

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, November 12, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Eildon Events purchases new trailer



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Alexandra Show



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Oaks Day at the Duck Inn



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Weekend sport



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A meeting of people concerned about the proposed Rubicon solar farm was held at the Thornton/Eildon Football Club rooms on Saturday, November 8, with special guests Senator Bridget McKenzie and Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. The meeting explored what was known about the project and the variety of concerns about the location. -AR

ADH CEO speaks about proposed merger with Eastern Health

ALEXANDRA District Health CEO Jane Poxon was questioned around the proposed amalgamation of the health service with Eastern Health on Friday, November 7.

Via Eastern Health, she had been sent a series of questions relating to the proposal. These included questions around the short period of consultation, the lack of promotion of the talk sessions, the survey having limited scope for feedback on the proposed merger, and what changes might be expected should the proposed merger occur.

Are you able to talk me through your responses to some of those questions, starting perhaps with the consultation ones?

We made the announcement obviously on Thursday [November 6]. Across Alexandra and Eastern Health, we've already spoken to over 100 people yesterday, hundreds of staff, as you can imagine, as well, who are really, really important to us. So we've already spoken to lots of stakeholders, our staff, etcetera, which has been absolutely fantastic.

We've also been getting responses already to the surveys and RSVPs to the Tea Talks. We do acknowledge, and we're doing that at the moment, we're organising some out-of-hours Tea Talks in different locations and that will be not next week [this week], but the second week. We've added some extra ones there. You could emphasise also, that I'm always available for anyone to give me feedback. Contact the health service. We're more than open to have some discussions.

I'm at the show on Saturday [last Saturday] as well. I'll have copies of surveys for people, the QR code, if anyone wants to use that. I'll be available to chat at the show. Alexandra District Health has got to stand there.

I think we're being really positive. I think the period of two weeks is about definitely from an Alexandra perspective, myself and all of the executives will be making ourselves available for that period.

We'll be out and about, we'll be having conversations with people, having one-to-one meetings when people want those. So that's why it's sort of a two-week period.

Sorry, what was the reason for it being a two-week period?

So that I will be and the executive team will be very available during that time.

But why is it only two weeks?

As you can imagine, Eastern Health and Alexandra, we've still got to deliver the care, we've still got delivery to do in our business. So, dedicating that time. If people want after that period to give us feedback, it's always welcome.

It's good to hear that there's more Tea Talk sessions being scheduled. I think that's really important because there just hasn't been enough notice, particularly for the early ones.

And as you can imagine, we made the announcement on Thursday. We will get the information out of these Tea Talks as far as we can. And you can help us too, by promoting

them on your website and your sites as well, and if you're open when we do add extra ones we can let you know so that you can perhaps assist us in promoting those too.

I think it's very important. I don't know how the community will respond either way but I think that it's important that they are enabled to have their say.

Definitely, and that was the intent to do this process as well.

With the survey, I was quite taken aback when I had a look at the survey. It seemed that it was, some basic demographic information, then it was how important do you rate these different health procedures/services, but there's nothing really in there about the proposed amalgamation. There's only the 200 word limited section right at the end. What was the logic behind that?

It's not only you that's given us a bit of feedback on that. We've just had a couple of consumers that have also given us some feedback. So I think we do need to look at giving the community more opportunity to give us some verbatim comments and feedback generally and just generally about what services do people want for their community.

Speaking of the services, what services will be specifically added or taken away depending on what the outcome is?

We've recently got the cancer services and putting in that back to our community,

how good is that? Everyone would have to agree. That's amazing. And we have talked about the dialysis and that is progressively progressing really well. But these are the things we couldn't have done without Eastern Health, and I think even thinking about Eastern Health clinicians, especially in the cancer services, they've been so dedicated and wanting to deliver this service for people in our region.

But wasn't that being done without the amalgamation being in place?

Yeah, that was done through the network, but this is also about longevity and our future, about sustaining a really good rural health service as well, and improving the health outcomes of our community. And I think that has been in the forefront, I know it is, definitely myself, but definitely of both Eastern Health and Alexandra's board as well. I mean, it's about the benefits and it is about enhancing and protecting our services here.

Yeah, but in what sort of concrete ways are you talking about?

There is a clinical services plan process happening at the moment in the network, and this will definitely identify services, initiatives, that are required specifically for our community. What is that chronic disease? What are the things that we need in this community? What do our youth need? Health issues concerns for them as well.

Continued Page 15

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Letters to the Editor

Proposed Rubicon solar farm

SAMSUNG C&T Renewable Energy Australia are proposing to install an estimated 140,0000 solar panels on 300 hectares (741 acres) of prime farmland on the Taggerty-Thornton and Rubicon Roads.

Why spoil a historic tourist area like this? Why not find somewhere else that is out of the way in an area that will not affect anyone, including tourists, domestic and wild animals? If there is no farmland left for grazing, etcetera, where is our food going to come from? Once this farmland is destroyed there is no coming back.

What about the fire risk, with the Blue Range so close to the solar panels?

Rubicon Road is a single access route. If the solar panels cause a fire what a horrendous

catastrophe will occur, with two school camp sites (Rubicon Outdoor School and Camp Jungai) with upwards of 200 students, dropped off by buses to be picked up few days later, plus all the homesteads and residents along this road. I lived through the Black Saturday Bushfires in 2009, with the fire in the Blue Range so close to me, so I know how frightening it is.

What impact will this have on tourism in the area? Tourists travelling to the Tumbling Waters Picnic Area will not want to swim and fish in Rubicon River with the runoff from the toxic cleaning of the solar panels. What happens when the Rubicon River floods again and toxic water spreads over the valley?

What about the noise from the massive batteries?

Tourists will no longer want to visit Rubicon Valley, and cafes, shops and hotels will suffer.

Please think about this desecration of our beautiful historic Rubicon Valley.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

William Street trees

THE trees planted on the nature strip along William Street have created a problem for the residents as the trees have grown and became bushy. They are causing an interrupted line of sight for our vehicles driving out of our driveways. This has become a great concern to me as when I need to see any oncoming traffic either way. I need to move my vehicle forward onto the road before I can see any cars, trucks, buses, etcetera.

This road is an OD route with a 60km speed limit. My question is, who is responsible for the maintenance and pruning of these trees? Is this a shire issue or is it up to the residents to deal with?

The trees need to be pruned up to a safe line of sight for the residents and all traffic in this area. I await upon a reply from whom is responsible for this issue.

Janet Strochnetter, Alexandra
0428 889 728.



THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To the Eildon Grocer for being community minded and running sweeps on the Melbourne Cup.

THUMBS UP: A pleasure to see the old Alexandra Post Office renovated and the pilates and yoga classes ac-tive. Well done to all involved.

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

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



Bob, June and Josie selling poppies for Remembrance Day outside the Alexandra Newsagent on Thursday, November 6. Full coverage of the Remembrance Day services around the shire will be included in next week's edition. -AR

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 Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Sun AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th 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	1.35	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00PM Mon	0.56	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00PM Mon	0.72	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.46AM Mon	0.17	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	07.24AM Mon	0.63	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	12.00PM Mon	0.44	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00PM Mon	1.17	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	3.57	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00PM Mon	0.58	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00PM Mon	1.13	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00PM Mon	0.33	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.44	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.15	steady		

*ISSUED AT 12:42 PM AEDT MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 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

November 12 - November 18, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	6	19	Wednesday	5	19
Thursday	10	24	Thursday	10	25
Friday	11	24	Friday	11	25
Saturday	10	22	Saturday	10	23
Sunday	11	21	Sunday	11	21
Monday	9	17	Monday	9	18
Tuesday	9	19	Tuesday	10	20

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	34mm
Buxton.....	76mm
Eildon (AWS).....	24mm
Flowerdale.....	37mm
Jamieson.....	46mm
Kinglake.....	77mm
Lake Eildon.....	33mm
Mansfield.....	27mm
Taggerty	41mm
Yarck	28mm
Yea.....	33mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	275.81m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	56%
Metres below full supply.....	13.09m
Daily inflow	3000ML
Release.....	1500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	48%

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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

Amalgamation consultation: why the rush?

CONCERNS have been raised about the consultation being conducted by Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health regarding the proposed amalgamation.

The consultation is being held from November 6 (the announcement day) through to November 21. During the two weeks, people have three methods for putting forward their thoughts. Be quick, one week has already passed. It also engenders the question, why the rush?

People could attend one of the eight ‘Tea Talk’ sessions. The sessions in the three largest towns in the shire, Alexandra, Yea and Marysville, will have been conducted by the time this newspaper went to print. There was no advertising of the events beyond limited social media, and it is therefore unlikely that many people will attend. The other sessions are in Eildon and Yarck (both November 12), Thornton (November 13), and Buxton and Taggerty (both November 14). All were set to be held within eight days of the announcement.

Further sessions have since been added. The full list can be found in the Classified section of this edition.

People can also find further information about these sessions at the amalgamation-specific website, connectingcare.net

Another method being used to consult the community is via an online survey. Following some demographic information, the questions all centre around the health care services

which people would like to have available at ADH and about staff opportunities, all ranked between one (least important) and five (most important). It is highly likely that everyone in the community will five-star it all the way. But how does this create a mandate for change?

The only real option that people have to express an opinion on the proposed merger is in the last question, where people are asked, “Is there anything else you would like to share about your expectations or concerns regarding this exploration process or the possibility of a voluntary amalgamation.” People are given 200 words to answer the question. It’s the online equivalent of a sticky note.

The third option is to send an email regarding the proposal to feedback@connectingcare.net

This all feels very rushed, and a potential fait accompli, particularly given the structure of the survey questions and the speed and lack of promotion regarding the Tea Talk sessions. Whether the community decides that an amalgamation is a good idea or not is up to them, however genuine consultation is required to reach this conclusion.

The Victorian Government has *Principles for Public Engagement*. Information about them can be found at vic.gov.au/public-engagement-framework-2021-2025/principles-public-engagement

The first principle is that the consultation be ‘meaningful’. It states, “The purpose and

objectives are clear and shared with the public. The public has adequate time, resources and opportunities to provide feedback before decision-making. The public can take part in decisions that affect their lives. Decision-makers consider the views of the public.”

Principle two is that the consultation be inclusive. It states, “The engagement is respectful, inclusive and accessible... The engagement design is human-centred and enables the full participation of all who wish to be involved. Asking the individual or group how they would like to participate and designing the process accordingly. Offering a number of ways that the public can engage. The public has opportunities to influence the problem definition.”

Principle three is that the process be ‘transparent’. It states, “Sharing background information about the project and the process for the engagement. Explaining why some decisions can be influenced by the engagement, while others cannot. Communicating the level of influence the public has in the decision-making process. Seeking diverse opinions to build a greater understanding of the broad range of community views and values.”

Principle four is ‘Informed’. It states, “The engagement provides relevant and timely information to the public. In practice this looks like: Promoting the opportunity to take part in the engagement. Communicating accessible, relevant, tailored and timely information. Giving the public the knowledge and time

to provide informed contributions. Providing clarity about the role of the engagement in the broader project. This includes how contributions will be considered and any relevant legislation and standards.

Principle 5 is ‘Accountable’. This includes, “Planning must ensure that the purpose, scope and objectives are clear. Engagement risks must be understood and mitigated. Communications provide pathways for questions and feedback from the public” and “Concerns or requests from the public are addressed.”

Principle six is ‘Valuable’. It states, “The engagement creates value for the community and government. This can include social, economic and environmental value. In practice this looks like: Drawing on local knowledge and experience. Creating improved outcomes for community and government; Valuing participants and their time. In some instances, community members may be reimbursed for their time or supported to enable full participation. This may include transport, accommodation, child-minding and/or catering; Supporting government to understand and represent their community and inform decision-making; Building value for participants in the process. This may occur through the social impact of informing, empowering and enabling people to be part of changes that benefit their communities.”

Have these principles been followed in full?

YDMH Board Chair Ian Marshman comments on proposed Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health merger

WHEN asked to comment on the proposed amalgamation involving Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) Board Chair Ian Marshman confirmed that the YDMH Board is awaiting further details, including the formal case for amalgamation and the community consultation framework.

Based on preliminary information, Mr Marshman acknowledged that the ADH Board has long viewed amalgamation as a pathway to strengthening both its own sustainability as well as services for its community. He noted that while the timing of the proposal, shortly after the formation of local healthcare networks and ahead of service planning involving all network members, was unexpected, it presents

an opportunity for robust discussion and community input.

Mr Marshman also referenced recent board chair deliberation conversations about a potential ‘Murrindindi Health Service’ model, which would unify Alexandra and Yea health services with Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home. This model, he said, offers a compelling vision: increased service scale, enhanced funding opportunities, and a locally anchored governance and leadership structure focused on the needs of the entire Murrindindi region.

He acknowledged that the community has previously expressed strong support for retaining local boards and CEO leadership, as evidenced by the significant public

engagement in 2023. That sentiment remains central to YDMH’s approach.

Should the ADH–Eastern Health amalgamation proceed, Mr Marshman emphasised that YDMH will play an even more vital role in representing and planning for health services across Murrindindi. With its experienced CEO, engaged board, and proven track record in regional service innovation, YDMH is well positioned to advocate for local needs and ensure continuity of care.

YDMH and ADH currently collaborate on several community-based programs, including early intervention in schools and kindergartens and provision of primary mental health services.

Mr Marshman confirmed that the YDMH Board will work proactively to assess the impact of any structural changes and would prioritise the safeguarding of current and future service partnerships.

He encouraged all Murrindindi residents to participate in the upcoming community consultations.

“This is a valuable opportunity to understand the rationale behind the proposal, explore its potential benefits, and ensure your voice is heard,” Mr Marshman said.

“The YDMH Board remains committed to transparent dialogue and to protecting and enhancing health services for our community.”

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5772 2649
54A Downey St, Alexandra

Alexandra Museum
& Steam Train Rides

Open Saturday November 15
 10am to 3.30pm
 7 Station Street, Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)
 or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988

Christmas Market @ Yarck
CWA Christmas cakes and puddings
Devonshire teas and toasties

SATURDAY November 15
from 9am

Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

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Nicole Kelly

Author and Illustrator

Nicole, a beloved storyline favourite, tells stories and invites little ones on wonder-fully bookish adventures, singalongs and hands-on craft fun, all the while wearing her swishy rainbow coat.

Nicole presents her debut picturebook,
Forever Sammy

E: creationsnicolecrafted@gmail.com

Book Launch
 10am November 27, 2025
 Alexandra Library - Grant Street, Alexandra

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
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Contact 5772 2362

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Loving Life
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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

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AUSTRALIA

Out&About

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Alexandra and District Netball Association AGM will be held at 7pm at the Corner Hotel (Goldfields room) Contact president, Cassandra Fraser for more information 0418 538 964 or email junior.netball@gmail.com

Alexandra and Eildon Gem and Lapidary Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the club rooms. All welcome.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Murrindindi Shire Council invite residents to the Breakaway Bridge Community Briefing session. At the Alexandra Shire Hall from 5-6pm. This session will not be live streamed. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/breakawayupdate.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

You are invited to join council and Alexandra Rotary for the Walk for Respect at Rotary Park. For more information visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/walkforrespect

Eildon campgrounds closed from January 7 to early April

PARKS Victoria has advised that campgrounds in the Fraser Block at Lake Eildon will soon receive upgrades.

Candlebark, Lakeside and Devil Cove Campgrounds will close from January 7, 2026, to allow the contractors on to the site. Construction will finish in early April, with all three campgrounds open for Easter. In the previous update, now obsolete, the upgrade was expeced to be completed by the end of 2025. It’s understood that the delay was due to final approvals and permitting.

Parks Victoria has appointed construction company Naturform to update the toilet facilities at Lake Eildon National Park. Naturform has nearly 40 years of experience delivering landscape construction projects.

New accessible toilet blocks at Lakeside, Candlebark and Devil Cove Campgrounds will make it easier for more Victorians to enjoy camping in the great outdoors.

Each new toilet block will feature a state-of-the-art dry-vault system, removing the need for water to be carted into the park. This provides an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective solution. Non-drinking water for hand washing will be provided by a gravity-fed rainwater tank.

The new facilities will not include showers and toilets will be non-flushing. Campers will need to bring their own drinking water.

The project will also build a new toilet block next to the main boat ramp, with construction

Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health exploring voluntary amalgamation

ALEXANDRA District Health sent out a press release on Thursday, November 6 stating, “The boards of Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health are working together to explore how they can strengthen healthcare for their communities and connect care for a healthy tomorrow.”

Alexandra District Health Board Chair, Kim Flanagan, said in the press release that the exploration builds on the strong partnership already in place through the East Metro and Murrindindi Local Health Service Network, which is beginning to deliver real benefits for their local communities.

“Through our long-term partnership with Eastern Health, we have brought specialist oncology consulting and infusion services to Alexandra, coordinated graduate nurse programs, and a staff learning platform,” Mr Flanagan said.

“Exploring a voluntary amalgamation is the next step in considering how we can build on this progress to secure sustainable, high-quality care for people living in Alexandra and its surrounding communities.”

Eastern Health Board Chair, Eugene Arocca, said both boards were focused on what matters most, stronger healthcare for the community.

“Eastern Health is deeply connected to its community and has enhanced services to provide more care locally.

“Our shared focus with Alexandra District Health is to strengthen healthcare in the region. Exploring a voluntary amalgamation is about testing how we can bring more specialist care closer to home, make it easier for patients to get the right care when they need it, and create more training opportunities for staff to grow

their skills and career to help attract and retain a strong workforce.”

In the FAQ section, it states, “For Eastern Health, it offers a chance to deepen partnerships in the region, ease pressure on hospitals and share specialist knowledge and services with Alexandra and district communities. Together, this could help create a stronger, more connected system of care. This is about connecting care for a healthy tomorrow.”

As part of the exploration, the boards are looking at how services could be strengthened and expanded, such as bringing more visiting specialists to Alexandra, improving local access to X-Ray and ultrasound, enhancing community health services support, and improving patient information systems to provide a seamless patient experience.

Mr Flanagan said, “Our shared goal is to keep delivering safe, high-quality care close to home, maintain a strong local identity, and honour the trust and legacy each health service has built over time.”

“This is about working together to strengthen what we already do well, while exploring how a voluntary amalgamation could help us secure services for the future and improve health outcomes for our communities.

“For Alexandra District Health, this means maintaining our core services, urgent care, inpatient beds, district nursing and community health, as well as preserving our local fundraising and community representation.”

There are no plans to cut jobs or reduce existing services. Staff will remain in their current roles and locations but could benefit from new opportunities and expanded training if a voluntary amalgamation was approved.

Engagement with staff, stakeholders and the communities serviced by both health organisations will happen from November 6 to 21. People will have the chance to provide feedback through a survey, by email or at a local Tea Talk session. Unfortunately, the dates for the Alexandra, Yea and Marysville Tea Talk sessions had passed by the time this newspaper went to print, however there are still sessions to be held in Eildon, Yarck, Thornton, Buxton and Taggerty. People can find out more at connectingcare.net

“Above all, this process is about better health outcomes and making sure our communities can continue to access the care they need, close to home,” Mr Flanagan said.

He emphasised, “We want to increase services in the community.”

With regard to potential changes to the board structure, it states in the FAQ section on the Connecting Care website, “If a voluntary amalgamation were to proceed, the Minister for Health would appoint a Board for the new organisation. Although the decision about board members is a decision for the Minister, recent amalgamations in the Victorian system have resulted in each new board drawing on the expertise and local knowledge across the existing boards.”

Pending the outcomes of the exploration and community engagement, any future proposal would require Ministerial approval.

Eastern Health works with a catchment population of 908,984 people, while Alexandra District Health’s catchment is 6826. Eastern Health’s region includes Richmond, Eltham, Upper Beaconsfield and Matlock.



'Good Girl Beautiful Sweetheart' with Cornelia Selover in Grant Street, Alexandra, on Thursday, November 6. Cornelia was making the horse accustomed to the hustle and bustle of town life, and attracting the attention of both locals and tourists while she was there. -AR

Community resilience funding from Ausnet

TWENTY-eight councils and community groups across Victoria will receive close to \$900,000 from the third round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund.

Murrindindi Shire Council was among the recipients, receiving \$41,496 for a trailer-mounted mobile generator to support emergency preparedness and community resilience across the Murrindindi Shire. The mobile generator will provide critical back up power source for Emergency Relief Centres in Alexandra, Flowerdale, Yea, Kinglake and Eildon, enabling these facilities to remain operational and support local communities during emergency events.

Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the Energy Resilience Community Fund, which provides Energy Resilience and Education and Literacy Grants, supports projects that will help build long-term community energy resilience and

provide support to communities during severe weather events.

"We know how important energy is to our communities' and customers' lives. When severe weather or other emergencies happen, this becomes even more important," Mr Linnie said.

"We are actively investing in our network to improve reliability and resilience. Through these grants, we're contributing to the creation of energy resilience hubs and infrastructure that help communities access vital services and facilities and stay connected and safe during prolonged outages and emergencies," he said.

AusNet established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support energy resilience and literacy projects across AusNet's electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne's north and east.



The Eildon Events team with one of the new trailers they purchased. -S

Eildon Events purchases new trailers thanks to sponsors

EILDON Events Inc is delighted to extend their sincere thanks to the generous sponsors of their MOVE initiative, AGL, Murrindindi Shire Council, Foundation Murrindindi, and the Eildon Lions Club.

Thanks to the support and grant funding of those sponsors, they have been able to purchase two custom-built trailers to store and transport the essential equipment used for local events. These trailers are more than just a practical asset, they're a real game-changer for hardworking volunteers.

By reducing double handling and heavy lifting, the trailers significantly ease the physical demands on the Eildon Event's team, many of whom are older community members. This not only lightens the load (literally) but also enhances safety and wellbeing, aligning with a commitment to responsible occupational health and safety practices.

The support helps Eildon Events keep their events running smoothly, safely, and sustainably. From all of the team at Eildon Events Inc, thank you for helping them move forward, together.



Maintenance works

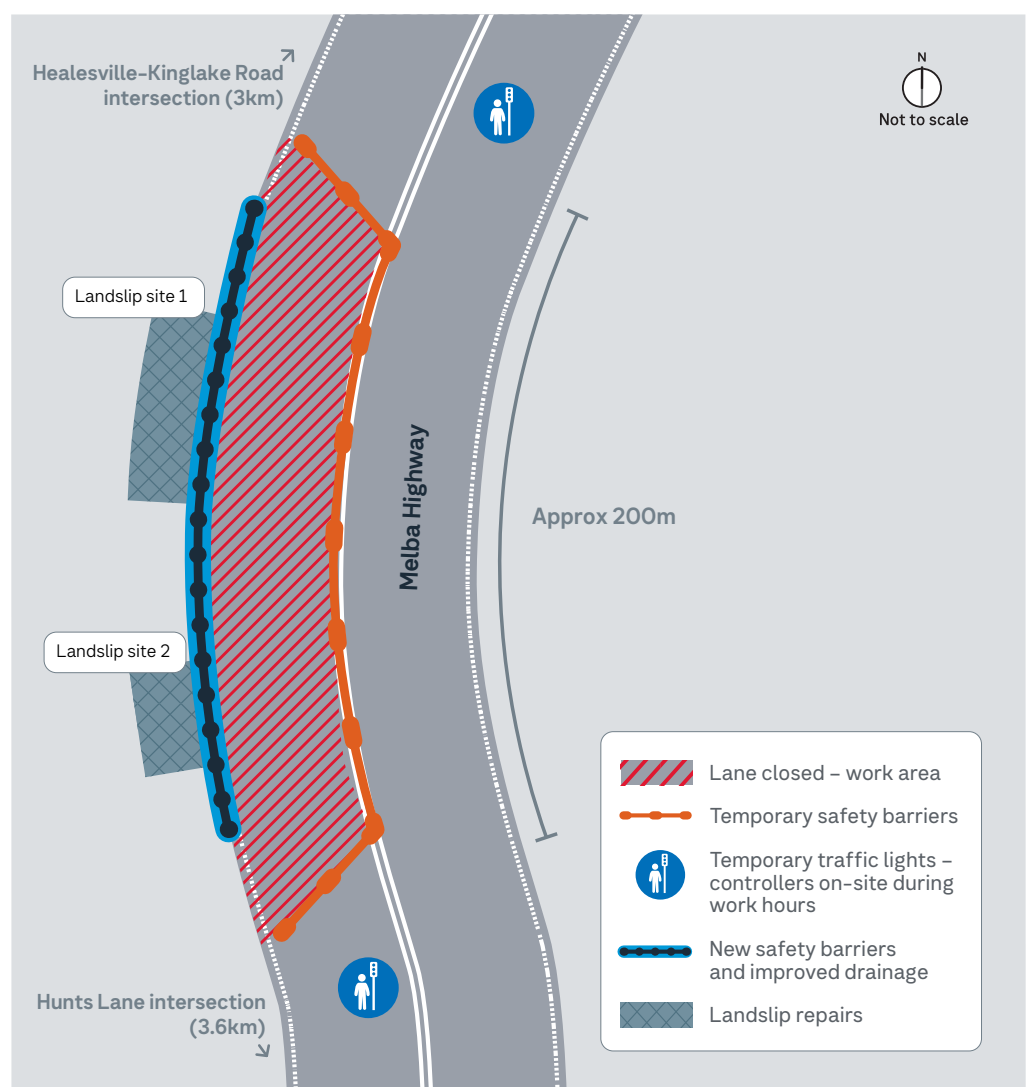


Lane closed Melba Highway

From Monday 13 October to end of January.

One lane will be closed on a section of the Melba Highway between Healesville-Kinglake Road and Hunts Lane in Dixons Creek for landslip repairs.

Plan ahead and allow up to 20 minutes extra time.



Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashleigh Francis

Ashleigh has shown great resilience when things didn't go as she hoped. She's stayed positive, supported her friends, and continued to give her best.

Her upbeat attitude makes her a wonderful role model for others.

Ashleigh, you are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sophie Smith

For demonstrating the school value, achievement by writing yet another incredibly creative and authentic narrative.

Sophisticated Sophie



Shannon Mitchell

A huge shout-out to you, Shannon. You led the way on Transition Day with kindness, confidence, and that big Junior energy we love.

Our new friends couldn't have had a better guide. I'm so proud of you



Ellie-Mae Jamieson

Ellie-Mae, you were an absolute star on Transition Day. Your warm welcome, kindness, and spark made our new friends feel right at home.

You showed them exactly what the Juniors are all about. I'm so proud of you

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Representatives from Uniting Church of Alexandra (left to right) Anne Benghamy, Ray Mathieson, and Elvie Thompson at Murrindindi Community Food Share. -S

Foundation Murrindindi thanks Uniting Church of Alexandra

FOUNDATION Murrindindi is delighted to acknowledge the generous contribution of the Uniting Church of Alexandra, whose recent donation of funds has enabled the purchase of a new six by three metre marquee for use at Murrindindi Community Food Share events.

This new marquee will make a significant difference to the Food Share's operations, providing much-needed protection from rain, wind, and sun for both community members accessing free food and the dedicated volunteers who make these events possible.

The shelter ensures that everyone involved can come together safely and comfortably, regardless of the weather, an important factor for a service that operates outdoors and welcomes people from across the shire.

The Murrindindi Community Food Share operates on the simple but powerful philosophy of "give what you can, take what you need." It's a community-driven initiative that helps address food insecurity by distributing fresh produce, pantry staples, and other essentials to those who need them most.

Foundation Murrindindi's Executive Officer, Robyn Hill, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the church's support, noting how this contribution reflects the spirit of compassion and community that defines Murrindindi.

"We are incredibly thankful to the Uniting Church of Alexandra for their ongoing generosity," she said. "This new marquee will help us provide a welcoming, weather-safe space for both our volunteers and the people who come to the Food Share. It's a simple but essential addition that will make a world of difference."

The Uniting Church of Alexandra has long been a valued supporter of community initiatives across the region. Its continued partnership with Foundation Murrindindi highlights a shared commitment to improving community wellbeing.

The new marquee will be used regularly at Food Share events throughout the year, serving as a visible reminder of what can be achieved when community organisations work together to support one another. Murrindindi Community Food Share operates on the first Thursday of every month, from 9am to noon, at the rear of 88a Grant Street Alexandra.

For more information about Foundation Murrindindi or to get involved with the Murrindindi Community Food Share, visit foundationmurrindindi.org.au or contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688.



Local resident, Reg, was concerned that he was unable to access cash from the machine on Monday, November 3. -S



Reg pointing to the screen on the NAB ATM, where it states 'Withdrawal not available'. -AR

Lack of cash at NAB ATM

MANY people will have noticed that the National Australia Bank (NAB) automatic teller machine (ATM) was not providing money to customers over the Melbourne Cup long weekend.

This was a very challenging time for the ATM to fail to provide cash, with many tourists in the area and events including the Alexandra Spring Fair.

Tara Hartley, NAB Regional Customer Executive, said, "NAB can confirm the Alexandra ATM is now fully operational following a temporary outage over the weekend. The interruption was due to an equipment fault, which our technicians have resolved. The ATM has been tested to ensure it is functioning for customers. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank the Alexandra community for its patience."

It's understood that equipment fault was a problem with the dispenser, and that

normal service resumed on Wednesday, November 5.

The equipment fault occurred at the same time that industrial action is being conducted by cash delivery workers from Armaguard and Prosegur in Victoria and Tasmania. They are conducting overtime and weekend bans, as well as 24 hour stoppages. The Transport Workers Union (TWU) said that it was "as declining safety standards and unsustainable operating models in the industry reach crisis levels."

The TWU press release added, "Victoria and Tasmania can expect major disruptions to cash deliveries, potentially affecting ATMs, banks and retail businesses, with negotiations breaking down between workers and cash handling companies following delays led by the banks on sustainable funding for the industry."

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MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the Victorian Government has been caught out as new figures reveal a dramatic decline in road maintenance across Victoria, leaving motorists dodging potholes and driving on roads that resemble goat tracks.

The Department of Transport and Planning’s latest annual report shows major patching works on regional roads fell by 45 per cent last financial year, while outer metropolitan areas saw a staggering 73 per cent drop.

She said Labor claimed to have allocated \$964 million for annual road maintenance last year, however the annual report shows only \$692 million was spent on road asset management, a shortfall of more than \$270 million. Her press release stated, “This is much more than a porky, it shows the government frantically trying to spin the situation.”

She said Labor’s patch works and budget cuts have been felt across the electorate as major roads and highways continue to crumble.

“The Allan Labor Government clearly does not have road maintenance as a priority.

“That’s hundreds of millions of dollars that should have gone into sealing shoulders, repairing potholes and rebuilding dangerous sections of road. Our roads desperately need it.

“We have so many roads that are failing. The wire rope barriers between Molesworth and Yea have dings in 27 spots. The barriers themselves have been knocked down and never been replaced.

“Our road surfaces are failing on the Maroondah Highway in Buxton and in Ancona and Maindample. The Goulburn Valley Highway at Molesworth is in a dreadful condition. As is the Heidelberg-Kinglake Road, south of Kinglake, and as usual, the

Melba Highway has potholes opening again,” she said.

“Despite this, the government brags consistently about road investments. For the past six years, each October, Labor has made the same ‘Better Roads Blitz’ announcement, and it is just spin.

“The government must drop the act and step up to make a real difference here.”

When contacted about the claim, a Department of Transport and Planning

spokesperson responded, “During the 2024-25 Road Maintenance program, we focused on delivering long-term solutions rather than short-term measures

“That’s because we recognised that in most instances, short-term measures provide immediate relief but are not the best long-term outcome for our road network or the community.

“Instead, we prioritised rehabilitation and resurfacing work, which deliver better long-

Battery fires prove batteries don’t belong in any bin

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to dispose of household batteries safely after two fires have recently occurred at the Alexandra Landfill.

The landfill fires, which were caused by the incorrect disposal of batteries, have put the safety of staff, property and the environment at serious risk.

“When batteries are mixed in with general rubbish or recycling, they can be compacted in our kerbside collection trucks or at landfill sites, where they may spark against other materials and ignite fires,” Murrindindi Shire Council

Sustainability and Assets portfolio Councillor Sue Carpenter said.

Council is reminding residents never to place any type of battery in kerbside bins, Resource Recovery Centre waste bays, or landfill.

Instead, batteries can be recycled safely and for free in specially marked battery disposal containers at council’s Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) in Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Kinglake, or at participating FoodWorks supermarkets across the shire.

To make your batteries safe for recycling, cover the terminals with sticky tape before dropping them off at a local RRC or supermarket.

“Battery fires can start small but spread quickly, putting our staff, emergency services and facilities at risk,” Cr Carpenter continued. “By taking a few extra moments to recycle batteries correctly, you can help keep our community safe.”

For more information about safe battery disposal and drop-off locations, visit council’s Batteries page.

Fake driving fines

FAKE websites have recently been announcing new road rules and have been widely shared on social media. Rest assured that you won’t be fined.

One such website claimed that from November 1, people driving without their headlights on at all times would be subject to a \$250 fine. Instead, drivers need to use their headlights between dusk and dawn, and in heavy rain or fog. Other times are optional.

Another fake website claimed that a curfew from 10pm to 5am would be put in place for drivers aged over 60 in New South Wales, with a large fine for disobedient elders.

Yet another claimed that people would be banned from smoking, eating and drinking while driving, with hefty fines of up to \$8000 and 20 demerit points, depending on the state.

The RACV states, “In Victoria, it’s not against the law to eat or drink (non-alcoholic beverages) behind the wheel, however you do need to stay in control of your car at all times. If the police believe you’re distracted or driving carelessly, you could still be fined.”

If you spot claims on social media that you find suspicious, it’s always best to check verifiable sources.

Tiny Towns Fund grants open for round three

THE Victorian Government is making Victoria’s tiniest towns even better places to live, work, stay and play, with applications for the next round of grants from the *Tiny Towns Fund* now open.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes last week visited the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve to formally open applications for round three of the \$20 million *Tiny Towns Fund*.

“From upgraded halls to new playgrounds, these projects are improving how locals live, work and connect in their towns,” Ms Symes said.

“This fund is making a big difference to our smallest communities, delivering hundreds of projects that attract visitors and bring the community together.”

The fund offers grants of up to \$50,000 to towns with fewer than 5000 residents, for projects that attract visitors to the town or that celebrates the local community.

From Willaura to Walhalla, the state government is already delivering almost 350 projects across more than 300 of our smallest regional towns, through the first two rounds of the fund.

More than 50 community halls have been upgraded or renovated, alongside dozens of new and improved playgrounds and outdoor spaces through the fund, boosting livability and tourism in small towns across Victoria.

The *Tiny Towns Fund* is strengthening communities by making them even better places to live, work, stay and play, with many of the projects using local contractors and suppliers to carry out the works. It is a part of the state government’s record \$47 billion investment to support regional and rural Victoria.

Applications close on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. For more info or to apply, visit rdv.vic.gov.au/tiny-towns-fund

term fixes. This is reflected in targets for these measures being exceeded for most of the state.

“The Victorian Government invested \$964 million towards maintaining Victoria’s road network in the 2024-25 financial year, including \$692.3 million outlined in the DTP Annual Report as part of output costs, plus asset funding expenditure.”

A performance measure around road patching was introduced in the last financial year due to recent road maintenance programs’ focus on strengthening roads in response to widespread flood damage.

However, once the department began planning and delivering this program, they realised the benefit in refocusing the program to deliver substantial rehabilitation works which completely rebuild sections of the road instead of delivering road patching which would only provide a short-term resolution.

By investing in long-term fixes to our roads, they said they are ensuring the road network remains a key connection for Victorians to stay connected to education, employment, family and friends, as well as keeping local industries connected to international and domestic trade opportunities.

The department also stated that the 2025/26 Better Roads Blitz will see crews out right across the state rebuilding, repairing and resurfacing roads to get Victorians home sooner and safer.



The tree set for removal. -S

Removal of tree near shire hall

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has assessed a tree located in front of the Alexandra Shire Hall. Following inspection, an active crack where the stem splits was confirmed. It is not suitable for intervention, and the tree now needs to be removed for safety reasons.

The tree, a *Pyrus uriensis*, is known for structural weaknesses and is no longer grown commercially. It has since been replaced by stronger, more reliable cultivars of the same species.

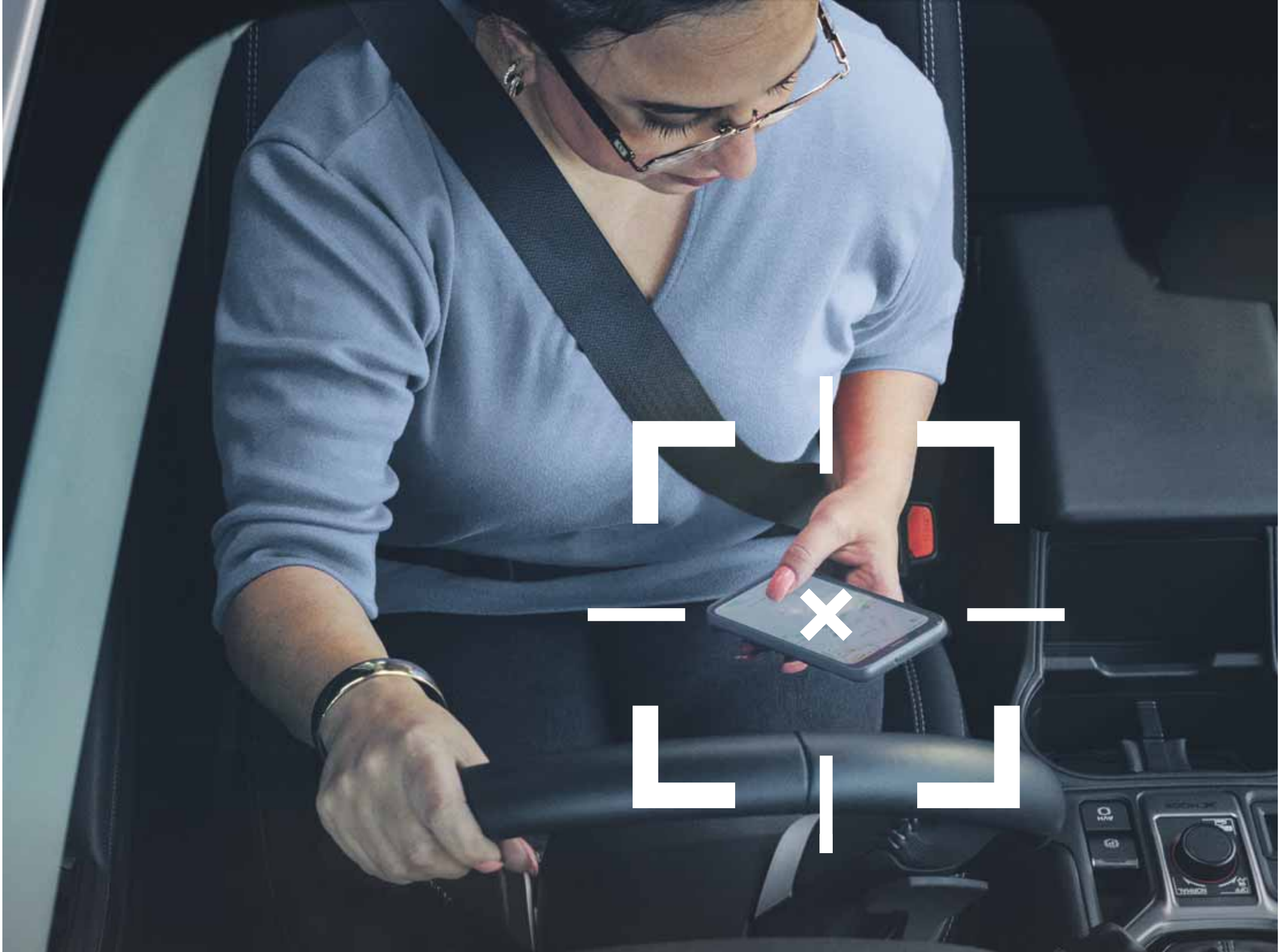
Council will remove and replace the tree before the end of November to ensure community safety and maintain a healthy, resilient urban canopy.



Spring was well and truly here on Sunday, November 2. A beautiful day brought Alexandra Lions out to serve their community at the Spring Fair in Rotary Park. This photo shows most of the crew enjoying comradeship along with service to the community. The picture was taken at the rotunda in the park. The Lions pictured are Steve, Luke, Bryan, Karyn, Darren, Judy, Yvonne, Deb and Bob, enjoying the day in their new shirt uniforms. -S



This image shows the Marysville lake on Wednesday, November 5. The two jetties have been removed, but they are yet to be replaced and the lake refilled after desilting. Council have assured us that the works are on track to be completed by the end of November. -AR



Is that text message worth \$611?

Using your phone illegally while driving could land you a \$611 fine and 4 demerit points.
Distracted drivers won't see police coming. Chances are you will be caught.
Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



10 The Alexandria Standard, Wednesday, November 12, 2025 www.murindindibusiness.com.au

The Farmer's Ag News

High prices for first November Yea sale

THERE were 1766 head of cattle yarded at last Friday's Nutrien Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards, and prices were high.

The first laneway was filled with cows and calves, the top pen reaching \$3225 per head and the others not too far behind that figure.

The average price per head for the day was \$1795, with an average weight per head of 323.7 kilograms. Overall average price was therefore 554.5c/kg, huge.

The steers had their usual good show, the top pen recording a top price per head of \$2910 and a top weight of 591 kilograms, equalling out to 492c/kg.

There was less in the way of heifers, with only two laneways full. Top price per head was \$2180, with the top weight 458 kilograms. Doing the maths, heifers reached 476c/kg.

Upcoming sales for the Yea Saleyards include a Combined Agents Store Sale on November 14, and a Nutrien Yea Autumn Drop Weaner Sale on Friday, November 28.



Despite a relatively small yarding, there was still a large crowd for last Friday's sale. -BD

STOCK REPORT 7 NOVEMBER 2025				
Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,766			
Average \$ per head	\$1,795			
Average weight per head	323.7kg			
Top price per head		\$2,910	\$2,180	\$3,225
Top weight		591kg	458kg	
Turnover	\$3.04 million			



Nutrien were the main vendor for the sale. -BD

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan

Sponsored by

Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

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

ALEXANDRA & BUXTON ONLINE CLEARING SALE
A/C 1 WEEKS & MULTI VENDOR
Commencing: **Thursday** 20th November **12noon**
Concluding: **Monday** 24th November **12noon**

Inspection Day: Thursday 20th November **10am - 3pm**
Alexandra & Buxton

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Director: Ayden Embling
0427 924 944

ALEX SCOTT & STAFF
Now Operating at the Monthly Yea Combined Agent Store Sale
Additional Entries Welcomed

FACEBOOK: ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF - LIVESTOCK
INTERNET: WWW.ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU
EMAIL: YEA@ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU

David Setches 0409 443 473
Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
Glen Barwick 0408 975 476
Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877

Accredited Member

High prices for first November Yea sale



Nick, Marlen and Colleen from Pyalong were selling some of their cattle at the sale. -BD



Farmers worked out prices on the fly while bidding. -BD



Breakaway Bridge Community Briefing Session

We are calling community members to join us for a briefing session to provide an update on the Breakaway Bridge:

- **Thursday 27 November from 5.00 to 6.00 pm**
- **Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street, Alexandra**

Visit our website to add the event to your calendar by scanning the QR code or visiting murrindindi.vic.gov.au/breakawayupdate

We will be recording the session, however there will be no live streaming of the event.



Walk for Respect 2025

Friday 28 November 2025 from 11.00 am
at Rotary Park, Vickery Street Alexandra

Council and the Rotary Club of Alexandra are hosting the Walk for Respect to bring our community together, take a stand against domestic and family violence, and promote safety, equality and respect for all.

Respect is building healthy, equal relationships and making it clear that violence is never acceptable. It is about speaking up when something harmful happens, role modelling positive behaviour, and recognising that each of us can help prevent violence.

Reports of family violence in our Shire are rising, highlighting the urgent need for community awareness and collective action to create safer homes and respectful relationships.

The event begins at 11.00 am with a talk from Vincent Care about the gendered nature of family violence and how we can all play a role in ending it, followed at 11.30 am, by a 1.5 km community walk along the UT Creek path. Afterwards, we'll gather at Rotary Park for a relaxed community get-together with support service stalls, barbeque lunch, light refreshments and a welcoming, positive atmosphere.

Wear purple and bring your friends and family. Dogs are welcome but must be on a lead.

For more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/walkforrespect, contact Community Wellbeing on 5772 0333 or scan the QR code below.



Murrindindi
Shire Council



SAFE+EQUAL
Standing strong
against family
violence

An overcast but fun Alexandra Show



John Sharwood at the gate. -AR



Hazel and Ruby in the petting zoo. -AR



Christine, Josh, Senator Bridget McKenzie, president of the Eildon National Party Larry Norman, and Alastair. AR



Patrick on the race track. -AR



Pony riding. -AR



Members of the Alexandra Community Shed Inc / Eildon & District Woodworkers Guild Inc. -AR



Jack and Peter outside the UGFM outside broadcast van. -AR



Horses on show. -AR



A variety of poultry were on display in the poultry shed. -AR

An overcast but fun Alexandra Show



Dog obedience display. -AR



Isla and Eve. -AR



Sheep dog trials. -AR



Lisa with Fly and pups. -AR



Some of the work created by local school children. -AR



Some of the beautiful flowers on display. -AR



The Alexandra Scouts provided a barbecue. -AR



In the poultry shed. -AR



Tilly Rose provided some of the musical entertainment on the day. -AR



Many people dressed up for the occasion. -S



Ronnie won the second prize in the Best Dressed category. -S



Terry. -S



Dave. -S

Oaks Day celebrated in style at Marysville's Duck Inn



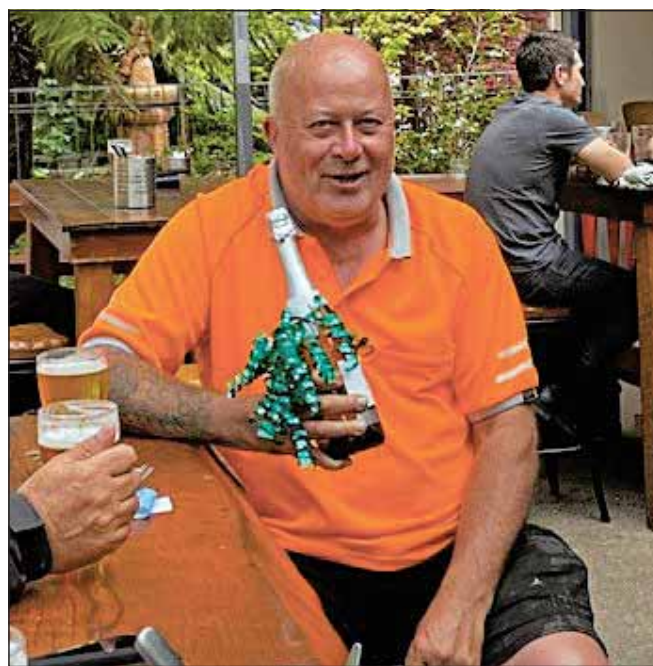
Bruce. -S



Shelley. -S



Mel won the Best Dressed award at Marysville's Duck Inn on Thursday, November 6. -S



Kevin. -S



Publican Hong. -S



Carol. -S



Sharen, Bronwyn and Glenys. -S



Council supporting rural social connection with film screenings

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has announced the five recipients of its new community wellbeing initiative: *Runt on the Road*, funded through Agriculture Victoria's *Look Over the Farm Gate Grant Program*.

Following a successful showing of the movie *Runt* for R U OK Day? in September, council invited small hall committees across the shire to express their interest in hosting a community-led event focused on connection, storytelling and mental health awareness. The response was enthusiastic, with five committees selected to receive funding.

Farming communities across the shire continue to face significant climate challenges, from storms, floods and drought. Community connection and access to health resources is vital to support positive physical and mental health outcomes. These events provide an opportunity to bring community together and make the most of our local halls.

Each group will receive \$1200 to host a relaxed and inclusive gathering featuring a screening of the heartwarming Australian film, *Runt*, a shared meal and access to health and wellbeing resources. These events aim to create welcoming spaces for conversations and connection, especially for farming communities where work pressures and isolation can impact stress levels.

Congratulations to the recipients: Toolangi Castella Community House, Taggerty Hall, Highlands Community Hall, Fawcett Hall and the Mechanics Institute Glenburn Hall.

To help committees deliver their events, council will provide funding to cover key costs including film hire, catering and equipment hire. Committees will also receive customisable promotional materials, printed wellbeing resources and ongoing planning support throughout the process.

Community groups are encouraged to connect with council's Grants and Sponsorships team to explore opportunities for community connection events.

"Our small communities know the power of coming together and we're proud to support them through these events and continue important conversations about wellbeing," council's Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams said.

"The *Runt on the Road* initiative is a great way to connect people through food, films and stories, promoting positive mental health."

For more information or to explore these opportunities, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants or call council's Grants and Sponsorship team on 5772 0333.

Nexus Primary Health merges to become Omnia Community Health

NEXUS Primary Health (Nexus) and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health (SCCH) are excited to announce the name and logo for their soon-to-be merged organisation: Omnia Community Health.

Developed through extensive consultation with Nexus and SCCH staff, clients, community members and partners, both the name and visual identity of the new organisation embody their purpose to help communities feel healthy, connected and supported through trusted, local care.

Chief Executive Officer, David Wild, said the announcement marks an exciting and important milestone in the merger, signalling the beginning of a new chapter for the organisation.

"We consulted broadly to understand how our new brand should reflect the care and connection we deliver every day," Mr Wild said.

"Omnia Community Health represents our shared vision to be the trusted local health partner for our communities, one that empowers people to live well through care that's inclusive, connected and grounded in local relationships."

Derived from the Latin word for "all" or "everything," Omnia reflects their

commitment to providing inclusive, comprehensive, and connected care for everyone. It symbolises unity, collaboration, and the belief that everyone deserves access to quality health and wellbeing services.

The new logo brings this meaning to life, visually representing Omnia Community Health's commitment to inclusivity, connection and care. The dot gradient within the symbol illustrates the organisation's broad reach and the positive ripple effect of their work, a reminder of how care and support flow outward to strengthen local communities.

"Nexus Primary Health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health are coming together to create a more resilient and connected community health service for our region, and Omnia Community Health's logo captures that beautifully," Mr Wild said.

"We look forward to delivering better, more connected healthcare for our communities into the future."

The new name will officially launch on January 1, 2026, when the two organisations formally merge and form Omnia Community Health.

ADH CEO speaks about proposed merger with Eastern Health

Continued from Page 1

So if the amalgamation doesn't go ahead, are there still ways of addressing those issues?

I don't think there's as much capacity. There's no decision made yet. If the decision was made it means that there is that sustainability, there is that longevity, but also we can start to implement things faster and a lot easier and on a larger magnitude. We think about our workforce. This is also about the workforce and giving the teams here, the staff, opportunities to improve their skills and maintain them, to deliver the right care that we want to our community. It gives them more career opportunities as well. And when you've got more career opportunities, it also attracts workforce to the area. So we've also got to think about our staff and what we can give them too. It's not just maintaining their skills, but also activities, let's get our inpatient service happening as well and that gives them, that helps also to maintain their skills.

In the email I mentioned that Eastern Health has a catchment of a million people and ADH has 6800 or so. What's the benefit to Eastern Health?

I always go back to the clinicians. A clinician in my experience, which has been a long time in health, they want to deliver clinical care to the communities that they serve. And otherwise they wouldn't be doing the job. They want to deliver it into rural as well. And I heard our oncologist director who worked at Eastern Health speak yesterday actually, and the passion and the enjoyment that the team at Eastern are getting from coming here and delivering the service. It's palpable.

I thought that Eastern Health had quite long wait lists, so there'd be no shortage of patients to deliver those services to.

We know there's obviously demand for planned surgery across the state and even in the nation, isn't there. But if you think about, there'll be easier pathways for our patients here, going up and down. The potential then if someone had some surgery at an Eastern Health site, if they live in the area, that they come back to Alex for some rehab.

That wouldn't be possible otherwise?

No, I mean, it's about developing, integrating those services, pathways, making it easier for our community.

Is there likely to be any change to local patient waiting lists? And I guess wrapped up in that, will there be metro patients coming out here to be treated in greater numbers than previously?

I really can't answer that question. This is still an exploration process. There is actually no decision made on that. So we haven't gone through that detail at the moment because we're just exploring the proposal.

What will happen to Alexandra District Health's land, given that a lot of it was bought with money fundraised by the local community, etcetera?

If it did happen, Alexandra District Health would still maintain its identity. It still would be Alexandra District Health. We are on Crown land and it would be maintained as Alexandra District Health. It's supposed to be for health delivery purposes anyway.

I thought the horse paddock over the road wasn't necessarily zoned that way.

It's still Alexander District Health.

What else would you like to add?

[There was discussion around the dates of the Tea Talks, with some additional dates added. These can be found in the Classified section of this edition. -Ed]

I think continuing, we always welcome feedback. Please come and join us at these conversations. Also, I am willing to meet one-to-one. If anyone wants to talk to me, call. We've got our reception team that will take a message if I'm not available and I can always call back. And really, just to re-emphasise, this is an exploratory phase. There's no decisions made as yet.

Yeah, fantastic. Now with the Tea Talks, I'm assuming that's a fairly kind of informal session. If it came up, would you be willing to kind of address a wider group if that were to occur?

We've actually packed the whole two weeks, but I can give that some thought, but we have packed the whole two weeks. Now we've got some more of our sessions as well. It might be tricky to put that in a schedule, but I can take that on notice and consider that.



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KID’S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with “AD”

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| AFAR | AFFORD |
| AFFAIR | AFFRAY |
| AFFECT | AFLOAT |
| AFFECTION | AFRAID |
| AFFILIATE | AFRESH |
| AFFIRM | AFRICA |
| AFFIX | AFTER |

Math Square

	-		-		1
-		+		+	
6	+		-	7	7
-		-		-	
	+		-		-3
-3		5		1	

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

Knock knock.
Who’s there?
Tank.
Tank who?
You’re welcome!

Q: What kind of bow can’t be tied?
A: A Rainbow

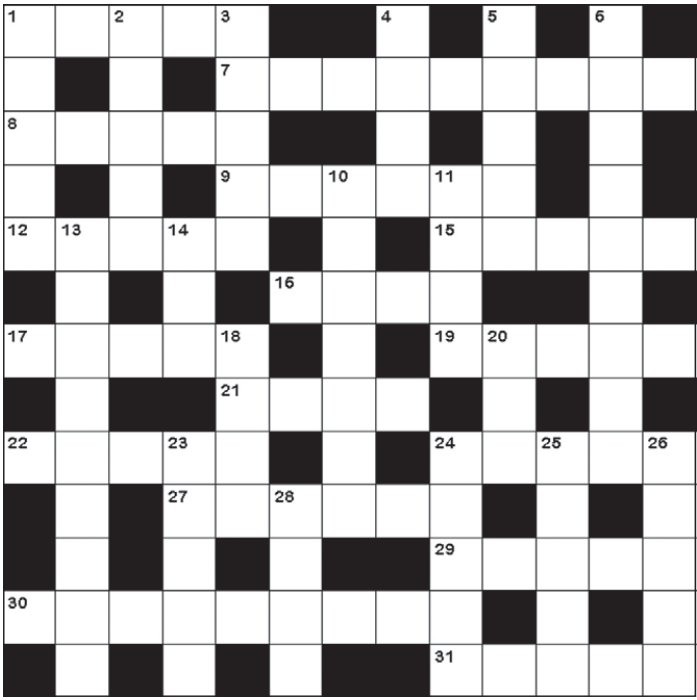
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Worries and becomes distressed.
7. The starting point of a new experience.
8. The money risked on a gamble.
9. A heavy metal weight used to moor a ship.
12. Discharge liquid from an aerosol can.
15. Liquorice-flavoured seeds used in cooking.
16. The handle of a weapon or tool.
17. Walk with heavy and noisy footsteps.
19. An intuitive feeling or premonition.
21. The departure of an actor from the stage.
22. Grind meat into very small pieces.
24. All of the inhabitants of the earth.
27. Suddenly come into view.
29. The edible organs of an animal.
30. Something that distracts the mind.
31. Blowing in loud and abrupt bursts.

DOWN

1. Seeks attention using ingratiating flattery.
2. Shows active interest and enthusiasm.
3. Wander away from the correct course.



4. Function with all parts working in harmony.
5. Sharp-pointed prickle on the stem of a rose.
6. Art that has a long-established value.
10. A wine-cup used in the Communion service.
11. Swearing to the truth of a statement.
13. Inspired by love for your country.
14. Direct a weapon toward an intended goal.

18. The short weak cry of a young bird.
20. A flying object whose nature is unknown.
23. Showing great caution and wariness.
24. In an incorrect manner.
25. The gaps between cloud masses.
26. A movable platform for a cine-camera.
28. A persistently annoying person.

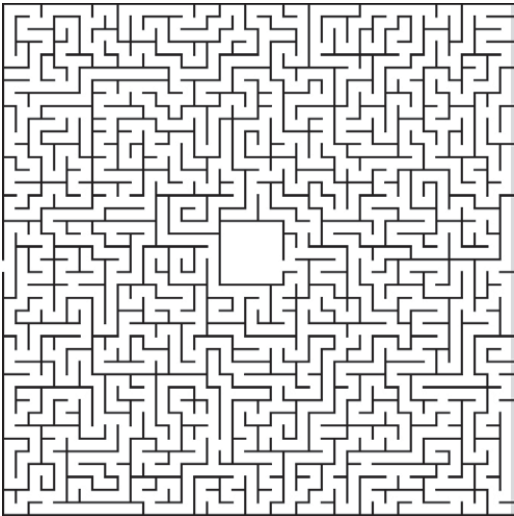
Shapes

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

Big things

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| AIRPLANES | MOUNTAINS |
| CRUIESHIP | OCEANS |
| DINOSAUR | PYRAMID |
| ELEPHANT | SKYSCRAPER |
| GIANTS | TRAIN |
| GRANDCANYON | TRUCKS |

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

Math Square

	+		+		9
+		÷		+	
9	÷		-	5	-2
-		+		×	
	+		+		19
3		9		21	

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.

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

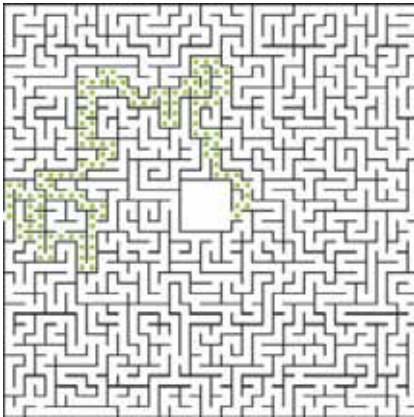
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

2	+	6	+	1	9
+		÷		+	
9	÷	3	-	5	-2
-		+		×	
8	+	7	+	4	19
3		9		21	

MAZE



KIDS MATH SQUARES

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

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of Health



Board Director opportunities at Alexandra District Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at Alexandra District Health. The positions start on July 1, 2026, for up to three years.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for persons with an interest in making a difference in the health sector and have the knowledge and skills for ensuring health care is delivered safely and effectively, with public money used to the benefit of all Victorians.

As a director you will be doing more than just contributing your time or knowledge. Being appointed to a hospital board places you in a position of trust. You will play an important role in providing leadership, accountability and integrity in the delivery of healthcare across Victoria.

Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of healthcare for the Victorian community. It is preferable that applicants reside in Victoria or, within the border community of those hospitals near the New South Wales and South Australian borders.

While Victorian public health boards are based on capabilities, boards are more effective when these capabilities also represent the richness of the diverse voices of Victorian communities. We encourage First Nations people, people living with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, gender equality, and upholding human rights.

Applications close at midnight Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website: www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications or contact Executive Assistant and Board Secretary, Jennifer Creed on 5772 0924.

MEETINGS



Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health are exploring a voluntary amalgamation to strengthen local healthcare now and into the future.

Share your feedback at a local Tea Talk / community engagement session near you:

Tea Talk Alexandra: Alexandra RSL, 44 Grant St, Alexandra

Monday 10th November: 12:30pm – 2:00pm (Complete)
Tuesday 18th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Thursday 20th November: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Tea Talk Yea: Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass St, Yea

Monday 10th November: 2:45pm – 4:00pm (Complete)

Tea Talk Marysville: Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Rd, Marysville

Monday 10th November: 10:00am – 11:30am (Complete)
Thursday 13th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Eildon: Eildon Primary School Hall, 45 High St, Eildon

Wednesday 12th November: 11:30am – 1:00pm
Thursday 20th November: 10:00am – 11:30am
Thursday 20th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Yarck: Yarck Hall, 6583 Maroondah Hwy, Yarck

Wednesday 12th November: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Tea Talk Thornton: Thornton Memorial Hall, 1335 Taggerty- Thornton Rd, Thornton

Friday 14th November: 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Friday 14th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Healesville: Each Healesville, 1 Joffre Road, Healesville

Wednesday 19th November: 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Tea Talk Yarra Glen: Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, 45 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

Wednesday 19th November: 10.00am – 11.30am

Tea Talk Buxton: Buxton Memorial Hall, 2206 Maroondah Hwy, Buxton

Friday 14th November: 10:00am – 11:00am

Tea Talk Taggerty: Thornton Memorial Hall, 1335 Taggerty- Thornton Rd, Thornton

Friday 14th November: 11:30am – 12:30pm

If you'd like to attend a Tea Talk session, please let us know by emailing feedback@connectingcare.net

For more information visit connectingcare.net

DEATH NOTICES

BATES,
(nee Cooper)
Irene Venetia

Passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025 in Benalla aged 89.

Dearly loved wife of Jim (dec). Adored mum of Graeme and Faye, Wendy and Murray (dec), Jeanette, and Ian. Treasured nan to Lee; Jared (dec), Asha and Luke; Charlee; and Heath; their partners and six treasured great grand children.

Time may heal our sadness, a smile may hide our tears, the memories we have of you, will last for all our years.

COATES, Anthony (Tony) Michael –

4/9/1965 - 4/11/2025. Dearly loved son of John (dec) and Jocelyn Coates. Younger brother to Roslyn Eva and Murray Coates. Loving husband of Kashmira and step father to Daniel. Uncle to Madielynn Edwards and Matthew, Travis and Sam Eva. In God's care.

FUNERAL NOTICES

BATES,
(nee Cooper)
Irene Venetia

A celebration of life will be held in the gardens at 74 Porters Road, Benalla on Saturday, November 15 at 1pm.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ESTABLISHED Mowing business for sale.

Regular ongoing clientele base. Equipment included: trailer, ride on mower, push mower and whipper snipper. Hand over with introductions included for a smooth start. Call Luke for a chat. 0418 522 842.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

MEETINGS



**ACHERON
FIRE BRIGADE**
**General and
Biannual meeting**
will be held on
Sunday, Nov 16
at 10.30am at
Acheron Hall.
All welcome.



General meeting
for the Alexandra
RSL will be held on
Sunday, November 17,
at noon, followed by
a light luncheon.

ACHERON HALL
AGM will be held at
Acheron Hall on Sunday,
November 16 at 9.30am.
All welcome.
For more information
phone 0423 802 772.

**ALEXANDRA AND
EILDON GEM AND
LAPIDARY CLUB.**
AGM on November 25,
at club rooms at 2pm.
All welcome.

**ALEXANDRA and
District Dog Obedience
Club AGM** will be held
on Sunday, November 16,
11am at Briggs Oval.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
- POL, \$35 each. Ph 5798
1868. Pick-up in Alex-
andra or Yea. [beckysfre-
erange@gmail.com](mailto:beckysfre-
erange@gmail.com)

DEALS ON WHEELS



2022, EZYTRAIL Stirling GT MK3 forward fold camper trailer. As new, never used. Inclusions: Diesel heater, solar off-grid pack (Bluetooth), 96L fridge/freezer, hot water system, lots of storage. Lots more extras. Reg C28236 until 21/03/2026. \$22,000 price negotiable. Ph: 0407 513 501 or 0419 677 550.

Classifieds

SITUATION VACANT



ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

Director (Part Time)

Seeking an experienced leader with a passion for Early Childhood Education, to oversee operations on behalf of our Committee of Management.

This new position is offering 10 hours per week onsite (days negotiable), focusing primarily on HR and regulatory compliance.

Must hold an Early Childhood Education qualification (minimum Diploma / ACECQA equivalent), along with knowledge of industry Frameworks and Legislation. Also have current WWCC / VIT and Child Protection Training.

For further information, please email alexandra.kin.president@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Applications close Friday 28/11/2025.

Federal Investment Bolsters H5 Bird Flu Preparedness

VICTORIA is ramping up its biosecurity defences against H5N1 bird flu, with new federal support to boost emergency preparedness and rapid response capabilities.

As part of a \$100 million national biosecurity package, the Federal Government is investing \$1.7 million in equipping Victoria with testing technology and specialised field response tools.

The funding will provide Victoria with crucial frontline equipment, including a PCR unit and other laboratory tools for rapid testing, as well as generators, decontamination trailers and specialised field equipment to support emergency response operations across multiple sites.

Australia remains free from the H5N1 strain of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), also known as H5 bird flu. This strain is currently circulating overseas. It mainly affects birds, but can also affect other animals, and, on rare occasions, humans.

Ongoing outbreaks of H5 bird flu globally have increased the level of risk to Australia for incursions of this virus. Annual migration of wild birds will continue to be a risk for introducing new avian influenza viruses to Australian birds.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is working with other government agencies, land managers and other relevant organisations to prepare for a H5N1 bird flu detection in Victoria.

Work continues with the poultry industry, wildlife experts and land managers to monitor for signs of the virus within wildlife and develop mitigation strategies to protect high-risk wildlife species.

Victoria’s agricultural industry is backed by a \$36.7 million *Victorian Budget 2025/26* investment to make sure the state is well prepared to respond to biosecurity threats and emergency diseases now and into the future, including avian influenza.

Bird flu has been recorded on every continent apart from Australia. It was recently discovered among the elephant seal population at nearby Heard Island.

In addition to birds, bird flu can also impact other animals, including seals, sea lions, cows, and even some cats and foxes. There are also fears for the entire Tasmanian devil population if there is an outbreak.

Dr Carol Booth, Invasive Species Council Principal Policy Analyst, said in 2024, “The rapid adaptation of this virus to mammals means the consequences for Australian wildlife could be even more catastrophic than predicted if H5N1 arrives in Australia.

“Since arriving in South America in late 2022, bird flu has killed more than 30,000 South American sea lions, 17,000 southern elephant seal pups and unknown numbers of porpoises, dolphins and others, as well as at least 650,000 native birds.

“The mortality rate of elephant seal pups in Argentina’s Península Valdés reached 95 per cent in 2023 compared to only one per cent in 2022.

“If high pathogenicity bird flu turns up in Australia, the government-commissioned risk assessment predicts ‘catastrophic’ impacts on our native birds.

“That risk assessment predicted only minor impacts on marine mammals, but the latest research implies the risk to Australian mammals is now much higher.”

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Collins added, “Australia is the only continent free of H5 bird flu, which is why we have invested record funding of more than \$100 million into maintaining our biosecurity status and preparing for this disease.”

“Strengthening our preparedness and response capability to H5 bird flu, including in Victoria, is critical, not just for our valuable agricultural industries, but also for our unique natural environment and our communities.”

McLeish backs flood recovery for Breakaway Bridge

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP has thrown her support behind Murrindindi Shire Council’s request to the Victorian Government to reinstate the Breakaway Bridge in Acheron.

The historic and iconic wooden trestle bridge has been inaccessible for three years since the 2022 floods ravaged the area and caused catastrophic damage. Such was the power of the enormous volume of water released from Lake Eildon that the bridge was damaged and a large section of Breakaway Road was washed away.

Locals and emergency services have had to tolerate a 17km detour. It’s a 30km detour for those heading to farmland across the other side of the river.

Speaking in parliament, Ms McLeish directly urged the Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery to provide council with the requested funding to build a dual-lane bridge, which has been advised to be the only compliant and resilient solution for this location.

Ms McLeish said, “The Murrindindi Shire Council have been working with agencies to reinstate the bridge to meet contemporary Australian road and bridge design standards.

“Acheron has been split in half and severed from the surrounding communities for too long. It is imperative this connection is repaired.

“I urge the government to look at this very seriously and quickly so that the reconstruction can take place in the coming 12 months.

“People in the area are fairly sick and tired of having to do these detours all the time. They look forward to a satisfactory resolution that is more convenient and easier not only for locals but for tourism.”



Pamela Thompson said, “How nice would this splash of spring colour look through out the main street for the community and visitors to enjoy? Instead the planters are in private storage waiting for the council to arrange for their reinstatement. On display they would show local residents do care about our town and particularly our shopping precinct.” -Pamela Thompson

Update on the planter boxes

ALEXANDRA and district residents are likely to remember the planter boxes which were briefly located outside various shops on Grant Street.

The planter boxes were an initiative of Alexandra local Pamela Thompson and were created by the The Woodies (Alexandra Community Shed and the Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild) using recycled timber. Yencens supplied the bins and plants and Bedrock also supplied goods free of charge.

With the permission of council, they began being installed on November 27, 2024, outside the local shops which were keen to host them. Each of these shops were given a watering can for the plants.

In late May, workers from Murrindindi Shire Council removed planter boxes from outside shops on Grant Street.

Council was asked to provide an update on when the planter boxes would be reinstated.

They responded, “Murrindindi Shire Council acknowledges the community interest in this matter and appreciates the contributions made by volunteers and local businesses to enhance the streetscape.

“The planter boxes were originally installed as part of a community-led initiative. However, following a safety and accessibility review, it was identified that the boxes were not covered under any current street trading permits, which raised liability concerns for council.

“Council is taking a considered and consultative approach to ensure any future placement aligns with safety standards, permit requirements, and broader streetscape planning.

“As part of the upcoming streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements for Grant Street, Alexandra, council will soon engage with the community, including local traders and volunteers, to explore options for the future use of the planter boxes.

“This consultation will be a key step in determining how best to incorporate community preferences while ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and street trading permit rules. It will also clarify the future of any planter boxes, and help establish a timeline for any future action.

“Council is currently preparing examples of streetscape options to support these discussions. Once these options are ready, we will engage directly with affected businesses as a first step in the consultation process.

“We appreciate the patience of the Alexandra community as we work through these important steps.”

Vale Brett Danieli

by Mike Dalau, president Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association

LAST Wednesday morning, October 29, the houseboat industry at Lake Eildon was in shock and disbelief as we heard the sad news about the passing of Brett Danieli.

The houseboat industry offers its deep and sincere condolences to Shelly, Jayda, Jett and Joby and Brett’s extended family and friends at this very sad time. Also our thoughts are with Matt who has lost his boss, teacher and mate.

Brett was very much part of this community growing up in Alexandra and then commencing his apprenticeship with Peter McKernan. With a tremendous skill set Brett commenced his own journey with High Voltage Custom Electrics, the houseboat electrical specialist.

Brett quickly built a high reputation of servicing the electrical needs for the owners of houseboats. His services were always in high demand in building the latest new houseboats, upgrading older houseboats and helping out when something didn’t work. Brett strived to assist his clients whenever possible. This would often see Brett going beyond expectations to assist a client in need.

Over the last decade the houseboat industry has come ahead in leaps and bounds as we now produce world class, environmentally friendly houseboats that employ many local people. Many times when introducing politicians, senior bureaucrats and others to the houseboat industry at Eildon, and I am able to brag that we are at world’s best practise and at the leading edge with green solar electric technology. Brett was very much an integral part of making this happen. Our houseboat builders build exceptional houseboat holiday homes, but the technology, knowledge and experience provided by Brett enables this first-class experience to happen.

A small country town lad who left school to commence an apprenticeship locally has made a significant positive impact on our industry with his great intelligence in adopting and enhancing best practise in solar electrics in our industry.

Brett made a significant contribution. Brett’s passing leaves a significant hole in our industry. I have mentioned Brett’s tremendous talents however there was another side as Brett treated so many people with respect. He had so many friends, either his clients or his workmates. Brett loved the industry, he loved this beautiful area and most of all he loved his family. Brett has left us with a significant legacy, a legacy and life to celebrate.

Vail Brett Danieli.

A fundraiser has been started to help support Brett’s family. It can be found at gofundme.com/f/gone-too-soon-supporting-bretts-family

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Michael Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club week opened on Wednesday with two tables of bridge players testing their bidding skills and followed on Friday by a productive business meeting with President Yvonne in the chair.

The usual agenda items followed with a review of the program for the rest of the year including the Christmas lunch at the Rubicon Hotel on Friday, December 12. Members planning to attend are requested to put their names on the list on the front table. The committee will arrange a Kris Kringle \$10 for the day. Treasurer Dave had us smiling, telling all that the club has enough money and recounted some most amusing tales. The chocolate bars were won by Barbara, June and Steff and the formalities ended with Brenda blowing out the candles on her birthday cake.

Leanne called in to thank everyone who sent birthday greetings to Life member Roma Lund who enjoyed her 100 birthday celebrations in Darlingford Nursing Home recently. After refreshments and a chat we settled down to games of 500 and UNO.

The club welcomes new members so if you are free on a Friday afternoon come along to the Bayley Street Clubroom. You will be most welcome.

Connecting and celebrating for Seniors Week

MORE than 200 local residents aged 60 and over came together in October for Murrindindi Shire Council's series of complimentary luncheons, celebrating connection, community and the valuable contributions of older residents.

Across four events in Molesworth, Thornton, Strath Creek and Buxton, attendees enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, conversation and delicious food. Each luncheon featured live music by Steve Paix, a catered meal, and plenty of opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbours.

Adding to the fun, council's Access and Inclusion Officer, Andrew Langley, hosted

an entertaining round of trivia that had guests guessing, laughing and sharing stories throughout the afternoon.

The events, held as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, brought people from across the shire to honour the life experience, wisdom and community spirit of older residents.

Council extends its thanks to the venue hosts, Molesworth Hotel and General Store, Rubicon Hotel, The General - Strath Creek, and Buxton Hotel, for their warm hospitality and delicious meals.

The events also provided an opportunity to highlight My Aged Care and other support services available to our senior citizens,

helping raise awareness of resources that promote independence and wellbeing. For more information on these resources, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors

This project is supported by Victorian State Government Seniors Festival, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) funding.

Cr Jodi Adams, Portfolio Councillor for Community Wellbeing said the luncheons were a wonderful way to recognise the important role older residents play in shaping the shire's identity and sense of community.

"Murrindindi's senior residents give so much to our community," Cr Adams said. "These events were a chance to celebrate that contribution and to thank them for their ongoing involvement and community spirit."

Attendees left feedback of what they enjoyed about the event:

"It was a wonderful opportunity to touch base with neighbours as well as meet new people."

"Lovely to catch up with some local people that we have not seen for ages. Great food, good company. Thank you."

"The idea of people in the rural outskirts having a community lunch in their area has been wonderful."

"We are all very lucky to live in this beautiful shire which has an active and community conscious population. Thanks to all for making it so special."

"Enjoyed the country drive to get here. Love it being in small towns."

"Enjoyable lunch and opportunity for people to gather who might be a bit isolated."



Lunch at Rubicon Hotel in Thornton on Thursday, October 26. -S

SPORT

Alexandra cricketers defeat Seymour by 110 runs

by Michael Mawson

THE fourth round of the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) season saw the B-Grade Alexandra team crush Seymour by 110 runs. This victory was on the back of yet another batting and bowling rampage from Levi Ronalds.

The week of wet, wintry weather had made it difficult to properly prepare a pitch. When the covers came off the pitch last Saturday morning, the soft and sweaty surface caused the B-Grade captain, Michael Mawson to be speculating nervously about how hard it would be for batting.

The B-Grade Redbacks also had several personnel changes with Eli Van Lierop debuting as one of four juniors in the squad. The Redbacks also welcomed back James Fulton. Fulton's employment situation had changed to make him now available for weekends and the team will benefit from his batting, bowling and wicket-keeping experience.

MJ Hendricks was also available at the last minute and his presence in the second innings would provide handy off-spin and lively work in the field.

Seymour's captain, Ben McPherson, won the toss and elected to bowl first. Tim Polson opened the batting and was caught out for six off the bowling of youngster, Kharl Sison. Sison then embarrassed Mawson by bowling him out for a duck, without offering a short. This is another woeful chapter in Mawson's horror start to the

season. Meanwhile, Will Ellis played with resolve to eke-out 15 runs in 18 overs.

Levi Ronalds came in and took full advantage of some pedestrian bowling. He bludgeoned the ball all around the oval, hit eight fours and survived some dropped catches before finally being caught out for a well-made 69 runs.

Ronalds enjoyed a 50-run partnership with Banjo Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick's score of 29 was his highest for some time. Lucas Crane came in and had a knack for lobbing the ball between fielders on the way to a score of 17 until his luck ran out.

Coming back from a long absence, Fulton found it hard to get his timing on the slow pitch. However, he managed to survive some unsettlingly enthusiastic leg before wicket appeals to be 20 not-out at the end of the innings. He anchored the innings with partnerships with Dusty Fitzpatrick, Tim Cavill, Eli Van Lierop and Will Donahue. Donahue also remained not-out at the end of the innings.

After 45 overs, the final score of 205 was the largest from the Redbacks in quite some time.

With limited fast-bowling options at his disposal, Mawson promoted Lucas Crane to open the bowling for the second inning. Crane stepped-up by bowling his most accurate and fastest spell yet, yielding the wicket of Reese Keenan for zero. Crane's only wayward ball happened to be so inaccurate that it missed the pitch entirely and then bounced at an odd angle to flatten the wicketkeeper. Mawson now had

a headache and a concussion test to make his day even worse. Will Ellis's opening spell exemplified economy and he bowled Sison with the most extraordinary unplayable, swinging leg-cutter that one might ever see.

Levi Ronalds entered the attack and he bowled an eight over spell that had Seymour batsmen all at sea. Ronalds took five wickets and his fifth scalp was the opener, Brett Gordon. Gordon made a stoic and patient 32 runs and when his stumps clattered Seymour's run chase changed from diabolical to practically finished.

The Redbacks' commanding position enabled Mawson to give every player a turn at bowling. Banjo Fitzpatrick claimed a wicket, as did Tim Cavill with his deceptive swing bowling. The junior brigade all bowled well and kept the tailenders tied down without claiming wickets.

The victory finally came in the 38th over when Mawson elected to bowl an over of leg-spin himself when Hendricks hurt his Achilles tendon. Ben MacPherson was left stranded on 14 when Thomas Eccles lobbed an innocuous leg-break to Dusty Fitzpatrick.

Ronalds' man-of-the match performance was a major part of the 110-run victory. The support of the rest of the team was also vital with the disciplined, energetic effort and team fielding of the junior players being a highlight of the Redbacks' effort.

Next week is a bye. In the following week, the Redbacks should consider themselves to be favourites against Avenel.

Rep cricket making a comeback for SDCA: Armstrong appointed head coach

THE Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) has made a major announcement ahead of its long-awaited return to senior representative cricket, securing one of the competition's most respected figures as head coach.

Cam Armstrong, current coach of the Yea Cricket Club and a legend of the local game, will take charge for a one-off representative clash against Emu Valley at Chittick Park on Sunday, February 8.



Cam Armstrong. -S

Armstrong's cricketing résumé is among the most impressive in the region. With extensive experience in premier cricket and a dominant record wherever he's played, he brings both pedigree and passion to the role.

Since returning to his home club of Yea in the 2014/15 season, Armstrong has been a powerhouse. He has amassed 3643 runs at an average just shy of 40, including four centuries, and claimed more than 140 wickets, cementing his status as one of the greats of the SDCA.

The appointment is a significant boost for the SDCA as it aims to make a strong statement in its representative cricket comeback.

"Cam is an exceptional cricketer, fiercely competitive and a great advocate for cricket in our region," SDCA President Mitch Itter said.

"We're thrilled to have someone of his calibre leading our rep team. Cam has the respect of everyone across our competition, and his involvement in junior development and leadership at Yea has been outstanding.

"We're eager to see what he can achieve with our league's top players, and we know our younger talent will gain a lot from working with him.

"The return of senior rep cricket is a big milestone for the SDCA, and there's already strong support from our clubs.

"Trails will commence soon so stay tuned for more announcements as we finalise the squad to take on Emu Valley in February."

SPORT

Athletes shine despite threat of rain

by Murrindindi Little Athletics

WITH grey skies overhead and the threat of rain lingering, local athletes turned up undeterred for their Saturday morning of activities and were rewarded with a full session being completed.

Although numbers were slightly down, with many families involved in the Alexandra Show, there was no shortage of enthusiasm on the track. The warm-up focused on hurdle related activities and stretches, with athletes competing across distances ranging from 60 metres to 300 metres.

It was wonderful to see so many parent helpers lending a hand during both the warm-up and events, creating a great community atmosphere. Stuart Coller once again worked his magic on the barbecue, much to the delight of hungry athletes and parents alike.

A real highlight of the morning was the sportsmanship and encouragement shown between age groups, especially the way the younger members were cheered on by their peers. The freshly mowed grounds looked fantastic, adding to the springtime energy of the day.

Last week also marked the first presentation of PB (personal best) medals for the season, with around eight athletes earning their bronze medals for achieving five personal bests so far, a great milestone for these dedicated competitors.

Several club records were broken on the day. Congratulations to: Jager in under 11 Javelin; Koa in under 14 800m (breaking a record that had stood since 1998); Harrish in under 14 Javelin, Long Jump, and 200m Hurdles; and Abi in under 13 200m Hurdles.

To top off a fantastic day, one of the club's members, Chase Hilder headed off in the afternoon to compete in the *King of the Mountain* 14km race as part of the Marysville Running Festival, where he finished an impressive seventh place.

It was another great weekend of effort, community spirit, and achievement for the Murrindindi Little Aths club.



Bronze medallion personal best recipients. -S



Abi Caswell enjoying the hurdles. -S



Jude enjoying the high jump. -S

Thursday competition only for Alexandra Squash Club last week

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition
MELBOURNE Cup week.
No Monday competition.

Thursday competition
Hammerheads versus Orcas
Jessica versus Nicole (fill in): As a fill-in, Nicole was plating her first ever pennant match. Jessica had the edge as she dominated the front of the court. Nicole navigated a steep learning curve and put extra depth into her shots and finished with a run of points to win the last game. Jessica held onto the win by two-points. 51 to 49.

Kristelle versus Sam: It was a real battle with some amazing rallies throughout. Sam had great depth while Kristelle threw him off with some tricky shots. Going into the final game there was only one point difference. Game four was a

draw and saw Sam keeping his one-point lead, coming out victorious. 64 to 63.

Daniel W versus Michael M: The focus Daniel had in the first game was unbreakable and led him to start with a 16-point lead. Michael won the next three games, each by a couple of points, but he couldn't claw his way back from that deficit at the start. Daniel claimed the win. 59 to 49.

Piranhas versus Stingrays
Travis versus Mick: With control of the court, Mick was sending Travis running to all corners of the court. Travis made a play for a comeback in the last game but fell short by a few points. Mick won. 61 to 57.

Justin versus Jared (fill in): The first and last games were real nail biters, but Justin had too much control in the middle games, giving himself a good lead to take the match. 69 to 48.



Mick extends his reach to return Travis's lob. -S

Merton cricketers travel to Myrtleford

MERTON cricketer's travelled to Myrtleford to take on Ovens Valley United at Memorial Oval. Merton with a few unavailable players looked to be up against it playing the inform tigers with 10 players, thankfully one of Ovens Valley youngsters filled in for the Merton side.

Merton won the toss and batted making a great showing with the bat making 7/222 off the allocated 36 overs. Murray Sutton top scoring with 67 followed by captain Luke Berriman 47 Luke Benton 44 and some late runs from Ross Mackinnon 30. Josh Harris 2/20 and Tom Crook 2/28 the best bowlers for Ovens.

Maybe the Merton boys became a little complacent with Craddock taking two early wickets however this brought the experience of Harris and Scott Sanderson together, smashing any loose bowling and keeping the runs ticking over. When they both fell in consecutive overs for 63 and 62.

Merton looked to be on top however a match winning partnership between Bryce Mummery 41 not out and Harris Broneru 47 not out won the game for the home side in an entertaining last 10 overs with Merton having a few half chances it came down to the last over with the home side needing three runs for victory. Eventually passing the visitors total with three balls remaining. Harry Craddock 2/52 Henry Berriman 1/38 and William Benton 1/22 the wicket takers.

Merton's bowlers needing to get back to basics and hitting the top of off stump and a bit sharper in the field the lesson learnt from this game. Merton host the Wangaratta Magpies at the MCG next Saturday, Merton's first home game for the season.

Inaugural Standpipe Cup held at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

THE Thursday nine holers played stableford on the back nine holes last Thursday at Marysville Golf Club. Richy Clark (8) won the competition with 20 points followed by Mark Alexander (5) on 19 points.

Nearest the pins were won by Keith Atwell on the 11th and Geoff Ferguson on the 18th. Bob Emblin played the shot of the day when on the 17th fairway, where the ball went across the bridge onto the green.

The Saturday event was the annual fundraiser combined with the Inaugural Standpipe Cup generously sponsored by Goulburn Valley Water.

The game was a four-person ambrose and three teams whose clubs are irrigated by Goulburn Valley Water played for the Standpipe Cup. Those three clubs were Mansfield, Yea, Marysville and Goulburn

Valley Water entered a team of their own named Eco Irrigators.

The winners were a mixed team with Steve Coker, Colin Davies, Fiona Wright from Marysville and Alison Leyden from Nepean Golf Club. With their handicaps adjusted to the Ambrose format to 11.9 they scored 57.6.

In 2026 the Standpipe Cup will be held at the Mansfield Golf Club.

Running parallel with the Standpipe Cup game was a general Ambrose competition and the same team won that event. The nearest the pins were won by Robert Williamson (Rosebud GC), Adam Littlejohn (Marysville), Daryl Horwood (Mansfield) and Alan Pell (Yea).

The longest drives were won by Luke Gregory (Yea) and Dorrie Jacobs (Karen's Team). Natalie Grimshaw from Mansfield won the straightest drive. Congratulations to all the winners.

During the presentation Steve Coker, the Marysville President, thanked all the daily sponsors, the visiting golfers for their attendance and all those members who assisted with the organization of the day. Steve Coker was also thanked for all his hard work preparing for the day and coordinating the event.

With golf, a silent auction, a main auction, a raffle and a delicious lunch supplied by the staff in the Pavilion Bar and Grill it was a fun filled day.

Last Sunday the annual men's mixed tournament was held and results will be given in next week's report.

Next Saturday golfers from Yea, Eildon, Marysville will gather at Alexandra Golf Club for the first round of the 2025/26 Foodworks Murrindindi Masters.



The winning team in the Standpipe Cup event of Colin Davies, Steve Coker, Fiona Wright and Alison Leyden. -S



Another happy Marysville group after play. -S

Tough week for Alexandra Bowls Club pennant sides

by Marie Evans

NOT the best day out for both Alexandra Bowls Club Pennant sides last Saturday. A trip to Rushworth for Alexandra Bowls Club Division Three and to Colbinabbin for Division Five was a long way to go, for little return.

Gale force winds greeted Division Three at Rushworth and made for some particularly challenging conditions. Division Five also played in windy conditions and found Colbinabbin the ladder leaders too strong.

There was no midweek bowls because of the Cup Day holiday but midweek will be home this week against East Shepparton. East are currently in eighth place and Alexandra are in ninth so it should be a good game.

The only winning rink at Rushworth was Ian Harper (Skip), Tim Langmead, Ken Argent and Saxon Langmead. They had 11 winning ends and led for the entire game. The margin was eight shots (nine to one) to Alexandra at end seven. Rushworth won the next two ends to trail six to nine. It was Alexandra 13 to Rushworth eight by end 14.

But a seven-shot win by Alexandra on end 16 increased that to 20 to nine. Despite losing the next four ends Alexandra was able to restrict the losses to single shots. The final score was Alexandra 22 to Rushworth 13.

It was a matter of who lost by the least for the remaining three rinks. Greg Gilmore

(Skip), Larry Scott, Graeme Matthews and Lauren Gilchrist began well and led six to three on end five. It was six all on end six, eight all on end nine. Rushworth won the next three ends to lead 14 to eight. Alexandra won five out of the next nine ends but where they won singles and twos their opposition won threes. The final score was Alexandra 16 to 24.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias played a highly credentialed Rushworth skip Jean Sprague. She showed that having the last bowl on an end certainly can demoralise the opposition when you constantly convert a losing position to a winning one.

Alexandra began very well and were 10 to two up on end six but Rushworth won the next four ends to make it 10 all. It was 13 all on end 13. However, dropping six shots on end 14 had Rushworth up 19 to 13. Alexandra won three out of the last seven ends but only scored singles whereas their opposition picked up a four on end 17 and singles on the rest. The final score was Alexandra 16 to 26.

David Nicklos (Skip), Scott Ferrier, Bob Mayfield and Christine Mayfield had a game to forget and couldn't meet the challenge of incredibly blustery conditions and a very switched on opposition. They won only five ends for the day and lost eight to 35.

Alexandra lost the overall 62 to 98. Next round is at home and is against Shepparton



Division Four winning rink of Saxon Langmead, Tim Langmead, Ian Harper and Ken Argent. -S

Golf who are in seventh spot on the ladder whereas Alexandra sits on the bottom. It will be good to have a home game as Alexandra has had only one home game out of the first four rounds.

Division Five were sitting in fourth spot prior to the round but Colbinabbin certainly showed why they sit comfortably in second spot only one point behind ladder leader Shepparton Park. Ray Mathieson (Skip), Peter Collyer, Pauline Gilmore and Luke Chapple won nine ends and lost 16 to 25.

John Blamey (Skip), Steve Kirby, Anne Gunton and Warren Nelson won only five ends and lost nine to 39. Mark Stone (Skip), Marty Manning, Craig Parkinson and Rob Roach won six ends but lost 38 to six. The overall was Alexandra 31 to Colbinabbin 102. Alexandra plays home to Nagambie next week who are currently in fourth spot.

Club games have begun, and the first pairs game was won by Ian Harper and Graeme Matthews who defeated Ken Argent and Bob Binghamy. All competitors are asked to organise their games asap. Draws for all games are on the board and Facebook.

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

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Club champion crowned at Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

A BREAK from the norm last Tuesday, as Cup Day has become known as Barkley McNair Day, in remembrance of Ted and Frank, two of Alexandra Golf Club's stalwarts, who left in 2005. The format has changed a bit over the years and is now a four person Ambrose.

Unfortunately, the weather was against the club, and a small(ish) field of 20 teed off at 9am. Sadly, the rain came in after an hour or so, and one of the teams cried enough and headed for the shelter of the clubhouse.

Of the four teams that stayed the course, the best score belonged to Luke Heard, Matt Jager, Shane McGorlick and Simon Rouget, who had a net 56.375, and second spot went to Ken Collier, Marion Williamson, Peter McNair and Ruth Worland with a net 59.5. However, as the rules pertaining to this shield state that only a mixed team can claim it, the names on the Shield for 2025 will be Ken, Marion, Pete and Ruth.

Matt Jager was nearest the pin on two, Michael Bossonnet took seven and 12 went to Trevor Biffin.

Thanks to all those behind the scenes workers who contributed to a great day, weather notwithstanding.

The rain had gone by last Wednesday morning, when nine ladies competed for the November Monthly Medal. Barb Doyle was the winner with a 90 net 71, helped in no small measure by having only 25 putts for the 18 holes; very impressive, indeed. Deb Richardson came in second with 87 net 73, and third spot went to Ruth Worland with 94 net 77.

Deb and Ruth also picked up a nearest the pin each, on two and five respectively, and Donna Meggitt snared 18.

Twenty players joined in the fun for last Thursday evening's Chook Run, which was won for the week by Billy Baker, a junior on his way up, and second went to Karl Davenport.

The forecast for last Saturday wasn't promising, but 20 members were undeterred, and teed it up to vie for the November Monthly Medal. Sponsored by JTS Carpentry, the Stroke round was also the final round of the club championships, and none of the three grades were a foregone conclusion.

Championship aside, the day belonged to Bill Wind, who played out of his skin to card a 91 net 66, taking the medal three strokes ahead of his nearest rival, Jarrod Williamson. Greg Millard was third with a net 70, Lennie Jenkins took fourth with a 71, and yours truly scraped into fifth with a 72.

Luke Heard had the fewest putts, the second golfer last week to record just 25, and nearest the pins went to Lennie on five, John Greateorex on seven, John Steer on 12 and Mick Holohan on 18.

In the end, the three championships were decided without the need for playoffs or

countbacks. In A Grade, the scratch winner, and Club Champion, was Luke Heard, with the handicap win going to Michael Bossonnet.

In B Grade, the scratch win went to your humble correspondent, with Darren Gregg taking the handicap, and the C Grade scratch winner was Dan Burns, with Bill Wind taking handicap honours. Hearty congratulations to all winners, and for the rest, there's always next year.



Barb Doyle lines up one of only 25 putts on her way to the monthly medal. -S



Last Tuesday's shield winners Ruth Worland, Peter McNair and Marion Williamson. Ken Collier is absent. -S



Scratch championship winners Dan Burns (C Grade), Dave Silverman (B Grade) and club champion Luke Heard. -S



Handicap winners Bill Wind (C Grade) Michael Bossonnet (A Grade) and Darren Gregg (B Grade). -S

Dip in players for Eildon Golf Club due to golf trip

by Puttomatic

UNDER grey skies but no rain and little wind, Eildon Golf Club had 12 players for last Saturday's stroke round and the third round of the club championships and the third round of the Golden Putter competitions.

Last week the club had a dip in players competing due to a golf trip, but that didn't lessen the enthusiasm for the players to compete in the annual championships.

Winner for the week was Rod Taylor with a nett score of 65 followed by Ian Lakeland with a nett 66, ball run winners Terrence Lunt with nett 69, Kerry Power nett 73 and Colin Long with a nett 74.

Nearest the pin winners were Kerry Power on the third with his second shot. Kerry also was the closest on the 12th, Leigh Munro was the best on the 11th, and John Beale took out the 14th.

There was only one birdie drink winner last week, Rod Taylor on the eighth. Best putter on the day was Rod Taylor with 25 putts, Peter McNair was second with 29 putts and Ian Lakeland and Kerry Power both with 31 putts.

The secret six winner last week was Ian Lakeland with a score of 21 on the mystery holes, followed by Leigh Munro with 22 and Terrence Lunt 23. Some other winners on the day, entry draw winner was Denis

Seamer and Karen Reece had a win with the swindle draw.

This coming Friday, November 14 the Eildon Golf Club is hosting the annual Charity day being run by Eildon Events. They have a full field and are looking forward to a great day. There will be no competition this Saturday, November 15 at Eildon; it is the first round of the Murrindindi Masters being played at the Alexandra Golf Club, and the club are looking forward to a big roll up.