

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, February 5, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Olivia and Steven Turner depart Oasis



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Trekking the Bicentennial Trail



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Weekend sport



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Popular Eildon pharmacist departs



The Eildon community members who gathered to farewell Anphy on Saturday, February 1. -S

ANPHY Nguyen has been the pharmacist manager at the Eildon pharmacy for the past six years and is sadly leaving. To express their appreciation, locals held a send off for Anphy at the Eildon Rotunda on Saturday, February 1.

He said of his time in Eildon, "It's been fantastic. Honestly, I was only planning to probably be here for about a year, but I've grown to love the community and they've been great. I feel like I'm part of the family, so it's been a fantastic time working and living in Eildon.

Prior to arriving in Eildon, Anphy spent a couple of years as a pharmacist manager in Melbourne. He explained, "I just wanted to have a break and that's why I found this job up here."

His initial contract was only for a year, but he ended up staying for much longer.

Now that he's finished up at the pharmacy, he's planning to "have a break to begin with and then slowly get back into pharmacy again."

He's already made the move back to Melbourne and is likely to work in the city moving forward.

He also had some lovely words for the community. "I'd just like to say thank you to everyone in Eildon and the surrounding areas. Everyone's been amazing. They've really made me feel like it has been my home for the last six years. I'm really grateful for my time here."

Anphy supported the community across the last six years, including through COVID-19. He was not only a pharmacist, but also a mentor, counsellor, supporter and a shoulder.

He will be sorely missed by the community.



Anphy with Eildon Ward Councillor Anita Carr. -S

Long Lazy Summer Lunch

Sunday 23 February 2025

Delight in a beautiful Summer Lunch featuring fresh local produce, live music and free flowing bubbles from Snobs Creek Estate. Pre-advised dietary requirements catered for. Book your place today to enjoy spectacular views from our deck or dining room. Enjoy a full weekend and stay the night in our stunning 4 star accommodation.

- 12noon - 4pm • Bookings essential
- \$100 per adult, includes Brut Cuvée, canapes, entrée, main and dessert
- \$70 per teenager (13-17 years)
- \$40 per child (3-12 years) • Soft drinks complimentary for children
- Infants (2 years and under) no charge



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E: eildon@holmesglen.edu.au
www.holmesglenteildon.com
Book now: 03 5774 2631



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Melba Highway closure for landslip repairs

THE Department of Transport and Planning have advised that they will be repairing two landslips on the Melba Highway in Dixon's Creek between February 17 and the end of March. A road closure will be required to ensure the safety of workers on the site.

The closed section of the Melba will be between Healesville-Kinglake Road and north of Hutts Lane.

There will be a brief re-opening during the works, on the Labour Day long weekend. During this intermission, the road will open on the afternoon of Friday, March 7 and close again at 7am on Tuesday, March 11.

Access to properties and businesses along the Melba Highway to the south of the Healesville-Kinglake intersection will be maintained from Yarra Glen. No access will be permitted through the work site on the Melba Highway from the Healesville-Kinglake Road intersection.

Detour signage will be in place, advising motorists to detour via Healesville-Kinglake Road and Healesville-Yarra Glen Road. Drivers can expect an additional 30 minutes or more of travel time. Separate detours will be in place for semi-trailers, and rigid truck and trailer combinations.

Vehicles may also detour via the Goulburn Valley Highway to the Hume Freeway.

Businesses along the Melba Highway and surrounding areas will remain open and trading as usual. If travelling to the area to support local businesses, plan ahead and factor in any additional travel time.

Letters to the Editor

FoodWorks Alexandra

IN response to some recent disquiet regarding the removal of some Australian flags at the Alexandra FoodWorks, we would like to commence with the fact that we are extremely proud to be Australian. Tina herself became an Australian at a Rotary Park citizenship ceremony on January 26, 19 years ago. Having said this, we recognise that Australia Day has become a divisive issue amongst the community, both locally and nationally. While we will all have differing views and levels of passion about it, our removal of the flag was simply an effort to prevent our team from being subjected to abuse. It was not done to 'pick sides'.

After receiving a highly opinionated, abusive and derogatory complaint on Wednesday, January 22, we asked our store manager to remove some flags to prevent our store team from being a target of further abuse while at work. We had no intention to upset customers, as witnessed by the further division demonstrated on various platforms among the community in the days following. We never wanted to put ourselves in a position that distract from our company values of doing our best by the team, customers and community.

As a supermarket operator, the role we set out to perform is serving customers with grocery and other associated items. Being one of the larger employers in the Alexandra township, and Murrindindi Shire, we see our

responsibility is to provide a safe workplace for our team members and a comfortable shopping environment for customers. We also make a considered effort to support the community through sponsorships, donations, and participation in numerous local events like the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show, the recent Alexandra Rodeo, and The Murrindindi Master Golf Tournament, held annually across the shire. We believe that contributing to sporting and other community organisations in the area is integral to the cohesive fabric of the community, enhancing the vibrancy of the town. Unfortunately, our actions discussed in the foregoing have distracted from this ethos. And for this, we can only apologise.

Ever since COVID-19, the mental health of our workforce has been an elevated priority and focus. We do pay attention to the pulse of the broader community in relation to opinions and actions on numerous matters. In the past year alone, team members across our supermarket group have experienced numerous accounts of abuse from customers, including physical assault and armed hold ups. Incidents of abuse reported among our group has risen manyfold from previous years.

You may disagree with the way we handled the situation, but we hope you have a better understanding that our actions reflected our responsibilities to our employees rather than 'takings sides' in this debate.

Tina and Michael Reddrop

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldeene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Tues Art Group (Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306

Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm

Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150

Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427

Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm

Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086

Sun Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611

Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666

Fri Communitia 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465

1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Tue Yarrack CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarrack Hall.

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	2.04	steady	below minor	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.41	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	6.44am Mon	0.48	steady	below minor	
Home Creek at Yarrack	8.49am Mon	0.10	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.19am Mon	0.40	steady	below minor	
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.16	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.96	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor	
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	8.00am Mon	0.07	steady		
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.66	steady	below minor	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.01	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.91	steady	below minor	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.42am Mon	0.90	falling		
**ISSUED AT 9.46AM ON MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2025					

Weekly Weather

February 5 - February 11, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 16 32

Thursday 20 36

Friday 16 32

Saturday 16 31

Sunday 17 31

Monday 17 33

Tuesday 18 33

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 15 30

Thursday 20 36

Friday 16 32

Saturday 16 30

Sunday 17 31

Monday 18 33

Tuesday 18 34

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 4mm

Buxton..... N/Amm

Eildon (AWS)..... 0.6mm

Flowerdale..... 10mm

Jamieson..... 4mm

Kinglake..... 3mm

Lake Eildon..... 0.4mm

Mansfield..... N/Amm

Taggerty 1mm

Yarrack 3mm

Yea..... 0.8mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....282.81m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....77.3%

Metres below full supply.....6.09m

Daily inflow5000ML

Release..... 5000ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....52%

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

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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

Thumbsup/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

The shire's venue hire costs

MURRINDINDI Shire Council manages several venues in townships across Murrindindi Shire. Community groups, businesses and individuals are encouraged to hire these venues for public or private functions such as meetings, seminars, exhibitions, weddings, and celebrations.

There are different hire rates for commercial use (ticketed events, or events where the organiser is looking to make a profit) and non-commercial use (private events such as weddings or non-profit events run by community groups).

When asked about increases in venue hire costs, council responded, "Each financial year, council reviews venue hire fees as

part of its annual budget process, aiming to balance affordability for residents and community groups with fairness. In some cases, hire fees did not fully cover the cost of operating and maintaining these venues. As not all communities have easy access to council-managed facilities, ongoing ratepayer subsidies for venue users are not equitable. The recent fee adjustments and increases seek to create a fairer and more financially responsible approach to venue hire across the shire.

"Over the five years prior to last year's budget, prices were reduced for some venues in an attempt to promote greater use of these facilities. In this time venue hire

has not increased significantly and in the 2024/25 Annual Budget consultation, council proposed increasing the venue hire fees to more accurately reflect the rising cost of management for these facilities. Last year, most venues had a 2.8 per cent fee increase. Some venues had larger increases to account for several years of subsidised pricing, and to take some of the pressure off council's limited rate revenue.

"Venue costs include utilities, insurance, staffing, maintenance, and improvements to keep the venues safe and accessible for everyone. By adjusting user hire fees, we aim to ensure our venues remain viable and continue to serve the community effectively

without placing an unnecessary additional burden on all ratepayers.

"We understand that price increases impact local community groups who use our venues. We encourage groups to contact council, as events that provide a community benefit can apply for reduced or even free venue hire. There are often options available to support you, including our *Grants and Sponsorships Program*. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants to find out more."

To learn more about venue hire, including which venues are available and the pricing structure, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/venuesforhire

Olivia and Steven Turner depart from Oasis Church community

LONG-time Alexandra residents Olivia and Steven Turner are leaving the Oasis Church community after 12 years.

They spoke with the *Alexandra Standard* about their time in the community and what comes next for them.

"We've been here 12 years, and we can feel that our time has come to an end, time for new beginnings," Steven said.

"We came here to take on the church. I've been doing disability work with Menzies Support Services for 10 years and working at the Yea Primary School as the chaplain."

Olivia has also been busy in her time here.

"I've worked in various places, including the newspaper, the medical centre when Dr Crompton was running the medical centre on Myrtle Street," Olivia said.

"I've worked at Menzies, the shire, Jungai."

The pair were originally from Brisbane and married in 2000.

"We were running the youth group at the time at our local church in Brisbane and then we were originally invited to Melbourne to be pastors in Greensborough for three years from 2009 to 2012. Then we were invited to Alexandra to take a senior role," Steven said.

When asked about the Oasis Church, Steven gave a brief history.

"Before me it was called Alexandra Life Centre and there was another pastor here. The church in some form has probably existed for about 20 to 25 years. There has been various pastors and various name changes, I believe," he said.

"The best thing about the church is the connections you make with the community, also being able to help people out in their times of need and it's being able to kind of either direct them or encourage them, you know, to keep going when they feel like there is dark times ahead.

"It's a bit of a privilege, really, to be included in that."

Steven and Olivia's decision to leave the church was prompted by a number of factors, including the pair's two daughters, who are 18 and 19 years old, and are moving into their independence.

There is no word on who will be taking their positions at the Oasis Church yet. But the church will still be operating in the interim.



Steven and Olivia Turner are excited for their new chapter. -S

"The congregation is shifting into a new season and so are we," Olivia said.

The pair also spoke about what it meant to them to be part of a small community like Alexandra.

"We value people's support, whether it's the truck show or any community event. There's much more connection that happens in a smaller town," Steven said.

"Church work in small communities, the church work is not generally full-time work, which allows you to have the space to work in the community, not just alongside in a separate bubble," Olivia added.

"You're working within the community and doing the church work as like parallel to each other rather than just doing church work and trying to find a way to connect to the community."

There is a farewell service happening at the Oasis Church on February 9 for the community to say goodbye to two highly valued members.



THUMBS DOWN: To the selfish and entitled person who had Reddrops take down their Australiana display. Shame on you. What about the hundreds of us who are proud Aussies?

THUMBS UP: A huge thank you to Alexandra Events for our Australia Day breakfast. Thank you.

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra Hotel for displaying the Australian Flag on Australia Day.

THUMBS DOWN: To all the other businesses which didn't display the Australian Flag.

THUMBS DOWN: To the motorists with their arm hanging outside the driver's window, casually holding a lit cigarette while driving. In this very high fire danger period, are you certifiable?

THUMBS UP: We would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful nurses in acute care at Alexandra District Health for the great care they have shown my husband over the last few weeks. You all went above and beyond. Forever grateful.

THUMBS UP: To the Standard for publishing the Taungurung statement regarding January 26. Truth telling is so important for us as a community and country to move forward.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

Local strike teams help at Grampians fire

ON Thursday, January 30, the District 12 long haul strike team (1202) was deployed to help out in western Victoria. They were heading towards the Grampians, where a fire has been burning since December, started by a lightning strike.

The following day, the strike team were deployed to the Grampians operations area with a composite crew on Yarck Tanker comprising crew leader Isaac from Buxton,

driver Max from Taggerty, and crew members Chloe from Alexandra and Rob and Mitch from Beveridge. They were joined by the Marysville forward command vehicle (FCV), driven by Ron from Marysville, and STL Adam from Acheron. The other vehicles making up ST1202 were Hildene Tanker, Glenburn Tanker, Limestone Ultralight, and the D12 Ultralight out of Highlands.

On Saturday, the weather got warmer and the strike team worked with Forest Fire Management Victoria crews to try to stop the fire jumping containment lines. All the crews did some amazing work pulling up multiple spot overs in very hot and tough conditions.

After a tough day on Sunday, District 12 Strike Team 1202 changed over with the second rotation crews, with the first rotation crews returning home.

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Alexandra Museum
& Steam Train Rides

Open Saturday February 8,
10am to 3.30pm
7 Station Street Alexandra

All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
or by contacting 0427 509 988

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Marysville Market
Sunday, February 9 from 9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls
are back along with distillers,
cakes, sewing notions, pottery
and handcrafts.
Live music and sausage sizzle.
Text 0494 329 695 to book a stall

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Chris Walsh 0407 194 037



Church Services

ANGLICAN
St Johns Alexandra
9am Eucharist each Sunday
Children welcome.
Rev Mario Hendricks -
Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC
Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.
Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia
St Andrews, Downey Street,
Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Contact: Ps Steven Turner
Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
37 Grant Street , Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE
A Christian community part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

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 OF ALEXANDRA FOR BEING THE WINNER OF TWO GOLD TICKETS TO OPERA ON THE PONDAGE. HAVE A GREAT NIGHT.

Thank you to Eildon Events for providing the tickets.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Free skin checks for the farming community at Yea Sale Yards.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

This Way North and Tuckshop ladies will be playing at Fawcett Hall, Doors open at 6pm, music from 6.30. BYO picnic, drinks, lawn chairs. Bookings essential trybooking.com/cxnvh

Alexandra Museum and steam train rides.

From 10am-3.30pm. 7 Station Street, Alexandra.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Marysville Market is on again. From 9am-1pm. All your favourite stalls, cakes, sewing notions, pottery, hand crafts and more.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association will hold its AGM at 7pm in the secretaries office/caravan park office at 17 William Street. All interested parties are welcome and they actively encourage new members. For more information email the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com

WEDENSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Council is starting a project to address housing shortages for key workers in the Eildon community. Community members are invited to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing a survey at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh or join council at local pop up events in Eildon for a chat. The first being, Eildon Bowls Club from 5.30-7.30pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Alexandra Football Netball ladies committee AGM will be held at the club rooms at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. All enquiries to Kath Hedger on 0438 520 382.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Council is starting a project to address housing shortages for key workers in the Eildon community. Community members are invited to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing a survey at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh or join council at local pop up events in Eildon for a chat. The second being, Eildon Visitor Information Centre from 2-3pm. The last chance is Eildon Grocer from 4-5pm.

Trawool, Valentine's Day, Exclusive wine dinner by Grave Goose in Turbine restaurant.

Limited seats available, Books essential 5792 1444 or trawoolestate.com.au.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Opera @ Eildon. Book your tickets now trybooking.com/CVOSP.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

All things business in Kinglake. Council and Business Victoria are kickstarting 2025 with a great free event for businesses and entrepreneurs, commencing with breakfast from 7.30am, an interactive workshop and access to free business advisory services. Kinglake Pub, to register visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/smallbusiness

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Attention Yea and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape the new council plan. Yea Council Chamber, 6-8pm. Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Trawool, Drag Trivia. A more glamorous take on your traditional pub trivia. Grab your team mates and get to Trawool for this outrageous

evening of run and trivia. Bookings essential 5792 1444 or trawoolestate.com.au.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Long Lazy Summer Lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Bookings essential noon – 4pm
Delight in a beautiful summer lunch, featuring fresh local produce, live music and free flowing bubbles. 5774 2631. eildon@holmesglen.edu.au

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Attention Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape the new council plan. Marysville Community Centre, noon-2pm. Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Attention Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape the new council plan. Alexandra Shire Hall, noon-2pm. Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THIS week, the club gets back to its usual activities with the Bridge players meeting up on Wednesday. The committee meet up on Friday, February 7 at 10.30am in the clubroom and there will be a Business Meeting at 1.30pm when members will discuss the activities for the coming year, so if you have any ideas please let us know. The club email address is secretaryadsc@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces again. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Simpsons Caltex
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Thornton Shell
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

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Regional roads fatal statistics too high

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says Victorians are paying for years of roads neglect with their lives as regional Victoria’s road toll soars more 156 per cent compared to the same time last year.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the state of regional Victoria’s roads is a major contributing factor to the tragic toll and has called on the governments to urgently fix the issue.

“The tragic reality is you’re more than three times likely to lose your life when driving on country roads when compared to driving in the city.”

“Rural Victorian roads have sadly claimed 23 lives this year, representing a 156 per cent increase on the same time last year. These aren’t just statistics, it’s our friends, family and loved ones.

“Enough is enough. Genuine questions must be asked about as to what contributing factors are behind the accidents and there’s no doubt the state of country roads is a huge factor,” Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking has called on all levels of government to urgently address major funding shortfalls to rectify our country roads.

“Over the past year, government spending on resurfacing and resealing roads has

dropped by a whopping 81 per cent. That only condemns our roads to ruin and sadly that’s now a reality.

“Drivers are expected to maintain road worthy cars. It’s time for cars to drive car worthy roads to ensure drivers aren’t playing a daily game of roads roulette.

“With a federal election looming, there’s no better time for our leaders to commit to genuinely fixing this mess.

“We’re calling on all levels of government to urgently address the state of our crumbling regional roads for the sake of our safety,” Mr Hosking said.

Isla and Oliver the top names in Victoria for 2024

ISLA has been crowned the most popular baby name for girls for the first time in Victoria, while Oliver has nabbed an 11 year winning streak as the most popular boys' name.

Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins recently visited the Royal Women's Hospital to release the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Victoria lists of the top 100 popular baby names for boys and girls in 2024.

"Congratulations to all the new Islas and Olivers who topped the name charts for 2024," Ms Hutchins said.

"Naming little ones is a wonderful moment for parents, but settling on the name is not always an easy decision.

"We're making sure registrations are as easy and smooth as possible for parents, so they can enjoy time with the newest member of their family."

Isla came in ahead of Charlotte, Amelia and Mia, taking the prime spot for the first time since it entered the top 100 most popular baby names in 2008.

Oliver has reserved the top seat since 2014, followed by Noah and Henry for two consecutive years.

In the top 10 list for boys, Theodore jumped from spot 14 to four, while Muhammad and Xavier made the top 20 instead of Alexander and Sebastian.

Among girls, Lily took position number 10 in place of Ava, while Ruby and Mila entered the top 20 at the expense of Willow and Zoe.

Oliver is competing to break the all-time record for most popular boys' name, but will need to stay on top for another 13 years. John holds the longest running top baby name for boys, clocking an impressive 23 years from 1929 to 1951.

Some of the less common girls names in the top 100 were Riley, Claire and Clara, while Isaiah, Elias, Bodhi and Maverick were the biggest sliders among the boys.

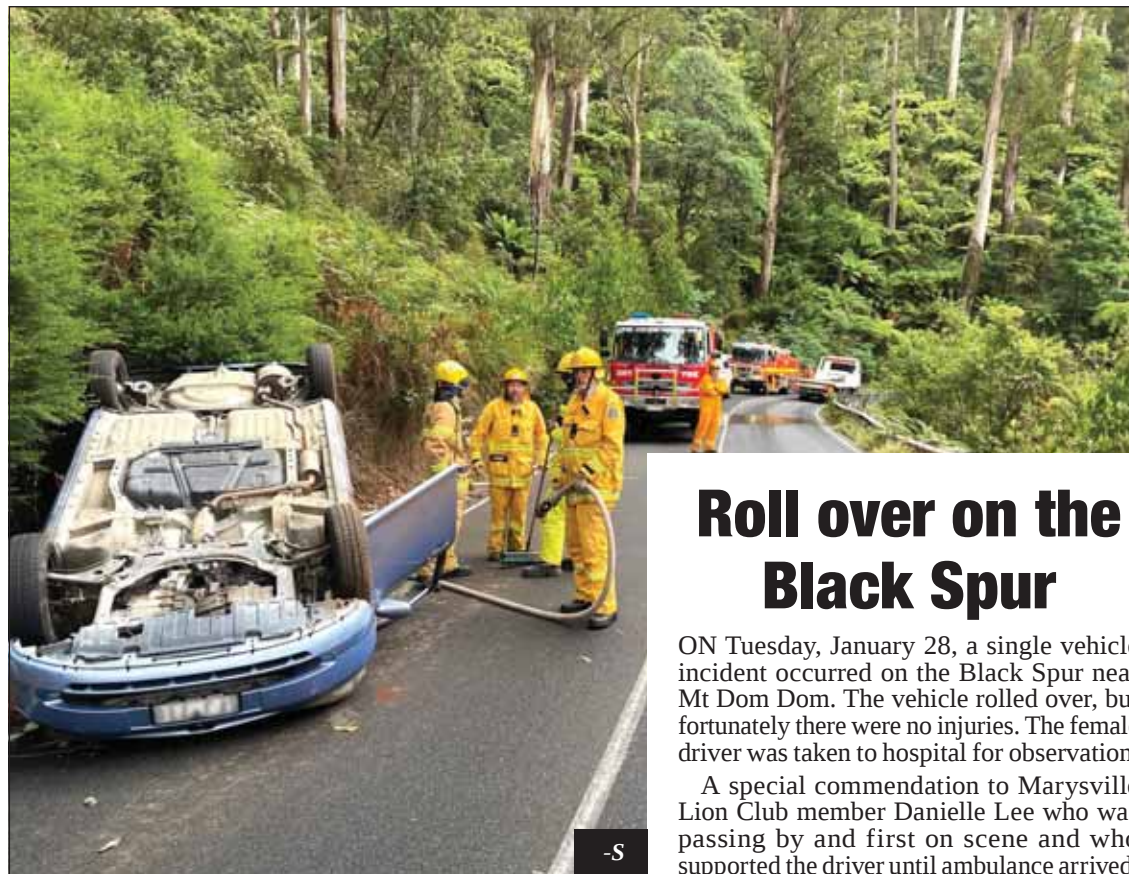
In 2024, 79,239 births were registered in Victoria, including 389 Islas and 570 Olivers.

Parents are encouraged within the first 60 days to register their baby's name and can do so easily online with the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The top 10 boy names in 2024 were: first Oliver; second Noah; third Henry; fourth Leo; Fifth Theodore; sixth Luca; seventh Charlie; eighth Jack; ninth Archie; 10th Levi.

Top 10 girl names in 2024 were: first Isla; second Charlotte; third Amelia; fourth Mia; fifth Hazel; sixth Olivia; seventh Matilda; eighth Grace; ninth Ella; 10th Lily.

For the full list of popular baby names visit bdm.vic.gov.au/names



Roll over on the Black Spur

ON Tuesday, January 28, a single vehicle incident occurred on the Black Spur near Mt Dom Dom. The vehicle rolled over, but fortunately there were no injuries. The female driver was taken to hospital for observation.

A special commendation to Marysville Lion Club member Danielle Lee who was passing by and first on scene and who supported the driver until ambulance arrived.

GMW survey on water based recreation

GOULBURN Murray Water (GMW) is calling for responses to a survey about on-water recreation as part of its Recreational Area Management Plans.

The survey includes Lake Eildon and is open until March 30. GMW are keen to hear about why this place matters to you, what you use them for and what value they provide.

If you're one of the many who spends time on the water with your loved ones at any of these places, it's well worth responding.

The survey came about from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) developing the *Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023*, which apply to recreational areas that are registered and managed by water corporations.

These areas are determined recreational areas under the *Water Act 1989* and apply to 40 of Victoria's water storages.

They provide for the control, management, and use of recreational

areas, and help protect water quality, water corporation facilities, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and environmental values.

The new regulations require water corporations to develop Recreational Area Management Plans (RAMPs) for the recreational areas they manage, hence the call for feedback.

You can fill in the survey before March 30. To get involved, head to tinyurl.com/3mbxbuy7

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

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

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



2025 Foundation students start their school journey



St Mary's Foundation class. Back row: Victor, Max J, Max S, Brody, Alice, Marley, Darcie, Charlie, Mitchell and Jango. Middle row: Jaxon, Leo Mu, Marlon, Frankie, Harper, Delilah, Blair, Bella, Luke, Owen, Leo M and Noah. Front row: Lachlan, Jet, Angus and Luka. -S



The Foundation class for Alexandra Primary School. -S



Foundation class for Buxton Primary School. -S



Foundation and grade one class for Marysville Primary School. -S

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



COMMUNITY AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Murrindindi Shire Community Awards. These awards honour local volunteers for their exceptional community spirit and willingness to help others.

Our four Award categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Nominations close on Sunday 24 March. Criteria and nomination forms are available at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2025Awards

You can also pick up a nomination form at our Library and Customer Service Centres, and the Mobile Library.

The 2025 Award winners will be announced and acknowledged at a volunteer appreciation event held during National Volunteer Week (19-25 May 2025).

GOULBURN MURRAY SOLAR SAVERS

Council is holding pop-up information sessions to let our community know how the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers Program works, and how it can help you save.

Alexandra FoodWorks: 19 February, 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Eildon Grocer: 19 February, 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Marysville Grocer: 26 February, 3.00 - 5.00 pm

Yea FoodWorks: 27 February, 3.00 - 5.00 pm

Kinglake FoodWorks: 6 March, 2.00 - 4.00 pm

There will more sessions over the coming months, so keep an eye out for one near you.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM KICKS OFF

Council's Capacity Building Program includes tailored training, mentoring, and networking events aimed at equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge. By strengthening the capacity of individuals and organisations, the Program seeks to build on the foundations of our connected and resilient community.

Find out more and register your interest in the program at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/capacity-building

'ALL THINGS BUSINESS' IN KINGLAKE

Council and Business Victoria are kickstarting 2025 with 'All Things Business' in Kinglake.

This is a fabulous opportunity for new and existing Murrindindi Shire based businesses and entrepreneurs, commencing with a business breakfast, leading into an interactive workshop and access to free business advisory services - all on the same day, in the same location.

- Tuesday 18 February, commencing from 7.30 am
- Kinglake Pub, Lawson Room
- 28 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake

Learn more and register on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/smallbusiness

JOIN OUR BIG CONVERSATION

Enjoy a light meal while you chat, connect, and share your BIG ideas with other community members, Councillors and Council officers. Your feedback will help shape our new Council Plan.

Come along and join the big conversation in:

Yea: 20 February, 6.00 - 8.00 pm

Marysville: 24 February, 12 noon - 2.00 pm

Alexandra: 25 February, 12 noon - 2.00 pm

Kinglake: 4 March, 6.00 - 8.00 pm

For more information and to register, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan

RV REST STOP TRIAL FOR MARYSVILLE

Marysville is on the road to becoming 'RV Friendly' with the launch of a 12-month Recreational Vehicle (RV) Rest Stop Trial that commenced Saturday 1 February 2025.

Located in the Gallipoli Park Precinct near the existing dump point, the site offers six free spaces for fully self-contained RVs. Visitors are encouraged to provide feedback to help evaluate the trial's success.

For more information about the trial or to provide feedback, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/marysvillerv or call Council on 5772 0333.

EILDON KEY WORKER HOUSING DESIGN

With funding support from the Victorian Government, Council is constructing key worker housing on two sites in Eildon. We are inviting community members to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing to help shape the appearance and character of the development.

Join us at local pop-up events in Eildon to chat with Council officers in person:

Eildon Bowls Club: 12 February, 5.30 to 7.30 pm

Eildon Visitor Information Centre: 14 February, 2.00 to 3.00 pm

Eildon Grocer: 14 February, 4.00 to 5.00 pm

You can also complete the survey online on our website at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh

Feedback closes at 12 noon on Friday 21 February 2025.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2025

Council meetings are a good way for the community to see how local decision-making takes place and to observe Council's democratic processes. Meetings are also live-streamed via Facebook and our website.

For a list of Council Meeting dates for 2025 and more information about Council meetings, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333

Keep your recycling loose.

By putting your recycling in the bin loose and not in a bag, it can be turned into new things like park benches and tables.

A small act makes a big impact.

Find out how at murrindindi.vic.gov.au



The fire ground at Whanregarwen. -S

Fires sparked by lightning

ON the evening of Monday, January 27, Victoria experienced a very hot day with temperatures of around 40 degrees. In the early evening, two storm fronts hit, dramatically lowering the temperatures in Murrindindi Shire, but unfortunately the storms brought lightning with them.

Lightning strikes started a number of fires in the area, many of which were quickly dealt with by the CFA.

The more notable fires were in the Switzerland Range near Highlands, attended

quickly by multiple CFA units as well as local farm units. More fires were found and extinguished while they attended. The fire burnt one hectare.

A grass and scrub fire also started at around the same time on Whanregarwen Road. Acheron, Whanregarwen, Alexandra, Molesworth and Yarck CFA units attended.

At all of the fires, crews did an amazing job to pull the fires up fast in windy conditions.



CFA members extinguishing the fire at Whanregarwen. -S



The community engagement day at Yarck. -S

Fire safety meeting in Yarck

A COMMUNITY Fire Safety meeting, held in Yarck on Thursday, January 30, attracted over 30 local residents who were keen to learn many aspects of keeping their family safe through the fire season.

Trained CFA presenter Mary Anne Egan shared life saving advice on making a written fire plan, preparing an

evacuation pack and keeping informed on current warnings.

A *Guide to Survival and Property Preparation* brochures were distributed on the night.

If you missed out and would like a copy, call in to the Yarck Fire Station on a Tuesday night at around 6.30pm.



Trekking the Bicentennial Trail

WOULD you take on the Bicentennial Trail? It runs from Cooktown in Queensland to Healesville, here in Victoria. It passes through some truly remarkable country, including the Kosciuszko National Park and down to Marysville.

It was in Marysville that two travellers arrived on Wednesday, January 29, having travelled for a year down the Bicentennial Trail.

The travellers were Stephanie Thoms from the Kilcoy area in Queensland and Daniel Grubb from Berwick, Victoria, along with their two former racehorses.

Stephanie started the trail in Cooktown with a friend of hers, an experienced rider from Hungary who had previously competed in the Mongol Derby. Stephanie at the time had no previous trekking experience and didn't even like camping.

The two friends travelled together for a month until Steph's friend's horse became injured at a cattle grid at Ravenswood, near Townsville. They stopped for about three or four weeks at a station, where the owners were very welcoming, to see how the horse would recover. Unfortunately, the horse wasn't sound to continue the trek, so they took him home.

In the downtime, Stephanie and Daniel met up and got along well. Daniel was a friend of Stephanie's cousin, and Stephanie and Daniel began chatting online. Daniel was planning to undertake the Bicentennial Trail, but had been intending to approach it from the south, heading towards Queensland.

During the pause in Stephanie's trek, Stephanie and Daniel met up and started a relationship. In their day jobs, Stephanie is a horse trainer and Daniel is a tennis coach.

They continued the trek together in April 2024 with two horses, one for riding and the other as a pack horse, both eight year old retired racehorse geldings. One is named Future (with the racing name New Future) and the other is Karma (with the racing name Karmic Prodigy).

One of the horses had been on the start of the trek, while the other was newer. The horse Stephanie had been using previously belonged to the friend who had to give up the journey.

Daniel was planning to hike the trail just with the backpack solo. They set off together from where Stephanie had left off. On the trail, Stephanie would generally ride while Daniel walked.

Asked what adventures they had along the way, Stephanie responded, "All of them. Every single one."

Daniel commented that crossing the Murray River at Tom Groggan and the big climb up through the hills was a highlight after the largely flat trail.

They travelled along Davey's Plain and ended up in Omeo, seeing some brumbies in that section. Their horses got a bit excited, particularly on the first encounter at night, when the brumbies came crashing down, but after that it was fine.

They mostly followed dirt roads and 4WD tracks. Locally, they went to Rumps Flat near Licola, then along Middle Range Road

to the Licola-Jamieson Road. From there, it was along Lazzarini Spur Track down to Knockwood.

Snakes are always a hazard on such a journey, and they estimated that they would have seen one every three days on the journey. Stephanie said, "Normally don't have any issue with them. They stay away from the horses and you see them and you keep your distance and that's fine. And Daniel's occasionally used as hiking poles to scoot a few on, if they're on the path."

She added, "Today one of our horses, who doesn't care about anything ever apparently, walked nearly on top of the snake and was knocking it with his feet and nearly squished it three or four times. I was fearing for him and for the snake."

Daniel added, "The snake quickly slithered away. Even though we're close to the end, it really woke us up and warned us not to get complacent. We don't want have a snake bite now. The snake was a copperhead, and they usually a bit less aggressive and don't usually bite... Snakes usually hear the horses coming and get out of the way."

Asked where they found the best camping, Stephanie said, "So many. Honestly, probably Keppel's Hut [near Marysville]. We left this morning. It was probably the nicest hut on the trail. So that's one stand-alone campsite. But I really liked all of the Kosciuszko National Park... The huts and trails just pristine."

Daniel added, "The NSW National parks were excellently maintained. The trails were immaculate. The huts were pristine."

He also cited Keppels Hut, and the hut at Mount Terrible, as being highlights.

Steph said, The southern half of the trial got progressively better. I'm glad we started north to south."

The finishing post for the trail is in Healesville, so they were planning to camp



Daniel and Steph with horses Freedom and Karma. -AR

in Marysville for a further three nights to give the horses a rest. They'll then trek on Saturday and Sunday towards Healesville where there may well be a greeting party at Donnelly's Weir. They were expecting to arrive on February 2, mid-afternoon.

Stephanie said, "Random people that we don't know could be there, which is amazing."

They've been documenting their journey on social media and raising funds for youth mental health, so many people have been following them. They have also been helped along the way, meeting up with support drivers every four days to get food for the horses.

After they arrive, Stephanie and Daniel and the horses will all have a good, long rest.

Stephanie commented, "I would love to encourage anyone else who wants to do

something like this, whether it's the whole trail, whether it's a weekend of it, it's actually a lot more achievable than you think... You can do the trail either on foot, on bike or on a horse. I think more people need to know about the trail."

Daniel added, "For every little bit of the way, there's a person responsible, a co-ordinator you can call and you learn about the section. They're usually locals and they give you all the information you need to know. There are maps that you get. It's very structured. It's not official, it's all volunteer-run. You don't have to do the entire national trail. If you want to pick a little section, there are some fantastic little bits along the way that I would highly recommend."

Shire's promotion of tracks and trails

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked to provide information on how the shire has been helping to promote the Bicentennial Trail. It was also noted that the *Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy* for Hume region local government areas expired in 2023. The shire was asked whether another one is being prepared, and whether there are any new trails in Murrindindi which have been created since the report was prepared in 2014.

Murrindindi Shire Council responded, "Murrindindi Shire is proud to be home to a diverse natural environment, featuring several significant national and state assets. Among these is a section of the National Trail, a remarkable 5000km trail stretching from Cooktown to Healesville, with Section 12 passing through Marysville and Narbethong."

"While we recognise the unique and challenging experience the National Trail

offers, our current promotional efforts have not heavily focused on this asset. This is primarily due to the trail's undeveloped nature and the limited data available regarding its usage.

"The Marysville region is renowned for its adventure activities such as hiking and cycling, alpine pursuits, and its food and wine offering. Its proximity to both the High Country and Yarra Valley regions further enhances its appeal.

"Our strategic focus remains on promoting these strengths and supporting the development of new natural experiences, and improved food, beverage, and accommodation offerings. These enhancements are crucial for increasing visitor yield and attracting high-spend tourists to our region.

"We have been working with the Ride Marysville group and Tourism North

East to expand the gravel trail network in Marysville and surrounds. Gravel cycling is a growing market for our region with opportunities for new gravel routes in Murrindindi Shire to be included in the Ride High Country Gravel Network.

"We are also developing a number of new itineraries and promotional campaigns for our various tracks and trails, including horse riding trails, which we believe will further enrich the visitor experience in Murrindindi Shire. The National Trail will be included in this with any information that is available.

"A huge well done to Stephanie and Daniel, and their horses, on their journey along the National Trail, raising vital funds for youth mental health. The National Trail is a mammoth undertaking, and they should be very proud of their achievement as they mark the end of their trek in Healesville."

A fair share of regional housing

My plan for a \$2 billion Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund will support communities with critical infrastructure needed to boost housing supplies.



Helen Haines MP
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta
03 5721 7077
79 High Street, Wodonga
02 6024 6284
helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au
helehaines.org.au

Cat management strategy out now

THE Victorian Government is improving the health and wellbeing of domestic cats and protecting our unique native wildlife with the launch of the state's first cat management strategy.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence and Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos last week launched the 10-year cat management strategy which will improve responsible ownership and education programs and increase desexing rates.

"We know how much Victorians love their pet cats. This strategy will help promote responsible cat ownership, while also protecting our environment and native wildlife from cats," Ms Spence said.

"This is Victoria's first ever cat management strategy, designed to improve the welfare of our domestic cat population while reducing the burden on rescue shelters and finding wild cats a new safe home."

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said the strategy will help safeguard native wildlife while also helping cats.

"Developed with expert advice, this strategy will help better safeguard our native wildlife while helping more cats to find a new loving home," he said.

Consultation on the draft strategy took place in March and April of 2024, and a summary and the full consultation report are available on Engage Victoria, at engage.vic.gov.au/cat-management-strategy

The strategy also addresses the challenges of unowned and semi-owned cats, which make up most of the cat intake at shelters. It will look at ways to promote full and responsible ownership of these cats and target programs to capture, desex and rehome.

It is shaped by a set of guiding principles that act as a framework for the strategy's implementation. These principles include that cats deserve caring and responsible owners, empowering communities, embracing diverse perspectives, progress over perfection and safeguarding biodiversity.

Feral cat management is another key focus. The strategy will improve information sharing between councils with successful cat management strategies and deliver more flexible registration options.

Importantly, the strategy recognises that cat management is a shared responsibility between councils, the state government, community members, and animal welfare organisations.

Cats are much loved companions and family members, but growing cat populations bring challenges. These include a threat to native wildlife and an increasing demand on councils and shelters.

Victoria is home to more than 227,000 registered cats, along with a significant number of unregistered, unowned or feral cats in Victoria.

The cat management strategy includes a timeline for implementation.

In the short term, over the next one to three years, the focus is on promoting cat welfare and responsible cat ownership,

investing in affordable desexing, expanding cat containment, improving cat adoption decisions, supporting integrated feral cat programs, supporting research into feral cat control, improving information sharing, and reviewing cat management framework.

The medium term, or the next four to six years, will be a lighter load. Desexing efforts will be ramped up, with more support for innovative trials and programs. Other implementations include providing cat containment support to councils with curfews, reducing the number of cats in shelters, and on the street and in rural areas, and encouraging early desexing by aligning registration and desexing age.

The long term, seven to 10 years, will provide more flexible registration options to encourage desexing, adoption, and cat registration.

To read the cat management strategy in full, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals



Let's eat, it's our treat

Keppel Cafe Marysville has a variety of options

THE Keppel Café in Marysville has been operating for almost five years, providing quality food to the town's citizens and visitors.

It is open seven days a week, with varied opening hours. Monday to Friday the café is open from 8.30am to 3pm, and on the weekend it is open from 8am to 3.30pm. These hours can change during peak periods though, including school holidays and long weekends.

Owner Weiren spoke about how the café operates and what it presents to customers.

"Throughout our journey in Marysville we've had a lot of support from the community, even through the lockdowns and during COVID-19 times. Even until today as well," he said.

"We also have Marysville Gourmet Pie. We have Keppel

Café, we have a produce store in the middle, and Marysville Gourmet Pie at the same time.

"We run a very small team, so in Keppel Café we only have two chefs and four part-time front of house staff. It does take a lot of work from everyone, especially in this economic situation.

"We run seven days, so we have a lot of stuff that is made in-house. We have gelato and desserts at the same time. We are really hands-on with everything."

The Keppel Café varies with the seasons, meaning that there is often new cuisine to experience.

"Our menu changes seasonally, so every three months we change our menu. The core menu, which is the breakfast, the brunch, the burger, those are the few items that are always on the menu," Weiren said.

"The other stuff you can change every three months just to keep things fresh, and keep our staff motivated at the same time and the locals have different choices.

"Especially in wintertime and summertime, we'll have those types of meals. Wintertime is good for something more hearty, more filling, more warm, where in summer it's something more refreshing.

"I'm from Malaysia, and I've worked in Malaysia and Singapore as well. Internationally wise we do French to Italian to Middle Eastern to Asian to Indian, for all these different cuisines we are able to do. Every menu we have we always have one or two Asian dishes, just to accommodate as many people as possible.

"We also do dietary as well, so gluten free, dairy free, vegetarian,



and vegan. The only thing we're not doing is celiac."

Catering and events are within Keppel Café's range of expertise as well.

"People like the Murrindindi Shire Council, the Australian Tarmac Rally, the marathon, the bicycle events and all sorts. We've even done weddings before as well. Whatever we can do we will do," Weiren said.

Asked about where the café is heading in the future, Weiren talked

about how they are always looking to improve.

"We hope to improve ourselves more on events and catering, that's where we can still move forward as much as possible. And currently we're doing some whole selling of our pies, we do some wholesale to another business down the line. That's where we intend to expand in wholesale, to go out from the town to grant more sales," he concluded.




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Let's eat, it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Venue of your choice.....
(A business advertising on this page)

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by noon, Thursday, February 20.

Alexandra Newspapers, PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household.

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

An epic adventure for Alexandra Scouts

ON Sunday, January 5, 11 Scouts, one Rover and a leader from First Alexandra Scout Group set off on an adventure of a lifetime as they headed to the 26th Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, Queensland.

On site there were 10 days of action-packed adventures. There were different activity bases with rotations including crate stacking, esky racing, STEM, geocaching and epic entertainment. At the opening ceremony, the group were blown away by Amy Shark performing many of her well-known hits. This set the tempo for an upbeat and fun Jamboree. Dave Hughes appeared at the comedy night, there was a rave, and there were talent nights, just to name a few.

Each patrol ventured off site for a day each to Australia Zoo, Maryborough city, and Hervey Bay where there was stand up paddle boarding, snorkelling and raft building. Scouts in their patrols had a duty day scheduled where it was their responsibility to collect the food necessary for meals, as well as preparing and cooking breakfast and dinner for the unit. The local unit of 30, comprised Scouts from Alexandra, Mansfield, Hurstbridge, Watsonia and Rosanna. The Alexandra Scouts Group have all created lifelong friendships and memories at this amazing event.

At the closing ceremony, the organisers had flown the band *Sheppard* in as the closing act. The organisers of Jamboree announced that they are keeping the three year Jamboree cycle, meaning the next one will be held in 2028. After this announcement, Sheppard sang a huge set, finishing with an encore of their most popular hit of *Geronimo*.

Congratulations to the wonderful Scouts who pushed their limits, tried new things and made lifelong friends.

The First Alexandra Scout Group would like to sincerely thank people for the generous donations and the fundraising opportunities from the local community groups who enabled the Jamboree fees to be subsidised and make it more achievable for local families.



Some of the Alexandra Scouts enjoying the great music performances. -S



Scouts on their duty day where they had to prepare meals for their unit. -S



The Alexandra Scouts Group have all created lifelong friendships and memories of this amazing event. -S



Abseiling was one of the exciting activities at the Jamboree. -S



It was a great adventure for the scouts, lots of fun in the mud. -S

KINDER YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find a three and four-year old kinder learning program they can count on.

1

LED BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER

The Kinder Tick recognises kinder programs that are led by a qualified teacher.

2

PLAY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

It highlights kindergartens and long day care centres that offer play-based programs to help children learn and grow, before they start school.

3

FUNDED AND APPROVED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

It also identifies services that are approved for Victorian Government funding.

LOOK FOR THE KINDER TICK

KINDERGARTEN
Victorian Government Approved

Find out more at vic.gov.au/kindertick

VICTORIA
State Government

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

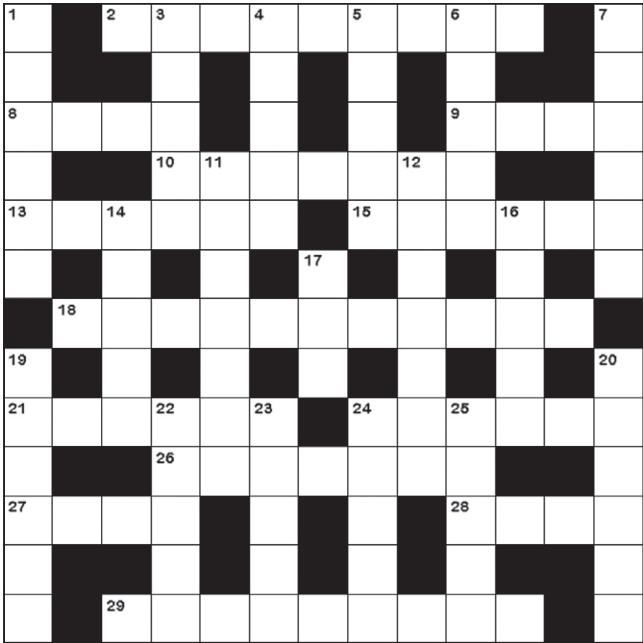
Crossword

ACROSS

2. Having a pleasant taste like that of sugar.
8. A group of three performers.
9. Very dark black.
10. Relating to the sense of touch.
13. The least number of items.
15. A toy to entertain a baby.
18. The father of your father or mother.
21. Stood waiting in a line.
24. At the back of a ship.
26. A machine that prints documents.
27. As Soon As Possible.
28. Using speech rather than writing.
29. Marched in a demonstration.

DOWN

1. Give information or notice to.
3. Communicated by letter.
4. A formal pronouncement.
5. The lowest point.
6. A mixture of rain and snow.
7. Light teasing repartee.
11. Widely separated into parts or pieces.
12. Sugar that occurs only in milk.
14. Not as well as yesterday.
16. The topic on which a person speaks.
17. Not turned on.
19. Sudden violent winds.
20. A bracelet worn around the ankle.
22. The part of a shoe above the sole.
23. A human finger or toe.
24. A collection of maps in book form.
25. A treasure found hidden.



Word Search

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

Types of Pasta

AGNOLOTTI	MACARONI
ARBORIO	PENNE
FETTUCCHINE	RAVIOLI
FUSILLI	RIGATONI
GNOCCHI	SPAGHETTI
LINGUINE	TORTELLINI

Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6	18						

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Math Square

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	÷		+	9	11
×		×		×	
4	×		-		23
25		29		-43	

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.



Karine Haslam. -S

Karine Haslam and the reinvigoration of Eildon

KARINE Haslam was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and came to Australia in 1964. The family lived in the Adelaide suburb of Elizabeth, a satellite city for immigrants.

The members of *Cold Chisel* were famously from Elizabeth via Scotland, and *Cold Chisel* and Karine were both there in the same era and had a similar upbringing.

She moved to Melbourne aged 23 and “never looked back,” although her family still live in Adelaide. She said, “Victoria just had so much to offer... We have it all. It doesn’t matter if you water ski, if you mountain bike, it just doesn’t matter. We have it all. I love living here.”

Karine’s career was “a mixture.” She was a stay-at-home mother until her children went to school, then after her youngest started kindergarten, she started a business manufacturing crushed ice. She also undertook some secretarial work. She also had a role as national sales manager for a Melbourne import company, requiring a significant amount of overseas travel and chocolate sampling.

She found that hospitality and the food industry was what she was passionate about and where most of her career experience has been.

She had a coffee lounge restaurant in Box Hill that seated 120 with a la carte and cafe style dining. When she came to Murrindindi Shire, she was the national catering manager for the Outdoor Education Group (OEG). She created all the menus and looked after dietary requirements.

She then went to Holmesglen@Eildon as a cook when it first started, and to Alexandra District Health as a cook on the weekends.

Karine commented, “My dad always said to me you’re born in the wrong era. You should have been a pioneer because you just put your hand to anything.”

Karine’s family background is very multicultural. Her father’s family are Italian and her mother’s family German, but their children were all born in Scotland before moving to Australia.

Karine said, “My mum’s dad met his wife in when he was in the army, based in Germany. It was just before wartime. My dad’s family moved from Italy to Scotland to start an ice cream business in a cafe there, and mum and dad just met when they were young.”

She added, “You’ve got three different nationalities that are quite different, but their

basic things are very similar, the importance of family, respect for elders, good work ethic and that’s all of those nationalities. So I’m actually blessed, I think, to have had that mixture.

“My grandchildren are even more mixed because my children married international people as well, Greek and Czech.

Asked about her love of food and where it came from, Karine said, “Well, my grandmother, the Italian one, unfortunately I didn’t meet the German one because she had passed away when my mum was only 9, my Italian grandmother was from a small village in Italy and a very frugal woman. A fabulous cook, but it was all seasonal food. There was no supermarket or big shop or anything in the village, so you ate seasonal and you make sure that everything was used. They had cattle and sheep and that was for the milk, so they provided the town with the milk. Any milk that was left they made into cheese so they would sell ricotta and hard cheese and mozzarella.

“I was lucky enough to have three or four months there in the early 70s and I just learned so much. I think I gained the passion from there. My grandmother would dig the turnips up and give them to the cattle, but the tops of them she would use as a green and turn these tough green things into a very delicious green, garlicky side plate for a piece of meat. Or a small piece of meat would go into a sugo, It wasn’t bolognaise back then, and you would have the sugo sauce with your pasta to start, and then the chunk of meat with salad as the main. And it was just so simple. So tasty. My mum was a very good cook and same thing. Very frugal.”

When asked what she wished people knew about cooking, she responded, “Not to be frightened and take off the blinkers. Don’t say you don’t like it until you’ve tried it because it can taste so different cooked in a different way. I’ll use silverbeet as an example, everybody thinks that’s a green. I actually use it very, very thinly shaved or sliced and mix it with lettuce or cabbage. One, it gives colour, two it gives crunch and it just got some lovely flavour. So you can use it that way.

It can be lightly sauced with garlic and it’s beautiful. It can be used instead of spinach and it doesn’t fall apart, and that’s just one of those veggies that people would definitely



Alex Scott and Staff weaner and store sale

by Bailey Dixon

LAST Friday saw the Alex Scott and Staff Weaner and Store Sale take place at the Yea Saleyards, with around 1360 cattle yarded. These included a number of bulls, and some cows in calf.

Steers took priority in the foremost lanes, with the top steer weighing in at 574.2kg and selling for \$1830, or some 319c/kg. This is down from the top steer pen just a week earlier, which made 455c/kg.

The top heifer pen fetched \$1650 per head with a weight of 525.6kg, some 314c/kg, up from the week before, when the top heifer pen made 301c/kg.

These prices were just slightly below the average price per head for the day, with 324c/kg and \$1114 the average. This price was with an average weight of 343.4kg. Last week the average price per head equalled out to 393c/kg.

These prices demonstrate a drop in price from previous sales throughout the month of January.

In the more unusual cattle for the day, the top price per head for bulls was \$2500, and cows in calf fetched \$1720 as the top dollar.

After a very busy January, the Elders and Nutrien store sale will take place on February 7 at 9.30am, before there is a break until March.



Alex Scott and Staff ran the sale last Friday in Yea. -BD



Bergamin Pastoral from Willow Grove took out the Yea Community Bank best presented pen of steers. Pictured are John Bergamin and Ben Cumming. -BD



The laneway was decently packed for a warm January Friday. -BD

STOCK REPORT 31 JANUARY 2025				
Alex Scott & Staff Weaner & Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows/Calves, Bulls, Bullocks
Number of head	1,361			
Average \$ per head	\$1,114			
Average weight per head	343.4kg			
Top price per head		\$1,830	\$1,650	\$2,500 bulls \$1,720 cows in calf
Top weight		574.2kg	525.6kg	
Turnover	\$1.49 million			



Dan works up the courage to buy milk.

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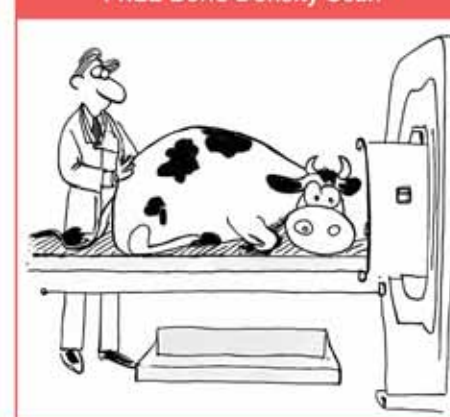
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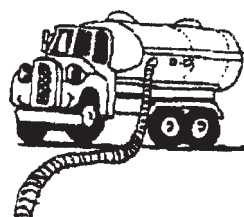
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Karine Haslam and the reinvigoration of Eildon

Continued from Page 12

It can be lightly sauteed with garlic and it's beautiful. It can be used instead of spinach and it doesn't fall apart, and that's just one of those veggies that people would definitely turn their nose up at. Be open minded. Don't be frightened and cook with others because it's so much more fun. Or eat with others. My favourite place in the house is my dinner table and I think it's the most important part of the house because you learn as children to negotiate and respect, you learn manners, you learn to socialise. Everything happens around your dinner table."

Karine bans devices when her grandchildren come to stay, unless Nanna says everyone can watch a movie together.

She said, "They come up here to do stuff. So we get outside and we do stuff, whether it's gardening, whether it's having tractor races, whether it's rock races, it doesn't matter, just get them out doing stuff."

"And now we've got so much with the Splash Park and the walks and the waterfalls. There's always something to do. Their favourite place is probably Tumbling Waters at Rubicon because they can go in the water there and build little dams and stuff... They've got the space. They don't need their device."

She commented on how thrilled she was that the Splash Park briefly opened in Eildon across the Australia Day long weekend. Although it was instigated by councillors prior to her time on council, the funds came through while she was Eildon's ward councillor, and she had a lot of input into it. She was delighted that it also includes a playground, barbecue, seniors play area, and all-ability toilets and areas.

She said that after COVID-19, half of the shops in Eildon were empty and confidence was lost.

Karine was involved in starting the Eildon Twilight Market, on the first weekend after the COVID-19 lockdowns. It was a huge success, supporting local musicians, food vendors and craft and other stalls, most of which are local.

Karine said, "It gives our youth the opportunity to get experience, exposure and confidence within the music industry. It gives the food vendors the chance to sell, our local artisans same thing, and quite often in the early days we kept running out of food, so they would then go to the coffee lounge that would actually open for pizzas on a Friday or Saturday evening for a couple of hours. They were really happy with this. Now every shop in Eildon is fully let and people have confidence. They're walking around a lot happier and they believe in the place."

The money generated from the markets and the opera, as well as funding and support from local community groups, means that they have a covered stage.

Eildon Action, of which Karine is a part, and other community groups also organised the community get-together at the Splash Park on Australia Day. Around 500 people attended, even though there was so many other things on.

She said, "It's fabulous when the communities can work together and keep our visitors here. Plenty of options for them all." She certainly encourages further collaborations between communities.

Karine is currently hard at work organising the opera event on the Pondage on Saturday, February 15. It's an open air concert, under the stars, with three internationally renowned operatic singers and it is being backed up by Phoebe Briggs, head of music at the Victorian Opera. They'll be singing familiar tunes for people to enjoy, and food and drinks will be available at the event. Tickets start from \$35.

She said that Eildon is lucky to have a great team of volunteers that put their hand up and help out whenever they can, not necessarily for everything, and not necessarily for every task they have. "They have skills that they are good at and that's what you focus them on. Don't make them do things they don't want to do," she said.

"Go Team Eildon," she added.

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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BEREAVEMENT THANKS

THANK you to friends for calls, cards and contact following Dick's death. Special thanks to Brooke and to Yarrck CWA ladies for catering. So much appreciated. Wendy and the Nicholls family.

DEALS ON WHEELS

2010 Nissan Tiida, sedan, six months rego due on May 21. Six speed manual, new battery, road worthy ready. Detailed inside and out, color gold. Economical car for young girl. Rego XRF879. Phone 0409 854 034.

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MEETINGS



The Alexandra Football Netball Club Ladies Committee AGM will be held at the club rooms at 6pm on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Everyone welcome. Any queries please contact Kath Hedger on 0438 520 382.

ALEXANDRA PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.
AGM on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7pm in the secretaries office/caravan park office at 17 William Street, Alexandra. All interested parties are welcome and we actively encourage new members who look to promote agriculture/horticulture within our area. For more information, please contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com.

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Ph 5772 1002



The rescued calf. -S

Calf rescued from mineshaft

ON Saturday, February 1, the CFA responded to reports of a calf down a mineshaft at around 8.57am on Wrights Road in Yarrck.

A CFA unit from Oscar One Emergency Response Mine Rescue Brigade attended the scene.

Upon arrival, crews found one calf which had fallen around 20 metres down an abandoned mineshaft.

The entrance to the shaft was blocked by a stump, which had to be removed prior to personnel entering.

Using a rope system, CFA personnel safely extricated the calf, which was

uninjured, and handed it into the care of its owner.

The rescue operation took roughly three hours.

The incident was deemed under control at 11.47am and declared safe at 1.48pm.



A large amount of effort was put into rescuing the calf from the mine shaft. -S

Record stocking helping threatened fish

THE Victorian Government is bolstering fish stocks in 11 waterways across regional Victoria, helping to improve the populations of threatened fish species.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation and Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced the successful stocking of a record 141,000 trout cod and nearly 100,000 Macquarie perch into 11 waterways backed by a \$15 million investment into expanding fish hatcheries.

“Record stocking of trout cod is another important step towards the recovery of this threatened species, which was once common in Victoria’s northeast rivers,” Mr Dimopoulos said.

“Our investment into growing our hatcheries is paying dividends and will mean more fish in our rivers and lakes across the state.”

Five waters shared in the 141,000 trout cod fingerlings, which is nearly triple the previous best of 51,000 fingerlings in 2001. Among them were the Campaspe and Kiewa rivers, where trout cod have been absent for decades, along with Corryong Creek, and the Goulburn and King rivers.

The Kiewa River, in Victoria’s northeast, is the big winner this year with 30,000 trout cod and 30,000 Macquarie perch stocked.

Macquarie perch were once abundant in northern rivers but declined significantly and have been extinct in the Kiewa River since 1939.

Their recovery has been prioritised through stocking, habitat restoration, monitoring and dedicated research.

The VFA’s Snobs Creek team and partners are pursuing the holy grail of ‘Cracking the Code’ to breed Macquarie perch in captivity, reducing the need to source fish from the wild every breeding season.

In a first for the program, male Macquarie perch that were bred at Snobs Creek in 2019 and 2020 have now been used to fertilise eggs from wild females, to produce some of this season’s fingerlings.

Other waters to share in the Macquarie perch fingerlings stocked recently include Cudgewa and Hughes creeks, the Broken, Buffalo, Goulburn, Ovens and King rivers, and Lake Dartmouth.

For the full list of stocked waters and fish numbers, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/fishrecovery

Melanoma diagnoses in Victoria on the rise

CANCER Council Victoria’s SunSmart program is reminding Victorians to stay vigilant about sun protection this summer, as data shows melanoma diagnoses are on the rise, with people living in regional areas and men more likely to be diagnosed.

According to Cancer Council Victoria’s annual Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR), 3182 Victorians (1860 males and 1320 females) were diagnosed with melanoma in 2023, up from 2884 new cases in 2022.

1205 of these new cases came out of regional Victoria, where people are 54 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with melanoma than Victorians living in major cities.

Head of SunSmart at Cancer Council Victoria, Emma Glassenbury, said exposure to the sun’s UV radiation accounts for most melanoma, the deadliest skin cancer, capable of spreading to vital organs like the brain, lungs and liver.

“The good news is melanoma is one of the most preventable cancers, yet it remains the fifth most common in Victoria, accounting for six per cent of all new cancer diagnoses in 2023.

“We think the Victorian rise in reported melanoma detection may be partially explained by growing and aging population in Victoria and fewer cases during COVID-19, so we are seeing larger numbers of melanoma now with a 10 per cent rise in cases between 2022-2023.”

Ms Glassenbury said that while numbers reported by VCR were compelling, they were just the “tip of the iceberg,” and did not capture the 164,737 treatments for other forms of skin cancer in Victoria in 2023.

“While less deadly than melanoma, treatment of basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas often still involve confronting surgical procedures and place a

significant financial burden on the Victorian health system,” explained Ms Glassenbury.

The latest VCR report showed the rate of melanoma among Victorians aged 25-49 has declined by 52 per cent since 1997, coinciding with a generation of Victorians who grew up with iconic SunSmart ‘*slip slop slap*’ messaging from the 1980s, now expanded to include *slide* (on sunglasses) and *seek* (shade).

“It’s encouraging to see skin cancer prevention through the SunSmart program listed as a priority in the Victorian Government’s *Victorian Cancer Plan*.

“Government funding for programs and campaigns that promote sun safety and early skin cancer detection, especially for priority populations, is a vital and important investment that saves lives and reduces the eventual costs on the health system,” Ms Glassenbury concluded.

Acting Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt is urging Victorians to take the risk of sun damage seriously when outdoors this summer by remaining vigilant of UV levels and using sun protection to reduce their chances of being diagnosed melanoma or other skin cancers.

“Australia has some of the highest UV levels in the world and all it takes is 11 minutes outdoors without sun protection to cause damage to our skin.

“Whether at the beach, working outdoors or spending time in the garden, Victorians should protect themselves by covering up, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen, and seeking shade,” she said.

Visit sunsmart.com.au to learn more or download the SunSmart Global UV App.

Siblings remain missing



Willow and Gypsy. -S

GYPSY and Willow are missing, the 12 and 16 year old were last seen leaving an address in Blackburn South on the Thursday, January 23 at 2.30pm

Willow is 12 years old, approximately five foot 11 inches with blonde hair, fair skin, and has her ears pierced.

Gypsy is 16 years old, approximately six foot one with auburn hair, green eyes and two ear piercings.

Willow and Gypsy are known to frequent the Marysville, Mount Evelyn, Buxton, Lilydale, Bacchus Marsh and Hillside areas.

Willow may be travelling with two cats, two rabbits and a dog.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Forest Hill Police Station on 8847 3600.

More protected actions for FFMV

ADDITIONAL protected actions have come into effect since December 13, 2024 for Australian Workers Union (AWU) members employed by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) as they continue to follow on with Protected Industrial Action campaign.

The following new actions are now in place: A ban on the use of all tools and equipment used in the cleaning and maintenance and restocking of toilets; ban on collecting, cleaning, emptying and removing rubbish, rubbish bins and pits; a ban on felling trees to be used as firewood; bans on the performance of work in locations that aren’t adorned with placards, posters, banner or flags about or related to the bargaining; bans on operating and entering vehicles that are not adorned with slogans and messages about or related to enterprise bargaining, however employees will not refuse to operate or enter a vehicle that is not adorned when the vehicle to required to respond to an emergency.

There is a ban on the following tools and equipment: brush cutters, Deutcher line trimmers, whipper snippers, spray trailers and spray units, ride on mowers and push mowers, slashers, flail mowers, slasher decks and wing decks, reach arms, scythes and fern hooks, nap sacks, green climbers, chippers and mechanical mulching and equipment.

It’s important to note that all the mentioned actions have eligibilities to perform these tasks. This depends on whether the members are getting paid an emergency support or field allowance, or if this works falls within the Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP)

These new actions are additional to the preexisting actions that were introduced on November 28, 2024, they include a ban on taking meal breaks anywhere other than work centres or other suitable amenities, a ban on recording information on log books, interruptions of work to communicate with the public about the campaign, ban on sending emails that do not feature slogans about the related enterprise bargaining, and a ban responding to DEECA requests to report or record whether employees will or are engaging in protected action.

Road safety around schools

THE Victorian school year resumed last week, with more than a million students expected to walk through school gates in 2025.

The return to the classroom serves as an important reminder for all road users, not just parents and carers, to be alert for children when driving and understand the road rules around school zones.

According to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), around seven children aged zero to 15 die each year on Victorian roads.

RACV General Manager Mobility Julia Hunter encourages everyone to do their part to make school zones safe.

“School zones are crucial areas where road safety must always be top of mind,” Ms Hunter said.

“Children are at risk around roads because they are less visible, and have a reduced ability to judge time, speed and distance.

“RACV is encouraging parents and carers to plan ahead, and where possible, consider parking further away from the school, as congestion increases the likelihood of collisions.

“Consider walking or riding with your children to school while demonstrating safe behaviours. This includes using children’s crossings or zebra crossings, meeting children

on the same side of the road, and being bicycle safe.

“Children aged 12 and under, as well as accompanying adults, are allowed to ride on the footpath in Victoria. All children and adults riding on the footpath must still wear a helmet.

“Parents may think that providing their child with an e-scooter may help with the school commute and congestion, however these are in fact illegal for children under 16 to use on our roads and footpaths.”

Some school speed zones are permanent and in effect 24/7, while other school speed zones are only operational during certain hours and days. These time-based school speed zones are usually in effect between 8 to 9.30am and 2.30 to 4pm weekdays during Victorian school terms (excluding public holidays).

School speed zones are usually reduced to 40 kilometres per hour on roads where the regular speed limit is less than 80 kilometres per hour. Where the regular speed limit is 80 kilometres per hour or more, the school speed zone usually reduces the limit to 60 kilometres per hour.

RACV has the following advice for drivers during school pick-up and drop-offs:

Stay alert: Be patient, aware, and exercise caution when driving through school zones. There will be a lot of excited children walking

and riding around roads, car parks and driveways, especially during the busy pick-up and drop-off times.

Observe speed limits: Keep a keen eye out for change of speed limits and reduce your speed before entering school speed zones.

Reduce distraction: Ensure that mobile devices and other distractions are out of reach or turned off while driving.

Be mindful of school buses: Give way to a bus moving into the traffic and be careful of children exiting and entering buses.

Consider parking further away: Park your car a few blocks away and walk to encourage a more active lifestyle, while helping to alleviate congestion.

Consider turning your engine off: Don’t idle your engine as you wait. Studies from around the world suggest idling engines in traffic and around schools are detrimental to children’s health.

Use children’s crossings or zebra crossings: Look out for the bright orange ‘children crossing’ flags. Whenever those flags are displayed, road users must stop for any pedestrians waiting to cross. This applies regardless of whether a crossing supervisor is present. Remain stopped until the crossing is clear and do not block crossings.

For more information on road safety around schools visit racv.com.au

SPORT

Matt Richards takes Murrindindi Masters win for Alexandra

by Dave Silverman

TUESDAY'S stableford round at the Alexandra Golf Club attracted a field of 10, teeing off in a very strong, gusty wind, which didn't abate until late that evening.

John Greateorex, with his characteristic low, penetrating ball flight, made the best of the conditions, and won the day with 42 points. Second was Steve Wersham with 40, and Ross Thompson came in third, also on 40. Steve also claimed nearest the pin on 17, and seven went to Russell Purcell. Russell snared a rundown voucher as well, along with Russell Haack.

The ladies had the best of the weather this week, for the final of the Summer Cup. There were three players who could conceivably have won the cup, and in the end it was Sandy Wettenhall who did just enough to pip the other runners at the post, winning by just one point from Barb Doyle.

The day's win went to Bron Howell, who scored 41 points, with Barb Doyle in second on 38, and Sandy in third on 36. Bron also claimed nearest the pin on 18, with two going

to Deb Richardson and five to Marie Stace. Marg Fahey was the nine hole winner with 17 points.

These warm summer evenings are perfect for golf, which is something that the weekly Chook Run takes full advantage of. Twenty-three players turned out last week, and the winner, with a net 25, was Ally Strahan. Equal second, each on 25, came Dylan Jack, Jason Krijt and Dan Burns, with Jimmy Fulton in third with 28.

There was no golf competition at Alexandra on Saturday, as Yea hosted the third round of this year's FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters. Twenty-eight Alexandra members played at Yea, with mixed results.

Matt Richards won A Grade on a countback from Brad Kidd, Greg Millard was runner-up in B Grade with a very commendable 40 points, and Luke Heard and Todd Galloway both picked up nearest the pins on 11 and 18 respectively.

The club's new-look website should be up and running soon, but in the meantime, keep up to date with upcoming events on their Facebook page.



Barb and Sandy on the 18th. -S



Helen Findlay on the ninth green. -S



Declan Heard in the Chook Run last Thursday at Alexandra Golf Club. -S



Winner of the Summer Cup, Sandy Wettenhall. -S

SPORT

Round 12 underway for A and B grade cricket

by Michael Mawson

THE Alexandra Redbacks hosted Tallarook for back-to-back T20 matches. The faster format attracted a good crowd of convivial spectators that were disappointed by a pair of underwhelming results for the home team.

For the opening match, the B Grade captain, Michael Mawson, won the toss and elected to bat. This would be Mawson's only bit of luck for the day.

When the innings began, Mawson faced a perfect delivery from Tallarook's Archibald that he edged to the keeper and was dismissed for a golden duck. Mawson walked off without obliging the umpire to decide.

Jaidon Snyman had been promoted to the opening position and lasted slightly longer against some sharp bowling before holing out for five. Levi Ronalds looked like he was going to start dispatching the ball everywhere but was bowled by Thomas Byers for 12. Subsequent batters Robert "Yobbo" Andrews, Harrison Christie, Jordan Ferrier, and Banjo Fitzpatrick all fell cheaply. Yobbo was cursing his bad luck after hitting a ball that looked like it would clear the boundary,

only to be spectacularly caught by Tallarook's Ben Tresize.

The Redbacks were in a diabolical position at 7/65 in the 14th over. Ben Geldart and Lucas Crane were able to provide resistance with Crane attacking every ball and Geldart prolonging the innings by playing defensively. The Redbacks innings, however, was cut short after 18 overs when Brian the umpire declared the innings closed because the allotted time had elapsed. Not knowing about the likely premature end to the innings, Geldart had elected not to bat aggressively. The Redbacks made 87. Tallarook's wayward bowling boosted the score considerably, with 24 extras.

In reply, Tallarook had some early stumbles with Will Ellis bowling out Pasquale Schipano and David McCulloch being run out for six after underestimating the Redbacks' fielders. After this, Hamish Melville and Andrew Dundon put on a rapid 50-run partnership that took Tallarook to 75 and the brink of victory by the end of the 12th over. Jaidon Snyman took a spectacular, diving catch to dismiss Dundon of Andrews' bowling.

Mawson then made the decision to give the ball back to Geldart and Ellis in a gamble to take wickets. After conceding two boundaries, Geldart claimed the wicket of Melville for 42 with a sharp catch taken by Lucas Crane at backward point.

At 4/83, with four overs remaining, Tallarook were still in the box seat. Ellis and Geldart combined to take two more wickets and restrict Tallarook's scoring. An unlikely victory for Alexandra was just coming into view when Matthew Archibald was able to place a few singles and guide Tallarook to a win with eight balls to spare.

Despite the loss, the Redbacks players earn praise for improved team fielding and bowling. Will Ellis again set the example for economy with superb figures of 2/7.

In the A-Grade match Tallarook batted first and made it a frustrating afternoon for the Alexandra fielders. The Redbacks' captain, Will Ashton got eight players to bowl and rotated them frequently to keep the batsmen from getting into a rhythm. This tactic did not work as the opening pair of Joshua Rudge and Leigh Irving scored 56 and 75 runs respectively as Tallarook climbed to a score

of 139. Neither batsman was dismissed. The closest that Alexandra got to a wicket was when one batter was initially given out but reinstated when he pointed out to the umpire that there were too many fielders outside the fielding circle. This caused the delivery to be ruled as a no-ball.

The most impressive individual bowler was James Geldart whose 14 runs from four overs had the enviable economy rate of 3.5.

Having to score at a rate of seven per over, the Redbacks were managing to score quickly but could not keep from losing wickets. Matt Waixel, Mat Wal and James Meggitt were all caught on low scores.

Ben Broadway came to the crease for the first time in quite a few weeks and he entertained the crowd by hitting his first ball for six and continuing to bat aggressively until he was bowled for 14.

After the Broadway dismissal, the wheels came completely off the batting innings. Andrew Wood, Tim Polson and James Geldart all fell victim to the leg before wicket lottery and Toby Ward was caught behind.

Josh Crane remained not-out at the end of the innings with a score of nine from 30 balls.

Will Ashton was the most prolific batsman, scoring a fast 27 off 19 balls. He was caught behind in controversial circumstances when he observed what he thought was a fielding violation and had a carefree swing at the ball that caught the edge of his bat. There was no no-ball paid as, this time around, who Ashton thought was an extra fielder was actually Tallarook's 12th man standing very close to the field of play.

Alexandra made only 80 runs and fell significantly short. Next week, the A-Grade travel to Seymour for a 45 over match. The priority for the players is to establish themselves in batting innings and form partnerships.

Helping women into sport

THE Victorian Government is supporting more women and girls to get involved in the sports they love with more funds for sporting clubs and organisations to encourage and foster female participation.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced applications are open for the 2024-25 *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program*.

The program delivers grants of up to \$10,000 to community sport and recreation clubs to help inspire women and girls to take part, including new women's programs, hosting a women's round as well as opportunities for club leadership roles.

Now in its eighth year, the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program has provided more than \$2.9 million towards 580 grants to sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

Through the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which has seen all Victorian councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria adopt local gender equitable access policies and the Community Activation Grants Program, the Victorian Government is helping achieve more equitable access and increase the number of women and girls actively taking part in sport.

Since 2018, the government has invested more than \$2.9 million in funding to 580 community sport and recreation clubs as part of the \$18.8 million investment in the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and *Change Our Game* initiative.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said, "The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program is a fantastic opportunity for our community sport and active recreation clubs to showcase the important roles women and girls play and deserve. I encourage all eligible organisations to consider applying."

Applications for this program close at 5pm on Wednesday, February 26.

For more information about the program, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au



Marysville winners at the Yea FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters, Heather Jenkins, Mim Page, and Sabrina Stow. -S

Success for Marysville in Murrindindi Masters

by Lesley Rundle

THE Thursday nine holers played stroke on the front nine holes at Marysville Golf Club and the winner was Gail Leigh (5) with nett 37.

Gail was followed closely by Colin Davies (12) with nett 38. The nearest pins were won by Glen Rattay on the fourth and Brian Worcester on the ninth and Mark Alexander had the least putts with 13.

The regular players of the club would warmly welcome members and visitors to the Thursday nine-hole competition. Just turn up at the club at 12.30 for a 1pm tee off.

The Saturday competition was the third round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Yea with 22 Marysville players playing as part of a total of 104 golfers.

Many of the Marysville members travel from the Melbourne suburbs to play in events such as this which necessitates an early start and these members, particularly, are thanked for their interest and support.

Three Marysville ladies in particular had a very successful day at Yea each winning a major trophy. The club offers congratulations to Mim Page (21) for winning the ladies Mini Master trophy with 39 points, to Sabrina Stow (18) for winning A Grade with 38 points and to Heather Jenkins (15) for being runner up to Sabrina with 37 points.

The club also congratulates Yea player Terry Chaplin for winning the Men's Mini Master title and to all the other daily winners. Members would like to thank all the Yea golfers for their hospitality

at a well run tournament. Thanks also to FoodWorks for their generous sponsorship and to Cathie Harper for representing FoodWorks at the presentation.

The golfers will next gather at Marysville on March 1 for the final round of the 2024-25 Masters. Clubs are asked to please have the list of participants into Marysville as soon as possible.

Next Saturday golfers will play a four-ball best ball for the Liesfield Trophy. This is one of the most sought-after trophies of the year as it is played in remembrance of young club members James and Matthew Liesfield who with their mother died in the Black Saturday fires. The club will welcome James and Matthew's aunt and uncle to the competition and to present the trophy.

Merton cricketers take on Benalla

MERTON cricketers travelled to the beautiful Benalla Rose Gardens oval to take on last year's premier's on a well prepared turf wicket and quick outfield.

Merton won the toss and batted making 104 all out in the 33rd over. Luke Berriman 23 top scoring in the top order with most batters getting a start but none going on to make a decent score.

Merton at 9/73 looked done until Noah Whittall played his best innings to date making 20 valuable runs with support from Rohan Berriman. The pair put on 31 runs for the last wicket giving the Merton bowlers something to bowl at. Lee Pollard 4/14 and S McLeod 3/18 gave the Merton batters limited opportunities to score.

Benalla with the score slowly ticking along looked in control lead by Pollard again

among the runs with 30 the home side passed Merton's total in the 26th over four wickets down.

Harry Craddock 2/16 the best bowler with James Benton and Rohan Berriman the other wicket takers. The task doesn't get any easier for Merton when they take on the in-form Milawa at Milawa next Saturday.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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Wins and losses for Alexandra Bowls Club

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowling Club had two very good pennant wins last week and a disappointing loss. Saturday division six defeated top of the ladder side Nagambie and midweek division four defeated Merrigum. Division four slipped from top spot on the ladder after a loss to Seymour.

Saturday's division six played at home in very hot conditions. The best winning rink was Malcolm Gill (Skip), Trevor Stewart, Craig Parkinson and Warren Nelson. It was nine all on end nine but Alexandra led 17 to 11 by end 14. They went on to win four of the last five ends to win 23 to 14.

Ray Mathieson (Skip), Clive Murphy, Anne Gunton and Ian Franklin trailed three to nine on end nine but won eight shots over the next two ends to lead 11 to nine. They went on to win seven out of the last nine ends to defeat Nagambie 20 to 13.

John Blamey (Skip), Mark Stone, Rob Roach and Steve Kirby had a good game but lost 12 to 19. It was a close game up until end 13 when it was 10 all but Nagambie won seven out of the last eight ends to win.

Alexandra won the overall 55 to 46. It was a great win over the ladder leaders. They play away next week against Violet Town in the penultimate game for the season.

Midweek had a home game against Merrigum and also had a good win 65 to 48. The best winning rink was David Nicklos (Skip), Ken Argent, Ben Gilchrist, and Denice Chisholm. It began as a close game with it being seven all on end eight. Alexandra was 15 to 10 up on end 13 but increased that lead after winning five out of the last six ends to win convincingly. They won 28 to 16 after winning 12 ends.

Malcolm Gill (Skip), Doug Cooper, Mark Stone and Levi Ronalds led for the entire game and won 12 ends. They finished 24 to 13.

Bob Mayfield (Skip), John Blamey, Marty Manning and Saxon Langmead led until end 14. Merrigum won six out of the last eight ends to win 19 to 13.

Next round is away to Shepparton Golf who are fourth on the ladder. However, with predicted 38 degree weather there could possibly be a heat out for the round.

Division four played away to Seymour in very hot conditions. Alexandra had only one winning rink. Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias and Denice Chisholm won 14 ends and began well. They were 11 to two up on eight but lost the next three ends to trail 11 to 13. It was 13 all on end 12, Alexandra trailed 13 to 16 on end 14 but won six out of the last seven ends to win 23 to 18.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ian Harper, Ken Argent and Christine Mayfield won 10 ends overall. They trailed eight to 17 on end 12 but won the next three ends to trail 15 to 17. It was 18 all on end 17 but Alexandra lost the next three ends. They won the last but lost the game 20 to 23.

Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist began well and were 10 to two up on end nine. However, it was all square by end 11 and 12 all on end 15. Alexandra led 15 to 13 on end 18 but lost the last three ends to lose 15 to 18.

David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Saxon Langmead trailed five to 16 on end 11 but won the next four ends to be 16 all on end 15. Unfortunately, they only won, one out of the last six ends to lose 17 to 23.

Alexandra lost the overall 82 to 75. The ladder is now Euroa 153, Alexandra 142, Dookie 140 Shepparton Park 116. Next round is home and against Mooropna.

The first round of the club's Novice Singles was played last week and the winners through to the next round are Marty Manning, Malcolm Gill, Ian Franklin, Andy Tobias, Levi Ronalds and Rob Roach.



Best Midweek winning rink David Nicklos, Denice Chisholm, Ben Gilchrist, Ken Argent. -S



Only Winning Rink Division Four Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias, Denice Chisholm, Doug Cooper. -S



Division Six Best Winning Rink Trevor Stewart, Mal Gill, Warren Nelson, Craig Parkinson. -S