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EDITION

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Murrindindi criminal incidents down 10.2 per cent

VICTORIA'S Crime Data has been released for the past financial year, and it shows that Murrindindi's overall crime rate is trending downwards. Criminal incidents were down by 10.2 per cent, with 493 recorded this financial year and 549 recorded in the previous year.

The criminal incident rate per 100,000 population was 3141 for Murrindindi, while the Victorian average was 6814. The Melbourne criminal incident rate per 100,000 was 18,097.4.

Of the criminal incidents in Murrindindi Shire, 183 of the incidents occurred in the home, by far the most common location, and 49 were on a street, lane or footpath.

Yea saw the highest number of criminal incidents with 87, ahead of Alexandra on 70, Eildon on 47, Kinglake on 42 and Flowerdale

on 24. Although Yea was ahead, it was still down on the previous year which saw 108 offences in Yea and 100 in Alexandra.

The highest principal offence subgroups were other theft on 55, criminal damage 51, breach of family violence order 48, stealing from a motor vehicle 35, and residential non-aggravated burglary 31. There were 20 breaches of family violence order offences in the previous financial year.

In total offences recorded, there was also a decrease for Murrindindi, down 4.8 per cent on the previous year, however the number of alleged offender incidents was up 16.5 per cent. The total victim reports fell by 16.8 per cent compared to the previous year.

Family violence saw an increase of 9.6 per cent, year on year, with Murrindindi Shire close to the Victorian rate per 100,000.

In terms of the ages of the alleged offenders, 10-17 was 1129, 18-24 was 1810, 25-29 was 1519, 30-34 was 1699, 35-39 was 1660, 40-44 was 1227, and the 45 plus category had the highest number of alleged offenders with 2101. The latter is by far the largest age group in size.

There were 638,640 criminal offences recorded in Victoria in the last financial year, an increase of 86,587 offences or 15.7 per cent.

When population growth is considered, the crime rate rose by 13.8 per cent from the previous 12 months (8,998.9 offences per 100,000 people).

Victoria Police stated, "Victoria's crime rate can reduce when there is strong accountability for offending, combined with ongoing swift arrests and proactive operations to prevent crime in the first place."

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish commented, "We're lucky crime statistics locally are holding steady, but statewide they are a real problem. An elected Liberals and Nationals Government will be stronger on crime than Labor, with tougher bail laws and real consequences for repeat and youth offenders. We will introduce Jack's Law, invest in crime prevention programs for young people and give police and PSOs the powers and technology to take knives off criminals."

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Keeping you informed

My fortnightly Cockatoo eNewsletter includes updates on my work in Parliament and engagement across the community.

Sign up to the Cockatoo here,
or at helenhaines.org.



**Helen
Haines**MP

Wangaratta: 117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta | 03 5721 7077

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Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THERE was a good turnout for last Fridays social meeting at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club despite the Grand Final holiday, followed by two tables of Bridge players on Wednesday afternoon.

Members are reminded that there will be no social meeting this week as the members are going out to lunch at the Yarck Hotel. The committee meet up at 10.30am on Friday, October 10, to plan activities for the rest of this year and then advise members of their decisions at the business meeting at 1pm. The club always welcomes new members, so please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To the Yea Men's Shed. A great community asset to be treasured and supported. A wonderful group of blokes from many walks of life coming together for themselves, each other and their community.

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



The site of the rescue. -S

SES rescues stranded kayakers from Goulburn River

THREE people were rescued on the Goulburn River upstream of Acheron last Saturday around 3.40pm.

A family of two adults and a child were stranded in the river after their kayak capsized midstream near McMartins Rd, east of Alexandra. They were all wearing life jackets and had a mobile phone in a waterproof bag to call emergency services.

Police, ambulance and Alexandra SES all responded to the incident, launching an SES Jet Rescue Boat capable of navigating shallow waters to assist. A

HEMS ambulance helicopter was also dispatched from Essendon.

The family were stranded on an unstable log that was giving way due to being pushed by their submerged kayak, and the Goulburn River was very fast flowing and cold. The Alexandra SES rescue boat managed to retrieve the family before they ended up fully in the water.

Police and SES would like to remind everyone using our rivers and streams to be aware of the dangers of becoming stranded in cold and fast flowing water.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas

Wed Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

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

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

Sun Alanon 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

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

1st Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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.

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

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 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 Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

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

Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

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

Weekly Weather

October 1 - October 7, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 8 15

Thursday 7 12

Friday 8 16

Saturday 8 21

Sunday 13 24

Monday 11 20

Tuesday 9 18

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 8 15

Thursday 7 13

Friday 8 17

Saturday 9 22

Sunday 13 25

Monday 11 21

Tuesday 9 18

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Standard
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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	12.00pm Mon	2.21	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00PM Mon	0.57	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00PM Mon	0.64	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarck	10.01AM Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.05AM Mon	0.50	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	11.00AM Mon	0.28	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00PM Mon	0.63	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	4.30	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00PM Mon	0.46	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00PM Mon	2.22	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00PM Mon	0.33	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	2.38	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.18	steady	

*ISSUED AT 12:54 PM AEST MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	4mm
Buxton.....	3mm
Eildon (AWS).....	2mm
Flowerdale.....	3mm
Jamieson.....	2mm
Kinglake.....	7mm
Lake Eildon.....	2mm
Mansfield.....	2mm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarck	0.6mm
Yea.....	1mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	276.12m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	56.9%
Metres below full supply.....	12.78m
Daily inflow	3000ML
Release.....	6200ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	73%

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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

Community comes together for R U OK? Day

MURRINDINDI Shire Council hosted R U OK? Day film screenings in Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake during September, attracting over 250 people to local halls and helping to raise awareness about mental health, self-care and available local professional services. The films were *Runt* in Alexandra and Yea, and *Just a Farmer* in Kinglake.

Each event began with a community barbecue, supported by the Rotary Club of Yea, Alexandra Events and the Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges, who provided the meals and welcomed participants. After the screenings, attendees remained for supper, providing a relaxed and welcoming space to catch up, share stories and strengthen community connections.

Local mental health experts Naomi McNamara, Sarah Austin and Jennifer Wood raised the profile of local services and emphasised the importance of checking in with others, reminding participants that a simple "Are you okay?" can initiate meaningful conversation, support and hope.

R U OK? Day is a national initiative encouraging Australians to reach out and support each other, not just on the day itself but every day. These screenings gave residents a chance to practise caring conversations, share experiences and build connections.

Council would like to thank everyone who attended, shared a meal and stayed for the stories, and acknowledged the support of the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Kinglake Ranges, Alexandra Events, Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, the Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan, and funding provided by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery



The audience at one of the screenings. -S

Funding Arrangements (DRFA), which made these events possible.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Spending time together, checking in on each other and sharing experiences is vital for our mental health and wellbeing. These events reminded

us that even small gestures, like asking 'Are you okay?', can make a real difference. It was great to see so many members of our community involved in these events. Thanks to all our event supporters and everyone who joined us to share a meal, watch a film and

connect with neighbours. You helped make these evenings meaningful."

For more information about mental health support, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mentalhealthservices

VicGrid releases draft guidelines for renewable energy projects

THE Victorian Government is setting new rules to manage how renewable energy projects gain access to the state's transmission network.

The new approach, known as the Victorian Access Regime, aims to encourage development in renewable energy zones (REZ) and give developers more confidence they can supply energy into the market.

In the map of proposed Renewable Energy Zones, there are no such zones in Murrindindi Shire.

The new rules will increase transparency about what projects must do to gain access, including expectations to engage with and deliver benefits to landholders, communities and Traditional Owners.

Three documents have been released for feedback via Engage Victoria. They are the

Access and Connections Consultation Paper, the Draft Grid Impact Assessment Guidelines and the Draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines for Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects. Further details can be found at engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-access-regime

Independent Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, has particularly welcomed the release of VicGrid's draft Community Engagement and Social Value Guidelines, which set out 48 expectations for renewable energy developers and transmission companies before they can access Victoria's energy grid.

Dr Haines, who has led the national debate on reforming community engagement in the renewable energy rollout, said the draft

guidelines were an important step in the right direction.

"Too often we've seen bullish behaviour from renewable energy developers go without consequences. Finally that is set to change," Dr Haines said.

"Regional communities are vital stakeholders contributing to the energy transition, and must be treated as such."

The draft guidelines will require developers to engage with landholders and neighbours early in the planning process, respond to community concerns about fire and flooding risks, deliver economic benefits to communities, and end the use of non-disclosure agreements with landholders.

Dr Haines welcomed VicGrid's confirmation that projects from developers

who fail to meet these standards will not be approved.

"This is about making sure local knowledge is listened to and valued, and regional communities receive long-term economic benefits from the energy transition," Dr Haines said.

"We're not talking about one-off grants to the local footy netball club. We're talking about cheaper power and investment in local infrastructure that enhances the vibrancy of regional communities, making them attractive places to live and run a business."

"Whether it's investment in local childcare centres, to public amenities like pools and emergency services precincts, to telecommunications towers, it should all be on the cards."

Free travel for seniors through annual Seniors Festival

THE Victorian Government is providing eight days of free public transport to Victorian Seniors Card holders to explore thousands of Seniors Festival events this October, ahead of introducing extended free public transport on weekends across the state for more than 650,000 seniors from next year.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams announced last week that seniors from across the state can take advantage of free public transport travel from Sunday, October 5 until Sunday, October 12.

The free travel applies for all forms of public transport, including trains, trams, buses and coach services across metro and regional areas.

Seniors Card holders will need to carry their card while travelling, and touch on and off with their seniors myki as usual, but no fare will be charged. On non-myki services, seniors can simply show their Seniors Card to the conductor or bus driver.

This initiative is in addition to the state government extending free weekend travel to be statewide for more than 650,000 Victorian Seniors Card holders from January 1, 2026, allowing them to catch a train, tram or bus statewide at no cost and making it easier to stay connected with family, friends and the community.

Now in its 43rd year, the Victorian Seniors Festival runs in the month of October and will feature more than 3000 free or low-cost events and activities across the state.

This year's theme 'Connect, Create, Celebrate' encourages older Victorians to build social connections, discover new interests and embrace positive ageing.

From Country Concerts and Songs of Judy Garland to ACMI Seniors Film Festival, abseiling in Mount Buffalo and an 1800s themed walking tour this year's festival offers something for everyone.

For more information on the eight days of free public transport and the Victorian Seniors Festival events, visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

P-plater nabbed with drugs in Marysville

POLICE have impounded a probationary driver's car after he was caught with cannabis in Marysville on the evening of Saturday, September 27.

A 2007 Ford Falcon sedan entered a booze bus site on Marysville Road about 7.15pm.

While conducting routine licence checks, police quickly discovered that the 20 year old man from Melbourne was driving with a disqualified licence.

His car was then searched, and officers located and seized an amount of cannabis.

Officers impounded the man's car at a cost of \$1775, and he is expected to be charged on summons with for possessing a drug of dependence and driving while his authorisation suspended.

The intercept formed part of Operation Scoreboard, a statewide road policing operation coinciding with the AFL Grand Final long weekend in Victoria. Police were highly visible and enforcing across the state's roads in an effort to drive down road trauma.

Operation Scoreboard ran until 11.59pm on Sunday, September 28.

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Rectory 0435 953 777

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

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Alexandra
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Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
0408 123 581
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street, Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

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

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Free health checks for the farming community, snake bite first aid demos, suicide awareness, healthy eating and mental health support. Yea Saleyards.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Heritage Machinery Festival Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm. 7 Station Street, Alexandra. Steam train rides, working stationary engines, vintage cars and more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Taungurung Native Title decision making meeting to be held at Broadford Town Hall 9.30am to 3pm. RSVP to be registered by September 25 by phoning 0427 480 056. Any questions can be directed to Malyon Law by email to kristin@malyonlaw.au or phone 0407 157 737. Further details in this weeks classified section.

Merton Amateur Turf Club Inc will hold their AGM at 11am at the racecourse. Barbecue will follow. Full details from Natalie 0407 888 121 or Jason 0409 525 122.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Menzies invites you to an afternoon gathering to celebrate Senior's month. Bring a friend, enjoy afternoon tea and a social support information session. RSVP by Monday, September 29 for catering. 5772 1888 or email social.support@menziessupport.org.au

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Free LEAP community lunch. Help shape a stronger, safer and more resilient Eildon, Rubicon and Thornton. 12.30pm Lake Eildon Hotel, 190 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon. Community bus pickups available from Eildon, Rubicon and Thornton. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leaplunch for more information. Registrations close Saturday, October 4.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Eildon Community Opportunity Shop Inc will hold their AGM at 2.30pm at the shop.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Embassy of Ideas is hosting a whole town garage sale. To register your garage sale email embasyofideas@gmail.com or scan the QR code in this weeks' edition of *The Standard*.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

POLICE REPORT

ALEXANDRA Police have advised that there was an attempted vehicle break in at Alexandra Secondary College on September 20 between 4 and 5am. The vehicle was a Toyota Corolla.

Shortly thereafter, on the same morning between 5 and 5.45am, a white VF Holden Commodore was stolen from the carpark at Alexandra District Health.

A day prior, on September 19, police located a stolen vehicle in Eildon.

If you witnessed any of these incidents or have CCTV, please contact Alexandra Police on 5772 1002, or make contact via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police are aware that the old hospital has

also been broken into several times and they are actively patrolling the area. Please contact the police if you have information about this.

In light of the car thefts, police are suggesting that people with push-start cars purchase On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) security locks. These sit over the diagnostic port in the vehicle, meaning that the key reprogramming devices used by some criminals no longer work. They can also be used in conjunction with other anti-theft measures.

MARYSVILLE police charged eight drivers with traffic offences across the Grand Final long weekend, primarily speeding offences.

Sue Hendy speaks to Rotary about positive ageing

SUE Hendy recently spoke with members of the Alexandra Rotary Club about ageing positively. She describes herself as a life explorer and ageing activist.

Her career in the field began as a 17 year old at Willsmere in Kew, washing floors and residents. This sparked an interest in human rights as she tried to make life better for the 1200 residents, many affected by dementia.

Her next position was as the first recreation worker at Mount Royal in Parkville. There, she initiated a fundraising drive which enabled the purchase of a second-hand vehicle from Yooralla, suitable for their mainly wheelchair-bound residents.

Many trips followed, to shows such as Oklahoma, to the football, to Tullamarine Airport for coffee and watching planes arrive and depart.

Sue is passionate about fighting the perception that as we age, we lose capacity.



Debbie Skinner presenting an angel to Sue during the meeting. -Tom Farrell

Through her career Sue has been a Director of the International Federation on Ageing, CEO of COTA (Council of the Ageing), a board member at Doutta Galla Aged Services and is currently working toward a Certificate III in Fitness so that she can help staff the new Marysville Gym.

How do we perceive ageing of ourselves and others? Do we need to display S (senior) plates on our vehicles? When is old?

It is Sue's firm belief that capacity and age are not linked. By living longer and living stronger, older people are able to live a fulfilling life. The key to maintaining capacity is progressive resistance strength training, combined with good nutrition.

Our bodies do better when we are active. Muscles need to be strengthened, stretched and exercised, with recovery between training sessions. Being physically active is also important for diabetics, as it helps manage weight and reduce insulin-resistance.

Memory loss is not always the beginning of Alzheimers disease. Young people forget things too. Stress, grief and lack of sleep can also affect memory, but can often be managed.

You can be amazing at any age.

While some acquire disability at an early age it is still possible to live a fulfilled life. Celebrate being older.

It is your choice to grab life with both hands and go for it.

You have capacity if you choose to.

Progressive resistance strength training is individualised as each person has a different start point. The ideal frequency is three times a week, allowing for recovery between sessions.

The club would like to thank Sue Hendy for a very inspirational address.

October Mailman

by the Left-handed Banjo

Across dusty plains the mailman rode
A precious letter in mailbag stowed.

The sun was hot the road was dusty

His lips were parched, his voice
was husky.

He'd travelled far to bring the mail

There was no choice, he could not fail

Australia Post says 'We deliver'

And he a humble letter giver.

His horse was spent from such a ride

The mailman gently stroked its side.

A slow dismount, a little rest

A bit more strength a bit more zest.

Then slowly push towards the hill

On which the destined home stood still.

With his last steps he reached

the landing

To blonde-head boy the letter handing.

Inside the house a great uproar

As brother and sister the
importance saw.

The letter opened the note was read

(never mind the mailman dead!)

The letter from their Grandpa said:

'Don't be surprised if I do say

It's the first of October on this day'

'A pinch and a punch' to this
rowdy bunch!'

As on breakfast they all munch.

And as they holler to each other

(Which includes their
precious mother):

The angels gently the mailman lifted

Along with his horse the angels shifted

And carried him back to whence
he came

And on his coat next to his name

A note they pinned with hands
so tender

The note it read: 'Return to sender'

Epilogue

And if you stand on yonder hill

The mailman horse's hooves ring still

The message clear the message plain,
Grandpa has won again.

No pinching and punching,

Just wincing and munching,

On breakfast just crunching!

Road maintenance blitz across Victoria: Opposition concerned

THE Victorian Government is rolling out a major road maintenance blitz to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads right across Victoria.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne last week launched the state government's \$976 million road maintenance blitz. Crews will begin fixing potholes and upgrading road surfaces across the state.

"We're investing nearly a billion dollars to rebuild and repair the roads that Victorians depend on every single day, from the highways connecting our major centres to the local roads that keep our communities moving," Ms Horne said.

"The last Liberal National Government cut roads maintenance funding and jobs. We're getting on and delivering the biggest single-year investment in road maintenance in Victoria's history."

As part of the Better Roads Blitz, crews will begin delivering hundreds of major maintenance projects between now and mid-2026 on roads, with 70 per cent of all the funding going towards regional roads.

Over the next nine months, crews will complete thousands of projects on our network, ranging from road rehabilitation and resurfacing, patching potholes and maintaining bridges, installing traffic lights and signage.

The blitz will target the state's busiest travel and trade routes, helping to get millions of people and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of freight to and from their destination smoothly.

In Murrindindi Shire, upgrades will include the Melba Highway in Glenburn, Maroonah Highway in Buxton, Whittlesea-Yea Road in

Flowerdale, and Heidelberg-Kinglake Road in Kinglake.

The key roads across regional Victoria that will be targeted through this massive program of works include the Western Highway, Princes Highway East, Princes Highway West, Hume Highway and Calder Highway.

While in metropolitan areas, the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, Leakes Road, Normanby Road, the Warburton Highway and Boronia Road will also see upgrades for smoother journeys.

All these roads were prioritised based on expert assessments and community feedback, ensuring that upgrades are focused where they're most needed.

As well as repairing some of the state busiest roads, crews will also mow, slash and spray tens of thousands of kilometres of roadsides, inspect and repair thousands of bridges and other structures.

They'll fix hundreds of sets of traffic lights and electronic signs, clean up graffiti and deliver other maintenance works as needed.

Meanwhile, the Victorian Opposition are saying that newly-released figures reveal the full extent of the government's disregard for basic road maintenance.

A Parliamentary Budget Office Report shows the government spends significantly

less than New South Wales and Queensland on arterial road and bridge maintenance.

The Victorian Government spends an average of \$26,676 per kilometre yearly on roads maintenance, trailing behind New South Wales (\$30,608) and Queensland (\$27,282).

Victoria on average is spending 13 per cent less on road maintenance per kilometre than New South Wales.

The figures in the report are based on data from a 10 year block from 2014-15 to 2023-24.

The Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, said, "There is no way Labor can spin these numbers. They are one of the reasons why Victoria's roads are in such a poor state."

"Labor, over a 10 year period, has spent well under the national average on road maintenance per kilometre, and considerably less than the two other most populous states New South Wales and Queensland."

"The roads that take Victorians to and from home, work and school are a crumbling mess as Labor oversees \$48 billion in cost blowouts on mega projects."

To learn more about the Better Roads Blitz and to find out when crews are fixing roads in your area, visit transport.vic.gov.au

Deterring the youth loitering at Rotary Park amenities

RECENTLY some incidents of vandalism at a number of sites including the newly upgraded Rotary Park toilets and shower facilities in Alexandra have resulted in a cost of around \$10,000, which cannot be an ongoing occurrence.

A Murrindindi Shire spokesperson said in regard to this damage the following statement.

"To help prevent further damage and maintain the facilities for the whole community, council has worked with local Police on a number of practical steps. These include installing time locks so that the larger changeroom and shower facilities are closed overnight, while two toilet cubicles remain open as usual. Access to power and public Wi-Fi has also been limited after hours. While it is disappointing to restrict these services, the aim is to protect community assets so that they remain safe and usable for residents and visitors."

"Council will continue to monitor the situation and consider further strategies to safeguard public infrastructure, if needed. Our priority is to keep public spaces safe, welcoming and well-maintained for everyone."

"If you see suspicious behavior, please contact the Police. If you notice damage to public facilities, you can report it through the Snap Send Solve app, council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request or by calling Council on 5772 0333."

Murrindindi Shire Council's Community Capacity Building Program hits halfway milestone

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's Community Capacity Building Program has reached its halfway point, with over 500 participants attending 33 workshops and events focused on developing practical skills, knowledge and networks to strengthen local businesses, organisations and community groups.

Council is now calling on local organisations, community groups and businesses to share identified skills needs that the capacity building project may help address, such as governance, fundraising, event delivery or volunteer management,

so the remainder of the program can deliver the greatest benefit before it concludes in June 2026.

The program supports businesses, volunteers and community members through practical training, mentoring and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Its aim is to strengthen the capability of people and groups to thrive long term, contributing to resilient and connected communities.

Since its launch, the program has delivered a wide range of workshops and networking events, including, the inaugural volunteer expo, Murrindindi event forum, youth communication and engagement workshop, tender writing workshops, secrets of grant writing success workshops, and strategic planning workshops.

Participants say the value comes from walking away with skills they can immediately apply, and a few more contact names they can reach out to when they have a need.

Adrian Hurley, Director of Goulburn Valley Plumbing Pty Ltd, attended the tender writing workshop run by Ben Madgwick, Managing Director of Public Sector Contracts. Adrian said he found the workshop valuable and informative.

"I really enjoyed the workshop and did learn a lot. Ben was full of great information. I am looking forward to putting a tender forward. I am based in Yea so this opportunity would be fantastic for my business," he said.

Anthea Forbes, a volunteer at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre (AVIC), attended the volunteer expo. She said the event

was a success and had helped grow their volunteer team.

"On behalf of the volunteer team at AVIC, we greatly appreciate the opportunities you gave us to meet and enrol three new volunteers at the volunteer expo. The event was a great success. Having new volunteers injects new skills and ideas into the centre with more opening hours to promote our shire. We look forward to attending future volunteer connecting days," she said.

Councillor Jodi Adams, Portfolio Councillor for Community Wellbeing, said council was proud to see strong engagement across the shire.

"Reaching this halfway milestone is a fantastic achievement for the Community Capacity Building Program," Cr Adams said.

"It is wonderful to see so many local businesses, volunteers and community members engaging in workshops and events that build skills, strengthen local networks and make our communities more resilient. We now want to hear directly from groups about the specific areas of knowledge or expertise they need most so we can shape the remainder of the program for maximum benefit."

Does your business or organisation have a capability gap we can help with? For more information or to get involved, contact council's community capacity building officer on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communitycapacitybuilding

This initiative is made possible through funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Community Development Fund.

... and the next time capsule

ANTICIPATION is building for Sunday, October 5 when Rotary will be set up at Rotary Park behind the Alexandra Information Centre with the year 2000 time capsule messages ready to be collected by recipients or their representatives between 10am and 1pm.

"Thanks to Darrel Hedger and his little digger we got the capsules out quite easily," Rotarian John Cannon said.

"Yes, there were two capsules. The hardest part was getting into the barrels. They were very well sealed. It took two of us a couple of hours to crack them open. We were delighted to find the packages were in perfect condition."

"We have had lots of enquiries about the availability of the messages since the article

in the *Standard*, both about these ones, but also about the availability of the next ones for the 2050 capsule and where to buy the next time capsule message kit.

"It is really important to be there on October 5. If you cannot be at Rotary Park on the day please arrange to have someone else to pick them up for you."

"Thanks to Alexandra Pharmacy and staff for offering to be our point of sale for this time capsule kit."

"The 2050 time capsule is planned to be buried in late November so the final day for receipt of letters will be Friday, November 21 to allow time to prepare the capsules, so don't miss out."

For enquiries about the time capsules, please contact Tom Farrell on 0431 887 842.



Rotary Club of Alexandra



2000-Time Capsule-2025

Did your family put a message in the capsule?
Come to Rotary Park to collect your messages
on Sunday, October 5 [behind the Info Centre] between
10am and 1pm.

**2025 - 2050 kits on sale \$10. On the day or later from
Alexandra Pharmacy until Friday November 21.**

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Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

Murrindindi Shire Council September meeting

Cr Adams was an apology due to being on planned leave. There were no other apologies or conflicts of interest.

Open forum

Jo Lakeland spoke to council about the coffee connection, a new free initiative designed for the Alexandra community to have a chat on a Wednesday over a cup of coffee, organised by the churches of Alexandra.

Implementation of Planning Scheme Review (part one – policy neutral)

Council is required to review the planning scheme every four years, with the most recent review completed in 2023. The planning scheme needs to be current and align with state government policy and practice. After a period of drafting, amendment C73 was brought before council for final approval.

The resolution was: That council adopt amendment C73muri as exhibited, with minor edits; submit the adopted amendment to the Minister for Planning; and review the recommendations of the *Planning Scheme Review Report 2023*. Council voted to accept the amendment and recommendations.

Adoption of Boundary Creek Open Space Concept Plan

An area west of Boundary Creek in Yea, abutting Boundary Creek Boulevard in the Yea Springs Estate, was transitioned to council management in 2024 through subdivision and development of the area. An open space concept plan was developed, following community and stakeholder engagement, and was brought before council at the meeting. Council voted to adopt the Boundary Creek open space concept plan.

Adoption of Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2025-29

The Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan (RRCM) was prepared 10 years ago, meaning that it is time for a new plan. Council has worked over the past two years to update the document before undertaking an extensive consultation process with community and key stakeholders. The *Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2025-29* was brought before council at the meeting for adoption. Council voted to adopt the new plan.

End of Year Report Capital Works 2024-25

There were several projects that were delayed during the year, some of which will be carried forward into 2025-26. There was also \$182,026 in residual funds that will be reallocated, and \$603,907 in unspent funds to be reallocated as well to projects requiring additional funding. Council voted to note the end of year Capital Works Program report for 2024-25.

Councillor reports

Cr Carpenter reported that council has partnered with the Goulburn Murrumbidgee Climate Alliance to help Murrindindi Shire residents and businesses install affordable and quality solar systems with Goulburn Murray Solar Savers. The Urban Tree Policy is out now for community feedback, while the 10 Year Asset Plan will soon be released for community feedback. The spring weed control program planning is underway.

Cr McAulay reported that the Yea Structure plan will be coming to the October council meeting. The Domestic Animal Management Plan has recently closed for consultation, with

the issues of an off-lead dog park and cat curfews being flagged. She was also pleased to attend Alexandra’s successful 20th ELF Reading Day.

Cr Hildebrand celebrated recent rainfall that is making grass grow, and talked about attending High Voltage, the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve AGM, and the Yea Garden Expo.

Cr Lording paid his respects to David Yencken, who founded the chain of Yencken’s hardware stores and passed away recently. Works have commenced on the Snobs Creek Road landslip. Long-anticipated drainage works on Riverside Drive, Flowerdale, have been delayed awaiting cultural heritage approval and there will be some immediate RRV works on the Melba Highway near Yea which will result in minor traffic delays.

Cr Carr attended the second Grand Ponderosa event on the Eildon Pondage, the Alexandra District Traders and Tourism Association (ADTTA) AGM, RUOK movie screenings, and ELF Reading Day. She paid her respects to Eildon icon, Nanny Jan. She also reminded people that council has free green waste disposal at local resource recovery centres through October and November to get ready for fire season, and the Eildon, Thornton and Rubicon LEAP will be held at the Eildon Lake Hotel at 12.30pm on October 11.

Cr Gallagher reported that council was invited to participate in a Municipal Association of Victoria delegation to Canberra to represent the advocacy agenda of Victorian councils and he and CEO Livia Bonazzi attended. Council was represented at the Taungurung Local Government Forum hosted by Campaspe Shire Council. The

forum adopted a Walking Together statement. Murrindindi Shire Council was also represented at the Indi Forum in Wangaratta, which had representatives from the nine local governments of the electorate. Council is proceeding with awarding a contract for the construction of Key Worker Housing in Twenty First Street, Eildon, while planning approval for the Eighth Street site is subject to the outcome of a Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT) appeal, causing a delay.

CEO report

CEO Livia Bonazzi reported that council has submitted funding applications for two high-risk road sections under the 2026-27 Federal Black Spot Program. These sections are King Parrot Creek Road and Murrindindi Road, which have seen multiple serious crashes, including fatalities. Success for these submissions would enable safety upgrade with no cost for council. Council’s bid for \$49 million through the Regional Precincts and Partnership program was unsuccessful. Funding of \$200,000 has been secured to work with stakeholders to transition away from traditional timber industries.

Council has launched new trails on the Discover Dindi platform, including the Pub and Tipple Trail, waterfalls, and dog-friendly options. They will soon launch a spring promotion campaign, working with influencers, features in One Hour Out, and a spread in the Murrindindi Guide.

The new FOGO collection service is proving successful with a 30 per cent improvement in material being diverted from landfill since July and free green waste disposal is available from October 1 to November 30 at all five resource recovery centres.

Hunting wild aurochs

WHERE do cows come from? It seems like a strange question, but what were the ancestors of today’s bovines?

The answer is the wild auroch, a species which existed from the Middle Pleistocene (774,100 years ago to 129,000 years ago) through to the year 1627AD, when the last known auroch died from natural causes in the forests of Poland.

The bulls had a shoulder height of up to 180cm and cows up to 155cm. They also had huge horns of around 80cm and weighed around 1000kg. They were widely described as dangerous due to their aggression, speed, strength and fearlessness. They stood their ground to defend against threats.

It is likely that they evolved in Asia, migrating north and west, eventually appearing in Western Europe, North Africa, the Indian subcontinent and East Asia.

There is a theory that early humans may have followed the aurochs into Europe from North Africa as they were an important source of food.

Their distribution gradually reduced during the Holocene (the most recent geological era spanning the last 11,700 years) due to habitat loss and hunting.

Aurochs appear in Paleolithic cave paintings, Neolithic petroglyphs, ancient Egyptian reliefs and Bronze Age figurines, and their horns were often used as trophies or drinking horns.

In the early Holocene, during the first agricultural revolution when many human cultures began undertaking agriculture instead of hunting and gathering, taurine cattle developed. The size of the cattle also began to reduce at around this time.

The domestication of Indian aurochs led to the development of zebu cattle through the hybridisation with taurine cattle. Zebu cattle (*bos indicus*) are popular in Queensland due to their adaptation to high temperatures.

As for the Angus, popular in Murrindindi Shire, the breed was first developed in the early 19th century from polled and black cattle in the north-east of Scotland. They were known locally as Doddies and Hummlies, but as with all cattle, their genetic roots go back to the wild auroch.



An auroch on the Ishtar Gate of Babylon, dated to 575 BCE, reconstructed with original bricks at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. -Mary Harrsch

The official recording of cattle began in the *Herd Book* in 1862, and later via the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society. The cattle were the result of careful breeding of naturally polled black cattle roaming the countryside in the Scottish county of Angus.

Angus cattle were first introduced to Australia in the 1820s in Tasmania and then the 1840s on mainland Australia.

Aurochs have been described as a likely candidate for de-extinction.

Mikkel Sinding, a postdoctoral researcher in the biology department at the University of Copenhagen, said that today’s domestic cattle “are aurochs, basically, but to the same degree as a poodle is to a wolf.”

The words ‘cattle’ and ‘chattel’ both derive from the same etymological root, the Latin

‘capitale’, meaning ‘capital’ or ‘principal sum of money’. This in turn came from the word ‘caput’, meaning head. It’s a reflection of the era when livestock, cattle in particular, were the primary moveable form of personal property, like money or other goods, rather than fixed land. Sadly, chattel also sometimes referred to slaves. When land was sold, the small animals, such as chickens, stayed with the property.

The word ‘capitalist’ meaning the owner of capital, and ‘capitalism’ both derive from this source.

On a side note, the Latin root ‘pecu’, which refers to livestock, is the source word for terms such as pecunious (wealthy) and impecunious (lacking money).

GVW customers invited to share feedback in annual survey

GOULBURN Valley Water (GVW) will again be asking customers for their feedback through the annual customer satisfaction survey this October. A sample of customers will receive an email invitation to complete the survey online, while all customers can share their feedback via the GVW website.

The survey forms part of a larger customer satisfaction piece across seven participating water corporations, including Westernport, South Gippsland, Gippsland, East Gippsland, Goulburn Valley, Central Highlands and Coliban Water.

Last year’s survey results showed strong satisfaction with water and sewerage services. Customers particularly rated value for money, trust, and overall service highly, reflecting GVW’s ongoing commitment to listening to the community and delivering services that meet customer needs.

Managing Director Dr Steve Capewell said the positive feedback highlighted GVW’s focus on customer outcomes and service excellence.

“We’re proud that our customers continue to value the work we’re doing, whether that’s restoring water supply or providing financial assistance to those who need help,” Dr Capewell said.

“We are committed to delivering services that are reliable, responsive and inclusive. The survey is an important way for us to learn from our customers and continue to improve.”

Goulburn Valley Water has invested in a range of projects to future-proof infrastructure and ensure long-term service sustainability. These initiatives have also contributed to the strong satisfaction ratings.

The 2025 survey will open on Wednesday, October 1 and run for three weeks. Customers who complete the survey can choose to go into the draw to win one of 10 \$100 bill credits. Keeping customer personal data private is more important than ever. Personal information collected for the draw entry will not be linked to feedback.

Customers can find out more and complete the survey by visiting gvwater.vic.gov.au

Council contributes to regional action on climate change

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is proud to contribute to regional climate action in north-east Victoria, supporting collaborative efforts as host and auspice for the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA).

The GMCA has launched its new four-year partnership agreement for 2025-2029, bringing together 15 councils and agencies across the region to deliver joint projects that respond to climate change and build community resilience.

As host to the GMCA, council plays a key role in enabling this work and fostering regional collaboration on one of the most pressing challenges facing our communities.

Recent national reports, including Australia's first *National Climate Risk Assessment*, have highlighted the urgent need for practical, cost-effective action to protect communities from the risks of extreme weather, fires and floods. Council's approach is focused on delivering real savings and value for our residents, while building resilience for the future.

Over the past four years, the GMCA has delivered exceptional value for members, with every \$1 contributed by councils attracting \$6 in project funding through grants and partnerships.

One standout project has enabled Murrindindi Shire Council to switch to 100 per cent zero-carbon electricity through a joint purchasing arrangement with 50

other Victorian councils. This initiative has reduced emissions and delivered direct financial savings of around \$12,000 per year, money that stays in the community rather than being spent on higher bills. These savings are expected to continue over the life of the new partnership.

Another community-focused project is *Goulburn Murray Solar Savers*, which helps households and businesses access quotes from fully vetted providers for a wide range of expert-assessed energy efficiency products and services. These include solar and battery systems, split-system heating and cooling, induction cooktops and insulation. Learn more on council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/GMSS

Murrindindi Shire Council Sustainability and Assets Portfolio Cr Sue Carpenter said council is proud to be helping drive this work.

"Climate change is an issue that no council can address alone. By hosting the GMCA, we are helping to strengthen our region's ability to work together, share knowledge, and deliver practical projects that benefit our communities and the environment."

The GMCA will continue to deliver innovative, grant-funded projects across the partnership in the coming years, supporting councils and communities to adapt to climate change and reduce emissions.

Learn more about the GMCA at gmca.org.au



Councils gathered for the local government roundtable in Wangaratta. -S

Haines hosts local government roundtable

INDEPENDENT Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, hosted a Local Government Roundtable in Wangaratta on Friday, September 19 with roads, housing and natural disaster preparedness top of her agenda.

Twice a year, Dr Haines brings together the mayors and CEOs of all nine local governments in Indi to discuss shared challenges, funding opportunities and regional priorities.

"The electorate of Indi is a diverse region, stretching from Towong in the Upper Murray to the foothills just north of Melbourne in Strathbogie and Murrindindi shires. In between are the major regional centres of Mansfield, Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga," Dr Haines said.

"While each community is unique, we all face common challenges such as ageing infrastructure, limited access to funding, and the increasing impact of climate change and natural disasters. Local governments deliver the services and infrastructure we rely on every day, and they are essential to making Indi such a great place to live and work."

Dr Haines said regional councils too often face barriers to Commonwealth funding.

"The cost pressures on local government are significant, but the current state and federal funding models don't always keep up. I will continue to be a strong voice in Canberra for our regional councils, pushing for fairer funding that doesn't leave the regions behind."

At the recent roundtable, representatives from the Department of Transport briefed councils on the new *Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program*, which will provide \$200 million annually for safer roads, bridges and rest stops.

"This program offers vital ongoing funding for local infrastructure.

"I want to see communities in Indi benefit, and I will continue supporting our councils as they navigate and apply for this funding."

As a member of the parliament's Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport Committee, Dr Haines said she would also be advocating for strong recommendations in the committee's upcoming report on local government sustainability.

Acheron Youth Training Centre witnesses sought

SHINE Lawyers are currently investigating an individual claim of alleged child physical and sexual abuse at the Acheron Youth Training Centre in Buxton in the late 1990s.

Amy Olver, Legal Practice Manager and Special Counsel at Shine Lawyers said of the centre, "It served as a facility for young people in Victoria. If you were a former staff member, witness or were part of their rehabilitation programs, we would like to speak with you confidentially about our investigation.

"Our investigation is not limited to witnesses but is open to everyone who has knowledge of the abuse. Every voice may hold critical information to advance

our case, so we encourage anyone with information to come forward. Shine Lawyers puts out calls like this to either corroborate what we already know or to unearth pieces that are still missing. Public appeals continue to effectively corroborate stories to advance our cases."

"The allegations are from 1997 but any allegations prior to this are highly relevant and in any event, we encourage all survivors, witnesses, and people with intel, to come forward.

"This witness callout relates to one claim of abuse, however, we believe there are multiple survivors who were impacted by the abuse at this facility," she said.

Don't miss the upcoming Heritage Machinery Day

ON October 4 and 5 Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum is holding its third Heritage Machinery Day from 10am to 3pm, located at 7 Station Street Alexandra. The entry is \$10 a person, or \$25 for families. This event brings exhibitors from all over Victoria and gives you the chance to step back in time with displays of draft horses, working stationary engines, blacksmiths, woodturners, vintage cars, musical organs, donkey displays, steam train rides all day, and miniature steam engines. Also while you're there stay for a bite and drink with some delicious food trucks on offer, and local favourite On

Point Brewery.

The displays on the day that are getting showcased hold some incredible history and some of the earliest machine's date back to the early 1900's. Steam engines are coming all the way from Gippsland, oil engines are coming from the Wimmera, included in the up to 80 exhibitors that will be in attendance over the weekend. This must-see event is not to be missed.

This event is for all train and heritage machine enthusiasts and it's also a great family day out to see the end of the school holidays and learn about the wonders of history.

Gallipoli Park lake viewing platform replacement

WORK to replace the two timber viewing platforms at Gallipoli Park Lake, Marysville is set to begin this week, however weather permitting they could commence sooner.

The first stage will involve removing the existing platforms to prepare the site for the new ones. Council expect works to be completed by early November.

Following the completion of the replacement platforms, works are planned to repair the leak and refill the lake.

The platform replacement has been funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding round four.

**ALEXANDRA
TIMBER TRAMWAY
MUSEUM**

**HERITAGE MACHINERY
FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2025
SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER 2025**

STEAM TRAIN RIDES | WORKING STATIONARY ENGINES
VINTAGE CARS | BLACKSMITH | HISTORIC DISPLAYS | MUSEUM
KIDS ACTIVITIES | CLYDESDALE HORSES | FOOD TRUCKS

9:00AM - 3:30PM

**ADULTS \$10
KIDS \$5
FAMILIES \$25**

**7 STATION STREET, ALEXANDRA VIC 3714
(1HR 45MINS NORTH EAST OF MELBOURNE)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PETER ON 0479 066 221
OR AT [ALEXANDRA.RALLY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:alexandra.rally@yahoo.com)



A holistic view of ‘the good life’

PHILIP Lobley explained that the winery, Philip Lobley Wines, started as “a pipe dream.” He had been working in the wine industry in the Yarra Valley for De Bortolis, and had travelled overseas prior to that for a couple of years on an agricultural exchange program to the United States.

On the program, he worked on farm and did a stint working in California, where he went to the Napa Valley and “saw just the sheer scale of some of the wineries there.” He then spent 10 months just travelling through Europe.

Since then, he’s been on a trip with global viticulturalist Dr Richard Smart, who has now sadly passed away. They went through Italy from top to bottom with Dr Smart, with 30 people on a bus being chaperoned by the Italian group, Matura Consulting. Their consultations range from finding the vineyard site right through to building a winery, making wine, and taking care of

marketing. Philip found the trip to be full of fantastic insights.

During his travels, he had fallen in love with the idea of a glass of wine with a meal. They purchased their property in Glenburn in 1992 and began planting a small vineyard, starting with pinot noir, which grows very well in the area.

They also began growing cabernet and merlot grapes, but the vines were damaged in the 2009 bushfires. While the vines weren’t killed initially, they declined over the following three or four years. They eventually pulled the vines out and made the vineyard 100 per cent pinot noir.

Pinot noir is not the only wine they bottle however, with Philip purchasing grapes from the Yea Valley and Yarra Valley areas. He noted that it not only increases the range, it also increases the amount of wine they can produce. It also helps out vineyards where the focus is on the grapes rather than the processing.

Philip has been involved in the industry since 1986, so there are many growers that he’s known for a long period of time, and he knows where the fruit is good. He commented, “You get to know who can grow good quality fruit and so we stick with those guys.”

Philip Lobley Wines have now opened a cellar door and have been offering pizzas on Sunday from noon to 5pm. This is now expanding out to Saturdays as well, with



Philip and Lyn’s daughter Rebecca, a chef in London for eight years, returning to the area with her fiancé, Santo, also a chef. It is expected that they will eventually take over that area of the business.

They are offering a range of toppings on the pizzas, which can be enjoyed along with a glass of wine, looking out over the peaceful landscape and small lake, watching the birds flit about. He commented that some of the local swamp hens are very cheeky.

Philip’s wife Lyn is also baking bread at Wild Crust Bakery, on the other side of the driveway from the winery. Her focus is on sourdough bread, with six different types available, and has branched into lavosh, which has a very loyal following among those who have tried it. Lavosh is a very thin cracker with a dusting of salt. It’s fabulous with a nice piece of cheddar and some of the homemade cucumber pickle. It can also be used with dips. Philip added, “We don’t make the cheese though, that’s the only thing,” and recommended Sophie Glassons in Healesville for the cheese.

Philip Lobley Wines is also very conscious of their vineyard having a low carbon footprint, and making low-intervention wines. They don’t want their vineyard actions to have any impact on the quality of the water in their dam. Their property also abuts the Kinglake National Park, so they are keen to ensure that their activities do not impact on the native animals in there.

They use an organic spray regime but are not certified organic as they use Roundup outside of the vineyard to control the blackberries, bought in by the foxes. They also use the native yeasts that occur in the vineyard naturally to ferment the grapes.

Philip said, “If I want to warm up a ferment and it’s a bit cold, I put it outside in the sun. If I want to cool it down, I’ll leave it outside



at night. We have a very low carbon footprint given the amount of wine that we produce. We’re just very conscious that we’ve only got one planet and there’s no plan B. We just take what little steps we can to try to help along that journey of reducing our carbon emission.”

Many people will have noticed the logos on the Philip Lobley wine bottles. Philip explained that they have three ranges. The estate pinot noir features a tree by Melbourne printmaker Martin King, who created a sketch from a photo he had taken on the Lobley property.

The face image was drawn by Rebecca when she was aged about 12. Philip really liked the image and decided that he would one day use it as a wine label. This image is on the Temptation range, for where the fruit is brought in from other vineyards.

They also have the art series, featuring three artworks created by Ballarat artist Katie Chancellor. There’s a fun story about the Bad Kitty image, which Philip is happy to share.

Don’t forget to pop in on a Saturday or Sunday for a wonderful pizza in a beautiful setting with a fabulous glass of wine at Philip Lobley Wines.



Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Eligible venues this month: (Circle your preferred choice below)

Kinglake Pub - Strath Creek General - Philip Lobley Wines

One entry per household

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

For your chance to win a \$50 voucher, return this entry by noon, **Wednesday, October 29.**

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Let's eat, it's our treat



The Kinglake Pub. -S



Inside the restaurant. -S

Kinglake Pub going from strength to strength

DARREN Cooper purchased the Kinglake Pub on February 17, taking over from John and Helen. While it would be a huge learning curve for many, Darren comes from a hospitality background, having previously worked in pubs and bottle shops around the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. He also used to own a pizza shop in Boronia.

He called the purchase “a retirement package” and explained that he has a couple of teenage children who will join him in the pub, and he hopes that they will eventually take over running it, while he sits back and eventually retires.

Asked what has surprised him about the last six months or so, Darren said, “Oh the cold weather up here. Coming from down there, it's hard getting used to the absolutely freezing, snowy, misty, foggy days up here. The locals have been really good, really accepting. They're all very helpful and very informative, with a lot of information about things past and present, and it's a really friendly town. It's been good.”

The menu at the Kinglake Pub features many traditional pub favourites, including parmas and schnitzels, pizzas, chicken kiev, salads, pastas, fish and chips, mixed grill, lamb shanks. “All the local pub grub that everyone likes to eat,” Darren said, later adding, “Everyone's really happy with the food.”

The chef, Brad from Whittlesea, has 35 years of experience in kitchens, including at the Royal Mail in Yea. He started at the Kinglake Pub the day after Darren took it over.

The chef also makes the hamburger patties, and everything is on them now, including egg and beetroot. He's also trying a lot of different specials.

Darren has also been putting together some regular events for people to enjoy. They've had a couple of Drag Bingo nights with a Christmas one coming up in November. Through summer, probably on Sundays either monthly or fortnightly, he's looking to have bands playing out the back under the pergola in the beer garden.

They're also starting Trivia Nights once a month on a Tuesday night, and Karaoke early in the month, once a month.

In addition, they're looking at Music Bingo, Music Trivia, and maybe High Teas and Devonshire Teas in the function room. “We're open to suggestions from the locals as well,” Darren said.

In addition to drinks and food, the Kinglake Pub also has function rooms suitable for conferences, Christmas parties and other events, and accommodation.

He said, “The bistro's starting to get very popular again, so the more bookings we get, the more it will be open.”

Darren's also been hard at work cleaning and fixing up areas including the gardens, “so it all looks nice and clean again. They're also looking to renovate the motel rooms and install split systems to make them more comfortable.”

The Kinglake Pub has two websites. The older one is kinglakepub.com.au and the other newer one is kinglakepub.com

The older website has old photos and a lot of the history of the hotel, and Darren is hoping that the two web pages can be combined moving forward on the new web address.

The Kinglake Pub first opened in 1906 then was burnt down in the 1926 bushfires. It re-opened a year later and has survived ever since.



The outdoor deck. -S

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 your table, accommodation,
 event or next function





The General at Strath Creek. -S

From burnt down store to rural gem: The General Strath Creek

JUST 90 minutes north of Melbourne, a tiny town with no pub, no supermarket and no café now has everything, all thanks to one beautifully rebuilt general store.

Meet The General Strath Creek: a post office-slash-café-slash-cellar-door that's fast becoming a must-stop detour for travellers heading to or from Victoria's high country.

Opened by Nick and Prue Brown, The General has quickly transformed into a warm and welcoming haven for locals and visitors alike, complete with a crackling fireplace, full kitchen, local produce, and one of the best ham and cheese toasties in the state.

But it's more than just a café. The original general store burnt down. The town pub shut its doors. With Strath Creek missing a meeting place, the Browns, who'd spent almost every weekend in the area for 20 years, decided to bring the heart back to their adopted hometown.

"We had no hospitality experience," Prue said.

"But we knew this place had to stay in the community. We imagined a place where everyone could gather, and where travellers could experience what makes this valley so special."

A country store reimaged
Working with acclaimed Byron Bay designer Louella Boitel-Gill, local builder

Pete Armstrong from UpBuild and a cast of community legends, the Browns spent 18 months transforming a humble green shed into an inviting space of rustic timber, recycled brick, sheep-trough sinks, a wraparound verandah and a huge garden built for slow afternoons.

Inside, The General offers Allpress coffee, produce grown on their own farm and shelves stacked with regional heroes: Brave Goose wines, Flour Flower bread, Paul Hilda honey, Yea Ciders and more. Food is thoughtful and hearty, from a Farmer's Breakfast Bun (Istra bacon, double egg, relish) to that now-famous ham-and-cheese toastie.

A one-stop shop in a one-store town
With no other shop in Strath Creek, The General serves as a post office, café, bottle shop and pantry, as well as the place to meet, eat and share a yarn by the fire. Travellers often stumble across the store on their way to the snow or the Great Victorian Rail Trail and end up staying longer than planned.

Just 15 minutes off the Hume, Strath Creek is a charming Murrindindi pocket worth discovering on a Victorian regional journey, complete with Strath Creek Falls, the wonderful Flowerdale Estate, The Village Green and incredible bed and breakfasts, and a landscape that changes in every season.



Some of the fabulous food on offer. -S



A wide variety of produce is available. -S

Trev's pushing the real issues that need to go uphill

TREVOR Renison left for his trek to Canberra on the Great Barrow Push on Sunday, September 28 from Marysville with his trusty wheelbarrow and his voice to speak up, spread the message, and raise funds for mental health and suicide prevention among Australia's tradespeople.

The 23 day trek is a 600-kilometre journey, equating to approximately 507,000 steps along the way.

Trev's been preparing for the great trek for quite some months. "I have been barrow pushing around town even up to the Stevensons Falls. Ask me on day three how I'm going," he joked.

"The aim is to raise awareness and save as many lives as possible on the way."

To follow Trev's journey visit Trevs story on facebook or visit [trevsstory.com](https://www.trevsstory.com)



Setting out on the journey from Marysville to Canberra. -S



Helen and Trevor Renison. -S



Trevor and Helen with Ray Goss (centre) at the Taggerty General Store. -S

Tradie mental health matters

ACCORDING to REMPLAN demographic data 2024, in the Murrindindi Shire there are 829 technicians and trade workers and 659 labourers. These key industry workers are under a lot of pressure, and it can be no longer kept in the shadows.

With the cost of building materials, labour shortages, big promises for big builds there is no surprise that tradie mental health is an ongoing issue on top of working long hours, physically demanding work, financial pressure and being in a work culture where talking isn't the done thing.

Stress, depression and anxiety are key issues tradespeople are facing, and some are turning to substance abuse to cope with daily challenges leading to a workplace health and safety issues being under the influence on the building site.

Signs to recognise of mental health issues in yourself or a fellow tradie can be showing signs of irritability or losing temper, feeling flat, restless or on edge, not sleeping properly or waking up tired from lack or good quality sleep. The withdrawal of social activities that are usually enjoyed and not speaking to family and friends as often as normal, turning to substance abuse such as drug and alcohol, lack of motivation and trouble concentrating, and not eating and drinking as you normally would.

Learning about the signs and symptoms when you work in the construction and trade industry can help you educate yourself to get back on track and feeling in a better headspace.

Scaling back and reducing your workload can help prevent burnout while you're tackling your mental health. Prioritising a good diet, exercise and sleep routine can also help you get through it. Always talking to a trusted friend or family member can make you feel the problem is halved when you share it. There are also many professional services available such as visiting your GP or local mental health service, and calling or visiting the websites of Beyond Blue, Lifeline, or MATES in construction.



Volunteers enjoy famil to timber tramway

VOLUNTEERS from the Alexandra, Marysville, Eildon and Yea Visitor Information Centres had an informative and delightful tour of the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum last week. The tour was part of an ongoing program of familiarisation of local attractions to ensure accurate information is imparted to visitors and locals alike.

Peter Aumann, President of the Timber Tramway Museum, explained the history and significance of the rolling stock. Some were built nearly 100 years ago specifically for work in and around Alexandra, and have never left. They are also still running. In addition, the museum also has the only train in Australia to ever have a snow plough fitted.

Peter talked about the upcoming Heritage Machinery Festival which will be held on the weekend of October 4 and 5. It looks set to be a bumper festival and great fun for the whole family. As well as the usual train rides, there will be displays of old machinery attended by knowledgeable and enthusiastic aficionados, along with a working blacksmith and Clydesdale horses.

Alexandra is lucky to have such a fantastic attraction, and recent enhancements have only increased the appeal. If you haven't been there for a while, you really should pay a visit.

Are you interested in volunteering? Your local Visitor Information Centre or the Timber Tramway Museum would love to hear from you.



What's happening at Murrindindi East U3A

SENIOR'S Week preparations are well under way and kick off with 'The Wedding Feast' at the Thornton Memorial Hall on October 11 from 5.30pm. Bookings are essential as spaces are quickly filling. Contact Sue on 0417 742 045 or email suelaitken@gmail.com

Winners were certainly gridders at Simon's final Trivia Quiz and lunch for the year. There were five teams battling it out to take home the newly polished trophy. The competition was fierce but 'Come Back' was too good, winning the day with a mighty 56 points.

Thank you to Gwyn Green, who is an experienced gemmologist holidaying here from the UK, for her informative talk at the Alexandra Library about opals. Did you know that an opal is formed over millions of years as a result of acidified rain falling down onto the sandstone and reacting with it?



The opal talk at the Alexandra Library. -S

The five members of the Cycling Group ignored the rain and had a good ride from Trawool Estate heading back toward Yea. A 20km round trip that was a bit windy at times and some gentle rain that didn't dampen their spirits.

There will be a free Women's Health seminar hosted by U3A at the Alexandra

Library on Thursday, October 2 at 2.30pm. Would you like some information about pelvic floor exercises and incontinence? Why do women need more calcium as they get older? Come along and hear Andrea Cohen, a registered nurse, share some important information about managing those issues particular to women.



The winning trivia team. -S



The cycling group at Trawool Estate. -S



Gwyn Green inspecting some jewellery. -S

PUZZLES

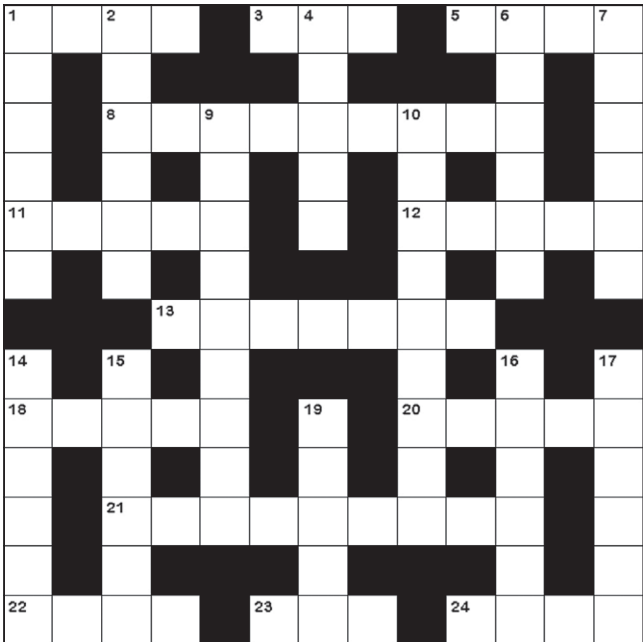
SOLUTIONS
Page 15

KID'S PUZZLES

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. A heap of things all laid on top of each other.
- 3. A person regarded as greedy.
- 5. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.
- 8. A man who speaks on behalf of others.
- 11. Inquire or research deeply for information.
- 12. Wander from a direct course.
- 13. Place apart or cut off from others.
- 18. A sharply pointed end of an instrument.
- 20. Leave an aircraft rapidly, using a capsule.
- 21. One who arrives after things have started.
- 22. An urban area that is smaller than a city.
- 23. Make a really good attempt.
- 24. Avoid and stay away from deliberately.



DOWN

- 1. A feeble imitation of something.
- 2. And finally, the item at the end of the list.
- 4. Having no ability to move or react.
- 6. An informal photograph that is not posed.
- 7. Prove statement to be false or incorrect.
- 9. An unintentional omission or mistake.
- 10. The centre of a flowing body of water.
- 14. The prevailing mood of a gathering.
- 15. Understand the reasoning of something.
- 16. A severe shortage.
- 17. Taken without the owner's consent.
- 19. A clergyman in charge of a parish.

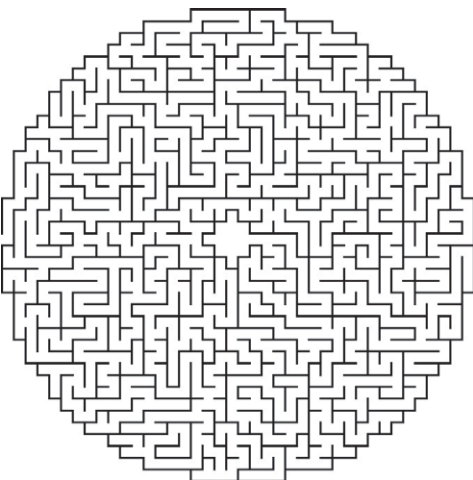
Word Search

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

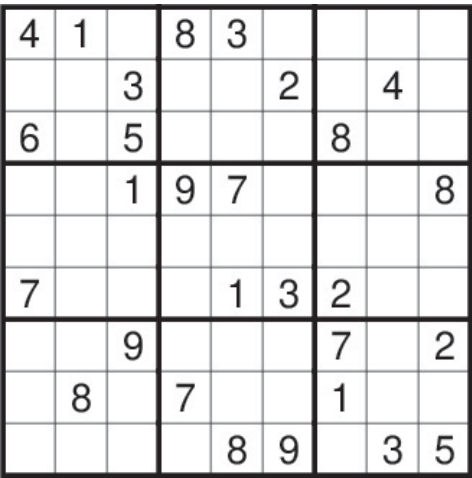
Fruit & Veggies

- APPLES
- ORANGES
- CARROT
- PINEAPPLE
- EGGPLANT
- POTATOES
- GRAPEFRUIT
- PUMPKIN
- MANDARIN
- TOMATOES
- ONION
- ZUCCHINI

Maze



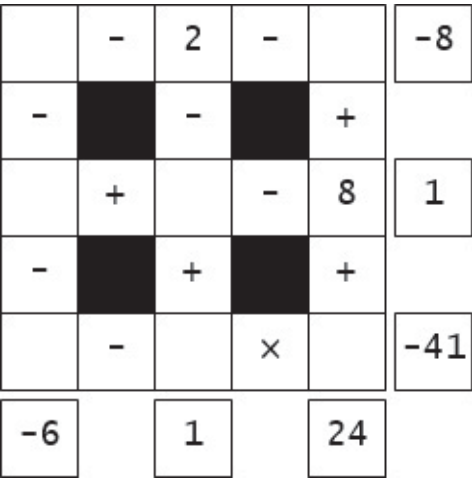
Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Colouring Page



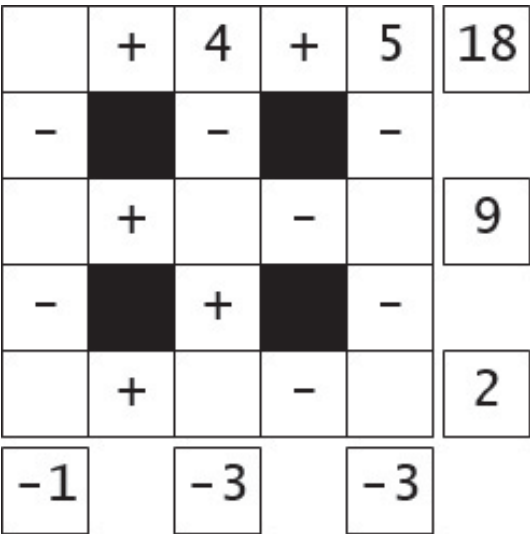
Word Search

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

Words starting with "X"

- XANTHAN
- XENOSAURUS
- XANTHINE
- XEROX
- XAPHOON
- XRAY
- XBOX
- XYLAN
- XEBEC
- XYLOGRAPH
- XEME
- XYLOPHONE
- XENOBLAST
- XYRIS

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

- Q: Why was the mobile phone scared of the dentist?
A: Because he didn't want him to remove his blue tooth.
- Q: What did one bug on the windscreen say to the other bug on the windscreen?
A: I bet you don't have the guts to do that again.

The Farmer's Ag News

Agriculture industry tracking for 2030 farm gate output target

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has congratulated the agriculture industry on its relentless pursuit of \$100 billion in farm gate output by 2030.

NFF President David Jochinke said despite global market volatility, shifting trade dynamics, and extreme weather events, the sector has continued to make significant productivity gains.

"We're just five years out from 2030, and we are closing in on this ambitious target," Mr Jochinke said at AgXchange.

"The 2030 Roadmap has served as the north star for Australian agriculture by guiding policy, investment, and innovation across the country.

"ABARES forecasts show we're on track to reach the \$100 billion mark over the next few years, which is a remarkable achievement that reflects the resilience, adaptability and ingenuity of our Aussie farmers.

"We've had a number of wins for the sector, including the extension of the Regional Investment Corporation Loans, the shelving of the 'Biosecurity Tax', the passing of the long-awaited legislation to establish a nature

repair market, and government commitment to develop a National Food Security Strategy.

"However, there are still gains to be made, particularly in farm safety, mental health, workforce attraction and retention, sustainability and global competitiveness.

"With continued collaboration between industry and government, I am confident we can turn challenges into opportunities and deliver lasting benefits for Australian agriculture and our communities," Mr Jochinke said.

The Roadmap's report card was unveiled last week at AgXchange on the Gold Coast.

Released in 2018, the 2030 Roadmap was developed by industry and endorsed by the Prime Minister.

The 2026 financial year outlook shows: A farm output of \$94.7 billion, up one per cent; export value of \$74.6 billion, down 2.5 per cent; volume up one per cent; livestock up four per cent; crops down 0.75 per cent; and horticulture up four per cent to \$19.2 billion.

The latest 2030 Roadmap report can be found at nff.org.au/2025-report-card/

Show caution to weeds from introduced fodder

Richard Smith, Dairy Extension Officer

WITH many farmers purchasing more fodder than usual, it's a timely reminder about the increased risks of introducing weeds to your property.

There are key steps that farmers should follow to minimise the risk of introducing and spreading unwanted weeds and pests.

To minimise the risk of these weeds and pests establishing across your farm, make sure all purchased fodder is fed in a designated containment area, feedpad or sacrifice paddock, which has been sited to mitigate risks.

Feeding out in restricted areas allows for better observation of any new plants germinating and enables quick eradication and control of any weeds or pests that might emerge, therefore reducing the risk of these weeds and pests becoming established in the area.

Ongoing drought conditions are creating significant challenges for Victoria's livestock industry, particularly a critical shortage of fodder, with farmers needing to look interstate to source supply.

Agriculture Victoria is providing a free and tailored service to suppliers, transporters and farmers to help them to efficiently navigate the permit requirements to bring feed into Victoria while managing biosecurity risks.

When purchasing feed, farmers are encouraged to request a Commodity Vendor Declaration with every load. Commodity Vendor Declarations contain background information about the fodder source, including whether it has been sprayed or treated with chemical that is still within a withholding period (WHP), export slaughter interval (ESI) or export animal feed interval (EAFI).

Permit applications for fodder are being prioritised by Agriculture Victoria to allow for timely fodder movement. To ensure that fodder movement occurs, once a Plant Biosecurity Permit is applied for, Agriculture Victoria will contact the farmer within two working days to discuss and assess the specifics of their import request.

A plant biosecurity permit will be issued free of charge for fodder movement. If an inspection of fodder by Agriculture Victoria is required on its arrival to Victoria (which will be stipulated as a permit condition), the cost of this inspection will also be waived.

For more information go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/moving-hay-and-fodder-across-states

For more information about drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186

Beyond Blue teams up with Just a Farmer for rural mental health

MANY residents in Murrindindi Shire may have seen the film, *Just a Farmer*, at recent local screenings. The filmmaker, Leila McDougall, has just been announced as Campaign Ambassador for Farming and Rural Communities for Beyond Blue.

Leila's appointment to the campaign reflects a strong and genuine alignment with Beyond Blue's mission to support mental health in farming and rural communities, in addition to supporting small business owners who live and work in rural and regional Australia.

Leila said, "Through *Just a Farmer*, I wanted to start conversations that matter and genuinely reflect what life is like on the farm and for rural communities.

"As a Beyond Blue ambassador for farming and rural communities, I'm proud to help to continue to break down stigma and encourage people to seek support. Beyond Blue is there for farmers and rural communities and offers support such as NewAccess for Small Business Owners (NASBO), a free and confidential service, tailored to the realities of

farming and small business life. It's exactly what our communities need."

The NASBO program offers free, confidential mental health coaching designed specifically for small business owners, including farmers and agricultural operators, without the need for a GP referral. It supports early intervention for work and life pressures, helping individuals feel better, get well, and stay well.

Beyond Blue CEO Georgie Harman welcomed Leila's appointment in the campaign, saying, "Together, we can help encourage open conversations around mental health to reduce stigma and ensure more people can access the support they need, when they need it."

For more information about the NASBO program or to access support, visit beyondblue.org.au or call 1300 945 301. The Beyond Blue Support Service is free and available 24/7, call 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au/getsupport

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Later Garry, Helen and Walter were kicked out of the home for smuggling in quack.

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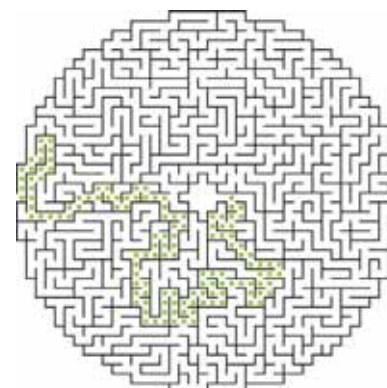
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MATH SQUARE

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MEETINGS

**EILDON COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY SHOP
INC. AGM, Tuesday,**
October 14 at 2.30pm.
Fay Crimeen, President.

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Applications close October 5, 2025
Position to begin February 2026.

MEETINGS



MERTON AMATEUR TURF CLUB Inc ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Merton Amateur Turf Club warmly invites you to be part of a cherished tradition. Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 11am at the racecourse. Following the meeting, a barbecue will be provided for all attendees.

Further Information

For any questions, or if you are unable to attend but wish to get involved, please contact Natalie at 0407 888 121 or Jason at 0409 525 122. They will be happy to assist you.



The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc., trading as Menziess Support Services, has been providing services to our community for over 40 years. We are a Not for Profit Charitable organisation, community owned, with a volunteer Committee of Management.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025,
5.30pm at "The Mount",
Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, 2456
Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra

Any new business or applications for membership for consideration need to be forwarded to the Secretary, seven business days prior to AGM. **Please RSVP via the contact details below.** You will be provided with the agenda, Annual Report and other important documents prior to the AGM. **Members of the community are encouraged to attend the AGM.**

Please RSVP to Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc. Dave Beattie, President on 0448 009 200. Email the DPMC secretary, DPMC@menziessupport.org.au or Menziess Support Services 5772 1888.

All committee positions are open for nomination. For more information or to nominate for a committee position, please contact Dave Beattie, President on 0448 009 200. **We invite new members to the association.** Membership renewals and application forms can be obtained from Menziess Support Services at 49 Nihil Street, requested by email or post, or submitted online at menziessupport.org.au/dpmc

MEETINGS



Redgate Alexandra Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc.

Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 10am at Club Rooms, Perkins Street, Alexandra Vic. All members very welcome. More Information 0412 435 946.

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DEATH NOTICES

CANN, JAMES Mervyn.
12/04/1934 - 28/09/2025.
Passed peacefully 91 good years. Love always. Rest in Peace. Dawne, Rohan, Christine, Natasha and families.

MOSS, Patricia Margaret (Pat)

25/11/1937 - 22/09/2025

Loving wife and soul mate to Ted (dec). Loving mother of Christine, Suzanne (dec), Rosalie and Robert. Mother in law to Tony and Helen. Sister in law to Edna and Kevin. Nanna to seven grand children and eight great grandchildren. Back with dad. RIP Mum.

MOSS, Patricia 'Pat'.
25/11/1937 - 22/09/2025.
Passed away peacefully, aged 87 years. Reunited with her beloved husband Ted and daughter Sue. Loved mother of Robert and mother in law of Helen. Cherished nan of Andrew and Bernadette, Daniel, and Hayley. Adored big nan of Tyler and Mackenzie. Forever loved, never forgotten.

DEATH NOTICES

PARKER, Valma Margaret.
05/07/1928 - 24/09/2025.
Passed away peacefully at Harmony Village, Shepparton. Wife of Ernie (dec). Mother of Margaret, Ken, David and Graham. Nan to Shane and Phoebe. Great nan to Koa and Tahj. Step nan to Brad, Luke and Louise. A very special lady, will be sadly missed but memories will be forever.

RIDD, Leslie John (Les).
OAM.
22/07/1944 - 20/09/2025.
Beloved cousin and friend. Remembered as a devoted husband to Margaret. Father to Darren, Matthew and Katherine. Les was a selfless champion whose work ethic at home and in support of his community was exceptional and deeply appreciated by all who were fortunate enough to know him. Our deepest condolences to Margaret, Darren, Matthew, Katherine and extended family. Remembered always, Judy, Kerry, Graham and Stephanie.



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Sign up to save a life

WITH more cardiac arrests in Victoria than ever before, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is encouraging Taggerty and Eildon residents to learn or refresh their cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

A cardiac arrest occurs when a person's heart suddenly stops pumping blood effectively around the body.

This October marks the sixth year of AV's state-wide *Shocktober* campaign, which is dedicated to improving cardiac arrest survival rates.

Ambulance Victoria Hume Director Regional and Clinical Operations Narelle Capp encouraged locals to learn CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) and know where their closest defibrillator is located.

"Shocktober is about giving Victorians who have a cardiac arrest a better chance of returning to their loved ones," she said.

"CPR and defibrillation are critical. Every day, around 21 Victorians suffer the medical emergency but only one in 10 survive. For every minute CPR is delayed, survival decreases by 10 per cent.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere, at any age, health or fitness level, and often without symptoms.

"Our message is simple. You don't need to be a paramedic to save a life, just remember to call (Triple Zero 000), push (Perform CPR) and shock (use an AED)."

Narelle also encouraged locals to sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

GoodSAM is a mobile app that connects patients in cardiac arrest



with a nearby volunteer who is willing to start hands-only CPR while paramedics are on their way. There are currently more than 17,300 GoodSAM responders across Victoria, but we need more.

Last year, AV paramedics and first responders were called to 7,545 cardiac arrest patients. Victoria

has the best cardiac survival rates in Australia and the third best anywhere in the world.

AV will run Call, Push, Shock sessions in Taggerty and Eildon during Shocktober and locals are encouraged to attend. The Taggerty session is on Tuesday, October 7 at 6pm at Taggerty CH@T, and the

Eildon session will be on Tuesday, October 28 at 10am at the Lake Eildon Visitor Centre.

For information about Shocktober, the GoodSAM app and how to learn CPR and use an AED (defib), visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober

Keep up with cancer screening and health checks

CANCER Council Victoria is urging women to be vigilant about unexplained symptoms and keep up to date with health checks, as one in four Victorian women will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 75.

Victorian Cancer Registry data shows that more than 17,900 Victorian women were diagnosed with cancer in 2023, with the most common types being breast, thyroid, bowel and melanoma.

One way women can lower their risk of developing cancer is by being up to date with cancer screening. Australia has four free national cancer screening programs for bowel, breast, cervical and lung cancer.

Cancer Council Victoria Head of Screening, Early Detection and Immunisation Kate Broun encouraged women to use Women's Health Week to catch-up on any overdue health checks and cancer screening tests.

"We are still seeing repercussions from the pandemic of people not keeping up to

date with their health checks and cancer screening," she said.

"It's so important to take the time to look after yourself and see a healthcare professional if you notice any concerning or new changes to your body. Early detection of cancer saves lives and keeping on top of cancer screening can help find cancer early."

Wonga Park resident Helen Clapham is one Victorian woman who is proof cancer screening saves lives.

Despite feeling healthy and having no symptoms, Helen's first bowel screening test came back positive and at the age of 56 she was diagnosed with stage three bowel cancer.

"I thought 'oh, here we go again'. It had been 13 years since I was cleared of my breast cancer and I'm lucky that I had great family support all around," she said.

"Without the screening program, who knows what may have happened? Because it was detected through screening, the treatment

was successful and now I'm able to enjoy life again."

Now 20 years later, Helen continues to stay vigilant with all her health checks. She also actively encourages friends and family to prioritise their own cancer screening tests.

"I can't control the whole wide world, but I can try and get more people to do their cancer screening tests. They are an opportunity to get everything checked out," she said.

The eligibility age for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program was lowered in July 2024 to invite people aged 45-49 to order a free at-home bowel screening test kit.

Helen said the lowering of the program's eligibility age would allow more people to get screened and find bowel cancer early.

"I might have been one of the first people in Australia to be diagnosed with bowel cancer after doing the bowel screening test, so I hope younger people will now have the chance to find bowel cancer early and get treated, just like I did," she said.

Other ways women can lower their cancer risk include: Attending regular health check-ups with your GP and getting any new or concerning health symptoms checked; keeping up-to-date with cancer screening. Australia has four national cancer screening programs to help detect cervical, bowel, breast and lung cancer early; cutting back on alcohol consumption and choose healthier meal options. LiveLighter has free online recipes to help you get started; taking steps to quit smoking or vaping and get support from Quitline on 13 7848 or quit.org.au; using the five forms of sun protection outside when the UV rating is three or above. Download the SunSmart Global UV app for more information.

To find more information about cancer prevention, visit cancervic.org.au

If you need cancer information or support, call the Cancer Council support line on 131 120.

Tyrrell seeking improved repairs on regional roads

AS part of her campaign to improve the road network throughout her electorate, Member for Northern Victorian Region Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has questioned the Victorian Government on the quality of the workmanship by contractors responsible for repairing damaged Victorian roads.

Ms Tyrrell has been a constant advocate for the repair of many regional roads throughout Northern Victoria and last month called on her constituents to contact her with details of specific roads that needed urgent attention.

Ms Tyrrell's office has been inundated with complaints from constituents as a result and she has highlighted these concerns in regular contributions in state parliament.

"Almost as often as I hear from my constituents about damaged, neglected roads, I also hear about the unsatisfactory road repairs carried out by contractors employed by the state government," Ms Tyrrell said.

"I hear stories of these works crumbling, potholes reforming and rough surfaces reappearing within weeks, sometimes days, of so-called repairs being completed."

To improve the standard of the repair work on regional roads, Ms Tyrrell called on the Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne to implement an inquiry into the poor workmanship to hold contractors responsible to account.

"Repairs lasting only a few weeks is not value for money; they should be fixed correctly the first time, with no corners cut and no need for almost immediate repairs," Ms Tyrrell said.

"The shoddy workmanship we are seeing on rural roads is appalling and I call on the Minister to take action to ensure our roads are repaired and repaired properly."

Support for local and independent journalism

THE Australian Government is supporting local and independent journalism by providing more than \$12 million in funding to regional, local suburban, multicultural and First Nations news publishers across Australia.

The News Media Relief Program grants will support more than 1000 journalists across 98 regional, 22 suburban, three First Nations and 24 multicultural media organisations.

Minister for Communications Anika Wells said, "The Albanese Government is supporting almost 150 news organisations from Tweed Valley to Kalgoorlie who will benefit from a share in \$12 million so they can continue their important work.

"Local journalists on the ground are incredibly important in keeping communities informed about the issues that impact their lives.

"It is important people have their voices and opinions heard wherever they are which is what media organisations do so well.

Dr Helen Haines, Independent Federal Member for Indi, said, "Independent local journalism has never been more important than it is today. Regional communities rely on their local papers for trusted reporting on the issues that matter most to their towns.

"In Indi we are fortunate to have local media outlets telling our stories and keeping people informed. This funding will help ensure the printing presses keep rolling and our community continues to have access to quality, reliable reporting."

Lawn and order

IT appears that lawn mowing and garden maintenance by external contractors at all police stations in Victoria has ceased, with police expected to mow the lawns and maintain the gardens of police stations themselves.

This is likely to take police officers away from policing duties, reducing the number of police on the streets, at a time when crime statistics have revealed an 18.3 per cent increase in criminal incidents in Victoria, and the highest number of criminal incidents since such record-keeping began.

When contacted about the issue, Police Association Victoria secretary Wayne Gatt said, "Members across the state are complaining that the force is not properly managing its properties and, in particular, has ceased regular maintenance of lawn mowing at police stations.

"This has resulted in our buildings looking unkempt, unprofessional and members resorting to cutting grass when they're on duty instead of patrolling out in communities, where they should be.

"Frankly, this is bloody embarrassing. Do better. If you want a force to be professional, then it must look the part. The only cuts policing needs at the moment, are our lawns."

The Minister for Police, Anthony Carabines, has been contacted for comment on the issue.

SPORT

Alexandra Women's golfers start round one in 2025 club championship

by Dave Silverman

IN a week which saw fine, mild weather, but with little to no sun in evidence, eight players teed off in Tuesday's Stableford round, eventually. One of our Tuesday regulars did take turning up late to its limits, but, as they say, better late than never, eh Shonky.

Russell Purcell had a day out, scoring 40 points after a bit of a shaky start to win the event by a mile. Steve Darmody was second with 32 points, and third, with 30, was yours truly.

Rundown vouchers went to Greg Millard and Bill Wind, and Frank DeVries claimed the only nearest the pin, which was on seven.

Conditions were much the same for the 11 ladies who played in round one of their 2025 Club Championship last Wednesday. It was Deb Richardson who brought in a score of 84 net 71 to take out the day, with Barb Doyle in second with 92 net 74. Helen Findlay was third with 100 net 75, and fourth went to Ruth Worland with 91 net 75.

Deb and Helen took off nearest the pins on five and 18 respectively, and two went to Marg Fahey. The nine hole winner, with a net 38 on the back nine, was Sue Greatorex.

Saturday dawned fine and clear, with the greatly missed sun making its presence felt at last. It was an early start last week, as apparently there was a football match being played later in the day, and one or two people had a passing interest in watching it.

A field of 13 played Stableford, and the event was sponsored by Alexandra Windscreens. The best score on the day belonged to our captain, Luke Heard, who had 38 points. Second was your roving reporter on 36, James Kidd was third with 35 and fourth went to Matt Richards, who had 34 points.

Sam Kidd didn't have a day to remember, recording only 26 points but had a few highlights, taking nearest the pins on two, five and 18, with seven going to Jared Sloane, and Luke Heard claiming 12. Luke also holed

his second shot on the 17th for an eagle. Congratulations, Hearty.

There has been an enormous amount of work done in the past week or so to bring the course to the way it was presented on Saturday, culminating in a working bee on Friday, including the scarifying and sanding of all the greens. A big thank you must go to all those who pitched in to help. If you haven't yet discovered the joys of volunteering, fear not, the grass will keep growing for quite a while yet. Contact Mick Holohan if you'd like to put your hand up.

Finally, a reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.30pm on this coming Saturday, October 4. All members are urged to attend.



John Greatorex holes out on 18. -S



With cloudy skies Steve Darmody on the third tee. -S



Another load of sand for the green as part of the recent working bee. Many hands make light work. -S

Nice turn out for golf on Grand Final day

by Puttomatic

LAST Saturday on Grand Final day Eildon Golf Club had 12 players compete in a four ball best ball stableford competition. The pairing of Ian Lakeland and John Monteath proved too good for the rest of the field with 43 points, Allison Southwell and Peter McNair in second with 39 points and the ball run going to Shane Barrand and Chris Currie on 38 points, on a countback from Marian Williamson and Ken Coller also on 38 points.

There were only two nearest the pin winners with Shane Barrand winning with his second shot on the third and Peter McNair on the 12th, all the others going unclaimed. Allison Southwell had the only birdie on our birdie drink holes with a birdie on the eighth.

Other winners, the entry draw this week will a jackpot to next week and Ian Lakeland took out the swindle. Congratulations to all our winners.

Until next time, take care and happy hitting.



Last Tuesday week, Russell Purcell finishing up on the 18th hole. -S

SPORT

Annual camp for Alexandra and District Pony Club

THE Alexandra and District Pony Club held its much-anticipated annual camp on September 21 and 22 with riders, families, and horses gathering at the club's home grounds for a weekend of activities, laughter, and learning.

Saturday afternoon saw children jump straight into mounted games led by instructors Nicky Embling and Sally Hill. With a mix of team challenges and individual timed games, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and friendly competition.

As the sun set, riders turned their attention to caring for their horses, setting up yards, tents, and swags, and a few lucky campers enjoyed the comfort of caravans. Once horses were fed, families gathered around a table full of nibbles and had a cold drink before tucking into a hearty dinner of burgers, generously donated by Sam from Thornton Butchers and Deli. Gav skilfully fashioned an old hollow stump into a brilliant campfire, which set the scene for a

relaxed evening and was perfect for toasting marshmallows too.

Despite Sunday's grey skies, the children's spirits remained high as riders saddled up for a few more lessons with instructors. Sarah guided riders through showjumping, Nicky set up fun obstacles, and Liane led valuable flatwork sessions. The mix of learning and fun made for another successful and memorable pony club camp for all involved.

The club are now looking ahead to the next rally at 9am on Sunday, October 19, which will focus on preparing ponies for the local show. Activities will include grooming and plaiting, giving riders the chance to polish their presentation skills before the 140th Alexandra Annual Spring Show on November 8, 2025.

The club is always keen to welcome new riders, volunteers, families, and friends. Contact them at alexandraponyclub@gmail.com or go and try to experience the fun and supportive atmosphere of an Alexandra Pony Club rally.



Ted and Josh on their matching ponies. -S



Isla and Clara taking on poles in a friendly competition. -S



Alexandra Pony Club team after the fun of games on Saturday. -S



Annabelle practicing jumps with Ripper. -S



Meg on Beauty. -S



Campfire fun for Alexandra Pony Club. -S



Summer riding Tigger. -S

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Time to sign up for the cricket season

SCOTT Whitehead, president of the Alexandra Cricket Club, has been working hard to develop the new season of cricket in Alexandra.

"Obviously there's a new season of cricket fast approaching, so we're working hard trying to get all our juniors aligned and everyone signed up before the season starts," he said.

If young people are keen to give cricket a go, Scott said, "It's lots of fun and lots of learning. We're very keen on just educating kids around how the sport works and being a part of the community. That's what we're all about."

He noted that once the Big Bash starts on television, lots of children become keen to take part in the sport, and cricket is certainly a good way of keeping children fit and active during the summer season, as well as teamwork.

Scott said, "It's all about being part of a team. You see a lot of aspiring leaders come out of it all, and those leaders tend to bring along the kids who are a little bit shy or a little bit cautious of playing the game. With the different age groups and the senior guys, we've got a lot of late teenagers who are very keen to help out with the junior side of development because they recognised how important it was to be part of that team when they were young."

The participation costs are very reasonable. For under 11s and under 13s, the fee is just \$50 for the season, plus the Cricket Australia fee of about \$20. Scott commented, "It's quite affordable but we're always keen to help families who might not be in a position to provide that assistance for their kids."

The club has opened an online shop via their Facebook page where people can order equipment and uniforms, including the new designed coloured shirts.

Given that cricket is a summer sport, parents will be pleased to note that the club has a break over the main holiday period. The junior rounds start in mid- to late-October and the seniors start the first weekend of October, then there's a break from Christmas through to the start of term one for a few weeks.



Scott Whitehead. -S

Scott is a life member at two clubs, Eildon and Alexandra. He started playing at Eildon in 1992, playing many games with them. He ended up being president, as well as holding other offices. He then had a year at Thornton before moving to Alexandra in 2006. He's "very passionate about cricket and what it brings the community and the culture that we all aspire to and try to provide."

Scott said, "The Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) has taken a new approach to cricket. They're really keen on promoting junior sport and have had a lot of interest from sponsors and naming rights partners throughout the whole competition, so that the new executive is really keen to promote the SDCA and get it back on the map."

Sponsors and supporters are also welcome locally, with the Alexandra Club keen to do some upgrades at the club rooms and kitchen, and some more sporting equipment for the children.

If people have any questions about the club, they can call Scott on 0480 253 514. The Facebook page also has a lot of information, including upcoming draws.



The intermediate golf clinic participants. -S

A huge success for Marysville Golf Clinics

by Lesley Rundle

THE highlight of the golfing week at Marysville were the very successful golf clinics held on Friday, September 26. PGA Golf Coach Travis Harrison travelled up from Spring Valley golf club to coach three clinics and all were well received by the enthusiastic participants. The day started with a group clinic for beginner and novice golfers, followed by one for intermediate and experienced players and the last offering private sessions for those who wanted a one-on-one lesson. Members would like to thank Heather Jenkins for organising the clinics, Travis for his expert advice, and all the participants for attending the clinic.

In very favourable weather conditions, the Saturday golfers had an early start for a stableford round giving players time to get home after their round to watch the AFL Grand Final. The ladies winner was Jody Doran (12) with an excellent 37 points followed by the very consistent Gail Leigh (13) with 34 points. Travers Stow (19) won the men's competition with 35 points followed by the in-form Steve Coker (16) with 31 points. The nearest pins were won by Peter Lilley, Heather Jenkins, Adam Littlejohn and Brett Mansfield who also won the golden shot. Next Saturday both the men and the ladies will play

a stroke round for the October monthly medal and the first round of their championships.

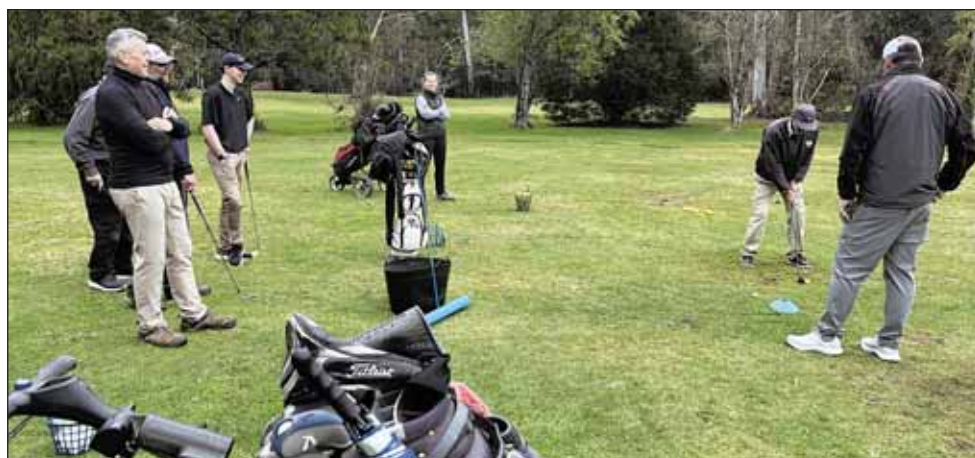
Last Thursday four ladies played on the beautiful Strathbogie course in the annual ladies tournament. The Marysville ladies seem to be very good at winning raffles with Helen Howard and Heather Jenkins each taking home a prize and both winning some Dalhousie Player of the Year points. Heather also won a nearest the pin. Our thanks to the Strathbogie members for their hospitality and special thanks to the men in the kitchen who supplied the visitors with a very welcome three course meal.

While the ladies were in Strathbogie the Dalhousie Veterans were playing at Eildon. Our thanks to Steve Coker for his regular attendance at the Veterans events. Marysville will be hosting the Dalhousie veterans on Thursday, November 27.

Upcoming events at the club include the dinner on Friday, October 3 to farewell greenkeeper Kellan Fiske and to thank our supporters, the Anniversary Fundraising Day on Saturday, November 8 and the Mixed Tournament on Sunday, November 9. Details of all these events can be found on the club's website and Facebook pages. Members are also asked to note that the first round of the 2025/6 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters will be held at Alexandra on Saturday, November 15.



The beginners clinic at the Marysville Golf Clinics. -S



It was a great learning experience for everyone that attended the clinics. -S

ALEXANDRA CRICKET CLUB

★ PRE-SEASON TRAINING ★

SENIORS AND U16S

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
5PM @ LECKIE PARK

JUNIORS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
4PM @ LECKIE PARK
U11, U13

WOOLWORTHS CRICKET BLAST TBC
ALL GIRLS CRICKET BLAST TBC

CONTACT SCOTT WHITEHEAD
0480 253 514

GO REDBACKS!

