

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, October 8, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Solar farm project proposed for Rubicon

RESIDENTS close to the corner of Rubicon Road and Taggerty-Thornton Road in Rubicon have recently received a letter from Samsung C&T SREA regarding a proposed solar farm. SREA is a wholly owned company of Samsung C&T Corporation in Korea.

According to the map, the solar farm is proposed for the area immediately to the right when turning onto Rubicon Road, along with a small area to the left.

The letter states, "SREA understands the importance of facilitating local participation

and community input to understand community issues and achieve positive local and regional community outcomes. To support community awareness of the project and provide opportunities for input, SREA will distribute broader public information over coming weeks."

According to the text, the project would include the installation, operation and maintenance and decommissioning/re-powering of a solar photovoltaics (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

The capacity is estimated to be 100MW for the solar PV and 200MW/800MWh for the BESS. The full footprint, layout and development details are yet to be determined, and a competitive tender procurement process will be conducted.

The solar arrays are expected to be mounted on single-axis trackers. The infrastructure is expected to include a substation, transformers and inverters to connect it to the grid, along with BESS compound infrastructure including a modular battery enclosure, power

conversion systems and cabling. There will also be security fencing put in place.

SREA estimates that the solar farm will have a 30 year life span.

When a local resident posted their letter to the community Facebook page, some commenters were in support, saying that the shire needs to do their bit for sustainable energy and that sheep could be run under the panels, and commented on the dangers of climate change.

Others commented on the area being prime farm land, the potential bushfire hazard, potential river contamination from the battery storage, the "eyesore", and the possible tourism impact.

The farm zoned property on which the proposed solar farm is to be situated is currently for sale for \$11 million, advertised on *Domain*. It's described in the advertisement as "A truly outstanding rural asset. 717 acres approximately of some of the finest grazing country in Victoria."

When contacted for more information, Stephan Mitchell, Development Manager at Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia, said, "The project aims to support sustainable land management alongside renewable energy generation. Co-locating a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a solar farm allows excess solar energy to be stored and used when the sun isn't shining, making the most of clean energy. It helps keep the power supply stable, reduces pressure on the grid, and improves efficiency by using shared infrastructure. This setup supports a more reliable and sustainable energy system.

"...SREA has initiated conversations with neighbours and will distribute information to the broader community over the coming weeks, listen to local perspectives, and collaborate in shaping a positive renewable energy legacy. The project will generate local jobs, economic opportunities, and dedicated benefit-sharing program for the community.

Continued Page 3



Alexandra Rotary had an array of tables set up for handing out the time capsule letters last Sunday. For more on the wonderful event, turn to page 4. -BD

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY
25 October 2025



COX PLATE DAY

• Music • Food • Horse Racing • The TAB Tote Van RETURNS • Big Screen • Bookies Services
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Patrons must have a ticket to catch the bus.

Route 1 Eildon Bus

11.00am Eildon Pondage Caravan Park
11.05am Eildon Town Bus Stop - Main St
11.15am Big 4 Holiday Park
11.20am Eildon Waters Holiday Park
11.30am Rubicon Hotel
11.45pm Alexandra Race Club

Book buses online

country.racing.com/alexandra
Route 2 Yarck Bus

11.00 Taggerty 4 Seasons CP
11.10 Acheron Twin Rivers CP (gate)
11 35 Molesworth Pub
11.45 Yarck Pub

BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra

AS REAL AS IT GETS

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES AND ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) *journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au*
(Milly) *reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au*

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS

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Approved - PP 100000292

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 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	Communita 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

1 st Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 st Thur	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
1 st Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 nd Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
3 rd Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 rd Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3 rd Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 rd Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th 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.

FOXES were introduced to Australia around the mid-1850s for hunting purposes but now run rampant and are a declared pest under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Agriculture Victoria delivers the Victorian fox bounty, an incentive program designed to encourage hunters and farmers to participate in fox management.

For background, the red fox is only found in Australia, though there are 21 fox species throughout the world. They are found mainly in urban areas, alpine heaths, rainforests and coasts. Victorian habitats are highly desirable places for foxes.

Research indicates that there could be as many as 16 foxes per square kilometre in urban areas, while temperate agricultural areas could have around four to eight foxes per square kilometre. This is due to urban areas being more resource heavy, packed with food and shelter.

They are introduced predators, who tend to prey on livestock and have a significant impact on native animals.

THUMBS UP: To Goody's Discounts, the best store in Alexandria. Dawn is always so cheerful, helpful and obliging. If they don't have what you want in stock they will try to get it in, if possible.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandria 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

Coffee and catch up

THE Coffee and Catch Up kicked off to a fantastic start. Over 40 people turned up including farmers, locals, Father Mario from the Anglican Church. Even our Mayor Damian Gallagher turned up showing positive interest in what was happening.

Soon people started meeting up with people they hadn't seen in months. The many volunteers and generous people donated sandwiches and scones, ensuring no one went without. Newcomers were welcomed and got to tell their tales of what they've been doing and what they hope to do.

My desire to see a community project like this get started began when I stepped onto Grant Street having just helped clean the church and crossed paths with a man about

Weekly Weather

October 8 - October 14, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandria

Yea

	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	20		Wednesday	9	20	
Thursday	9	18		Thursday	10	19	
Friday	9	19		Friday	9	19	
Saturday	6	17		Saturday	7	16	
Sunday	6	16		Sunday	6	16	
Monday	6	17		Monday	6	18	
Tuesday	7	19		Tuesday	7	20	

my age. I politely said hello to which he replied with a tirade of abuse, muttering about people in the sky. It made me realise a large minority have no idea what goes on in a church. Gone are the days when it was the community centre. Yet as Christians we are called to serve the community.

As the weeks passed, the congregations of Alexandra were in contact. A decision was made to hold weekly get-togethers on Wednesdays at the Oasis at 118 Grant Street, run by volunteers. With so much news these days being challenging and dark, it is good to have something positive for such a time as this. All are welcome if you're available and interested. It's being held on Wednesdays from 10am to noon.

Tom Collins, Alexandra

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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STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	1.95	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.60	steady	Below Flood Level
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.68	steady	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.48AM Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	9.50AM Mon	0.48	steady	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	9.00AM Mon	0.29	steady	Below Flood Level
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.63	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	4.00	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.45	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.77	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.30	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	2.02	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	1.16	steady	
*ISSUED AT 11:24 AM AEDT MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025				

Alexandra.....	9mm
Buxton.....	31mm
Eildon (AWS).....	11mm
Flowerdale.....	10mm
Jamieson.....	18mm
Kinglake.....	17mm
Lake Eildon.....	13mm
Mansfield.....	6mm
Taggerty	15mm
Yarck	10mm
Yea.....	8mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	275.93m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	66.4%
Metres below full supply.....	12.97m
Daily inflow	3000ML
Release.....	4400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	41%

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

Council calls for tenders on Breakaway Bridge amidst possibility for substandard rebuild

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is calling for tenders to reinstate Breakaway Bridge at Acheron, restoring access for the community, while continuing to advocate to state and federal governments for full funding to deliver a safe, functional and future-proofed bridge.

Breakaway Bridge was catastrophically damaged in the October 2022 floods, severing a vital connection for Acheron and surrounding districts. Since then, council has worked with Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) and other agencies under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to secure a replacement crossing.

Council recently received an offer from ERV of \$5.2 million to cover construction and project costs to date. Independent advice and council's own assessments indicate that delivering a resilient bridge to contemporary standards will cost significantly more than this amount.

To preserve the current funding offer and maintain momentum, council is calling for tenders this month seeking two design-and-construct options, with submissions due by the end of October.

Option one is ERV supported, a single-lane bridge with traffic lights and battery backup plus demolition of the original timber bridge. Option two is an alternative dual-lane bridge built to contemporary

standards, without reliance on traffic lights, and demolition of the original timber bridge.

ERV has indicated its funding would support construction of a 105-metre single-lane bridge with traffic signals. While such a design would technically carry vehicles, council is concerned this option does not meet contemporary Australian road and bridge design standards.

Reliance on traffic lights introduces risks in a disaster-prone area with frequent power outages, heavy fog and limited emergency access. Independent advice confirms that a dual-lane bridge is the only compliant and resilient solution for this location.

The Acheron community is no stranger to disasters. It has endured the 2009 fires, major floods in 2022 and 2024, and frequent power and communication outages. These conditions demand resilient infrastructure that ensures safety, emergency access, and reliable connectivity. Transport Accident Commission data confirms this region is already overrepresented in serious road injuries and fatalities.

On October 3, 2025, council formally wrote to the Hon. Vicki Ward MP (Minister for Emergency Services), the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP (Minister for Regional Development), and the Hon. Melissa Horne MP (Minister for Roads and Road Safety), calling for urgent support to secure funding for a dual-lane bridge that meets contemporary standards and

restores safety and resilience for the Acheron community.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said this issue goes beyond replacing a bridge.

"Breakaway Bridge has been missing for three years, physically dividing the Acheron community, adding 17-kilometre detours for families and farmers, delaying emergency response, and increasing burdens on visitors and local businesses," Cr Gallagher said.

"We cannot afford to build back below standard. A single-lane bridge with traffic lights is a patch solution that leaves our community vulnerable. This is not about gold plating, it is about building to today's standards, as any community has the right to expect.

"If the bridge is to be rebuilt, a dual-lane bridge is the only credible, safe solution. This is why council continues to call on the state and federal governments to meet the funding gap and ensure Acheron is not left with brand-new but substandard infrastructure."

Council will brief residents at a community meeting in mid-November, once tenders have been evaluated and clearer information is available.

Further updates will be shared as the tender process progresses. For more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or contact council on (03) 5772 0333.

Solar farm project proposed for Rubicon

Continued from Page 1

"A dedicated project website is now live at rubiconrenewable.com. Feedback can be provided via an online survey (available on the project website), a dedicated hotline, and email. Alongside community engagement, a range of specialist studies, including social, visual, noise, bushfire, water, and traffic impact assessments, are being scoped to inform the project's design and future planning submission in 2026."

The project information fact sheet states, "Subject to design development and project approvals, construction is expected to commence in 2027 and take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. The project is expected to have a 30 year life span."

The estimate that the project will provide up to 120 full time equivalent construction jobs at peak construction, and approximately six ongoing jobs during operation. There are also likely to be opportunities for skills development.

They are currently undergoing the announcement and stakeholder engagement phase. In the fourth quarter of 2025, they aim to commence technical studies to inform the planning permit application.

In the first quarter of 2026, they aim to submit the planning permit to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). During 2026, DTP will seek several specialist studies including assessments relating to visual impacts, glint and glare, bushfire, traffic and transport, air quality, noise and vibration, biodiversity, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage, surface water and groundwater, and hazard and risk. A social impact assessment is also being undertaken. The planning permit will be publicly advertised for community and stakeholder comment.

In the same year, the Planning Minister is expected to consider submission and make and issue decision on the planning permit application.

In addition, they state, "SREA welcomes and encourages community input to inform the development of a community benefit program designed to foster positive outcomes."



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

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

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
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

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.

OCTOBER

Free lunches for seniors to mark the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival. Council will be hosting free lunches in October. Bookings are essential. Register by Sunday October 19 at Murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival2025 or call council on 5772 0333.

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. Call 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 are available from Eildon, Rubicon, and Thornton. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leaplunch for more information. Registrations close Saturday, October 4.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Marysville Market is on again, 9am-1pm all your favourite stalls as well as homemade cakes, local honey, plants and much more.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Homewood Hall AGM will be held at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

The Trawool Estate would like you to join them under the stars for an outdoor orchestral candlelight concert 7.30-9.30pm \$150pp. For bookings phone 5792 1444 or scan the QR code in this week's edition.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Embassy of Ideas is hosting a whole town garage sale. To register your garage sale email embassyofideas@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.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Alexandra Race Club Cox Plate Day. Music, food, racing, big screen and more. Bookings country.racing.com/Alexandra

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 positions will be filled. For enquiries phone 0422 787 132.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Free business networking brunch in Yea. Join local businesses and entrepreneurs from around the shire from 10.30am-12.30pm at Country Club Yea. murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessnetworking

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Some of the letters that were buried in the time capsule in 2000. -BD



The Rotary Club of Alexandra were handing out the letters from the recently opened time capsule. -BD

Time capsule contents distributed by Rotary

THE Rotary Club of Alexandra distributed letters from the recently opened time capsule last Sunday in Rotary Park, as part of the Alexandra Grant Street Market.

The time capsule was buried in the year 2000 and was dug up in September. The contents was checked, and then Rotary worked to start handing out the letters.

Nearly 300 families put an envelope into that time capsule.

If you missed out on receiving your letter last Sunday, they can be picked up at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre.

Alongside delivering the letters, buried 25 years ago, to their owners, Rotary was also offering new letter packages. For just \$10, people can buy a letter kit to make their own letter to put in the new time capsule, which will be buried in November this year.

Next letter kits are available at the Alexandra Chemist for \$10, with last returns to the chemist or Alexandra Newsagent on November 14.



Marita Creighton and Judy Young with their collected letters. -BD



Bob Heard, daughter Kylie Fountain, and Sandra Heard, with the time capsule letter belonging to their family. -BD

Zoe Tapply pens children's book

ZOE Tapply, well-known in Alexandra as one of the lollipop ladies at the primary schools, has written a brand-new book for children, *Poetry for Littlies: Imagination + Reading are Precious Things*.

She explained, "I've always loved drawing. Always been able to write poetry at the drop of the hat. Somebody gives me something and I'll just sit down and write something straight away."

This isn't Zoe's first book but it's her first book for children. With this book, her focus is on the importance of children reading and not being on tablets and on phones. "It's really important for children to use their imagination. Going back to my childhood, with everything I did like being read to, playing outside, imagining houses with a bit of dirt and a broom. You can make anything," Zoe said. She later commented that her favourite books when she was growing up were *The Secret Garden* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

She added, "Children's innocence is taken away really because they don't have that

imagination. It's not going to turn things around, but it might help a few children. And if I can help a few children well and good."

The book is recommended for children aged up to seven, because these are the years that Zoe feels are really important. She's given copies of the book to the local schools so it can be included in their libraries. She's also given a copy to the Alexandra library.

Zoe has previously written a book on youth care because she was a youth worker where she likened everything to movies and music. She said, "People think youth work is just babysitting. Well, it's not. It's a tough job. A very tough job."

Zoe hasn't always been based in Alexandra. She lived in Boronia until she was 21, and then when she got married, she moved to Queensland with her husband. She wasn't keen on the move but stayed there until her children were old enough to have their own careers and their own partners. She then decided that it was time to move back down to Victoria as she missed winter and the changing of the seasons.

She's now been living in Alexandra for almost eight years, saying, "I think it's the nicest town I've ever lived in. Everyone's friendly and the kids on the crossing are just so delightful. I have not had one child be rude to me. A few of them, it takes them a little while for them to speak to you, but then they've been taught not to speak too strangers. If I didn't have that, I don't know what I'd do. I really miss it during the holidays. I almost feel like going up and standing there anyway."

Returning to her book, Zoe commented, "It's just a miracle that I've actually got a copy in my hand because it's taken months and months and months and a lot of a lot of to-ing and fro-ing with the publisher."

The book also contains a lot of beautiful drawings. Zoe said, "I just draw. If I've got nothing to do, I just sit and draw. I've got thousands of drawings and I thought rather than waste them..."

It took her about two years to create the book.

People can purchase the book on Amazon in paperback, e-book or hardback at [amazon.com.au/Poetry-Littlies-Imagination-Reading-Precious-ebook/dp/B0FLW68LW7](https://www.amazon.com.au/Poetry-Littlies-Imagination-Reading-Precious-ebook/dp/B0FLW68LW7)



Zoe Tapply with her new book, *Poetry for Littlies*. -AR

[com.au/Poetry-Littlies-Imagination-Reading-Precious-ebook/dp/B0FLW68LW7](https://www.amazon.com.au/Poetry-Littlies-Imagination-Reading-Precious-ebook/dp/B0FLW68LW7)

Zoe will also be able to sell the books directly.



Heavy machinery is not the correct method in getting your firewood. -S

Know the legal firewood collecting methods

RECENTLY while patrolling Mount Robertson State Forest, Pheasant Creek, Yea and Kinglake Police members located a male loading a tandem trailer of firewood with a skid steer. After speaking with the male, it was found that the trailer was unregistered, the vehicle towing the trailer was unregistered and was bearing cloned registration plates, which were also listed as cancelled.

Enquiries made with local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) reveal that the male was also committing further offences against the *Forests (Domestic Firewood) Regulations 2022*.

A person must not bring heavy equipment into a firewood collection area during a firewood collection season, and a person must not operate heavy equipment into a firewood collection area during a firewood collection season.

The 42-year-old male was issued with \$1629 worth of infringements for traffic related matters and will expect further infringement notices for the offences against the *Forests (Domestic Firewood) Regulations*.



The team from Yarck CFA. -S

There's still time to Get Fire Ready

AS Victoria heads into what is expected to be a challenging fire season, it's more important than ever for residents and property owners to understand their local fire risk and take steps to prepare.

To support communities across the state, CFA brigades will host Get Fire Ready events during October, offering practical advice and resources to help you get ready for the fire season.

Get tips on preparing your home and property, understand Fire Danger Ratings and where to find emergency information, learn how to create a Bushfire Survival Plan, and connect with your local CFA brigade.

Whether you live in a high-risk area or just want to be better prepared, attending a local event is a great way to take action.

October 12

Trawool Fire Station 10am to 2pm.

October 18

Eildon CFA at Eildon Bakery 8am to 1pm.

Yea CFA, Boundary Creek Boulevard between Jordan And William Hovell Way, 4 to 8pm.

Yarck CFA Station, 10am to noon. CFA stall at market. Captain Koala to appear. Sausage sizzle.

October 19

Strath Creek-Reedy Creek CFA station, 10am to 2pm.

Narbethong CFA Station, 11.30am to 2pm.

October 25

Koriella, Fawcett Hall, 10am to 3pm.

October 26

Flowerdale Fire Station, 10am to noon.

Buxton Fire Station, 10am to 4pm.

October 31

Glenburn Community Hall, 6 to 10.30pm.

Taggerty Oval, 9am to 1pm.

Previous

Alexandra, Molesworth, Marysville, Limestone, Homewood, Kinglake West, Kinglake and Acheron have already conducted their Fire Ready sessions.



MARYSVILLE MARKET

Second Sunday of each month

Sunday, October 12
9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls along with home made cakes, local honey, plants, jewellery and handcrafts. Community sausage sizzle and live music.

To book please call 0494 329 695 or email marysvillemarketinc@gmail.com



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Alexandra CFA promote being fire ready

THE Alexandra CFA attended last Sunday's market alongside the Rotary time capsule letter distribution, to promote being fire ready this spring.

They had the barbecue going to provide sausages, trucks on display, and some CFA members roaming and ready to stop and have a chat.

The purpose of attending the market was to engage residents directly, offering practical advice and resources to help them understand their fire risk, develop a fire plan, and know where to access emergency information.

For more information about getting fire ready, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/cfa-events/get-fire-ready



The Alexandra CFA were talking with community members about being fire ready this spring. -BD



Discussion between CFA members and community members. -BD



Steve Lynch, Ian Marr and Anthony Kilpatrick working the CFA barbecue. -BD



The Alexandra CFA trucks were on display to promote being fire ready this spring. -BD

Most Murrindindi Shire roads rated one star

THE Department of Transport and Planning has used the Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) to complete a comprehensive assessment of Victoria's state-owned roads to understand their safety performance.

Murrindindi Shire does not fare well.

More than 24,500 kilometres were assessed, including 4650 kilometres of urban roads and 19,850 kilometres of rural roads. Local council-managed roads were not included in the assessment.

In 2023, 71 per cent of travel in Victoria occurred on roads with a three star rating or higher. Roads rated three stars or above significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or death.

Victoria is working towards the national target of at least 80 per cent of travel on three star or better roads by 2030, in line with the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30.

But what does this mean for Murrindindi Shire, where most of our major roads are rated one star. Is there to be a reduction in tourism? Are regional people to move to urban areas? Are our roads to be improved? Or will the speed limits be lowered?

Shire roads rated with just one star, being the most dangerous, include a very large portion of the Black Spur on the Maroondah Highway. Other Maroondah Highway one star locations include much of the road between Taggerty and Alexandra, the highway leading into Yarck, and the area past Kanumbra-Gobur Road.

The entirety of Taggerty-Thornton Road is one star, as is Marysville Road from Narbethong

to Marysville, and Marysville-Wood Point Road.

On the Goulburn Valley Highway, the one star rated sections include the Thornton area from Gilmore Bridge to Snobs Creek, the area after the turnoff towards Cathkin, and the entire section from Yea to beyond Kerrisdale.

The Melba Highway's one star location is near the Kinglake turnoff, with the rest of the highway rated two or three stars.

On Whittlesea-Yea Road, the one star section is from Dairy Creek Road to just after Break Oday Road, and from Flowerdale to near Kinglake West.

Most of Broadford-Flowerdale Road is one star.

Whittlesea-Kinglake Road also has significant portions rated one star, from Extons Road through to Hodges Road near Healesville.

This is not good enough. The residents of the shire use these roads every day, and are at the highest risk. Their safety should not be compromised in this way.

When contacted about the issue, a Department of Transport spokesperson said, "The AusRAP data is supporting the Victorian Government to invest in road safety infrastructure upgrades where it is needed most, on roads with the highest crash rates and traffic volumes.

"By releasing this data, we're providing industry, research and government sectors with a stronger evidence base to inform better planning and delivery as we work together to end road trauma.

"The ratings highlight the significant safety benefits that have been achieved through the

delivery of life saving road safety infrastructure initiatives such as the deployment of flexible safety barriers along our highest risk roads."

The Department of Transport and Planning has provided information on Victoria's star ratings, including examples of how the ratings are calculated, which can be found at vic.gov.au/ausrap-star-ratings-victorian-roads

The AusRAP methodology is based on the International Road Assessment Program (iRAP) methodology. The star ratings are based on visual inspections of road design features like lane width, barriers, intersection type and roadside hazards. Roads are rated based on a broad range of information, including current infrastructure, speed limit, traffic volume, road markings, pavement condition, roadside hazards, pedestrian crossings and cycling infrastructure.

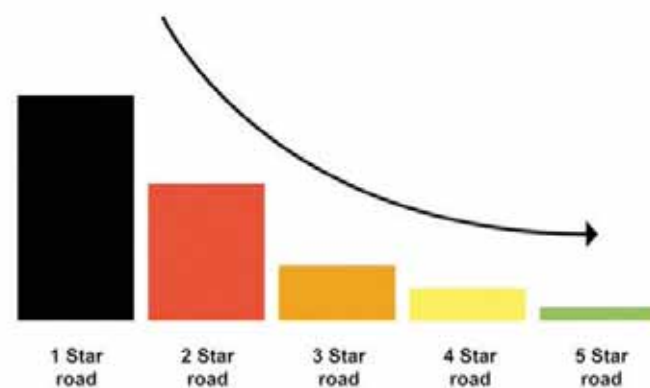
The national data shows that Victoria has the highest share of travel on five star roads (6.4 per cent) and four star (22.5 per cent) roads in Australia.

The data also shows that, in 2023, 71 per cent of road travel in Victoria occurred on roads with a three star rating or higher. Roads rated three stars or above significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or death.

Victoria is on its way to contributing to a national target of at least 80 per cent of travel on three star or better roads by 2030, set and supported by Austroads members, as well as all states and territories.

Improvements in recent years are the result of initiatives including the Victorian Government's Safe

Each Star Rating Boost Halves Serious Crash Risk



The risk of having a serious crash depending on the quality of roads. -S

System Road Infrastructure Top 20 Program, which saw 1700km of flexible safety barriers and other safety infrastructure installed along 20 of Victoria's highest risk roads, as well as the Next 16 Program, which installed road safety infrastructure along the next 16 highest risk roads.

These projects raised the ratings so that more than 97 per cent of travel on treated roads is now rated three star or better.

Investment is prioritised on roads with the highest traffic volumes and crash risk, where upgrades deliver the greatest safety benefits. This has delivered significant increases in four and five star travel on major corridors where the bulk of people travel, while also lifting many one and two star roads to safer standards.

They are continuing work to lift the safety of one and two star roads through measures such as shoulder

sealing, audio-tactile line marking and targeted safety barriers, which deliver strong safety benefits. Speed reductions are also considered as an effective way to manage risk. Speed limits are set on a case-by-case basis in line with our Speed Zoning Policy.

Ratings have been completed for the entire state-managed arterial road network, which is over 23,000 kilometres.

Local government roads have not been included as these are managed by councils.

The release of the star ratings fulfils part of a recommendation from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Increase in the 2019 Road Toll.

The release also forms part of Austroads' commitment that all Australian states and territories start to publish AusRAP star ratings for all major roads by 2025.



Some of the team from Lake Mountain. -S



Matt and Amanda from Bourke's Ice Works. -S

A large donation to Murrindindi Community Food Share

FOUNDATION Murrindindi is delighted to have received a generous donation of 420kg of food from Lake Mountain Alpine Resort, following the close of the 2025 snow season. Not wanting to see quality food go to waste, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort contacted Foundation Murrindindi to arrange for the donation to go directly to Murrindindi Community Food Share, supporting families and individuals across the shire.

To ensure the frozen food could be safely stored, Foundation Murrindindi reached out to Bourke's Ice Works Alexandra, who generously offered the loan of a portable freezer at no cost. This partnership ensured the donation could be preserved and distributed effectively to those most in need.

The Embassy of Ideas generously offered to house the portable freezer in a safe space for a few days until October 2 when the next Murrindindi Community Food Share event was scheduled.

General Manager of Lake Mountain Alpine Resort, Callum Brown, said the resort was proud to give back to the community.

"At the end of the season, we had surplus food that we didn't want to go to waste. Donating it to Murrindindi Community Food Share through Foundation Murrindindi was a practical way to ensure it would directly benefit local people. We are proud to support the community in this way," he said.

Matt and Amanda, from Bourke's Ice Works Alexandra, said it was an easy decision to assist.

"When Foundation Murrindindi asked if we could help with freezer storage, we didn't hesitate. Supporting the community is important to us, and this was a simple way we could contribute to making sure the food reached people who need it most," they said.

Executive Officer of Foundation Murrindindi, Robyn Hill, expressed deep gratitude for the generosity and collaboration shown.

"We are enormously thankful to Lake Mountain Alpine Resort, Bourke's Ice Works Alexandra and the Embassy of Ideas. Their

combined efforts have ensured that hundreds of kilograms of quality food will be shared with local families instead of going to waste. It's a wonderful example of how our local businesses and community organisations can work together to make a real difference," she said.

This initiative highlights the strength of community partnerships and the positive impact that comes from businesses and organisations uniting to support communities in Murrindindi Shire.

For more information or to find out how you can support Foundation Murrindindi or Murrindindi Community Food Share, please contact Robyn Hill on 0488 007 688.



Maintenance works

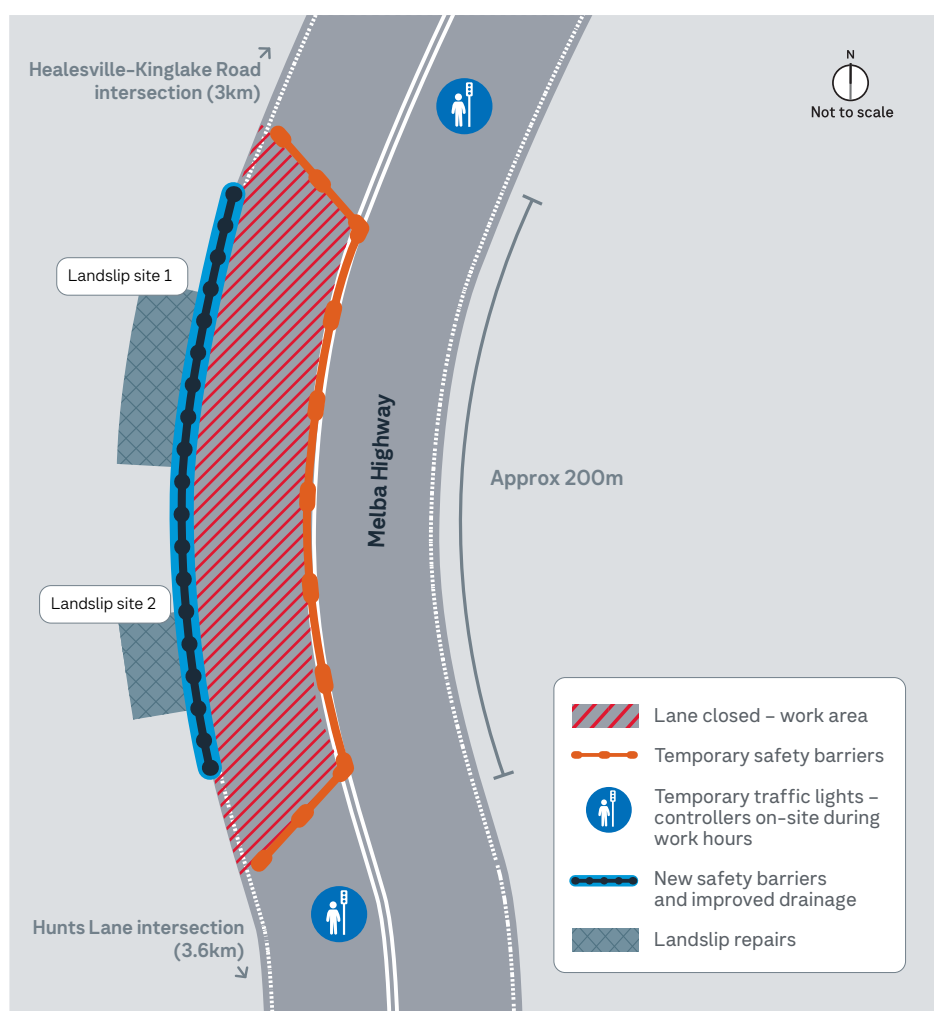


Lane closed Melba Highway

From Monday 13 October to end of January.

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

Plan ahead and allow up to 20 minutes extra time.



THRIVE

- Lifestyle
- Wellbeing
- Health



Dindi Chiropractic ready to serve the community

LOCATED in the heart of High Street Yea, Dindi Chiropractic has recently opened its doors to the community. Utilising the Gonstead Method of Chiropractic, Dr Jaimi Mckeown is available by appointment only to help guide your health journey with care and clarity.

Experiencing Chiropractic care from an early age while training in classical ballet, Jaimi knows firsthand the benefits that specific chiropractic care can have on function, performance, recovery and spinal health.

Graduating from RMIT University in 2018 following five years of full-time study, as a Doctor of Chiropractic with a Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Applied Science (Chiropractic). She also holds qualifications in Mat and Reformer Pilates, and a certificate two in Dance.

Jaimi spent her first six years in practice consulting patients in a busy Gonstead clinic on the Mornington Peninsula. She prides herself on providing genuine care to patients. Jaimi is grateful to other Gonstead practitioners for their wisdom, mentorship, and teachings in playing a pivotal role in her dynamics as a practitioner today.

Recently moving to the surrounds of Yea, Jaimi is excited to offer her care and connect with the local community while finding her feet in setting up her business Dindi Chiropractic. She says "setting up my own business in town has been such a beautiful process. I've thoroughly enjoyed connecting with people, and look forward to continuing to offer somewhere for people to come to be cared for with chiropractic care."

Leading Humanity Care is all about people

REGISTERED NDIS provider Leading Humanity Care (LHC) offers a personalised, and culturally inclusive support across many states of Australia, including regional Victoria.

The services provided suit individuals needs and include access to support coordinators and referral partners, support for carers and families including education, workshops, and personalised support to help families navigate the NDIS and support their loved ones. Resources include family support groups, NDIS navigation guides and workshops for carers.

Core supports are also provided including daily living assistance and community participation including social, cultural, and recreational activities. Nursing care is provided, with clinical nursing support with medication management and wound care, and assistance with chronic conditions and post-hospital recovery.

LHC has so much to offer. Their approach is people first and they pride themselves on providing a service tailored to individual needs, built on trust, and delivered with integrity.

In small communities, trust matters. People talk, stories travel, and word of mouth is often stronger than any advertisement. Leading Humanity Care has built their name



Leading Humanity Care director Harris Faiz. -S

on one simple promise, 'We show up, and we do care right'.

Too many families have been left frustrated by providers who don't return calls, don't listen, or treat people like a number. LHC believes that has no place in care. Every

person deserves dignity, respect, and real support that makes life easier, whether it's a friendly face for a coffee and chat, help with daily living, or a reliable worker to get you to appointments.

As a registered NDIS provider, LHC supports people with disability, seniors who want to remain independent at home, and families who simply need an extra hand. Their services cover everything from personal care and transport, to meal preparation, cleaning, and home maintenance but more importantly, they're delivered with heart.

LHC's values, 'Life, Heart, Change', guide every interaction. They don't cut corners. They don't make empty promises. They focus on building something lasting for the people we support and their families.

At the end of the day, care isn't about ticking boxes. It's about people.

To find support for yourself or someone you know visit leadinghumanitycare.com.au to access a referral form, or you can book a chat with a free, no-obligation consultation to help you explore how LHC can best support you. You can also email you query to info@leadinghumanitycare.com.au or call 1300 809 143.

GONSTEAD CHIROPRACTOR NOW OPEN YEA



Dindi Chiropractic
Guiding your health journey with care and clarity



We  Registered NDIS Provider



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- ✓ SIL - Supported Independent Living
- ✓ Support for seniors to remain independent at home

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Coffee Connection for the faithful

On Wednesday, October 1, the inaugural Coffee Connection event was held at the Oasis Community Church in Alexandra.

The event was an initiative of the Churches of Alexandra Collective, and will be held each Wednesday from 10am to noon. All are welcome to attend.

The event provided the opportunity for people to meet and chat over a hot drink and some lovely sweet and savory treats.

Around 40 people attended the inaugural catch up, and there are high hopes for the future of the event.



Father Mario Hendricks, Mayor Damien Gallagher and Ray Mathieson. -AR



A table of attendees enjoying the event. -AR



The event was held at the Oasis Community Church. -AR



Attendees from all of the Alexandra churches took part. -AR



All are welcome to attend. -AR

Farm Drought Support Grants

Grants of up to **\$5,000** are available to **eligible primary producers** across Victoria.



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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

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Steam back in the air for Heritage Machinery Festival

THE Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival took place last Sunday at the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum, with steam train rides, working stationary engines, blacksmiths, woodturners, vintage cars and more on display.

Running both Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 3pm, over 1500 people attended the event, and many enjoyed riding the steam train.

The train received a solid workout, clocking over 30 kilometres of running, the record amount of kilometres in a week that train has received in Alexandra.

The Alexandra Woodworkers had a display at the festival, showing off their woodworking projects. It was their first weekend back at the timber tramway, after vacating the premises some seven or eight years ago.

The Heritage Machinery Festival was supported by Alexandra Events and Murrindindi Shire Council.



Steam train rides at the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum were the highlight of the Heritage Machinery Festival. -BD



The steam train on Saturday night, the coal engine glowing brightly in the darkness. -S



The Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum was lit up on Saturday night when a dinner was held on the platform. -S



There were draft horses at the Heritage Machinery Festival, along with their leather saddles and bridles. -BD



Stationery vintage engines were running for people to admire. -BD



A little coal-powered train was giving rides at the festival. -BD



Denise Blount was working away for the Alexandra Woodworkers. -BD



Some of the beautiful projects of the Alexandra Woodworkers on display. -BD



Manwele Ghirxi, Lynne King, and Jackie Ghirxi from the Alexandra Woodworkers. -BD

Council News



October 2025

Fire season inspections to begin soon

With fire season approaching, Council's Fire Prevention Officers will begin inspections to identify and reduce fire hazards. Officers will work with landowners to manage risks and may issue notices if works are needed. These measures protect people, homes and our environment.

Learn how different agencies work to keep us safe on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) website at cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/working-with-other-agencies/who-does-what

Free business networking brunch in Yea

Join local businesses and entrepreneurs from around the Shire for a free networking brunch on Tuesday 28 October from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at the Country Club Yea's Oliver Room.

Hear Council updates and a keynote presentation, Work Reimagined: Building Resilient Hybrid Teams in the Hume region, delivered by Regional Development Australia – Melbourne with insights from Swinburne University and local leaders. Register on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessnetworking

Children's Week Storytimes

Children's Week is a national celebration recognising the rights, talents and achievements of children. Our libraries will host special story time sessions featuring *The Right to Be Me* by Allison Paterson and Amanda Letcher. Each child attending will receive their own copy of the book.

Story time sessions:

- 20 October, 10.00 to 10.30 am at Alexandra Library
- 21 October, 10.30 to 11.30 am at Kinglake Library
- 21 October, 10.00 to 10.30 am at Yea Library
- 23 October, 10.00 to 10.30 am at Alexandra Library
- 24 October, 10.30 to 11.30 am at Kinglake Library

For more information, call 5772 0333 or visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/childrensweek2025

Free lunches for Seniors in October

To mark the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival, Council is hosting free lunch events for seniors in October. Join us to hear from guest speakers and enjoy a special performance by musician Steve Paix.

Bookings are essential. Register by Sunday 19 October at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival2025 or call Council on 5772 0333.



Free Green Waste in October

Council is offering free green waste disposal from Wednesday 1 October to Sunday 30 November at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season. Normal processing charges will apply outside this period.

Learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rrc

Office closure for training day

Alexandra Reception, Alexandra Library, Kinglake Library and Customer Service Centre, Yea Library and Customer Service Centre and the Mobile Library will be closed on Wednesday 15 October for staff training. While the rest of Council will remain operational, phones will be diverted to the after-hours service.

For matters such as stock on roads, dog attacks or unsafe road conditions, including fallen trees over roads, please call (03) 5772 0333 at any time or submit non-urgent requests at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request

All offices will reopen as usual on Thursday 16 October.

Urban Tree Strategy open for feedback

Council invites residents to provide feedback on the draft Urban Tree Strategy, which aims to enhance tree diversity and sustainable management. Your input is crucial in shaping this Strategy.

Feedback closes 13 October 2025. Visit our website to learn more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/urbantreestrategy

Get in touch
5772 0333

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Australian sheep flock declines

AUSTRALIA'S sheep industry is navigating a challenging period, with the national flock contracting by 6.2 per cent to 74.2 million head as of June 2025, according to Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) Australian Sheep Industry Projections September update.

The decline follows two years of below-average seasonal conditions across key producing regions, particularly in South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales which have driven elevated lamb slaughter and mutton turn-off.

Production and slaughter

Despite seasonal pressures, lamb production remains resilient, with 610,000 tonnes forecast for 2025. This is supported by heavier carcase weights, driven by increased grain feeding.

Lamb slaughter is expected to reach 24.9 million head in 2025, a 5.8 per cent decline from last year's record, while mutton slaughter is forecast to fall 15.4 per cent to 9.97 million head as producers begin retaining breeding ewes.

According to MLA Market Information Manager, Erin Lukey, while slaughter volumes are easing, production remains robust thanks to improved finishing systems.

"We are seeing producers respond to seasonal volatility by adopting supplementary feeding practices for heavier carcase weights and more strategic turn-off decisions," Ms Lukey said.

"This approach helps offset the impact of reduced lamb supply and inconsistent pasture availability typically seen in areas experiencing below average seasonal conditions."

Exports and global demand

Australia remains a dominant player in global sheepmeat exports, accounting for 54 per cent of total global volumes in FY25. While exports from New Zealand are forecast to decline due to structural changes in land use and flock size, Australia is well-positioned to maintain strong export volumes despite a temporary dip in production.

"Global supply is tightening, and Australia is in a strong position to meet demand," Ms Lukey said.

"Our reputation for quality and consistency continues to underpin export growth, particularly in premium markets."

Live export

In early 2025, export volumes were temporarily impacted by vessel availability issues, but demand from the Middle East especially remains strong.

From January to August, exports tracked three per cent below the same period last year, with competition between processors and restockers helping to support market conditions.

Recent changes in the regulatory landscape have prompted some producers to reassess

their business models and explore alternative market pathways.

Despite evolving conditions and structural changes, trade continues, reflecting the strength of underlying demand. However, looking ahead, tighter flock numbers and a forecast 30 per cent decline in live export volumes by 2027 may challenge sourcing for the traditionally price-sensitive live export market.

As supply contracts, competition for suitable animals is expected to intensify, particularly in Western Australia, where live export plays a key role in production systems.

Looking ahead

Assuming average seasons ahead, Australia's sheep industry is expected to enter a period of gradual recovery, with the national flock forecast to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2026 and a further 4.3 per cent by 2027, reaching 78.9 million head.

This rebuild will be driven primarily by natural increase, with producers focusing on ewe retention to strengthen the breeding base following two years of drought-induced destocking.

Lamb production is projected to rebound in 2027, reaching a record 651,000 tonnes, supported by both increased slaughter and heavier carcase weights. Grain feeding and lot-finishing systems are expected to play a growing role in maintaining supply consistency and lifting yield per head.

On the global front, tight supply from New Zealand and steady international demand are expected to support export opportunities



The sheep flock in Australia has reduced this year. -Charles Esson

for Australian sheepmeat. While domestic consumption may come under pressure from elevated prices, Australia's position as a reliable, high-quality supplier remains strong.

Have your say

Today, MLA and AWI have released their lamb focused producer survey, which provides a profile of the lamb flock and measures of producer intentions for lambs and breeding ewes.

MLA's flock modelling and market insights draw on the best available data, extensive consultation, and direct input from producers through industry surveys.

The Sheep Producer Intentions Survey results help analysts refine forecasts and improve the accuracy of industry analysis. They also guide the development of MLA programs, ensuring adoption and communication efforts are aligned with producer sentiment.

Find the Sheep Producers Intentions Survey form at tinyurl.com/yc45waff

Find the MLA 2025 Sheep Industry Projections September update at tinyurl.com/bdfcp9fb

The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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Fees waived for farmers over next financial year

THE Victorian Government is driving down business costs for Victorian primary producers and providing critical cash flow help for drought affected farmers.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence last week announced the rollout of the Duties and Fees Relief Package, which will waive fees for farmers over the next financial year and deliver more than \$10 million in relief to Victorian producers.

"The duties and fee relief program will put cash back into the pockets of drought-affected farmers to help them manage cashflow challenges," Ms Spence said.

"We know these administrative costs can add up and we thank the regulatory bodies and livestock committees working together with us to support farmers during these difficult times."

To relieve the financial pressure for farmers across the state, livestock duties will be waived in Victoria for the sale of cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs until September 30, 2026. This means that any producer who would normally be required to pay livestock duties is exempt.

Primary producers will no longer have to pay standard order processing fees for National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tags until June 30, 2026. The cost of the tags will still be required. All other livestock fees will be frozen at the same rate as last financial year.

Beekeepers won't have to pay their two-year registration fee for their hives until September 30, 2027.

Dairy farmers will receive a discount on their 2025/26 licence fees which will be reflected in their milk payments from dairy manufacturers. Farmers don't have

to apply, they will receive a refund in their next milk cheque. Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFS) is working directly with manufacturers to apply this discount.

PrimeSafe, Victoria's regulator for commercial abattoirs and meat productions, will provide drought-affected primary producers with a relief payment if they hold both a PrimeSafe Licence and a Property Identification Code (PIC).

Biosecurity Victoria is waiving fees for nursery and horticulture producers for this financial year, including the service fees for arrangement applications, arrangement audits, verification inspections, area and property freedom approvals, and related travel costs. Other plant biosecurity services fees for 2025/26 will remain at the same rate as 2024/25.

Food safety registration fees will be waived for horticulture and crop producers in the 12 south west Local Government Areas (LGA) currently experiencing the worst drought conditions. For all other primary producers outside these 12 LGAs the fees will be capped at the same rate as 2024/25.

This is part of the state government's \$144 million Drought Support Package which is making sure our state's world-class agriculture industry can get through these difficult times, protecting our farming families, our food supply and the jobs and communities that rely on it.

For more information on the duties and fees covered by this package, and the full range of supports available to drought-affected farmers and communities, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.

The Farmer's Ag News

New agents on the block for Yea cattle sales

THE October Combined Store Sale took place on Friday, October 3, at the Yea Saleyards, with the new agents in town the talking point.

Adding Victorian Livestock and Property (VLP) to the mix, alongside Elders, Nutrien, and Alex Scott and Staff, the cattle sale saw a large crowd in attendance.

Some 2562 cattle were yarded, though the prices were slightly lower than previously. The average price per head sat at \$1489, with

the average weight per head 309kg. This equalled out to an average of 482c/kg.

Steers made a top price of \$3040 with top weight of 575kg, averaging out at 529 c/kg. Meanwhile heifers had a top price of \$2020 and top weight of 415kg, averaging out to 487c/kg.

The first row of cows and calves reached a top price of \$3100, with most of the pens sitting above the \$2000 mark.



A large crowd turned out to size up the new agents in town, Victorian Livestock and Property. -BD



The numerous agents in attendance for the combined store sale last Friday. -BD



Hereford calves for sale at the October Yea sale. -BD



VLP were the new agents in Yea, selling their first cattle at the October store sale. -BD



STOCK REPORT 3 OCTOBER 2025

Combined Agents Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	2,562			
Average \$ per head	\$1,489			
Average weight per head	309kg			
Top price per head		\$3,040	\$2,020	\$3,100
Top weight		575kg	415kg	
Turnover	\$3.7 million			

Safety warning prior to hay season starting

WITH hay season beginning in the west and north west parts of the state, farmers are being urged to take extra care in preventing haystack fires.

Between June 30, 2024 and July 1, 2025, CFA responded to 73 haystack and hay shed fires in regional areas, with 53 per cent occurring in the west and northwest of the state.

Haystack fires are often caused by spontaneous combustion when hay is baled with excess moisture. High moisture levels, combined with the compact nature of hay bales, can create internal heat, leading to ignition.

David Manifold, Buloke West Group Officer, third lieutenant of Jeffcott Fire Brigade, and a local farmer said there are many factors which can lead to a haystack fire.

"What goes wrong is essentially hay is baled at a high moisture or what we have learned in recent times is leaving the hay out for longer to dry can actually increase the growth of yeast and moulds on the hay," he said.

"The yeast and mould levels can get so high that any ingress of water is as good as throwing a match on it."

David said he is utilising both new and old technologies to reduce the risk of haystack fires at his farm.

"We are using new techniques on the machinery side to get our window shorter for bailing in sub seven days which is the key to keeping the yeasts and moulds lower," he said.

"We run plastic over the flooring which stops moisture from coming up into the hay which prevents damage to the hay but

also prevents the risk of water ingress, particularly in heavy rainfall periods during summer.

"The spouts on the shed are well maintained, and the downpipes are key.

"Bunched up stacks are pretty volatile, keeping stacks well-ventilated is important."

David also uses a new type of temperature probe that sends temperature data to a central bay station on the farm.

"I can check the temperature on an app on my phone at any given moment," he said.

"I can also get it to send me alerts so I have it set to alert me if we reach 40 and 50 degrees."

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan reinforced that early preparation and proper storage are essential in reducing the risk of haystack fires.

"With a large number of haystack fires in the past financial year, the impact on farmers and their livelihoods is clear," Jason said.

"Haystack fires can have far-reaching effects beyond individual properties, impacting neighbouring farms and emergency services.

"Make sure you store your hay in separate stacks or in sheds away from farm equipment and other buildings to prevent the spread of fire.

"Farmers need to ensure they're well-prepared, regular monitoring can prevent a small issue from becoming a much larger one."

For more information, visit CFA's website or contact your local CFA brigade for advice on haystack safety.

Machetes are now banned in Victoria

It is now illegal to own a machete in Victoria, unless you are covered by an exemption or approval. An amnesty is in effect until 30 November.

Safe disposal bins are available at select police stations across the state.



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MEETINGS



The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc., trading as Menzies 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 Menzies 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 Menzies Support Services at 49 Nihil Street, requested by email or post, or submitted online at menziessupport.org.au/dpmc

SITUATION VACANT



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- Use of hand and power tools
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- Working at designated stations to meet daily targets
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- Maintaining a clean and safe work environment (good housekeeping)

Essential Requirements:

- Previous experience on an assembly line
- Experience using hand and power tools
- Ability to work well in a team
- Good physical fitness (able to stand and lift throughout the day)
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To apply, call 9728 8866 during business hours or email your resume to gavin@glencoeigroup.com.au

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ROMA, Lond. Wishing you a big happy 100th Birthday on October 8. Love and best wishes from all your family. xx

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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA, Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5.30pm at the Corner Hotel Alexandra. Existing and new members are welcome to attend. General meeting to follow. For further information contact club president Troy Surkitt on 0434 122 602.

HOMEWOOD Hall AGM will be held at the hall on October 13 at 7pm. All welcome.



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SITUATION VACANT



Expression of Interest – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc., trading as Menzies Support Services, is an established not-for-profit organisation based in Alexandra, dedicated to delivering high-quality supports. An outstanding opportunity exists for an accomplished and values-driven executive to lead Menzies Support Services.

We are seeking expressions of interest from experienced leaders with a strong commitment to social impact, strategic growth, and operational excellence.

The CEO will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of inclusive, person-centred care aligned with our mission and values and strategic direction.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide visionary leadership and strategic direction in collaboration with the Committee of Management.
- Oversee the effective delivery of disability and aged care services, ensuring compliance with NDIS and aged care standards.
- Drive innovation, sustainability, and continuous improvement across all areas of the organisation.
- Strengthen stakeholder relationships and community engagement.
- Lead a high-performing team with a focus on culture, accountability, and service excellence.

To express your interest or gain further information please contact David Beattie, President on 0448 009 200



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This is not a work from home role

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd is one of the oldest newspapers in Victoria, and the oldest in the Murrindindi Shire, first publishing in June 1868. We publish *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*, across Murrindindi and beyond. We are looking for someone to fill a role in our sales department. You will need to have the ability to be able to take on a busy and important role in our team.

What the job involves:

- . Advertising sales including weekly and monthly features
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- . Assisting with weekly paper distribution
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- . Have initiative and be well organised
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- . To be methodical and thorough, with attention to detail
- . A willingness to learn many aspects of the business
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- . Be respectful of clients and team members

How to apply:

To be considered for this position, submit your resume and cover letter to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Classifieds

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04/03/1936 -
27/09/2025

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Lance (dec).

Loving mother to
Gregory (dec),
Colin, Debra,
Brett, Allison (dec),
and Tim.

Loving
grandmother to
Grant, Bryce,
Rachael, Teagan,
Ashleigh, Connor,
Tom, Rhian,
Fraser, Keilah,
Zoe, Xavier.

Loving great
grandmother
to Maeve and
Jackson.

Always in
our hearts.

DEATH NOTICES

NICHOLLS, Wendy Marie

21/03/1938 -
26/09/2025

Dearly loved
wife of Arthur
(Dick) (dec).
Dearly loved
mum of Stephen
and Wayne, and
daughters in law
Mari and Judy.
Much loved 'Gran'
of Maddie, Sean
and Mia.

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that I am gone, be
happy I was here."

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PIGDON, Ken

04/04/1961 -
02/10/2025

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Vicky for 46 years.

Father of Carlye
and Justin.

Father in law of
Rhiannon.

Pa of Blake
and Jack.

Pa Numb nut of
Charlie and Zoey.

FUNERAL NOTICES

CANN, James Mervyn.

The funeral service to
celebrate the life of
Merv will be held at the
Murrindindi Chapel,
21 Johnston Street,
Alexandra on Thursday,
October 16 at 1pm.

HALLIGAN, Lola

The funeral
service to celebrate
the wonderful life
of Lola Halligan
will be held at
the Yarck Town
Hall on Thursday,
October 9, 2025
commencing at
11am. Following
the service, the
funeral cortege
will proceed to the
Yarck Cemetery for
a burial service.



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MOSS, Patricia (Pat).

25/11/1937 - 22/09/2025.

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Passed away peacefully.
Loving mother of
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Fire agencies simulate major bushfire response at Shepparton ICC

EMERGENCY management crews from across the region worked together at the Shepparton Incident Control Centre on Thursday, October 2 on a large-scale bushfire readiness exercise ahead of the 2025-26 fire season.

The incident management exercise simulated a rapidly escalating bushfire scenario under extreme weather conditions, testing the skills of emergency teams in a realistic, high-pressure environment.



David Bowdern from Alexandra (far right) with CFA operations colleagues at the exercise. -S

Country Fire Authority, Acting Deputy Chief Officer for the Northeast Region, Stewart Kreltszheim, said the exercise was a vital opportunity to refresh and refine incident management skills ahead of a potentially significant fire season.

"This exercise is about making sure our teams are ready to respond effectively when communities are threatened," Mr Kreltszheim said.

"It's also a chance to mentor new personnel, test systems and reinforce the importance of coordinated, community-focused emergency response."

The day featured two incident management teams working in shifts, with a mid-day handover to simulate live operational transitions.

Mr Kreltszheim said the scenario reflects typical summer conditions in northern Victoria, cured grasslands, dry forests, and hot, windy weather, with a simulated fire threatening both private and public land.

It also tested communication protocols, coordination of community relief and the use of local and state emergency management plans.

The exercise comes as much of Victoria experiences increased fire risk.

"While winter rains have brought green growth, underlying soil dryness remains, meaning grass will dry out earlier than usual," he said.

"This spring, we're urging Victorians to understand their local risk, prepare their properties and have a fire plan in place.

"Exercises like this are essential for building confidence, capability and collaboration across agencies," Mr Kreltszheim said.

Fire inspections to begin soon

FIRE season is fast approaching, which means Murrindindi Shire Council's Fire Prevention Officers will soon begin inspections to help identify and reduce fire hazards across the community.

Fire prevention isn't optional, it's a legal responsibility we all share. By working together, we can help stop fires from starting and spreading in our shire.

Council's Fire Prevention Officers will be working alongside landowners to find practical ways to manage risks. In some cases, they may need to issue notices asking for works to make properties safer. These steps aren't about being strict, they're about protecting people, homes and the environment we all value.

In rare cases where works aren't completed, further action may be required, but council's aim is always to support landowners to get the job done first.

Learn more about how agencies work together to keep our communities safe on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) website.

Together, we can reduce fire risk and keep our community safe.

School is back, slow down

THE final school term has begun this week so remember to be aware of school speeds around the local schools, especially during peak times.

School zones have reduced speed limits to increase the safety for everyone travelling to and from school. Time based reduced speed limits are typically 40 kilometres per hour during school terms on weekdays from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm.

Keep your eyes out for clear signage to indicate the local school zones and its active times. These speed limits do not apply on weekends and public holidays.

When flags are displayed at children's crossings the law is you must stop for pedestrians and remain stopped until the crossing is clear and no one is on the road.



The Yea Cruise Night is fun, free and family-friendly.

Yea Cruise Night is back

SATURDAY, October 11 marks the 2025/26 season opener of Yea Cruise Night (YCN) after a six month break.

YCN coincides with the daylight savings period on the second Saturday of the month from October through to March.

Held in High Street, YCN is a free, family friendly event catering for all types of enthusiast vehicles and vehicle enthusiasts young and old.

At every event a local group hosts a sausage sizzle and this season, Yea Rotary are booked in for October, followed by Yea CFA, Yea Racing, Yea Bowls Club, Yea Water Tigers Swimming Club and finally Yea CWA in March.

Since the first Yea Cruise Night held in December 2021, YCN has grown into a regular destination for car lovers and locals alike.



Yea Cruise Night will again brighten the streets of Yea on Saturday, October 11. -photos by Plymouth Dale Photos

Can you convert a car with an internal combustion engine to electric?

CONVERTING your classic pride and joy to an electric car with batteries is not a new idea.

There are several companies in Australia that can convert your classic Land Rover, Beetle, Combi or MG B to an electric car. Ditching the internal combustion engine, gearbox, fuel tank and

adding an electric motor, batteries and a controller generally results in better performance, less servicing and cheaper to run miles well into the future.

As early as 1902 there were electric cars. In 1959 the Henney Motor Company modified the Renault Dauphine to produce

the Henney Kilowatt. In 2008, Tesla modified a Lotus Elise and launched its groundbreaking Roadster. In 2009, Mitsubishi modified the "i" to produce the i-MiEV, the first all-electric car to sell more than 10,000 units.

Join 2030Yea at Yea Cruise Night, Saturday, October 11 from

5pm to dark to talk about electric car conversion, and take a look at a Mitsubishi i-MiEV that has an upgraded battery to extend its range.

This community event has been funded by a Murrindindi Shire Council Quick Response grant.

SPORT

Alexandra's stableford round has a bumper field

by Dave Silverman

ALTHOUGH last Tuesday week dawned fine and clear, it was a small field of just seven that took part in the regular stableford round. As it transpired, only four points separated first from last. John Greateorex took the win with 33 points, with Dave Silverman, otherwise known in this context as me, in second with 32. Russell Purcell also had 32 points and came in third.

Graeme Emmerson claimed nearest the pin on seven, and also picked up a rundown voucher. Leo Dynes was nearest on both

17 and 18, and the other voucher went to Steve Darmody.

Wednesday's ladies round was also stableford this week, with eight players taking on the course. Keeping the winning feeling in the family, it was Sue Greateorex that turned in the top score of 35 points, with Barb Doyle in second on 33, and Deb Richardson in third with 32.

Barb also claimed the nearest the pin on two, with Judy Pearson on seven and Ruth Worland on 12. Helen Findlay was the nine hole winner with 15 points on the front nine.

In contrast to the weekday rounds, Saturday saw a bumper field of 28 tee it up for a stableford round. Sponsored by Hunted Engineering, the event was played in near-perfect conditions, with shorts and shirts replacing jumpers and jackets.

With the course in such good nick, somebody was bound to make the most of it, and this week it was Michael Bossonnet, who signed for a score of 41 points to take the win. Second and third, Darren Gregg and Luke Heard both got 39, Matt Richards took fourth spot with 37, and fifth and sixth went to Dan Burns and John Steer, both of whom had 35.

On his way to the win, Boz claimed nearest the pins on five and 18, with two going to Greg Millard, seven to James Kidd and 12 falling to Darren Gregg.

Luke Heard eagled the ninth on his way to third place. Well done, Heardy.

Daylight Saving is back with us, and that, of course, means that the Chook Run is back as well. Starting this week, Thursday, October 9 at 5pm, this popular event will stick to the tried and true format. Nine holes of golf, followed by dinner, will cost \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Everybody is welcome, and a handicap is not required.



Russell Purcell putts on two as Greateo watches on. -S



Helen Findlay tees off on the first hole. -S



Graeme Emmerson on fourteen. -S



Bill Wind putting on 14. -S

Great send off for Greenkeeper Kellan Fiske

by Lesley Rundle

THOSE Thursday golfers who were willing to brave the wet and windy conditions played the final qualifying round of the winter competition with a stableford round on the front nine holes. The daily winner was Ian Harris (11) with 19 points followed by Richy Clark (5) with 18 points. The nearest the pins were won by Keith Atwell and Ian Harris. Brian Worcester was named minor Premier of the Winter Competition and received a prize for his efforts. Over the next three weeks the top 10 players will play in the hope of being crowned the 2025 Winter Thursday Champion. All players are welcome to play on Thursdays as the daily competition will run alongside the championship finals.

The Saturday competition for both the men and ladies was for the October monthly medal and the first round of the Club Championships. The ladies medal winner was Gail Leigh (13) with nett 76 followed by Sabrina Stow (22) with nett 77. The men's medal winner was Steve Coker (17) with nett 73 on a countback from Keith Atwell and Travers Stow. The putting was won by Brian Worcester with 26 putts on a countback from Ray Jones. Just two of the nearest the pins were won with Brett Mansfield successful on the ninth and Richy Clark on the 18th and Richy also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday the second round of the Championships will be played. A reminder that as we are now in daylight saving time tee off on Saturdays will be 9am for 9.30am.

The highlight of this week was the dinner held on Friday evening to officially farewell Greenkeeper Kellan Fiske and to thank those who supported the club in the aftermath of a major burglary last year. The venue for the dinner was the Pavilion Bar and Grill at the club and members thank Bickey and his team for providing the delicious buffet meal. Among those present were representatives

from the Marysville Lions, the Bendigo Bank, Goulburn Valley Water, the Murrindindi Shire, former and current members, life members and family and friends of Kellan's. The dinner was hosted by Steve Coker President of the club. A special guest was Life Member and club legend Liz Amos whose sporting career included playing cricket for Australia and who is the proud owner of a 'baggy green'. It was Liz who inspired Kellan to play golf and eventually make a career of turf and course management. They met 30 years ago when Liz was working at Marysville Primary School and Kellan was a student.

Upcoming events include the fundraising event on Saturday, November 8 followed by the mixed tournament on the November 9, the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra on Saturday, November 15 and Dalhousie Veterans at Marysville on Thursday, November 27. Information regarding these events can be read on the club website and Facebook page.



Steve Coker wishing Kellan all the best. -S



Kellan and Liz Amos celebrating their love of golf at the farewell dinner. -S



Kellan Fiske's farewell dinner. -S

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Iconic Alexandra Cox Plate Meeting coming soon

WELCOME in a new Alexandra picnic race season on Saturday, October 25. Celebrate Spring Carnival on Cox Plate day, Country Style at Alexandra.

Spring Racing will be the focus. Lots of people don't know or care much about punting so for them, there is a unique, fully catered, \$100 package called the Alexandra Punters' Club.

Alexandra Punters' Club is strictly designed for the lazy punter who wants to enjoy a day of fine food and fun in the air-conditioned comfort of the Entertainment Centre.

Punters' Club Members will enjoy a drink on arrival in air-conditioned comfort close to all the action plus a smorgasboard

lunch specially created by the Thornton General Store.

Importantly, the Punter's Club Package includes a Full 25/26 Club Membership, with reciprocal rights to all meetings at Alexandra, Balnarring, Mansfield and Yea Race Clubs. Great value for a total of 15 picnic race meetings. Finally \$20 goes into the POT so the emcee, The Saminator, Sam our Man,

will select and lay on your punts across the day. But please book online and book early as seats are strictly limited.

Alexandra Cox Plate Meeting is a great opportunity to enjoy a day with friends to welcome in the Spring Carnival. Relax and take the bus. Route one from Eildon and (new) route two from Yarck via Molesworth, Taggerty caravan park and Twin Rivers caravan park are available for your convenience. Don't miss the bus, do remember to book your and your children's seats online at country.racing.com/Alexandra

Whether you want to join the \$100 Punter's Club or book your own entry tickets, marquee or umbrella, all the options are online at country.racing.com/Alexandra

The TOTE Van and Big Screen will be there, with Bookies, Scotch and Dry R & B Band and horses of course. Entry is \$20, concession \$15, children aged 15 and under are free. Gate opens at 11am, first local race at 1.15pm Remember we are a non BYO event but our bar prices are reasonable and profits help sustain the club.

Finally, sadly, an icon left the Alexandra Race Club this year. The grand old Cyprus tree drop a huge limb last Easter. For patron's safety, he was turned into a table so he still remains part of the furniture. He has been there long time and will be missed but life moves on as we welcome a new season on Saturday, October 25.



Eildon golfers try out new Golf Australia system

by Puttomatic

LAST Saturday was the first day using the new Golf Australia system and the MiScore was back up and running. The club must say a big congratulation to both Golf Australia and its partners, because from our end it was seamless and we had no issues, well done all involved.

The club played an individual Stableford with the MiScore system and a Stableford multiplier on cards and it was a great day including the weather. We had a healthy 19 players compete and our winners once again in a team's event was Sandi and Michael McLear with an impressive 61 points. Coming in second was the pairing of Ken Collier and Marian Williamson with 57 points. The ball run winners were the teams of Terrence Lunt and Phil Dally with 54 points and Dennis McDonald and Leigh Munro with 53 points.

With our nearest pins this week, Adam Kupke was the closet on the third with his second shot, the fifth went to Rod Taylor, Dennis McDonald did the best on the 11th, Phil Dally took out the 12th and Ken Collier won the chocolates on the 14th. We had three birdies this week on our par four-eighth drink hole, Marian Williamson, Adam Kupke and Kerry Power; Marian also took out the secret six competition. Other winners this week, Adam Kupe won the entry draw, Leigh Munro had a spin with the swindle, and John Monteath tried his luck with the joke draw. Congratulations to all our winners this week.

Eildon Golf Club will be holding it's AGM on Saturday, October 25 after the game starting at 5pm sharp. Any member who has any subject to discuss at the meeting will need to notify the club in writing, seven days before the meeting.

Contact details are PO Box 84, Eildon 3713 or email eildongolfclub8@gmail.com



Future golfers from the recent golf clinic with PGA Professional Matt Jager. -S

Stars of the future at Alexandra Golf Club

OVER 40 enthusiastic young golfers from across the area gathered at Alexandra Golf Club for a fun filled Junior Clinic during the September School Holidays with PGA Professional Matt Jager.

Participants enjoyed a full day of activities, beginning with range practice before rotating through chipping and putting stations to sharpen their short-game skills. Each day concluded with a spirited ambrose competition, where teamwork and sportsmanship were on full display. A fantastic effort from all involved, showcasing the bright future of local junior golf.

If you would like to know more about the Junior Clinics being held throughout term four, please check out the Alexandra Golf Club's Facebook page for details.



Young golfers having a putt at the junior clinic. -S