

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, September 18, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

Murrindindi Harvest Celebration to bring together local agribusiness

MURRINDINDI Food and Wine Inc is thrilled to announce the inaugural Murrindindi Harvest Celebration, set to take place on November 16 from 11am to 4pm at Yea Railway Park.

This exciting new event aims to raise awareness and encourage the consumption of locally produced food and beverages, while also fostering sustainable practices within the community.

The Murrindindi Harvest Celebration will be a vibrant one-day showcase of the region's finest produce, featuring food stalls, cooking demonstrations, workshops, and numerous opportunities to 'Meet the Maker'. Attendees will have the chance to engage directly with

agribusiness owners, be inspired by panel discussions, and enjoy demonstrations by local celebrity chefs.

Attendees on the day can meet the maker from a wide range of local produce and agribusinesses, including trout, truffles, eggs, honey, olive oil and microgreens.

Watch celebrity chefs Byron Moore (Marmalades, Yea), Megan Knapp (The Kitchen Door, Mansfield), and Ross O'Meara (Wild Meat and Gourmet Farmer, Mansfield) showcase their culinary skills using local produce, complete with takeaway recipes.

There will be Mini Hot Seats (panels), workshops and opportunities to listen to

discussions on topics such as sustainability, food waste, and regenerative farming. Learn from leading agribusinesses and producers who are innovating in this space.

Visit the market stall area to meet the producers, their suppliers, and local community groups. Don't forget to bring your basket and reusable shopping bag so that you can stock up on all the local goodies.

The festival offers a unique platform for attendees to connect with a diverse range of producers, suppliers, and local initiatives. It is an ideal setting for networking, business skill development, and community participation. Key topics will include solar

energy, agribusiness waste, eco-friendly packaging, and resilience in the face of climate challenges.

Rob Mitchell, President of Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc, shared his excitement, saying "Our region has longed for a showcase that brings together all our producers in one space. We are grateful for our local community-run markets that support our producers throughout the year. This celebration will provide a unique opportunity for networking and learning from each other's successes in all aspects of agribusiness. We are looking forward to a day of celebration and community in Yea."

The Murrindindi Harvest Celebration aims to increase awareness and consumption of locally produced food and beverages, promote sustainable practices such as waste reduction and eco-friendly packaging, foster local business collaboration, skill development, and resource sharing, and encourage minimal or zero waste at the event.

The Murrindindi Winemakers suggested hosting an event in Yea, and the concept quickly gained support and funding. The Murrindindi Harvest Celebration is a culmination of these efforts, aiming to bring together producers, the local community, and visitors for a day of celebration.

The event is on Saturday, November 16 at Yea Railway Park. It will be a day of local food, fun, and festivities as we celebrate all that is Murrindindi.

Want to be part of the celebration? Businesses and community groups can find out more and book a space via the website murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au

The Murrindindi Harvest Celebration is proudly supported by the *Vic Grown - Regional Activation Grants Program* (RAGP), the Murrindindi Shire Council and funding from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the *Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements* (DRFA).



Alexandra Secondary College students on the first day of their trip to Central Australia. The two week tour has a mix of year 10 and 11 students, with a total of 43 students on this trip of a lifetime. -S

Alexandra Newspapers will be **CLOSED**

Friday, September 27, 2024 for

AFL Grand Final public holiday

EGN deadlines for booking and artwork will be

NOON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ALL OTHER DEADLINES REMAIN UNCHANGED

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Emergency Services Community Engagement Day coming up in Yea

The Emergency Services Community Engagement Day is set to be held in conjunction with the Yea Railway Market on Saturday, October 5.

Paul Stanley, Yea Group Officer and Captain of the Limestone CFA Brigade, said it started with the CFA and the police and the Yea Community House. They discussed how Yarck usually does a community engagement day, however the Yarck day is different to the one being planned for Yea.

He wants people to know what to do if a catastrophic fire day comes along.

There will also be some lighter entertainment at the event, including face painting for the children and a singer performing at the event. The children will also be able to take a look around the various trucks on display, potentially with sirens and flashing lights.

This will be the first time that an event like this has been held in Yea.

If the event is successful, they'll look to run the event biannually, in the years when the Yarck event isn't held.

Members of the organising committee for the Combined Emergency Services Community Day were on site at the Yea Market last Saturday morning to check out the facilities. Their event will coincide with the Yea Market on Saturday, October 5. Of most interest to them was finding suitable space to park the vast array of emergency vehicles which will be on site on the day.

Remember to keep the date free and meet in Yea for this all day spectacular. It will be a family friendly day with lots of free activities and entertainment for everyone with kids especially well catered for. Market stalls will be available until 4pm.

There will be an informative side to the day with talks throughout the morning and afternoon in the Good Shed Gallery from experts on many areas of planning for and maintaining personal safety in the event of a natural disaster.

The committee is hoping for a great turnout so that residents and community members can update their natural disaster preparedness plans, or get help to prepare a plan for their personal circumstances.

They approached all of the emergency services, including Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, the State Emergency Service, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Emergency Management Victoria, the Bureau of Meteorology and Forest Fire Management.

"So every man and his dog is going to be there," Paul said.

The event is being held on market day in Yea, but instead of having around 40 stalls, they're aiming for around 60 stalls for the October market.

The community engagement day will start at 8 or 9am and run until 4pm. There will be talks at the event on fire preparedness, as well as talks from Ambulance Victoria and others. UGFM will also be broadcasting the event from their mobile station.

They are hoping that the community engagement day draws people from across the shire, not just people from Yea.

Paul explained that the event is for everybody. "We're once again thinking that it's going to be a bad fire season. I know we say it every year, but 2009 will come around again. A couple of Mondays ago there was 120 fires burning in NSW, with 10 out of control.

He added, "We always plan for the plan for the worst hope for the best. People need to be prepared. Yea's been impacted by various weather associated events as well in recent years."

Paul said, "Each service will have a display and everyone will be talking about what their service does and how they can help people during especially catastrophic days."

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 / Hazeldene
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 0402 428 086
Sun Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFCA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY
1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

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

IT'S NOT OKAY

To yell at our staff.
To swear at our staff.
To be rude to our staff.
To abuse our staff in anyway.
To be disrespectful to our staff.
To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

If you have a problem or complaint, we are happy to listen if you discuss this with us politely, please don't take your anger out on us.

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Standard The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	1.00pm Mon	1.69	rising	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	1.00pm Mon	0.58	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.54am Mon	0.73	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.31pm Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.28am Mon	0.59	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	1.03pm Mon	0.90	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	1.00pm Mon	3.66	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	1.00pm Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	1.00pm Mon	1.27	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	1.00pm Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	1.00pm Mon	1.56	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.12pm Mon	1.22	steady	

**ISSUED AT 1.15PM ON MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

Standard
The Yea Chronicle

PUBLISHERS

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 republication of such material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated and has no association with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

Weekly Weather

September 18 - September 24, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	18	Wednesday	8	19
Thursday	6	14	Thursday	6	15
Friday	7	13	Friday	7	14
Saturday	8	14	Saturday	8	15
Sunday	6	15	Sunday	6	16
Monday	8	17	Monday	8	18
Tuesday	10	19	Tuesday	10	20

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	6mm
Buxton	7mm
Eildon (AWS)	3mm
Flowerdale	11mm
Jamieson	7mm
Kinglake	40mm
Lake Eildon	5mm
Mansfield	16mm
Taggerty	5mm
Yarck	2mm
Yea	6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	286.20m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	.89.4%
Metres below full supply	.2.70m
Daily inflow	.3000ML
Release	.3200ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	.68.10%

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

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

ADTTA's efforts to support the region

THE Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association (ADTTA) held its annual general meeting on the evening of September 10. Gordon Simpson retains the presidency uncontested, with Ayden Embling stepping into the vice presidency. The treasurer is Daniel Crane and Caolan O'Connor secretary. The other members of the committee are Mike Dalmau, Nigel Lyttle and Ian Davis. Andrew Embling stepped down from the committee, and the members of ADTTA thanked him for his leadership and support over the years.

An Annual Impact Report was presented at the meeting, summarising the organisation's efforts. The Letter from the President spoke about the challenges facing the community this year, including the cost of living and the closure of the native timber harvesting industry. ADTTA events such as the Christmas Bonanza, Spring Fair and Easter Fair stimulated the economy and promoted the region, as well as raising funds for the Alexandra Visitor

Information Centre (VIC). The VIC volunteers have in turn promoted local business and tourism opportunities, and promote local artists.

The Christmas Bonanza promoted ADTTA members and they estimated that the initiative generated approximately \$125,000 in local expenditure in December 2023. The organisation also collaborated with the 'Put Murrindindi on the Table for Christmas' campaign.

The Easter Fair and Spring Fair each had 2500 to 3000 attendees, playing a role in driving visitation to the area. The Grant Street Monthly Market was launched in late 2022, featuring six to 15 stalls. Six more shops are now open on market days than in 2022, and tourists take the opportunity to browse. The organisers are looking to reduce the impact on parking moving forward.

ADTTA's focus on mental health saw them participate in the 2023 R U OK? Day activities in Rotary Park, and helped to run a barbecue and

activation in Grant Street. They also supported the Black Dog Institute's Managing Team Wellbeing program and hosted Lifting Farm Spirit in Yarck. The initiatives were supported by Murrindindi Shire Council and the Victorian and Australian Governments.

ADTTA has also engaged the community with the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement's consultation, leading to a well-attended meeting, and coordinated petitions and meetings addressing the potential amalgamations of local health services. In addition, they advocated strongly for the re-opening of the Fraser Campground at Lake Eildon, and promoted opportunities to reflect on mental health in businesses.

To become a member of ADTTA, people can become a Friend of the Visitor Information Centre for \$25 per year, sporting or community groups can join for \$50 per year, sole traders can join for \$50 per year, and retail, tourism or other businesses can join for \$100 per year.

Neighbourhood batteries grants now open

APPLICATIONS through the state government's *Neighbourhood Batteries Program* are now open. This is the second round of the \$42 million Neighbourhood Batteries Program, which has expanded to include energy back up systems that will improve energy reliability for local communities.

The new energy resilience category will help to further improve the resilience of the communities who install them, helping them maintain an independent power source during emergencies such as storms to cook meals, charge devices and access critical information.

Larger than a household battery but smaller than grid scale batteries, neighbourhood batteries return power into the hands of local communities, soaking up cheap and clean renewable energy when it is plentiful and dispatching it when it is needed most.

This round will also prioritise projects that provide benefits to diverse, low income and vulnerable households, as well as outer suburbs and regional areas, helping to drive down energy bills for those who need it most.

Applications opened on August 30, with increased funding of up to \$400,000 per project also available, building on the success of the first round of the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program, which has already funded 25 batteries across the state.

The funding could enable applicants to establish community hubs with energy back-up systems, such as the 26 sites funded through the *Energy Resilience Solutions Program*, where community can access information, hot water and charge their devices during a prolonged power outage caused by extreme weather.

The *Neighbourhood Batteries Program* is open to councils, community groups, businesses, developers and not-for-profits. The new Project Readiness Assessment Tool helps applicants determine whether a neighbourhood battery is the right fit for their community and apply.

This round, the minimum size of each battery is 20kW/40kWh, and the maximum size of each battery is 5MW/20MWh.

Application guidelines are available at energy.vic.gov.au/grants/neighbourhood-batteries

Neighbourhood Policing Forum for Benalla, Mansfield and Murrindindi LGA's

VICTORIA Police invites members of the community, to attend the Benalla Neighbourhood Policing Forum on Thursday, October 10.

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum welcomes local businesses and community members to talk with local police members about what is important to your community.

The forum will explore a range of topics including: Current crime trends and crime prevention, family violence, young people, road policing and drugs, and drug related crime.

The forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event. To attend this event, you must register online and present your ticket on arrival.

Arrival is from 12.15pm with the event commencing at 12.30pm and finishes at 3.30pm at the Mansfield Golf Club.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact *BENALLA-DISTRICT-OFFICE-OIC@police.vic.gov.au*

Refreshments and food will be offered, if there are any dietary requirements, please email *BENALLA-DISTRICT-OFFICE-OIC@police.vic.gov.au*

Extensive repairs at Cerberus Bridge

IN recent weeks, travellers on the Maroondah Highway between Buxton and Taggerty have had to slow down for the works being undertaken at Cerberus Bridge, an otherwise barely noticed bridge.

The Department of Transport was asked to provide information on the works that have been undertaken at the bridge, and were also asked whether the travelling public has been at risk prior to the works.

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson responded, "Our crews are delivering repairs to ensure that the Cerberus Creek Bridge remains safe and stable for years to come after it was impacted by recent flooding. We thank the community for its patience while we complete these repairs."

Repairs have been conducted on the bridge's supporting structures to ensure

that it remains safe and is not subject to any load limits in the future.

All of the Department of Transport's impacted structures, including the Cerberus Creek Bridge, underwent immediate assessment in the wake of the October 2022 floods to assess that they were safe and could continue to cater to current traffic volumes. It was stated that the public has not been at risk before these works commenced.

There has been a speed reduction and temporary traffic lights over the Cerberus Bridge while the repairs were carried out.

Recent flood and storm events have had a significant impact on structures, including drainage and culvert assets across the state, with \$2.1 million of works completed on 37 structures during 2022/23 alone.

most of whom live in Melbourne far from new overhead high voltage transmission lines and industrial scale solar and wind electricity generation infrastructure.

Low emissions energy generation and distribution is not cost free and not every Victorian will benefit from its expansion, which is why the committee's terms of reference importantly includes looking at ways to improve the planning rules and processes for proposed new low emissions energy generation and distribution infrastructure, including requirements for the following issues; proponents to consult with affected communities; proponents to be accountable for actioning and responding to feedback received from communities; adoption of best practice planning principles, including increasing resilience and reduction of risk to the community; whether the proposed compensation schemes are adequate; and initial project approval evaluations which capture and assess the full environmental, economic, social, risk reduction and health impact.

Grants for Regional Victoria creative events

THE Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks announced recently that applications are now open for the *Small Regional Presenters* program, with grants of up to \$15,000 to help volunteers and local councils secure and present shows in 2025.

Last year's program supported a range of creative events across the state, locally this included Yea Arts as they presented musical comedy, theatre and kids puppetry for the town and visitors to enjoy.

The Small Regional Presenters program is delivered on behalf of the Victorian Government by Regional Arts Victoria, the state's peak body for creatives and creative organisations in the regions.

Applications are now open and close Wednesday, October 23. For more information including eligibility details or how to apply visit rav.net.au

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club week started with the bridge players in action on Monday and Wednesday and on Friday, there was a well attended social meeting. There were healthy discussions in general business, with topics including Christmas lunch and excursions. Comedy Corner followed before the chocolate raffle was decided. The lucky winners were Joan, John R and Mike. They then had a sing song before adjourning to the tea room for refreshments and the usual games of 500 and UNO.

If you like a game of cards or just a friendly chat, the club always welcomes new members at the weekly Friday meetings in the Bayley Street club room. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Inquiry into transmission system expansion

THE State Parliament's Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee is conducting an inquiry proposed by the Liberals and Nationals into the expansion of Victoria's high voltage power transmission system.

The inquiry will examine the expansion as proposed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), VicGrid and the Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) as well as the expansion of Victorian transmission connections associated with the Victorian Government's proposed 'renewable energy zones.' It will report by December 19, 2025.

While expanding Victoria's low emissions electricity generation capacity is welcome, proposed new low emissions electricity generation infrastructure must be balanced against its effect on impacted farmers and regional communities and not be driven solely by the interests of electricity consumers,

ELECTRICIAN
Grimshaw Electrics
 For all your electrical and communication requirements
 Peter Donald
 0429 808 596
 REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

Market @ Yarck
 including CWA morning tea and cake stall
Saturday, September 21 from 9am
 Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

McCORMACK FUNERALS
 Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
 1800 080 909
 Andrew, Robyn and Brooke
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
 Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
 Obligation free appointments
 Pre-paid, pre-arranged, personalised funeral and memorial services
 www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

ALL HOURS
 • Alexandra • Yea
 • Eildon • Marysville
 and districts
BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PT. LTD.
 Offering a caring and professional service throughout the Murrindindi Shire
 A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS
 Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214
 Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard

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

Available from these retail outlets

- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
- Alexandra Newspapers
- Buxton Shell
- Eildon Grocer
- Endeavour Alexandra
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Thornton Shell
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Out & About



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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Paringa Livestock Premier Yearling Sale on property Yea. Contact Tom Lawson 0434 146 795 or email info@paringalivestock.com.au for further details.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

It's ELF reading day time. Head down to Grant Street, Alexandra 10-11am and see all the local children and parents and teachers dressing up as their favourite book character.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Alexandra Lawn Tennis Club AGM will be held at 5.30pm at The Corner Hotel, Alexandra. Existing and new members welcome. General meeting to follow. For further information contact Troy 0434 122 602.

Alexandra Race Club AGM will be held at noon followed by a light lunch at 1.30pm. ARC Entertainment Centre, Gordon Street, Alexandra. RSVP alexandraraceclub@gmail.com or phone the secretary 0467 413 767 for further information.



The crowd at Acheron Hall. -S

Acheron CFA Trivia Night a success

ACHERON CFA Brigade held a ripper Trivia Night on Saturday, September 14. Seventy-five locals and friends squeezed in to the iconic Acheron Hall and were challenged by plane flying, themes like *Musician or Serial killer?* and seven rounds of, at times, tough questions. There is still debate over which is the largest island in the world.

Brain child of Acheron Captain Adam Kamanek, the intent of the night was to bring brigade families and the community out for some fun and interaction. This was certainly achieved as the buzz in the hall was loud and enthusiastic.

Delicious food and hall hire was afforded through the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements*, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

The organisers would like to thank to the shire for helping to facilitate this.

A stunning list of local businesses donated generously to prizes and auction items, a definite reminder to 'Buy Local, Support Local, Be Local'.

Over \$2000 was raised and will make an important difference to the brigade's fire fighting capabilities.

It is not, however, just money that makes an impact. The small brigade's efforts to support its community, to train hard and be prepared to face the hot red stuff come summer, has been recognised. And new and old neighbours have re-met.

The Acheron CFA thanks everyone who helped make this night a success. Spirits are buoyed.



THUMBS UP: A huge thank you to the kind lady who handed my purse in to Yenkens. Very relieved and grateful.

THUMBS DOWN: To the two horse riders on the rail trail last week for not having their two large dogs on leash and under control. It can be very intimidating for other walkers when these large brutes are unsupervised. It's bad enough dodging the horse poo on the trail. Show some respect to other walkers.

THUMBS UP: To Foundation Murrindindi and Foodshare for a magnificent Trivia Night. You attracted a great range of people and offered excellent prizes. I hope your enthusiasm is catching.

THUMBS UP: To the people of Thornton for making the Thornton Trike Track. What a brilliant space for locals and visitors. We love it.

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



Attendees at the Foundation Murrindindi quiz night, held at the Alexandra Shire Hall. -S

Foundation Murrindindi Trivia Night in support of food share program

THE Foundation Murrindindi Trivia Night was held on the evening of Saturday, September 14, with 115 people in attendance.

An amazing 529 items of food were donated on the night. This will have a hugely positive impact on the foundation's Murrindindi Food Share program. In addition, all of the

funds raised also go to the program. There was overwhelming support for raffles and auction items.

The foundation would like to thank emcee Sam Hicks and celebrity quiz master Glenn Ridge, as well as their sponsors and donors.

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator Fr 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
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
0481 472 152

Victorian National Parks Association concerned about logging on private land

THE Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has said that investigation by nature protection groups has exposed a trend of logging endangered wildlife habitat on private land.

The Victorian Government put a stop to logging native forests on public land on January 1.

Over a dozen logging projects have been identified on private land by VNPA, including in the Central Highlands, East Gippsland and Central Victoria. Private landowners are seeking permits to log, while others have already logged or cleared native forest.

VNPA stated that at least 187 hectares of land, has been cleared or logged to date across the state.

VNPA is joining other conservation groups to call on the Victorian Government

to intervene and end native forest logging on private land.

VNPA Executive Director Matt Ruchel said, "The government has largely closed the door on native forest logging on public land but left the window wide open on private land. This loophole should be closed. Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos must act immediately to close all native forest logging loopholes, including on private land."

The group said that the native animals at risk from logging on private land included Leadbeater's possums, greater gliders, yellow-bellied gliders, sooty owls, powerful owls, smoky mice and tree geebung.

VNPA is concerned that Leadbeater's Possums have been detected within 80 metres of private land logging. The Leadbeater's Possum Action Statement prescribes 200

metre buffers around confirmed detection sites, but this does not apply to operations on private land.

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum (FLbP) President, Steve Meacher said, "The state government shut down native forest logging because it had been caught out destroying endangered wildlife habitat, validated by Federal and Supreme Court cases. To find loggers are plundering the same critical habitat on private land beggars belief."

VNPA and other community and nature groups have written to 57 regional and peri-urban local governments responsible for issuing permits to log on private land.

The Victorian Office of the Conservation Regulator is investigating alleged breaches on public land but has no power to intervene on private land.

Bushfire safety overlooked by nearly half of Victorians in risk areas

A RECENT CFA survey revealed that 45 per cent of Victorians living in bushfire-prone areas are not concerned about bushfire safety despite being at increased risk.

People in these areas were also waiting too long to leave in the event of a fire, putting themselves and their families in jeopardy.

CFA's annual Bushfire Community Survey also revealed that 22 per cent of residents did not interact with CFA within the last six months because they felt they did not require more information or were unaware of CFA's programs and resources.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan expressed concern over these statistics, urging all residents in fire-risk areas to take their safety more seriously and begin preparation now.

"Many Victorians may not be aware they're living in a bushfire-prone area, with fire season fast approaching, it's vital that Victorians know their level of risk and plan accordingly," Jason said.

"It may be a result of people who are new to the area or who have not experienced a significant fire in the past and are unaware of the dangers.

"CFA has resources available to help people prepare, but it's vital that the community actively seeks out this information before it's too late."

Alarmingly, a further 30 per cent of respondents would delay leaving during a bushfire event, with 14 per cent planning to assess the situation and 16 per cent intending to wait for instructions from emergency services. Twelve per cent stated they would stay and defend their property.

"These are dangerous decisions," Jason added. "Bushfires can spread unpredictably and quickly. Waiting to assess the situation or hoping for instructions from emergency services can result in tragedy. The safest option is always to leave early.

"While CFA is well-prepared to respond to emergencies, it's crucial to remember that bushfire safety is a shared responsibility.

"We can't guarantee that every home will be reached in time during a bushfire. Every resident needs to have their own bushfire survival plan and take proactive measures to protect their property."

The AFAC Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2024 has further highlighted the need for Victorians to be fire prepared. Current indications suggest the west and southwest of the state face increased fire risk this coming season due to a notably dry autumn and winter.

"Considering the outlook, we are urging residents in western and southwestern Victoria to stay updated with the latest warnings this fire season," Jason said. "The increased fire risk in these regions means that understanding and responding to fire danger ratings is more critical than ever. Do not drive into or through high-risk areas on hot, dry, and windy days. Plan an alternate route or postpone your travel if possible. We urge everyone to have a clear bushfire survival plan in place. Know your triggers for leaving early and ensure that all household members know what to do in case of a fire."

Across the rest of the state, Victorians can expect a warmer-than-average spring with an uncertain rainfall outlook. While the fire risk is considered normal, it's important not to be complacent. Fires can still occur anytime and anywhere when temperatures rise and vegetation is dry.

Victoria's integrated warning system includes the Vic Emergency website, app and social media channels, VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226, emergency broadcasters including ABC radio, Sky News TV, commercial radio and select community radio stations.

Warnings are issued when an incident is occurring, and you need to act. Make sure you understand the three levels of warnings and additional messages such as 'Evacuate Now':

'Advice' means an incident is occurring or has occurred. Access information and monitor conditions. 'Warning (Watch and Act)' means an emergency is developing nearby. Conditions are changing and you need to act now to protect yourself and your family. 'Emergency Warning' means you are in imminent danger and need to act now. 'Evacuation' means an evacuation is recommended, or procedures are in place to evacuate.

The CFA is asking people to take the following actions: Move your winter woodpile away from the house or sheds. Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls. Clear your gutters. Keep grass shorter than 10cm. Remove leaves and twigs from around your property. Test anything that is part of your fire plan such as sprinklers, pumps, and generators. Check that your home and contents insurance is current and includes a level of cover in line with current building standards and regulations. If you are burning off to remove green waste, register your burn-off online at Fire Permits Victoria at firepermits.vic.gov.au, or call ESTA on 1800 688 511.

Make sure your household has a Bushfire Survival Plan. Find out how at cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan

Council motions carried at MAV State Council Meeting

MURRINDINDI Shire Council advocated on behalf of its community and the Hume Region Local Government Network (HRLGN) at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting at Melbourne Town Hall on August 23, gaining overwhelming support and recognition on several important issues and challenges facing rural and regional councils.

The MAV is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria. The State Council is the governing body and is made up of delegates from each member council, including delegates from Murrindindi Shire Council and Mansfield Shire Council.

Murrindindi Shire Council submitted three motions to the MAV prior to the meeting, with two submitted on behalf of the HRLGN, which is made up of 12 member councils including Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Shepparton, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga.

The motions called for recognition of significant challenges faced by rural and regional councils across the state. The three motions were; Enhancing Road Safety, Renewal, and Disaster Recovery for Victoria's Regional and Rural Roads; Review of Victorian Grants Commission Funds Allocation Methodology; and Retaining the Country Character of Rural and Regional Townships.

On behalf of HRLGN, Council advocated for enhanced road funding at both state and federal levels. The motion requested a 10 per cent increase in Federal Financial Assistance Grants for roads, improved state funding for Regional Roads Victoria, streamlined disaster recovery funding with provisions for infrastructure enhancement, better road maintenance standards, and increased funding for road safety and performance accountability. It also

requested acknowledgment and support of the federal government's increase in Roads to Recovery funding for the next five years.

Council also requested the MAV seek the Minister for Planning's commitment to preserving the character of rural and regional townships through tailored Planning Scheme controls. This commitment would provide planning controls that recognise local constraints and fit the size, character, and location of our rural townships, avoiding local policy being over-ridden by policy and regulations more appropriate to metropolitan Melbourne.

Additionally, council requested the MAV call on the Victorian Grant Commission to review the methodology for allocating Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants and address the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, limited revenue options, and rising costs for capital works and infrastructure projects.

All three motions were successfully carried and received significant support from delegates.

To read more about council's submissions and other topics raised at the meeting, visit mav.asn.au and search 'state council'.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi said, "Advocacy involves ensuring our community's voices are heard loud and clear. It can involve seeking competitive grant funding to help our shire prosper or bringing about changes to policies that improve how we live and work.

"Overwhelming support for our motions at the State Council meeting confirms we are not alone in facing these challenges. Carried motions drive policy change, impact local operations and empower the MAV to advocate for us at all levels of government. Council will keep pushing our advocacy priorities and we encourage locals to get involved as well. Let us know what matters to you."

Emergency Services Community Engagement Day

At Yea Railway Market

9am - 4pm | 5 October 2024

Come along and meet your local emergency services teams and community groups. Check out the fire trucks and rescue vehicles, and learn about keeping yourself and your family safe during emergency events. Enjoy free talks, live entertainment, face painting, and more.



Proudly supported by



Funding for this event was made possible by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Victorian Redress For Historical Institutional Abuse

THE Victorian Government is establishing a redress scheme for Victorians who experienced abuse and neglect as children in institutional care.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn announced further details about redress for Victorians who experienced physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect in orphanages, children's homes and missions before 1990.

The scheme was developed in consultation with those with lived and living experience and their support agencies.

Before 1990, more than 90,000 children were placed in institutional care in Victoria. Many children experienced harm, and carry that trauma and grief with them as adults, at times leading to poverty and homelessness.

Redress for Historical Institutional Abuse will include payments of \$20,000, access to up to 20 counselling sessions, and a personal restorative engagement process. This will involve an acknowledgment or apology with responsible institutions.

The scheme will build on support available through the National Redress Scheme set up after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Victorian Redress for Historical Institutional Abuse acknowledges the trauma of abuse and neglect. The *Victorian Budget 2024/25* allocated \$165 million for redress after the formal apology in Parliament in February by the Premier.

Applications are expected to open in December 2024 and the government will work to ensure payments are processed as soon as possible.

Since November, the government has provided \$10,000 advance redress payments to more than 175 people who are terminally or critically ill.

Applications for advance redress payments are still available for eligible Victorians at services.dffh.vic.gov.au/advance-redress-payments

More information about redress for historical institutional abuse can be found at dffh.vic.gov.au

People who need support can contact Open Place (Relationships Australia Victoria) or Care Leavers Australasia Network. Crisis help is also available through Lifeline on 13 11 14.



Participants kicked their legs forward in sunny weather while doing the nutbush. -BD

Alexandra Nutbush Bash

THE Alexandra Nutbush Bash took place last Sunday, with relatively low attendance despite clear weather and blue skies.

Karen Stillman from Kazza's Diner organised and hosted the day, and thanked the volunteers, as well as everyone that helped make the day happen.

She expressed her gratitude to Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, for her beautiful

speech on children's cancers, and Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher for presenting the children with their prizes.

Bluey was in attendance early in the morning, and people took to the oval just after midday to dance the nutbush. There were also a number of historic cars in attendance courtesy of the Murrindindi Historic Motor Vehicle Register.



The crowd took to the Alexandra football grounds for their dancing session. -BD



Karen Stillman leading the crowd in the dancing. -BD



The sun shone and shadows fell as the people of Alexandra did the nutbush. -BD

Trev's Story: helping tradies through dark times

TREVOR and Helen Renison are passionate about changing the high rate of suicide in the trades. Trevor explained that one tradie dies every four hours from suicide, a much higher rate than in the general population. It's also an industry which is heavily male dominated and where people are less likely to seek help for mental health challenges. "Everything gets internalised," Trevor said.

Trevor is familiar with the pressures placed on tradespeople, and recalled a time where he came close to killing himself at a worksite. He has also seen others around him in the workplace commit suicide, or come close, and he decided that he needed to do something about it.

Trev's Story works with trade-based organisations, and to get a role with them, you have to be a tradesperson so you understand the issues, and you have to be a survivor of a suicide attempt. They know the challenges and know about how to recover.

Their aim is to start conversations on worksites around the issues, and to reduce the stigma. They want to intervene before an issue snowballs.

At the worksite, they do a short talk and play a video. They also ask the workers to write a yes or a no on a piece of paper which they then put into a bucket. Sometimes, the person might instead write their phone number or another message. Trevor said that about nine out of 10 responses say 'yes'. They then hang around onsite for

another couple of hours, in case anyone wants to talk.

They also have a 24 hour service where tradies can call and talk. If the person needs more help, Trevor or one of the other staff will go to them, or possibly call an ambulance if required.

They've found that bullying is a big issue on worksites, and that sometimes the best course of action is for the worker to remove themselves from the situation, and sometimes legal recourse, such as complaining to the discrimination board, is the best way forward.

Another challenge facing young tradies is the debt cycle. The pressure to work an extreme number of hours to keep up the repayments, and what happens when there isn't enough work available?

Additionally, drug and alcohol abuse can come into play. The construction industry has the highest rates of recreational drug use, domestic violence and alcoholism within its sector.

With hard work and long hours, it also means that people can't use sport or other activities as an outlet, and as an additional friendship group.

Trevor and Helen felt so passionately about the issue that they cashed in their superannuation and set to work.

They are planning to hold a golf day at the Marysville Golf Course, supported by Murrindindi Shire Council and the golf club

and a variety of volunteers. In addition to golf, there will also be a barbecue, barefoot bowls and raffles. They are also hoping that businesses will make donations of cash or prizes through sponsoring a hole.

Trevor is hoping that people will get a team together, sponsor a hole, or to do whatever they can to help, even if that's just spreading the word.

The event will be held on October 25, kicking off at 8.30am. The cost is \$110 for either golf or barefoot bowls, and people can register on the website trevsstory.com

The funds raised will go towards "the basic fundamentals," Trevor said. This includes an additional microphone set-up, so they can have two teams operating at different sites at the same time. They are also focused on the goal of purchasing Kerami Manor or a similar establishment so that tradies in crisis, or bereaved family members, can come and stay.

He added, "We've got some great people out there. We just need to get that funding and in our way up and get it happening."

Trevor will also be doing a fundraising walk, pushing a wheelbarrow, from Marysville to Canberra in March 2025, where he'll be meeting with Senator Jacqui Lambie. It's called the 'Barra Push', and people will be invited to push the wheelbarrow for a distance and raise some money. It's about "helping to carry the load," and even Trevor and Helen's dogs will be taking part.



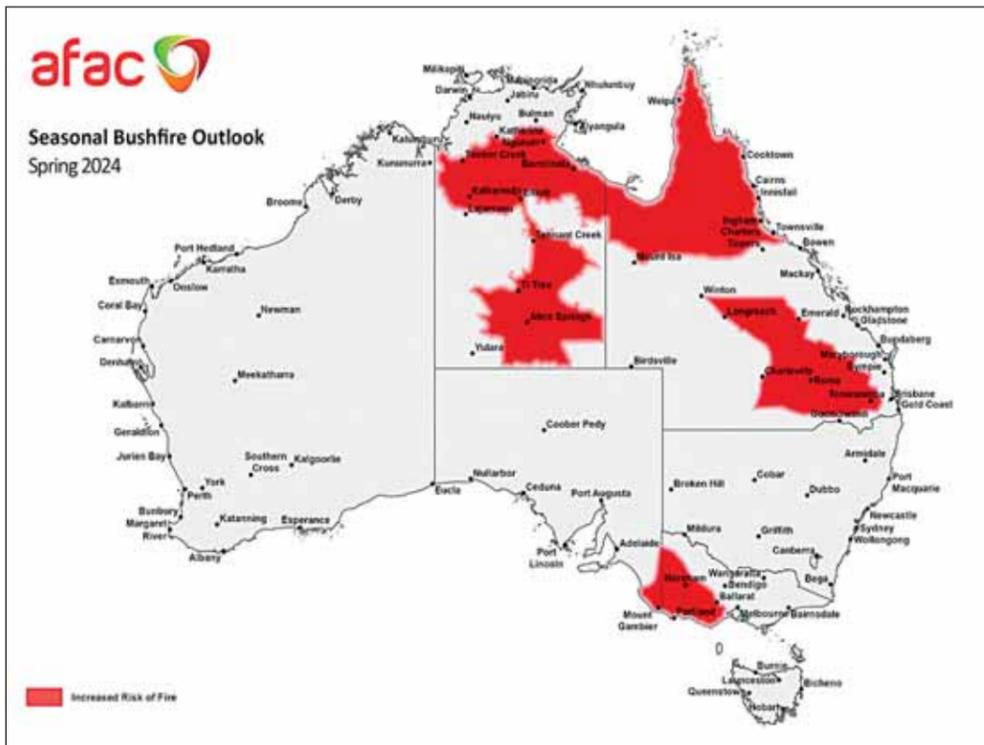
Trevor and Helen Renison. -AR

They are also providing tradies with marbles, to remind people that when they're in a dark spot, they're not alone.

Trevor and his team are also available to speak to groups and companies within Murrindindi Shire.

To find out more, visit trevsstory.com

Help can also be found through Lifeline on 131 114 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 or Men's Health Line on 1300 789 978.



The Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2024. -S

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for spring 2024

THE Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) has released the Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2024, and it shows increased risk of fire for large areas in Northern Territory and Queensland, as well as far west and southwestern Victoria, and the southeast corner of South Australia.

Mean temperatures for the year to date have been above average to very much above average for most areas, with areas of western Western Australia and northern South Australia experiencing highest on record maximum temperatures for the period. August saw widespread above average temperatures and was the warmest August on record.

For spring, there continues to be an increased likelihood of unusually high maximum temperatures across most of Australia. There is an increased chance of above average rainfall for much of New South Wales, Queensland, Eastern Tasmania and far southeast South Australia, while large parts of Western Australia have an increased chance of below average rainfall.

For this outlook period, increased risk of fire for southern and central Queensland is driven by dry grasslands caused by winter frosts and dry winds. In northern Australia, unseasonal rainfall in Queensland and Northern Territory has led to increased fuel loads. In both cases, fire authorities warn of increased fire danger as temperatures increase.

Further south, large parts of southeast South Australia and Western Australia and parts of Tasmania received rainfall in the lowest 10 per cent on record for the first half of the year. However, August saw above average to well above average rainfall in both southwest Western Australia and western Tasmania, easing dry conditions in the region. Fire authorities are advising communities of the potential for an early start to the fire season in parts of South Australia and Victoria, and extending to Tasmania if warm and dry conditions continue to dry out fuels towards summer.

While other parts of Australia show normal risk of fire during this outlook period, communities are encouraged to be vigilant and stay alert through winter months. Destructive and deadly fires can still occur during normal bushfire seasons across Australia.

AFAC CEO Rob Webb urged communities to prepare and adhere to advice of local fire authorities this spring.

"Fire and emergency services are prepared for the fire season ahead and are here to encourage communities to do the same," Mr Webb said.

"Now is the time to make a plan. Understand your local risk, know where you will get your information, and talk to your family about what you will do."

New social media age limits in the works for Australia

THE Victorian Government is planning to work with South Australia and the Commonwealth to introduce age limits for social media, which they say will protect children from harm and help parents push back against the tech giants.

Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for Education Ben Carroll and Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn last week began a discussion with parents and children about the change ahead.

"It's absolutely time for change. There are benefits to social media, but for children, the harms outweigh the good.

"The voices of parents, schools and kids must be heard as we shape these reforms. We'll make sure of that," Ms Allan said.

Following detailed work commissioned by the Government of South Australia and supported by Victoria, the Commonwealth announced a plan to deliver social media age limits through national legislation, with further detail on age limits and definitions to be determined through national-level consultation.

Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, said that the ban will promote engagement between adult care givers and young people.

"This ban supports teachers, parents, and carers to have important conversations that protect young people online," Mr Carroll said.

While Victoria was prepared to introduce state legislation, it will prioritise a nationally

consistent approach and work with the Commonwealth to help deliver one set of clear rules to keep the tech giants in check.

Over the coming months, Victoria will also lead a consultation round with parents, schools and children to make sure their diverse needs and circumstances are considered during the development of the national reforms.

The state will share findings with the Commonwealth following its consultation process, to be coordinated by Parliamentary Secretary for Children, Nathan Lambert, and Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Nina Taylor.

As a commonsense starting point for the national laws, Victoria points to the model outlined by the Honourable Robert French AC in his legal examination prepared for the South Australian Government.

Under this model, social media access would be prohibited for children aged under 14 and would require parental consent for children aged 14 and 15 to access. The model also proposed options for enforcement.

Importantly, under this model, a mechanism would be provided for social media services to be exempt if they pose little risk and support healthy development, such as educational sites, or programs designed for diverse learners.

The new national laws must also be flexible enough so states experiencing different online trends can be supported.

Youth Parliament applications now open

THE Victorian Government is encouraging young Victorians to have their say on issues that matter to them at next year's YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament.

Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman, recently opened applications for the 2025 YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament and called for young people across the state to apply.

"We're proud to support this program that gives young people an opportunity to experience how government works and be heard on issues that matter to them," Ms Suleyman said.

"I encourage young people across Victoria to apply, get involved and use their voices to influence change.

"Our support for the Youth Parliament is one of the ways we're backing young people in Victoria to lead, grow and reach their full potential."

The state government is investing more than \$165,000 to support the program, which will give 120 young Victorians aged from 16 to 25 the opportunity to experience the parliamentary process first-hand.

Participants will draft, debate and vote on bills in a three-day intensive sitting held in chambers of the Victorian Parliament in July next year. Bills that pass Youth Parliament are presented to government for consideration.

Youth Parliament has helped shape more than 30 Victorian laws, including a new recycling scheme, mandatory wearing of bike helmets, banning the sale of soft drinks in government schools and neutral school uniforms.

The program also includes the YMCA Victoria Youth Press Gallery, which provides young people interested in journalism with an opportunity to develop political journalism, photography, videography and social media skills.

The Youth Press Gallery is responsible for developing and publishing content for a range of media outlets, including SBS and the ABC, managing social media, and shooting and editing footage of debates.

The YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament has been empowering young people to have their voices heard since 1987.

Applications are open until October 13. For more information or to apply, visit vicyouth.ymca.org.au/learning-and-leadership

Dr Haines questions the Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission

MEMBER for Indi Dr Helen Haines has called out two major parties for weakening the new Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission is the new watchdog which will have the power to investigate Members of Parliament (MPs) and their staff accused of bad behaviour, which could result in sanctions including suspensions, removal from committees and docking of pay.

Under the government's proposal, which was agreed between the major parties, it will be up to the Privileges Committee, which is made up of MPs, to decide what those sanctions are.

Dr Haines said, "The bill as currently drafted means serious findings could be made about an MP, but they could face no sanction and the public could never know. I want to see more transparency around this process."

Crossbenchers are pushing for the Privileges Committee to publish reasons if it departs from the recommendations of the commission.

Dr Haines criticised the government as it added a key change to the composition of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission through the House of Representatives.

"The government made two last minute changes to its own legislation that would reinforce the major party duopoly, ensuring no member of the crossbench can be deputy chair of the Parliamentary Standards Oversight Committee. What a stitch up," Dr Haines said.

The bill was also changed to restrict members of the Oversight Committee of the Commission to MPs who were also members of the Privileges Committee.

"We're going to have the same people on the Joint Select Committee as on the Privileges Committee, meaning the people who are meant to make sure the whole system is working are the same people who are part of it.

"I'm really staggered by this, and it isn't right. This move compromises the Parliamentary Standards Commission and I'm really disappointed in the government for doing this deal that tarnishes a significant and important piece of legislation."

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Commission was a key recommendation of the Australian Human Rights Commission in its report into parliamentary workplaces in 2021 (informally known as the Jenkins Review) and is designed to improve accountability for bad behaviour in parliamentary workplaces.

The commission was also a key pillar of the private members bill for a federal integrity commission introduced by Dr Haines, after being first pursued by the former Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan.

ADVERTISMENT

Celebrating
150 years
of the Alexandra CFA

Cindy McLEISH MP
State Member for Eildon

Shop 10, 38-40 Bell St, Yarra Glen 9730 1066 [CindyMcLeishMP](https://www.facebook.com/CindyMcLeishMP)
CindyMcLeish.com.au cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP,
Shop 10, 38-40 Bell St, Yarra Glen.

Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sem Kijlstra – 5/6B

Sem drew on his resilience and commitment to himself when faced with a challenging situation on Somers Camp. Many in your position would have given up and gone home but you pushed through. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Sem. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tillie has displayed the school values of Cooperation and Integrity throughout her work this week. Well done Tillie.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Luke is a quiet achiever - he does his best in all key learning areas, helps his classmates when he can, treats others with respect and courtesy and all of this is done without fuss or fanfare. His ability to focus on his learning and not be distracted is admirable. He is an outstanding student, leader and role model in our classroom.

Congratulations Luke.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Origami stars for mental health

LAST Wednesday, the Alexandra Community Hub played host to a mindful origami session in recognition of World Suicide Awareness Day and National R U OK? Day.

The event was brought about by Murrindindi Shire Council, and supported by the Rotary Club of Alexandra and Alexandra District Health. It was designed to create a space to connect, share and talk about mental health in the community.

Participants created origami stars during the session, which were linked together into a giant chain that symbolises the darkness of mental health, the importance of connection, and how people can bring light to those who need it.

There was also a lunch at the event with soup, savoury tarts, salads, coffees, and other goodies on offer.

The event was made possible by the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



Participants in Murrindindi Shire Council's R U OK? origami session showing off the origami stars they created. -BD



There was a good turnout for the origami session at the Alexandra Community Hub. -BD



Melissa and Rita with the stars they folded during the session. -BD



Participants watched the tutorial intently on how to create origami stars and were given great guidance. -BD

Best Start Best Life

Financial incentives for kindergarten teachers and educators.

Giving Victorian children the best start means more qualified teachers and educators are needed across the state.

Get up to \$50,000* on top of your salary for positions at a priority service.

Relocation support is also available.

Search for a position with a financial incentive through the Early Childhood Jobs website at vic.gov.au/kinder



*Terms and conditions apply, visit vic.gov.au/kinder



The smoking ceremony was held as the sun was setting. -MP



The smoking ceremony by Auntie Joanne Honeysett. -MP



A sea of jellyfish on display. -MP

Wonderful opening night for St Mary's art show

ON Tuesday, September 10, St Mary's Primary School held a very special evening to showcase the creative side of their students with an art show that is held every two years.

The night was opened by Auntie Joanne Honeysett with a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony. Principal Kathryn Stewart and art teacher Amy Hedger spoke before students performed the new St Mary's song that students created earlier in the year.

The Parents and Friends group put on a barbecue so people could have something to eat before entering the amazing art show held in the school hall.

The students had worked hard and produced multiple pieces of art that were on display for everyone to enjoy.



One of the many colourful displays at the art show opening. -MP



Some beautiful felt art insects were displayed in a tree. -MP



St Marys' students singing the new school song. -MP



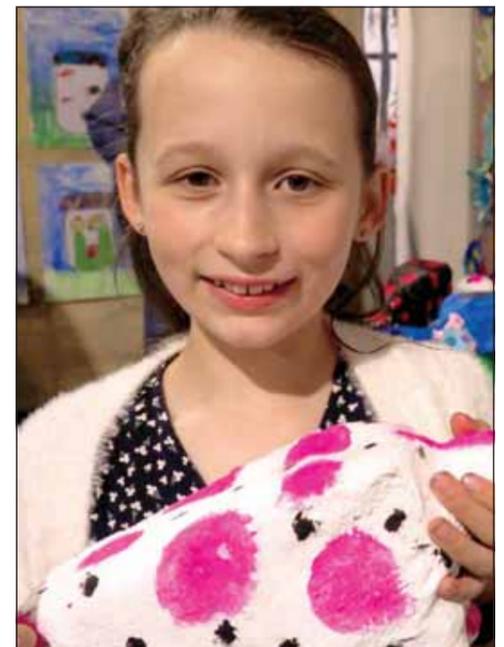
Clay with his modroc cow creation. -MP



There was something for everyone to enjoy at the art show. -MP



Tilly with her beautiful butterfly print. -MP



Charlotte with her modroc cow creation. -MP

Real Estate GUIDE

Inspect away before you purchase a home

MAKING sure you inspect a property from top to bottom before you purchase it can save you many dollars down the track.

Before you purchase a property, you should make several visits before signing on the dotted line. When visiting a property for the first time it's a good idea to go on your first impression of the place, see if it meets your personal requirements such as location, size, age, style and access to facilities.

Having a closer look at the property on the second visit can give you time to assess if any repairs need to take place and to see if the home is in good structural condition.

Things to look out for can include sloping floors including noisy and bouncy areas, sign of dampness on the walls and windows, mouldy walls, lifting tiles and peeling paint can be a sign of moisture problems, blisters and bubbles on walls can indicate termite activity, if you see large cracks seek advice from a structural engineer as the house stumps might need to be replaced. A sagging roof or broken roof tiles can indicate roof repairs are needed. Checking to see if the home has asbestos and these areas are deteriorating or exposed will need to be repaired or removed. Consider getting an asbestos assessment done if the property was built before 1990.

If the property you are looking at has been renovated, you need to check the Section 32 and contact the local council to find out the correct planning and

building permits were sorted to get the works done.

According to Consumers Affairs Victoria, "before signing the contract to purchase a home, it is wise to get a qualified building inspector surveyor or architect to provide a professional building inspection report. The fee for a professional inspection service is small compared with the cost of buying a property that needs extensive unforeseen repairs. A qualified inspector will know what to look for and will see through any cosmetic improvements that cover up faults."

The written building inspection report will list any faults in the property, whether they can be repaired, and how much these repairs are likely to cost. It is advised to use an inspection service with full professional indemnity insurance as this will protect you if the inspection doesn't list a problem that must be fixed. Getting your own reports done rather through an estate agent is the best way to make sure it's an independent report and accurate.

Getting a pest inspection done is also a good idea to check for termites or other infestations. The Victorian Building Authority claims that termites cause more damage to Australian houses than fire, floods and storms combined, and the damage may not be covered by household insurance.

For more information on all the checks to be done before purchasing a home visit vba.vic.gov.au



Have you done a safety check on your backyard pool? -Tommy Wong

Reminder to check pool fencing and gates

WITH spring bringing warmer weather, Royal Life Saving Australia is asking all owners of backyard pools to check their pool fences and pool gates as a matter of urgency.

Children under five are curious and fearless, and their love of water puts them at risk of drowning.

Tragically, every year in Australia we lose on average 20 young children to drowning, with half of all drowning deaths in young children occurring in backyard swimming pools. The majority are aged just one year old. This is because the risk of drowning triples at the age of one year, when children become more mobile.

Eight times the number of children who die go to hospital after a non-fatal drowning incident. That is more than 150 children aged under five each year, some of whom will be left with life-limiting disabilities.

While active supervision is the best protection against childhood drowning, no parent or caregiver can watch a young child 24 hours a day.

Ensure that you have a functioning and compliant pool fence and working gate as

an additional barrier between young children and water for all those moments when life intervenes, such as when the phone rings, the doorbell rings, or another child needs your attention. This can literally be life saving.

You can download a free home pool safety checklist at royallifesaving.com.au/keepwatch

Royal Life Saving Australia also offer a list of tips when it comes to water safety, and they are: Wet weather conditions can wash away topsoil and weaken fences; check no fence posts have come loose from the ground; make sure the gate is still self-closing and self-latching and is never left propped open under any circumstance; pack pool toys away so they are not an overwhelming temptation, and empty portable pools when not in use; it is also a good time to brush up on CPR skills ahead of summer.

By spending a bit of time checking the pool fence, pool gate and the area around the pool is secure, including no furniture or structures that little people can climb to access the pool, you could prevent a tragedy.

 OBrien Real Estate

Sales | Rentals | Lifestyle | Acreage

When it comes to your real estate needs nobody does it better than OBrien Real Estate Alexandra!

Get a FREE appraisal on your home or investment today.



Find out now



Tramway conducts familiarisation tour

THE new management team at the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum conducted two familiarisation tours on site on Thursday, September 12.

The event, conducted for local stakeholders, briefly covered the history of the site and the association. The attendees were also able to take a ride on the 1936 Kelly and Lewis locomotive and take a look through the exhibits.



Three volunteers leading the famil. -AR



The Alexandra Timber Tramway grounds. -AR



The museum contains a variety of replicas and fascinating displays. -AR



Unfortunately, the middle replica single-man's quarters will need to be dismantled for safety. -AR

First Alex Scott and Staff monthly sale in Yea



The staff of Alex Scott and Staff introducing themselves at the Yea Saleyards. -BD



A decent turnout of people for the second stock sale of September. -BD



A healthy number of cattle were for sale at the Yea Saleyards last Friday. Continued on page 13. -BD

Tree planting grants available

GRANT applications are open in September for Landcare and other environmental community groups and organisations to apply for funding to help plant 75,000 native trees and shrubs in urban and peri-urban areas across Australia. Landcare Australia is inviting applications for grants ranging from \$5000 to a maximum of \$25,000 (ex-GST) to support this initiative.

The Bupa Landcare Grants Program is open to a wide range of community groups and organisations to plant trees and shrubs that are endemic to the local area, including landcare groups and networks, environmental groups such as 'Friends-of', Coastcare, WildCare, Dunecare, Bushcare, and Intrepid Landcare, local governments, NRM organisations and non-profits operating nationally, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, as well as state and territory Landcare organisations.

The Bupa Landcare Grants program aims to enhance both environmental and health outcomes by improving the

connectivity of native vegetation and creating new green spaces in urban areas.

Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish commented on how the partnership and this new grant program marks a significant moment for the organisation and the landcare community.

"This is Landcare Australia's first health partnership of its scale with a national impact, and we're excited to collaborate with Bupa on a program that truly values the connection between human health and environmental restoration. This funding will not only encourage people to get outdoors and engage with their local environment for their own wellbeing but also contribute significantly to the health of their local environment by improving biodiversity, native habitat and landscape restoration," he said.

For more information about the Landcare Project Funding go to landcareaustralia.org.au/bupa-healthy-cities-landcare-projects/



ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

First Alex Scott and Staff monthly sale in Yea

LAST Friday saw the second store cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards for the month of September, this time with Alex Scott and Staff conducting business.

There were around 1000 cattle yarded from all over Victoria, and the occasion marked the first time in 30 years that Alex Scott and Staff have sold cattle in Yea.

Neil Darby from Alex Scott and Staff began the sale with an opening speech, in which he thanked the vendors, Murrindindi Shire Council, the carriers, and the staff of Alex Scott and Staff.

David Setches, a livestock manager at Alex Scott and Staff and the auctioneer on the day, spoke about the sale.

“There were very pleasing results there. We had a very good lineup of cattle and it was good to see great buying support from our fellow Risk Management Authority (RMA) agents, as well as Nutrien and Elders from Euroa and Yea. The job was very good.

“Calves sold extremely well, well into the mid- to high-four-dollar range for mid-300-kilogram calves, which was very pleasing to see,” David said.

“We’re just really excited, as it’s been 30 years since Alex Scott and Staff have conducted a store sale in Yea. It’s great to be back. We’re excited to keep growing the business up here.”

Some results from the sale are listed: D Young 16 Angus steers 400kg \$1840 4.18c; Sackville Stud 19 Angus steers 356kg \$1500 4.21c; Mayneline Angus 11 Angus steers 315kg \$1450 4.60; Taralinga Farms 16 Angus steers 316kg \$1460 4.60c; Water grass Hill Angus 13 Angus steers 309kg \$1400 4.52; Pendleside 13 Angus steers 296kg \$1345 4.53c; 15 BB steers 274kg \$1320 4.81c; Settlement Farm 16 Angus steers 277kg \$1280 4.61c; D and C Rieniets 7 Hereford

steers 406kg \$1500 3.69c; MJ Nominees Pty 17 Hereford steers 255kg \$1200 4.69c; BE and I Wallis 14 Hereford steers 280kg \$1210 4.31c; Hackett and Rober 9 Angus Heifers 390kg \$1360 3.48, 11 Angus heifers 351kg \$1210 3.44c; Mayneline Angus 22 Angus heifer’s 317kg \$1170 3.68; Yarra Downs 16 Angus heifers 286kg \$1020 3.56.

Upcoming events at the Yea Saleyards include the Yea Rotary Garden Expo on September 21, a combined agents store sale on October 4, and the monthly Alex Scott and Staff store sale on October 11.

Further information about upcoming events and cattle sales can be found on the saleyards website and Facebook page at yeasaleyards.com.au

STOCK REPORT 13 SEPTEMBER 2024			
13 September 2024 Store Sale (Alex Scott)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	983		
Average \$ per head	\$1,233		
Average weight per head	317.3kg		
Top price per head		\$1,840	\$997
Top weight		452.2kg	390.6kg
Turnover	\$1.19 million		

SAVE THE DATE

- OCTOBER 4, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- OCTOBER 11, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Sponsored by

SEPTEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for September, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The September theme is **‘Spring foliage’**.

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon September 27, 2024

5772 1405
79 Grant Street Alexandra
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

A family-owned local one stop shop for Plumbing, Irrigation, Farm, Stock and Pet Supplies.

Weekend at Nan's screens in Marysville



There was a large crowd in attendance at the screening on Saturday night. -AR



Matt Harris introducing the short film, *Weekend at Nan's*, which featured many locals. -AR



Judy and Tom Duncan and Piet and Anne Bakker. -AR



Matt Corkhill and Ben Harris. -AR



Christine, Julia and Peter. -AR



Jane Fraga. -AR



Gail and Leanne. -AR

Eildon Bowling Club hosts R U OK? event

SATURDAY, September 14, was a rather damp, cold and windy day but that did not deter approximately 50 members of the community to attend the first R U OK? day in Eildon at the Eildon Bowling Club.

Fortunately, inside was lovely and warm, both in temperature and the welcome. Murrindindi Shire Council supported the event, and the Eildon Bowling Club hosted.

Needless to say, events don't just happen. The volunteers put

in a solid job. Ken did a great job on the barbecue, the sausage sizzle was greatly appreciated by all. This was followed by homemade cupcakes and Devonshire tea thanks to Kerrie and Mary.

There were some new faces and lots of conversations could be heard going on.

Something as simple as a question, or a chat, can make all the difference. You can ask the question any day, not just on an R U OK? day.



People had a feed and a chat at the Eildon Bowling Club for Eildon's R U OK? event. -S

WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

Free teaching degrees for Victorians

THE state government is providing free degrees for student teachers with round two of teaching scholarships now open to support workforce numbers and support future educators.

Scholarships covering the cost of degrees are available for all Victorians studying secondary school teaching degrees in 2024 and 2025, relieving cost of living pressures for students.

Students who need support to return to their teaching study are also eligible, with scholarships available to those who may have started prior to 2022 and returned in 2024 or 2025. Students commencing their studies in semester two this year are eligible to apply for the round two scholarships.

More than 1700 students have benefitted from the scholarships so far, helping them with their costs of studying and living, reducing the financial barriers for people who want to study teaching.

This year Victoria has seen a 23 per cent increase in student teachers enrolling in secondary undergraduate education courses through Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) compared to 2023, showing that the scholarships are increasing the number of people studying to become teachers.

The total scholarship for students who complete their studies and then choose to work in government secondary schools will match the HELP fees charged by the Commonwealth Government for Commonwealth Supported Places is \$18,000 for a four year undergraduate program or \$9000 for two years of postgraduate study.

The scholarships are part of the Victorian Government's \$229.8 million investment to support the teaching workforce in Victoria, which includes development for early years teachers and career support for more experienced staff.

THE GENERAL STRATH CREEK • 3658

Kitchen Hand (Casual)

The General Strath Creek is a regional General Store and 40 seat cafe looking for an experienced kitchen hand/food services assistant to join our team. Come and be part of 'The General family' working in an idyllic regional setting.

The role is casual, and flexibility is required to work Friday evenings and daytime at weekends up to 25 hours per week.

Duties:

- Assist chef with general preparation of food, basic cooking
- Support the kitchen team during service peaks with a "hands-on" approach
- Maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the kitchen assisting with end of service kitchen processes

Above award wages considered for the right candidate, ideally you will have a minimum of 12 months experience in food handling and preparation.

If this sounds like you
send your full resume to Prue Brown at
hello@thegeneralstrathcreek.com.au

Building skills for the Clean Economy Workforce

STUDENTS, trainees and workers will be able to get the skills they need to join Victoria's fast-growing clean economy workforce, with a new investment into training programs to help people enter the sector by the state government.

Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney recently announced a nearly \$9 million funding package to boost skills in environmental sustainability and the clean economy, while visiting RMIT to meet students undertaking short courses in sustainable building design.

The investment will support TAFEs, universities, training providers and

industry to establish practical Skills Labs where innovative new short courses called Skill Sets can be developed.

In response to the 2021 Macklin Review of Victoria's training system, Skills Labs will involve industry partners in the development of new training approaches, including the creation of new Skill Sets, which are flexible, nationally recognised short courses designed to rapidly respond to skill shortages in the economy.

The funding package announced includes \$3.45 million to establish three Clean Economy Skills Labs, hosted at TAFE Gippsland and Melbourne Polytechnic, to

develop training in offshore wind, circular design, manufacturing and meeting net-zero emissions targets.

As part of the package, RMIT will receive \$970,000 to co-design three new Skill Sets in sustainable building practices. These Skill Sets are currently being piloted with industry professionals and students.

A total of 10 Skill Sets are now available to study tuition-free through the state government's *Free TAFE* program.

The ongoing development and delivery of Skill Sets are funded through a \$32 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2024/25*.



WORK WITH US SEASONAL FIRE CREW

Alexandra, Benella, Myrtleford and Shelley

Applications are sought for **Seasonal Fire Crew** (Summer Plantation Workers) for the 2024/25 fire season.

The paid limited tenure positions will run from early November 2024 to late March 2025 and will include physical outdoor work and firefighting.

The successful applicants:

- Must possess a current manual drivers licence
- Live within 30 minutes of their nominated work depot
- Be able to pass a pre-employment medical check and a drug and alcohol test
- Be available to attend all compulsory training throughout November
- Be available for regular rostered weekend standby within 15 minutes of the nominated depot

Plantation work is varied and involves four wheel driving, spraying, assisting with helicopter fertilising operations, track clearing, mapping, fire response and fuel reduction burning.

Current accreditations in chainsaw use, chemical use, first aid, firefighting and a MR licence are favourable.

How to apply?

Please send applications via our HVP Careers Portal
hvp.elmotalent.com.au/careers/hvRfjobs

Please scan the QR code for the **Skills Summary Form to upload as a cover letter.**

Applications close: **September 6, 2024**

Job Description



Skills Summary



Classroom Teacher: Ongoing FTE 1.0
Commencing January 28, 2025

Classroom Teacher: Fixed Term FTE 1.0
Commencing January 28, 2025 and concluding January 26, 2026

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to join our school community for the above positions.

The Opportunity

A great opportunity exists for a teacher to join our positive, supportive and close-knit school environment.

Why choose to work at St Mary's:

At St Mary's we

- promote the safety, wellbeing protection and inclusion of all children
- are a supportive and collaborative school environment who values each staff member
- embrace feedback as part of our learning culture
- commit to the use and analysis of data to inform teaching
- strive to ensure that students reach their full potential
- support colleagues with mentoring from experienced leaders and fellow colleagues

Selection criteria:

- willingness to collaborate, support and contribute to the building of a professional learning culture
- commitment to working with students from diverse backgrounds
- ability to plan and implement engaging learning experiences based on current learning and evidence-based teaching practices
- commitment to Catholic education and identity
- willingness to build strong partnerships and links between our families and school
- ability to adhere to St Mary's Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct and other policies relevant to Ministerial Order 1359
- current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching with an up to date Criminal Record check
- an ability to develop and maintain respectful and caring relationships with students, families and colleagues
- an understanding and demonstrated use of evidence based best practice
- a capacity to use data to make informed decisions about learning and teaching
- accreditation to teach Religious Education in a Catholic School is desirable (or be willing to study for accreditation)

Please include the following in your application:

- Your CV including a cover letter addressing the selection criteria.
- Mobile phone contact details for 3 referees including current/most recent Principal/employer

How to apply:

A detailed position description and application requirements are available by accessing the school website at smalexandra.catholic.edu.au or by contacting the principal via email - principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

Applications close: September 20, 2024

St Mary's is a child safe school

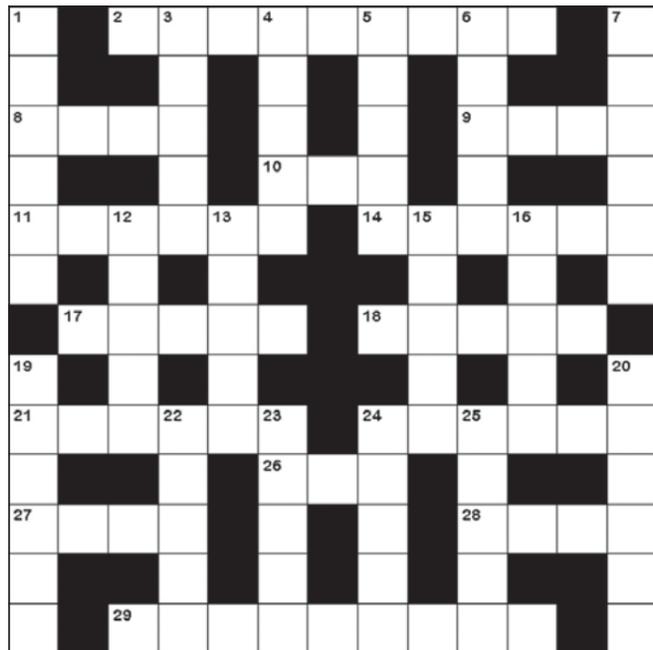
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

Crossword

ACROSS

2. Move in a circle towards the right.
8. Movable stairs for leaving an aircraft.
9. The stub of a cigarette.
10. A truck with a covered cargo space.
11. To obstruct the progress of.
14. Whirl around in circles.
17. Of primary importance.
18. Hold in contempt.
21. Become mouldy due to humidity.
24. Caused by pressure and tension.
26. A common small social insect.
27. Unable to find the way.
28. A small high-pitched flute.
29. Treated so as to prevent decay.



DOWN

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Refuse permission. | 12. Jewel found inside an oyster. | 20. No longer awake. |
| 3. A momentary lack of attention. | 13. Operate a vehicle. | 22. Try to discourage or prevent. |
| 4. Cut into slices for eating. | 15. A light sailing-vessel. | 23. Needs and desires. |
| 5. The incorrect answer. | 16. Have the same opinion. | 24. A castrated bull. |
| 6. A heavy cavalry sword. | 19. Beaten eggs cooked until set. | 25. Gun with a long barrel. |
| 7. Walk unsteadily as if about to fall. | | |

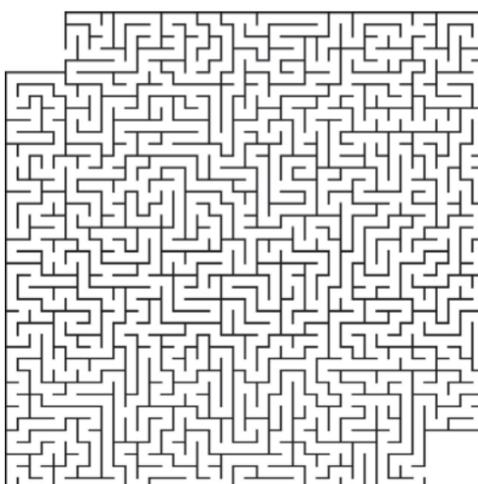
Word Search

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

Car Brand Names

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| ACURA | FORD |
| AUDI | HONDA |
| BENTLEY | ISUZU |
| BMW | JEEP |
| CHEVROLET | KIA |
| FIAT | MASERATI |

Maze



Math Square

	+		-		13
+		÷		-	
	÷	3	+		6
÷		+		×	
2	+		+		17
8		10		-31	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

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 and letter only once.

Tayla dreams of the states come true

TAYLA Arnett has recently returned from the United States after performing to approximately 25,000 people at the Knoxville National Sprint Car event. The event was also live streamed around the world.

Tayla said, "It was a pleasure to be able to represent Australia, and I am invited back next year. I am so appreciative to those who

supported me back at home and who watched the live stream."

Tayla managed to fit in a bit of sightseeing at the Iowa State Fair and had a couple of days in Las Vegas staying at the Bellagio Hotel. Tayla also enjoyed visiting the Stratosphere Tower, Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach before hopping on the 16 hour flight home.



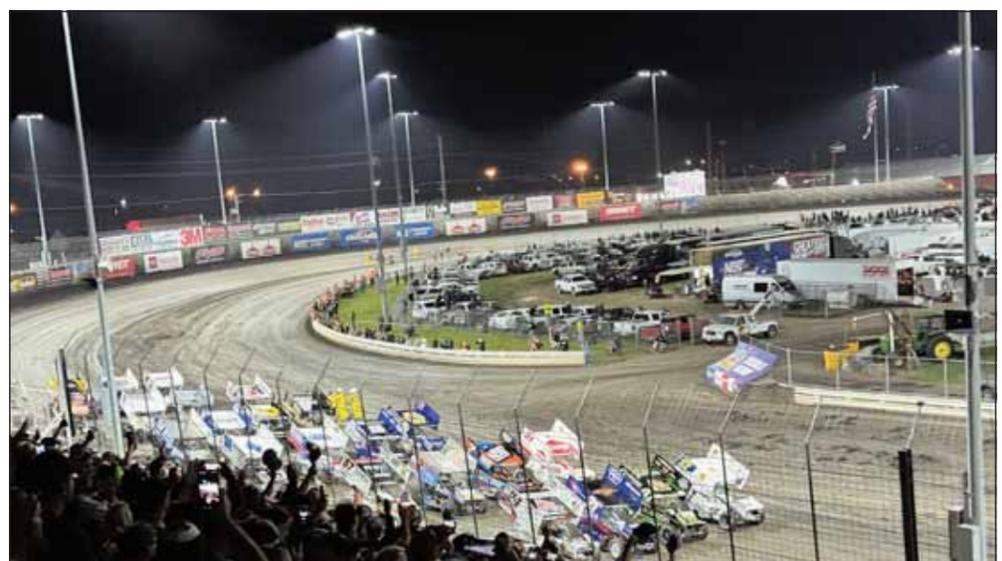
Tayla at the racetrack. -S



Tayla with one of the sprint cars before the race. -S



Tayla living the dream singing over in the United States. -S



The racing atmosphere was buzzing. -S

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANIMAL SERVICES

IN THE PINK
Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer
0418 556 001
www.pinkdog.com.au

Taggerty Vet Clinic
Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc
0403 012 996
Consultations strictly by appointment
All Animals Large & Small

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-60s
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

AUTOMOTIVE

ASC ALEXANDRA SERVICE CENTRE
RACV VACC You're in good hands
At Alexandra Service Centre we offer a wide range of services:
• Log book servicing
• General servicing
• Fleet car servicing
• Mechanical repairs
• RACV Roadside Assist
• Towing
• RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
• Roadworthys
• Trailer servicing
• Car batteries
• Auto electrical repairs
• Air conditioning
We now have several courtesy cars available when booking a service or repairs
Come in and see the team at 6A Webster Street, Alexandra
Phone: 5772 2133

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

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA
PH 57722 152
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e: chookies@virtual.net.au
FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

BRICKLAYING

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

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

HBI CONSTRUCTIONS **SCOTT HILL**
Registered Builder
0439 730 824
• NEW HOMES • EXTENSIONS
• RENOVATIONS • DECKS
• SWIMMING POOLS
info@hbiconstructions.com.au
hbiconstructions.com.au
REGISTERED Building Practitioner member
RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

BUILDING PLANS

Navy Blue Planning
Urban and Regional Planning Specialists
Masterplanning, Urban and Regional Planning, Strategic and Statutory Planning, Strategic Foresight, approvals, due diligence, feasibility studies, advocacy and representation, consultation and engagement
Ph 0419 006 014, 66 Grant Street, Alexandra
admin@navyblueplanning.com.au
navyblueplanning.com.au

CARPET CLEANING

GW Carpet Cleaning
✓ Stain removal
✓ Urine treatment
✓ Upholstery cleaning
✓ Carpet steam cleaning
✓ Tile and grout cleaning
Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

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

CONCRETING

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

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
EMC0060 Rec No 12906

J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL
- COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
- SPLIT SYSTEMS - UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS - NEW HOMES
- MAINTENANCE - BREAKDOWNS
0439 842 030

REDGATE ELECTRICAL
REC-33089
SERVICING THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE
0455 317 553
24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

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

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

BUXTON EXCAVATIONS
• House and Shed Sites
• Side Cuts / Driveways
• Drainage / Erosion Works
• Dams / Vegetation Mulching
• Hazardous Tree Removal
• 20 Ton Excavators
• 3 Ton Excavator
• Quad Axle Float
Darren 0447 198 740
Barney 0488 016 820

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
EMC0082

EXCAVATOR HIRE

---- FOR HIRE ----
D6T dozer D5M dozer
Cat 12 h/grader Tipper
16T excavator Water cart
Hay and Silage
Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)
0429 931 127
ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

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

BOOK YOUR TRADES AD TODAY!
Phone: 5772 1002
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays
Standard
The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

GLAZIERS



- Residential And Commercial Glass Replacement
- New Work
- Quality Double Glazing
- Mirrors
- Splash-Backs
- Shower Screens
- Pet Doors Into Single And Double Glazed

Rob - 0439 141 812

KITCHENS



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

LEGAL SERVICES



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

Louise Brennan
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra
Mobile 0418 414 875
 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

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

PAINTERS

W. & J. GREEN
PROFESSIONAL PAINTING
50 Years experience in all things painting
0407 134 756

PLUMBERS

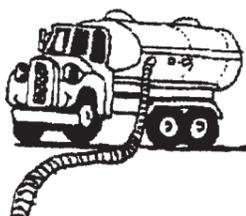


ANDREW WOOD
0488 559 091

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

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SEPTIC TANK & GREASE TRAP CLEANING



EPALICENCED
 ~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841 EFTPOS & Credit Cards Accepted
0419 131 958

SERVICE STATIONS



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.



0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au



Like us on facebook
 facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

SHEDS

HAYSHED/MACHINERY SHED SALE



- 18m x 9m x 4.0m(h).....\$14,700
- 24m x 12m x 4.5m(h).....\$24,000
- 30m x 15m x 5.25m(h).....\$47,400

If standard sizes don't suit, we'll make it to your requirements.
 *Prices are for roof only, ex. yard & inc. GST

CALL NOW for a FREE quote
VIC: (03) 5821 4399 www.telfords.com.au

TREE SERVICES

Advanced TREE CARE
 Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal ✓ Chipping ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Falling ✓ Mulching ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire ✓ Free Quotes

Please call **0449 810 683**
 Michael on (03) 5778 7479

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



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



- Insured
- Experienced
- Qualified
- Reliable
- Competitive

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS
 Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires

5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

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

WELDING

MOBILE WELDING
0428 173 331

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

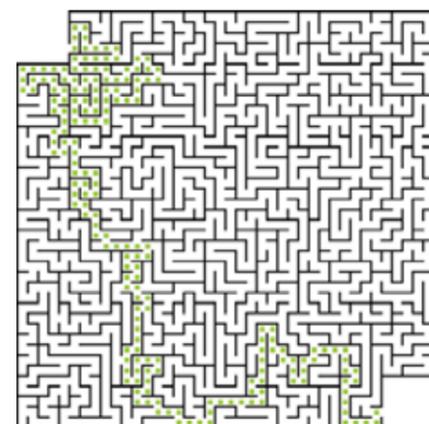
CROSSWORD

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

MATH SQUARES

5	+	9	-	1	13
+		÷		-	
6	÷	3	+	4	6
÷		+		×	
2	+	7	+	8	17
8		10		-31	

MAZE



SUDOKU

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



having a celebration?
need invitations?



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

Classifieds

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

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 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 at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash 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 from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

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

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 Source number and microchip identification number of each 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 more than once 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.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

ALEXANDRA, lovely Isa brown chickens, four years old and still laying, free to good home. Phone 0421 763 921.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

MEETINGS



Alexandra Race Club AGM will be held on Sunday, September 22 at noon followed by a light lunch at 1.30pm at ARC Entertainment Centre, Gordon Street, Alexandra. All welcome. RSVP alexandraraceclub@gmail.com. Contact secretary for more information on 0467 413 767.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$30 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

WANTED

YEA, home cleaning help wanted. Two hours each fortnight. Ph 0400 109 785.

FOR SALE

BITUMEN ASPHALT

Resealing 1/3 off

Winter grade runout. We specialise in resealing cracked broken potholed bitumen surfaces or just deteriorated with age. This material can be applied to concrete roadbase etc. This offer is limited to one week only.

For obligation free quote call
Drew 0421 547 017

FUNERAL NOTICES

MUNRO, Stuart
(Stuie)

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Stuart (Stuie) will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2024 commencing at 1pm at the Mansfield Golf Club, 24 Kidston Parade, Mansfield Private Cremation.



DEALS ON WHEELS

CARAVAN, Winsor 16ft. Reg: B22-103. New three way fridge, sleeps 4, reverse camera, stove, sink. Full annex and awning. VGC. \$6500 ONO. Phone 0414 613 430.

TENDERS

TENDERS are invited for the grazing lease, sheep and cattle (no bulls or rams) on the Gobur Racecourse and Recreation Reserve of approx. 50 acres. Term of the lease is for three years, payable yearly in advance. Conditions apply. Commencement date, November 1, 2024. Tenders to be submitted by mail and marked Tenders to Secretary Nicole Marshall 43 Pennington Lane, Gobur, Vic, 3719 by 5pm Friday, September 27, 2024. Ph 0417 311 954. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

DEATH NOTICES

ARMSTRONG,
Joyce

05/02/1932 –
08/09/2024

Loved wife of Bill (dec), adored mother of Ross, Kerry and Wendy and mother in law of Mary and Clem. Grandmother of Simon, Lachie, Cameron; Ben, Tim, Darcy; Claire and Jack and partners Jacqui, Amy, Lily, Sarah, Emily, Libby and Lizzie. Great grandmother of Zoe, Tilly; Harriet, Maisie; Will, Archie, Ted; Harry, Polly; Oscar, Maggie and Hazel.

Died peacefully in Ararat in her 93rd year.

A celebration of Joyce's life will be held at the Yea Tennis Pavillion on Monday, September 23 at 11.30am

MUNRO, Stuart
(Stuie)

04/10/1961 -
15/09/2024

Passed away peacefully at Mansfield District Hospital Palliative Care. Loved and loving husband of Louise (Lou). Loved and cherished dad of Casey (dec), Ryan, Brant and Sophie. A devoted father in law to Sarah and Cam. A fun loving pa to Jayden and Kylah.

Words cannot express how sad we all are, you fought to the bitter end. Stuie, you were a special man who touched so many lives.

A special mention to Dr Arun Azad, Iris, Maritza and Claire (Oncology team at Peter Mac) A huge thank you to Mansfield Hospital Palliative Care Team, especially Cass Fraser and Dr Ben Nally.

Forever in
our hearts.

The challenges of car insurance in regional Victoria

IT is a well known fact that life in regional Victoria has its challenges. Whether this is longer commutes to the shops or work, or the unavailability of certain products and services, regional life is significantly different to suburban lifestyles.

Other such challenges faced include wildlife on the road, the ability to get cars repaired following any incidents, and making claims with insurance companies.

According to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), "There was a 21 per cent surge in complaints about comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, meaning it overtook home building cover as the most complained about insurance product in 2023-2024.

"Claim delays accounted for a third of these vehicle complaints, and delay in claim handling remained the top issue in general insurance overall."

This comes alongside the data from the Insurance Council of Australia website that states the average comprehensive motor vehicle premium has been steadily increasing year on year, except for a 1.8 per cent dip in 2015. What began at 99.83 per cent in quarter one of 2004 is now 198.48 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

The comprehensive motor vehicle cost per policy has also increased over the years, from 96.54 per cent in quarter one of 2004, to 120.70 per cent in quarter one in 2014, to 216.89 per cent in quarter one of this year. There has been a steady rise in cost per policy since 2022 as well, with a 37 per cent increase over the last two and a quarter years.

Reaching out to various car insurance providers uncovered a few interesting details about car insurance in the regions.

Sophie Ryan, iSelect's comparison expert, was asked does damaging your car on a pothole or as a result of hitting wild animals increase your premium?

She responded, "Certain types of car insurance policies may cover the costs of repairing damage caused to your car if you accidentally hit a pothole or a wild or native animal on the road that was unforeseen or unexpected," Ms Ryan said.

"However, there can be exclusions and pay-out limits depending on the policy. This is one of the reasons why it's important to read the Product Disclosure Statement before deciding on any policy.

"When an insurer calculates your premium, they consider various factors. This can include any previous claims you've made and your incident history. It will, however, depend on your provider because each typically has its own way of assessing risk.

"Some of the reasons for an increase in car insurance premiums include higher rates of

reinsurance, natural disasters and claim costs, as well as inflation in the motor repair sector," Ms Ryan said.

A spokesperson for Allianz Australia discussed the details of car insurance for the regions compared to Melbourne.

"Allianz's average premiums in regional Victoria are materially lower than for Melbourne. This figure though is commercially confidential," the spokesperson said.

They also spoke to premium increases due to unforeseen circumstances, such as hitting a pothole or wild animal, and issues around getting your car repaired in regional Victoria.

"A claim where there is not another at fault driver from which the repair cost can be recovered may or may not impact the premium depending on the policy. For example, if the claim reduces a customer's 'no claim bonus' (NCB), there could be a premium increase when the policy is renewed. Alternatively, if the policy has Protected NCB, a single claim would not impact the premium.

"Allianz does not maintain a network of 'authorised' repairers. Our policies offer choice of repairer so policyholders can get their car repaired wherever they prefer (subject to the terms and conditions of the policy). Repair times can vary considerably in regional areas depending on the location, repairer's workload, availability of parts and other factors," the Allianz spokesperson said.

Furthermore, a spokesperson for Royal Automobile Club Victoria (RACV), suggested similar uncertainty around car repair in the regions.

"The average wait time for a motor repair varies based on the extent of the damage to the vehicle, and the availability of parts. Our claims and repair team will update the customer on the progress of the claim during the repairs.

"We have partner repairers across regional Victoria in places including Wallan and Seymour and can authorise repairs through non-partner repairers in areas including Mansfield," the RACV spokesperson said.

What the extent of this research reveals is that there is very little data available around the difference between regional and suburban car insurance. Individual policies will be affected by location and variable factors, but overall, there is not a lot of focus on how car insurance claims, repairs and costs differ in the regions.

With the Melba Highway recently being voted the worst road in Victoria, and potholes a constant issue for residents of Murrindindi Shire, perhaps there should be more transparency and concern around regional car insurance and the challenges faced by users of Victoria's regional roads.

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

Haines says if we can't connect then we fall behind

IN a recent parliament sitting Helen Haines MP spoke about the state of regional telecommunications infrastructure.

She said, "Every three years, the government undertakes a regional telecommunications infrastructure review to examine the state of phone and internet connectivity in regional Australia. It looks at what's working well, where the gaps are and what needs to be done better. Poor phone and internet connections are one of the top issues I hear about from my constituents. That's why, in May this year, I helped bring together representatives of the nine local governments in Indi and the government's Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. A public consultation at the Benalla Town Hall was also very well attended, with the unambiguous takeaway that the Federal Government needs to do better, because what I hear time and time again is that telecommunications aren't up to scratch in regional, rural and remote Australia. More than ever, we work online, we study online, we access health services online and we keep in touch with our friends and family online, but we can't do any of these things if we can't connect. If we can't connect then we fall behind.

"As the regional Independent MP, I made a broad-ranging submission to the review, recording the experiences of people in Indi and making nine recommendations that would help close the digital divide between the cities

and the regions. In order for the government to deliver on its commitment to better regional connectivity, it must accept and implement these simple but impactful solutions.

"Floods, fires or storms, extreme weather events are a common occurrence across north east Victoria, and too often our telecommunications networks are failing when extreme weather or emergency knocks out our power supplies. This is putting lives at risk. In the south of my electorate, Murrindindi Shire has highlighted the effects recent flood related power and telecommunication outages have had on local hospitals, emergency services and businesses. Further north, the people of Kariong still remember the weeks of isolation following the Black Summer bushfires. Outages like these threaten lives and undermine emergency services coordination, and the broader economic costs are significant.

"We must increase resilience now before the next fire or flood arrives, not after. We need to increase funding for programs that fund community energy nodes and power backup for mobile phone towers in extreme weather events. The town of Jamieson recently installed a community energy node at the memorial hall, with the support of Commonwealth grants, to provide residents with shelter and communication for several days in times of emergencies. In my submission, I recommend that the government expand programs that

will fund similar projects right across regional Australia. Jamieson is a fine case study.

"Affordability is another major issue. I do not accept that a regional internet tax is the price that we must pay for living outside the major cities. The regional internet tax comes in many forms. It's families paying for expensive satellite internet because the NBN won't ever make it to them. It's businesses that miss out on sales because EFTPOS machines drop out of connection. It's farmers forced to buy expensive signal boosters just so they can run the farm using modern technology. This unfair burden falls onto regional Australians just because of where they live. It's not right, and I'm disappointed that affordability is not a focus of this government's review.

"It's also why I've recommended an expansion of the successful 'On Farm Connectivity Program', which supports primary producers to invest in new and necessary on-farm technology. Working with my Indi Telecommunications Advisory Group, I've long fought for more funding to fix the black spots that exist right across north east Victoria, and I'm proud to say that, under Independent representation, Indi has received more funding under the Mobile Black Spot Program than any other Victorian electorate.

"But I want that for everyone in regional Australia. We're making progress, but there's always more to do. Unbelievably, this program

has no funding guaranteed beyond 2027. I'm recommending that the government make the sensible decision to provide ongoing, guaranteed funding for the successful Mobile Black Spot Program. The program relies on effective cooperation between government, telcos and local communities. Secure long-term funding would mean we could fix more blackspots sooner.

"With the final report due before the end of this year, I'll be watching closely to see what this government's plan is for closing the digital divide and ending the regional internet tax, because regional communities have had enough of second-rate services. It stops local communities and businesses from achieving their full potential, it threatens our safety, and it is a handbrake on regional development," Ms Haines said.

Results from Women's Pain Inquiry

THE Victorian Government's Inquiry into Women's Pain has revealed the significant impact pain conditions like endometriosis, pelvic pain and migraines are having on the lives of Victorian women and girls.

The results from the survey of more than 13,000 women, girls, carers, families and healthcare workers highlight the negative experiences that many have had when seeking care.

Women and girls have shared their experiences of sexism and misogyny, feeling ignored or dismissed by clinicians who attributed their pain to psychological and personality factors, as well as culturally unsafe care.

Participants spoke about cases of delayed diagnosis, the high cost of care and the impact pain can have on their quality of life, relationships with family and friends, and their careers.

Nurses made up the majority of healthcare workers who participated, observing that lack of knowledge about women's health of available clinicians was the biggest barrier to care for many of their patients.

The survey was offered in 10 community languages, including Arabic, Turkish, Vietnamese, Italian and Greek.

About 40 per cent of women who participated in the survey were from regional and rural Victoria, their insights highlighted the importance of being able to access the right care closer to home.

The stories and experiences generously shared by Victorian women and girls in the survey, via written submissions and forums over last few months will now form the development of recommendations to improve the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

The results come at the same time as the government prepares to launch its \$5 million *Mobile Women's Health Clinic*.

Operated by *BreastScreen Victoria* to make free healthcare more accessible for women living in rural and regional parts of Victoria, the new mobile women's health service hit the road in late October.

The mobile clinic will offer a variety of women's health services including sexual and reproductive health information, advice, clinical services and referrals to other necessary specialists.

All services will be delivered by an experienced nurse who will work to build connections with women, their community and local health services.

This is an expansion of *BreastScreen Victoria's* existing successful mobile breast screening service and will be open to women of all ages.

The state government's \$153 million transformation in women's health is also delivering 20 new women's health clinics, expanding sexual and reproductive health hubs network, doubling the number of laparoscopies for endometriosis and associated conditions and providing scholarships for more than 100 women's health specialists.

Australian Government bans genetic discrimination in life insurance

A REPORT led by Monash University's Dr Jane Tiller and Professor Paul Lacaze has led the Australia Government to announce that it will legislate to completely ban the use of genetic test results in life insurance underwriting.

Consistent with the recommendations, the government has announced that the Australian ban will not be subject to any financial limits, caps or exceptions, and will be reviewed after five years.

Dr Tiller, who was lead author of the Monash report, said a ban without exceptions was vital to provide consumers with certainty about the protection of their genetic information into the future.

"Our research has shown that the fear of insurance discrimination deters people from having genetic testing that could save their lives, or from participating in important genetic research. The announcement marks a decisive step by the government to ensure Australians can make genetic testing decisions based on health needs, not financial implications," Dr Tiller said.

Dr Tiller, a Monash University Ethical, Legal and Social Adviser in Public Health

Genomics commended Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones' commitment to consumer first policy.

"Minister Jones understood the importance of this issue immediately, and we applaud his engagement and dedication to consumer protection," said Dr Tiller. "Drafting of this legislation must now be prioritised to ensure the crucial protection is implemented urgently."

Professor Lacaze, who is Head of Public Health Genomics at Monash University, welcomed the policy shift and the impetus it created for preventive genomics.

"This decision paves the way for increased access to genetic testing and DNA screening for disease prevention, said Professor Lacaze. "The Government can now invest in more testing to enable access to preventive genetic information for all Australians, without fear of genetic discrimination."

Health insurance in Australia is community rated, meaning health insurers already cannot legally use genetic results or any other risk factors to deny coverage or change the cost of premiums.

Life insurance companies, however, *can* legally use applicants' genetic test results to deny them cover or increase the cost of premiums in Australia, even if they do not have any symptoms of disease.

The government's announced reforms will prohibit life insurers from asking for or using applicants' genetic results to discriminate, and bring Australia into line with other countries such as Canada, which introduced a complete legislative ban in 2017.

It will, however, allow applicants to choose to disclose favourable results that show they do not carry a genetic variant that is known to exist in their family.

Dr Tiller emphasised the importance of bipartisan support, both leading up to this announcement and in the next phase of delivery.

"Support for this legislative reform has come from across the political spectrum, including advocacy from independents and members of the opposition," she said. "Ongoing bipartisan support will be essential to ensure its rapid passage, so that community benefit is delivered in a timely manner."

Australians neglecting oral hygiene

ALARMING new research reveals Aussies are neglecting oral hygiene and this issue is nothing to smile about.

The latest statistics reveal that 30.8 per cent of Australian adults surveyed haven't seen their dentist in more than a year.

South Australians have an excuse to flash their pearly whites, with 74.6 per cent of adults surveyed sitting in the dreaded dental chair in the past 12 months. South Australia was slightly ahead of New South Wales (71.5 per cent), Victoria (68.9 per cent).

Compare the Market's Chris Ford said a number of factors could be preventing Australians from prioritising their dental health.

"The thought of a drill going off in a dental office is enough to send shivers up your spine, and unfortunately, we know that fear is a major factor preventing Australians from staying on top of their dental check-ups. However, the longer you leave a potential problem, the more work it could take to fix the issue down the track," said Mr Ford.

"We know that cost is a potential barrier preventing Australians from visiting the dentist. Medicare contributes to many health

treatments, but it rarely covers dental services. We're not out of the woods just yet when it comes to the cost-of-living crisis and with many Australians trying to keep their head above water, these types of appointments and health check ups are often sacrificed."

While most generations had an almost equal rate of dental attendance over the past 12 months, Gen X was the least likely to have seen their dentist. At a rate of 61.8 per cent, it's around 10 per cent lower than Gen Z (71.3 per cent), Millennials (71.5 per cent) and Baby Boomers (71.1 per cent).

Mr Ford said that millions of Australians currently have health insurance, which could help ease dental costs.

"If you have extras health insurance, it may help cover the costs of basic dental treatments like oral exams, fillings, tooth extractions and more," Mr Ford said. "Of course, every policy is different, so it's important you check your documents for what is or isn't covered. And be aware that if you plan on claiming on your insurance, you'll need to have served your applicable waiting periods.

"The higher levels of extras cover may also offer coverage for big-ticket treatments

like dentures, crowns, bridges, wisdom teeth removal and more complex fillings, endodontic treatments like root canal therapy and even orthodontic treatment like braces or Invisalign."

Mr Ford's tips for lowering your dental costs include; Understand what your dentist charges for treatments. Dentists can and do set their own prices, so if in doubt, get quotes before you book your appointment.

While they are rare, dental plans through Medicare are available to some Australians, these are typically for those holding pension concession or healthcare cards. However, it's worth noting that you're usually put on a waitlist, which could be lengthy if you need urgent care.

Ensure you've served any waiting periods if you plan on claiming on your health insurance. Some health funds will waive general dental waiting periods as part of a promotion, but these may not cover complex issues and finally, understand that extras policies can have limits, which can impact how much you can claim on dental procedures. For example, there could be limits to how much you claim annually, group limits, sub limits, service limits and more.

Action needed so flying-foxes no longer in a tangle

WILDLIFE authorities are putting the spotlight on the shocking extent of grey-headed flying-fox injuries and deaths from illegal netting entanglements, as organisations unite to educate community gardeners about wildlife-friendly fruit tree netting ahead of the spring growing season.

In the first six months of 2024, Wildlife Victoria recorded more than 110 cases involving flying-foxes caught in illegal household netting, exceeding the total number of cases reported in all of 2023.

Licensed wildlife carers also rescued and rehabilitated more than 400 flying-fox pups between July 2023 and June 2024. These incidents were reported to the Conservation Regulator and wildlife experts suspect that many of the pups ended up in care after being separated from their mothers, many

of whom were likely to have been entangled in household fruit tree netting.

The Conservation Regulator, Zoos Victoria, RSPCA Victoria, Wildlife Victoria, and Animal Welfare Victoria have partnered to address the dangers illegal household netting poses to wildlife, especially native bat species, and remind household growers to use safe, compliant fruit tree netting.

Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator, urged people to consider the impact of netting.

"We're urging all household fruit growers to ensure they understand the law and have compliant fruit netting that protects both native wildlife and your household fruit trees. A small change to your netting can make a big difference to the welfare of animals like grey-headed flying-foxes," Ms Gavens said.

Since September 1, 2021, it has been illegal in Victoria to use or sell household fruit tree netting with a mesh size bigger than five millimetres by five millimetres, as larger mesh netting is more likely to entangle, distress, and seriously injure or kill animals. To help check if netting is compliant, try poking a finger through the mesh and if it can pass through, then it's too big.

Community members should remove and stop using non-compliant netting immediately.

In addition to using netting with a legal mesh size, experts also encourage: using white-coloured netting with a cross-weave design to help nocturnal animals see and avoid it at night; tightly securing netting to a frame or tree trunk to prevent trapping terrestrial species; protecting selected branches with fruit bags or sleeves, rather than netting the whole tree.

Vulnerable grey-headed flying-foxes play an important part in the ecosystem as their diet of fruit and nectar from more than 100 species of native flowering and fruiting plants helps pollinate trees and disperse seeds. Many native and threatened plant species rely on flying-foxes for survival.

"Grey-headed flying-foxes fly thousands of kilometres in a year to search for food and pollinate a wide variety of plants, supporting important habitat for other animals like koalas and possums. By protecting the health and wellbeing of one species, we can help to ensure a future for an entire eco-system," Dr Sally Sherwen, the Acting CEO of Zoos Victoria, said.

If community members find a flying-fox trapped in fruit tree netting, call an experienced, vaccinated wildlife rescuer to assist. Do not attempt to touch or handle it yourself. To find a rescuer, call 136 186 or use the *Help for Injured Wildlife Tool* at wildlife.vic.gov.au/hftw

In Victoria, all wildlife is protected by law, and it is illegal to use or sell non-compliant household fruit netting under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019*. Authorised Officers can issue on-the-spot fines of \$395 to users and \$790 to sellers of illegal netting. Offenders also face a maximum penalty of \$2964 if prosecuted in court.

The community is encouraged to report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

For more information on how to protect both household fruit trees and wildlife, visit: wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-and-fruit-trees

Grants to improve Men's Sheds

THE Victorian Government recently announced the opening of applications for the 2024-25 *Men's Shed Funding Program* grants.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to build new men's sheds, which includes converting a building into a men's shed, and refurbish, extend or upgrade existing men's sheds.

The state government is enabling Men's Sheds to provide a strong support system for men at every stage of life, through the ability to work on meaningful projects, talk about issues and seek support from peers in a healthy and inclusive environment.

Activities for shedders are diverse and range from community projects such as making toys for local childcare groups to

assisting with emergency responses and preparedness.

There are more than 350 men's sheds across Victoria, with an estimated 20,000 engaged members.

Applications for *Men's Shed Funding Program* grants are open until October 16. For more information or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program

3G shutdown may impact locally

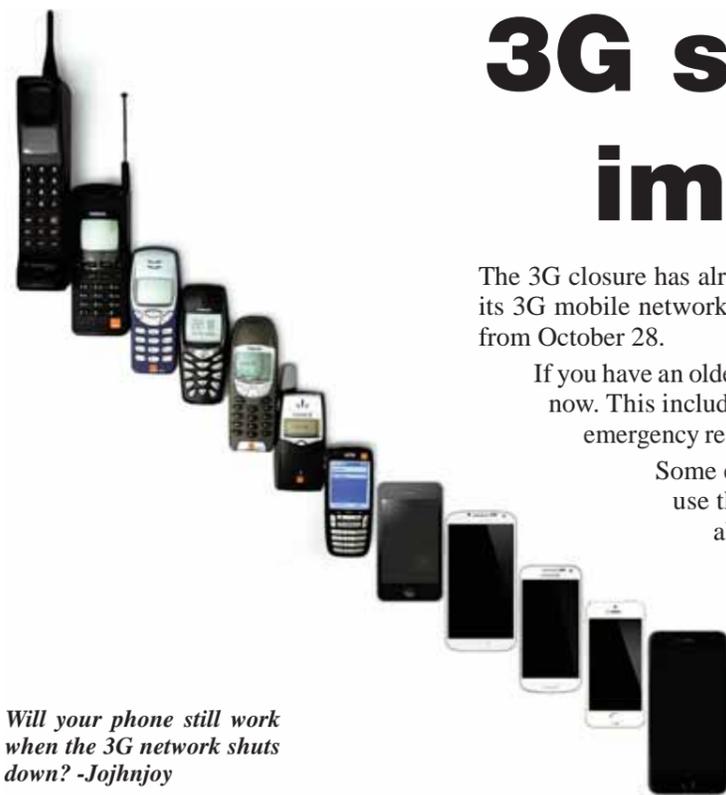
The 3G closure has already commenced, with TPG Telecom/Vodafone having switched off its 3G mobile network services as of January 2024. Telstra and Optus will shut down 3G from October 28.

If you have an older device that relies on a 3G network, you need to upgrade your device now. This includes mobile phones, tablets, smart watches, eftpos machines, personal emergency response solutions, medical alarms and other internet-connected devices.

Some early 4G handsets don't support 4G voice calling, which means they use the 3G network, and after the closure these devices will no longer be able to make a call. There are also a number of devices that support normal 4G voice calls, but force Triple Zero calls to 3G.

If you are in a vulnerable circumstance or experiencing financial hardship, contact your service provider to discuss options.

To find out if your phone will be impacted, you can text "3" to the number 3498 to check.



Will your phone still work when the 3G network shuts down? -Jojhjoy

Alexandra in times past

Alexandra Times, Tuesday, November 10, 1868

WE are not in a position to state with certainty whether the Princess of Wales is aware of the fact that the young and rising township, the name of which appears at the head of this article, was so named only 18 months ago in honor of herself. This, however, is certain, that no royal favors have as yet been poured on the head of the man who stood godfather at the christening.

Can it be that the Royal Princess is only waiting till she ascends the English throne, that her power of returning the compliment maybe in proportion to the honor conferred, that a star and garter may adorn the manly frame of the gentleman who showed his loyalty by naming this mining, grazing, agricultural township, on the banks of the U T Creek, 'Alexandra'?

Most people are aware by this time that the township of Alexandra extends its name to all that extent of ground comprised within the limits of the Road Board district, covering an area of about 40 miles square. In Europe, such an extent of ground would be considered a kingdom. In Victoria it is looked upon as an ordinary sized station for a squatter.

Self government is an established fact. The people have arisen in all their majesty and

might, and they have elected rulers to rule over them. The Alexandra Road Board came into existence amidst much strife. There were some who made the muddy waters of the U T Creek tremble with their shouting and rejoicing when the battle of separation was accomplished and won, and strange to say some of these very individuals have since been conspiring to bring about the downfall of that self government they were so anxious to establish. There is, however, no terror in their threats. Amongst all the members of the Road Board we are happy to notice a better understanding, and there is now little to fear from internal discord.

The township of Alexandra is very prettily situated on a sloping piece of ground, with good drainage, which keeps the streets dry and comfortable in the midst of winter. From the higher portions of the town there is a splendid view of the surrounding country towards the south east the mountainous dividing ranges rear their heads with a gradual, undulating, well grassed country lying between. To the north and west there are thousands of sloping hills, covered with sheep and good grass, especially at this season of the year, while along the valley of the Goulburn may be seen a few small green spots of agriculture, where the 42nd men [Scottish Highland regiment] have taken up their abodes.

Visitors to Alexandra will have no difficulty in finding hotel accommodation as there are about 20 such establishments, all gorgeously fitted up, and offering good accommodation.

The stores are by no means too numerous. They are all good in their way, and appear to be making ends meet, but how the greater part of the publicans exist is a matter of surprise to themselves.

Four bakers manage to make a good living by dispersing 'the staff of life'. The butchers, who as a class are given to grumbling, especially in hot weather, maintain their character by vociferations anything but polite, to the effect that they lose by every beast they kill.

The smaller fry in business are jogging along. Nobody is making a rapid fortune, but when compared with other townships throughout the district that we have lately visited, we have come to the conclusion that the people of Alexandra have reason to be thankful that they are no worse off than their neighbors.

The loafing class has all but disappeared from among us. There is plenty of work for those who set about it, and we safely predict that at Christmas Alexandra will be as busy as ever it was in days gone by.

Support for young Victorians to navigate life

THE Victorian Government is helping young Victorians navigate important aspects of life with an online platform that is fun to use and includes information about a range of topics.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman has launched the new YouthNav platform which has been closely developed with young people and those helping young people in their work.

"Young people have been involved in the design of this online platform every step of the way, the outcome is fantastic and this new resource will make a difference for young people across our state," Ms Suleyman said.

The State Government has invested \$750,000 to deliver the life skills resource designed to help young Victorians aged from 12 to 25.

YouthNav asks young users about their skills with interactive prompts and provides guidance on life topics using clickable information presented in an engaging way.

The platform helps young people understand, plan for and succeed in skills like getting a job, moving out of home, getting around, having their say and managing money.

Over 160 young people aged from 13 to 25 were consulted during development of the platform and provided feedback that has shaped the information and topics it covers.

Financial counsellors and youth practitioners, including South East Community Links, also provided insights from working with young people.

The platform was co-designed and tested with members of the Victorian Youth Congress, an advisory group made up of 20 young people aged 12 to 25 who work with the government to make sure a youth perspective is embedded in policies and decisions that affect Victoria's young people.

Victorian Youth Congress members were involved in concept and prototype testing of the online platform over a 12-month period that helped to create a resource that meets the needs and interests of young people.

The YouthNav platform has been delivered by the government as part of the *Our promise, Your future Youth Strategy 2022-2027*, designed to improve the health, wellbeing and future of young people in Victoria.

For more information, or to try YouthNav, visit youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youthnav

Livestock predation survey preliminary results

PRELIMINARY results from Agriculture Victoria's recent livestock predation survey will be discussed at targeted dingo conservation and management consultation activities being held across the state.

More than 500 Victorian livestock producers responded to the survey issued in July, providing valuable information about the levels and frequency of livestock attacks on their properties, the effectiveness of control methods and the impact of livestock predation on farmers and their local communities.

The insights collected through the survey will be considered alongside scientific research, conversations and perspectives from Traditional Owners, environmental and agricultural groups, and feedback collected through stakeholder engagement activities as part of Victoria's review of its approach to dingo conservation and management.

Of the 500 survey respondents, approximately 72 per cent were located in eastern Victoria, three per cent in the north west.

The survey showed that livestock predation is an ongoing concern to sheep farmers whose properties border public land.

Just over half of the survey respondents reported incidents of livestock being

maimed or killed by a wild dog or dingo in the past five years.

Valuable insights into the methods of control being used to manage predation were revealed through the survey.

Most producers (84 per cent) said they were using a mix of lethal and non-lethal control methods to manage predation with the most common forms of control methods being shooting, 1080 ground baiting, trapping, farm hygiene, exclusion fencing and guardian animals.

Agriculture Victoria is grateful to the hundreds of producers who took the time to take part in the survey.

Having up-to-date insights and perspectives from producers in relation to livestock predation on private properties across the state is an important input to Victoria's dingo conservation and management review.

The survey results will continue to be analysed to help build Agriculture Victoria's understanding of producer perspectives on this complex issue.

For more information about consultation sessions being held across Victoria week visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/dingoreview

What is a rakali?

THE rakali (*hydromys chrysogaster*) is not an uncommon creature around Australia's waterways, yet many Australians haven't seen them and perhaps don't even know they exist.

A nocturnal mammal with water-repellent fur that acts as insulation, the rakali is particularly interesting because of its ability to consume cane toads without suffering any negative effects from the poison. It is unknown whether this is due to immunity or simply avoiding the poison glands.

The rakali can grow up to 70cm long, has black or grey fur on its back, and white or orange fur on its underbelly, with partly webbed hind feet and a flattened head to differentiate it from the common rat. Their tail is a dark colour, with a white tip, and acts as a rudder to steer them through the water.

Being semi-aquatic, it lives in burrows on the edge of waterways, such as lakes, rivers and estuaries, and survives on a diet of insects, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, frogs, bird eggs and water birds. They also eat fungi, helping to spread the spores through their feces.

They were first described in 1804, and given the name 'water rat', which led to a bad reputation for them. Given they are more similar to otters, a push was made in the 1990s to change the name to 'rakali', which is their



A rakali. -ZooPro

native Aboriginal name, in order to reframe their reputation.

Rakali have an average lifespan of three to four years, with mating occurring in late winter and early spring. About a month after mating a litter is born, with up to four or five baby rakali.

The rakali also molt, with both males and females molting in the autumn and summer, but just females additionally molting in spring.

Though they are nationally secure and a protected species, and there is minimal concern about conservation of them, they were often trapped for their fur in the 1930s and 1940s. It is illegal to kill or relocate them today.

SPORT

Down to the wire in tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

UNDER cloudy skies Mansfield faced top side Terip in their semifinal clash and Benalla met Euroa alongside them in Mansfield last Monday week. Many enjoyed watching the spectacle of the high quality matches.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Rebecca Lyttle, Frances Lawrence and Phoebe Macdermid began with a burst, by winning one opener 8-2 but Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh and Clare Becham took the other 8-4.

The next pairs were also split, and only four games separated the teams. Powerful ball striking and clever courtcraft were on display in entertainingly lengthy rallies. Terip stamped their authority in the final sets, winning both, 8-2 and 8-6, to book their spot in the grand final next week by defeating Mansfield 4/42 to 2/30.

Euroa jumped out of the blocks against Benalla in their semifinal, winning both opening sets. Faye Mollison, Lyndall Bigland, Chris Ellis and Julie Harrington were keen to make a statement with power hitting and precise placement.

Benalla warmed up, fought back hard and took two of the next three sets. Kate Campbell and Maureen Jewell won their set in a tiebreak while Claire Sharp and Helen Checucti were unlucky to lose theirs in a tiebreak.

The longest match of the day needed a third tiebreak to decide a winner, and Euroa's Lyndall and Chris won that one. After an amazing match of inspirational tennis Euroa booked their spot in the grand final by winning 4/43 to 2/36.

Afterwards in the packed clubhouse, players and their supporters reflected on their season, made plans for the summer competitions, and found nourishment.

Since 2016 Terip have won the flag for the past six finals. After many attempts Euroa is challenging Terip's dominance for the premiership this week in Euroa.



Sam plays at a deep ball from Jodie. -S

Some great wins for squash

by Kristelle Leary

Blue Vein versus Gouda

Ethan versus Eric (fill in): Both players had great rallies and amazing court coverage. Ethan's serves helped to tip the odds in his favour and he took home every game and the match. 65 to 76.

Matt versus Chris: Matt ate his weetbix this morning, so much energy on the court running every ball down from Chris to take home the match. 86 to 36.

Pep versus Justin: Big hitting game. Close in the first three games before Pep was ruthless and dominated the final game. Pep was victorious. 65 to 52.

James versus Derrick: Outstanding form by James with deep and tight shots. Derrick came back in the third game with a good lead. Derrick took the final game but couldn't overtake James. The trophy went to James. 58 to 55.

Feta versus Mozzarella

Tyler versus Eric: A great match with two tied games. Eric took the other two games to secure his victory. 56 to 52.

Sally versus Mick: Sally is improving with each passing week, but Mick's experience gave him the upper hand and he took home the match. 72 to 48.

Phil versus Ruth (fill in): A great contest. Phil took the early lead, but Ruth pipped him at the post. Coming from behind to take the last two game Ruth claimed the win. 61 to 59.

Andrew versus Daniel: They know how to put on a show, really great to watch. Andrew did an amazing job, however Daniel had all the shots and won out. 76 to 46.

Barracudas versus Piranhas

Matthew versus Beth: Matthew put in a great effort running down the ball. Unfortunately, he couldn't match Beth's skills, and she took home the win. 85 to 41.

Jodie (fill in) versus Sam: Sam had Jodie on the ropes a few times, but Jodie's wicked serve was able to give her the edge to regain control and win the points to take the match. 62 to 56.

Jack versus Michael H: Running for everything Michael was everywhere, but Jack had the upper hand and spectacular drives that earned him the win. 62 to 45.

Orcas versus Stingray

Chris (fill in) versus Jess: Coming out strong, Chris sailed through the first three games. Jess turned the tides and won the last game, but it was too late, and Chris claimed the victory. 56 to 53.

Kristelle versus Travis: With strong boasts, serves and her ability to read the play Kristelle proved too much for Travis on the night and won with a commanding lead. 83 to 48.

Stuart versus Jim: Stuart claimed the first game and looked to be in good form. The next three were all about Jim making an impact and winning the match. 73 to 46.

Fun week for Alexandra golfers

by Elizabeth Goss

GOLF numbers were up again last week, everybody is coming out of hibernation. The winner last Tuesday week was Bill Wind with a good score of (31) 38 points while John Greatorex was the runner/up with (18) 33 points. Leo Doyle came third with (20) 32 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh and 17th went to Brad Newton and on the 18th to David Silverman.

Ball Rundown: Frank Devries, Russel Purcell and Dave Silverman.

It was a fun week last Wednesday with a four ball best ball stableford for the ladies. Ruth Worland and Sandra Morris were the winners followed by Mor Gale and Marg Fahey. Nearest the pin on the second and seventh went to Ruth Worland and on the 18th to Barb Doyle. Next Wednesday, September 25 is stroke and the first round of the championships.

The fun week continued for the men on Saturday with a two person ambrose. The winners were Pat Buckett and Luke Heard with 64 nett. Welcome home to both of you, Pat a past member, and Luke from his firefighting support in Canada. Runners up were Trevor Biffin and Russell Purcell with 68 nett on a countback from John Greatorex and Brad Newton 68 nett. Russell Purcell was the only person with a nearest the pin on the seventh. Raffle winner Alan Kirkpatrick. Next Saturday, September 21 is the golf season opening day with the captain versus president challenge followed by a barbecue. Please note start time will be at 11am.

Weather threatens Eildon Golfers

by Puttamatic

LAST Saturday the club had nine players for what was to be a four ball best ball, however due to the poor weather and the threat of rain numbers were low so the club members played a Stableford draw partners after the game and everyone got through the match dry before the rain hit.

The winners on a count back were Colin Long and Dennis Seamer with a combined score of 60 points, with Kerry Power and Rod Taylor coming in second place also with 60 points. The nearest the pins winners, on the third second shot, Rod Taylor, fifth was no winner, 11th Rod Taylor, 12th Michael McLear, and on the 14th Mark Mackwell. Other winners Rod Taylor won the entry draw and Allan Mackwell had a crack with the swindle.

Next week is the September monthly medal stroke round. Until next time, take care and happy hitting.

Great results for Narbethong local

NARBETHONG local Lachlan Nicholls went to the Laser Run World Championships in Zhengzhou China making the Junior Men's Final (30 qualifiers through to final) and finished in 16th position.

He then raced the Junior Mixed Relay with Zoe Addinsall and they finished inside the top 10 in the final in ninth position.

He has only just returned from the International University Sports Federation (FISU) University World Championships in Kaunas Lithuania where he competed in the new obstacle laser run for modern pentathlon, where he finished 28th in the men's final.

Lachlan Nicholls competed in the FISU Modern Pentathlon World University Championships. -S



Lachlan Nicholls competing in the more physically-intensive aspects of the pentathlon. -S

Range of sporting activities for Alexandra Secondary College term three

by Allison Crouch

TERM three has been a whirlwind of excitement at Alexandra Secondary College (ASC). Each Monday, students have been diving into the cross-country ski squad, a fantastic program for either picking up new skills or honing existing ones.

Their much-anticipated Mt Buller Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding day on August 3rd was a highlight. They were treated to a stunning bluebird day, hitting the slopes early and spending the entire day skiing and boarding. They only paused for lunchtime refuels and sunscreen applications. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and a few entertaining faceplants in the snow.

The term three round robin was a great success, with students

competing in Dodgeball and basketball. These events are excellent opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, forge new friendships, and improve their sporting skills.

The school offers congratulations to Josh Crane, Aiden Campbell, Hamish Wilson, and Charlie Francis, who represented Alexandra Secondary College at the Hume Regional Badminton Competition. Despite facing tough competition, these players fought valiantly and secured third place.

Levi Campbell represented ASC in cross country and at the State Schools Victoria competition in July. The conditions were tough, the track was muddy and the competition fierce. Levi worked hard and placed 19th in the field with an impressive

time of 12 minutes 44 seconds for the three kilometre course.

Sixty students also headed to Shepparton for the Southern Ranges Track and Field competition, a fantastic opportunity for them to challenge themselves in an interschool sports setting. This competition includes 10 different schools and is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience and participate in official sport competitions.

As always, the stadium is buzzing with activity at lunchtime. The gym is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students to focus on their personal fitness goals. Volleyball remains popular, with many students joining in training and games. Squash is also on the rise, with more students participating in the lunchtime squash competition.

New round of Sporting Club Grants Program

THE Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has announced that applications are open for the *Sporting Club Grants Program*, with grants of up to \$5000 for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, helping clubs across the state to empower and enhance the experience of volunteers.

Grants of up to \$4000 are also up for grabs to help clubs delivering a new sport or active recreation program.

Clubs can also apply for grants of up to \$1000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are available to help clubs participate in competitions away from home.

The *Sporting Club Grants Program* has injected more than \$17 million into thousands of community sport and recreation clubs across the state since 2015.

The program is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* that is delivering infrastructure upgrades and other programs including the *Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund* to help more regional Victorians get active and be part of their local sporting club.

Applications close October 7. For more information and to apply for *Sporting Club Grants Program* visit sport.vic.gov.au

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Bowls season coming soon

by Marie Evans

THE 2024-2025 Goulburn Murray Region Bowls Pennant season will soon begin and the Alexandra Bowls Club opened the season with a practice match against Seymour VRI. President Greg Gilmore welcomed the VRI players and wished all players success in the year ahead.

On Saturday, September 14, the wind was blowing a gale, there was some sleet and sometimes even sunshine, so what better time to play Seymour VRI in a practice match. Bowlers are hardy folk and the 48 players that took to the green at Alexandra were not deterred by the weather. In fact, some even played in shorts. Two new bowlers had an introduction to the pennant format, Steve Kirby and Tex Hyland. The club looks forward to seeing more new players take up the game either socially or through pennant and club championships.

Six rinks played 21 ends. The Alexandra rinks were rink one: won 10 out of 21 ends. Greg Gilmore, Larry Scott, Marie Evans, Lauren Gilchrist. Rink two: won 11 out of 21 ends David Nicklos, Andy Tobias, Scott Ferrier, Christine Mayfield. Rink three: won nine out of 21 ends. Ben Gilchrist, Anne Argent, Rob Roach, Marty Manning. Rink four: Won nine out of 21 ends. Clive Murphy, Malcolm Gill, Trevor Stewart, Tex Hyland. Rink five: won 11 out of 21 ends John Blamey, Rose Livy, Anne Gunton and Christine Murphy. Rink six: won 10 out of the 21 ends, Doug Cooper, Rodd Petersen, Steve Kirby, Ian Franklin.

VRI won overall. It was a great day and despite the weather, it was terrific to catch up with the VRI players. Many thanks to the volunteers who put on a greatly appreciated barbeque and morning tea.

Bowls is a sport for all ages and the strongly contested Under 18 National Competition indicates that Bowls Australia and Bowls Victoria encourages young people to take up the game. If you are interested in taking up the game contact Greg Gilmore or come any Friday night where club members are available to give you information.



Peter Delzotto (VRI) ready to start the game. -S

The 2024-2025 Season

The bowls season offers some changes on last year. The pennant season begins October 15 for midweek division four. Alexandra has a home game against Euroa to kick off the season. Details of all games will be available in the syllabus. The midweek competition will take the sides to Shepparton Golf, Dookie, Shepparton Park, East Shepparton, Murchison and Merrigum. It will be 21 ends and played over 14 rounds.

Saturday pennant begins on October 19. Division four still has 10 sides but the season is only 14 rounds, instead of 18 rounds played last year and 21 ends, instead of 25 ends. This means that we will play some sides only once. Dookie is at home in the first round. Alexandra will play Dookie, Merrigum, Seymour, Mooroopna and Euroa twice and Shep Park, Tallgaroopna, East Shepparton, and Tatura Hill Top once.

Division six has only six sides Alexandra, Shepparton Park, Nagambie, Violet Town,

Euroa, Dookie. Sides will play each other three times. There could be changes to the final look of our competition but this is how it currently stands.

If you want to stay up to date with Pennant and all matters relating to Goulburn Valley Playing area and beyond then check out the Goulburn Murray Bowls page. It's on the web under gm.bowls.com.au

Members are reminded to sign up for the club games. There is a cut off date.



Christine Murphy prepares to play the first end -S



Mal Gill ready to take to the green. -S