

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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Alexandra Sprouts Club donation



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Food Share upgrade for Alexandra

IN December 2024, it was announced that Foundation Murrindindi's Murrindindi Community Food Share was a recipient of a \$32,000 grant from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing's Community Food Relief.

The grant funding has been put to good use, with the Food Share shed now insulated. There are also ceiling fans installed and new power points added. The upgrades have made a huge improvement in the regulation of the temperature in the shed, and have made the space much more fit for purpose.

The remaining funds will be put towards a staff member (Sasha Barrow) being employed for an additional day per week to create the Murrindindi Food Relief Collaborative, with conversations about it set to start next month.

The organisation will bring together the various organisations providing food relief in the shire, creating new and developing existing partnerships for more impact. It is aimed at helping the organisations to better work together and to identify gaps and duplications.

Sasha said, "We are very grateful and excited about the grants," and were delighted that two other organisations in the shire also received funding.

The Food Share has continued to be a very successful enterprise. On Thursday, February 6, 50 people came in to get food, receiving 650kg in total. It was the 10th Food Share event.

Foundation Murrindindi received an "amazing donation" on the same day, from the Breakaway Twin Rivers Caravan Park via their fundraising effort. 190kg of food was donated, including both non-perishable and frozen food. The Food Share was fortunate in also receiving a grant from AGL last year for the purchase



Sasha Barrow from Foundation Murrindindi with board member Geoff and volunteer Kay. The new cladding on the walls and the fans can be seen in the image, along with some of the food. -AR

of a fridge and freezer, with more cold products available from next month.

Foundation Murrindindi also acknowledged the support of the Alexandra Uniting Church who supplied funds for the Food Share to purchase all new shelving units, allowing them to maximise the space and better display the products.

In winter, Alexandra Rotary thoughtfully provided soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee at the shed, and once each quarter, hairdresser Kirby from KM Hair and Beauty provides free haircuts.

Sasha said, "We're so grateful for the community support."

Since the Food Share opened in May 2024, they have handed out over 5000kg of food, averaging 600 to 700kg per three hours. To date they have given out 6000kg of food to the community.

The Food Share is open on the first Thursday of the month from 9am to noon, at the rear of 88a Grant Street (enter via Bayley Street) but is available at other times by calling Foundation Murrindindi.

In addition, the Food Share provides relief bags to the Alexandra Community Hub and some products to the Faith Cupboard in Eildon. They also collaborate with the Yea Food Share regarding Food Bank products. Leftover food is sometimes taken to the Crop Swap table or Food Table, or contributes to the CommuniTEA.

For more information, contact Robyn at Foundation Murrindindi on 0488 007 688. Murrindindi Community Food Share is a program of Foundation Murrindindi.

Not guilty plea over Yarck road death

DAVID Graham Berry has been committed to stand trial in the Melbourne County Court for crimes relating to the death of a Murrindindi Shire resident.

Mr Berry faces 14 charges, eight of which are indictable and six are summary offences. He is pleading not guilty to all charges.

During the court proceedings at the Shepparton Magistrate's Court on Wednesday, February 5, the judge provided the standard warnings to the accused relating to the use of alibis and a committal caution.

Mr Berry did not apply for bail. His next court appearance will be on March 5.

Police allege that on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, Mr Berry entered a building in Euroa as a trespasser with intent to steal, and stole a red Milwaukee radio and a set of Ford Ranger Utility keys in Euroa. They further allege that he proceeded to steal a 2017 white Ford Ranger Utility.

They further allege that in Yarck on the same day, Mr Berry drove a motor vehicle in a way that was dangerous to the public and caused the death of a Murrindindi Shire man who the court has not named. He is also charged with failing to immediately stop the motor vehicle at the site of the collision, and failed to immediately render assistance.

He is also accused of the culpable driving of a motor vehicle causing a death.

Police allege that Mr Berry was unlicensed at the time of the incident, and that he drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and a drug to such an extent that he was incapable of having proper control of the motor vehicle.

Mr Berry is also charged with being the driver of a motor vehicle on the Maroondah Highway, with a dividing line, and failing to drive to the left of the dividing line, and was detected driving at 134km/h in a 100km/h zone.

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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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Letters to the Editor

Alexandra Lions Club public meeting

AS secretary of Alexandra Lions Club, the advance release of news of the impending closure of the club was a little unexpected. However, after many attempts to increase membership, which have failed to achieve an increase, our club will most likely fold.

It was very surprising to see so many people commenting on the closure. If all those commenters were to join, then the club would keep going. I point out also that the Lions Club is not involved with the council as suggested but helps when required at events.

The club is down to 13 members with an average age of 70 years plus, four of whom are over 80, which makes projects difficult to carry out and the creation of new community events or co-operation with other community groups difficult.

The club is over 50 years old and missed that celebration due to COVID-19. Eildon Lions is also in the same situation regarding membership, and amalgamation was also a suggestion but travel at night for elderly in this area is not a suitable outcome.

Alexandra Lions Club will hold a public meeting at Alexandra RSL Hall on Wednesday, February 19 at 6.30pm. The motion to close the club has been passed but can be rescinded if people have enough interest and desire to join. Please attend if you think the club should continue and notify the secretary if you intend to appear at the meeting.

Alexandra Lions donated many thousands of dollars to various local community organisations to the tune 70 per cent of funds raised. The remainder was donated to appeals such as drought, fire and flood in Australia, with some overseas disaster assistance as well. We will all be sorry to see the Lions Club fold but without some younger active members we cannot continue.

John Beale, secretary, Alexandra Lions Club, jay_en_bee@hotmail.com, phone 0427 595 318.

FoodWorks

I WAS really impressed with the lovely

loud, bright and breezy Australia Day flags at FoodWorks.

They solved a multitude of anxiety points, and showed true grit, our green and gold.

If we can do it for the Olympics, our football teams and other athletes, this is a true representation of Australia. Well done to the team.

Thanks to Reddrops for their thoughtfulness.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandra

What to do with an inheritance

A response to the Taungurung statement about January 26. I was grateful to the author(s) of the Taungurung Statement in the January 29 edition of the Alexandra Standard for taking the time to document a history of the place that I call home. I was compelled to write in response to a very moving and compelling documented history which, thanks to the article, woke me from my usual slumber with respect to the cultural status quo. Nations produce a history with the aim of creating conditions most appealing for the soothing fictions we tell ourselves as a culture. Hence my slumber, as these fictions operate like a kind of lullaby putting us all to sleep.

I am not responsible for what my predecessors did. This may or may not be true, however what my predecessors did created the material conditions I live under now. This is my inheritance, which means both my own history, my own forbears, along with the history of the place I have decided to put down roots. So how might we rethink the either/or debate presently raging in our culture wars, the I am/not responsible for a history so as to take into account the very real truth of an inheritance? As we know, the time of a death and a will can be very emotional and lead to great dispute amongst otherwise loving family members. Often these disputes relate to deservingness or otherwise of beneficiaries. The truth of an inheritance is that none of us earned it, none of us deserved it, and yet it still comes our way no matter how much we may be willing or unwilling to acknowledge it. So what do we do with this inheritance?

Perhaps the first thing to do is to receive our inheritance no matter how unsavoury and undeserving it may seem. This is a way of receiving a history and making it one's own, a task which is more akin to a practice than a destination. It is a continued opening to something other than what I might assume it to be. That history is interesting despite its frequent brutality, and it is ours because of where we live. If this inheritance is not received, we are unlikely to know what to do with it, and we are likely to repeat the sins of the father.

The knowing I refer to is a kind of 'know how' that arises as a product of receiving rather than rejecting the troubling truth of what has come before. This 'know-how' is neither a guilt-ridden attempt at compensation, nor a rejection which often comes in the form of 'moving on', both features of our culture war and both attempts at a soothing resolution. Both are deathly attempts to close the book, and not the 'deadly' of our first nations people. In other words, there's only life if the book remains open.

What I propose is a different kind of relationship to history, which derives from my clinical work as a psychotherapist. This is to have a know-how not as responsibility, but a capacity to respond and stay alive to the possibilities this inheritance provides for us. This includes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australia. If we are able to receive our inheritance and continue to take an account which is never finalised, we become the beneficiaries of a know-how which also becomes a legacy for those coming after us. In other words, we are the history that we make with our inheritance. This is a history that speaks to our origins but is also 'originary' as a point of creation today. To borrow from a French thinker who worked in the clinic; 'what is realised in my history is not the nostalgia of what was, nor my history as the cause of what I am, but rather my history in what I will have been in what I am the process of becoming'.

Julian Browne, Buxton

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 Communita 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 Yarc Creek CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarc Creek 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	10.00am Mon	2.12	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.40	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.44am Mon	0.48	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarc	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	10.00am Mon	4.03	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	10.00am Mon	0.09	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.76	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.04	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.98	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.01am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2025				

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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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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

February 5 - February 11, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	21	34	Wednesday	22	35
Thursday	18	33	Thursday	17	34
Friday	12	26	Friday	12	26
Saturday	9	18	Saturday	9	18
Sunday	8	18	Sunday	8	19
Monday	11	24	Monday	11	24
Tuesday	11	24	Tuesday	11	24

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	0.6mm
Buxton	1.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	2mm
Flowerdale	24mm
Jamieson	18mm
Kinglake	9mm
Lake Eildon	0.6mm
Mansfield	6mm
Taggerty	4mm
Yarc	3mm
Yea	14mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	282.46m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	76.1%
Metres below full supply	6.44m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	5500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	70%

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

Big donation for Alexandra Sprouts Club

ALEXANDRA and District Open Gardens committee is very proud to be supporting the new wave of gardeners through the Alexandra Sprouts Club with a \$500 donation.

The club is an after-school program full of gardening activities to help children learn about caring for a veggie patch, getting their hands dirty planting, growing, harvesting and cooking from the garden.

The club has proved to be so popular that this year, Lucy Collins, facilitator of Alexandra Sprouts Club has had to introduce two sessions each week for local little green thumbs.

The events are run at the Embassy of Ideas and

get the young children 'hands on' experience with watching their hard work evolve from planting, right through to cooking from their abundant harvest.

This is another great recipient of the funds raised from the Alexandra and District Open Gardens gate fees.

Even though it is hot now for gardens, the committee has already started planning for this year's 'Open Gardens' which will be held on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26. There will be another exciting lineup of gardens to visit across the district.

More information can be found at alexandraopengardens.com.au



Presentation of \$500 to Lucy Collins by President of Alexandra & District Open Gardens, Noel McIlwraith. -S

Delayed refilling of CFA tanks

IN recent weeks, lightning has started numerous fires in the Murrindindi Shire area and beyond. One of these fires was in Whanregarwen on Monday, January 27, and the fire station's tank was depleted due to the firefighting effort.

Across the following weekend and early the next week, the temperatures rose to near 40 degrees, and there was another lightning fire on the Black Range near Whanregarwen on February 4, attended by Forest Fire Management Victoria.

It's understood that the Whanregarwen CFA received a water delivery from council on Wednesday, February 5.

Murrindindi Shire Council was asked about the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for refilling CFA tanks during fire season, and whether council was responsible for refilling all CFA tanks in the shire.

Council responded, "Council is responsible for maintenance and refilling of 87 CFA water tanks across the shire, ensuring they are

ready for use before the declared CFA Fire Danger Period. As part of this responsibility, the tanks are regularly audited, inspected for leaks, and refilled as needed.

"The refilling of CFA tanks is subject to the availability of water cartage operators. Some operators supply only drinking water, which is not required for firefighting. Others, contracted for other tasks such as road works, may also assist in refilling the tanks.

Council recently refilled one of the Whanregarwen CFA tanks, which required a top-up of 7000 litres of water. This tank was at half capacity, with a total volume of 13,500 litres. In addition to this, Whanregarwen has four tanks in the area, and approximately 20,000 litres of water directly accessible at the CFA station.

"It's important to note that CFA water tanks are inspected, filled at the start of the year, and remain on standby for emergency use throughout the fire season. These tanks are not the sole fill points for brigade tankers."

Fire safety meeting in Gobur

ON Saturday, February 15 from 9.30 to 10.30am, Yarck CFA are holding a Community Fire Safety Meeting at Gobur.

Find out what to expect in the event of a fire, the best way to keep your family, friends, pets and property safe. It's a great chance to get answers to your questions. Bring your own chairs.

The free event is being held at the Gobur Tennis Court car park in Golf Course Road.

Correction

IN last week's edition, there was an article on the upcoming closure of the Melba Highway for landslip works. It incorrectly stated that "The closed section of the Melba will be between Healesville-Kinglake Road and north of Hutts Lane." This should have been Hunts Lane.

IN the article about Karine Haslam, it was incorrectly stated that she is a member of Eildon Action instead of Eildon Events Inc, and that the splash park had 500 people when it should have referred to the Eildon pool, a record for the pool.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

ON Friday, the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club committee assembled for the first meeting of the year and discussed future activities and ways to attract new club members. Some activities need further research, such as *Morning Melodies* and cinema runs so we will be collecting programs then making plans. It would appear that many groups in the area are experiencing falling member numbers with competition between service groups.

A big thank you to the Murrindindi Shire Council for the installation of the new carpeting on the stage and floor coverings in the tearoom and kitchen. When changing the stage carpet some photos cards and coins were discovered. Must have been there for some time as none of the members could identify the photos and the penny was dated 1916. Thank you also to John Roget for the plums.

With the holiday period over, hopefully the numbers at Bridge and weekly meetings will get back to normal. As always we welcome new members so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a game of cards come and join on a Friday afternoon in the club room on Bayley Street. Watch this space for details of the club's other activities.

Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Stepping up for autism

THE Great Victorian Walk for Autism is set to be held on Saturday, March 22. Teams of two to 10 will walk 15 or 30kms, along the Great Victorian Rail Trail to Mansfield from Woodfield or Maindample. The walk is to raise funds for the expansion of services for autistic children and their families.

Registrations are open to men and women and children 13 years and over, with dress ups encouraged.

The incidence of autism is rising and affects up to one in 50 people. For more information, visit lakehigh.org.au

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St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

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Sharing the transforming love of
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Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Contact: Ps Steven Turner
Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH
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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*.

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

POLICE REPORT

ON Monday, January 29, several barbecues were reported in the Marysville area. It was a total fire ban day.

ON the Australia Day long weekend, Victoria Police conducted a night operation. A vehicle was observed driving erratically in Molesworth, travelling east at a speed of 78 km/h. Police intercepted the vehicle. The vehicle contained four youths. A 15 year old youth from Murrindindi Shire was driving. They were intoxicated and unlicensed. Police interviewed the driver and he was released on summons. He will appear at the Seymour Court at a later date.

VICTORIA Police are continuing to run operations at night, focusing on high risk driving, including alcohol and drug testing.



THUMBS DOWN: To the paulonia (sapphire dragon) trees in Alexandra. The ones recently planted in Alexandra are rapidly growing. The main tap root of those trees grow up to 45 metres deep and around. Those trees will create a massive infrastructure problem particularly for the road and drainage. A disaster to be avoided.

THUMBS UP: Thank you to the fabulous ladies of the Alexandra Opportunity Shop for their delightful and gracious service on Friday afternoon.

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

Alexandra Poultry Club AGM will be held at 1pm in the poultry pavilion at Alexandra Showgrounds, all enquiries to Gail Kneeshaw 5772 1004/0428 576 802 or email gailkneeshaw@gmail.com

Yarck CFA are holding a Community Fire Safety Meeting at Gobur from 9.30-10.30am. Find out what to expect in the event of a fire, the best way to keep your family, friends, pets and property safe. A great chance to get answers to your questions. BYO chairs. Come along to this free event at the Gobur Tennis Court Car Park in Golf Course Road.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Alexandra RSL AGM and general meeting at noon at the hall, followed by a light luncheon.

Market@Yarck from 9am. Includes CWA morning tea and cake stall, plants, soap, preserves and jams and more.

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 to 4pm. Delight in a beautiful summer lunch, featuring fresh local produce, live music and free flowing bubbles. 5774 2631. eildon@holmesglen.edu.au

Alexandra and Eildon Gem and Lapidary Club Thornton Gem and Rock Exhibition from 8am onwards. Enquiries to 0492 876 595.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Dindi Daze at Rotary Park, Alexandra. A festival to celebrate all that is good in Murrindindi. Great food, kids activities, cocktails, live music, craft beer, face painting and much more. 10am-6pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Tarcombe Herefords 51st Annual Production Sale 1pm. Contact Tim Hayes on 0439 257 693 or email temagong@bigpond.com

What do you do with a drunken boatie?

AN alleged drunken boatie was among 14 vessel operators caught flouting the law at Lake Eildon recently.

The 38 year old skipper had several passengers on board a 3.5 metre tinny when he was intercepted by the Water Police Squad about 5pm on Friday, January 31.

He went positive on a preliminary breath test and allegedly blew 0.134 during an evidentiary breath test.

The Kilsyth man had his marine licence immediately suspended for six months and was fined \$840.

The squad, which regularly patrols the popular waterway throughout summer, conducted more than 60 vessel inspections, licence checks and breath tests during last weekend's deployment.

Eight further boaties were issued with infringement notices for: Operating a boat without a licence; failing to carry a lifejacket (times four); towing a skier without an observer (times two); failing to maintain safety gear.

Water Police also had jet skis closely in their sights.

Four riders were caught allegedly speeding too close to shore or other

vessels, while another was fined \$988 for riding unlicensed.

The Water Police Squad will continue to have a highly visible presence at inland waterways this summer.

Several planned operations will take place across Victoria, on top of regular patrols.

Boat and jet ski operators can expect to be breath tested, and have vessels inspected for mandatory safety equipment including lifejackets.

Water Police Acting Senior Sergeant Dave McHenry said, "As the warm weather continues, we want safety to be front and centre in everyone's minds.

"If you're planning to drink, don't get behind the wheel. We all know how devastating the consequences can be.

"Lifejackets also remain an issue. They are mandatory for jet ski riders, children under 12, solo boaties and in small boats up to and including 4.8m yet we still see people without them.

"Police will continue to conduct breath tests, vessel inspections and licence checks to ensure everyone is playing their part this summer."



There will be face painting for everyone. -S



Dindi Daze will feature a market. -S



There will also be plenty of musical entertainment. -S

Get ready to get Dindi Dazed

DINDI Daze, a new fun filled family focussed event, celebrating all that is good in Murrindindi is coming to Rotary Park in Alexandra on Saturday, March 1.

This free entry event will include a morning with a variety of free of charge children focussed activities, such as face painting, competitions, games for young as well as older children and a mobile 'petting' farm. On stage, there will be an Indigenous performer who will demonstrate traditional Indigenous music to the children and engage them in traditional dance and music.

During the midday break there will be a prize / award session for local business

and citizens. This will be followed in the afternoon by four local live music acts. During the entire day there will be access to top quality food vans and pop ups, local craft beers, wines and spirits, arts and crafts stalls, an historic vehicle procession and display and finally access to steam train rides.

In addition, there will be a number of community-based 'free of charge' stalls and displays including the dingo discovery sanctuary and research centre, the CFA, Men's Shed (the Woodies), Embassy of Ideas / Food Share, and Rotary.

It will be a great day for everyone.



Melba Highway landslip repair works

We're completing critical landslip repairs on the Melba Highway in Dixons Creek, between Healesville-Kinglake Road and north of Hunts Lane.

Melba Highway will be closed to traffic and detours will be in place from **17 February to late March**.

Labour Day long weekend

Melba Highway will open in both directions for the Labour Day long weekend from **Friday 7 March until Tuesday 11 March** with reduced speed limits.

Please support local businesses which remain open during works and are accessible by travelling via Yarra Glen.



Scan the QR code or find out more at transport.vic.gov.au/melbahighway

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ella Buick - Ella consistently shows the school values. She is a consistently friendly face who is helpful and respectful at all times. Ella always tries her best and shows pride in her achievements. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Ella. You are a star.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bella and Kaaisha have displayed the school value of respect during all their classes this week.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kingslake branch

Bendigo Bank

CWA biannual conference in Yarck

THE many branches of the Hume Goulburn Country Women's Association (CWA) met in Yarck Hall last Saturday for their biannual conference.

The conference is designed to give an overview of the state of the Hume Goulburn CWA group, as well as provide an opportunity for each of the branches to share what they've been up to.

It's a chance for all the members to get together and discuss their issues, and for inter-branch mingling.

A stall with various goodies was set up in the Yarck Hall for the ladies to peruse.



The stall with various goodies. -BD



The conference was a chance to discuss the successes and issues facing the CWA. -BD



Members of the various branches of the CWA Hume Goulburn group. -BD



The various branches were given the opportunity to make a report on what they've done over the last six months. -BD

Council reminder around permits for caravans or camping

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is reminding property owners of the importance of obtaining the necessary permits before operating a caravan or camping area. All



It's vital to obtain the necessary permits before operating a caravan or camping area. -Eden Aviv

commercially operated camping areas, including those advertised on websites or apps, require permits.

Property owners are responsible for any incidents that occur on their property, and having the right permits in place helps ensure safety for everyone.

Permits also help protect the environment and our communities by managing noise, safety, and emergency planning. They support a great quality of life for residents and visitors.

If you are hosting a private party or camping on your own property, please be considerate of your neighbours, and ensure you comply with government regulations and local laws.

Residents must follow Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines regarding noise levels. Loud events can cause

disturbances, and in some cases, police may be called. By working together, we can help keep Murrindindi Shire a welcoming and enjoyable place to live and visit.

To find out if you need a permit, or for more information about the permit process, email council at planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or call (03) 5772 0333.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher reiterated, "With the upcoming Labour Day and Easter public holidays, we want both visitors and our community to stay safe."

"Our region offers stunning camping locations, but if you are operating a camping area, it is important to have all the necessary permits. These regulations are in place to prevent issues and to keep Murrindindi Shire pleasant and safe for everyone."

Dairy Creek Bridge works set to start

ON Sunday, April 14, 2024, a truck rolled over on the Goulburn Valley Highway at Homewood, near Dairy Creek Road. The B-double was loaded with 609 sheep. It rolled over and landed upside down in Dairy Creek.

The bridge was damaged in the incident. The bridge has since had only one lane open, managed by traffic lights and with speed reductions in place.

Fortunately, news has recently come through regarding planned repairs.

Anthony Judd, Executive Director of Loddon Mallee and Hume, Department of Transport and Planning (DoT), said, "To ensure Dairy Creek Bridge is safe and secure long-term, we're installing custom-built steel railings. We thank the community for their patience while we deliver this vital work."

DoT advised that timelines associated with this project are due to the custom fabrication of the replacement guard rail required for the south side of the bridge.

A thorough investigation into the integrity of the bridge deck was required due to the substantial damage, and as such a bespoke replacement was designed.

On site works, including the repair of the bridge deck and installation of new rail post bases will be commencing within the next month and will take around eight weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Conditions travelling near Homewood on the Goulburn Valley Highway will return to normal once works have been completed and traffic control has been removed.

Traffic management associated with on-site works is included in the overall cost quoted by the contractor to complete the project.

Nationals raise concerns about CFA and fire levy

VICTORIAN Nationals member, Danny O'Brien, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, released a statement on Wednesday, February 5, stating that Victorians are paying more and getting far less amid an alarming and dangerous drop in volunteer firefighter numbers.

He said a new report reveals volunteer firefighter numbers are down more than 20 per cent since 2014, with Victoria having just 28,906 operational CFA volunteers, less than half New South Wales' volunteer force of 67,569.

He said that Victorians are paying double for firefighting services compared to 10 years ago, and added that "Labor has disrespected volunteers and gutted the Country Fire Authority.

"We are less safe with less firefighters and it is costing us more," Mr O'Brien said. "While the CFA has lost its autonomy and volunteers are driving around in 30-year-old trucks, we are paying double what we were. We are

seeing more and more money going into Fire Rescue Victoria without a commensurate improvement in response times."

The Fire Services Property Levy is set to be replaced with a new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund from July 1.

"For the first time, we are going to be paying a levy for core government services like Triple Zero and Emergency Management Victoria and that is because Labor can't manage money and can't manage our fire services," Mr O'Brien said.

When contacted about the issues raised, A Victorian government spokesperson responded, "Our volunteers put their lives on the line every day to protect Victorians, and we are incredibly grateful for the work they do.

"We know we need to support our volunteers to continue growing the pool. That's why we are delivering more resources, including brand new trucks fitted with the

latest technology, new and upgraded stations, and advanced training opportunities.

"Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas and we have some of the most highly skilled paid firefighters and volunteers in the nation. The community should rest assured that they are well protected in a bushfire emergency no matter where they live."

The following information was also provided: CFA volunteer numbers have increased in the last year thanks to the successful Give Us A Hand recruitment campaign and local brigade efforts. There is a fleet of 29 ultra heavy tankers rolling out across regional Victoria, backed by \$12.8 million from the government. Every single dollar raised by the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will go back into our emergency services. As part of this announcement, the state government is delivering a four year \$250 million package to support our volunteers, so they have the trucks, equipment and resources they need to keep Victorians safe.

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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



Former chair expresses concerns over Lake Mountain leasing

TONY Thompson was on the Southern Alpine Resort Management Board (Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw) for 11 years and was chair for three. He spoke with us about the government's current plans regarding Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw.

He said, "I'm a bit bemused by what they're trying to do again to Lake Mountain. We've been there and done this, and actually this government was one that squashed it last time that we tried to bring in a private operator."

"It's very hard. They obviously still need to be looking at legislation and so forth because we went through a whole process that proved that they still had to have a statutory board in place to oversee the private operator and it just ended up costing more money."

"They're not going to save any money by doing this basically. We've told them that before," Tony said.

During Tony's time on the board, they tried to bring in a private operator being Belgravia, following a tender process. The boards of Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw were then merged. About this Tony said, "The government thought they were going to save money. But they didn't." The boards were then merged again with all of the alpine resorts coming under the umbrella of the Alpine Resorts Board. This remains in place.

Tony said, "While we have private operators on some of the larger resort already on leaseholds, giving the mountain over to a private company [such as Belgravia] wasn't as easy as it sounded. There were a lot of logistical requirements that got in the way. We spent nearly \$750,000 going through that process to find out that what was going ahead was just really no different from having the board in place anyway. It just meant that the boards needed to be tightened up a bit in what they were doing, and their business background. Handballing it to somebody else doesn't solve the problem."

Tony agreed that having a board overseeing the operations isn't something that's particularly appealing to a corporate entity. "No, they also had to still come to the board for permission to do anything. It just doesn't

work in the current way the government has set it up."

He commented that a way needs to be found to solve the debt problem, "but they're just trying to do the same thing they tried once before, which didn't work... Because they still can't use government money to do things without permission on government Alpine National Parks."

"We're back to the same old situation and where again we've gone back to one board over all the mountains, and this was the downfall of Lake Mountain and Mount Baw Baw, 25 plus years ago, the bigger mountains didn't want to support the smaller mountains and therefore the smaller mountains got run down and into poor condition, with no equipment and nothing being updated."

"And again, no thought from the government about the actual money that comes in the doors from the regional economy, that they actually generate."

At potential risk under the private operation are the mountain bike tracks, as there have been monetisation challenges. If there's no way for them to be monetised, then what's the point of maintaining them? This may also have an impact on Marysville's green season economy.

Tony responded, "They're not thinking. They're once again letting Marysville down. The economy isn't in great shape as it is, and you're going to see, I hate to say it, the different regional towns starting to regress. After all these years, there's still recovery work going on and the government is letting at the likes of Marysville down in this in this instance, while we're still trying to rebuild the economy in Marysville, there's a good chance you end up letting it slide."

In the Alpine Resorts Leasing Policy, it states that leases longer than 51 years must have benefit to the local community.

Tony replied, "When we did it before, we were able to do it year by year at the time while we were in working it all out. It was exceptional circumstances because we were working through an untried model and finding all the problems."

"It's still not an ideal model. You're better off with the way it was before. We were at a stage when we were running it that Lake Mountain was on its way to breaking even. We were doing 135,000 to 140,000 visitors through snow season."

In 2023, there were 98,773, with no annual report data available for 2024 as yet.

He was disappointed in the reduction in services on the mountain, including the mid-week closure, making it more challenging for school groups to visit.

Lake Mountain tender process closes

THE tender process for the 99 year lease on operating Lake Mountain and/or Lake Baw Baw closed on Friday, February 7.

Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) was asked how many tenders were received, and how the community will be consulted over the tenders. They were also asked what will happen to the mountain if no suitable operators are found.

In a third attempt to obtain an answer, they were also asked about the Alpine Resorts Leasing Policy, where the only way that alpine leases longer than 51 years can be granted is if there are exceptional circumstances and if the capital outlay is greater than \$8 million.

Yet again, they were asked: What are the exceptional circumstances? Is the capital outlay spread across both mountains, if there is a lease of the two mountains combined? Was there any commercial interest which led to the decision to put out the EOIs? How and when will/were community be consulted over the planned lease of the Crown land site? Are you able to outline the benefit to the local community? What will happen to the mountains if no leasee is found? What will happen to the funds raised from the sale of the lease?

Amber Gardner, CEO, Alpine Resorts Victoria, responded, "The Expression of Interest process has garnered a good level of interest and once all options are assessed we will work with the potential new lease holder on community consultation and potential benefits for the local economy."

"We want to make sure as many Victorians as possible can enjoy our great outdoors, and ensure our natural assets meet the needs of

Victorians and those who come from across the globe to visit them."

They provided the following as background information: The Victorian Government will retain ownership of the Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain resorts. The EOI is for the management of one or both Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw alpine resorts. Alpine Resorts Victoria's Expression of Interest opportunity is for the long-term lease arrangement of operations, not the sale of either or both resorts. Victoria's six alpine resorts collectively generate more than \$2 billion in economic revenue every year, with Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw resorts significantly contributing to investment in the region. Since assuming management of Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw two years ago, ARV has made operational changes to enhance visitor experience at the resorts and is now seeking a commercial operator to further improve tourism offerings at both destinations. ARV welcomes the vision of innovative and experienced commercial operators that can bring fresh ideas that best position both resorts for success into the future, support year-round efficient operations and drive investment in the alpine region.

Following the receipt of this response, on Wednesday, February 5, they were asked to provide an update when the tenders closed. They were also asked, "Is it also possible to have the specific questions in my email addressed? If the Alpine Leasing Policy doesn't apply in this scenario, are you able to explicitly state this, and the reasons that they do not apply in this case?"

No response to this query was received by the time this newspaper went to print.



ROAD CLOSURES WILL BE IN PLACE FROM 8:30AM - 5:00PM

MARYSVILLE-WOODS POINT ROAD FROM LADY TALBOT DRIVE TO CUMBERLAND JUNCTION.

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Battery recycling in Murrindindi Shire rises by 145 per cent

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is delighted to report a significant increase in battery recycling, with a 145 per cent rise at the Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, equating to an additional 436 kilograms of batteries diverted from landfill over the past year.

This growth reflects the community's enthusiastic response to council's 'Never Bin Your Batteries' campaign, which encourages residents to dispose of batteries responsibly.

The campaign has resonated strongly with the community, raising awareness of the environmental benefits of proper battery disposal and the dangers of placing batteries in household bins, where they can cause fires in collection trucks and landfill sites.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Sustainability and Assets Portfolio Councillor Sue Carpenter welcomed the result.

"Batteries don't belong in bins, and we're pleased to see more people using the battery drop-off points at its Resource Recovery Centres in Alexandra, Marysville, Yea, Eildon, and Kinglake. Many local supermarkets also provide drop off points for batteries, including Alexandra, Yea and Eildon FoodWorks, and Marysville Grocer," Cr Carpenter said.

"A huge well done to everyone who has made a concerted effort to do the right thing. This impressive increase in battery recycling shows the power of community action. By disposing of your batteries correctly, you're helping keep our community and environment safe. Let's keep up the good work."

Council will continue to support and promote responsible battery recycling practices. Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/batteries



Michael Hill, Team Leader Resource Recovery, at the Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, packing batteries into fireproof bags ready for dispatch to the recycling centre. -S

Your last resort during a bushfire

DID you know that during a fire, embers can travel up to 40 km ahead of the fire front, and fire speeds can reach over 25km/h? With hotter than average forecast for the remaining summer months, Murrindindi Shire Council encourages all residents and visitors to review their fire plans and be aware of where to go in the event of a fast-developing emergency.

A Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR) is usually marked by a green sign with white writing. These sites are intended as a last resort when all other plans have failed during a fire. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

While fire authorities recommend knowing the location of your nearest NSP-BPLR, it's important to understand that not all townships have one that is easily accessible. These places can be outdoor areas or pre-existing structures and are not purpose-built, fireproof, stocked with emergency supplies, or suitable for other types of emergencies. They do not guarantee safety but may provide protection from direct flame and heat from a fire.

Council urges everyone to be prepared with an emergency plan year-round. Know when to evacuate, what items to take with you and who to contact. Only consider going to a NSP-BPLR within one to two kilometres of your house if all other plans fail. If it's further away, it may be safer to stay where you are to avoid getting trapped in your vehicle or encountering low visibility and hazards on the road.

Find your nearest NSP-BPLR, learn how to start an emergency plan, and discover more about preparing for fire and heat at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Community/Safety-and-Emergencies/Fire-and-Heat

Remember, in the event of a life-threatening emergency that requires police, fire, or ambulance assistance, always call Triple Zero (000) first.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Integrity, Finance and Resilience Portfolio Councillor Paul Hildebrand stated, "Amid weeks of extreme heat and dryness, it's vital to remember that Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort are always a last resort. While knowing their locations is important, they are intended as your very last option when all other options have failed.

"We urge everyone to have a well-prepared emergency plan and to evacuate early if conditions become dangerous. Proactive decisions save lives. Your safety, and that of your loved ones, depends on it."

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Just a Farmer screens in Yea

SARAH Austin is the mental health nurse and community health manager at the Yea and District Memorial Hospital. She explained that in conjunction with Murrindindi Shire Council and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, they decided to bring the *Just a Farmer* movie to Yea. It was screened on Thursday, February 6, to a large audience.

Sarah said that the decision was based on a few things, "but because it is about farmers and suicide, we thought it was quite a good thing to screen to get the community to be aware of mental health and the impacts that suicide can have on a whole community. It raises things like stigma, and how other community members respond to someone committing suicide. It also touches on drugs and alcohol, mainly alcohol, but also the isolation around what it can be like for the family of someone who commits suicide, and the avoidance of people."

The film can be watched online at justafarmermovie.com

Sarah said, "The purpose of the evening is to inform people about our mental health services at the hospital, and to get people to come together to recognise mental health in general, but also to reach out for help. Whether that's through reaching out directly to the hospital, or it's through one of the phone services or even just letting a neighbour know so they can contact people for you. And that's why we're out and about in the community as well, and at the saleyards, so people recognise we're around, and know that we're around if they need something. I think just starting the conversation is the main point."

"At the moment, there's no real wait list. We offer free services at the hospital. The other thing is with some grant funding we're expanding services. We'll be expanding into Alexandra hospital, another clinician will be at Yea Hospital, we'll have Seymour Hospital and Kilmore Hospital as well coming up."

"We actually have three mental health clinicians now at the hospital. We have four

mental health with clinicians working at Yea Primary School and Yea High School," Sarah said.

"That's part of the reason why we developed the saleyard initiative. We know these farmers don't go to the doctor, like if your arm is falling off you wait until you're finished with the cow and deal with your arm afterwards. We know they are a hard bunch to crack

and that's why we started going out to the saleyards and we started doing our mental health initiative out there. Last year we did some stuff on mental health. One day at the saleyard we had the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group out there as well to inform people and let people know they're out in the community as well.

"We're in partnership with the University of Melbourne as well, and they're doing some research on the whole saleyard's initiative. We've had lots and lots of positive feedback about it."

"There's been a recent suicide in the community. There are also a number of AFL players and high-profile people that appear to have committed suicide recently as well. It's very prevalent at the moment and ongoing in the community, so it's just good for people to be aware and to check in with their mates."

Murrindindi Shire Council would like to thank everyone for attending on Thursday evening. They said it was heartening to see everyone socialising before and after the film, with conversations on the theme continuing throughout the weekend. They thanked the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments which provided funding to council for the post flood community building activity through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to enable such events to occur, including health activities at the Yea Saleyards in partnership with the Yea and District Memorial Hospital and the Yea Saleyards Committee of Management.

For support, contact Yea hospital on 5736 0400, Lifeline on 131 114, Beyond Blue Support Service on 1300 22 4636, and MensLine on 1300 789 978.



The large audience at the *Just a Farmer* screening at the Yea Shire Hall. -S

Personalised hearing care for the local community

COMPLETE Hearing Solutions and Dean Moore Hearing have over 20 years of dedicated hearing care for the local community.

As a fully independent hearing clinic, Dean provides expert hearing services, including free digital hearing aids, hearing tests and other services under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program for eligible pensioners, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) card holders, and other qualified individuals.

Some of the advanced features for digital hearing aids include Bluetooth connectivity for smartphone compatibility, and fully rechargeable models which offer greater convenience and performance.

With his main clinic in Eltham, Dean also visits Yea Hospital and consulting rooms once a month, ensuring personalised care.

If you're feeling left out because you can't hear clearly or are not satisfied with your current hearing aids performance, call the Eltham Rooms on (03) 9431 1244 to book an appointment today.

Regular egg consumption lowers risk of cardiovascular disease-related death: Monash University

REGULAR consumption of eggs is associated with a 29 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular disease-related death in relatively healthy older adults, new research from a Monash University-led team has found.

Published in the journal *Nutrients*, the researchers found that for relatively healthy older adults, consuming eggs one to six times per week was associated with a lower risk of all-cause mortality (death from any cause) and CVD mortality compared to those who rarely or never eat eggs.

The study involved 8756 adults aged 70 years or older, who self-reported the frequency of their total egg intake: never/infrequently (rarely/never, or one to two times per month), weekly (one to six times per week), and daily (daily or several times per day), as part of the ASPREE Longitudinal Study of Older Persons (ALSOP) sub-study.

First author Holly Wild, a PhD candidate and lecturer from the Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said compared to older adults who never or infrequently ate eggs (up to twice a month), those who ate eggs one to six times a week had a 15 per cent lower risk of death from any cause, and a 29 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular disease-related death.

"Eggs are a nutrient-dense food, they are a rich source of protein and a good source of essential nutrients, such as B vitamins, folate, unsaturated fatty acids, fat-soluble vitamins (E, D, A, and K), choline, and numerous minerals and trace elements," Ms Wild said.

"Eggs are also an accessible source of protein and nutrition in older adults, with research suggesting that they are the preferred source of protein for older adults who might be experiencing age-related physical and sensory decline."

The study also explored the relationship between egg consumption and mortality across different levels of diet quality (low, moderate, high).

"The study found that older adults with a moderate to high diet quality reported a 33 per cent and 44 per cent lower risk of CVD-related death, suggesting that the addition of eggs to moderate and high-quality diets may improve longevity," the researchers wrote.

The current Australian Dietary Guidelines and the American Heart Association (AHA) recommend that adults with normal cholesterol can eat up to seven eggs per week, while some European countries suggest limiting it to three to four eggs per week. The AHA also supports up to two eggs per day for older adults with normal cholesterol.

"Previous research has observed a higher risk of mortality with egg consumption for those who have high cholesterol. For this reason, we also explored the association between egg consumption and mortality in people with and without dyslipidemia (clinically diagnosed high cholesterol)," Ms Wild said.

"We found a 27 per cent lower risk of CVD-related death for participants with dyslipidemia who consumed eggs weekly, compared to their counterparts that consumed eggs rarely or never, suggesting that in this study cohort, the presence of dyslipidemia does not influence the risk associated with egg consumption."

"Our results suggest that eating up to six eggs a week may reduce the risk of death from all causes and cardiovascular related diseases in older adults. These findings may be beneficial in the development of evidence-based dietary guidelines for older adults."

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There was a large turnout for the Elders and Nutrien store sale last Friday despite sweltering weather. -BD

February Elders and Nutrien cattle sale in Yea

by Bailey Dixon

THE full stop on a long string of recent cattle sales in Yea, the February Elders and Nutrien Store Sale took place last Friday.

Some 2112 cattle were yarded, a mix of steers, heifers and cows and calves.

Cows and calves fetched \$2250 as the top price per head, while steers raked in \$2140 as the top price per head. This was with a weight of 717.5 kilograms, equalling out to 298c/kg.

Heifers made \$1750 per head at the sale, and with a weight of 600 kilograms made 292c/kg.

The average price per head for the day was \$1110, with an average weight of 350 kilograms. This means that the sale price remained somewhat steady, with an average of 317c/kg.

The next cattle sale will be on March 7, with another Elders and Nutrien Store Sale.



Yea and District Memorial Hospital were on-site providing free skin checks for farmers. -BD



Les Gates and Max Martin with cattle from Kaldera Holdings. -BD



Brian McNamara and Michael Lombardozzi made the trek over from Shepparton-way to attend the sale. -BD

 STOCK REPORT 7 FEBRUARY 2025				
Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	2,112			
Average \$ per head	\$1,110			
Average weight per head	350kg			
Top price per head		\$2,140	\$1,750	\$2,250
Top weight		717.5kg	600kg	
Turnover	\$2.26 million			

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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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District 12 assists at the Grampians

THE District 12 long haul Strike Team 1202 from District 12 safely returned from their first rotation at the Grampians to assist in the effort of the current bushfires.

Brigades from Murrindindi Shire including Yarck, Taggerty, Alexandra, Acheron, Marysville, Glenburn, Limestone, Highlands, Glenburn and Yea have been of assistance.

A second and third rotation has now been sent to the Little Desert fire near Goroke, made up of members from Distract 12 and 23.



The CFA volunteers from District 12 in the first rotation. -S



A staging post for the Grampians fire. -S



A Marysville CFA vehicle at the Grampians fire. -S



The Yarck tanker.



Isaac Sims from the Buxton CFA taking a break.

FFMV assists in the fire effort

IN the past two weeks 48 Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFM Vic) firefighters from the Murrindindi District, Toolangi, Marysville, Alexandra, Kinglake, and Broadford were deployed to the Grampians to assist local crews. An additional six Incident Management Team staff were also deployed to the Incident Control Centre in Horsham.

Across the Hume Region, 232 firefighters and Incident Control Centre staff have been deployed to the fires since they started in December last year.

Further deployments are planned in the coming weeks.



Smoke from the Grampians fire.



A FFM Vic worker with a chainsaw.



Different agencies working together. -photos by Tom Goldstraw



The Grampians fire seen from across farmland.

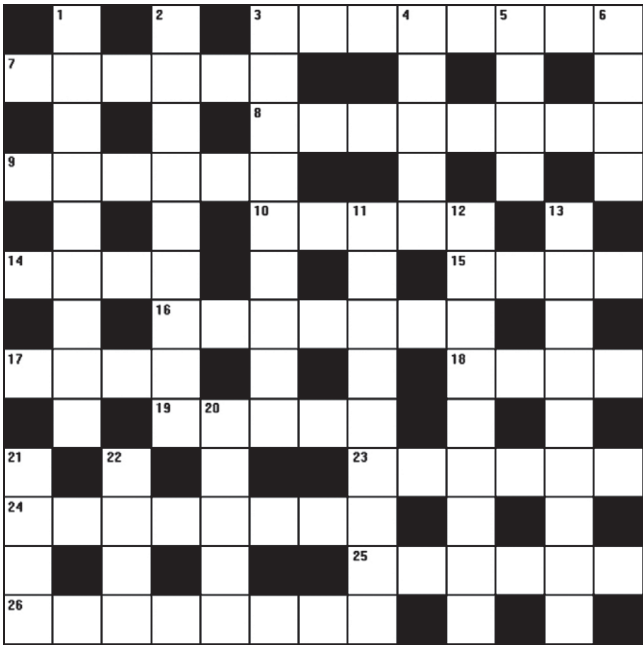
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

3. Simple and requiring little hard work.
7. The occupation for which you are trained.
8. A charitable offering or gift.
9. Long tapering orange vegetable.
10. A shelter with perches for fowl or birds.
14. Clay slab used as roofing material.
15. Garden of Adam and Eve.
16. Packs up everything and leaves.
17. An Animal hunted for food or sport.
18. Run at a moderately swift pace.
19. Adjust again after an initial failure.
23. Not quite accomplished.
24. Coming third in order or rank.
25. Christian name of writer Hemingway.
26. Someone recently married.



DOWN

1. Intense devotion to a cause.
2. Curly coated sporting dog.
3. Draws out or lengthens in time.
4. Comes a bit closer to.
5. Give off.
6. Tell a story or tale in song.
11. Remained for far too long.
12. Statement made under oath.
13. Restore ownership of something.
20. Instruct well so as to make one understand.
21. Render unconscious with a heavy blow.
22. Let sit in boiling water to extract the flavour.

Word Search

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

Sudoku

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

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FLOWERS

BOYFRIEND

GIRLFRIEND

CHAMPAGNE

HEARTS

CHOCOLATES

LOVE

CUPID

ROMANCE

ENGAGEMENTRING

ROSES

Difficulty: Easy

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

Math Square

	×		+		10
×		+		-	
6	+		+	7	18
÷		×		-	
	+		+		16
4		21		-8	

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.



Eildon Primary School's school leaders for the new year. -S

Eildon Primary School young stars



Eildon Primary School's new prep student for 2025. -S



The Eildon Pool on Australia Day. -S

A weekend to remember in Eildon

THE recent long weekend in Eildon was one to remember. The Lions Club of Eildon organised an excellent celebration for Australia Day in Eildon, commencing with a barbecue breakfast for residents and the many people visiting on the recent long weekend.

A ceremony lead by Mike Dalmau saw the raising of the flags and a reflection on what it is to be Australian. Music chosen to accompany the ceremony was rich in Australian spirit. The speakers were Murrindindi Mayor Damien Gallagher, Eildon Ward Councillor Anita Carr, and Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish.

To her complete surprise, *Lions Volunteer of The Year* went to Karine Haslam in recognition of her tireless work for the community. Karine worked extremely hard as the former councillor for Eildon Ward, created Eildon Events, established the Twilight Market and Opera on the Pondage, saw construction of the stage and sound shell, had a major influence on the Splash Park and Skate Park, was involved in Breast Cancer Fundraising, and many more activities, always supported by other members of the community. She was a very worthy recipient.

The long weekend started with a very busy Eildon Twilight Market on the Saturday night with approximately 1700 visitors. Live music was provided by Paul Ray Music and talented youth Alexis Farley, Maya O'Loughlin, Ashleigh Davon and Clayton Hunter. Paul should be congratulated for the support and encouragement he gives to his students. It is so good to see their progress, the confidence and professionalism shown by these young artists.

There were many new stalls at the market including Inferno Marine, showcasing their new wakeboard boat. This generated much

attention. It is fantastic to see the calibre of craftsmanship and expertise from our local boat builders.

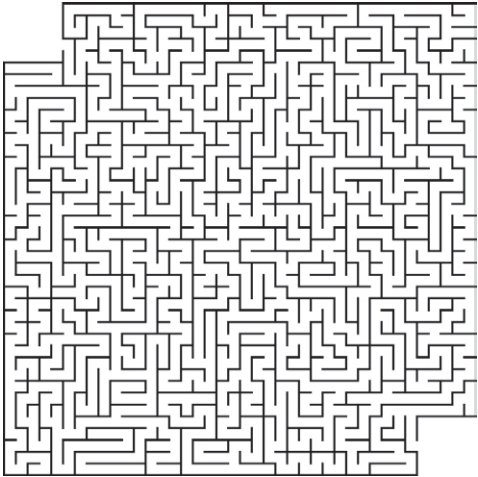
The first Community Get Together at the Eildon Swimming Pool was also held on the Sunday. This was arranged by Eildon Events Inc. Thank you to the support of the Eildon Opportunity Shop and the Eildon RSL sub-branch to provide a totally free day for all to share. There was live music, provided by Paul Ray Music, once again showcasing our youth, and plenty of fresh sandwiches, wraps and fruit to be shared, catered by Thornton General Store, not to mention zoopa doopas. The organisers hope to make this an annual event. With perfect weather and approximately 500 people attending, there is a very good chance.

There were so many people both local and visiting taking advantage of the opening of the new Splash Park. This is a fantastic attraction for not only Eildon but Murrindindi Shire. It will certainly be a drawcard to the area.



The well-attended Eildon Twilight Market. -S

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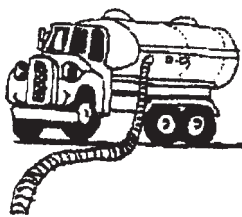
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Euroa Poultry Farm detects avian influenza

AGRICULTURE Victoria has confirmed the presence of avian influenza at a poultry property in northern Victoria, which has now been placed into quarantine.

Diagnostic testing performed by the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness at Geelong confirmed high pathogenicity H7N8, which is different from the strains that impacted Victorian, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory poultry farms during 2024, which have been eradicated. The strain detected is also different from the H5N1 avian influenza strain that is impacting the USA and other parts of the world.

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground to assist control, support the business and investigate further.

A control order under the *Livestock Disease and Control Act 1994* is being established. This will include a restricted area extending approximately five kilometres around the impacted property and a control area in the eastern portion of the Strathbogie Shire to prevent movements that could spread the virus.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinarian Cameron Bell praised the poultry business for alerting Agriculture Victoria as soon as they suspected the presence of disease in their flock.

"Avian influenza is commonly spread by wild birds, and unfortunately, despite the business having excellent biosecurity controls in place, poultry have been infected.

"The business has acted quickly to identify the infection within the flock and are working closely with Agriculture Victoria officers to contain the outbreak," Dr Bell said.

Avian influenza is a viral disease of birds found globally. Virus strains are described as low pathogenicity (LPAI) or high pathogenicity (HPAI).

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low.

Every producer should have an on-farm biosecurity plan and know the signs of diseases that could affect their animals.

All poultry and bird owners across Victoria are reminded to follow best biosecurity practices such as keeping poultry sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean, and restricting contact between poultry and wild birds.

Bird owners should also ensure their footwear is clean, always wash hands before and after handling birds or eggs and quarantine new birds before integrating with existing ones.

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and poultry products from the supermarkets, they do not pose a risk and are safe to consume.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your local vet.

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C	A	R	E	E	R	E	M	I
N	T	O	B	L	A	T	I	O
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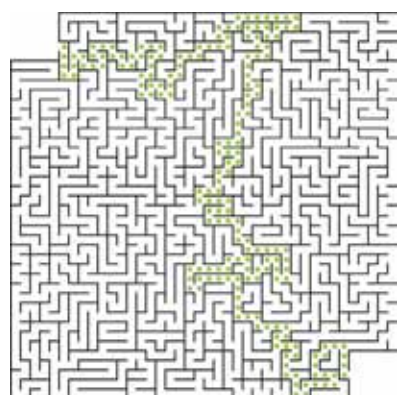
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

2	×	1	+	8	10
×		+		-	
6	+	5	+	7	18
÷		×		-	
3	+	4	+	9	16
4		21		-8	

MAZE



People in hot cars don't mix

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) is reminding the community that hot cars can be life threatening, as call-outs for people trapped in parked vehicles remain alarmingly high.

This summer, AV paramedics have already responded to more than 230 reports of people locked in cars, highlighting the ongoing danger as temperatures soared across the state.

From December 1, 2023 to November 30 2024, paramedics were called to a total of 1211 cases.

AV Director Regional and Clinical Operations Steve Doyle said although the data suggests cases have reduced over the last 12 months, the number of call-outs during hot weather is deeply concerning.

"We are urging Victorians to never leave kids or elderly people in parked cars, even on mild days," Steve said.

"The temperature inside a vehicle can double and become deadly within minutes.

"It is particularly dangerous for children to be left inside vehicles, as a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult."

Thankfully, of the 1211 call-outs over the past year, paramedics treated 134 patients at the scene, and only one patient required transport to hospital.

Steve emphasised this is no time for complacency.

"We're asking parents and carers to always take children and elderly people with them whenever they get out of the car," Steve said.

"We know that children can often become accidentally locked in cars, and encourage parents and carers to make sure keys are kept with them and to be alert while loading family members in and out of vehicles.

"Accidents happen, and if someone does get locked in a vehicle, call Triple Zero (000)."

Triple Zero Victoria Executive Director Emergency Communications Services Michael Fawcett said between December to February each year, the emergency call-taking and dispatch service receives an average of more than 480 calls from people reporting children left in hot cars.

"Don't hesitate to call Triple Zero (000) if you see a child in a car on a warm day because temperatures can become dangerously high very quickly."

Steve said high temperatures increase the risk of serious heat related illnesses, such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Tragically, heat stroke is fatal in up to 80 per cent of cases, yet it is entirely preventable.

"Most at risk of heat stroke are elderly people, young children, and those with medical conditions; however, heat and heat-related illnesses can affect anybody, especially if you're not prepared or haven't taken preventative action," Steve said.

"Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency. If you or someone else is experiencing symptoms such as confusion, seizures, collapsing, or loss of consciousness, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

"To reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses, stay hydrated by drinking water throughout the day, wear a hat and sunscreen, and avoid being outside during the hottest time of the day, if possible."

Paramedics are also urging Victorians to be alert around water as crowds continue to flock to pools, beaches and inland waterways to escape the heat.

Steve said it is important Victorians take steps to keep themselves and loved ones safe.

"Read the signs around waterways and beaches to familiarise yourself with the dangers, and remember that drownings can occur in familiar locations," he said.

"Be alert whether you're planning to enter the water or not, and always keep watch on children in and around the water.

"Never swim alone, let people know where you're going and don't swim after drinking alcohol."

This summer, if you need urgent healthcare, but it's not life-threatening, you can help to save paramedics for emergencies by seeking free help in three ways: Walk into an Urgent Care Clinic, video call with Virtual Emergency Care 24/7 or phone 1300 606 024 for Nurse-on-Call 24/7. Learn more at urgentcare.vic.gov.au. If you are in a life-threatening situation and need emergency care, call Triple Zero (000) or visit your nearest emergency department.

Assistance with the cost of camps and excursions

THE Victorian Government is delivering a new round of support for children to attend camps and excursions in addition to the \$400 School Saving Bonus.

The state government's *Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund* makes sure every student, regardless of their background, gets the chance to go on camps and excursions with their friends.

This year, families of more than 200,000 students across the state will be able to access this support, which has helped more than two million kids go to camps and excursions since it was introduced.

Under the program, families with healthcare cards will be able to access \$154 for primary school children and \$256 for secondary school students.

The government has made an important change to the program for 2025. Families who have multiple children at the same school will be able to pool their allocated funding to use on one child or for one specific activity. This could help in situations where the costs for activities in a certain year level are higher than others.

This Fund comes on top of the \$400 School Saving Bonus, which can also go towards school activities such as camps or excursions, plus school uniforms and textbooks.

Around 700,000 students statewide will benefit from the School Saving Bonus. More than 450,000 transactions have been processed, saving parents more than \$100 million on back-to-school costs.

School uniforms have been the most popular item on which to use the Bonus, with over \$40 million spent so far. School activities were also favoured, with over \$26 million spent. Nearly \$30 million have gone towards textbooks.

Haines urges housing supply boost

INDEPENDENT Federal Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP has launched the year with her first policy announcement to boost housing supply in Indi and regional Australia.

Dr Haines MP is setting in motion her vision for a \$2 billion *Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund*, and continuing to lead the national debate on housing infrastructure policy and said her plan would deliver more homes for regional Australians.

"An affordable and secure home sets people up to thrive and build their lives," Dr Haines said.

"The current housing crisis is making life hard for too many people, holding back the growth of our region and affecting essential service delivery."

Dr Haines said the fund would build the paths, poles and power that must go in before new homes can be built.

"We have the land and the vision, but we need to properly invest in the infrastructure to develop our towns and regional cities.

"Consecutive governments have failed to acknowledge that regional councils and smaller towns struggle to increase their housing supply because of critical infrastructure like sewerage, water and power.

"The economies of scale that work in the cities apply differently in the country, but governments keep ignoring this problem.

"I'm unashamedly ambitious for regions like ours and cannot accept the drip feeding of funding when there are regions desperate for help with basic infrastructure like water connections. It is literally stunting our growth.

"More than a third of people live in regional, rural or remote Australia and it is beyond time we had a dedicated fund that gives us a fair share of regional housing. My plan will unlock new housing supply and deliver regional Australia their fair share."

Pointing to the levels of housing stress in Indi, Dr Haines said enabling infrastructure for new builds was key to reducing stress and addressing workforce shortages across Indi.

"In Indi, more than 40 per cent of renters experience rental stress and more than 60 per cent of homeowners are finding it hard to pay the mortgage and juggle their bills.

"For an entire generation of Australians, the prospect of home ownership, or even finding a secure rental, feels out of reach and unattainable, and this is keenly felt in regional areas. Parents are worried about the financial security for their children in the future.

"We're losing tens of millions off our local economy each year because there's nowhere for new workers moving to the regions to live. It's impacting essential services, like nursing, teaching, and aged care.

The *Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund* proposed by Dr Haines builds on sustained advocacy by Dr Haines in this last term of Parliament.

Dr Haines has met with the Prime Minister, the former and current Housing Ministers and the Infrastructure Minister to make the case for investment in enabling infrastructure. In 2023, Dr Haines introduced legislation to guarantee dedicated funding for enabling infrastructure in regional, rural and remote Australia.

In 2024, Dr Haines introduced an updated *'Fair Share for Regional Housing Bill'* to make it clear that regional Australia needs a fair share and to centre government action at local governments and community.

Dr Haines has achieved success in amending the government's housing legislation to ensure there is a regional voice at the table.

The government announced the \$500 million Housing Support Program to fund enabling infrastructure just weeks after Dr Haines met with the Prime Minister.

The Opposition recently announced it would set aside 30 per cent of its housing fund for regional communities, adopting the policy Dr Haines has long advocated for.

"I've taken legislation to the Parliament in the last year to enable local governments, who don't have the rate base or resources of their city counterparts, to access the funding they need.

"We've got funding coming through, but I want to see a bigger, long-term vision for ensuring we have housing security and affordability in regional Australia," Dr Haines said.

First Nations sports grants available

THE Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced a new round of grants for the *Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* to assist in funding for uniforms, equipment, and travel to sports carnivals around the state.

The program delivers grants of up to \$1000 for team uniforms and equipment, and up to \$2500 for travel costs so clubs can participate in both Victorian and national tournaments.

Individuals can also access up to \$250 to purchase sporting uniforms and equipment, and up to \$750 for their own travel costs.

This grant program is part of the state government's strong support for the Victorian Aboriginal community, alongside the new Victorian Aboriginal Sporting Partnership which is creating more opportunities in the community sport sector for Aboriginal athletes.

Since 2020, the *Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program* has provided more than 460 grants to community sport clubs and individuals in Victoria's Indigenous communities.

Applications for this round are open until 11.59pm on Tuesday, March 4. For more information go to sport.vic.gov.au

Women's Honour Roll nominations now open

THE Victorian Government last week opened nominations for the 2025 Victorian Honour Roll of Women to recognise women who have made an outstanding contribution to Victoria.

Victorians are encouraged to nominate women from all walks of life, cultural backgrounds and age groups to be recognised across four categories that are: Local Champion, Change Agent, Emerging Leader and Trailblazer.

The state government's Victorian Honour Roll of Women celebrates the outstanding contributions made by Victorian women and acknowledges the

many ways in which they make lasting contributions to the community.

The Honour Roll celebrates their achievements across fields such as social justice, health science, research, arts, environment, law, media, and education.

More than 750 women have been inducted since the Honour Roll of Women began in 2001.

Nominations are now open and close on Sunday, March 16. To find out more and nominate yourself or someone you know, visit vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women



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SPORT

Alexandra Bowls on top of the ladder

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club division four is back on top of the ladder after a convincing win against Mooroopna last Saturday. Euroa who was top, lost to Seymour, which makes two weeks in a row that Seymour has defeated the ladder leaders, as they defeated Alexandra last week. Division six was unable to repeat last week's win over ladder leaders Nagambie and lost to second on the ladder Violet Town.

The club's Novice Singles are in progress and the following games are up next. Levi Ronalds will play Andy Tobias after defeating Rob Roach. Malcolm Gill will play Ian Franklin. Mal defeated Steve Kirby and Ian defeated Craig Parkinson to move into the next round. Marty Manning will play the winner of that game. Great to see so many new players taking up the challenge.

Division four was at home to Mooroopna on Saturday and all rinks won. The best and outstanding winning rink was Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias, and Craig Parkinson. Mooroopna didn't get on the score board until end 12. The score at that stage was Alexandra 24 to Mooroopna one. Mooroopna won the next four ends to trail five to 24. Alexandra won five out of the last six ends to win 30 to six. Despite Mooroopna often holding shot they lost to some great bowls from the Alexandra rink. Alexandra won 16 out of 21 ends.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ian Harper, Ken Argent, and Christine

Mayfield also had a convincing win. They were 14 to two up on end seven after picking up six shots on end seven. It was 15 to four on the 10th end but Mooroopna won the next three ends to reduce the margin 10 to 15. Alexandra won six out of the last eight to win 23 to 12. They won 12 out of 21 ends.

David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier, and Saxon

Langmead took the lead eight to six on end eight. However, by end 12 Mooroopna were up 10 to eight. A very handy six shot win on the next end saw the Alex rink move in front 14 to 10. By end 15 that lead had stretched 22 to 10. Mooroopna won the next three ends to trail 15 to 22. Alexandra put the game out of question by winning two of the last three ends to win 26 to 18.

Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist had the closest game. They began well and were eight to zero before Mooroopna got on the board. That lead had been reduced to four shots by end 12, 12 to eight. It was 17 to 10 on end 18 but Mooroopna were on a roll and won the last three ends to lose 14 to 17. A close game and played in great spirit.

Alexandra won the overall 96 to 50 and claimed the 18 points. Alexandra is on top of the ladder with 160 points, Euroa 155, Dookie 144, Shepparton Park 130, and Tallygaroopna 117. The other five sides cannot make the four. With 18 points up for grabs in the final round the ladder could change. Alexandra plays away to Euroa, Shepparton Park plays Seymour, Tallygaroopna plays away to bottom of the ladder Merrigum and Dookie plays away to Tatura Hilltop.

Division six travelled to Violet Town for their penultimate game. Clive Murphy (Skip), Malcolm Gill, Marty Manning and Warren Nelson led 11 to 10 on end 11 but lost nine out of the last 10 ends to lose 14 to 29.

Ray Mathieson (Skip) Pauline Gilmore, Anne Gunton and Christine Murphy trailed 10 to 12 on end 12 and were 12 to 15 on end 14. Violet Town won the five out of the last seven ends to win 31 to 15.

Mark Stone (Skip), Ian Franklin, Rob Roach and Steve Kirby were nine to 13 down on end 13 but lost the last eight ends to lose nine to 28. The game was played without the usual lunch break, and it seems Alexandra suffered somewhat as they lost most of the ends after what would normally be the break.

They play their final game at home against Euroa who are third on the ladder.

Midweek play their final round at home against Shepparton Park who are on top of the ladder.



Best division four rink of Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias, Craig Parkinson, and Doug Cooper. -S

Alexandra Redbacks retake second position on SDCA B Grade ladder

by Michael Mawson

THE Alexandra Redbacks B grade team tactically and terrifically turned the tables on Tallarook to re-take the number two position on the Seymour and District Cricket Association (SDCA) B Grade ladder.

Due to a quirky schedule, the Redbacks were playing at home against Tallarook for the second week in a row. Last week was a T20. This week, at long last, was a proper 45-over match. Both teams had selection changes and Alexandra welcomed back Levi Ronalds, Vinu Hewage, Ben Broadway and James Kidd.

The Alexandra captain, Michael Mawson, won the toss and elected to field, given that batting first had not been successful in recent matches.

The visitors made a positive start to their batting innings with Hamish Melville and Thomas Byers playing careful strokes all around the field to steadily score despite hitting few boundaries.

The first breakthrough came when Byers was bowled by Robert "Yobbo" Andrews. Ben Tresize came to the crease and continued Tallarook's scoring. Tresize's first boundary got a big cheer from the spectators, not so much for the good shot but for the black dog that fielded the ball and would not be coaxed to give it back.

Mawson applied a gentle tackle to the animal and got the ball back. He then couldn't properly throw the ball due to its heavy covering of slick drool. Will Ellis, Levi Ronalds and Lucas Crane bowled well without success. James Kidd bowled the shortest of spells with his knee giving out during his first delivery.

The introduction of spin into the attack changed the complexion of the innings. Tallarook were on-track to make a big score at 1/83 when Ben Broadway bowled Tresize for 47 with an off-spinner that turned at a

massive angle. Tresize did not even offer a shot. When Melville was caught by Mawson off the leg-spin of Thaya Sathisivam the visitors were still well-placed at 3/103.

The rest of Tallarook's batters struggled to score against the spin attack as pressure to get runs inexorably increased. This led to two run-outs from Ronalds and Broadway as the batters attempted to move the score along with risky singles. Alexandra's fielding was also tight with the improvement of two junior players, Logan Conway and Mitchell Rowntree being particularly notable.

The Tallarook score collapsed to 137 with three ducks. Ellis and Crane were rewarded with wickets upon their return to the bowling attack.

The Redbacks' run chase began at a fast pace with opening batter, Michael Mawson, cutting three fours off the bowling of Braedon Dundon before he made the numbskull decision to play a defensive shot and was bowled for 16. Ronalds continued to plunder and pulverise Tallarook's bowling and could only be dismissed when Vinu Hewage took an ill-advised run and caused his run-out.

Hewage provided a highlight by hitting a powerful on-drive that travelled only along the ground, but the ball had enough momentum to go through the fence, uphill over the road and get lost in a neighbour's yard. When Hewage was run-out, Alexandra was 3/81. Jaidon Snyman and "Yobbo" Andrews could take their time to reach the target score. Yobbo was stumped for 24 after Tallarook's youngest bowler, F Melville, beat him with a sharp leg break.

Broadway was in no mood to take his time and clouted six fours on the way to an unbeaten score of 28.

The result of this match reversed the ladder change from last week and the Redbacks have now returned to second place. The team travels to Pyalong next week and will need to win to defend that position.

Squash is back for 2025

by Kristelle Leary

Espresso versus Latte

TYLER versus Jim (fill in): There was no appropriate fill in to play Tyler on the night. Jim stepped in for a training match, of which the score was irrelevant.

Chris (fill in) versus Mick: Chris found himself in an uphill battle against a much improve Mick. The decisive difference was Mick's strategic court positioning, which won him numerous points and the match. 73 to 42.

Justin versus Matt: Justin dominated the first game. Matt slowly brought each game closer together, but he couldn't overcome his opponent. Justin sailed to victory. 82 to 56.

Derrick versus Jack: Great hitting by both opponents. It was a competitive match with the wall being utilised to their advantage. Jack edged forward on points in the end for the win. 51 to 47.

Affogato versus Cappuccino

ERIC versus Lochlan: A great game by both young men. Per his usual form, Lochlan had great serves that put him ahead for the victory. 65 to 41.

Lee versus Sally: Most of the rallies in this match were competitive. Lee had a knack for winning the points for a comfortable victory. 67 to 41.

Michael M versus Jared: Michael was more consistent than his opponent on the night. Jared made far too many unforced errors that cost him the match. 59 to 46.

Earl Grey versus Oolong

CHRIS versus Jess: An amazing amount of running in dangerously hot conditions. Jess put in a good fight, but Chris pulled away to win the match. 60 to 50.

Travis versus Kristelle: Kristelle was lead footed, trying to avoid running in the "disgusting heat" as much as possible. Travis had some good shots and made his opponent run more than she wanted. Travis took the second game with a ten-point lead

which greatly helped him in his victory. 65 to 50.

Daniel W versus Daniel K (fill in): Daniel K is playing well below where he should be. This caused a very one sided match. To his credit, Daniel W put in a lot of effort for a decent match. But in the end, Daniel K won. 78 to 27.

Chai versus Darjeeling

MARK (fill in) versus Beth: Having not played for a long while, Mark was unsure of his skills. Luckily for him, his raw athleticism greatly help him in claiming every game and securing his victory. 67 to 56.

Sam versus Rob: The majority of the match was very close. The only downfall for Sam was his performance in game three when he lost by thirteen-points! This was what lost him the match. Rob was crowned victorious. 66 to 52.

Jim versus Phil: They started off on an even footing. The second half saw Phil losing his composure and slowing down. Jim kept getting further ahead and won the match. 56 to 35.



Rob returns a shot from Sam. -S

SPORT



Mim Page and Jody Doran winners of the Liesfield trophy with Marianne Easton. -S

Yearly trophy to commemorate the Liesfield Family

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday golfers played for one of the most sought after trophies of the year, the Liesfield Trophy. Sadly, James and Matthew Liesfield and their mother lost their lives in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. The boys had that morning played in the monthly medal event at the club and were aspiring and talented young golfers. Each year on the Saturday closest to February 7 the trophy is played to honour the Liesfield family and all those who lost their lives in the fires. It is

always a pleasure for members to welcome the boys' Uncle Colin and Auntie Marianne Easton to the event from their home and farm near Ararat. Marianne played in the four ball best ball and Colin joined the golfers after play for the presentation of the cup. The 2025 winning pair were Jody Doran and Mim Page with 42 points on a countback from Helen and Alan Howard, Gail Leigh and Paul Martin. The nearest the pins were won by Paul Martin on the ninth, Adam Littlejohn on the 18th and Gail Leigh on the 11th with Gail also winning the golden shot.

March will be a busy month at the club and members are already planning and preparing for the upcoming events. These include the final round of the Murrindindi Masters on Saturday, March 1, the Inaugural Community Golf Day on Thursday, March 20 and the Sandy Wilson Ladies Bowl on Thursday, March 27.

Next Saturday all golfers will play stroke for the February monthly medal and the ladies round will include the first round of the Barton Shield.

Merton takes victory over Milawa in cricket

MERTON cricketers travelled to take on the in-form third placed Milawa last Saturday on a slow outfield at the Milawa Recreation Reserve.

Milawa won the toss and sent Merton in to bat with the visitors making 3/152 off 36 overs, skipper Jai Lerch-Mackinnon and Jarrod Mahoney both with 38.

Top scoring Mahoney was particularly aggressive in the latter overs to help his side to a competitive total. James Benton also among the runs with 29, Aden Graham with 1/10 the most consistent bowler for the home side.

Milawa's batting strength was on full display early with opener David Radeski smashing boundaries at will before he fell on 32. The Merton bowlers started to get on top building pressure and slowing the run rate until Milawa's Ryan Brereton looked like winning the game for his side smashing 32 in the middle order.

However when he was dismissed the scoring rate declined and the wickets fell in quick time with the lower order trying to hit out with a climbing run rate required saw Milawa all out for 106.

Lerch-Mackinnon 2/19, Craddock 2/17 and the combination of an awesome spell from Josh Johnson 2/13 off seven overs and Rohan Berriman 3/9 saw a memorable victory to the Merton side.

Merton sits fourth on the ladder with a number of sides pushing for finals spots over the next four rounds in a very competitive Wangaratta and District Cricket Association (WDCA) B grade competition. Merton takes on local rivals Delatite next Saturday.

Dan Burns rakes it in for Golf

by Dave Silverman

WARM to very warm weather last week for Alexandra Golf Club, with variable winds to keep our golfers on their toes. Last Tuesday morning's Stableford round saw nine players



Bron Howell putting on the eighth. -S

tee off, and once again it was John Greateorex who came out on top with 38 points. Ross Thompson also had 38, but Mi-Score placed him in second. Brad Newton came in third with 34, which included two nearest the pins on 17 and 18, with Graeme Emmerson claiming the seventh.

Nine was also the number of ladies vying for the February monthly medal on Wednesday, and it was Marg Fahey who won the day, and therefore the medal, with a very creditable 89 net 66. Rita Mitchell and Marie Stace were hot on her heels, though, with 69 and 68 respectively. Rita also took nearest the pin on 12, two went to Helen Findlay and Donna Meggitt claimed seven. Donna was the nine hole winner with a net 33.5, and, not for the first time, Marg Fahey and Barb Doyle shared the honours for the fewest putts, both with 26.

Last Thursday night a field of 16 took on the Chook Run composite course. Jimmy Fulton was the winner with a net 25, Corey Jack was second, also with 25, and Dan Burns, Luke Lynch and Scott Hill were equal third on 26.

It was a bit cooler on Saturday morning, when 16 players teed off for a big day of golf. Sponsored by HG Turf, the stroke round included round one of the Summer Cup and round one of the Golden Putter, as well as being the February monthly medal round, so everybody was hoping to bring their A game. Sadly, as is almost always the case in golf, some did and some didn't. Someone who was definitely playing well was Dan Burns, who carded a great score of 84 net 65 to take the day, and of course, the monthly medal. Hot on his heels were Trevor Biffin in second and Todd Galloway in third, both with net 66, with David Salomon and Brad Kidd in fourth and fifth on 69. Todd also had only 26 putts, the fewest on the field.

Nearest the pin on two went to Sam Kidd, five to Shane McGorlick and seven to Dan Burns, while 12 and 18 were claimed by Michael Bossonnet. And, to cap off a fine day, Burnsie won the meat tray.

As the new website edges ever closer, don't forget to keep an eye on the club's Facebook page for info on upcoming events.



Sandy Wettenhall watches as Barb holes out. -S



Riley Francombe during the chook run. -S



Matt Richards on the ninth. -S

Marian Williamson takes victory in Eildon

by Puttomatic

LAST week Eildon Golf Club enjoyed near perfect weather and had 17 players compete in a stableford event with draw partners after the game.

Winner on the day, with a very impressive 40 points was Marian Williamson, hot on her heels was Denis McDonald with 39 points, Phil Dally was next with 37 points, Mark Mackwell 36 points, Rod Taylor and John Monteath also with 36 points. The draw partners winners were Marian Williamson and Dale Lunt with a combined score of 74 points.

John Matthews had a day out by taking out the nearest pin with his second shot on the par four, third and on the par three, 11th and the par three, 14th. Wayne Kupke took out the nearest the pin on the par three, 12th.

On the drink holes, Wayne Kupke, Michael McLear and Rod Taylor secured drinks for their playing groups with birdies on the par four - eighth. There were no winners on the 15th.

Other winners on the day, Denis Seamer took out the entry draw and the Swindle draw and Denis McDonald had a crack at the joker.

The club congratulates all winners and the next game will be a two person ambrose competition BYO partner, with tee time 9am book in for 8.30am.



Personal Best medallion recipients. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletics off to a flying start in 2025

THERE’S no better way to start the weekend than with an energetic group of young athletes enjoying the fresh air and competition. Murrindindi Little Athletics has been back in full swing after the Christmas break for a few weeks now, and members are already seeing fantastic results. Many athletes have achieved personal bests, earning personal best medallions, and several new club records have been set.

Personal Best Medallions

IN the past fortnight, the following athletes have been awarded personal best medallions for their outstanding performances: Ryder Clacy, Amelia K, Cheyanne Richardson, Levi Campbell, Emerson Robertson, Harry Armstrong, Maverick Clacy, Athan Woo, Liam Fraser, Isac K, Declan Armstrong, Shiloh Clacy, Sam Mawson, and Logan Steiner.

New Club Records

A HUGE congratulations to the athletes who have set new club records:
Makaylah Reece: Under eight, 60 metres hurdles; Cheyanne Richardson: Under 14, 200 metre hurdles; Levi Campbell: Under 14 long jump, shot put and 200 metre hurdles; Matilda McCarthy: Under seven 500 metres; Maverick Clacy: Under nine 700 metre race walk; Shiloh Clacy: Under eight 700 metres.

Upcoming Event Reminder

A REMINDER to all members that there will be no regular competition at Leckie Park on Saturday, February 15, as many athletes will be competing at the Regional Track and Field Championships in Albury over the weekend.
The club wishes all competitors the very best of luck and looks forward to seeing the results from what promises to be an exciting event.



Hazel Dalton first jump of the day. -S



Record setters Levi Campbell, Cheyenne Richards, Shiloh Clacy and Declan Baker -S



Medallion recipients Charlotte Boulton, Declan Baker and Record setter Matilda. -S