

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 29, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Murrindindi's new citizens



Page 2

Yea ELF Reading Day



Page 7

Yea Primary Friendship Ninjas



Page 22

Weekend sport



Pages 22-24

Forest firefighters to protest conditions

FOREST firefighters are set march on Victorian Parliament today, Wednesday, October 29 demanding fair pay, as the state faces a critical bushfire season with a depleted emergency response fleet.

AWU members and supporters will gather at Victoria Trades Hall at 11.30am before marching to Parliament House, calling on the Victorian Government to honour its commitment to the workers who protect Victorian lives and property.

The rally comes as Forest Fire Management Victoria faces significant operational challenges, with 290 G-Wagons and 59 Unimogs taken offline due to chassis and subframe faults, just weeks before the start of fire season.

AWU Victorian Branch President and Lead Country Organiser Ross Kenna said forest firefighters had been more than reasonable, but DEECA's stalling tactics had run their course.

"Make no mistake, these are the workers who stand between Victorian communities and catastrophic bushfire," Mr Kenna said.

"When the alarm sounds, they're the ones heading into the flames. They're highly trained, highly skilled, and they put their lives on the line. Yet they're being treated like they're disposable.

"We've negotiated in good faith. We've followed every process. We've given this

department months to do the right thing. Instead, we get delay tactics and excuses.

"Enough is enough. Today we're bringing our fight to the steps of Parliament. If the government won't come to the table, we'll bring the table to them."

AWU Victorian Secretary Ronnie Hayden said the timing of the vehicle crisis made the pay dispute even more unconscionable.

"The entire G-Wagon fleet is grounded with structural faults, fire season is bearing down on us, and the Government still won't pay these workers what they're worth," Mr Hayden said.

"This is a damning indictment of how this state values its emergency services workers. Broken promises, broken vehicles, and workers left to carry the burden.

"These firefighters have held the line through every crisis this state has faced. It's time the Government held up its end of the bargain.

"The Premier recently thanked our forest firefighters for their work. Well, words are cheap, but the cost of living is not, as our members know all too well. If Jacinta Allan truly values these workers, she'll back up her thanks with fair pay."

Mr Kenna was clear that while AWU members would never walk away from protecting Victorian communities, the fight for fair pay would not be dropped.

"Our members are professionals. They'll keep doing what they've always done, protecting this state from fire," he said.

"But let's be crystal clear. Commitment to the job doesn't mean accepting exploitation. These workers have families. They have mortgages. They deserve to be paid what they're worth.

"Fair pay isn't a nice-to-have. It's not something we'll negotiate away. It's a matter of respect, and it's long overdue."



Umbrellas kept students and teachers in their costumes dry for ELF Reading Day in Yea. -BD

2025
SHOWTIME
NOVEMBER 8

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FAMILY TICKETS TO THE 2025 ALEXANDRA SHOW

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DROP YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ALEXANDRA STANDARD OFFICE BY NOON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN. ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY

Winning tickets will need to be collected prior noon, Friday, November 7. (Tickets are for two adults and two children) *Staff and family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.



Alexandra Newspapers will be closed on

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



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



ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



The Yea Chronicle

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:*

regional
media connect

 **Country Press**
AUSTRALIA


Audited Media
Association of Australia

 **abc**



New Australians spring into Murrindindi

The ceremony was conducted by Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, with Deputy Mayor Anita Carr and Council CEO Livia Bonazzi assisting in the proceedings. Also in attendance were distinguished guests including Peter Rice from UGFM, local volunteer and educator Veronica Hendrickson, and John Allcock, President of Rotary Club of Alexandra. As

“The memories, stories, and traditions that each of you bring as new Australians enrich

The ceremony is not just about receiving certificates. It's about recognising the shared future we are building together here in Murrindindi, and we are delighted to celebrate this occasion with our newest community members and their families."



Weekly Weather

October 29 - November 4, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra
Yea



	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
Wednesday	5	19			Wednesday	6	21	
Thursday	7	21			Thursday	12	24	
Friday	11	23			Friday	11	20	
Saturday	13	26			Saturday	13	26	
Sunday	12	27			Sunday	12	27	
Monday	9	19			Monday	9	19	
Tuesday	8	17			Tuesday	8	17	




ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

Phy 100

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard

The Age Chronicle

River Heights for the Goulburn Catchment				
Station Name	Time	Height	Tendency	Flood Class
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	12.00PM Mon	1.19	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00PM Mon	0.66	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00PM Mon	1.01	steady	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.47AM Mon	0.28	steady	Below Flood Level
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	07.39AM Mon	0.63	steady	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	11.00AM Mon	0.62	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00PM Mon	0.68	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	3.71	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00PM Mon	0.53	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00PM Mon	1.34	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00PM Mon	0.30	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.62	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.18	steady	
*ISSUED AT 12:24 PM AEDT MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2025				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	41mm
Buxton.....	84mm
Eildon (AWS).....	44mm
Flowerdale.....	31mm
Jamieson.....	59mm
Kinglake	47mm
Lake Eildon	48mm
Mansfield.....	39mm
Taggerty	54mm
Yarck	39mm
Yea.....	37mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	275.65m
Capacity at 9am Monday.....	55.6%
Metres below full supply.....	13.25m
Daily inflow	5000ML
Release.....	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	76%

The Yeaa 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

Add the Yea Open Gardens weekend to your calendar

THE Rotary Club of Yea is once again hosting their annual Open Gardens weekend in November. Let them introduce you to gardeners who plan for extremes in weather conditions and rejoice when their gardens recover, even after extraordinary winds, frosts or drought. These are the six gardens you'll see this year on November 8 and 9.

One garden, Boggy Creek, is built on the site of a fish farm where all the ponds were merged into two large dams, insuring against drought and planning for fire which burnt it out twice.

Some gardens were started as little as five years ago and then there is Glengowrie which was established in 1924. You'll see a small studio garden and in comparison, you'll see what has been created over many acres.

See the use of deciduous versus evergreen trees, plants chosen to attract native birds and fauna and plantings that range from random placements to formal, all stunning in their own way. Roses love dry weather and feature in many of the gardens as do camelias and the use of spring bulbs. Native plantings, including grasses, cope with the possibility of no water.

Enjoy the landscaping. Some gardens have ornamental lakes, complete with water lilies, others have creeks meandering through their property. There are stone walls, rockeries and gazebos to inspire you as well as the use of slopes or in one case, the verge outside a town garden. Give a gold coin donation at the Yea Hospital Garden, and see beautiful gardens designed for the patients to enjoy and raised vegetable gardens where they can get their hands dirty.

In short, every visitor will be inspired. Why not call in at the Yea Garden Club plant sale

where you can purchase plants to kick start a patch in your own garden?

The Rotary barbecue will also be in operation over the weekend, located at Glengowrie, 17 Sichlau Rd, Yea.

Buy tickets for individual gardens for \$5 pp in town and \$8 pp for the country gardens (cash only at garden gates) or buy a weekend pass at the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, or any garden gate for \$30 per person (again cash only). For online bookings go to trybooking.com/DCELD and for garden details, check out all the info at yearotary.org.au

These photos show some of the Glengowrie garden. -S



Yea Hospital is looking for new board members: Why you should consider joining

by Teresa Smith, YDMH Board Director

IN the context of the Victorian health system, Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) is classified as a small rural health service. It offers a broad range of services, including urgent care, acute and aged care, allied health, and community outreach.

But we locals know it's much more than that. It's where health care and community truly come together. The hospital is, at its heart, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who work hard to ensure people in our region receive safe, high-quality care as close to home as possible.

What you gain as a board director

When I joined the board of Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) in 2020, I knew I was stepping into a role of responsibility. What I didn't anticipate was how personally meaningful and rewarding the experience would become. Serving on the board has connected me to the heart of our community

in a way few other roles can.

From my experience, the benefits of being a board director go well beyond governance oversight. You learn, collaborate, and expand your thinking beyond the boundaries of your professional background. You have opportunity to draw on your intellect, your creativity and your life experiences and you work closely with a diversly talented group of people, all of whom are committed to making YDMH the best it can be.

The job

The role of a board member is fundamentally to support the CEO and executive team. They do this providing strategic and governance oversight which includes, ensuring proper management, maintaining the organisations financial health, advocating for the community, and upholding the quality of healthcare provided.

The role requires that we listen to the community, ask questions, and make

decisions that appropriately shape the future of health care in our district.

What makes serving on the YDMH board special?

Three things stand out to me: The people, the impact and the pride.

Our board is a diverse group made up of both local and non-local members, each bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience, and perspective. We have farmers, professionals, retirees, people from all walks of life. While we may not always agree, we are united by a shared commitment to the hospital and the community it serves.

Every decision we make has real-world implications. Whether we're approving a new initiative or reviewing quality indicators, our work ensures people in our care remain safe, and our service is responsive and sustainable.

Murrindindi is home to a remarkable community. Being on the board has given me the chance to contribute in a really

meaningful way, one that's both powerful and deeply fulfilling.

Interested in applying or want to learn more?

Reach out to Yea and District Memorial Hospital for details on how to get involved. Your voice matters. Be part of the future of local health care.

You don't need to be a health expert, just someone who values good governance, community wellbeing, and making a difference. If you're curious, committed, and ready to contribute, we'd love to hear from you.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital is a cornerstone of our community. By joining the board, you'll play a key role in ensuring it remains strong, relevant, and deeply connected to the people it serves, now and for generations to come.

Out&About



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

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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Head over to Marysville for the annual art show at MIRA, 10am-4pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free entry, complimentary food and drinks and live music. Scan the QR code in this edition or visit miramarysville.com.au

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Taggerty Progress presents Show and Shine at the old Taggerty School. Public entry from 9am-3pm. Peoples choice awards, trophies,

raffles and the all season market. Cars, trucks, motorcycles and tractors. For more information contact Michael on 0408 399 757.

Alexandra Museum and Steam Train Rides 10am-3.30pm. Also ride the Halloween Train on Friday, October 31, 5-8pm.

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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The Alexandra Spring Fair is on from 10am-3pm. Market stalls, live music, local food, children's amusements.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Yea and District open gardens. Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Three country gardens and two town gardens. Also Yea Garden Club plant sale and Yea and District Memorial Hospital open garden.

The 140th Alexandra Show is on 9am-3pm. Roving entertainment, live music, petting zoo, pet parade, pedal cars and much more.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Alexandra and District Kindergarten AGM will be at 6pm at the Alexandra Kindergarten. RSVP and apologies to the kinder office on 5772 1387 or email alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

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

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



Sue Wynn from the Redgate Alexandra CWA Craft Group, Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher, John Allcock from Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch.

Advocating for respect with every step

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and the Rotary Club of Alexandra invite locals, visitors and businesses to join the Walk for Respect on Friday, November 28 at 11am. The event calls on everyone to take a stand together against domestic and family violence and show support for a community built on safety, equality and respect.

In the year ending March 2025, there were 208 family violence incidents reported in Murrindindi Shire, a concerning 14.3 per cent increase from the previous year.

These reports underscore the urgent need for greater awareness and collective action. The Walk for Respect is an opportunity to come together, speak up and demonstrate our shared commitment to ending violence against women and children.

The event will begin with a presentation from Vincent Care, exploring the gendered nature of family violence and the important role we all play in prevention. Vincent Care's Hume Community Hub, led by Marie Murfet, has supported victim survivors across the shire for the past seven years. Marie will be joined by Alison Maclean, founder of 3whitehorses and an expert in family violence systems, who is supporting the Vincent Care team as they expand their work in the region.

Following the talk, participants will take a 1.5 km walk along the UT Creek Path, before gathering at Rotary Park for

a community barbecue, light refreshments and stalls from local support services. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple, a colour symbolising respect, and to bring friends, family and even their dogs (on leash). Local community groups and businesses are also invited to participate by hosting a stall or sharing resources that promote respect and equality.

For stallholder enquiries, please contact Rotary Club of Alexandra's Ian Smith, on 0419 581 617. For general information, visit the council's event page or contact council's Community Engagement team on 5772 0333.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or needs support, help is available through Vincent Care at vincentcaremariancommunity@vincentcare.org.au, The Orange Door, 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or via the Community Resource Guide to Family Violence.

This event is supported by Respect Victoria, Safe and Equal, Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra CFA and Redgate Alexandra Country Women's Association.

"The Walk for Respect is about connection, awareness and action. Every step we take is for those impacted by family violence and for the safer future we are working to build," Murrindindi Shire Mayor Damien Gallagher said. "We

invite everyone in the community to come together, show support and walk towards a community that is free from family and domestic violence."

Sue Wynn from the Redgate Alexandra CWA Craft Group said, "Craft has always brought people together, and this project is no different. Through colour and creativity, we're sending a quiet but powerful message, that our community stands for respect, care, and connection. We encourage everyone to come along and take part."

Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch added, "As CFA members, we're proud to be part of this event, not just by cooking the barbecue, but by standing up for respect and accountability. It's important that we role model positive behaviour and show that each of us has a part to play in preventing violence. We hope the community will join us on the day to enjoy the walk and show their support for a respectful and caring community."

John Allcock from Rotary Club of Alexandra said, "Respect means building healthy, equal relationships, and that starts with each of us. At Rotary, we believe in promoting fairness, calling out harmful behaviour, and role modelling what it truly means to be a respectful and accountable member of the community."

Reminder to prepare with your pets this bushfire season

RSPCA Victoria and CFA are calling on Victorians to include pets in their bushfire survival plans, as Victoria faces an increased risk of fires this summer, especially in drought-affected areas.

Pet owners can save valuable time in fire emergencies by having bedding, food, and water ready to go for their furry friend.

RSPCA Victoria Head of Prevention, Rebecca Cook highlighted the importance of including pets in bushfire survival plans.

“Planning for emergencies is part of life in Victoria, and is critical during the summer months,” Ms Cook said.

“We’re urging everyone to make sure their pets are included in their Fire Ready plans in place ahead of what could be a very dangerous fire season this year.

“An emergency kit with medication, photos or scans on your phone of important documents like vaccination certifications, and updated contact details on microchips and collars, are just some of the items to prepare in advance.

“Including your pets in your Fire Ready plans increases the chances of you and your pet making it to safety in an emergency situation.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the finer details matter when preparing a bushfire plan.

“Everyone should always prioritise their own safety, however your bushfire plan isn’t fully complete unless it accounts for your pets,” Jason said.

“When building your plan, think about what your pets will eat and drink, necessary medications, how you transport them, and where you are taking them.

“Once your kit is prepared, keep it in an easily accessible place, with towels and woollen blankets on hand to protect pets during the journey and help keep them as cool as possible.

“Lastly, microchipping your pets for easy identification and ensuring your phone number is visible on their collar will help you get reunited sooner in case you get separated.”

For horses and livestock, a separate plan is required.

“If you aren’t able to evacuate livestock, a large, well-grazed, and fenced area away from roads where they can move freely with access to water, would be the safest place for them,” Jason said.

“A late evacuation will put you and your animals at risk; Make sure you’re prepared.”

Go to rspcavic.org/emergencyplanning or cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/pets-and-bushfires for help making your emergency plan this summer.

The future of Victoria’s forests revealed: No Great Forest National Park?

THE Victorian Government has announced their plans for the future of our forests following the release of the *Eminent Panel for Community Engagement Central Highlands Final Report*. They plan to keep the forests open for exploration, though the opposition is concerned they may be trying to go ahead with the Great Forest National Park by stealth.

As part of the state government’s plan for Victoria’s great outdoors, they are investing \$30 million to unlock 1.8 million hectares of state forests in Gippsland and northeast Victoria with better tracks and trails, and amenities to boost regional tourism.

They aim to make sure locals have a say on the projects that matter most to them and how money is spent in their patch of the bush. They are starting by investing \$4 million to pilot Healthy Forest Plans with the Orbost and Noojee communities.

They’re also investing \$14.2 million to improve tracks and trails, campgrounds and toilets as well as upgrades at key spots like Heyfield’s Cheynes Bridge Recreation Area, Buckland Valley Visitor Experience Area and next stage of the Yackandandah Creek Masterplan, creating new reasons for travellers to stop, stay and spend locally.

To keep the bush in top shape, the Victorian Government are also putting more boots on the ground with \$7.2 million for extra rangers to guide visitors, tackle pests and weeds, and protect native wildlife.

Following the end of native timber harvesting, the government commissioned the Great Outdoors Taskforce to reimagine the future of Victoria’s forests to meet community expectations.

Informed by extensive consultation and expert advice from the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement, they are releasing the government’s response, backed by targeted investment to promote community access, support regional economies, and better manage the forest.

Premier Jacinta Allan said, “My focus is to bring more families to the bush and more jobs to the regions, and that’s exactly what our plan for Victoria’s great outdoors will do.

“Our forests remain open to every single Victorian and visitor alike, to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, bushwalking and all the benefits of the bush.”

Minister for the Environment Steve Dimopoulos added, “By ending large-scale native timber harvesting, we’ve given our forests a future. Now we’re making sure every Victorian can share in it.”

In 2021, the state government announced it would create three national parks, two conservation parks, and seven new and expanded regional parks in the state’s central west. This legislation is now before the Victorian Parliament and there will be no further changes to our state forests.

To view the state government’s full response to the Great Outdoors Taskforce and Eminent panel for Community Engagement visit, deeca.vic.gov.au/futureforests

However, the opposition has concerns that the state government is moving to subtly create their Great Forest National Park under the guise of expanding the Yarra Ranges National Park.

If the expansion is accepted, large parts of existing state forest will be reclassified as national and forest parks, limiting public access and restricting activities.

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath said in appeasing green groups, the state government is moving to establish the Great Forest National Park (GFNP) by stealth.

“Behind closed doors Labor’s created a blueprint that lays the foundation to lock up vast areas of public land without transparency, community consultation or the workforce to manage it,” Ms Bath said.

“A comparison of maps for the GFNP and the Great Outdoors Taskforce Final Report shows the pathway for Labor to plough ahead and do what it said it won’t.”

Ms Bath said Environment Minister, Steve Dimopoulos, is saying one thing to unions and bush users and doing the opposite.

“The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council and the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement both recommended linking existing parks and reserves across

the Central Highlands in the footprint of the Great Forest National Park,” Ms Bath said.

“In March 2024 Premier Jacinta Allan said she would ‘never put a padlock on our public forests’. Yet the Allan Government is renegeing and changing tenure of vast areas of public land.

“In 2024, Labor gutted Parks Victoria workforce slashing 144 fulltime equivalent rangers, yet Minister Dimopoulos announced it will recruit approximately half the rangers cut but with a greater area to cover.

“No matter what the spin, Labor has cut boots on the ground and mismanaged our forests. Labor is moving to lock up more land, our bush users, communities and the environment are all paying the price,” Ms Bath concluded.

State Liberal Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP said Labor is forging ahead with plans to establish the Great Forest National Park (GFNP) without transparency, community consultation or the workforce to manage it.

“In a big blow, bush users will lose access to areas of Warburton, Healesville, Yarra Junction and Powelltown as it is turned into Forest Park and National Park.

“Under Labor’s plan, neighbouring Noojee, Neerim, Warragul, Drouin and Neerim South will also be transformed into National Park. This will force bush users to travel north to Murrindindi Shire to enjoy their outdoor hobbies.”

She said the report also included reclassifying existing state forests as forest parks, again restricting access and use for bush users.

In March 2024 at the Bush Summit in Bendigo, Premier Jacinta Allan said she would “never put a padlock on our public forests.”

How is council protecting itself from AI scams?

NOOSA Shire Council recently lost almost \$2 million to an artificial intelligence scam, so Murrindindi Shire Council was asked what they are doing to protect themselves from falling victim to a similar scam.

They responded, “Murrindindi Shire Council takes the protection of its systems and information very seriously. We are aware of the recent incident at Noosa Shire Council and recognise the growing risks posed by increasingly sophisticated scams and impersonation attempts, including those enabled by artificial intelligence.

“Council has implemented a robust and evolving cybersecurity and fraud control program to safeguard against these types of threats. Our approach combines modern technology, clear policies, and ongoing staff training to protect Council systems, staff, and community information.

“Council’s systems monitor for unusual activity and help prevent or contain threats in real time. Staff also participate in regular cybersecurity and fraud awareness training and simulation exercises to help identify and respond to phishing, impersonation, and AI-enabled scams.

“Council also maintains several key policies and programs, including an ICT Security Policy, AI Policy, Fraud and Corruption Control Policy, and a Business Continuity Plan, all of which are regularly reviewed and tested. These policies align with the Local Government Act 2020, the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework and the Australian Government’s Information Security Manual. Council also draws on the Essential Eight mitigation strategies recommended by the Australian Cyber Security Centre.

“While every effort is made to ensure robust safeguards are in place, it is acknowledged that breaches can occur despite thorough preparation. Council remains vigilant, continuously improves its systems to respond swiftly should an incident arise.

“As cyber and scamming threats continue to evolve, Murrindindi Shire Council remains committed to proactive risk management, transparent communication and ongoing investment in cybersecurity maturity to protect the integrity of its operations and the trust of the community.”



WELCOME TO

Open Gardens

YEA & DISTRICT

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 November 2025

Enjoy 3 country and 2 town gardens

Plus Yea Garden Club's plant sale and
Yea & District Memorial Hospital's Open Garden (gold coin entry)

• Town gardens \$5 • Country Gardens \$8 • Weekend pass \$30

Book tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/DCELD>,
visit Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre
or purchase at each garden gate (cash only)

For more information – www.yeartary.org.au
Phone 0408 935 733 Email tickslife@bigpond.com
Maps and garden descriptions will be available
on the website in October

10AM to 5PM

Rotary Club of Yea

Murrindindi Shire Council October meeting

CR Lording was an apology for the first part of the meeting but joined partway through. There was no public participation.

Amendment to planning permit 2023/166: 370 Minto Road Flowerdale

Murrindindi Shire Council officers withdrew this application from the meeting agenda, due to meeting with the applicant and the applicant amending the original application to address the officers’ concerns regarding access from Minto Road in Flowerdale.

An amended planning permit has been issued, and the matter does not require further attention.

Adoption of Yea Structure Plan

The final draft of the Yea Structure Plan has been completed following community and stakeholder feedback. The plan now identifies opportunities for residential, commercial and industrial growth in the town, while protecting Yea’s valued features.

It was recommended that council: Adopt the Yea Structure Plan; request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to exhibit an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to implement the Yea Structure Plan, either as a standalone amendment or incorporated into a larger planning scheme amendment; and if as a standalone amendment, authorise council officers to finalise documentation for the amendment in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning.

Council voted to adopt the Yea Structure Plan.

Adoption of Residential Design Guidelines

The Murrindindi Shire Residential Guidelines were developed to support the planning and design of new and renovated buildings across the shire, including the key residential growth area of Alexandra East. Production of the guidelines was funded by the Commonwealth Housing Support Program grant for the Alexandra East Development Plan.

The guidelines have been developed to be applicable across the shire, and they will be incorporated into the Murrindindi Planning Scheme with a future amendment to strengthen their statutory weight. They have undergone a consultation process with local industry practitioners and are now ready for formal adoption by council.

Council voted to adopt the Murrindindi Shire Residential Design Guidelines for use by developers, designers, architects and residents for new and renovated dwellings.

Adoption of Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29

The final Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2025-29 was presented to council for adoption following public exhibition of the draft. The plan was developed in alignment with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27. It outlines strategies across mental, physical, and social wellbeing domains and is informed by local data, community consultation, and stakeholder engagement.

Council voted to adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29 and submit the plan to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to fulfill requirements under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Kinglake Ranges Community Plan

Council has already adopted an approach to community planning where officers work with local communities to create plans tailored to each locality. The communities making up the Kinglake Ranges recently participated in this program and developed their community plan.

The significance of the contribution made by community members during the Kinglake Ranges community planning process warrants formal recognition, which is why council noted the Kinglake Ranges Community Plan.

Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Annual Report 2024-25

This item was withdrawn from the meeting agenda due to the audit report from the Victoria Auditor General’s Office not being received

in time for inclusion in the annual report. It will instead be considered at a Special Council Meeting held on October 29, 2025.

Quarterly Finance Report for September 2025

The report detailing the quarterly finances for the period ending September 30 was presented to council.

The annual revised budget forecasts an operating surplus of \$1.2 million for the year, an increase of \$164,000 on the original adopted budget and primarily reflects an increase in forecast grant income due to carry forward grants, including \$2 million for flood recovery. The report notes there is also an increase in forecast expenditure on materials and services associated with flood recovery works.

Council voted to adopt the Annual Revised Budget 2025-26, incorporating the carry forward budgets from the 2024-25 year and other budget adjustments for the period ending September 30, 2025. They also voted to note the Quarterly Financial Report to September 30, 2025.

Audit and Risk Committee confirmation of minutes

Council noted the minutes for the September 25 meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report January to June 2025

The biannual report for council’s Audit and Risk Committee details the key activities undertaken by the committee during this period.

Council noted the biannual report.

Audit and Risk election of chair

During its September 25 meeting, the Audit and Risk Committee recommended that council appoint Mr Steve Schinck as committee chair for the next 12 months. Mr Schinck has been the committee chair for the preceding two years and is eligible for a further one year term.

The committee also requested council amend the committee charter to align the term of the chair with the sequence of committee meetings commencing in December each year and finishing at the conclusion of the September committee meeting in the following year. This would ensure the chair’s term concludes with the meeting that considers the annual financial and performance statements and the external auditor’s annual report for the previous financial year.

Council voted to approve the Audit and Risk Committee’s recommendations.

CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Independent Member Appointment

In compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, council has adopted a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, which provides for council to obtain independent professional advice in relation to matters dealt with in the policy.

The current independent professional advisor has completed the maximum allowable four-year term under the policy, and a publicly advertised expression of interest process was conducted to fill the independent advisor role for a new term.

A panel of two senior staff and the mayor interviewed shortlisted applicants and recommended that council appoint Ms Rebecca McKenzie to the independent advisor role.

Council voted to appoint Ms Rebecca McKenzie as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for an initial two-year term commencing on November 1, 2025; approve the independent member’s schedule of rates; and formally acknowledge and thank Ms Marilyn Kearney for her valuable contributions as council’s outgoing and inaugural independent advisor.

Council to CEO Delegation Instrument

A report was presented to council proposing that the CEO’s financial delegation to enter

into contracts and procure goods and services be increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000, and that to support transparency, a report be provided by the CEO to council noting whenever the financial delegation is exercised for procurements above \$300,000.

Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

Adoption of Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035

The updated Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035 outlines 10-year financial projections for asset renewal, sets strategic goals for each asset category, and responds to both opportunities and challenges within each asset category. Community engagement has strongly supported a focus on renewing existing infrastructure over building new.

Council voted to adopt the Asset Plan 2025-2035.

Providence Rise naming endorsement

At the council meeting of November 27, 2024, council declared ‘Providence Rise, Killingworth’ as a road in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Road Management Act 2004*. It was then advertised for public feedback, with no submissions received. Officers have since initiated the naming process with Geographic Naming Victoria.

Council noted the public consultation period occurred for the declaration of the road and the proposed name; endorsed the naming of ‘Providence Rise’ in Killingworth; and requested that officers submit this resolution to Geographic Naming Victoria to complete the naming process.

Panel Contract General Maintenance

A report recommending the awarding of contracts for CONT25/6 Panel Contract General Maintenance was presented to council.

The scope of the contract covers general, minor improvement, compliance, and emergency maintenance for council-maintained assets including buildings, infrastructure, outdoor aquatic centres, Yea Saleyards, open spaces, roadsides, plant and fleet. The contract initial term is three years, with an optional two-year extension subject to satisfactory contractor performance.

It was recommended that council award CONT25/6 Panel Contract General Maintenance for an initial term of three years, commencing on January 1, 2026, with an option for a two-year extension, to the following suppliers: Trevor Carns, Melbourne Master Painting and Maintenance Pty Ltd, The Trustee for the Venn Family T/ As Venn Civil Pty Ltd, Kinglake Plumbing and Drainage Pty Ltd, Auzzie Engineering Pty Ltd, Farley Pools Pty Ltd and Gilligan Property Services Pty Ltd.

It was also recommended council approve the total contract amount of up to \$3,000,000 over the five-year contract period, authorise the CEO to extend the contract, and release the name of the successful tenderers.

Council accepted the recommendations.

Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Adams spoke about the four Murrindindi Shire Council pools and splash park reopening on November 15. A new initiative this season includes a suggested \$5 donation at pool entrances to support community pool operations.

Cr Gallagher reported that within the last week, council has been briefed by Samsung Renewable Energy Australia on their plans to construct a solar farm and battery energy storage system facility in Rubicon. This is one of several large-scale renewable energy project plans being progressed in Murrindindi Shire. Wind, solar, and pumped hydro technologies are all being considered.

Each project requires an application for a planning permit under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which will be assessed directly by the Minister for Planning. In the case of the Rubicon project, the Minister’s determination will follow assessments of bushfire risk, ecology, landscape and visual impact, noise, hazards, surface water, traffic impact, cultural heritage, and glint and glare.

Council adopts key strategic plans for the future of Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has adopted a number of important strategic plans that will help shape the future of the shire’s services, infrastructure and communities.

At the council meeting on Wednesday, October 22, council formally adopted the Murrindindi Shire Council Asset Plan 2025-2035, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, Residential Design Guidelines, and Yea Structure Plan.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the meeting marked an important step forward for council’s long-term planning and community outcomes.

“These important documents set a clear strategic direction for how we care for our people, our places and promote the sustainable growth of Murrindindi Shire,” Cr Gallagher said.

“They reflect the aspirations of our community and provide a roadmap for how we’ll deliver on them in the years ahead.”

The Asset Plan 2025-2035 sets out how council will manage and maintain more than \$640 million worth of council assets, including roads, bridges, buildings and open spaces over the next decade. The plan focuses on sustainable investment, renewal and ensuring value for money for ratepayers.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 outlines a shared commitment from council and partner agencies to improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing of residents, with particular focus on children, young people and older people. The plan will be delivered in partnership with local health organisations and community partners.

Council also adopted the Murrindindi Residential Design Guidelines, providing practical advice to support well-designed, sustainable and diverse housing across the shire. The guidelines will help developers and residents design houses that reflect local character and respond to the local context, protecting the unique rural charm.

The Yea Structure Plan 2025 was also adopted to guide sensible growth and development in Yea. The plan identifies opportunities for new housing, improved connectivity, and enhancement of the town’s environmental and recreational assets, while maintaining Yea’s unique character.

“Together, these plans set the direction for council’s decisions, aligning our work with community priorities and a sustainable future,” Cr Gallagher said.

“We thank everyone who took the time to contribute feedback during their development and look forward to getting to work making Murrindindi the destination of choice, to live, to visit, and to enjoy.”

To find out more about other items discussed at the October Scheduled Meeting of Council, visit our Agendas and Minutes page. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

While not a determining authority, council acknowledges its important role in conveying community sentiment. At every meeting with every project proponent, council has encouraged early and regular engagement the community. Council as sought for harmonious agricultural activities to be supported, and for loss of visual amenity to be carefully managed. While recognising our community’s broad embrace of renewable energy outcomes, council continues to be an active voice within our region urging proponents to attain a credible social licence for any proposed development, with lasting legacy outcomes for the community.

Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi announced that council has been successful in receiving two grants: \$41,000 through AusNet’s Energy Resilience Community Fund for the purchase of a mobile trailer-mounted generator and \$120,000 through the Business Acceleration Program to support improvements in council’s event approvals process and other business permit-related systems.



Students were read a children's book outside the pharmacy. -BD



Just one of the many businesses promoting reading to the primary school students. -BD



Ambulance Victoria paramedics read stories to the children. -BD

Rain can't stop ELF Reading Day in Yea

DESPITE heavy downpours, last Wednesday students from Yea Primary School and Sacred Heart Primary School paraded the main street of Yea in their costumes.

Various businesses took part in reading stories to the children to promote literacy and language skills.



The Lorax reading a book to the primary school students. -BD



The costumed children were read 'My Shadow is Purple' for ELF Reading Day. -BD



Umbrellas kept people dry in the rain. -BD



A handful of businesses decided to host their reading inside to keep everyone dry. -BD



Liz Fletcher and Sal Phillips in costume. -BD

TAGGERTY PROGRESS Presents

Classic And **SHOW SHINE**

PUBLIC ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

For more information Contact Michael Read 0408 399 757

AT THE OLD TAGGERTY SCHOOL

FIRE READY AND RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR TAGGERTY AND ADJOINING CFA FIRE BRIGADES

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2025

PUBLIC ENTRY 9AM - 3PM

- PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD
- TROPHIES • RAFFLES
- ALL SEASON MARKET

All vehicles welcome

CARS TRUCKS MOTORCYCLES AND TRACTORS

\$10 FOR SHOW VEHICLES

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our senior campers who received Values Awards this week. It was a tough choice, as all students were beautifully behaved at Urban Camp. Well done to Dean, Stella, Brooklyn, Isla, Toby, Ava and Mila

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Lunch at Wycheproof on day one of the trip. -S



Probus members viewing the Australian Inland Botanical Gardens. -S



Departing the Rothbury. -S

Happy Probus trippers

THIRTY-three members of the Yea Probus Club recently returned from a coach trip to Mildura and other Murray towns. It was a very full six days with a wonderful mix of history, local industry, scenic views, lush crops, vineyards and orange groves as far as you could see, painted silos and visiting many lovely townships along the way.

The first day was a long haul, leaving Yea at 7.30am and arriving in Mildura at 5pm, but with many lovely stops along the way. There was morning tea at Axedale, lunch at Wycheproof and stops at Nullawil and Sea Lake painted silos and time to explore the 'pink' Lake Tyrell and learn the history of the salt industry from this lake.

On the following day, members visited the Australian Inland Botanical Gardens and were impressed at how they are growing and saving plants from all over Australia and the world.

The gardens span 152 hectares and a large area of salt tolerant plants has enabled them to lower the water table considerably. An hour long tractor train tour covered this vast area and members saw plants happily growing from dry inland to hot tropical areas of Australia as well as an African garden, American, English, Chinese and many other native plants from areas all around the world.

The Wentworth Goal was an impressive and well preserved building and members were very impressed at how well they presented its past history.

The Wentworth Museum across the road had every member reminiscing on many items they remembered growing up with.

The Langtree Hall Museum was packed with an indescribable array of memorabilia. It was fascinating, but many members found it a bit claustrophobic.



Painted silos. -S

On other days, they visited Woodsie's Gem Museum. It was another attraction made to look as though you were in an Aladdin's cave with stalactites hanging down from the ceiling and also packed with gems from every country in the world.

A cruise on the Murray River aboard the paddle steamer Rothbury was relaxing, informative and interesting going through the Lock.

The group experienced another tractor train ride through Orangetown and not only learnt about the many varieties of oranges and changes in harvesting methods but were entertained by the many jokes and stories from the owner. His wife Maria treated everyone with a beautiful orange cake for morning tea.

On Wednesday, they transferred to Swan Hill amid howling winds and a severe dust storm. The driver did a marvelous job keeping the coach on the road. The wind eased enough

for us to attend the amazing Sound and Light Show at the Pioneer Settlement that evening.

Places visited at Swan Hill and surrounds included the Black Cats Catalina Flying Boat Museum at Lake Boga. They played an enormous part in winning the war in the Pacific during WWII and their amazing history is only just becoming known. A visit to the Pioneer Settlement and another cruise on the Murray on the paddle steamer *Pyap* completed the day.

The group travelled home via morning tea at Cohuna, Lunch at Echuca and visits to the painted silos at Rochester and Colbinabbin.

Yea Probus members were very impressed, and envious, of the beautiful streetscapes of many of the small towns we stopped at or passed through. They were full of colour, lovely shade trees, excellent amenities such as toilets, picnic facilities, children's play spaces and all beautifully maintained.

Packed event for Alexandra Show 2025

NOVEMBER 8 is looking to be a cracking day on the spring event calendar in Alexandra, with the Pastoral and Agricultural Show celebrating its 140th event.

The committee is incredibly grateful to all the community groups and businesses who see the value in this event and provide support either financially or in kind. This year, they wish to make special mention of Elders Yea and Alexandra who have come on board as champion sponsors, as well as blue ribbon sponsors, Taggerty Vet Clinic and Eildon Outboard and Marine.

The Rotary Club of Alexandra will also be instrumental in assisting on the gates as well as the CFA and SES who will once again have large displays and the Alexandra Scouts who will be providing breakfast and lunch.

Entertainment for the day will be plentiful. As well as the regular displays in the ladies' pavilion, school work shed and the gymkhana, they will once again be hosting competition yard dog trials thanks to the Cavill family who have been long time supporters of the show.

There will be displays by Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club, the much loved pet parade and music from Paul Ray and his amazingly talented singers.

The day keeps filling up with displays from a local line dancing group, hobby horse competition (yes, you can enter on the day), pedal cars, donkey display and Tubby the Robot who will be on site as roaming entertainment.

The Alexandra Poultry Club will once again be expecting a large number of competing birds on the day and club secretary, Gail Kneeshaw is encouraging all junior owners to enter their birds in the show this year. Competing at a local show level is a great opportunity for younger owners to compete in a supportive environment and gain valuable experience for other events. It's also an opportunity to connect with experienced exhibitors who can offer valuable insight.

Not to be outdone, the Alexandra Pony Club has joined forces with other local

clubs to offer competition on the day. With a larger showing expected, it will be a great experience for younger riders and for those maybe not sure if they wish to join the club, to see what it is all about. In conjunction with a number of other rings that will be running on the day, the oval is set for a work out.

If all the entertainment and movement gets a bit much, it's good to know that you can get a Devonshire tea at the ladies' pavilion and peruse the displays of cooking, horticulture, photography, handcrafts, fruit and vegetables and eggs; or maybe an icecream and watch the pet parade. All this before having a cruise through the showmans' guild alley and then

listening to the live reporting from UGFM who will also be on site for the day.

So, for a day of getting back to farming, and seeing what our local people are up to, head on down to the Alexandra Show. More information can be found at alexandrashow.com or by emailing pna.alexandra@gmail.com

Put Murrindindi on Your Table this Christmas

SPRING has sprung, and while we're enjoying fresh blooms and warmer days, it's also the perfect time to start thinking ahead to the festive season.

This Christmas, Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc. invites you to 'Put Murrindindi on Your Table'. Their popular annual campaign is back for 2025.

You'll spot their bright Christmas bauble in this issue, complete with a QR code that takes you straight to the campaign landing page. There, you'll find inspiration on how to make Murrindindi part of your Christmas story this year, from locally made gifts and festive feasts to unique experiences and artisan markets.

The website features 12 joyful ideas to help you celebrate Christmas while supporting the incredible people, producers, and businesses that make Murrindindi so special.

So, whether you're shopping early, planning a holiday feast, or looking for ways to give meaningful gifts, scan the bauble, explore the ideas, and join us in celebrating all things local.

Let's make this Christmas truly Murrindindi. Scan the bauble or visit murrindindifoodandwine.org.au



140th Alexandra Show



Saturday, November 8, 2025.
9am to 3pm

Featuring:	Entry Fees:
• Roving entertainment • Live music • Petting zoo • Pet parade	• Pedal cars • School work displays • Horses, poultry, working dogs and more
- Children U5 Free - Children 5-17 \$5 - Adults \$10	





Schedules available online at alexandrashow.com
For sponsorship and membership enquiries contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com






and **SAVE THE DATE**

Murrindindi Wine Weekend
2-3 May 2026

Meet the Makers

MURRINDINDI
WINEMAKERS



Police station maintenance reinstated

VICTORIA Police has said that they are pleased to confirm that all lawn and garden maintenance at police stations will recommence imminently.

“We have identified a list of stations which will be serviced as a priority starting this week,” they said.

“Regular services at all other police stations and facilities will be re-established over the next two months.

“The pause on ground maintenance was essential in the challenging fiscal environment, to ensure existing funds were prioritised towards keeping the community safe.

“This work will be completed by the company normally contracted to deliver this service.”

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said locals are proud of their police service and would rather see cops on the beat than doing their own gardening.

“Everyone deserves a tidy workplace, particularly our police who put their lives on the line to keep community safe.

“The Premier claims she backs the police, but the truth is she cut \$50 million from the police budget, closed stations, and has 2000 job vacancies.

“The Allan Labor Government’s neglect of Victorian Police is evident.”

She added that this follows a leaked memo which revealed cuts to the maintenance budget with police told the following activities would not happen: Lawn mowing, pruning, weeding, carpet cleaning, window cleaning and other cleaning would only occur ‘if necessary for health, safety or legislative compliance’.

Lightbulbs would only be replaced if more than half of the lights didn’t work. Security systems, like cameras, door access and motions detection systems, would not be replaced except for “health, safety or legislative compliance”.

Only major plumbing issues would be fixed.

“Victoria’s police, and all Victorians, deserve better,” Ms McLeish said.



Cindy McLeish. -S

Haines moves to establish \$2 billion fund to build rural and regional hospitals

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has called on the Commonwealth to establish a \$2 billion Building Regional and Rural Hospitals Fund, introducing a motion in Parliament on Monday, October 27.

A key part of Dr Haines’ re-election platform, the fund would provide transparent, competitive, needs-based funding for regional hospitals.

Dr Haines said rural Australians are being left behind while successive governments have politicised hospital funding.

“During the last election, both major parties engaged in pork-barrelling hospital funding promises, including \$200 million for a hospital in the marginal seat of Hasluck in Western Australia, and \$120 million for Rouse Hill Hospital on the border of the Western Sydney seats of Greenway and Mitchell.”

“The Commonwealth has a clear role in funding hospital infrastructure, but without a transparent, competitive process, rural Australians miss out.”

She said the National Rural Health Alliance estimates rural Australians received \$8.35 billion less in healthcare funding than urban Australians in 2023-24.

“Rural Australians are falling through the cracks. Hospitals are stretched with inadequate facilities, surgeries are delayed, and communities are paying the price.

“Funding remains opaque and is too often politically driven, with pork-barrelling and election promises favouring a few hospitals while others miss out.

“We need integrity and transparency over the spending of taxpayer money, and this is a program to deliver that.

“This fund would give hospitals like Albury Wodonga Health, Bright District Hospital and Mansfield District Hospital, and hospitals like them across regional Australia, a fair go to secure the funding they need for safe, modern healthcare, now and into the future.”

“Our communities shouldn’t have to fight for the care our city cousins take for granted.”



On October 23, students from Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea celebrated the special Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Thinh and Father Jose. It was a beautiful and meaningful occasion. The school expressed how proud they are of each of the students for the reverence, preparation and joy they brought to the moment -S

Duck hunting may not automatically occur each year

ON Friday evening, the Victorian Government released its response to the *Review of The Wildlife Act 1975*, almost four years after it received the review’s recommendations in December 2021.

Of 40 recommendations, less than half are supported by the Allan government. A quarter are not supported. Thirteen are ‘supported in principle’ but it is unclear what this means or when details of the new scenario will be released for public review.

Recommendation 5.5 called for duck shooting to no longer automatically occur each year, but take place only if the minister is satisfied duck populations are stable and shooting will not jeopardise their conservation. The government has refused to support this recommendation.

In August 2023, the result of Victoria’s Parliamentary *Inquiry into Native Bird*

Hunting, was tabled in Parliament. Its number one recommendation was to ban recreational native bird hunting in Victoria in line with other states such as Western Australia, Queensland and NSW. The government refused to accept this recommendation also.

“An obvious question is why is taxpayer money being spent on these reviews and inquiries when the Allan government disregards their recommendations?” Kerrie Allen, spokesperson for Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc said.

Less than half of one percent of the population shoot ducks for ‘recreation’, yet the adverse impacts on the rest of community are significant.

While people with firearms are permitted at over half the state’s public wetland areas for a quarter of the year to shoot native birds for recreation, there has never been a cost-

benefit analysis done on the impacts of bird shooting on everyone else, nor a safety risk assessment. Regional communities report being adversely impacted by gunfire noise, trespass and litter, and being unable to enjoy their amenity or work from home.

RSPCA and the Australian Veterinary Association have long criticized native bird shooting due to its high rate of injury (non-kill). Up to 60 per cent of birds hit in duck shooting will not be killed outright but flap away wounded.

Long-term trend analysis of duck populations by Centre for Ecosystem Science University NSW, show native duck populations trending dramatically downwards.



Ensuring your tradespeople are qualified and capable

THERE are any number of tradespeople required to build a new home, or even to renovate an existing one. Knowing that they are qualified and that the work you have delegated them will be done properly is essential for peace of mind.

Under Victorian law, what may be referred to as 'building contractors' are actually specified as 'building practitioners' and have a set of laws that apply to them.

These include that building practitioners must use a major domestic building contract for all work worth more than \$10,000, including renovations, extensions and repairs.

They must also take out domestic building insurance for work worth more than \$16,000, to cover you if they die, disappear or become insolvent. They must give you a certificate of currency for the insurance before they take a deposit and start to build a house, extend or renovate an existing home, or carry out maintenance.

Building practitioners must be registered with the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC) to carry out work worth more than \$10,000, except for work involving only one of the following skills: Plastering; tiling of wall and floor; electrical work; glazing; insulating; painting; plumbing, gas-fitting and draining; installing floor coverings; attaching external fixtures such as awnings, security screens, etcetera; erecting a chain wire fence around a tennis court; and erecting a mast, pole, antenna, aerial or similar structure.



Ensuring you have the right tradespeople for the job that are registered and qualified is crucial. -Rawpixel

You can check if a builder is registered by using the BPC's practitioner search tool on their website, at bams.vba.vic.gov.au/bams/s/practitioner-search

A person must be registered if they are using a combination of skills, such as plastering and

painting, to complete a renovation, extension, repairs or any other job, or going to do work that requires a building permit, regardless of the value of the work.

You can either engage a builder to supervise the entire project and sub-contractors or

manage the building process as an owner builder (where you engage and manage registered sub-contractors yourself). If you engage a builder, you must deal with the builder, not directly with the sub-contractors.

Different tradespeople require different documentation to undertake building work.

Plumbers, gasfitters and drainers must be registered or licensed with the BPC and carry an identification card. For work valued at \$750 or more, plumbers must give you a compliance certificate, that certifies the work undertaken complies with the law.

Electricians must be licensed by Energy Safe Victoria (ESV). The ESV website provides information about what an electrician must provide you with when carrying out work. Whenever a licensed electrician completes any electrical installation work, they must give you a Certificate of Electrical Safety. These certificates are only available from qualified electrical workers registered or licensed with ESV.

To make sure that your work is completed properly and to industry standards, it is important to employ the right tradespeople. Consider shopping around for a few quotes before hiring a practitioner, and make sure to get the contract in writing to cover all bases.

You can also check if a tradesperson has had any disciplinary action taken against them by checking the Victorian Building Authority's register at vba.vic.gov.au/tools/prosecution-and-disciplinary-register

RUBBISH REMOVAL

• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL
• INDUSTRIAL

Alexandra SKIP BINS

22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA

- Builders Waste
- Household Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- 3m Bins

CALL SIMON GOODMAN



0409 997 632



REC-33089

SERVICING THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE

0455 317 553

24 HOUR CALL OUTS
[REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU](https://redgateelectrical.com.au)

For everything you need to complete your earthmoving project, the team at Keath's Excavations can help!

From completing a small landscaping project to a large commercial contract, the Keath's Excavations team can help you from start to finish.



For more information, or to get an no-obligation quote on your earthmoving project, give our friendly team a call and see how we can help you!

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS PTY LTD • 6562 Maroondah Highway, Yarrck VIC 3719

☎ 5773 4242 📠 0428 577 951 ✉ admin@keaths.com.au 📱 [keathsexc@bigpond.com](https://www.facebook.com/keathsexc)



Plans and permits a must for building or renovations

WHEN undertaking major building projects, such as renovations or building a new home, it is crucial to conduct the correct planning and obtain the necessary permits. This is your obligation as a homeowner, and your responsibility.

You can authorise a builder to get them or get them yourself. A builder may supply plans and specifications, or you may decide to engage an architect, designer or draftsman to do this.

As homeowner, it is also your responsibility to make sure that the Certificate of Final Inspection or Occupancy Permit is obtained when work is complete.

There are a number of steps that should be followed in order to ensure that all the paperwork and documentation is correctly completed.

To begin with, before beginning construction or renovations, have your building plans prepared. Employing a registered architect, designer or draftsman to do this can make your life much easier.

Building plans must take into account: Foundation data, and the results of any soil tests; local council laws and regulations, which for Murrindindi Shire can be found on the Murrindindi Shire Council website; mandatory energy efficiency requirements; and the results of a site survey by a licensed land surveyor if there are any doubts or concerns about the boundaries of your property.

Before signing any building contracts, make sure your building plans and specifications detail all the features, fixtures, fittings and finishes you want. Also make sure that your building contract clearly states who is responsible for doing your building plans and who will obtain permits.

The next step is to check if you need a planning and building permit. No work can be undertaken without a building permit.

Contact Murrindindi Shire Council to find out what local planning laws and regulations apply to your project. You should also check if there are any additional council requirements for your area, such as termite or fire protection requirements.

If you delegate a builder to act on your behalf and obtain a building permit, you must first appoint a private building surveyor or instruct your builder to apply to a municipal building surveyor for a permit. The building surveyor will assess your application for a fee and either request changes to ensure the plans and specifications comply with building regulations or grant the building permit.

Make sure that you only engage one building surveyor.

Finally, if you are an owner builder, don't sign a building permit application unless you are prepared to take full responsibility for the project and have an owner builder's Certificate of Consent from the Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC).



Undertaking the necessary planning and then obtaining permits is crucial for construction or renovation. -Nelson Axigoth



Local Dealer/Agent for



Supply, Installation and Servicing of several brands of Split systems and Ducted heating/cooling systems

Local provider for the Victorian energy upgrade Discounts.

Office located at:
124A Grant Street, Alexandra, 3714
Phone: 03 5772 2440
Email: alexrefrig@bigpond.com
Website: www.air2aircon.com.au

Licence 49182 RTA: 32342

Air2Airconditioning servicing Murrindindi Shire and beyond

STARTING as Alexandra Refrigeration in 2007, the business has grown and evolved into Air2Airconditioning as they are known today.

They moved into a new office and storage in Grant Street, Alexandra, in January of 2025 which has allowed clients a place to visit and discuss their air-conditioning/heating needs for their new home builds and/or renovations.

As an award winning agent for Daikin Australia Air2Airconditioning have successfully progressed to Super Dealer status which they have held since 2020 and allows them to offer the very best Daikin prices to clients.

More recently Air2Airconditioning have applied for and become a registered provider for the Victorian Energy upgrade scheme

allowing eligible clients to receive rebates when upgrading their heating/cooling from a gas ducted, electric floor heating and older split systems to more efficient split systems and refrigerated ducted heating/cooling systems.

They are family owned and run and have three qualified refrigeration mechanics on staff to install your new aircon or service existing heating/cooling systems or attend to your commercial refrigeration issues.

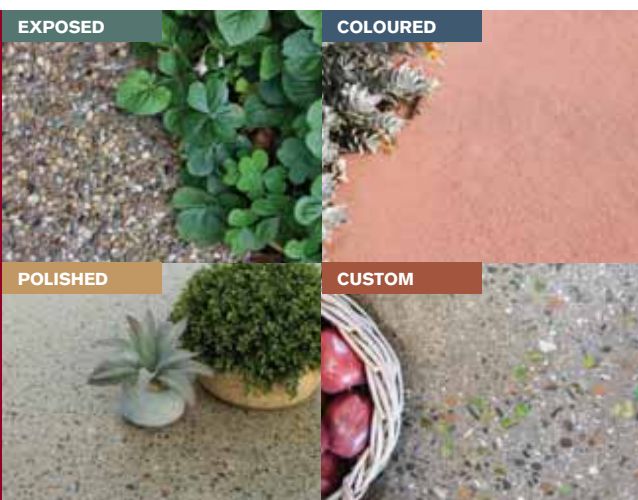
The team undertakes regular professional training so they can keep up to date with evolving technology.

Covering the area between Narbethong and Mansfield and sometimes even beyond, give Air2Airconditioning a call or email today to see if they can be of assistance with your heating and cooling needs.

eliteCRETE®
 DECORATIVE CONCRETE



Mawsons EliteCrete® decorative concrete range offers a unique set of colour and texture combinations to compliment any building or landscape setting.



1800 423 456
mawsons.com.au



Consider the energy efficiency of your new home

IN 2022, the Victorian Government agreed to increase minimum energy efficiency building standards for new homes from six to seven stars under changes to the National Construction Code 2022, which means that it is something that must be taken into consideration when building a new home.

Energy efficient homes are more comfortable to live in, cost less to heat and cool, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are more attractive on the current property market.

Updated requirements from 2022 for residential buildings, class one and two, include: An increase in the minimum thermal performance requirement for the building shell from six to seven stars out of a possible 10 through the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS); introduction of a whole-of-home annual energy use budget for fixed appliances such as hot water, heating and cooling, etcetera; and removal of the previous Victorian variation that requires either a solar water heater or a rainwater tank to be installed, allowing Victorian's to choose their preferred hot water system.

There are numerous ways to ensure that the new home you are building complies with these Victorian Government standards.

In terms of design and build, you should consider wall, ceiling and floor insulation to keep things cool in summer and warm in winter, as well as quality windows, window size and their orientation, and the orientation of your home to allow sun access and shading. This could mean designing it so that sunlight lands on the roof in summer, but goes through the windows in winter, cutting down on heating and cooling energy use.

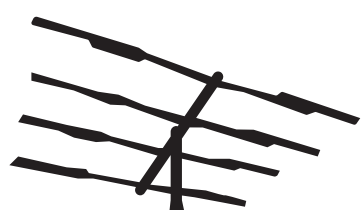
When choosing appliances for your new home, make sure to look at the energy efficiency of the appliances, as this will mean you use less energy to power your home. You can also install rooftop solar to help offset energy usage.

These simple changes are usually enough to give a home seven stars under the NatHERS rating, but the more energy efficient your home is currently, the more attractive it could potentially be on the housing market.

You can find a NatHERS scorecard assessor to assess the energy efficiency of your home by visiting homescorecard.gov.au/find-a-scorecard-assessor



There are a number of potential options for increasing the energy efficiency of your home. -Elena



Fully Registered

Fully Insured

Sec Reg: 997-462-60s

Chris's TV

The Television Reception Specialist

Christopher Edwards

0405 554 915 info@chris-tv.com.au

- 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

"Your local Starlink specialist"

Bell Legal & Planning

Lawyer and Town Planning Consultant

Planning permit applications and advice

Contact Angelina:

0448 793 795

admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

www.belllegalplanning.com.au

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



- CCTV & Security • Domestic / Commercial • Trenching
- Undergrounds • Electrical Design • Cable Locations
- Solar Installations • Grid Connect / Off Grid / Batteries

5751 0000

0418 543 310

info@e-tec.net.au

www.etecelectrical.com.au

Rec No 12906



Protecting adjoining property during building work

AN owner who is proposing building work has obligations under the *Building Act 1993* to protect adjoining property from potential damage from their building work.

If your building work is close to or adjacent to adjoining property boundaries, then you may be required to carry out protection work relating to the adjoining property. This is to ensure that the adjoining property is not affected or damaged by your building work.

Adjoining property is considered to be land at risk of significant damage from building work and may include any street, highway, lane, footpath, square, alley and right of way.

When making an application for a building permit for the proposed building work, the applicant (the building owner or agent of owner) is required to provide detailed information about the building work to the relevant building surveyor. The building surveyor will then determine if protection work is required.

Protection work provides protection to adjoining property from damage. Protection work may include: Underpinning of footings, including vertical support, lateral

support, protection against variation in earth pressures, ground anchors, and other means of support for the adjoining property; shoring up and overhead protection; other work designed to maintain the stability of adjoining property from damage from building work.

If you are required to carry out protection work, you must serve a notice on the adjoining owner and provide details about the proposed protection work. A building permit may not be issued until the protection work process has been completed to the approval of the building surveyor.

The adjoining owner must respond to the notice within 14 days of the notice being served. They can agree or disagree to the proposed protection work or request further information to be provided.

An adjoining owner who fails to respond to the notice within the required time is deemed to have agreed to the proposed protection work.

If the adjoining owner agrees or is deemed to have agreed to the proposed protection work, and if the building surveyor has evaluated the protection work, then your builder may proceed to carry out

the protection work after obtaining any necessary permits, approvals or insurance.

If the adjoining owner disagrees with the proposed protection work or requests further information, your building surveyor must examine the proposal for protection work and determine whether the protection work is appropriate.

As the owner having building work done, you must ensure that a contract of insurance is in force against potential damage caused by the proposed protection work to the adjoining property.

A survey of the adjoining property must be prepared by the owner with the adjoining owner. The survey should record of all existing cracks and defects. This record must be signed or acknowledged as an agreed record of the condition of the adjoining property before the protection work begins.

A property owner is required by law to pay expenses incurred by the adjoining owner in protecting their interests. These costs include: Specialists' fees to check protection work documentation; expenses relating to the actual on-site supervision of protection work once it begins.

Renovate safely

HOME renovations can be a big project that spans a long timeframe and costs large amounts of money. They can also prove dangerous if not handled correctly, which is why it is important to pay attention to potential hazards and work safely.

If you have children, try to keep them away from work areas where there are power tools, cords they might trip over, or other hazards.

Homes built before 1990 may contain asbestos. If your house has not been checked for asbestos, getting this done before starting renovations can help protect both you and your contractors.

It can be found in roofing, wall lining, eaves, inside fibre cement sheeting, or even as a backing in some vinyl floors. Inhalation of asbestos fibres, which are microscopic and cannot be seen, can cause lung tissue scarring, shortness of breath, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Therefore, it is crucial to have a licensed asbestos removalist take care of this hazard. They know how to deal with asbestos safely.

Some paints produced prior to 1965 contained as much as 50 per

cent lead, compared to 0.1 per cent or less these days. If your house is from this time, it may require specialists to deal with the lead paint.

Lead can be dangerous for people, especially young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Symptoms of acute lead poisoning, which is a high level of exposure at one time, include: Muscle pains; fatigue; abdominal pains; headaches; nausea and vomiting; seizures; and even in extreme cases a coma.

Other sources of lead in your home that may require careful consideration when renovating include lead pipes, lead flashing, and household dust released from the ceiling or wall cavities.

When renovating, be careful where you place your weight. There may be unseen structural damage to your house, due to water, termites, etcetera. Know the strong points and the weak points of your structure.

Leave the electrical work to contractors that are licensed, registered and qualified. An electrical safety check on your home before beginning work could ensure the safety of all those involved in renovations.

CHOICE
SUPPLIES

Everything BATHROOM | KITCHEN | LAUNDRY

FISHER & PAYKEL

Haier

\$999-	\$1,199-	\$649-	\$689-
F&P 60CM FREESTANDING DISHWASHER DW60FC1X2 S/STEEL	F&P SERIES 5 CONTEMPORARY DISHWASHER DW60FC1B2 BLACK S/STEEL	HAIER 60CM FREESTANDING DISHWASHER HDW13F0PS1 S/STEEL	HAIER 300 SERIES FREESTANDING DISHWASHER HDW13F0W1 WHITE

\$995-	\$1,249-	\$599-	\$799-	\$819-	\$789-
-------------------	---------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

F&P TOP LOADER WASHING MACHINE 8.5KG WL9058G1 GLOSS WHITE	F&P 10KG SERIES 5 TOP LOADER WASHER WL1064G1 WHITE	HAIER 6KG 300 SERIES TOP LOADER WASHING MACHINE HWT60AA1 WHITE	HAIER 9KG 500 SERIES TOP LOADER WASHING MACHINE HWT09AN1 WHITE	HAIER 8.5KG 500 SERIES FRONT LOADER WASHING MACHINE HWF85AN1 WHITE	HAIER 9.5KG 500 SERIES FRONT LOADER WASHING MACHINE HWF95AN1 WHITE
--	---	---	---	--	--

Order online or call the showroom today for help. 9548-1033

WWW.CHOICESUPPLIES.COM.AU

Cranic Pty Ltd ACN. 120974861 ABN. 80120974861

Come & visit our showroom.
2/820 PRINCES HWY, SPRINGVALE.

FREE DELIVERY!!



Year 12 celebrations at Yea High School

ON October 21, Yea High School's year 12 celebrations took place. There were some harmless shenanigans in the morning and then the students enjoyed a breakfast served by staff, a wellbeing session in preparation for exams, and a cheeky water fight on the oval.

The students also wanted to thank Ms O'Connor, Ms Byers and Mr Treloar for the adventure to Eastland.





Important to consider distance when transporting livestock for processing

IN Australia, livestock often travel many kilometres, in some cases even thousands of kilometres interstate for processing.

This long-distance travel often occurs where producers have long standing contracts that need to be fulfilled or species specific or specialised requirements that can only be met at a particular abattoir.

Agriculture Victoria District Veterinary Officer Cathy Bunter said where transport journeys are projected to be long it is important to have

animals well prepared for the journey in terms of their nutrition, hydration and heat management.

“It is also essential for producers to introduce their livestock to water troughs prior so their animals can recognise and be able to drink from troughs both during and at the end of the journey,” Dr Bunter said.

“Shorter transport journeys for livestock have many benefits apart from the obvious lower transport costs.”

Dr Bunter said shorter transport distances reduce the risks of injury, disease and death.

There is a substantial increase in livestock welfare incidents in stock travelling greater than 400km or undergoing journeys longer than 30 hours.

“Producers and transporters are reminded the Land Transport Standards are nationally agreed mandatory animal welfare standards and guidelines developed cooperatively by the livestock industries and government,” Dr Bunter said.

Anyone who is preparing livestock for transport or transporting livestock must follow these standards which can be found at Land

Transport Australian Animal Welfare. Dr Bunter also said other motivations for shorter transport distances include better meat quality, because less stress means the meat is tenderer and consumer satisfaction is increased. The producer also benefits from heavier carcass results.

“Regardless of the distance travelled, having animals better prepared to take the journey results in better animal welfare outcomes. This is especially important where livestock are still recovering from the prolonged impacts of drought,” Dr Bunter concluded.

In red meat we trust

MEAT and Livestock Australia (MLA) has released the findings of its 2025 Community Sentiment Research, revealing a significant uplift in public trust and a notable increase in consumers claiming to eat more red meat.

Conducted annually since 2010 by strategic consultancy firm Pollinate on behalf of MLA, the research measures and tracks consumer sentiment in the community towards the Australian red meat industry.

For the first time since tracking began, more Australians are claiming to be increasing their red meat intake than reducing it.

Nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of metropolitan Australians claimed to be eating more red meat than they did 12 months ago, while only 22 per cent said they were eating less, marking the lowest level of reduction in the study’s history.

This trend is particularly pronounced among younger Australians, with those aged 18 to 34 making up nearly 49 per cent of the group indicating that they were increasing their consumption.

Rates of vegetarianism continues to decline, with only four per cent of Australians identifying as vegetarian and just two per cent adhering strictly to a meat-free diet. The proportion of vegetarians is the lowest it has been in the past 10 years.

Interestingly, one in five meat eaters have previously tried vegetarianism. However, many return to eating meat due to cravings, health issues, or the cost of maintaining a vegetarian lifestyle.

Trust in the red meat industry has reached its highest recorded level, with 67 per cent of Australians expressing confidence that the industry will “do what is right.”

The top drivers of trust include perceptions of environmental action, ethical practices, transparency, and strong regulatory standards.

These factors have all improved since last year, with the most notable gains seen in environmental action, the most influential trust driver.

Importantly, those who feel knowledgeable about the industry are significantly more likely to trust it, feel good about red meat production, and consider increasing their consumption.

Managing Director for MLA, Michael Crowley, said the findings reflect the industry’s commitment to transparency, education, and continuous improvement.

“Australians are increasingly recognising the value of red meat, not just for nutrition, but for the integrity of the people who produce it,” Mr Crowley said.

“This research shows that when we share our story, particularly around sustainability and animal welfare, trust grows and people are more likely to enjoy red meat.”

MLA’s Australian Good Meat content continues to play a key role in shaping public sentiment, with 66 per cent of viewers said the content made them feel more positive about the industry.

“When we show Australians what modern farming really looks like and how producers care for their animals and the land, it changes perceptions,” Mr Crowley said.

“The Australian Good Meat content is helping bridge the gap between producers and consumers,

Industry report shows more volatility in Australian livestock markets

AUSTRALIAN livestock producers have been facing an unprecedented period of market volatility over recent years, with swings in cattle and sheep prices reaching record extremes, Rabobank says in new research.

In the report *Managing increased volatility in Australian livestock markets*, the bank’s RaboResearch division says while volatility has long been a feature of livestock markets, both the scale and frequency of price swings have intensified significantly over the past five to 10 years.

And the agribusiness banking specialist believes this high level of volatility is likely to persist for Australia’s livestock sectors in the “short to medium term”.

In the past five years, the report says, both cattle and sheep prices have reached repeated record highs, with each exceeding previous peaks by around 20 per cent, only to then fall to the lowest levels seen in the past decade. Prices have been on another upward trend since 2023.

Report author, RaboResearch senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said the increased level of volatility seen in Australian livestock markets has not been consistent across other markets, either locally or globally.

And this suggests that while macro geopolitical and economic developments do have an impact, there are particular factors affecting Australian livestock markets which have led to this higher price volatility.

Mr Gidley-Baird said while there is a clear relationship between rainfall and livestock prices, with good seasonal conditions driving demand and prices higher, and dry conditions having the opposite effect, increased price volatility is not simply a reflection of more variable rainfall.

“While rainfall and confidence are important, they don’t account for the magnitude of recent price swings,” he said.

“Other factors, including industry structure, debt levels, and global market dynamics, are increasingly influential.”

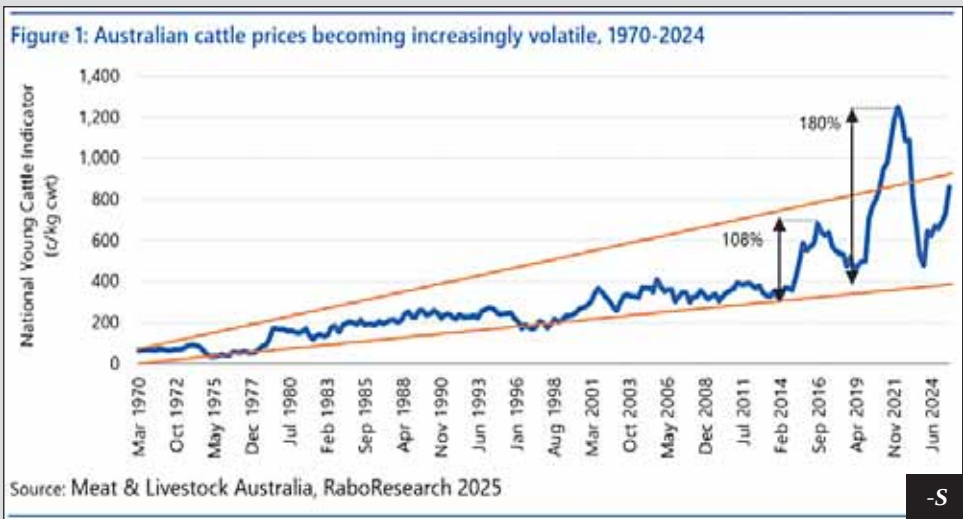
Contributing factors

RaboResearch says a combination of these contributing factors are likely behind the extremes in livestock market volatility.

They include increased exposure to geographically larger markets, growth in information flows, an increasingly unstable global trade environment, changing industry structure and increasing debt levels.

“All of which we believe contribute to increased volatility,” Mr Gidley-Baird said.

The report said in recent years, the Australian livestock sector had become more exposed to geographically larger markets, with the closure of a number of small local saleyards and the increasing presence and throughput of larger regional saleyards, as well as the advent of



online sales channels. In addition, feedlots and processors are no longer just sourcing from local markets, with movement of cattle across state borders a common occurrence.

“It is no longer just local, smaller market conditions that influence buyer and seller behaviour, but rather the larger broader market that causes bigger market movements,” the report said.

Mr Gidley-Baird said greater exposure to a wide selection of information for market participants was also likely contributing to price volatility.

“With information and sentiment flowing faster and further than ever before, producers are now reacting to a wider array of signals, from weather forecasts to global trade headlines, which amplifies market movements,” he said.

The report said an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment, including a general move away from globalisation and trade liberalisation, had contributed more recently to an unstable livestock market.

“Added to this ‘complex’ is a growth in global protein consumption, increased global trade of proteins and the increased presence of diseases, which affect not only production but also trade arrangements,” Mr Gidley-Baird said.

In addition, the report proposes that the livestock industry has changed in structure, including becoming more “polarised” with an increasing proportion of livestock numbers in large or small farms and less in medium-sized operations.

“This leads to different decision making,” Mr Gidley-Baird said.

“Smaller farmers may not be driven by the same profit motives or have access to alternative income streams and larger more corporate-style operations may have different reporting responsibilities and decision-making processes, impacting their participation in the market

and possibly adding to more pronounced market movements.”

Mr Gidley-Baird said increased debt levels and financing costs may also be contributing to livestock producers making more “dramatic decisions”.

The streamlining of the supply chains, particularly for cattle, may also be a contributor to market volatility, the report says, with more livestock now going through private sales, including direct consignment to feedlots or processors, reducing the volume and quality sold through saleyards.

“Due to the more exaggerated supply and demand movements in these saleyard markets, we expect to see greater volatility resulting,” Mr Gidley-Baird said.

And it is saleyard auction prices which are used for livestock market reporting, and on which RaboResearch’s report is based, he noted.

Managing volatility

While “volatility is not inherently negative”, RaboResearch says, and “simply represents risk, and potentially opportunities” it is likely to persist in the Australian livestock sectors for the short to medium term.

And industry participants should at least prepare to manage it.

“This requires a strategic approach that reinforces adaptability, promotes resilience and improves predictability,” Mr Gidley-Baird said.

“There is a renewed case for embedding resilience and predictability into business planning, which can help producers navigate uncertainty with greater confidence and avoid reactive decisions that may carry long-term consequences.”

The research also found that 74 per cent of Australians believe red meat is important for their family’s nutrition, and 70 per cent agree that beef and lamb are part of a healthy, balanced diet.

For more information on the consumer sentiment research, visit info.mla.com.au/c/AQjrtA0Qo7koGOzhloBIOWCsg0Xawb7y7wSoQqw0yP1jNsnH3VB06O82Aa9m_-5q1O_Bw

especially younger Australians who are hungry for authenticity and real-world stories.”

Health and nutrition continue to be the most powerful motivators for Australians increasing their red meat consumption.

Among those indicating to increase their red meat intake, 87 per cent cited health-related reasons, including its value as a source of iron (51 per cent) and protein (58 per cent). Nearly half (46 per cent) said they were eating more red meat

to improve their health, while 46 per cent simply said they “just like meat.”

“Australians are telling us loud and clear that red meat is not just something they enjoy, it’s something they rely on for their health,” Mr Crowley said.

“Australian beef, sheepmeat and goatmeat is packed with essential nutrients like iron and protein, and it’s a staple in our diet for good reason.”

Just not cricket at the Alexandra Races



The horses crossing the line to conclude race one. -BD

by Robyn Walsh

RAIN interrupted play at the Alexandra Races on Saturday. The day opened with temperatures expected to be just right for racing. The excellent weather attracted a large and joyful crowd ready to battle the bookies on St Crispin's Day. However, it is spring, and, with only four races completed, the weather gods drove the runners from the field and left patrons wondering what might have been.

Our Man Sam, leader of the newly created Alexandra Punters' Club, recruited a significant following. The \$20 Punters Club was open to all, especially the untrained, naive and lazy punters who attended the races to socialise and enjoy themselves rather than battle the bookies alone. Sam did such a good job that all Punters' Club members went home with extra coin in their pockets. Sam will return to Alexandra and the club will keep you posted about the date of the next Punter's Club.

The racing was good. Last season's leading picnic rider and poster boy, Shaun Cooper, rode a double, winning both race one and four. Ben Moffat and Rob Kilpatrick rode the other two winners. The training honours were spread evenly between the old guard, Don Dwyer, Troy Kilgower and newer trainers, Tyson Barton and Ashleigh Smith.

The next meeting is the Family Friendly Country and Western Meeting on December 27. Come dressed in your best country and western gear, to win some great prizes. There will be some enjoyable activities for the family including country and western music, pony rides, face painting, Marco the Magician and Racing Victoria merchandise for the children. Also the Kombi Photo Booth will help you create your own memories of the day. TAC buses will be running from Eildon and Yarck as usual, so please book online, early and often, at country.racing.com/alexandra

The hard working Alexandra Race Club committee did a great job to present a track, grounds and infrastructure ready for racing. They are recruiting now to reinforce their ranks, and looking for new blood to inject new drive and ideas. A few good people, men, women, young or old is all that is needed to keep Alexandra Racing rolling on for another 150 years. Volunteers can contact vice president Doug Vaux on 0407 245 546 for information.



The horses charging around the lush green track. -BD



Race one winner 'These Boots' with jockey Shaun Cooper. -BD



The Alexandra Races volunteers staffing the gate on the day. -BD



The band playing live music to bring atmosphere to the races. -BD



Horse 'Luna One' was ridden by Cameron Thompson in the first race. -BD



The crowd watched the horses parade around before the race started. -BD

PUZZLES

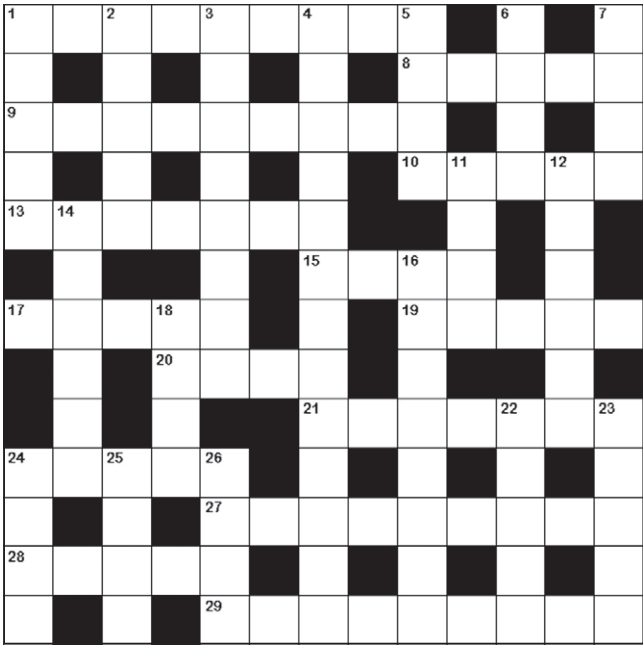
SOLUTIONS
Page 19

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Made more pleasant or agreeable.
- 8. The fruit of the oak tree.
- 9. A focus of public attention.
- 10. An item in a sports programme.
- 13. Receive property from a will.
- 15. Small mischievous devils or sprites.
- 17. An unhappy and worried mental state.
- 19. Freshwater mammal related to weasels.
- 20. The part of speech that expresses action.
- 21. Copy another's behaviour or appearance.
- 24. Inhale recreational drugs through the nose.
- 27. Natural or acquired skills or talents.
- 28. Inflict vengeance upon a person.
- 29. The study of the origins of words.



DOWN

- 1. A meal of raw fish wrapped in seaweed.
- 2. A particular, noteworthy period of history.
- 3. Put up with an unpleasant situation.
- 4. Able to be discussed or modified.
- 5. A meeting arranged in advance.
- 6. Come to terms and deal successfully with.
- 7. A tight cluster of people or things.
- 11. Unusually immense in size or amount.
- 12. Showing the most courtesy and politeness.
- 14. Table linen used to protect clothing.
- 16. A person that is very active in party politics.
- 18. All the time and on every occasion.
- 22. Spanish form of address for a friend.
- 23. A literary composition on any subject.
- 24. Seeds placed in the ground for future growth.
- 25. Domesticated cattle as a group.
- 26. Appropriate for one's own use.

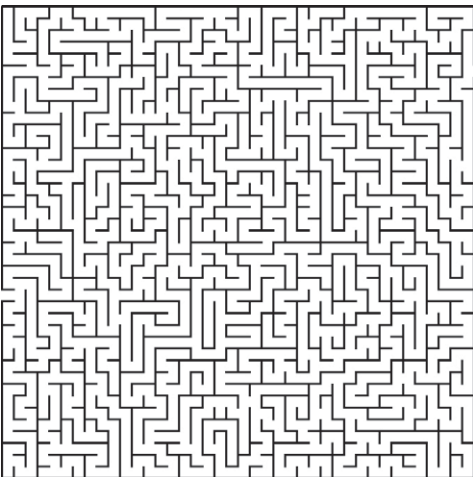
Shapes

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

Green things

- APPLES
- GRASS
- BROCCOLI
- GRASSHOPPER
- CACTI
- JADE
- CUCUMBERS
- LEAVES
- FERNS
- MOSS
- FROGS
- SPINACH

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

Math Square

	+	3	-		1
-		+		+	
	+		+		14
+		-		+	
5	x		-		37
1		-5		19	

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.

Colouring Page



Word Search

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

Words starting with "AC"

- ACADEMIC
- ACCOMMODATE
- ACCELERATE
- ACCOMPANY
- ACCENT
- ACCORD
- ACCEPT
- ACCOUNT
- ACCESS
- ACE
- ACCIDENT
- ACRYLIC
- ACCLAIM
- ACTIVE

Math Square

	+		+		18
-		-		+	
	-		+	2	3
+		+		-	
	+	8	-		0
3		12		-2	

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: What do you call a medieval lamp?
A: A knight light.

Q: How do mountains stay warm in winter?
A: They wear snow caps.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV

The Television Reception Specialist

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

Fully Registered Fully Insured Fully Vaccinated

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

MM00042 Rec N°12906

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

SimpsonS FUEL 70 YEARS

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 **AMPOL**

24 HRS

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

WATER BORING

North West Drilling

Water Bores

Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield,
Alexandra and surrounding areas.
Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a
no obligation free quote contact GRAHAM BRENNAN
Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289
northwest.drilling@bigpond.com
www.northwestdrilling.com.au

EMC1840

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

EMC1025

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

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

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

EMC0082

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

EMC0072

KITCHENS

Murrindindi KITCHENS *Can design and build...*

Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design,
Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries,
Creative design and quality,
vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465
38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

**BOOK YOUR SPACE IN
THE BUSINESS & TRADES
DIRECTORY TODAY!**

Phone: 5772 1002
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays

43 Grant Street, Alexandra VIC 3714

The Yea Chronicle



PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

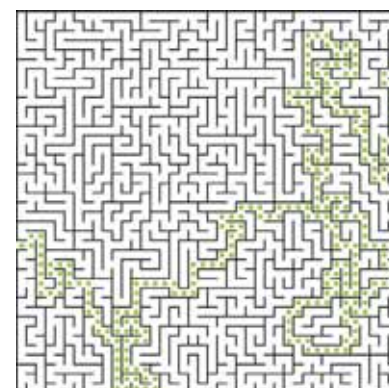
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

2	+	3	-	4	1
-		+		+	
6	+	1	+	7	14
+		-		+	
5	x	9	-	8	37
1		-5		19	

MAZE



KIDS MATH SQUARES

6	+	7	+	5	18
-		-		+	
4	-	3	+	2	3
+		+		-	
1	+	8	-	9	0
3		12		-2	

The Cathedral Invitational returns to the Australian golfing calendar

THE Australian Summer of Golf will welcome back the jewel in the tournament calendar this year, with the Cathedral Invitational returning in December.

Held immediately after the Australian Open, the Cathedral Golf Club & Lodge will once again host the invitation only event on December 9 and 10, where day two is open to the public, featuring many of Australia's top male and female golfers and showcasing some of the world's leading international talent.

Several leading and emerging Australian golfing names have already committed to participate in the 2025 Cathedral Invitational, including reigning champ Adam Scott, Marc Leishman, Geoff Ogilvy and former major winner Ian Baker-Finch who will make

his return to professional golf in Australia.

The unique 36-hole format challenges players to compete for the title across two days, with the second day the sole chance year round where the public can access the prestigious golf course. Nearly 3000 people attended day two of the 2023 event.

Cathedral Invitational Chairman, David Evans said, "It's extremely exciting to have the Cathedral Invitational locked in to return in December 2025. Event preparations are well underway, and we remain determined for this event to become a staple in the Australian golf calendar.

"The event provides the opportunity for Australian and Victorian golf fans to get up close and personal with the big names that



Day two of the Cathedral Invitational will be open to public spectators.

will take part in the Invitational; it's also the only day for the entire year that the general public can access the course.

"I can't wait for the event to return this year and to see what unfolds."

Set in the beautiful Victorian Northeast region amidst a

spectacular Australian landscape, the Cathedral Lodge spans over 300 acres of the Evans family farm. This par-72, 18-hole championship course with seemingly never-ending views, is backdropped by the rolling hills of the Cathedral Ranges.

Tickets are \$60 for adults, or \$30 for adults living within a 30

kilometre radius of the course, \$30 for concession, and children under 12 are free.

Tickets are now on sale to the public for day two of the 2025 Cathedral Invitational.

For more information, visit cathedralinvitational.com

Classifieds

FUNERAL NOTICES

ROGERS, John Edward – 14/04/1930 - 19/10/2025. Funeral service for John will be held at the Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street on Wednesday, October 29 commencing 1pm. A private cremation will follow. Baileys Funeral Services - serving regional and metropolitan Victoria. 0417 346 214.

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

THORNTON, Queen size wooden bed with bedhead excellent condition, with two matching bedside drawers with three drawers. Free. Mattress if needed. Ph 0447 749 005.

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

MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN INCORPORATED. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General meeting of the Alexandra and District Kindergarten will be held on Monday, November 24 at 6pm at Alexandra Kindergarten, 15 Bayley Street, Alexandra. RSVP and apologies to the kinder office on 5772 1387 or email alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

FLOWERDALE SPORTS CLUB AGM on November 10, 2025 at 7pm at Flowerdale Sports Club, 748 Spring Valley Road, Flowerdale. All welcome. For more information email flowerdalesportsclub@gmail.com.

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.

Wildlife Victoria statement on government response to Wildlife Act Review

THE Victorian Government has released its long-awaited response to the Wildlife Act Review. Wildlife Victoria welcomes the announcement of reforms as a step in the right direction but says further improvements are needed to fully protect the state's native animals.

Wildlife Victoria also notes that pressures on Victoria's wildlife continue to escalate. Last year, the organisation responded to 160,000 requests for help and cared for nearly 98,000 animals across more than 450 species, double the number at the time of its submission into the Wildlife Act Review four years ago. Climate change, habitat loss, urbanisation, and other human impacts continue to increase demand for rescue and care services.

Wildlife Victoria CEO, Lisa Palma said, "Wildlife Victoria welcomes the announcement of reforms to Victoria's Wildlife Act as a step in the right direction. It is essential that the government has robust systems in place to address wildlife crime

and hold offenders to account. Stronger penalties for those who deliberately harm wildlife are long overdue, and we are pleased to see that this issue is now being taken seriously.

"However, despite these positive steps, Wildlife Victoria remains concerned that the state government has failed to introduce the most significant and important reform recommended by the Expert Panel, a new act that better protects and conserves wildlife, rather than simply revising the current Wildlife Act.

"While the announced changes are welcome, they are not enough. Wildlife Victoria will continue to push for stronger protections, ethical management, and better support for wildlife, and those who rescue and care for them, across Victoria.

"The introduction of a more risk-based approach to managing native animals is also encouraging. Wildlife carers across Victoria work tirelessly to ensure animals

receive the highest standard of care, and it is vital that everyone involved in wildlife management upholds those same standards.

"Ensuring that wildlife is not subject to unnecessary stress or kept in unsuitable conditions is crucial to improving welfare outcomes. We look forward to understanding in more detail how these new measures will operate in practice, particularly around compliance and supervision of enhanced regulations.

"While this reform marks an important milestone, there remains scope for further improvements to ensure the legislation fully meets the needs of our wildlife. Wildlife Victoria will continue to advocate for better support and stronger protections for our native species.

"We would like to see further detail behind the changes and understand detailed implementation plan and look forward to continuing to engage with government to strengthen protections across the state."

Energy performance proving its worth in property markets

THE Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has welcomed new national research confirming that buyers are placing a premium on energy efficiency.

According to Cotality's *Watt's it Worth* report released recently, homes with solar power systems sell for around 2.7 per cent more than comparable properties without, equating to a national average uplift of \$23,100.

Each additional NatHERS star adds a further 1.3 per cent to a home's value, or approximately \$10,560.

Chair of the REIA's Sustainability Working Group, Jacob Caine, said the findings highlight how cost-of-living pressures are shaping buyer behaviour.

"Australians are recognising the dual benefit of energy-efficient homes, in

reduced running costs and stronger long-term value," Mr Caine said.

"We are seeing consumer search behaviour increasingly favour listings that highlight energy efficient features, confirming that performance is shaping buyer demand.

"These findings cement what we are hearing from buyers: energy efficiency ratings and solar panels are no longer 'optional extras' but central to how homes are appraised and sold."

The report also reinforces REIA's support for a nationally consistent framework for mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings at the point of sale and lease.

"The ACT government has shown for more than two decades that mandatory disclosure works. The report's evidence

provides a clear case for rolling out consistent, trusted ratings nationally, supported by incentives and a phased approach," Mr Caine said.

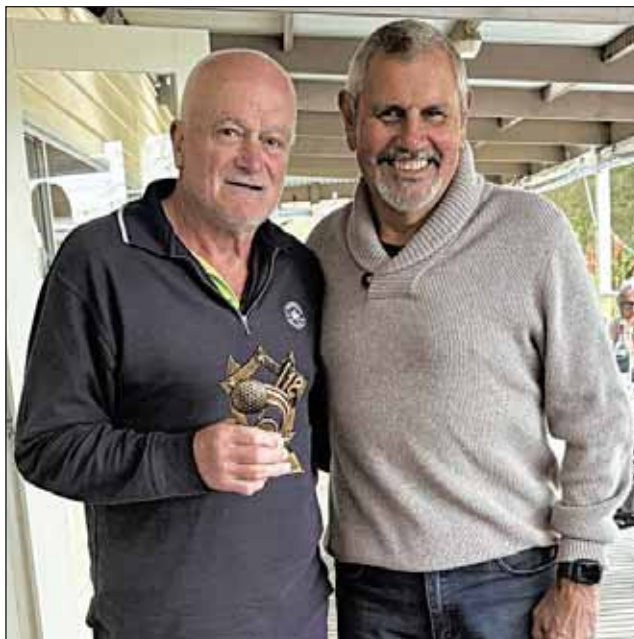
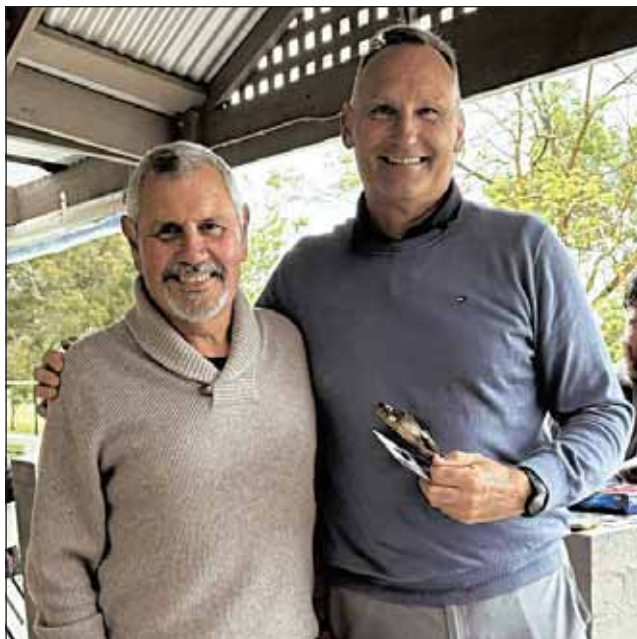
REIA's policy priorities include: Improving energy efficiency disclosure at point of sale and lease; implementing a national mandatory disclosure framework; supporting retrofits to the 70 per cent of existing homes rated below three stars; and raising consumer awareness so agents can guide buyers, sellers, landlords and renters toward better housing choices.

"Performance is now as important as postcode," Mr Caine added.

"Homes with higher energy efficiency deliver greater comfort today and better capital growth tomorrow."



Men's Championship 2025



Bob Glenister, a past club champion and a person who does so much for Yea Golf Club presented Andrew, Peter and Phil with their trophies. -S

by Alan Pell

THIRTY-four men and seven ladies on the Yea Golf Course on Saturday. Many thanks to all volunteers who had the course looking fabulous. In the final round of the Men's Championships all leading players were able to score big wins.

In A grade Andrew Bohn (7) was the Club Champion winning by nine strokes from second Rick Wills (10).

B grade champion was Peter Johnston (16) winning by eight shots from Neil Peterson (16).

In C grade Phil Armstrong (20) was run away Champion winning by 23 strokes from

Malcolm Bett (26) second on count back from Michael Sheather (21).

Daily winners were James Kidd (7) from Alexandra with nett 66 from second Phillip Armstrong nett 68 with Malcolm Bett third with nett 70.

The Clarke Trophy for best overall nett score was won by Phil Armstrong with 211 (won by six strokes) as well.

Michael Sheather was nearest the pin on the 18th and Rob Gill won the Club Award on count back.

In the ladies event on Saturday Vicki Butler (43) with nett 70 won from Cindy Armstrong (29) with nett 72. Di Elliott was nearest the pin on the 18th.



Cindy Armstrong and Vicki Butler. -S

Get Active vouchers up for grabs again

THE Victorian Government is helping families with \$200 vouchers so their children can get active and play the sports they love this summer.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced the next round of *Get Active Kids* vouchers are now available to eligible families in Northern Victoria.

"This program is always a hit with local families. These vouchers will mean more kids can take part and support our local sports clubs," Ms Symes said.

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 for 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

Squash club round three games

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Camembert versus Gouda

JORDAN versus Lochlan: It was a close game with both opponents winning two games. Jordan had an amazing third game, giving him enough points to win the match 68 to 54.

Liane versus Laura: Through to game three it was point for point. Game four sealed the deal for Liane, increasing her lead to claim game four and the match 60 to 49.

Chris versus Ben: These two had a battle with several great rallies throughout. Chris was consistent and had a good run in the middle of the match. Ben tried to keep up but Chris won with a ten-point lead 61 to 51.

Derrick versus Michael H: They were on even standings with either player up for the win. Game three went to Derrick with a good lead, but Michael took home three games and the match 51 to 47.

Blue Vein versus Mozzarella

JARED versus Matt: The tension on the court was palpable. The first game was drawn. With superior skill Jared took control of the rest of the match to slide into the winning position 68 to 50.

John versus Jim: A pair of club veterans fighting for supremacy. Jim put in the effort, but John's finesse and control raised him up to claim the victory 62 to 40.

Thursday competition

Hammerheads versus Piranhas

JESSICA versus Ben: Such a great and even game. Jess was just too strong in the end 52 to 48.

Kristelle versus Travis: It started close with both players having a shot at victory. Travis racked up points with his serve and Kristelle making a number of unforced errors. Kristelle had lost pace in the last game, allowing Travis to stampede ahead to victory 75 to 57.



Daniel reaches around Justin for the ball. -S

Daniel W versus Justin: Fresh from the weekend competition it was a grudge match. The points were up and down through out, both playing exceptionally well with their recent training. Going into the last game Justin was up by three points. Daniel was laser focussed for the final game, claiming the game and the match 63 to 54.

Barracudas versus Stingrays

MATTHEW J versus Beth: Matthew was consistent throughout the match. In games two and four, Beth pulled ahead with some extra points to win 59 to 43.

Blake versus Mick: Blake started strong by stealing game one. Game two was close but went to Mick. Keeping up the energy Mick claimed the third with a big lead and closed the match by winning the fourth and the match 63 to 54.

Daniel K versus Phil: It was man verses machine. Daniel cannot put a foot wrong. He kept the ball in play as long as possible to create some brilliant rallies. Being a mere mortal Phil was consistent and gave Daniel a good run but never managed to take a game or get above ten points in a game 68 to 35.

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Yea goes down in a close finish in pennant bowls

by Maurie Finn

ON Saturday, Yea bowlers played Dookie at home. At the start of the game, Dick Dashwood, the Yea Bowls Club oldest active member rolled the first bowl down the green to mark the opening of the 2025-2026 Pennant Season. At the age of 95, Dick is still being selected to make up a team.

After a topsy turvy battle played in light rain for much of the day, Yea went down by just five shots. Dookie 78 Yea to 73.

Rink one, Mick Barrett's team of Brett Reece, Teresa Clue and Barry Moore, started well, scoring five on the second end, but then, after 11 ends, found themselves down 10 shots, 8 to 18.

They then staged a big comeback winning the next five ends to be just one shot down following the 16th end. However, they couldn't maintain this momentum and finally went down 17 shots to 24.

Rink two Wayne Martin with Darren Sherman, Terry Muller and Judy Elenius dominated their game and led from start to finish winning 12 of the 21 ends played. Their final score was 22 to 14.

Rink three Maurie Finn with Neil Rieschick, Dick Dashwood, Angela Finn and Kym Cooper, had a very close game. They were one shot up after 11 ends, only to drop five shots just before the break. However, they fought back to be 17 all after the 20th end. Unfortunately, they lost three shots on the very last end to go down in a thriller, despite winning 12 of the 21 ends.

Rink four Terry McInnes with Doug Shirrefs, Barb Tanner and Viv Cavanagh also had a very close game. Level on 11 all



Dick with the team. -S



Dick. -S

following the 12th end, they were then in big trouble down nine at the 18th end. However, with some very good bowling they won the last three ends to finally go down by a narrow three shot margin.

This coming week Yea travel to Merrigum, hoping to get a win on the board.

In the Yea Machinery Monday Triples held on October 20, the winners were Tony Buc, Barry Moore, and Howard Gelgard. The runners up were Rod Cavanagh, Kym Cooper and Terry Muller.



Yea Machinery were the October sponsors. -S

Little athletics bounces back in style

by Murrindindi Little Athletics

AND just like that, little athletics is back. Saturday marked the second week of the new season, and what a fantastic start it's been. Both weeks have seen terrific turnouts, with plenty of new faces enjoying the 'come and try' sessions alongside returning athletes. The atmosphere has been positive, energetic, and full of fun.

Running the group warm up has been a bit like mustering cats at times, with so many new and enthusiastic athletes joining

in. Thankfully, the senior athletes have stepped up beautifully; leading by example, helping the younger ones, and showing great leadership.

It's also been wonderful to see parents getting involved; timing races, recording results, cooking the barbecue and even joining in the warm-ups. The athletes really do love having their families cheering them on and lending a hand to make each meet run smoothly.

One of the highlights of the day came when a large kangaroo bounded across

the oval mid-race during one of the junior 300m events coming quite close to the runners. Only in the country do you get entertainment like that mid race.

Many athletes have already achieved personal bests, and there's talk that a few club records may have even fallen. The talent and determination of our local kids never cease to amaze us.

Looking ahead, several of the athletes have signed up to compete at the Regional Relay event in Albury later in November,

with team training set to kick off in the coming weeks.

We're also excited to announce a fundraising auction on November 30 to support local athlete Levi Campbell, who will once again represent our club at the Colgate Games in New Zealand this January. More information to come in the following weeks.

Little athletics is off to a flying start this season, full of smiles, effort, and that great community spirit that makes country sport so special.