

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, November 12, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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The recycling journey



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Yea Open Gardens



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An eventful November Cruise Night



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Gas leak in Yea

ON Saturday, November 8, a gas leak at a Yea petrol station was reported to emergency services causing a swift response.

The report came through at 4.30pm. Yea CFA captain Emery McCarthy said, "On arriving on scene it was ascertained that there was strong smell of gas so we responded to Alexandra Fire Brigade for their gas detector specialist equipment.

"By the hazmat guide we evacuated a 100 metre exclusion zone around the fuel station which unfortunately impacted the Yea Cruise Night.

"They still continued down the western end of the main street but we had to clear a large section of the main street to make it safe.

"We were assisted by the Glenburn Fire Brigade also, for additional crew, and essentially we just made the scene safe until technicians arrived on scene to fix the leak."

He said that it was a leak from the large tank at the fuel station, not a gas bottle, and said that it was his understanding that a piece of equipment failed.

Emery continued, "The 100 metre exclusion was in place for about an hour and a half and then with the specialist equipment we were able to bring the exclusion down to a 50 metre exclusion after an hour and a half.

"I think we were there for about four and a half hours until everything was made safe and we were able to go home."



Emergency services at the scene of the gas leak. -Plymouth Dale photos

YDMH Board Chair Ian Marshman comments on proposed Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health merger

WHEN asked to comment on the proposed amalgamation involving Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) Board Chair Ian Marshman confirmed that the YDMH Board is awaiting further details, including the formal case for amalgamation and the community consultation framework.

Based on preliminary information, Mr Marshman acknowledged that the ADH Board has long viewed amalgamation as a pathway to strengthening both its own sustainability as well as services for its community. He noted that while the timing of the proposal, shortly after the formation of local healthcare networks and ahead of service planning involving all network members, was unexpected, it presents

an opportunity for robust discussion and community input.

Mr Marshman also referenced recent board chair deliberation conversations about a potential 'Murrindindi Health Service' model, which would unify Alexandra and Yea health services with Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home. This model, he said, offers a compelling vision: increased service scale, enhanced funding opportunities, and a locally anchored governance and leadership structure focused on the needs of the entire Murrindindi region.

He acknowledged that the community has previously expressed strong support for retaining local boards and CEO leadership, as evidenced by the significant public

engagement in 2023. That sentiment remains central to YDMH's approach.

Should the ADH-Eastern Health amalgamation proceed, Mr Marshman emphasised that YDMH will play an even more vital role in representing and planning for health services across Murrindindi. With its experienced CEO, engaged board, and proven track record in regional service innovation, YDMH is well positioned to advocate for local needs and ensure continuity of care.

YDMH and ADH currently collaborate on several community-based programs, including early intervention in schools and kindergartens and provision of primary mental health services.

Mr Marshman confirmed that the YDMH Board will work proactively to assess the impact of any structural changes and would prioritise the safeguarding of current and future service partnerships.

He encouraged all Murrindindi residents to participate in the upcoming community consultations.

"This is a valuable opportunity to understand the rationale behind the proposal, explore its potential benefits, and ensure your voice is heard," Mr Marshman said.

"The YDMH Board remains committed to transparent dialogue and to protecting and enhancing health services for our community."

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Yea turns out to discuss Alexandra hospital merger

THE Yea community turned out on the afternoon of Monday, November 10, to find out more about the proposed merger between Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health.

Eastern Health CEO David Plunkett, ADH CEO Jane Poxon and ADH board member Alan Studley presented to answer questions from the public.

They were asked why the engagement period was so short, why the survey provided

little scope for an opinion on the proposed merger, and why they were pushing ahead with it when the community resoundingly voted no to the amalgamations only a couple of years ago.

Mr Studley stated that the reasons behind the decision were primarily financial, and Mr Plunkett said that Eastern Health could make use of the extra beds at ADH for metropolitan patients.

The attendees were advised that the change would result in better integration of patient servcies, and that there would be no job losses as a result of the merger.

The merger would be the result of the board votes at Eastern Health and ADH, and the minister's approval. They were assured that the results of the engagement process would be factored in, but may not change the decision.



Attendees at the Yea Tea Talk. -AR

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	12.00PM Mon	1.35	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00PM Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00PM Mon	0.72	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	10.46AM Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	07.24AM Mon	0.63	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	12.00PM Mon	0.44	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00PM Mon	1.17	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	3.57	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00PM Mon	0.58	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00PM Mon	1.13	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00PM Mon	0.33	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.44	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.15	steady	

*ISSUED AT 12:42 PM AEDT MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



Weekly Weather

November 12 - November 18, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

6

19

Wednesday

5

19

Thursday

10

24

Thursday

10

25

Friday

11

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Friday

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Saturday

10

22

Saturday

10

23

Sunday

11

21

Sunday

11

21

Monday

9

17

Monday

9

18

Tuesday

9

19

Tuesday

10

20

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	34mm
Buxton.....	76mm
Eildon (AWS).....	24mm
Flowerdale.....	37mm
Jamieson.....	46mm
Kinglake.....	77mm
Lake Eildon.....	33mm
Mansfield.....	27mm
Taggerty	41mm
Yarck	28mm
Yea.....	33mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	275.81m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	56%
Metres below full supply.....	13.09m
Daily inflow	3000ML
Release.....	1500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	48%



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

Council supporting rural social connection with film screenings

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has announced the five recipients of its new community wellbeing initiative: *Runt on the Road*, funded through Agriculture Victoria's *Look Over the Farm Gate Grant Program*.

Following a successful showing of the movie *Runt* for R U OK Day? in September, council invited small hall committees across the shire to express their interest in hosting a community-led event focused on connection, storytelling and mental health awareness. The response was enthusiastic, with five committees selected to receive funding.

Farming communities across the shire continue to face significant climate challenges, from storms, floods and drought. Community connection and access to health resources is vital to support positive physical and mental health outcomes. These events provide an opportunity to bring community together and make the most of our local halls.

Each group will receive \$1200 to host a relaxed and inclusive gathering featuring a screening of the heartwarming Australian film, *Runt*, a shared meal and access to health and wellbeing resources. These events aim to create welcoming spaces for conversations and connection, especially for farming communities where work pressures and isolation can impact stress levels.

Congratulations to the recipients: Toolangi Castella Community House, Taggerty Hall, Highlands Community Hall, Fawcett Hall and the Mechanics Institute Glenburn Hall.

To help committees deliver their events, council will provide funding to cover key

costs including film hire, catering and equipment hire. Committees will also receive customisable promotional materials, printed wellbeing resources and ongoing planning support throughout the process.

Community groups are encouraged to connect with council's Grants and Sponsorships team to explore opportunities for community connection events.

"Our small communities know the power of coming together and we're proud to support them through these events and continue important conversations about wellbeing," council's Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams said.

"The *Runt on the Road* initiative is a great way to connect people through food, films and stories, promoting positive mental health."

For more information or to explore these opportunities, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants or call council's Grants and Sponsorship team on 5772 0333.



Alexandra Museum
& Steam Train Rides

Open Saturday November 15
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street,
Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)
or by contacting ☎ 0427 509 988

Community resilience funding from Ausnet

TWENTY-eight councils and community groups across Victoria will receive close to \$900,000 from the third round of AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund.

Murrindindi Shire Council was among the recipients, receiving \$41,496 for a trailer-mounted mobile generator to support emergency preparedness and community resilience across the Murrindindi Shire. The mobile generator will provide critical back up power source for Emergency Relief Centres in Alexandra, Flowerdale, Yea, Kinglake and Eildon, enabling these facilities to remain operational and support local communities during emergency events.

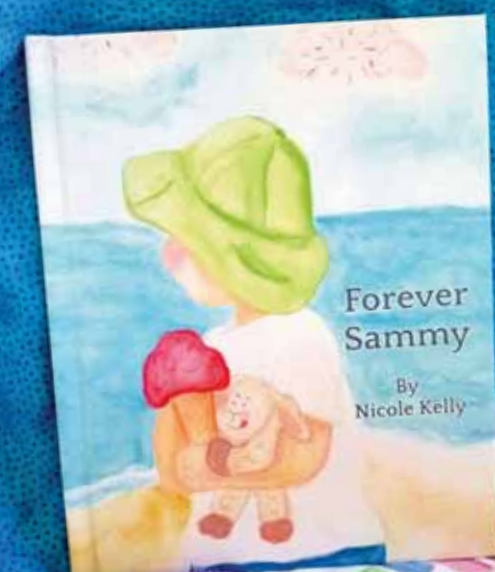
Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the Energy Resilience Community Fund, which provides Energy Resilience and Education and Literacy Grants, supports projects that will help build long-term community energy resilience

and provide support to communities during severe weather events.

"We know how important energy is to our communities' and customers' lives. When severe weather or other emergencies happen, this becomes even more important," Mr Linnie said.

"We are actively investing in our network to improve reliability and resilience. Through these grants, we're contributing to the creation of energy resilience hubs and infrastructure that help communities access vital services and facilities and stay connected and safe during prolonged outages and emergencies," he said.

AusNet established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support energy resilience and literacy projects across AusNet's electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne's north and east.



Nicole Kelly

Author and Illustrator

Nicole, a beloved storytime favourite, tells stories and invites little ones on wonder-fully bookish adventures, singalongs and hands-on craft fun, all the while wearing her swishy rainbow coat.

Nicole presents her debut picturebook, *Forever Sammy*.

E: creationsnicolecrafted@gmail.com

Book Launch 10am November 27, 2025
Alexandra Library - Grant Street, Alexandra



Maintenance works

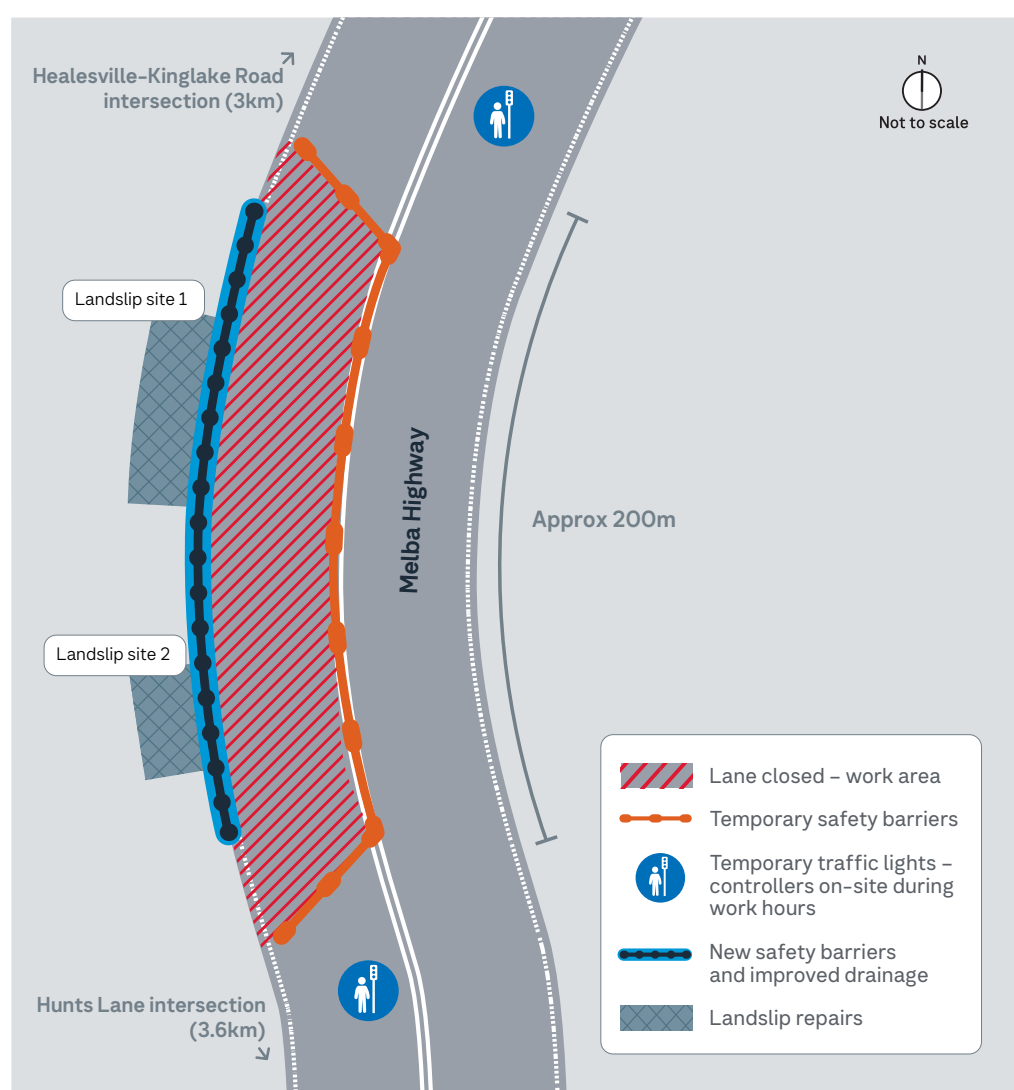


Lane closed Melba Highway

From Monday 13 October to end of January.

One lane will be closed on a section of the Melba Highway between Healesville-Kinglake Road and Hunts Lane in Dixons Creek for landslip repairs.

Plan ahead and allow up to 20 minutes extra time.



The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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having a celebration?
need invitations?

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Connecting and celebrating for Seniors Week

MORE than 200 local residents aged 60 and over came together in October for Murrindindi Shire Council’s series of complimentary luncheons, celebrating connection, community and the valuable contributions of older residents.

Across four events in Molesworth, Thornton, Strath Creek and Buxton, attendees enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, conversation and delicious food. Each luncheon featured live music by Steve Paix, a catered meal, and plenty of opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbours.

Adding to the fun, council’s Access and Inclusion Officer, Andrew Langley, hosted an entertaining round of trivia that had

guests guessing, laughing and sharing stories throughout the afternoon.

The events, held as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, brought people from across the shire to honour the life experience, wisdom and community spirit of older residents.

Council extends its thanks to the venue hosts, Molesworth Hotel and General Store, Rubicon Hotel, The General - Strath Creek, and Buxton Hotel, for their warm hospitality and delicious meals.

The events also provided an opportunity to highlight My Aged Care and other support services available to our senior citizens, helping raise awareness of resources that promote independence and wellbeing. For

more information on these resources, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors

This project is supported by Victorian State Government Seniors Festival, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) funding.

Cr Jodi Adams, Portfolio Councillor for Community Wellbeing said the luncheons were a wonderful way to recognise the important role older residents play in shaping the shire’s identity and sense of community.

“Murrindindi’s senior residents give so much to our community,” Cr Adams said. “These events were a chance to celebrate that contribution and to thank them for their ongoing involvement and community spirit.”

Attendees left feedback of what they enjoyed about the event:

“It was a wonderful opportunity to touch base with neighbours as well as meet new people.”

“Lovely to catch up with some local people that we have not seen for ages. Great food, good company. Thank you.”

“The idea of people in the rural outskirts having a community lunch in their area has been wonderful.”

“We are all very lucky to live in this beautiful shire which has an active and community conscious population. Thanks to all for making it so special.”

“Enjoyed the country drive to get here. Love it being in small towns.”

“Enjoyable lunch and opportunity for people to gather who might be a bit isolated.”

Lunch at Rubicon Hotel in Thornton on Thursday, October 26. -S

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.

Congratulations to Chris Walsh and Christine Collins both of Alexandra for being the lucky winners of our Alexandra Show family passes. We hope you had a wonderful day. Thank you to the show committee for making the tickets available.

SEE CLASSIFIED SECTION FOR LIST OF TEA TALK/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DATES FOR ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH/EASTERN HEALTH VOLUNTARY AMALGAMATION EXPLORATION.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Join Buds and Blossoms in celebrating 20 years. Rosebank Activity room for a special afternoon tea from 1-3pm. All enquiries to Joy on 0477 482 504.

Get along to the Yarck Christmas Market. Pick up some Christmas presents, Christmas cake and more from 9am.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Acheron Hall AGM will be held at 9.30am All welcome. For more information contact 0423 802 772.

Acheron Fire Brigade general and annual meeting 10.30am at the Acheron Hall, all welcome.

Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at 11am at Briggs Oval.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
General meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held at noon, followed by a light lunch.

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@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Alexandra and District Netball Association AGM will be held at 7pm at the Corner Hotel (Goldfields room) Contact president, Cassandra Fraser for more information 0418 538 964 or email junior.netball@gmail.com

Upgrade for The Gums in Kinglake National Park

WORKS are being conducted by Parks Victoria at The Gums in Kinglake National Park.

Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger Vanessa Lipianin, said, “Thanks to a \$710,000 investment from the Victorian Government, camping at The Gums in Kinglake National Park will soon be a safer and more enjoyable experience for all.

“Construction will begin on Monday, November 10 to improve the layout of the campground, resurface the access road and replace damaged boardwalks along Blackfish Way.

“These upgrades will make getting around the popular campground easier

Alexandra and Eildon Gem and Lapidary Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the club rooms. All welcome.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Murrindindi Shire Council invite residents to the Breakaway Bridge Community Briefing session. At the Alexandra Shire Hall from 5-6pm. This session will not be live streamed. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/breakawayupdate.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28
You are invited to join council and Alexandra Rotary for the Walk for Respect at Rotary Park. For more information visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/walkforrespect

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Join the cycle: The journey of your 10 cent containers

HAVE you ever wondered what happens to your drink cans, bottles and cartons after you return them for a 10 cent refund through Victoria’s Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic)?

With this week being National Recycling Week (November 10-16), CDS Vic shares what happens next, and how every returned container helps power Victoria’s circular economy.

This year’s theme, *Join the Cycle*, perfectly aligns with the mission of CDS Vic: keeping eligible drink containers in the recycling loop so they can be remade into new products again and again.

“National Recycling Week is a timely reminder of our shared commitment to a more sustainable Victoria,” Marianne Doyle, interim Chief Executive of scheme coordinator VicReturn said.

“Recycling eligible drink containers means fewer virgin materials are needed to make new bottles and cans, reducing our impact on the environment,” she said.

The recycling process begins when Victorians return their drink containers at one of the hundreds of refund points across the state. From there, they’re sorted by material type and sent to recycling facilities to be processed back into new products.

Here’s where your containers go next:

Plastic bottles are sorted by material type (PET, HDPE and others) and recycled at facilities in Victoria. They’re cleaned, shredded into flakes, melted down, extruded and turned into pellets, then used to make new products.

Glass bottles are cleaned and sorted by colour into glass cullet, at facilities in Victoria and South Australia. The cullet is then sent to glass manufacturing plants in Victoria and South Australia that use it in the production of new glass bottles and jars.

“Glass can be infinitely recycled, so returning your glass bottles through CDS

Vic helps conserve our natural resources,” Mrs Doyle said.

Aluminium cans are baled before being shipped overseas to be reprocessed into aluminium coils. These are returned to Australia where they are used to make new drink cans.

Since launching in November 2023, CDS Vic has helped Victorians recycle more, reduce litter and keep valuable materials out of landfill. Victorians have returned 2.3 billion drink containers, earning \$230 million in refunds.

CDS Vic proudly supports Planet Ark’s National Recycling Week, which has encouraged Australians since 1996 to reduce, reuse and repurpose their waste.

Join the cycle this National Recycling Week by collecting and returning eligible drink containers for a 10 cent refund at your nearest refund point. Visit cdsvic.org.au to learn more.



Martogg Plastics. -S



The sorter in action. -S



Bales of aluminium cans. -S

VICTORIA'S
CONTAINER DEPOSIT
SCHEME

FEEL LIKE
A MILLION
BUCKS

Return your empties this National Recycling
Week and help the planet and your pocket.

A photograph of three young people sitting on a rocky outcrop in a natural setting. A woman is sitting on the left, a man in a blue jacket and cap is in the center, and another man in an orange jacket is on the right. They are all holding drink containers. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky.

A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the advertisement, enclosed in a rounded orange border.

Student of the Week

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

YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from this week, Chet and Mason.



Ava, Charlie and Tahlia were recognised for their commitment to outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch

**Bendigo Bank**

Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health exploring voluntary amalgamation

ALEXANDRA District Health sent out a press release on Thursday, November 6 stating, “The boards of Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health are working together to explore how they can strengthen healthcare for their communities and connect care for a healthy tomorrow.”

Alexandra District Health Board Chair, Kim Flanagan, said in the press release that the exploration builds on the strong partnership already in place through the East Metro and Murrindindi Local Health Service Network, which is beginning to deliver real benefits for their local communities.

“Through our long-term partnership with Eastern Health, we have brought specialist oncology consulting and infusion services to Alexandra, coordinated graduate nurse programs, and a staff learning platform,” Mr Flanagan said.

“Exploring a voluntary amalgamation is the next step in considering how we can build on this progress to secure sustainable, high-quality care for people living in Alexandra and its surrounding communities.”

Eastern Health Board Chair, Eugene Arocca, said both boards were focused on what matters most, stronger healthcare for the community.

“Eastern Health is deeply connected to its community and has enhanced services to provide more care locally.

“Our shared focus with Alexandra District Health is to strengthen healthcare in the region. Exploring a voluntary amalgamation is about testing how we can bring more specialist care closer to home, make it easier for patients to get the right care when they need it, and create more training opportunities for staff to grow their skills and career to help attract and retain a strong workforce.”

In the FAQ section, it states, “For Eastern Health, it offers a chance to deepen partnerships in the region, ease pressure on hospitals and share specialist knowledge and services with Alexandra and district communities. Together, this could help create a stronger, more connected system of care. This is about connecting care for a healthy tomorrow.”

As part of the exploration, the boards are looking at how services could be strengthened and expanded, such as bringing more visiting specialists to Alexandra, improving local access to X-Ray and ultrasound, enhancing community health services support, and improving patient information systems to provide a seamless patient experience.

Mr Flanagan said, “Our shared goal is to keep delivering safe, high-quality care close to home, maintain a strong local identity, and honour the trust and legacy each health service has built over time.”

“This is about working together to strengthen what we already do well, while exploring how a voluntary amalgamation could help us secure services for the future and improve health outcomes for our communities.

“For Alexandra District Health, this means maintaining our core services, urgent care, inpatient beds, district nursing and community health, as well as preserving our local fundraising and community representation.”

There are no plans to cut jobs or reduce existing services. Staff will remain in their current roles and locations but could benefit from new opportunities and expanded training if a voluntary amalgamation was approved.

Engagement with staff, stakeholders and the communities serviced by both health organisations will happen from November 6 to 21. People will have the chance to provide feedback through a survey, by email or at a

local Tea Talk session. Unfortunately, the dates for the Alexandra, Yea and Marysville Tea Talk sessions had passed by the time this newspaper went to print, however there are still sessions to be held in Eildon, Yarck, Thornton, Buxton and Taggerty. People can find out more at connectingcare.net

“Above all, this process is about better health outcomes and making sure our communities can continue to access the care they need, close to home,” Mr Flanagan said.

He emphasised, “We want to increase services in the community.”

With regard to potential changes to the board structure, it states in the FAQ section on the Connecting Care website, “If a voluntary

amalgamation were to proceed, the Minister for Health would appoint a Board for the new organisation. Although the decision about board members is a decision for the Minister, recent amalgamations in the Victorian system have resulted in each new board drawing on the expertise and local knowledge across the existing boards.”

Pending the outcomes of the exploration and community engagement, any future proposal would require Ministerial approval.

Eastern Health works with a catchment population of 908,984 people, while Alexandra District Health’s catchment is 6826. Eastern Health’s region includes Richmond, Eltham, Upper Beaconsfield and Matlock.

Amalgamation consultation: why the rush?

CONCERNS have been raised about the consultation being conducted by Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health regarding the proposed amalgamation.

The consultation is being held from November 6 (the announcement day) through to November 21. During the two weeks, people have three methods for putting forward their thoughts. Be quick, one week has already passed. It also engenders the question, why the rush?

People could attend one of the eight ‘Tea Talk’ sessions. The sessions in the three largest towns in the shire, Alexandra, Yea and Marysville, will have been conducted by the time this newspaper went to print. There was no advertising of the events beyond limited social media, and it is therefore unlikely that many people will attend. The other sessions are in Eildon and Yarck (both November 12), Thornton (November 13), and Buxton and Taggerty (both November 14). All were set to be held within eight days of the announcement.

Further sessions have since been added. The full list can be found in the Classified section of this edition.

People can also find further information about these sessions at the amalgamation-specific website, connectingcare.net

Another method being used to consult the community is via an online survey. Following some demographic information, the questions all centre around the health care services which people would like to have available at ADH and about staff opportunities, all ranked between one (least important) and five (most important). It is highly likely that everyone in the community will five-star it all the way. But how does this create a mandate for change?

The only real option that people have to express an opinion on the proposed merger is in the last question, where people are asked, “Is there anything else you would like to share about your expectations or concerns regarding this exploration process or the

possibility of a voluntary amalgamation.” People are given 200 words to answer the question. It’s the online equivalent of a sticky note.

The third option is to send an email regarding the proposal to feedback@connectingcare.net

This all feels very rushed, and a potential fait accompli, particularly given the structure of the survey questions and the speed and lack of promotion regarding the Tea Talk sessions. Whether the community decides that an amalgamation is a good idea or not is up to them, however genuine consultation is required to reach this conclusion.

The Victorian Government has *Principles for Public Engagement*. Information about them can be found at vic.gov.au/public-engagement-framework-2021-2025/principles-public-engagement

The first principle is that the consultation be ‘meaningful’. It states, “The purpose and objectives are clear and shared with the public. The public has adequate time, resources and opportunities to provide feedback before decision-making. The public can take part in decisions that affect their lives. Decision-makers consider the views of the public.”

Principle two is that the consultation be inclusive. It states, “The engagement is respectful, inclusive and accessible... The engagement design is human-centred and enables the full participation of all who wish to be involved. Asking the individual or group how they would like to participate and designing the process accordingly. Offering a number of ways that the public can engage. The public has opportunities to influence the problem definition.”

Principle three is that the process be ‘transparent’. It states, “Sharing background information about the project and the process for the engagement. Explaining why some decisions can be influenced by the engagement, while others cannot. Communicating the level of influence the

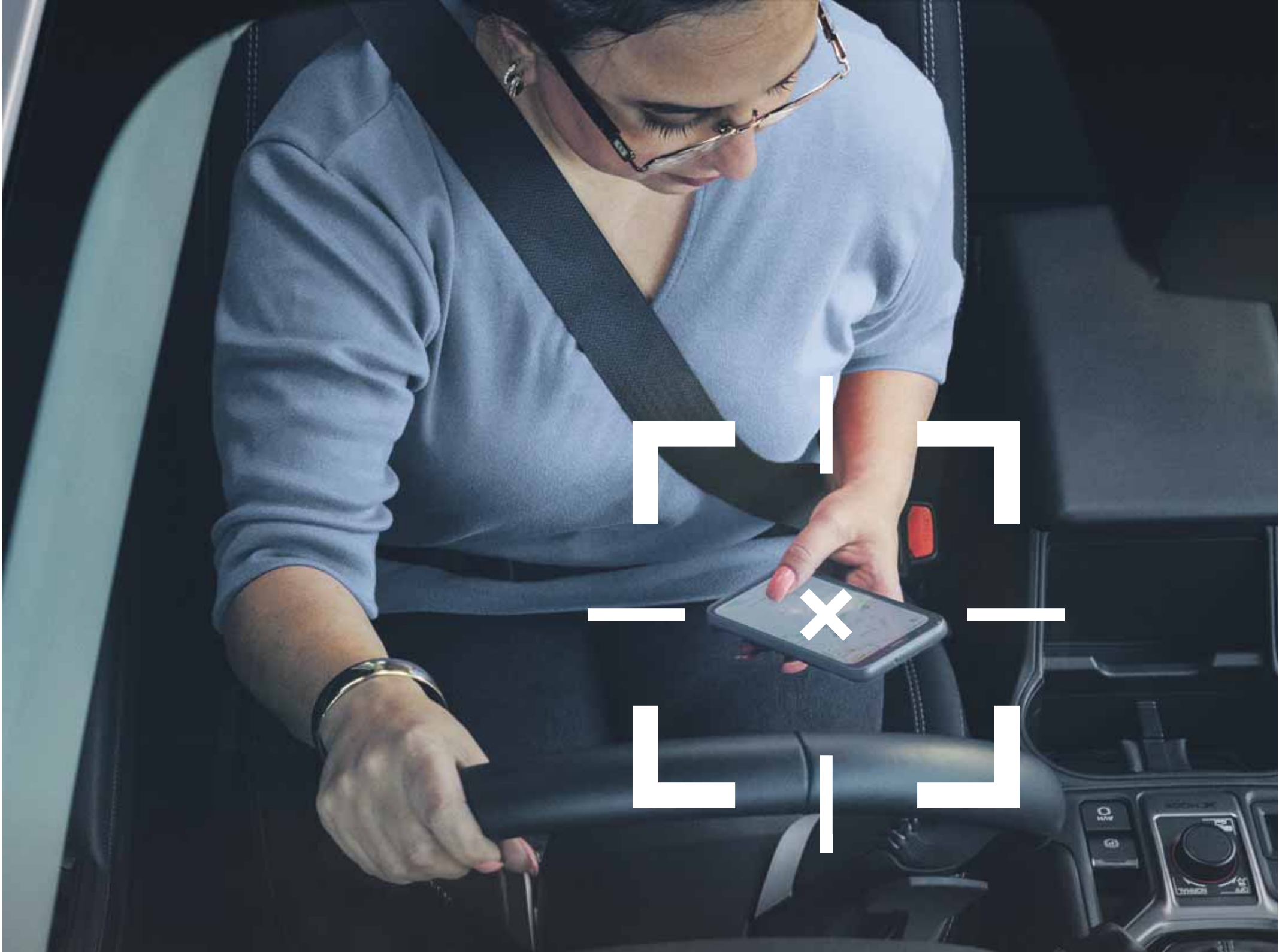
public has in the decision-making process. Seeking diverse opinions to build a greater understanding of the broad range of community views and values.”

Principle four is ‘Informed’. It states, “The engagement provides relevant and timely information to the public. In practice this looks like: Promoting the opportunity to take part in the engagement. Communicating accessible, relevant, tailored and timely information. Giving the public the knowledge and time to provide informed contributions. Providing clarity about the role of the engagement in the broader project. This includes how contributions will be considered and any relevant legislation and standards.

Principle 5 is ‘Accountable’. This includes, “ Planning must ensure that the purpose, scope and objectives are clear. Engagement risks must be understood and mitigated. Communications provide pathways for questions and feedback from the public” and “Concerns or requests from the public are addressed.”

Principle six is ‘Valuable’. It states, “The engagement creates value for the community and government. This can include social, economic and environmental value. In practice this looks like: Drawing on local knowledge and experience. Creating improved outcomes for community and government; Valuing participants and their time. In some instances, community members may be reimbursed for their time or supported to enable full participation. This may include transport, accommodation, child-minding and/or catering; Supporting government to understand and represent their community and inform decision-making; Building value for participants in the process. This may occur through the social impact of informing, empowering and enabling people to be part of changes that benefit their communities.”

Have these principles been followed in full?



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Stuart and Khai Jarvis in their garden. -BD



Shirley Burch and Ruth Crockett welcoming visitors to the Yea and District Memorial Hospital. -BD



Chris with her gorgeous dog in her garden. -BD



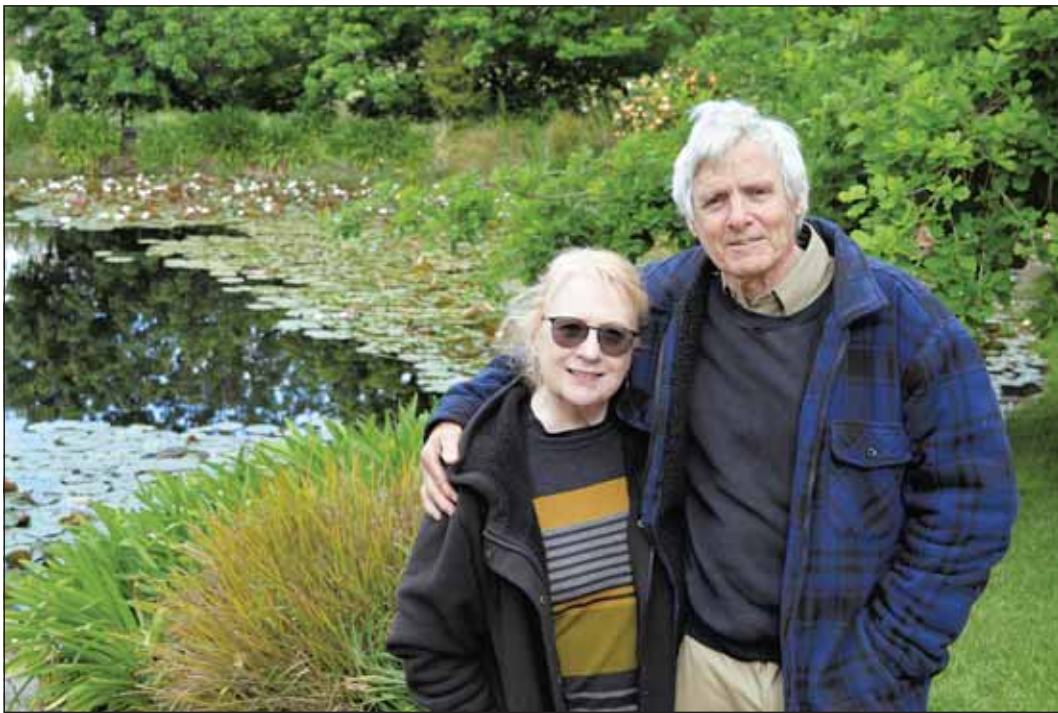
Julie Milroy with her beautiful roses. -BD



Mandy Sampson in the back garden at her Boggy Creek property in Glenburn. -BD



Rosemary Simon and David Ralph at their Yea Garden Club garden. -BD



Patty and Ian Sichlau in their garden, 'Glengowrie'. -BD



Geoff in his country garden on the Melba Highway, heading towards Glenburn. -BD

Yea Open Gardens triumphs in mediocre weather



Metro Tunnel opens **early December**

With construction now complete, get ready to explore five new stations and enjoy direct train access for the first time to Melbourne's major hospitals, universities and St Kilda Road.

To celebrate, enjoy free public transport across Victoria every weekend in December and January.

With more services arriving in February, the new Metro Tunnel gives you more ways to move.

more ways to move

Find out more at bigbuild.vic.gov.au





There was lots of garden to enjoy at Boggy Creek. -BD



The Yea and District Memorial Hospital garden looking vibrant. -BD



Geoff and Sandra's garden, 'The Pines'. -BD



Chris's lovely town garden. -BD

Yea Open Gardens triumphs in mediocre weather



The front garden at the Yea Garden Club. -BD



A unique use of retaining walls and murals at Stuart and Khai's garden. -BD



The rotunda and meandering path at Patty and Ian's 'Glengowrie'. -BD



Julie Milroy's garden looking lush and vibrant. -BD



ADH CEO speaks about proposed merger with Eastern Health

ALEXANDRA District Health CEO Jane Poxon was questioned around the proposed amalgamation of the health service with Eastern Health on Friday, November 7.

Via Eastern Health, she had been sent a series of questions relating to the proposal. These included questions around the short period of consultation, the lack of promotion of the talk sessions, the survey having limited scope for feedback on the proposed merger, and what changes might be expected should the proposed merger occur.

Are you able to talk me through your responses to some of those questions, starting perhaps with the consultation ones?

We made the announcement obviously on Thursday [November 6]. Across Alexandra and Eastern Health, we've already spoken to over 100 people yesterday, hundreds of staff, as you can imagine, as well, who are really, really important to us. So we've already spoken to lots of stakeholders, our staff, etcetera, which has been absolutely fantastic.

We've also been getting responses already to the surveys and RSVPs to the Tea Talks. We do acknowledge, and we're doing that at the moment, we're organising some out-of-hours Tea Talks in different locations and that will be not next week [this week], but the second week. We've added some extra ones there. You could emphasise also, that I'm always available for anyone to give me feedback. Contact the health service. We're more than open to have some discussions. I'm at the show on Saturday [last Saturday] as well. I'll have copies of surveys for people, the QR code, if anyone wants to use that. I'll be available to chat at the show. Alexandra District Health has got to stand there.

I think we're being really positive. I think the period of two weeks is about definitely from an Alexandra perspective, myself and all of the executives will be making ourselves available for that period.

We'll be out and about, we'll be having conversations with people, having one-to-one meetings when people want those. So that's why it's sort of a two-week period.

Sorry, what was the reason for it being a two-week period?

So that I will be and the executive team will be very available during that time.

But why is it only two weeks?

As you can imagine, Eastern Health and Alexandra, we've still got to deliver the care, we've still got delivery to do in our business. So,

dedicating that time. If people want after that period to give us feedback, it's always welcome.

It's good to hear that there's more Tea Talk sessions being scheduled. I think that's really important because there just hasn't been enough notice, particularly for the early ones.

And as you can imagine, we made the announcement on Thursday. We will get the information out of these Tea Talks as far as we can. And you can help us too, by promoting them on your website and your sites as well, and if you're open when we do add extra ones we can let you know so that you can perhaps assist us in promoting those too.

I think it's very important. I don't know how the community will respond either way but I think that it's important that they are enabled to have their say.

Definitely, and that was the intent to do this process as well.

With the survey, I was quite taken aback when I had a look at the survey. It seemed that it was, some basic demographic information, then it was how important do you rate these different health procedures/services, but there's nothing really in there about the proposed amalgamation. There's only the 200 word limited section right at the end. What was the logic behind that?

It's not only you that's given us a bit of feedback on that. We've just had a couple of consumers that have also given us some feedback. So I think we do need to look at giving the community more opportunity to give us some verbatim comments and feedback generally and just generally about what services do people want for their community.

Speaking of the services, what services will be specifically added or taken away depending on what the outcome is?

We've recently got the cancer services and putting in that back to our community, how good is that? Everyone would have to agree. That's amazing. And we have talked about the dialysis and that is progressively progressing really well. But these are the things we couldn't have done without Eastern Health, and I think even thinking about Eastern Health clinicians, especially in the cancer services, they've been so dedicated and wanting to deliver this service for people in our region.

But wasn't that being done without the amalgamation being in place?

Yeah, that was done through the network, but this is also about longevity and our future, about sustaining a really good rural health

service as well, and improving the health outcomes of our community. And I think that has been in the forefront, I know it is, definitely myself, but definitely of both Eastern Health and Alexandra's board as well. I mean, it's about the benefits and it is about enhancing and protecting our services here.

Yeah, but in what sort of concrete ways are you talking about?

There is a clinical services plan process happening at the moment in the network, and this will definitely identify services, initiatives, that are required specifically for our community. What is that chronic disease? What are the things that we need in this community? What do our youth need? Health issues concerns for them as well.

So if the amalgamation doesn't go ahead, are there still ways of addressing those issues?

I don't think there's as much capacity. There's no decision made yet. If the decision was made it means that there is that sustainability, there is that longevity, but also we can start to implement things faster and a lot easier and on a larger magnitude. We think about our workforce. This is also about the workforce and giving the teams here, the staff, opportunities to improve their skills and maintain them, to deliver the right care that we want to our community. It gives them more career opportunities as well. And when you've got more career opportunities, it also attracts workforce to the area. So we've also got to think about our staff and what we can give them too. It's not just maintaining their skills, but also activities, let's get our inpatient service happening as well and that gives them, that helps also to maintain their skills.

In the email I mentioned that Eastern Health has a catchment of a million people and ADH has 6800 or so. What's the benefit to Eastern Health?

I always go back to the clinicians. A clinician in my experience, which has been a long time in health, they want to deliver clinical care to the communities that they serve. And otherwise they wouldn't be doing the job. They want to deliver it into rural as well. And I heard our oncologist director who worked at Eastern Health speak yesterday actually, and the passion and the enjoyment that the team at Eastern are getting from coming here and delivering the service. It's palpable.

I thought that Eastern Health had quite long wait lists, so there'd be no shortage of patients to deliver those services to.

We know there's obviously demand for planned surgery across the state and even in the nation, isn't there. But if you think about,

there'll be easier pathways for our patients here, going up and down. The potential then if someone had some surgery at an Eastern Health site, if they live in the area, that they come back to Alex for some rehab.

That wouldn't be possible otherwise?

No, I mean, it's about developing, integrating those services, pathways, making it easier for our community.

Is there likely to be any change to local patient waiting lists? And I guess wrapped up in that, will there be metro patients coming out here to be treated in greater numbers than previously?

I really can't answer that question. This is still an exploration process. There is actually no decision made on that. So we haven't gone through that detail at the moment because we're just exploring the proposal.

What will happen to Alexandra District Health's land, given that a lot of it was bought with money fundraised by the local community, etcetera?

If it did happen, Alexandra District Health would still maintain its identity. It still would be Alexandra District Health. We are on Crown land and it would be maintained as Alexandra District Health. It's supposed to be for health delivery purposes anyway.

I thought the horse paddock over the road wasn't necessarily zoned that way.

It's still Alexander District Health.

What else would you like to add?

[There was discussion around the dates of the Tea Talks, with some additional dates added. These can be found in the Classified section of this edition. -Ed]

I think continuing, we always welcome feedback. Please come and join us at these conversations. Also, I am willing to meet one-to-one. If anyone wants to talk to me, call. We've got our reception team that will take a message if I'm not available and I can always call back. And really, just to re-emphasise, this is an exploratory phase. There's no decisions made as yet.

Yeah, fantastic. Now with the Tea Talks, I'm assuming that's a fairly kind of informal session. If it came up, would you be willing to kind of address a wider group if that were to occur?

We've actually packed the whole two weeks, but I can give that some thought, but we have packed the whole two weeks. Now we've got some more of our sessions as well. It might be tricky to put that in a schedule, but I can take that on notice and consider that.

Nexus Primary Health merges to become Omnia Community Health

NEXUS Primary Health (Nexus) and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health (SCCH) are excited to announce the name and logo for their soon-to-be merged organisation: Omnia Community Health.

Developed through extensive consultation with Nexus and SCCH staff, clients, community members and partners, both the name and visual identity of the new organisation embody their purpose to help communities feel healthy, connected and supported through trusted, local care.

Chief Executive Officer, David Wild, said the announcement marks an exciting and important milestone in the merger, signalling the beginning of a new chapter for the organisation.

"We consulted broadly to understand how our new brand should reflect the care and connection we deliver every day," Mr Wild said.

"Omnia Community Health represents our shared vision to be the trusted local health partner for our communities, one that empowers people to live well through care that's inclusive, connected and grounded in local relationships."

Derived from the Latin word for "all" or "everything," Omnia reflects their commitment to providing inclusive, comprehensive, and connected care for everyone. It symbolises unity, collaboration, and the belief that everyone deserves access to quality health and wellbeing services.

The new logo brings this meaning to life, visually representing Omnia Community Health's commitment to inclusivity, connection and care. The dot gradient within the symbol illustrates the organisation's broad reach and the positive ripple effect of their work, a reminder of how care and support flow outward to strengthen local communities.

"Nexus Primary Health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health are coming together to create a more resilient and connected community health service for our region, and Omnia Community Health's logo captures that beautifully," Mr Wild said.

"We look forward to delivering better, more connected healthcare for our communities into the future."

The new name will officially launch on January 1, 2026, when the two organisations formally merge and form Omnia Community Health.



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ENTRY: \$10 ADULTS, \$7 CONCESSION



Farmers reminded of local Chilean needle grass spraying

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has been actively trying to contain and control the spread of Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) on council managed land for many years.

CNG is present on some council roads and reserves including parts of the rail trail between Molesworth and Homewood. It's also present on Department of Transport main roads such as the Goulburn Valley Highway and Melba Highway. In the past, treatment has consisted of spot spraying roadsides and reserves with Glyphosate, a known herbicide suitable for treatment.

Despite annual spot spraying, CNG is still persistent. Council will be using another herbicide this year, Flupropanate, in addition to Glyphosate. Flupropanate can kill the seedbank as well as the plant and reduce reinfestation. Flupropanate will only be used every few years and is applied as a spot spray, not a broad application.

Flupropanate has a withholding period and lactating cattle should not be allowed to graze on treated areas. The roadsides and reserves that council intends to spot spray should not impact on private enterprise however should you have concerns on moving cattle from one paddock to another via a municipal roadside within the Molesworth to Homewood area please contact council to discuss on 5772 0333.

Roads included in the program include Limestone Road, Killingworth Road, Carey Road, Deepdene Road, Murrays Road, Native Dog Road, Racecourse Road and Abes Lane. Reserves included in the program include Pioneer Reserve, Sloan Reserve Picnic area, Molesworth Station, and the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

Blue dye will be used in the spot spray to enable easy identification on roads within the treatment area. As Flupropanate has a residual life, treated areas should not be grazed or cut for stock food until withholding period expiry.

High prices for first November Yea sale

THERE were 1766 head of cattle yarded at last Friday's Nutrien Store Sale at the Yea Saleyards, and prices were high.

The first laneway was filled with cows and calves, the top pen reaching \$3225 per head and the others not too far behind that figure.

The average price per head for the day was \$1795, with an average weight per head of 323.7 kilograms. Overall average price was therefore 554.5c/kg, huge.

The steers had their usual good show, the top pen recording a top price per head of \$2910 and a top weight of 591 kilograms, equalling out to 492c/kg.

There was less in the way of heifers, with only two laneways full. Top price per head was \$2180, with the top weight 458 kilograms. Doing the maths, heifers reached 476c/kg.

Upcoming sales for the Yea Saleyards include a Combined Agents Store Sale on November 14, and a Nutrien Yea Autumn Drop Weaner Sale on Friday, November 28.



Farmers worked out prices on the fly while bidding. -BD



Nutrien were the main vendor for the sale. -BD



Despite a relatively small yarding, there was still a large crowd for last Friday's sale. -BD

STOCK REPORT 7 NOVEMBER 2025				
Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,766			
Average \$ per head	\$1,795			
Average weight per head	323.7kg			
Top price per head		\$2,910	\$2,180	\$3,225
Top weight		591kg	458kg	
Turnover	\$3.04 million			



Nick, Marlen and Colleen from Pyalong were selling some of their cattle at the sale. -BD

ALEX SCOTT & STAFF

Now Operating at the Monthly Yea Combined Agent Store Sale

Additional Entries Welcomed

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EMAIL: YEA@ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU

rma network. Accredited Member

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Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
Glen Barwick 0408 975 476
Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877

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Concluding: **Monday** 24th November **12noon**

Inspection Day: Thursday 20th November **10am - 3pm**
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An eventful November Cruise Night

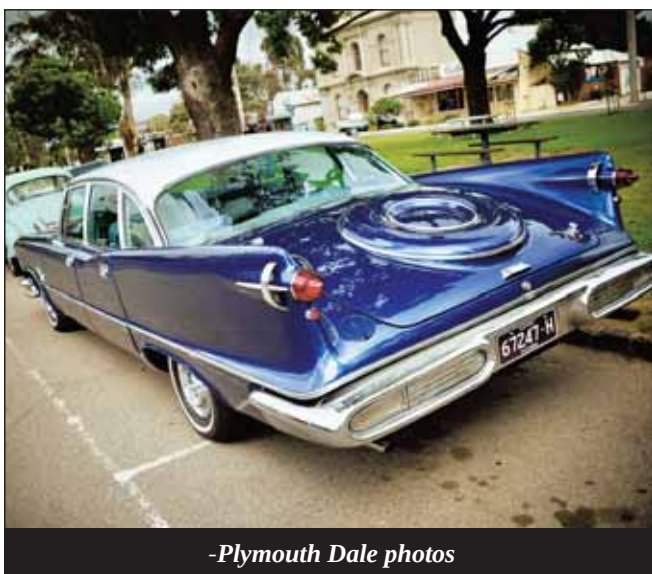
by Dale McKeon

A FEW other big car events in Bright and Yarrawonga over the weekend meant that the Yea Cruise Night numbers were always going to be down a bit, but the terrible weather south of Yea for most of the day kept the regulars from Melbourne away too unfortunately.

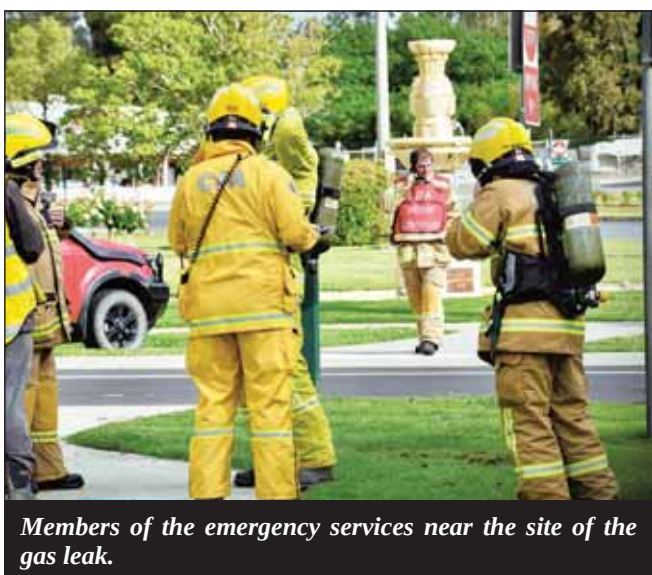
There was still a reasonable turnout of locals, but nothing like we have grown accustomed to.

Combined with a gas leak at one of Yea's petrol stations, it made for an interesting night.

A big thank you to Yea CFA, Alexandra CFA and Glenburn CFA as well as Yea Police for handling the situation and keeping all of the attendees safe.



-Plymouth Dale photos



Members of the emergency services near the site of the gas leak.

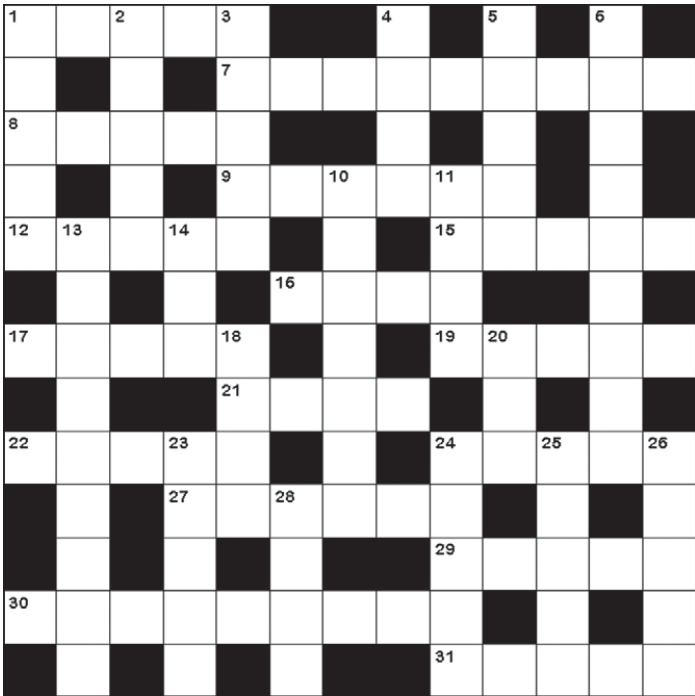


PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1. Worries and becomes distressed.
 - 7. The starting point of a new experience.
 - 8. The money risked on a gamble.
 - 9. A heavy metal weight used to moor a ship.
 - 12. Discharge liquid from an aerosol can.
 - 15. Liquorice-flavoured seeds used in cooking.
 - 16. The handle of a weapon or tool.
 - 17. Walk with heavy and noisy footsteps.
 - 19. An intuitive feeling or premonition.
 - 21. The departure of an actor from the stage.
 - 22. Grind meat into very small pieces.
 - 24. All of the inhabitants of the earth.
 - 27. Suddenly come into view.
 - 29. The edible organs of an animal.
 - 30. Something that distracts the mind.
 - 31. Blowing in loud and abrupt bursts.
- DOWN**
- 1. Seeks attention using ingratiating flattery.
 - 2. Shows active interest and enthusiasm.
 - 3. Wander away from the correct course.



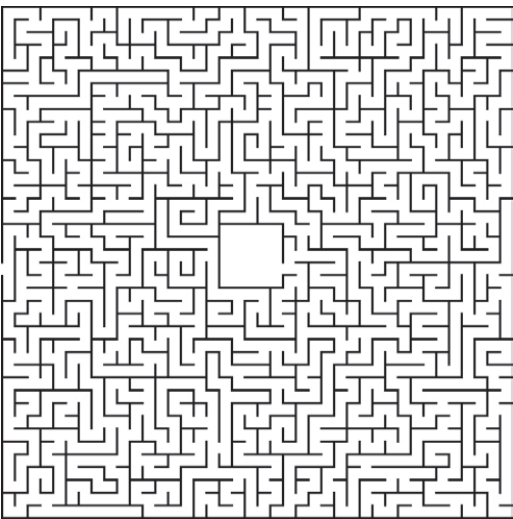
- 4. Function with all parts working in harmony.
- 5. Sharp-pointed prickle on the stem of a rose.
- 6. Art that has a long-established value.
- 10. A wine-cup used in the Communion service.
- 11. Swearing to the truth of a statement.
- 13. Inspired by love for your country.
- 14. Direct a weapon toward an intended goal.
- 18. The short weak cry of a young bird.
- 20. A flying object whose nature is unknown.
- 23. Showing great caution and wariness.
- 24. In an incorrect manner.
- 25. The gaps between cloud masses.
- 26. A movable platform for a cine-camera.
- 28. A persistently annoying person.

Shapes

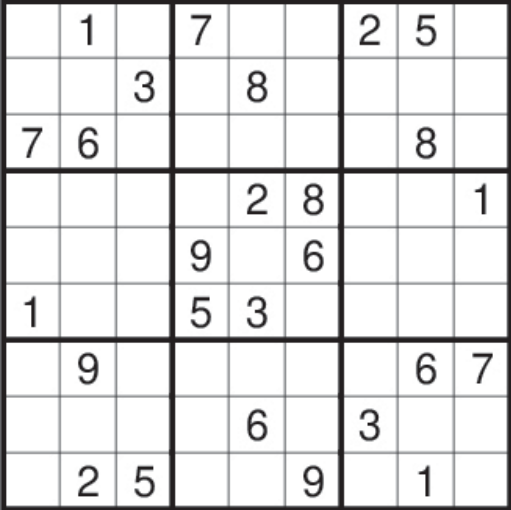
V Y S Q D Y S I Z N Z N N P D
D I M A R Y P T B N P T O A F
A G T G R R S T N I R U Y U O
X R Y L T U N F H A P L N Q Q
F J O R Z A A S H R I R A A K
I S A E H R E S Y C P G C I U
G I D P S S C T O N V B D R N
N W E L I D O S S N R U N P H
U L V U X C Q V A D I I A L H
E W R O J G F M A T N D R A L
S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

- Big things**
- AIRPLANES
 - MOUNTAINS
 - CRUISESHIP
 - OCEANS
 - DINOSAUR
 - PYRAMID
 - ELEPHANT
 - SKYSCRAPER
 - GIANTS
 - TRAIN
 - GRANDCANYON
 - TRUCKS

Maze



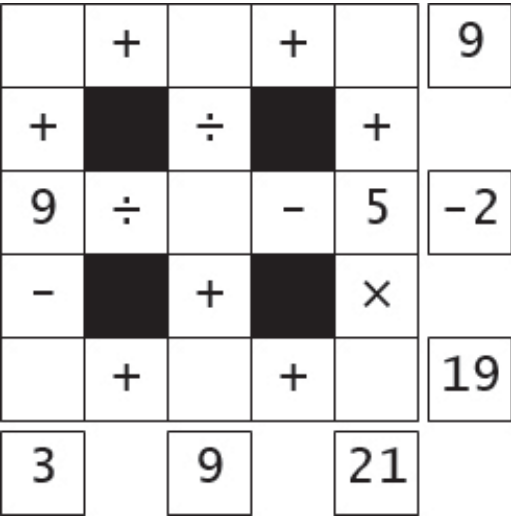
Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

KID'S PUZZLES

Colouring Page

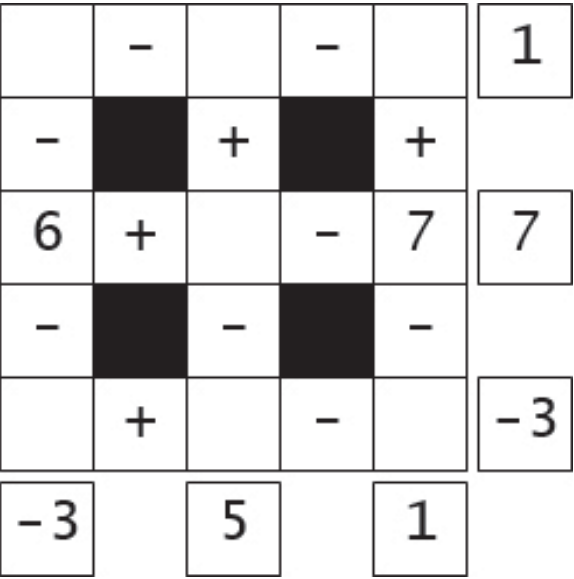


Word Search

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

- Words starting with "AD"**
- AFAR
 - AFFORD
 - AFFAIR
 - AFFRAY
 - AFFECT
 - AFLOAT
 - AFFECTION
 - AFRAID
 - AFFILIATE
 - AFRESH
 - AFFIRM
 - AFRICA
 - AFFIX
 - AFTER

Math Square



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

- Knock knock.**
Who's there?
Tank.
Tank who?
You're welcome!
- Q: What kind of bow can't be tied?**
A: A Rainbow

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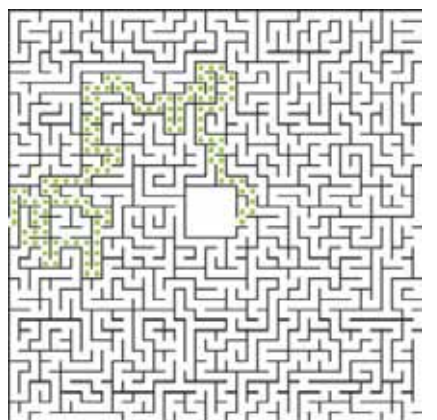
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KIDS MATH SQUARES

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

SITUATION VACANT



Department
of Health



Board Director opportunities at Alexandra District Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at Alexandra District Health. The positions start on July 1, 2026, for up to three years.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for persons with an interest in making a difference in the health sector and have the knowledge and skills for ensuring health care is delivered safely and effectively, with public money used to the benefit of all Victorians.

As a director you will be doing more than just contributing your time or knowledge. Being appointed to a hospital board places you in a position of trust. You will play an important role in providing leadership, accountability and integrity in the delivery of healthcare across Victoria.

Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of healthcare for the Victorian community. It is preferable that applicants reside in Victoria or, within the border community of those hospitals near the New South Wales and South Australian borders.

While Victorian public health boards are based on capabilities, boards are more effective when these capabilities also represent the richness of the diverse voices of Victorian communities. We encourage First Nations people, people living with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, gender equality, and upholding human rights.

Applications close at midnight Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website: www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications or contact Executive Assistant and Board Secretary, Jennifer Creed on 5772 0924.

MEETINGS



Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health are exploring a voluntary amalgamation to strengthen local healthcare now and into the future.

Share your feedback at a local Tea Talk / community engagement session near you:

Tea Talk Alexandra: Alexandra RSL, 44 Grant St, Alexandra

Monday 10th November: 12:30pm – 2:00pm (Complete)
Tuesday 18th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm
Thursday 20th November: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Tea Talk Yea: Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass St, Yea

Monday 10th November: 2:45pm – 4:00pm (Complete)

Tea Talk Marysville: Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Rd, Marysville

Monday 10th November: 10:00am – 11:30am (Complete)
Thursday 13th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Eildon: Eildon Primary School Hall, 45 High St, Eildon

Wednesday 12th November: 11:30am – 1:00pm
Thursday 20th November: 10:00am – 11:30am
Thursday 20th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Yarck: Yarck Hall, 6583 Maroondah Hwy, Yarck

Wednesday 12th November: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Tea Talk Thornton: Thornton Memorial Hall, 1335 Taggerty- Thornton Rd, Thornton

Friday 14th November: 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Friday 14th November: 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Tea Talk Healesville: Each Healesville, 1 Joffre Road, Healesville

Wednesday 19th November: 1.00pm – 2.30pm

Tea Talk Yarra Glen: Yarra Glen Memorial Hall, 45 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

Wednesday 19th November: 10.00am – 11.30am

Tea Talk Buxton: Buxton Memorial Hall, 2206 Maroondah Hwy, Buxton

Friday 14th November: 10:00am – 11:00am

Tea Talk Taggerty: Thornton Memorial Hall, 1335 Taggerty- Thornton Rd, Thornton

Friday 14th November: 11:30am – 12:30pm

If you'd like to attend a Tea Talk session, please let us know by emailing feedback@connectingcare.net

For more information visit connectingcare.net

DEATH NOTICES

BATES,
(nee Cooper)
Irene Venetia

Passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025 in Benalla aged 89.

Dearly loved wife of Jim (dec). Adored mum of Graeme and Faye, Wendy and Murray (dec), Jeanette, and Ian. Treasured nan to Lee; Jared (dec), Asha and Luke; Charlee; and Heath; their partners and six treasured great grand children.

Time may heal our sadness, a smile may hide our tears, the memories we have of you, will last for all our years.

COATES, Anthony (Tony) Michael –

4/9/1965 - 4/11/2025. Dearly loved son of John (dec) and Jocelyn Coates. Younger brother to Roslyn Eva and Murray Coates. Loving husband of Kashmira and step father to Daniel. Uncle to Madielynn Edwards and Matthew, Travis and Sam Eva. In God's care.

FUNERAL NOTICES

BATES,
(nee Cooper)
Irene Venetia

A celebration of life will be held in the gardens at 74 Porters Road, Benalla on Saturday, November 15 at 1pm.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

ESTABLISHED Mowing business for sale.

Regular ongoing clientele base. Equipment included: trailer, ride on mower, push mower and whipper snipper. Hand over with introductions included for a smooth start. Call Luke for a chat. 0418 522 842.

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MEETINGS



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at 10.30am at
Acheron Hall.
All welcome.



General meeting
for the Alexandra
RSL will be held on
Sunday, November 17,
at noon, followed by
a light luncheon.

ACHERON HALL
AGM will be held at
Acheron Hall on Sunday,
November 16 at 9.30am.
All welcome.
For more information
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**ALEXANDRA AND
EILDON GEM AND
LAPIDARY CLUB.**
AGM on November 25,
at club rooms at 2pm.
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**ALEXANDRA and
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Club AGM** will be held
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Federal Investment Bolsters H5 Bird Flu Preparedness

VICTORIA is ramping up its biosecurity defences against H5N1 bird flu, with new federal support to boost emergency preparedness and rapid response capabilities.

As part of a \$100 million national biosecurity package, the Federal Government is investing \$1.7 million in equipping Victoria with testing technology and specialised field response tools.

The funding will provide Victoria with crucial frontline equipment, including a PCR unit and other laboratory tools for rapid testing, as well as generators, decontamination trailers and specialised field equipment to support emergency response operations across multiple sites.

Australia remains free from the H5N1 strain of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), also known as H5 bird flu. This strain is currently circulating overseas. It mainly affects birds, but can also affect other animals, and, on rare occasions, humans.

Ongoing outbreaks of H5 bird flu globally have increased the level of risk to Australia for incursions of this virus. Annual migration of wild birds will continue to be a risk for

introducing new avian influenza viruses to Australian birds.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is working with other government agencies, land managers and other relevant organisations to prepare for a H5N1 bird flu detection in Victoria.

Work continues with the poultry industry, wildlife experts and land managers to monitor for signs of the virus within wildlife and develop mitigation strategies to protect high-risk wildlife species.

Victoria’s agricultural industry is backed by a \$36.7 million *Victorian Budget 2025/26*

investment to make sure the state is well prepared to respond to biosecurity threats and emergency diseases now and into the future, including avian influenza.

Bird flu has been recorded on every continent apart from Australia. It was recently discovered among the elephant seal population at nearby Heard Island.

In addition to birds, bird flu can also impact other animals, including seals, sea lions, cows, and even some cats and foxes. There are also fears for the entire Tasmanian devil population if there is an outbreak.

Dr Carol Booth, Invasive Species Council Principal Policy Analyst, said in 2024, “The rapid adaptation of this virus to mammals means the consequences for Australian wildlife could be even more catastrophic than predicted if H5N1 arrives in Australia.

“Since arriving in South America in late 2022, bird flu has killed more than 30,000 South American sea lions, 17,000 southern elephant seal pups and unknown numbers of porpoises, dolphins and otters, as well as at least 650,000 native birds.

“The mortality rate of elephant seal pups in Argentina’s Península Valdés reached 95 per cent in 2023 compared to only one per cent in 2022.

“If high pathogenicity bird flu turns up in Australia, the government-commissioned risk assessment predicts ‘catastrophic’ impacts on our native birds.

“That risk assessment predicted only minor impacts on marine mammals, but the latest research implies the risk to Australian mammals is now much higher.”

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Collins added, “Australia is the only continent free of H5 bird flu, which is why we have invested record funding of more than \$100 million into maintaining our biosecurity status and preparing for this disease.”

“Strengthening our preparedness and response capability to H5 bird flu, including in Victoria, is critical, not just for our valuable agricultural industries, but also for our unique natural environment and our communities.”

Fake driving fines

FAKE websites have recently been announcing new road rules and have been widely shared on social media. Rest assured that you won’t be fined.

One such website claimed that from November 1, people driving without their headlights on at all times would be subject to a \$250 fine. Instead, drivers need to use their headlights between dusk and dawn, and in heavy rain or fog. Other times are optional.

Another fake website claimed that a curfew from 10pm to 5am would be put in place for drivers aged over 60 in New South Wales, with a large fine for disobedient elders.

Yet another claimed that people would be banned from smoking, eating and drinking while driving, with hefty fines of up to \$8000 and 20 demerit points, depending on the state.

The RACV states, “In Victoria, it’s not against the law to eat or drink (non-alcoholic beverages) behind the wheel, however you do need to stay in control of your car at all times. If the police believe you’re distracted or driving carelessly, you could still be fined.”

If you spot claims on social media that you find suspicious, it’s always best to check verifiable sources.

Classifieds

SITUATION VACANT



ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

Director (Part Time)

Seeking an experienced leader with a passion for Early Childhood Education, to oversee operations on behalf of our Committee of Management.

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Must hold an Early Childhood Education qualification (minimum Diploma / ACECQA equivalent), along with knowledge of industry Frameworks and Legislation. Also have current WWCC / VIT and Child Protection Training.

For further information, please email alexandra.kin.president@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Applications close Friday 28/11/2025.

Tiny Towns Fund grants open for round three

THE Victorian Government is making Victoria’s tiniest towns even better places to live, work, stay and play, with applications for the next round of grants from the *Tiny Towns Fund* now open.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes last week visited the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve to formally open applications for round three of the \$20 million *Tiny Towns Fund*.

“From upgraded halls to new playgrounds, these projects are improving how locals live, work and connect in their towns,” Ms Symes said.

“This fund is making a big difference to our smallest communities, delivering hundreds of projects that attract visitors and bring the community together.”

The fund offers grants of up to \$50,000 to towns with fewer than 5000 residents, for projects that attract visitors to the town or that celebrates the local community.

From Willaura to Walhalla, the state government is already delivering almost 350 projects across more than 300 of our smallest regional towns, through the first two rounds of the fund.

More than 50 community halls have been upgraded or renovated, alongside dozens of new and improved playgrounds and outdoor spaces through the fund, boosting livability and tourism in small towns across Victoria.

The *Tiny Towns Fund* is strengthening communities by making them even better places to live, work, stay and play, with many of the projects using local contractors and suppliers to carry out the works. It is a part of the state government’s record \$47 billion investment to support regional and rural Victoria.

Applications close on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. For more info or to apply, visit rdv.vic.gov.au/tiny-towns-fund



CFA purchases more tankers

CFA has purchased truckloads of tankers “to ensure it is stocked up ahead of the manufacturer discontinuation of the model,” according to a press release from the organisation.

The 50 cab chassis are lined up in CFA’s State Logistics Centre, where they will be sent off in small batches to a local specialist body manufacturer Bell Environmental, to be turned into Light Tankers.

CFA’s Head of Fleet and Protective Equipment Dan Jones said, “We expect the process of the build into firetrucks for each tanker to take around six months, with the rollout to brigades to start in mid-2026.

“These light tankers will come equipped with the latest safety features and new firefighting equipment.

“They’re a low-profile emergency response vehicle with 4x4 maneuverability which assists with navigating through busy urban streets or rugged rural terrain.

“It’s also lightweight with the capacity to hold 2000 litres of water, so they’re a vital asset to our firefighting fleet.

“It was important to ensure we had the stock so we can continue delivering these vital firefighting vehicles to our brigades across the state over the next couple of years,” he said.

The first seven of these new Light Tankers will be delivered next year to Echuca Village, Ellerslie, Greendale, Kingston, Bulart, Corinella and Jamieson brigades.

All seven brigades helped fund those trucks through local community donations and funding grants through the 2024/25 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

Just in time for the upcoming fire season, CFA is also celebrating the completion of its Radio Replacement Program.

As one of the biggest investments ever made to CFA, the \$138 million dollar program

saw the delivery of 18,000 devices across the state, including all mobile and portable devices, bag radios and local bases.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the new radios include additional functionality for CFA including GPS on the portable radios and multiband capability to allow direct communication with partner agencies.

“The new radios have great coverage and improved capability in buildings and structures,” Jason said.

“Our volunteers have reported that the new radios have provided a significant uplift in the way they have been able to communicate with each other, and other emergency services, both in Victoria and border areas with interstate fire services.

“It’s great to see this project come to fruition and I know they’ll be valuable pieces of equipment for many years.”

GBCMA highlights the importance of tree hollows

THE Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is highlighting the importance of tree hollows for wildlife in its 2025 Year of the Tree Hollow community awareness campaign.

This month features the fast and furious Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*), one of the Goulburn Broken catchment’s smallest marsupials.

Goulburn Broken CMA Project Officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said antechinus were members of the *dasyurid* family, whose relatives include the Tasmanian devil, brush-tailed phascogale, quoll and dunnart.

“Antechinus look very much like house mice but this is where the similarities stop,” Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

“The easiest way to differentiate between an antechinus and the pest house mouse is by looking at their face and head. An antechinus has a pointy, long and narrow snout, unlike a mouse, which has a round head and nose.

“Antechinus are also larger than a house mouse; its body length is up to 165 millimetres and its tail is about the same length as its body. They also have a furry white ring around their eyes, large crinkly ears, yellowish legs and bellies and yellow feet.”

Another tell-tale sign between a house mouse and an antechinus is its smell. Mice and rats create a musky smell, antechinus have no odour.

Male antechinus die soon after mating due to stress and lack of food and nutrients, a strategy thought to be nature’s way of ensuring a continuously refreshed gene pool and sufficient resources available for the next generation.

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said the Yellow-footed Antechinus foraged during the day to feast on insects, spiders, cockroaches, lizards, small birds and eggs, the occasional flower and nectar and even a house-mouse.

“Antechinus forage furiously among the sticks, leaves, branches and logs that comprise a healthy ground storey,” she said.

“Tree hollows are vital for the Yellow-footed Antechinus which need deep hollows with small entrances to hide from predators, for shelter and to rest. Large old trees provide hollow habitat and regularly shed dead leaves, branches, twigs and bark.

“A study into the factors affecting the presence of the Yellow-footed Antechinus

concluded that a messy ground layer of organic litter as well as the density of hollow-bearing trees and rock cover in a structurally complex forest system were the main habitat features affecting antechinus’ ability to inhabit a region.

“Therefore, when timber is removed from roadsides, either to clean up or for firewood, this directly impacts the Yellow-footed Antechinus and other native fauna that rely upon this habitat.”

Read more in the Goulburn Broken CMA’s Mammal Book, a 58-page booklet featuring beautiful photographs, including the Yellow-footed Antechinus on the front cover, and informative text at gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/land_and_biodiversity/resources_publications/the-mammal-book

The Year of the Tree Hollow is supported by the Victorian Government through the Our Catchments Our Communities stewardship program.



The Yellow-footed Antechinus uses tree hollows for safety and security. -S



The Yellow-footed Antechinus, which somewhat resembles a mouse. -S

SPORT

Thursday competition only for Alexandra Squash Club last week

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

MELBOURNE Cup week. No Monday competition.

Thursday competition

Hammerheads versus Orcas

Jessica versus Nicole (fill in): As a fill-in, Nicole was plating her first ever pennant match. Jessica had the edge as she dominated the front of the court. Nicole navigated a steep learning curve and put extra depth into her shots and finished with a run of points to win the last game. Jessica held onto the win by two-points. 51 to 49.

Kristelle versus Sam: It was a real battle with some amazing rallies throughout. Sam had great depth while Kristelle threw him off with some tricky shots. Going into the final game there was only one point difference.

Game four was a draw and saw Sam keeping his one-point lead, coming out victorious. 64 to 63.

Daniel W versus Michael M: The focus Daniel had in the first game was unbreakable and led him to start with a 16-point lead. Michael won the next three games, each by a couple of points, but he couldn’t claw his way back from that deficit at the start. Daniel claimed the win. 59 to 49.

Piranhas versus Stingrays

Travis versus Mick: With control of the court, Mick was sending Travis running to all corners of the court. Travis made a play for a comeback in the last game but fell short by a few points. Mick won. 61 to 57.

Justin versus Jared (fill in): The first and last games were real nail biters, but Justin had too much control in the middle games, giving himself a good lead to take the match. 69 to 48.



Mick extends his reach to return Travis’s lob. -S

Athletes shine despite threat of rain

by Murrindindi Little Athletics

WITH grey skies overhead and the threat of rain lingering, local athletes turned up undeterred for their Saturday morning of activities and were rewarded with a full session being completed.

Although numbers were slightly down, with many families involved in the Alexandra

Show, there was no shortage of enthusiasm on the track. The warm-up focused on hurdle related activities and stretches, with athletes competing across distances ranging from 60 metres to 300 metres.

It was wonderful to see so many parent helpers lending a hand during both the warm-up and events, creating a great community atmosphere. Stuart Collier once again worked

his magic on the barbecue, much to the delight of hungry athletes and parents alike.

A real highlight of the morning was the sportsmanship and encouragement shown between age groups, especially the way the younger members were cheered on by their peers. The freshly mowed grounds looked fantastic, adding to the springtime energy of the day.

Last week also marked the first presentation of PB (personal best) medals for the season, with around eight athletes earning their bronze medals for achieving five personal bests so far, a great milestone for these dedicated competitors.

Several club records were broken on the day. Congratulations to: Jager in under 11 Javelin; Koa in under 14 800m (breaking a record that had stood since 1998); Harrish in under 14 Javelin, Long Jump, and 200m Hurdles; and Abi in under 13 200m Hurdles.

To top off a fantastic day, one of the club's members, Chase Hilder headed off in the afternoon to compete in the *King of the Mountain* 14km race as part of the Marysville Running Festival, where he finished an impressive seventh place.

It was another great weekend of effort, community spirit, and achievement for the Murrindindi Little Aths club.



Abi Caswell enjoying the hurdles. -S



Jude enjoying the high jump. -S



Bronze medallion personal best recipients. -S

Merton cricketers travel to Myrtleford

MERTON cricketer's travelled to Myrtleford to take on Ovens Valley United at Memorial Oval. Merton with a few unavailable players looked to be up against it playing the inform tigers with 10 players, thankfully one of Ovens Valley youngsters filled in for the Merton side.

Merton won the toss and batted making a great showing with the bat making 7/222 off the allocated 36 overs. Murray Sutton top scoring with 67 followed by captain Luke Berriman 47 Luke Benton 44 and some late runs from Ross Mackinnon 30. Josh Harris 2/20 and Tom Crook 2/28 the best bowlers for Ovens.

Maybe the Merton boys became a little complacent with Craddock taking two early wickets however this brought the experience of Harris and Scott Sanderson together, smashing any loose bowling and keeping the runs ticking over. When they both fell in consecutive overs for 63 and 62.

Merton looked to be on top however a match winning partnership between Bryce Mummery 41 not out and Harris Broneru 47 not out won the game for the home side in an entertaining last 10 overs with Merton having a few half chances it came down to the last over with the home side needing three runs for victory. Eventually passing the visitors total with three balls remaining. Harry Craddock 2/52 Henry Berriman 1/38 and William Benton 1/22 the wicket takers.

Merton's bowlers needing to get back to basics and hitting the top of off stump and a bit sharper in the field the lesson learnt from this game. Merton host the Wangaratta Magpies at the MCG next Saturday, Merton's first home game for the season.

Yea High School students visit Yea Bowls Club



Yea High School students at the Yea Bowls Club, learning about the game. -S

EACH year Yea High School students head along to the Yea Bowls Club to try a session of lawn bowling. This gives them an introduction to the basics of bowling as part of their sports program.

Last Wednesday, three sessions, totaling 54 students, participated during the day. Students selected the correct size bowl which comfortably fitted their hand grip and then they partnered themselves into teams to contest some rivalry.

Volunteers from the Yea Bowls Club were on hand to give advice on the best techniques required for improving their game. At the end of each session, the students were given a challenge to indicate how much control they had of their bowls.

The Yea Bowls Club enjoy this contact with the students and encourage them to contact the club for further participation.



Students had the opportunity to play some bowls under the tutelage of bowls club volunteers. -S

Fine weather for Yea Golf Saturday competition

DESPITE ominous skies, the weather held off and players enjoyed fine conditions at Yea Golf Club for the second round of the A.H. Smith Trophy last Saturday. A total of 24 men and three ladies took part in what proved to be a closely contested event.

In the stableford competition, Jack Kenny (33) produced a strong round to take top honours with 39 points. Jim Redmond (25) finished runner-up on 36 points, while Nick Wilcox (25) claimed third place with 35 points, ahead of Greg Clements

(18), also on 35, and Mic Spagnolo (8), who secured fifth with 34 points on countback from Rick Wills and Chris Dunne. Di Elliott was the best of the ladies with 29 points.

Nearest the Pin on the 11th went to Jobe Dunne, while Rob O'Halloran collected the club award.

Across the two rounds of the A.H. Smith Trophy, Paul Heyen emerged victorious with a total of 70 points, finishing just

ahead of Brian Simmons and Rick Wills, who both tallied 68 points.

Last Wednesday's golf saw Brian Simmons/Anthony La Grutta with an outstanding 380 points win the Pair 22 Stableford event.

Second were Mic Spagnolo/Jim Redmond with 315 points. Individual winner was Anthony La Grutta with 40 points. Rob Gill/Russ Wealands took out the club award.



Paul Heyen was the winner at the Yea Golf Club. -S

Impressive win by Yea over Shepparton East

by Viv Cavanagh

AFTER a slow start to the season, Yea Bowls Club found form with a comfortable win over Shepparton East last Saturday. The games were played in ideal conditions under the roof and protected from the cold, windy, conditions on outside rinks.

Rink One, with skipper Wayne Martin, Terry Muller, Darren Sherman and Judy Elanius, started slowly, but by the ninth end took a one shot lead. Shepparton then won the next five ends to go 10 shots up.

However, Yea fought back to be just two shots down on the 19th end, only for Shepparton to win the last two ends. Final score was 21 Shepparton East to 16 Yea.

Rink Two, with skipper Neil Rieschick, Rodney Pitwood, Barb Tanner and Viv Cavanagh, led from start to finish. After 16 ends the score was 19 to nine. Then Shepparton got on a roll to win the next three ends to make it 19 / 17 on the 19th end, but Yea steadied to win the last two ends. Final score 23 Yea to 17 Shepparton East.

Rink Three, with skipper Maurie Finn, Brett Reece, Kym Cooper and Angela Finn, had a convincing win by 19 shots. They scored three on the first end and gradually increased their lead throughout the game. Shepparton East had chances at different stages, but Yea with a good team effort, were able to convert quite a few shots. The final score was 29 Yea to 10 Shepparton East.

Rink Four with skipper Mick Barrott, Kevin Smith, Leonard Sheehan and Barry Moore, had a handy nine shot win, but not without a battle. Early in the game, they were down two shots after nine ends but then won nine of the last 12 ends to have a very good win 23 Yea to 14 Shepparton East.

This coming week, Yea are at home playing Tatura Hilltop who are one of the top sides in the competition. Social Bowls, Progressive Physio Monday Triples, were cancelled last week due to the wet conditions.

On Thursday, November 6, Terry Muller conducted a series of training drills before the competition commenced. These drills obviously worked as much improved bowling followed.

The winners on the day were John and Wayne Tanner.

Rep cricket making a comeback for SDCA: Armstrong appointed head coach



Cam Armstrong. -S

THE Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) has made a major announcement ahead of its long-awaited return to senior representative cricket, securing one of the competition's most respected figures as head coach.

Cam Armstrong, current coach of the Yea Cricket Club and a legend of the local game, will take charge for a one-off representative clash against Emu Valley at Chittick Park on Sunday, February 8.

Armstrong's cricketing résumé is among the most impressive in the region. With extensive experience in premier cricket and a dominant record wherever he's played, he brings both pedigree and passion to the role.

Since returning to his home club of Yea in the 2014/15 season, Armstrong has been a powerhouse. He has amassed 3643 runs at an average just shy of 40, including four centuries, and claimed more than 140 wickets, cementing his status as one of the greats of the SDCA.

The appointment is a significant boost for the SDCA as it aims to make a strong statement in its representative cricket comeback.

"Cam is an exceptional cricketer, fiercely competitive and a great advocate for cricket in our region," SDCA President Mitch Itter said.

"We're thrilled to have someone of his calibre leading our rep team. Cam has the respect of everyone across our competition, and his involvement in junior development and leadership at Yea has been outstanding.

"We're eager to see what he can achieve with our league's top players, and we know our younger talent will gain a lot from working with him.

"The return of senior rep cricket is a big milestone for the SDCA, and there's already strong support from our clubs.

"Trails will commence soon so stay tuned for more announcements as we finalise the squad to take on Emu Valley in February."