

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

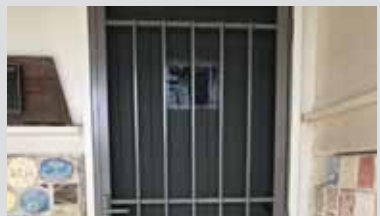
Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, October 22, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

New screen doors for Highlands Hall



Page 2

Draft Domestic Animal Plan



Page 5

2024 deer harvest report available



Page 9

Weekend sport



Pages 14-16

BirdLife Australia's annual Aussie Bird Count taking place this week

THE 2025 Aussie Bird Count, one of Australia's largest citizen science events, began on Monday. This national celebration of our unique and diverse birdlife will run until Sunday, October 26, 2025.

BirdLife Australia invites people of all ages to take just 20 minutes out of their day to spot, identify, and count the birds around them.

Last year, more than 57,000 participants submitted nearly 130,000 checklists and logged more than 4.1 million birds across the country using the free Aussie Bird Count app. The Rainbow Lorikeet, Noisy Miner, and Australian Magpie topped the charts in 2024. Will they swoop in for the top three once more in 2025?

How to take part

Start by picking your spot, anywhere you like, from your backyard to your favourite park or garden; spend 20 minutes quietly observing the birds you see; submit your count using the Aussie Bird Count app, which will help you identify the birds you see and hear.

BirdLife Australia is the national bird conservation charity behind the Aussie Bird Count which has grown in popularity over more than a decade.

"It's not about being a bird expert," Sean Dooley, BirdLife Australia's National Public Affairs Manager said.

"It's about spending time outdoors and discovering something new about your local environment. The Aussie Bird Count shows how citizen science can bring families and communities together while deepening our understanding of Australia's unique wildlife.

"Birds are considered indicators of environmental health, and one in six Australian bird species is now under threat. Citizen science can play a vital role in filling the gaps between professional surveys and helping communities take ownership of conservation.

"The Aussie Bird Count is a simple 20-minute activity that can become an annual family tradition to encourage observation skills and appreciation of nature that can last a lifetime."

Whether participants are seasoned birders or people who simply enjoy spotting a

kookaburra or a flock of lorikeets, the count offers an accessible way to engage with the environment and take part in protecting it.

Why join the count?

Australia's largest citizen science project, the Aussie Bird Count encourages everyone to get to know their local birds and help BirdLife Australia take an annual, national snapshot

of the birds around us.

It is also helping Australians to embrace the natural environment and sustainable thinking, through activations in classrooms, councils and even workplaces, with many embracing it as a learning tool, community activity and wellbeing initiative.

"Every count matters," Sean said.

"Every time someone stops to notice a bird, even a common one, that's a moment of connection.

"Whether you're taking part from your local park, backyard or through one of the many local community activities, bird watching is a simple activity that can bring connection and joy. Communities that care about nature are communities that protect it."



A special afternoon tea for a special lady. The Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary hosted an afternoon tea to celebrate Ruth, who served as secretary of the auxiliary for 15 years. She worked tirelessly as secretary, and has now earned a much-needed rest. -S



ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT
OPEN GARDENS

Come...
be inspired!

October 25 and 26, 2025. 10am-4pm.
alexandraopengardens.com.au

Beautiful town and country
gardens plant sales,
garden sculptures and more



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject
to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the
company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts
no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such
material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post
Approved - PP 10000292

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

Highlands Community Hall installs new screen doors

THE Highlands Community Hall is pleased to present their new look security screen doors. These have been added to the front entry and rear doors.

This will enhance comfort for all hall users on hot summer days and help with the hall's security.

The hall committee would like to thank the Victorian Government for their *Tiny Town Fund* grant which covered this upgrade.



The new security screen door at the Highlands Hall. -S

A loss for Holden on Bathurst weekend

ON the weekend of Bathurst, October 11 and 12, police conducted patrols and came across a hoon in a Holdren V8 SS Ute leaving a licenced premises in Flowerdale.

While the driver was potentially trying to impress onlookers by performing a burnout, the police directly behind him were less than impressed. The vehicle was intercepted and the 39 year old male tested positive for having drugs and alcohol in his system, later returning a blood alcohol concentration of 0.097.

The vehicle which had only returned from the mechanics that day was impounded at the cost of \$2303 and will remain off the road for the next 30 days. The driver will be summonsed to appear at court for improper use of a motor vehicle, drive while exceeding prescribed concentration of alcohol and drug driving.

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:



RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	09.00AM Mon	1.66	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	09.00AM Mon	0.53	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	09.00AM Mon	0.59	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	07.47AM Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	05.59AM Mon	0.45	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	09.00AM Mon	0.25	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	09.00AM Mon	0.50	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.71	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	09.00AM Mon	0.40	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	09.00AM Mon	1.34	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	09.00AM Mon	0.29	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	09.00AM Mon	1.64	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	09.00AM Mon	1.13	steady	

*ISSUED AT 10:09 AM AEDT MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025



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.



Weekly Weather

October 22 - October 28, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	18	Wednesday	7	18
Thursday	6	18	Thursday	6	18
Friday	7	19	Friday	6	19
Saturday	11	18	Saturday	10	18
Sunday	8	17	Sunday	8	17
Monday	6	16	Monday	6	16
Tuesday	7	19	Tuesday	6	19



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	2mm
Buxton	5mm
Eildon (AWS)	0.6mm
Flowerdale	3mm
Jamieson	3mm
Kinglake	5mm
Lake Eildon	2mm
Mansfield	0.6mm
Taggerty	3mm
Yarck	1mm
Yea	0.9mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	275.72m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	65.8%
Metres below full supply	13.18m
Daily inflow	1800ML
Release	2800ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	56%

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

Alexandra & District Open Gardens is this weekend

IN its 35th year, Alexandra & District Open Gardens is bringing you seven diverse gardens over the weekend of Saturday 25 and Sunday October 26. All gardens will be open between 10am and 4pm.

From the entry fees at gardens, Alexandra & District Open Gardens committee is very proud to be financially supporting many local community groups. One recipient is Alexandra Sprouts Club with a \$1000 donation, providing support and empowering our next generation of gardeners.

Alexandra Sprouts Club based at Embassy of Ideas, 3 Bayley Street, Alexandra will also be open between 10.30am to 1.30pm Saturday and Sunday. There will be free entry for this, and Lucy Collins, the facilitator and her helpers will be making seed ball/bomb making activities for some hands on fun.

This year there are four town gardens, and three country gardens located at Marysville, Buxton, Taggerty, Alexandra and Thornton.

At each garden you will find additional interesting attractions

including food, sculptures, craft and plants on offer for sale. Some of our local community groups will be fundraising so dig deep to support them.

This year there are five gardens that will be open to the public for the first time and two of these that are young. As one of these garden owner’s said “This garden is very much a work in progress and hopefully will provide encouragement to those dealing with new gardens and challenging conditions.”

You will be inspired by the diverse creativity of the garden owners, the planning, planting and constantly making changes to their gardens. The owners have spent many hours creating a special place for themselves, friends and family.

These garden owners have been very generous in opening and sharing their gardens for you to visit and enjoy.

Visit alexandraopengardens.com.au for a map of all the gardens and detailed descriptions of what



Robyn Schrader and Carole Staley’s garden at 2611 MaroonDAH Highway, Taggerty. -S

you can see at each one. There will be a few surprises waiting for you.

The entry fees are \$5 per person for town gardens, \$8 per person for country gardens or \$40 per person for an all garden pass. Tickets are available on the weekend at each garden gate. Cash only as there are no card payment facilities. You can also purchase an all gardens weekend pass through Trybooking. QR code on the event’s website.

NOTE: No dogs allowed except service dogs.

Alexandra & District Open Gardens look forward to seeing you on the weekend at these gardens. Come and be inspired.

Community urged to practice earthquake safety

AS Australia is experiencing on average 100 earthquakes above magnitude 3.0 every year Geoscience Australia is encouraging people to practice earthquake safety regularly to be familiar with what to do and what not to do.

The *Great ShakeOut* is an international earthquake safety drill to teach people how to stay safe during earthquakes.

Geoscience Australia research after the 2021 magnitude 5.9 Woods Point earthquake in Victoria showed only three per cent of people followed safety advice, while 48 per cent of people took no action to protect themselves.

If you feel the ground start to shake, drop to the ground, seek cover under a sturdy table and protect your head and neck, and hold on until the shaking stops. After you are safe, submit a felt report to the *Earthquakes@GA* website. The more felt reports, the better the understanding about the earthquake, helping authorities prioritise where they may need to assess damage.

Earthquakes@GA is one of the services Geoscience Australia delivers through their National Earthquake Alerts Centre that operates 24 hours a day to provide rapid alerts of significant earthquakes and tsunamis in Australia and overseas.

Geoscience Australia Chief Executive Officer Melissa Harris says knowing where to get trustworthy and reliable information is critical to community confidence during emergencies.

“While they aren’t common, large earthquakes can and do happen in Australia. Geoscience

Australia monitors for earthquakes all day and night as the government’s trusted source of Earth science information and advice,” she said.

“The more we know about the ground beneath our feet, the better prepared we can be as a community to build resilience and prepare for the earthquake risk across Australia.”

Geoscience Australia Seismologist Dr Michelle Salmon says it is vital for everyone to know how to keep safe in an earthquake.

“The best science cannot yet predict or control when and how the ground is going to shake in an earthquake but, if prepared, we can limit the impact. The *Great ShakeOut* is an opportunity to practice what you would do during an earthquake.”

The largest recorded earthquake in Australia was a magnitude 6.6 at Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, in 1988. Two earthquakes over magnitude six were recorded in the lead up to the main earthquake.

The 1989 magnitude 5.6 Newcastle earthquake was one of Australia’s most significant natural disasters. The earthquake killed 13 people and left 160 people injured and requiring hospitalisation.

In more recent times, more than 50 aftershocks have been recorded in the year since a magnitude 4.7 earthquake near Muswellbrook in New South Wales on August 23, 2024.

People can download resources to run a *Great ShakeOut* drill from the *Geoscience Australia* website, as well as information on how people of all abilities can stay safe during an earthquake.

Game changing hut for recreational deer hunting

THE state government is building and upgrading remote huts, giving recreational deer hunters the perfect basecamp and making hunting trips easier and even more rewarding.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos announced a \$1,000,000 investment to establish new huts equipped with meat safes in some of Victoria’s most beautiful and remote deer hunting areas and biodiversity hotspots.

The huts will feature basic facilities and secure meat safes, allowing recreational hunters to safely and sustainably harvest more deer, store venison and extend their trips. The huts would also be available to bush walkers, four wheel drivers, mountain bikers and adventurers of all kinds.

With better meat storage, recreational hunters can bring home more venison, helping to reduce deer populations that can cause damage to native vegetation, agriculture and forest ecosystems, a win for the environment and the local economy.

Keeping venison cool and protected is critical to ensure it remains safe and high quality to eat. Until now, recreational hunters have had to rely on game bags. These new meat safes will change the game, ensuring high quality, hygienic storage.

Meat safes offer greater control over hygiene, air flow, chilling and food safety than game bags, ensuring wild game is safely harvested, handled and served. Made of simple timber construction with fly screening, the safes are designed to securely store meat and promote airflow while protecting against dirt, pests and contamination.

The state government will collaborate with hunting and community groups to help guide how the huts are delivered, including determining the number and locations of the huts, ensuring these new outposts meet the needs of Victoria’s recreational hunters.

This pilot builds on the state government’s announcement in July to expand recreational deer hunting in East Gippsland’s Errinundra and Snowy River National Parks, as well as the Victorian Deer Control Strategy, a state wide plan to manage deer populations to minimise impacts on biodiversity, agriculture and public safety.

Victorians wishing to recreationally hunt deer in Victoria must hold a current Victorian Game Licence issued by the Game Management Authority (GMA).

Schools to provide students with digital devices

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Out&About

WHAT'S ON?

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc AGM will be held at 5.30pm at The Mount, 2456 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Redgate Alexandra CWA AGM will be held at 10am at the club rooms, Perkin Street, Alexandra. More information 0412 435 946.

Tallarook online clearing sale commencing Thursday, at noon concluding Monday, October 27 at noon. Tools, old mowers, farm sundries, furniture and more. Visit emblingrural.com.au/onlineauctions or phone Andrew 0418 266 038 for more information.

COMMUNITY DIARY

- Yea District Hospital**
5736 0400
Non-emergency police assistance
131 444
EMERGENCY 000

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

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1 st Mon	St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1 st Thu	Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
Last Fri	Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353
- 

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

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 10.30am
Colin Whiteway
Ph 0457 340 525

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Fawcett Hall Open garden weekend. Saturday and Sunday. Plants, bargains, food and coffee. Trash 'n Treasure, raffles and more.

Alexandra and District Open Gardens Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm. alexandraopengardens.com.au

Alexandra Race Club Cox Plate Day. Music, food, racing, big screen and more. Bookings country.racing.com/Alexandra

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

TEDFNC AGM will be held at 11am at the Thornton Sports Club. Everyone welcome. Nominations will be called from the floor; all positions will be filled. For enquiries phone 0422 787 132.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Free business networking brunch in Yea. Join local businesses and entrepreneurs from around the shire from 10.30am-12.30pm at Country Club Yea. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessnetworking

The Alexandra & District Netball Association AGM will be held at the Corner Hotel in the Goldfields Room at 7pm. For more information contact president Cassandra 0418 538 964 or email juniorb.netball@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

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

Police data reveals group riding trauma trend

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

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

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

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

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

Police also believe that in many of these fatalities did not involve any significant risk taking or illegal behaviour, with more than

80 per cent of riders licenced and wearing an approved helmet.

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

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

With October to December considered the highest risk period for motorcycle trauma, police are urging riders to prioritise their safety, particularly when participating in group rides.

Tips for safe group motorcycle riding include: Appoint a ride leader and tail end to set the ride pace and keep the group together; plan the route, including an assembly point and designated meeting points along the route; consider using hand signals to communicate to other riders; develop a system for corner marking so riders don't feel pressured to keep up; consider the ride duration and manage

fatigue by taking regular breaks; check your bike and ensure it is in a roadworthy condition; always wear an approved helmet and protective safety gear; ride at your own pace and do not attempt to keep up with the bike in front of you; leave a sufficient distance between each rider to account for road hazards, and overtake other vehicles on the right, and always one rider at a time.

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

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

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

For more information on and tips on safe motorcycle riding, visit police.vic.gov.au/motorcycle-safety

Council and DTP comment on reappearing potholes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

hazards. Maintenance issues on council managed roads can be reported online at murrindindi.v.gov.au/request or by calling (03) 5772 0333.

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

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

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

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

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

Have your say on the Draft Domestic Animal Plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting the community to have their say on the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029, which will guide how council supports pet owners, enforces animal regulations, and promotes responsible pet ownership over the next four years.

The DAMP 2026–2029 sets clear goals to encourage responsible pet ownership, support positive animal welfare outcomes, and minimise the negative impacts pets may have on the community and environment.

Between July and August, council sought feedback from the community about how cats and dogs are managed across the municipality. This consultation helped shape the draft plan and identified key priorities for pet management in Murrindindi Shire.

Almost half of all households in the shire own a cat or dog, with dogs being more commonly owned than cats. Eighty per cent of respondents said pets are integral to family life and wellbeing, influencing exercise, social connection and lifestyle choices.

Community survey respondents demonstrated strong support for mandatory cat desexing (75 per cent), property-based confinement (86 per cent) and night-time curfews (94 per cent). Seventy-five per cent also supported the idea of designated off-lead

dog parks to encourage dog socialisation and community connection.

The draft DAMP proposes actions and timelines for these initiatives. These proposals will be refined through further planning and community consultation before being presented to Council for consideration.

Councillor Jodi Adams, Portfolio Councillor for Community Wellbeing said the draft plan highlights the importance of responsible pet ownership and community collaboration in shaping how people and pets can thrive together.

“Responsible pet ownership is essential to the safety and wellbeing of our community. The draft plan reflects community feedback and outlines clear, achievable actions to improve animal management across the Shire.”

“It reinforces council’s commitment to supporting pet owners while ensuring our public spaces remain safe, accessible and enjoyable everyone, both and four-legged.”

The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 is now available for community feedback. To read the draft plan and share your thoughts, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/damp2629 or call council on 5772 0333 for more information.



Have your say on responsible pet ownership. -Alvegaspar

How will AI impact upcoming elections, and what is being done?

WITH artificial intelligence (AI) now able to show pretty much anyone doing and saying anything, what does this mean for our elections? How will people be able to tell fact from fiction. The Australian and Victorian Electoral Commissions were contacted to find out how they are tackling the issue.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

THE inquiry into the 2025 federal election, run by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM), has been open since September 3. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) made their submission, and their executives provided evidence at the hearing on October 15.

There were several points made which people in the shire may find interesting.

Spam mobile phone messages

People will be pleased to note that following 150 complaints from voters about unsolicited spam messages on their mobile phones, the AEC suggested that, “To strengthen public trust in political communication, the *Spam Act 2003 (Cth)* could be amended to ban political parties and other political participants from sending ‘spam messages’ (should such an amendment not offend the implied freedom of political communication) or alternatively require those sending spam text messages for election campaigning to adhere to the *Spam Act*. This would require political parties to first obtain consent from recipients, properly identify themselves as the sender, and provide an easy way for recipients to unsubscribe.”

Artificial intelligence

The AEC also commented, “Voters also need to be prepared for continuous changes in the online environment, including the continued evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that will further degrade and complicate the information environment around elections.

“Without sustained education and support on how to navigate the online information environment during an election period, and without the AEC being able to effectively regulate electoral content online, the voter’s trust in the electoral process and potentially the AEC will be impacted. This is becoming even more critical noting the ubiquity of electoral mis- and disinformation on social media, and a decreasing appetite from platforms

to remove, de-elevate, or label incorrect or misleading electoral information.”

In addition, they asked the JSCEM to consider “requiring communication that contains a deepfake (ie. AI generated images of another candidate) to declare the presence of a deepfake in the authorisation to help voters better understand and navigate the communication.”

It was noted by their media team that, “Despite widespread reports about the risks posed by AI ahead of the 2025 federal election, an assessment from the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (an interdepartmental election security group of which the AEC is a member) confirmed that the use of AI did not interfere with election delivery, nor was it likely to have impacted Australians’ trust in results.”

Following the inquiry, JSCEM will make recommendations about how the laws should be changed, and Parliament will then consider and vote on any legislation.

VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) said there are no laws in Victoria that regulate truth in political advertising, or the use of AI generated or modified materials in political advertising.

The media representative said, “However, in the lead into the 2026 state election we will once again take an active role on social media and step in to debunk electoral misinformation, AI-generated or not, when we see it circulating online.

“We will also encourage voters, through our statewide advertising and communication campaign, to visit the VEC website as the source of truth for all information about the election or electoral processes in Victoria.

“Voters can also view our misinformation register on our *Engaging with electoral campaign material* webpage, which includes a list of the common electoral misinformation that we’ve discovered circulating on social media, along with the corresponding myth-busting fact.

“We have previously called for clearly visible labelling of any AI-generated or AI-modified election campaign material. However, effective regulation requires the cooperation of online platforms themselves. We believe that a combination of regulation and non-regulatory approaches are required to ensure that voters are not misled.”

P Plate petition tabled in Parliament

LAST week a petition calling on the Victorian Government to reduce the minimum probationary drivers’ licence age from 18 to 17, in line with every other Australian state, was tabled in Parliament.

The Nationals’ Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad sponsored the petition which attracted more than 4000 signatures.

Ms Broad said the petition highlighted a major issue for regional and rural families.

“In recent months, I heard from many frustrated families who were keen to see the law changed. There is limited public transport in regional areas and family members and friends are called on to act as a taxi service.

“I’ve heard from young people who have been severely disadvantaged. They have

had to pass up valuable employment and educational opportunities because they simply could not get themselves there.”

Ms Broad said the lower driving age did not need to be at the cost of road safety.

“Everyone wants our young drivers to be safe. In NSW there are special driver training programs and incentives focused on safety, which could easily be replicated in Victoria.”

Victoria is the only state in Australia that requires probationary drivers to be 18.

“I’ve heard from grandparents, parents and young people keen to see change.”

“It was great to see the petition receive support from across the state, with signatures from Mildura to Mount Martha.”

The Minister must respond to the petition within 30 days.

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN KINGLAKE WEST

Wednesday 29 October 2025



Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community?

We are hosting an Open Community Meeting in Kinglake West from 5.00 - 7.00 pm on Wednesday 29 October 2025 at the Kinglake West Mechanic’s Institute, 1055 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake West.

You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Murrindindi Shire Councillors about issues or ideas that are important to you and your community, and you may be speaking in front of members of the public, as well as Council officers.

If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, you are invited to attend the meeting. Prior registration is not required, we’ll greet you and collect your details on the evening.

For more information, email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call Council on 5772 0333.

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week one. Well done Savannah, Logan, Hudson and Auroha.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Former Murrindindi Shire Council CEO part of commission review

THE Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos recently tabled in the Victorian Parliament the final report from the Commission of Inquiry into Whittlesea City Council.

The inquiry launched in May this year, with the Minister determining that an inquiry with broad powers was necessary to address potentially serious and systemic governance issues within the council and identify necessary improvements to ensure it could function effectively.

The Chair of the Commission Prue Digby and Commissioner Jim Gifford have recommended a range of reforms to improve governance at the council and across the local government sector.

Of the 17 recommendations, four are directed to the council and 13 to government across four key areas: the performance of the mayor and deputy mayor, the performance of the councillors, the performance of the CEO and administration the legislative framework. The CEO is Craig Lloyd, who formerly led Murrindindi Shire Council.

On the Commission of Inquiry's recommendation, Mr Steven Kingshott has been appointed as Municipal Monitor to Whittlesea City Council from October 15, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Mr Kingshott will support the council in addressing the inquiry's findings and recommendations.

The government will consider the remaining recommendations and respond in due course.

Further information about the report and the terms of reference for the monitor are available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance

Be careful as European Wasps are buzzing around

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

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

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

A nest will most likely be found in a concealed site, holes in the ground, around base of trees and hedges and among retaining walls and rockeries. They are also attracted to rubbish heaps and grass clippings and uncovered compost. European wasps make their nests from chewed wood pulp and saliva giving the nest walls a distinctive papery look. Nests constructed of mud

are not European wasp nests, they are known to resemble the shape of a football.

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

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

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

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

The Department of Health states, If you happen to get stung by a European wasp be aware they can sting multiple times and their stinger contains several toxins. Some people are hypersensitive or allergic to these toxins so keep a close eye on your symptoms after a bite. The usual minor symptoms can include sharp pain or burning at the sting site, this usually results in a raised welt on the bite site. A tiny mark can be seen in the centre of the welt where the stinger enters the skin. Some major reactions can include extreme redness and swelling that increase one to two days after being stung, if this occurs seek medical attention.

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



Keep an eye for the European Wasps return this spring.
-Volodymyr Sorin

ATO and Ahpra send warning about extracting super early

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) have joined forces to stamp out business models and inappropriate practices that seek to use superannuation to pay for overly expensive or unnecessary medical treatments.

New data released by the ATO, shows significant growth in applications for compassionate release of super, particularly for dental services, where the number of requests has more than doubled in two years. To be approved, the services need to be certified by two practitioners as necessary to alleviate acute or chronic pain, to treat a life-threatening illness or injury or alleviate acute or chronic mental illness.

ATO Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosenzweig said the ATO is concerned that some health practitioners and registered agents are inappropriately supporting individuals to access their superannuation on compassionate grounds, particularly for cosmetic procedures that aren't aligned to compassionate release requirements.

"While superannuation can be accessed early under compassionate grounds, this is strictly available in very limited circumstances including for critical medical and dental procedures," Ms Rosenzweig said.

"I want to make it clear, compassionate release of super should only be considered as a last resort, where all other options of paying for the eligible expenses have been exhausted."

Ahpra and the Dental and Medical Boards of Australia are releasing new guidance for doctors and dentists in response to ongoing concerns of inappropriate conduct.

Ahpra Chief Executive Officer Justin Untersteiner said the guidance emphasised the need for a thorough assessment by an appropriately skilled practitioner, that prioritises the person's health.

"I'm stunned to hear that some businesses and practitioners are taking advantage of this process to push overly expensive or unnecessary treatments," Mr Untersteiner said.

"There is an inherent trust that the community places in their practitioners and taking advantage of people in need is never acceptable. Any advice on what procedure is necessary should be based on the patients' best interest and not influenced by financial gain or incentives."

The guidance follows the release of a position statement in May and reiterates that any treatments recommended by practitioners should only be certified if they are necessary.

It also includes a warning for practitioners that providing financial advice without a licence could also result in severe penalties from Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC).

In 2024-25, a significant portion of the \$1.4 billion in superannuation that was released early on compassionate grounds was for medical treatment, the category used by the ATO that includes dental, IVF and weight loss treatment. There were 93,500 applications in this category, the majority in relation to dental services and 30 per cent of those were rejected by the ATO for not meeting their requirements for compassionate release.

"We are seeing practitioners making inaccurate statements in medical reports. The ATO relies on medical and dental professionals to act in the best interests of their patients to prepare accurate reports regarding their diagnoses and the required treatment strategy," Ms Rosenzweig said.

Complaints to Ahpra about practitioners in this area generally relate to treatment already provided and funded through early access to super. Regulatory action has ranged from cautions and conditions to referral to a tribunal.

Other penalties apply to individuals, health practitioners or registered agents who help

to prepare or submit an application for health treatments that are not necessary, as this would be considered making a false or misleading statement to the Commissioner.

Ahpra and the ATO continue to work together to monitor recent growth in applications and identify any concerns about inappropriate conduct.

The ATO has developed a video for practitioners that details a number of concerning behaviours the ATO has observed and to educate them on the ATO's expectations when supporting individuals to access their super on compassionate grounds.

The ATO encourages anyone who is aware of inappropriate practices such as social media advertisements leading to inappropriate early access of superannuation, or health practitioners providing inaccurate medical reports, to make a tip off to the ATO.

If you have a concern about an individual registered health practitioner's professional performance or conduct, you can notify Ahpra.

For the full breakdown of the latest ATO data on compassionate release of super, visit ato.gov.au/about-ato/research-and-statistics/in-detail/super-statistics/early-release/compassionate-release-of-super



Is that text message worth \$611?

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

TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government





Federal Government backdown on Super Tax

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the Federal Government's significant amendments to its proposed superannuation tax, describing the changes as a substantial improvement that will protect thousands of farming families from the worst impacts of the original policy.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the announcement represented a common-sense response to the sustained concerns raised by the agricultural sector over nearly two years.

"It's a common-sense outcome for a tax that never should have existed in its original form in the first place.

"So much unnecessary concern and worry could have been avoided if they consulted with the industry before wheeling this out.

"Victorian farmers are breathing a sigh of relief. They faced the very real prospect of being forced to sell their land to pay tax bills on paper gains they had never actually realised.

"The Government's decision to tax only realised earnings, rather than unrealised capital gains, addresses the fundamental flaw in the original proposal that would have created impossible liquidity pressures for farming families," Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking added the decision to index the \$3 million threshold was equally important, preventing bracket creep from progressively capturing more family farms over time as land values naturally increased.

The original proposal threatened over 3500 self managed superannuation funds (SMSF) holding farmland across Australia from day one, with thousands more at risk as property values rose.

Many Victorian farming families structure their operations through SMSFs, allowing older farmers to lease land to the next generation while funding their retirement.

"The VFF, working closely with the National Farmers Federation and our members, has consistently highlighted how this tax would undermine farm succession planning, with the next generation of farming families paying the price.

"While some farmers will still face additional tax obligations under the revised policy, this is a vastly better outcome than the original proposal which would have set a hugely worrying precedent in our tax system.

"This is a great example of the power of VFF membership. When farmers speak with a united voice and present evidence-based arguments, governments listen," Mr Hosking said.

Alex Scott and Staff now operating in Yea

ALEX Scott and Staff is now in its 140th year, making it one of the oldest private stock agent companies in Australia, and Tim Gibson is a fifth generation stock agent, so they know what they're doing.

When we spoke, Tim was returning from a large cattle sale in Koonwarra, near Leongatha.

He said, "Seasonal conditions has got a few clients a bit nervous, so the market, in places had a 20 to 30 cent per kilo drop."

They recently returned to Yea, participating in the Combined Agents sale at the Yea Saleyards a fortnight ago.

Tim explained that they've been trying to sell in the area since the Pakenham Saleyard closed around the end of last financial year.

"It's taken a little bit of time, but we got there in the end, which was really good result. It was great to see all agents operating including selling and buying," he said.

"All combined agents had 2500 cattle at the first combined sale and Alex Scott and Staff had just under 400 breeders calves there, which all sold above expectations and we had some great results for clients."

They plan to continue at the Yea Saleyards moving forward, including having some cattle there at the November Combined Agents sale. They are certainly keen for farmers to get in contact, "It hasn't been ideal with the closure of Pakenham and to give existing and future clients options to send their cattle where they can make the most is good business."

With Alex Scott and Staff operating for such a long time, Tim said, "We haven't been around for five minutes, and we don't plan on going anywhere either."

Asked about the seasonal impact on the cattle price, Tim said, "If you asked me a month ago, the cattle prices and season was booming and everything was looking really good. Since then and without a good rain in majority of the eastern states, northern Victoria and Gippsland prices have dropped. Reflecting on that made our sale at Yea look very good because we're coming up a fortnight later selling stores to cheaper rates of 20 to 30 cents.

"The season now has got very dry and a lot of farmers have pulled back their numbers on head on purchasing cattle as they're not prepared to push the farms as hard and they're a bit nervous with the season even though there's grass everywhere... We are optimistic on the cattle prices to be in a good place in the near future and looking back from last year it has come a long way. It has made very good trading and we are still seeing great results for vendors and purchasers."

He added, "We've got a few clients, not too far out of Yea, that are pretty happy to make a move on selling a few. I was up there on Monday and the country has never looked as good to me personally all things considering but they're probably wanting it to go a bit longer and that will all depend on what falls from the sky. I believe we have a great team at Alex Scott and Staff where the agents support our clients on farm

and in the saleyard with great buying demands from Gippsland.

The Alex Scott and Staff team are keen to expand in the Yea area, giving existing and future clients options on where to sell their cattle and get the most for them.

What's the best option for your crop this season

EVERY year Victorian grain crops face seasonal risks in spring. With the market for hay quite strong and the grain market looking weaker than other years, farmers might choose to cut their crops for hay instead of harvesting them.

To help work out the most profitable option, Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist Dale Boyd is encouraging growers to take advantage of some helpful online calculators.

"Growers are facing elevated seasonal risks this year due to below average growing season rainfall," Mr Boyd said.

"Our calculators will help farmers check how well their crops are doing for grain and weigh up whether it's better to use them for fodder to optimise outcomes in a challenging season."

The Dry Matter Calculator helps farmers work out how much dry matter their crops may yield in tonnes per hectare so they can decide the best time to cut hay.

The Hay versus Grain Calculator compares the gross margin of both hay and grain in dollars per hectare, offering a picture of potential profitability.

The Crop Yield Calculator helps farmers quickly estimate cereal crop yield in the field using a ruler and smartphone. It's a practical tool for assessing paddock performance, forecasting grain quality, and planning harvest logistics.

Together, these tools can help farmers to make confident, data-driven decisions in the field.

To use these calculators visit the following links, for dry matter calculator visit go.vic.gov.au/3L3eO0R, for the hay versus grain calculator visit go.vic.gov.au/42y8THb, and for the crop yield calculator visit extensionaus.com.au/soilmoisturemonitoring/crop-yield-calculator

For information on available drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

National Hay Safety Day promotes farm safety

THE Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) has a two-fold message for National Hay Safety Day on October 25, as the busy harvest season starts.

AFIA Executive Officer Vanessa Curtis said: "Firstly, share the load with others. Don't attempt dangerous tasks on your own.

"And also, share your knowledge with others. If it's all in your head, how can you ensure the sustainability of the organisation if you are not around?"

The campaign has been an initiative of AFIA member and former director Suzanne Woods, a Western Australian hay grower whose father was

tragically killed in an on-farm accident.

Ms Curtis said: "Everyone deserves the right, and has the responsibility, to operate in a safe working environment, physically, mentally and emotionally.

"Our industry members are working with large, complicated machinery items. They are sometimes working alone, often in remote areas. There are risk factors unlike any other business."

The year has already seen evidence of the dangers: In February, a woman was fatally injured while operating an in-line silage wrapper on a Victorian farm; the following month, a hay exporter was fined \$400,000 for the death of an

employee crushed in machinery at Bridgewater near Bendigo, Victoria; in April, a WA hay processing company was fined \$595,000 and ordered to pay \$5510 costs over a serious injury to a worker; and in the same month, a man unloading bales of hay was crushed and killed at Toolleen, near Bendigo.

"It makes good business sense to plan to be safe around fodder," she said.

"But more than that, it's a duty to your workers, your co-workers, your community and your family."

AFIA has produced a checklist to help prepare for the season. Read it at afia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Plan-to-Be-Safe-Around-Hay-FINAL.pdf

TALLAROOK ONLINE CLEARING SALE A/C S French

Commencing **Thursday**, October 23, 2025, **12 noon**
Concluding **Monday**, October 27, 2025, **12 noon**

Inspection Day **Thursday**, October 23, 2025 **10am - 3pm**
10 Sunday Drive, Tallarook, Victoria

Pick up day **Wednesday**, October 29, 2025 **10am - 4pm**

**TOOLS, OLD MOWERS, FARM SUNDRIES, FURNITURE,
GENERAL HARDWARE, HAY RINGS, STEEL POSTS**

All lots will be published on our website
emblingrural.com.au/onlineauctions

Embling Rural
54 Grant Street, Alexandra
03 5772 3110



Agent: Andrew Embling
0418 266 038
Director: Ayden Embling
0427 924 944

ALEX SCOTT & STAFF

**Now Operating at the Monthly
Yea Combined Agent Store Sale
Additional Entries Welcomed**

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



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

2024 deer harvest report now available

THE Game Management Authority on Monday released the *Estimates of the 2024 deer harvest in Victoria* report.

Results show an estimated 167,600 deer were harvested in 2024. This is a 22 per cent increase on the estimated 137,100 deer harvested in 2023 and an 83 per cent increase on the long term average of 91,100.

Sambar Deer were the most harvested species with an estimated harvest of 128,000 deer, of which 60 per cent were female. Fallow Deer were the second most harvested species, with an estimated harvest of 35,400 deer, of which 58 per cent were female.

The number of licenced recreational deer hunters in 2024 was 52,098. The number of deer hunters in Victoria has remained relatively steady since 2023, when there were 52,321 licensed deer hunters.

Of the 52,098 licensed deer hunters, 50 per cent actively hunted in 2024. On average, active deer hunters harvested an estimated 6.4 deer over 13.5 days.



There were plenty of sambar deer hunted in 2024, and with upgrades for hunting huts in the future, the outlook is even better. -Amit Rawat

The most popular hunting areas were around the towns of Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Omeo, Benalla and Eildon. The highest number of deer harvested were around the towns of Mansfield, Bairnsdale, Benalla, Yarram and Omeo.

GMA Research Principal, Dr Jason Flesch, said the research was based on information gathered from randomly selected licenced deer hunters who voluntarily participated in the phone surveys.

"Throughout 2024, approximately 2400 licenced deer hunters were surveyed about

their hunting activity including how many deer were harvested, where hunting occurred, hunting methods used, and the species of deer harvested," Dr Flesch said.

"This research helps build a stronger understanding of deer harvest trends and hunting activity in Victoria."

The report is produced annually by the GMA in collaboration with the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

For a full copy of the *Estimates of the 2024 deer harvest* report, visit gma.vic.gov.au

More compassion and dignity for terminally ill

THE state government is updating Victoria's voluntary assisted dying (VAD) laws to make the process clearer and more compassionate for terminally ill Victorians who are living in pain.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas last week introduced legislation into the Victorian Parliament to amend the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017*, which has allowed 1683 terminally ill Victorians to make their own decisions about their death since 2019.

The new legislation will remove unnecessary barriers to accessing VAD, improve clarity for practitioners, strengthen safety measures and make the system fairer and more compassionate.

The reforms will maintain the strong safeguards that have been a cornerstone of Victoria's approach, ensuring that decisions are voluntary, the person has decision-making capacity, and they are free from coercion.

There are 13 proposed amendments to the legislation, with proposed key changes to include: Removing the 'gag clause' so that registered health practitioners are allowed to raise VAD with their patients during discussion about end of life options requiring registered health practitioners who conscientiously object to provide minimum information; Extending the prognosis requirement (life expectancy limit for eligibility) from six months to 12 months. For people with neurodegenerative diseases (like motor neurone disease), they'll no longer need a third prognosis if their expected lifespan is between six and 12 months. Introducing a new administering practitioner role to expand the workforce able to support VAD.

The proposed amendments follow the release of an independent review into the first five years of VAD in Victoria which found the service is working safely and as intended, however, it also identified challenges in accessing VAD.

Victoria led the nation in 2017 by becoming the first state or territory in Australia to legalise VAD, since then other jurisdictions have followed suit and, in many cases, improved the service.

The proposed amendments will bring Victoria's VAD legislation into line with these other states where they have been operating safely and effectively for several years, and do not go further than those in other jurisdictions.

Taggerty Show and Shine on the horizon

ON Saturday, November 1, Taggerty Progress Group will hold their annual Vehicle Show and Shine in conjunction with the Taggerty Four Seasons Farmer's Market.

Local CFA brigades will also be supporting the event, showing off CFA vehicles and conducting a recruitment drive.

Last year's event was a huge success with over 80 vehicles on show, as well as the Farmer's Market with the usual great range of produce, craft beer and other stalls, entertainment, and the now famous gourmet sausage sizzle.

Prizes will be awarded for Best Vehicle in Show, as well as the viewing public voting for a People's Choice award.

The show and shine will be open to the public between 9am and 2-3pm by gold coin donation to Taggerty Community Hub, with attending vehicles requested to be in place by 8.30am.

WHAT KIND OF MAN DO YOU WANT TO BE?

We asked Victorian men about everything from fatherhood to relationships to online gaming to social media.

HEAR MEN'S STORIES



RESPECT VICTORIA



PUZZLES

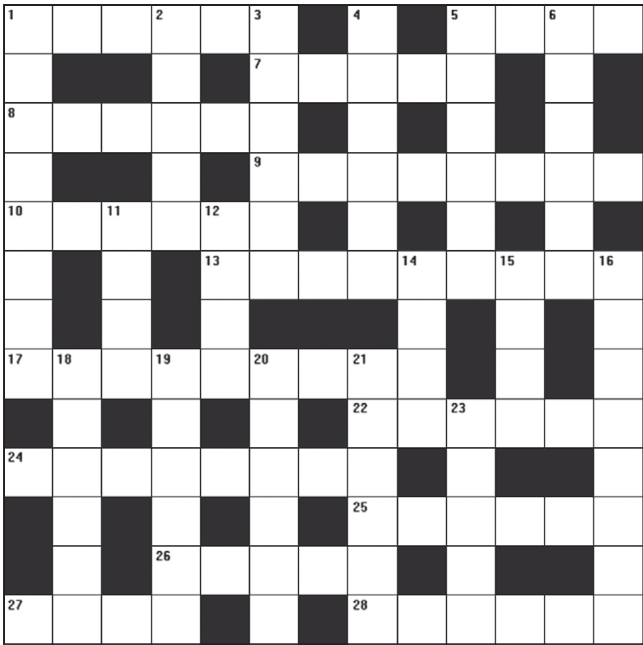
SOLUTIONS
Page 11

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. A romantic or sentimental narrative song.
- 5. Accidentally strike your toe against something.
- 7. Take someone else's child into your family.
- 8. A place of religious retreat for Hindus.
- 9. Gave a small amount in a reluctant manner.
- 10. Knitted with diamond-shaped pattern.
- 13. Having a superior or more favourable position.
- 17. The one who gets up first in the morning.
- 22. A land mass surrounded by water.
- 24. Was vivacious, witty and animated.
- 25. Fire breathing mythical beast.
- 26. An artificial waterway used for shipping.
- 27. Small casks for transporting and storing beer.
- 28. An uncastrated adult male horse.



DOWN

- 1. Endurable and tolerated although unpleasant.
- 2. A large truck designed to carry heavy loads.
- 3. Blocked up and confined a body of water.
- 4. A musical composition with several movements.
- 5. A public thoroughfare in a city or town.
- 6. To remove an obstruction from a drain.
- 11. Personal equipment and belongings.
- 12. A woman of an aristocratic family.
- 14. Lets the head fall forward through drowsiness.
- 15. An elaborate song for solo voice.
- 16. Information that proves facts in a law court.
- 18. Growing on mountains above the timberline.
- 19. The words of a popular song.
- 20. Tightly wrapping and binding bundles of hay.
- 21. A question that is puzzling or confusing.
- 23. Jumped suddenly from one place to another.

Word Search

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

Red things

- APPLES
- POINSETTIA
- CAPSICUM
- POMEGRANATE
- CHERRIES
- ROSES
- LIPSTICK
- RUBIES
- LOBSTER
- SNAPPER
- MARS
- STRAWBERRY

Math Square

4	+	3	-		2
+		+		-	
	-		-		-7
+		x		÷	
	x		-		7
12		57		1	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Cryptogram

Red Things

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2								
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
			11					
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
24								
M M								
10 7 11 11 10								
S					S			
24	22	4	3	16	24	15	9	23 20
S	A							
24	23	13	2	15	18	16	13	13 10
A M			A					
5 2 11			2 3 25					
			A M					
22 13 16			2 11					

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Very Hard

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

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "Ab"

- ABACK
- ABBREVIATE
- ABACUS
- ABDICATE
- ABALONE
- ABDOMEN
- ABANDON
- ABDUCT
- ABATE
- ABIDE
- ABATTOIR
- ABILITY
- ABBEY
- ABLE

Math Square

	+		+		21
+		-		-	
	-	3	+	7	9
+		+		+	
	+		+		9
15		3		7	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

- Q: How can a frog jump higher than the Eiffel Tower?
A: The Eiffel Tower can't jump.
- Q: What drops but never hits the ground?
A: The temperature.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-60S

Chris's TV

The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Extra TV wall points
- Surround sound systems
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Home theatre
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured Fully Vaccinated

BOOKKEEPING



TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING

- *BAS *IAS *Superannuation
- *Accounts Receivable
- *Accounts Payable *Payroll

Ph Trevor Turner
0419 575 176

CARPET CLEANING



- ✓ Stain removal
- ✓ Urine treatment
- ✓ Upholstery cleaning
- ✓ Carpet steam cleaning
- ✓ Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CONCRETE



- Exposed aggregate
- Plain & coloured concrete
- Shed slabs, driveways & paving
- Architectural concrete

Alex Robinson
ph: 0408 666 980
goulburnriverconcrete@gmail.com

CONCRETING

Fleetwood Concreting

If it's concrete you need, phone Mac!

Any style - any size

- Driveways • Paths • Slabs • Foundations
- Steps • Crossovers
- Plain • Coloured • Stencil • Slate or • Exposed Aggregate

All excavations and concrete cutting

Phone 0418 534 973

CONVEYANCING



Sargeants

CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310
info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsexc@bigpond.com

FENCING

McMASTER FENCING CONTRACTOR

All general farm fencing, cattle yards, sheep yards, vineyards, on site welding and oxy work.
Tree plantation ripping
5 hydraulic post drivers and pneumatic drivers

GRASS SLASHING
4 extra heavy duty slashers

GENERAL FREIGHT
Hay, timber, wool, steel, grapes, machinery

GLEN (HORACE) McMASTER
5797 2921
Mobile 0417 529 809

The Yea Chronicle

Like us on facebook
facebook.com/alexandranewspapers



PAINTERS

W. & J. GREEN

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

50 Years experience in all things painting

0407 134 756

PLANNING SERVICES

Navy Blue Planning
Urban and Regional Planning Specialists

+ Planning approvals + Subdivision
+ Masterplanning

Melbourne | Alexandra | Mansfield | Morwell

0419 006 014
www.navyblueplanning.com.au
admin@navyblueplanning.com.au

PLUMBERS

G (Jack) McMaster

Plumbing Lic No 29767 YOUR LOCAL PLUMBER

- New work & Renovations • Domestic & Commercial
- Septic tanks, Water tanks • Pumps etc • Gas Fitting
- Roofing & Spouting • Trenching • Backflow Prevention

Ph 0428 972 386

SERVICE STATIONS



Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
with Mobil and Prolube lubricants,
greases and solvents.



Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

Servo Saver set to help save Victorians money on fuel

THE Victorian Government is helping you find the best deal at the petrol pump, with *Servo Saver*.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos recently launched *Servo Saver* on the Service Victoria app.

It could save Victorian motorists up to \$333 a year at the pump, putting money back in their pockets and helping to alleviate cost of living pressures.

The new app also helps deliver the first phase of the government's Fair Fuel Plan by requiring fuel retailers to report their fuel prices in real time, with new legislation set to cap on the daily price.

More than 1200 retailers across Victoria are now compliant with the new mandatory reporting system and are already meeting requirements to report their fuel prices.

This price data is fed directly into *Servo Saver*, allowing motorists to see where they will get the best deal in their area or along their route and make informed decisions about when and where to fill up.

Currently, fuel price reporting in Victoria is voluntary and often patchy. While commercial price reporting websites exist, *Servo Saver* will include every fuel provider, won't be advertiser funded, and will never promote one outlet over the other.

The *Servo Saver* and mandatory reporting will support the next phase of the Fair Fuel Plan, to cap the fuel price once a day and lock that ceiling in place for 24 hours, or when the price is reduced.

This means you'll be able to check your local area for which service station is offering the best price throughout the next day, and when you arrive in the morning to fill up, there'll be no surprises.

Under the plan, the price at that outlet can't rise at any time throughout that day, but there is not intended to be any limit to a company reducing its fuel price. This plan is already well underway.

Premier Jacinta Allan said: "We're capping and locking fuel price rises and helping you save money at the servo."

"We know this won't change everything for families who are doing it tough, but these savings can add up to hundreds of dollars a year."

Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos added: "*Servo Saver* is designed to enable motorists to make informed decisions about where to fill up, while giving retailers greater control over how they advertise their petrol prices."

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
2 18 22 25 16 26 17 20 9 5 19 6 11

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
3 4 21 1 13 24 23 7 8 15 12 10 14

YUMMY SCONES WITH
STRAWBERRY JAM AND CREAM

CROSSWORD

B A L L A D S S T U B
E O A D O P T N
A S H R A M N R C
R R M E A G E R L Y
A R G Y L E T E O
B A D V A N T A G E
L A D O R V
E A R L Y B I R D I I
L Y A I S L A N D
S P A R K L E D E
I I I D R A G O N
N C A N A L P C
K E G S G E N T I R E

MATH SQUARES

4	+	3	-	5	2
+		+		-	
7	-	6	-	8	-7
+		x		÷	
1	x	9	-	2	7
12		57		1	

SUDOKU

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

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

9	+	4	+	8	21
+		-		-	
5	-	3	+	7	9
+		+		+	
1	+	2	+	6	9
15		3		7	

Classifieds

**Call 5772 1002 now
to book your ad today!**

Fax 5772 1603 or Email
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS** Pty. Ltd.

Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

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.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

SITUATION VACANT



Manufacturing Operator

Valley Seeds are committed to producing high quality seed products that support farmers across Australia.

We are seeking casual workers at our Yarrack warehouse to join our manufacturing team.

Key responsibilities:

- Operate and monitor seed packing equipment
- Perform regular maintenance and cleaning of machinery
- Ensure product quality meets company and industry standards
- Accurately complete production and inventory records
- Maintain a clean and safe work environment
- Follow all safety and operational protocols

Please email your resume to
ccollett@valleyseeds.com

SITUATION VACANT

Full-Time Gardening Position at Evans Pastoral -Thornton

Evans Pastoral is seeking a reliable, motivated individual to join our team as a gardener. Whether you're an experienced gardener or someone eager to start a career in horticulture, we'd love to hear from you.

Responsibilities include planting, pruning, mowing, and general garden maintenance.

- Permanent, full-time position
- Friendly, supportive team at Evans Pastoral
- Experience preferred but not essential
- Training provided for the right person
- Willingness to work in all weather conditions is required
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team is essential
- Immediate start available

To apply, send your resume to
heidigrotaers@gmail.com or
call Heidi on 0427689248 for more info.

Like us on Facebook



SITUATION VACANT



Position Available: Heavy Combination or Heavy Rigid Truck Driver
Website: hgturfgroup.com.au
Location: Alexandra
Type: Casual Position with view to Permanent Role

About the role

We are currently seeking a dedicated and skilled Heavy Combination or Heavy Rigid Truck Driver based in Alexandra to join our team at HG Turf Group. As a valued member, you will enjoy competitive pay rates and attractive working hours, contributing to a positive and supportive work environment. At HG Turf Group, we believe in fostering a team-driven culture where every individual plays an integral role.

About you Essential Skills / Experience:

- Current Heavy Combination (HC) or Heavy Rigid (HR) licence or better
- Forklift licence is preferred (training provided)
- Dedication to maintaining high standards of safety compliance, customer service, and quality processes
- Willingness to undergo pre-employment medical, drug, and alcohol testing
- Ability to adhere to all safety and quality processes

Benefits:

- Full Training and Company Uniform provided
- Early morning starts from Tuesday to Saturdays
- Stability of a family-owned and operated business with approximately 30 years of experience
- Excellent work/life balance, we recognise the importance of family
- Opportunity to work with a safe and reliable fleet, serviced and maintained in our own workshops
- Inclusive work environment that values teamwork and collaboration

Who we are:

Established in 1996, HG Turf Group is a renowned family-owned business with an exemplary reputation for delivering top-tier turf products. Our expansive turf farm, situated in Alexandra, North East Victoria, serves diverse markets, including domestic, trade, and commercial sectors in Melbourne and parts of Regional Victoria. Notable commercial projects include AAMI Stadium and MCG, highlighting our commitment to excellence.

If you are a skilled HC or HR Truck Driver looking for a rewarding opportunity with a reputable company, HG Turf Group welcomes your application. Join us in delivering excellence and contributing to our legacy of quality turf products.

Please submit your resume to info@hgturfgroup.com.au,
or any inquiries please contact the Office on 5770 3000.

Note: Applications will be accepted until November 7, 2025.

DEATH NOTICES

STEWART, Richard.

Lasting memories of a great friend and shooting companion over many years. Sincere condolences to Gillian and family. Jack.

STOW, Maria.

With hearts full of love, we announce the peaceful passing of Maria Stow on 13/10/2025.

Loving wife of Frank. Mother to Lisa and Neal, Gerard and Rebecca, Jacki and Lee, Brendan and Nicole, Martin and Janette, Eric and Danielle and Marella. A Grandmother worshipped by her 23 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Rather than mourn, we celebrate the remarkable life she lived, the laughter she shared, and the kindness she showed all who met her.



FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales

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

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS

- POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

FOR SALE

ALEXANDRA, mowing round for sale. Over 30 years of servicing our local area. Enjoy the benefits of being your own boss. Trailer and equipment included to get you started. Training available.
Call Luke, 0418 522 842.

MEETINGS



The Annual General Meeting of ADNA will be held at Corner Hotel (Goldfields Room) on Tuesday, October 28 at 7pm.

Contact President Cassandra Fraser 0418 538 964 or Junior@netball@gmail.com

ALEXANDRA, Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5.30pm at the Corner Hotel Alexandra. Existing and new members are welcome to attend. General meeting to follow. For further information contact club president Troy Surkitt on 0434 122 602.

EMBASSY OF IDEAS. AGM will be held on Monday, November 10 at 6pm at EOI, 3, Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

DEALS ON WHEELS



2011, Nissan Micra TI hatch 1.5L Auto
Excellent condition. 148000ks.
Great little car. Ideal first car or daily run-around. RWC and Reg 2DC8NP until 04/01/26.
\$8500 REDUCED price negotiable.
Ph: 0419 677 550.

Standard The Yea Chronicle

PHOTO ORDERS:

Have you seen a picture in the newspaper which you would like a copy of? Photographs taken by Alexandra Newspaper photographers are available for purchase.

(Please note submitted photos are not available for sale.)

A4 210x297mm **\$20** | A5 (½ A4) **\$10** | A6 (¼ A4) **\$5**



Alexandra Newspapers

Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant Street, Alexandra Vic. 3714
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Virtual Hospital Pilot testing care closer to home

VICTORIANS will soon be able to receive remote, specialist hospital care in their own home with the Victorian Government launching the state’s first ever *Virtual Hospital Pilot*.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas on Monday announced The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Austin Health will lead the pilot, freeing up hospital beds for those who need them most and getting paramedics back on the road sooner.

“We don’t just want to give Victorians the best health care in the world, we want that care to be easier, cheaper and faster to access,” Ms Allan said.

“The Virtual Hospital Pilot is a game changer for regional Victorians, because patients recover better when they’re in the comfort of their own home with their family.”

The six-month pilot will begin in December, delivering care for more than 250 patients who would otherwise be admitted as an inpatient to a hospital ward.

The pilot will treat patients from right across the state with regional Victorians to benefit most from virtual ward rounds, where doctors will monitor and check in with patients remotely, partnering with regional and rural health services to provide patients specialist care without needing to travel.

The pilot will see doctors delivering heart failure and post-cardiac care, supporting a faster recovery from home through remote monitoring.

Regional mums-to-be will also be able to avoid trips to Melbourne for hospital-based care with a virtual foetal monitoring service, which will enable scans to be completed in their local area by transferring imaging to specialists at The Royal Women’s Hospital in real time for virtual consultations.

As part of the pilot, the Royal Melbourne Hospital’s Digital Coordination Centre will be expanded to use real-time data to direct ambulances to hospitals. This change will see paramedics directed to hospitals which aren’t as busy, getting ambulances back on the road faster and improving patient flow.

Following the pilot’s completion in June 2026, an evaluation will be completed with the lessons paving the way for a new generation of hospital care of technology and collaboration.

The state government continues to back the delivery of care at home, with health services across the state already delivering hospital in the home care, and this year’s budget also invested \$437 million to double the capacity of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department and make it permanent.

Little Angler Kits for children set for second rollout

GRADE five students across Victoria will have the chance to become hooked on fishing, thanks to the Victorian Government’s free Little Angler Kits.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos recently announced the tender for the second batch of Little Angler Kits, to be rolled out at primary schools across Victoria next year.

“We know parents are always looking for free activities and these Little Angler Kits are a great opportunity to get kids off screens and into nature,” Mr Dimopoulos said.

“Fishing keeps Victorians healthy, builds friendships and strengthens local communities.”

The 82,500 kits will be distributed across nearly 1900 schools in time for the 2026 September school holidays.

The Little Angler Kits have everything a first-time fishing enthusiast needs to get started including a fishing rod and reel with line, tackle box with tackle, and an eight-page *Kids’ Guide to Fishing* outlining the basics of fishing safety, knots and rigs.

The *Kids’ Guide to Fishing* also provides advice on the best baits to use,

peak fishing seasons and hot spots across Victoria as well as colour illustrations of freshwater and saltwater species likely to be caught.

The initiative is funded by recreational fishing licence fees and complements the state government’s \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Plan to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture.

There will be plenty of opportunities to reel in results. Victoria’s fish stocking program leads the nation with 10 million fish released across Victoria for the third time in four seasons, more than every other state and territory combined.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is leading the Little Angler Kit rollout and has created a series of informative tutorial videos presented by VFA Ambassador Lee Rayner and Michelle Brittain from the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating Network with step-by-step instructions on how to get started.

Translated versions of the *Kids’ Guide to Fishing*, available in Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi and simplified Chinese, complement the videos and are available from a kid-friendly web page at vfa.vic.gov.au/littleanglerkit

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!

MEETINGS

PRE-AUTHORISATION INFORMATION MEETING FOR A PROPOSED NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF TAUNGURUNG PEOPLE 8 NOVEMBER 2025, BROADFORD TOWN HALL – BROADFORD VICTORIA

This notice is to advise that, on Saturday 8 November 2025, the law practice Malyon Law will hold a pre-authorisation information meeting to explain the process for Taungurung People to authorise a native title determination application under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) over the area shown on the map below, and provide the opportunity for Taungurung People to consider and ask questions about that process.



This meeting will be held as follows.

DATE: Saturday 8 November 2025
TIME:
8 am – 9.30 am: Registration and Verification

9.30 am – 3.00 pm: Meeting

LOCATION: Broadford Town Hall, 20 Murchison Street, Broadford, Victoria

Who is invited to the meeting?

The meeting is open to Taungurung People. The Taungurung People are those Aboriginal persons who:

- (a) descend by birth, or adoption in accordance with the traditional laws acknowledged and the traditional customs observed by the Taungurung People, from one or more of the following apical ancestors:

1	Berrut Dr Billy	born c.1812, died before 1871
2	Birdarak Thomas Michie aka Tommy Bamfield	born c.1841-44 Benalla, died in 1893 at Coranderrk
3	Bundowrok Mr W Cotton And Mrs Fulina Cotton	born c.1806 born c.1811
4	Burnie Jessie Hamilton	born c.1858 on the Goulburn River, Lower Goulburn or Kilmore, died at Cummerugunga in 1908
5	Charles Tattambo	born c.1790s, died in 1868 at Murchison
6	Coeeyrun Peter Hunter	born c.1847 Merri Creek, died Coranderrk in 1881
7	Eliza Werry/Michie	born c.1832-35 Kilmore, died at Coranderrk in 1886
8	Ellen Norris	born c.1856-57 Kilmore, died Lake Condah in 1889
9	Jerkunning Lilly Hamilton	born c.1852 at Sugar Loaf Station near Kilmore, died in 1876 at Coranderrk
10	John Franklin	born c.1847 Broadford, died Yea in 1921
11	Talgium William Hamilton	born c.1851-52 Kilmore, died at Cummerugunga in 1897
12	Tooterie	born c.1810s
13	Wallambyne Polly	born c.1840 around Mansfield, died Coranderrk in 1900
14	Wyerdiuerum Dick Richards	born c.1835-39 Kilmore, died at Coranderrk in 1907
15	Yabbee Billy Hamilton	born before c.1820, died in 1851 near Reedy Creek

- (b) identify as a Taungurung person; and

- (c) are recognised and accepted as a Taungurung person in accordance with the traditional laws acknowledged and the traditional customs observed by the Taungurung People.

Please contact Malyon Law if you would like to confirm whether you are eligible to attend the meeting. Contact details are provided below.

Registering to attend, verification process and travel assistance

This pre-authorisation meeting is an important information meeting and for this reason, meeting attendees must attend in person. Attendance by video-link will not be supported. Proxies will not be accepted at this meeting. Travel and accommodation assistance will be provided to enable attendance in person. This assistance will be provided by First Nations Legal & Research Services Ltd in accordance with its “Assistance to Native Title Holders/Claimants Attending Native Title Meetings Policy”. This policy can be found at: <https://www.fnrls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FNRLS-Travel-Assistance-Policy.pdf>.

If you wish to attend the pre-authorisation meeting on 8 November 2025, please register your attendance by email with Emily Loughron by email on eloughron@tlawc.com.au or by phone on 0427 480 056 by **3 November 2025**. All meeting attendees must be verified by the expert genealogist/historian as descending from one or more of the Taungurung apical ancestors noted above. This may involve the proposed meeting attendee providing information about parents and grandparents. If you have not provided this information previously, please contact us at eloughron@tlawc.com.au or on 0427 480 056 to obtain a family information form or to arrange a time prior to 8 November 2025 to meet with the genealogist/historian. If you have not provided information previously or you do not submit a family information form or meet with the genealogist/historian prior to the meeting on 8 November 2025, you will be asked to provide this information prior to the meeting before you are allowed to attend.

If you have any questions about this notice or the proposed Taungurung Native Title Claim please contact Malyon Law by email on kirstin@malyonlaw.au or by phone on 0407 157 737.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to explain the process for Taungurung People to authorise a native title determination application under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), and to provide the opportunity for meeting participants to discuss and ask question about that process. Malyon Law and Senior Counsel will be present to provide information and advice about this process. The expert genealogist/historian and expert anthropologist will present their research for the purpose of the proposed Taungurung native title determination application.

A native title determination application is an application which is made in the Federal Court of Australia for a native title determination under section 61(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). A determination of native title means that the Federal Court determines (1) who holds native title; (2) what the native title rights are; (3) the area to which the native title rights apply; and (4) which Aboriginal Corporation will represent the members of the determined native title group.

Following the pre-authorisation information meeting, on Sunday 23 November 2025 there will be a meeting of Taungurung People to decide whether to authorise the proposed native title determination application. If Taungurung People authorise the native title determination application on 23 November 2025, the application will be made to the Federal Court for a determination of native title. The authorisation meeting will be publicly notified and notices will be sent out to all Taungurung People with contact details on the native title claim database. If you need to update your details or confirm that your details are on the database please email Emily Loughron on eloughron@tlawc.com.au or by phone on 0427 480 056.

SPORT



The horses crossing the finish line for the first race of the 2025-26 season. Photos by BD. -BD



Active sport vouchers out now

THE state government is helping eligible families with \$200 vouchers so their children can get active and play the sports they love with the next round of Get Active Kids vouchers.

The popular program, which had a \$15 million boost in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26*, ensures cost is not a barrier for kids to play sports with more than 65,000 vouchers expected to be distributed over the next two years.

Since launching in 2020, almost 190,000 vouchers have already been snapped up by families to help cover the costs of sporting memberships, registration fees, uniforms and equipment.

More than half of families say their kids would not have been able to participate in sport without the voucher, and almost 20 per cent of children have used the voucher to join a local sporting club for the first time.

From soccer to dancing, there are more than 70 sports and more than 2300 activity

providers included in the program across the state.

Families can apply for the vouchers online before redeeming them at an activity provider like a local sporting club or a reimbursement of up to \$200 per child.

Children must be 18 years and under who are named on a Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, and named on a Medicare Card.

A special consideration is also available to support children in care, temporary or provisional visa holders, migrants and international students.

A second 2025/26 round of the *Get Active Kids Program* will open early next year, giving even more families a chance to get their child involved in sport. For more info or to apply, visit getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers



The Merton cricketers took on Beechworth in Beechworth and emerged victorious. Pictures supplied by Merton Cricket Club. -S

Merton cricket report

MERTON cricketer's travelled to Beechworth for the first game of the 2025-26 Wangaratta District Cricket Association (WDCA) cricket season and returned victors. Beechworth batting first made 9/114, an excellent result considering they were 5/9 at one point with Merton's opening bowlers destroying the top order.

Brandon Fitzpatrick steadied things for the home side with 40 along with a few frustrating lower order partnerships, the wanderers finished on 9/114 off 36 overs.

Luke Benton 3/4 and Jai Lerch-Mckinnon 2/16 did the damage early while young

spinner Henry Berriman continued his form from last season, taking 4/35. Merton opener Luke Berriman set an early tone smashing 24 off the first over, he went on to make 41 off 25 balls including four sixes.

A mini collapse saw the visitors at 4/42, only to recover with some experienced batting from top scorer Jarrod Mahoney with 54 off 50 balls smashing 11 fours and good support from Daryl King and Luke Benton saw Merton pass Beechworth's total being 6/115 in the 25th over.

Merton has two weeks off with byes before they head to Myrtleford on November 8.



The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Round two of term four pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Blue Vein versus Feta

ETHAN versus Tyler: A great game by both. Tyler was consistent and there were some good shots by Ethan. Well fought to the end with a good finish, Ethan claimed the victory. 57 to 47.

Randy versus Jess: There was a lot of action on the court. Jess started strong but fell in the second game to Randy's power shots. Picking herself back up Jess won the last two games and the match. 69 to 45.

Jared versus Lucas: An entertaining game to watch with a number of exceptional rallies. Racking up three of the four games, Jared was triumphant. 64 to 50.

John versus Andrew: A tight game started with a drawn game and had lots of serve changes. John ran away with the last game to jump forward to victory. 62 to 51.

Camembert versus Mozzarella

Jordan versus Robbie (fill in): Putting up a good fight, Robbie learnt from his opponent as the game went on, but he still has some learning to do. Jordan was too strong in the end with his killer serves. 82 to 42.

Liane versus Sally: It was a great contest between two evenly matched players. These ladies had a fair battle with Sally coming out victorious after winning three games. 60 to 54.

Chris T versus Matt L: A spectacular contest from start to finish. Matt covered the court with amazing speed while Chris was creative with his shots. Neither one could break away, resulting in a draw. 58 to 58.

Derrick versus Jim: Three very close games with only on-point difference going into the fourth. The final game saw Derrick find his range while Jim lost his mojo. Derrick was crowned the winner. 58 to 42.

Thursday competition

Barracudas versus Orcas

Fill in versus Matthew: Matthew's opponent was a no show, so the club had more experienced players give him a run around the court. Michael M and Daniel K took it in



Michael leaps to reach Daniel's returned shot. -S

turns to do a training match with Matthew. The fill ins won. 56 to 51.

Blake versus Sam: It was obvious that these two were enjoying themselves on the court. Blake was focussed and playing well, but Sam's skill won out with him taking all four games and the match. 78 to 42.

Daniel K versus Michael M: Both players left it all on the court with several saving dives

made throughout. Daniel was just too good and dominated the match. 72 to 30.

Hammerheads versus Stingrays

Jessica versus Beth: There were lots of exciting rallies and unexpected shots. On her second match back, Jessica did well against Beth's experience. Beth claimed the win. 57 to 42.

Kristelle versus Mick: Winning the first game Mick was on a roll before Kristelle's

serving shut him down. With every tricky serve she could muster, Kristelle took control of the match, serving her way to victory. 66 to 52.

Daniel W versus Justin (fill in): Justin was up at the halfway point. Using his smarts and skills, Daniel won the third game with double Justin's points. The final game was close, but Daniel's win in the third game put him ahead by one point overall for victory. 60 to 59.

Yea Bowls Club pennant season gets underway

by Maurie Finn

YEA Bowls Club's pennant season started last Saturday, in near perfect conditions.

Yea, playing their first match in division four, travelled to Seymour with three new players Kym Cooper, Kevin Smith [first pennant games], and Wayne Martin, an experienced pennant bowler.

There were also three players returning to play pennant for Yea after some time off in Barry Moore, Brett Reece and Judith Elenius.

Seymour proved to be the better side on the day winning on all rinks. The Yea players had trouble adapting to the pace of the greens, and once Seymour got off to a good start, Yea found it difficult to get back in the game.

Overall results were: Neil Rieschick's rink went down 35 to 10, Terry McInnes' down 22 to 12. Maurie Finn's down 30 to 14 and Wayne Martin's down 23 to 14.

Next week Yea will be hoping to get a win on the board playing at home against Dookie.



The first pennant game for 2025 at Seymour. -S



Alexandra Newspapers will be closed on

Tuesday, November 4 due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.



THE ALEXANDRA, MELBOURNE, MANTONVILLE
Standard
INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, BOBURN, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS



ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



The Yea Chronicle