

# 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, December 4, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

New Helico facility



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Hydration station for Leckie Park



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Movember wrap up



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Weekend sport coverage



Pages 22-24



The Alexandra Secondary College Class of 2024. Good luck to all of the students on their future adventures. -S

# Lake Mountain up for lease

ALPINE Resorts Victoria (ARV), the statutory body overseeing Victoria's alpine resorts, has announced that they are soon to launch an expressions of interest (EOI) process for qualified commercial operators interested in taking on a long-term lease over Lake Mountain and/or Mount Baw Baw.

The press release states, "This process will enable ARV to explore opportunities and ideas with the private sector to reinvigorate Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw and deliver a vibrant and sustainable future for these resorts. It also has the potential to increase commercial

involvement at Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw, which is more aligned with how the larger northern resorts operate."

It also noted that the two mountains have faced significant financial challenges over the years and that "government entities [have been] unable to achieve a commercially viable model for these mountains."

ARV hopes that a commercial operator may have the capacity to invest in the tourism offerings on the mountains and "provide them with a vibrant and sustainable future."

The EOI process will be run through the Buying for Victoria platform and expected to open in the first week of December and will run for approximately 10 weeks.

Speaking on the telephone following the announcement, ARV CEO Amber Gardner said, "I would like to clarify that it's not a sale. People have been talking about us selling the resorts. All of the resorts in Victoria are on Crown land and what that means is anyone who has a property or operates a business in those resorts has a long lease with Alpine Resorts, Victoria.

"...We're simply seeking expressions of interest from someone who may be interested in reinvigorating Lake Mountain and/or Mount Baw Baw through taking on a long-term lease over those resorts. We're also looking for greater commercial involvement in those resorts, which is what we see working successfully in some of our bigger resorts like Mount Buller and Falls Creek."

Asked what will happen if they don't find a purchaser for the leases, Ms Gardner responded, "If we don't find any viable proposal through the EOI process, then really the

onus is back on ARV to work with state government in exploring other opportunities for those resorts. We've been charged with trying to look at a financially sustainable future for Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw, and what we're doing through this process is exploring one of a number of opportunities to do just that."

When question about whether the mountain might be closed down for tobogganing and so forth, Ms Gardner said, "That's not the intent at this stage. Through the EOI,

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
**Thank you for your continued support**

**Our office will be closed from 1pm, December 18  
until 9am Wednesday, January 8, 2025.**

**Our first edition for 2025 will be available on  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025**



**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

**In an emergency dial 000**



## Letters to the Editor

### Eildon developments

I WAS part of the deliberative panel to investigate the option of raising \$400,000 needed to be contributed by council as part of their contribution to the Eildon Splash Park under the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment.

This follows previous attempts to sell their parkland following the removal of the Eildon Kindergarten and the sale of its site and relocation to the Eildon Primary School in 2001.

21st Street park is also to be sold, and any surplus funds from the sale would be diverted back to the Eildon community.

After the shire press release in 2022, 150 people signed a petition not to sell the parks and was presented to council and in the confirmation letter, a response regarding the sale of council land in Eildon would be forthcoming as soon as practical.

There has been no response from council, but in 2022, people responded to the shire's website in the Loop, with 70 per cent of respondents voting not to sell the parks. This was deemed to be mixed feedback and to develop a greater understanding council called upon our community members to be part of an independently run deliberative panel, one day per week over three weeks, run by Capire Consulting Group from Melbourne.

Like many consulting groups, they are played with the outcome required by the clients, and their job is to give the panel member a feeling of power and purpose and structure the questions and tasks to reach the conclusion the council wants.

There were two options given to the panel members, 1. Proceed with land sale, or 2. Do not proceed with sale and reduce project scope and stage delivery.

On the second meeting, option two was changed, that if the land was not sold, the project would not proceed.

The result was of the 25 panel members, 23 voted to sell. There was no mention of the hundreds of people opposing the sale. Council was determined to remove the restrictive covenant stating public use playground.

Council's later press release states 18 key worker accommodations will be placed on the two sites.

With further investigation, council intend to subdivide the land, instal services, truck in two and three bedroom pre-built units and be the landlord and letting agent with possibly employing extra staff to manage the development.

Now with creative accounting to be used, as council's contribution to the development will be the land value, the \$400,000 needed to proceed with the Eildon Reserves Project has clearly been deceptive.

Thanks go to the hundreds of people who opposed this short-sighted plan and have been deceived all along this process and now council is rubbing our noses in it.

The old adage is alive and well when dealing with council, if it sounds too good to be true... You can fill in the rest.

*Cleve Aitken, Eildon (adjacent to the new caravan park)*

### Giro della Donna

THE Giro della Donna event was held around Marysville last weekend. Congratulations to the B & B's and accommodation establishments in the area who no doubt did well due to this event. How many of these places are actually owned by local people?

The streets were virtually being set up for closure from Friday and barriers were still being removed into Sunday evening. If I had needed to go from the Kerami Crescent end of town to Barton Avenue I would have to have driven via Buxton and Narbethong, and return. Locals couldn't drive to their work places, tourists and day visitors couldn't go for a drive to the usual attractions in the area as these were restricted, they couldn't even drive through the main street.

It was advertised as a great event for the town. I believe two coffee vans were set up opposite a local cafe. What an insult.

*Continued Page 15*

## IT'S NOT OKAY

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

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**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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## 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 (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 0456 583 611
Thu	7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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



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

Weekly Weather					
December 4-December 10, 2024					
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication					
Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	27	Wednesday	9	27
Thursday	12	30	Thursday	11	31
Friday	17	30	Friday	17	31
Saturday	16	27	Saturday	15	27
Sunday	11	21	Sunday	11	20
Monday	8	25	Monday	8	25
Tuesday	11	27	Tuesday	10	28

**Standard**

**The Yea Chronicle**

## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.39	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.57	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.48am Mon	0.68	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	10.04am Mon	0.23	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.29am Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.97	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.79	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	10.00am Mon	0.50	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.40	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.38	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.73	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.11am Mon	1.27	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024**

### DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	48mm
Buxton	69mm
Eildon (AWS)	75mm
Flowerdale	73mm
Jamieson	77mm
Kinglake	53mm
Lake Eildon	77mm
Mansfield	21mm
Taggerty	65mm
Yarck	69mm
Yea	67mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

### LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	284.82m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	84.4%
Metres below full supply	4.08m
Daily inflow	3000ML
Release	1500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	71%



## 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.



## 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



## Council to transition Family Day Care service to third-party providers

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has announced that it is transitioning its Family Day Care (FDC) service to third-party providers to ensure continued access to quality childcare for local families.

Council said that the decision comes in response to ongoing workforce challenges and financial pressures which have impacted the sustainability of the service. By working with external providers, council aims to secure

a stable and effective childcare service for the community into the future, with parents and children across our communities continuing to receive the same care under this new arrangement.

Council has made concerted efforts in recent years to support early years education, including workforce strategies, infrastructure reviews, and the adoption of the *Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024-2029*.

They said that despite these proactive measures, external factors have necessitated this transition. Recent staffing changes, including the resignation of five educators and the coordination officer, have further limited the service's ability to meet compliance requirements under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and the *Children's Services Act 1996*. Current educator-to-child ratios also restrict capacity, reducing the service's viability.

Council added, "Families can expect continuity in the high level of care they have come to rely on. The eight remaining educators are being supported to connect with alternative providers. Council will work closely with families to ensure the process is as seamless as possible and provide guidance and communication throughout the transition to minimise disruption."

"Council remains committed to supporting early years education and maintaining the availability of high-quality childcare services in the region. Transitioning to third-party providers will help secure a sustainable approach to delivering these services in line with community needs."

For more information, please contact council's Coordinator Children's Services on 5772 0333.

Council's Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams said, "Our Family Day Care service has provided significant support to our community for the last 30 years and the service is highly valued. While this change may represent the end of a chapter for council's direct role in the service and marks a shift in how the service is delivered, it is a necessary step to support the long-term availability and viability of quality childcare in our community."

"We are proud of the contribution this service has made to local families over the years. Council will ensure that educators and families are well-supported during the transition to maintain continuity of care. On behalf of council, I'd like to thank all educators for their dedication and the invaluable role they've played in supporting our wonderful community."

## Forest Firefighters in protected industrial action

ON Thursday, November 28, Australian Workers Union members working for Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) employed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) began protected industrial action. The action is being taken in order to have the ability to bargain for fair wages and conditions, which under the Victorian Government's wage policy is not possible.

Up to 800 forest firefighters are taking part in the protected industrial action. Along with a 30 minute work stoppage, the firefighters have also begun protected actions that will see some non-emergency paperwork not completed, meal breaks taken at the depot, interruptions in work to speak to the public about the enterprise negotiations and the ability to post on social media.

According to AWU calculations, Forest Firefighters working under the Field Staff and Wild Dog Controller Enterprise Agreement are paid in the bottom five per cent of all employees working for the Victorian Government.

## Alexandra Senior Citizens Club report

by David Tanner

THE highlight of the club's activities last week was the tour of Koala Cherries at Yarck following the kind invitation of club member John Rouget. His son Michael conducted the tour with a thoroughly interesting and informative explanation of the scene before our eyes. A bustling bee hive had nothing on the constantly moving panorama in the packing shed. Quality control of the product was obviously foremost in the operation.

Many thanks to the Rouget family for extending their invitation to us and the club looks forward to seeing John and Patsy at the Christmas Lunch.

A reminder that Friday, December 6 is the club's last business meeting of the year and your last opportunity to get your name on the list for the Christmas Lunch on December 13 at the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton.

The club's final Meeting for the year will be December 20 with a strong likelihood that Ian will be leading a session of carol singing.

The club sends their best wishes and a speedy recovery to all members who may be not at their best at the moment.

## POLICE REPORT

POLICE are investigating the circumstances surrounding a theft in Rubicon between Friday, November 22 and Monday, November 25.

It is believed unknown offenders attended the Rubicon River Road business between 3.30pm on Friday, November 22 and about 7am on Monday, November 25 and stole a silver 2024 tandem machinery trailer with registration number: 68830B.

The trailer contained a red Digger King 2.3 excavator, with the serial number 230923078 and was fitted with rubber tracks and a range of buckets.

Investigators have released an image of the trailer and digger in hope it may be able to assist with the investigation.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](https://crimestoppersvic.com.au)



The Digger King 2.3 excavator. -S

## Melba Highway roadworks

ROADWORKS along the Melba Highway in the Glenburn area will be taking place until December 15 weather permitting. The works will be carried out in stages, with traffic control in place from 6am to 6pm during this period, with minor delays to be expected.

Downer Group, on behalf of DM Roads and the Department of Transport and Planning, will be delivering roadworks along the Melba Highway.

Downer has been distributing letters to stakeholders in the immediate vicinity of the works and Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be in place to advise motorists.

The project will comply with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria guidelines regarding timing and noise pollution.

## More information on the Eildon Key Worker Accommodation

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked to provide further information on the Eildon Key Worker Accommodation, including dwelling types. They were also asked how much council was contributing, in addition to the Regional Development Victoria (RDV) funds.

They responded, "Council has been successful in our grant application to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, to contribute to the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project. The project is designed to provide housing for essential workers in the Eildon area, supporting local industries and the ability to attract skilled staff to our region."

"Council is considering modular key worker housing, due to its efficiency in construction time and adaptability. These modular houses will range from shared accommodation units for individuals to larger houses suitable for families. Our goal is to provide high-quality housing that meets the immediate needs of key workers and anticipates future demographic changes."

"The final design and configuration of the sites have not yet been finalised and remain subject to change. We will be seeking community feedback on the housing designs, before they are finalised in early 2025, and we will consider the amenity of neighbouring properties, aiming to preserve the character of the area."

"Following this, an application for a Planning Permit will be considered by council. As part of this assessment, the application will be put on public notice pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. There will be an opportunity for the whole community to make submissions on the application as part of the planning permit process."

"Council has allocated up to \$1.4 million in the *2024/25 Annual Budget* as a co-contribution for this project. A detailed report on the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project is set to be presented to council in December."

"We are excited about the progress of this important initiative and will be sharing further details regarding the state government grant and the funding amount when commercial negotiations are finalised."

## Marysville Market

Sunday, December 8  
from 9am to 1pm

All your favourite vendors including local gin and whiskey distillers, Cathedral Honey, Hannah's Pantry, Glenfield Jams, Scented Lane Candles, Clothing by Dacy Lane and plenty of stalls with great gift ideas for Christmas.

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## 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 part of the Baptist  
Union of Victoria  
Sunday 4.30pm service  
Kids program during school term  
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Contact - 0438 642 559

# Lake Mountain up for lease

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When questioned about whether the mountain might be closed down for tobogganing and so forth, Ms Gardner said, "That's not the intent at this stage. Through the EOI, we're actually looking for entities capable of investing in and reinvigorating the resort offering. I would imagine considering the key resort offering at Lake Mountain is the snow play offering, it would be about building on that and optimising that, not closing it down."

In recent years, Lake Mountain has installed cross country bike tracks from the mountain down to Marysville. Ms Gardner was asked whether they would be included in the lease.

She said, "We don't know what will happen with anything really at this stage, because the EOI is a market sounding exercise. Until we run that process and assess the responses, we don't know what impact it will have on either the summer or winter offering. But as I said, what we're seeking through this process is really a proponent that can improve the vibrancy of the resorts and ideally, grow both the summer and the winter offering."

She said that the infrastructure of the cycle tracks "is included in the EOI, although noting that a large proportion of the trail goes out of the resort boundaries and into Parks Victoria boundaries, so it would be about negotiating an arrangement for the ongoing operation of that trail with those dual entities."

Marysville and surrounds rely heavily on snow and cycle tourism and the announcement

has caused concern in the local community about what the future might hold.

Ms Gardner responded, "Snow and cycling are the two key product streams of Lake Mountain, so I would expect an entrepreneurial operator to actually build on those strengths and optimise those strengths."

She said that they have already received some interest from people keen to find out more about leasing the mountains, "but really we won't be able to properly assess that until the EOI launches and we get formal submissions," Ms Gardner said.

In recent decades, there has been a significant reduction in snow at Victoria's alpine resorts, so Ms Gardner was asked whether the mountains would continue to be snow focused.

Ms Gardner said, "We've seen so with varying natural snowfalls over the decades, we've seen increased investment in snow making in all of our resorts and that's been a really successful intervention to ensure the quality of snow and the longevity of the season. And that goes for Lake Mountain as well. There's significant effort and investment in snow making there so again, it would be about people taking over those operations and also considering how to bring in new technologies to sustain those operations moving forward."

She was also asked how the local community, including staffing, be factored in in the EOI. Ms Gardner said, "So the EOI is just a market testing exercise. All we're asking people for at this stage is their ideas on how they would progress with the resort through this process. If we identify a proponent that we'd like to progress within a concept that we'd like to progress with, we would then engage with staff and community on that concept."

So how long has this process been planned? Ms Gardner responded, "Our financial year runs from January 1 to December 31. We run on a calendar year rather than a standard financial year. We've been going just through the last month looking at our budgets, looking at a range of different methods or initiatives that we're looking to introduce across all of our resorts to improve their financial performance, and that includes looking at what we do at Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw, such as this EOI."

"We've made positive steps to reduce the financial deficit of [Lake Mountain], but we've still got a deficit in place, which again is why we're looking at what some really positive commercial opportunities might be to bring someone in to really evolve the offering and turn those resorts around."

"Before ARV took over the resorts, Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw were run collectively, and they were running at

a collective operating loss of around \$8 million per year. After one year of revised management of those resorts, we've actually managed to reduce that deficit by \$2,000,000 and we're already planning on what else we can be putting in place to reduce that further in years to come."

It's understood that the loss was shared at a similar level across both resorts.

When asked whether there would be public consultation prior to any leases being transferred, Ms Gardner said, "We need to run the ROI process to understand what some concepts and proposals may be, and once we've actually got something that's viable, that's what we would engage with stakeholders."

Do the stakeholders include the local community, Ms Gardner was asked. She said, "We have community representation on our stakeholder consultative committees, which includes council, local business representatives and user groups."

She added, "We're really just trying to cast the net wide to see what opportunities are out there and we see this as a really positive step forward for the resorts because we may get someone really innovative and entrepreneurial that can come in, invest and turn these resorts around."

She added, "With a result like this, you know it makes sense to draw employment from the local community, which has a lot of experience and existing passion for the mountain."

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher commented at the council meeting on November 27, "Following productive recent discussions with the Environment and Sport Minister Steve Dimopoulos, I wrote to the minister this week seeking a commitment to prioritise Lake Mountain in future development plans with a view to realising the untapped potential for economic growth and community enrichment."

"It was surprising then to learn today... that expressions of interest are being sought for commercial management of Lake Mountain Alpine Resort. The Alpine Resorts Victoria model was promoted as being beneficial to all resorts in the state. The lived reality is under-investment in Lake Mountain and this outcome of jettisoning the little guy from the group. It's certainly disappointing that council and the Marysville community have not been engaged as a critical stakeholder in the deliberations to date. Council will be continuing to seek clarification and offers to contribute to shaping the solution with ARV."

According to the Southern Alpine Resorts Management Board 2019 annual report, Lake Mountain had a regional economic impact of \$76 million, along with 708 jobs in the regional community.



**THUMBS UP:** To Grant Street Grocer sponsoring 'Latte with a Lawyer', with free legal advice and answers to any legal questions last Wednesday. It solved my query with great professionalism and a coffee.

**THUMBS UP:** Thank you to all the nurses and staff at Alexandra District Health for the understanding and help they gave me during my stay at the hospital recently. I couldn't wish for better.

**THUMBS UP:** It's lovely to have flowers in Grant Street again, nestled inside beautifully made planter boxes. Thanks to Pam and Ross Thompson, the Woodies, Yencckens, and all the other businesses which contributed.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To Red Cross Victoria and the state government. Due to lack of funding, we will no longer have a Red Cross patient transport car based in Alexandra from mid-December. This car was used by volunteers to transport patients from anywhere in the Murrindindi Shire to medical appointments throughout the shire and beyond. Another community service gone.

**THUMBS UP:** To Eildon CFA for their informative and knowledgeable presentation to the locals on what to do during bush fire season. Thank you.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the shabby exterior of some businesses in Grant Street. Pride in our workplace is very important aspect of the main street and the message it sends to our many visitors and customers.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to [editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

## Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Alexandra District Health AGM will be held at 4pm at the hospital. All welcome, refreshments will be available after the meeting. RSVP Jennifer Creed by November 28.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Free health checks at Yea Saleyards. For further information check the website or facebook page.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Darren Gilbert Open Studio. Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm each day or by arrangement

at other times. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. 0421 378 451.

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Speedway in on again. VSC open standard saloons, VSC ladies series, sport sedans and plenty more action. Racing starts at 4pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Marysville Market, 9am-1pm. All your favourite vendors including local gin and whiskey distillers, honey, jams, candles, and much more. Plenty of Christmas gift ideas.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home AGM will be held at 1.30pm in the North Lounge room. Video conference available on request. All welcome, RSVP by December 10 to 5774 2711 or email [darlingford@dughn.com.au](mailto:darlingford@dughn.com.au)

\*\*\*\*\*





Minister Jaclyn Symes and Hylke Kijlstra. -AR

## Helico Australia receives grant for construction of new facility

HELICO Australia Pty Ltd, a specialist helicopter servicing business based just outside of Alexandra, has received a \$789,766 grant from the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program to go towards the construction of a new headquarters.

Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, visited Helico's current factory last Friday to announce the grant, tour their operations, and meet the team.

"This expansion by Helico Australia will not only provide additional local jobs but will also bring economic benefits to the wider community," Ms Symes said.

Also in attendance were Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher and CEO Livia Bonazzi, as well as members of council's Economic Development team. The grant eventuated with the support of Murrindindi Shire Council.

Helico Australia will put the Forestry Transition Fund grant towards the construction of a new \$1.5 million purpose-built maintenance facility and headquarters, so it can meet the growing demands of the aviation industry.

The new premises will consist of larger workshops with work bays for helicopter and engine tear-down and rebuilds, a spare parts store, paint booths, sheet metal manufacturing and non-destructive testing.

There will also be a dedicated area for innovative engineering design and fabrication technologies.

Helico's owners, Hylke and Neri Kijlstra have long dreamed of building a new workshop and are thrilled to see it finally happening.

"Without funding, building a new headquarters would have been a lengthy and slow process, but with the support of the Transition Fund, we can fast-track our plans and ensure we continue to meet the demands of the aviation industry and

contribute positively to our local economy," Helico Director Hylke Kijlstra said.

"This grant will allow us to build the facility we have dreamt of since we started Helico. I am grateful to the Victorian Government for giving us this opportunity and investing in our community.

"Our goal is to address the critical issue of the ageing workforce of Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (LAME) in Australia. By investing in local skills and providing training opportunities, we aim to encourage a new generation of skilled professionals in our community."

Helico Australia is planning to use local tradespeople for the construction of the new facilities, having already established relationships with trades in the region. The business currently has 24 staff, and when the new facilities are built it will employ an additional nine full-time employees in a variety of roles ranging from engineers to hangar and grounds staff and trainees.

Helico Australia services and rebuilds Robinson helicopters that are used by the agricultural and resources industries in northern Australia for stock mustering and transport, as well as the delivery of supplies during the wet season.

Though their main headquarters is located just outside Alexandra, they have remote bases in Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia; Kilcoy, Queensland; and Darwin, Northern Territory.

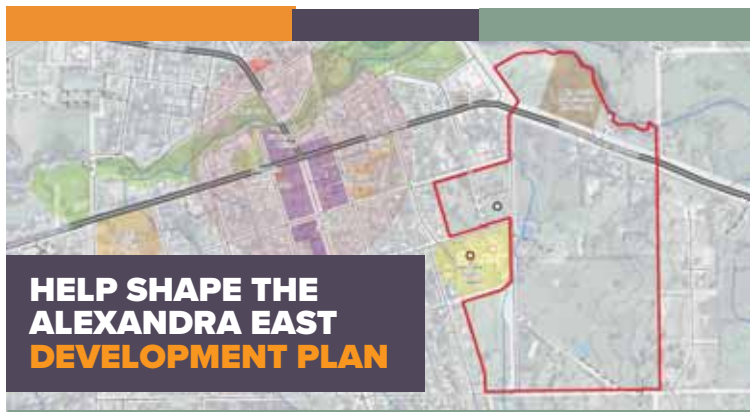
Round two of the Forestry Transition Fund, which supports job creation and business development in and around communities impacted by the end of native timber harvesting, is now open. A \$20,000 employment incentive payment for the employment of ex-native timber workers is also available. For more information visit [vic.gov.au/forestry](http://vic.gov.au/forestry)



From left, Mayor Damien Gallagher and Minister Jaclyn Symes with the Helico team. -AR



Neri and Hylke Kijlstra (first and second from right) with some of their team members during the visit from Minister Jaclyn Symes. -AR



## HELP SHAPE THE ALEXANDRA EAST DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council has secured funding to create the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP), which will guide the future use and development of 71 hectares of land in Alexandra's major residential growth area.

The AEDP will support coordinated, sustainable growth that integrates well within the existing township and aims to encourage well-designed residential development that contributes to housing affordability and boosts our local economy.

### How can you get involved?

Join the Community Reference Group and share your thoughts on how the Development Plan can best meet the needs of the Alexandra community.

Interested community members are encouraged to submit an EOI to join the Community Reference Group by 12 noon on Friday 20 December 2024.

For more information about this project or to submit your EOI, visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/aedp](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/aedp) or give us a call on (03) 5772 0333.



**ALEXANDRA Speedway**  
Home of the Big Last Year's & 3 Year's Club

**Saturday 7th December**

VSC OPEN STANDARD SAL GON SERIES  
VSC LADIES SERIES VSC SPORT SEDANS  
VSC BLUE SHEP SERIES ROUND  
SSA TOP & NEW SEAR JUNIORS  
SSA PRODIGY SEDANS SERIES

[www.alexandraspeedway.org.au](http://www.alexandraspeedway.org.au)

**Gordon Street, Alexandra**  
WED 10-11 PM

**GATE PRICES**

FAMILY (2 ADULTS & 3 CHILDREN)	\$60
ADULTS	\$25
INVALID & AGED PENSION	\$10
CHILDREN (10-16YRS)	\$10
CHILDREN (UNDER 10)	FREE

**RACING STARTS AT 4PM**

**sharethedignity**

Head to:  
**[sharethedignity.org.au](http://sharethedignity.org.au)**

to learn more about the organisation, to get help, to donate, to volunteer, or to support the organization by making a purchase in their online shop.

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

Alexandra Newspapers is proud to be a collection point for all donations to go toward it's in the bag program run by share the dignity.



# Planter boxes to create a beautiful main street

WHILE on a visit to New South Wales, Alexandra local Pamela Thompson noticed planter boxes in some of the small towns, beautifying their main street. She thought that it would be a great idea for Alexandra as well.



One of the newly installed planter boxes. -S

She set to work, conducting research on similar ideas in nearby shires, including Strathbogie and Mitchell. She found that Mitchell Shire financed their planter boxes through a COVID-19 grant, and decided to approach Murrindindi Shire about getting some planter boxes installed locally.

She needed to gain the support of a local community group, and the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association agreed to support it.

The Woodies (Alexandra Community Shed and the Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild) said that they would make the boxes. The organisation has been working very hard on making the beautifully crafted planter boxes ever since. They used recycled timber, sourced from a local farm for the boxes.

Pamela hoped that five of the boxes would be installed by the time of the Great Victorian Bike Ride this weekend, but COVID-19 held things up. Two planter boxes were installed on the evening of Wednesday, November 27. One is located outside the Alexandra Pharmacy and another outside O'Brien's Real Estate.

There will soon be planter boxes outside the Alex Cafe, Sports Power and The Alpaca Shop, and various other locations. All of the shops with a planter box have been given a watering can.

Guidelines are in place for where they can be located, so they don't disrupt vehicles or pedestrians.

Pamela formerly worked in plant nurseries, and has chosen plants which are appropriate (and frost-resistant). There will be a mix including gazenias and annuals.

Pamela would like to thank Manwele Ghirzi and the Woodies for making the planter boxes, Peter Johnson at Yencens for bins and plants, and David Leary at Bedrock for providing goods free of charge.



Manwele and Lynne. -AR



John glueing a piece of a planter box. -AR



Woodies members putting one of the planter boxes together. -AR



The Woodies made all of the planter boxes which are set to adorn Grant Street. -AR

## Shop local and help others this Christmas

Information on some of the Christmas appeals and events across Indi



**Helen Haines MP**  
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

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





Lisa and Alan Harding in front of a gorgeous bed of food produced as a part of this innovative project. -S

## Champions of change

WHEN Alan and Lisa opened their café, the Grant Street Grocer, they knew they wanted to reduce their environmental impact. When Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) presented them with options to create a circular economy around the food waste generated, a collaborative relationship was formed.

The team began implementing small in-house strategies to firstly eliminate and reduce food waste. What remains was repurposed either by being fed to chickens, added to a worm farm or composted. By measuring how much and what type of waste is produced we are able to better manage it.

A bigger solution was required and thanks to a substantial grant from Sustainability Victoria the team were able to invest in a specialised food waste dehydrator. This machine finely chops and dries out food waste of all sorts, everything from coffee grounds to meat bones and turns any food waste into shelf stable, usable garden fertiliser. The addition of the food waste dehydrator to the toolkit meant that

there is now the capacity process more than 150kg of food waste a day.

So far over 30 tonnes of food waste have been saved from going to landfill.

This solution to the wicked problem of food waste has taken courage to implement. At the moment there are no incentives to undertake this work, and most hospitality businesses, either through lack of knowledge, resources or options, continue to put their food waste into landfill where it produces harmful byproducts that harm the soil and the atmosphere as it breaks down.

UGLN is grateful to everyone at the Grant Street Grocer for being ongoing active participants in this program, for their ongoing commitment, for letting UGLN use the rear of their premises, for engaging with the fabulous team of secondary school students, for the endless washing up of buckets, and for making this a vision of active hope.

## New CEO for Parks Victoria

MINISTER for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, released a statement last Thursday following the discussion around Parks Victoria in Federal Parliament.

It reads, "We want as many Victorians as possible to enjoy the great outdoors. Parks Victoria manages more than four million hectares of parks and reserves which attract more than 100 million visits every year. These assets must meet the needs of Victorians for generations to come. It's clear that Parks Victoria's current operations need to be improved to meet community expectations.

"I have therefore ordered a comprehensive review of Parks Victoria, to advise how the organisation can better serve the needs of Victorians and help them enjoy the great outdoors.

"The review will focus on Parks Victoria's priorities, the delivery of its objectives under the Parks Victoria Act 2018, the organisation's administration, finances, functions and delivery model, to identify ways the organisation reduce red-tape, improve customer service, and deliver better outcomes for Victorians.

"The review will be completed by March 2025, and will be overseen by the Victorian Government with the support of Korda Mentha.

"As part of this process, Matthew Jackson, the CEO of Parks Victoria, has departed his position by mutual agreement and I wish him well.

"Graeme 'Gus' Dear has been appointed as Interim CEO of Parks Victoria.

"Gus brings with him 30 years of experience in public and private sector administration and has served on the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Board since its inception, most recently as chair. Gus loves the bush. Ever since he caught his first redfin at Ringwood Lake as a young boy, he's been 'hooked on fishing'.

"His passion for the great outdoors and experience in administration means he is the right person to help Parks Victoria change.

"His leadership will ensure Parks Victoria continues to provide accessible, enjoyable outdoor experiences while protecting and enhancing the state's natural environment."

Graeme Dear is also a member of the Great Outdoors Taskforce, determining the future of forests across the state, excluding the Central Highlands area, which is being explored by the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement.

The Victorian National Parks Association expressed their concerns about the change. The association's Executive Director Matt Ruchel said, "It's hard to see how major cuts to funding for Parks Victoria combined with an out-of-the-blue review meets community expectations. We are deeply concerned this is a trojan horse for dismantling hard-won nature protections."

He added, "Sufficient funding for core management must be central to the review."



# COFFEE FOR WILDLIFE






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Genovese, Coffee for Wildlife supports  
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Proudly supporting

Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

 Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lizzie Rowntree – 5/6A

Lizzie shows our school values consistently. Lizzie is inclusive in the playground, encouraging younger students to join in with her to ensure they have someone to play with. Lizzie partners with anyone in the classroom. She is always polite and helpful to teachers and can be relied upon to lend a helping hand! We are proud to have you in our learning community, Lizzie. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ella has been very focused and hard-working when preparing for our school play. Wonderful effort Ella.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lily and Henry displayed the school values of Achievement and Integrity in all their work this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Baxter

Baxter is working so diligently across all learning areas. What has been truly impressive is how he is challenging himself to do more than expected, particularly in his writing. It is great to see him using interesting vocabulary choices and trying his best to write sentences that engage the reader. Baxter - we love your positive attitude towards school and how you are a really great friend towards all. Congratulations.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch

 Bendigo Bank

## Have yourself a very sustainable Christmas

MURRINDINDI Shire Council wants everyone to have a sustainable festive season. Therefore they are offering a few ideas to help celebrate sustainably so that people can save money and waste less this festive season.

### Rethink Your Wrapping

Did you know that much of the wrapping paper we buy for our Christmas gifts is not recyclable? If it is shiny, or looks like foil or cellophane, it contains plastic and needs to be re-used or disposed of in your general rubbish bin, the red lid.

Instead, why not give the gift of less waste this Christmas by choosing eco-friendly wrapping options? Swap single-use wrapping paper for reusable gift bags, fabric wraps, or even newspaper with a touch of ribbon.

### Sustainable Decorating

As Christmas time rolls around, the likelihood of our bins filling up increases, with more celebrations meaning more rubbish going into our bins. There are so many ways we can reduce Christmas waste, and every little bit counts.

Sustainable decorations can be gorgeous and very easy to make. Think ivy wreaths, native flower bunches, origami ornaments, and dried orange garlands. LED Christmas lights not only use less energy but also last longer, meaning fewer replacements and less waste over the years.

### Sustainable Feasting

Reduce food waste this Christmas by planning meals carefully and using up leftovers creatively. Love your leftovers by turning them into a snack or meal on Boxing Day, maybe making some 'bubble and squeak' or pea and ham soup.

What you can't use can be composted or put into the general rubbish bin, red lid. Remember to keep food and paper serviettes out of the mixed recycling bin, yellow lid.

### Recycle Right

Remember to recycle holiday waste properly to divert precious resources from landfill. Bottles, paper and cardboard can go in the mixed recycling bin, yellow lid, except shiny wrapping paper, which should go in the general rubbish bin, red lid, as it contains soft plastic and cannot be recycled.

Batteries and E-waste can be dropped off at your local Resource Recovery Centre and other battery drop-off locations. Please never place food, soft plastics, toys, clothes or Christmas decorations in your mixed recycling bin, yellow lid.

## Hydration station for Leckie Park

LECKIE Park in Alexandra is one of several community sites that are the latest beneficiaries of the continuing expansion of Goulburn Valley Water's *Be Smart Choose Tap* permanent hydration station program.

Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) has partnered with Mitchell, Murrindindi, and Mansfield shires to provide Seymour Lions Park, Leckie Park in Vickery Street at Alexandra, and Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve with permanent hydration stations.

As part of the 2018-23 Price Plan, Goulburn Valley Water made a commitment to provide every one of its towns with a drinking water supply with its own hydration station. Six years on and there are now 72 hydration stations located in Goulburn Valley Water towns.

Goulburn Valley Water Managing Director Dr Steve Capewell said public parks and recreation reserves were often hubs for physical activity in their communities and the availability of water while exercising or competing for their clubs was a necessary element for residents.

"Ensuring our hydration stations are located in areas where they will be most beneficial is an important part of the partnerships we have with local councils," Dr Capewell said.

"This latest round of installations does just that, with not only football, cricket, tennis, netball, lawn bowls, and other sportspeople beneficiaries, but also people just out for a walk or to exercise their dog.

"It would be great to think that, like the commitment we made several years ago to have hydration stations

in every town with a drinking water supply, we could continue to work with shires to have the re-fill sites based at other parks and recreation reserves in the southern region," Dr Capewell said.

At Alexandra, the new station is located along the U.T. Creek Pathway that connects the Great Victorian Rail Trail, Leckie Park and the upgraded play equipment, skate park and pump track at Rotary Park. It will enable people of all ages to maintain hydration as we enter the warmer weather.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said the shire was excited to see the installation of a new hydration station on the U.T. Creek Pathway in Alexandra.

"This station will provide free access to drinking water for our community, promoting health and well-being, and importantly encouraging people to use reusable water bottles, therefore reducing waste," Cr Gallagher said.

"This initiative highlights the strong partnership between Goulburn Valley Water and Murrindindi Shire Council, ensuring our public spaces are equipped to support active lifestyles. We look forward to continuing this collaboration to benefit all residents and visitors in the region," he said.

Alongside the permanent hydration station program there are also a number of portable water provision units available under the sponsorship program for outdoor community events.

For more information about the *Be Smart Choose Tap* sponsorship program and details of where to find existing hydration stations visit [gvwater.vic.gov.au/community/choose-tap](http://gvwater.vic.gov.au/community/choose-tap)

Murrindindi Shire Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, Goulburn Valley Water District Administration Officer Rachael Walker, and Cr Jodi Adams at the Leckie Park site of the new permanent hydration station.





The new Forest Fire Management Victoria recruits for the Murrindindi District. Pictured are Kim Fiddler, Isabel Longworth, Samuel Ackerman, Will Wright, Jack Schenk, Brodie Parsell, Alasdair Hutt, Charlie McKenna and Rory Chellev. -S

## New firefighting recruits across north east Victoria

FOREST Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) newest recruits are learning the ropes at a week-long training camp at Yackandandah in readiness for the summer bushfire season.

The training ensures "project" firefighters are ready to fight fires and complete work to help reduce bushfire risk.

This summer FFMVic has employed 540 project firefighters to work alongside the experienced permanent crews to keep Victorians and the environment safe.

Within Hume Region 114 project firefighters will be based at depots at Alexandra, Marysville, Toolangi, Broadford, Kinglake, Benalla, Mansfield, Nathalia, Shepparton, Beechworth, Bright, Ovens, Corryong, Mitta Valley and Tallangatta.

Recruits undergo two weeks of classroom and field-based learning on topics including fire behaviour, safety and survival techniques, fire suppression, working with aircraft, and planned burning.

The training camp provides opportunities for hands-on learning, from operating water

pumps and chainsaws, to driving specialised fire fighting vehicles.

In addition to emergency response, project firefighters also undertake mulching, mowing, slashing and spraying; maintaining fuel breaks and the public land road network, trail and recreation site maintenance and planned burning.

FFMVic Hume Deputy Chief Fire Officer Aaron Kennedy said, "Our recruits have diverse backgrounds which reflect the communities we serve."

"They play a critical role working alongside our experienced firefighters to respond to bushfires in some of the state's most remote and challenging environments, helping keep our communities safe."

"With an increased risk of bushfires forecast for the region, our project firefighters are an important and valued addition to our firefighting resources this summer."

It's not too early to register your interest in working as a project firefighter next bushfire season. Register your interest for a role in 2025/26 now, at: [ffm.vic.gov.au/who-we-are/firefighting-and-employment](https://ffm.vic.gov.au/who-we-are/firefighting-and-employment)

## Victoria preparing for increased risk of fire this summer

VICTORIANS are being urged to prepare for an increase in fire activity across large parts of the state this summer, according to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer that was released last week.

A lack of rainfall across most of western and northeastern Victoria, parts of greater Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula and southwest Gippsland has resulted in more fuels available and an increased chance of fires in these areas.

In addition, a dry 18 months in southwest Victoria has resulted in more fuel within forests, making it easier for fires to start and spread.

The rest of the state is forecast to be at a normal risk, which means fires can still occur and fast running fires are possible on hot, dry and windy days.

In addition, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a higher chance of warmer maximum day and night temperatures over summer.

Victoria's emergency services remain well prepared for the potential of fires, with at least 54 dedicated aircraft positioned across the state as part of the core fleet for the higher risk weather season. This includes a mix of water bombing, air supervision and air intelligence gathering aircraft, which can be moved quickly, according to risk.

Returning this year are two Large Air Tankers, which can operate from smaller regional airports as they require less room for take-off and landing, making them more agile to move around the state. Two Aircranes are also contracted to join the fleet once their service period in North America concludes.

The aerial firefighting fleet will support the efforts of thousands of dedicated emergency services personnel from across CFA, Forest Fire Management Victoria,

Fire Rescue Victoria, VICSES and other agencies and a firefighting fleet of trucks, heavy machinery and plant equipment.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it's important for communities to take action and understand their local risks.

Having a fire plan with your family and reducing the vegetation around your home by mowing lawns and clearing gutters are some of the most important things you can do to prepare for the higher risk weather season.

Keep up to date with the Fire Danger Ratings and warnings on the VicEmergency app and VicEmergency website. Make a fire plan at [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au)

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer is developed by the AFAC, the National Council for fire and emergency services, and supported by the Bureau of Meteorology, along with state and territory fire and land managers. The outlook gives a national picture of the likelihood of fires over the summer months.

Emergency Management Commissioner, Rick Nugent said, "We've already had a taste of what we might see over summer, with fast running fires in the west and southwest of our state during spring."

"Victoria remains well prepared for the risks of fires, with critical support from our aerial firefighting fleet and thousands of dedicated emergency services personnel and now it's time for the community to start preparing."

"Preparing for the higher risk weather season is a shared responsibility, and we're asking the community to take action now to stay safe."

"It's critical that you understand your fire risk, whether you're at home, at work or on holiday. Know where you can go to receive emergency information and never rely on just one source."

## YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au) to create your personalised fire plan now.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





## Applications for Bendigo Bank scholarships now open

ONE of the largest and longest-running private scholarship programs in the country opened for applications on Monday, December 2 for the 2025 academic year.

For nearly two decades, Bendigo Bank's scholarship program has empowered thousands of students across the nation by providing financial support, mentorship, and access to life changing educational opportunities.

Since inception in 2006, the program has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships, transforming the lives of students by supporting their academic, professional, and personal growth.

Bendigo Bank Chair Vicki Carter said the board was pleased to continue supporting such an important initiative as it heads into its 18th year.

"We are incredibly proud to support the program and continue this tradition," Ms Carter said.

"Since 2006, this program has provided more than \$13.3 million in funding to more than 1900 students from across Australia, helping to address the employment and skills challenges faced by young people, particularly in regional and remote areas.

"The range of scholarships on offer through the program will help students realise their full potential while supporting the next generation of leaders for our community," Ms Carter concluded.

Eighteen-year-old, proud Yorta Yorta Dja Dja Wurrung woman, Ailish Clements was one of the 386 students who received one of the bank's scholarships this year.

Currently studying at LaTrobe University in Bendigo, Ailish said she faced many challenges while completing her VCE.

"I had to move out and get my own place. That was a really big challenge for me to overcome and go through. I also fell pregnant in 2023 and had to complete my exams and VCE and graduate eight months pregnant," Ailish said.

"It was hard, but it was really worth it. I look back and I'm so glad that I completed everything. It's made me grow so much as an individual and this scholarship has even helped me to be able to continue my studies. Without this scholarship, I may not have been able to do that.

"To the local indigenous youth, I would tell them despite all the challenges, the achievements, and the end goal and what you get out of it, what you learn out of it, overpowers all the struggle you went through," Ailish concluded.

If you, or someone you know is interested in applying, 2025 scholarships on offer include: Bendigo Bank Uni Scholarship for rural and regional students has 12 scholarships of \$6500 per student, per year, for two years; Bendigo Bank TAFE Scholarship for rural and regional students has five scholarships of \$5000 per student, per year, for two years; Robert Johanson Bendigo Bank Board Scholarship has one scholarship of \$8000 per year for two years; Bendigo Bank Indigenous Scholarship Program has four scholarships on offer for either University or TAFE; university scholarships of \$6500 per student, per year, for two years; TAFE scholarships of \$5000 per year, for two years; Bendigo Bank Agribusiness Scholarship has six university scholarships of \$6000 per student, per year, for two years; two \$3000 TAFE scholarships awarded for one year, where students must demonstrate a desire to contribute to the Australian agricultural sector. Plus, hundreds of Community Bank scholarship programs run across the country.

Applications for the 2025 program opened on Monday, December 2 and close on Friday, January 31.

For more information about Bendigo Bank's Scholarship program, including eligibility requirements, application instructions, deadlines, and to see more of Ailish's story, please visit: [bendigobank.com.au/community/foundation/scholarships/](https://bendigobank.com.au/community/foundation/scholarships/)

## UPCOMING FEATURES

Live Well, Feel Good

Publishing: December 11

Deadline: December 5, 5pm

Work Local

Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Christmas Wishes

Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Last publication 2024 - December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

First publication 2025 - January 15

Deadline: January 9, 5pm



Diners enjoying the Grand Italian Feast at Holmesglen @ Eildon. -S

## Grand Italian Feast delights Eildon with culinary splendour

THE picturesque Holmesglen at Eildon came alive on Sunday, November 24 as locals and visitors gathered for the much anticipated Grand Italian Feast. The event was held from noon to 4pm, the event was a celebration of traditional Italian cuisine and lively entertainment.

Guests were welcomed with a refreshing Aperol spritz before indulging in a variety of dishes crafted with locally sourced ingredients. Highlights included wood fired pizzas, house-made pastas, osso bucco, scallopine, cacciatore, and delectable desserts like tiramisu, and

canoli. Complementing the feast, wines from King Valley's Pizzini and Politini wineries flowed freely, enhancing the authentic Italian experience.

Live music set the tone for a festive afternoon. For those who attended, it was more than a meal, it was a true Italian escape in the heart of the Upper Goulburn Valley.

Stay tuned for information about their next seasonal function, *Long Lazy Summer Lunch*, to be held in February 2025.



Two of the happy diners. -S

## Murray cod season opens

SOME of Victoria's most popular inland fishing spots will be drawcards for anglers since the annual Murray cod fishing season opened last Sunday.

Cod opening is an early Christmas for many freshwater fishers and follows the annual three-month closed season, applicable to most waters north of the Great Dividing Range, which gives the iconic native species a chance to breed in peace.

Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling said while large impoundments such as Lake Eildon, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Eppalock are now open year-round, summer presents terrific fishing opportunities in rivers, creeks and smaller lakes.

"Cod opening weekend means people flocking to productive waters like the Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon and Lindsay rivers, Gunbower Creek and many more, now that the big breeding fish have had time to lay eggs and rest on the nest," Mr Dowling said.

"These waters are go-to spots for families, with riverfront camping spots at a premium, caravan parks packed, people eating at local pubs and cafes, filling up and buying bait at service stations and enjoying all that regional Victoria has to offer.

"We've stocked more fish than all other Australian states and territories combined, including more than three million Murray

cod each year thanks to the Victorian Government's *Go Fishing and Boating Plan*, to make sure events like cod opening are circled in people's calendars.

"There's great experiences to be had whether you base yourself in a regional centre close to several fishing spots like Shepparton, Eildon, Mansfield, Horsham, Wangaratta, Bendigo or Mildura, you stay at a smaller town or even a waterfront camping site."

Mr Dowling said Murray cod could be caught on relatively simple gear and were often found among woody habitat such as submerged logs and fallen trees.

"Cod are readily caught on lures like StumpJumpers and spinnerbaits, cast from a boat or the shore. Alternatively, bait fishers enjoy success using yabbies, bardi crabs, worms or just a bit of cheese or chicken," he said.

"Persistence and patience are the keys to success when chasing Murray cod, whatever method of fishing you choose to tempt them.

"Our Fisheries Officers will be out across northern Victoria helping people care for their catch with the right handling techniques and ensuring anglers let fish go that are outside the 55 to 75cm slot limit."

More information on bag and size limits can be found at [vfa.vic.gov.au/murraycod](https://vfa.vic.gov.au/murraycod)



# Alexandra Fire Brigade raise funds for Movember



Steve Lynch with son Chris Lynch from the Alexandra Fire Brigade, and Chris's sons, Ollie and Fletcher. -AR



Elly Skinner, Lochie Lake, and their children Hudson and Everett. -AR



People from the audience were invited to make a donation and shave the moustaches of the firefighters. -AR



Audience members, including Great Victoria Bike Ride riders, at the Alexandra Street Party, where the Alexandra Fire Brigade held their Movember shave. -AR



The shaves underway. -AR



One of the firefighters getting a shave. -AR



A member of the audience offered to make a donation if she could shave a firefighter's chest. Lochie was the unfortunate winner. -AR



Alexandra Fire Brigade members just prior to their moustaches being shaved off. They raised a grand total of \$10,845 for Movember, the highest amount among the CFA brigades. -AR





# Let's eat, it's our treat

## Graze and gaze at Sedona Estate

WITH 2024 drawing to its end, it's time to sit back and enjoy the good things in life.

Just in time for the holiday summer season, the new Sedona Estate white wines are ready to be enjoyed. When it comes to sipping a dry white wine in the warmer months, sauvignon blanc is still a winner. Sedona Estate's 2024 release is no exception. Packed with floral aromatics and a crisp palate of kiwi and grapefruits, this new sauvignon blanc is the perfect summer drink.

First launched in 2021 and after two successful vintages, the new 2024 Sedona Estate rosé is hard to resist.

"Like any good wine, our new rosé has started its winemaking journey in our estate vineyard. It is well balanced with a crisp dry finish and pairs well with local trout dishes, mild curries and salmon; all trialled and approved in our home kitchen," owner and winemaker Paul Evans said.

In recent years, Paul and Sonja's dedication and passion for their land and wine business have reached new levels. This year three of the winery's reds were awarded silver medals at the 2024 London Wine Competition. Paul and Sonja are immensely proud that their vineyard in Murrindindi produces fruit that competes on the world stage.

"The most important seal of approval though comes from our loyal wine friends who trust the product and enjoy the experience of drinking a great wine grown and made in our pristine region," Sonja said.

Drop by the winery's cellar door at 182 Shannons Road, Murrindindi to taste these new wines or buy them at a local outlet. On weekends, delicious artisan cheese platters and charcuterie and salumi boards to share are offered at the cellar door.

It's a great excuse to stay and admire the amazing views from the estate.



*The view from the terrace at the cellar door. -S*



**Dinner:** 5.30pm to 8.00pm  
Tuesday to Sunday

**Lunch:** 12.00pm to 2.30pm  
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

**Tuesday and Wednesday**  
is **Indian cuisine only**, available  
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### Health benefits of dark chocolate

DARK chocolate has a number of health benefits compared to regular milk chocolate, according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

These include helping to lower blood pressure and reduce inflammation, as well as lowering rates of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

Dark chocolate originated in 2000 BC, in the Mayan tribes of central America. At the time, it was a beverage that the Mayans mixed with spices or wine and drank. These days, chocolate is made into blocks, but the defining ingredient of cacao remains the same.

Fifty to 90 per cent of dark chocolate is cocoa solids, cocoa butter, and sugar. By comparison, milk chocolate contains anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent cocoa solids, cocoa butter, milk, and sugar.

The effects of cocoa are numerous: it's a good source of iron, copper, magnesium, zinc, phosphorus and flavanols.

However, the higher amount of cocoa solids in dark chocolate leads to a more bitter flavour.

Flavanols in particular are what lead to the positive health benefits, as they are shown to support the production of nitric oxide in the inner cell lining of blood vessels. This helps relax the blood vessels and improves blood flow, leading to lower blood pressure.

According to a Harvard study, an isolated tribe that had high cocoa intakes had lower rates of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, compared with the same tribesmen who had travelled to cities.

To read the full Harvard article on dark chocolate and its health benefits, visit [nutritionsource.hsph.harvard.edu/food-features/dark-chocolate/](https://nutritionsource.hsph.harvard.edu/food-features/dark-chocolate/)



### CELLAR DOOR

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### Your chance to WIN a \$50 voucher

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone: .....

For your chance to win a \$50 voucher from Sedona Estate, return this entry form by noon, Thursday, December 12, 2025.  
Alexandra Newspapers,  
PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

**Photocopies will not be accepted.**

**One entry per household.**

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month. T&C: Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.





# Let's eat, it's our treat



The facade of the Molesworth Hotel and General Store. -S

## Molesworth Hotel and General Store coming soon

THE Molesworth Hotel and General Store will be opening to the public on Thursday, December 5, bringing a fresh and vibrant place for eating and relaxing to the community.

Newly appointed manager for the Molesworth Hotel, Shelley Martin, spoke to this masthead about the various parts of the hotel.

"There are different parts to the hotel. At the front will be the general store, which will have coffee and sandwiches and other sorts of simple food that people can stop and buy," Shelley said.

"The general store will feature an area where you can sit down and have your coffee, or have a drink, and look out over the view. It's a beautiful view."

The general store will be open seven days a week, from 7am. The hotel will be open four days a week, Thursday through to Sunday, for

pub-style meals, and features a fully stocked bar as well as a beer garden.

"It's a real focus on pub food. We have main meals such as fish and chips, chicken burgers, porterhouse steaks, a brisket burger, lots of different parmigiana options, and we've also got pizzas," Shelley said.

The Molesworth Hotel also features accommodation, with several rooms available.

It is the fourth hotel in the Latitude 37 group, giving it a solid base from which to launch. The group also includes the Tooborac Brewery, whose range of craft beer can be found at the other hotels and includes items such as a lager, stouts, XPA, and several pale ales.

To keep up to date with the Molesworth Hotel and General Store, visit their Facebook page or go to [themolesworth.com.au/general-store](http://themolesworth.com.au/general-store)

### Congratulations Maddi

THE winner of our \$50 *Let's Eat* voucher for November was Maddi Webb from Marysville. Maddi has chosen Trawool Estate for her voucher. Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at one of our advertised venues.



## Let's eat; it's our treat

### Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....

(A business advertising on this page)

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Thursday, December 13.

Alexandra Newspapers,  
PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

**One entry per household.**

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month.

T&C: Only venues advertised in this feature are eligible to be chosen. Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.




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# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Elders Yea Spring Feature Store Sale

STOCK REPORT 29 NOVEMBER 2024			
29 November 2024 Spring Store Sale (Elders)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	3,420		
Average \$ per head	\$1,390		
Average weight per head	393.1kg		
Top price per head		\$2,430	\$1,750
Top weight		650kg	557.7kg
Turnover	\$4.75 million		

### Watch for heating hay

By Michele Jolliffe, Agriculture Victoria  
Dairy Extension Officer

EVERY hay season several hay stacks spontaneously combust across Victoria, in single moist bales or in a stack of any size.

Once the hay has been stacked it's important to regularly monitor it for heating and act quickly.

Unfortunately, even with technological advances in machinery for harvesting conserved fodder, there is still nothing cost effective to help monitor the internal temperatures of haystacks.

Keep an eye out for signs that haystack is heating. Steam condensation on the shed roof, mould growth, acrid fumes and hot, humid air at the top of the stack are all good indicators.

When building stacks with suspect wet hay, stack the bales loosely to allow air movement and spread the stack over a wider area, for example, over several bays, thereby reducing heat build-up.

Most heating will occur over the first one or two weeks but has been known to reach 'flash point' up to eight weeks after baling. Monitor the stack temperature regularly.

Stack temperature can be measured using a crowbar inserted as deep as possible into the stack and left for two hours. After two hours, the crowbar can be removed and felt by hand to give you a rough guide of the internal stack temperatures.

The temperature of the bale is up to about 50 degrees if you can hold the crowbar without discomfort. It is up to 60 degrees if the bar can be held for a short time only and up to 70

degrees if the bar can only be touched briefly. If you can't hold the bar, temperature is above 70 degrees and fire is a real possibility, treat the stack with caution.

In the past it has been suggested to push a small pipe into the stack and lower a small thermometer to the end of the pipe to measure the temperature of warming hay. However, this technique should not be used for severely heating hay as it may oxygenate the inner section of the stack and cause a fire to start.

If a stack starts to get 'dangerously hot' pull it apart as quickly as possible. Be aware that as the bales are pulled out of the stack, especially in a tightly built stack, oxygen will now get access to the hot spot and potentially cause ignition.

Make sure that water is readily available and suitably qualified people able to assist in fire suppression if required.

Avoid walking on the stack as the extremely high temperatures may have charred the centre of the stack. Any extra weight on the stack may cause the stack to collapse into the dangerously hot centre and cause serious injury.

If there is the slightest risk of a fire starting due to wet hay, never keep machinery in the hayshed and don't allow children to play in or near heating stacks.

The Country Fire Authority website has good information about hay fire risk. Search 'hay fires' at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

For more information about dry seasonal conditions and drought support visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au) or call 136 186.



The first lane from last Friday's cattle sales. -S



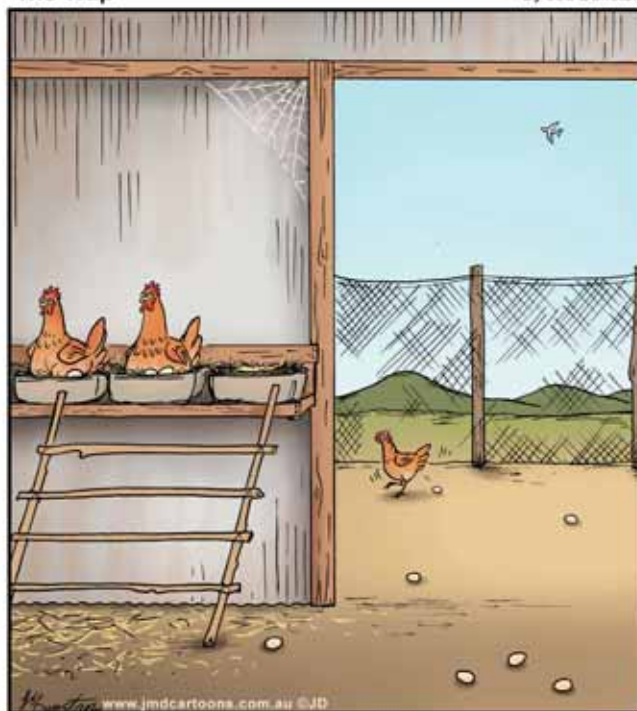
The Elders team presenting the cattle for sale. -S



Pen 190, with 11 Angus heifers. -S

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Chook with ADHD.

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# Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program launched in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was proud to support the official launch of the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program on Thursday, November 28 at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Six regional councils in Victoria teamed up to help residents and businesses easily buy affordable, high-quality solar panels, storage batteries, efficient hot water systems, and reverse cycle heating and cooling.

Alpine, Indigo, Greater Shepparton City, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire

Councils, all members of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, are supporting the regional Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program.

The program combines a fully vetted installer and products, as well as comprehensive information on each of the products, including the available rebates. The program gives peace of mind to customers that service quality and safety are a priority by undertaking random audits on installations. The program embraces the use of local

contractors to maximise cost savings and minimise the carbon footprint. There will be a further opportunity for local businesses to participate in the new year.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said, "As part of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, we are delighted to be able to give Murrindindi Shire residents access to this program. The hard work has been done, allowing residents and businesses

to make informed choices. We understand it can be hard to know who to trust when there are so many options, and not all suppliers and installers are equal.

"It's important to council that our residents and businesses have the opportunity to upgrade their homes or workplaces with renewable and energy efficient technologies that will help them save on their energy bills and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions."

Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Executive Officer Carole Hammond said, "Goulburn Murray Solar Savers is a regional partner in a larger metropolitan Solar Savers program. Our councils were researching what we could do to assist regional and rural residents, and Solar Savers was a logical fit. It's a tried and tested model which has been working for the residents of 19 metropolitan councils for a number of years."

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers plans to expand its energy efficient technology offer to include induction cooktops, home and business electric vehicle chargers, insulation, draft proofing and home energy scorecard assessments.

Murrindindi Shire residents and businesses can find out more, or get a quote now at [goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au](http://goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au)

For further information please contact Carole Hammond on 0411 544 858.



Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Executive Officer Carole Hammond emceed the event. -MP



Solar Savers Metropolitan Coordinator Anna Imberger spoke of the history and future of Solar Savers. -MP



Murrindindi Shire Council Cr Sandice McAulay, Carole Hammond from GMCA, Cr Claudia James from Mitchell Shire Council, and Cr Gareth Graham from Alpine Shire Council. -MP



Councillor Claudia James from Mitchell Shire Council officially launched the program. -MP



## Letters to the Editor

### Continued from Page 2

With the main street closed, I am yet to hear of one shop in the area that did well. In fact, one person told me it was the worst weekend her business had for the year, and she is not the only one who is unhappy.

Just imagine the tens of thousands of dollars that must have been spent on traffic control. I certainly hope that the Murrindindi Council did not sponsor this event, with our rate money.

Warburton must be thrilled to have farewelled the Giro della Donna event.

Anne Thompson, Marysville

### Our Kids

THE children of Alexandra are amazing. They are empathetic, communicative and care for each other. I don't know if it's small town mores or education at schools, but with these children we look to be growing wonderful adults.

You might have seen the ads on television though. The government is trying to help our kids by protecting them from the dark side of the internet. As it turns out though, the internet is a huge place and while there's dark, it's also a positive force for young people who have no access to like-minded mores.

The communities that young people can access help them feel part of the world they grow up in whether it's the Barbie world, the Marvel world or football, cricket, dark academia, steampunk, mermaids or anything else they want to be.

Part of our job as parents and adults in charge of children, like teachers, little athletics, or employers of youth, is to direct their growth.

That's hard, of course, because as adults we've got lots going on. Not just simply living, it's work/life balance, mortgages, competitiveness in business, money issues.

But it doesn't matter what your personal policies are, they are going to live in an Internet world.

So don't give up and rely on governmental controls for your under 16s. Teach them how to choose, to fact check, how to take some down time and fill their days with more than just the internet, but remember that for some young people finding like-minded people in a small town is hard and the internet is all they've got.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandra

## Alexandra Show wrap-up

by Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association

FOLLOWING months of planning and several weeks of fine tuning and cleaning, the Alexandra Show for 2024 opened its gates to the public at 9am on November 9. With the day slightly cool after the strong winds of the day before, conditions were perfect for a day of entertainment and education. With so much else on that day in the area, the committee were unsure of how many people would attend. They should not have been worried.

With the animal nursery starting off at 9am as well as the jumping castles and the showmans' area, visitors were kept entertained for the whole day. All of the pavilions were open and the scouts and coffee van were churning out breakfast. The atmosphere was enhanced by the Paul Ray music group, whose amazing young singers were on the stage from 10am until the show closed at 3pm.

Livestock sections well represented this year, with over 80 entries in the poultry pavilion, a large number of horses competing in the gymkhana, and displays of donkeys, cattle and sheep. In conjunction with events by the Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club, sheep dog trials which ran from 7am until 5pm, displays and information from Mansfield Power Ag, Spot On Drones and Embling Rural, the traditional focus on agriculture was strong.

This focus continued into the horticulture sections this year. Vice president Pam Petersen said, "It's great to see strong competition in some of the sections."

The strong showing extended to the schoolwork shed, where students from kindergartens, early learning centres and primary schools from Alexandra to Buxton exhibited works they had been undertaking for the year. The space was full of colour and different mediums and is always a great way of showing the wider

community what varieties of art are being produced at local schools.

Matt Dean, the association president, said, "The committee were very happy with the day and wish to thank all who visited and made it great. Thanks also to all our sponsors for the show... Having these businesses come on board and show their support of agriculture and the wider community is really appreciated."

So, after a busy day and some clean up time, is it tools down for this group of volunteers? Well, with the 140th show year next year, association secretary, Kat Du Guesclin says that planning has already begun and is asking everyone to keep November 8, 2025, free for another fabulous day of face painting and festivities.

Anyone who would like more information about the show for 2025 or would like to get involved is encouraged to contact the Committee at [pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com), or attend the AGM which will be advertised shortly.



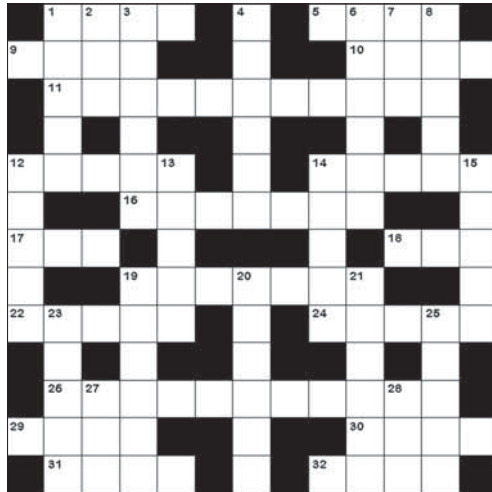
# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
**Page 19**

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Similar to a frog but with drier warty skin.
- How something is done.
- Considerate and helpful to others.
- A pool of still water.
- The typical way an individual reacts.
- Commit to memory.
- A man's facial hair.
- At a previous time.
- An indoor athletic facility.
- No longer on.
- Half woman and half fish.
- A strong pink to yellowish-pink colour.
- At no time in the past or future.
- Persons who make, amend or repeal laws.
- Recover from an injury.
- An amusement or pastime.
- Make a long and difficult journey.
- Refuse to admit.



- Put clothing on.
- Become a participant.
- Valid and reasonable thinking.
- The mark left from the umbilical cord.
- Take the first step.
- Hold back to a later time.
- Crush out of shape.
- A haphazard assortment of different kinds.
- A heavy downpour of rain.
- A young owl.
- The opposing military force.
- The sense organ for hearing.
- Competed in a race.

### DOWN

- The heading of a chapter.
- A single person or thing.
- Have a very high opinion of.
- Sit arms and legs spread about.
- The first event in a series.

## Word Search

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

## Math Square

	-		÷	2	0
+		×		×	
	-		+	9	13
-		+		+	
	+		-		3
4		13		26	

### Summer

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| BATHERS      | SUNHAT   |
| BEACHBALL    | SUNTAN   |
| HEATWAVE     | SURFING  |
| SAND         | SWIMMING |
| SLIPSLOPSLAP | THONGS   |
| SUNGLASSES   | UMBRELLA |

### 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

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

### Difficulty: Easy

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

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



*Murrindindi Shire Council's community safety officers recently reunited a lost dog with its owners. Rocky, a 12-year-old terrier, was missing for five days from a property in Alexandra and is now safely back home with owner Maralyn. This good news story highlights the importance of microchipping and registering your pet. These steps make it much easier for council to bring lost pets back to their families. Dogs and cats over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered with council. For more information and to register your pet, or renew your pet registration, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets) -S*

## Camping at Lake Eildon

THE state of the campgrounds at Lake Eildon has been clarified by Parks Victoria, following questions from this masthead about some campsites being listed as closed online.

Parks Victoria stated that all campsites at the Lakeside and Candlebark Campgrounds are open to book for dates from December 3.

Devil Cove Campground will be open during peak periods, including December 20, 2024 to January 6, 2025; January 24 to January 28; March 17 to March 28.

They also noted that the first stage replacement for the ageing water infrastructure at the Fraser Block was completed on November 20. Water tanks were installed to reinstate a reliable source of running water while the stage two works are planned and completed.

At Lakeside, flushing toilets and hand basins are available using untreated water. Drinking

water, hot water, showers, and barbecues are not provided. At Candlebark, barbecues, flushing toilets, showers, hand basins and hot water are available using untreated water. Drinking water is not provided.

Parks Victoria said: "Through the stage two works, a long-term solution will be delivered to address ageing water and waste infrastructure, to ensure these systems meet today's environmental standards and regulatory requirements.

"These updates will ensure that visitors can continue to enjoy camping at Lake Eildon National Park for years to come.

"Delivering projects in the natural environment is often complex and takes time. We need to make sure we're completing the necessary assessments prior to starting construction, and delivering works carefully, respectfully, and in accordance with the relevant statutory approvals."



*Consultant hydrologist Tim Craig and GBCMA Manager of Flood Plan Implementation Joel Leister in the Molesworth Hall during the consultation. -AR*

## Flood study input sought

RESIDENTS of communities along the Goulburn and Broken rivers were invited to attend drop-in sessions being held by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) to provide input into a key flood study, including an event held at Molesworth Hall on Thursday, November 29.

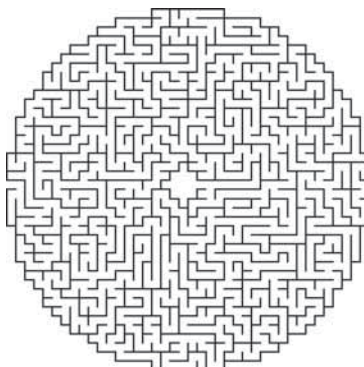
The GBCMA is conducting the Goulburn and Broken Rivers Flood Study to provide flood mapping for the Goulburn River from Lake Eildon to Shepparton, and the Broken River from Lake Nillahcootie to Shepparton, including for many areas which have not been flood mapped previously.

The community drop-in sessions provided the community with an opportunity to discuss the prepared draft flood mapping from the 2022 and 1993 flood events and provide input into whether the mapping reflects what was experienced during the 2022 and 1993 floods.

Representatives of Murrindindi Shire Council and the SES were also in attendance.

The draft flood mapping for the 2022 and 1993 flood events is available at [gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://gbcma.vic.gov.au) and people can also provide comments there if they were unable to attend a community drop-in session.

## Maze





# November council meeting

THE first full council meeting of the new Murrindindi Shire councilors took place last Wednesday. There were no apologies. Cr Adams requested a week's leave from December 8 to December 14, and this was approved. There was no public participation.

## Grants and sponsorships quarterly allocation

Cr Gallagher had a conflict of interest for the recommendation pertaining to the Alexandra Pro Rodeo 2025, given his involvement with Alexandra Events. He excused himself from the meeting while the matter was discussed.

The grants and sponsorship report details the quarterly applications from August, September and October above officer delegation. It also considers the October Quick Response Grants awarded under delegation, with a maximum value of \$2500. In summary of applications received, four were funded under delegation, and four were recommended for funding by council.

The grants awarded under delegation by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel were \$2500 for the Alexandra Spring Fair to the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association Incorporated; \$2500 for the 2024 Rotary Club of Yea Senior Christmas Dinner and entertainment to the Rotary Club of Yea; \$2083 for the Christmas Production to Yea Primary School; and \$1988 for the Flowerdale Community Christmas to the Flowerdale Community Hall.

The grants recommended for council approval by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel are \$5000 to the Molesworth

Public Hall Reserve, for the installation of 5G phone signal booster and smart television for presentation aids; \$5000 to the Rotary Club of Alexandra for Dindi Daze; \$2500 to the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club for an Essential Equipment Recovery Project; and \$5000 to Alexandra Events for the Alexandra Pro Rodeo 2025.

The report and its recommendations were passed by council.

## Future of council's role in provision of Family Day Care service

This report recommended that council resolve to transition from the direct provision of the Family Day Care service and facilitate the transfer of the eight remaining educators to suitable third-party providers where possible, effective December 20. The report also recommends that council note that educators and families will be supported throughout the transition process, including clear communication and assistance to navigate new service arrangements to minimise disruption to families. Council passed the report and its recommendations.

## WorkCover insurance premium approval

The summary for this matter states that council's workers compensation insurance premium for 2024/25 is \$371,562.54 (excluding GST). Council's premium for this year has gone down since last year. The premium rose in 2023 due to changes in WorkSafe policy, and good WorkSafe practices this year led to a reduced premium. It was recommended that council approve the payment. Council approved the payment.

## Declaration and naming of a new road – Providence Rise, Killingworth

Mr Bain presented the information around the declaration and naming of a new road in Killingworth. He stated that a new access road has been constructed entirely within an existing road reserve at 110 Killingworth West Road. The report from the Assets and Environment Group recommends that council, pursuant to section 204(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* declare the road as shown hatched on the plan contained in the report as a public highway for the purposes of the act with the proposed name of Providence Rise. The report also recommends council advertise the decision in local media and the Victoria Government Gazette and include the road in the Register of Public Roads in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004*. Council voted to approve the declaration and naming of the new road.

## Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Adams took the opportunity to express her gratitude to those who voted for her. She has participated in induction training and is looking forward to representing the interests of the community. Cr Adams was allocated the Community Wellbeing portfolio, and is eager to contribute to the council plan for the future. She is looking forward to serving as a committee member for the Rubicon Outdoors School and the Audit and Risk Committee.

Cr Carpenter is grateful for the support of the community who re-elected her. She attended the Yea Cruise Night, the Murrindindi Harvest Festival, the Yea Show, as well as the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre AGM. Cr Carpenter also went to the annual community meeting of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital. In her portfolio of Sustainability and Assets, there was a successful application for a TAC grant for a movement and place study for the Yea township, focussing on High Street. Works have commenced on the Naturally Cooler Murrindindi Street Tree Strategy, which will consider trees alongside roads in Murrindindi. The construction of a new trail in the Yea Wetlands is underway. Works continue on the Eildon Reserve re-developments, while a number of features are already open. The project was initially scheduled for completion in December, but delays have pushed that back into later in summer.

Cr McAulay said she is humbled and excited to be elected for another four year term, and is looking forward to working with the other elected councillors. Cr McAulay was given the portfolio of Economic Development and Business Support for a second time, and she reported that Murrindindi Shire Council was recognised at the Victorian Tourism Awards under the local government category. She thanked all those who contributed to making Murrindindi Shire a contender. Council is again supporting the Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. Cr McAulay also spoke about buying locally this Christmas to support the shire and reported that the Activating Lake Eildon Master Plan received a commendation at the recent Planning Institute of Australia Victorian Awards.

Cr Hildebrand expressed his gratitude at being elected by Koriella Ward. He spoke about the work of the CFA in bringing awareness to fire danger, as well as the upcoming LEAP dinner for emergency preparedness. He is excited to work with the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve and the Yea Saleyards moving forward, to create new ideas and positive outcomes. Cr Hildebrand was allocated the Integrity, Finance and Resilience portfolio.

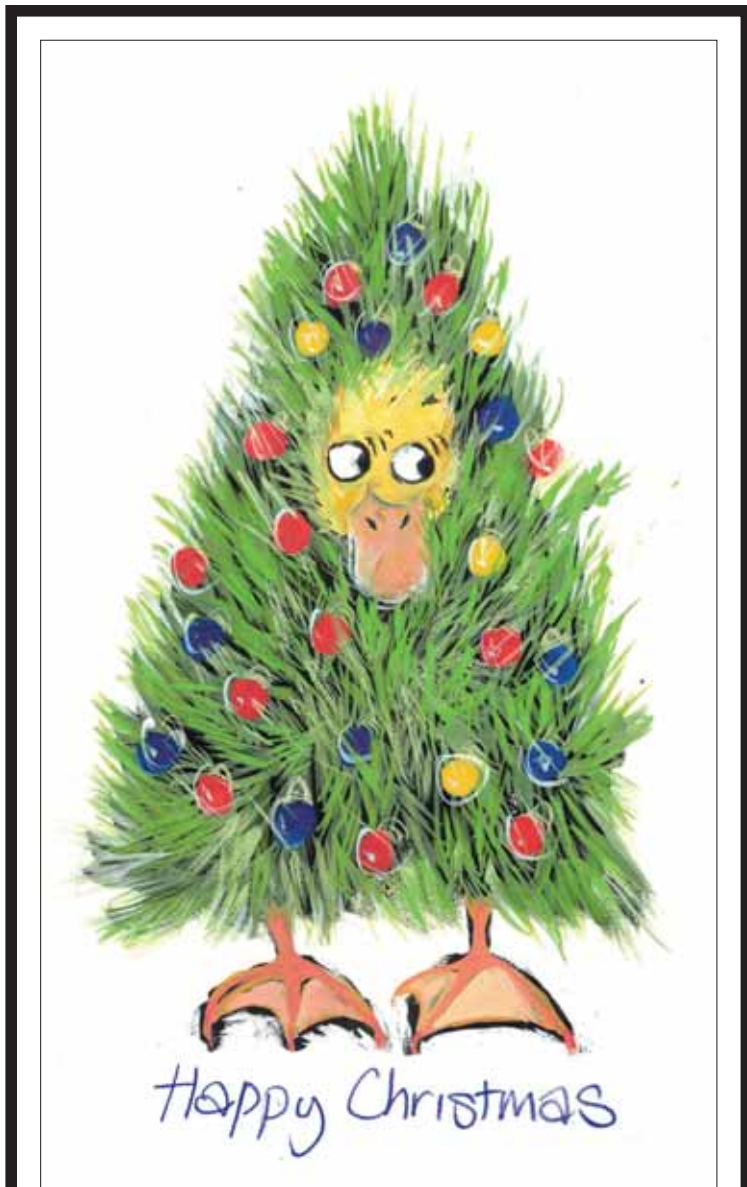
Cr Lording spoke about the work being done to establish a council base of operations in Kinglake, increasing operational efficiency and cutting down on travel time for maintenance work required in the Kinglake Ranges and Flowerdale area. In terms of Infrastructure and Road Care, the Unsealed Roads Capital Works Re-sheeting Program has commenced, and council's Maintenance Road Grading Program is underway with crews working in Yea and Highlands area. Fire prevention roadside slashing is also underway in all areas. Bridge upgrades at Abes and Weedings Bridges are nearing completion. Cr Lording reported that the eight Safe Local Roads and Streets projects have commenced,

to the total of \$1.9 million. The Motorcycle Levy Safety Projects are being finalised for a total of \$55,000. Cr Lording said that the concerns being raised about Murrindindi Shire roads are good, and that people should keep providing input, especially through Snap Send Solve. Cr Lording attended the Kellock Lodge Remembrance Day ceremony in full uniform also, where he did a sword salute to the raising of the flag.

Cr Carr thanked the Eildon Ward residents for putting their faith in her, and said she is looking forward to working with council to move Murrindindi Shire forward in a positive direction. She attended the Thornton CFA open day, and the whole town garage sale on the same day. Cr Carr also attended the Eildon Community Charity Golf Day. She stated that it is great to see people using the Eildon skatepark and play space and mentioned the opening of pools around Murrindindi Shire. Cr Carr spoke about how the Great Victorian Bike Ride was coming to town over the weekend, which is great for local towns. She said that it is great to see the area so busy already as summer approaches.

Cr Gallagher spoke briefly about the induction program that councillors are currently undertaking. He commended UGFM on 30 years of operation. He attended the AGMs for the Redgate CWA, Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, Alexandra Indoor Heated Pool, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital. The agriculture sector for the shire was celebrated recently with the Alexandra and Yea Shows. Cr Gallagher attended the Christmas celebrations for the Alexandra RSL and the Molesworth community gathering. Following the latter, it was announced that Molesworth would be the beneficiaries of the next community planning project, with suggestions currently welcome. The program will be launched in February 2025. Cr Gallagher recognised council's Flood Recovery Manager for their work on events in the local communities. Community representatives met with dialysis patients following changes to patient transport to discuss possible solutions and Cr Gallagher reported that executive appeals have been put to the Health Minister to support reinstatement of suitable transport for dialysis patients and to explore bringing dialysis services closer to the local community. He wrote to the federal Health and Aged Care minister seeking urgent intervention into the matter of a distressing aged care service shadow over several vulnerable Murrindindi Shire residents, hampering their access to dignified in-home care. He also wrote to the minister for Environment and Sports seeking a commitment to prioritise Lake Mountain in future development plans. This was before he found out that Alpine Resorts Victoria was seeking expressions of commercial interest in purchasing Lake Mountain.

Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi reported the statistics regarding the council elections. According to VEC reports, a total of 12,541 Murrindindi Shire residents and rate payers were enrolled to vote in this election, with 10,279 casting their votes. Of these, 405 were informal votes, just under 4 per cent. A total of 2262 enrolled voters did not submit their votes or missed the deadline. Council has secured a VicHealth grant of \$15,050 to support the Alexandra Library's popular "Music Time" program. Ms Bonazzi said that council received a grant of \$968,000 under the Federal Government's Housing Support Program to develop the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP). This plan will guide sustainable growth across 71 hectares in Alexandra's major residential growth area, help address housing shortages and aims to encourage well-designed, affordable housing while supporting the local economy. Mesh Planning has been appointed as the lead consultant for the project. Initial engagement with landowners and key stakeholders is underway, and broader community consultation is scheduled to take place in 2025. The Council Roads Advisory Group (CRAG) will hold its final meeting for the year on December 10. Since the last session, council has adopted all 16 recommendations, with staff actively working to incorporate these into the revisions of the Road Management Plan and Road Asset Management Plan.



A lovely Christmas cartoon created by Alexandra local, Ruth Selover.



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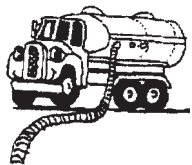
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Sarah from Murrindindi Shire Council on a smoothie bike. -S

## Grow Well Dindi and Alexandra District Health at the Alexandra Show

MOST of you would be aware of the annual Alexandra Show being held recently. Many locals showed up, either as stall holders, competitors or consumers (some, as all of the above).

Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Grow Well Dindi (GWD) teamed up for the day, offering dazzling conversation, free smoothies and diabetes health checks. GWD is a community-led, localised approach to improving the health and wellbeing of children in Murrindindi Shire.

GWD was a successful recipient of a Quick Response grant through Murrindindi Shire Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program which funded a fun, healthy and active activity that had members of the community making their own free delicious smoothies, blended by sheer pedal power.

During the course of the day, the community pedalled out 126 mango or strawberry smoothies. The bikes proved popular with children and adults alike, with lots of people eager to join in the fun including Sarah Hopkins, council's Mobile Library and Customer Service Officer, who operates the Mobile Library (also an active stall holder on

the day), and Peter Weeks whose dulcet tones you may recognise from the UGFM airwaves.

Robyn and Anne Marie, two of the ADH District Nurses conducted over 50 blood pressure checks and blood glucose checks, and shared their expertise and knowledge with many other community members who stopped by for a chat. Lots of resources were distributed out into the community, including many healthy recipe ideas and free drink bottles.

As a sponsor of GWD, Goulburn Valley Water donated 50 drink bottles which proved an extremely popular offering. The ongoing community and partner support received by Grow Well Dindi and Alexandra District Health is highly valued and integral to their ongoing success and they would like wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy (and safe) New Year.

If anyone would like to learn more about Grow Well Dindi or has any questions please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Storey at ADH, on 03 5772 0900 or [melissa.storey@adh.org.au](mailto:melissa.storey@adh.org.au). Likewise, if you would like to contact ADH please do so on the above number or refer to [adh.org.au](http://adh.org.au)

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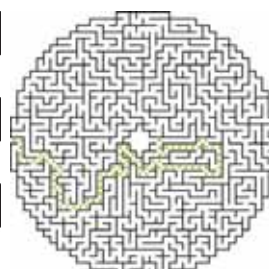
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### MAZE



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7	4	8	2	1	6	5	3	9



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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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## CHRISTMAS Memorial Service

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We can celebrate our memories, as they will always be there."*

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### PUBLIC NOTICES



Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action

#### Safety on Public Land Act 2004

#### NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

I, Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, give notice pursuant to section 7(1)(a) of the *Safety on Public Land Act 2004*, that I have made a public safety zone declaration published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The declaration made on 28/11/2024 takes effect 01/12/2024 to 28/02/2025 inclusive.

They specify areas of State forest which have been declared public safety zones for;

- conducting fire and forest operations and the maintenance of public safety.

The declaration specifies the period for which the areas have been declared public safety zones; the times or periods during which access to the public safety zones is restricted or prohibited; activities permitted, prohibited, or restricted in the public safety zones; restrictions or conditions (if any) applying to the public safety zones; and persons or classes of persons exempt from their operation.

A copy of the declaration, and maps showing the location of public safety zones, may be inspected at the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002 (by appointment with the State Planned Burning Coordinator, telephone 136 186).

A copy of the declaration is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>

A copy of the maps showing the location of fire operations is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp>

A copy of the maps showing the location of forest operations is available at Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action web site at: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/forest-management>

Chris Hardman,  
Chief Fire Officer,

as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy,  
Environment and Climate Action

### MEETINGS

## ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH

The Board of Directors of Alexandra District Health  
invite you to join us for our  
2023-2024 Annual General Meeting

This event will be held on  
Thursday 5th December 2024 at 4.00pm, at  
Alexandra District Hospital.

✓ Community Aged Care Services Update - Chris Wasley

✓ Aged Care - The Cost of Care - Sharyn Wedlock

Please join us for refreshments served afterwards

Please RSVP to Jennifer Creed by 28th November, 2024

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## Funding for wildlife rescue volunteers

THE Victorian Government is boosting funding for Victoria's wildlife rescue volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos opened applications for the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants with up to \$3000 in funding available as part of a \$300,000 investment to support wildlife rescue volunteers provide native animals in need of rehabilitation.

"We're supporting wildlife volunteers to provide the best possible care to the animals they work with, by supporting them with training, equipment and resources to carry out best-practice treatment," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"Wildlife shelters and foster carers across Victoria play an essential role in the recovery and rehabilitation of native animals that have been injured or orphaned."

Wildlife shelter operators and foster carers can apply for funding to cover a range of expenses, including equipment, vet fees, training, feed and medication.

Wildlife shelter operators can up apply for up to \$3000. Foster carers can apply for up to \$2000.

In January this year, \$230,000 worth of grants were awarded to support 102 wildlife organisations continue to provide vital care for thousands of native animals across Victoria, enhancing facilities to treat, house and rehabilitate wildlife for release while boosting skills and knowledge through education and training.

Since 2015, the state government has invested \$6.3 million to support the work of foster carers, authorised wildlife shelter operators and key wildlife organisations, building on a historic \$609 million investment in Victoria's environment since 2014.

Applications opened on Tuesday, November 25, 2024 and close on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

For more information on Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants and to submit an application visit, [wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants/](http://wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants/)

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## 50 years of service



W.Bro Neil Moehr and W.Bro Robert (Bob) Gale. -S



A special presentation was recently held in Alexandra for W.Bro Robert (Bob) Gale to recognise his 50 years of service to the Freemasons, supported by his wife Ann. It was presented by Neil Moehr (right). -S

## Yea Community Bank conducts AGM

THE Yea Community Bank held their annual general meeting on Tuesday, November 26 at the RSL Hall in Yea. They were pleased to advise that the bank had achieved a profit of \$375,000.

In his chair's report, James Osborne introduced new chair Terry Hubbard and deputy chair Ian Marshman.

Mr Osborne said that the staff have done a fabulous job during the year, and that many compliments have been received about their performance and the way that they've gone about conducting business.

They spent a lot of time on the Alexandra opportunity during the year, including opening an office in the town. Unfortunately, they didn't see an increase in business coming from the town, so at the end of the 12 month term of release, they closed the office.

This year, they have spent some considerable time looking at the shareholder structure, and where the shares are held. At the AGM, they reviewed the constitution to instigate a share

buyback, ensuring that shares in the bank are held locally instead of far afield. The board resolved to undertake that all shareholders would be offered up to 500 shares. At the offer price of \$0.95. The buyback is limited to parcel and 500 shares for a shareholder or part thereof.

They announced that they planned to declare a five per cent unfranked dividend, like the dividend last year.

They also reviewed the Community Grants program. The tentative plan is for a Community Grants programme of \$30,000 and an increased return on investment expected from the recipients.

The directors were elected unanimously. They are Lily Cox, David Stares, Damien Gallagher, Phillip Webb.

James Osborne was sincerely thanked for his efforts as chair and for helping the bank to reach the financial situation in which it now finds itself.



Ian Marshman, Jim Osborne and Terry Hubbard. -AR

## The 'popular' bus network

THE Victorian Government sent out a press release on Thursday, November 28, extolling the virtues and popularity of the new bus network in the Yarra Valley.

The press release said, "Yarra Valley residents are embracing their new bus network after its first 11 months in place, with more than 40,000 additional trips taken since the Allan Labor Government introduced better services across the region... Changes to the Yarra Valley bus network in November 2023 saw extra services added, better connections with trains and simplified timetables, resulting in an increase of people using the bus network on weekdays, with patronage already up 10 per cent on the same period in 2023."

It's understood that prior traveller numbers were not released to the public.

The release also stated that among the changes, "Route 684 from Eildon now turning around at Ringwood Station instead of travelling through to the CBD. At Ringwood Station, bus passengers have access to a turn-up-and-go train service and onward links to the eastern suburbs and medical and social services such as Maroonah and Box Hill hospitals.

"These upgrades are part of the Victorian Bus Plan, improving the state's bus network to better meet demand and improve services across the state."

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams said, "We replaced an outdated bus network with a better managed and more efficient public transport network for the Yarra Valley community and we're seeing more locals getting on board with these improved services.

"We've already improved bus services in more than half of the state's 79 local government areas (LGA), with thousands of Victorians getting on board with the changes."

Has Murrindindi Shire seen an improvement in bus services? Many may argue.



## SPORT

# No Saturday Pennant due to extreme weather

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club's midweek game against Shepparton Golf was played at home in fine conditions. Alexandra had a good win over Golf. Last Saturday bowls were washed out across the region.

Midweek players' Doug Cooper (Skip), Coby Petersen, Pauline Gilmore, and Levi Ronalds were the best winning rink. They began slowly and trailed one to 12 on end seven. However, they won a fabulous seven shots on the next end to be eight to 12. By end thirteen it was 14 all. After the break the Alexandra rink won six out of the last eight ends to win 27 to 17. It was a great game by all players.

Another winning rink was David Nicklos (Skip), Trevor Stewart, Craig Parkinson and Denise Chisholm. They were six to two on end four but Golf won the next three ends to draw six all. Alexandra won three of the next six ends to lead 14 to 10 at the break. They won five out of the eight ends after lunch and won the game 21 to 16.

Christine Mayfield (Skip), John Blamey, Marty Manning and Clive Murphy were eight all on end seven. They led 11 to nine on ten but golf had a five shot win on end eleven to lead 14 to 11. Alex was trailing 12 to 16 at the

break. They won three out of the last eight ends to lose 17 to 23.

Alexandra won overall 65 to 56 which moved them ahead of Merrigum on the division four ladder. They play away to Shepparton Park in the next round who are on top of the ladder.

Saturday Pennant was cancelled due to the wet weather across the Goulburn Valley Playing Area. This was disappointing for division four and six. Division four was to play Shepparton Park at home and were looking forward to a home game. Next week they play away to Tallygaroopna. The

ladder is Euroa 85, Dookie 83, Alexandra 80, Tatura Hilltop 73, East Shepparton 65, Tallygaroopna 65, Mooroopna 58, Shepparton Park 50, Merrigum 38 and Seymour 30.

The Player Ladder for GV Playing Area Division four has Alexandra's Doug Cooper on top, with Geoff Exton from East Shepparton second and Greg Gilmore third.

Division six were to play away to Nagambie in what would have been their third game away in a row. This week they play Violet Town at home, who are third on the ladder. With Division six improving every week it should be a good game. Spectators are always welcome.

Club Championship games are progressing and all those who enter are encouraged to organise games.

The club's Christmas lunch was held last Sunday and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Great food and great company.

## State speedway series headlines Alexandra speedway show this Saturday

by Dean Thompson

THIS Saturday night Alexandra Speedway entertainment will include no less than four different state series rounds in competition with club class support completing the program. In state series events will be the Production Sedans, Goulburn Ovens Sedan Association, Ladies Standard Saloons, and Open Standard Saloons, while Sports Sedans and National Junior Sedans are in support of the series events.

Also, at Alexandra on Saturday the club has made the telephone call to invite Santa Claus to the racetrack and that booking has been accepted. Bring your kids along to see Santa and some terrific racing.

The state series for Standard Saloons in both Ladies and Open classes are also holding rounds this weekend. Drivers to keep an eye out for in the Ladies include long time Alexandra member Sarah Meakins, Caroline Allen, Bree Walker, another club member Courtney Meakins, and Stacey Sheedy, while Maddi Capon of the Alexandra club makes her debut in the class in front of the spectators that she completed her junior development in front of, an exciting scenario for her.

Juniors in competition this weekend include Axel Robinson, Luke Morrison and Cruz Paterson, all of whom are club members. They are up against Zack Erickson, Nathan Miles and Kade Robertson a brand-new racer in the class. Miles won recently at Nyora, whilst Morrison won at Nyora and at



Stephen Laidlaw, one of the favourites in the Production Sedan class. -S

Alexandra's last meeting already this season. Robinson is very keen to lock in a win this Saturday on home turf to kick start his season early in the summer. Sports Sedans are also in action with Josh Service, David Donnegan, Jack Kershaw in his first Sports Sedan race event, and Robert Garlick will represent Alexandra as they do battle with visiting racers Anthony Ellis, Darwyn Lee, Ben Carrington, Steve Sharam and Jasmin Molloy.

This Saturday racing begins from 4pm on Gordon Street Alexandra with a planned 10.30pm finish, gates open to the public at 9.30am. Enquires can be communicated via Facebook messages to the club to race day up until 9.30pm.

Entrance will cost \$60 for a family of two adults and three kids aged 10 to 16. An adult ticket is \$25, concession and children aged 10 to 16 is \$10, with all children under the age of 10, free.

## Wild weather for brave Marysville golfers

by Lesley Rundle

OVER the last few weeks the golfers have been blessed with some glorious spring weather and excellent conditions for golf in Marysville.

All that changed last Saturday when very heavy rain kept all but a few golfers at home. Just one lady and six men braved the elements and completed the 18 holes. The men played the final round of the Par Shield and Adam Littlejohn (21) with minus one won the event with Richy Clark (12) runner-up with minus three.

The nearest the pin was won by Peter Lilley on the ninth hole. Next Saturday both the men and ladies will play stroke for the December monthly medal and the ladies round will include playing for the Norman Trophy which couldn't be held last Saturday.

The Thursday nine holers played a two-person ambrose on the back nine holes. The winners were Amanda and Glen Rattay (5) with nett 30 followed by Mark Alexander and Richy Clark (2.75) with nett 31.25. The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh and Kellan Fiske.

The golfers were delighted that Ian Harris took his pizza oven to the club and after play they enjoyed some delicious homemade pizzas and good company. Local and visiting golfers are welcome to join the nine hole competition held each week with a 12.30pm arrival for a 1pm hit off. There is no need to pre enter-just turn up and have some fun and maybe enjoy a pizza.

On Friday, November 15, the Annual Golf Construction Cup and Cycling event was held. The golfers played a stableford aggregate game incorporating the Grocon Cup. The winning team were visitors Warren Heinmen, Bruce Heinmen and Simon Gray with a score of 99. The runners-up were a Marysville team comprising Heather Jenkins, Keith Atwell and Brian Worcester with 93 points.

The nearest the pins were won by Ray Jones and Lloyd Flaherty. While the golfers were playing the cyclists were enjoying a ride up to Lake Mountain and then joined the golfers for lunch supplied by Glen Fiske. Members thank Steve Coker for coordinating the event and Heather Jenkins for assisting on the day.

Members who wish to play in the second round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra on January 11 are reminded to sign the list in the clubrooms and those who wish to have lunch at the club on Presentation Day on December 21 please inform Alan Howard.

## Tight competition for Alexandra squash players

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Koalas

JORDAN versus Eric: Great game by both players. Eric improved greatly, but Jordan had some excellent shots that claimed him the win. 75 to 55.

Mick versus Lee: Jumping to a quick lead, Mick took control of the court. In the first game, Lee rallied to take back prime position on the court to leave Mick struggling to keep up. Placing the ball out of reach, Lee took the remaining games and the match. 58 to 47.

Justin versus Simon: Simon dominated early, but Justin played some excellent shots into the second half and almost made a comeback. Managing to stay just barely ahead, Simon was victorious. 64 to 60.

Jack versus Daniel K: This was an interesting match to watch. Jack battled with

his opponent to the end, but with all the tricky shots Daniel was putting out he held onto the lead throughout every game to win the match. 65 to 44.

### Echidnas versus Wombats

Ethan versus Lochlan: What a close match. Some ripper serves and rallies throughout. Lochlan was too good in the first half, but Ethan flipped the script to take the next two games and to win the match. 52 to 48.

Matt versus Chris: Winning the first game by a point, Chris started with a win. The match quickly turned as Matt sped up to reach every ball. Chris marvelled at his speed as Matt ran his way to take the next three games and the victory. 73 to 43.

Jared versus Daniel W: Only a measly point in it. Jared won the first game by a point; this one point is what he was leading by going into the final game. Daniel put his all into the match, but Jared stayed ahead to win the match. 60 to 59.

James versus Derrick: With a smile on his face, Derrick had James frazzled from the beginning. James couldn't get anything right on the night with Derrick taking home a clean sweep. 65 to 50.

### Thursday Competition Tigers versus Lions

Sam (fill in) versus Blake: Playing against a fill in that is two levels above put Blake at a great disadvantage. Rising to the challenge, Blake did not let Sam have an easy win and took the first game by a point. Sam brought

out his skills to best Blake and end the match on top as expected. 66 to 52.

Lucas versus Jodie: A tight match. Lucas won three games, with a small margin. Jodie only managed to take one game from Lucas, but she did it with enough of a margin to still win the match on points. Jodie claimed her victory. 57 to 54.

James versus Stuart: James had a smashing first game, doubling his opponent's score. From there Stuart slowly plugged away at reducing James's lead. Unfortunately, Stuart didn't quite get there, and James triumphed with three-points to spare. 62 to 59.

### Leopards versus Cheetahs

Beth versus Jess: It was a hard slog on the courts. Jess ran for all the balls and her placement helped to crush Beth in the third game of an otherwise close match. That win gave Jess a good lead and boosted her greatly in her victory.

Kristelle versus Travis: A match to behold. It was like playing a mirror. Kristelle pulled out a couple of wild shots and Travis had some beautiful serves. In the last minute, Kristelle really lost focus, allowing Travis to get slightly ahead again to take his well-deserved win. 61 to 57.

Jack (fill in) versus Jim: It was hot on the court and Jack was on fire, holding a commanding lead throughout. Jim tried for a comeback in the last game, but Jack was able to smother Jim's hopes to take all four games. 61 to 44.



Blake plays a backhand against Sam. -S



# Great Victorian Bike Ride



Wet conditions didn't stop the riders. -MP



By 7.30am on Sunday, many riders were already heading to Healesville. -MP



Tents at Leckie Park on Friday night. -Ewan McLean



Tents in Alexandra on Friday night. Fortunately, the large storm which impacted Yea didn't hit Alexandra. -AR



Time to head off on day nine. -MP



Some happy faces on the last day. -MP



Some opted to ride together. -MP



A welcoming entrance into Marysville. -MP



Rain, hail, and shine was Saturday's forecast. -MP



Traffic controllers Arty and Fred were a delight to be around as they encouraged the riders as they passed through. -MP



THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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*Tents on the Trevor Harrow Oval in Marysville. -AR*

## A ride to remember

AFTER a week's riding and celebrating the 40th anniversary Great Vic Bike Ride, over 2700 men, women and children finished their epic 500km ride in Healesville on Sunday, December 1.

Alison McCormack, CEO of Bicycle Network, said, "We started in heat last weekend, had lots of rain, rode the longest stage ever in Great Vic Bike Ride history, 113kms from Wangaratta to Mansfield and partied like its 1984."

"The final day featured a rare opportunity to ride the picturesque Black Spur car-free".

"We had six penny-farthing riders who recreated the history of the inaugural ride in 1984 when ten of the 2100 participants decided they would celebrate the first Great Victorian Bike Ride on penny-farthings".

Bike riders met family and friends at their final destination in Healesville.

The Great Vic Bike Ride started in Wodonga and traversed a scenic, windy and hilly route through the North East stopping at Myrtleford, Wangaratta (two nights with a loop ride), Mansfield (two nights and a rest day), Alexandra and Marysville.

"We owe a big thanks to the towns along the route who have been so welcoming to us. The bike riders have enjoyed street parties and country hospitality that is second to none," Alison said.

Bicycle Network announced that the 40th anniversary event will be the end of an era for the iconic ride as the costs of running the nine-day rolling festival have become prohibitive. The 2025 ride will be recreated in a new format.

Murrindindi Shire made the riders very welcome during their time in the area, including holding a street party in Alexandra on Friday night. More images from this event can be found on page 11.

*Sunday had better riding conditions. -MP**Many different forms of bicycles took part in the Great Vic Bike Ride. -MP**Riders copped the brunt of mother nature on their way to Marysville on the Saturday. -MP*