

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, October 29, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

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# Forest firefighters to rally at parliament

FOREST firefighters are set march on Victorian Parliament today, Wednesday, October 29 demanding fair pay, as the state faces a critical bushfire season with a depleted emergency response fleet.

AWU members and supporters will gather at Victoria Trades Hall at 11.30am before marching to Parliament House, calling on the Victorian Government to honour its commitment to the workers who protect Victorian lives and property.

The rally comes as Forest Fire Management Victoria faces significant operational challenges, with 290 G-Wagons and 59 Unimogs taken offline due to chassis and subframe faults, just weeks before the start of fire season.

AWU Victorian Branch President and Lead Country Organiser Ross Kenna said forest firefighters had been more than reasonable, but DEECA's stalling tactics had run their course.

"Make no mistake, these are the workers who stand between Victorian communities and catastrophic bushfire," Mr Kenna said.

"When the alarm sounds, they're the ones heading into the flames. They're highly trained, highly skilled, and they put their lives on the line. Yet they're being treated like they're disposable.

"We've negotiated in good faith. We've followed every process. We've given this department months to do the right thing. Instead, we get delay tactics and excuses.

"Enough is enough. Today we're bringing our fight to the steps of Parliament. If the government won't come to the table, we'll bring the table to them."

AWU Victorian Secretary Ronnie Hayden said the timing of the vehicle crisis made the pay dispute even more unconscionable.

"The entire G-Wagon fleet is grounded with structural faults, fire season is bearing down on us, and the Government still won't pay these workers what they're worth," Mr Hayden said.

"This is a damning indictment of how this state values its emergency services workers. Broken promises, broken vehicles, and workers left to carry the burden.

"These firefighters have held the line through every crisis this state has faced. It's time the Government held up its end of the bargain.

"The Premier recently thanked our forest firefighters for their work. Well, words are cheap, but the cost of living is not, as our

members know all too well. If Jacinta Allan truly values these workers, she'll back up her thanks with fair pay."

Mr Kenna was clear that while AWU members would never walk away from protecting Victorian communities, the fight for fair pay would not be dropped.

"Our members are professionals. They'll keep doing what they've always done, protecting this state from fire," he said.

"But let's be crystal clear. Commitment to the job doesn't mean accepting exploitation. These workers have families. They have mortgages. They deserve to be paid what they're worth.

"Fair pay isn't a nice-to-have. It's not something we'll negotiate away. It's a matter of respect, and it's long overdue."



Murrindindi Shire Council celebrated eight new Australian citizens at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chamber. Pictured are Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi, Rotary Club of Alexandra President John Allcock, conferee Marc, Mayor Damien Gallagher, conferees Sherma, David, Gerard, Francesco, Florine, UGFM co-founder Peter Rice, conferees Desmond, Alexey, Veronica Hendrickson and Deputy Mayor Anita Carr. Full article on page 2. -S

2025

# SHOWTIME

NOVEMBER 8

## YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FAMILY TICKETS TO THE 2025 ALEXANDRA SHOW

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DROP YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ALEXANDRA STANDARD OFFICE BY NOON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.

ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY

Winning tickets will need to be collected prior noon, Friday, November 7.  
(Tickets are for two adults and two children) \*Staff and family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

## Alexandra Newspapers will be closed on

# Tuesday, November 4

due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.

Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital  
5736 0400

In an emergency dial  
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS

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# New Australians spring into Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council celebrated eight new Australian Citizens on Tuesday, October 21 at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chamber.

Desmond, Sherma, Marc, Francesco, David, Alexey, Florine and Gerard have pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people, and its democratic beliefs, and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

The ceremony was conducted by Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, with Deputy Mayor Anita Carr and Council CEO Livia Bonazzi assisting in the proceedings. Also in attendance were distinguished guests including Peter Rice from UGFM, local volunteer and educator Veronica Hendrickson, and John Allcock, President of Rotary Club of Alexandra. As respected community leaders and volunteers, these guests helped inspire our newest citizens to actively engage in local life and contribute ideas that strengthen our shared future.

Murrindindi Shire Council extends its warmest congratulations to all the conferees and wishes them all the best in their new journey as Australian Citizens.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website [immi.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au) or call the Citizenship Information line on 131 880 during business hours.

“Welcoming new citizens is one of the most special moments for our shire,” Mayor Damien Gallagher said at the ceremony.

“The memories, stories, and traditions that each of you bring as new Australians enrich our community and complement the very longest continuous civilisation on Earth. Today, as you become citizens of Australia, you don’t just join a country; you join us as active participants in a democratic society that values fairness, freedom, and respect. Whether we’re born here, or committing ourselves to Australia today, our citizenship is in part a duty, a promise to engage, to care, and to help build a better future; not for ourselves as self-interested individuals, but for us all, as Australians.

The ceremony is not just about receiving certificates. It’s about recognising the shared future we are building together here in Murrindindi, and we are delighted to celebrate this occasion with our newest community members and their families.”

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

ON Wednesday afternoon, the bridge players got together for a few hands and followed up by joining Mansfield players at the Corner Hotel on Thursday for lunch and some serious bridge. Thank you to Dennis Christian for organising that meet up.

With the Seniors Week Lunch at the Rubicon Hotel and some of the club’s members off on their annual bus trip visiting the Murray region, there were more apologies than attendees for Friday’s meeting. The members quickly dispensed with the agenda items and retired to the tearoom for refreshments and a chat, followed by six players at the 500 table. The UNO cards stayed in the packet this week.

The club welcomes new members so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a game of cards, please come along and join in on a Friday afternoon at the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health  
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance  
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women’s Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas

Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training, Ph 0456 583 611

Sun Alanon 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

1<sup>st</sup> Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1<sup>st</sup> Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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.

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> 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 Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA  
NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation’s  
regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this  
a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of  
what groups are available in the community, when they meet  
and a contact phone number.

| RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT |             |        |          |                   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|----------|-------------------|
| STATION NAME                             | TIME        | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS       |
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)           | 12.00PM Mon | 1.19   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Rubicon River at Rubicon                 | 12.00PM Mon | 0.66   | steady   |                   |
| Acheron River at Taggerty                | 12.00PM Mon | 1.01   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Home Creek at Yarck                      | 10.47AM Mon | 0.28   | steady   |                   |
| Yea River at Devlins Bridge              | 07.39AM Mon | 0.63   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Murrindindi River Above Colwells         | 11.00AM Mon | 0.62   | steady   |                   |
| Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd             | 12.00PM Mon | 0.68   | steady   |                   |
| Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin              | 12.00PM Mon | 3.71   | steady   |                   |
| King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale          | 12.00PM Mon | 0.53   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Goulburn River at Trawool                | 12.00PM Mon | 1.34   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook                | 12.00PM Mon | 0.30   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Goulburn River at Seymour                | 12.00PM Mon | 1.62   | steady   | Below Flood Level |
| Whiteheads Creek at Seymour              | 12.00PM Mon | 1.18   | steady   |                   |

\*ISSUED AT 12:24 PM AEDT MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2025

ALEXANDRA  
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less.** We will  
not publish defamatory letters, or content  
which is offensive, threatening or containing  
personal attacks. Submitted letters may be  
edited before going to print.  
All letters must contain writers name,  
address and contact number. (not necessarily  
for publication). Letters without these details  
supplied cannot not be published. Deadline  
for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

October 29 - November 4, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

5

19

Wednesday

6

21

Thursday

7

21

Thursday

12

24

Friday

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Saturday

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Saturday

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Sunday

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Sunday

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Monday

9

19

Monday

9

19

Tuesday

8

17

Tuesday

8

17

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

| DISTRICT RAINFALL                                    |         |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Alexandra .....                                      | 41mm    |
| Buxton.....                                          | 84mm    |
| Eildon (AWS).....                                    | 44mm    |
| Flowerdale.....                                      | 31mm    |
| Jamieson.....                                        | 59mm    |
| Kinglake.....                                        | 47mm    |
| Lake Eildon.....                                     | 48mm    |
| Mansfield.....                                       | 39mm    |
| Taggerty .....                                       | 54mm    |
| Yarck .....                                          | 39mm    |
| Yea.....                                             | 37mm    |
| Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday               |         |
| LAKE EILDON                                          |         |
| Height above sea level this week.....                | 275.65m |
| Capacity as at 9am Monday.....                       | 55.6%   |
| Metres below full supply.....                        | 13.25m  |
| Daily inflow .....                                   | 5000ML  |
| Release.....                                         | 1000ML  |
| Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)..... | 76%     |

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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

## Alexandra Opportunity Shop supports local community groups

THE Alexandra Opportunity Shop focuses on supporting aged care, particularly Kellock Lodge but also donates to several other community groups. The most recent round of donations was in response to requests from four groups. Each of these groups is run by volunteers.

The First Alexandra Scouts Group requested support to assist with the purchase of materials for camps and activities. Their club activities range from craft projects, woodwork, cooking and gardening to name a few. The Alexandra Opp Shop Board was pleased to provide \$5000. The board also acknowledges the dedication of the scouts volunteers who give their time to the youth of this community.

UGFM requested funding for an air conditioner for the new Outside Broadcast

Van which is currently under construction. The board recognises UGFM's contribution to the community through its local news and information across the shire, along with being a local state emergency broadcaster. It also congratulates the many volunteers who have provided these services for the past 31 years.

Murrindindi Little Athletics requested a donation to support the ongoing activities and a donation of \$1000 was provided. Little Aths is committed to fostering the athletic abilities of children aged six to 16 in a safe and supportive environment.

The Embassy of Ideas will once again host a free Community Christmas Lunch. This event has ensured that no-one needs to feel alone on Christmas day. The board donated \$1000 towards the costs.



Alexandra Opp Shop volunteer Charina Thomas with Little Aths representative Jess Clacy, Maverick and Shiloh. -S



Volunteer Marie Evans and UGFM's Peter Weeks. -S



First Alexandra Scouts with Alexandra Opp Shop President Brenda Lopez. -S



Volunteer Dee Murphy and Embassy of Ideas President Karen Jarvis. -S

## Packed event for Alexandra Show 2025

NOVEMBER 8 is looking to be a cracking day on the spring event calendar in Alexandra, with the Pastoral and Agricultural Show celebrating its 140th event.

The committee is incredibly grateful to all the community groups and businesses who see the value in this event and provide support either financially or in kind. This year, they wish to make special mention of Elders Yea and Alexandra who have come on board as champion sponsors, as well as blue ribbon sponsors, Taggerty Vet Clinic and Eildon Outboard and Marine.

The Rotary Club of Alexandra will also be instrumental in assisting on the gates as well as the CFA and SES who will once again have large displays and the Alexandra Scouts who will be providing breakfast and lunch.

Entertainment for the day will be plentiful. As well as the regular displays in the ladies' pavilion, school work shed and the gymkhana, they will once again be hosting competition yard dog trials thanks to the Cavill family who have been long time supporters of the show.

There will be displays by Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club, the much loved pet parade and music from Paul Ray and his amazingly talented singers.

The day keeps filling up with displays from a local line dancing group, hobby horse competition (yes, you can enter on the day), pedal cars, donkey display and Tubby the Robot who will be on site as roaming entertainment.

The Alexandra Poultry Club will once again be expecting a large number of competing birds on the day and club secretary, Gail Kneeshaw is encouraging all junior owners to enter their birds in the show this year. Competing at a local show level is a great opportunity for younger owners to compete in a supportive environment and gain valuable experience for other events. It's also an opportunity to connect with experienced exhibitors who can offer valuable insight.

Not to be outdone, the Alexandra Pony Club has joined forces with other local clubs to offer competition on the day. With a larger showing expected, it will be a great experience for

younger riders and for those maybe not sure if they wish to join the club, to see what it is all about. In conjunction with a number of other rings that will be running on the day, the oval is set for a work out.

If all the entertainment and movement gets a bit much, it's good to know that you can get a Devonshire tea at the ladies' pavilion and peruse the displays of cooking, horticulture, photography, handcrafts, fruit and vegetables and eggs; or maybe an icecream and watch the pet parade. All this before having a cruise through the showmans' guild alley and then listening to the live reporting from UGFM who will also be on site for the day.

So, for a day of getting back to farming, and seeing what our local people are up to, head on down to the Alexandra Show. More information can be found at [alexandrashow.com](http://alexandrashow.com) or by emailing [pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com).

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## 140th Alexandra Show



**Saturday, November 8, 2025.**  
9am to 3pm

### Featuring:

- Roving entertainment
- Live music
- Petting zoo
- Pet parade
- Pedal cars
- School work displays
- Horses, poultry, working dogs and more

### Entry Fees:

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Children U5   | Free |
| Children 5-17 | \$5  |
| Adults        | \$10 |



Taggerty Veterinary Clinic



EILDON OUTBOARD SERVICE

Schedules available online at [alexandrashow.com](http://alexandrashow.com)  
For sponsorship and membership enquiries contact the secretary at [pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com)

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## Rotary Club of Alexandra 2025-Time Capsule-2050

Would you or your family like to leave something special to someone special, for them to open in 2050?

Kits available to purchase from Alexandra Pharmacy for \$10.

To be returned by Friday, November 21 to Alexandra Pharmacy or Alexandra Newsagency.



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  
0408 123 581  
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

Out&About

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Open meeting in Kinglake West. Would you like to speak to council about topics and issues that affect you and your community? 5-7pm at the Kinglake West Mechanics Institute. For more information email [governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or call council on 5772 0333.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Head over to Marysville for the annual art show at MIRA, 10am-4pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free entry, complimentary food and drinks and live music. Scan the QR code in this edition or visit [miramarysville.com.au](http://miramarysville.com.au)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Taggerty Progress presents Show and Shine at the old Taggerty School. Public entry from 9am-3pm. Peoples choice awards, trophies, raffles and the all season market. Cars, trucks, motorcycles and tractors. For more information contact Michael on 0408 399 757.

Alexandra Museum and Steam Train Rides 10am-3.30pm. Also ride the Halloween Train on Friday, October 31, 5-8pm.

Whittlesea Show 2025 is on again. Saturday and Sunday, 9am-5pm both days. Free attractions, livestock, woodchop, dog show, craft/cookery/homecrafts and much more.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The Alexandra Spring Fair is on from 10am-3pm. Market stalls, live music, local food, children's amusements.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Yea and District open gardens. Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Three country gardens and two town gardens. Also Yea Garden Club plant sale and Yea and District Memorial Hospital open garden.

The 140th Alexandra Show is on 9am-3pm. Roving entertainment, live music, petting zoo, pet parade, pedal cars and much more.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Yea Football Netball Club AGM will be held from 6pm in the main clubrooms, Yea Recreation Reserve.

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at EOI 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

Flowerdale Sports Club AGM will be held at 7pm at the sports club. All welcome. For more information email [flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Alexandra and District Kindergarten AGM will be at 6pm at the Alexandra Kindergarten. RSVP and apologies to the kinder office on 5772 1387 or email [alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Council adopts key strategic plans for the future of Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has adopted a number of important strategic plans that will help shape the future of the shire's services, infrastructure and communities.

At the council meeting on Wednesday, October 22, council formally adopted the Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, Residential Design Guidelines, and Yea Structure Plan.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the meeting marked an important step forward for council's long-term planning and community outcomes.

"These important documents set a clear strategic direction for how we care for our people, our places and promote the sustainable growth of Murrindindi Shire," Cr Gallagher said.

"They reflect the aspirations of our community and provide a roadmap for how we'll deliver on them in the years ahead."

The Asset Plan 2025-2035 sets out how council will manage and maintain more than \$640 million worth of council assets, including roads, bridges, buildings and open spaces over the next decade. The plan focuses on sustainable investment, renewal and ensuring value for money for ratepayers.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 outlines a shared commitment from council and partner agencies to improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing of residents, with particular focus on children, young people and older people. The plan will be delivered in partnership with local health organisations and community partners.

Council also adopted the Murrindindi Residential Design Guidelines, providing practical advice to support well-designed, sustainable and diverse housing across the shire. The guidelines will help developers and residents design houses that reflect local character and respond to the local context, protecting the unique rural charm.

The Yea Structure Plan 2025 was also adopted to guide sensible growth and development in Yea. The plan identifies opportunities for new housing, improved connectivity, and enhancement of the town's environmental and recreational assets, while maintaining Yea's unique character.

"Together, these plans set the direction for council's decisions, aligning our work with community priorities and a sustainable future," Cr Gallagher said.

"We thank everyone who took the time to contribute feedback during their development and look forward to getting to work making Murrindindi the destination of choice, to live, to visit, and to enjoy."

To find out more about other items discussed at the October Scheduled Meeting of Council, visit our Agendas and Minutes page. [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)



The Alexandra Community Shed - Eildon and District Woodworkers recently attended the Shepparton Woodworking Show on the weekend displaying local work and connecting with fellow enthusiasts. -S

Woodies attend Shepparton Woodworking Show



They will also be attending the Alexandra Show on the weekend of November 8 and 9. -S

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Ampol Eildon  
Buxton Shell  
Eildon Grocer  
Endeavour Alexandra  
Hazeldene Store  
Igloo Buxton  
Marysville Grocer  
Merton General Store  
Seymour Newsagency  
Taggerty Store  
Thornton Store  
Yea FoodWorks  
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



# The future of Victoria's forests revealed: No Great Forest National Park?

THE Victorian Government has announced their plans for the future of our forests following the release of the *Eminent Panel for Community Engagement Central Highlands Final Report*. They plan to keep the forests open for exploration, though the opposition is concerned they may be trying to go ahead with the Great Forest National Park by stealth.

As part of the state government's plan for Victoria's great outdoors, they are investing \$30 million to unlock 1.8 million hectares of state forests in Gippsland and northeast Victoria with better tracks and trails, and amenities to boost regional tourism.

They aim to make sure locals have a say on the projects that matter most to them and how money is spent in their patch of the bush. They are starting by investing \$4 million to pilot Healthy Forest Plans with the Orbost and Noojee communities.

They're also investing \$14.2 million to improve tracks and trails, campgrounds and toilets as well as upgrades at key spots like Heyfield's Cheynes Bridge Recreation Area, Buckland Valley Visitor Experience Area and next stage of the Yackandandah Creek Masterplan, creating new reasons for travellers to stop, stay and spend locally.

To keep the bush in top shape, the Victorian Government are also putting more boots on the ground with \$7.2 million for extra rangers to guide visitors, tackle pests and weeds, and protect native wildlife.

Following the end of native timber harvesting, the government commissioned the Great Outdoors Taskforce to reimagine the future of Victoria's forests to meet community expectations.

Informed by extensive consultation and expert advice from the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement, they are releasing the government's response, backed by targeted investment to promote community

access, support regional economies, and better manage the forest.

Premier Jacinta Allan said, "My focus is to bring more families to the bush and more jobs to the regions, and that's exactly what our plan for Victoria's great outdoors will do."

"Our forests remain open to every single Victorian and visitor alike, to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, bushwalking and all the benefits of the bush."

Minister for the Environment Steve Dimopoulos added, "By ending large-scale native timber harvesting, we've given our forests a future. Now we're making sure every Victorian can share in it."

In 2021, the state government announced it would create three national parks, two conservation parks, and seven new and expanded regional parks in the state's central west. This legislation is now before the Victorian Parliament and there will be no further changes to our state forests.

To view the state government's full response to the Great Outdoors Taskforce and Eminent panel for Community Engagement visit, [deeca.vic.gov.au/futureforests](https://deeca.vic.gov.au/futureforests)

However, the opposition has concerns that the state government is moving to subtly create their Great Forest National Park under the guise of expanding the Yarra Ranges National Park.

If the expansion is accepted, large parts of existing state forest will be reclassified as national and forest parks, limiting public access and restricting activities.

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath said in appeasing green groups, the state government is moving to establish the Great Forest National Park (GFNP) by stealth.

"Behind closed doors Labor's created a blueprint that lays the foundation to lock up vast areas of public land without transparency, community consultation or the workforce to manage it," Ms Bath said.

"A comparison of maps for the GFNP and the Great Outdoors Taskforce Final Report shows the pathway for Labor to plough ahead and do what it said it won't."

Ms Bath said Environment Minister, Steve Dimopoulos, is saying one thing to unions and bush users and doing the opposite.

"The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council and the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement both recommended linking existing parks and reserves across the Central Highlands in the footprint of the Great Forest National Park," Ms Bath said.

"In March 2024 Premier Jacinta Allan said she would 'never put a padlock on our public forests'. Yet the Allan Government is reneging and changing tenure of vast areas of public land.

"In 2024, Labor gutted Parks Victoria workforce slashing 144 fulltime equivalent rangers, yet Minister Dimopoulos announced it will recruit approximately half the rangers cut but with a greater area to cover.

"No matter what the spin, Labor has cut boots on the ground and mismanaged our forests. Labor is moving to lock up more land, our bush users, communities and the environment are all paying the price," Ms Bath concluded.

Continued Page 21



There will plenty of children's amusements at the Alexandra Spring Fair. -S

## Go along to the Alexandra Spring Fair

THE long-awaited annual Alexandra Spring Fair is almost here as it returns to Rotary Park in Alexandra on Sunday, November 2 from 10am to 3pm.

This popular event presented by the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association (ADTTA) and Alexandra Events



There will be plenty to see and do at the beautiful Rotary Park at the Alexandra Spring Fair. -S

transforms Rotary Park with plenty to see and do, creating an amazing community buzz in Alexandra.

With a \$2 gold coin donation entry fee that goes towards the running of the Alexandra visitor information centre, the Spring Fair has plenty of stalls showcasing an array of handmade crafts, produce, and unique local treasures, the Alexandra Historical Car Club will have an impressive display for you to admire, there will be plenty of gourmet food stalls, great amusements for the children to experience, and entertaining live music for everyone to enjoy. This includes, Paige Lee, winner of the junior bush idol this year at the Man from Snowy River Festival. Another live act will be a duo headed up by Josh Beadle, originally from Alexandra who previously attended Alexandra Secondary College.

The local CFA fire brigade will be in attendance with the lead up to the fast-approaching bushfire season to chat to residents and visitors about their fire plan, getting your property fire ready, and how to stay safe.

For all ADTTA members now it is time for membership renewal. If you want to become a member, meetings are every second Tuesday of the month, new members are always welcome to come along and be part of it all. With the efforts of events such as the Christmas Bonanza, Alexandra Spring Fair, the Easter Fair, and Christmas carols in December this is what ADTTA thrives on, by promoting our little town and keeping it alive.

# ALEXANDRA

# Spring FAIR

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

ROTARY PARK 10AM-3PM [www.alexandratourism.com](http://www.alexandratourism.com)

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Friday October 31  
5pm to 8pm

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[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum) or by contacting 0427 509 988

# Murrindindi Shire Council October meeting

CR Lording was an apology for the first part of the meeting but joined partway through. There was no public participation.

## Amendment to planning permit 2023/166: 370 Minto Road Flowerdale

Murrindindi Shire Council officers withdrew this application from the meeting agenda, due to meeting with the applicant and the applicant amending the original application to address the officers’ concerns regarding access from Minto Road in Flowerdale.

An amended planning permit has been issued, and the matter does not require further attention.

## Adoption of Yea Structure Plan

The final draft of the Yea Structure Plan has been completed following community and stakeholder feedback. The plan now identifies opportunities for residential, commercial and industrial growth in the town, while protecting Yea’s valued features.

It was recommended that council: Adopt the Yea Structure Plan; request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to exhibit an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to implement the Yea Structure Plan, either as a standalone amendment or incorporated into a larger planning scheme amendment; and if as a standalone amendment, authorise council officers to finalise documentation for the amendment in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning.

Council voted to adopt the Yea Structure Plan.

## Adoption of Residential Design Guidelines

The Murrindindi Shire Residential Guidelines were developed to support the planning and design of new and renovated buildings across the shire, including the key residential growth area of Alexandra East. Production of the guidelines was funded by the Commonwealth Housing Support Program grant for the Alexandra East Development Plan.

The guidelines have been developed to be applicable across the shire, and they will be incorporated into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme with a future amendment to strengthen

their statutory weight. They have undergone a consultation process with local industry practitioners and are now ready for formal adoption by council.

Council voted to adopt the Murrindindi Shire Residential Design Guidelines for use by developers, designers, architects and residents for new and renovated dwellings.

## Adoption of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29

The final Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2025-29 was presented to council for adoption following public exhibition of the draft. The plan was developed in alignment with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27. It outlines strategies across mental, physical, and social wellbeing domains and is informed by local data, community consultation, and stakeholder engagement.

Council voted to adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29 and submit the plan to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to fulfill requirements under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

## Kinglake Ranges Community Plan

Council has already adopted an approach to community planning where officers work with local communities to create plans tailored to each locality. The communities making up the Kinglake Ranges recently participated in this program and developed their community plan.

The significance of the contribution made by community members during the Kinglake Ranges community planning process warrants formal recognition, which is why council noted the Kinglake Ranges Community Plan.

## Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024-25

This item was withdrawn from the meeting agenda due to the audit report from the Victoria Auditor General’s Office not being received in time for inclusion in the annual report. It will instead be considered at a Special Council Meeting held on October 29, 2025.

## Quarterly Finance Report for September 2025

The report detailing the quarterly finances for the period ending September 30 was presented to council.

The annual revised budget forecasts an operating surplus of \$1.2 million for the year, an increase of \$164,000 on the original adopted budget and primarily reflects an increase in forecast grant income due to carry forward grants, including \$2 million for flood recovery. The report notes there is also an increase in forecast expenditure on materials and services associated with flood recovery works.

Council voted to adopt the Annual Revised Budget 2025-26, incorporating the carry forward budgets from the 2024-25 year and other budget adjustments for the period ending September 30, 2025. They also voted to note the Quarterly Financial Report to September 30, 2025.

## Audit and Risk Committee confirmation of minutes

Council noted the minutes for the September 25 meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee.

## Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report January to June 2025

The biannual report for council’s Audit and Risk Committee details the key activities undertaken by the committee during this period.

Council noted the biannual report.

## Audit and Risk election of chair

During its September 25 meeting, the Audit and Risk Committee recommended that council appoint Mr Steve Schinck as committee chair for the next 12 months. Mr Schinck has been the committee chair for the preceding two years and is eligible for a further one year term.

The committee also requested council amend the committee charter to align the term of the chair with the sequence of committee meetings commencing in December each year and finishing at the conclusion of the September committee meeting in the following year. This would ensure the chair’s term concludes with the meeting that considers the annual financial and performance statements and the external auditor’s annual report for the previous financial year.

Council voted to approve the Audit and Risk Committee’s recommendations.

## CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Independent Member Appointment

In compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, council has adopted a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, which provides for council to obtain independent professional advice in relation to matters dealt with in the policy.

The current independent professional advisor has completed the maximum allowable four-year term under the policy, and a publicly advertised expression of interest process was conducted to fill the independent advisor role for a new term.

A panel of two senior staff and the mayor interviewed shortlisted applicants and recommended that council appoint Ms Rebecca McKenzie to the independent advisor role.

Council voted to appoint Ms Rebecca McKenzie as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for an initial two-year term commencing on November 1, 2025; approve the independent member’s schedule of rates; and formally acknowledge and thank Ms Marilyn Kearney for her valuable contributions as council’s outgoing and inaugural independent advisor.

## Council to CEO Delegation Instrument

A report was presented to council proposing that the CEO’s financial delegation to enter into contracts and procure goods and services be increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000, and that to support transparency, a report be provided by the CEO to council noting whenever the financial delegation is exercised for procurements above \$300,000.

Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

## Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035

The updated Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 outlines 10-year financial projections for asset renewal, sets strategic goals for each asset category, and responds to both opportunities and challenges within each

asset category. Community engagement has strongly supported a focus on renewing existing infrastructure over building new.

Council voted to adopt the Asset Plan 2025-2035.

## Providence Rise naming endorsement

At the council meeting of November 27, 2024, council declared ‘Providence Rise, Killingworth’ as a road in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Road Management Act 2004*. It was then advertised for public feedback, with no submissions received. Officers have since initiated the naming process with Geographic Naming Victoria.

Council noted the public consultation period occurred for the declaration of the road and the proposed name; endorsed the naming of ‘Providence Rise’ in Killingworth; and requested that officers submit this resolution to Geographic Naming Victoria to complete the naming process.

## Panel Contract General Maintenance

A report recommending the awarding of contracts for CONT25/6 Panel Contract General Maintenance was presented to council.

The scope of the contract covers general, minor improvement, compliance, and emergency maintenance for council-maintained assets including buildings, infrastructure, outdoor aquatic centres, Yea Saleyards, open spaces, roadsides, plant and fleet. The contract initial term is three years, with an optional two-year extension subject to satisfactory contractor performance.

It was recommended that council award CONT25/6 Panel Contract General Maintenance for an initial term of three years, commencing on January 1, 2026, with an option for a two-year extension, to the following suppliers: Trevor Carns, Melbourne Master Painting and Maintenance Pty Ltd, The Trustee for the Venn Family T/As Venn Civil Pty Ltd, Kinglake Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd, Auzzie Engineering Pty Ltd, Farley Pools Pty Ltd and Gilligan Property Services Pty Ltd.

It was also recommended council approve the total contract amount of up to \$3,000,000 over the five-year contract period, authorise the CEO to extend the contract, and release the name of the successful tenderers.

Council accepted the recommendations.

## Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Adams spoke about the four Murrindindi Shire Council pools and splash park reopening on November 15. A new initiative this season includes a suggested \$5 donation at pool entrances to support community pool operations.

Cr Gallagher reported that within the last week, council has been briefed by Samsung Renewable Energy Australia on their plans to construct a solar farm and battery energy storage system facility in Rubicon. This is one of several large-scale renewable energy project plans being progressed in Murrindindi Shire. Wind, solar, and pumped hydro technologies are all being considered.

Each project requires an application for a planning permit under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which will be assessed directly by the Minister for Planning. In the case of the Rubicon project, the Minister’s determination will follow assessments of bushfire risk, ecology, landscape and visual impact, noise, hazards, surface water, traffic impact, cultural heritage, and glint and glare.

While not a determining authority, council acknowledges its important role in conveying community sentiment. At every meeting with every project proponent, council has encouraged early and regular engagement the community. Council as sought for harmonious agricultural activities to be supported, and for loss of visual amenity to be carefully managed. While recognising our community’s broad embrace of renewable energy outcomes, council continues to be an active voice within our region urging proponents to attain a credible social licence for any proposed development, with lasting legacy outcomes for the community.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi announced that council has been successful in receiving two grants: \$41,000 through AusNet’s Energy Resilience Community Fund for the purchase of a mobile trailer-mounted generator and \$120,000 through the Business Acceleration Program to support improvements in council’s event approvals process and other business permit-related systems.





These photos show some of the Glengowrie garden. -S

## Add the Yea Open Gardens weekend to your calendar

THE Rotary Club of Yea is once again hosting their annual Open Gardens weekend in November. Let them introduce you to gardeners who plan for extremes in weather conditions and rejoice when their gardens recover, even after extraordinary winds, frosts or drought. These are the six gardens you'll see this year on November 8 and 9.

One garden, Boggy Creek, is built on the site of a fish farm where all the ponds were merged into two large dams, insuring against drought and planning for fire which burnt it out twice.

Some gardens were started as little as five years ago and then there is Glengowrie which was established in 1924. You'll see a small studio garden and in comparison, you'll see what has been created over many acres.

See the use of deciduous versus evergreen trees, plants chosen to attract native birds and fauna and plantings that range from random placements to formal, all stunning in their own way. Roses love dry weather and feature in many of the gardens as do camelias and the use of spring bulbs. Native plantings, including grasses, cope with the possibility of no water.

Enjoy the landscaping. Some gardens have ornamental lakes, complete with water lilies, others have creeks meandering through their property. There are stone walls, rockeries and gazebos to inspire you as well as the use of slopes or in one case, the verge outside a town garden. Give a gold coin donation at the Yea Hospital Garden, and see beautiful gardens designed for the patients to enjoy and raised vegetable gardens where they can get their hands dirty.

In short, every visitor will be inspired. Why not call in at the Yea Garden Club plant sale where you can purchase plants to kick start a patch in your own garden?

The Rotary barbecue will also be in operation over the weekend, located at Glengowrie, 17 Sichlau Rd, Yea.

Buy tickets for individual gardens for \$5 pp in town and \$8 pp for the country gardens (cash only at garden gates) or buy a weekend pass at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, or any garden gate for \$30 per person (again cash only). For online bookings go to [trybooking.com/DCELD](http://trybooking.com/DCELD) and for garden details, check out all the info at [yearotary.org.au](http://yearotary.org.au)

WELCOME TO

# Open Gardens

## YEA & DISTRICT

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 November 2025

Enjoy 3 country and 2 town gardens

Plus Yea Garden Club's plant sale and  
Yea & District Memorial Hospital's Open Garden (gold coin entry)

Town gardens \$5 • Country Gardens \$8 • Weekend pass \$30

Book tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/DCELD>,  
visit Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre  
or purchase at each garden gate (cash only)

For more information - [www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)  
Phone 0408 935 733 Email [tickslife@bigpond.com](mailto:tickslife@bigpond.com)  
Maps and garden descriptions will be available  
on the website in October

10AM to 5PM

Rotary Club of Yea

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## Proudly supporting Student of the week

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### ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Charli Stephens

Thank you for showing maturity and a cool head when your friend was hurt. The hospital was impressed with your ability to report her observations to the nurses which helped with the diagnosis. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Charli. You are a star.

### ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



#### Lainey M

For her dedication to her learning, she constantly asks questions to help develop her understanding of the topics in class. Lainey challenges herself by stepping outside her comfort zone while learning. She is also always trying to be the best friend one can be to her friends. Well Done Lainey



#### Mireia

Mireia is a kind and inclusive friend. She is always considerate of others and strives to be a supportive classmate to everyone. Mireia is patient and empathetic, she listens to her peers and considers their feelings at all times. Mireia puts in 100 percent to all learning tasks. She is dedicated and self motivated. She stays on task and shows great initiative. Well done Mireia, you are a great role model to others.

### EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



#### Shannon Mitchell

For showing resilience and achievement by having the courage to play the piano at assembly last week. What an amazing effort. You always show respect, and your cheeky sense of humour brings so much joy to our classroom and keeps us all on our toes. You're also a quality fast finisher, always putting care and effort into your work. Keep up the great work, Shannon



#### Miguel Cardenas

For your wonderful story writing. Well done, Miguel.

## Student of the Week

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2-3 May 2026

*Meet the Makers*

**MURRINDINDI**  
WINEMAKERS

## More road safety upgrades grants available

THE Victorian Government is providing grants to councils to help boost safety, reduce road trauma and deliver smoother journeys for more Victorians.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne announced on Tuesday, September 30 the second expression of interest stage of the four year \$210 million *Safe Local Roads and Street Program* is now open to all 79 local councils across the state.

With almost \$25 million in funding available this year and more than 200 projects approved so far, councils can apply for grants of up to \$2 million for additional projects to develop, design and deliver critical safety upgrades on local roads, intersections, and precincts.

Successful applications will be determined based on merit to deliver targeted road safety upgrades across the state.

Additional projects will continue to be funded over the coming months as the

Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and Department of Transport and Planning work together with local councils to finalise local road safety upgrades.

Local governments manage 87 per cent of Victoria's roads with motorists depending on them every day to travel to school, work and around their local community.

The *Safe Local Roads and Streets Program* will help to build councils' capacity to plan, fund and deliver road safety improvements on local roads, and provide an important contribution to reducing road trauma for all Victorians.

The program is bolstered by the state government's 2025/26 \$976 million road maintenance blitz which is underway and the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the state's history with 70 per cent of all the funding going towards regional roads.

## Put Murrindindi on your table this Christmas

SPRING has sprung, and while we're enjoying fresh blooms and warmer days, it's also the perfect time to start thinking ahead to the festive season.

This Christmas, Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. invites you to "Put Murrindindi on Your Table." Their popular annual campaign is back for 2025.

You'll spot their bright Christmas bauble in this issue, complete with a QR code that takes you straight to the campaign landing page. There, you'll find inspiration on how to make Murrindindi part of your Christmas story this year, from locally made gifts and festive feasts to unique experiences and artisan markets.

The website features 12 joyful ideas to help you celebrate Christmas while supporting the incredible people, producers, and businesses that make Murrindindi so special.

So, whether you're shopping early, planning a holiday feast, or looking for ways to give meaningful gifts, scan the bauble, explore the ideas, and join us in celebrating all things local.

Let's make this Christmas truly Murrindindi. Scan the bauble or visit: [murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://murrindindifoodandwine.org.au)



Day two of the Cathedral Invitational will be open to public spectators.

## The Cathedral Invitational returns to the Australian golfing calendar

THE Australian Summer of Golf will welcome back the jewel in the tournament calendar this year, with the Cathedral Invitational returning in December.

Held immediately after the Australian Open, the Cathedral Golf Club & Lodge will once again host the invitation only event on December 9 and 10, where day two is open to the public, featuring many of Australia's top male and female golfers and showcasing some of the world's leading international talent.

Several leading and emerging Australian golfing names have already committed to participate in the 2025 Cathedral Invitational, including reigning champ Adam Scott, Marc Leishman, Geoff Ogilvy and former major winner Ian Baker-Finch who will make his return to professional golf in Australia.

The unique 36-hole format challenges players to compete for the title across two days, with the second day the sole chance year round where the public can access the prestigious golf course. Nearly 3000 people attended day two of the 2023 event.

Cathedral Invitational Chairman, David Evans said, "It's extremely exciting to have the Cathedral Invitational locked in to return

in December 2025. Event preparations are well underway, and we remain determined for this event to become a staple in the Australian golf calendar.

"The event provides the opportunity for Australian and Victorian golf fans to get up close and personal with the big names that will take part in the Invitational; it's also the only day for the entire year that the general public can access the course.

"I can't wait for the event to return this year and to see what unfolds."

Set in the beautiful Victorian Northeast region amidst a spectacular Australian landscape, the Cathedral Lodge spans over 300 acres of the Evans family farm. This par-72, 18-hole championship course with seemingly never-ending views, is backdropped by the rolling hills of the Cathedral Ranges.

Tickets are \$60 for adults, or \$30 for adults living within a 30 kilometre radius of the course, \$30 for concession, and children under 12 are free.

Tickets are now on sale to the public for day two of the 2025 Cathedral Invitational.

For more information, visit [cathedralinvitational.com](http://cathedralinvitational.com)

## Police data reveals group riding trauma trend

VICTORIA Police is issuing a warning to motorcyclists as new data reveals a concerning road trauma trend involving group riding.

Analysis of 267 motorcycle fatalities between January 2020 and June 2025 has revealed that one in five motorcyclist deaths occurred while the rider was travelling with one or more other motorcyclists.

Three quarters of all group rider fatalities during the time period occurred on roads in regional Victoria.

The Goulburn Valley region incorporating Shepparton, Benalla and the Mitchell shire in North-East Victoria recorded the highest number of group rider fatalities (nine), followed by Gippsland (six), Wangaratta/Wodonga (five) and Bendigo (five).

Over 70 per cent of group rider fatalities occurred between Friday and Sunday, with afternoons the most common time of day, indicating that weekend recreational group riding could be a factor in motorcycle fatalities.

Police also believe that in many of these fatalities did not involve any significant risk taking or illegal behaviour, with more than 80 per cent of riders licenced and wearing an approved helmet.

Collisions where the rider lost control on a corner or had a head on collision with an oncoming vehicle were the most common in motorcycle deaths where the rider was travelling with others.

Police are concerned that group riding dynamics, including pressure to keep up and separation anxiety could be impacting rider decision making and leading to potentially deadly outcomes.

With October to December considered the highest risk period for motorcycle

trauma, police are urging riders to prioritise their safety, particularly when participating in group rides.

Tips for safe group motorcycle riding include: Appoint a ride leader and tail end to set the ride pace and keep the group together; plan the route, including an assembly point and designated meeting points along the route; consider using hand signals to communicate to other riders; develop a system for corner marking so riders don't feel pressured to keep up; consider the ride duration and manage fatigue by taking regular breaks; check your bike and ensure it is in a roadworthy condition; always wear an approved helmet and protective safety gear; ride at your own pace and do not attempt to keep up with the bike in front of you; leave a sufficient distance between each rider to account for road hazards, and overtake other vehicles on the right, and always one rider at a time.

Police will be proactively engaging with riders to throughout October, which also coincides with *Motorcycle Awareness Month*, an annual initiative that encourages both motorists and motorcyclists to safely share the road.

Police will be conducting enforcement operations in high risk areas across the state, both on and off road, and will be on the lookout for dangerous driving behaviour that puts motorcyclists at risk, as well as any motorcyclists engaging in reckless riding.

There have been 47 motorcyclist lives lost on Victorian roads to date in 2025.

For more information on and tips on safe motorcycle riding, visit [police.vic.gov.au/motorcycle-safety](http://police.vic.gov.au/motorcycle-safety)



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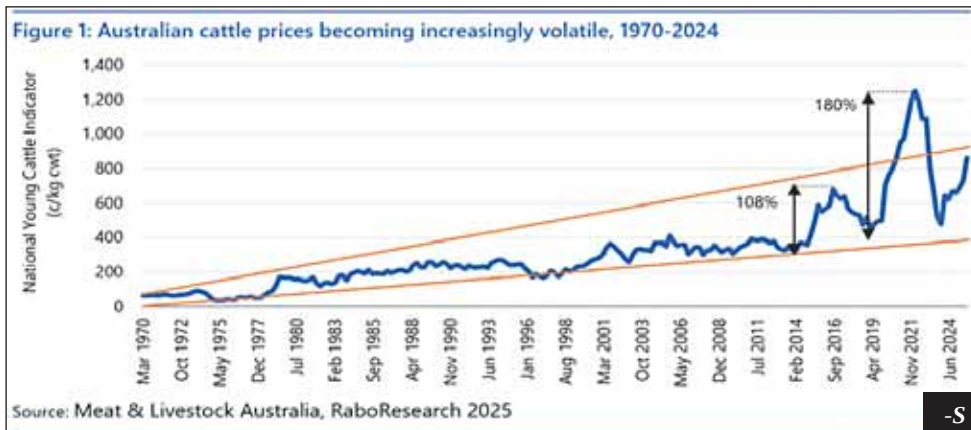
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# The Farmer's Ag News



## Industry report shows more volatility in Australian livestock markets

AUSTRALIAN livestock producers have been facing an unprecedented period of market volatility over recent years, with swings in cattle and sheep prices reaching record extremes, Rabobank says in new research.

In the report *Managing increased volatility in Australian livestock markets*, the bank's RaboResearch division says while volatility has long been a feature of livestock markets, both the scale and frequency of price swings have intensified significantly over the past five to 10 years.

And the agribusiness banking specialist believes this high level of volatility is likely to persist for Australia's livestock sectors in the "short to medium term".

In the past five years, the report says, both cattle and sheep prices have reached repeated record highs, with each exceeding previous peaks by around 20 per cent, only to then fall to the lowest levels seen in the past decade. Prices have been on another upward trend since 2023.

Report author, RaboResearch senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said the increased level of volatility seen in Australian livestock markets has not been consistent across other markets, either locally or globally.

And this suggests that while macro geopolitical and economic developments do have an impact, there are particular factors affecting Australian livestock markets which have led to this higher price volatility.

Mr Gidley-Baird said while there is a clear relationship between rainfall and livestock prices, with good seasonal conditions driving demand and prices higher, and dry conditions having the opposite effect, increased price volatility is not simply a reflection of more variable rainfall.

"While rainfall and confidence are important, they don't account for the magnitude of recent price swings," he said.

"Other factors, including industry structure, debt levels, and global market dynamics, are increasingly influential."

### Contributing factors

RaboResearch says a combination of these contributing factors are likely behind the extremes in livestock market volatility.

They include increased exposure to geographically larger markets, growth in information flows, an increasingly unstable global trade environment, changing industry structure and increasing debt levels.

"All of which we believe contribute to increased volatility," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

The report said in recent years, the Australian livestock sector had become more exposed to geographically larger markets, with the closure of a number of small local saleyards and the increasing presence and throughput of larger regional saleyards, as well as the advent of online sales channels. In addition, feedlots and processors are no longer just sourcing from local markets, with movement of cattle across state borders a common occurrence.

"It is no longer just local, smaller market conditions that influence buyer and seller behaviour, but rather the larger broader market that causes bigger market movements," the report said.

Mr Gidley-Baird said greater exposure to a wide selection of information for market participants was also likely contributing to price volatility.

"With information and sentiment flowing faster and further than ever before, producers are now reacting to a wider array of signals, from weather forecasts to global trade headlines, which amplifies market movements," he said.

The report said an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment, including a general move away from globalisation and trade liberalisation, had contributed more recently to an unstable livestock market.

"Added to this 'complex' is a growth in global protein consumption, increased global trade of proteins and the increased presence of diseases, which affect not only production but also trade arrangements," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

In addition, the report proposes that the livestock industry has changed in structure, including becoming more "polarised" with an increasing proportion of livestock numbers in large or small farms and less in medium-sized operations.

"This leads to different decision making," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"Smaller farmers may not be driven by the same profit motives or have access to alternative income streams and larger more corporate-style operations may have different reporting responsibilities and decision-making processes, impacting their participation in the market and possibly adding to more pronounced market movements."

Mr Gidley-Baird said increased debt levels and financing costs may also be contributing to livestock producers making more "dramatic decisions".

The streamlining of the supply chains, particularly for cattle, may also be a contributor to market volatility, the report says, with more livestock now going through private sales, including direct consignment to feedlots or processors, reducing the volume and quality sold through saleyards.

"Due to the more exaggerated supply and demand movements in these saleyard markets, we expect to see greater volatility resulting," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

And it is saleyard auction prices which are used for livestock market reporting, and on which RaboResearch's report is based, he noted.

### Managing volatility

While "volatility is not inherently negative", RaboResearch says, and "simply represents risk, and potentially opportunities" it is likely to persist in the Australian livestock sectors for the short to medium term.

And industry participants should at least prepare to manage it.

"This requires a strategic approach that reinforces adaptability, promotes resilience and improves predictability," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"There is a renewed case for embedding resilience and predictability into business planning, which can help producers navigate uncertainty with greater confidence and avoid reactive decisions that may carry long-term consequences."

## Important to consider distance when transporting livestock for processing

IN Australia, livestock often travel many kilometres, in some cases even thousands of kilometres interstate for processing.

This long-distance travel often occurs where producers have long standing contracts that need to be fulfilled or species specific or specialised requirements that can only be met at a particular abattoir.

Agriculture Victoria District Veterinary Officer Cathy Bunter said where transport journeys are projected to be long it is important to have animals well prepared for the journey in terms of their nutrition, hydration and heat management.

"It is also essential for producers to introduce their livestock to water troughs prior so their animals can recognise and be able to drink from troughs both during and at the end of the journey," Dr Bunter said.

"Shorter transport journeys for livestock have many benefits apart from the obvious lower transport costs."

Dr Bunter said shorter transport distances reduce the risks of injury, disease and death. There is a substantial increase in livestock

welfare incidents in stock travelling greater than 400km or undergoing journeys longer than 30 hours.

"Producers and transporters are reminded the Land Transport Standards are nationally agreed mandatory animal welfare standards and guidelines developed cooperatively by the livestock industries and government," Dr Bunter said.

Anyone who is preparing livestock for transport or transporting livestock must follow these standards which can be found at Land Transport Australian Animal Welfare. Dr Bunter also said other motivations for shorter transport distances include better meat quality, because less stress means the meat is tenderer and consumer satisfaction is increased. The producer also benefits from heavier carcass results.

"Regardless of the distance travelled, having animals better prepared to take the journey results in better animal welfare outcomes. This is especially important where livestock are still recovering from the prolonged impacts of drought," Dr Bunter concluded.

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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## Ensuring your tradespeople are qualified and capable

THERE are any number of tradespeople required to build a new home, or even to renovate an existing one. Knowing that they are qualified and that the work you have delegated them will be done properly is essential for peace of mind.

Under Victorian law, what may be referred to as 'building contractors' are actually specified as 'building practitioners' and have a set of laws that apply to them.

These include that building practitioners must use a major domestic building contract for all work worth more than \$10,000, including renovations, extensions and repairs.

They must also take out domestic building insurance for work worth more than \$16,000, to cover you if they die, disappear or become insolvent. They must give you a certificate of currency for the insurance before they take a deposit and start to build a house, extend or renovate an existing home, or carry out maintenance.

Building practitioners must be registered with the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC) to carry out work worth more than \$10,000, except for work involving only one of the following skills: Plastering; tiling of wall and floor; electrical work; glazing; insulating; painting; plumbing, gas-fitting and draining; installing floor coverings; attaching external fixtures such as awnings, security screens, etcetera; erecting a chain wire fence around a tennis court; and erecting a mast, pole, antenna, aerial or similar structure.



Ensuring you have the right tradespeople for the job that are registered and qualified is crucial. -Rawpixel

You can check if a builder is registered by using the BPC's practitioner search tool on their website, at [bams.vba.vic.gov.au/bams/s/practitioner-search](https://bams.vba.vic.gov.au/bams/s/practitioner-search)

A person must be registered if they are using a combination of skills, such as plastering and

painting, to complete a renovation, extension, repairs or any other job, or going to do work that requires a building permit, regardless of the value of the work.

You can either engage a builder to supervise the entire project and sub-contractors or

manage the building process as an owner builder (where you engage and manage registered sub-contractors yourself). If you engage a builder, you must deal with the builder, not directly with the sub-contractors.

Different tradespeople require different documentation to undertake building work.

Plumbers, gasfitters and drainers must be registered or licensed with the BPC and carry an identification card. For work valued at \$750 or more, plumbers must give you a compliance certificate, that certifies the work undertaken complies with the law.

Electricians must be licensed by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV). The ESV website provides information about what an electrician must provide you with when carrying out work. Whenever a licensed electrician completes any electrical installation work, they must give you a Certificate of Electrical Safety. These certificates are only available from qualified electrical workers registered or licensed with ESV.

To make sure that your work is completed properly and to industry standards, it is important to employ the right tradespeople. Consider shopping around for a few quotes before hiring a practitioner, and make sure to get the contract in writing to cover all bases.

You can also check if a tradesperson has had any disciplinary action taken against them by checking the Victorian Building Authority's register at [vba.vic.gov.au/tools/prosecution-and-disciplinary-register](https://vba.vic.gov.au/tools/prosecution-and-disciplinary-register)

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## Plans and permits a must for building or renovations

WHEN undertaking major building projects, such as renovations or building a new home, it is crucial to conduct the correct planning and obtain the necessary permits. This is your obligation as a homeowner, and your responsibility.

You can authorise a builder to get them or get them yourself. A builder may supply plans and specifications, or you may decide to engage an architect, designer or draftsman to do this.

As homeowner, it is also your responsibility to make sure that the Certificate of Final Inspection or Occupancy Permit is obtained when work is complete.

There are a number of steps that should be followed in order to ensure that all the paperwork and documentation is correctly completed.

To begin with, before beginning construction or renovations, have your building plans prepared. Employing a registered architect, designer or draftsman to do this can make your life much easier.

Building plans must take into account: Foundation data, and the results of any soil tests; local council laws and regulations, which for Murrindindi Shire can be found on the Murrindindi Shire Council website; mandatory energy efficiency requirements; and the results of a site survey by a licensed land surveyor if there are any doubts or concerns about the boundaries of your property.

Before signing any building contracts, make sure your building plans and specifications detail all the features, fixtures, fittings and finishes you want. Also make sure that your building contract clearly states who is responsible for doing your building plans and who will obtain permits.

The next step is to check if you need a planning and building permit. No work can be undertaken without a building permit.

Contact Murrindindi Shire Council to find out what local planning laws and regulations apply to your project. You should also check if there are any additional council requirements for your area, such as termite or fire protection requirements.

If you delegate a builder to act on your behalf and obtain a building permit, you must first appoint a private building surveyor or instruct your builder to apply to a municipal building surveyor for a permit. The building surveyor will assess your application for a fee and either request changes to ensure the plans and specifications comply with building regulations or grant the building permit.

Make sure that you only engage one building surveyor.

Finally, if you are an owner builder, don't sign a building permit application unless you are prepared to take full responsibility for the project and have an owner builder's Certificate of Consent from the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC).



Undertaking the necessary planning and then obtaining permits is crucial for construction or renovation. -Nelson Axigoth



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As an award winning agent for Daikin Australia Air2Airconditioning have successfully progressed to Super Dealer status which they have held since 2020 and allows them to offer the very best Daikin prices to clients.

More recently Air2Airconditioning have applied for and become a registered provider for the Victorian Energy upgrade scheme

allowing eligible clients to receive rebates when upgrading their heating/cooling from a gas ducted, electric floor heating and older split systems to more efficient split systems and refrigerated ducted heating/cooling systems.

They are family owned and run and have three qualified refrigeration mechanics on staff to install your new aircon or service existing heating/cooling systems or attend to your commercial refrigeration issues.

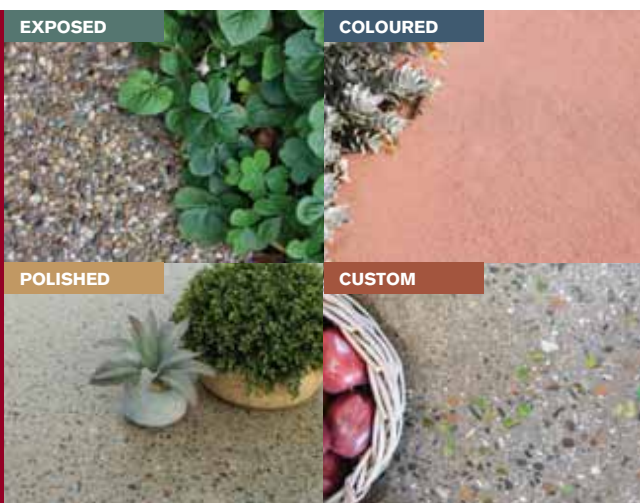
The team undertakes regular professional training so they can keep up to date with evolving technology.

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## Consider the energy efficiency of your new home

IN 2022, the Victorian Government agreed to increase minimum energy efficiency building standards for new homes from six to seven stars under changes to the National Construction Code 2022, which means that it is something that must be taken into consideration when building a new home.

Energy efficient homes are more comfortable to live in, cost less to heat and cool, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are more attractive on the current property market.

Updated requirements from 2022 for residential buildings, class one and two, include: An increase in the minimum thermal performance requirement for the building shell from six to seven stars out of a possible 10 through the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS); introduction of a whole-of-home annual energy use budget for fixed appliances such as hot water, heating and cooling, etcetera; and removal of the previous Victorian variation that requires either a solar water heater or a rainwater tank to be installed, allowing Victorian's to choose their preferred hot water system.

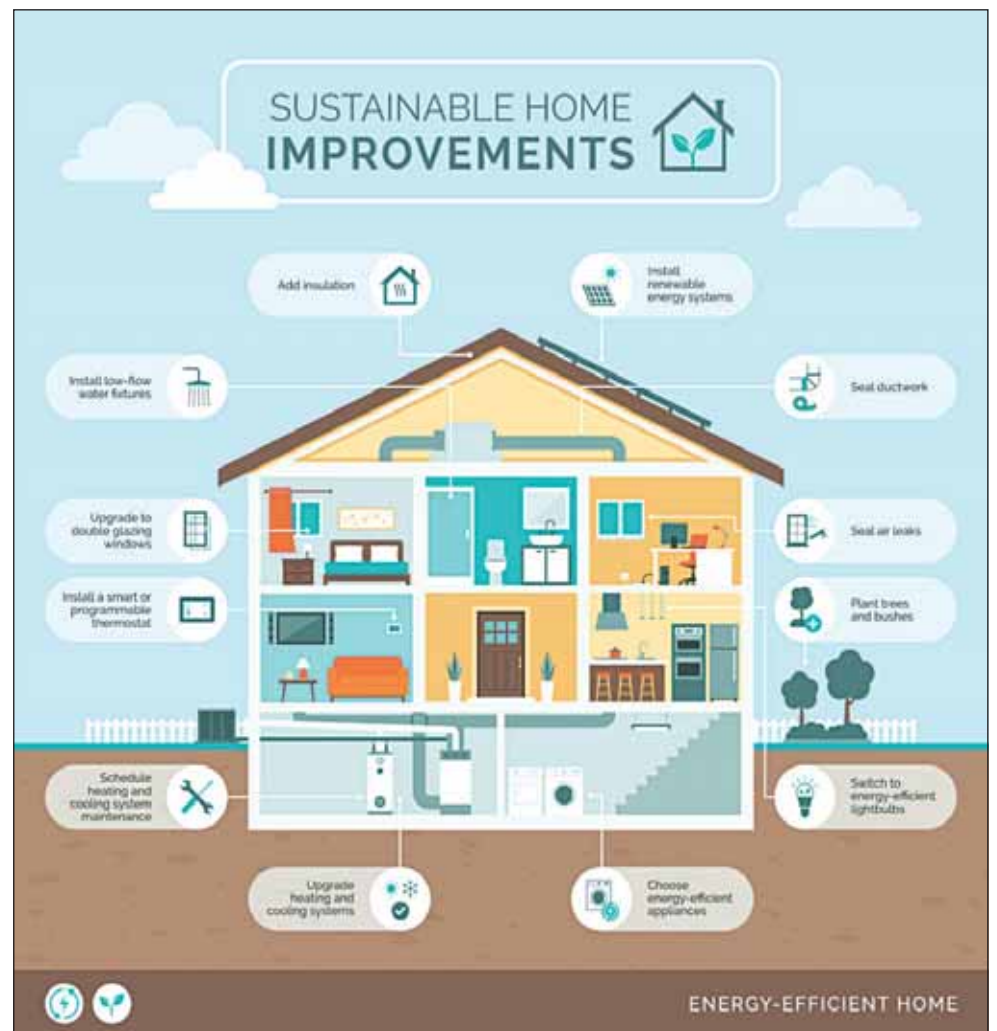
There are numerous ways to ensure that the new home you are building complies with these Victorian Government standards.

In terms of design and build, you should consider wall, ceiling and floor insulation to keep things cool in summer and warm in winter, as well as quality windows, window size and their orientation, and the orientation of your home to allow sun access and shading. This could mean designing it so that sunlight lands on the roof in summer, but goes through the windows in winter, cutting down on heating and cooling energy use.

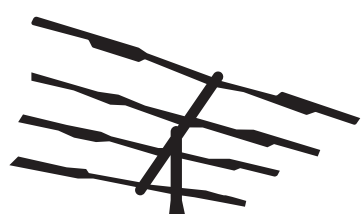
When choosing appliances for your new home, make sure to look at the energy efficiency of the appliances, as this will mean you use less energy to power your home. You can also install rooftop solar to help offset energy usage.

These simple changes are usually enough to give a home seven stars under the NatHERS rating, but the more energy efficient your home is currently, the more attractive it could potentially be on the housing market.

You can find a NatHERS scorecard assessor to assess the energy efficiency of your home by visiting [homescorecard.gov.au/find-a-scorecard-assessor](https://homescorecard.gov.au/find-a-scorecard-assessor)



There are a number of potential options for increasing the energy efficiency of your home. -Elena



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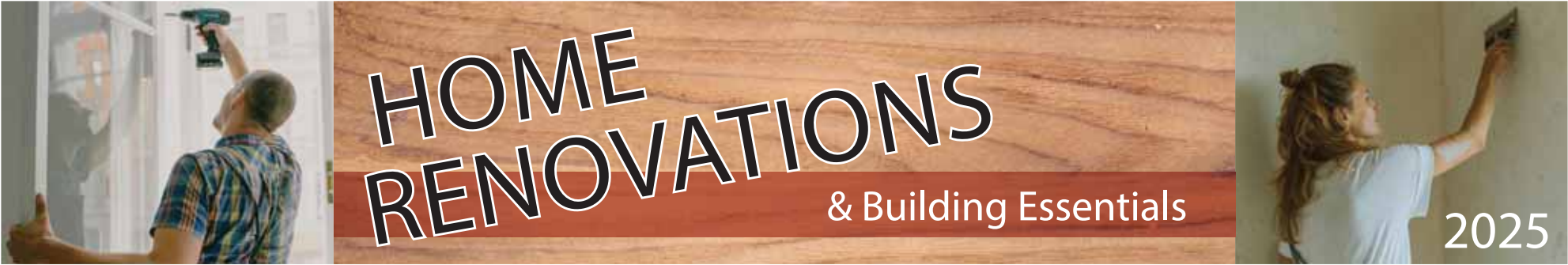
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### Protecting adjoining property during building work

AN owner who is proposing building work has obligations under the *Building Act 1993* to protect adjoining property from potential damage from their building work.

If your building work is close to or adjacent to adjoining property boundaries, then you may be required to carry out protection work relating to the adjoining property. This is to ensure that the adjoining property is not affected or damaged by your building work.

Adjoining property is considered to be land at risk of significant damage from building work and may include any street, highway, lane, footpath, square, alley and right of way.

When making an application for a building permit for the proposed building work, the applicant (the building owner or agent of owner) is required to provide detailed information about the building work to the relevant building surveyor. The building surveyor will then determine if protection work is required.

Protection work provides protection to adjoining property from damage. Protection work may include: Underpinning of footings, including vertical support, lateral support, protection against variation in earth pressures, ground anchors, and other means of support for the adjoining property; shoring up and overhead protection; other work designed to maintain the stability of adjoining property from damage from building work.

If you are required to carry out protection work, you must serve a notice on the adjoining owner and provide details about the proposed protection work. A building permit may not be issued until the protection work process has been completed to the approval of the building surveyor.

The adjoining owner must respond to the notice within 14 days of the notice being served. They can agree or disagree to the proposed protection work or request further information to be provided.

An adjoining owner who fails to respond to the notice within the required time is deemed to have agreed to the proposed protection work.

If the adjoining owner agrees or is deemed to have agreed to the proposed protection work, and if the building surveyor has evaluated the protection work, then your builder may proceed to carry out the protection work after obtaining any necessary permits, approvals or insurance.

If the adjoining owner disagrees with the proposed protection work or requests further information, your building surveyor must examine the proposal for protection work and determine whether the protection work is appropriate.

As the owner having building work done, you must ensure that a contract of insurance is in force against potential damage caused by the proposed protection work to the adjoining property.

A survey of the adjoining property must be prepared by the owner with the adjoining owner. The survey should record of all existing cracks and defects. This record must be signed or acknowledged as an agreed record of the condition of the adjoining property before the protection work begins.

A property owner is required by law to pay expenses incurred by the adjoining owner in protecting their interests. These costs include: Specialists' fees to check protection work documentation; expenses relating to the actual on-site supervision of protection work once it begins.

### Renovate safely

HOME renovations can be a big project that spans a long timeframe and costs large amounts of money. They can also prove dangerous if not handled correctly, which is why it is important to pay attention to potential hazards and work safely.

If you have children, try to keep them away from work areas where there are power tools, cords they might trip over, or other hazards.

Homes built before 1990 may contain asbestos. If your house has not been checked for asbestos, getting this done before starting renovations can help protect both you and your contractors.

It can be found in roofing, wall lining, eaves, inside fibre cement sheeting, or even as a backing in some vinyl floors. Inhalation of asbestos fibres, which are microscopic and cannot be seen, can cause lung tissue scarring, shortness of breath, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Therefore, it is crucial to have a licensed asbestos removalist take care of this hazard. They know how to deal with asbestos safely.

Some paints produced prior to 1965 contained as much as 50 per cent lead, compared to 0.1 per cent or less these days. If your house is from this time, it may require specialists to deal with the lead paint.

Lead can be dangerous for people, especially young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Symptoms of acute lead poisoning, which is a high level of exposure at one time, include: Muscle pains; fatigue; abdominal pains; headaches; nausea and vomiting; seizures; and even in extreme cases a coma.

Other sources of lead in your home that may require careful consideration when renovating include lead pipes, lead flashing, and household dust released from the ceiling or wall cavities.

When renovating, be careful where you place your weight. There may be unseen structural damage to your house, due to water, termites, etcetera. Know the strong points and the weak points of your structure.

Leave the electrical work to contractors that are licensed, registered and qualified. An electrical safety check on your home before beginning work could ensure the safety of all those involved in renovations.



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# RealEstateGUIDE

## Energy performance proving its worth in property markets

THE Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has welcomed new national research confirming that buyers are placing a premium on energy efficiency.

According to Cotality's *Watt's it Worth* report released recently, homes with solar power systems sell for around 2.7 per cent more than comparable properties without, equating to a national average uplift of \$23,100.

Each additional NatHERS star adds a further 1.3 per cent to a home's value, or approximately \$10,560.

Chair of the REIA's Sustainability Working Group, Jacob Caine, said the findings highlight how cost-of-living pressures are shaping buyer behaviour.

"Australians are recognising the dual benefit of energy-efficient homes, in reduced

running costs and stronger long-term value," Mr Caine said.

"We are seeing consumer search behaviour increasingly favour listings that highlight energy efficient features, confirming that performance is shaping buyer demand.

"These findings cement what we are hearing from buyers: energy efficiency ratings and solar panels are no longer 'optional extras' but central to how homes are appraised and sold."

The report also reinforces REIA's support for a nationally consistent framework for mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings at the point of sale and lease.

"The ACT government has shown for more than two decades that mandatory disclosure works. The report's evidence provides a clear case for rolling out consistent, trusted ratings nationally, supported by incentives and a phased approach," Mr Caine said.

REIA's policy priorities include: Improving energy efficiency disclosure at point of sale and lease; implementing a national mandatory disclosure framework; supporting retrofits to the 70 per cent of existing homes rated below three stars; and raising consumer awareness so agents can guide buyers, sellers, landlords and renters toward better housing choices.

"Performance is now as important as postcode," Mr Caine added.

"Homes with higher energy efficiency deliver greater comfort today and better capital growth tomorrow."



The energy efficiency of a home is a big selling point in the current market. -Pujanak

## PRADS makes essential worker housing easier

THE Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) last week announced its support for the Progressive Residential Affordability Development Solution (PRADS). A groundbreaking initiative led by Housing All Australians that could transform how Victoria delivers affordable housing for essential workers.

PRADS will represent a paradigm shift in the delivery of affordable housing, creating a digital platform that will enable government to record and monitor all affordable housing dwellings, and obligations, on a centralised digital register rather than the current recording, by local government, on locally held Excel spreadsheets.

The inbuilt compliance tools will give government the confidence to enable private developers, real estate agents, and investors to participate in the delivery and management of affordable housing for Australia's workers, providing the same transparency and accountability as traditional community housing providers.

"For too long, the real estate industry has been sidelined from affordable

housing delivery due to misconceptions that affordable housing is synonymous with social housing," REIV CEO Jacob Caine said.

"PRADS will change this by creating a clear framework for essential worker housing that our members can confidently support and manage, and that governments can have the transparency of oversight of all compliance obligations."

### About PRADS

The Progressive Residential Affordability Development Solution (PRADS) is a digital compliance platform and economic framework that enables private sector delivery of affordable housing with live compliance monitoring, providing full accountability.

To be developed by Housing All Australians, PRADS creates pathways for developers to deliver affordable housing by government providing a density bonus or fast-tracked through the state governments' development facilitation process, with a commitment from the developer to deliver a number of affordable rental homes.

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# Be careful as European Wasps are buzzing around

Spring is here and the European Wasps (Hymenoptera Vespidae) will be starting to become more active as fertile queens emerge from hibernation to build new nests. As it's a slow start because it's the beginning of warmer weather.

With over 12,000 species in Australia, there are some wasps that are native and play an important part in pollination. The European wasp, an introduced species is renowned for travelling through and residing in the Murrindindi Shire.

If you see European Wasps, to treat the issue you need to track them back to their nest by placing food in a visible outdoor location, once they have tracked the food they are known to fly directly in a straight line back to their nest. This may prove difficult though and may take a few times as they can forage for food up to half a kilometre away from its nest.

A nest will most likely be found in a concealed site, holes in the ground, around base of trees and hedges and among retaining walls and rockeries. They are also attracted to rubbish heaps and grass clippings and uncovered compost. European wasps make their nests from chewed wood pulp and saliva giving the nest walls a distinctive papery look. Nests constructed of mud are not European

wasp nests, they are known to resemble the shape of a football.

If you find the wasp nest, be cautious as the wasps can become aggressive if their nest is disturbed, for safe removal its best to contact the professionals. The nests are usually less active in the early morning or at night but still wear protective clothing when you're around them.

On the Murrindindi Shire Council's website it states, if you see a nest on municipal council managed land, it is shire's responsibility to deal with these, If its on crown land if should be referred to the relevant land owner/land manager and can be reported to Agriculture Victoria.

Council also has a helpful video on how to make a queen wasp trap involving a bottle, knife, apple, skewer and tape. This can be found at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment/Pests/Wasps](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Environment/Pests/Wasps)

If you seem to have a wasp problem there are some steps you can take to discourage them on your property or nearby, these include: do not leave fallen fruit or food scraps in your yard, and avoid leaving uneaten pet food or dog food outside; make sure the new food waste bins have their lid closed at all times and other forms of compost methods; keep swimming pools covered when not used; avoid leaving food out from picnics and barbecues, and make sure you exercise caution when drinking out of cans and bottles.

The Department of Health states, If you happen to get stung by a European wasp be aware they can sting multiple times and their stinger contains several toxins. Some people are hypersensitive or allergic to these toxins so keep a close eye on your symptoms after a bite. The usual minor symptoms can include sharp pain or burning at the sting site, this usually results in a raised welt on the bite site. A tiny mark can be seen in the centre

of the welt where the stinger enters the skin. Some major reactions can include extreme redness and swelling that increase one to two days after being stung, if this occurs seek medical attention.

A small percentage of people can experience an anaphylactic reaction to a wasp sting, for any life-threatening symptoms immediately call 000.

## Haines moves to establish \$2 billion fund to build rural and regional hospitals

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has called on the Commonwealth to establish a \$2 billion Building Regional and Rural Hospitals Fund, introducing a motion in Parliament on Monday, October 27.

A key part of Dr Haines' re-election platform, the fund would provide transparent, competitive, needs-based funding for regional hospitals.

Dr Haines said rural Australians are being left behind while successive governments have politicised hospital funding.

"During the last election, both major parties engaged in pork-barrelling hospital funding promises, including \$200 million for a hospital in the marginal seat of Hasluck in Western Australia, and \$120 million for Rouse Hill Hospital on the border of the Western Sydney seats of Greenway and Mitchell."

"The Commonwealth has a clear role in funding hospital infrastructure, but without a transparent, competitive process, rural Australians miss out."

She said the National Rural Health Alliance estimates rural Australians received \$8.35 billion less in healthcare funding than urban Australians in 2023-24.

"Rural Australians are falling through the cracks. Hospitals are stretched with inadequate facilities, surgeries are delayed, and communities are paying the price."

"Funding remains opaque and is too often politically driven, with pork-barrelling and election promises favouring a few hospitals while others miss out."

"We need integrity and transparency over the spending of taxpayer money, and this is a program to deliver that."

"This fund would give hospitals like Albury Wodonga Health, Bright District Hospital and Mansfield District Hospital, and hospitals like them across regional Australia, a fair go to secure the funding they need for safe, modern healthcare, now and into the future."

"Our communities shouldn't have to fight for the care our city cousins take for granted."

## Schools to provide students with digital devices

THE Victorian Government is easing cost-of-living pressures for families by removing the requirement for parents to provide digital devices for primary school students.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll last week announced that parents at Victorian Government primary schools will no longer need to buy a device for their children, saving them more than \$500 per student.

"Digital skills are essential for kids growing up in the 2020s, but we know that these devices can also be distracting," Mr Carroll said.

"It makes sense to minimise the time that primary school students spend on devices when they are at school."

"Victoria led the nation by banning mobile phones from schools in 2020, and now we are leading the way again by ensuring that primary school kids can use a school laptop or tablet, instead of needing their own."

Schools will be required to provide access to tablets and laptops for students to use at school. To further support student learning and engagement, screen time limits will also be introduced to all schools.

The changes will be phased in gradually to support schools' transition to the new arrangements.

From 2027, primary schools will benefit from updated guidance to help set sensible limits on device use in the classroom. This will mean that primary schools will be required to limit digital device use to a maximum of 90 minutes per day for students in years three to six, and minimal device time for those in prep to year two.

These new time limits will promote purposeful technology use, reduce overexposure to screens and help students stay focused and engaged.

New guidance and support materials will be distributed to schools in term one next year to help schools plan lessons using digital devices. This guidance will ensure that students learn essential digital literacy skills, while reducing distractions in the classroom.

These reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, which were introduced in 2020, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing digital distraction, and the overuse and misuse of technology.

Principals and teachers report that the mobile phone ban has improved student focus on learning and increased socialisation and physical activity during breaks.

## Police station maintenance reinstated

VICTORIA Police has said that they are pleased to confirm that all lawn and garden maintenance at police stations will recommence imminently.

"We have identified a list of stations which will be serviced as a priority starting this week," they said.

"Regular services at all other police stations and facilities will be re-established over the next two months."

"The pause on ground maintenance was essential in the challenging fiscal environment, to ensure existing funds were prioritised towards keeping the community safe."

"This work will be completed by the company normally contracted to deliver this service."

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said locals are proud of their police service and would rather see cops on the beat than doing their own gardening.

"Everyone deserves a tidy workplace, particularly our police who put their lives on the line to keep community safe."

"The Premier claims she backs the police, but the truth is she cut \$50 million from the police budget,



Cindy McLeish. -S

closed stations, and has 2000 job vacancies.

"The Allan Labor Government's neglect of Victorian Police is evident."

She added that this follows a leaked memo which revealed cuts to the maintenance budget with police told the following activities would not happen: Lawn mowing, pruning, weeding, carpet cleaning, window cleaning and other cleaning would only occur 'if necessary

for health, safety or legislative compliance'.

Lightbulbs would only be replaced if more than half of the lights didn't work. Security systems, like cameras, door access and motions detection systems, would not be replaced except for "health, safety or legislative compliance".

Only major plumbing issues would be fixed.

"Victoria's police, and all Victorians, deserve better," Ms McLeish said.

## Council and DTP comment on reappearing potholes

WITH lots of potholes appearing on major roads within 60 km/h zones recently, council was contacted about the issue and asked to advise regarding their fix schedule and any other pothole related issues.

They responded by saying that Murrindindi Shire Council, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and other agencies are responsible for different parts of the public road network in Murrindindi Shire. DTP is responsible for highways and major roads, such as the Maroondah Highway, including the road surface and underlying pavement. The 60 km/h zones of state roads within townships are managed by DTP, including travel lanes and shoulders.

Council does not maintain a fixed schedule for repairs of DTP managed roads, however, they continue to work closely with DTP to raise concerns about the condition of state roads within the shire, and advocate for timely maintenance and improvements.

Council is responsible for managing local roads, inspecting and maintaining them under the *Murrindindi Shire Road Management*

*Plan 2025-2029*. Road crews undertake pothole repairs on council managed roads, within the response timeframes specified in the plan.

Council remind drivers to take care on all roads. Slowing down on vulnerable roads can help reduce the size and rate of pothole and corrugation formation.

Residents are encouraged to contact their local state or federal member to raise concerns about major roads. A full list of DTP managed roads is available on council's website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/roads](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/roads)

Road issues can be reported via the Snap Send Solve app, which automatically triages each report to the appropriate authority, whether it's council, DTP, or another agency, so residents don't need to worry about who manages which section of road.

For those who prefer to contact agencies directly, issues on state-managed roads can be reported online at [vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue) or by calling 13 11 70 for urgent hazards. Maintenance issues on council managed roads

can be reported online at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request) or by calling (03) 5772 0333.

The Department of Transport and Planning also commented on the issue, advising that they have funding and that works are currently underway along the Maroondah Highway, north of Buxton.

"The Department of Transport and Planning manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan," Anthony Judd, Executive Director Loddon Mallee/Hume, said.

"We undertake regular inspections to identify any potential hazards, including potholes, and carry out any required maintenance to ensure our road network is kept in a safe condition."

There is \$976 million allocated in the 2025-26 Victorian Budget to deliver proactive and routine maintenance works on Victoria's arterial road network.

DTP encourages all drivers and the community to report any concerns about the road network by calling 13 11 70.

# KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
**Page 23**

## Colouring Page



## Word Search

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

### Words starting with "AC"

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| ACADEMIC   | ACCOMMODATE |
| ACCELERATE | ACCOMPANY   |
| ACCENT     | ACCORD      |
| ACCEPT     | ACCOUNT     |
| ACCESS     | ACE         |
| ACCIDENT   | ACRYLIC     |
| ACCLAIM    | ACTIVE      |

## Math Square

|   |   |    |   |    |    |
|---|---|----|---|----|----|
|   | + |    | + |    | 18 |
| - |   | -  |   | +  |    |
|   | - |    | + | 2  | 3  |
| + |   | +  |   | -  |    |
|   | + | 8  | - |    | 0  |
| 3 |   | 12 |   | -2 |    |

### 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.

## Jokes

**Q: What do you call a medieval lamp?**  
**A: A knight light.**

**Q: How do mountains stay warm in winter?**  
**A: They wear snow caps.**

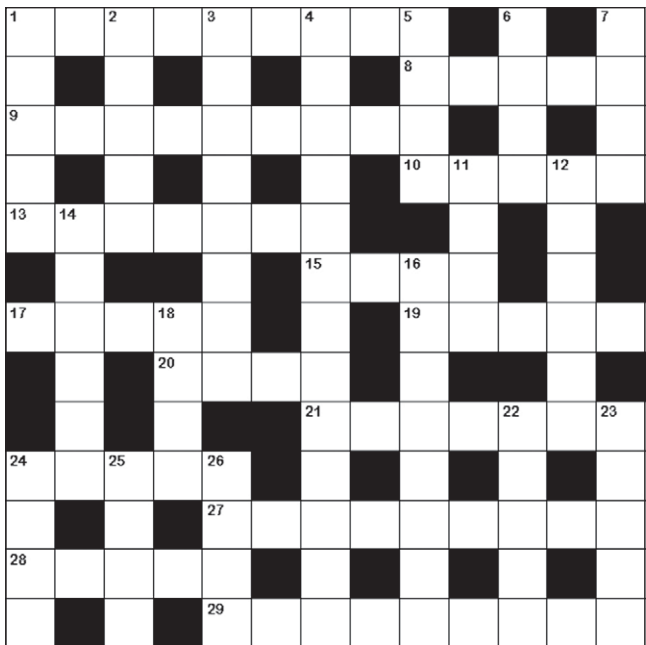
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Made more pleasant or agreeable.
- The fruit of the oak tree.
- A focus of public attention.
- An item in a sports programme.
- Receive property from a will.
- Small mischievous devils or sprites.
- An unhappy and worried mental state.
- Freshwater mammal related to weasels.
- The part of speech that expresses action.
- Copy another's behaviour or appearance.
- Inhale recreational drugs through the nose.
- Natural or acquired skills or talents.
- Inflict vengeance upon a person.
- The study of the origins of words.

### DOWN

- A meal of raw fish wrapped in seaweed.
- A particular, noteworthy period of history.
- Put up with an unpleasant situation.
- Able to be discussed or modified.
- A meeting arranged in advance.



- Come to terms and deal successfully with.
- A tight cluster of people or things.
- Unusually immense in size or amount.
- Showing the most courtesy and politeness.
- Table linen used to protect clothing.
- A person that is very active in party politics.

- All the time and on every occasion.
- Spanish form of address for a friend.
- A literary composition on any subject.
- Seeds placed in the ground for future growth.
- Domesticated cattle as a group.
- Appropriate for one's own use.

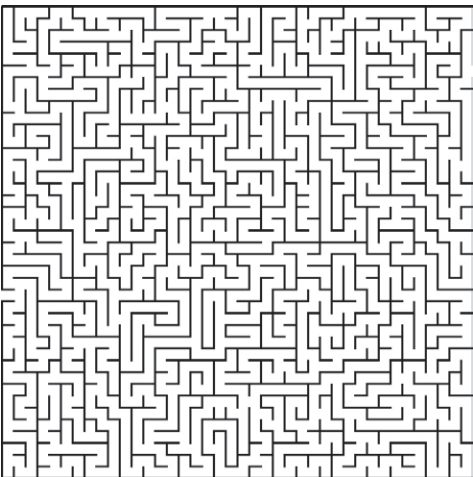
## Shapes

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

### Green things

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| APPLES    | GRASS       |
| BROCCOLI  | GRASSHOPPER |
| CACTI     | JADE        |
| CUCUMBERS | LEAVES      |
| FERNS     | MOSS        |
| FROGS     | SPINACH     |

## Maze



## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Easy

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

## Math Square

|   |   |    |   |   |    |    |
|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|
|   | + |    | 3 | - |    | 1  |
| - |   | +  |   |   | +  |    |
|   | + |    |   | + |    | 14 |
| + |   | -  |   | + |    |    |
| 5 | x |    | - |   |    | 37 |
| 1 |   | -5 |   |   | 19 |    |

### 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.

# Alexandra's beautiful open gardens celebrated



Mandy Valsinger in her garden. -BD



Luc and Sam at the Sprouts Garden at the Embassy of Ideas in Alexandra. -BD



Lynne Phelps with her garden. -BD



The Sprouts garden, which is a community undertaking. -BD



Visitors perusing the Sprouts garden in Alexandra. -BD



Plants and other items were for sale at Lynne Phelps's garden. -BD



Rocks and hardy shrubs were a highlight. -BD



The beautiful town garden of Lynne Phelps. -BD



Mandy Valsinger's garden, which makes great use of a very sloped space. -BD

# Advocating for respect with every step

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and the Rotary Club of Alexandra invite locals, visitors and businesses to join the Walk for Respect on Friday, November 28 at 11am. The event calls on everyone to take a stand together against domestic and family violence and show support for a community built on safety, equality and respect.

In the year ending March 2025, there were 208 family violence incidents reported in Murrindindi Shire, a concerning 14.3 per cent increase from the previous year.

These reports underscore the urgent need for greater awareness and collective action. The Walk for Respect is an opportunity to come together, speak up and demonstrate our shared commitment to ending violence against women and children.

The event will begin with a presentation from Vincent Care, exploring the gendered nature of family violence and the important role we all play in prevention. Vincent Care's Hume Community Hub, led by Marie Murfet, has supported victim survivors across the shire for the past seven years. Marie will be joined by Alison Maclean, founder of 3whitehorses and an expert in family violence systems, who is supporting the Vincent Care team as they expand their work in the region.

Following the talk, participants will take a 1.5 km walk along the UT Creek Path, before gathering at Rotary Park for a community barbecue, light refreshments and stalls from local support services. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple, a colour symbolising respect, and to bring friends, family and even their dogs (on leash). Local community groups and businesses are also invited to participate by hosting a stall or sharing resources that promote respect and equality.

For stallholder enquiries, please contact Rotary Club of Alexandra's Ian Smith, on 0419 581 617. For general information, visit the council's event page or contact council's Community Engagement team on 5772 0333.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or needs support, help is available through Vincent Care at [vincentcaremarianncommunity@vincentcare.org.au](mailto:vincentcaremarianncommunity@vincentcare.org.au), The Orange Door, 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or via the Community Resource Guide to Family Violence.

This event is supported by Respect Victoria, Safe and Equal, Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra CFA and Redgate Alexandra Country Women's Association.

"The Walk for Respect is about connection, awareness and action. Every step we take is for those impacted by family



Sue Wynn from the Redgate Alexandra CWA Craft Group, Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher, John Allcock from Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch.

violence and for the safer future we are working to build," Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher said. "We invite everyone in the community to come together, show support and walk towards a community that is free from family and domestic violence."

Sue Wynn from the Redgate Alexandra CWA Craft Group said, "Craft has always brought people together, and this project is no different. Through colour and creativity, we're sending a quiet but powerful message, that our community stands for respect, care, and connection. We encourage everyone to come along and take part."

Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch added, "As CFA members, we're proud to be part of this event, not just by cooking the barbecue, but by standing up for respect and accountability. It's important that we role model positive behaviour and show that each of us has a part to play in preventing violence. We hope the community will join us on the day to enjoy the walk and show their support for a respectful and caring community."

John Allcock from Rotary Club of Alexandra said, "Respect means building healthy, equal relationships, and that starts with each of us. At Rotary, we believe in promoting fairness, calling out harmful behaviour, and role modelling what it truly means to be a respectful and accountable member of the community."

## How is council protecting itself from AI scams?

NOOSA Shire Council recently lost almost \$2 million to an artificial intelligence scam, so Murrindindi Shire Council was asked what they are doing to protect themselves from falling victim to a similar scam.

They responded, "Murrindindi Shire Council takes the protection of its systems and information very seriously. We are aware of the recent incident at Noosa Shire Council and recognise the growing risks posed by increasingly sophisticated scams and impersonation attempts, including those enabled by artificial intelligence.

"Council has implemented a robust and evolving cybersecurity and fraud control program to safeguard against these types of threats. Our approach combines modern technology, clear policies, and ongoing staff training to protect Council systems, staff, and community information.

"Council's systems monitor for unusual activity and help prevent or contain threats in real time. Staff also participate in regular cybersecurity and fraud awareness training and simulation exercises to help identify and respond to phishing, impersonation, and AI-enabled scams.

"Council also maintains several key policies and programs, including an ICT Security Policy, AI Policy, Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, and a Business Continuity Plan, all of which are regularly reviewed and tested. These policies align with the Local Government Act 2020, the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework and the Australian Government's Information Security Manual. Council also draws on the Essential Eight mitigation strategies recommended by the Australian Cyber Security Centre.

"While every effort is made to ensure robust safeguards are in place, it is acknowledged that breaches can occur despite thorough preparation. Council remains vigilant, continuously improves its systems to respond swiftly should an incident arise.

"As cyber and scamming threats continue to evolve, Murrindindi Shire Council remains committed to proactive risk management, transparent communication and ongoing investment in cybersecurity maturity to protect the integrity of its operations and the trust of the community."



The concert for refugees. -Andrew Bottomley, Rubicon Photography

## Trio Océanique and concert for refugees

by Bev Dick and Fr Paul Dalzell

FROM Alexandra to Marysville and places in between, residents of the shire turned out in force to support a refugee family which needs a path to safety.

Ahmed and his wife Miriam\* and their two boys are persona non grata with the Taliban, but have been forced to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan because of the Pakistani Government's deportation policy. Rural Australians for Refugees Alexandra (RARA) has taken up their cause by sponsoring them through, initially, an application to the Australian government for a humanitarian visa (declined because the numbers have been oversubscribed) and now through the skilled migration pathway of Talent Beyond Boundaries.

To raise awareness and funds for the family, on Sunday, October 19 RARA

joined with Trio Océanique to host an afternoon of classical music in Taggerty.

The concert was a triumph, featuring Olivier Bonnici (violin), Jenny Ingram (viola), Siobhan O'Shaughnessy (cello), and flautist Brigid Montell. They opened with Schubert's *String Trio in B-flat major* (1817), followed by the first movement of Beethoven's *String Trio in E-flat major, Op. 3* (1798).

After interval surprise guest flautist Brigid Montell performed Debussy's famous 1913 solo flute piece, *Syrinx*, that tells the tale of Pan's doomed love for the nymph Syrinx, who hid in rushes, later turned by him into pan flutes.

Next came the 1926 *String Trio for Violin, Viola and Cello* by composer and French naval admiral Jean Paul Cras, evoking ship and ocean sounds, camel and dance rhythms, and a Gaelic flair,

together capturing the spirit of world travel by sea.

The final piece was Mozart's *Flute Quartet in D Major, K. 285* which he completed on Christmas Day 1777 when just 21. The audience loved these pieces.

Over 60 people turned out to hear this fine concert and to support Ahmed and his family.

RAR Alexandra is actively looking for a job for Ahmed, and is raising funds to pay for visas, exit fees, air fares and initial support in Australia. Thanks to the generosity of residents from Alexandra to Marysville, were have raised over \$2500 toward this cause.

If anyone in the Murrindindi shire can offer a job, please contact Fr Paul Dalzell on 0467 682 036.

\*Not their real names to keep them safe.

## The future of Victoria's forests revealed: No Great Forest National Park?

Continued from Page 5

State Liberal Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP said Labor is forging ahead with plans to establish the Great Forest National Park (GFNP) without transparency, community consultation or the workforce to manage it.

"In a big blow, bush users will lose access to areas of Warburton, Healesville, Yarra Junction and Powelltown as it is turned into Forest Park and National Park.

"Under Labor's plan, neighbouring Noojee, Neerim, Warragul, Drouin and Neerim South will also be transformed into National Park. This will force bush users to travel north to Murrindindi Shire to enjoy their outdoor hobbies."

She said the report also included reclassifying existing state forests as forest parks, again restricting access and use for bush users.

In March 2024 at the Bush Summit in Bendigo, Premier Jacinta Allan said she would "never put a padlock on our public forests."

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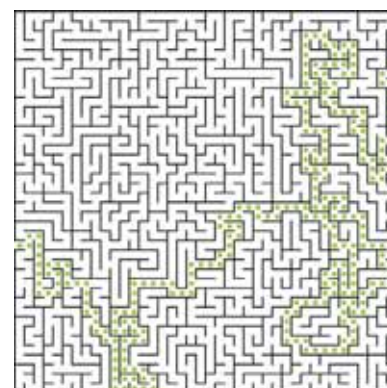
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items, vintage cream  
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LAND ACT 1958

Notice is hereby given that Telstra Limited has applied to lease, pursuant to Section 134 of the Land Act 1958, for a term of twenty-one (21) years, Crown land being part of Crown Allotment 54H1, Section B, Parish of Eildon containing 30 square metres (more or less) as a site for "constructing, maintaining and operating a telecommunications facility, network and service."

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BEREAVEMENT THANKS

BOWD, Trevor.

In 1987, Trevor brought me to Alexandra. I moved for love, our families embraced and the shires stunning landscape welcomed.

Life unfolded, our shire journey of struggle, tragedy and great achievement will remain, memories full of beautiful people.

In our community supporting each other is just second nature and we all have benefited.

With heartfelt thanks.  
Ros Bowd and family.



GARAGE SALE

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Sunday, 02/11/2025 from 9am – 4 pm

Cash only, so bring your notes and coins

No early birds, please.

Highlights

- Second hand furniture – couches, study desk
- Kids toys and games
- Three part kids Thomas Tank Engine cubby house
- Kitchen crockery, pots and pans and gadgets
- Tools, chain saws, (new) pole saw
- Chainsaw tools and bits and pieces
- Dozens - (new) packets of nails, screws etc
- New and used timber
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- 2 x coffee makers,
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Applications will close

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MEETINGS

Kellock Lodge

Alexandra Inc.

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6.15pm

Residents, families and members of the Alexandra and district community are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of Kellock Lodge - Alexandra Incorporated.

To be held at Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon Street, Alexandra.

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meetings held on December 2, 2024
2. To receive the Annual Reports for year ending 30 June 2025
3. To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 (KLA Inc.)
4. Questions and general business

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Applications are invited from members of the Alexandra and district community to join the Board of Management as a Director. The position is honorary, and Board Directors are required to be available for board meetings and committees. Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chair, Kellock Lodge 15 Bon Street Alexandra, Vic, 3714 (or by email to: [info@kellocklodge.com.au](mailto:info@kellocklodge.com.au)) and include a cover letter and brief resume. Applications close of business Monday November 3, 2025.

Please RSVP your attendance for the meeting by close of business Monday November 3, 2025. Contact reception on 5770 2100 or [info@kellocklodge.com.au](mailto:info@kellocklodge.com.au). Teams link available by request.

Membership of KLA Inc. is welcomed, with forms available from reception on 5770 2100 or [info@kellocklodge.com.au](mailto:info@kellocklodge.com.au).

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# Squash club round three games



Daniel reaches around Justin for the ball. -S

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition Camembert versus Gouda

JORDAN versus Lochlan: It was a close game with both opponents winning two games. Jordan had an amazing third game, giving him enough points to win the match 68 to 54.

Liane versus Laura: Through to game three it was point for point. Game four sealed the deal for Liane, increasing her lead to claim game four and the match 60 to 49.

Chris versus Ben: These two had a battle with several great rallies throughout. Chris was consistent and had a good run in the middle of the match. Ben tried to keep up but Chris won with a ten-point lead 61 to 51.

Derrick versus Michael H: They were on even standings with either player up for the win. Game three went to Derrick with a good lead, but Michael took home three games and the match 51 to 47.

### Blue Vein versus Mozzarella

JARED versus Matt: The tension on the court was palpable. The first game was drawn. With superior skill Jared took control of the rest of the match to slide into the winning position 68 to 50.

John versus Jim: A pair of club veterans fighting for supremacy. Jim put in the effort, but John's finesse and control raised him up to claim the victory 62 to 40.

### Thursday competition Hammerheads versus Piranhas

JESSICA versus Ben: Such a great and even game. Jess was just too strong in the end 52 to 48.

Kristelle versus Travis: It started close with both players having a shot at victory. Travis racked up points with his serve and Kristelle making a number of unforced errors. Kristelle had lost pace in the last game, allowing Travis to stampede ahead to victory 75 to 57.

Daniel W versus Justin: Fresh from the weekend competition it was a grudge match. The points were up and down throughout, both playing exceptionally well with their recent training. Going into the last game Justin was up by three points. Daniel was laser focussed for the final game, claiming the game and the match 63 to 54.

### Barracudas versus Stingrays

MATTHEW J versus Beth: Matthew was consistent throughout the match. In games two and four, Beth pulled ahead with some extra points to win 59 to 43.

Blake versus Mick: Blake started strong by stealing game one. Game two was close but went to Mick. Keeping up the energy Mick claimed the third with a big lead and closed the match by winning the fourth and the match 63 to 54.

Daniel K versus Phil: It was man versus machine. Daniel cannot put a foot wrong. He kept the ball in play as long as possible to create some brilliant rallies. Being a mere mortal Phil was consistent and gave Daniel a good run but never managed to take a game or get above ten points in a game 68 to 35.

## Classifieds

### FUNERAL NOTICES

**ROGERS, John Edward** – 14/04/1930 - 19/10/2025. Funeral service for John will be held at the Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street on Wednesday, October 29 commencing 1pm. A private cremation will follow. Baileys Funeral Services - serving regional and metropolitan Victoria. 0417 346 214.

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### MEETINGS

**ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN INCORPORATED. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**  
The Annual General meeting of the Alexandra and District Kindergarten will be held on Monday, November 24 at 6pm at Alexandra Kindergarten, 15 Bayley Street, Alexandra. RSVP and apologies to the kinder office on 5772 1387 or email alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

**FLOWERDALE SPORTS CLUB AGM**  
on November 10, 2025 at 7pm at Flowerdale Sports Club, 748 Spring Valley Road, Flowerdale. All welcome. For more information email flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com.

## Alexandra squashes the competition

by Daniel Kris

ON Saturday, Daniel Wherrett, Ben Fox, Justin Reece, and Daniel Kriss from Alexandra Squash Club arrived at the Westerfolds State Squash Competition in Templestowe where over 105 players in six divisions competed.

Wherrett, Fox and Reece were all put into the same division but thankfully did not have to play against each other in the first round. Having won all their matches, Daniel Wherrett and Justin Reece reached the grand final on Sunday for the Alexandra showdown.

Having played against each other many times, it was anyone's match. It was a thrilling five setter.

The first game was won by Justin (9-11), second and third games were Daniel's (11-9, 13-11), and the fourth and final game was won by Justin, crowing him this



The team. -S

year's Westerfold Division five Champion.

A huge congratulations to Justin, Daniel, and Ben for their efforts in this championship.



The loss. -S



The final. -S



Playing. -S

SPORT

Round three - A grade and B grade cricket

by Michael Mawson

THE third round of the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) season saw mixed fortunes for the Alexandra Redbacks at the weekend. An undermanned B grade team travelled to Tallarook to be quickly and soundly beaten, while the A grade match was abandoned due to rain.

This round, the B grade team struggled to field a full team of 11 players. Several regulars were unavailable due to a football trip. Other potential players had a case of travelitis. (Travelitis is a condition that strikes people with a sudden onset that, by coincidence, occurs when the sufferers are picked in the away team). This left the B grade team with nine members, including two juniors. Brett Christie was also persuaded to join the team to make up the numbers. Christie has a record of handy batting and wicket taking bowling, so he was a welcome addition to the side. The Redbacks also welcomed in a new player with off spinner Reigan Kuttikadan joining the side.

Captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and elected to bat, thinking that this would make for a shorter match with the undermanned side unlikely to score highly. The Tallarook pitch was inclined to have some balls skid and others pop high. This made batting treacherous. The opening pair of Mawson and Will Ellis saw off the first five overs. Ellis was bowled by Tarkyn Dundon for three and then Mawson followed soon after for five, driving a ball that popped high to be caught at short cover.

Lucas Crane and Dusty Fitzpatrick were also victims of the treacherous bounce, being caught for zero and one respectively. Tim Cavill's first innings for the Redbacks in a long time was forgettable with the returning player being bowled for a golden duck.

Christie arrived at the middle and top scored with a typical cameo innings in which he scored two boundaries and ignored even the vaguest notion of defence. Josh Crane, came in and batted well to accumulate seven runs but ran out of partners. Kuttikadan didn't survive for long, being LBW for zero and Will Donohue was bowled for one.

This left the Redbacks with an undefendable 8/38.

Will Ellis and Josh Crane opened the bowling in Tallarook's run chase. Both bowlers did a good job in keeping the scoring rate slow. Braedon Dundon managed a single run off 17 balls when Ellis swung through his defence and hit the off stump. Tallarook's other opener, Ben Tresize had the patience and wherewithal to carefully accumulate 14 runs. The Tallarook captain, Kieran Minter hit a rapid 14. His innings ended when Kuttikadan entered the attack. With his first ball, Kuttikadan caught the edge of the bat and Minter was caught by Cavill at slip.

With the loss of those two wickets, Tallarook easily surpassed the Redback's score in 18 overs.

A grade

The Alexandra A grade had a long afternoon after Tallarook won the toss and elected to bat. Tallarook's opener, Mitch Itter was bowled by Jordan Ferrier for a duck. After that, the batting had the upper hand with the visitors scoring 4/194. The highlight of the innings was Lachlan Watts scoring 86 before Ferrier struck again. Will Ashton and Matthew Wal also chimed in with a wicket each.

The Tallarook innings was cut short by rain after 38 overs. When there was a break in the weather, The Redbacks started their reply but only made 18 runs when the rain returned and the match was abandoned.

Next week is a general bye for the entire league and the following week will see Alexandra take on Seymour.

Champion for the 14th time

by Lesley Rundle

ON Saturday, October 25, the Marysville golf ladies played the final round of the 2025 Championships. The winner of the championship title was, for an amazing 14th time, Gail Leigh with 267. Gail also won the handicap championships with nett 229. Gail's consistency and golfing prowess is admired by all the members and they congratulate her on another well earned and well deserved victory.

The men's championship was decided last week and Glen Rattay was declared the winner playing in his first Marysville Championships. The ladies daily winner was Helen Howard (25) with nett 76 and Gail (13) was the runner up with nett 80.

While the ladies were playing the final round of their championships the men were playing the final of the Par Shield. The winner of the shield and the daily competition was Adam Littlejohn with an excellent plus four followed by Drew Kaempkes with plus two. Adam also won the nearest the pins on the ninth and 18th leaving Richy Clark to win on the fourth, 11th and the Golden Shot. Next Saturday all golfers will play a stroke round for the November monthly medal.

This is definitely the season for finals and on Thursday the nine holers played the final round of the Winter Cup. Keith Atwell (10), with an impressive total of 41 stableford points, was the winner. Members congratulate Keith on his victory. The runner up was Gail Leigh (7) with 38 points followed by Amanda Rattay (14) with 36 points. Keith and Gail won the nearest the



Adam Littlejohn, winner of the Par Shield. -S

pins. Next Thursday the summer season for the nine hole golfers will begin with a barbecue lunch at noon followed by an Ambrose game at 1pm. All are welcome to join in.

As part of the clubs major fundraising event on Saturday, November 8, the Goulburn Valley Water Standpipe Cup will be played between clubs which are irrigated by GV Water. The irrigated clubs registered



Glen Rattay and Gail Leigh the 2025 Club Champions. -S

so far are Seymour, Yea, Euroa, Mansfield and a team from GVW but other clubs are welcome to play in the four person Ambrose game and a team can be found for players who wish to play but don't have a team. The following day Sunday, November 9, is the annual Marysville mixed tournament. Please check the club website and Facebook page for details. Marysville members are looking forward to hosting these exciting events.

Ladies' golf champions crowned

by Dave Silverman

TUESDAY last week dawned bright and clear, and a good sized field of 12 turned out for the regular Stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, including a new Member, Perrin Gooding. Welcome Perrin.

It's always tricky writing a report such as this in the first person, but I have to tell you that the winner, with a halfway decent 35 points, is your roving reporter (Dave), just one clear of both second and third, with both Russell Haack and Leo Dynes on 34.

Russell also picked up nearest the pin on 17 and 18 was claimed by Bruce Colville.

Rundown vouchers went to Nigel Waterhouse, Perrin Gooding and Russell Purcell.

Conditions were a little less favourable on Wednesday, and with the threat of rain in the air, only seven ladies teed off in the fourth and final round of the championship for 2025. As it happened, the rain arrived after only a few holes. Three of the starters cried enough and put up the white flag after nine.

Of those that pressed on, the day's best score belonged to Ruth Worland, who returned a 90 net 73. Deb Richardson was second with 91 net 77, which was good enough to have her declared the 2025 Scratch Champion. Barb Doyle's 103 net 84 gave her the handicap win, and the rest were left to make their own arrangements.

Nearest the pins went to Donna on five and Ruth on two and 18. Congratulations to both Deb and Barb.

Thursday evening once again saw a very successful Chook Run, even though there were only 12 players. The mitigating factor in that is that 10 of the regular Thursday night crew were away on a trip.

Sadly, the rain arrived with a vengeance on Sunday, and the scheduled competition, moved from Saturday because of the races, was declared a washout, literally, when nobody turned up. Ah well, roll on next week.

Busy time for Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club match report. Last Saturday, Eildon golfers played the October monthly medal stroke round; it was also the first round of the 2025/26 club championship and the first round of the 2025/26 golden putter competition. There was also the play off to decide the latest 12 match Saturday competition and the clubs annual AGM after the game, so a lot going on.

Congratulations to president John Beale, who shot an impressive nett 65 to take out the October medal. Hot on his heels taking out second place also with an impressive nett 65 was Dennis Seamer getting beaten on a count back. The ball run winners this week were Wayne Kupke with a nett 68, from Ian Lakeland also with a nett 68 and Marian Williamson who also shot a 68. The nearest the pin winners this week, Allison Southwell was the best with her second shot on the third, Dennis Seamer was the closest on the fifth, no winner on the 11th, Phil Dally took out the 12th and Ken Collier hit the best shot on the 14th. There were no birdies on the eight drink hole, but Chris Currie won drinks for his group on the par five on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Wayne Kupe took out the putting competition on the day with 29 putts, on a count back from Chris Currie and Phil Dally who were also on 29 putts. John Beale took out the super six competition with a score of nett 20 on a count back from Marian Williamson also with nett 20. The winner of the playoff for the 12 week Saturday comp was Michael McLear with a nett 70 on a count back from Ken Collier who also had a nett 70. Other winners were Phil Gourlay the lucky swindle winner, Marian Williamson tried her luck with the elusive Joker and Kerry power took out the entry draw.

A huge thank you to the outgoing committee members Ian Lakeland, Sandi McLear and Phil Dally your contribution to the club has been significant and is very much appreciated. Welcome to the new committee members Phil Gourlay and Wayne Kupke, Eildon Golf Club looks forward to your contributions, and we are sure your hard work for the club.

A massive thanks to Ken, for getting the greens mower up and running and mowing the greens at the last minute for the course to be in the best possible condition.

Congratulation to all the winners and look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

Hope to see you there.

## SPORT

# Alexandra Races interrupted by rain



The horses crossing the line to conclude race one. -BD



The horses charging around the lush green track. -BD



Horse 'Luna One' was ridden by Cameron Thompson in the first race. -BD



The crowd watched the horses parade around before the race started. -BD



The Alexandra Races volunteers staffing the gate on the day. -BD



Every safety precaution is taken at the races. -BD



Despite it being the first race of the season, there was a large crowd in attendance. -BD



The band playing live music to bring atmosphere to the races. -BD

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard

## Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



## Good win for division five bowlers

by Marie Evans

ROUND two of the Alexandra Bowls pennant season resulted in some wins, a draw and losses. Division three and five were at home. Division five Saturday Pennant had a great victory over Seymour. Division three Saturday Pennant had to be satisfied with a draw against East Shepparton and Midweek despite having two winning rinks lost to Tatura Hilltop.

Division five played at home and had a good win over Seymour 55 to 50, in part due to Trevor Stewart (skip), Steve Kirby, Anne Gunton and Pauline Gilmore who had a fabulous day on the green. They won 17 out of 21 ends and led for the entire game. They defeated their opposition 30 to four and while the other two rinks did not win their score contributed to the overall win. Trevor, Steve and Anne are currently leading the Division five top players list. Well done.

Clive Murphy (skip), Mark Stone, Craig Parkinson and Rob Roach had a good competitive game with the game all tied up

on end eight at five all, end 13 to nine all. However, Seymour picked up 12 shots on the next two ends to lead 21 to nine. Alexandra won four of the last six ends but lost 17 to 24.

Malcolm Gill (skip), Peter Collyer, Roselyn Livy and Warren Nelson had a bad day and met some very experienced bowlers. They lost eight to 22 but with every shot counting Division five was victorious. Next week Alex who are in third place on the ladder, plays away to Seymour VRI.

Division three had only one rink up for the game against East Shepparton and that was David Nicklos (skip), John Blamey, Bob Benghamy and Christine Mayfield. They led 21 to two on end 13, 22 to five on end 14 but dropped five shots on end 15. They led 25 to 11 on end 19 but lost the last two ends to still win 25 to 13. A great day for the team and one that nearly carried the side over the line.

Greg Gilmore (skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans, and Lauren Gilchrist began well and were eight to nil up on end four and 10 to one

on end eight. However, with some excellent bowls from the opposition they trailed 10 to 11 on end 15. It was 17 all on end 19 but East won 21 to Alex 17.

Ian Harper (skip), Graeme Matthews, Ken Argent and Saxon Langmead were eight to 15 down on end 16 but rallied and won the next three ends to trail by one shot on end 19, 14 to 15. East took the last three ends and the game 18 to Alex 14.

Doug Cooper (skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias and Denice Chisholm trailed 6 to 14 at end nine but with some great bowling led 17 to 14 by end 17. Unfortunately, they dropped five shots on end 18. East won the next two ends to lead 23 to 17. A two shot pick up on the last end for Alex meant a loss 23 to 19.

The game was drawn with 75 shots each. Points were shared but East's three rink victory meant they went home with 11 points and Alexandra seven. Next round Alexandra plays away to Shepparton Park who are ladder leaders.

Midweek Pennant played at home against Tatura Hilltop. They had two winning rinks out of the three. The best winning rink was Doug Cooper (skip), Malcolm Gill, Trevor Stewart and Ian Franklin who won 12 out of the 21 ends and picked up seven shots on end two. They were 22 to four on end 13 but Tatura came back after the break to be 22 to 15 down on end 17. However, Alex maintained their lead and won 24 to 17.

John Blamey (skip), Graeme Matthews, Marty Manning and Pauline Gilmore were also a winning rink. They led for the entire game and won 12 ends to win 20 to 15.

Christine Mayfield (skip), Clive Murphy, Craig Parkinson and Denice Chisholm were no match for their opposition and are looking forward to next week. Tatura Hilltop went home with the win and 14 points with Alex gaining four points for the winning rinks. Next round is at home against Dookie who are currently sitting second on the ladder.

## Little athletics bounces back in style

by Murrindindi Little Athletics

AND just like that, little athletics is back. Saturday marked the second week of the new season, and what a fantastic start it's been. Both weeks have seen terrific turnouts, with plenty of new faces enjoying the 'come and try' sessions alongside returning athletes. The atmosphere has been positive, energetic, and full of fun.

Running the group warm up has been a bit like mustering cats at times, with so many new and enthusiastic athletes joining in. Thankfully, the senior athletes have stepped up beautifully; leading by example, helping the younger ones, and showing great leadership.

It's also been wonderful to see parents getting involved; timing races, recording results, cooking the barbecue and even joining in the warm-ups. The athletes really do love having their families cheering them on and lending a hand to make each meet run smoothly.

One of the highlights of the day came when a large kangaroo bounded across the oval mid-race during one of the junior 300m events coming quite close to the runners. Only in the country do you get entertainment like that mid race.

Many athletes have already achieved personal bests, and there's talk that a few club records may have even fallen. The talent and determination of our local kids never cease to amaze us.

Looking ahead, several of the athletes have signed up to compete at the Regional Relay event in Albury later in November, with team training set to kick off in the coming weeks.

We're also excited to announce a fundraising auction on November 30 to support local athlete Levi Campbell, who will once again represent our club at the Colgate Games in New Zealand this January. More information to come in the following weeks.

Little athletics is off to a flying start this season, full of smiles, effort, and that great community spirit that makes country sport so special.



The crowd cramming the fence line for the first race of the season in Alexandra. -BD

## Just not cricket at the Alexandra Races

by Robyn Walsh

RAIN interrupted play at the Alexandra Races on Saturday. The day opened with temperatures expected to be just right for racing. The excellent weather attracted a large and joyful crowd ready to battle the bookies on St Crispin's Day. However, it is spring, and, with only four races completed, the weather gods drove the runners from the field and left patrons wondering what might have been.

Our Man Sam, leader of the newly created Alexandra Punters' Club, recruited a significant following. The \$20 Punters Club was open to all, especially the untrained, naive and lazy punters who attended the races to socialise and enjoy themselves rather than battle the bookies alone. Sam did such a good job that all Punters' Club members went home with extra coin in their pockets. Sam will return to Alexandra and the club will keep you posted about the date of the next Punter's Club.

The racing was good. Last season's leading picnic rider and poster boy, Shaun Cooper,

rode a double, winning both race one and four. Ben Moffat and Rob Kilpatrick rode the other two winners. The training honours were spread evenly between the old guard, Don Dwyer, Troy Kilgower and newer trainers, Tyson Barton and Ashleigh Smith.

The next meeting is the Family Friendly Country and Western Meeting on December 27. Come dressed in your best country and western gear, to win some great prizes. There will be some enjoyable activities for the family including country and western music, pony rides, face painting, Marco the Magician and Racing Victoria merchandise for the children. Also the Kombi Photo Booth will help you create your own memories of the day. TAC buses will be running from Eildon and Yarck as usual, so please book online, early and often, at [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)

The hard working Alexandra Race Club committee did a great job to present a track, grounds and infrastructure ready for racing. They are recruiting now to reinforce their ranks, and looking for new blood to inject

new drive and ideas. A few good people, men, women, young or old is all that is needed to keep Alexandra Racing rolling on for another 150 years. Volunteers can contact vice president Doug Vaux on 0407 245 546 for information.



Race one winner 'These Boots' with jockey Shaun Cooper. -BD