches the next day. All were from the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Jo commented, "We're really happy to go out and help people who call us before they get injured, because the risk of someone down a section they're unsure of and then becoming injured obviously turns into a much bigger deal. As with a few weeks ago, it could turn into a 24 hour rescue or something, to get an injured person out. We'd much rather guide 18 people down easily and have a laugh with them."

She believes that the signage and track markers for the walking tracks at the Cathedral Range are "excellent", following a large project across the last five years with Parks Victoria.

"What tends to happen is that people just underestimate how long such a short track will take. It's only about 650 metres to the top and then 650 metres down. People tend to think it will take them a much shorter time than it does. But the difference between walking along a track on the ground and actually having to climb and negotiate obstacles can catch them out," she said.

The amount of time the track requires very much depends on people's ability. Jo said that in winter, 2pm should be the absolute latest people should set out on the walk, and 4pm or 5pm in mid-summer. She added that people should allow double the estimated time, just in case, and that they should factor in the time spent on photos or at the peak as well.

Well done to all of the SES and Victoria Police members involved in the rescue.

Yea Community Bank update

YEA Community Bendigo Bank Chair, Jim Osborne, has said that a great deal of persistent work has been going on behind the scenes, endeavouring to retain a banking facility in Alexandra. This work is leading to a successful outcome.

Mr Osborne said the board is delighted to announce that an experienced and well credentialed manager has been appointed to oversee the expansion of the Yea service and to extend this service into Alexandra and district. The Yea and district community bank is now the last remaining stand-alone bank in the Murrindindi Shire.

The board welcomes Branch Manager Bec Taylor who will commence work on July 17. She will divide her time between Yea and Alexandra.

A room in the Grant Street Laundromat has been refurbished to accommodate the manager and a customer service officer. This office will be operational from July 17 and appointments will be managed by contacting the Yea Community Bank on 5797 2188.

Services provided from this facility will not be the same as a full bank. Cash withdrawals and deposits will still be available at the sub-agency at the Alexandra Newsagent. Where the need for greater amounts arises, this can be accommodated by contacting the Yea Branch on 5797 2188, just 20 minutes away.

Consultations, with regard to term deposits, loans, online banking, credit cards, changing banks, farm, personal and house loans and general banking advice will be available at the new office in Alexandra.

Mr Osborne reiterated his advice from the first public meeting held in the Alexandra Shire Hall some time ago, that the Yea Community Bank Board is prepared to establish and provide support for the Alexandra community and that the success of this venture is entirely dependent on the Alexandra community demonstrating its support for keep a banking facility in Alexandra.



Bendigo Bank

Yea and District Community Bank

OPERATIONAL FROM JULY 17, 2023

113 Grant Street, Alexandra 5797 2188

Consultations, with regard to term deposits, loans, online banking, credit cards, changing banks, farm, personal and house loans and general banking advice will be available.

Deposits and withdrawals will remain at the
Alexandra Newsagency 82 - 84 Grant Street Alexandra

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can now be submitted via email to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or mail to PO Box 5
Alexandra 3714, or drop them into the
Alexandra office.

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.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard
The Age Chronicle

Standard The Xtra Chronicle

Independently owned and operated and in any form associated
with any other media outlet in the Murrumbidgee Shire

CONTACT DETAILS

43 Grant Street
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday-Friday
CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING:
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS: Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au
ADVERTISING: 1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR: Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
SPORTS EDITOR:
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

PUBLISHERS

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS**  Pty Ltd

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant
Street, Alexandra Victoria 3714. Material
published in this edition is subject to
copyright provisions, and cannot be
used without the company's permission.
Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts
no responsibility for the unauthorised
replication of such material.
Print Post Approved - PP 100000292

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency



| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| UGFM 106.9 | Alexandra / Lake Eildon |
| UGFM 88.9 | Yea / Highlands |
| UGFM 98.5 | Marysville / Lake Mountain |
| UGFM 98.9 | Flowerdale / Hazeldeane |
| UGFM 94.5 | Kinglake Ranges |

WEEKLY

| | |
|------|--|
| Tues | Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306 |
| Tue | Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm |
| Wed | Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150 |
| Thu | Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427 |
| Fri | Seniors Social Club 1pm |
| Sun | AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222 |
| | Alanon Recovery Phone 0402 428 086. |
| Sun | Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057 |
| Thu | 7.30-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666 |
| Fri | Communithea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 |

MONTHLY

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 st Wed | Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318 |
| 1 st Sat | Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257 |
| 1 st Sun | Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas |
| 2 nd Tue | Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285 |
| 2 nd Wed | Molesworth Crafty Critters, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm. |
| 2 nd Sat | Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988 |
| 2 nd Sat | Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 |
| 2 nd Sat | Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801 |
| 3 rd Wed | Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318 |
| 3 rd Thu | Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946 |
| 3 rd Thu | Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas |
| 3 rd Sun | Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913 |
| 4 th Tue | Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall. |
| 4 th Wed | Molesworth Crafty Critters, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm. |
| 4 th Thu | Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517 |
| Last Fri | Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455 |



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.

 Letters to the Editor

THE shock announcement by the Andrews Labor Government to shut down the timber industry a staggering six years early has hit many small communities hard and understandably so. The city centric Andrews Government doesn't seem to grasp the impact of the closure and the haste in which it has been delivered.

Rural townships that were built on the back of the industry are gutted. The 2500 industry workers, some who are fifth generation workers, will be without a job. There are still no answers as what compensation will be delivered or what future employment may look like. The state Government's pitch that workers could retrain by doing a free TAFE course was an insult. That's only the beginning.

The closure will have a flow on effect to many other industries including trades, engineers, manufacturers, mechanics and fuel suppliers.

Without the timber industry's manpower and heavy machinery, the capacity to fight bushfires will be significantly reduced, putting forests and regional communities in greater danger.

There will also be an impact on the environment. Victoria has much more rigorous processes and standards when it comes to timber harvesting, which includes reseedling or replanting. Timber sourced from overseas will come from countries that have less regard for the environment and their forests and animals. Further, there will be a high rise in associated emissions as timber needs to be shipped to Victoria.

Meanwhile, demand for timber in Victoria has never been higher. Trades are calling for an increased supply of materials, particularly post COVID-19, to build high end furniture, windows, floors, and stairs.

The need for locally sourced, quality woods is still present. It makes no sense whatsoever to shut down this thriving industry at a time when we know we need more local manufacturing.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish

I WAS thrilled to read in the Murrindindi Community Newsletter July 2023 that council was working on a plan for net zero emissions. What fun.


How about some context? The shire has about 16,000 residents. The population of Australia is about 25.7 million. So the Shire has 0.06 per cent of the population of Australia. Six one hundredths. Australia produces about 1.1 per cent (and declining) of global emissions. So, six one hundredths of 1.1 per cent is a tiny, tiny number of shire-caused emissions.

That doesn't account for the fact that there is no heavy industry in the shire, no reliable coal fired power stations, or that zero net carbon emissions wood is a key heating resource. So our share of national emissions is likely to be well less than the average. So an even tinier number.

So here's a better plan for the council. Move onto something you can actually have an impact on. Like the community. Fix the roads, grade the unsealed roads, deal with roadside weeds, and let the ideologues in Canberra worry about saving the planet.

Marcus Elgin, Highlands

SOME observations about the Voice. Other than during the two World Wars have I heard a Prime Minister as obsessed with a single issue as Anthony Albanese with the Voice. This despite the threat of war in the Pacific, our dwindling energy infrastructure, crime going unpunished and cost of living










Weekly Weather








July 12 - July 18, 2023


Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication


Alexandra

| DAY | LOW | HIGH |
|-----------|-----|--|
| Wednesday | 7 | 13  |
| Thursday | 6 | 13  |
| Friday | 7 | 12  |
| Saturday | 6 | 12  |
| Sunday | 5 | 12  |
| Monday | 4 | 12  |
| Tuesday | 6 | 12  |

Yea

| DAY | LOW | HIGH |
|-----------|-----|--|
| Wednesday | 6 | 14  |
| Thursday | 5 | 13  |
| Friday | 7 | 13  |
| Saturday | 6 | 13  |
| Sunday | 5 | 13  |
| Monday | 4 | 12  |
| Tuesday | 6 | 12  |





| River Heights for the Goulburn Catchment | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| Station Name | Time | Height | Tendency | Flood Class |
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S | 8.00am Mon | 2.72^ | steady | below minor |
| Rubicon R at Rubicon | 8.00am Mon | 0.93 | steady | |
| Acheron R at Taggerty | 10.06am Mon | 1.83 | steady | |
| Home Ck at Yarck | 7.59am Mon | 0.51 | steady | |
| Yea R at Devlins Bridge | 8.27am Mon | 0.84 | falling | below minor |
| Yea R at Yea | 8.24am Mon | 2.20 | steady | |
| Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin | 8.00am Mon | 5.58 | steady | |
| King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale | 8.00am Mon | 0.81^ | steady | below minor |
| Goulburn R at Trawool | 8.00am Mon | 3.65^ | steady | below minor |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook | 8.00am Mon | 0.42^ | steady | below minor |
| Goulburn R at Seymour | 10.00am Mon | 3.54 | steady | below minor |
| Whiteheads Ck at Seymour | 8.33am Mon | 1.47 | steady | |
| **ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023** | | | | |

| DISTRICT RAINFALL | |
|--|----------|
| Alexandra | N/Amm |
| Buxton..... | 57mm |
| Eildon (AWS)..... | 20mm |
| Flowerdale..... | 30mm |
| Kinglake..... | 16mm |
| Lake Eildon..... | 27mm |
| Marysville | N/A |
| Jamieson..... | 72mm |
| Taggerty | 39mm |
| Yarck | 23mm |
| Yea..... | 17mm |
| Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday | |
| LAKE EILDON | |
| Height above sea level this week..... | 288.29m |
| Capacity as at 9am Monday..... | 97.5% |
| Metres below full supply..... | 61cm |
| Daily inflow | 22,000ML |
| Release..... | 11,000ML |
| Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)..... | 90% |

spiralling. International trade partners have given up and walking away.

Linda Burnie will become the most powerful person in Australia once the Voice is passed. Unelected and there for life. Burnie has made some odd statements recently. Keeping in mind we have thousands of Aboriginal focused departments and organisations funded to the tune of \$40 billion dollars per annum.

Burnie mentioned parents forced to give cordial to infants instead of water. Aboriginals 55 times more likely to get rheumatic heart disease than other Australians, all preventable. With the resources today, rather than waiting to pass new legislation why not send water and medical assistance to the people that need it today rather than sitting beside the PM writing notes.

The other concern I have is one of Torres Strait Islander members of the Voice made a public statement praising the work of the communist founding fathers for their work. Perhaps most people are too young to remember the Iron Curtain and The Cold War. The simplest way to describe what it was like is people were prepared to risk their lives escaping communism than to stay. Do you really want people like that tinkering with our constitution?

Before the ardent Yes supporters get up in arms, the Yes vote will win in one of three ways. First, the Yes vote gets over 50 per cent votes. It's going to be close. Second, Albanese passes it with parliamentary privilege, he mentioned the possibility. Third, the states transfer water rights, state lands and vital infrastructure to an Aboriginal council. This is actually underway now in preparation for the Yes vote to win but legally win or loose nothing is stopping this from happening. It would appear the decision has been made.

Tom Collins, Alexandra

[There are some factual errors in this letter. Two are outlined here. The Conversation did a fact check on Warren Mundine's Q&A statement that \$30 billion was spent in the "Indigenous space" each year. He told The Conversation that this includes direct and indirect funding, including welfare payments. \$5.7 billion of the total was spent on government expenditure not specifically related to Indigenous people, such as defence and foreign affairs. The Conversation stated, "Ultimately, the Productivity Commission estimates that only \$5.6 billion or 18.6 per cent of the total expenditure is provided through Indigenous-specific or targeted services."

Australia's Constitution cannot be changed by Parliament alone. According to the Australia Parliament page on altering the constitution, "To change the constitution itself a majority vote of the electors of the commonwealth, and of the electors in a majority of the states, at a referendum is also required." -Ed]

Stay safe on the water

GOULBURN Murray Water (GMW) is reminding visitors to its lakes, dams and reservoirs to make safety a priority.

GMW Water Storage Services general manager Martina Cusack said the colder weather could pose certain risks that visitors should be aware of. "During winter, there are often fewer boats on our storages and waterways," she said.

"This means it is crucial that people have means of communication if their boat breaks down or has a problem. If they are going somewhere without reception, they should inform someone before they leave of where they are heading and when they plan to return.

"Wearing a life jacket is also particularly crucial during the winter, as the cold water can drastically reduce the risk of survival for people who fall in."

To reduce risks at GMW storages, visitors should take the following measures: Observe water levels and the potential for submerged hazards. If in doubt, slow to five knots or

less. Always seek out local knowledge on conditions and hazards and maintain a good lookout. Ensure the motor kill switch is attached to the driver. Take note of signage at boat ramps. Ensure the vessel is equipped with the required safety equipment and it is in good working condition and easily accessible. Always avoid alcohol and avoid overloading the vessel.

"We want everyone who visits our storages to have fun but, most importantly, we want them to stay safe," Ms Cusack said.

"Taking these simple steps greatly improves safety and helps ensure people's visit is memorable for the right reasons."

Visitors are encouraged to read the recreation guides at g-mwater.com.au/recreation-tourism/recreation-guides and visit the recreation webpage at g-mwater.com.au/recreation to find out what activities are permitted so they can plan their trip accordingly.

For further information on boating safety in Victoria, go to transportsafety.vic.gov.au

Alexandra Seniors Club report

by honorary secretary Michael Jennings

IT was another busy week at the Bayley Street clubroom with the bridge players in action on Monday and Wednesday. The Carpet Bowlers were busy on Tuesday afternoon. On Thursday the ukulele players had a break as the club had a lunch date at the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton. Hopefully the ukulele players have been practicing and are ready to resume this Thursday.

On Friday we had a business meeting when the main topics were the upcoming AGM to be held on Friday, July 21 at 1pm in the clubroom and future activities. We plan to go to Healesville RSL to Morning Melodies on Tuesday, August 8 so please

get your names down on the list so we can book in good time. Treasurer Dave had us smiling with Comedy Corner and Loie won the FoodWorks voucher.

After the formal stuff we adjourned for cuppa and cake before playing 500 and UNO. A topic of conversation over the cuppa was an apparent increase of house break-ins and vandalism in the area so please be vigilant. A reminder that as we enter a new financial year membership fees are now due.

As always, we welcome new members to any of our activities so come along to the Bayley Street clubroom or give Mike a call on 0456 456 363 for details. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Reminder on school speed zones

STUDENTS have returned to the classroom, so school speed zones will be in operation from 8am to 9.30am and from 2.30pm to 4pm on weekdays until the end of term three on Friday, September 15. Some 40k/h zones are permanent.

Drivers have a responsibility to be especially cautious when travelling near schools, as younger children don't have the same awareness of road safety as adults do and their behaviour may be unpredictable near the roads.

Patience and courtesy from road users will help keep everyone in around school zones safe, including students, teachers, parents or guardians, and crossing supervisors.

School speed zones are designed to keep pedestrians safe by lowering the speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school. Regardless of whether a school is open or closed, all sign-posted 40k/h zones will still apply.

Songwriting competition for children

THE annual Australian Children's Music Foundation National Songwriting Competition is a nationwide initiative designed to encourage creativity and self-expression through songwriting, and is now in its 21st year.

Every year, students from schools across Australia are invited to put pen to paper and enter their original song.

There are some amazing prizes to be won. Entries close September 30.

The prizes include the Alan Kendall Award, an annual award for the most creative and original song composition across the competition, valued at \$1500, and the APRA AMCOS Award, an annual award for the Young Songwriter of the Year across the competition, valued at \$1500. All monetary prizes must be redeemed for musical instruments, music tuition or music production only.

For more information, visit acmf.com.au

Foundation murrindindi grant round opens

Foundation Murrindindi's Connecting Communities grant round is now open. There are five key areas of impact, and this grant round focuses on community health and wellbeing.

The Connecting Communities grants program aims to enable local organisations to undertake community-led projects and initiatives that help communities to stay connected by reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation, fostering community connections, increasing

social participation and inclusion and enhance a sense of belonging.

Community groups across Murrindindi Shire are invited to apply for small grants of up to \$500 for community-led initiatives that achieve this purpose.

The Connecting Communities small grants program is open from July 1 until July 31.

For more information, please visit the website foundationmurrindindi.org.au or give Robyn Hill a call on 0488 007 688.

POLICE REPORT

A BLACK Telstra mobile phone and a battery power charger were handed in to the Alexandra Police Station on July 5. People will need to describe the item to claim it. Contact the police station for more information.

FORTY redgum sleepers have been stolen from the Eildon Tennis Club. The club was planning to raffle the sleepers to raise funds for the club. The club received a grant to replace the retaining wall. The sleepers previously formed part of the retaining wall. The sleepers were located at the back of the club. They were last seen on June 8 and discovered to be missing on July 6. If you saw anything, or have any information on the theft, please contact Eildon Police on 5774 2104.

POLICE would like to remind people to avoid leaving valuable items in vehicles. Be aware that easy targets will be jumped on by opportunistic thieves. Lock the doors of your vehicle and don't leave valuable items visible.



THUMBS DOWN:

To the logic of placing two dustbins next to the bench seat on lower Eildon Pondage.

THUMBS DOWN:

To the shambles with banking services in Alexandra. Words fail me.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property



Offering a caring and professional service throughout the the Murrindindi Shire
A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS
Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214
Chris Walsh 0407 194 037



Market @ Yarck
CWA morning tea
and cake stall
Saturday from 9am
July 15, 2023
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612



Flood recovery pop-up hubs Find the support for you



Murrindindi Shire Council is running a series of pop-up hubs for you to meet the flood recovery team. This is an opportunity to share your story and to find out what support is available to you.

Come and meet the flood recovery team at one of the scheduled pop-up hubs below:

- Thornton Hall, Thursday 13 July, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Molesworth Hall, Wednesday 19 July, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
- Alexandra Library, Thursday 27 July, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
- Yea Library, Tuesday 1 August, 5.00 – 6.30 pm
- Yea Library, Wednesday 2 August, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Dates are currently being planned for the Flowerdale, Kinglake, Glenburn and Buxton communities.

The flood recovery team will also be attending the Yea Cattle Sales each month to offer information and support to farmers:

- Friday 4 August, 10.30 am – 3.00 pm
- Friday 1 September, 10.30 am – 3.00 pm

For more information about resources available for your ongoing recovery, visit the Flood Hub on Council's website. This hub has information on available grants, infrastructure updates, and support services available. Find out more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022



Murrindindi Shire Council received funding by the State of Victoria through Emergency Recovery Victoria's Community Recovery Hubs grant program in response to the October 2022 flood event which impacted Victorian communities.

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks
Alexandra Newsagency
Alexandra Newspapers
Bucks Country Bakehouse Yarck
Choppers Buxton
Eildon Newsagency
Alexandra Endeavour
Hazeldene Store
Igloo Buxton
Marysville FoodWorks
Mansfield Newsagency
Merton General Store
Metro Narby
Seymour Newsagency
Simpsons Caltex
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Yarck Meat and Produce
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency



Audited Media
Association of Australia

abc

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

See this week's editions of *The Standard* and *The Chronicle* for information on flood recovery pop up hubs across the shire.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

Eildon Events Inc will hold their AGM at Morning Mist, Back Eildon Road at 10.30am. For further details contact 0400 715 319.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Market@Yarck is on again with CWA morning tea and cake stall. Saturday, July 15 from 9am.

Suade in concert at Yea Shire Hall 7pm. Book now \$35 trybooking.com/CIXGO

SUNDAY, JULY 16

The next Alexandra RSL general meeting will be held at noon at the RSL in Alexandra. A light lunch will follow.

MONDAY, JULY 17

Murrindindi East U3A will hold their AGM at 10.30am at the Alexandra Bowling Club. A light lunch will be provided. Enquiries to secretary@murrindindieastu3a.org.au

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

RAR are holding a Vigil at 10am at the Alexandra Rotunda and in the Yea main street to call to end off shore detention.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens will hold their AGM at 1pm at the Bayley Street clubrooms. All enquiries to secretaryadsec@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Alexandra District Health invites you to join them for their 2023 Open Board meeting. To be held at 4pm at the Alexandra RSL. Tea and coffee provided. RSVP to [Jennifer: creed@adh.org.au](mailto:jennifer.creed@adh.org.au) by close of business Friday, July 21.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Goulburn Fishing Festival 2023. Free event at Eildon. 10am-4pm. Lions Park, Riverside Drive. Live music, market stalls, Snobs Creek Hatchery tours, Vic Fish Kids clinics and more. Fireworks at 7pm. vfa.vid.gov.au/goulburnfishfest



Aurora Kurth and Cath Jamison.



Cath Jamison and Aurora Kurth will be performing at the Yarck Hall. -S

This week's Church Services

ANGLICAN St Johns Alexandra
9am Eucharist each Sunday
Children welcome
Fr Mario Hendricks - Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator, Father Jose Mathew
Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia
St. Andrews, Downey Street, Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of Jesus
Services 10am each Sunday
contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Loving God, Loving People, Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Contact: Ps Steven Turner
Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH
37 Grant Street, Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
www.mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community of the
Baptist Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street, Alexandra
Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone Ph: 0481 472 152

Cabaret magic returns to Yarck Hall

ON Saturday, August 5, Artz@Yarck is hosting the cabaret *Sass and Secrets* at the Yarck Hall.

Featuring Australia's multi-award-winning illusionist and mentalist Cath Jamison and comedy cabaret star Aurora Kurth, this wickedly funny, original theatrical cabaret features awe inspiring magic, mentalism, fabulous singing, and physical comedy mayhem.

The interactive and fun show is driven by two flamboyant characters and their relationship with the audience, and is a highly entertaining, engaging and moving performance piece that will evoke your childhood wonderment.



having a celebration?
need
invitations?



CALL NOW!

5772 1002
or email us on
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Recognised worldwide for her captivating brand of magic and mind-reading, Cath Jamison has appeared on *Sunrise*, *Today*, Channel 10's *9am with David & Kim*, KIIS101.1, and at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala. Jamison has received countless ovations and astounded the likes of Tim Burton, Dawn French and Melissa Etheridge.

Aurora is equal parts vixen and comedienne. With a career in the performing arts spanning over two decades, this critically acclaimed artist has wowed audiences across the globe. She's an entertainer, a raconteur, and a hell of a singer.

Brace yourselves for an unbelievable night of sharp wit, reality bending illusion, and a healthy dose of audience interaction.

Mini magicians are invited to a \$5, hour-long, Children's Magic Workshop with Cath at noon. Apprentice sorcerers attending the workshop are invited to the evening performance free of charge if accompanied by a ticketed adult.

This production is wicked. High noon \$5 Children's Magic Class. Adults may stay for the class if they remain invisible. \$30 dinner at 6:30pm (disappearing fast). 8pm show bookings, full \$30 and concession \$25. Supper is free.

Please book all tickets online at Trybooking.com.au/CISXY

Refugee vigils in Alexandra and Yea

by Pauline Roberts

MEMBERS of the local branch of Rural Australians for Refugees are holding two vigils on Wednesday, July 19 to highlight 10 years since the off-shore detention on Nauru and Manus Islands was reinstated as Australia's solution to the refugee 'problem'. Eighty-eight refugees are still illegally detained on Manus Island. They have managed to escape violent and repressive regimes only to be forced into perpetual limbo.

The organisers believe that it is time that Australia ended this inhumane treatment

of other human beings and permanently closed all of its off-shore detention centres. They argue that the scheme subjects refugees to an unconscionably cruel and brutal regime of indefinite detention and enforced uncertainty, and it is also a breach of human rights and Australia's commitment to the UNHCR Convention.

The hour-long vigil will commence at 10am at the rotunda on Grant St in Alexandra and simultaneously, outside the supermarket in Yea.

For further information, call 0467 413767.

DEECA provides update on the end of native timber forestry

NOW that the sawdust is beginning to settle following the Premier's announcement that native timber forestry would cease from January 1, 2024, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) was asked to provide any updates on the compensation and or alternate work being offered to timber workers of various types, including harvesters, road contractors, haulage contractors and mill workers. They were also asked whether people currently undertaking contract work from DEECA will be displaced in favour of timber workers.

FFMVIC Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman responded, "We acknowledge the hard-working and specialised contribution of timber industry contractors to bushfire management works in Victoria. They are an integral part of the work FFMVIC does to minimise bushfire risk and keep communities safe."

"Forest contractors will be engaged for DEECA land and fire management works beyond the end of native timber harvesting, using their valuable skills and equipment as we manage our forests and prepare for and respond to fires."

The department provided the following background.

Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone regions in the world. We work every day to reduce bushfire risk and are well prepared for the season ahead.

Retaining the specialised and valuable skills and machinery of Victoria's timber harvest and haulage contractors to carry out critical fire and land management activities is a priority for the Victorian Government.

Forest contractors are currently undertaking work for DEECA and VicForests through their existing contracts with VicForests where possible. They will continue to be offered DEECA land and fire management beyond January 1, 2024. This will enable them to continue to work in the forests they know so well and contribute to bushfire risk reduction in the immediate term.

Contractors who are stood down due to lack of work are continuing to receive stand down payments through their VicForests contracts.

DEECA are in discussion with forest contractors and the Australian Forest Contractor Association regarding longer term arrangements to provide certainty to these businesses and their workers.

Forest contractors are already engaged across DEECA's land and fire management programs to carry out numerous specialised tasks including to remove hazardous trees, maintain our strategic road network, expand our strategic fuel breaks network and treat hazardous storm debris, as well as playing a key role in bushfire suppression and recovery.

In May, the Victorian Government announced an additional \$200 million in support for workers and their families to transition away from native timber harvesting by 2024.

The government's support for the forestry transition is now more than \$875 million, including existing worker support services and investments to support the transition to plantation timber.

Boosting workforce for North East Victoria's forest firefighters

FOREST Fire Management (FFMVIC) is looking for people across north east Victoria who are keen to work outdoors, learn new skills, and help protect the community and the environment.

Applications are now open for project firefighter roles across 18 locations including Alexandra, Marysville, Toolangi and Kinglake.

FFMVIC Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Jarrod Hayse, said, "These fixed term positions are a fantastic opportunity for people from all walks of life, who are physically fit, to get out in the

bush, protect our region from bushfires and help maintain public land.

"New recruits will be involved in responding to bushfires, conducting planned burns, looking after recreation areas, pest and weed control, maintaining access to fire trails and roads, and supporting other emergency work to help protect the community and environment.

"They can also be called on to support other emergencies like last year's Victorian floods. Many of the forest firefighters deployed to the current Canadian bushfires started their

careers as project firefighters."

FFMVIC recruits seasonal project firefighters each year. Roles include general firefighters, fire support officers and rappel crew firefighters. Firefighters are employed on a full time basis for a fixed term period from October until April.

There are also positions designated for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, reflecting the government's commitment to a diverse workforce that reflects the wider community.

Mr Hayse said ideal candidates would be fit and healthy and hold a current manual driver's licence.

"Successful recruits will be fully trained and get the opportunity to work with experienced staff from a range of fire management agencies across the state," he said.

"These are very rewarding roles, where no two days are ever the same."

Applications are now open and close on July 30. To apply, visit jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff or call 136 186.



WINE & Wildlife

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
22-23 JULY

**SCAN QR CODE TO
BOOK TICKETS**

Healesville Sanctuary is teaming up with Yarra Valley icons to bring you a weekend of gourmet food and wine in a stunning bushland setting. This year's event helps Healesville Sanctuary rescue and rehabilitate injured wildlife.

**HEALESVILLE
SANCTUARY**

**FIRE
SOF
YARRA VALLEY**

VICTORIA



A group of FFM members in Canada. -S



Some of the FFM crew on the ground in Canada. -S

Local firefighters use their skills abroad

SINCE May 25, a total of 115 Victorians have travelled alongside other Australians and New Zealand fire crews in response to the very large Canadian bushfires. These efforts join with other countries such as South Africa, France, Chile, Costa Rica, Portugal and Spain in providing relief to Canadian firefighters.

Last week 442 active fires were recorded across Canada. It has been reported that Canada has surpassed its record for the largest area burned by wildfires in a single year.

Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it was important to support Canada in its time of need, particularly after so many Canadian firefighters helped Victoria during the devastating 2019/20 bushfire season.

"We have contributed 80 experienced campaign firefighters who have worked incredibly hard and made a real difference to the Canadian firefight. They've been supported by amazing incident management, vehicle support, logistics and communications personnel from our partner agencies across from Australia and New Zealand, who are working extremely well to integrate into the Canadian wildfire management system," he said.

Local Forest Fire Management (FFM) staff were given the opportunity to help with the firefighting effort abroad, including Luke Heard and Bill Twitchett. Both have

just recently returned to Australia from their international deployment.

Luke joined in the international firefight for a total of 38 days. It was his first international deployment. Luke stayed at a fire complex at Fox Creek, three hours north west of Edmonton, Alberta.

Luke said, "It was a very exciting time. Three people from Alexandra went along. I didn't know what to expect. To be selected is such a privilege. It was nice to get chosen and be part of representing FFM with the 'arduous crew' to help repay the help the Canadian firefighters gave to us in 2019 when they came to Australia."

Luke's job role in Canada was a heavy plant machine supervisor.

"Being a machine supervisor, my role was to supervise where the machines go. I was also to walk through, trying to find the fires edge. It was quite daunting because there was some very active black bears and grizzly bears where I was. I didn't have to use my bear spray luckily."

Luke recalled, "The conditions were quite wet, a lot wetter than I thought. It really had its challenges, and it was a lot different of what we are used to in Australia. It was quite swampy."

"We were having to retrieve machines almost daily. If it wasn't the machines we are dealing with we had to watch out for the bears."



One of the pieces of machinery used to fight the fires. -S

"Fire basics are the same as what is used in Australian firefighting but it's different terrain and type of vegetations. There are a lot of pine trees and spruce trees which is a lot different to our eucalypt trees. We still do the methods of putting a mineral earth edge around the fire to contain it. That is all you can really do is try to contain it and hopefully the rain puts it out."

"Halfway through my stint, we got 200mm of rain in three days. We went from bushfire evacs to flood evacs then back to bushfires."

Luke looks back on the recent trip very fondly, "The relationships I have developed has been great, not just the people I went with but the local people I met over there, I have made some great friendships."

Luke says however, his best moment was being welcomed home at the airport from his wife and two kids. "It was fantastic, one of the biggest highlights," he said.

Bill Twitchett has also recently arrived home following his deployment since May 26. The trip had a positive impact on him.

"It was an awesome experience. It was really good, both on a professional level and personal level," he said.

"Professionally, it was the experience and the exposure to the firefighting methods in Canada and on a personal level it was helping the local community. It was such a great opportunity."

This was also Bill's first international deployment for FFM. Bill's role was a divisional supervisor which was a field based role for a large division located at Rainbow Lake, 10 hours north of Edmonton.

When comparing the fire fighting methods and incident management systems in Canada, Bill explained, "There were a lot of similarities. We operate under the AIIMS system and use the same command

structure roles and similar processes. When it comes to the firefighting, the basics are similar, with control lines to break up fuel and blacking out methods. The difference is mainly the forest type which is boreal forest full of spruce and aspen. It burns differently and the suppression involves a lot more blacking out as the fuel layer is quite deep."

Bill was staying at Rainbow Lake which was quite remote, "The fire burnt right around the township. A small first nation community towards the east needed protecting," he said.

"High value assets such as gas were also at risk. Fortunately, no community or homes were lost due to good efforts at the start of fire. The power was knocked out. It was out when we got there. I think around day 35 it was restored."

"The current situation when we left the main fire I was on, we managed to declare that as held, that is our version of contained here, it was such a good achievement for the team after four weeks of work on it after another team did similar stints."

Bill said he would like to acknowledge the skill Forest Fire Management Victoria has in this sort of remote work, saying that what our arduous crews did was beneficial. "Our incident management team with their knowledge, and the contribution of all the Australian firefighters, was really appreciated by the Canadians."

A highlight of Bill's trip was the experience of working with other international firefighters.

"I was very lucky to work with 60 Chilean firefighters. With the language barrier, Google translator got a good workout. The crew leaders spoke English and were very highly skilled."

"Working with first nations crew and people was really good as well and also one of my highlights."

Get your building plans printed with us

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| A2 Black & White | \$2 per copy |
| A2 Colour | \$5 per copy |
| A1 Black & White | \$5 per copy |
| A1 Colour | \$8 per copy |

Alexandra Newspapers
P.O. Box 5, Alexandra, 3714
43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Ph 5772 1002 Fax 5772 1603
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

GET YOUR POSTERS PRINTED WITH US

A2 Colour \$30 per copy
(594mmx420mm)

A1 Colour \$40 per copy
(594mmx841mm)

235gsm gloss photo paper

PLEASE NOTE: files must be supplied in high resolution eg: 300dpi

Alexandra Newspapers
P.O. Box 5, Alexandra, 3714
43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Phone 5772 1002 | Fax 5772 1603
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



MANAGING OUR LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Council is reviewing and updating its Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP), to guide how Council-managed roads and road assets are created, maintained, renewed and upgraded over the next decade and beyond.

To get involved, you can:

- join the Roads Advisory Group and represent your local community on issues and decisions on road asset management
- complete a community survey before it closes on Sunday 16 July. The survey can be completed online or at our Library and Customer Service Centres
- provide feedback on the current condition of the road network via an interactive map, which will help you record road related issues

For more information and to join the conversation, visit The Loop at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ramp

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW RATES ARE CALCULATED

Local Government Victoria wants your opinion on a new way to calculate rates. This way is called a Valuation Averaging Mechanism. It could help reduce the impact of big changes in property values on how much you pay in rates.

A Valuation Averaging Mechanism would use an average of past property values instead of the current value to calculate rates. This could make rates more stable and predictable for ratepayers.

Local Government Victoria has prepared a paper that explains how it could work and what it could do. You can read the paper and have your say at engage.vic.gov.au

Your feedback will help the Minister for Local Government determine the merits of such a mechanism. Consultation is open until 31 August 2023.



EVENTS AND INFLATABLES PERMIT PROCESS

Do you have an event coming up in Murrindindi Shire? To ensure you are covering off on any Council requirements, please submit an Event Notification Form via our website with as much notice as possible.

Council has recently implemented a permit process for the use of inflatables, including jumping castles, on Council-managed land and sites to minimise the risk of injury and keep our community, particularly children, safe. Inflatable devices can be hazardous if they are not set up and operated correctly.

If you're planning on having inflatables at your next event, you must go through a permit process and provide evidence to Council that demonstrates you are meeting Australian Standards.

Council officers will guide you through the process, so please get in touch with us nice and early.

For more information on running events in Murrindindi Shire and to submit an Event Notification Form, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/organisingevents or call our Events team.

STAY WELL OVER WINTER - FREE RAT PROGRAM

Influenza (the flu) and COVID-19 circulate all year round, but winter is particularly bad for the spread of illness.

Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are available for all community members to collect at the following locations:

- Alexandra Council Offices - 28 Perkins Street
- Alexandra Library - 49 Grant Street
- Kinglake Library and Customer Service Centre - 19 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road
- Yea Library and Customer Service Centre - 15 The Semi Circle
- Mobile Library – Locations and operational hours can be found at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries

Everyone can collect up to two packs of five RATs per household. Face masks have also been made available. The masks are individual (not wrapped), with a limit of five per person. You do not need a Medicare card to collect RATs or face masks.

If you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please do not collect RATs until you are well.

If you can't get to a location, a guardian or carer can collect your free RATs for you.

For more information about getting tested and reporting a positive RAT result, visit the Department of Health website at coronavirus.vic.gov.au or alternatively, you can call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 675 398.

For more information on how to stay well this winter, visit the Better Health website at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/stay-well-this-winter



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN - NEXT STEPS

Council would like to thank everyone who has provided feedback on the draft Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2035.

Input from residents, business owners and landholders is valuable and will help shape the actions we take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Together we are taking action for a more sustainable future.

The next steps for the Plan are to review and analyse all community feedback we received in May and June, and then present the finalised Climate Change Action Plan to Council for adoption in the coming months.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction for the latest updates, or drop in to our Library and Customer Service Centres.

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET IN TOUCH

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



Rural placements help to boost health worker numbers

NEW research from the University of South Australia shows that having a rural experience could be the key factor in increasing the number of health workers in Australia's rural and remote communities.

Examining the work locations of UniSA health graduates, researchers found that nearly half of the new rural allied health workforce (in 2020) originated from metropolitan areas, with 88 per cent completing a rural placement during their studies.

Significantly, 25 graduates from the same cohort moved from metro employment to rural practice within two years of graduation. Most of these graduates (76 per cent) had done a rural placement.

These findings offer crucial insights for a sector that has long struggled to attract and retain health workers.

In Australia, around 7,000,000 people, or 28 per cent of the population, live in rural and remote areas. Despite having greater medical needs, these communities face severe health workforce shortages.

UniSA Department of Rural Health researcher Dr Lee Puah said that understanding the connection between rural placements and rural practice is vital for addressing workforce shortages.

"Every Australian deserves access to quality healthcare, yet Australians living in

rural and remote communities experience challenges in accessing health services in comparison to Australians living in metropolitan centres," Dr Puah said.

"This type of research can help us understand and plan future placements to help address the maldistribution of the workforce.

"Our study found that rural placements were fundamental in attracting allied health professionals to rural areas, both after graduation and beyond as they provide a taste of the rural work environment."

The study assessed 264 students who had completed podiatry, occupational therapy, or physiotherapy at UniSA in 2019. After graduation, 40 were practising in rural areas, with 26 remaining in rural practice two years later (a 65 per cent retention rate). Interestingly, by 2022, 25 city-based allied health professionals had transitioned to rural areas (76 per cent had done a rural placement and 20 per cent had rural origins).

Dr Puah says that the experience and insights gained through the rural placement programs prove critical for securing allied health workers in rural and remote areas.

"Addressing the health workforce shortage in rural and remote communities is a challenge, though a rural placement program may be part of the solution," Dr Puah said.

Stay well this winter

WINTER is here and the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit is urging the community to keep protecting themselves and their families from the flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

Across the Goulburn Valley region, case notifications remain consistent, however influenza cases in children were reported to be higher and RSV cases continue to be reported in children under three (according to the Summary Surveillance Data on July 5).

Cherie Holland, Operations Director for the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit, said, "It's still important to get vaccinated even if you're fit and healthy. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against getting flu or COVID-19 and especially important in children under five who are at a higher risk of becoming severely ill with these diseases."

The good news is there are things you can do to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged six months and older, and are available through GPs and pharmacies.

Some people have a higher risk of severe illness from flu and are eligible for a free flu vaccine. They include children from six months to under five years of age, people aged six months and over with certain medical conditions that increase their chance of severe influenza and its

complications, pregnant women, and people aged 65 and over.

If your last COVID-19 vaccination or previous COVID-19 infection was at least six months ago, you can have a COVID-19 booster and influenza vaccination on the same day.

If you have any flu or COVID-19 like symptoms, it's important to stay at home and get tested. Even if you get a negative RAT result, stay home until you feel well again.

You can also help reduce the spread of viruses like flu, RSV and COVID-19 by washing your hands regularly with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitiser, coughing and sneezing into your elbow or sleeve instead of your hands, wearing a mask if you cannot socially distance or if you need to visit a sensitive setting like hospital or aged care facility, or be in close contact with someone who is ill. Let fresh air in by opening doors and windows where possible, and staying home if you are unwell.

This winter, we know what to do to stay well. Getting your flu shot, and staying up-to-date with your COVID-19 vaccinations, will help you and the people around you stay well.

More information can be found at GVHealth.org.au/publichealthunit or contact your local GP or pharmacist.

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

WITH YOUR **FLU SHOT** AND UP-TO-DATE **COVID VAX**

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Plus, you can get both vaccines at the same time. Book now with your pharmacist or doctor.

Find out more at

betterhealth.vic.gov.au



A poppy field. -Peter Barr

Poppy seed warning

NON-food grade poppy seeds have incorrectly entered the food supply chain. These seeds are not intended for human consumption and are not safe to consume.

This batch of poppy seeds is high in thebaine, and when brewed into a concentrated form such as a tea it has resulted in cases of severe toxicity.

Anyone who has consumed large quantities of poppy seeds, for example as a drink, and experiences any unusual and severe symptoms should attend their nearest Emergency Department.

Clinical presentations include tachycardia, hypertension, hypertonia, clonus, unsteady gait, diaphoresis (sweating), limb stiffness or jerking, seizures, metabolic acidosis, acute kidney injury and respiratory and cardiac arrest. The onset of symptoms has been reported to occur soon after consumption of the poppy seeds, it can be within minutes to hours. If you have consumed the seeds more than four hours ago and are feeling ok, it is unlikely that you will become unwell.

The affected product is Royal Fields Poppy Seeds with a best before date of June 25, 2024. For further information on this product, see the recall notice on the Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) website.

The product has recently been sold in Coles stores in Victoria and across Australia. It has now been removed from sale. An investigation is ongoing to identify whether this product has been distributed elsewhere.

Customers are advised to check all poppy seed purchases for recalled batch numbers. People should not consume the affected product and should return it to the place of purchase for a full refund and safe disposal. If you are unsure or cannot get to the place of purchase, dispose of the seeds and their packaging in a general waste bin.

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre can be contacted at any time on 131 126 and can provide more information about poisons and what to do in suspected cases of thebaine poisoning linked to consumption of poppy seeds.

Regional Australians missing out on healthcare

RURAL Aid is supporting the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) and its call for better funding for the bush in the wake of new research showing rural Australians are missing out on \$6.5 billion annually in healthcare access.

The NRHA-commissioned research reveals that each person in rural Australia is missing out on nearly \$850 a year of healthcare access, equating to a total annual rural health spending deficit of \$6.5 billion.

Rural Aid CEO John Warlters said living and working in the bush was challenging at the best of times and too often people in rural communities were forced to sacrifice access to basic services. This had become an ingrained but unreasonable expectation of what was required if someone chose to live outside of a metropolitan area.

"The NRHA, through its research, has quantified the gap. Now we call on government to act swiftly to close the gap," Mr Warlters said.

Rural Aid is well-known for the assistance it provides farming families before, during and after disaster, including drought, bushfires and floods. This includes mental health and wellbeing support via its team of professional accredited counsellors in communities across rural Australia.

The latest data reflects the urgent need for an overarching National Rural Health Strategy to bring scattered rural health initiatives under one umbrella.

Alliance Chief Executive Susi Tegen said the report looked at health spending from a patient's perspective, reflecting the alarming day-to-day realities for rural Australians unable to access equitable care.

"Over 7,000,000 people, who make up nearly a third of Australia's population, experience a greater burden from illness and early death, in part due to inadequate funding for their healthcare. This is despite the significant contribution they make to Australia's economy," she said.

Resources and rural industries alone generate around 80 per cent of Australia's exports, excluding the extra contribution of rural-based services and manufacturing. The value of agriculture, fisheries and forestry exports is \$76 billion, while commodities exports are worth \$497 billion, a collective value to the nation of over \$500 billion, courtesy of rural Australia.

More than 90 percent of fresh food sold in Australia is produced rurally. In addition, nearly half of the nation's tourism income is from rural Australia and over

half a million people are directly employed in rural tourism-related industries.

Rural people experience a triple health disadvantage: poorer circumstances in terms of social determinants of health, a lack of service availability, and higher costs of access and delivery, all resulting in poor health outcomes.

"Although the government invests in workforce initiatives and several measures are in place to support rural health, these need to be augmented and continued as they still do not sufficiently improve service availability and a patient's access to healthcare.

"Social determinants of health negatively impact rural people, who are sick for longer periods and end up in hospitals because of inadequate primary care access to doctors, nurses and other health workers. Proper funding in this regard would keep people well and out of the expensive and overburdened hospital system.

"Rural communities need government to be more flexible and introduce block or genuine support funding to provide multidisciplinary care for patients. These communities know how to collaborate, they do it every day, but costs of access and delivery are higher, so the delivery of healthcare will be different and broader.

It does not fit into the model available to urban people," Ms Tegen said.

The Alliance was calling for the funding of a place-based multidisciplinary model of primary health care that gives the flexibility to engage communities and address local needs in partnership.

"Communities need access to healthcare in their localities. To achieve this, we urge government to add to existing city-based and hybrid (city/rural) training, with a flipped model of exceptional rural medical and allied training, including nurse training. This would make training in cities the exception and enable students living rurally to train in their own communities.

"Why should people living in rural Australia pay twice or thrice the amount for the same health care available in cities, yet still have poorer health? Why do they need to fundraise to access a service that should be provided through their taxes? This is the unfortunate reality faced by many rural Australians," Ms Tegen said.

Investing in rural areas would have the additional benefit of reducing costs in the hospital sector and emergency departments but, more importantly, it would increase the already significant economic contribution of rural communities to Australia's wellbeing.

Aquatic Physiotherapy

Commencing in August 2023 at Alexandra Indoor Heated Pool (corner Bayley St & Nihil St)

Learn how to self manage your injury or health condition
4 x weekly sessions of supervised water exercise with a physiotherapist

Cost - \$40 for 4 weeks

Call Intake - 5772 0908 for more information



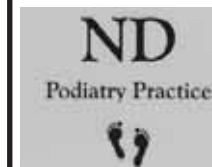
ALEXANDRA PHYSIOTHERAPY

Empowering you towards better health
Over 25 years of clinical experience.

- Back & Neck Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Joint & Muscle Injuries
- Rehabilitation post surgery or injury
- Consulting Rooms available for rental
- Clinical Pilates
- Orthotics

HICAPS: Health fund rebates claimed on the spot.
Veterans Affairs, TAC, WorkCover, Private, Medicare (EPC referral from GP)

5772 2649
54A Downey St, Alexandra



PODIATRIST

Opening Hours:

School Term:
Mon-Fri 1pm-7pm
School Holidays:
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

NATHAN DUNDAS

2/2 Bakers Lane, Alexandra

0439 205 999

ndpodiatrypractice@gmail.com

Facebook: ND Podiatry Practice

Zoe Blakeney

BELLA MAMA
YOGA & DOULA

Local yoga classes and workshops,
hypnobirthing childbirth education
classes and
in home postpartum doula care.

bellamama.com.au @mamamebella



EMOTIONAL FREEDOM
& MINDFULNESS

Are you ready to
empower your life?

MEDITATION
MORNINGS
Online

For meditation,
tapping
& energy balancing

inspired-eft.com

0407802420

melinda@inspired-eft.com



Win a \$10 Gift Card



Country Tech
89 - 91 Grant Street
Alexandra
Victoria 3714
5772 3165

Simply color the picture on the right, fill in your details and drop it off at Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street Alexandra Vic or post it to P O Box 5 Alexandra Vic 3714. Entries close and need to be received by 11am Monday prior to our next edition.

Name

Address

Phone

D.O.B.

**NATIONAL
DIFFERENT COLOUR
EYE DAY JULY 12.**



The eyes have it all

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

Blink
Cry
Sight

Colour
Eyeball
Smile

Cornea
Lashes
Vision

ALL ABOUT YOUR EYES

1. Heterochromia can be complete, where each eye is a complete different color from the other.
2. Your eye has 10 muscles.
3. We blink to lubricate our eyes to prevent dryness, and to wipe away potentially harmful substances.
4. Dogs can't distinguish between red and green.
5. The world's most common eye color is brown.
6. Babies can't produce tears until they're at least six weeks old.
7. Owls can't move their eyes.
8. Our eyes close automatically to protect us from harm or danger.

Jokers corner

What do you call a dinosaur with no eyes?
Do-you-think-he-saurus.

What did the right eye say to the left eye?
Between you and me, there's something that smells.

Why did the phone wear glasses?
Because he'd lost all his contacts.

When are your eyes not eyes?
When the cold winter wind makes them water.

NAIDOC Week celebrated at Yea Wetlands



People gathered for the Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country. -S

THE Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre played host to a wonderful program of events to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2023.

The activities commenced on Sunday, July 2 with a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country led by Taungurung Elder, Aunt Angela ten Buuren.

Aunt Angela also curated a display in the Discovery Centre around the theme 'For our Elders' in which photographs and biographies of Taungurung Elders were displayed with feathers or flowers handpicked from Taungurung Country.

Later in the day, Uncle Ronald Briggs addressed the audience in the Discovery Centre on the Voice to Parliament, Treaty and Truth. Uncle Ron is a Yorta Yorta elder, Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor and Program Facilitator at Caraniche. Uncle Ron discussed the origins of the Voice movement in the 2017

Uluru Statement from the Heart and what the Voice is expected to achieve.

Taungurung artist and educator Cassie Leatham held two workshops on Wednesday, July 5. One explored traditional weaving techniques using natural materials. The other catered for primary age children with Mr Beaky story telling and painting bird sculptures.

NAIDOC Week at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre was supported by Murrindindi Shire Council, Taungurung Land and Waters Council and Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre Inc.

Celebrated Taungurung artist and master weaver Cassie Leatham provided a wonderful opportunity for the young participants to learn a little about Indigenous culture and caring for country through dance, clay sculpture making and colouring paper masks with natural materials.



Taungurung artist and educator Cassie Leatham (right) with a possum skin cloak. -S



A NAIDOC Week children's art activity, making clay sculptures. -S



Mr Beaky face masks, made as part of the NAIDOC Week children's activities at Y Water. -S



Margie Wright with grand daughters Lucy and Sophie. -S



Taungurung Elder Aunt Angela ten Buuren conducting the Welcome to Country. -S



Children participating in activities at the Yea Wetlands. -S

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

A large crowd in attendance at the Yea cattle sale

AT the Combined Agents Store Sale on July 7 at the Yea Saleyards, 1443 cattle were yarded, including 904 steers and 511 heifers.

The average price per head was \$858, and the average weight was 287.45kg.

The top price for a steer was \$1810 and for a heifer \$1600.

The turnover at the sale was \$1.25 million.

Chris Pollard from Nutrien Ag Solutions Yea said there was "A good run of grown cattle and a number of well-bred spring drop calves on offer. Demand for all classes of

cattle was subdued, with the grown steers and the run of heifers seeming to attract the most interest.

"A large crowd was in attendance with the majority there to gauge the market with a small number of volume buyers amongst the attendees. The continued wet and constant media attention on the likelihood of an El Nino seems to be having a negative effect on store markets with buyers uncertain of what lies ahead of them over the next few months," Mr Pollard said.



The sun was out and so was the crowd. Gauging the market, comparing rainfall and predicting the balance of the season were the hot topics of the day. -S



Three generations of the Beer family at the Yea Saleyards. -S

I found this in one of our 1971 editions!
We have newspapers available for public perusal at our office, during office hours. Come and pick one for next week's edition or come in and have a look. They're fascinating...

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE...

drive HOLDEN

TEST DRIVE IT NOW AT

G. E. COURTNEY'S MOTORS
PTY. LTD.

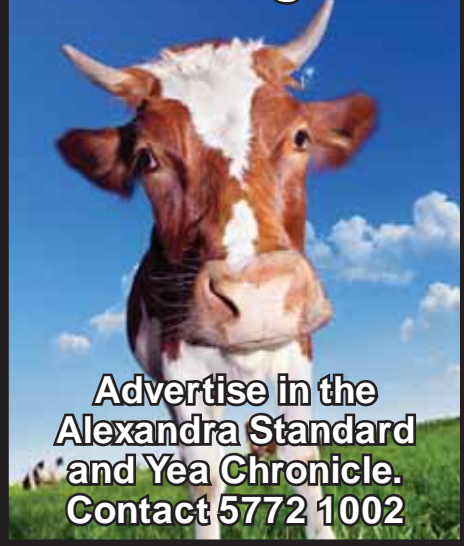
102 GRANT STREET, ALEXANDRA

PHONES: ALEXANDRA 107 and 281

A LOOK APART :: A LEAP AHEAD

Priced from only £1085

Get your business
moovvng.....



33 Charolais X heifers. The average weight across the two pens was 444.7kg and they sold for \$1360 and \$1430 per head. -S

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Proudly sponsored by

The Alexandra Grain Store is your one-stop shop for plumbing, irrigation and farm supplies, as well as stockfeed and pet supplies.

Because we are an independent, family-owned business we work with a range of suppliers and can have special orders delivered weekly, whether its horse supplements, specialty dog food, poly pipe, brass fittings or raised veggie beds.

Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

46 - 48 William Street, Alexandra

(03) 5772 2110

alexgrainstore@gmail.com

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Are you protecting your farm under the new laws?

VICTORIAN farmers work hard to keep their animals safe and protect them from pests and diseases with robust biosecurity systems. The changes to the *Livestock Management Act 2010* and *Livestock Management Regulations 2021* will deter behaviour that puts that hard work at risk.

These new laws aim to reduce biosecurity risks and the spread of diseases on Victorian livestock farms, deter people from trespassing on farms with the introduction of new offences, and better enable prosecutions of trespassers and allow for the issuing of on-the-spot fines.

The new laws establish a voluntary framework for livestock producers to require visitors to follow prescribed biosecurity measures. Visitors failing to do so is an offence.

This framework provides a tool to reduce biosecurity risks, including those arising from unlawful entry by trespassers.

Biosecurity management plans (BMPs) contain measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of biosecurity impacts at places where livestock management activities occur. BMP coversheets can be used to add to your existing on-farm biosecurity plan to ensure these requirements are met.

BMP coversheets are prepared by the livestock manager and are to include mandatory content. They can be prepared for any place where livestock activities

occur, including private farms, feedlots and abattoirs, and may apply to the whole or part of that place.

For an offence to apply under the new laws, a BMP coversheet must be in place that includes the following a clear title including the words 'biosecurity management plan' and the address of the premises to which it applies, the name and contact details of the nominated person(s), a description, map or plan of the whole or specified part of the premises to which the BMP applies that accurately describes the boundaries of the premises, and additional details including the day that the BMP comes into operation and the name of the person who prepared the BMP.

Producers may already have a biosecurity plan, for example through an industry quality assurance or accreditation program. A BMP coversheet should be added to this plan.

For the purposes of the framework, specific biosecurity signs are to be placed in clear view at all vehicle access points to the area outlined in the BMP. Where there are no vehicular access points, signs are to be placed at all pedestrian access points, for example if a biosecurity plan applies only to a shed. This is to ensure that all potential visitors are aware of their obligations.

Biosecurity signs must contain the word 'stop' or 'visitors' a reference to the 'Livestock Management Regulations

2021', a statement that a contravention of a prescribed biosecurity measure is an offence, a summary of any prescribed biosecurity measures that apply to the premises (or the specified part of the premises), the method of contacting a nominated person (such as phone number, email, QR code) for a visitor to obtain consent for a prescribed biosecurity measure.

Livestock managers who are concerned that a person is breaching or has breached a prescribed biosecurity measure have the following reporting options available to them.

Where life or property is in danger or a trespass is occurring, contact Victoria Police on Triple Zero. Where there has been a suspected crime and the person is no longer at the property, call 131 444. Where there is concern about the risks to the biosecurity of the property or animal welfare, then during business hours, contact Agriculture Victoria on 1300 502 656, or after hours contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The new laws are intended to deter people from trespassing on agricultural premises through the introduction of an offence for non-compliance with prescribed biosecurity measures, where compliant signs are displayed and a BMP coversheet containing mandatory content is in place. Penalties for the offences reflect the serious biosecurity threat trespassing poses to Victorian agriculture.

Farmers need to speak up in national farm crime survey

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is urging farmers to have their say on the impact of farm and rural crime through the Australian Farm Crime Survey.

VFF President Emma Germano said the survey has been commissioned by the University of New England and aims to provide a comprehensive snapshot of all farm crime across Australia.

"This is the first national survey to have been undertaken in two decades and the results will provide invaluable insight into farm crime across Australia.

"Livestock theft in Victoria alone has hit a 10 year high, costing farmers a staggering \$6.7 million dollars last year. We know farm crime is underreported, so the real figure could easily be much higher.

"Whether it be theft involving livestock, farm equipment or property damage and illegal trespass, farm crime has an enormous financial impact and can be a terrifying experience for farming families and staff, which can't be tolerated," Ms Germano said.

Ms Germano added the results of the survey would be used to advocate for greater resources and awareness campaigns to combat farm crime.

"It's so important that as many Victorian farmers as possible take part in the survey to ensure issues faced by local farmers are understood."

"The results will help provide the VFF with valuable insight and data which can be used in our advocacy for greater government action in dealing with farm crime," Ms Germano said.

More information, including the online link to complete the survey is available at tinyurl.com/23wysymx

WINNER PHOTO COMPETITION



'Spillway lights' at Eildon taken by Andrew Tummons of Rubicon

And the winner is Andrew Tummons with his 'night time' themed photo of the Eildon Spillway under lights. Andrew has won a \$50 voucher kindly donated by Embling Rural in Alexandra.

Judges comments: I loved the spillway. It captured the spilling water beautifully; it was positioned nicely within the frame and the noise was kept to a minimum. Nice depth of field and focus. I liked the slowness of the shutter speed used in the image as well to give the spillway water a mist-like appearance. Congratulations and thanks to all who entered.

Our judge, Sam Hicks, has almost four decades of photography experience. Sam has an on-site studio, portable studio and runs workshops. You can find further information at samhicks.com.au or you can contact her on 0427 723 227.

Kindly
sponsored by



Your Locally Owned Rural Store

(03) 5772 3110

54 Grant Street Alexandra
Drive through available
emblingrural.com.au



Recipe kindly
submitted by
Martine Sloane
of the Redgate
Branch
of the CWA

Scones

from the CWA River Cookbook

Preheat your oven to HOT.

INGREDIENTS

4 cups Self Raising flour
300ml milk
Pinch salt.
300ml cream
1tsp sugar

METHOD

Sift flour (very important)
Add other dry ingredients, add cream and milk to dry ingredients and mix to make a soft dough.
Place on a lightly floured board and pat out to a thickness of about 2.5cm.
Cut with a floured scone cutter.
Place on tray and bake in hot oven about 12- 15 minutes.
Re roll and cut dough until it is all used.

HINTS

Adding 1 tbsp cornflour to each cup of self raising flour makes scones lighter
Children love cheese and vegemite scrolls-- roll out the scone dough quite thinly, spread with vegemite, sprinkle with grated cheese and roll up like a sponge roll before cutting into slices to bake cut side up on a tray.
You can add dried fruit or savory ingredients. Variations are only limited by your imagination!

Redgate CWA meet on the fourth Thursday at 1pm of each month at 31 Perkins Street Alexandra. Contact Maureen on 0402 804 517.



SAVE THE DATE

July 17 - Toongabbie

Gippsland Farm Fit Ewes workshop
- AgVic

July 18 - Walpa

Gippsland Farm Fit Ewes Workshop
- AgVic

August 13-15 - Wagga Wagga

Thriving Women Conference
- AgriFutures

UPCOMING CATTLE SALES DATES

Aug 4 Combined agents store sale

Sept 1 Combined agents store sale

Oct 6 Combined agents store sale

Nov 3 Combined agents store sale

Dec 1 Combined agents store sale



Yea Saleyards

1 Flat Lead Road Yea Vic 3717
0419 722 570
yeasaleyards.com.au

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 16

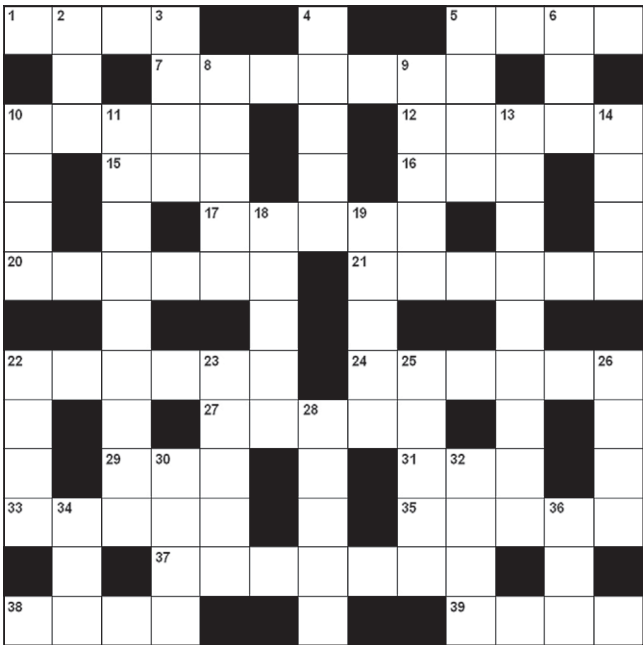
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Elaborate song for solo voice.
- 5. Walking stick.
- 7. Shockingly repellent.
- 10. Not appropriate.
- 12. Common organic compound.
- 15. Colour of blood.
- 16. Consumed food.
- 17. Takes a firm hold.
- 20. Caramelised sugar.
- 21. Different ones.
- 22. An internal gunwale.
- 24. Chronic respiratory disorder.
- 27. Fill with apprehension.
- 29. A globe.
- 31. Electrically charged particle.
- 33. Something once popular.
- 35. Thick woollen fabric.
- 37. Become less taut.
- 38. An informer.
- 39. A starchy cereal.

DOWN

- 2. A regular trip.
- 3. A malarial fever.
- 4. A computer text code.
- 5. A sac in the body.
- 6. Maiden name.
- 8. Make an evasive statement.
- 9. Most insignificant.
- 10. A complete system.



- 11. Wood that is washed ashore.
- 13. Communication device.
- 14. Frees oneself.
- 18. Take delight in.
- 19. Extremely cold.
- 22. Keen on.
- 23. Attach a tag to.
- 25. Inflict a heavy blow.
- 26. Very keen.
- 28. Murderous frenzy.
- 30. Take a chance.
- 32. Has possession of.
- 34. Garland of flowers.
- 36. Incite to action.

Cryptogram – Winter

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number.
Try to decode the message.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| | 24 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 16 | | | | 3 | | | |

I W I W I
S I W B S
S

Maths Squares

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 16. 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.

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| | + | | × | | + | 14 | 70 |
| + | | × | | + | | - | |
| | + | | + | | - | | 29 |
| + | | + | | + | | ÷ | |
| | - | 1 | - | | ÷ | | -1 |
| - | | + | | - | | + | |
| | ÷ | | × | | + | | 34 |
| 12 | | 32 | | 34 | | 24 | |

Sudoku

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.

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

Useless facts

- 1. On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every year. (This never happened back when we used feather quills on parchment.)
- 2. Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- 3. The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because engineers failed to account for the weight of all the books that it would eventually hold.
- 4. A dentist invented the electric chair. (Alfred P. Southwick)
- 5. TYPEWRITER is the longest word you can type using only the letters on one row of the keyboard.
- 6. A snail can sleep for three years.
- 7. No word in the English language rhymes with "MONTH."
- 8. The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.
- 9. The house fly hums in the middle octave key of F
- 10. Hummingbirds are the only animals that can fly backward.

Nominations now open for community achievement awards

IN 2002 the community achievement awards were developed, and were designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout Victoria. These awards aim to recognise their success and achievements, which contribute to making Victoria a better place.

Do you know an outstanding individual/business/organisation who deserves to be recognised? Nominate them for these awards. Category winners will each receive a prize package worth more than \$1500, including a complimentary membership to The Career College valued at \$594 plus a trophy.

The winners will also be featured on their congratulations TV Ad that will be

aired across regional Victoria on the Seven Network.

All nominees and finalists will receive a letter of congratulations and a certificate of encouragement for their nomination.

Nomination close on Friday, September 1 and judging will take place on Wednesday, October 11. The Awards are free to enter, and completing a nomination online is simple to navigate. Visit awardsaustralia.com and follow the instructions to make your nomination.

If you want to recognise someone but don't have the time, you can simply click on the refer someone button. There is a quick two minute form to complete and the rest will be taken care of by the team by calling the nominated person and have them complete the questions.

Conservation regulator responds to accusation

IN response to last week's article about tree geebung's, a Conservation Regulator spokesperson said, "The Conservation Regulator has received community reports and is currently investigating allegations of illegal destruction of tree geebungs at a timber harvesting coupe in the Central Highlands. The Conservation Regulator takes all allegations of illegal timber harvesting seriously. As the investigation is ongoing the Conservation Regulation won't be providing further comment."

The Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting Production 2014 (as amended 2022) requires protection from disturbance, where practicable, of all individual tree geebungs with a diameter of at least 10cm at breast height. Breast height of a tree is measured at approximately 1.4 metres from the ground.

Where a breach of the law is suspected, the Conservation Regulator can issue directions to VicForests or its contractors, compel the production of documents, issue official warnings, or prosecute a matter in court.

A breach of a direction or the Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004 is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty for illegal timber harvesting is \$110,952 for a body corporate if the matter is prosecuted in court.

The Conservation Regulator encourages the community to report allegations of non-compliance or information about threatened species in timber harvesting coupes via its online portal, vic.gov.au/forest-reports.

All allegations of non-compliance are assessed by the Conservation Regulator.

RV dump point in Marysville but no free camping

A DUMP point has recently been installed at Gallipoli Park in Marysville. Murrindindi Shire Council was asked about the installation, and combined with the refurbished toilets in the same area, whether camping will be permitted at the location.

Vito Albicini, Director Assets and Environment at council, provided the following information.

Council has supported Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) to relocate a recreational vehicle (RV) waste facility in Marysville from Buxton-Marysville Road to Gallipoli Park.

This facility will allow caravans and campervans to deposit their sewer waste and will importantly promote Marysville as an RV friendly town, with the aim of increasing tourism and business opportunities for the district.

The facility will contribute to the responsible disposal of waste within Murrindindi Shire and will benefit the local economy and help protect the environment.

GVW identified Gallipoli Park as a suitable location to provide this facility because there was already an existing sewer pit in this location. The 'discharge point' is located near the horse yards in the park and is well away from any nearby residences, with the nearest residence located at a distance of 150 metres, on Falls Road. The facility is fitted with a wash down point and a lid to seal the waste. Council will keep the facility clean as part of their regular cleaning and maintenance programs.

Public access to the 'discharge point' is provided from the roadway alongside the horse yards, near Bruno's Sculpture Garden.

Camping is not permitted in Gallipoli Park, unless a permit has been granted. Council is aware of some community concerns about illegal camping in the park, based on reports received in previous years. Council's Community Safety team regularly patrols the area to monitor and address illegal camping. Council will also investigate if any additional signage is required in the area, including signage to deter illegal camping.

Tourism is an important component of the Murrindindi Shire economy, enabling many employment opportunities for our communities. Council supports RV friendly towns through the provision of dump points, larger parking bays, signage, etc, however is yet to form a view on free camping until the potential benefits and implications are fully understood and considered. The shire has a number of high-quality caravan parks offering different experiences for all visitors.

Council is working alongside local tourism groups and businesses to explore options for further RV friendly initiatives in Marysville to support the visitor economy, including RV parking locations. This work directly supports actions outlined in the Marysville Community Plan, a community-led plan which aims to support Marysville to thrive while preserving the natural environment. To read a copy of the plan, visit council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au and search 'Marysville Community Plan' or give them a call on 5772 0333.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANIMAL SERVICES



Taggerty Vet Clinic
Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc
0403 012 996
Consultations strictly by appointment

All Animals Large & Small

CHIMNEY SWEEPING



ALEXANDRA CHIMNEY SWEEP
Solar Panel Cleaning
Annual cleaning recommended
Phone David 0475 396 772 or Robyn 0413 299 154

CONCRETING

Alexandra BRICKLAYING CONCRETE & PAVING
No job too big or too small
Free quotes
Call Jarrod, James and Corey
0409 190 502

ELECTRICIANS

Sunnyboy Electrical Services
EILDON
Domestic, Commercial and Solar
Electrical Installations
New Houses and Renovations
0498 196 986

KITCHENS



Murrindindi KITCHENS
Can design and build...
Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design, Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries, Creative design and quality, vanities, wardrobes
0409 146 465
38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

ANTENNAS



Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605
Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured



REDGATE ELECTRICAL
TRY THE NEW SERVICE IN TOWN
0455 317 553
24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

LEGAL SERVICES



Bell Legal & Planning
Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor
0448 793 795
admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

BIN HIRE

RUBBISH REMOVAL
• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- Household Waste
- 3m Bins

Alexandra SKIP BINS
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA
CALL SIMON GOODMAN
0409 997 632

Fleetwood Concreting


If it's concrete you need, phone Mac!
Any style - any size
• Driveways • Paths • Slabs • Foundations
• Steps • Crossovers
• Plain • Coloured • Stencil • Slate or • Exposed Aggregate
All excavations and concrete cutting
Phone 0418 534 973

CONVEYANCING

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS



J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL

- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- SPLIT SYSTEMS
- UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- NEW HOMES
- MAINTENANCE
- BREAKDOWNS

0439 842 030

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



E-TEC
Electrical Technology
• Eco Smart Electrician • Domestic / Commercial
• Undergrounds • Electrical Design
• Cable Locations • Trenching
• Solar Installations
Grid Connect / Off Grid / Batteries
Ph 5751 0000
info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK
EARTH MOVING
Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper Trucks & Trailers
All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsexc@bigpond.com

FLOOR COVERINGS



CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA
◀ CARPET ◀ BLINDS
◀ VINYL ◀ CURTAINS
◀ TIMBER ◀ RUGS
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA
t: 03 5772 2235

GLAZIERS

ALEXANDRA WINDSCREENS & GLASS
Servicing the Murrindindi Shire for 35 years
★ on site 24 hour service ★
★ Automotive glass ★
★ Household needs ★
★ Shower screens ★
★ Shop fronts ★
Ph Steve Heard
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER
0427 577 839

Louise Brennan BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

'Riverview'
1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra
Phone 5773 2298 Fax 5773 2294

MECHANICAL REPAIRS



Boz Miljkovic Mechanic
Alexandra Automotive
VACC
61 Downey Street, Alexandra
Ph (03) 5772 3232
• General Car Servicing
• Repairs & Tuning
• Batteries
• Road Worthy Certificates
• Disc & Drum Machining
• Front Ends & Suspension

CANVAS SERVICES



F&C LAMPET/A Custom Canvas
55A Downey Street Alexandra
manufacturers of Sun Blinds and Indoor Blind Specialty
• Clear Plastic Blinds
• Caravan Annexes
• General Canvas Work
Phone 5772 2760 Mob 0409 515 204



ASC ALEXANDRA SERVICE CENTRE
For All Car and 4WD
• General servicing and repairs
• Log book servicing
• Roadworthy Certificates
• Courtesy car now available
VACC vicroads
You're in good hands Licensed Vehicle Tester
PH: (03) 5772 2133
6 Webster St, Alexandra
Owners Mark & Serina Coghill

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY**PHONE 5772 1002****MECHANICAL REPAIRS****Alexandra Motorcycles**

- RWC licenced tester
- Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)
PH 5772 1045

EMC4459

PLUMBERS

A & C Wood
PLUMBING
Lic. No. 108688

ANDREW WOOD
0488 559 091

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, GAS FITTING, HOT WATER SERVICES,
SEWER, SEPTIC, HEATING & EMERGENCY SERVICE

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**TREE REMOVAL**

IT'S TREES

• Insured • Experienced • Reliable • Competitive • Qualified

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS
Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires

5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066

TREE SERVICES

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage

EASTERN TREE MANAGEMENT

FULLY INSURED Andrew Bates: 0488 990 393
Kate Hill: 0407 555 440
EMC5883

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SEPTIC TANK & GREASE TRAP CLEANING

EPA LICENCED
~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841 EFTPOS & Credit Cards Accepted
0419 131 958

EMC0112

SERVICE STATIONS

SimpsonS FUEL 70 YEARS

Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953 with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs with Mobil and Prolube lubricants, greases and solvents.

24 HRS Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop **AMPOL**

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

WATER BORING

North West Drilling

Water Bores
Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield, Alexandra and surrounding areas.
Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a no obligation free quote contact **GRAHAM BRENNAN**
Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289
northwest.drilling@bigpond.com
www.northwestdrilling.com.au

EMC1840

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection
Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

EMC0124

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS**CROSSWORD**

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

CRYPTOGRAM

If we had no winter,
the spring would not be so pleasant.

MATHS SQUARES

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 8 | + | 3 | × | 16 | + | 14 | 70 |
| + | | × | | + | | - | |
| 11 | + | 9 | + | 15 | - | 6 | 29 |
| + | | + | | + | | ÷ | |
| 5 | - | 1 | - | 10 | ÷ | 2 | -1 |
| - | | + | | - | | + | |
| 12 | ÷ | 4 | × | 7 | + | 13 | 34 |
| 12 | | 32 | | 34 | | 24 | |

SUDOKU

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

PANEL BEATERS

ALEXANDRA PANELS & TOWING

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP
Bianca and Giles Wright

5772 1904
alexandrapanels@gmail.com
3 BUNDERBOWEIK STREET

AFTER HOURS
0483 051 192

PLUMBERS

ARMSTRONG PLUMBING PTY LTD

NEW AND RENOVATION WORK
ROOFING, GUTTER AND SPOUTING
SEPTIC AND DRAINS

LICENSED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER
MAINTENANCE AND BLOCKED DRAINS
JET CLEANER AND DRAIN CAMERA

85 Betts Road, Yea 3717
0417 356 428 | 0408 973 278
Master Plumber member 35 years - License No. 17255
info@armstrongplumbing.com.au

TRAVIS CAPP Lic. No. 37388
PLUMBER & GASFITTER
Your plumbing specialists

- New Homes • Roof & Gutters • Sewer & Septics • High Pressure Sewer Jetter
- Drain Camera • Pipe & Cable Locator
- Water Tanks • Solar HWS • Wood Heaters

Excavators, post hole, rock breaker, trencher & tip truck hire
0419 553 803
Email **tcplumbing@bigpond.com**

EMC0053

A.M. & J. ROBINSON

Reg No. 17625

**Plumbing Maintenance**

Tap repairs and replacement
High pressure sewer jetter
Small excavator hire

MOB: 0428 509 359

**BOOK YOUR SPACE IN
THE BUSINESS & TRADES
DIRECTORY TODAY!**

5772 1002**DEADLINE: 12 NOON THURSDAYS**

Alexandra Newspapers Pty. Ltd.
43 Grant St, Alexandra VIC 3714 | P: (03) 5772 1002
www.alexandranewspapers.com.au

Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

Standard

Book your
space in our
TRADES
directory today!

5772 1002

Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays



43 Grant St, Alexandra VIC 3714
(03) 5772 1002

Like us on facebook
facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now
to book your ad today!
Fax 5772 1603 or Email
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Classified information

Office hours

Alexandra

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads – proofs not supplied
Display – will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required when placing the advertisement. Cash, cheque or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation or authority from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled when sold.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the microchip identification number and a source number of the animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

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

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEATH NOTICES

GARLICK, Howard William
In memory of an uncle who has made us laugh, smile and enjoyed the simplicity of life. We say happy trails to you as you ride into the sunset on Jenny. From Julie, John, Knippel, Russey, Jacque Garlick and families.

DEATH NOTICES

GARLICK, Howard William
23/02/1932-06/07/2023
Passed away peacefully at Rosebank, Yea on July 6, 2023, aged 91. Loved brother, uncle, great uncle and great great uncle. Forever in our hearts and memories.

PUBLIC NOTICES



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE ONE (1) MOBILE PHONE BASE STATIONS WITH 4G/5G AT YEA

- The proposed works consists of:
G.V Water Compound, 45 Smith Street, Yea VIC 3717
www.rfnsa.com.au/3717004
The proposed works on the monopole facility consist of:
 - One (1) proposed new Telstra triangular headframe
 - The installation of six (6) new 4G/5G panel antennas (2533mm x 350mm x 208mm), mounted on the proposed headframe
 - The installation of three (3) new 5G panel antennas (819mm x 400mm x 254mm), mounted on the proposed headframe
 - The recovery of six (6) existing panel antennas, from the existing headframe
 - The installation and removal of associated ancillary equipment, including RRU's, junction boxes, TMA, feeders, cables, etc.
 - Works within the existing equipment shelter
- Telstra Corporation Limited (A.C.N 086 174 781) regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018* ("The Determination") based on the description above.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Ken Hsieh on behalf of Telstra, 0468 725 667, ken.hsieh@ericsson.com by **Thursday 27 July 2023**.

SITUATION VACANT



Admin/sales support

FULL TIME

This is not a work from home role

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd is one of the oldest newspapers in Victoria, and the oldest in the Murrindindi Shire, first publishing in June 1868. We publish *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*, across Murrindindi and beyond. We are looking for someone to fill a role in our administration department and to assist our sales department. You will need to have the ability to be able to take on a large and important part in our team.

What the job involves:

- . All aspects of office administration
- . Trades and classified advertising
- . Assisting sales department as required
- . Assisting with weekly paper distribution
- . Organising commercial printing jobs

What you need:

- . Dynamic customer service
- . Excellent communication skills
- . Excellent knowledge of all Microsoft programs
- . To be friendly, helpful and motivated
- . To be a great team player
- . Able to follow written and verbal instruction
- . Ability to work under the pressure of deadlines and multi task in a busy office.
- . To be punctual and professional with a strong work ethic
- . Have initiative and be well organised
- . Be able to problem solve and brainstorm
- . To be methodical and thorough, with attention to detail
- . A willingness to learn many aspects of the business
- . Previous admin experience is an advantage
- . Drivers Licence

How to apply:

To be considered for this position, submit your resume and cover letter to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Only applicants who are Australian residents or hold a relevant visa are eligible to apply.



Alexandra Newspapers is an independent newspaper and not affiliated with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

WITH THANKS

MARCHETTI.

Lyn and family would like to thank all family and friends for their beautiful cards, floral arrangements, chocolates and phones calls following Johnnies passing. They were very much appreciated. To the ambulance drivers, who were called many times day and night over the last 12 months, we thank you for your wonderful care and kindness. To Dr David and Dr Charles at Alexandra Hospital, we thank you both for everything you did for Johnnie and our entire family. To the nurses and staff, your kindness and care will never be forgotten, and our entire family will be forever grateful. Thank you all. Lyn and family.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X- trainers,
exercise bikes, rowers
and more.
PH:0407 231 377

MEETINGS



The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, July 16, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

MEETINGS

MURRINDINDI EAST U3A AGM will be held on Monday, July 17, 10.30am at Alexandra Bowling Club, 4 Paynes Avenue. Guest speaker will be Bruce Hyatt, local MICA Paramedic, followed by a light lunch. Enquiries to secretary@murrindindieastu3a.org.au.

EILDON EVENTS Inc. will be holding their AGM on August 13, 2023, at 10.30am at Morning Mist, 840 Back Eildon Road, Eildon. Please call 0400 715 319 if you would like a nomination form.

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB AGM will be held at 1pm on Friday, July 21, at the Bayley Street clubrooms. All enquiries to secretaryadscc@gmail.com.

MEETINGS



10 years too long
End off-shore
detention

VIGIL
10am
July 19

Alexandra
Rotunda
Yea Main Street
Alexandra RAR
0467 413 767

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$27 each.
Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

MEETINGS



ALEXANDRA
DISTRICT HEALTH

The Board of Directors of Alexandra District Health invite you to join us for our 2023 Open Board Meeting

This event will be held on
Wednesday 26th July, 2023 at 4.00pm, at
Alexandra RSL, Grant Street Alexandra.
Tea and Coffee provided.



Please RSVP to Jennifer.Creed@adh.org.au
by close of business, Friday 21st July 2023.

Book your classified ad TODAY! Deadline: NOON MONDAY

Phone: 5772 1002 or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

PLEASE NOTE: All classifieds **MUST** be paid by cash, cheque or credit card at the time of booking



Alexandra Newspapers P: 5772 1002 E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au - 43 Grant St. Alexandra Vic. 3714

Seasonal road closures

THE cost of seasonal road closure breaches is significant, from replacing broken locks, gates, chains and fencing to repairing damage to roads, tracks and drainage. There is also associated damage to vegetation and cultural sites. Rehabilitating damaged areas takes time and resources away from visitor services and protecting the environment.

Seasonal road closures are important to minimise damage to roads and tracks over the wetter months and allow for rehabilitation and other works to occur in some cases. It's imperative that some tracks are closed during the wetter season as they become unsafe, impassable and pose a significant safety risks to drivers.

Hound hunters are reminded to respect land boundaries, only hunt in legal areas and start hunts well away from private property or public land where hound hunting is not permitted.

On-the-spot fines for breaching a seasonal closure and for interfering with or damaging a gate or sign is \$925 per offence. Those found to be hunting illegally or behaving irresponsibly can also be fined or prosecuted, have their equipment seized and or lose their Game and Firearms Licences.

Find out more about seasonal road closures, go to the Parks Victoria website parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/seasonal-road-closures

To find out where you can legally hunt in the Victorian high country, go to the Game Management Authority website gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/hunting-maps

Andrew Dean, Senior Enforcement Officer Parks Victoria said, "Authorised Officers have been encouraged to see the majority of visitors and hunters in state forests and adjoining national parks have been respecting seasonal road closures. We hope this will continue throughout the winter months.

"Information from the community is a key part of our intelligence and evidence gathering and we encourage community members to report any suspicious behaviour to Parks Victoria on 131 963. Please remember that your safety is most important. Don't put yourself at risk to gather information."

Paul Stevens, Compliance and Intelligence Director, Game Management Authority added, "With the hound hunting season well underway, we are reminding hunters to use GPS collars and make sure their hounds remain inbounds.

"When hunting Sambar with hounds, hound possessors need to ensure their hounds conform to the Australian National Kennel Council breed standards and maximum height specified in the regulations."

National Farm Safety Week

ACCORDING to Farmsafe Australia, 1632 people have died on Australian farms since 2001. Farm machinery, including tractors and quad bikes were involved in forty per cent of those deaths.

Farmsafe have declared July 16 to 23 National Farm Safety Week to raise awareness about farm safety and inform Australians about the hazards.

Agriculture employs more people in Murrundindi Shire than any other sector, accounting for eighteen per cent of the workforce.

In 2021, 87 per cent of farm fatalities were male, 58.7 were over the age of 45, and an alarming 13 per cent were children under 15 years of age.

In 2019 the average cost of a farm fatality was \$1.95 million.

The National Farmers Federation has been particularly active on the issue of quad bike safety on Australian farms over the past few years. Quad bikes are an important piece of farm machinery, but they are also the leading cause of on-farm vehicle-related deaths in Australia, and the main cause of fatal injuries in children aged five to 14 on farms.

What were the main financial complaints during the pandemic?

CONSUMERS took more than 17,000 complaints to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) because of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on their banking, insurance and other financial services, AFCA reported after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared an end to the global health emergency.

Consumers received compensation or refunds totalling \$21.6 million as a result.

The WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020 (March 12). Three years later, it declared the 'global emergency' phase of the pandemic over on May 5, 2023 (May 6).

AFCA's data shows that between March 12, 2020 and May 6, 2023, the ombudsman service registered 17,403 COVID-related complaints about financial products or services. That was seven per cent of all the complaints AFCA received over that period.

Some 4368 COVID-related disputes, or one in four, involved the way a firm responded to a customer's financial difficulty.

AFCA's Chief Ombudsman and Chief Executive Officer, David Locke, acknowledged that lockdowns and the impact on incomes meant the pandemic was a difficult time financially for many people but said he was grateful complaint numbers were not even higher.

"While not seeking to downplay what people went through, every complaint matters, we received far fewer COVID-related complaints than we thought might arise from the pandemic," Mr Locke said.

"Banks, for example, were generally quick to respond, providing emergency support as they handled an unprecedented volume of requests for repayment deferrals.

"It shows what's possible when firms and consumers talk to each other. We hope financial firms have a similar mindset as we face new challenges amid rising interest rates and cost of living pressures."

Among the COVID-19 related disputes, travel insurance was the most complained about product, with 3859 complaints. These disputes were largely about denied or

delayed insurance claims after travel plans were disrupted by pandemic lockdowns.

There were 1427 COVID-19 related complaints regarding superannuation, after the federal government decided to allow people to apply for the early release of up to \$10,000 in super if they were struggling during lockdowns.

Small businesses accounted for nine per cent of COVID-related complaints, though they usually represent about five per cent of all AFCA complaints. Of the 1594 small business complaints, 781 were related to business loans, and 360 were about business interruption insurance.

AFCA has resolved 97 per cent of all COVID-related complaints so far, in the vast majority of cases by helping complainants and financial firms reach agreement. Overall, 79 per cent of cases have been resolved by agreement or in favour of the complainant.



It's time to count your pets in the pet census. -S

Victorian Pet Census out now

THE Victorian Government is launching the nation's first Pet Census to help shape the future of animal welfare and ensure pet owners have the support and services they need.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney recently announced the Victorian Pet Census and encouraged all pet owners to get involved.

The pet census opened on Monday, July 3 and the aim of the pet census is to ask Victorians a variety of questions to gather crucial information on pet ownership and the attitudes and experiences of owners.

Pet ownership rates in Australian households have risen from 61 per cent to 69 per cent since the pandemic, making it more important than ever for the Government to establish a better knowledge of pets, their owners and the important community organisations that support them.

Data received through the pet census will form a clearer picture of pet companionship of all kinds across Victoria, so the Government can continue supporting pet owners and improving pet welfare.

The Victorian Pet Census will take 15 minutes to complete. To take part please visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au

Nominations open for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards

THE Victorian Government is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, until Friday, July 28.

The Victorian Senior of the Year Awards are a way of acknowledging the efforts that senior Victorians make in giving their time, skills and energy to improve the community.

For over 25 years, these significant awards have highlighted the work seniors do every day in volunteering in neighbourhood houses, places of worship, and on community projects that benefit us all.

Victorians are this year being encouraged to nominate residents aged 60 and above and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians aged 50 years and above.

Nominate an older Victorian in your life who makes an important contribution

to your community, such as through volunteering or supporting community groups.

Visit the awards webpage of Seniors Online to download a nomination form or complete an online nomination form.

Categories for the nominations include Victorian Senior of the Year, Promotion of Multiculturalism Award, Healthy and Active Living Award, Veteran Community Award, Ageing Well Award, and Victorian Senior Achiever Awards.

Every nominee will receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution, and recipients of the 2023 awards will be honoured at a ceremony during the Victorian Seniors Festival in October.

For more information or to make a nomination visit Seniors Online at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

Victorian Volunteering Awards

IT'S time to nominate a volunteer from the local community for the 2023 Victorian Volunteering Awards.

The awards are now open for nominations but close on July 17. The awards include recognition for individuals and organisations who have improved community outcomes by volunteering their time and skills.

Anyone can nominate a deserving volunteer. For more information and to put forward a nomination visit volunteeringvictoria.org.au/events/awards/



One of the U3A art classes. -S



U3A cyclists at Cheviot Tunnel. -S



Art classes at U3A.



The cycling group. -S

U3A members keep having fun in winter

U3A members have been busy, learning new skills, making friends, and keeping active indoors and out, despite the wintry weather.

The next meeting is the annual general meeting, to be held on July 17 at 10.30am at the Alexandra Bowls Club.

Guest speaker Bruce Hyatt, MICA Paramedic, will share some of his life experiences. This will be followed by a light lunch.

New members are very welcome to attend.



Table tennis. -S



One of the budding artists receiving advice. -S



Members enjoying a lovely lunch. -S

Be wise with your NBN

AS the NBN rollout continues in small areas over our shire, it's a good time to look at ways to avoid falling victim to scams when it comes to accessing nbn or using your new service.

If someone who claims to be working for nbn has contacted you trying to sell you a new nbn service and you're in doubt, always make sure to ask for their details. You can hang up and call your phone and internet provider to see if they are legitimate. It's important to note that it can be common in these scams that the

person contacting you may offer you a phone number to contact to prove they are a legitimate company. In most cases it will be someone pretending to work for nbn and are part of the scam. It's best to find the number yourself and call as soon as you can. Nbn is a wholesaler and you don't purchase plans through them. You need to go through a service provider so you will never get calls from nbn selling you products.

If you are experiencing door knockers for the new nbn services, never provide your personal

details including your bank account details. Nbn approved technicians and workers carry identification cards. In all cases request to see this card before providing physical access to your address.

Nbn will never call and ask to access your computer or advise you that you're going to be disconnected, nor will they ask for payment to secure a service appointment.

Nbnco says if you have provided financial details such as bank

account, credit card or personal information to a scammer claiming to work for nbn, you need to contact your bank or financial institution immediately.

The institution's advice is, "Report the matter to your local police. You could also report your issue to the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC).

"If you have provided remote access to your computer or mobile device or given personal or financial information to a scammer, contact IDCARE on

1800 595 160. Try to record as much information as possible including phone numbers, names, or any remote access ID. Remote access companies such as TeamViewer also accept direct reports of scams via their website to investigate and block fraudulent accounts."

To protect others, report scams to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) via Scamwatch at [scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

Hungry gold miners created Victoria's Murray cod fisheries and we're still dealing with the consequences

By Paul Humphries, associate professor in ecology, Charles Sturt University. First published in *The Conversation*

In this edited book extract, Paul Humphries describes how a proposal to feed hungry miners on Victoria's goldfields led to a Murray cod fishery – and the collapse of cod populations, the effects of which are still with us today.

Within months of the discovery of gold in 1851 in the previously sleepy little hamlets of Ballarat, Castlemaine and Bendigo, the Victorian goldfields were out-performing those in California. By 1852, ships hailing from Melbourne were sailing up the River Thames, carrying up to 10 tonnes of gold to London.

Convicts, previously reluctant to be sent out to the colony, now begged for transportation. Immigrants from England, Europe, the United States and China arrived in Melbourne in their hundreds each day. Along with the diggers came those that supplied their wants and needs: store keepers, butchers, bakers, grocers, barbers, printers and other tradespeople. Gold, population and trade boomed.

By 1854, the Victorian population had surpassed that of New South Wales, but the amount of gold extracted, although still substantial, was half it was two years previously. Discontent increased. There were violent clashes between soldiers, police and diggers, which culminated in a full-on battle on December 3, 1854 on Bakery Hill: the Eureka uprising.

Some canny miners who saw the boom was fast fading had an eye out for business opportunities. There was another untapped, seemingly limitless resource, another type of 'gold', waiting within coo-ee of the goldfields for the right person to come along and extract it. Not from earth. From water. The cod rush was about to start.

"We cannot exhaust the fish"

In the 19th century, there was by all accounts an abundance of large Murray cod, some reportedly 1.8 metres-long and weighing perhaps 80 kilograms. These long-lived predators cruised around the main channels of rivers, ate crayfish, mussels, fish and even ducks and mice when they could get them. For hungry gold miners, they must have seemed like a godsend.

In January 1855, an article in *The Argus* by an unnamed correspondent recorded that a semi-commercial fishery had begun in the Murray, supplying gold miners in Bendigo with fresh fish:

"The Murray abounds in splendid fish of the cod and bream species, varying in weight from an ounce to a hundred weight each," they wrote.

The article recognised the demand for food from hungry gold miners, along with a supply of fish; the former seemingly insatiable and the latter apparently inexhaustible.

"We have a river unequalled in the colony in its magnitude. It is rich in delicious fish



A Murray cod. -Codman

[...] with which we intend at no distant period to cram the stomach of the rebellious digger of the Bendigo," the correspondent wrote two months later.

By May 29, the correspondent proposed exchanging the "superabundant" nuggets of the diggers with that of the "superfluous luxuries" in the Murray. A transparent pitch for distributing the wealth north of the goldfields. But they weren't finished.

On June 22, 1855 in *The Argus*, the unnamed journalist wrote a lengthy proposal and presented a detailed business case, including estimates of outlays, profits and even methods (netting, hook and line, spearing) for catching fish that had been used by local Aboriginal peoples for thousands of years, for a commercial fishery in the Murray, supplying Bendigo.

Soon, a disillusioned miner with ambition recognised the opportunity. At the age of 27, Massachusetts-born Joseph Waldo Rice established the Lake Moira Fishing Company in mid-1855 with five others. Soon, that became the Murray Fishing Company or Murray River Fishing Company.

"We cannot exhaust [the fish]," suggested *The Argus* journalist, and 10 times as many as they proposed could be harvested would not even deplete a small section of river.

The correspondent was grossly mistaken.

Boomtime and collapse

In the early days, a dozen or so men fished Moira Lake and the Murray and Edward rivers nearby, transporting a few baskets of fish to Bendigo by Cobb and Co coach.

But within a few decades, hundreds of fishermen plied their trade from Albury to

Lake Alexandrina with many thousands of fish transported to Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide markets by railway each year.

Intensive fishing, questionable practices such as taking fish during the spawning season, a lack of regulation and the later rise of recreational fishing exhausted the supposedly inexhaustible resource.

Fish stocks fluctuated over time as fishing effort rose and fell, but catches hit rock-bottom in the early 1960s and never recovered. By then, many commercial fishers had already left the industry or retired.

It was only in the early 2000s that the unprofitable fishery was finally banned in all states of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Commercial fishing was largely responsible for the decline in Murray cod stocks over many decades. But the decline was hastened by dispossession of Aboriginal peoples, habitat destruction, the construction of dams and barriers, changes to river flows, the introduction of alien fishes and declining water quality.

And the decline in Murray cod numbers would itself have had far-reaching impacts on river food webs.

The legacy of the commercial fishery is still with us today, as is the sludge still being flushed into our rivers because of gold dredging.

Will the cod ever recover?

Despite widespread stocking campaigns and tight fishing regulations, Murray cod stocks were still 'depleted' in the ACT and in South Australia as of 2020, and 'undefined' in New South Wales and Queensland due to a lack of data. Only in Victoria were they considered

'recovering'.

Across all jurisdictions, stocks are much lower than prior to European colonisation. Recovery of Murray cod stocks to pre-European levels is probably unrealistic and the recovery will be slow. But there is reason to be cautiously optimistic.

Scores of First Nations people, recreational angling and community groups, conservationists, and natural resource scientists and managers have worked hard to understand more about what makes this wonderful species tick. Many have put in place strategies to help ensure the Murray cod and many other native freshwater fish have a future.

There was a public outcry following recent mass fish kills, such as those in the Lower Darling–Baaka in 2018-19 and again in 2023. If this response is anything to go by, people care deeply about our rivers and the fish living in them.

While a commercial fishery in the Murray and its tributaries was probably inevitable following settlement, the Victorian goldrush provided the catalyst for its real beginnings and drove its early development.

The nameless *Argus* correspondent who started the cod rush would have never dreamt that their descendants would still be living with the consequences 170 years later.

This is an edited extract from *The Life and Times of the Murray Cod*, CSIRO Publishing, 2023.

Murray cod is among the species being grown as part of the recovery program at Snobs Creek Hatchery.

It's important to be biosecurity-aware when on holidays

AGRICULTURE Victoria is asking holiday makers to help keep the state's \$17.5 billion agriculture industry safe from biosecurity threats including pests and diseases.

Executive Director Biosecurity Victoria Katherine Clift said there were many ways the community can be biosecurity aware, including complying with state regulations while travelling.

"Victorians travelling interstate should be aware of border quarantine restrictions around moving plants, fruit and vegetables or risk hefty fines," Dr Clift said.

"Biosecurity measures such as not bringing fruit and vegetables into the state will help protect Victoria's valuable horticulture industry from exotic pests including Mediterranean fruit fly.

"If you are planning to visit our excellent wineries, don't wander into the vineyards in case you get phylloxera on your footwear and spread it elsewhere. This tiny insect can destroy grapevines and significantly impact our \$170 million wine industry."

Beach goers can minimise the risk of pests and diseases by following the steps of Check, Clean and Dry. This includes checking all vessels, fishing, diving and surfing equipment and remove anything including water, sand and seaweed. Also, remember to check your catch for signs of disease.

"Clean boats at home or at a commercial carwash. Wash wetsuits, fishing and diving equipment with fresh and soapy water and then dry all boating, fishing and diving

equipment completely before heading out into the water again," said Dr Clift.

For those making trips to farms, it's essential to comply with Biosecurity Management Plans and follow biosecurity signage requirements to help prevent spreading pests and disease.

"When you're planning to visit a farming property, call ahead to see if there are any specific biosecurity requirements or potential issues," Dr Clift said.

"When you arrive, sign the visitor record book, wash and disinfect your footwear and arrange to meet your hosts at their house or on a sealed or gravel area away from livestock."

When it's time to go home, farm visitors should wash their footwear again to avoid carrying pests and diseases to other properties or regions.

"If you're spending a lot of time on farms or travelling to multiple properties, the Come Clean, Stay Clean, Go Clean learning module has great tips to help build your biosecurity awareness," Dr Clift said.

"The short course will only take around 15 minutes of your time, but could save your friends and relatives so much more if you're able to keep them safe from biosecurity threats."

Information and eLearning modules for farm visitors are available via agriculture.vic.gov.au

EV Charging for Alexandra

THERE is a brand new 50kW fast charger in the Bakers Lane carpark. This charger can give people up to 150 km of range in 30 minutes and is powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

This project was delivered in partnership with Evie Networks and was funded through the Victorian Government's Destination Charging Action Victoria Program. The program aims to install 55 EV chargers across the state. You can find out more about this program and the locations of the chargers at the Energy Victoria website.

By supporting the transition to electric vehicles, council is taking action on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



The new EV charging station in Bakers Lane, Alexandra. -S



Some of the committee members from Fawcett Hall. -S

Fawcett Hall restores timber forms

THE Furniture History Society Australasia was founded in 1996. The main aims of the society are the appreciation of furniture and to ensure its preservation and documentation.

Fawcett Hall was lucky to receive the Furniture History Society grant for 2022. The grant was for the restoration (repair and stabilisation) of the three original long-seated timber forms with backs, purchased by the hall in 1888, and the timber form without a back,

which was inherited by the hall when the Fawcett State School moved to its new location in 1905.

Prior to their repair, the forms were unstable and really should not have been used but thanks to this grant, the original forms are sturdy again and ready for many years of further use.

The committee of Fawcett Hall are thankful to the volunteers of the Alexandra Community / Eildon & District Woodworkers Guild for the wonderful job they

have done. All the forms were taken apart, repaired where necessary, and reassembled.

Without this grant and the 'Woodies' to help them, the original forms would have deteriorated to the point where they could not have continued use.

Many of the hall groups and hirers love these forms, the pew-like seats for gatherings.

The organisers would like to thank the Woodies and the Furniture History Society.

Leckie Park cricket nets finished

MURRINDINDI Shire Council would like to thank the Alexandra Cricket Club for their contribution and assistance in the completion of the new cricket training nets installed in Leckie Park. These nets were a joint endeavour between council, the club and partially funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant.

Council's arborist is currently reviewing the site to determine the best species of trees that will be planted in the area.



The new cricket nets in Leckie Park. -S

Middle Creek Road Bridge to close for two weeks

DUE to some cracks in the south-eastern abutment of Middle Creek Road Bridge, Yarck, council is carrying out repair works to make sure the bridge is safe and stable.

This means the bridge will be closed for approximately two weeks from Wednesday, July 12.



Middle Creek Road Bridge. -S

Grants to improve road safety on Victoria's local roads

THE Victorian Government has launched this year's TAC Local Government Grant Program, with applications now open to local government authorities for grants to fund road safety projects.

Analysis grants of up to \$30,000 and infrastructure grants of up to \$100,000, with a matched 1:1 contribution from the LGA, are available for projects that adopt Safe System principles to reduce crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists.

The Safe System is a holistic approach to road safety that recognises different elements of the road environment must work together to keep everyone safe. These elements include roads and roadsides, vehicles, travel speeds, and road users.

The program now also includes grants of up to \$30,000 for developing Road Safety Strategies and Action Plans, and a further \$30,000 for purchasing Variable Message Signs.

Previous projects funded through the program include a raised pedestrian crossing (wombat crossing) in Warrnambool City Council and the development of concept plans for a cycling corridor in the City of Greater Dandenong.

The program is now open and will close at 3pm on Wednesday, August 9.

For more information on funding guidelines and further details on past projects, visit tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/local-government-grants

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said, "Creating a safe road network is crucial to reducing the number of lives lost on Victoria's roads, and local governments are an important part of that."

"These grants empower local governments to proactively work to improve road safety for their communities and address local road issues."

Ambulance response times improve across Hume

PARAMEDICS are responding faster on average to the most seriously ill people in the Hume Region after record demand for ambulances eased between January and March this year.

Ambulance Victoria Hume Regional Director Narelle Capp said ambulance performance improved thanks to reduced demand and fewer staff furloughed due to COVID-19.

"January to March saw ambulances called to 92,413 Code One cases across Victoria, which provided some welcome relief to our hard-working paramedics who faced rising demand during the pandemic," Ms Capp said.

"That's 7825 or 7.8 per cent fewer 'lights and sirens' cases compared to the previous quarter, which was the busiest in our history with more than 100,000 cases."

"We thank the community for helping us relieve pressure on our paramedics and the health system by saving Triple Zero (000) for emergencies."

From January to March, paramedics across Victoria responded to 65.2 per cent of Code 1 cases within the state-wide average target of 15 minutes, up from 60.2 per cent in the previous three months. The state-wide average response time to Code One emergencies was 15 minutes and 20 seconds, an improvement of one minute and 24 seconds.

In the Hume Region, performance against the 15 minute target improved in Towong, Mansfield, Indigo, Strathbogie, Moira, Wangaratta, Benalla, Wodonga, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Greater Shepparton Local Government Areas.

Ms Capp said along with reduced demand, a drop in staff furloughed due to COVID-19 at Ambulance Victoria, and across the entire health system, made a real difference.

"This helped speed up the handover of patients at hospitals and allowed to us get back on the road quicker to attend more life-threatening emergencies," Ms Capp said.

Between January and March, an average of nearly 54 Ambulance Victoria staff were furloughed every day due to COVID-19. As the wave of COVID-19 eased, the number of staff furloughed decreased from a peak of 112 on January 5 to a low of 29 on February 21.

"That's why I encourage all Victorians to take care of themselves and keep regular check-ups with your GP or specialist and get your COVID-19 booster and annual flu shot," Ms Capp said.

Ambulance Victoria Acting Executive Director Clinical Operations Michael Georgiou said while ambulances are always provided to patients when required, from January to March 37,825 people who did not need an emergency ambulance were instead connected by paramedics and nurses in the Secondary Triage team to more appropriate care.

"That results in 500 or more cases every day being safely matched to services that better suit their needs while also avoiding emergency dispatch," Mr Georgiou said.

Mr Georgiou said Ambulance Victoria continued to work closely with stakeholders across the entire health system to ensure patients received the most appropriate response for their needs and improve ambulance availability across the state.

"We've recruited more than 1300 paramedics over the past two years, tripled the size of our Secondary Triage team and have referred almost 32,000 cases to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) since October 2021 to help avoid unnecessary trips to our hospitals," Mr Georgiou said.

SPORT



Daniel Evans. -S



Mitch Skelly. -S

The return of Yea football seniors

AFTER a year of no senior football the Yea Football Netball Club have announced they have appointed new senior and assistant football coaches to lead the club in 2024.

Mitch Skelly has accepted the role of senior coach and club legend Daniel Evans returns as his lead assistant playing coach for season 2024.

Club President Peter Armstrong announced the return. "Senior footy is back at Yea. This has been the most challenging few years of our club's history. We cannot be more thankful and appreciative of the support we have been able to maintain through this season, off the back of having great junior and netball teams in 2023. Those teams have really kept our club afloat. We have also received lots of community support and offers of assistance from all over Victoria," he said.

"This news gives our club and the entire Yea community so much hope for not only next season, but well into the future. The quality of the coaches that we have been able to attract to the club is a credit to our hard-working committee, the committees that preceded us and to some past players

that reached out and got heavily involved in the recruitment process," Mr Armstrong said.

Mitch Skelly, who accepted the role after a lengthy and rigorous process, is an Australian Football League level 3 accredited coach. He has experience as a head coach in the Victorian Football League Womens and more recently has been coaching at the very successful Heidelberg club in the Northern Football Netball League. Mitch had an outstanding community football career himself and donned the yellow and black for the Yea Tigers in season 2021.

Mitch could not be more excited about joining the Yea Tigers. "I can't wait to get started and lead what is a great club back into senior football. In my dealings with the club, I was presented with a very professional strategic plan that gave me confidence that the committee and its leaders have a great understanding of the work that we need to do to bring this club back to where it belongs - competing against the very best teams the outer east has to offer in all grades of football," he said.

"I was able to play five or six games for the club in 2021 and the place left a lasting impression on me. The people were all so welcoming and the culture was second to none. I watched from afar as the club battled in the last few years and I had a sense that I could really help in some way. At the time I didn't know it would be as their senior coach, but the pitch made to me from the committee was something I couldn't pass up. I can't wait to start the recruitment process with all the players and for pre-season to begin," Mr Skelly said.

Yea FNC is equally excited that Daniel Evans, known as "Pup" around the club, is back as the lead playing assistant coach for 2024. Pup has held senior leadership roles at Yea and played over 200 games for the club. He returns after a stint with Forest Hill as their Playing Assistant Coach for the past two seasons.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Forest Hill and will continue to give my absolute all to the club for the rest of this season. I have made lifelong friends and Forest Hill will hold a special place in my heart. But those who know me well, know I

am a Yea Tigers man through and through. I love the place and my family has all been heavily involved at the club in some way for as long as anyone can remember.

"The opportunity to return and get the place back up and running is one I couldn't pass up. My partner and I can't wait to get back involved at the club and I look forward to working closely with Mitch, to help lead the Yea Tigers back to successful times in senior football," Pup said.

Both Skelly and Evans have to complete current seasons with their respective clubs but have already begun putting together a team of assistants that will start the process of recruiting new and past players for both senior and reserves for next season.

President Peter Armstrong noted, "We are in the marketplace now and although we can't make announcements this early, we are right in the mix for some very talented players to join our ranks next season. We are very confident that our senior teams will be able to compete next season and we will be able to build a senior football program that will thrive not only in 2024 but well into the future."

Alexandra Football Netball Club juniors



Tilly Miljkovic in Alexandra Red netball under 11s. -S



Nikita Lyttle in Alexandra Red netball under 13s. -S

IN round nine of the season, the Alexandra Football Netball Club junior football teams had a bye, but the Alexandra Red netball under 11 and under 13 teams hosted Tabilk at Rebel Park. The rest of the netball teams had a bye.

Netball

Under 11s

Alexandra Red 16 defeated Tabilk 8

FoodWorks - Zelda Van Lierop. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Ruby Birmingham. Miljkovic Family - Zoe Coller.

Under 13

Alexandra Red 9 defeated Tabilk 5

FoodWorks - Ruby Friswell. Alexandra Bakery and Café - Ivy Miljkovic; Miljkovic Family - Zoe Mullins.

A very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of our

junior footballers and netballers in 2023. Next Sunday, July 16, Alexandra junior football teams travel to Broadford for four games of football - under 9, under 10, under 12 and under 14, together with under 11, under 13 and under 15 Alexandra Black netball teams. The three Alexandra Red netball teams travel to Kings Park to play Seymour. Alexandra's under 16 football team hosts Tatura at Rebel Park. If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season please speak to Melissa Crane and Shona Miljkovic to go on the roster.

Thank you to all the families that have paid their season 2023 junior football and netball player memberships and any families that have not done so yet, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact Club President Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.



Lila Friswell in Alexandra Red under 11s. -S

Marysville Golf report

by Lesley Rundle

ON Saturday, July 8, in wet and windy conditions there were three categories of golfers amongst the Marysville members. There were those who stayed at home in the warm, there were those who turned up at the club but decided that a coffee in Marysville was more tempting than a game of golf and there were those who actually played. Gail Leigh (11) represented the women and won the Stableford game with 32 points and won nearest the pin on the 18th hole. The men played Par for the second round of the Par Shield. Peter Lilley (15) had an excellent round in the wet conditions with a score of plus seven with Steve Coker (17) the runner up with square. Peter also won the nearest the pins on the ninth and eleventh

holes and also won the Golden Shot. Qualifiers for the final of the Par Shield later in the year were Peter Lilley, Mark Bambery, Brian Worcester and Keith Atwell.

On Thursday, July 6 the nine holers played Stableford on the front nine holes and the winner was Paul Martin with 20 points and Richie Clark was runner up just one point behind. Mark Alexander won the nearest the pin on the ninth hole.

Next Saturday, July 15 those who registered to play in the mixed match play event will play the first round. Players who chose not to play mixed match play will play a Stableford round. Hopefully conditions will be more conducive to a game of golf and more members will brave the elements.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Rebels play Broadford in Indigenous Round

by Michelle Jack

THE Outer East League 2023 season round eleven was the Indigenous Round and saw the Rebels travel to Broadford to play two games of football and four games of netball.

Reserves

**Alexandra 4.8 - 32 defeated
by Broadford 6.7 - 43**

THE Reserves struggled to get into gear at any stage of the game, kicking one goal in each of the four quarters while the home side was able to convert their opportunities in front of goal in a low scoring game.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen; Angus Smith. Ampol fuel card; Michael Coombs. Alex Sportspower; Tom Meggitt. Buxton Hotel; Jake Steyger.

Seniors

**Alexandra 16.8 - 104 defeated
Broadford 6.7 - 43**

THE Seniors kicked three goals to one against the breeze in the first quarter before adding five unanswered goals in the second quarter to hold a handy lead at half time. The Rebels kicked five goals to one in the third quarter, Broadford kicking four goals to three in the last quarter, Will Stewart a focal point up forward with seven goals.

Awards: Incentives; Mitch Parker, Will Stewart and Ben Cooper. Buxton Hotel; Ryan Lucas. Volunteer award; Julie Steyger.

Netball

A grade lost 27 - 68: Incentive - Caitlan Haggis, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Mia Rouget.

B grade lost 19 - 93: Incentive - Sarah Mooney, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Ash Creighton.

C grade lost 14 - 41: Incentive - Penny Van Lierop, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Emiliiah Del Conte.

Under 17 won 14 - 10: Incentive - Caeley Palmer, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Maddy Northmore.

Thursday's Rebel Raffles continued last Thursday and we thank our sponsors Swenrick Constructions, Yarck Hotel, Reddrops Foodworks / Houseboat Sales Lake Eildon, Eildon Bakery / Yarck Meat and Produce, Alexandra Quality Meats / AFNC canteen, Yea Chinese Restaurant / Bailey Funerals with the winners Sally Hill, Dawn Jack, Natalie Gregg, Troy Surkitt, Mary Pearson and Ben Cooper. The Swenrick Constructions Joker Jackpot was not won and will be worth \$1,300 next Thursday so come along for your chance to win a prize.

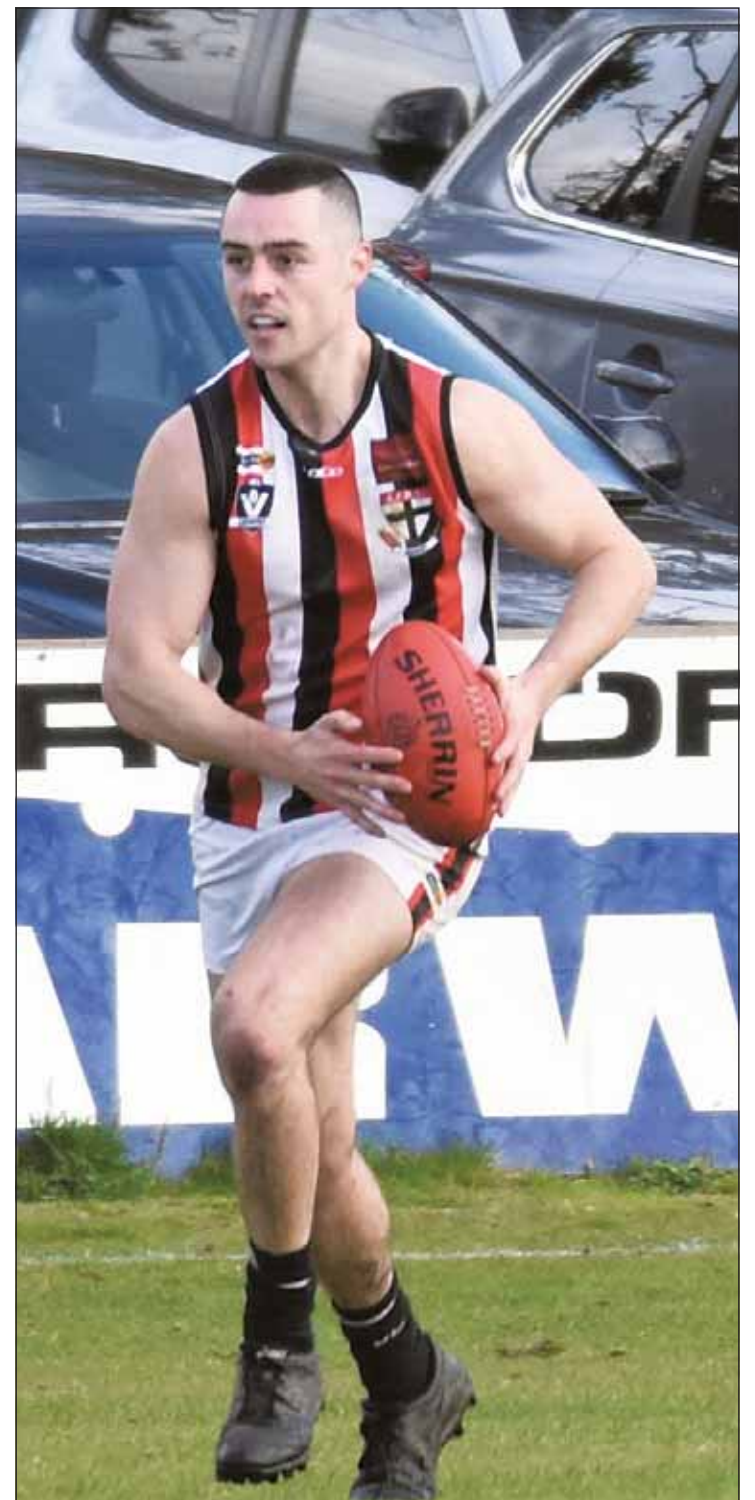
This coming Saturday the senior club football and netball teams have a bye as part of the split round. On Thursday there is no senior football or netball training at Rebel Park, no senior meals and no raffle. Everything to resume as normal the following Thursday, July 20.



Morgan Eastwood in the seniors. -S



Ben Makowski in the seniors. -S



Lucas O'Sullivan in the seniors. -S