

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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Wednesday, December 24, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

[murrindindibusiness.com.au](http://murrindindibusiness.com.au)



2026



01 January							02 February							03 March						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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### Public Holidays 2026

New Year's Day  
Australia Day  
Labour Day  
Good Friday  
Easter Sunday  
Easter Monday

Thursday, 1 January  
Monday, 26 January  
Monday, 9 March  
Friday, 3 April  
Sunday, 5 April  
Monday, 6 April

ANZAC Day  
King's Birthday  
AFL Grand Final  
Melbourne Cup  
Christmas Day  
Boxing Day

Saturday, 25 April  
Monday, 8 June  
Friday, 25 September  
(Subject to AFL schedule)  
Tuesday, 3 November  
Friday, 25 December  
Saturday, 26 December

### Victorian School Holidays 2026

Term 1  
School Holidays  
Term 2  
School Holidays  
Term 3  
School Holidays  
Term 4  
School Holidays

January 27 - April 2  
April 3 - April 19  
April 20 - June 26  
June 27 - July 12  
July 13 - September 18  
September 19 - October 4  
October 5 - December 18  
December 19 - January 27, 2027

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[murrindindibusiness.com.au](http://murrindindibusiness.com.au)INSIDE THIS  
WEEK'S  
EDITION

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## Alexandra CFA Movember



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## Alexandra Carols in the Park



Page 12

## Weekend sport



Pages 19-20



Students and staff from Marysville Primary School getting into the spirit of Christmas. -S

## Alexandra Secondary College presentation night

ALEXANDRA Secondary College (ASC) held their presentation night on the evening of Wednesday, December 17. Principal Nigel Lytle said, "It was a fantastic night to celebrate what's been a really great year in the college."

The school had very strong NAPLAN results this year, exceeding similar schools and the state average.

They also received high and medium growth from year seven to nine with 78 per cent in reading and 95 per cent in numeracy.

Nigel said, "It's one of the best years we've had with our VCE results and sporting success.

The production was amazing. All of that success belongs to the kids, and that's what we celebrated [at the presentation night]. We are part of a fantastic community, a very giving and supportive community, and that's reflected in the number of businesses and individuals that contribute financially to the prizes that we hand out on the night. It's really special to be part of a community like that.

"Through the night, we saw so many different students up on that stage being recognised for their academic achievements, sporting, music achievements, for their contributions to the community, their citizenship. It's heartwarming

as an older member of our community, just the brilliance and future potential we've got in the youth in our community. We've got really special students."

He added, "The night it was closed beautifully by Emelia Weeks giving her Dux Address. Her acceptance was humble... One of my big takeaways from it is, 'Don't do things to please other people, do it for you'. That was special and it was also special the way she talked about the great support she had from the staff at the college and the support from her family. It was a great way to end what was a fantastic night."

He also spoke of his pride in the work of the teachers. "Our children get amazing opportunities because of the generosity of our staff with excursions and camps, productions, etcetera, but also academically as well. They give a lot more than their allotted time to their kids to help them with their learning. And then in the classrooms, I just couldn't hope for a better team of teachers and support staff and administration staff, how they all work so well together and always with the kids first and foremost in their minds."

More on the ASC presentation night can be found on page 10.

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

**Our office will be closed from 1pm, December 24  
until 9am Wednesday, January 14, 2026.**

**Our first edition for 2026 will be available on  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**Standard**

**The Yea Chronicle**

**Alexandra District Health**  
**5772 0900**  
**Yea & District Memorial Hospital**  
**5736 0400**  
**In an emergency dial**  
**000**

**Standard****The Yea Chronicle****CONTACT DETAILS****CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING**

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

**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  
Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581  
Wed 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  
AA meeting: 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

**MONTHLY**

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



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.

**Letters to the Editor****Alexandra Newsagency**

DEAR valued customers, we are writing to you today with mixed emotions to announce the sale of the Alexandra Newsagency and Lotto. After 16 years of owning and operating this business, we have made the decision to step back and pass the reins to new owners.

It has been an absolute privilege to serve the Alexandra community, and we cherish the countless memories and friendships we have made during our time here. Your loyalty and support have meant the world to us.

To our valued staff, past and present, your commitment, hard work and loyalty have been the foundation of our success. We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy each of you has invested in making this business what it is today. Thank you for being an essential part of our 16 year story.

We are delighted to introduce the new owners, Sam and Shiva. They are excited to take over the newsagency and Lotto and are committed to continuing the tradition of providing excellent service, your daily paper, magazines, stationery, and of course, your favourite Lotto tickets.

Sam and Shiva officially take ownership on February 2, 2026, and we hope you will extend the same warm welcome and tremendous support to them that you have shown us over the years.

The last 16 years have been incredibly rewarding. We have seen generations grow up and have been a part of many special moments, from selling winning lottery tickets to simply sharing a friendly chat first thing in the morning. We thank you for your custom, your stories, and your friendship. We will miss seeing all of your familiar faces every day.

We wish Sam and Shiva all the very best for a successful future with the Alexandra Newsagency and Lotto.

Graeme and Jenny

**Scapegoating and cover up**

THE response to the recent violent extremist attack must focus on a clear and unequivocal system failure, not scapegoating lawful firearm owners to cover up and divert focus and blame away from this government's proven antisemitic inaction documented over the last two years.

Yes, one of the offenders was licensed, and that makes the system's failure more serious, not less. This scrambling to divert attention from what this government has allowed to propagate is disgusting.

Authorities had visibility. They had powers to monitor, suspend or revoke licences. Those powers were not acted on as known extremist behaviour escalated.

This terrorist attack was extremist ideology, not firearms licensing. As radicalisation emerges, authorities should have intervened a year ago. Ignoring warning signs and blaming the law after the fact is not public safety.

Existing firearms laws already allow authorities to act when warning signs emerge. If those mechanisms had been used, this incident may have likely been prevented. The problem was inaction. The powers already exist. The failure was that they were not used and the government admitted these fanatical islamists were known to them and still did nothing.

Attempts to pivot toward firearm caps, category restrictions or Western Australian-style administrative crackdowns are being used to distract from the real issue. This was a radicalisation and security failure, not a numbers problem.

Australia already has some of the strictest firearm's laws in the world. Further punishing compliant, licensed firearm owners will not fix failures in intelligence, early intervention or enforcement.

Lawful firearm owners should not be scapegoated to cover this Labor government's failure punishing people who followed the law does nothing to improve public safety.

The Australian people will remember the Labor, Green, Teals and pathetic independent politicians who jumped on bandwagons with those radicals who supported Palestine. They are the ones who have blood on their hands.

Malcolm Price, Alexandra

**Rubicon solar**

THROUGH recent engagement activities about the proposed Rubicon Solar Project, we've heard a range of concerns that matter deeply to the community, including visual impact on the landscape, bushfire risks, changes to agricultural land use, glare and reflection from panels, potential health and environmental effects of materials, impacts on waterways and biodiversity, property values and insurance considerations, and mental health and wellbeing impacts related to stress.

We want to assure you that these issues are being taken seriously. To provide clear and evidence-based responses, the project team is preparing detailed technical studies as part of the Planning Permit Application (PPA). These studies will cover bushfire risk, ecology, landscape and visual impact, noise, preliminary hazards, surface water, traffic impact, cultural heritage, glint and glare, and social impact.

Our goal is to ensure that the community has access to accurate information and that your concerns are addressed transparently. We understand that many in the community are eager for answers to the questions and concerns raised. Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia (SREA) feels it would be a disservice to the community to offer partial or premature responses at this stage, so will be waiting until necessary studies have been adequately developed before more extensive and definitive answers are provided.

Continued Page 8

**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 be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	11.00AM Mon	1.64	LGH	steady
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00AM Mon	0.60	LGH	steady
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.00AM Mon	0.95	LGH	steady
Home Creek at Yarck	10.44AM Mon	0.14		LGH steady
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.25AM Mon	0.68	LGH	steady
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	11.00AM Mon	0.51	LGH	steady
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	11.00AM Mon	1.39	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	3.92	LGH	steady
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00AM Mon	0.55	LGH	steady
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00AM Mon	1.59	LGH	steady
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00AM Mon	0.29	LGH	steady
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00AM Mon	1.84	LGH	steady
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	11.00AM Mon	1.02	LGH	steady

\*ISSUED AT 12:09 PM AEDT MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2025

**Weekly Weather**

December 24 - December 30, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

**Alexandra**

DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
Wednesday	9	21		Wednesday	10	22	
Thursday	8	18		Thursday	9	17	
Friday	9	22		Friday	9	21	
Saturday	13	28		Saturday	12	28	
Sunday	16	32		Sunday	16	33	
Monday	17	33		Monday	17	34	
Tuesday	13	26		Tuesday	13	25	

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	23mm
Buxton	64.9mm
Eildon (AWS)	30mm
Flowerdale	24mm
Jamieson	53mm
Kinglake	31mm
Lake Eildon	26mm
Mansfield	51mm
Taggerty	41mm
Yarck	23mm
Yea	52mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	275.23m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	54.5%
Metres below full supply	13.67m
Daily inflow	4000ML
Release	4000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	87%

**Standard****The Yea Chronicle****DEADLINES**



## Santa's Christmas Eve tour of Buxton

SANTA is set to tour the Buxton township again this Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, with the assistance of the Buxton Fire Brigade.

Details of the route Santa and his helpers will take around the town is available on the Buxton CFA Facebook page.

Santa will depart the fire station at 5pm and first travel along Dyes Lane to Windsor Court and then on to Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive.

After crossing the Little Steavenson River pedestrian bridge and walking through the Meeting of the Waters Reserve to Ballina Court, Santa will meet up with the fire truck and travel up Mareeba Avenue to Waters Place followed by a stop at the Buxton Recreation Reserve.

Santa will then travel along Maroondah Highway to Church Lane and Patagorang Place by 6.25pm, then over to Seal Rock Road about 6.35pm, and down to the Buxton Memorial Hall. After the hall, Santa will visit Cathedral Close and Buxton Rise before heading to Cameron Close and finishing in Gwingana Place and Ismay Wynd by 7.30pm.

Santa will try to keep to the schedule but, in case he gets held up, details of his progress with some photographs will be posted on the Buxton CFA Facebook page at [facebook.com/buxtoncfa](https://facebook.com/buxtoncfa) as he travels around town.

People may be invited to pose for photographs. Personal photographs of Santa with family groups are welcome.

The brigade encourages people to stay Covid-safe and maintain safe distancing along with gathering in family groups or with social groups.

Children must wait for Santa to dismount the fire truck. Santa will have a bag of pre-packaged sweets for those children present. The brigade will distribute fire safety information to each family group.

Everyone is welcome to say hello to Santa and those who are not on the published route are asked to gather at either Buxton Reserve or the Buxton Hall where Santa will be able to stop and say hello to you.

Email [SantaRun@BuxtonCFA.com](mailto:SantaRun@BuxtonCFA.com) to ensure the brigade know your location and how many children and adults might like to meet up with Santa.

## Handmade teddies for Alexandra District Health

FORMER Alexandra District Health Nurse's Aide Elvie Thompson has turned her lifelong connection to the hospital into a heartfelt fundraising effort, raising more than \$500 through her handmade knitted teddies and chickens.

Elvie first joined Alexandra District Hospital as a 17 year old in the 1950s, spending more than four years caring for patients before continuing her nursing career in Melbourne. After returning to Alexandra many years later, she has found a meaningful way to give back to the hospital that shaped her early working life.

Now aged 87, Elvie spends her time hand-knitting teddy bears and Easter chickens, which are sold at Alexandra District Health for a small donation. This year alone, Elvie has knitted more than 130 creations.

Drawing on her love of knitting, Elvie began making yellow Easter chickens

designed to sit over a medium-sized Easter egg, before expanding into a rainbow of colours due to their popularity. She has also made more than 110 teddy bears, including a special one-of-a-kind '100' teddy to mark her milestone creation.

"I feel like I'm doing something worthwhile," Elvie said. "I don't do it for anything in return, just a smile and a thank you. It gives me a good feeling knowing I'm helping the hospital and the community."

Alexandra District Health Acting CEO Claire Palmer said Elvie's contribution reflected the deep connection many community members feel towards the local hospital.

"Elvie's generosity is incredibly special and speaks to the many ways our community continues to support Alexandra District Health," Ms Palmer said. "Her handmade creations bring joy to those who see them and make a real difference by supporting our ongoing care for patients."

Despite managing her own household, Elvie dedicates quiet moments to knitting, often working on several creations at once. She regularly brings her creations to the hospital, where they quickly find new homes.

"One of the most rewarding parts is seeing the joy on people's faces when they see them for the first time," Elvie said.

Funds raised through Elvie's handcrafted items support Alexandra District Health's ongoing delivery of care for patients and the local community.



Elvie Thompson. -S

## Saddle up for the Alexandra Pro Rodeo

THE Alexandra Pro Rodeo will be back in town on Saturday, January 10, and for the first time this year, there will be Lady Ranch Bronc Riding.

Organiser Andrew Embling said, "This is a new event to rodeo in Victoria after Tup Forge from Oxley, Victoria, won the Lady's Ranch title the World Title over in the United States earlier in the year. We'll have about eight ladies riding and they'll all be going for a buckle."

This year once again Alexandra Pro Rodeo is putting up a buckle for the winners.

Andrew added, "We'll have Terry Murray who is renowned rodeo announcer coming back from up at Casino. He'll be back down for our rodeo to entertain everybody. We'll have music, the gates will open at three o'clock, we'll have music at four o'clock with Paul Costa. He'll entertain for around about 45 minutes and it'll be five o'clock, then right into rodeo action."

As previously, Eddie Gill and Destiny Downs will be supplying all the livestock for the rodeo. The rodeo has plenty of entries coming in, so there will be plenty of action in all of the rodeo events.

There will also be a Steer Ride for locals. People keen to take part will need to get their entries in by January 6, but there is a limit of 12 people so get onto it quickly. A \$250 buckle will up for grabs for the winner.

The rodeo will go through until about 9pm or 9.30pm, and then it will be straight to the music from Danny Phegan, through until midnight.

Tickets are available online at [alexandrarodeo.com.au](http://alexandrarodeo.com.au), through Try Booking or you can certainly purchase tickets right up until the rodeo from Embling Rural on Grant Street in Alexandra.

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## Council CEO's term extended

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has unanimously resolved to offer Chief Executive Officer, Livia Bonazzi, a further five-year contract of employment, commencing June 7, 2026.

Ms Bonazzi was appointed as Murrindindi Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer on June 8, 2021, for an initial five-year term, which concludes on June 6, 2026. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, council is required to provide notice of its intentions regarding the CEO's employment within prescribed timeframes prior to the expiry of the current contract.

Council appreciates Ms Bonazzi's strong performance against the key performance indicators set by council and her leadership through periods of significant organisational and external challenges.

Council also recognised her advocacy on behalf of council at both state and federal levels, her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent emergencies, and her role in reshaping council's organisational structure and operating model to support delivery of the Council Plan and evolving community expectations.

Council is very pleased with Ms Bonazzi's contribution to building a capable executive and management team, her demonstrated commitment to the Murrindindi Shire community, and the constructive working relationships she has established with the community and key stakeholders.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the decision reflected council's focus on long-term leadership stability and strategic delivery.

"We are navigating a roadmap to financial sustainability. This resolution provides certainty and continuity at a critical point in council's planning and delivery cycle," Cr Gallagher said.

"Council is confident that Ms Bonazzi's leadership will continue to support the implementation of our Council Plan, strengthen organisational capability, and deliver outcomes that align with the long-term interests of the Murrindindi community."

## ALEXANDRA Tyrepower

Matt, Pam and staff would like to thank our customers for their support during 2025. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be closed December 25 to 28, 2025 and January 1, 2026



## Darren Gilbert Open Studio

An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat. 3 and Sun. 4 January

10.00am to 4.00pm each day

5 Giffard Street, Yea, VIC. 3717

or arrange another time 0421 378 451

Open the first weekend of every month.

Up to date Open Studio information on

[www.monkeytaildesign.com](http://www.monkeytaildesign.com)





WHAT'S ON?

# Out & About

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

\*\*\*\*\*

This is the final edition of *The Standard and The Chronicle* for 2025. Our first edition for 2026 will be published on January 21. Our office reopens on January 14 at 9am.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to our final Let's Eat voucher competition winner for 2025; Noel McIlwraith of Alexandra. Noel has chosen to use the \$50 voucher at Sedona Estate. Make sure to get your entries in for our next Let's Eat competition in February 2026.**

\*\*\*\*\*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 –  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Will you be alone for Christmas? Family out

of town? No-one around to enjoy the day with? Embassy of Ideas is hosting a community Christmas lunch. Everyone is welcome. Singles, couples, families. St Johns Hall, Alexandra. All food provided, cold meats, salads and desserts. Bookings are required for catering purposes. Text Sasha 0422 225 801 or email [embassyofideas@gmail.com](mailto:embassyofideas@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Alexandra Race Club will be holding the Alexandra Country and Western Meeting. Gates open at noon. Book the return bus for \$10, online at [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)

\*\*\*\*\*

**2026**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Darren Gilbert open studio, Saturday and Sunday 10-4pm each day. Other times by arrangement 0421 378 451; 5 Giffard Street, Yea.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Yea Saleyards, VLP Inaugural Weaner sale and Murrindindi Mobile Health Launch, Bus launch and Warren Davis, The unbreakable farmer.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn Rivers annual classic weaner sale and free skin checks and mental health support.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Alexandra Pro Rodeo is back. Live music, food, bar, clothing sales, women's Ranch bronc riding, saddle bronc, barrel racing and much more from 5pm at Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, Alexandra. Full details contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038 or visit [alexandrarodeo.com.au](http://alexandrarodeo.com.au)

## The launch of the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van

THE official launch of the Murrindindi Mobile Health Van will take place at 11am for 11.30am on Wednesday, January 7 at the Yea Saleyards. A light lunch will be supplied.

The guest speakers for the event include Mayor Damien Gallager, acting chair of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) Ian Marshman, The Unbreakable Farmer Warren Davies, Caolan O'Connor from the Alexandra Events Corporation Ltd, and Gerry Ryan from Jayco Australia

The new mobile health van will help deliver medical and mental health programs across the Murrindindi Shire.

At the launch, people will be able to hear from key partners, explore the van, and learn more about the exciting programs that it will deliver.

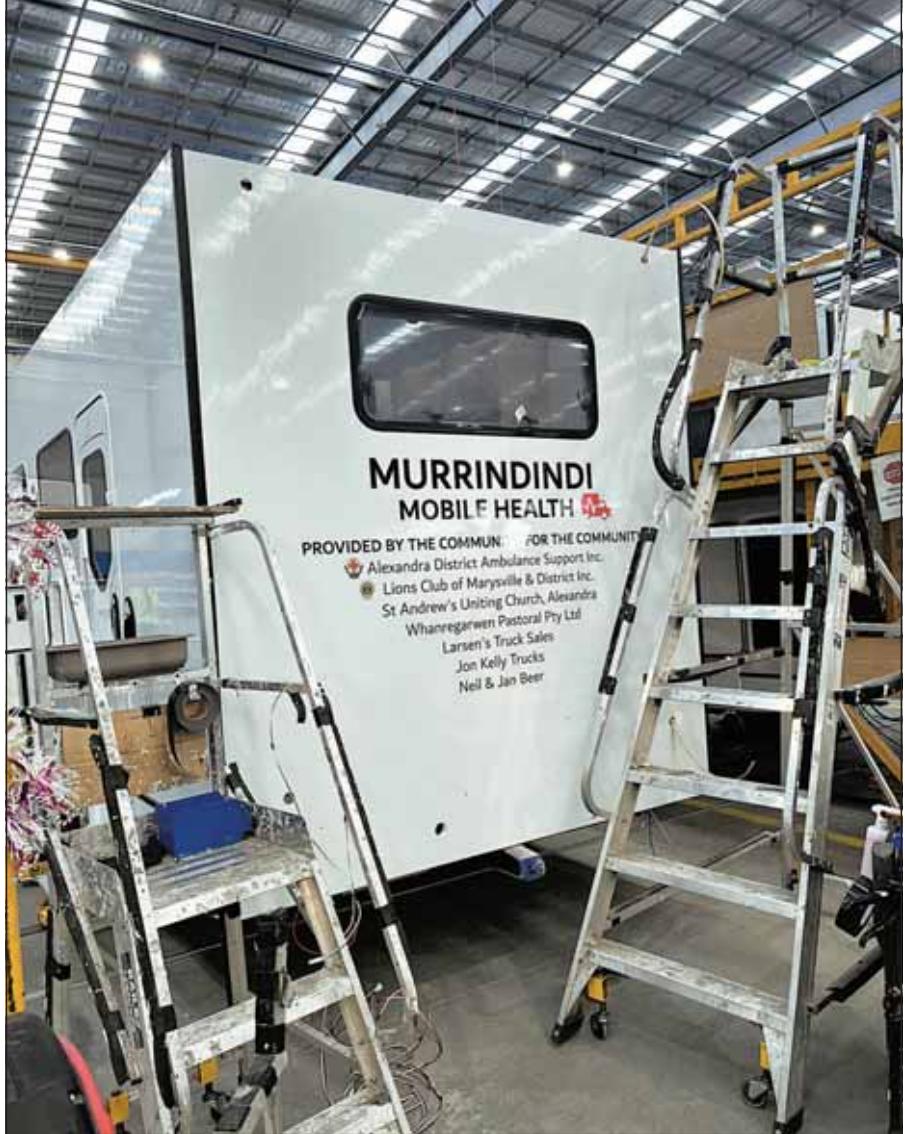
Caolan O'Connor, Chair of Alexandra Events explained that the idea for the van "started as a simple conversation with the YDMH team about their Farmer Health Sales Yards program delivered monthly at the Yea Saleyards. YDMH were doing incredible outreach work, but stuck in the corner of the lunchroom. When they said, 'Wouldn't it be great if we had a mobile clinic?' we realised it wasn't just a great idea, it was a necessary one."

Fundraising by Alexandra Events at the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show raised a remarkable \$114,000 at the sponsors dinner.

This project has been enthusiastically supported by healthcare providers across the shire. As well as supporting mental health, the mobile clinic could help provide flu vaccinations, health screenings, serve as a base for school visits, aged care outreach, community health engagement programs, and much more.

Ian Marshman, Chair of YDMH, said, "This initiative will allow our team to expand successful outreach programs like the Yea Saleyards health clinics, delivering care to residents in communities without ready access to GPs or allied health professionals. We are enormously grateful to the organising committee, to Andrew and Ayden Embling, and to everyone who has donated so generously."

You can RSVP for the launch event by visiting [alexandraevents.com.au/murrindindi-mobile-health](http://alexandraevents.com.au/murrindindi-mobile-health)



The Murrindindi Mobile Health Van while it was under construction. -S

## Burglaries in the shire

THE Murrindindi Shire area has experienced a recent spike of burglaries and thefts that have occurred at rural or secluded or unattended premises and dwellings.

Detectives from the Alexandra Crime Investigation, over the past few weeks have made several arrests in relation to reported incidents and crimes. One offender in particular has been remanded in custody to appear at Ringwood Magistrates Court in January. This may possibly have contributed to reported crime subsiding somewhat in the last fortnight.

Investigations being conducted in relation to burglaries and thefts in the area continue and remain ongoing by Alexandra CIU detectives, and they encourage anyone with information to contact Crimestoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or visiting [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

It is Victoria Police's job to hold offenders to account, but to achieve this, police

are heavily reliant on information being conveyed to investigators by members of the public. They continue to investigate information received that relates to persons of interest and their suspected involvement in crimes that have occurred within the local community. Police are encouraging anyone who is offered power-tools or farm related machinery or chainsaws at a lower than expected price to convey this information to Crimestoppers.

Investigators strongly urge owners of rural and secluded properties, or holiday homes that are sporadically resided in or attended by owners, to register their details on Absence from residence, [police.vic.gov.au/absence-residence](http://police.vic.gov.au/absence-residence)

This allows proactive patrols by local units, when available, to patrol these areas and to provide a visible presence in the area. Police also encourage owners to 'target harden' their properties by locking gates,

installing CCTV that notifies owners of unusual movements at properties when not in attendance, install motion sensor lights, divert mail or have a neighbour collect it. These are all simple, but effective measures that have been proven to deter offenders from entering private properties.

Police assured the local community that our local government area (LGA) is one of the safest in Victoria as per statistics attainable via the Crime Statistics Agency, and our area defied the upwards trend of crime that occurred across much of the state over the past year, despite the challenges that investigators can face with crimes occurring in secluded and remote areas that have been unattended for extended periods, and environmental factors which are not always conducive to the retention of forensic evidence. Alexandra CIU will always investigate reported crimes with the goal of holding offenders to account and presenting them at court.

# Alexandra Fire Brigade raises extraordinary amount

THE Alexandra Fire Brigade proudly wrapped up their fifth year supporting the Movember Foundation, and once again, the community has come together to support the cause.

An incredible \$5821 was raised to support men's mental health.

Behind those numbers are 10 moustaches grown, over 100 kilometres run, and countless

conversations started, conversations that remind the men in our lives that they're not alone, that it's okay to open up, and that our community genuinely cares.

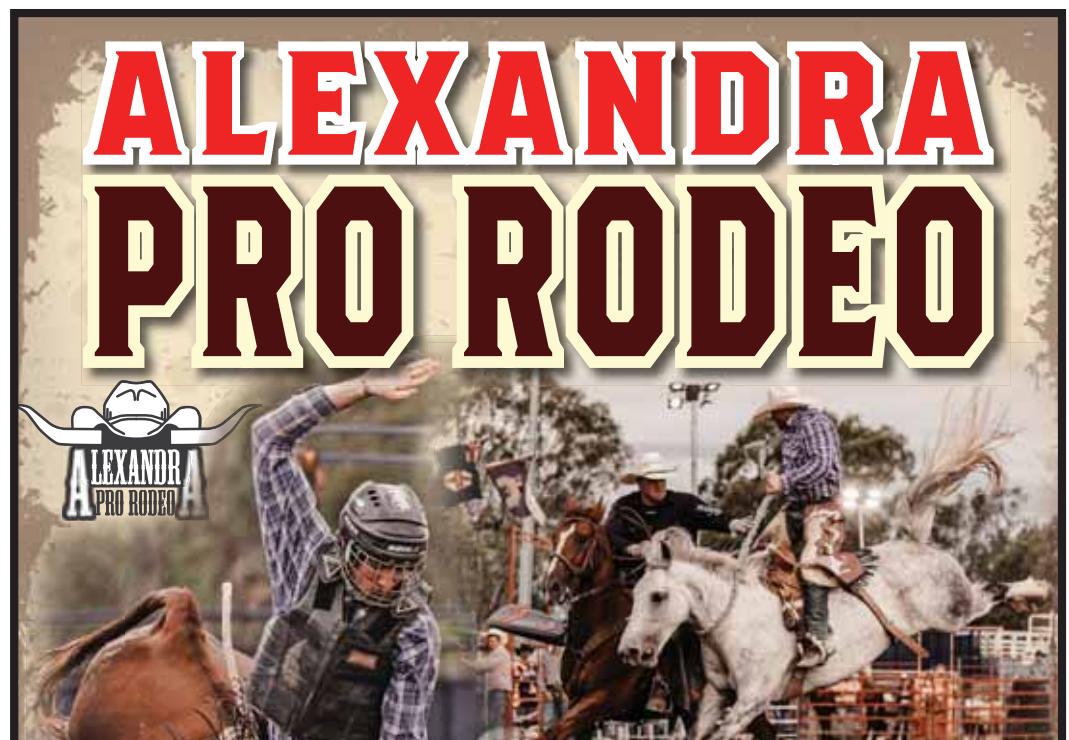
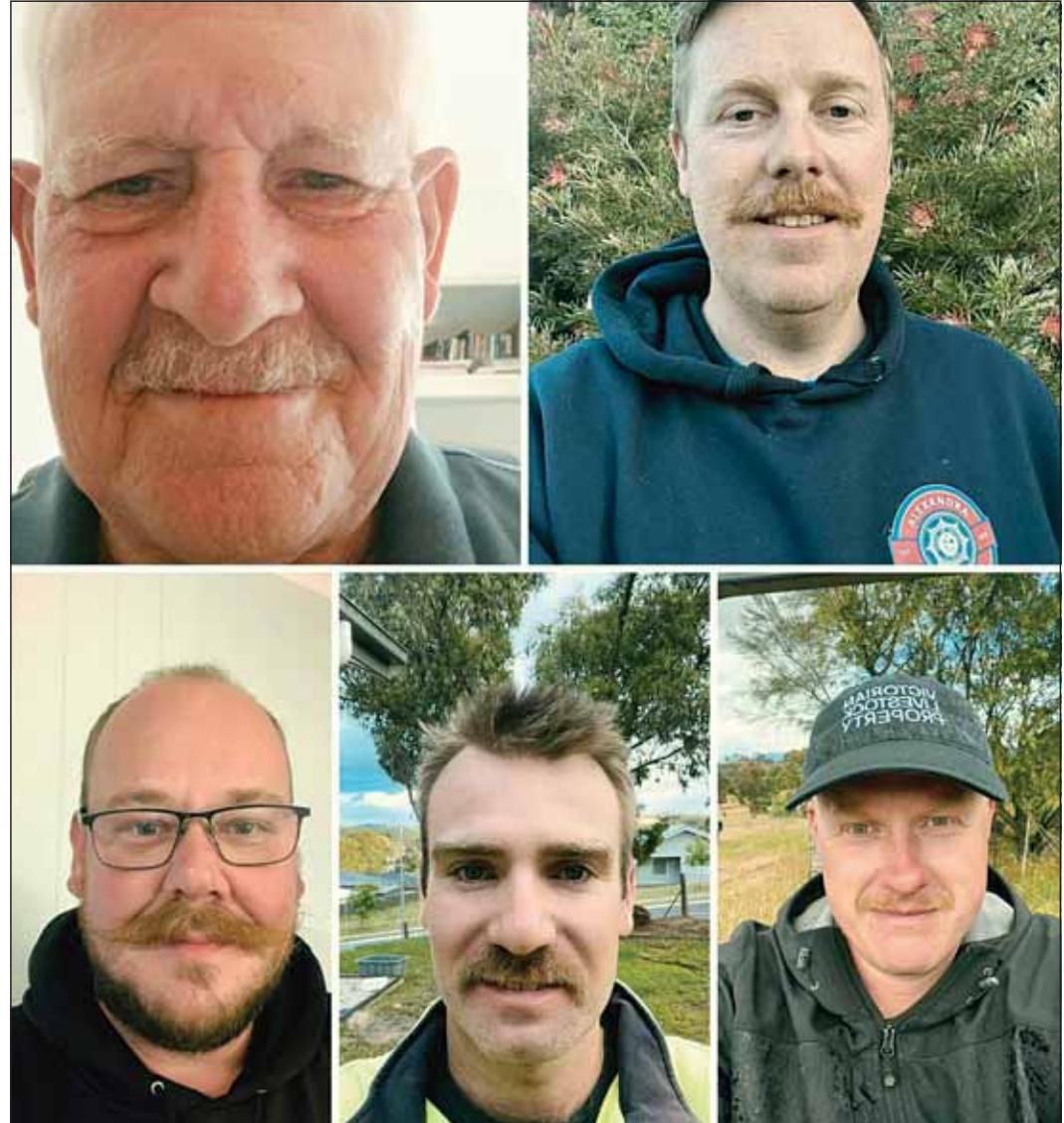
This year's efforts bringing the brigade's five year total to over \$44,000. They're humbled by the ongoing generosity around them. These funds go directly toward supporting life-changing programs for men

who might be struggling, a cause that means so much to all of us. Next year, they will be aiming to bring their six year total to \$50,000.

The brigade would like to thank their families, friends, and the wider Alexandra community. Their encouragement, donations, and willingness to keep the conversation going truly makes a difference.

They also wanted to send a huge shout-out to Noanie from Alexandra Apparel for decking them out in the best T-shirts every single year. Her ongoing support and incredibly generous annual donation of shirts has become a cherished part of the brigade's Movember journey.

Here's to looking after each other, today and every day.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Anglican Parishes of Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Buxton

**Christmas Eve:** Wednesday, December 24.  
6pm, **Marysville:** Family Eucharist

**Christmas Day:** Thursday, December 25.  
9am, **Buxton:** Christmas Eucharist  
9am, **Alexandra:** Christmas Eucharist  
11am, **Yea:** Christmas Eucharist

For further information contact:  
Fr Mario 0435 953 777 or  
Fr John 5774 7655

# SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 2026

- Women's Ranch Bronc Riding
- Saddle Bronc
- Barrel Racing
- Time Events
- Bare Back • Bulls

DAME PATTIE MENZIES CENTRE  
• ALEXANDRA • VICTORIA  
• ANDREW EMBLING 0418 266 038

[www.alexandrarodeo.com.au](http://www.alexandrarodeo.com.au)

# Proudly supporting Student of the week



## EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Juniors

#### Ellie Mae Jamieson

Ellie-Mae you have shown the school values of Achievement and Integrity by completing your goal two weeks early and demonstrating great leadership in the classroom. You are on your way to being a wonderful leader and role model for our new friends joining us next year.

### Seniors

#### The Whole Class

For demonstrating the school value Achievement this week's award is awarded to the whole class for their great work this year. Well done.

## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Lincoln G

Lincoln is always working hard in the classroom. He puts in his best effort for everything that we do. He always has something to add in class discussions. Lincoln is also a great helper and friend. He looks out for others and is very kind to all.



## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch

**Bendigo Bank**

## Alexandra District Health celebrates its staff at Christmas lunch

ALEXANDRA District Health staff came together to celebrate the dedication, milestones and the outstanding contributions they make to the community every day.

Alexandra District Health's annual Christmas lunch saw staff take the opportunity to step away from their busy roles and be celebrated for their commitment and teamwork.

Alexandra District Health Acting CEO Claire Palmer said, "Our staff are the heart of Alexandra District Health, and this lunch is about recognising the care, professionalism and dedication they show our community throughout the year.

"It's important we take the time to celebrate their achievements and thank them for the difference they make."

The afternoon combined recognition with celebration, with staff enjoying a traditional roast lunch, festive desserts and light-hearted fun through a Kris Kringle exchange.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the ADH CARES Award for 2025 to Dr Laura Carter, in recognition of her consistent demonstration of the organisation's ADH CARES values and her outstanding commitment to compassionate, patient-centred care.

"Dr Carter is a wonderful example of what the ADH CARES values look like in

action," Ms Palmer said. "Her compassion, professionalism and patient-first approach make a genuine difference to those in her care and set a high standard for our entire team."

The lunch also provided the opportunity to celebrate long-standing service milestones. Twenty-five years of service were recognised for Angela Warren-Smith, Enrolled Nurse, and Heidi Hunter, Registered Nurse. Fifteen-year service milestones were celebrated for Natasha Bowater, Director of Quality and Risk; Karen Bates, Intake Officer; Anne Marie-Ellis, District Nurse; and Lynette Bennetts from Support Services. Jennifer Wood, Psychologist, celebrated 10 years of service.

"Each milestone represents years of dedication, commitment and care for our community, celebrating these achievements is a proud tradition, and a way to honour the people who make Alexandra District Health such a special place to work," Ms Palmer said.

The annual Christmas lunch was a meaningful opportunity for staff to reflect on the year, celebrate each other's achievements and strengthen the sense of care, teamwork and community that defines Alexandra District Health.



Dr Laura Carter. -S



Karen Bates and Anja Brooks enjoying the Christmas lunch. -S

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

**B** Bendigo Bank

# Victoria records highest-ever number of cancer diagnoses

NEW data released recently by the Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR) has revealed that in 2024 the state recorded the highest number of new cancer diagnoses since population-wide cancer reporting began in 1982, as Cancer Council Victoria warns more must be done to increase awareness around prevention, screening and support services.

In 2024, 39,641 Victorians were diagnosed with cancer, an average of about 109 every day.

The report also shows that cancer death rates are continuing to steadily fall, by about 1.6 per cent each year over the past 29 years.

The data was released recently by the VCR at Cancer Council Victoria, as part of its annual publication containing some of the world's most up-to-date cancer incidence, mortality and survival information.

Cancer in Victoria 2024 includes analysis of how cancer incidence and survival vary by country of birth.

Drawing on Victorian data from between 2014 and 2023, it showed cancer incidence during this period differed notably by birthplace. For example, several overseas-born groups had higher rates of liver, stomach, thyroid and pancreatic cancers, while prostate, bowel and melanoma rates were generally higher among Australian-born Victorians. Cancer survival rates were also significantly different for Victorians born in some regions.

Director of VCR, Professor Sue Evans said the analysis represented an important step in ensuring that health services provided support to these communities.

"Victoria is proudly home to such a highly diverse multicultural population; a third of Victorians are born overseas. We felt analysing the data in this way presented

us with an opportunity to uncover patterns, identify where efforts may be needed to promote earlier detection and screening, and start the conversation around what we can learn from each other's cancer journey," Professor Evans said.

The publication found that there were several patterns in cancer presentation which provided opportunities for improving cancer screening and early detection, and pathways to seeking advice and care.

"We know migration brings challenges like adapting to different customs and everyday practices, overcoming language barriers, and coping with being separated from families, friends and community. These factors make navigating health services more difficult, increasing the risk of delayed diagnosis and poorer outcomes," Professor Evans said.

Victoria's Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said: "Victoria has some of the best cancer survival outcomes globally, but these new statistics are concerning.

"Through our Victorian Cancer Plan, we're ensuring every Victorian can get the cancer care they need, where and when they need it."

Cancer Council Victoria Chief Executive Officer Todd Harper AM said the report's findings show that some multicultural Victorians continue to be disproportionately affected by cancer, highlighting the need for tailored and culturally responsive prevention, early detection and care.

"Australia is very fortunate to have four national cancer screening programs for bowel, breast, cervical and lung cancer. Many multicultural Victorians are eligible for these programs, which are designed to detect cancer early when it's easier to treat," Mr Harper said.

"Early detection saves lives. Ensuring all Victorians are aware of these cancer screening programs and can access culturally safe care is essential for improving outcomes in these communities."

One of Cancer in Victoria 2024's most striking findings related to liver cancer and how significantly it affects some multicultural communities; for example, incidence was shown to be 220 per cent higher among Victorians born in South-East Asia when compared with Victorians born in Australia.

Liver cancer is among the fastest growing causes of cancer-related death in the state. It is also one of the deadliest cancers, with the current five-year survival rate in Victoria at 28 per cent.

For some communities of Victorians born overseas, a major cause of liver cancer is contracting hepatitis B at birth or during early childhood. This is driven by a lack of access to hepatitis B vaccination in their country of birth.

With 698 Victorians diagnosed with liver cancer, and 422 losing their life to liver cancer in 2024, work to reduce the growing burden of liver cancer is a priority for Cancer Council Victoria.

Charissa Feng, Senior Manager of Cancer Council Victoria's Liver Cancer program, said too many Victorians are dying from this preventable cancer.

"The vast majority of hepatitis-related liver cancer is preventable with tools we already have, vaccination, testing, monitoring and treatment," Ms Feng said.

"This new data shows what we have known in the liver cancer space for a while; there is a population of overseas-born Victorians potentially living with a hidden, undiagnosed

disease that could cause a preventable cancer with a very high mortality rate.

Ms Feng said that, in terms of awareness, hyper-localised, community-led responses, have "helped move the needle" in other jurisdictions.

"Thanks to the generosity of the ERDI Foundation and another private donor, we are currently piloting a micro-elimination project in Melton and Wyndham, two communities with a large multicultural population and high prevalence of hepatitis B."

The project aims to reduce the impact of liver cancer by working with the community to address barriers to early detection and promote regular hepatitis B monitoring.

Find out more at [cancervic.org.au](http://cancervic.org.au)

## Local agencies involved in Cathedral Range rescue

Marysville SES were called to assist Ambulance Victoria (AV) with an injured hiker on Razorback Track in the Cathedral Range State Park Nanadong.

Based on the reported location they activated air support early, as the first members started the trek in to locate the patient. They were able to locate them and provide first aid, while HEMS winched a MICA Flight Paramedic to a nearby spot.

The patient had fallen several metres off the track and was unable to walk, meaning a stretcher and high angle rope system would be required.

A combined team of AV Wilderness Paramedics, local police, VicPol Search and Rescue, and a combined high angle ropes team, including Marysville SES, SES Alexandra Unit, Wandin Fire Brigade, and Monbulk Fire and Rescue (CFA) quickly made their way into the scene carrying an extensive range of equipment. A rope system was established and the patient moved to a clearer spot.

From here HEMS were able to coordinate a winch extrication in challenging and windy circumstances. With the patient safely on the way to hospital, Marysville SES crews began to pack up and hike back down the rocky track.

Crews debriefed and returned home around midnight, making for a long but rewarding day. Thanks go to all those who attended, and best wishes to the patient for a speedy recovery.

You'll need to provide information from these documents to confirm your identity and eligibility. Contact one of the community organisations listed above to apply over the phone or in-person. If your application is approved, we'll send you \$100.

Further information on the \$100 Power Saving Bonus is available at [compare.energy.vic.gov.au/psb-faq](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/psb-faq)

## Bushfire safety talk for Buxton

WHILE the weather is somewhat on the cool side at present, the fact remains that bushfires happen every year. The forests are dry and the national fire danger outlook is predicting higher than average potential for significant fire risk across Murrindindi.

Buxton Fire Brigade is hosting a Fire Safety Essentials information session at the large gazebo in Buxton Recreation Reserve from 5pm on Saturday, December 27.

A free sausage sizzle will be available.

Bring a chair, grab a snag in bread, and spend an hour with a CFA Community Engagement presenter to learn how to keep you, your family and your friends safe from fire this season. The talk will cover: local fire risks, what to expect from fire, preparing for fire, Fire Danger Ratings, how to stay informed, and a seasonal update.

Whether you are a full-time resident or have a holiday property in or around Buxton, this is an ideal opportunity to learn how you can be better prepared for a bushfire emergency.

Further information is available from [info@buxtoncfa.com](mailto:info@buxtoncfa.com) or [d12comm@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:d12comm@cfa.vic.gov.au)

## Power Saving Bonus grants available

CHRISTMAS is a financially challenging time for many people. If you are a concession card holder, a bonus \$100 is available from the Victorian Government via the Power Saving Bonus.

The Power Saving Bonus is a \$100 payment providing real help to address the cost of living and drive down energy bills for Victorians in need. Victorian households with an eligible concession card can visit the Victorian Energy Compare website at [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au) to apply online or apply through the Community Outreach Program.

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, households will need to: Have a recent residential electricity bill; hold one of the following concession cards: Health Care Card; Pensioner Concession Card; Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card; Veterans' Affairs Gold Card. Only one payment per household is available.

Applications opened on August 25 and can be submitted on this website, over the phone, or through a participating community organisation.

### Help to apply

Concession card households who need assistance to apply for the \$100 payment can

receive over-the-phone or in-person support via the Community Outreach Program. Phone support is also available at the Victorian Energy Compare helpline of 1800 000 832.

The Victorian Energy Compare helpline assists Victorian businesses and households to use the Victorian Energy Compare website to find the best energy deal for them. The helpline also provides information and advice on the \$100 Power Saving Bonus including direct assistance for eligible households to apply over the phone.

In person support is available through Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

Neighbourhood Houses are local community-based organisations staffed by dedicated volunteers which offer a range of social, educational, recreational and support activities, for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. To find a participating site in your area enter your postcode.

### How it works

Check you are eligible for the \$100 Power Saving Bonus. Get the following documents ready: a copy of a recent electricity bill; an eligible concession card; your driver's licence or Medicare card.

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from GVW

Goulburn Valley Water's offices will be closed from 1.00pm on Wednesday 24 December, reopening from 8.30am on Monday 5 January 2026.

For faults or emergencies, please call 1800 454 500.



Remember to follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules, and make every drop count!



Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year

Cindy McLEISH MP

STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

Shop 10, 38 - 40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen 03 9730 1066

CindyMcLeishMP cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

CindyMcLeish.com.au

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



# Last council meeting of 2025

THE December Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) meeting was held in the Yea Chambers. Cr Adams was an apology for the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Bondi terrorist attack

In urgent business, Cr Gallagher spoke about the tragedy at Bondi Beach in Sydney. On behalf of council, he extended his deepest condolences to the victims, the families and their loved ones, and to all those whose lives have been profoundly affected by the terrorist attack. He also noted that on December 15, MSC lowered its flags to half-mast as a mark of respect and remembrance.

He added, "Violence has no place in our society. Acts of terror and hatred have no place in Australia." He encouraged the community to look out for each other, saying "Small acts of kindness, patience and care really matter."

He said, "We further condemn attempts to exploit grief for political point scoring, fuel division, or scapegoat communities. What our country needs now is united leadership and a bipartisan approach."

Council resolved to lead by example, to model calm, compassion and integrity in all words and action, to actively counter misinformation and division, and to reaffirm our community vision of inclusion; to unite as a community, pleading for the community to stay united, choose kindness over anger, and speak up whenever racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any discriminatory behaviour appears; and to call on national leadership to step up together and lead the nation with dignity, strength and unity, committing to stamping out hatred and division. "Australians deserve a single steady voice of hope," Cr Gallagher said.

Cr McAulay also speaking in support, saying, "Let love prevail, not hate."

Cr Lordings spoke about losing six acquaintances in the shooting, who all lived in a gated environment near Bondi. Cr Lordings best friend from the air force would often invite him up, often having a barbecue with everybody. "Those people who were killed were really nice people," he said.

Cr Lordings also noted that part of his income is from guns, working with the military to make it safer for troops. "It sort of tears on me," he said, adding how important it is to weed out terrorists. "There's a whole lot of work to be done and I feel really sorry," he said.

Cr Hildebrand said his heart goes out to the family and friends who lost loved ones.

Cr Gallagher's motion was carried unanimously.

## Open Forum

Trak Buller spoke about his concern over the impact that the Bondi terrorist attack may have on firearms owners. He believes that there may be a move to remove firearms and tighten the laws around firearm ownership. He spoke about farmers, hunters and recreational shooters in the shire, and said that taking away

their guns would be scapegoating when they do not pose a threat. Cr Gallagher suggested that he contact the local member of Federal Parliament or the Minister responsible, as council does not have a role in the enforcement of firearms laws or issuing firearms licences.

Lloyd Butler also spoke about the guns issue, saying it's a knee-jerk reaction, and about the proposed Yea dog park in the railway station area with a six foot mesh fence. Cr Lordings said that they were unable to respond but asked which area he would suggest. The recreation reserve was suggested as there is already a fence in place. Cr Gallagher advised that there are no plans in place for a particular site for a dog park, and no plans to construct a dog park. He did however note the Domestic Animal Management Plan which council would consider later in the evening, and said that some of the feedback has suggested a dog park and it may become a future plan or priority.

Val Jones also expressed strong opposition to the idea. She also said that the consultation was inadequate. She instead suggested the Yea oval near the cricket cage.

## Domestic Animal Management Plan

Cr Carpenter introduced the plan. She explained that extensive community engagement, benchmarking with other councils, and cross-departmental collaboration have shaped the development of the plan. Council invited the community to contribute feedback, ensuring that the perspectives of pet owners, non-pet owners, and those concerned with the natural environment are thoughtfully balanced.

Key priorities addressed in the plan include promoting responsible pet ownership through education, providing better spaces for dogs to exercise safely, managing cat nuisance and containment, improving pet registration and identification, delivering customer-focused compliance, meeting statutory responsibilities, and using data to guide decisions and allocate resources.

Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development, confirmed that there is no plan for a dog park anywhere, however a number of people made submissions that could look at having dog parks and where they could go. The plan does not look at any designs or locations. He spoke about the survey and the articles in this newspaper outlining the results of the survey. The plan includes exploring in year one dog off-leash areas, and exploring cat confinement and desexing. No budget has been set aside for dog off-leash areas. Community consultation, using a variety of methods, would again take place about locations, etcetera, should council look at developing the off-leash concept. They would work with groups what have an idea but would also test this with the broader community. The plan was accepted unanimously.

## Complaints Policy Review

Officers initiated a full review of the Complaints Policy to ensure it remains contemporary, easy for customers to understand, and aligned with council's

increased focus on service excellence, transparency and organisational values. The revised policy now reflects updated definitions and clearer scope; a simplified, customer-centred complaints process; strengthened principles of fairness, accessibility, and accountability; standardised timeframes for acknowledgement, updates and decision making; and a stronger emphasis on learning from complaints and improving services. Council adopted the review unanimously.

The Audit and Risk Committee minutes were also confirmed.

## Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Carpenter commented on how busy it is at this time of year, and was particularly pleased to hear from Yea High School students at their presentation night. She also congratulated Annie Dignam on achieving the highest score in the state for Agriculture and Horticulture. She reminded people that it's illegal to operate a campground or caravan park without the necessary permits. Key Worker Housing can now go ahead at Eighth Street in Eildon, after the sole objector withdrew their objections.

Cr McAulay commented on the success of the Cathedral Invitational, and reminded people to put Murrindindi on their table this Christmas.

Cr Hildebrand reminded people that there will be no kerbside bin collection on Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day, or Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day. Following these public holidays, Thursday collections will move to Friday, and Friday collections will move to Saturday. All Resource Recovery Centres and the Alexandra Landfill will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. They are also closed on days of Total Fire Ban.

Cr Lordings announced that fire prevention slashing has commenced around the shire and that road grading continues, with about 120 kilometres completed so far. He acknowledges that there are some more potholes breaking out, and that he is seeing and reporting them.

Cr Carr talked about going to the Alexandra Secondary College's presentation night to hear the achievements of students in 2025. Four long standing staff members are leaving the school, in Jacki Tossol, Anne and George Nadj, and Anita Rennie.

Cr Gallagher spoke about the honour of being able to officially launch Kirk Mercuri's book, 'Step by Step: Living with Autism', edited by Kath Stewart. He provided an update on Breakaway Bridge, stating there is no modelling of the bridge restoration resulting in more traffic than used the bridge prior to the 2022 flood event, and it is not proposed that ratepayer funds will be used to cover the restoration expense.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi spoke about the priorities laid out in the Financial Sustainability Roadmap, the continuing work on progressing the roadmap, and the community engagement with it. She advised that council are seeking Expressions of Interest to join the Facilities Review Advisory Group, with space for 25

## Foundation Murrindindi report

FOUNDATION Murrindindi's work in 2025 has been made possible by the generosity of their many donors, partners and supporters.

In 2025, they supported their vision of thriving, vibrant and connected communities within Murrindindi Shire by distributing over \$24,000 to 21 community organisations to enable a wide variety of community led projects and events.

The Murrindindi Community Food Share program continued to grow. Through the generosity of community and several funded grants, this year they were able to make significant improvements to the Food Share shed infrastructure. The number of attendees and households supported has grown and they are averaging over a tonne of food distributed at each monthly event. They now have people attend from 15 different townships within Murrindindi Shire.

This year, they coordinated the formation of the Murrindindi Food Relief Network, a collective group of organisations and stakeholders who currently provide food relief programs and initiatives within Murrindindi Shire.

A priority project for the network was to create an up to date directory of free and low cost food that is available in Murrindindi Shire. The directory is available to download to print or access online from Foundation Murrindindi's website and is a resource for those in need in our community.

It is always wonderful to see funded activities in action in the community. This year there were a wide range of community led initiatives from men's cooking classes, a program specifically for young LGBTQIA+, purchasing a trailer to help volunteers store and move equipment at local events, and a coding club program for kids just to name a few of the projects Foundation Murrindindi has supported. By supporting local organisations at a grass roots level, we can drive meaningful change and ensure our shire remains a place where everyone has the chance to flourish.

community members. Applications close on February 8. Council has published the draft Health and Care Services Plan, which sets out a coordinated approach to improving health and wellbeing in Murrindindi. The document is open for community comment, with consultation extended until January 7. Ms Bonazzi also said that council is actively advocating to Alexandra District Health to delay any decision on the proposed amalgamation with Eastern Health, so that the outcomes can be collectively and properly considered. Council's Customer Service Centres and Libraries will close from December 25 to January 1, reopening on January 2. Pools close Christmas Day but have extended holiday hours of 1pm to 6pm daily from late December.



## Letters to the Editor

### Continued from Page 2

The goal is to ensure that when answers are provided, they are clear, informed, and backed by complete and accurate technical data. More information will be shared as soon as the assessments are finalised, and we will continue to provide full and transparent updates as they become available.

The project team will be unavailable from December 22 to January 5. Any enquiries received during this time will be responded to promptly on return. If you know someone who would like to receive our community update emails, please ask them to email us at [rubiconrenewable@samsung.com](mailto:rubiconrenewable@samsung.com)

Stephan Mitchell, Development Manager, SREA

### Can We Celebrate Christmas?

IN the Northern Hemisphere, December 25 was regarded as the Winter Solstice (the shortest and thus the darkest, and coldest, day of the year). The Winter Solstice is associated with a pagan festival of light when birthdays of mythological characters were celebrated. It is because of this festival of light that the Christian church took this day to celebrate Christ's birth. Even before this, the Jews had their own festival of light, Hanukkah, the tragic events at which in Bondi, have put a blight over all our celebrations this Christmas.

Well, Christians believe that Christ is the 'light of the world'. This is the key but what does it mean? Firstly, Christ illuminates the path of life. He shows us what it is to be fully human. If we believe, as I do, that Jesus is the Son of God, then Jesus shows us the nature of God in terms that humans can

apprehend. Secondly, Christ illuminates the depth of our hearts.

To help us to understand what this means we have to remind ourselves what it is to be human. We are physical and emotional beings and much of our enjoyment is physical and emotional. We are intellectual beings; we can think and reason. Friendships are often based on a meeting of minds. But we are also, and most importantly, spiritual beings. It is this spiritual aspect which sets human beings apart from the rest of the animal world. Why do we exist? What is the purpose of life? From whence comes our spiritual strength? What makes us want to help others, often those we don't know or who are from a different tribe? And so on.

For me, the best answers to these questions come from God as revealed in Jesus Christ. That is why I want to celebrate the birth of a child born in humble and risky circumstances. But week by week we also

remember his death and resurrection as a sign that love overcomes evil and can never be extinguished. We have already seen how the light of love and courage have shone in the face of the murderous evil committed at Bondi, and while mourning those murdered we can give thanks for the light of love that will always shine.

As we celebrate by showing and receiving love in the form of gifts and celebratory gatherings, we remember those from whom we are separated; and we remember those whose lives are ruined through grief, poverty, violence, and natural and man-made disasters. We do everything we can to make the world around us a better place. This, for me, is a way of showing the love of the God who sent his Son into the world to redeem the world.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas.  
Fr John Jessop, Marysville and Buxton

# TRAVELLING THIS FIRE SEASON? DON'T FORGET TO PACK THE VIC EMERGENCY APP.



Travelling in Victoria this fire season? Make sure you've packed all the essentials, including the VicEmergency app. So you can check the Fire Danger Rating daily.



Download VicEmergency App and  
check the fire danger rating daily.

HOW WELL  
DO YOU KNOW FIRE?



# Alexandra Secondary College Dux speech

by Emilia Weeks

IF I had a DeLorean that could take me back to 2020 to tell my 13-year-old self that I'd be standing up here tonight, she would have laughed and told me to 'Go back to the future!' because there is no way that could be true. And yet, here I am, and what a privilege it is. This moment feels so surreal, and is something I'll cherish forever.

Going into year 12, I had no idea what to expect. It was supposed to be the 'most important year' of our school lives. Suddenly, stress was real, 'lock in' became the most used phrase, and people I'd never seen study before actually...studied.

Like many, I felt the pressure, not just to do my best, but to be the best. Although I'm proud of the effort I put in, I've learned that how you work, and why you work, matters far more than the outcome.

I could spend this time giving advice on routines and study schedules, but here's something I wish someone would have told me when I was sitting where you are today: We live in a world that often measures people's worth by their achievements and it's so easy to get caught up in chasing validation from those around you, but I tried it and it's exhausting. No matter how hard you try, chances are there will always be someone ahead, or someone unimpressed by all your hard work.

So do your best, but do it for yourself. Do everything with purpose and take pride in every step. Do what you love, and do it because you love it, not because you're trying to prove something.

School isn't for everyone, and life won't look the same for all of us, and that's fine. For me, I've found my purpose in knowing Jesus and trusting that He has a plan for my life.

Someone once said that comparison is the thief of joy, so stop comparing your life to those around you and commit fully to your own. That's when true fulfillment is found.

A message to you all: No matter your results, your achievements, or where you're headed next, you are seen, you are heard, and you are loved.

This award is more than a reflection of hard work but of the incredible community that surrounds me.

To the teachers and staff, thank you for your passion, patience, and genuine care for us. From years past and present, you've shaped my love of learning, and between Mrs Wilson's brain-rot obsession and Mrs Collett's famous 'munster', taught me that school can be fun. To Mrs Van, our second mum, thank you for always supporting me, even when I accidentally bought alcohol on the school Japan trip. Turns out my Japanese wasn't as good as I thought.

To my cohort, we finally made it. Thirteen years later and I couldn't have asked for a more supportive and enthusiastic group of people to share this journey with. Thank you for always finding a reason to laugh and for pushing me more than I thought possible, if it hadn't been for you guys there is truly no way that I would be standing up here tonight.

To my family, thank you for your love and encouragement. For your belief in me and teaching me to trust that everything will work itself out in the end. To my siblings, thank you for your patience, even when I know that sometimes you'd have rather screamed at me. And to my parents, my two unwavering pillars

AWARD	SPONSORED BY	RECIPIENT
<b>YEAR 7 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Fallons Bus Service	Methmi Kasthuri Arachchilage
<b>YEAR 8 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Alexandra Newspapers	Chase Hilder
<b>YEAR 9 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Alexandra Newsagency & Lotto	Hannah Weeks
<b>YEAR 10 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Alexandra Rotary Club	Gemma Frean
<b>YEAR 11 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Fallons Bus Service	Xanthe Campbell
<b>YEAR 12 PERSONAL BEST</b>	Alexandra Pharmacy	Noah Campbell, Casey Collett, Mia Creighton, Danielle Nadj, Emelia Weeks & Harrison Young
<b>YEAR 7 DUX</b>	RSL Alexandra	Koa Parker
<b>YEAR 8 DUX</b>	Lions Club of Alexandra /	Chase Hilder
<b>YEAR 9 DUX</b>	Alexandra Pharmacy	Hannah Weeks, Aiden Campbell, April Talia & Lucas Crane
<b>YEAR 10 DUX</b>	Hedger Constructions P/L	Gemma Frean
<b>YEAR 11 DUX</b>	Alexandra Newspapers	Louis Matheson
<b>KWONG LEE DOW</b>	University of Melbourne	Xavier Cowell
<b>JUNIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD</b>	Country Women's Association	Charlie Francis
<b>AMPOL ALL ROUNDER</b>	Simpson Family	Danielle Nadj
<b>LONG TAN (DEFENCE FORCE)</b>	Yr 10 Yr 12	Marli Coller Milly Weeks
<b>FUTURE INNOVATORS</b>	Yr 10 Yr 12	Ashlyn Newman Koby Bennett
<b>YEAR 11 CITIZENSHIP AWARD</b>		Xanthe Campbell & Stuart Thompson
<b>ROTARY CITIZENSHIP AWARD</b>	Rotary	Mikaela Lytle & Noah Campbell
<b>EILDON ELECTORATE AWARD</b>	Cert from Cindy McLeish	Ben Geldart
<b>PROXIME ACCESSIT AWARD</b>	Alexandra Secondary College	Danielle Nadj
<b>YEAR 12 DUX OF COLLEGE</b>	Eildon Opportunity Shop	Milly Weeks
<b>VOCATIONAL MAJOR STUDENT OF THE YEAR</b>	Koala Cherries	Emmie Clark
<b>VCE STUDENT OF THE YEAR</b>	Reddrop Foodworks	Mia Creighton & Casey Collett
<b>JACKI TOSSOL HUMANITIES AWARD</b>		Max Gleeson
<b>GILBERT MUSIC AWARD</b>	Free S1 Tuition	Lachie Tatham
<b>EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC AWARD</b>	Free S1 Tuition	Hannah Weeks
<b>KELLY FAMILY MOST IMPROVED AWARD</b>	L & S Kelly/ Free S1 Tuition	Ethan Klis
<b>LANGUAGE AWARD</b>	L. & S. Kelly	Hannah Weeks
<b>EXCELLENCE IN WOODWORK</b>	Hedger Constructions	Jewel Joshy
<b>MOST OUTSTANDING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT</b>	L. & S. Kelly Sport Award	Koa Parker & Danielle Nadj
<b>SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA SPORTS AWARD</b>		Harish Balansag
<b>ASC ART AWARD</b>	ASC	Abi Morton
<b>MARIAN NICHOLSON ART AWARD</b>	Anita Rennie	Jorja Jenkins
<b>YEAR 12 SUBJECT DUX</b>		
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Art Making & Exhibiting	Abi Morton
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Business Management	Casey Collett & Mia Creighton
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Chemistry	Emelia Weeks
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	English	Mikaela Lytle, Danielle Nadj & Emelia Weeks
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Foundation Mathematics	Maya Cobb
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	General Mathematics	Mia Creighton
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Health & Human Development	Mikaela Lytle
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Hospitality	Kloe Morton
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Legal Studies	Noah Campbell & Drew Coller
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Literature	Mikaela Lytle
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Mathematical Methods	Koby Bennett & Jackson Burns
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Physical Education	Danielle Nadj
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Physics	Koby Bennett
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Psychology	Emelia Weeks
<b>Yr 12 Dux</b>	Visual Communication & Design	Maya Cobb

of support, thank you for being my rock and for your constant grace and understanding.

Special mention to my Mum. There is no one quite like her. My favourite study buddy, the one who would stay up with me the night before a SAC and wouldn't go to bed

until I did, who celebrated my wins and empathised with my losses. This achievement is as much mine as it is yours, even if you didn't get up as early as I did in the mornings.

School can feel like it lasts forever, but once it's over, you'll wonder why you wished it away so

quickly. It isn't for everyone, but it's something we all have to do, so make the most of it. Say yes to every opportunity. Some of my favourite memories came from the most unexpected moments, like turning butter chicken into one kilogram of mush on year 11 camp, or dancing

in *Mamma Mia* just a week before my English exam.

To everyone here tonight, congratulations. You should be incredibly proud. There are wonderful things ahead, and I'm so excited for you all.

# The Farmer's Ag News

## Reminder to be aware of overhead powerlines

WITH farm activity at its seasonal peak, Victorian farmers are being urged to take extra care around overhead powerlines following two serious contact incidents in recent months, where one resulted in a fatal electric shock and another sparked a major grass fire.

Energy Safe Victoria is highlighting these events as a powerful reminder about the risks of operating tall or extendable machinery near overhead electrical assets. This is a particularly timely warning ahead of a busy harvest period when fatigue and time pressures can impact situational awareness, and summer conditions can impact visibility and reduce clearances as powerlines sag in the heat.

"Every year we see incidents that could have been avoided with a few simple safety checks, and these recent events are tragic examples of the most serious consequences of machinery contacting overhead powerlines," Energy Safe CEO Leanne Hughson said.

In September, a 49-year-old agricultural contractor died from suspected electrocution in an orchard in Koonoomoo, near Cobram in northern Victoria. It is believed the man was using a long aluminium pole to install a moisture sensor when the pole contacted a high-voltage overhead conductor.

Only weeks later, in November, a large grass fire broke out near Pyramid Hill after a farmer's header likely contacted an overhead powerline. The fire burned around 30 hectares and left 20 people without power.

These incidents reflect a concerning trend across multiple sectors. In 2024-25, Energy Safe recorded around 380 overhead contact or near-contact incidents involving electrical assets across Victoria, up from 296 in 2023-24. While not all occurred on farms, they highlight a growing industry risk and the need for more awareness and safer practices when working near powerlines.

To stay safe around overhead lines, farmers should always: Identify nearby powerlines before starting any job involving tall, raised or extendable machinery and

equipment; use a spotter when operating or moving machinery near lines, especially in tight or unfamiliar areas; plan machinery travel paths to avoid overhead lines entirely where possible; keep safe distances and follow No Go Zone rules; understand that summer conditions like bright sunlight and heat make powerlines harder to see and sag lower than usual; make sure everyone on the farm is briefed on powerline risks and locations, especially contractors or seasonal workers unfamiliar with the property; know what to do if contact occurs: stay in the cab, call 000 and keep others well clear.

"Before the next job, take a moment to look up, identify where powerlines are, and plan ahead. These actions could make the difference between a normal workday and a tragedy," Ms Hughson said.

Visit the Energy Safe website at [energysafe.vic.gov.au](http://energysafe.vic.gov.au) for more information on the Look Up and Live campaign as well as resources, like free farm signs, to support safe work near powerlines.

## Sheep producer confidence surges as flock expansion plans accelerate

THE latest Sheep Producers Intentions Survey (SPIS), conducted by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), reveals a sharp rise in producer confidence and strong intentions to grow flocks in 2026, driven by buoyant prices and optimism for improved seasonal conditions.

The October 2025 survey captured feedback from 1819 sheep producers nationwide, showing overall sentiment for the sheepmeat sector has jumped 36 points to +78, up from +42 in 2024. This marks the highest sentiment score since the survey redesign in 2022.

MLA's Market Information Manager, Erin Lukey said the results highlight a significant shift in the national flock's outlook.

"Producers are feeling positive about the next 12 months, with strong lamb prices and expectations of better weather underpinning confidence," Ms Lukey said.

"Over half of respondents, 52 per cent compared to 40 per cent last year, plan to increase their flock size in 2026, while only 28 per cent expect to reduce numbers.

"This is a clear signal of recovery and growth following challenging seasonal conditions in 2025."

The main reasons for expansion include expectations of better lambing results next year, retaining more ewes, expanding sheep operations and anticipating good conditions over the next 12 months.

Meat breeds continue to grow, now representing 40 per cent of lambs, while Merinos have remained at 34 per cent. Poor seasonal conditions impacted 2025 marking rates, with Merinos at 74 per cent (down from 81 per cent in 2024), compared to prime lamb at 115 per cent and shedding breeds at 101 per cent.

South Australia stands out as one of the most optimistic states in the October 2025 survey.

Sentiment surged 50 points to +81, making SA one of the highest confidence regions nationally.

Sixty per cent of SA producers plan to increase their flock size in 2026, compared to just 24 per cent expecting a decrease.

The state's positive outlook is underpinned by expectations of improved lambing results, with 56 per cent of SA respondents citing this as a key factor, and operational expansion.

Based off intentions SA's lamb flock is forecast to grow by 19 per cent, from 4.10 million in 2025 to 4.88 million in 2026, outpacing the national average increase of 11 per cent.

"South Australian producers are leading the charge in confidence and growth intentions. Their outlook reflects strong resilience and readiness to capitalise on better seasonal conditions and market opportunities," Ms Lukey said.

"Producers and industry stakeholders can explore these

findings with the MLA Market Information team in detail at MLA Updates in Adelaide on November 20."

Confidence in the wool industry has also improved significantly, with sentiment rising 38 points to +19. While wool production remains low, prices have strengthened, with the Eastern Market Indicator reaching levels not seen since mid-2022.

Producers are cautiously optimistic, with 36 per cent reporting a positive outlook compared to 17 per cent negative. This improvement is expected to influence decisions around flock composition and breeding strategies.

AWI's Head of Domestic Operations, Scott Carmody says the survey results are heartening and reflect positive feedback the company has received from growers.

"The latest survey shows woolgrower sentiment has turned around off the back of stronger prices paid in the auction room over the last six months," Mr Carmody said.

The 38-point improvement in sentiment in a year is welcome news.

Confidence is key not just now but into the future that's reflected in the fact 42 per cent of growers surveyed believe price rises will continue in the year ahead.

The current positive sentiment is being felt right along the wool supply chain, with increasing demand for the Northern Hemisphere winter season".

The SPIS is used to help industry determine wool and lamb production forecasts and to understand the breed composition of the Australian flock on a national, state and regional basis. It is used by processors for budgeting purposes and allows import markets to ascertain short-term supply estimates.

To view the full report, visit [tinyurl.com/3jxy9w8k](http://tinyurl.com/3jxy9w8k)



## FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

### Mobile Health Bus Launch



+ 'The Unbreakable Farmer' – Warren Davies  
Wednesday 7 January

### Skin Checks & Mental Health



Friday 9 January & 6 February

**YEA SALEYARDS**  
What's coming up

WED 7 JAN	VLP INAUGURAL WEAVER SALE + Murrindindi Mobile Health Launch – Bus Launch + 'The Unbreakable Farmer' – Warren Davies
FRI 9 JAN	NUTRIEN YEA UPPER GOULBURN RIVERS ANNUAL CLASSIC WEAVER SALE + FREE Skin Checks & Mental Health Support
FRI 16 JAN	ELDERS YEA BLUE RIBBON WEAVER SALE
FRI 6 FEB	COMBINED AGENTS STORE SALE + FREE Skin Checks & Mental Health Support
FRI 6 MAR	COMBINED AGENTS STORE SALE
FRI 10 APR	COMBINED AGENTS STORE SALE

**Nutrien Ag Solutions** **Elders** **VLP** VETERINARY PROPERTY **ALEX SCOTT** STAFF

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



# Alexandra's Carols in the Park



People enjoying the carols at Rotary Park in Alexandra on Friday, December 19, despite the tiny amount of rain. -AR



The U3A choir. -AR



Tahlee Christie. -AR



The Alexandra Lions Club provided the barbecue. -AR



Ella, Zelda, Lily, Ellie and Charlie. -AR



Nicole, Jenna, Taylah and Adam with Santa. -AR



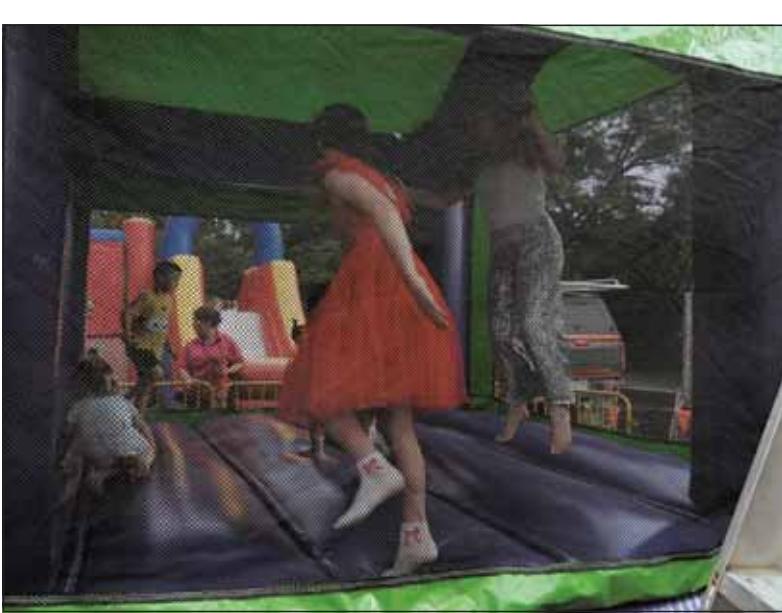
Marty, PJ, Opal and Evan.



Nate. -AR



Santa enjoying a sausage. -AR



Children enjoying the bouncy castle. -AR



Cooper and Harry with their grandmother Helen. -AR

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 15

## Crossword

**ACROSS**

- A feeling of thankfulness and appreciation.
- An irregularly shaped mass.
- Australia's most famous gemstone.
- An enclosed car for four or more people.
- Person who does not acknowledge your God.
- Both come to the same opinion.
- A person who hates all mankind.
- Moving quickly and lightly.
- The eighth letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A variety of different things or activities.
- Lacking civility or good manners.
- A widely held but false idea or belief.
- Relating to the sky or the heavens.

**DOWN**

- A car that is old and unreliable.
- A stretch of turbulent water in the sea.
- A large heavy book or volume.
- Tinned fish often used in salads.
- Two singers who perform together.
- Extremely pleasant in a gentle way.
- Enlarged to an abnormal degree.
- The outermost boundary of an area.
- A canvas shoe with a pliable rubber sole.
- The manner of enunciation in speaking.
- Provide commentary for a film.
- Obeying the rules and not cheating.
- A thin slice of bacon or ham.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A natural ability or talent.
- A fully grown female sheep.
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.

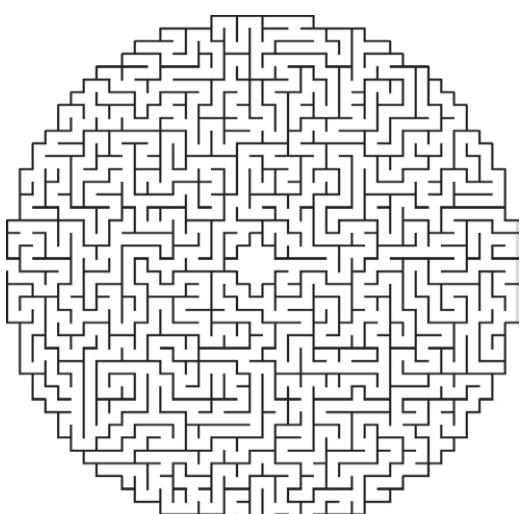
## Word Search

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

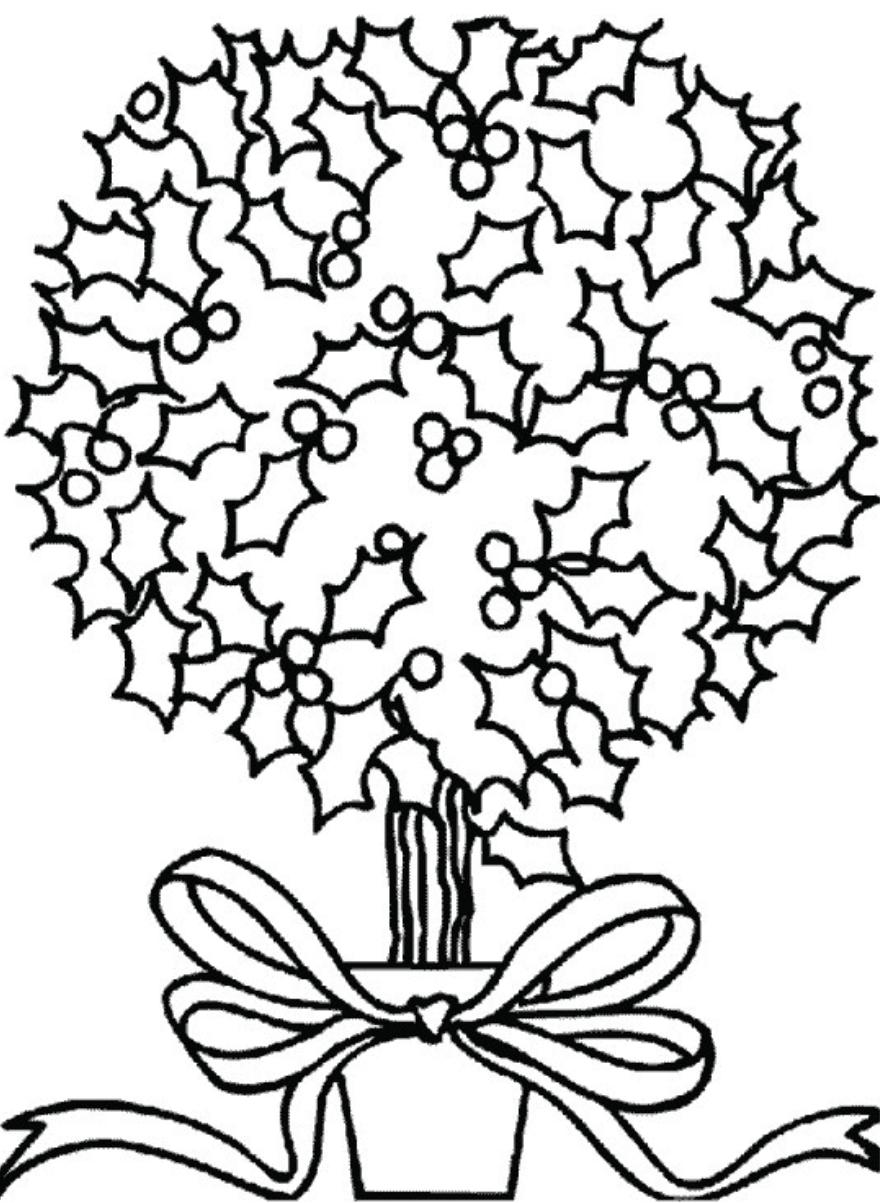
**Big things**

AIRPLANES	MOUNTAINS
CRUISESHIP	OCEANS
DINOSAUR	PYRAMID
ELEPHANT	SKYSCRAPER
GIANTS	TRAIN
GRANDCANYON	TRUCKS

## Maze

**KID'S PUZZLES**

## Colouring Page



## Sudoku

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

**Difficulty: Very 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

	-		÷	3	5
+		-		+	
	+	8	-		1
+		-		-	
	-		+		0

**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.

# KID'S PUZZLES

## Word Search

## Word Search

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

**Christmas**

CHIMNEY	REINDEER
DECEMBER	RUDOLPH
DECORATIONS	SANTACLUS
FAMILY	STOCKINGS
HOLIDAYS	TINSEL
PLUMPUDDING	TURKEY
PRESENTS	

## Math Square

	-		+		2
+		-		+	
	+	8	-		1
+		-		-	
	-		+		0

**Fill in the missing numbers.**

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

## Jokes

**Q: Who is the favourite rock star at the North Pole?**

**A: Elf-ish Presley**

**Q: What do snowmen do on the weekend?**

**A: Chill out**

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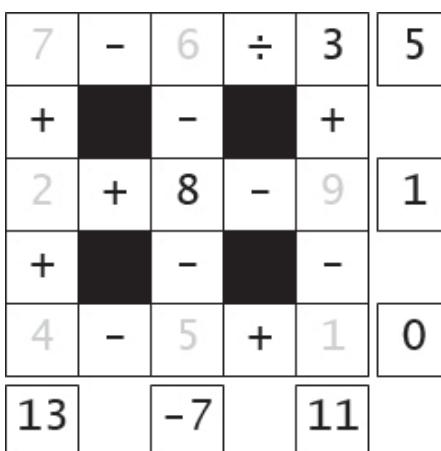
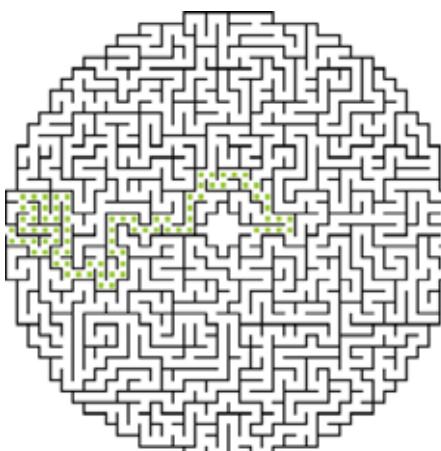
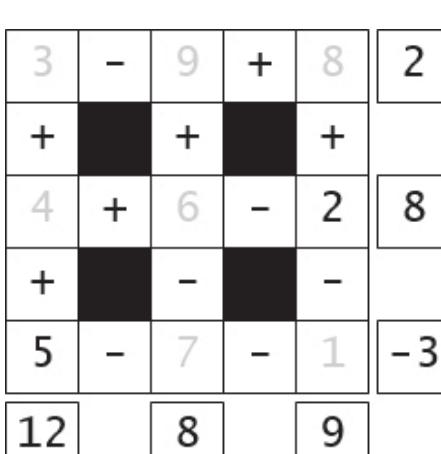
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# Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club's final meeting for the year was a relaxed and pleasant session, with profound anticipation rising at the sight of the plates of goodies that accompanied our lady members as they entered the hall. An unresolved mystery was provided by Mary who successfully carried an extremely creamed and jammed but wobbly sponge cake all the way from home on foot.

There was a slight unseemly tussle as everyone tried to get a seat next to Ian who has become the professional raffle winner of the club. It seemed to pay off as one of the chock bar raffle winners was Brenda seated next to him. Vice-president Barbara dealt efficiently with the necessary official but boring club matters and, hoping for the shortest meeting on record, declared the meeting closed in very quick time. It must have been close to the record.

There was then an unseemly stampede into the Tea Room and the goodies. Afterwards and replete with good cheer, members split into the usual two card-playing groups, however the 'professional' 500 players realised that Jack, the 'Doyen' of the game was missing. A telephone enquiry soon rectified the situation, and he turned up shortly afterwards. There is no truth in the rumour that an aroma of Christmas Bailey's lingered around him.

By now, the Uno ladies were well into their raucous and hilarious games. An extremely talented crew. After all, it takes skill to exchange jokes, talk, guffaw concentrate, gossip and all while quietly humming Christmas carols. You too could develop this talent if you join the club.

We wish everyone a peaceful season of reflexion and relaxation as we remember those we have lost this year and those who are no longer in the pink of health.

Meanwhile stay safe, keep smiling and come and join us next year when we resume on the first Friday in February.

# POLICE REPORT

THE Christmas period is always a busy time on the road, so police are reminding people to be patient and take care while driving.

Statewide Operation Roadwise will be active until midnight on January 1, with a focus on poor driver behaviour including impaired driving, speeding, fatigue, and vulnerable road users such as bikes, motorbikes and pedestrians. During the operation, there will be increased police activity, detecting and enforcing the road rules for everyone's safety.

As the weather gets warmer, they are also asking that people behave responsibly in the heat, wear sunscreen and hats and drink plenty of water. Know where to find refuge in cool locations, and have a contingency plan if there's a blackout.

There have been a number of burglaries in the Murrindindi Shire over recent months, so make sure that everything is locked up securely and a security camera can be a good investment.

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## DEATH NOTICES

MOORE, Donald John Frederick 29/09/1928 - 18/12/2025

Beloved father of Tim and Nick and husband of the late Beryl Moore died peacefully at Alexandra Hospital where he was treated with love and respect by all the staff who attended to him.

May God bless him.

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## Barbecue for 2025's last Potluck Dinner

THE Embassy of Ideas had a great finale to their monthly Potluck Dinner gathering by hosting a barbecue. Attendees bought either a sweet or salad to share and the Embassy provided the meat.

The Embassy of Ideas Community Potluck Dinner is all about the positive power of sharing a meal to build connections in the community. A potluck dinner is a communal meal where everyone contributes something. The event has proved popular with consistent numbers of around 30 people attending each month. By sharing a meal with friends, neighbours and strangers, together we can grow our community.

CommuniTea is another Embassy of Ideas event. Held weekly on a Friday morning, it is a free community morning tea, with the aim to provide a warm and welcoming environment that provides an opportunity to meet new friends and create community connections. Everyone is welcome. Last Friday was the last CommuniTea for the year and was celebrated with some festive shortbread and mince pies.

The Embassy is taking a well earned break and will reopen in late January and looks forward to continuing to create opportunities to foster community connections.



## Classified information

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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.



Georgie Wise from Alexandra Primary School, Rotary Youth Director John Cannon, Lainey Martyn from St Mary's Primary School, Nate Simms from Marysville Primary School, Rotary President John Allcock, Liam Fraser from Eildon Primary School, Oliver Anderson from Buxton Primary School, and Mikaela Lytle from Alexandra Secondary College. Noah Campbell, ASC was absent due to illness. -S

## Alexandra Rotary recognises a special group of students

THE Alexandra Rotary Club recently held a dinner to recognise the special efforts of a group of students who embody the spirit of their school communities.

Primary schools in the Cathedral Cluster each nominated a student for encouragement awards of \$500 per student to ease the cost of transition from primary to secondary school.

At upper secondary level, an award is made to the male and female students who embody good citizenship.

The schools and their nominees were Alexandra Primary School Georgie Wise, St Mary's Primary School Lainey Martyn, Buxton Primary School Oliver Anderson, Eildon Primary School Liam Fraser, Marysville

Primary School Nate Simms, and Alexandra Secondary College Mikaela Lytle and Noah Campbell.

An additional award was made to Levi Campbell from Alexandra Little Athletics, who has been selected for the second time to attend the Little Athletics New Zealand Development Tour, in January.

The full citations can be found on the Alexandra Rotary Facebook page.

Congratulations to all these worthy recipients. Rotary wishes them well in the next chapter of their educational journey.

## Urgent warning: iPhone 12 users may not be able to contact Triple Zero

AN urgent message has been issued for iPhone 12 users, after a critical issue has affected users being able to contact Triple Zero.

Apple recently pushed out an urgent software update (iOS 26.2) to fix a critical issue affecting calls to Triple Zero (000). If you or a family member owns an iPhone 12, please stop and check your device immediately.

The official release notes state that this update: "Addresses a mobile network issue for iPhone 12 models when establishing a connection to emergency services in Australia."

This means without this update, there is a risk your device may encounter network failures when

trying to call for help during an emergency.

### Who needs to update?

This critical patch is specifically for the iPhone 12. (Note: It is strictly for the iPhone 12 model only, not the 13, 14, or later models, though keeping your phone updated is always recommended).

Action Required: Do not wait until you have an emergency to find out your phone isn't working correctly; open Settings; tap General; select Software Update; download and install iOS 26.2.

Please tag friends and family who use an iPhone 12 to ensure their devices are safe and ready.

## Corner Hotel damaged in crash

THE driver of a single vehicle lost control and crashed into the side wall of the Corner Hotel at around 9pm on Saturday, December 20 causing considerable damage to part of the hotel's Downey Street wall during dinner service.

The driver of the car was attended to by Ambulance Victoria paramedics, with police closing off through traffic in Downey Street while the CFA and SES from Alexandra attended the scene to make the building safe until around midnight. No one else was injured.

The crew relocated the car from the building with the SES stabilising the building to avoid further collapse, assisted by builders to clear the scene so additional structural stability could put in place.

The Corner Hotel management would like to reassure patrons the hotel remains open as normal, with restricted access to a portion of the building and thanked the emergency services and Hedger Constructions for their assistance.

## Yarck collision

SUNDAY, December 21, saw heavy rain fall across the shire, resulting in flooding and road accidents, including a serious collision in Yarck.

The single vehicle accident, which occurred around 12.30pm resulted in four separate ambulances transporting patients to hospitals in Melbourne, with two of the patients in critical condition. The HEMS Ambulance helicopter was unable to land and transport the patients due to the poor weather conditions.

Heavy rain likely contributed to the accident. Alexandra SES crews were on their way to Yea to assist with flooding at two buildings in High Street, Yea, but were diverted to the road accident. They were the first emergency services on scene, confronted with three injured children and an adult. The emergency services were on scene quickly to treat the injured.

Police diverted traffic around the scene via Gobur from Kanumbra and Yarck while emergency services were on scene.

A reminder to please slow down when road weather conditions are poor.

## Fisherman rescued from Taggerty River

ON the afternoon of Friday, December 19 emergency services were called to assist a fisherman who had become trapped between submerged boulders in the Taggerty River near Lady Talbot Drive in Marysville.

Marysville SES, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, and local CFA attended and established a rescue plan. Additional assistance was also requested from rope rescue qualified operators at SES Alexandra Unit, Wandin Fire Brigade, and Monbulk Fire and Rescue (CFA) due to the steepness of the embankment.

Once on scene two Marysville SES members were able to make their way to the scene quickly, to assess the patient and stabilise the boulders to prevent injury. Another member coordinated resources and equipment at the access point. Initial steps were taken to set up to free the man and move rescue equipment down to the site, while additional in-water operators from Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad were flown in to assist.

Crews worked together to release the man from the scene safely, and without injury. A rope system was set up in case a stretcher needed to be used to move up from the river, however fortunately this was not needed.

# Staying fire safe during the summer holidays

MANY of the places Victorians love to enjoy on their summer holidays are in a heightened fire risk area so before hitting the roads this festive season, firefighters are urging Victorians to be aware of conditions to safeguard their families.

While we want holiday-goers to enjoy themselves and the incredible places Victoria has to offer, those travelling close to parks, reserves and open grasslands or paddocks need to be alert and stay informed.

While there has been above-average rainfall in parts of the state across October and November, the bureau outlook for hotter and drier conditions can quickly dry out the fuels with significant fires a real possibility towards the end of December and into January 2026.

Whether you are spending Christmas in the Mornington Peninsula, celebrating New Years in Eildon, or visiting family in the Yarra Ranges, it is important to be aware of your risk.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan encourages Victorians to prepare before enjoying a much-needed break or festive getaway to see their friends and family.

"You may be travelling to an unfamiliar area and it's important to understand the fire risk of your holiday location. Now is not the time to become complacent," Jason said.

"Grassfires can move at speeds of up to 25km per hour, faster than you can run, and they can jump highways in the right conditions.

"Visitors should learn about the area they are travelling to and monitor the Fire Danger Ratings every day throughout summer."

## Council adopts Domestic Animal Management Plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has endorsed its Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP) at its meeting last week, confirming a clear approach to promote responsible pet ownership, enhance animal welfare and ensure community safety across the shire.

The plan has been shaped by strong community input gathered during consultation held in July and August 2025. Almost half of all households in the shire own a cat or dog, with survey respondents highlighting the important role pets play in family life, wellbeing, exercise and social connection.

Community feedback provided strong support for key measures including mandatory desexing of cats, cat curfews, and exploring designated fenced off-lead dog parks.

The adopted plan sets council's priorities and actions for managing cats and dogs over the next four years, with a focus on supporting pet owners, improving animal welfare outcomes and reducing negative impacts on the community and environment.

The DAMP also reinforces council's role in education, enforcement and collaboration to keep public spaces safe, accessible and enjoyable for all.

The adopted plan provides a clear and balanced framework to help people and pets thrive together in Murrindindi Shire. For more information, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/damp](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/damp) or call 5772 0333.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the plan provides a clear and practical roadmap for animal management across the shire.

"This plan recognises the important place pets hold in many households while clearly setting expectations of our shared role as responsible pet owners," Cr Gallagher said.

"We thank everyone who got involved in the development of this plan. We look forward to working with the community over the next four years to manage our pets in a way that balances pet welfare, community wellbeing and the natural environment."

"Owning a pet is a privilege, and it is the responsibility of the owner to have their pets under effective control at all times."

After a flurry of activity to start the fire season with large grass and bushfires breaking out particularly in the north west and north east of the state, it's important to remember fire safety is a shared responsibility.

"We have already seen some large grassfires this season, Victorians must stay vigilant, have a fire plan in place and be ready to act," Jason said.

"Bushfires and rural grassfires do impact built up areas, so it really is everyone's responsibility to be fire ready."

"Recent growth across pastures, woodlands and roadside reserves has created unbroken

stretches of dried grass along many roadsides, increasing the chance of roadside fires.

"It is also important not to drive if you can see smoke or fire. Thick smoke will make it hard to see and make accidents more likely," Jason said.

Victorians are urged to download the VicEmergency app and set up watch zones for the location they're visiting.

Reconsider your travel on days of Extreme Fire Danger Rating and do not travel to bushfire risk areas on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating, your life may depend on the decisions you make during a Catastrophic day.

### Traveler safety tips

Download the VicEmergency app for real-time updates about emergencies across Victoria or visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

Check the fire danger ratings every day. Keep roads clear for emergency services.

Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas on 'Extreme' days and do not travel to bushfire risk areas on days of a 'Catastrophic' Fire Danger Rating. For all travel safety tips, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/leave-early/staying-safe-when-you-travel](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/leave-early/staying-safe-when-you-travel)

## Progress on disaster recovery works across Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is continuing disaster recovery works across the shire, following several declared natural disaster events in recent years. A number of major road and infrastructure projects have now been completed, with others close to finishing. These works form part of council's ongoing effort to repair damaged assets, improve safety and strengthen infrastructure to better cope with future weather events where possible.

Council is working closely with state and federal agencies to secure funding and deliver repairs in line with prescribed Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) conditions and approval timelines. Council has supplemented DRFA funding with significant contributions from their Capital Budget to improve resilience to future disaster events.

One of the most significant projects recently completed is the Snobs Creek landslip repair, with the road now reopened to full traffic after being partially closed for more than two years. The project involved major strengthening and reconstruction of the road pavement and layers underneath the surface to ensure long-term stability and safety for all road users. While the road is now open, some works on the road shoulder are still underway and expected to finish soon.

Works at Coonan's Culvert are now complete, with the full rebuild replacing temporary flood repairs and removing previous load restrictions. The upgraded culvert eliminates a high-risk crossing, improves safety for all vehicles and reduces the likelihood of future flood-related disruptions. The upgrade has



The Snobs Creek landslip repair. -S

enhanced load capacity, enabling access for CFA, Forest Fire Management and heavy vehicles in the event of fire and other emergencies.

Rehabilitation works have also been completed at the two cemeteries in Yea, which were impacted by floodwaters flowing through the sites, restoring safe access for families and visitors, while protecting important community and heritage assets.

Council has now completed approximately \$4 million worth of disaster recovery works across more than 180 individual sites, with a further \$18 million in recovery projects planned or underway, subject to state funding approvals and timelines.

Murrindindi Shire Council Sustainability and Assets portfolio Councillor Paul Hildebrand said disaster recovery was a complex, long-term process requiring sustained effort and advocacy.

"Council recognises the significant and ongoing impacts of repeated disaster events on our communities and infrastructure. While some locations have experienced significant disruption, reopening key roads and upgrading critical assets like bridges and culverts is a major step forward for safety, access and community confidence."

"Council is committed to making the most of DRFA funding and, wherever possible, rebuilding infrastructure that is stronger and more resilient than what existed before. We continue to advocate for additional state and federal support to help reduce the risk of repeated damage and costly repairs into the future," Cr Hildebrand said.

Find out more about ongoing infrastructure projects in Murrindindi Shire on our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects)

## Stay safe at water storages

GOULBURN-Murray Water (GMW) is reminding people to stay safe and follow the rules when visiting its storages over the summer holidays.

GMW Water Storage Services Manager Jon McKeown said it was important that visitors remained water smart when visiting storages. He said that included wearing a lifejacket and always having someone with you on a boat.

"Other matters to keep in mind include sticking to the speed limits on the water, not drinking and boating, and checking the conditions and water levels when launching boats," he said.

"It's also crucial that people are aware of hazards like submerged rocks and shallow water and that they don't dive from dam walls or ledges."

Visitors are also reminded to pay attention to safety signage at storages including Boating Safety Information Signs.

These signs are found at various locations around storages and display key information such as the speed limit in the area, what recreational activities are allowed there, and waterway rules. They also display

information around safely operating vessels, what equipment people are required to carry as a water vessel operator, as well as emergency contacts.

Mr McKeown said it was also important that people behaved well and were respectful of others and the environment when visiting GMW's storages.

"Our storages are fantastic places to visit but it's important that everyone plays their part to ensure they remain this way," he said.

"During busy times we do see people looking to reserve inlets or parts of the foreshore for exclusive use by installing gazebos, inflatable pontoons and other structures before their visit."

"This is not permitted and isn't fair on others who want to enjoy the area."

Leaving temporary structures unattended on the foreshore is an offence that can result in a fine of up to 10 penalty units (a penalty unit is currently \$203.51) under the Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023.

Lighting campfires outside of designated areas is similarly an offence under the Water Regulations.

Campfires are not permitted at most GMW storages and are only allowed in certain areas at storages where they are permitted.

"Fire safety is particularly crucial at this time of year," Mr McKeown said. "People should check online to see if campfires are permitted where they plan to visit ahead of time and should never light a fire on a Total Fire Ban Day."

Other activities GMW is looking out for over the summer holidays include people camping on lakebeds, and littering.

All visitors to GMW storages must take their rubbish with them when they leave.

People can view the Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023 on the GMW website at [gmwater.com.au/recreation](http://gmwater.com.au/recreation)

People can report a breach by contacting 1800 013 357 or emailing [compliance@gmwater.com.au](mailto:compliance@gmwater.com.au)

More information about the risks and hazards to be aware of at storages can be found on the 'Water Smarts' page of the GMW website, [gmwater.com/watersmarts](http://gmwater.com/watersmarts)

# Merton cricketers beat Milawa in last match of the year

MERTON cricketer's travelled to Milawa for the final game before the Christmas break needing to win to consolidate their position in the top six, and consolidate they did with a strong win finding the local side third on the ladder with good momentum into the new year.

Milawa won the toss and invited Merton to bat first with the visitors making 8/231 in hot conditions. Jarrod Mahoney with a blistering 89 off 56 balls including nine fours and four sixes punished the home sides attack, he and skipper Jai Lerch-McKinnon 57 really set up Merton's victory in the middle overs playing their hard hitting style.

Opener Murray Sutton with 25 also batted positively helping Merton to a good start. Matt Hardy 3/57 the leading wicket taker for Milawa. The home side trying to take

the game up to Merton started well, however tight bowling from Lerch-McKinnon put the pressure on Milawa's top order with Merton's young bowling combination off Harry Craddock 3/18 and Henry Berriman 2/31 reaping the rewards for their side.

Great catching from McKinnon and the Mahoney brothers saw Milawa play out the game frustratingly for Merton and finishings on 8/157 after 36 overs. Jason Papworth 38 and Russell Ferguson 40 showing stubborn resistance for the Merton bowling attack. James Benton Ross McKinnon and Lerch-McKinnon the other wicket takers.

Merton host Rutherglen in the new year on January 17 with a very tight top six or seven places up for grabs in the very competitive 13 side Wangaratta District Cricket Association b grade competition.



Jarrod Mahoney batting for Merton. -S

## Three Alexandra Bowls Club members defeat full Shepparton side

by Marie Evans

WITH more than half of the 2025-26 Pennant Bowls Season completed Alexandra Bowls Club will be looking to put some more winning games together when play resumes on January 13 for the Midweek side and January 17 for Saturday.



Midweek winning rink of Denice Chisholm, Craig Parkinson and Ken Argent. -S

The last Midweek game before the break was played last Tuesday. Alexandra was away to Shepparton Park number two side. Alexandra had one winning rink and they showed that you don't need four players to defeat your opposition. Three players who are bowling great line and length and defending the head can defeat an opposition of four.

With Ken Argent (Skip), Denice Chisholm playing third and Craig Parkinson leading they defeated Shepparton 20 to 18. They trailed two to four on end five but won the next seven ends to lead 13 to four. Alexandra had them 19 to nine before Shepparton won four out of the last five ends to narrow the margin but not by enough to win. Great effort to the home rink.

John Blamey (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Marty Manning and Warren Nelson trailed seven to zero on end five before they put their first score on the board. It appeared to be a one-sided game at end eight with Shepparton leading 13 to one. Not to be denied, Alexandra won nine out of the next 10 ends in a fabulous comeback. It was 13 to 14 on end 18 in a game that could have gone either way. Unfortunately, Shepparton won the last three ends with three singles and won the game 13 to 17.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Malcolm Gill, Pauline Gilmore and Peter Collyer were five all on end five, trailed six to nine on end eight. By end 17 Shepparton had a 26 to nine lead. Alexandra

won three out of the last four ends to reduce that margin to lose 17 to 27 at end 21.

Shepparton won the overall 62 to 50.

The Midweek Ladder is Murchison, Shepparton Park (1), Dookie, Merrigum, Tatura Hill Top, Shepparton Park (2), Violet Town, Alexandra, Euroa and East Shepparton. Alexandra plays Shepparton (1) at home when play resumes.

The Saturday Division Three Ladder is, Euroa, Shepparton Park, Rushworth, Mooroopna Golf, East Shepparton, Alexandra, Eildon and Shepparton Golf. Alexandra plays at home to Shepparton Park in the first game back and will only have to travel once in the final four games and that is to Shepparton Golf. Alexandra players are looking forward to playing on a familiar green and not having to travel.

Division Five ladder is Murchison, Colbinabbin, Shepparton Park, Nagambie, Violet Town, Tatura Hill top, Seymour VRI, Euroa, Alexandra, Rushworth and Seymour. They play Shepparton Park when play resumes.

Club games continue with the men's singles down to the final four players. Ken Argent to play John Blamey and Ian Harper to play Greg Gilmore

To all players and members, have a safe Christmas and New Year. To the members who have worked tirelessly providing functions throughout the year a huge thank-you.

## Stableford and Christmas raffle for Eildon Golf Club

by Puttamic

LAST week 18 players came to play in the last competition at Eildon Golf Club before Christmas. The match was a Stableford, drawing partners after the match, and the club also had the draw for the Christmas raffle.

Last week's winners were Wayne Kupke and Phil Dally with a combined score of 72 on a countback from Ken Collier and John Monteath also with a score of 72. Ball rundown winners were Colin Long and Kerry Power with a score of 70 and Mark Mackwell and John Beale also with a score of 70.

The nearest the pin winners for the week: Grant Walters was the closest with his second shot on the third and the 14th, Adam Kupke was the best on the 11th, Denis McDonald was the closest on the 12th and the club had no winners on the fifth last week.

The two-birdie hole produced two winners of drink for their groups, Mark Mackwell on the eighth and Michael McLear on the 15th. The super six winner on the six mystery holes last week was John Monteath. Other winners: Adam Kupke was the lucky entry draw winner; Dennis Seamer tried his luck with the Swindle and Marian Williamson had a go at the elusive Joker.

The club says a huge thanks to Karen Reece who provided roast beef rolls and cakes with Marian and Sandi also providing cakes for after the snacks. Another huge thank you to Wayne Kupke who ran the Christmas hamper raffle which was a huge success and I understand he is already planning an Easter raffle, so keep an eye out for Wayne and his raffle tickets.

The winners of this year's Christmas raffle, first prize winner was Chris Currie, second prize went to Kerry Power and third prize went to Phil Dally, congratulations to the winners this week.

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From all at the Eildon Golf Club have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

## Alexandra cricketers beat top of ladder Tallarook

by Michael Mawson

THE 10th round of the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) season saw the B-Grade Alexandra depose Tallarook from the top of the SDCA ladder with a convincing win in hot, humid conditions that tested the temperament of the players.

The preparation for the game threw up some challenges. Many regular players were unavailable due to pre-Christmas commitments or by being promoted to A-Grade. The club was quite relieved when Ben Broadway, Shannon Galloway and Robert "Yobbo" Andrews put their hands up to play.

Weather also stifled preparation for Saturday with Thursday's training being cancelled due to extreme temperatures and overnight rain on Friday causing Redbacks players to scramble to get protection over the Leckie Park pitch. Unfortunately, like a couple in counselling, the pitch had an awkward night under the covers. The warm night induced deep moisture to well up to the surface and the pitch was softer than it was before, leading to a bowler-friendly track with bounce that was both slow, high and difficult for batters to find timing.

The Tallarook captain, Ben Tresize won the toss and elected to bat, probably believing

that his strong batting team could cope with the treacherous surface. He didn't reckon upon the bowling of Banjo Fitzpatrick and Lucas Crane. The opening pair extracted movement out of the pitch, kept the run rate slow and created plenty of wicket-taking chances. Fitzpatrick was unlucky to go wicketless while Crane claimed a leg before wicket. When not bowling, Fitzpatrick confounded the opposition with the incoherence of his Labuschagne inspired banter.

"Yobbo" Andrews had a spell of bowling after not having played nor trained for the season. He claimed the wicket of Russell Downie after finding his rhythm again. The middle part of the innings turned into a slow-scoring war of attrition that frustrated the Redbacks. Successive batters mistimed shots that landed between fielders and a few catches were fumbled.

Reigan Kuttikadan set the example by taking a spectacular, one-handed diving catch to dismiss Braedon Dundon for six off the bowling of Levi Ronalds. Ronalds' exasperating bowling claimed two more wickets, including the prized scalp of Tresize for a patiently compiled 16 runs when Banjo Fitzpatrick broke a fielding curse and took a fine catch at square leg.

Spin then came to the fore. Dusty Fitzpatrick took a catch from the leg

breaks of Thaya Sathasivam to dismiss the dangerous Brendan O'Donnell for 20. Aiden Winnell and Pasquale Schipiano made 20 and 24 respectively before falling victim to Reigan Kuttikadan's prodigious offspinners. Kuttikadan was making the ball deviate all over the place and had the batsmen and wicketkeeper bewildered.

Will Donahue chimed in with one wicket as the Tallarook team were dismissed for 114 at the slow rate of 2.7 runs per over.

In the run chase, Redbacks' openers, Michael Mawson and Lucas Crane were expecting to dig in and eke out runs but instead got the home team off to a flying start. It seems that the Tallarook opening bowling pair of Braedon Dundon and Brendan O'Donnell had embraced the Christmas spirit and showered the batters with gifts. Mawson gratefully accepted these half-trackers and overpitched deliveries by sending them to the boundary or lobbing them over the infield.

Crane also scored quickly. He offered some gifts back to the Tallarook fielders in the form of several easy catches. The fielders refused to accept these presents until they finally held onto a catch when Crane was on 17. At this point, the Redbacks were well on target with 59 runs from the first eight overs.

The Tallarook players started playing the grinch. This was exemplified by disputing

whether Mawson had hit a boundary. The wicket keeper then opportunistically threw down the stumps when Mawson was out of his ground, believing the ball to be dead. Common sense prevailed when Tresize agreed that the ball was dead and Redback's captain batted on.

Tallarook had their biggest breakthrough when Tresize put himself in to bowl and trapped his counterpart leg before wicket for 45. Tallarook had no relief, however when Levi Ronalds came to the crease and wasted no time in moving the score along. Ronalds, however, was running out of partners as Broadway and both Fitzpatrick's came and went for low scores.

Aiden Winnell claimed Ronalds' wicket by bowling him with a slow leg-spinner. This left the hosts at 6/95 and feeling a little nervous. Shannon Galloway survived a close leg before wicket call. He and Andrews took the score to 107 before Andrews was bowled by a leg-break from Finn Melville. Kuttikadan helped to guide the Redbacks to the winning score of 118 for a four-wicket victory.

The win places Alexandra second on the league ladder. There is a two-weekend break over Christmas and the Redbacks' season will continue January 10 when they host Seymour for a T20 match.

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

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## Alexandra Golf Club looks back at the year

by Dave Silverman

FINE, warm and sunny was the forecast for last Tuesday, and 10 players put their names in to pit their skills against the course at Alexandra Golf Club.

John Greatorex brought in the best score of the day, taking the win with 38 points. Bruce Colville was second with 37, and yours truly had 36 points, which was good enough for third.

Brad Newton seems to have his eye in (note the use of the singular there), claiming

the nearest the pins on seven and 17, as well as a rundown voucher, along with Bill Wind.

Last Wednesday the ladies had a bit of a fun day at golf, but the real purpose of the day was a Christmas get-together, and a chance to look back at the year. Some of the notable achievers are featured in the attached photos. And, for the uninitiated, a gobbler is when you chip or putt in from off the green. You're welcome.

Last Saturday began with full cloud cover and a light breeze, but as the day progressed, the cloud cleared and the temperature rose

accordingly. Sixteen players teed off in the HG Turf sponsored Stableford round, but it was to be Luke Heard's day in the sun. With three birdies, one bogey and an Eagle on the eighth, his 41 points put him firmly in the number one spot.

John Greatorex was second with 39, Steve Darmody was third with 37, and fourth and fifth, both on 35 points, were Trevor Biffin and Todd Galloway. Luke also claimed nearest the pin on five, with seven going to Stevie D, and 18 to John Steer. And just in case that

wasn't enough, Heardy also took home the weekly raffle.

Just a reminder that the club's Community Challenge is being held on Dec 28, please see their Facebook page for details. It's not too late to enter a team.

And finally, on behalf of the Committee and Members of the Alexandra Golf Club, I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, and lots of good golf in 2026.



Handicap champion and Medal of Medalists, Barb Doyle. -S



Summer Cup winner, Sandy Wettenhall. -S



Most gobblers, Marg Fahey. -S



Most birdies, Donna Meggitt. -S



Ladies champion and player of the year, Deb Richardson. -S

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## ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY  
27 DECEMBER



## Alexandra Country & Western Meeting

Family Fun Day with Kelly Sports and heaps of other family activities, and much much more  
• \$20pp or \$15pp for concession card holders • Children 15 and under FREE • Gates open at noon



Buses available from Eildon & Yarck  
Book online

## BUS TIMETABLE

Return Bus Ticket \$10 book online at [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)

Children 15 and under Free but must have a ticket. Patrons must have a ticket to catch the bus.

### Route 1 Eildon Bus

- 11.00am Eildon Pongage Caravan Park
- 11.05am Eildon Town Bus Stop – Main St
- 11.15am Big 4 Holiday Park
- 11.20am Eildon Waters Holiday Park
- 11.30am Rubicon Hotel
- 11.45pm Alexandra Race Club

### Book buses online

[country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)

### Route 2 Yarck Bus

- 11.00 Taggery 4 Seasons CP
- 11.10 Acheron Twin Rivers CP (gate)
- 11.35 Molesworth Pub
- 11.45 Yarck Pub

BOOKINGS: [country.racing.com/alexandra](http://country.racing.com/alexandra)



Tomatoes are growing,  
The grass needs mowing,  
The Christmas lights on the streets are glowing,  
Berries need picking,  
Spoons need licking,  
Stamps on envelopes need sticking  
So Christmas cards will all arrive  
In the letterbox at the end of the drive,  
And proudly go up on display,  
Wishing Happy Christmas Day  
And New Year too,  
Here's Cheers to you!  
Good luck in everything you do,  
Presents underneath the tree,  
I wonder what each one might be...  
Maybe socks, or sweets or soap?  
How about some joy and hope?  
Those gifts we may have lately missed  
Are at the top of this year's list,  
This Christmas time, may it be true  
That the light of Christmas shines on you.