

The Yea Chronicle

92 High Street, Yea. PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5797 2468 or (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5797 2257; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, December 18, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au





01 January						
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Public Holidays 2025

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

Monday, 1 January
Friday, 27 January
Monday, 10 March
Friday, 18 April
Sunday, 20 April
Monday, 21 April

ANZAC Day
King's Birthday
AFL Grand Final

Melbourne Cup
Christmas Day
Boxing Day

Thursday, 25 April
Monday, 9 June
Friday, 26 September
(Subject to AFL schedule)
Tuesday, 4 November
Wednesday, 25 December
Thursday, 26 December

Victorian School Holidays 2025

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

January 28 - April 4
April 5 - April 21
April 22 - July 4
July 5 - July 20
July 21 - September 19
September 20 - October 5
October 6 - December 19
December 20 - January 26, 2026

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Integrated care across Hume region



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St Luke's Christmas hampers



Page 6

Seniors celebrate in style



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Weekend sport coverage



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Rotary Club of Yea awards school bursaries at presentation evening

PROVIDING support to youth programs has been an important function of the Rotary Club of Yea over many, many years. One major way the club does this is by awarding annual educational bursaries (each to the value of \$500) to the four local schools.

Rotarian Julie Lynch followed up on the work set in progress by Youth Chair Lily Cox (currently overseas) to ensure the success of the recent bursary presentation evening.

The night of December 5 was a wonderful occasion when Rotarians, students, parents and staff members came together to celebrate and acknowledge each of the bursary recipients. The bursary will assist each student with educational expenses.

President Penny Paxman made the presentations to each recipient.

Flowerdale Primary School acting Principal Stephanie Marcanio was unable to be present but provided the following comments about Jake Wertz (Grade Three).

"Jake has shown an improvement in his ability to demonstrate the school's values and recognises others who do the same. He is kind and helpful to staff and students. He continuously works hard in class and has made improvements in his learning," Stephanie said.

The Yea Primary School student awardee was Finn Duke (Grade Six).

Principal Craig Irvine spoke of Finn as being a respectful, resilient and responsible young man who epitomises the values of Yea Primary School.



The recipients of the school bursary from Yea Rotary Club. Pictured are Finn Duke, Ella Harris, Bradley Fulford (back), Jake Wertz (front), Yea Rotary Club President Penny Paxman, and Matthew Jensen. -S

Matthew Jensen (Grade Six) from Sacred Heart Primary School was supported by his teacher Chris Slevin and education support staff member Bec Christie. Chris noted that Matthew was always willing to assist in the community, is resilient and respectful and a great role model to his peers.

Two Yea High School students were recognised, Bradley Fulford and Ella Harris (both Year Nine).

Year Nine Advisor William Schwab remarked that both Ella and Bradley are very special to Yea High School and the community at large

and are both very deserving of the bursary. He highlighted Ella's high academic standards and how she is always respectful and positive with both staff and peers. In speaking of Bradley's attributes, Mr Schwab noted his academic aptitude and willingness to extend his skills; this year undertaking an internship with the school IT technician.

All the students spoke individually, thanking the club for its support. The club congratulates all the recipients and wishes them well as they continue their educational journeys in 2025.

Fire Services Property Levy to double and stretch

ON Friday, December 13, Treasurer Tim Pallas announced that the Fire Services Property Levy will be replaced by a new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from July 1 next year.

Minister Jaclyn Symes said that the new levy would help to support more emergency services, including VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Emergency Management Victoria, Emergency Recovery Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria, as well as the CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria.

She said that there had been a 100 per cent increase in the natural disaster actions of the SES in just 12 months.

The press release said, "Every single dollar raised by this new fund will support our emergency and disaster recovery services, helping them to keep communities safe 365 days a year.

"Because our emergency services volunteers give our state so much, active CFA and VICSES volunteers and life members will be eligible for an exemption from paying the ESVF on their primary place of residence such as a house or farm, providing even more incentive for Victorians to

consider volunteering in our emergency services."

According to the Victorian budget, the new levy, which will still be included on rates notices, will result in \$6.27 billion over the next five years. The new levy will need parliamentary approval.

On the same day, a funding boost for new trucks, equipment and technology was announced for the state's CFA and SES services.

\$250 million will support CFA and VICSES volunteers across the state.

\$70 million will establish a rolling fleet replacement program for VICSES and the CFA, "ensuring volunteers right across Victoria will get new and upgraded trucks, tankers and pumpers to keep doing what they do best."

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) will be doubled, with more than \$62 million to ensure more volunteers have new or upgraded vehicles, equipment and better station facilities.

\$53 million will be invested in a modernised VicEmergency app and the central database for emergency services, EM-COP.

\$30 million to deliver training and support programs to the SES.

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

IT'S NOT OKAY

To yell at our staff.

To swear at our staff.

To be rude to our staff.

To abuse our staff in anyway.

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.

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

Sacred Heart Primary School's 2024 graduates. -S

Sacred Heart students graduate

ON the evening of Thursday, December 12, the year six students of Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, marked the end of their primary schooling with a memorable graduation ceremony and dinner at Trawool Estate.

The special evening was filled with heartfelt moments as each student was celebrated and cherished for their unique talents, contributions, and personal growth throughout their years at the school.

Parents, teachers and classmates came together to reflect on the students' achievements and share their excitement for the next chapter of their journey as they prepare to transition to high school.

The event was a fitting farewell for a remarkable group of young people who have left an indelible mark on the school community.

The Yea Chronicle

Standard

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Weekly Weather

December 18-December 24, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	26	Wednesday	10	25
Thursday	8	29	Thursday	8	29
Friday	12	32	Friday	11	32
Saturday	13	27	Saturday	13	26
Sunday	10	23	Sunday	11	23
Monday	11	20	Monday	11	21
Tuesday	11	28	Tuesday	12	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.

Like us on Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	11.00am Mon	1.72	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00am Mon	0.52	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.47am Mon	0.59	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.52am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.00am Mon	0.50	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.48	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	3.74	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.42	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	11.00am Mon	0.21	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00am Mon	1.37	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00am Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00am Mon	1.66	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.30am Mon	1.16	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	0mm
Buxton.....	0mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0mm
Flowerdale.....	0mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake40mm
Lake Eildon	0mm
Mansfield.....	0mm
Taggerty	0mm
Yarck	0mm
Yea.....	N/Amm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	284.91m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	.84.7%
Metres below full supply.....	.3.99m
Daily inflow	1000ML
Release.....	3500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	.68%

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

Preparation today can save lives tomorrow

THE weather never takes a holiday. Will you have your plan ready in the event of a flood, fire or storm? The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your property is to have a plan in place.

Murrindindi Shire Council is encouraging all residents to be proactive in their emergency preparedness by developing a clear emergency plan, having a contact list and staying informed through reliable local channels.

Spending 10 minutes today to create a plan can help you act quickly and effectively during an emergency. Talk to the people in your household about potential emergency scenarios and outline clear instructions for everyone to follow.

Tree clearing in wire rope barriers

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, said she has secured the clearing of hazardous trees and overgrown vegetation sprouting amongst wire rope barriers in the middle of the Goulburn Valley Highway.

In November, Ms McLeish called on the Victorian Government to arrange for the urgent removal of the trees and shrubs taken root among the 10 kilometre stretch of barriers between Yea and Molesworth.

Speaking in Parliament, Ms McLeish said, “There are too many trees and bushes to count, including gum trees. Many are a metre high and almost as wide. It has become a hazard impacting driver’s view.”

The Minister has since confirmed that, “In December, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will target the repair of safety barriers and vegetation clearing in sections with edge-line and centre-line barriers on the Goulburn Valley Highway, including the section between Yea and Molesworth.”

Ms McLeish said, “We know that roads across the electorate are in a dire state, overrun with potholes, crumbling surfaces and unsealed shoulders.

“It is a danger for road users to contend with the thick shrubs, bushes and trees that block their vision and obscure the barriers.

“Roads users are rightly concerned that the vegetation’s root system will undermine the road surface as it spreads out of control. People are also worried about the barriers as it allows water to seep under the road at anchored points.”

While not holding her breath, Ms McLeish said, “The Allan Labor Government needs to step up and take action to better our roads for all drivers.”

ABC runs segment on Yea Saleyards

LAST Thursday the ABC’s 7.30 Report ran a segment on the work of Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) in providing free health checks at the Yea Saleyards.

The segment ran for almost five minutes and featured local people such as YDMH CEO Elizabeth Sinclair, YDMH staffer Sarah Austin, Jan Beer from the Yea Saleyards Committee, and locals Michael Purcell and Libby Pink.

It focused on the importance of providing healthcare to farmers in the environment they are comfortable in, which is the saleyards. This allows for health checks without the potential stress and intimidation of the clinical hospital environment.

Scenes were filmed for the segment around the Yea Saleyards and Yea itself, including the hospital.

Make sure to include where you will go, how you will contact each other, and essential items such as medications, important documents and an emergency kit.

In the event of an emergency, knowing the right authority to contact is crucial to accessing appropriate and timely help. Research your area and keep a list of agencies in an easy to access place. Some useful contacts include emergency services, such as Police, Fire and Ambulance on 000, State Emergency Service (SES) for floods, storms and earthquakes on 132 500, and VicEmergency Hotline for bushfire information on 1800 226 226.

Emergencies can happen at any time, and being prepared includes knowing where to go for accurate information. Local broadcasters play a key role in providing accurate and timely emergency advice and warnings. Make sure you have access to a battery or car powered radio to listen to UGFM and ABC Radio. You can follow both of these sources on Facebook. Find a list of local emergency contacts and broadcasters at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/EmergencyContacts

You can download the VicEmergency app on your mobile or tablet device for updates on conditions in your area. For more information and how to download the app, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/prepareforfireseason

Council is also encouraging residents to stay connected with their local Emergency Service Agencies like SES and CFA, which offer support and information tailored to the specific needs of local communities. You can find state agency and local branch pages on most social media platforms. Find your local SES branch by visiting ses.vic.gov.au and your local CFA branch by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information about safety and emergencies visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/safetyandemergencies

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, “Emergencies can escalate quickly and having a plan is essential. Being prepared helps protect you, your loved ones, and your property while also easing the burden on emergency responders who are volunteers, many of whom are our own neighbours and community members. Take the time to create

a plan and discuss with your household how to access reliable alerts and information, and who to contact. Staying informed saves lives.”

UGFM President, Station Manager and Radio Host and Alexandra SES Unit Controller Peter Weeks commented, “Understanding how to plan and stay safe during emergencies benefits everyone, including emergency service responders. In an emergency, our services often face overwhelming demand, requiring us to prioritise while ensuring our own safety in challenging conditions. We urge everyone to have a plan to protect themselves and their loved ones, as there may be times when we are delayed depending on the number of jobs and their priorities. Time is your greatest asset.”

“To prepare, have an emergency kit that includes essentials like food, water, medications, and first aid supplies. Know where any items are that you might need to take if you need to leave quickly. Maintain a water supply to ensure you and your pets stay hydrated. If you have a backup generator, store spare fuel in a safe location away from buildings and your house.

“Identifying your communication channels and knowing how to receive emergency warnings and monitor weather conditions is critical. In a life-threatening event, call 000. For flood or storm assistance, call SES at 132 500.

“Consider getting a battery-powered or solar-powered radio and test it every couple of months. If you prefer not to buy a radio, you can stream most radio stations from your phone if a connection is available, or preset one of your car’s radio stations to your local designated broadcaster, such as UGFM and ABC Radio. If possible, have a charged CB radio or satellite phone on hand, as it can be very useful if mobile communications are lost. For more information on emergency preparedness, assistance in creating a plan, and more, visit ses.vic.gov.au

“Check in with your neighbours and friends, share this information, and encourage them to do the same. Together, we can build safer communities.”

Road maintenance FOI: Missing in inaction

ON August 15, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was submitted to the Department of Transport by this newspaper, seeking to find out “The total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in Murrindindi Shire across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years.”

A response was due to be received by October 14, however an extension was requested on the due date as “further time is required for the Executive Briefing and Ministerial Noting process.”

We enquired again about the progress of the FOI on November 13, and were advised, “We are currently in the process of briefing the decision for Executive and Ministerial Noting. Once the above is completed, the decision will be released to you.” The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure is Danny Pearson.

A timeline was sought on the same day, and we were advised that they were hoping to make the information available in the next few weeks.

A phone call was made to the Department of Transport’s FOI contact on Thursday, December 12 and they were going to look into it.

The response to the FOI was still not received by the time this newspaper went to print.

So far, it’s been 125 days (17 weeks and six days).

FOI’s are meant to be granted within two months.

We’re curious to find out what the data may reveal, and we suspect you may be too.

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Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

Aerial firefighting fleet ready to take to the skies

VICTORIA’S aerial firefighting fleet is ready to respond to what is forecast to be one of the most high-risk fire seasons in recent years for much of the state this summer.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes unveiled the fleet at Avalon Airport alongside Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent and emergency services personnel.

This year’s core fleet features 54 dedicated aircraft strategically positioned across the state to support firefighting efforts on the ground and gather crucial intelligence from the air to help faster tactical decision making.

Returning this year are two Large Air Tankers based at Avalon which can also be deployed from smaller regional airports, making them more agile to move around the state.

The fleet also includes a Black Hawk, other Type One helicopters, and a Super Puma which has a capacity of 4000 litres. The Super Puma is supported by an Air Attack Supervision aircraft for detection and observation at night.

An important addition to the fleet this year is a Bell 214ST helicopter, which has the ability to pick up salt water, giving responders more options to help put fires out faster.

As occurred last year, two Aircranes will join the fleet after their service period ends in North America. Victoria will have three additional aircraft on short-term contracts until the Aircranes arrive, bringing the total contracted aircraft this summer to 57.

Victoria can also access a ‘call when needed’ fleet of more than 100 aircraft and can request extra aircraft from the national fleet.

The Australasian Fire And Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) summer outlook which was released last month made it clear that large parts of Victoria are facing their highest fire risk since the summer of 2019/20.

It indicates most of western Victoria, as well as south-west Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula, greater Melbourne and north-east Victoria are at an increased risk of fire activity. The risk for the rest of the state is forecast to be normal for summer, which means fires are still possible and everyone must do their part to be prepared.

For more information on how to prepare for emergencies, download the VicEmergency app. People can also create a fire plan online customised to their needs and sharable with family and friends via fireplanner.vic.gov.au

Minister Symes said, “With hardworking crews on the ground and a strong aerial fleet, we are ready for the season. I’m excited to see the return of two Large Air Tankers to Victoria this year. From its base in Avalon it can reach Mildura in the north to Horsham in the west or Benambra in the north east.”

Darren Gilbert
open studio

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

Sat. 4 and Sun. 5 January
10.00am to 4.00pm each day
5 Giffard Street, Yea. VIC. 3717
or arrange another time 0421 378 451

Open the first weekend of every month.
Up to date Open Studio days & times on
www.monkeytaildesign.com

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/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4th Thu 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



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.

The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks
Alexandra Newsagency
Alexandra Newspapers
Endeavour Yea
Hazeldene Store
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Shell Thornton
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Out&About



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Santa is dropping into Alexandra from approximately 9.15am with the Alexandra Fire Brigade. Listen for the siren and make sure you go out and say hi to santa and get a bag of lollies. (This event may be cancelled if there is an emergency requiring CFA attendance.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Embassy of Ideas Community Christmas Day gathering. St Johns Hall, 39 Downey Street, Alexandra. Free community Christmas lunch, all food provided, everyone is welcome. Bookings essential by December 20. Call or text Sasha 0422 225 801 or email embassyofideas@gmail.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Alexandra Christmas Carnival and Carols will be at Rotary Park. Carnival 5pm, carols start 7.30pm. Santa arrives 7pm. There will be coffee, ice cream and a barbecue. BYO chairs, rug and picnic.



Happy shoppers at the Flowerdale Market. -S

Flowerdale Community Market expands

THE Flowerdale Community Market has re-energised with a new and expanded committee recently taking up the challenge at the hall.

Sunday's bumper Christmas market from 10am to 2pm was rewarding for the many stall holders. The committee sausage sizzle also experienced a busy day.

Sunday was topped off with a sellout Flowerdale Community Carols in the hall which commenced at 5pm and wound up by 8:30pm. Local entertainers and children enjoyed carol singing with the crowd joining in the old favourites. Santa made a visit to the

very excited children despite his extremely busy schedule.

These events always require a great and enthusiastic effort from volunteers, and Gay Chatfield and Sharon Collins led from the front foot. The committee would like to

thank Flowerdale CFA, members of the band *Stoked*, sponsors and donors, and especially Murrindindi Shire who enabled the event to take place with a quick response grant. The new committee intend to build on the success of this big day in the new year.



Congratulations to Haylee Fyfe, awarded Dux of Yea campus of Yea High School for 2024. -S



A wide variety of arts, crafts and other items were available. -S

Integrated care across the Hume region

YEA and District Memorial Hospital and Hume Rural Health Alliance (HRHA) have announced that they now have a fully consolidated Patient Administration System across the 14 member health services in the Hume region.

Building a single, integrated Patient Administration System across 14 health services has been a giant leap forward in their digital health journey to achieve the vision of better connected patient care. The new system introduces a region-wide patient identifier to improve the continuity of care.

It has been one of the most complex implementations of the iPM Patient Administration System ever undertaken.

As Yea and District Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Sinclair said, “We have achieved a seamless transition to a very significant improvement to patient records administration. This work is foundational to supporting care across our region.”

Hume Rural Health Alliance Chief Information Officer, Neelu Kaur added, “HRHA is pleased that we could deliver a connected Patient Administration System for the first time in the region’s history. This is a great achievement which has been earned through collaboration. We thank all the health services’ teams for their support for this major transition, and the activity in the years leading up to this. As always, we are looking towards the future investments in digital health to bridge the healthcare gaps in our regional communities.”

Hume Rural Health Alliance has trained approximately 2500 staff across a 40,000 square kilometre region to prepare for the introduction of the new Patient Administration System.

The health services involved are Albury Wodonga Health, Alexandra District Health, Alpine Health, Beechworth Health Service, Benalla Health, Corryong Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Mansfield District Hospital, NCN Health,



Yea and District Memorial Hospital Administration Officers Meaghan Wright and Nadeane Peacey receiving support at Go Live from Seymour Health’s Health Information Project Officer Amanda Ingham. -S

Northeast Health Wangaratta, Seymour Health, Tallangatta Health Service, Yarrawonga Health and Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

The scope of HRHA’s Hume PAS Connect initiative brings together multiple digital health projects to enable

health services in the Hume region to connect to state and national eHealth initiatives, to support patient safety and the flow of clinical information both in our region and more widely. It reflects the health services’ joint commitment for better integrated patient care across the region.

Blue-green algae warning for Lake Eildon

GOULBURN-Murray Water (GMW) is warning people to avoid direct contact with water in Lake Eildon after monitoring detected high levels of blue-green algae.

Warning signs will be positioned at formal recreational areas around the lake and will remain in place while high levels of blue-green algae are present.

Lake Eildon will remain open to the public for any activities that do not involve direct contact with the water while the warning is in place.

GMW Water Quality coordinator Bianca Atley asked people to take care around the water.

“Blue-green algae occurs naturally in waterbodies but contain toxins harmful to humans and animals,” she said.

“Contact with it can cause rashes; sore eyes, ears, and nose; or if swallowed, nausea or vomiting. It is therefore important people boating or enjoying activities near the water take extra precautions.”

GMW recommends that people and pets avoid contact with the water; those who come into contact with affected water should wash affected skin immediately in clean cold water; seeking an alternative water supply for stock and pets where possible; not using affected water for cooking, drinking, washing or showering. Boiling the affected water will not make it safe for these purposes.

It is not possible to predict how long the algae will remain at high levels. People can stay up-to-date with blue-green algae warnings by phoning 1800 013 357 and selecting the option for blue-green algae information, or by visiting the GMW website at g-mwater.com.au/news/bga

Water supplied by GMW is not suitable for human consumption without first being properly treated. Human consumption includes showering, bathing, washing, cooking, ice-making, and drinking.

For more information about blue-green algae and your health, phone Nurse On-Call on 1300 606 024 or visit the Department of Health’s website at health.vic.gov.au

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to emergency.vic.gov.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



St Luke's Christmas hampers a holiday blessing

THE wider Yea community has once again come together to support the annual St Luke's Anglican Church Christmas hampers, which are provided for those who need assistance at this time of the year.

Last Friday, December 13, St Luke's Christmas hampers were distributed to 84 groups, including singles, couples, and families. The 84 hampers will help 140 adults, 42 teenagers and 38 under 12s.

St Luke's gives a huge thank you to everyone who contributed this year with their time, goods and toys plus donation funds to support St Luke's.

The hampers may be issued under St Luke's name but they are a true community effort with help from many, many community organisations, including but not limited to Yea Community Centre, Flowerdale Farm, Sacred Heart Primary School students, and the Yea Child Care Centre.

St Luke's gives thanks to all and hopes to work with all the organisations again next year.



Volunteers at St Luke's Anglican Church in Yea for Christmas hamper packing with Father Mario. -BD



Some of the volunteers working hard to pack the hampers. -BD




The church hall was full of goodies for the Christmas hampers. -BD



There were boxes and boxes of fruit donated to fill the Christmas hampers. -BD



There were a number of Christmas hampers being packed last Friday, to be given out to members of the Yea community. -BD



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Development Opportunity - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Eildon, Victoria

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is Australia's largest rural water corporation. We manage, store and deliver water through approximately 10,000 km of delivery and drainage infrastructure to more than 25,000 active customers in northern Victoria.

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from the open market for the lease of a part parcel of land for renewable energy opportunities, specifically targeting battery storage.

The site, known as Observation Point, is located at the corner of Sugarloaf Road and Alliance Drive in Eildon, within the upper pondage of Lake Eildon.

GMW encourages proposals that demonstrate:

- long term viability
- sustainability
- environmental sensitivity, and
- community engagement.

Expressions of interest including a detailed development proposal must be received by GMW no later than 5pm Friday 31 January 2025.

For further information:
visit our website: www.g-mwater.com.au/news-updates/notices
or email EOI@gmwater.com.au



Yea & District MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

*Wishing everyone an enjoyable
festive season.*

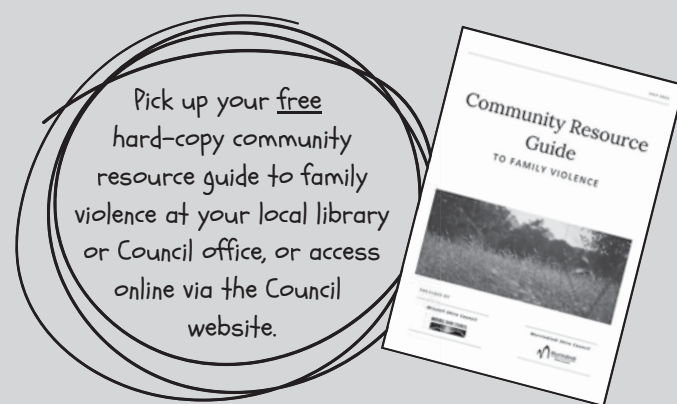
Our Available Services Include

- **24 Hour** Urgent Care Centre
- Acute Care
- Rosebank Residential Aged Care
- District Nursing Service
- Community Health Services
 - Dietitian Services
 - Cardiac Health Program
 - Diabetes Education
 - Speech Pathology
 - Mental Health Services

(03) 5736 0400
YEAHOSPITAL.ORG.AU
45 STATION STREET, YEA 3717

A Little Respect

Creating space for conversations in our community about important topics related to relationships, gender equality and family violence prevention.



Lee is the Free From Violence Project Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council. She is passionate about raising awareness about important issues in the local community, particularly related to gender equality and family violence prevention. Lee operates with curiosity over conflict and believes we all have something to learn from one another. Lee's work aligns with her studies in law and criminology, but mostly with her lived experience as Victim-Survivor. She has presented at state-wide Government Forums alongside other well-known advocates, and facilitated community forums focused on mental health, gender equality and family violence.

Would you like your own deck of Free From Violence Activity Cards?

Scan the QR code below to register your interest and we will get in touch make sure you don't miss out on this great conversational and icebreaker tool!



Topic of the month: And so this is Christmas...

It's officially the festive season! It's a joyful time for many, even with the added stress Christmas can bring. But, for others, this season is more than stressful – it's dangerous. Christmas and New Year is correlated to a spike in reported (and unreported) family violence incidents. With this in mind, it is important to equip ourselves so we can support our community to stay safe. Help is always available, even over Christmas.

Family violence and the festive season

No to Violence (NTV) is a peak body working with men to stop family violence. NTV has collated statistics which tell us "significantly more family and domestic violence incidents [are] reported to police forces across Australia throughout the Christmas and New Year period". Sometimes we can fall into the habit of speaking about family violence as if it is a 'thing' that 'just happens'. But the truth is, family violence is a choice made by the person who uses it. And there is no excuse. Not stress, not finances, not kids being home, not tricky family visits, not alcohol, nothing. While these things can exacerbate or increase the likelihood of family violence, they do not cause it. Family violence is heavily gendered. University of Melbourne academic Kristin Diemer emphasises this, saying the focus must be 'on addressing the attitudes and systems that drive violence against women and children, [and] intervening early'. At Christmas time, we may find ourselves falling into gender roles or feel more pressure to conform to them. The expectations we place on ourselves, our partners and our families over the festive season can be serious pressure points. Even though we may be busier than usual, it is vital to check in on the people we care about at this time of year. Reaching out could even support someone who may be using violence to seek support to change their behaviour. A good friend is honest, even when it's uncomfortable. If it is safe, pull up your friends on their behaviour and language. It could literally save lives. We must all stay curious and work together.

Reminder: the signs of family violence

Safe+Equal have compiled the following (non-exhaustive) list about what signs of family violence could look like:

- Someone appears afraid of or anxious to please their partner.
- Someone's partner often orders them around or makes all the decisions.
- Someone doesn't have access to an ATM card, or they have a restricted financial allowance.
- Someone seems anxious, depressed, avoids eye contact or has lost confidence.
- Someone has physical injuries, often with unlikely explanations.
- Someone regularly cancels appointments.
- Someone gets constant calls or texts from a current or ex-partner.

Anger is a secondary emotion. It is a response to a deeper emotion or feeling. When we feel out of control, anxious or fearful – anger can follow. This is normal. But how we choose to express that anger that matters. There is never an excuse for violence, and everybody deserves to feel safe at home. Asking simple questions can make all the difference this Christmas. If you feel comfortable, try out some of the suggested questions this season.

Ask meaningful questions this Christmas

Ask your partner:

- "How can I best support you over the festive season?"
- "What have I done in the past that was or wasn't helpful?"
- "I know (*insert name*) has been difficult at family gatherings in the past. Is there a way I can interrupt that behaviour that feels good for you?"
- "Last year, I felt like I/you took on more of the mental load around Christmas. Could we talk about splitting up the work more equally between us this year?"
- "When we think about our favourite Christmas memories, what were we doing? What were we not doing? Is there a way to incorporate these things this year?"

Ask your friends/neighbours/colleagues:

- "Are you looking forward to Christmas this year? Why/Why not?"
- "How are you planning on taking care of yourself this Christmas? I notice you often prioritise looking after everyone else, but you deserve to be cared for too."
- "I know this time of year can be overwhelming. What are you going to experiment with saying 'no' to this Christmas?"

If you are concerned a friend is using violence:

- "I've noticed the way you speak to (*insert name*) is a bit aggressive/judgemental. I'm worried about both of you. There are services specifically to support men to get help in dealing with their anger. Would you like me to share these with you?"
- "As your friend, I have concerns about the way I've seen you behave towards (*insert name*). I care about you, and I know you're better than that. Is there anything else going that I can support you with? There's no shame in seeking help."

In an emergency...

Always call 000 in an emergency. Your safety comes first. You are not expected to put yourself in an unsafe situation or behave as if you are an expert on family violence. You are the best judge about what feels safe for you. Consider calling 1800 RESPECT for advice on how to navigate a situation you aren't sure about.

Thank you for supporting 'A Little Respect' in 2024. Wishing you all a very merry and safe Christmas!

Getting support

Call 000 in an emergency or if you are/someone else is in immediate danger.

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 7 32
- NTV men's referral service: 1800 766 491
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 773 352
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Rainbow Door: A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians. Phone: 1800 729 367 or visit rainbowdoor.org.au
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?' areyousafeathome.org.au

Student of the Week

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

YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week nine. All students have been showing our school values and we are so proud of them.

Well done to Iylah, Eden, Esme, Oliver, Elias, Blake and Yaacoub.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by **Bendigo Bank**

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Dominic, Olympia, Isla and Shaelee for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by **Bendigo Bank**

Kinglake branch

Yea celebrates with Christmas carols



-photos by Dale McKeon, Plymouth Dale Photos



Children gathering at the Yea CFA truck to greet Santa.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Work Local



Publishing: January 15

Deadline: January 9, 5pm

Let's eat, it's our treat



Publishing: February 5

Deadline: January 30, 5pm

Live Well, Feel Good



Publishing: February 12

Deadline: February 4, 5pm

Work Local



Publishing: February 19

Deadline: February 13, 5pm



Students performing for the audience.



Carollers.

SCIENCEWORKS

AIR PLAYGROUND

LET SCIENCE BLOW YOU AWAY

Last days – must close January 27
Book Now

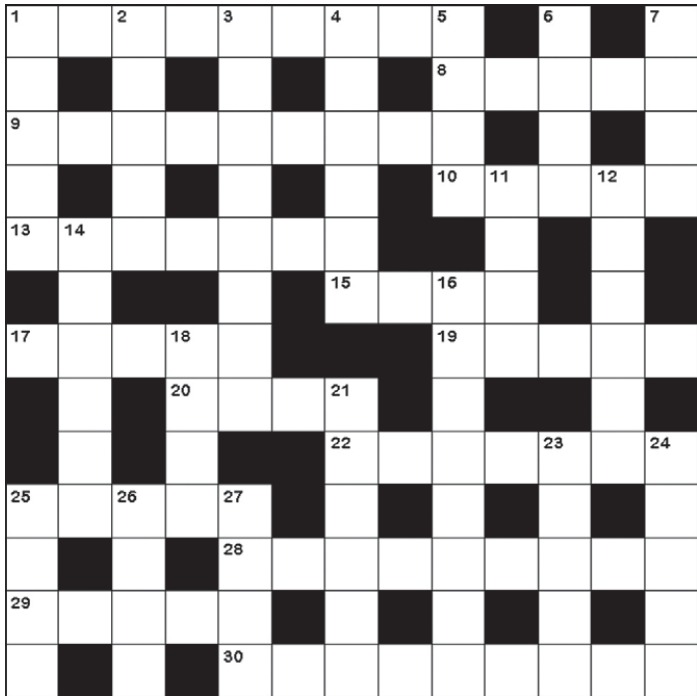
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 16

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1. In a careless and slapdash manner.
 - 8. Deeper more secret area.
 - 9. Joining metals by melting them together.
 - 10. Pay out money for purchases.
 - 13. Show a lively interest.
 - 15. A short knitted covering for the foot.
 - 17. A formal proclamation.
 - 19. A left-handed person.
 - 20. Steering mechanism for a ship.
 - 22. Adjusted to new conditions.
 - 25. Becomes soft and then liquid.
 - 28. Name all items one by one.
 - 29. Mother-of-pearl from mollusc shells.
 - 30. Tokens of sentimental value.

- DOWN
- 1. Overly eager speed.
 - 2. The one who flies the plane.
 - 3. Just enough to do the job.
 - 4. Gets up and out of bed.
 - 5. Breaks up dirt with a shovel.
 - 6. A single time only.
 - 7. Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
 - 11. A long spear formerly used by infantry.



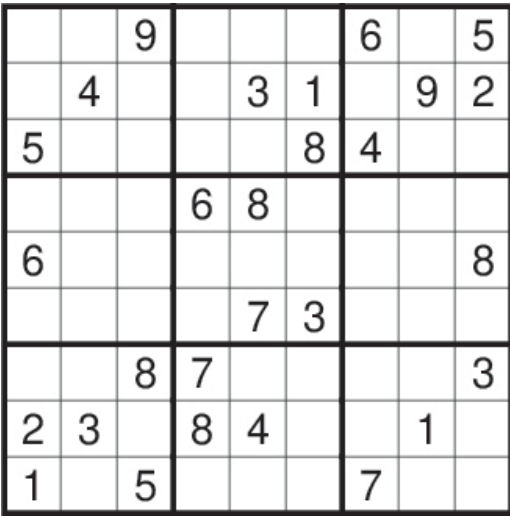
- 12. A hairy stinging prickly plant.
- 14. A small rounded lump on a plant.
- 16. People employed to remove dirt from floors.
- 18. A short informal conversation.
- 21. Become ripe and developed.
- 23. Go after with the intent to catch.
- 24. A one-piece garment for a woman.
- 25. A promiscuous woman.
- 26. A strand or curl of hair.
- 27. Try to find by searching.

Word Search

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

- Christmas
- CAROLS
 - REINDEER
 - CHRISTMASTREE
 - SANTACLAUS
 - GINGERBREADMAN
 - SNOWMAN
 - JINGLEBELLS
 - STOCKING
 - PLUMPUDDING
 - WRAPPINGPAPER
 - PRESENT
 - CHRISTMASLIGHTS

Sudoku



Difficulty: Medium

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.

Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
7				23				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
8							

$$\frac{2}{23} \frac{18}{18} \frac{15}{15}$$
$$\frac{19}{19} \frac{24}{24} \frac{18}{18} \frac{22}{22} \frac{S}{8} \frac{9}{9} \frac{2}{2} \frac{A}{7} \frac{S}{8}$$
$$\frac{E}{23} \frac{21}{21} \frac{E}{23} \frac{18}{18} \frac{15}{15} \frac{26}{26} \frac{4}{4} \frac{E}{23}$$

Math Square

6	x		-		39
-		+		+	
	÷		-		-7
-		÷		+	
	x		+	5	7
-3		9		17	

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.

Christmas decorations around Yea



A terrific Christmas display on a nature strip in Cathkin. Let's hope that the cows keep Santa on the mooooove. -S



Santa and his elves outside a house in Yea. -AR



A clever hay bale Christmas tree outside a home in Yea. -AR

Seating project at Sacred Heart

SIX Sacred Heart Primary School students have been hard at work, building a new seating area at the school.

Teacher Zanni Waldstein said, "This has been a really fun practical application of maths concepts for a group of boys who are very hands-on oriented. It was fantastic for them to actually see the physical outcome of their applied knowledge."

The group has been working together all year, and the work on the project has been underway for the last two terms.

Bunnings Seymour and Yea Rotary both donated to the projects, and there were a lot of community volunteers including lots of farmers, who have come in to support the boys with the work, and to engage with them, as well as to show how they use maths in their everyday life.

The students have learnt a great deal from the project. Cooper commented, "Lots of maths went into it. We learnt about pi. It was pretty hard to do during the summer heat."

Ashton added, "I enjoyed doing the clay mixing and all that."

Luke said, "I loved learning about pi, and working with my friends on the seating area."

Dom said, "I liked learning about ratios and doing the concrete mix."

Alex added, "I liked using my hands. It was really satisfying sorting it out."

Blake was also a participant in the project.



Alex, Dom, Ashton, Luke and Cooper with Zanni Waldstein. -AR

RealEstate

GUIDE

Red Gum Views lifestyle blocks available in Yea

SET among the scenic hills of Yea, Red Gum Views is a new 49 lot boutique community located at 145 Racecourse Road, Yea, with stunning views across the Goulburn Valley.

The lifestyle blocks are only a stone's throw from the vibrant community of Yea, and a 90-minute drive from Melbourne.

There are a large variety of lots available, in sizes ranging from 4000 square metres all the way up to 8.7 hectares.

TW Projects have partnered with Australia's leading builders to provide a range of house and land packages to suit a range of budgets. There are gentle slope lots available to minimise house construction costs.

All lots will enjoy all town services, including water, electricity, telecommunications and sewerage.

TW Projects wants to ensure everyone has access to sustainable living while minimising the cost of living. They have committed to providing a \$5000 rebate on



selected lots to contribute towards the installation of a 5kW solar PV system for new homes.

Stage one and two construction is currently completed, with stage three construction forecast to commence in early 2025. The

final stage, stage four, is due to commence following the completion of stage three.

Of these, stages one to three are now selling, with a limited number of build-ready lots available in

stages one and two. Stage three titles are expected in late 2025.

For a limited time, TW Projects have a \$25,000 end of year saving deal on all their build-ready lots.

To find out more about Red Gum Views, visit redgumviews.com.au

Stage 3 Now Selling



➤ TITLES ANTICIPATED FOR Q4-2025

➤ UP TO 8+ HA LOTS AVAILABLE

➤ ALL TOWN SERVICES CONNECTED

Water, electricity, telecommunications (NBN) and sewer

\$5K
Solar System
Rebate

Stage 1 & 2 only – T&Cs apply

LIMITED BUILT-READY
LOTS AVAILABLE IN
STAGE 1 & 2.

Get in quick!

\$25K

End of Year Savings

Terms and conditions apply*

*Must purchase and settle by
31 December 2024 to be eligible.
Titled lots only.

Red Gum Views

Y E A

Artist impression



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

Cindy McLEISH MP
STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

Shop 10, 38 - 40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen ☎ 03 9730 1066
f CindyMcLeishMP ✉ cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

🌐 **CindyMcLeish.com.au**
Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

ADVERTISEMENT

FINEBLADE CIVIL

Paul, Lou & Fineblade Civil Staff
Would like to thank all our clients for your support during 2024

We wish all community members a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year

Christmas & New Year Closure
19th December 2024 - 6th January 2025

For any urgent / emergency works please call
Paul: 0427 823 045
Lou: 0430 134 935

Williams Hunt & Bett
LAWYERS & CONVEYANCERS

The Partners & Staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and advise that we will be closed from 12 noon 20th December 2024 and return 9am 6th January 2025.

Alexandra Office (03) 5772 1493 81A Grant Street Alexandra VIC 3714 alexlawyers@williamshuntbett.com.au	Mansfield Office (03) 5775 2334 24A Highett Street Mansfield VIC 3722 lawyers@williamshuntbett.com.au	Yea Office (03) 5797 2601 82 High Street Yea VIC 3717 yealawyers@williamshuntbett.com.au
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WILLIAMSHUNTBETT.COM.AU

Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes for the New Year

JACLYN SYMES MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR NORTHERN VICTORIA

☎ 5783 2000
✉ jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au
f jaclyn.symes
🌐 jaclynsymes.com.au

Authorised by J Symes, Unit 1/87 Sydney Street Kilmore

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Steve 0427 577 839

Alexandra
Windscreens & Glass Services

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

The management and staff at Alexandra Newspapers would like to thank our community, readers and clients for their support throughout 2024 and we look forward to working with you again in 2025.

Standard **ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS** **The Yea Chronicle**

Navy Blue Planning
Urban and Regional Planning Specialists

Thank you to our clients for your partnership this year.
We wish you a joyful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

From the team at Navy Blue Planning

✉ admin@navyblueplanning.com.au
📍 66 Grant Street, Alexandra
🌐 navyblueplanning.com.au
☎ 0419 006 014

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity.

From the team at

Elders

Alexandra and Yea.



COFFEE
BOTTLE SHOP
TOOBORAC PIES
COLD DRINKS
ESSENTIALS
PUB

General Store Open 7 days, from 7am

www.themolesworth.com.au

Hotel open 7 days . Meals available Thursday
Lunch to Sunday night



HEDGER CONSTRUCTIONS

Building with Distinction

Thank you to all our wonderful staff
and clients for your support this year.

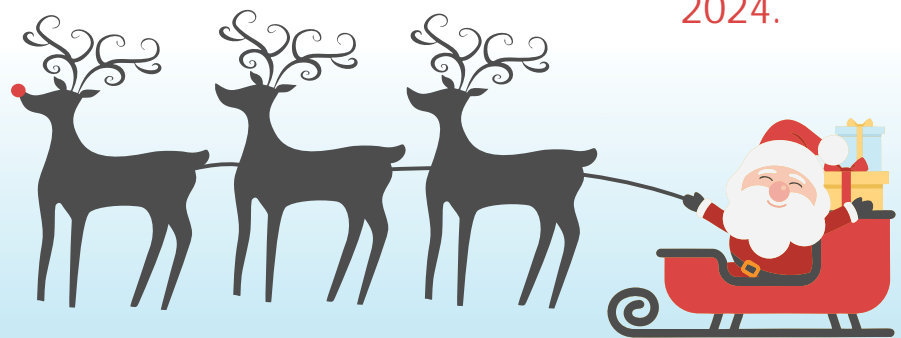
We wish you a safe and happy Christmas
and advise that we will be closed from 20th
December 2024, returning 13th January 2025.

1300 291 101
hedgerconstructions.com.au

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist
☎ 0405 554 915

Chris's TV wishes
everybody a very
Merry Christmas
and a safe New Year.

Thank you for your
support throughout
2024.



**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

Alex Scott and staff would like to thank everyone
for all their support over 2024 and look forward to
continued success and new opportunities in 2025

ALEX SCOTT & STAFF WEANER SALE

Friday 31 January 2024
Yea Saleyards,
commencing at 9:30am
Additional Entries Welcomed



rma network. Accredited Member

David Setches
0409 443 473
Tim Gibson
0420 306 599
Glenn Barwick
0408 975 476
Neil Darby
0418 595 265



Consider early weaning to save feed and water

by Dr Hannah Manning, Agriculture
Victoria Livestock Industry
Development Officer

FEED and water shortages are likely as we move into summer, so consider weaning your beef calves early to save on requirements.

Early weaning can help your cows maintain condition and fertility while setting up the calves to receive the nutrition they need to thrive.

Lactating cows require a large amount of energy. It's more efficient to convert feed directly into the calf weight than milk for a cow and calf unit.

Providing the appropriate diet to a mob of dry cows and weaned calves, rather than cows with calves at foot, can significantly reduce feeding costs.

Cows making milk need up to 100 litres of water a day and those not feeding a calf require less. Although calves will drink more once weaned, the savings come from reducing the cow's requirements.

Weaning early also allows the farmer to complete a stocktake and sell or cull non-productive or aged animals.

In most cases, calves should be weaned at around 120kg, as they will be easier to feed. The younger the weaning age of the calf, the higher its energy and protein requirements are.

Setting your calves up to succeed is very important, so exposing them to post-weaning supplements while they are still on the cow is recommended.

Post-weaning supplements should be introduced to calves slowly via creep-feeding and vaccinating two weeks before weaning to protect against clostridial diseases.

Avoid combining stressful procedures like castration and dehorning with early weaning.

Weaners can be difficult to manage at times, so it is recommended getting their nutrition and supervision spot-on to allow the calves to thrive.

Further information about weaning beef cattle can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

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



A hay shed in flames. -S

CFA warning after haystack fires destroy 1700 bales

THE Country Fire Authority (CFA) is reminding farmers about the risks of improper hay storage after two devastating haystack fires destroyed at least 1700 hay bales in separate parts of the state recently.

A fire in Coonooer West on Tuesday December 10 claimed 1200 bales, a hayshed, and several pieces of machinery, while just recently a fire in Naring saw another 500 bales destroyed.

Haystack fires are often caused by spontaneous combustion when hay is baled with excess moisture. High moisture levels, combined with the compact nature of hay bales, can create internal heat, leading to ignition.

Between June 30, 2023, and July 1, 2024, CFA responded to 121 haystack fires in regional areas.

CFA District 16 Assistant Chief Fire Officer Stephen Alcock said the incidents served as a reminder for farmers to closely monitor their haystacks.

"These fires demonstrate the devastating impact haystack fires can have," Stephen said.

"Once a fire starts, it spreads rapidly through the bales, making it extremely challenging to contain.

"High moisture levels in hay, often from baling too early in the day when it's dewy or after rain, are a major contributor to spontaneous combustion."

He also stressed the dangers of storing machinery with hay bales.

"Storing machinery with hay bales is a recipe for disaster," he said.

"If a fire starts in the haystack, it can quickly spread to nearby machinery, which can halt important farming operations until new equipment arrives."

"The safest option is to store hay in a separate area well away from equipment and other buildings.

"Haystack fires don't just affect individual properties; they can spread to neighbouring farms and require extensive emergency services resources.

"Regular monitoring and proper storage can turn what might have been a major issue into something manageable."

For more information, visit CFA's website or contact your local CFA brigade for advice on haystack safety.

The CFA also offers tips for managing your haystack. These include: Ensure hay is well cured before baling; know the history of the hay you purchase; keep

haystacks to a limited size and separate your haystacks; monitor moisture and temperature of your hay regularly; watch for unusual odours such as pipe tobacco, caramel, burning or musty smells; store hay in separate stacks or sheds away from farm equipment and other buildings; keep your hay dry; protect it from rain, leaking rooves or spouts, and runoff; cover stacks with tarps or hay caps; don't stack hay right to the top of a hay shed; allow some air to circulate at the top, as this helps to carry away moisture.

In terms of temperature, use a thermometer in a probe or insert a crowbar into the middle of the stack for two hours.

If it's less than 50 degrees, you should be able to handle the crowbar without discomfort. Check temperature daily. If it's 50 to 60 degrees, you can only handle the crowbar for a short time. Check temperatures twice daily. If it's 60 to 70 degrees, you can only touch the bar briefly. Check temperature every two to four hours. Move the hay to improve air flow. If it's over 70 degrees, then the bar should be too hot to hold. This is where there is a potential for fire. Call 000 immediately. Avoid walking on haystack. At this stage, pulling apart the hay may provide the oxygen it needs to ignite.

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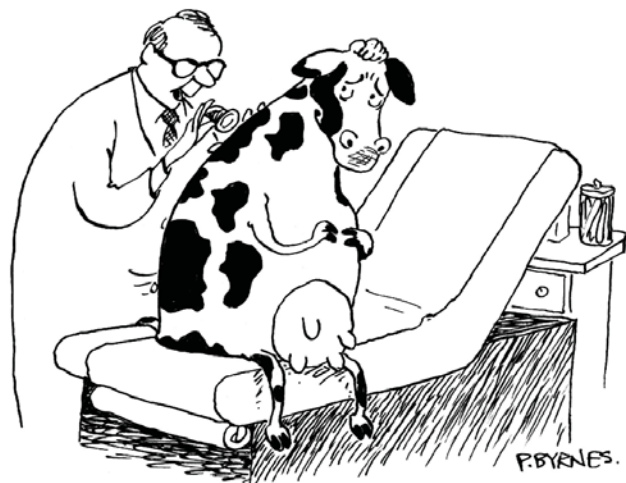
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Joy Purcell, Al Tait and Judy Griffiths. -S



Santa with Cheryl O'Halloran. -S



Key workers and organisers of the night, Darryl King, Craig Birchell, Lyndal Tait, Bridie Tait and Al Tait. -S



Norma Tobias. -S

Seniors celebrate in style

THE annual Seniors Christmas Dinner, held on Friday, December 13 at the Yea Shire Hall, was a great success. Around 85 people in attendance. It was a chance for everyone to catch up, have some fun, enjoy a drink in the Christmas spirit and relive some special times from days gone by. Yea Rotary would like to thank a long list of sponsors, headed by the Murrindindi Shire, who provided a grant to support the evening.

The club also received support from Sedona wines, Limestone Pork and Flowerdale Farm. David Ralph and Rosemary Simons provided the table decorations.

After the success of last year's new menu, chef Craig Birchall came back to do it again, this time with help from Darryl King. The meal included an entrée, a delicious hot main course of pork belly with crackling, and Lyndal Tait and her mum Cheryl O'Halloran provided the desserts of individual plum puddings and pavlovas.

They were helped by a fleet of Yea Primary School students, staff and parents who assisted with the serving and clearing of the tables, all done with smiling faces. They were an absolute hit and were both careful and enthusiastic while waiting tables under the guidance of Al Tait. The special touch of homemade shortbread was greatly appreciated. Thanks Yea Primary School.

The meal was followed by the entertaining Yea Primary School Choir led by Lou Filmore. They were a hit as they sang a bracket of carols and got everyone smiling and joining in. Santa made a guest appearance too and was of course very popular.

The event has a long history, having first started 40 years ago by the Lions Club of Yea. It was passed on to the Rotary Club of Yea about 14 years ago and both Rotarians and guests really enjoy this annual tradition and get together. Most Rotary members and Friends of Yea Rotary were on hand to set up the hall, prepare and help plate the meal, serve, entertain, clear tables, and pack up. A big night for everyone with so many of the community involved.

Rotary feels the senior members of the town deserve some recognition for the service they have given to the district over many years. These are the people who have made the community what it is today and have started many of the organisations that to this day, continue to serve our wonderful community.

Merry Christmas to all senior members of the community from the Rotarians of Yea.



Cheryl O'Halloran being waited on by her grandson Darby. -S



Lyndal and Al Tait. -S



Margaret Mahon. -S



Plating the entrée. -S



The main meal. -S



Santa on stage. -S



Lou Filmore directing the Yea Primary School choir. -S

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The Murrindindi Carer's Group had their Christmas lunch last Friday at the Corner Hotel in Alexandra. -BD

Christmas lunch for Murrindindi Carer's Group

THE Murrindindi Carer's Group had their Christmas party last Friday at the Corner Hotel in Alexandra, to celebrate another year of monthly carer's support meetings.

The group has members from all around Murrindindi Shire, with any carer welcome, whether that is caring for a partner, child, friend, family, etcetera.

Monthly meetings held by the group are a place for carers to meet new friends, make

connections and share ideas. It's about being a person as well as being a carer.

Murrindindi Carer's Group partnered with Villa Maria Catholic Homes' care engagement team, who provide lots of support to the group and help organise meetings.

For more information or to talk to someone from the group, contact Anthea on 0418 402 455.



The Murrindindi Carer's Group chatting and enjoying companionship at their Christmas lunch. -BD

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Julie Schachner and families
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Dale Young and John's
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Catering and bar at Alexandra
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Andrew of McCormacks.
Those who attended John's
service, visited, sent cards
and flowers.
Thank you all.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CROWN LAND (RESERVES) ACT 1978

Notice is hereby given that Amplitel Pty Ltd has applied to lease, pursuant to Section 17D of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978, for a term of twenty-one (21) years, Crown land being part of Crown Allotment 2007, Parish of Billian containing 166 square metres (more or less) as a site for "Permitted Use means inspecting, installing, constructing, operating and maintaining a telecommunications network and service as permitted under the Telecommunications Act."

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Murrindindi Shire Council's final meeting for 2024

ON Wednesday, December 11 Murrindindi Shire Council held the scheduled meeting at the Alexandra Chambers. Councillor Adams was absent.

A petition was received about the road closure on Utah Place by Cleveland Aitken, asking to keep Utah Place open, as opposed to the temporary closures due the Eildon Redevelopment Project rollout. The petition was signed by 25 people. It was referred to the Director of Assets and Environment for consideration, a response and a report.

In Public Participation, Sam Watts presented to council about his planning permit on his property in Ghin Ghin. He wanted to reiterate he is running a business at the location breeding cattle and been doing so for some years. He spoke of having a house on this land and how the farm will be more accessible to him when needed. There were objections to the planning permit and his understanding is these people live a number of kilometres away from the property and that those living in close proximity didn't have any objection at all. He spoke of the flood damage to his irrigation system and said if he lived on his property he'd be more available to do his jobs around the farm and be onsite all the time.

Mike Dalmau spoke about the Key Worker Accommodation project in Eildon. He was speaking on behalf of the Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association and other groups. He was support of the officer's recommendation and encouraged councillors to support that recommendation. He spoke of the struggles and the limitations of accommodation available and the impacts of social capital in the town such as the schools.

Written submissions about this came from Caitlin Williams and Robyn Archer. Caitlyn spoke of how grateful and supportive for extra accommodation in the area. She has two local businesses, and they struggle to find accommodation for their workers. Robyn Archer stated support for the project. It was also noted the wider Eildon community continue to be involved in the consultation process.

212 Ghin Ghin Road, Ghin Ghin

The planning application for 212 Ghin Ghin Road, Ghin Ghin, proposes to use and develop the land for a dwelling. Three objections were received by council. The application was being presented to council with an officer recommendation for refusal. Councillors moved the motion takes place and said that they hope Mr Watts come back and proceeds with the application in the future.

11 The Ridge, Kinglake

The application proposes to amend planning permit 2020/225, which allows development of the land for the purpose of a single dwelling, to allow an outbuilding, a shed, and amend the plans endorsed as part of the permit. The applicant has not provided further information requested by council to address environmental health concerns in relation to treatment of wastewater. In the absence of this, council officers said they cannot be satisfied that the proposal meets the objectives, policy, and decision guidelines of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme. The officer recommendation was to refuse an amendment to a permit. Councillors moved the motion to refuse amendment.

Eildon Key Worker Housing Project

Council identified recreational land in Eildon surplus to need. Following consultation with the Eildon community, including a deliberative engagement forum specifically convened to consider the future of this land, council resolved in support of the community to sell these locations to support housing development, and to use the proceeds of sale to fund the contribution for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment. The sites were subsequently identified as tier one locations suitable for council to develop in council's Key Worker Housing Strategy. The Regional Worker Accommodation Fund will require council to make a cash contribution of \$1.4 million, provide the land and project management support for the project. The cash contribution will require borrowing or contribution from council's cash reserves. The 10 year operational budget of the project includes an allocation to cover all costs, including borrowings if required. Furthermore, an allocation of \$400,000 is needed to fund the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment, which was to be funded through the sale of the land in Eildon. While it is proposed that council allocate these funds initially from its Infrastructure Reserve, this allocation can be repaid through the Eildon Key Worker Housing Project, through operational income and future sale of assets. All councillors endorsed this motion.

Eildon Splash Park - Traditional Owner naming

Council is looking to name the Eildon reserves splash parks. The name 'Banh ba Djila' as the proposed feature name. The project covers two open space parcels known locally as the Thomas Marr Reserve (skate park and swimming pool) and the Walter Moore Reserve (public toilets and splash park), and it was verified that the new naming will not take anything away of the recognition of these places.

Flood Recovery: Murrindindi Bridges

The scope of the works is to undertake various repair works on six bridges on Murrindindi Road. Based on the evaluation, it is recommended that tenderer one be awarded the contract if funding is approved by the Department of Transport under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements program.



Yea Cruise Night celebrates Christmas



Cars rolling in.



An Aussie 'A' Model. -photos by Dale McKeon and Amanda Price of Plymouth Dale Photos.



An Alfa Romeo.



A festive Christmas tree on the back of a vehicle.



A lovely old Fairlane. -S



A Buick.



Cooking up a storm.



Santa arriving on the Yea fire truck.



A happy group with their takeaway dinner.



Two attendees enjoying looking at the array of vehicles.

Echidnas squash competition

by Kristelle Leary

Wombats versus Koalas

LOCHLAN versus Jordan (fill in): Both players had some really great shots. Lochan had the upper hand with his superb serve. Lochlan for the win. 66 to 55.

Chris versus Mick (fill in): The first game started of evenly match, but Mick slowly pulled away and stayed well ahead until game three. The third game saw Chris evening out the score until he eventually won the last game. It was too late, as Mick had already done enough damage to take home the win. 59 to 48.

Daniel W versus Simon: Simon played a game of careful short placement, But Daniel had the pace to run down the ball. The third game was a point for point tussle. In the final game Daniel got a run on his serve and blew the match open for a comfortable win. 69 to 55

Derrick versus Daniel K: Derrick opened by taking the first game and drawing the second. Daniel was easing himself into the game and got serious in the second half to win the match with a ten point lead. 57 to 47.

Echidnas versus Platypus

ETHAN versus Tyler: A great game. Ehtan had some hard shots to return, and Tyler had great placement. Ethan came out on top in the end. 68 to 47.

Matt versus Sally: Matt was running down every ball, barely giving Sally a chance to catch her breath. With his magical ability to appear by the ball, Matt won the match. 81 to 50.

Jared versus Michael M: Some excellent rallies and good shots interspersed with mistakes on both sides. Jared had the goods and claimed the win. 59 to 48.

James versus Jack (fill in): Starting off strong, Jack won the first game. As James warmed up, he progressively got better with each game and the points showed it. James was victorious. 61 to 52.

Lions versus Cheetahs

BLAKE versus Beth (fill in): Beth had some great looping serves, but she was outmatched. Blakes beautiful shots down the walls showed his skill and helped him in his victory. 66 to 53.

Jodie versus Travis: With her strength and determination, Jodie started with a strong lead. Tenacious Travis made a comeback in game three but lost it again in the final game to see Jodie take home a comfortable win. 56 to 41.

Stuart versus Jim: Stuart kept Jim running and even had him sitting on the floor. As tired as he was, Jim was unphased and put in a

consistent game to win with a sizeable point margin. 73 to 42.

Tigers versus Panthers

RANDY versus Reece: A tight game of surprises. Randy was on fire in the first half and looked to have the match in hand. Turning the tables, Reece made a comeback in the second half with two outstanding games to win the match. 64 to 60.

Lucas versus Sam: Sam started every game strong, but Lucas always chased him down. Lucas kept up the good work to take a big lead in the last game and win the match. 66 to 49.

James versus Phil: Taking off early, James never gave Phil a chance. James was excessively triumphant. 80 to 29.

Merton cricketers back on the field

MERTON cricketers finally played a game of cricket after a bye and two washouts. Merton hosted Ovens Valley United on a slow lush Merton Cricket Ground (MCG) outfield. The visitors won the toss and batted making 80 all out in the 27th over with G. Zach 17 and L. McManus 16 the top scorers. Merton’s bowlers all did the job for their captain lead by Henry Berriman 3/24, father Rohan 2/8 Harry Craddock 2/11, and Luke Benton 2/14 the wicket takers. The home side was good in the field lead by James Benton with two catches. Merton made short work of the 81 run target with a fired up Ross Mackinnon smashing an unbeaten 52 off 56 balls including three huge sixes. Fellow opener Daryl King turned the strike over with 12 not out helping his side to a comfortable victory in the 16th over. Merton host Beechworth Wanderers in the final game next Saturday before the Christmas break.



The recent Thursday night winning team, Cheetahs: Jim, Travis and Jess (absent). -S



One of the recent Monday nights winning team, the Echidnas: James, Jared, Ethan and Matt. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletics wraps up 2024 season.

THE Murrindindi Little Athletics club recently wrapped up an eventful couple of weekends of competition and camaraderie, with athletes braving everything from drizzle to heat as they pushed themselves to do their best.

On Saturday, December 7, despite the rain, teams gathered for a scavenger hunt

to kick things off, an energetic and fun warm-up. Laughter filled the air during a round of “laughing yoga,” followed by stretching to get everyone ready for the action ahead. There were plenty of personal achievements on the day, including a standout performance from Kai Goonan, who set a new centre record. Additional

medals were handed out, including several bronze, and a well-deserved silver for a personal best (PB).

The main event was the 2024 Multi-Event, which went ahead despite the drizzle. While the weather was far from ideal, it wasn’t enough to dampen the spirits of the athletes or their supporters. The barbecue

was a popular spot, with club members rewarded with a free snag for their bravery in showing up and competing in the rain.

The following Saturday, December 14 brought a completely different weather scenario, a hot morning that had everyone working hard to finish out the season strong. Athletes continued to give their across various events, wrapping up the last meet before the New Year.

A highlight of the day was the raffle draw, with all proceeds going to support Levi Campbell. Levi will be heading to New Zealand during the summer break to compete in the prestigious Colgate Games, and we all wish him the best of luck. We look forward to hearing how he fares.

As we head into the holiday season, the Murrindindi Little Athletics Club would like to extend a big thank you to all our members and supporters in the community. We can’t wait to see everyone back next year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



Bronze and Silver personal best medallion recipients. -S



Another Club record for Kai Goonan. -S

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Multiple rounds for Yea Golf Club in December

by Alan Pell

WEDNESDAY, December 4 Yea Golf Club had 16 men play stableford on the day. It was a good practice round for the Gender Competition as the ladies were in Mansfield for their breakup.

Winner was Trevor Connell (19) on countback from Mic Spagnolo (6) with 37 points each. Third was Allan Coates (10) with 35 from fourth Mic Sheather (25) with 34 on countback from fifth Rob O'Halloran (21). Nearest the pin on the second was Rob O'Halloran and Bill Dredge took out the club award.

Saturday, December 7 saw players competing for the monthly medal stroke round. It was also the gold medal play-off with the best medallist score from the previous year being the winner.

Monthly medallist was Brian Simmons (11) on countback from the gold medallist Mic Spagnolo (6) both with nett 69. Third on countback with nett 70 was Rob O'Halloran (21) from Gary Pollard (12) fourth, with Rick Wills (8) fifth with nett 72. Tom White was nearest the pin on the second, Mic Spagnolo won the putting with 24 putts and the club award went to Phil Armstrong.

Tuesday, December 10 saw 20 blokes travel to Benalla Golf Club for their Christmas breakup. The course was great and the club accomodating with an excellent lunch available.

Winner of the individual competition was Michael Sheather (26) on countback from Bob Glenister (13) both with 37 points. The winners of the four ball best ball were Russell Wealands (26) and John Phillips (20) with an excellent 47 points. The ball run down went to 31 points.

Last Saturday saw 23 golfers play a stableford round in fabulous conditions. The weather wasn't as hot as predicted and the course was still green from recent rains.

Winner of the day with his best score ever was Captain Alan Pell (11) with 76 off the stick 41 stableford points. More amazing however was him having only 22 putts. Alas it wasn't all glory as he and Phil lost the \$2 to Gary and Neil in the four ball.

Second, with also an excellent score was John Phillips (19) with 40 points. Third was Ken Whitfort (10) with 38 points on countback from fourth Neil Peterson. Fifth was Kevin Coghlan (24) with 36 on countback from Andrew Bohn (8). Brian Simmons was nearest the pin on the 11th and Malcolm Bett made a comeback to win the club award.



Saturday sunshine between the showers. -S



Allan, Terry, Sam, Alan, Phil, Jeff, John and Brian representing Yea Golf Club. -S

Functions for Yea Bowls Club

by Viv Cavanagh

MEMBERS of the Yea Bowls Club have been kept busy with various functions being held over the last few weeks.

The clubrooms were used for a full day function for the Shire of Murrindindi and the Yea Show Cattle Stewards held the Cattleman's Cup dinner at the bowls club. The Yea ambulance community officers and the Yea Hospital staff hired the green for a friendly roll-up and the Yea Primary staff will be holding their function this Friday.



Bowlers enjoying company in the club rooms. -S

The club's own Christmas function was held on Sunday, December 1 with many members enjoying the evening with a Christmas meal and entertainment supplied by Noel Pearson.

Yea Bowls Club also hosted the over 60s game of bowls, where every competitor must be over the age of 60, with several clubs attending from the local area,

including Alexandra, Broadford, Kilmore, Seymour, Wallan and Whittlesea.

Pennant has continued to be played on Saturdays with Yea having a draw against Kyabram, the Tatura-Hilltop game being cancelled because of the rain and a loss to Colbinabbin, who are sitting on top of the Division Five ladder. There will be a break



The over 60s bowling in sunshine at the Yea Bowls Club. -S

now for Christmas before resuming the pennant season early in 2025.

The Yea Bowls Club would like to take this opportunity to wish the community a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and invite you to join in the Barefoot Bowls program which will be advertised early in the New Year.

A Christmas Poem by the Philosopher Elf

Another year, done and dusted,
Time for plum pudding and custard,
Pour the gravy, spread the mustard,
Trousers tight, belts adjusted.

Watch the cricket, watch the yachts,
Wash the dishes, scrub the pots,
Playing with the tiny tots,
Jigsaw puzzles, joining dots.

Time to close another door,
Soon this year will be no more,
So, how will you remember your
Two thousand and twenty-four?

Would you crown it Best Year Yet?
Adventures had? Someone you met?
Or was it filled with some regret?
A year you can't wait to forget?

New arrivals, hugs goodbye,
Win and lose, laugh and cry,
Hit rock bottom, flying high,
Back again for another try.

Treasure all that you hold dear,
Leave what's done to disappear,
Moving on - tomorrow's here!
Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

STEVE PAIX