

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, December 4, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Flash flooding hits Yea

A FEROCIOUS storm hit the Yea area on the evening of Friday, November 29, causing flash flooding in various parts of the township, along with wild winds and lightning. Gobur and Yarck were also

badly impacted.

Multiple businesses and properties were inundated with water in Yea, with cars floating in some parts of High Street.

Flood water also came up to the engine bay at the Yea Fire Brigade, but fortunately, their appliances were out on a job at the time. The Alexandra SES Unit assisted the brigade and other locations.

The Yea hospital also required some assistance to deal with flooding issues.

There was some water in the Yea council offices, and more significant flooding in the Maternal and Child

Health Centre. The library was largely okay.

The Yea Uniting Early Learning Centre was badly impacted during the flood, causing significant damage to the building.

They said, "We are grateful for the support we have received from the Shire of Murrindindi facilities team who have begun works to assess the damage and clean the service, based on their assessment and recommendation unfortunately the service will need to be closed at this stage for the week of Monday, December 2 until Friday, December 6. We understand this is a challenging situation for all families and we will provide updates during the week."

Tradespeople have been seen conducting assessments and cleaners have been hard at work cleaning up the mess.

The Yea and District Community Bank was also closed on Monday to clean up following the flood, and other shops on High Street have also been busy with the clean up.

The Yea Fire Brigade's jobs on Friday included grass and scrub fires, flood events and vehicle accidents.

They commented, "It just goes to show how unpredictable the weather can be and that it's good to be prepared for anything at anytime."

More on page 5.



Yea's Christmas tree was lit up on Sunday night, with a celebration in High Street. Even Santa made an appearance. -Plymouth Dale Photos

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thank you for your continued support

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

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

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

The Yea Chronicle Standard

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY
Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086
Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

MONTHLY
1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Robbank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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



Ian Marshman, Jim Osborne and Terry Hubbard. -AR

Yea Community Bank conducts AGM

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

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

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

They spent a lot of time on the Alexandra opportunity during the year, including

opening an office in the town. Unfortunately, they didn't see an increase in business coming from the town, so at the end of the 12 month term of release, they closed the office.

This year, they have spent some considerable time looking at the shareholder structure, and where the shares are held. At the AGM, they reviewed the constitution to instigate a share buyback, ensuring that shares in the bank are held locally instead of far afield. The board resolved to undertake that all shareholders would be offered up to 500 shares. At the offer price of \$0.95. The buyback is limited to parcel and 500 shares for a shareholder or part thereof.

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

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

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

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

Weekly Weather
December 4-December 10, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	27	Wednesday	9	27
Thursday	12	30	Thursday	11	31
Friday	17	30	Friday	17	31
Saturday	16	27	Saturday	15	27
Sunday	11	21	Sunday	11	20
Monday	8	25	Monday	8	25
Tuesday	11	27	Tuesday	10	28

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

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

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

DISTRICT RAINFALL

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

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

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

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

Applications for Bendigo Bank scholarships now open

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

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

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

Bendigo Bank Chair Vicki Carter said the board was pleased to continue supporting

such an important initiative as it heads into its 18th year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COVID-19 cases on the rise

LAST week the Department of Health received a health alert on the increased COVID-19 infections in the community, which is resulting in an increase of people being hospitalised with COVID-19.

Key indicators of COVID-19 infections show increasing levels of COVID-19 activity in Victoria. These include, seven day average hospitalisation figures (194) have increased, with an increase of approximately 12 per cent in the last week; and notified case numbers have increased 10 per cent in the last week to 1597 laboratory confirmed cases, representing a 63 per cent increase over the last month.

This occurs at a time Victorians are planning increased gatherings in the lead up to the holiday period. During this time, it is especially important to be mindful that those at greatest risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses are protected, this includes people aged 65 and above, people with a disability or chronic medical condition, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

COVID-19 symptoms vary from mild to severe and may appear between one to 14 days after exposure to the virus. They include runny nose, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, and fever, chills and/or sweats.

Some people may also experience headache, muscle soreness, fatigue, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, loss of smell and taste, loss of appetite.

If you have any of the symptoms listed, however mild, you should seek advice and take a rapid antigen test immediately.

Protect yourself and at-risk Victorians by staying at home if sick, taking a test if you have symptoms, staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, wearing a face mask if you have symptoms or visiting sensitive settings, having meetings or gatherings outdoors or letting fresh air in when indoors, and talking to your GP about COVID-19 medicines, especially if you are at risk.

School saving bonus helping families get by

VICTORIAN families have saved more than \$1.2 million in back to school costs with the Victorian School Saving Bonus. The scheme delivers \$400 to support families for every child who attends a Victorian government school. Almost 60 per cent will be used for school activities, and around 20 per cent towards uniforms and textbooks each.

Parents or carers of 700,000 students will receive an email granting them access to the scheme. They can use the bonus to manage the cost of textbooks, uniforms, camps, excursions and other school activities.

The bonus applies to each child, so a family with three school children will receive \$1200 in support to help cover school costs.

The voucher for uniforms and textbooks will be redeemable at local school approved uniform or book suppliers, while funds allocated to activities will be credited to the family's school account.

Families can purchase uniforms and textbooks in-person or online depending on their school-approved suppliers, and it includes State School Relief, which offers items such as shoes, swimwear

and workwear for VCE Vocational Major students.

Vouchers will also be redeemable at school-operated second-hand uniform and textbook shops. Textbook and uniform vouchers will be valid until June 30, 2025.

Unspent funds will automatically transfer to a family's school account once the uniform and textbook voucher period expires, with parents able to use the remaining funds on future school activities.

For families of students at a non-government school, the \$400 will be provided directly to each school, to be managed in consultation with the student's family and in line with the intent of the program.

Non-government school families who are eligible for the means-tested Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (including healthcare and concession card holders) are also eligible for the School Saving Bonus. Families will only need to apply for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to receive both types of support.

For more information, visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus

Forest Firefighters in protected industrial action

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

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

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

Melba Highway roadworks

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

Downer Group, on behalf of DM Roads and the Department of Transport and Planning,

will be delivering roadworks along the Melba Highway.

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

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



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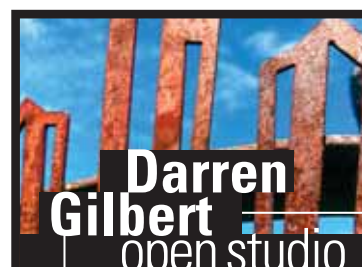
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- To be disrespectful to our staff.
- To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

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

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



Out & About



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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Darren Gilbert Open Studio. Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm each day or by arrangement at other times. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. 0421 378 451.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

Vale Peg Lade: Nothing by halves

by Jenny and Meredith Lade

Peg (Margaret) Webb Lade (July 28, 1928 to October 29, 2024) grew up at Yirraaba, a farm near Glenburn, 20 kms south east of Yea. In 1950, she married Doug Lade and moved to Glentannar in Highlands, 20 kms north west of Yea where they lived for the next 60 years.

At Glentannar, she and Doug brought up five children before they eventually moved to Yea in 2012 for a more manageable old age.

Educated with her siblings and cousins at home in her primary years, she was a boarder at Melbourne Girls Grammar School during World War II before studying Agricultural Science at Melbourne University.

Her adventurous spirit was evident in her riding 100 miles (160km) from Yirraaba to Dookie College to do her second year of university. She rode via Glentannar to visit Doug on the way.

As one of three women among the immediate post-war intake, she and her friend Liz Dexter topped the year in the practical subjects. Despite not finishing her degree when she left to marry Doug, she pursued and developed her interest in geology, botany and birds throughout her life. She loved reading and writing, and books have always been a great source of knowledge and enjoyment. She formed important and enduring friendships with those in her book club, an association that continued for more than 50 years.

Peg led a rich and resourceful life and Glentannar hospitality was legendary, with family and many friends having fond memories of being squashed in around the lobby table at mealtimes and in between.

Family was incredibly important to Peg, and she carried on many of the family traditions of long walks and picnics that she had been brought up with at Yirraaba with her parents Ercil and Roger Webb Ware, into her life in Highlands. She was one of five, Ken, identical twins Pat and Peg, Barbs and Helen. She and Doug had five children, Alistair, Jenny, Neill, Sally, and Meredith. She derived great pleasure from her grandchildren Hugh and Tess, Isabel and Elliott, and Shanaz and Ariana.

Eager to embrace life to the full, Peg first went on a safari to central Australia in 1966 leaving the youngest of her children in Grandma Lade's care. This was life-changing as she met like-minded people and went on several more safaris followed by extensive travels to outback Australia.

Peg had initiative and she turned ideas into reality to create a thriving cottage industry, Glentannar Homecrafts. Over 17 years, with Helen McCall helping with the cutting out, Peg produced more than 4000 beautiful sheepskin jackets that were worn from the



Peg Lade. -S

Antarctic to Alaska. This gave Peg financial independence and allowed her and Doug to embark on overseas travel. Their trips included South America with Jenny and Rod Ferguson, and China in 1978. They went to Lake Baikal in Siberia in Russia on a Birdos trip, oblivious to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall at the time. One of their most memorable, adventurous trips was walking in the north-west frontier of Pakistan with Tim McCartney Snape, his mother, Bobby, and a small group of friends.

Peg was good at organising herself and other people. She was community-minded and initiated many group activities, including the Highlands Ramblers and the Probus walking group.

Life is never smooth, and Peg brought her instinctive strength of character to dealing with a number of major crises including Neill contracting meningitis at the age of seven, and Sally nearly dying from a typhoid-like illness she contracted in India.

Peg and Doug showed great courage and optimism and a natural ability to manage the press while dealing with Jenny and Rod having been kidnapped in Afghanistan.

Not to be overshadowed by family drama, Peg contracted a nasty water-borne amoeba, *Balamuthia*, in 2008. There were only four people worldwide who are reported to have survived it. With the help of old-fashioned sulphur drugs and a super-human determination to get better and become independent, she has lived and flourished in the 16 years since then.

Peg was fiercely independent to the end, living her final eight years alone at Anne Street after Doug died in 2016. The family respect her determination to lead her own life. She didn't quite make it to 100 but what a relief that her life was as good as it was for as long as it was with the warm and supportive local community. Peg was adamant that the elderly should not be mourned, but we know that the way she has lived her life has touched and inspired many people.

The Yea Chronicle

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- Endeavour Yea
- Hazeldene Store
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Shell Thornton
- Yea FoodWorks
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Church Services

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Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds,
Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala
0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA
Sunday Service time 11am
Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday,
10am to 11am - all welcome
Father Mario Hendricks
Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA
Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
0459 402 547
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Immaculate Conception Parish
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE
Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest
Ph 9717 6482
St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA
Station Street Yea
Sunday Service 11.15am
Colin Whiteway
Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH
1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road,
Kinglake West. 9716 2330

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

Head to: sharethedignity.org.au

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



Flood water at the kindergarten. -S



Flood water on the driveway of the fire station in Yea. -S

Flash flooding hits Yea



High Street in Yea during the flood.



Flood water on High Street. -S



A vehicle accident in Yea. -S

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Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week seven.

Tommy, Harper, Riley, Lilly, Archie, Pippa and Archie.



Congratulations to Joshua, Velvet, John and Hunter for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



New firefighting recruits across north east Victoria

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

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

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

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

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

The training camp provides opportunities for hands-on learning, from operating water pumps and chainsaws, to driving specialised fire fighting vehicles.



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

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

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

"They play a critical role working alongside our experienced firefighters to respond to bushfires in some of the state's most remote

and challenging environments, helping keep our communities safe.

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

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

New CEO for Parks Victoria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flowerdale host aspiring incident controllers

FOREST Fire Managements' (FFM) newest incident controllers are one step closer to obtaining their accreditation after a week long camp in Flowerdale.

Seventeen staff from across the state participated in the Incident Controller

level one training program to build on their experience through a series of real life bushfire scenarios and specialist speakers.

The aspiring controllers will now be mentored during the summer by

experienced controllers before receiving their final accreditation.

Incident Controllers play a critical role in managing bushfires and other emergencies, helping keep communities safe.



Forest Fire Management staff training to be incident controllers. -S

Victoria preparing for increased risk of fire this summer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The aerial firefighting fleet will support the efforts of thousands of dedicated emergency services personnel from across CFA, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Fire Rescue Victoria, VICSES and other agencies and a firefighting fleet of trucks, heavy machinery and plant equipment.

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

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

Keep up to date with the Fire Danger Ratings and warnings on the VicEmergency app and VicEmergency website. Make a fire plan at fireplanner.vic.gov.au

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer is developed by the AFAC, the National Council for fire and emergency services, and supported by the Bureau of



Meteorology, along with state and territory fire and land managers. The outlook gives a national picture of the likelihood of fires over the summer months.

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

"Victoria remains well prepared for the risks of fires, with critical support from our aerial

firefighting fleet and thousands of dedicated emergency services personnel and now it's time for the community to start preparing.

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

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

Have yourself a very sustainable Christmas

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

Rethink Your Wrapping

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

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

Sustainable Decorating

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

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

Sustainable Feasting

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

and squeak' or pea and ham soup.

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

Recycle Right

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

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

Murray cod season opens

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

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

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

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

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

"We've stocked more fish than all other Australian states and territories combined, including more than three million Murray cod each year thanks to the Victorian Government's *Go Fishing and Boating Plan*, to make sure events like cod opening are circled in people's calendars.

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

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

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

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

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

More information on bag and size limits can be found at vfa.vic.gov.au/murraycod

Shop local and help others this Christmas

Information on some of the Christmas appeals and events across Indi



Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta
03 5721 7077

79 High Street, Wodonga
02 6024 6284

helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au
helehaines.org.au

Yea Show committee pleased with attendance



The magnificent line-up of beef cattle in the Grand Parade. The Yea Show committee was delighted with the turnout at the Yea Show, despite the challenging weather. -S



Lassoing proved a 'challenge' at the Young Farmers Challenge. -S



Hazel Dalton was excited at her second prize win for her Miniature Fairy Garden. -S

UPCOMING FEATURES



Publishing: December 11

Deadline: December 5, 5pm



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Last publication 2024 - December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

First publication 2025 - January 15

Deadline: January 9, 5pm



Owner Chelsea Helder encouraging 'Shadow', winner of the Dog High Jump at 2.05 metres. -S



Helen Hildebrand won a First and Champion with her ginger fluff sponge, as well as a myriad of other prizes in cookery and horticulture. -S



Miss Tiny Tot Charlotte Drysdale and Master Tiny Tot Lucas Marasco. -S



Ollie and his 'dog with the waggiest tail' in the Children's Pet Show. -S

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Elders Yea Spring Feature Store Sale



Pen 190, with 11 Angus heifers. -S



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

STOCK REPORT 29 NOVEMBER 2024			
29 November 2024 Spring Store Sale (Elders)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	3,420		
Average \$ per head	\$1,390		
Average weight per head	393.kg		
Top price per head		\$2,430	\$1,750
Top weight		650kg	557.7kg
Turnover	\$4.75 million		



The Elders team presenting the cattle for sale. -S

Watch for heating hay

By Michele Jolliffe, Agriculture Victoria Dairy Extension Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Country Fire Authority website has good information about hay fire risk. Search 'hay fires' at cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information about dry seasonal conditions and drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

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Yea Saleyards Friday 6 December 2024



Yea Saleyards Friday 17 January & 7 February 2025

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page





Let's eat, it's our treat

Graze and gaze at Sedona Estate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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




Dinner: 5.30pm to 8.00pm
Tuesday to Sunday

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

Tuesday and Wednesday
is **Indian cuisine only**, available for both dine-in and takeaway.

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Health benefits of dark chocolate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Name:

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

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household.

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



Let's eat, it's our treat



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

Molesworth Hotel and General Store coming soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congratulations Maddi

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



Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....

(A business advertising on this page)

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

Alexandra Newspapers, PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household.

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

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

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November council meeting

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

Grants and sponsorships quarterly allocation

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

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

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

The grants recommended for council approval by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel are \$5000 to the Molesworth Public Hall Reserve, for the installation of 5G phone signal booster and smart television for presentation aids; \$5000 to the Rotary Club of Alexandra for Dindi Daze; \$2500 to the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club for an Essential Equipment Recovery Project; and \$5000 to Alexandra Events for the Alexandra Pro Rodeo 2025.

The report and its recommendations were passed by council.

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

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

WorkCover insurance premium approval

The summary for this matter states that council's workers compensation insurance premium for 2024/25 is \$371,562.54

(excluding GST). Council's premium for this year has gone down since last year. The premium rose in 2023 due to changes in WorkSafe policy, and good WorkSafe practices this year led to a reduced premium. It was recommended that council approve the payment. Council approved the payment.

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

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

Councillor and CEO reports

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

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

Cr McAulay said she is humbled and excited to be elected for another four year term, and is looking forward to working with the other elected councillors. Cr McAulay was given the portfolio of Economic Development and Business Support for a second time, and she

reported that Murrindindi Shire Council was recognised at the Victorian Tourism Awards under the local government category. She thanked all those who contributed to making Murrindindi Shire a contender. Council is again supporting the Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. Cr McAulay also spoke about buying locally this Christmas to support the shire and reported that the Activating Lake Eildon Master Plan received a commendation at the recent Planning Institute of Australia Victorian Awards.

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

Cr Lording spoke about the work being done to establish a council base of operations in Kinglake, increasing operational efficiency and cutting down on travel time for maintenance work required in the Kinglake Ranges and Flowerdale area. In terms of Infrastructure and Road Care, the Unsealed Roads Capital Works Re-sheeting Program has commenced, and council's Maintenance Road Grading Program is underway with crews working in Yea and Highlands area. Fire prevention roadside slashing is also underway in all areas. Bridge upgrades at Abes and Weedings Bridges are nearing completion. Cr Lording reported that the eight Safe Local Roads and Streets projects have commenced, to the total of \$1.9 million. The Motorcycle Levy Safety Projects are being finalised for a total of \$55,000. Cr Lording said that the concerns being raised about Murrindindi Shire roads are good, and that people should keep providing input, especially through Snap Send Solve. Cr Lording attended the Kellock Lodge Remembrance Day ceremony in full uniform also, where he did a sword salute to the raising of the flag.

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

Cr Gallagher spoke briefly about the induction program that councillors are currently undertaking. He commended UGFM on 30 years of operation. He

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

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

Flood study input sought

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

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

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

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

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



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

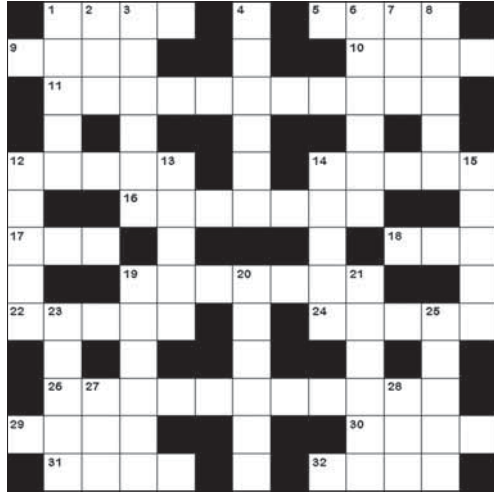
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

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



DOWN

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

7. Put clothing on.
8. Become a participant.
12. Valid and reasonable thinking.
13. The mark left from the umbilical cord.
14. Take the first step.
15. Hold back to a later time.
19. Crush out of shape.
20. A haphazard assortment of different kinds.
21. A heavy downpour of rain.
23. A young owl.
25. The opposing military force.
27. The sense organ for hearing.
28. Competed in a race.

Word Search

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

Math Square

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+		×		×	
	-		+	9	13
-		+		+	
	+		-		3
4		13		26	

Summer

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

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

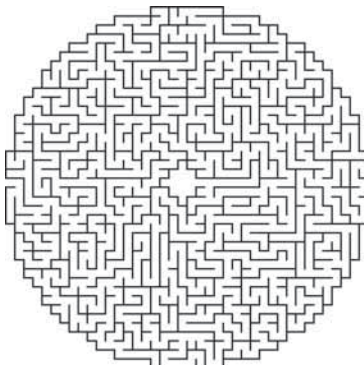
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

Maze



The whole group. -S

Vicentini Melbourne visits Yea Show

'VICENTINI Melbourne' is an association formed by immigrants from the Veneto area of Italy. They are based at the Veneto Club in Bulleen, and this year they are celebrating their 40th anniversary.

One of the seven festivals they have each year is the Cherries Festival. This year, they took a group by bus and car for an outing to Yea for the Yea Show, then on to Yarck for lunch, and celebrated the Cherries Festival with produce from Koala Cherries.



Some of the members at the Yea Show. -S



Vicentini Melbourne members at the Yea Show. -S



Celebrating the Cherry Festival in Yarck. -S



The well attended community event was a hit.



Santa was very popular among the crowd.



Even the furry friends got into the spirit.

The lighting of the Christmas tree in Yea



*The beautiful Christmas tree in all its glory.
-Photos by Dale Plymouth*



A wonderful scene to take in of the great event.



There were many dressed as the man in red.



Decorations were impressive.



Everyone got to catch up with Santa.



Music performed by local school students.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

Beware of asbestos

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

LAST week was National Asbestos Awareness Week, and Master Builders Australia joined industry calls for caution around ageing asbestos, particularly as the summer season approaches and more Australians undertake home renovation projects to save costs.

It's estimated that one in three Australian homes may still contain asbestos and tragically, around 4000 Australians die each year from asbestos-related diseases.

With the rise in renovations and simple additions like home security installations, homeowners could unwittingly put themselves at risk by drilling into asbestos eaves to install security cameras, CCTV systems, and sensor lights.

These actions can release asbestos fibres which, when not properly controlled, can lead to serious health issues, including mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Master Builders Chief Executive Denita Wawn has urged all Australians to take care when it comes to home renovations or repairs.

"If your home was built before 1990, there's a good chance it contains asbestos," said Ms Wawn.

"Asbestos was used in over 3000 building products, and it can show up inside and outside, in floors, walls, ceilings, eaves, pipes and roofs.

"Most of those products are 30 to 100 years old, and the older they become, the more likely they are to release harmful asbestos fibres into the air if disturbed.

"While it's tempting to do DIY projects to save money, the consequences can be deadly.

"You can't tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it. If you think a material might contain asbestos, you should err on the side of caution and call a professional to find out for sure.

"Before you start any DIY projects, contact your local Master Builders Association to find a builder or accredited asbestos removalist.

"The Australian Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency has a whole suite of great resources available on their website," Ms Wawn said.

For more information, please visit asbestosafety.gov.au

Don't be afraid to dob in illegal builders and plumbers

THE Victorian Government and Victorian Building Authority (VBA) are encouraging Victorians to help them crack down on illegal building and plumbing practices across the state by reporting unregistered workers.

Starting last week, Victorians can anonymously dob in unregistered builders and plumbers who operate without proper qualifications, insurance, or compliance with industry standards through a new dob in form.

Currently, one in 10 complaints received by the VBA involves unregistered workers who often target unsuspecting Victorians through digital platforms including Airtasker, Hipages, and Facebook Marketplace.

These illegal operators can put Victorians at risk of unsafe installations, costly repairs, and a lack of legal recourse and insurance when things go wrong.

A recent inspection blitz by the VBA uncovered 33 unregistered workers across more than 1100 building sites since mid October, with five employers also found enabling illegal work. These inspections are part of an ongoing statewide crackdown, informed by public tip offs, VBA intelligence, and data analytics.

This crackdown comes after the state government announced an overhaul of the building regulator, replacing the VBA with a new more powerful watchdog, the Building and Plumbing Commission.

The new watchdog will bring together all aspects of building quality control into a single agency, and it will be given tough new powers to protect Victorian families and their homes.

Victorians can dob-in unregistered builders and plumbers anonymously through the VBA's online dob-in form Report *Unregistered Building and Unlicensed Plumbing Work*. Victorians are urged to only hire practitioners who can prove their registration or licensing, they can check worker registration at Find a Practitioner.

You can find more information at vba.vic.gov.au

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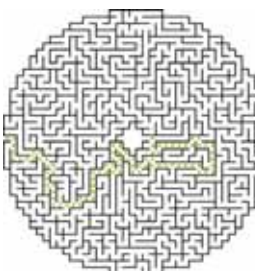
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Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

McCormack Funeral Home invite you to join us in help celebrate and honour your loved ones. Please join us for a candlelight service and light supper.

CHRISTMAS Memorial Service

*"To empty out of the table, no gifts for us to share
We can celebrate our memories, as they will always be there."*

Tuesday 10th December, 2024 at 6:00pm
Murrindindi Chapel
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NOV
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Enquiries and requests for a position description and Key Selection Criteria to Nigel Lyttle on 5770 2000 or Nigel.Lyttle@education.vic.gov.au

Applications close December 12, 2024.
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Marysville Medical Clinic is looking for a Practice Manager/Senior Receptionist and a Registered Nurse to help deliver care to the Marysville and community surrounds. Working alongside Dr Lachlan Fraser, both positions offer many opportunities to grow and develop professionally within the practice.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Safety on Public Land Act 2004

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chris Hardman,
Chief Fire Officer,
as delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Energy,
Environment and Climate Action

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MEETINGS

FRIENDS of Kellock
Inc. All members are warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 9.30am at Kellock Lodge, Bon Street, Alexandra.

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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH

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

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

- Community Aged Care Services Update - Chris Wasley
- Aged Care - The Cost of Care - Sharyn Wedlock

Please join us for refreshments served afterwards

Please RSVP to Jennifer Creed by 28th November, 2024

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

Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program launched in Murrindindi Shire

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

Alpine, Indigo, Greater Shepparton City, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathogie Shire Councils, all members of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, are supporting the regional Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program.

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

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

Murrindindi Shire Council's Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said, "As part of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, we are delighted to be able to give Murrindindi Shire residents access to this program. The hard work has been done, allowing residents and businesses to make informed choices. We understand it can be hard to know who to trust when there are so many options, and not all suppliers and installers are equal.

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

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

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

Murrindindi Shire residents and businesses can find out more, or get a quote now at goulburnmurraysolarsavers.org.au

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



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



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



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

Recent audit shows rural healthcare suffers

THE recently released audit of the Australian health and medical research workforce by the Department of Health and Aged Care throws light on the importance of supporting rural, regional and remote health workforce and researchers through strategic and targeted measures to ensure rural Australians enjoy the same health benefits as their city counterparts.

According to the latest findings, only 13 per cent of the health and medical workforce is in regional, rural, or remote areas, which is insufficient to serve Australia's 30 per cent rural population. The report also points to the underrepresentation of researchers in regional and remote areas and the additional barriers that exist for regional researchers.

National Rural Health Alliance Chief Executive, Susi Tegen, stated her concerns about the lack of rural representation.

"The underrepresentation of rural researchers is worrying given that rural communities face distinct health challenges that require tailored and place-based solutions. The disparity in workforce distribution highlights barriers to participation in health research for regional researchers," Ms Tegen said.

"Funding for research does not adequately flow to the regions. Rural researchers become a secondary consideration for funding. They have difficulty accessing the same opportunities available to researchers in metropolitan locations.

"The limited access to training, funding and collaborative networks in regional areas means that researchers may be left behind, and the needs of these communities may remain unmet," Ms Tegen added.

"The findings of this report will help inform the development of the National Health and Medical Research Strategy, which makes it imperative that rural researchers and the importance of community needs are taken into account."

The report's key finding is that the health and medical research workforce is highly mobile, moving jobs every 1.6 years. This suggests with proper funding and support, researchers may be willing to move to rural areas.

"It is essential that the government and funding agencies support researchers working in rural and remote areas so that all Australians' needs are considered when formulating important policies and strategies.

"We call on the government to address the health needs of rural, regional and remote populations by increasing funding access, providing targeted training and development as well as opportunities for collaborative networks to the regional workforce and researchers, so that all Australians enjoy the same health benefits, despite their postcode," Ms Tegen said.

The National Rural Health Alliance comprises 53 national organisations committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the over seven million people in rural and remote Australia. Their diverse membership includes representation from health professional organisations, health service providers, health educators, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector and students.

ambulance stations and establishing a new Centre for Paramedicine in partnership with Victoria University.

The government is also supporting the training of 40 additional Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedics with AV welcoming their largest cohort of MICA trainees in history.

These investments are as important as ever, with the latest quarterly data revealing Victoria's hardworking paramedics continue to face high demand, attending close to 100,000 Code One call outs.

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New laws to deliver Australian-first paramedic practitioners

AUSTRALIA'S first ever paramedic practitioners are one step closer to hitting the road, with the state government introducing a bill into the Victorian Parliament to enshrine the role into law.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Ambulance Services Mary-Anne Thomas announced that the *Paramedic Practitioners Bill 2024* will allow qualified paramedics to deliver a higher level of care to patients when and where they need it.

"This is a big deal, the first paramedics in Australia who can deliver advanced on-the-spot care and prescribe medicines, saving many Victorians a trip to hospital," Ms Allan said.

Ms Thomas added, "We listen to our workforce who told us Australia's first paramedic practitioners will make a huge difference. They'll have advanced skills that will help people right across regional Victoria."

The new specialised role will give graduates an expanded role, allowing them to independently deliver urgent care to reduce pressure on Victoria's busy ambulance services and emergency departments.

Under the expanded role, paramedic practitioners will be able to assess, diagnose

and treat many conditions locally without the need to transfer patients to hospital.

The biggest change will see paramedic practitioners able to handle and administer scheduled medicines, so they can prescribe and supply medicines on the spot to Victorians.

The first cohort of 30 paramedics are currently undertaking the nation-leading paramedic practitioner master's degree at Monash University, with a second cohort set to begin the course next year.

Developed alongside Ambulance Victoria, Safer Care Victoria, paramedics, clinicians, and unions, the first 30 students will be deployed to regional Victoria in 2026.

Once graduated, they'll be able to treat conditions that commonly see people visit a hospital, including urinary catheter care, wound care and closure, minor infections, dislocations and fractures.

The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* invested \$20 million to establish the role of paramedic practitioner, including delivering the new degree at no cost to eligible paramedics who have more than five years' experience.

Since 2014, the state government has invested more than \$2 billion into ambulance services, recruiting more than 2200 additional paramedics, delivering 41 new or upgraded

The results of the cattle judging at the Yea Show

THE Yea Show Hoof and Hook Competition Cattleman's dinner to give out ribbons and prize money was held at the Yea Bowls Club last Friday night, November 29.

Thanks to the bowls club and Tareesa Clue for doing the bar, Kerry Tull for providing a two course meal, Garry Fitzgerald for all the paper work and money collecting he does. Special thanks to all of the competitors for entering their cattle, there was 48 in total. Truck drivers for picking up local cattle.

Trevor Noah, Wayne Taton, Ross Draper, Hardwicks Kynter for processing the carcasses. To the sponsors Alex Scott and Staff, Elders, Nutrien and Peter Ingham.

A very special thanks to Ross Draper for judging the cattle on the hoof and Pat Joyce and Chase Jones for helping sort cattle at the Yea Show, Saturday, November 23.

Hoof class one: First was P and K Tull, second B and L Johnson, third Jones Farms.

Hoof class two: First P and K Tull, second Tim Hayes, third Alex Lineham. Hook class one: First P and K Tull, second Stubbings and Phillips, third Scott Bruton. Hook class two: First Tim Hayes, second Peter Lennox, third Alex Lineham.

Carcass champion was Peter and Kerry Tull. Murrinstone Black Simmental Steer Vealer, nine and a half months. Weighed 366kg live, 222.6kg dressed. MLA grand total was 84.33 points.



Winner of carcass champion for the Yea Show were Kerry and Peter Tull. Pictured are Kerry Tull, Ross Draper, and Peter Tull. -S

SPORT



The students and footballers. -S

AFL stars visit Sacred Heart Primary School

LAST week Sacred Heart Primary School welcomed special guests from the Melbourne Football Club, delighting students with stories from the AFL. Players shared their training routines, favourite meals, and pre-game rituals, giving an exciting glimpse into life at the top level.

The players that visited were Max Gawn, Clayton Oliver, Andy Moniz-Wakefield, Aidan Johnson, Daniel Turner, Koltyn Tholstrup, Harry Sharp, and Shane McAdam.

The visit was a hit, sparking footy dreams and plenty of questions from eager young fans. Sacred Heart thanks Melbourne Football Club for inspiring the next generation of footy stars.



Max Gawn. -S



Max Gawn with the students. -S

Yea Pony Club Christmas Rally



On Sunday, December 1, Yea Pony Club held its Christmas Rally. Well done to all riders and come and try participants. The club would like to thank instructors Sarah and Ben. Congratulations to E certificate recipients and award winners for 2024. Thank you to club DC, Chelsea Helder and president, Emma Toulson for a successful year. -S



Some great challenges for the horses and the riders. -S



It was great conditions for a ride last Sunday. -S

Tight competition for Alexandra squash players

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Koalas

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

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

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

Jack versus Daniel K: This was an interesting match to watch. Jack battled with his opponent to the end, but with all the tricky shots Daniel was putting out he held onto the lead throughout every game to win the match. 65 to 44.

Echidnas versus Wombats

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

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

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

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

Thursday Competition Tigers versus Lions

Sam (fill in) versus Blake: Playing against a fill in that is two levels above put Blake at a great disadvantage. Rising to the challenge, Blake did not let Sam have an easy win and took the first game by a point. Sam brought out his skills to best Blake and end the match on top as expected. 66 to 52.

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



Blake plays a backhand against Sam. -S

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

Leopards versus Cheetahs

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

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

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

The Chronicle Sport



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Some happy riders getting into the Christmas spirit at the Yea Pony Club Christmas Rally. More images on page 19. -S

Mixed stableford and corporate day in Yea

by Alan Pell and Phil Armstrong

WITH a bit of rain around and a few absent players, only 15 golfers participated in a mixed stableford round last Wednesday at Yea Golf Club.

Winner of the day was Rob Gill (36) with 35 points from second Rob O'Halloran (21) with 34 points. Third and best lady was Vicki Clements (22) with 33 points on countback from fourth Neil Peterson (17). Peter Johnston (16) with 32 finished fifth.

The team average went to the men with 30.6 to the ladies 28.3. There were no nearest the pins on the 18th and Phil Armstrong won the club award. Progress scores in the challenge are men 70 and ladies 15.



The team from DVG Conveyancing. -S

Round two will be conducted on December 18 followed by Christmas lunch.

Annual corporate day

YEA Golf Club held their Annual Corporate Day on Friday, November 29. Sixty-six players competed, with major sponsors Elders and Larnoo Pastoral providing plenty of incentive to play well.

After the midweek rain, course conditions were excellent and this was reflected in the scores recorded.



The Three Musketeers. -S

Overall winner was the team from DGK Conveyancing with a nett score of 57.175. Running a close second were the team from Christie Irrigation who finished with 58 nett. In third place, also with a very good score of 58.835 was Allan Coates' Three Musketeers.

Nearest the pins went to Alan Pell on the second, Mick Spagnolo on the 11th, Paul Thomas on the 14th and Rick Wills on the 18th. The Straight Drive Competition on the 10th was taken out by Oliver Edwards.



The team from Christie Irrigation. -S

Club President Gary Pollard thanked the many volunteers who had assisted with the course preparation, those who provided the on-course refreshments during the day and the clubs amazing ladies' catering group who provided a five star lunch.

In response, club stalwart Neil Peterson thanked Vicki Clements and Gary Pollard for their tireless efforts to make the day a memorable occasion for all players.