

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, December 17, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Angela Warren-Smith decorated



Page 4

Kellock Lodge travels to Phillipines



Page 7

Kindies visit Christmas Tree Festival



Page 10

Weekend sport



Pages 20-24

Congratulations to the Alexandra Secondary College duxes

ALEXANDRA Secondary College was delighted to congratulate the school duxes for 2025. They were Emelia Weeks and Danielle Nadj.

Emelia Weeks

Emelia Weeks has only recently returned from 10 days volunteering and sightseeing in Samoa with a Christian organisation.

They visited the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) base and the Victim Support Group while she was there, spending time with people and handing out some Australian gifts.

She was in Samoa when she found out her school results. She was looking out over the beach when she accessed her results and was

delighted with the outcome. She said, "I was quite fortunate and that was a pretty great day for me." She scored a 95.05.

She was keen to thank all of her teachers during her educational journey. "We have a really great support network here, and since year seven, I have felt very supported and I feel like I could always talk to my teachers about whatever. I never once felt judged for asking any questions... They're very invested in our learning and yeah, share the joys when we do well and feel it when we don't. I just feel very blessed by the teachers that I had this year and since year seven."

Her aim is to study a double degree of nursing and midwifery at La Trobe in Bundoora.

She hopes to one day work with the Royal Flying Doctors as a flight nurse, and would like to work in rural areas after some time in the city. She may also do some mission work and travel, "helping those who don't really have access to a lot of health care."

Danielle Nadj

Danielle Nadj woke up at 7am on the dot on the day that the results were released. "I snuck out of bed quietly so no one would hear," she said. "And I checked and I filmed a little reaction video. My face, I was so excited when I saw it. And then I went outside and told my family and cried." Her family were very excited and very proud of her 92.75.

George and Anne Nadj are both teachers at Alexandra Secondary College, and both departed at the end of the school year.

Asked whether having parents as teachers at the school put extra pressure on, she said, "Oh, no, they're always very supportive. They never pressured me to do anything I didn't want to."

She said of her schooling journey, "I absolutely love school. Since year seven, I've always been excited to come. The teachers have been so supportive, like Millie (Emilia) said. I want to thank them, Mr Lyttle, Miss Kidd, and all the other staff as well. Not just the teachers, but everyone else that does all the work behind the scenes that you don't really get to see.

"And thanks to my friends as well, especially Millie, because she pushed me to be better. I think we've both made each other work harder and just do better, in a supportive way, of course."

Danielle is hoping to study dentistry at La Trobe in Bendigo, but entry is quite competitive, so if she doesn't get into that, she might do paramedicine or similar.

Principal Nigel Lyttle

Alexandra Secondary College Principal Nigel Lyttle said, "I'm incredibly proud of Millie and Danielle, exceptional scores, and they're two exceptional kids in an exceptional cohort. I was just really struck by, as a cohort, how they all supported each other through and in a healthy way. As Danielle said, they've made each other better. But they also enjoyed and celebrated each other's success as well. A great commendation of the group of people that they are. So very happy for the two of them and very happy for the cohort in general. It looks like the students will be heading off next year to pathways they're excited about, whether it's off to university or off to trades."

He commented that "health seems to be a very popular selection among the kids. I think it's a reflection of wanting to give back to the community, to help others."



Danielle Nadj, Emilia Week and principal Nigel Lyttle. -AR

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Thank you for your continued support

**Our office will be closed from 1pm, December 24
until 9am Wednesday, January 14, 2026.**

**Our first edition for 2026 will be available on
Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Alexandra District Health

5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital

5736 0400

In an emergency dial

000

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

THE YEA CHRONICLE

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison

manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au

accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING

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

SPORTS

sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714

Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603

Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra

Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject

to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the

company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts

no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such

material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post

Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated with no association

with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

Letters to the Editor

Let's give the Murrindindi Health Service a go

WE write respectively as chair and member of the Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home (DUGNH) Board.

DUGNH is a publicly funded residential care facility. Because of its distinct governance structure it is not part of the East Metro and Murrindindi Health Service Network.

When the proposed merger of Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health (EH) was announced, DUGNH was in high level discussion with ADH and Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) about the possible formation of a single Murrindindi Health Service.

Since that time, those discussions have continued. We are of the view that a Murrindindi Health Service would strengthen planning and delivery of services. It would also ensure the Murrindindi community continues to have a strong voice in leading and advocating for health services.

Importantly, the Murrindindi Health Service proposal provides scope for a significant uplift in revenue and expenditure savings that can be retained and re-invested within Murrindindi. It complements the hugely significant Murrindindi Health Services Plan exercise recently initiated by Murrindindi Shire Council. It ensures that fit for purpose health services continue to be delivered to a community that is fundamentally regional and rural in focus. It retains local leadership and governance, an outcome that the Alexandra and Yea communities continue to champion.

Crucially, the proposal does not forestall the additional services currently being canvassed for ADH through amalgamation with Eastern Health. The key purpose of the formation of health service networks was to deliver improved services through network collaboration.

In the interests of our community, the Murrindindi Health Service proposal warrants serious consideration.

Kevin Boote, chair, DUGNH Board
Tony Jacobs, board member

The ADH-Eastern Health merger proposal

THE proposed merger of Alexandra District Health (ADH) with Eastern Health (EH) has proven to be one of the most significant events affecting our community in 2025.

It has been gratifying to observe the *Alexandra Standard* and *Yea Chronicle* reporting comprehensively and responsibly both on the proposal and the wide-ranging community reaction.

Despite vague promises of additional services, it seems that concerns about financial sustainability are central to the ADH Board's proposal for amalgamation. If that is the case, it stretches credibility that amalgamation is being proposed with a metro health service that regularly reports large operating deficits.

For the community the major concern is with the loss of a local board, a local CEO and an effective local voice in future planning and delivery of health services. Once that local presence has gone, there will be no turning back.

Research undertaken by the Alexandra Traders Association indicates that when amalgamations occur it is the communities at the periphery who tend to lose services.

The consultation process has had serous shortcomings: inadequate information; questionable surveys; no open discussion at the ADH annual meeting.

What has been particularly disappointing has been the absence from the discussion of the ADH Board Chair and the apparent silence of our local member Cindy McLeish

MP. If ever there is an occasion for local member engagement, this must be it.

This contrasts starkly with the active engagement on the part of council. The Mayor and CEO have made important contributions on behalf of the whole of Murrindindi.

The apparent disengagement of the ADH Board from its community is highlighted by the fact that the proposed merger has coincided with publication of the final draft of the Murrindindi Health Services Plan. The plan indicates significant health deficiencies common to all of Murrindindi and makes a strong case for increased formal collaboration between council and all health providers in Murrindindi. This will prove much harder should the ADH merger proceed.

According to reporting in the local media, Murrindindi's three publicly funded health services, ADH, Darlingford and YDMH have been in discussion about formation of a Murrindindi Health Service.

This proposal makes good sense. It also ensures retention of strong local leadership and representation within Murrindindi.

Doesn't this proposal now warrant immediate and equal consideration?

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Christmas

CONGRATULATIONS to Heather Robb for her article, *Thinking of Christmas*.

Too often the true spirit of Christmas is forgotten in the mad rush before the day.

The true spirit of Christmas are family memories and beliefs. They are always there with you, you only have to pause in your busy schedule to remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Pat Collier, Eildon

Continued Page 5

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

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

Sun AA meeting; 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 Probuss 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.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	11.00AM Mon	1.76	LGH	steady	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00AM Mon	0.50	LGH	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.00AM Mon	0.61	LGH	steady	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.44AM Mon	0.13	LGH	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	08.25AM Mon	0.56	LGH	steady	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	11.00AM Mon	0.30	LGH	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	11.00AM Mon	0.73	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00AM Mon	3.78	LGH	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00AM Mon	0.45	LGH	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00AM Mon	1.44	LGH	steady	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00AM Mon	0.29	LGH	steadyl	
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00AM Mon	1.72	LGH	steady	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	11.00AM Mon	1.04	LGH	steady	
*ISSUED AT 11:24 AM AEDT MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025					

Weekly Weather

December 17 - December 23, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

18

33

Wednesday

17

34

Thursday

19

37

Thursday

19

38

Friday

18

33

Friday

18

30

Saturday

15

28

Saturday

15

29

Sunday

11

23

Sunday

11

23

Monday

12

25

Monday

12

25

Tuesday

9

22

Tuesday

10

22

ALEXANDRA

NEWSPAPERS

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	0mm
Buxton.....	1mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0mm
Flowerdale.....	4mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake.....	2mm
Lake Eildon.....	0mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty	0.6mm
Yarck	0.2mm
Yea.....	0.5mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	275.42m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	55%
Metres below full supply.....	13.40m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release.....	3500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	70%

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

Aerial firefighting fleet ready for high-risk fire season

VICTORIA'S aerial firefighting fleet is ready to take to the skies and support our hardworking ground crews ahead of another high-risk fire season this summer.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward unveiled the fleet at Avalon Airport last Wednesday, alongside Emergency Management Commissioner Tim Wiebusch and emergency services personnel.

"We've already seen how important aircraft is in supporting emergency services to fight fires, and the remainder of the fleet will play an important role in supporting communities across the state over the coming months," Mr Wiebusch said.

"Our emergency services will continue to do everything they can to support our communities but it's important to have a fire plan and listen to warnings and advice. If you haven't downloaded or practiced using the VicEmergency app, now is the time to do so."

This year's fleet features 54 aircraft and includes two new fixed wing aircraft with infrared capabilities which can capture higher quality images than ever before, enabling better decision making and more accurate mapping.

Two Large Air Tankers will be based at Avalon Airport, and two high-volume Aircranes with the capacity to carry 10,000 litres of water will be positioned at Essendon and Moorabbin.

A dedicated Super Puma helicopter has returned to the skies to fight fires at night through firebombing, supported by an Air Attack Supervision aircraft that provides critical fire detection and observation at night.

This fleet unveiling follows the launch of 15 regional aircraft which started their service period early last month.

There are 10 bases in the east of the state, with multiple aircraft pre-positioned at each. Aircraft

locations will change day to day according to risk.

A call when needed fleet of more than 100 aircraft is also available including Black Hawk Helicopters, and Victoria can request additional aircraft from the National Fleet.

The latest Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for summer indicates south-west and western Victoria, including north central, east central and south-west Gippsland are at an increased fire risk due to underlying dryness.

This includes the northern slopes of the Otways, Mt Buangor State Park, Wombat State Forest and Central Highlands, parts of Mornington Peninsula, the Kinglake and Yarra Ranges and parts of Eildon. The remaining parts of the state are forecast to have normal fire risk this summer.

Aircraft can be moved across the state according to risk and have already responded to several fires since starting their service period in



Victoria's aerial firefighting fleet is prepared for a high-risk fire season. -S

October, a month earlier than usual due to increased fire risk.

Aircraft play a key role in supporting emergency services workers on the ground, which includes thousands of dedicated emergency services workers from across the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) and other agencies.

Victorians are urged to make sure they have a fire plan for their home and anywhere they're travelling this summer.

For more information on how you can prepare for fires and other emergencies, download the VicEmergency app or visit emergency.vic.gov.au

People can also create a fire plan online customised to their needs and sharable with family and friends via fireplanner.vic.gov.au



Members of the Alexandra Seniors enjoying Christmas lunch. -S

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club's usual Friday social meeting was unanimously suspended as the majority of the club's members hurried over the hill to the Rubicon Hotel to enjoy a relaxing and thoroughly convivial Christmas lunch. Once the 'innards' had been happily appeased, it was time for the Christmas Hamper draw. Not only were there three plentiful hampers to win, but an explosion of delightfully presented mystery parcels.

Luck is always capricious but shone bountifully on Ian who must have won five of them. Sportingly, he passed them on to be drawn again.

Jeanette, the club's own 'little white mouse' has been scurrying around for weeks to put all those 'goodies' together and the club thanks her for her prodigious efforts in procuring and packaging.

The seniors club would also like to thank the following local traders in Alexandra who have

donated generously to the club: FoodWorks, the newsagency, nursery, pharmacy, Yenken's Hardware, the post office, Goodies, Grant Street Grocer, Alexandra Apparel, and not least, Jeanette herself with some Christmas cakes, the John from Yarck with cherries (what else!) and other members for their unspoken efforts.

However, the year is not quite over, we have one last meeting on Friday, December 19 and in addition to our normal activities (cut-throat cards), there is the threat of carols to celebrate the festive season. It is also a time to reflect on members who are no longer with us this year together with our best wishes for those who are not in the best of health.

For your diary, the bridge and card players will be back in action in the second week of January, and the social members will be starting on the first Friday in February.

Meanwhile all the best for the coming break and as usual, stay safe and keep smiling.

Christmas in Eildon

THE Eildon Christmas street decorations are up and looking great. There is a new addition this year, a four metre high Christmas tree. A huge thank you goes out to the Eildon Opportunity Shop and the Eildon Lions Club for their generous donations, which have made the purchase of the tree possible.

Thanks also to the team of locals who helped put the decorations up, including Peter and Vicki McKernan, Hudson and Toby Hall, Chantelle Dundas, the decorations committee (Eildon Action Inc) and several others who have helped along the way.

Thanks also to The Lions Club for providing somewhere to store all the decorations between seasons. Don't forget to come along to the Eildon CFA and Lion's Club Christmas Eve celebrations, commencing at 5pm at the Eildon Lions Park on Wednesday, December 24. Merry Christmas to all.



Eildon's new Christmas tree. -S

McCORMACK FUNERALS
Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
21 Johnston Street, Alexandra

1800 080 909
Please call the team

Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
Obligation free appointments
Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
personalised funeral and memorial services
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

Christmas Market @ Yarck
Devonshire teas and toasties
SATURDAY, December 20
from 9am
Plants, soap, preserves and jams,
knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

lakemountain
ALPINE RESORT

SUMMER AT LAKE MOUNTAIN

Scan the QR code to check out what December looked like at Lake Mountain, along with what we have planned for Summer!



ADVERTISEMENT

Cindy McLEISH MP
STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

 CindyMcLeish.com.au

 Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen
 03 9730 1066  CindyMcLeishMP
 cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

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



Church Services

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

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

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

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

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard
INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks
Alexandra Newsagency
Alexandra Newspapers
Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Buxton Shell
Eildon Grocer
Endeavour Alexandra
Hazeldene Store
Igloo Buxton
Marysville Grocer
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are
members of:

regional
media connect

Country Press
AUSTRALIA

Angela Warren-Smith awarded National Medal

RESPONDING to 586 emergency call-outs, including 94 road crash rescues and 17 rescues from the cold waters of the Goulburn River, is only a snapshot of the service given by SES volunteer Angela Warren-Smith, who has been awarded the National Medal in recognition of 15 years of volunteering.

Angela joined the SES in 2010 and has played a key role in emergency response across the unit, serving as a Road Crash Rescue Team Leader and previously as Deputy Controller.

On Thursday, Angela was awarded the National Medal, a Commonwealth award recognising long and diligent service in organisations that protect life and property, including emergency services.

The medal acknowledges sustained commitment, professionalism and reliability over many years, and recognises the significant personal sacrifice involved, particularly for volunteers who balance emergency response with work, family and community life.

Alexandra SES Deputy Controller Peter Weeks said



SES Assistant Chief Officer Dean O'Hara, Angela Warren-Smith, Deputy Controller Peter Weeks and Unit Controller Trevor Evans. -S

Angela has been heavily involved in complex and demanding operations.

"She is also a qualified Road Crash Rescue Team Leader and holds multiple Road Crash Rescue unit accreditations, which

reflect a high level of technical skill and leadership," Peter said.

"Angie's background in nursing has also proven invaluable during multi-agency responses, where she has frequently assisted Ambulance Victoria crews at serious and traumatic incidents."

Angela was recently nominated for a citation from Ambulance Victoria following her assistance to a single paramedic at a traumatic road crash near Alexandra.

This year she was also recognised for 25 years of service as a nurse at Alexandra District Health.

Unit Controller Trevor Evans described Angela as calm under pressure, safety-focused and highly reliable, with a reputation for thorough preparation and decisive action on scene.

"Angie has carried out some incredible rescues over the years, including 97 assist police call-outs. She's an outstanding volunteer and a great friend to all of us," Trevor said.

He said her contribution has significantly strengthened local emergency response capability and improved community safety.

Over 15 years of volunteer service, Angela has responded to incidents involving both life-saving rescues and fatalities, experiences that few people in the community will ever encounter.



THUMBS UP: To all the bike riders in town, whether they be on two wheels or three. They don't contribute to pollution, they're exercising, you can see around and over them, you know who they are if they wave to you, and they don't tend to run into shop windows.

THUMBS DOWN: To council for planting cork oaks in Leckie Park without consulting the locals who really care about this park or reference to the mythical 'Grand/Strategic Plan for Leckie Park'.

THUMBS UP: To Essence Coffee Shop. The staff are so friendly and they have the best menu in town, down to earth meals that we all know, and plenty of it. Great to see and enjoy now. Keep up the good work and have a merry Christmas.

THUMBS UP: A huge shoutout to the amazing volunteers at the Embassy of Ideas Christmas lunch. On Saturday I received a knock on the door from two volunteers to ensure that I had somewhere to celebrate on Christmas Day. If not, then I was being invited to the lunch. I was organised with family but I was overwhelmed by the kindness. Then we talked about others in Eildon who may not have a way of celebrating the day and I discovered that the volunteers also provide transportation. Such kindness and generosity in giving up their own time on Christmas Day, without drawing attention to themselves, is what makes community. Merry Christmas.

THUMBS UP: To Scott for cleaning and deodorising street bins.

THUMBS UP: Heather Robb's article on Christmas in last week's edition. Excellent.

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

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Christmas at Yarck Market, Devonshire tea, toasties, plants, soap, preserves and much more. Pick up that last minute Christmas present.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS

Will you be alone for Christmas? Family out of town? No-one around to enjoy the day with?

Embassy of Ideas is hosting a community Christmas lunch. Everyone is welcome. Singles, couples, families. St Johns Hall, Alexandra. All food provided, cold meats, salads and desserts. Bookings are required for catering purposes. Text Sasha 0422 225 801 or email embassyofideas@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Alexandra Race Club will be holding the Alexandra Country and Western Meeting. Gates open at noon. Book the return bus for \$10, online at country.racing.com/alexandra

Help shape Murrindindi's Financial Sustainability Roadmap

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting community members to take part in the Financial Sustainability Roadmap engagement by sharing their priorities for facilities and services.

This is the first step in understanding community priorities for facilities and services so council can make informed, sustainable decisions. Your feedback will help guide how we balance community needs with financial realities, now and into the next budget cycle.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open to join the Facilities Review Advisory Group (FRAG), and a Community Priorities Survey is open to gather feedback on what matters most before detailed reviews begin in 2026.

The FRAG is a new panel that will bring together approximately 25 community members, selected to reflect the diversity of Murrindindi Shire, to help develop principles and recommendations for managing community facilities in a fair and sustainable way. Panel members will work with council and independent facilitators to consider options for facilities consolidation, possible divestment and partnerships, ensuring decisions reflect the needs and values of our community. The panel will meet over five sessions from late February to May 2026. All in-person events will be accessible, and panel members' names will remain confidential.

Council has also launched a broader community survey to understand priorities for both facilities and services, including libraries, pools, public halls, playgrounds, sporting venues, and public facilities managed by other entities. Council manages hundreds of facilities and thousands of assets valued at more than \$640 million and maintaining buildings alone costs over \$1.2 million each year. With rising costs and limited revenue growth, it's critical that we manage our assets and services sustainably while continuing to meet community needs.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "This is about planning together for a sustainable future. Managing our facilities and services means making tough choices and balancing limited resources with community priorities. By inviting feedback now, we can make informed decisions that respond to today's challenges and set a strong foundation for the years ahead.

"Together, we can ensure Murrindindi remains a place where people feel connected, supported, and proud to call home."

Expressions of Interest to join the FRAG close on Sunday, February 8, 2026, and successful applicants will be notified by February 13.

To learn more, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/facilitiesreview or contact council by phone on (03) 5772 0333 or email engagement@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Christmas lunch for Murrindindi Carer's Support Group

THE Murrindindi Carer's Support Group had their Christmas party last Friday in the Goldfield's Room of the Corner Hotel, Alexandra. Some 16 carers attended, sharing a meal, swapping gifts and enjoying supportive conversation.

The group has members from all around Murrindindi Shire, including Molesworth, Eildon, Buxton, etcetera. Any carer is welcome, whether that is caring for a partner, child, friend, family, or more.

Monthly meetings held by the group are a place for carers to meet new friends, make connections and share ideas. They take place at 10am on the last Friday of the month. It's about being a person as well as being a carer.

Murrindindi Carer's Group partnered with Villa Maria Catholic Homes' care engagement team, who provide lots of support to the group and help organise meetings.

For more information or to get in touch with the group, contact Anthea on 0418 402 455.



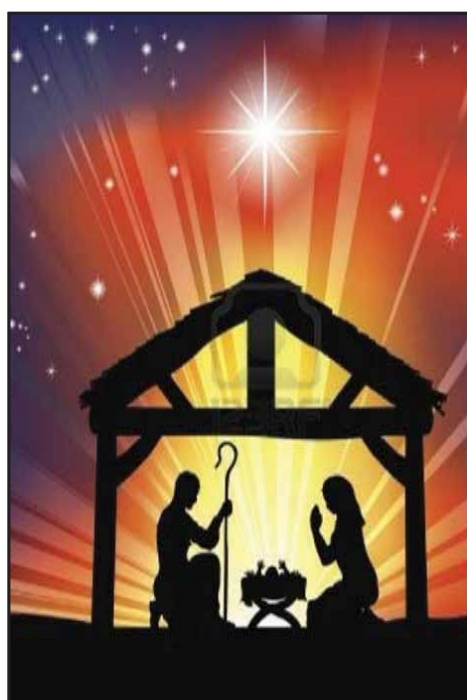
Carers were able to share gifts and conversation and company. -BD



The Goldfield's Room was full of festive cheer and laughter. -BD



The Murrindindi Carer's Support Group enjoying their Christmas party at the Corner Hotel. -BD



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION The Anglican Parishes of Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Buxton

Christmas Eve: Wednesday,
December 24.
6pm, **Marysville:** Family Eucharist

Christmas Day: Thursday,
December 25.
9am, **Buxton:** Christmas Eucharist
9am, **Alexandra:** Christmas Eucharist
11am, **Yea:** Christmas Eucharist

For further information contact:
Fr Mario 0435 953 777 or
Fr John 5774 7655



Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

Queensland fruit fly

IT is that time of year, weather warming up. Have you put in place the protection you need to safeguard your fruit trees and vegie patch? I refer to Queensland fruit fly. It is becoming more prevalent than ever. It is no longer tropical, now found in South Australia. There are a number of control items to use. Just check what the nursery has in stock. It breeds at a fast rate from eggs to hatch to complete the cycle it is only approximately four weeks. For more detail on this pest, dial it up on Google.

Chris Petersen, Alexandra

Lake Eildon camping

OPEN letter to The Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP Minister Environment regarding Fraser Visitor Node – Lake Eildon.

I am writing to express our appreciation for your assistance regarding the proposed closure of the Fraser Picnic Area during the peak summer visitation period. Such a closure would have had considerable economic consequences for the region.

On November 13, I contacted your office on behalf of local businesses that would have been substantially affected by Parks Victoria's proposal to close this important community asset during the busiest visitor season.

While we recognise that renewal works are essential for the long-term health of the local economy, the initial timing and approach presented considerable challenges.

The update provided by Parks Victoria on December 5 was greatly welcome. The revised plan for phased facility upgrades scheduled outside the peak visitation period will allow hundreds of visitors to continue enjoying access to this much-loved site on the shores of Lake Eildon.

This decision supports ongoing family traditions and strengthens community connections throughout summer and the holiday season. Thank you for your consideration and responsiveness regarding this matter.

It truly feels like a wonderful Christmas gift for our visitors and local businesses, to be able to enjoy this treasured location over summer while looking forward to renewed and refreshed facilities in the years ahead.

We would be delighted to assist in promoting any media release issued by your office or Parks Victoria to ensure the community is aware that this valued precinct remains open and is undergoing renewal.

In addition, we would warmly welcome the opportunity to host you at the Fraser campgrounds this summer to experience first-hand the vibrancy of the region and the importance of this site to our community.

Cr Damien Gallagher Mayor



Help shape our Financial Sustainability Roadmap

Council is inviting the community to share their priorities for facilities and services in Murrindindi Shire. This will help Council make informed decisions and develop a Financial Sustainability Roadmap.

Expressions of Interest are now open to join the Facilities Review Advisory Group (FRAG), and a Community Priorities Survey is open to gather feedback on what matters most before detailed reviews begin in 2026.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/facilitiesreview

Together, we can secure a
sustainable future for
Murrindindi.

SCAN ME



McLeish speaks on merger exploration

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish was contacted for comment regarding the merger exploration between Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health.

She said, “Both Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) and Darlingford and Upper Goulburn Nursing Home (DUGNH) were working on this bigger plan in good faith, and it seemed as though Alexandra had two plans being worked on at the same time. That’s exceptionally disappointing.”

Asked about her hopes for the situation moving forward, she said, “I’d like to see the Murrindindi Health Network look after local services and delivered locally. Alexandra has a good list of consulting specialists and that needs to continue.”

ADH questions

FOLLOWING from last week’s edition, Alexandra District Health CEO Jane Poxon provided a further response to the questions below.

Will council’s survey results be factored into the feedback to be considered?

The Boards of Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health will consider all feedback received during the engagement period as well as the survey results received from the Murrindindi Shire Council on 1 December.

What are the next stages for the exploration of the merger and what opportunities will there be (if any) for further community engagement?

A summary of staff, community and stakeholder feedback [was made] available during the week commencing Monday, December 8. It will highlight the key themes that emerged from the engagement.

No decisions have been made, and the boards of both health services are currently preparing a business case, which is provisionally targeted for completion this month. The business case will draw on feedback received during the engagement period, as well as financial, service and workforce analysis, to identify the best way to strengthen local health care for the long term.

If the merger goes ahead and the operations of EH are not found to advantage the area, what scope is there to rescind the agreement?

The decision about a voluntary amalgamation is made by the Minister for Health.

a) Given that the board will be disbanded, who could make this decision?

The decision about a voluntary amalgamation is made by the Minister for Health.

b) If ADH becomes activity funded under EH, would ADH become block funded again?

This is a question for the Department of Health.

What are the board’s impressions of community sentiment around the proposed merger?

A summary of staff, community and stakeholder feedback [was made] available during the week commencing Monday, December 8. It highlight[ed] the key themes that emerged from the engagement.

Have there been any preliminary discussions with the Health Department/Minister regarding the proposed merger?

Both health services have been keeping stakeholders informed about their progress to explore a voluntary amalgamation, including the Department of Health.

Alexandra hospital: engagement results released

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health (EH) has released the outcomes of their community engagement regarding the exploration of a voluntary amalgamation between the organisations.

They said that across the engagement period, “more than 150 stakeholders were directly engaged, 211 people completed either the digital or paper copy of the survey, more than 200 people attended the Tea Talk / community engagement sessions and more than 1100 community members accessed the Connecting Care website.”

They also stated, “The purpose of this engagement was to understand community views about how Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health could best meet future health needs of the communities they serve.”

Staff engagement

ADH/EH said regarding staff engagement, “Staff feedback from both health services was mostly positive of both boards’ decision to explore voluntary amalgamation. Alexandra District Health staff understood the potential benefits, and many were advocates for change during community discussions and local Tea Talk sessions. Eastern Health staff were largely indifferent and interested in understanding the benefits of voluntary amalgamation to Eastern Health.”

Among the staff of both EH and ADH, “More than 55 per cent rated service expansion and improved access to specialist care as extremely important.”

Sixty per cent identified urgent care, medical imaging and outpatient clinics as vital services. Sixty-seven per cent identified continuous improvement as a high priority.

Among ADH staff, there was “Strong support for expanding local services. Eighty-seven per cent rated service expansion and attracting skilled professionals as extremely important.” There was also strong support for medical imaging, urgent care and specialist services.

The ADH staff summary said, “The importance of community-informed decision-making was critical. Ninety per cent prioritised support for local jobs and ensuring the needs of the community drove service planning / provision. Open-ended feedback sought further information on whether benefits could be achieved through stronger collaboration. The main concerns were job security and maintaining Alexandra District Health’s local identity.”

Among EH staff, “Key concerns included the capacity of Alexandra District Health to support increased demand, significant travel distances for Eastern Health staff and uncertainty about what the benefits to Eastern Health would be.”

Community engagement

In the community survey, not surprisingly local people were keen to have service expansion, access to specialist care, local decision-making, urgent care, medical imaging and outpatient services, etcetera, however this should not and does not create a mandate for the amalgamation to go ahead, however it is spun by the health services. If it was pointed out that these services would only be accessible under a merger, then the results may have been different, and may then have been more representative of community sentiment. This did not happen. There was no mention whatsoever of the merger “exploration” in the survey.

According to ADH/EH, on the free-text section of the survey, it states that among people

who had used ADH in the past year, there was, “Strong interest in more local services and treatments, visiting specialists, a larger workforce and the long-term sustainability of Alexandra District Health. Key concerns focused on losing local autonomy, the length of the community engagement period, and the need for guarantees that services at Alexandra District Health would not be reduced.”

Among people who had used EH services in the past year, “Key concerns included how Alexandra District Health would be governed, whether funding commitments would be sustained over time, and the risk of resources being diverted away from Alexandra and its surrounding areas to Melbourne.”

Among people who had used neither service in the past year, “Key concerns about how a possible voluntary amalgamation would be funded, how specialist expertise currently available at Alexandra District Health would be maintained and improved, and whether the long-standing contributions of visiting medical officers would be protected.”

Acting CEO Claire Palmer was asked whether a list of anonymised free-text feedback could be provided. She responded, “We cannot provide the survey comments due to confidentiality.”

Key themes from Tea Talks

The report also provided a summary of the key themes explored at the various ‘Tea Talk’ community engagement sessions, including concerns around potential wait times, provision of dialysis services, how underfunded services such as mental health might be impacted, questions around why an amalgamation is needed when expanded services are already offered through the Local Health Services Network, whether there was scope for inclusion of all four local health services in the network, perceived benefits for Eastern Health, local leadership structure, questions around funding allocations, the desire for a whole-of-Murrindindi model, whether donations and resources would stay with ADH, why voluntary amalgamation is needed, how new services might be funded, concerns over the length of the community engagement period, clarity on how additional doctors, staff and students from Eastern Health could be accommodated, the implications for nearby health services, availability of specialists and allied health professionals, funding implications for ADH, the impact on First Nationals communities, the naming of the health service, concerns that Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) could be overlooked or disadvantaged by an amalgamation, questions about whether “past community meetings opposing amalgamation were considered,” and the raising of significant doubts about whether the boards will genuinely consider community feedback.

Additional engagement

ADH/EH stated that the Connecting Care website received 1100 visitors during the engagement period, however there is no mention of how many unique visitors there were. ADH staff and leaders also attended the Alexandra Show on November 8, and there were 13 emails received via Connecting Care, eight of which were RSVPs.

They noted their meeting with the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism (ADTTA) on November 11, and that ADTTA hosted a meeting immediately prior to the ‘Tea Talk’ on November 18 which they did not attend. The latter was also broadcast on UGFM radio.

On November 12, Murrindindi Shire Council launch their own survey about the potential merger, open until November 28. The ADH report states, “ADH and EH received the survey results from council on December 1, which both boards are considering.”

Submissions

Submissions were also received from ADTTA, Murrindindi Shire Council and two submissions from YDMH.

The ADTTA submission was summarised by ADH/EH. “ADTTA also submitted its report, *Mergers are not Magic*, which analysed community concerns and international/local research to guide boards in protecting local priorities. This submission was a review of global, Australian and Victorian evidence on hospital amalgamations and how it applies to this proposed voluntary amalgamation. The report indicated that while an ADH and EH voluntary amalgamation could deliver benefits such as improved clinical governance, specialist access and workforce development, these are not guaranteed and are counterbalanced by risks including metro-centric decision-making, financial pressure, service drift to larger sites, and potential loss of community trust.”

The Murrindindi Shire Council submission was summarised by ADH/EH. It said MSC CEO “strongly urged ADH to defer any decision on a voluntary amalgamation with EH until the Murrindindi Health and Aged Care Workforce Strategy Network Plan (the strategy) is completed and its options fully assessed. The council acknowledged and commended the proactive efforts of ADH and EH to improve healthcare, but argued that the strategy provided a more robust, locally tailored pathway to address these challenges.”

The first of YDMH’s submissions was from the perspective of the Murrindindi community. According to the ADH/EH summary, YDMH argued, “that the proposed Alexandra District Health and Eastern Health amalgamation carries significant risks for rural Murrindindi and should not proceed until major regional planning work is completed.”

The second YDMH submission related to the implications for YDMH if the merger goes ahead. The ADH/EH summary states, “This submission outlined the specific risks YDMH anticipates if the ADH and EH amalgamation proceeds such as impacts to the Local Health Service Network, reduction in rural access and autonomy, and create a significant competitive disadvantage for YDMH.”

Business case

The boards of both health services are currently preparing a business case, provisionally targeted for completion at the end of December.

The summary states, “Staff, stakeholder and community feedback help inform the boards’ understanding of local priorities and expectations. The boards have a responsibility to consider all evidence, qualitative and quantitative, and to make decisions based on what will deliver the strongest, most sustainable health outcomes for the communities they serve.

“The business case will bring together a range of inputs, including service and financial analysis; workforce and infrastructure needs; community and staff feedback; and costs, benefits and risks of each option.

“The business case includes detailed and sensitive (commercial in confidence) information and will not be made publicly available.”

Kellock Lodge travels to the Philippines for the day

KELLOCK Lodge selects a country each year to travel to, to provide residents with a different cultural and culinary experience.

This year Kellock Lodge travelled to the Philippines on November 18. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the staff dressed in traditional costumes, the decorations and sampling the culinary delights of Philippines.



Registered nurse May, personal care worker Tina, CEO Tania Hunter, Viv and Noeline from the lifestyle team, personal care workers Hannah and Sherma, Director of Nursing Dan Olivieri and personal care worker Liz. -S



The entrance to the main dining room. Residents provided their passports which were stamped with their visa to enter the Philippines. -S



The main dining room decorated in the Philippines theme -S



Lifestyle Coordinator Viv, Director of Nursing Daniel Oliveri, CEO Tania Hunter, and Noeline from Lifestyle. -S

STOP THE RUBICON SOLAR FARM.

Protect our Valley, People & Environment from a dangerous proposal by SREA - part of the Samsung Conglomerate.

The proposed 717-acre Rubicon Solar Project and 800 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would span the entire property on the corner of Taggerty-Thornton Road and Rubicon Road — from the banks of the Rubicon River to the lower slopes of the Blue Range — covering this high-bushfire-risk landscape with at least 140,000 solar panels. This steep, vulnerable terrain has only one road in and out, limited evacuation capacity, and no Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) designation, yet it would host the largest project of its kind currently in operation in Victoria.

The Rubicon locality is one of the wettest areas in the state, with far more days of cloud cover than clear skies, making it fundamentally unsuitable for large-scale solar generation. The project site sits directly beside the Rubicon River, which flows into the Goulburn Valley food bowl. Any disturbance, contamination, or altered hydrology could have far-reaching consequences for downstream agriculture and waterways.

This is also a region of deep historical significance — from early settlement and timber industry heritage, to long-standing cultural and environmental values. Once an industrial-scale project is allowed into a landscape like this, its historical character is lost forever. These places cannot be restored once they are converted to industrial use; the damage is permanent.

As a multinational corporation, the financial benefits of the development would flow offshore, while the environmental, cultural, and safety impacts remain here on the ground.

On severe fire danger days, strong north-west winds would drive any ignition from the BESS or solar infrastructure toward the township, public campgrounds, two overnight school camps, and heritage-listed State Forest areas — creating a chain of risks with the potential for rapid and catastrophic consequences. With only a single access road, safe evacuation is extremely limited. The only responsible mitigation is to prevent development in this location entirely.

VICGRID excluded this region from Victoria's REZs due to its high biodiversity, environmental sensitivity, and low solar yield. Yet major companies can still bypass REZ protections through a grid impact assessment. This is precisely why stronger safeguards for non-REZ areas are essential — to ensure community voices are respected and to protect people, landscapes, and cultural heritage from inappropriate industrial proposals by Samsung or any future proponent.

Energy can be produced in many places — but productive farmland, intact ecosystems, historical landscapes, and culturally significant areas are finite. Once lost, they are gone for good. Local communities deserve a genuine say in protecting the places where we live, work, and build our lives.

Say NO to the Rubicon Solar Project — and NO to any future renewable energy projects proposed in unsuitable, high-risk, non-REZ areas.

Our land, our safety, our history, and our community deserve real protection.

Scan & Sign BOTH Petitions — one for State Parliament and one for the Senate



STATE PARLIAMENT
Sponsored by Cindy McLeish



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
Sponsored by Senator Bridget McKenzie

If you prefer not to use QR codes, we have paper petitions available across the shire. Keep an eye out!



Stop Rubicon Solar



norubiconsolar@gmail.com



Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra
Bendigo Bank

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Juniors
Shannon Mitchell**

For showing the school value of achievement by always finishing his work on time, using the resources around him, asking thoughtful questions to build his understanding, and bringing a creative, can-do attitude to everything he does.

Seniors

For demonstrating the school values achievement and resilience by participating in the activities at Camp Nillhacootie.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank

**Alexandra
Community Hub
needs your support**

NEIGHBOURHOOD Houses around Victoria are currently engaged in a campaign, seeking additional financial support from the Victorian Government. They are seeking an extra \$11.7 million and say that unless this funding is received, 200 neighbourhood houses around Victoria are at risk of closure.

Sue Sedelies, manager/coordinator at Alexandra Community Hub, explained that these 200 neighbourhood houses have been running at a loss for the past two years.

She said, “We’re fairly fortunate at the moment, but that doesn’t put us not on the firing line. If we were to use our funding purely and be really regimented about it, we’d be in the same boat. It’s just that we supplement it from other areas where we can.”

They’re able to supplement their funding through room hire, for example.

Neighbourhood houses are funded solely via the state government. Locally, the neighbourhood houses have formed the Dindi Collective. The collective is about working together, sharing the ideas and sharing resources.

Sue explained, “Even within Murrindindi and our houses, and statewide, every house is so different in what they do... There are very few houses that are like what we have in Alexandra, that are a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), an Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) provider, run an L2P driving program, are a Services Australia agent, as well as the neighbourhood house side of things, etcetera, etcetera. It’s busy and also, really varied.”

Services such as these are vital for a small town such as Alexandra, and Murrindindi more generally.

She added that they inherited a lot of what they do now as a result of Berry Street and other agencies leaving the area. The area also has a lot of service providers on paper, but not necessarily legs on the ground as Alexandra Community Hub does.

A postcard campaign has been started by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, where participants at the various neighbourhood houses around Victoria are invited to write their thoughts on the services provided. These are then sent to the minister as a bulk pack, meaning that people aren’t burdened with the cost of postage.

“It was really affirmative to see some of the positive feedback,” Sue said. “It’s actually been really heartwarming to stop and read that... It really makes you sit down and reflect and go, okay, what we are providing is worthwhile. People do appreciate it.”

She said, “It’s about making parliamentary ministers realise that actually it’s going to cost them far more if they don’t fund us. If you suddenly have half the houses going under and we don’t provide the services that we do, or the social connection, which has been huge, often in a town we are either the first or last point of call, so we have tourists walking in the door wanting information. I had somebody today wanting to know where the post office was, for instance. But we’re also the last point of call of when they’ve tried to knock on every other door and can’t find an answer. It’s probably not just a question for state government, it’s also for local government.”

She said that if they didn’t exist, then there would be a greater impost on councils, or people may not be able to access the supports



at all, which has ongoing negative economic and social impacts.

She said, “I think the sector is being built from flexibility. Whether that’s, and this is probably more my personal opinion, but food relief, for instance. Most houses do some form of food relief. However, houses under the agreement aren’t funded for food relief, and the funding that has been available for food relief is via a grant process, which is another layer of filling out paperwork in order to get money to do it, and with a lot of grants, they only cover the materials. They never cover the administration, they never cover the distribution, they never cover any of that. We’ve got a fantastic batch of volunteers, but there’s limitations in that too.”

So how can the community help? Sue responded, “By coming up to the hub and signing a postcard and voicing their concerns to their state MPs. Consider volunteering and consider really engaging in services.”

They also take donations and are working on getting their DGR status, “But ideally we just want to see a fair amount of funding for what’s actually in the government’s contract of what we should be providing,” she said.

The Alexandra Community Hub started life as CEACA over 40 years ago, morphing over time to become a vitally important service in the Alexandra district. They are often helping people rather than the people helping them, but it’s time for you to do what you can to help them out.



WEST GATE TUNNEL

West Gate Tunnel *now open*

The West Gate Tunnel offers a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge. Drivers have more choices with new connections linking the West Gate Freeway to CityLink and Melbourne's CBD.

It will ease congestion on the West Gate Freeway and West Gate Bridge, so you can enjoy more of what Melbourne has to offer.

more ways to *move*

Find out how your journey could change at bigbuild.vic.gov.au



Alexandra Kindergarteners visit the Christmas Tree Festival



Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival organiser Pam with volunteer Sue. -AR



An excited group of children from Alexandra Kindergarten attended the Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival on Thursday and Friday, December 11 and 12. They were thrilled to meet Santa and explore the amazing Christmas tree display. -photos by AR

Christmas Wishes

2025

Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

The management and staff at Alexandra Newspapers would like to thank our community, readers and clients for their continued support throughout 2025 and we look forward to working with you again in 2026.

Our final paper for 2025 will be December 24. The office will be closed from 1pm and reopen 9am, January 14, 2026.

Our first edition for 2026 will be January 21.

Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

The Yea Chronicle



Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

Steve 0427 577 839

Alexandra
Windscreens &
Glass Services

Navy Blue Planning

Urban and Regional Planning Specialists

*Thank you to our clients for
your partnership this year.*

*We wish you a joyful Christmas
and a prosperous new year.*

From the team at
Navy Blue Planning

✉ admin@navyblueplanning.com.au

📍 66 Grant Street, Alexandra

🌐 navyblueplanning.com.au

☎ 0419 006 014

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

**Alex Scott and staff would like to thank
everyone for all their support over 2025
and look forward to continued success
and new opportunities in 2026**

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

rma network. Accredited Member

David Setches 0409 443 473

Tim Gibson 0420 306 599

Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476

Neil Darby 0418 595 265



**As we wrap up another year, we would
like to thank our clients for all their
support throughout 2025.**

**Travis and Gaby would like to
wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.**



ALEXANDRA
PHYSIOTHERAPY

wishes you a

**Merry Christmas
and safe New Year.**

Closed December 24 – 26, 2025

Open December 29 – 30, 2025

**Closed December 31 –
January 2, 2026**

ALEXANDRA
PHYSIOTHERAPY
☎ **5772 2649**



Jenny, Graeme and staff
would like to wish their
valued customers a
Merry Christmas and a
safe and happy New Year
Closed Christmas Day only

**Alexandra
Newsagency & Lotto**

HEDGER CONSTRUCTIONS
Building with Distinction

Merry Christmas

Wishing our wonderful community a joyful
Christmas and a happy New Year!

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust
throughout the year. It has been our privilege to
help build the places you call home.

From our family to yours, have a festive and
restful holiday.

We will be closed from the 18th of December and
re-opening on the 12th of January.



41 Grant Street, Alexandra
1300 291 101

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all our local businesses and community for your support.

– Roslyn, Stephanie and Josh, Chris and Roshelle, and our wonderful staff Dot, Kim and Darren, Dick and Sylvia.

We are closing for Christmas break from Tuesday, December 23, 2025. Opening 9am Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

ALEXANDRA
MOTORCYCLES & MACHINERY

📍 65 Downey Street, Alexandra 📞 5772 1045
📘 AlexandraMotorcyclesMachinery



Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from the team at

E-TEC
Electrical Technology

0418 543 310
info@e-tec.net.au



MERRY Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE ARE CLOSED FROM THE 24TH DECEMBER, AND BACK ON THE 29TH & 30TH FROM 9AM-5PM.

WE WILL THEN BE CLOSED FROM THE 31ST THROUGH TO THE 4TH OF JANUARY. WE WILL RETURN BACK ON THE 5TH OF JANUARY 2026.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.

Nutrien Harcourts



ADVERTISEMENT

Merry Christmas
Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year

Cindy McLEISH MP
STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

📍 Shop 10, 38 - 40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen 📞 03 9730 1066
📘 CindyMcLeishMP ✉ cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

🌐 CindyMcLeish.com.au
Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

Christmas Wishes

2025

ALEXANDRA Tyrepower

Matt, Pam and staff would like to thank our customers for their support during 2024. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We will be closed December 25 to 28, 2024 and January 1, 2025




Alexandra Automotive

Boz, Fran, Ben and Seth would like to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

We will be closed from Friday, December 19 and reopening on Monday, January 12

From Everyone
at Alexandra
District Health,
we wish you
a very Merry
Christmas and
a Happy and
Safe New Year



Adam Scott wins Cathedral Invitational for second year

ADAM Scott won Cathedral Lodge and Golf Club's Cathedral Invitational, held across two days in a unique format.

Finishing with a total of 129, and 15 under par, on Wednesday, December 10, he successfully backed up his previous victory of the Cathedral Invitational in 2023.

Ben Henkel stormed home with a tournament course record earlier in the day to finish equal second overall with Marc Leishman at 11 under par.

Tuesday's star performer Daniel Gale, who had tied with Scott and Leishman, slipped away in the competitive field to finish equal fourth with Cameron John.

Crowds of over 3000 rolled in from across Victoria and Australia to watch Australia's top male and female golfers at the 300 acre Cathedral Lodge and Golf Club.

The event's final day is the only time the course's gates are opened to the public and spectators enjoyed both the relaxed atmosphere and the incredible access in Victoria's High Country.

The 2025 Cathedral Invitational Champion Adam Scott said "Going out there today with a chance to win was fun. Daniel and Marc were playing really well but I managed to play a nice back nine and get it done.

"This course is tricky and even though I've won here before, I'm still learning little nuances here and there.

"It's been a fun couple of days and I'm learning more and more about the place. I just love being out here."





MLA unveils top 10 market information industry trends for 2025

AUSTRALIA’S red meat industry is demonstrating resilience, productivity gains and strong global demand in 2025, with record production, high prices and export performance forecast across beef, sheepmeat and goat sectors, according to Meat and Livestock Australia’s (MLA’s) latest Top 10 trends of 2025 report.

MLA analysis shows Australia is on track to achieve record beef production of 20.79 million tonnes in 2025, produced from fewer cattle than previous peaks, highlighting long-term efficiency gains across genetics, feeding systems and on-farm productivity

According to MLA’s Senior Market Information Analyst, Emiliano Diaz, the results underline the strength of Australia’s red meat supply chain in a challenging global environment.

“What we’re seeing in 2025 is a highly efficient, market-responsive industry that continues to add value from fewer animals,” Mr Diaz said.

“Larger average carcase weights and better productivity are allowing Australia to deliver record volumes of high-quality beef to global markets, even amid significant trade and weather volatility.”

The report highlights international trade uncertainty as a defining backdrop for 2025, with US tariffs, shifting global trade flows and increased South American competition. However, Australia’s trade diversification and reputation for safety, reliability and quality continue to underpin demand and support prices.

“Global supply shortages, particularly in the United States, are reshaping protein trade flows,” Mr Diaz said.

“Australia is well placed to capitalise on this environment, not only through strong access into key markets like Japan and Korea, but also through growing demand for lamb and goat meat in a broader range of destinations.”

Across the sheep sector, lamb prices reached record highs in 2025, despite production remaining relatively robust, while structural changes in flock composition continue as producers prioritise meat breeds over wool.

The report also identifies record goat production, with slaughter numbers likely to surpass last year’s high, supported by growing demand from markets including South Korea, China and Canada.

“The diversification of export markets for goat meat is particularly significant,” Mr Diaz said.

“It reduces reliance on a single destination and reflects growing global recognition of Australia’s capability to supply consistent, high-quality product.”

Weather patterns remain a critical influence, with favourable conditions in northern Australia supporting herd rebuilding, while drought conditions in southern regions continue to shape supply and pricing dynamics.

“Producers have shown remarkable adaptability in responding to highly variable seasonal conditions,” Mr Diaz said.

“That flexibility, combined with ongoing investment across the supply chain, is key to maintaining competitiveness into the future.”

The Top 10 trends of 2025 report provides a forward-looking snapshot of the forces shaping Australia’s red meat industry and its continued role as a reliable supplier to global markets.

Find the full Top 10 Market Information Industry Trends for 2025 list at tinyurl.com/yrjv48jd

Fire safety reminder for farm machinery

Header fire a good reminder

CFA is urging farmers to be fire safe when using machinery following a paddock fire this week which burnt around 40 hectares.

On Tuesday, December 9, CFA crews responded to a grass fire on McPhersons Road in Lilliput around 2pm.

On arrival crews discovered 800 meters of running fire in a paddock. Due to the size of the fire, 22 CFA units responded to the incident along with water aircraft. Victoria Police was also on scene for traffic control.

CFA’s response was also greatly supported by Fire Rescue Victoria and NSW Rural Fire Service crews.

Crews also undertook asset protection for nearby structures, luckily thanks to the good work of crews there were no reported losses.

The cause of the fire was determined as the mechanical header working in the paddock.

The incident was declared under control at 3.37pm and safe at 6.18pm.

Deputy Chief Officer for the North East Region, Gavin Thompson, said this incident serves as a good reminder to make machinery safety a priority.

“This season, with low rainfall and dry soil, headers will be taking on more dirt, meaning farmers need to clean their headers more frequently to prevent dust buildup,” he said.

“Fine dust from pulse crops like lentils and lupins can accumulate around the engine and exhaust system, and if it heats up, it can smoulder and potentially ignite spot fires, particularly in windrows.

“A fire starting in the header’s engine bay can spread to the surrounding crop before it is noticed by the machine operator, and in the minutes it usually takes to get water onto the fire, it could grow to several hectares.

“On days of high wind those same crop fires could grow up to 100 hectares within under an hour.”

Crop and farm machinery fire safety

The most common cause of harvester fires is material collecting on hot engine components

such as the manifold, exhaust and turbocharger. Make it part of your routine to check for straw or grass build-up, and hot bearings.

Make sure your machinery is free of faults and mechanical defects and carrying a water fire extinguisher. Postpone paddock work during the highest fire-risk periods. On hot, dry days, exercise extreme caution before harvesting, grinding, welding, slashing or mowing. The key to avoiding harvester fires is diligence in maintenance such as clean-down and inspection.

During paddock operations have the appropriate firefighting equipment in place. You’re required by law to have a nine litre water pressured extinguisher on hand. Avoid driving vehicles and motorbikes through dry grass or crop, as the risk from the hot exhaust system is high.

More information can be found at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/operating-farming-machinery-equipment-and-vehicles

Virtual fencing greenlit for Victorian farmers

VICTORIAN livestock farmers are set to be boosted by huge productivity gains after the Victorian Government green-lighted virtual fencing technology for use across Victorian farms.

The cutting-edge technology allows livestock farmers to guide and contain livestock without physical fences.

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking said the long-awaited decision was set to transform farm management, animal welfare, and industry sustainability in one of Australia’s largest livestock sectors.

“This is a huge step forward that will deliver real, on-farm productivity and welfare benefits for dairy and livestock farmers across Victoria,” Mr Hosking said.

“We’ve been working hard to get to this decision from the very beginning. Victoria’s livestock and dairy sector is poised to see productivity gains in excess of tens of millions of dollars and is now ready to step into the future.

“This announcement is the culmination of years of behind the scenes work and we thank Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence for backing this technology and working with us to get it done.”

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria President Bernie Free said the green-lighting of the technology will help ensure Victoria’s dairy industry has certainty they need to innovate and remain globally competitive.

“Virtual fencing technology is an absolute game-changer for Victorian dairy farmers. It allows farmers to rotate pastures more efficiently, protect environmentally sensitive areas, improve animal health outcomes and provides a safer work environment,” Mr Free said.

“Victoria is already Australia’s dairy industry powerhouse. This move is set to reinforce that mantle and set the platform for the potential of huge growth in our local sector.

“We have continually advocated for a regulatory framework that keeps pace with innovation, while maintaining strong animal welfare standards. The outcome announced today achieves exactly that and it sets an exciting precedent for the years ahead.”

ALEX SCOTT & STAFF

Now Operating at the Monthly Yea Combined Agent Store Sale Additional Entries Welcomed

FACEBOOK: ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF - LIVESTOCK

INTERNET: WWW.ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU

EMAIL: YEA@ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU



David Setches	0409 443 473
Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Glen Barwick	0408 975 476
Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANIMAL SERVICES

Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer

IN THE PINK

0418 556 001
www.pinkdog.com.au

Taggerty Vet Clinic

Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc
0403 012 996

Consultations strictly by appointment

All Animals Large & Small

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Extra TV wall points
- Surround sound systems
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Home theatre
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured

AUTOMOTIVE

ASC
ALEXANDRA SERVICE CENTRE



At Alexandra Service Centre we offer a wide range of services:

- Log book servicing
- General servicing
- Fleet car servicing
- Mechanical repairs
- RACV Roadside Assist
- Towing
- RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Roadworthys
- Trailer servicing
- Car batteries
- Auto electrical repairs
- Air conditioning

We now have several courtesy cars available when booking a service or repairs

Come in and see the team at
6A Webster Street, Alexandra
Phone: 5772 2133

BIN HIRE

RUBBISH REMOVAL

•DOMESTIC •COMMERCIAL •INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- Household Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- 3m Bins

Alexandra SKIP BINS
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA

CALL SIMON GOODMAN
0409 997 632

Like us on
facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA

PH 57722 152
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e: chookies@virtual.net.au

FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

BOOKKEEPING

TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING

*BAS *IAS *Superannuation
*Accounts Receivable
*Accounts Payable *Payroll

Ph Trevor Turner
0419 575 176

BRICKLAYING

Alexandra BRICKLAYING CONCRETE & PAVING

No job too big or too small
Free quotes
Call Jarrod, James and Corey

0409 190 502

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

HBI CONSTRUCTIONS

SCOTT HILL
Registered Builder
0439 730 824

- NEW HOMES
- EXTENSIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- DECKS
- SWIMMING POOLS

info@hbiconstructions.com.au
hbiconstructions.com.au

REGISTERED Building Practitioner member

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

CAR DETAILING

GN Carpet Cleaning

- Stain removal
- Urine treatment
- Upholstery cleaning
- Carpet steam cleaning
- Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

COMPUTERS

ACROSS TECHNOLOGY

Does your business need reliable, affordable and informed I.T. support?

We offer:

- Remote Management and Monitoring
- On-site and Off-site Backups
- Sales, Service and Repairs of PCs, Servers, Laptops, Tablets and Mobiles
- Hosting for Websites and Email

Call Anthony on 0478 534 826

Our 35+ years of experience in almost every facet of the industry is available to every Across Technology client.
Let us be your I.T. Department.

Visit <https://acrosstechnology.au> to see all our services!

CONCRETING

Fleetwood Concreting

If it's concrete you need, phone Mac!

Any style - any size

- Driveways • Paths • Slabs • Foundations
- Steps • Crossovers
- Plain • Coloured • Stencil • Slate or • Exposed Aggregate

All excavations and concrete cutting

Phone 0418 534 973

CONVEYANCING

Sargeants
CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

E-TEC
Electrical Technology

- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310
info@e-tec.net.au
www.eteelectrical.com.au

J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL

- COMMERCIAL
- SPLIT SYTEMS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- MAINTENANCE
- INDUSTRIAL
- UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW HOMES
- BREAKDOWNS

0439 842 030

REDGATE ELECTRICAL

SERVICING THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE

0455 317 553

24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

ENGINEERING

HUNTED ENGINEERING

- Ute trays and canopies
- Steel and aluminium welding
- General welding • Onsite welding

10 Peterkin Place, Alexandra VIC 3714
www.huntedengineering.com.au
(03) 5772 2132 0427 937 404
Office hours: Mon-Thurs: 8am-4:30pm. Fri: 8am-1pm.

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

Buxton Excavation & Gravel Supplies

House and shed site cuts

Driveway and road construction

Drainage and erosion works

Dam construction and clean outs

Vegetation mulching

Hazardous tree removal

Gravel/Rock/Soil/Sand supplies

20 Ton excavators

5 Ton excavator

Quad axle float

Tip truck and trailer



Darren 0447 198 740
Barney 0488 016 820

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsexc@bigpond.com

Burchall Earth moving

- ROADWORKS
- DAM WORK
- HORSE ARENAS
- GRAVEL SUPPLIES
- HOUSE & SHED SITES

Phone Shane
0418 589 240

Owner operator with local knowledge

EXCAVATOR HIRE

---- FOR HIRE ----

D6T dozer
Cat 12 h/grader
16T excavator

D5M dozer
Tipper
Water cart
Hay and Silage

Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)
0429 931 127
ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

FENCING

M & K FENCING
DIGGING AND SLASHING

M & K Fencing are now offering
hay & silage production
in our area
Round bales & small square bales

For bookings this year, get in early and call
Michael - 0409 008 045
Kate - 0431 180 896

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

PHONE 5772 1002

GLAZIERS

ALEXANDRA WINDSCREENS & GLASS

Servicing the Murrindindi Shire for 35 years

★ on site 24 hour service ★

- ★ Automotive glass ★
- ★ Household needs ★
- ★ Shower screens ★
- ★ Shop fronts ★

Ph Steve Heard
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER
0427 577 839

MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Alexandra Motorcycles



- Authorised Dealer • Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad, Side by Side repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)
PH 5772 1045

EMC459

PAINTERS

W. & J. GREEN

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

50 Years experience in all things painting

0407 134 756

PLANNING SERVICES

Navy Blue Planning

Urban and Regional Planning Specialists

- + Planning approvals + Subdivision
- + Masterplanning

Melbourne | Alexandra | Mansfield | Morwell

0419 006 014
www.navyblueplanning.com.au
admin@navyblueplanning.com.au

PLUMBERS

A & C Wood
PLUMBING
Lic. No. 108688

ANDREW WOOD
0488 559 091

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, GAS FITTING, HOT WATER SERVICES,
SEWER, SEPTIC, HEATING & EMERGENCY SERVICE

SERVICE STATIONS



Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
with Mobil and Prolube lubricants,
greases and solvents.



Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop



0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

BOOK YOUR TRADES AD TODAY!

Phone: 5772 1002
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE
Standard

TREE SERVICES

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage



FULLY INSURED

Andrew Bates: 0488 990 393
Kate Hill: 0407 555 440

TREE SERVICES

IT'S TREES

- Insured
- Experienced
- Reliable
- Competitive
- Qualified

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS
Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires

5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066

Advanced TREE CARE
Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal ✓ Chipping ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Falling ✓ Mulching ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire ✓ Free Quotes

Please call **0449 810 683**
Michael on (03) 5778 7479

WATER BORING

North West Drilling

Water Bores
Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield, Alexandra and surrounding areas.
Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a no obligation free quote contact GRAHAM BRENNAN
Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289
northwest.drilling@bigpond.com
www.northwestdrilling.com.au

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection
Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

WATER CARTAGE

DINDI WATER

NEED WATER?

Delivering drinking water to
Alexandra & surrounding areas
0491 795 157

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE
Standard
Like us on facebook
facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

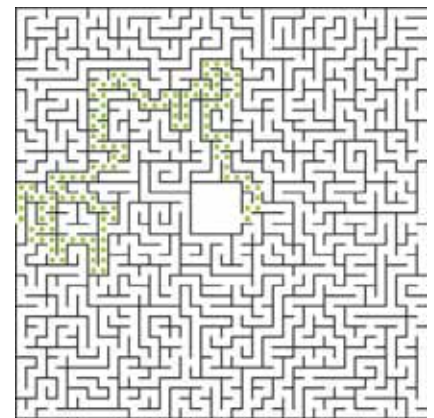
SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARE

2	+	6	+	1	9
+		÷		+	
9	÷	3	-	5	-2
-		+		×	
8	+	7	+	4	19
3		9		21	

MAZE



for all your

commercial printing needs



Alexandra Newspapers
Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant Street Alexandra Vic. 3714
Email: reception
@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!
Fax: 5772 1603 or Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
 Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
 Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEATH NOTICES



McCARTHY,
 Anthony

Members of the Yea Bowls Club wish to pass on their sincere sympathy to the family of Anthony McCarthy who was an esteemed life member of the YBC and worked tirelessly for the club including time as a Board Member and a Delegate for the CBD.

PRATT, Leslie Alfred.
 18/02/1942 - 14/12/2025.
 83 years. Died peacefully on 14/12/2025. Beloved husband of Marge (dec). Dearly loved father and father in law of Andrea (dec) and Sandra and David. Adored pop of Narisa, Jaryd (dec), Samantha, John, Jeremy, Ben and Katie. Respected in law of Johnny and Jake. Great pop of Vincent, Alannah, Hudson, Carter and Elora. No more struggling pop, forever in our hearts. Funeral details to be advised.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
 Alexandra
 Treadmills, X- trainers,
 exercise bikes, rowers
 and more.
PH:0407 231 377

FUNERAL NOTICES

CRAWLEY,
 Raymond George

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Raymond George Crawley will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026 at the Seymour Community Arts Centre, cnr Anglesea and Loco Streets, Seymour commencing at 11.30am.

HOWARD SQUIRES
BAMFORD
 FUNERALS
 1300 881 691

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

ALEXANDRA, three Bburago Ferraris,
 Excellent condition, one in original box. \$99. Phone 0412 212 764.

YARCK, 10" x 4.5" sediment and carbon block filters, \$35/pair.
 20" x 4.5" sediment and carbon block filters, \$50/pair fits big blue canisters. Phone 0414 718 812.

FOR SALE

TWO horse float,
 top condition. Best offer. Phone 0427 747 170

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS
 - POL, \$35 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

DEALS ON WHEELS



2022, EZYTRAIL Stirling GT MK3 forward fold camper trailer. As new, never used. Inclusions: Diesel heater, solar off-grid pack (Bluetooth), 96L fridge/freezer, hot water system, lots of storage. Lots more extras. Reg C28236 until 21/03/2026. \$22,000 price negotiable. Ph: 0407 513 501 or 0419 677 550.



Like us on Facebook

facebook.com

/AlexandraNewspapers

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Finding the festive balance

THE festive season is well and truly upon us. Shopping centres are decking their halls, supermarkets are lining their shelves, and homeowners are readying their Christmas lights. Between the tinsel and the trimmings, the baubles and the bells, it can be hard to find a moment of peace and quiet.

The cacophony of Christmas propels us toward a single day in December. But the days following can seem very quiet.

The conversations we put off, the decisions we delayed, and the health issues we left for another day, are suddenly waiting for us. And the challenge of managing the highs and lows can feel overwhelming.

Intereach's Rob Phillips has worked with families throughout his career, supporting children and adults to tackle life's challenges, build their personal resilience, and manage their mental health.

"After the excitement of the festive season, many people feel the weight of the world descend on their shoulders," he said.

"The realities of work, bills, and other responsibilities come back into focus.

"For many people, it feels overwhelming. But there are steps we can all take now to

manage the ups and downs for a smoother and safer transition into the New Year," he said.

Take time to look after yourself. Do the things that bring you joy and comfort.

Rest and relax. Prioritise the actions that help you to maintain your health.

Be mindful. Plan for the days and weeks after Christmas.

Manage your money. It can be tempting to overspend, but this brings added pressures when the credit card bill arrives. Set limits and do your best to stick to them.

Pick your people. Surround yourself with the people who support and encourage you.

If you are feeling lonely, reach out to someone you trust or call a support line.

Get active. Movement can boost your mood and enable you to take the next steps to support your health and wellbeing.

Return to your routine. After the rush of festivities, the days can feel a little quiet. Establish a routine, set goals and work toward them.

Be guided by your GP. If you need extra support to help you through, be pro-active and reach out for support.

Alexandra District Health ready to support the community this holiday period

ALEXANDRA District Health is gearing up to support the local Murrindindi community and those visiting for holidays during the busy summer season.,

Traditionally, Alexandra District Health experiences a noticeable increase in demand through its urgent care centre (UCC), with presentations rising from an average of 290 per month to around 410 this time last year. Common cases include respiratory illnesses, gastro-intestinal issues, heat-related illness, injuries, and heart complaints.

"To ensure we continue to provide high-quality care during this busy period, we have increased staffing with additional nurses and administrative staff," Alexandra District Health Acting CEO Claire Palmer said.

"Our priority is the health and safety of everyone who comes through our doors, whether they are local residents or visiting for holidays."

Over the Christmas and New Year period, some services including main reception, primary health, and operating theatres will be closed. Entrance to the hospital will be via the UCC from December 23, 2025 to January 5, 2026. While appointments will not be available during this period, acute inpatient and urgent care services will continue as usual.

"We encourage everyone to be patient with our staff, who will triage patients to

prioritise care based on urgency. We will keep the community updated through social media if extended wait times occur. Everyone will be seen and as always, we are here to care for our community," she said.

Alexandra District Health reminds holiday visitors and locals alike that the UCC is equipped to handle a broad range of urgent medical needs, and additional resources have been deployed to manage the expected increase in demand.

Alexandra District Health's staff and community engagement committee have developed a brochure explaining what an Urgent Care Centre is, how it differs from an Emergency Department, and information on expected wait times. It also lists alternative options for care if patients prefer to avoid waiting. The brochure will be distributed to tourist hotspots, including local caravan parks, and is available on Alexandra District Health's website and social media channels.

"Our staff will be here throughout Christmas and New Year to keep our community safe," Ms Palmer said.

"They are always here for us when it matters most, and we are grateful for the care and commitment they bring to every shift. I thank them for their hard work and dedication and wish everyone a safe and restful holiday season."

Don't fly drones near firegrounds

WITH the announcement of Victoria's aerial firefighting fleet for 2025, it is even more important that drone users understand the rules and regulations around operating these machines, especially around firegrounds.

You should never fly drones around or into bushfires, given that it is standard policy to ground all aerial firefighting aircraft in the event of an unknown entity occupying fireground airspace.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) website outlines the rules for using drones. This includes, "you must not fly your drone over or near areas affecting public safety or where emergency operations are underway. This includes ambulance, police, search and rescue, or firefighting efforts."

Pip Spence, CASA CEO, addressed aerial interference with firegrounds.

"If you're in the air, firefighting aircraft can't do their job. By steering clear of bushfires, we can let aerial firefighters get on with the job of containing the fire and keeping communities safe," Ms Spence said.

"For drone operators, this includes keeping your drone on the ground. Drones are small and hard to see and pose a risk to aircraft and helicopters. Always remember to check the rules before you fly, and tune into your local fire authority for the latest updates on active bushfires in your area."

To view the full rules and regulations around drone operation, visit [casa.gov.au/knownyourdrone/drone-rules](https://www.casa.gov.au/knownyourdrone/drone-rules)

SPORT

Merton cricketers win against Beechworth/Stanley

MERTON cricketers hosted Beechworth/Stanley at the Merton Cricket Ground (MCG) in perfect conditions last Saturday.

Merton won the toss and batted making 9/188, Luke Benton again top scoring with a fine 57 on a slow outfeild, fellow opener Luke Berriman 35 also helping his side to a quick start.

Ross Mackinnon controversially caught out on the boundary for 30 with the fielder appearing to step over the boundary after taking the catch. Son Jai with 16 the other top scorer. Justin Laria 5/11 the leading wicket taker for the visitors.

Merton's opening bowlers really gave the opposition nothing with good support in the field saw Beechworth only 27 runs after 12 overs. Chris Nuck 27 the top scorer showed a bit of fight however Merton's first change bowlers in Henry Berriman 5/19 and Harry Craddock 4/18 ran through the visitors dismissing them for 97 all out, Ross Mackinnon the other wicket taker.

Merton travel to Milawa next Saturday hoping to stay on the winner's list before the Christmas break.



Luke Berriman. -S



Jarrold Mahoney. -S

Medal of Medalist Trophy at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Thursday the nine holers played stroke on the front nine holes and Mark Alexander (3) was the winner on a three-way countback involving Glen Rattay (5) and Brian Worcester (9). Richy Clark was the nearest the pin on the ninth hole but no player was able to reach the green with a tee shot on the fourth hole.

In each month of the year golfers play a stroke round for the monthly medal and last Saturday all those who had won a monthly medal played for the Medal of Medalist Trophy. Unlike the previous Saturday weather conditions were calm and perfect for golf.

Glen Rattay (12) with nett 72 won the men's trophy and Heather Jenkins (21) also with nett 72 won the ladies. Members congratulate Glen and Heather. Glen also won the nearest the pin on the ninth and 18th holes with Jody Doran winning on the fourth. To complete a very successful day Glen also won the Golden Shot. Adam Littlejohn was the in-form putter finishing with 25 putts.

During the presentations after play members celebrated Helen Howards birthday and while Helen is the chief birthday cake maker, she wasn't asked to bake her own cake.

Next Saturday as part of the Presentation Day a four ball best ball with a twist will be played followed by lunch in the Pavilion Bar and Grill and the presentation of the 2025 trophies. Members are asked to note that it will be an 8.30am tee off.

The second round of the Foodworks Murrindindi Masters will be played at Yea on Saturday, January 10. All Murrindindi golfers who intend playing in the event are asked to submit their names to the relevant person at their home club as soon as possible. Vicki Clements at Yea needs the entries by Friday, January 2.

Managing a golf club is no easy task and the club can only operate successfully when members volunteer to assist in any way they can. The club needs to be governed, the course, gardens and carts need maintaining, the golf competitions have to be coordinated, the social media sites and records kept up to date, and events organised. At the end of another golfing year all those who volunteered at the club are thanked profusely for their contribution.

Members of the Marysville Golf Club wish all local golfers and members of the Murrindindi Shire a happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Wins for Alexandra and Yea cricketers in SDCA

THE Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) matches took place around the Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie shires. Yea and Alexandra both field teams in this league.

A Grade Yea versus Pyalong

Yea took on Pyalong at home with a spot in the top four up for grabs. Pyalong batted first and found itself in some early trouble at 6/34 as Thomas White (4/29) and Jack Christie (3/19) ran through Pyalong's top and middle order.

It was skipper Matt Pratt and Coach James Hadjiloukas who offered some lower order resistance, allowing Pyalong to add a measure of respectability to its total.

The run chase was made simple by Cam Armstrong who played a dominant innings of 51 not out, with no other player making it to double figures. The win sees Yea jump to third while Pyalong slips out of the top four for the first time this season.

Yea Tigers 4/80 (C Armstrong 51 not out, S Mitchell 2/13) defeated Pyalong (M Pratt 22, J Hadjiloukas 18, T White 4/29, J Christie 3/19).

Alexandra versus Puckapunyal

Alexandra continued its run of good form with a comfortable four wicket win over Puckapunyal.

Puckapunyal looked to be in a solid position for most of its innings with the bat as James

Voogt and Ciaran Fountain played important supporting roles. It was Charles Davies who once again led from the front finishing on 53 not out.

It was a lower order collapse of 6/10 that left Puckapunyal with not enough runs on the board. Josh Crane led the way with 3/23, with both Nathan Waugh and Justin Leary chipping in with two wickets each.

The successful run chase for Alexandra was led by young gun Matthew Wal, who steadied the ship with a well-crafted 53 to get the Redbacks over the line in the 33rd over.

Alexandra 6/131 (M Wal 53, J Fulton 19, L Deeble 2/18) defeated Puckapunyal 130 (C Davies 53 not out, J Voogt 23, J Crane 3/23, N Waugh 2/8).

B Grade

Pyalong 7/174 (M Leahy 41 not out, D Zoch 28 not out, M Singh 2/23) defeated Yea Tigers 55 (L McAlpin 14, P Reynolds 3/5, A Pratt 3/12).

Puckapunyal 136 (J Nipperess 51, R Kuttikadan 4/30, L Crane 2/22) defeated Alexandra 117 (A Wood 37, T Ward 35, V Agnew 5/33, M Dunn 2/14).

GMCU Under 16s

Pyalong 7/178 (N Wilkins 37, T Caddie 33) defeated Yea Tigers 31 (J McNicholas 3/3, J Wilkins 3/11).

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

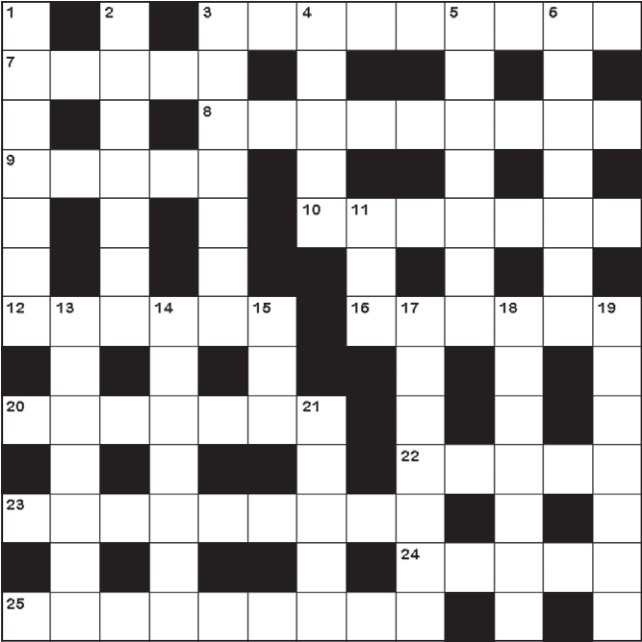
Crossword

ACROSS

- 3. Make up something artificial or untrue.
- 7. Above average in size, number or quantity.
- 8. Assumed responsibility for.
- 9. An unusual feat done to gain attention.
- 10. The time between sunrise and sunset.
- 12. Leak or ooze through small openings.
- 16. Thinks moodily and often about something.
- 20. Softens in attitude or temper.
- 22. Packed very closely and firmly together.
- 23. A procession of people on horseback.
- 24. Collect funds for a specific purpose.
- 25. Stand still with a formal military alertness.

DOWN

- 1. Turns red, as if in embarrassment.
- 2. A state of misfortune or danger.
- 3. The feeling characteristic of a holiday.
- 4. Very large in expanse or scope.
- 5. A snorting, joyful laugh or chuckle.
- 6. Rising current of warm air.
- 11. Used to connect words or sentences.
- 13. Suggesting taste, ease, and wealth.



- 14. Put oneself or things in readiness.
- 15. A very, very small circular shape.
- 17. A film or novel about cowboys.
- 18. Lacking energy or vitality.
- 19. Spread very thickly or lavishly.
- 21. A Hindu religious teacher.

Alexandra cricketers stuck in military bureaucracy

by Michael Mawson

THE ninth round of the season saw the B Grade Alexandra drop to third place on the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) ladder after losing to Puckapunyal in a hotly contested away game.

Cricket in Puckapunyal is played at the military barracks and the biggest challenge for the Alexandra team had nothing to do with the opposing players. The most difficult part of the day was the checkpoint at the entrance to the barracks and the officious military bureaucratic nitpickers that run it.

Arriving players have to wait for a Puckapunyal player from the base to escort them to the ground. There was already a long wait to get into the facility because of a cadets’ marching out parade. The understaffed checkpoint operators had no idea that the event was happening.

Half of the Redbacks team were escorted to the ground, and the second half were due to follow them a few minutes later, only to be directed to return to an outside carpark because the escort had driven too far ahead and left the Alexandra players behind. Eventually, the whole team got to the ground, nearly late after taking 40 minutes to travel 100 metres.

Puckapunyal’s captain won the toss and elected to bat. The pitch looked like it would favour the bowlers but few from either side expected how unpredictable the bounce off the surface would be. The Redback’s opening bowlers, Lucas Crane and Toby Ward had the Puckapunyal openers labouring to get any score. Crane took two early wickets.

Puckapunyal’s opening batsman, R. Grundel then dug in with Russel Peel to move the score along until Harrison Christie entered the attack and caught a mistimed Peel shot. Banjo Fitzpatrick continued his bowling improvement with a wicket.

Jacob Nipperess came into the middle and batted with patience and skill to deny the Redbacks’ bowlers a flurry of wickets. Nipperess was able to find gaps in the infield but many of his bigger shots were fielded by MJ Hendricks, who appears to be able to run seven times faster than anyone else and he was collecting the ball from everywhere.

New player, Reigan Jose Kuttikadan came into the attack and bowled his devious off spinners. He soon claimed the wicket of Grundel for 41, with the opener picking out Christie in the deep. Kuttikadan then made it four wickets for the innings by getting through

the defences of the lower order. Throughout this carnage at one end, Nipperess continued to make runs and chalked up his first ever score above 50.

Will Donahue collected a wicket to have the home-team nine wickets down and Terry Hall took only three deliveries to claim the prize wicket of Nipperess and have Puckapunyal dismissed for 136. This was a considerable total on a bowler friendly pitch.

Toby Ward and Michael Mawson opened the batting in the second innings. Ward was batting with calm effectiveness against the bowling of Peter Brennan. Mawson, meanwhile, was hopping about against the bowling of Jacob Nipperess. Nipperess was bowling with speed and getting the ball to deviate remarkably. Mawson saw off four torrid overs, only to play one back on to his stumps with a score of nine. Andrew Wood came in at number three and set about safely accumulating runs.

Other players needed to follow Woody’s example. Puckapunyal put on a spinner called Vaughan Agnew into the attack. Agnew took the wicket of Toby Ward for a well-made 35 runs. Harrison Christie and Banjo Fitzpatrick both followed soon after. Christie would regret combing cricket with Dancing with the Stars and being stumped.

When Lucas Crane was caught for six runs, the Redbacks were 5-94. Wood continued to accumulate runs while surviving some close leg before wicket appeals. Dusty Fitzpatrick provided some solid defence and the boy’s effort won the admiration of the Puckapunyal team.

Disaster struck for the Redbacks when Wood became the third batter to be cursed with playing the ball back onto the wicket with a top score of 37.

The next three wickets fell cheaply. Kuttikadan responded to a questionable call from his batting parter and was run out. MJ Hendricks was leg before wicket to Agnew and Thaya Sathasivam became the spinner’s fifth wicket with a returned catch. Will Donahue was the final batter and can consider himself unfortunate to be caught at close range after smacking a ball straight out of the middle of the bat.

Puckapunyal claimed a 19-run win. If a bit of fortune favoured the Redbacks, the match may have been even closer. Despite the exasperating lead-up to the match, this round was a highlight of the season for its competitiveness and the friendly and fair manner in which both teams played.

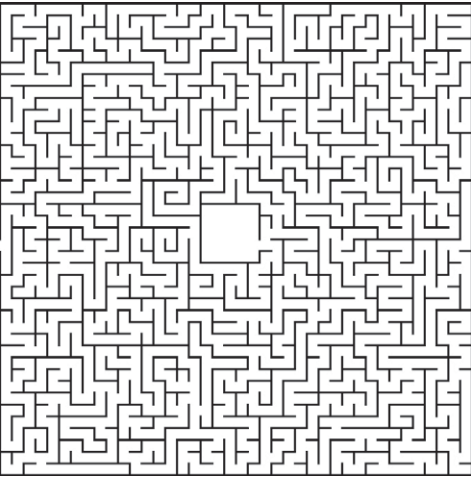
Word Search

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

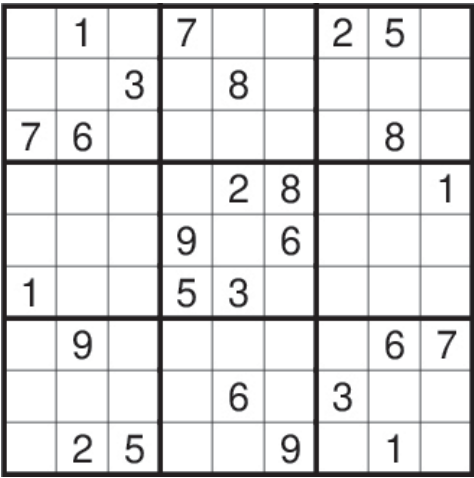
Big things

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| AIRPLANES | MOUNTAINS |
| CRUISESHIP | OCEANS |
| DINOSAUR | PYRAMID |
| ELEPHANT | SKYSCRAPER |
| GIANTS | TRAIN |
| GRANDCANYON | TRUCKS |

Maze



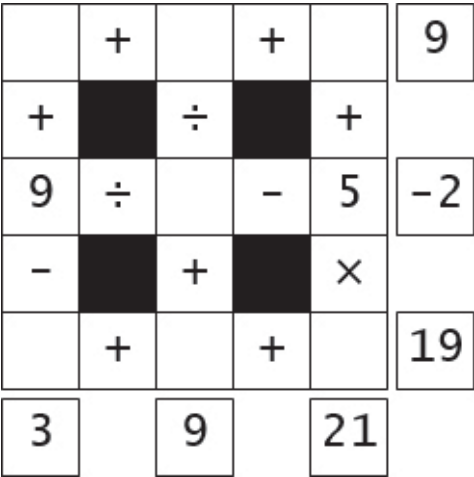
Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

Math Square



Fill in the missing numbers.

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

SPORT

Alexandra Squash Club: Round 10 of term four pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition

Blue Vein versus Gouda
Ethan versus Robbie (fill in): Robbie has been finding his form this pennant. Ethan fought it out but Robbie got the job done, winning by four-points. 60 to 56.

Randy versus Laura: Randy started strong with a dominant serve. The middle saw some great rallies and some choice placement from Laura that put her ahead. Randy had a strong final game to sneak in and win the match by a single point. 62 to 61.
Jared versus Ben F: Ben took control with good running and strong deep shots. This was an upset to Jared's pennant as he hadn't

yet lost a match and as he is likely moving away this will be his final match at the club. Ruining Jared's winning streak, Ben took the match. 63 to 52.
John versus Michael H: John ran away with the lead in the first two games. Michael fought hard to close the gap in game three. Game four was neck and neck with John managing to hold on for victory. 60 to 50.

Feta versus Mozzarella

Tyler versus Eric D: With Eric's head not in the game it was a bit of a one-sided match. Tyler put in a very dominant performance and was just too strong, claiming the win with ease. 91 to 28.

Jess versus Sally: A close match throughout with some particularly lengthy rallies in the final game. Both players chose their shots well keeping their opponent moving around the court. Sally was a bit more cunning with her shots, gaining the advantage and the victory. 61 to 55.

Lucas versus Matt: Matt was too quick and too strong. Lucas gave Matt some when he utilised the back corners, using long deep shots followed by deft drop shots. But it wasn't enough to trouble Matt or throw him off his win. 73 to 56.

Andrew versus Jim: A dominant display by Jim. He didn't give Andrew a chance. Trying to make diamond from coal, Jim continued to apply pressure until the last point. Jim had all the tricks working and went home triumphant. 69 to 38.

Wednesday competition

Hammerheads versus Orcas
Jessica versus Eric: A Great match up. Lots of

boasting, both conventional and unorthodox. It was a very entertaining match but in the end Jessica was crowned the winner. 58 to 49.
Kristelle versus Sam: With a quick lead, Sam stayed on top to take games one, two and three. Kristelle took game four with a short bout of clarity, but it was not enough to change the outcome of the match. Sam was victorious. 74 to 54.

Daniel W versus Michael M: It was a close match. Daniel won the first half while Michael claimed the second. With a couple of extra points, Daniel won. 58 to 56.

Piranhas versus Stingrays

Ben versus Beth: There were some awesome deep serves from Beth and some excellent down the line placement from Ben. The match was close, but Beth snuck an extra point which clinched the win. 60 to 59.

Travis versus Mick: The middle of the match is where Mick shone brightest but the points lost to Travis at the start and end let him down. Travis bookended the match with two strong games to triumph. 62 to 50.

Justin versus Phil: It came down to the wire. Phil was in a comfortable position going into game three, but the third was where Justin brought out his A-game to take the lead. Both were hungry for the win, and it showed. Justin held on to scrape in the win. 57 to 56.

Alexandra Golf Club plays Medal of Medalist round

by Dave Silverman

FOURTEEN golfers teed off in last Tuesday's stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club, including most of the usual suspects.

Greg Ebinger was the only player who managed to play to his handicap, his 36 points good enough for the win. Steve Darmody was second, and Bill Wind third, both on 34 points.

Nobody managed to get their tee shot onto the seventh, so that nearest the pin went begging, but 17 went to Todd Galloway, and Brad Newton claimed 18. Todd also picked up a rundown voucher, along with Nigel Waterhouse and Dan Burns.

There was no ladies' competition last Wednesday, as a number of the regulars were otherwise engaged at the Cathedral Invitational.

The forecast for Saturday wasn't promising, but the rain stayed away, and the 19 entrants teed off in a stroke round, which was sponsored by Mawson's Concrete, and incorporated the December Monthly Medal, which becomes the first Monthly Medal for 2026, and also the 2025 Medal of Medalist decider, postponed from the previous week.

In the end, the day belonged to new(ish) member, Perrin Gooding, who carded, wait for it, 87 net 56, yes, really, to claim the Monthly Medal.

Unsurprisingly, he also had the fewest putts with 26, an honour he shared with Shane McGorlick.

Brad Kidd was second with a net 63, Jarrod Williamson came in third with a 65, Shane was fourth, also on 65 net, and fifth place went to Jared Sloane with a 67.

Jarrold claimed nearest the pins on two and five, seven went to Michael Bossonnet, James Kidd took 12 and 18 went to Brad Kidd.

The raffle this week was won by Luke Heard, and it was your humble scribe who, returning after a four-week hiatus, did just enough to take the 2025 Medal of Medallist award.

Captain's and President's Day at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

WELCOME to this week's Eildon Golf Club report. Last Saturday was the annual Captain's and President's Day, and the competition was a four ball best ball stableford. It was great to see, for this time of the year, that 17 players rolled up to compete for the Christmas hams.

The mood was high and there was no shortage of good-natured banter and sledging to go around, which continued through the day and into the presentations.

Winners of the Christmas hams this year was Brody Goulay who was supported by Phil Gourlay, the pair returned a great score of 46 stableford points. In second place were Mark Mackwell and Michael Lynch with 44 points. Ball rundown winners last week were John Matthews and Dennis Seamer with 43 points and Wayne and Adam Kupke with 42 points.

Nearest the pin winners last week, the club had Kerry Power take out the third with his second shot as well as the 12th, with no winners on the other par threes. There were two birdie winners on the drink birdie holes, Ian Lakeland on the eighth and Mark Mackwell on the 15th. Other winners this week, Brody had a win with the entry draw, John Matthews had a go with the swindle draw and Ian Lakeland chanced his luck with the Joker.

Huge thanks to Peter McNair, who once again demonstrated his culinary skills with barbecue rabbit for afternoon tea.

This report wouldn't be finished without congratulating all of the Eildon Golf Club volunteers guided by Ken Collier and Marian Williamson, on the fantastic condition of the golf course. It is looking an absolute picture and the club are in for a big Christmas period with lots of green fee players over the holidays.

This coming Saturday, December 20, will be the last Saturday competition before Christmas and the draw of the club's Christmas hamper.

Standpipe Cup golf celebrates recycled water partnerships

GOULBURN Valley Water celebrated its recycled water partnership with five regional golf clubs last month when the inaugural Community Standpipe Cup golf event was staged at Marysville Golf Club.

The event raises awareness about the use of recycled water and recognises two decades of cooperation between Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) and the five clubs, being Seymour, Euroa, Yea, Mansfield and Marysville, who all enjoy the benefits of recycled-water agreements.

All five clubs rely on recycled water to irrigate greens and fairways and Goulburn Valley Water Managing Director Dr Steve Capewell said the event showcased the mutual benefits of recycled water reuse across the region.

"This event recognises how recycled water reuse helps maintain important community assets, while ensuring treated wastewater is reused sustainably and responsibly," Dr Capewell said.

"This is more than a water-supply agreement. It's an example of innovation and community spirit, and we're proud to work with these clubs."

Recycled water used to water regional golf courses has undergone extensive biological and chemical treatment over many months to produce high-quality irrigation water.

Goulburn Valley Water works closely with clubs and other recycled water users to monitor irrigation systems, protect the environment and ensure sustainable reuse that avoids groundwater impacts, and salinity or rising water tables issues.

At Marysville, where the GVW Wastewater Management Facility sits across the road from the golf course, the partnership started when a gravity-fed pipeline was installed in 2005 and now supplies around 70 megalitres of recycled water annually.

Club President Steve Coker said the support had been "critical to the club's continued operation".

"We couldn't have kept going without the recycled water," Mr Coker said.



Inaugural Goulburn Valley Water Community Standpipe Cup winners, Marysville Golf Club's Colin Davies, Steve Coker, Fiona Wright and Alison Leydin, accept the trophy from GVW's Communications Officer Rohan Aldous (left). -S

"The relationship with GVW, our volunteers and our past greenskeeper Kellan Fiske has shaped the modern club. It's been absolutely essential."

Mansfield Golf Club, which will host next year's Standpipe Cup, has also benefited significantly from recycled water since 2002.

Club representative Tony Cookson said the transition to recycled water, particularly during a period of severe water restrictions, had transformed the course and the club.

"Getting reclaimed water at Mansfield was the best thing we have ever done," Mr Cookson said.

"The quality is excellent, the turf flourishes, and it simply wouldn't make sense to irrigate with drinking water. Our course usage explodes in the warmer months, and having reliable recycled water underpins that."

At Yea Golf Club, representative Gary Pollard said recycled water first arrived around 20 years ago and now provides about 40 megalitres each year.

"The recycled water is much more convenient than what we used previously, and it allows us to run a fully automatic system," Mr Pollard said.

"Financially we're better off, participation is up, and we're keen to expand the use of recycled water as the town grows."

GVW also use their recycled water network to supports farming, with surplus flows returned to rivers and creeks when required. Winter storage lagoons built at all wastewater management facilities now enable full reuse of recycled water at most sites.

Fittingly, the hosts, Marysville Golf Club, claimed the first title and will defend the trophy next year when the tournament moves to Mansfield Golf Club.



Winning rink of Tim Langmead, Greg Gilmore, Larry Scott and Lauren Gilchrist. -S



Best Division Three rink of David Nicklos, Scott Ferrier, Saxon Langmead and Craig Parkinson. -S

Two wins for Alexandra Bowls Club

by Marie Evans

A GREAT result for two of the Alexandra Bowls Pennant's side with midweek defeating Merrigum and Saturday's Division Three defeating East Shepparton. Division Five had a loss to Violet Town who proved too good on the day.

Midweek played at home to Merrigum who are fourth on the ladder and had an excellent win 72 to 52 against the top performing side. Alexandra's best winning rink was John Blamey (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Marty Manning and Christine Mayfield. They won 13 ends. Despite being down four to nine on end seven they fought back to be 11 all on end 12. In a demonstration of excellent bowling, they won seven out of the last nine ends, including two fours and a five. The final score was Alexandra 31 to 17.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ken Argent, Craig Parkinson, Denice Chisholm also had a good win. On end 16 they led 23 to 10 but Merrigum were not to be denied and fought back to win the next five ends. However, they were unable to reduce the margin, and Alexandra ran out winners 23 to 20.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Malcolm Gill, Pauline Gilmore and Peter Collyer led for the first 15 ends. They were nine to two on end seven, 14 to eight on end 12 and 18 to nine on end 15. Merrigum found line and length and won the last six ends to win 20 to 18.

There is still one round to go in midweek, and they play at home against Shepparton Park (2) who are sixth on the ladder. Let's hope for a repeat of last week.

Saturday Division Three played away to East Shepparton. They were looking to make up for the drawn game when these two sides last met in round two. David Nicklos, Scott Ferrier, Craig Parkinson and Saxon Langmead had the best result. They won 13

ends and were 22 to six on end 13 and 27 to nine on end 17. East won three out of the last three ends but lost 28 to 13. Well done to Craig who played in Division Three for the first time this season.

Another winning rink was Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Tim Langmead and Lauren Gilchrist. Great leading bowls by Lauren were built on by her team members. Alexandra led 18 to 10 on end 13. The last eight ends were shared. But Alexandra outscored the opposition 10 to nine and won the game 28 to 19. A good return to form for the rink.

Ian Harper (Skip), Graeme Matthews, Ken Argent and Bob Mayfield won 11 ends. It was six all on end seven. Alexandra led 12 to eight on end 11. However, a four-shot win on the next end to East and the game was drawn 12 all. East led 18 to 14 on end 17 but Alexandra with some great bowls won the last four ends and won a tight game 21 to 18.

Jim Wheelhouse (Skip), Doug Cooper, Andy Tobias and Ben Gilchrist were six all on end eight but trailed nine to six on end 10. They had made up ground by end 13 and were nine to 10. East won the next two ends and led 16 to nine. A great 16th end and Alexandra were back in the game to be two shots behind 14 to 16. By end 19 it was 18 all. East won the last two ends and were eventual winners 20 to Alexandra 18.

The win of 95 to 70 has Alexandra sixth on the ladder and good to finish round nine.

Division Five played at home to Violet Town and were unable to match the great bowling of their opposition. The three rinks were defeated but Bob Bengahmy (Skip), Roselyn Livy, Ray Mathieson and Peter Collyer had a good game. They trailed six to 16 on end 17 but won three ends to be 14 to 16 by end 20. Violet Town won the last end

of the game to win 14 to 17. The other two rinks struggled and lost. Violet Town won the overall 81 to 25.

Saturday Pennant for Division Three and Five are now in recess until they return on January 17. Midweek play their last game before the break on Tuesday and will return January 13. All Divisions will be looking to

improve after the Christmas break. Division Three will enjoy having four out of the last five games at home.

Ian Harper played in the GV section of the State Singles and won one of his two games. It was not enough to progress but congratulations to Ian for his win over the East Shepparton competitor.



Members of the Eildon Bowls Club enjoying their party. -S

Eildon Bowls Club celebrates the end of the year

WHAT a great end of the year for the Eildon Bowling Club. On Wednesday, December 10, they completed their season of Barefoot Bowls.

It began with a special presentation to the youngest barefooter Billy Rich. Billy loves being out on the green with his dad Darren. It was Billy's night as cleaned up on the raffles, taking home two of the many kind donations from Alex Motorcycles and Machinery.

The major raffle was donated by P.D. Build, an extremely generous donation of a Paslode Coil Gun. Winner was George Wilson, who was more than happy.

On Sunday, December 14 the club held their Christmas party with the amazing help of Eildon Events. The bowls club works with them to provide a venue for non profit organisations like Daffodil Day, Breast Cancer, Biggest Morning Tea, Menzies Luncheons and the very popular Pot Luck Dinners.



George Wilson accepting his Paslode Coil Gun. -S



Billy and his dad Darren. -S



The best midweek rink of John Blamey, Christine Mayfield, Bob Mayfield and Peter Collyer. -S

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Big finish to the year for Murrindindi Little Athletics



Place getters in the multi event. -S



Bronze medal best recipients. -S



The state relay team of Chase Hilder, Levi Campbell, Harish Balansag and Declan Armstrong. -S



Record breakers Harish Balansag and Logan Steiner. -S

MURRINDINDI Little Athletics wrapped up the year in style with a massive final weekend of competition, celebration and festive fun.

The club's final meet for the year featured a Christmas-themed warm-up that brought plenty of smiles, including a bauble-and-spoon race, a Santa hat relay complete with obstacles, and a crowd-favourite present unwrapping relay. The fun atmosphere set the tone for a memorable day both on and off the track.

Presentations were a highlight of the weekend, with bronze medals awarded to personal best achievers, with a major presentation held for last week's multi-event competition, showcasing the dedication and improvement of athletes throughout the season so far.

A standout moment of the presentations was the recognition of Harish Balansag, who was presented with an incredible seven club records, while Logan Steiner also celebrated the achievement of setting one new record. The applause from teammates, families and supporters reflected the pride felt across the club.

While most members will now enjoy a well-earned break over the festive season before returning to competition on Saturday, January 17.

Four Murrindindi athletes backed up their big weekend by competing at the State Relay Championships at Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park. The under 15 boys' 4 x 200m relay team of Levi Campbell, Declan Armstrong, Chase Hilder and Harish Balansag lined up in their first race of the championships and finished a respectable 14th. Reflecting on that performance, the team regrouped, focused on warming up effectively, discussed baton changeovers and committed to their race plan.

The improvements paid off, with the boys racing exceptionally well in their next event, the 4 x 100m to finish 10th overall, just 0.2 seconds behind Wodonga, the only other rural team to place ahead of them. With one race remaining, the Swedish 1000m relay, featuring legs of 100m, 200m, 300m and 400m, the team rested, prepared and gave it everything they had.

Their efforts were rewarded with a strong ninth-place finish, doing both their club and region proud on the state stage.

It was a fitting way to close out a successful year for Murrindindi Little Athletics, highlighting not only strong performances, but also teamwork, sportsmanship and community spirit. The club wish its members and all its sponsors a very safe and Merry Christmas.



Marco the Magician will be at the Alexandra Races on December 27. -S

Put on your boots and hats for the Alexandra Races on December 27

SATURDAY, December 27 is a new racing date for Alexandra Race Club. It will be a family day, beautifully timed to take advantage of all the holiday makers in the area.

It has been years since we raced in the summer and this one will be special. Country Racing Victoria have engaged Kelly Sports to keep the kiddies busy. Kelly Sports provide all sorts of supervised games and fun activities for the young ones. CRV Merch will be given away too.

The great local country and western band, Naturally Kerley, will provide boot scooting music for everyone. Dress up in your best country and western gear, to win prizes for the cowboy and cowgirl wearing the best country and western boots and/or country and western hat.

One of the organisers didn't know when to stop booking activities. Talk about overkill. There is a photo booth that proved extremely popular last season. Gather your group and take home some photographic memories of the day.

There are pony rides, face painting and Marco the Magician. Basically there is something for everyone. If you have family or friends in the area on 27th, get them along.

Buses are running Route One from Eildon, Route Two from Yarck. Please remember to book online. If the first bus is full there will be a second bus. Gates open at noon. The first local race is at 1.15pm. Umbrellas and marquees are available.

For more information visit country.racing.com/alexandra