

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Impact of The Recovery Wardrobe



Page 4

ASC year 12 formal



Page 6

St Mary's supports CFA



Page 9

Weekend sport



Pages 13-16

The wonderful impact of The Recovery Wardrobe

MENZIES Support Services was quick to spring into action following January's Longwood fire, setting up a pop-up shop, The Recovery Wardrobe, where fire-impacted people could come in and collect free clothes and shoes.

Two months to the day after the shop opened, it closed on Friday, March 20, having achieved so much in such a short amount of time. The scale of their impact is almost impossible to quantify.

Providing clothes for free to the people impacted by the fire was so important, as people needed clothes fast, particularly clothes and boots for working in. The community was so generous, providing what they could.

Kellie said, "The reason why I aligned with the clothing side was because of The Dame. We've got The Dame social enterprise and we already do clothes, so when we were thinking about how can Menzies help, it aligned with what we already do in the community, so we were staying in our lane, I thought."

They started to get a few donations and quickly outgrew their office in Nihil Street. They quickly needed to find a larger location. Fortunately, they were able to track down the owner of the shop at 75 Grant Street. The owner, Maree Robb, kindly provided free rent for the pop-up shop and Menzies were also delighted that their insurer, Gallagher's Insurance, provided free public liability insurance to them.

When they first opened in the Grant Street store, the whole side room was filled with shoes and now there's only a tiny rack left. The area out the back was full of clothes as well, and now most of it is gone.

Kelly commented, "We couldn't have done this without the generosity of the community and the generosity of the volunteers."

It was thanks to the volunteers that they were able to open the shop seven days each week to help people out. Kellie said that 99.9 per cent of the time, the shop was staffed by members of the community who wanted to help. "Everyone wanted to do something. Their heart goes out to the people that have been so significantly impacted," Kellie said.

Menzies were also aligned with the community hubs. Someone from a hub would get in contact and ask for specific items and these would be packaged up and taken over. This was particularly helpful as they were items which were requested and were right for the recovery stage. "Sometimes you don't need the stuff that people think that you need," Kellie said.

Being in such a frontline role, a lot of sensitivity was certainly needed. Kellie said "Just to hear how all of our people in here reacted to and supported those people. There's

Continued Page 4



Students from St Mary's Primary School at their CFA fundraising event on Friday, March 20. More images on page 9. -AR

EASTER OFFICE HOURS

CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 AND MONDAY, APRIL 6

**EARLY DEADLINES
APPLY FOR APRIL 8
EDITION**

NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 2
★ DISPLAY ADS - BOOKING AND ARTWORK
★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES ★ TRADES

10AM MONDAY, APRIL 6
★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WILL REOPEN 9AM TUESDAY, APRIL 7



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 10000292

Independantly owned and operated with no association
with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE week started well with two tables of
bridge players again on Wednesday and
continued with a lively social meeting on
Friday. The singing voices got a workout
under the direction of Ian. David told the
jokes and Jack, Josie and Bev won the
chocolate bars.
A reminder that this Friday, there will be
a social meeting at 11.30am prepared by
Jeanette. Cards will follow the feast.
There are still places on the coach trip to
Morning Melodies at Lilydale on Wednesday,
April 8, so if you plan on coming please put
your name on the list. A reminder that the
club welcomes new members so if you feel
like a chat and a game of cards please come
along on a Friday afternoon to the Bayley
Street clubroom. Meanwhile, stay safe and
keep smiling.



Charina Thomas, Marie Evans, Lorraine Murdoch, Kevin Mortley, Brenda Lopez, Tina Baird, Sue Weeding. -S

Op shop thanks Kevin and Sirikarn Mortley

THE Alexandra Opportunity Shop volunteers
wish Kevin and Sirikarn Mortley the very
best for their next venture. They were pleased
to read that they will be taking some time
off. Kevin has been of great assistance to
the op shop over many years. Each night
after his shop closed, he would bring in the
donations that were left outside the shop. Each
morning, he would bring in what items were
left overnight. These have often been large
boxes, bulky bags of clothes, boxes of books
all of which volunteers find particularly heavy.
The op shop volunteers will miss his help
and thank him for his willingness to give of
his time.

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	10.00AM Mon	2.02	LGH	steady	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00AM Mon	0.40	LGH	falling	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.00AM Mon	0.51	LGH	steady	
Home Creek at Yarck	8.34AM Mon	0.16	LGH	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.26AM Mon	0.41	LGH	steady	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	10.00AM Mon	0.19	LGH	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00AM Mon	0.42	LGH	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00AM Mon	3.92	LGH	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00AM Mon	0.30	LGH	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00AM Mon	1.63	LGH	steady	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00AM Mon	0.30	LGH	steady	
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.30AM Mon	1.89	LGH	steady	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.00AM Mon	0.94	LGH	steady	

*ISSUED AT 10:54 AM AEDT MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will
not publish defamatory letters, or content
which is offensive, threatening or containing
personal attacks. Submitted letters may be
edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name,
address and contact number. (not necessarily
for publication). Letters without these details
supplied cannot not be published. Deadline
for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard
The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

March 25 - March 31, 2026

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	14	27	Wednesday	14	27
Thursday	8	18	Thursday	8	18
Friday	8	15	Friday	8	15
Saturday	7	19	Saturday	9	18
Sunday	6	22	Sunday	6	22
Monday	8	23	Monday	9	23
Tuesday	11	26	Tuesday	10	26

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra..... 24mm
Buxton..... 33mm
Eildon (AWS)..... 26mm
Flowerdale..... 17mm
Jamieson..... 27mm
Kinglake 22mm
Lake Eildon 27mm
Mansfield..... 10mm
Taggerty 23mm
Yarck 18mm
Yea 20mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....270.71m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....43.3%
Metres below full supply.....18.19m
Daily inflow400ML
Release..... 5000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....84%

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

ACCC investigating diesel supply conduct in regional and rural Australia

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has launched an enforcement investigation into allegations of anti-competitive conduct by each of the major fuel suppliers, Ampol Ltd, BP Australia Pty Ltd, Mobil Oil Australia Pty Ltd, and Viva Energy Australia Pty Ltd.

The ACCC received reports concerning diesel availability to independent wholesalers and distributors servicing regional and rural Australia. This investigation will assess the alleged conduct.

“The ACCC is closely scrutinising all fuel markets during this period, and we have received reports of alleged anti-competitive behaviour. We are therefore investigating these matters urgently,” ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said.

“It is not our usual practice to publicly announce investigations, but given the significance of the issue, the ACCC is confirming this enforcement investigation. We recognise the widespread concerns held by consumers, businesses and farmers about

fuel pricing and supply issues arising during the Middle Eastern conflict.

“It is important that fuel market participants and the community know that we are closely watching market conduct in relation to all fuels and we will not hesitate to act swiftly to enforce Australia’s competition and consumer laws,” Ms Cass-Gottlieb said.

“Our investigation is at a preliminary stage, and therefore we are yet to form a view about these matters.”

Working together to reduce bushfire risk

by FFMVic Chief Fire Officer
Chris Hardman

AS we move into autumn, we reflect on the challenges brought by recent extreme heat and bushfires across our state. These events reminded us how important preparation, quick response and community resilience are.

This summer’s bushfires have been some of the most destructive Victoria has faced in years. Fast-moving fires burned through more than 400,000 hectares, destroyed buildings and homes, and sadly took the life of a local near Longwood.

Communities in areas such as Longwood, Walwa and Harcourt faced fierce fires driven by extreme heat, strong winds and very dry conditions after months of low rainfall followed by rapid grass growth. These conditions meant fires moved quickly and unpredictably, placing enormous pressure on both residents and emergency crews.

We feel deeply for the communities affected. I want to thank our crews, contractors, incident management teams and partner agencies for their hard work to keep Victoria safe. Many of our staff live in the same areas that were impacted. They often support and reassure their own communities while also fighting fires, a tremendous effort that shows their commitment and strength.

Victoria faces a higher fire risk this autumn. We’re closely monitoring conditions, staying ready to respond and making sure resources are placed where they’re needed most. We’re learning from recent events and continuing to strengthen our strategies.

Recent good rainfall across much of the state will provide opportunities to burn, however the seasonal outlook shows a higher chance of warmer days through autumn, which may delay the start of planned burning in some areas. East Gippsland and some locations near Melbourne are an exception, as rainfall there has been more consistent.

We manage Victoria’s bushfire risk in a holistic way. Planned burning is an important tool, but it’s not the only one. Large, intense fires still threaten the things we care about: Our communities, the environment and the services we rely on. Victoria’s natural environments are unique, so fuel management must be balanced with caring for the land.

Our firefighters and fire managers are world-class. We use the latest research from around the world, but we apply it to Victoria’s conditions and landscapes.

There is no single solution. We reduce fuel-driven bushfire risk in many ways, including: Planned burning and non-burn fuel management; preventing new ignitions through fire bans and campfire controls; early

detection from fire towers and reconnaissance flights; rapid first attack by aircraft, rappel crews and ground teams; community engagement and timely emergency warnings through VicEmergency.

Autumn usually gives us more chances to carry out planned burns because the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour is more predictable. As soon as conditions are suitable, our crews will begin planned burning across the state.

Please be aware that some forests and roads may be closed during and after these operations. Check the Planned Burns Victoria website before travelling to make sure your trip isn’t affected.

While planned burns do create smoke, they help reduce the dry vegetation that fuels bushfires. Smoke from a planned burn is usually lower in intensity and shorter-lasting than smoke from a large bushfire, and communities are notified in advance so people can take steps to protect their health.

If you live in or visit an area where planned burning is happening, you’ll likely see FFMVic firefighters preparing sites or carrying out burns. They’re the ones in the green firefighting uniforms.

For updates about where and when burns are planned, visit plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au

Pedestrian improvements for Grant Street, Alexandra

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is progressing two key pedestrian safety improvements in Grant Street, Alexandra. They have secured funding through the Federal Government’s Black Spot Program to upgrade the roundabout at the intersection of Grant and Nihil Streets, where two very serious pedestrian incidents have previously occurred.

The project will install formal pedestrian crossings on each of the four legs of the roundabout, giving pedestrians right of way at each crossing. The project is currently in the design phase, with further details to be shared with the community as part of a consultation process.

Funding has also been secured through the Transport Accident Commission’s *Local Government Grant Program* for a new raised priority pedestrian crossing on Grant Street near Bakers Lane, adjacent to the rotunda.

This project will improve safety and accessibility for residents and visitors, particularly elderly people, children and mobility-impaired individuals, and will replace the informal, non-Australian *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) compliant crossing. This new pedestrian crossing is currently in the early design stage.

Initial community consultation was undertaken prior to the grant application in September 2025 to gauge the level of community support. This consultation was conducted on-site near the proposed rotunda crossing. This engagement session encouraged community members to share their experiences and concerns directly.

Participants included older residents, carers, people with disabilities, local businesses and service providers. Feedback was strongly supportive of a formal, standard design pedestrian crossing and highlighted the need for safer and more accessible pedestrian infrastructure. Concept designs will soon be shared with local traders and the broader community for feedback.

The intersection of Grant Street and Downey Street has also been identified as requiring improvements to both traffic and pedestrian safety. Council has been advocating for safety upgrades at this location for several years and has consistently raised concerns about traffic movements and pedestrian risk.

An initial safety assessment has now been completed through a Transport Accident Commission grant. Responsibility for this intersection and the allocation of funding for improvements sits with the State Department of Transport and Planning.

Council welcomes the investment in pedestrian safety and looks forward to progressing these improvements in partnership with the Victorian Government and the local community.



Police are keen to speak to the person in these images. -S

Eildon burglaries

POLICE are investigating a report of a burglary at a business in Eildon in the early hours of Saturday, March 14. At approximately 2.30am, an offender allegedly attempted to gain entry to a business in Main Street, Eildon. A short time later, the same person gained entry to a service station in Centre Avenue and stole a safe containing cash.

Police have released images of a person wearing a grey ‘NXP’ hoodie, black pants and white sneakers, who they believe may be able to assist police enquiries. Police have also released an image of a white dual cab Toyota utility which was in the vicinity at the time.

Anyone with information regarding the offending, or identity of the person or vehicle depicted in the images is urged to contact Alexandra Police Station on 5772 1040 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Where are the planter boxes?

IN April 2025, planter boxes were installed as a community project outside businesses in Grant Street, Alexandra. Two months later, they were removed by council contractors and placed in the council depot before being collected by the Alexandra Woodies, who had made the planter boxes.

Council was asked to provide an update on the planter boxes, including whether they will be reinstalled in Alexandra, and if so, where. They were also asked whether there is a timeline on anything happening with them.

They responded, “The planter boxes were removed from Grant Street in Alexandra in 2025 and are currently being safely cared for by Alexandra Woodworkers.

“Council is progressing longer-term planning for the future streetscape in Alexandra, which will include consultation with local traders and other local stakeholders. This work has been temporarily paused while council resources have been focused on responding to the January 2026 fires across Murrindindi Shire.

“No decision has been made at this stage about whether they will be reinstalled or where they may be located in the future.

“Council remains committed to working with local traders and the broader community to ensure Alexandra’s town centre is safe, welcoming and visually appealing. Consultation on the streetscape, including opportunities for future greening and amenity improvements, will occur once recovery priorities allow.”

Channel Nine reception issue

RESIDENTS in Alexandra, Eildon, Taggerty, Marysville and surrounding areas have recently reported issues with their Channel Nine reception.

WIN Network, the operator of the signal site, was contacted about the issue.

They said, “It appears there was a mains outage at the parent site in Yarck [on Monday, March 16].

“While our transmitter was operational, this site runs in an SFN (single frequency network) that relies on a GPS clock to synchronise. It appears that the mains outage and EPP run on Monday damaged the power supply on our GPS clocking unit/hardware. This mean that some viewers would have still been able to view the services, however some viewers would have had outages (as reported) to services.

“A work around has been put in place to ensure WIN Network services are restored, and the damaged power supplies will be replaced in the near future.”

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

Victoria Police’s response to the Crime Statistics Agency data

THERE were 630,592 criminal offences recorded in Victoria last year, an increase of 25,250 offences or 4.2 per cent.

The crime rate, which factors in population growth, rose by 2.4 per cent (8,885.5 offences per 100,000 people).

Victoria Police analysis suggests positive signs are beginning to emerge, with overall crime starting to stabilise after several years of sharp increases.

However, the same analysis forecasts any major reduction in overall crime is unlikely to be imminent, given ongoing issues such as the

cost of living, recidivism, and the increased use of technology in offending.

For example, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle, retail theft, and theft other currently account for a third of all criminal offending. With the challenging financial environment, there are no indications these crimes, which heavily impact the overall crime rate, will reduce.

Victoria Police arrested 26,645 people a total of 78,014 times last year, with a more focussed approach directed towards those committing serious and violent crimes.

This included the arrest of four youth gang members each day, the seizure of a record 17,400 knives and machetes, and record family violence arrests that saw one offender arrested every half hour.

Victoria Police is also undertaking significant organisational change to increase the amount of time police officers are spending in the community preventing crime in the first place. This includes releasing officers from administrative duties such as staffing reception counters, as well as enhancing the technology supporting police.

Over the past year, Victoria Police commenced enhancing the use of body worn cameras, with interviews now able to be conducted at the arrest location in the community, rather than the time-consuming process of conveying offenders to police stations. A new mobile app will also start to be used by frontline police in the middle of this year, allowing officers to charge and bail lower-level offenders at the point of detection, rather than in a police station. It’s estimated the new process, which is set to be rolled out statewide from September, will save more than three hours of police time on each occasion or the equivalent of 53,000 policing hours per year.

This initiative is one of many that Victoria Police continues to progress, to deploy police officers where they are needed, in the right place at the right time within the community, deterring criminal behaviour and preventing crime.

technology to override car security systems, with Victoria Police intelligence suggesting between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of all cars are now stolen in this manner.

Last year, police seized around 800 of these devices during search warrants where offenders were set to be charged for stealing vehicles or when suspicious cars were intercepted.

Intelligence indicates the most stolen vehicles using key cloning devices include Holden Commodores, Toyotas (Land Cruiser, Corolla, Hilux, Rav4) and Subaru Imprezas.

Police urge owners of these vehicles to look at a range of preventative measures to help deter thieves, including an on-board diagnostic port lock, parking your car off the street, and locking all doors and windows.

Retail theft

There were 41,547 retail theft offences last year, an increase of 2393 offences or 6.1 per cent.

In December, Victoria Police launched a major operation deploying officers and PSOs to Melbourne’s biggest shopping centres, following rising shop theft, anti-social behaviour, and aggression towards retailers.

As part of Operation Pulse, police have arrested almost 710 people and laid over 1450 charges for crimes committed at Eastland, Fountain Gate, Highpoint, Northland, Bayside, Werribee, Southland or Watergardens.

Those arrested include prolific shop lifters, offenders carrying weapons, and criminals in stolen cars in shopping centre carparks.

The operation, which has been extended until the end of 2026, has also proved instrumental in preventing crime, including planned fights between youth gangs in shopping centre food courts and surrounding public transport hubs.

Home burglaries

Aggravated home burglaries reduced for the first time since 2020, falling by 4.1 per cent (7151 offences, down from 7458).

While this is positive, aggravated burglaries remain at the second highest levels in history, with significant ongoing police work required to achieve sustainable reductions in home break-ins.

Operation Trinity, which is Victoria Police’s largest operation targeting home burglaries, has a strong focus on preventing break-ins in the first place.

Each night across Melbourne, suspect cars are pulled over, known suburban hotspots are

patrolled, and offender homes are monitored as part of this operation.

When burglaries can’t be prevented, swift enforcement occurs. Trinity led to the arrest of 612 burglars a combined 1436 times last year.

Child offending

Overall offences committed by child offenders increased (23,690 offender incidents, up 2.3 per cent).

During this reporting period, Victoria Police arrested 1223 children a combined 6997 times.

Children committed 57.6 per cent of carjackings, 52.6 per cent of home invasions, 47.8 per cent of aggravated burglaries and 62.4 per cent of robberies.

Youth gang members are most commonly responsible for these crimes, with Victoria Police making 1480 gang related arrests and laying 4300 charges last year as part of Operation Alliance.

In addition to arrests, Victoria Police continues to work with key stakeholders across a range of sectors including education, employment, health, and corrections to prevent young people from becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system.

Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations Bob Hill commented, “While it’s heartening that crime appears to be stabilising, it will take time before offending reduces to levels more traditionally seen in Victoria.

“With 230,213 different victims of crime, we are seeing far too many innocent community members harmed.

“This is simply not acceptable as we want Victorians to not only be safe but feel safe in their community.

“Our officers are remarkably efficient at holding prolific and dangerous offenders accountable, with thousands of youth gang arrests, record knife seizures, and family violence offenders locked up every half hour.

“This has occurred at a time when Victoria Police has also dedicated significant resources towards managing rolling major protests, bushfires, floods, and regular major events.

“We are also in the process of rolling out significant organisational changes that are geared towards having more police in the community preventing crime.

“This includes transferring administrative duties performed by officers to non-sworn staff, as well as delivering technological advancements that allow police to conduct everyday tasks, such as interviewing and charging offenders, while on the road.”

Out&About

*THE items in Out and About are sourced from our current advertising. 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, MARCH 28

Alexandra Bushfire Relief Rodeo. Women’s ranch, bronc riding, saddle bronc and much more. Food, rides, clothing sales, live music. Tickets online at *Trybooking*. Full details contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038 or visit *alexandrarodeo.com.au*

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Epic book sale Eildon is on at the Eildon Community Centre, Saturday 9am-6pm and Sunday 9am-2pm. Free entry. Fiction, non-fiction, and much more.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Friends of Library Alexandra AGM will be held at 6pm at the Alexandra Library. New members welcome, full details from *proctor@virtual.net.au*

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

KEY CRIME THEMES Car theft

Car theft has reached its highest levels in a calendar year since 2001, with over 32,000 cars stolen last year.

The number of cars being stolen has escalated markedly over the past three years, rising by 96.9 per cent.

This has directly coincided with a surge in car thieves using key mimicking or cloning

The wonderful impact of The Recovery Wardrobe

Continued from Page 1

Being in such a frontline role, a lot of sensitivity was certainly needed. Kellie said “Just to hear how all of our people in here reacted to and supported those people. There’s been tears of absolute desperation, anger

and sadness and then joy and everything in between in here. It’s been, you know, just remarkable.”

She was also keen to support those who have been supporting the people impacted by the fire. “Blaze Aid got wind of us. We



Betty, Cheryl and Kellie. -AR

couldn’t be more thankful to Blaze Aid in the community, so we’ve encouraged them to take work items... Blaze Aid have been a really big advocate of ours too.”

The store became inundated with donated clothes about a month after opening, so they started telling people that they were only taking work clothes and work boots.

Given that they had too many clothes, they decided that anyone at all could walk in and take some items home in exchange for a donation to Foundation Murrindindi.

In addition to the thousands of items which have been provided to fire-impacted people, and their donations to Foundation Murrindindi are currently standing at \$5200 with more to come.

With the store now closing, the remaining items will be taken by a clothing recycler and by The Dame, as the opportunity shops have also been provided with a large amount of clothing post-fire. The aim is for the clothing to be kept out of landfill. Kellie explained that the Menzies ethos is to reuse and recycle.

Kellie added, “Two months isn’t enough, and we’ve still got The Dame. People are still fire affected, and we’re aware of that. We can certainly offer the same service at The Dame, so that opportunity will continue, for as long as the community needs it, but as far as The Recovery Wardrobe, it’s time.”

She also commented, “I’m pretty proud of little Menzies, of what we’ve been able to pull together in a pretty short time to be honest.”

The importance of staying connected

WARREN Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer, has been active in Murrindindi Shire and beyond from the early post-fire recovery stages. He was asked what he has been hearing from people and what he has learnt along the way.

He commented, “I think the thing that I’ve learned is that the power of community, particularly in the regions, with the community hubs standing up and supporting their community. That’s a real positive. It’s something that’s a little bit different to some of the other disasters that I’ve worked in, how that initial response was stood up by the community.

“When you look at communities like Highlands and Terip and Ruffy and Fawcett and Yarck, the ones that have all stood up community hubs, that’s been a real positive to the recovery. That’s something that I’ve noticed that’s been a little bit different to some of the other disasters that I’ve worked in.

“Moving out of that response into a recovery phase and now, two months out, some of the energy is waning in the community. A big rush of adrenaline and the support and all that, now things are just slowly starting to get back to whatever normal looks like.

“One of the worrying signs is, I actually wrote a post about it the other day where a lot of people are commenting on Facebook to some of my posts, and it’s really late at night. So there’s people out there that have probably got a lot on their mind. There’s a lot to deal with. And the other thing that’s noticeable as well at this stage of the recovery is the gaps broadening between the haves and the have-nots, if that’s the best way to describe it. In that initial phase, everyone was in the same boat and the impact and the shock and all that, everyone was kind of in the same boat.

“But now, as everyone’s starting to navigate their journey, things are stretching out a bit where people have accessed insurance and they’re moving ahead, some are yet to have blocks cleaned up or fences done, and some are just struggling because they’re under or uninsured and trying to navigate the system. There’s been a lot of support around that, but once again, probably a little bit different to other recoveries because, I suppose, without being critical, the position that the government’s in, as far as funding, and some of the support services have had major budgetary cuts, so they haven’t got as many people on the ground. So that’s where there’s been a real reliance on those community hubs.”

He agreed that some of the smaller hobby farmers that earn money from other professions have been missing out in terms of their financial supports.

“Obviously, and then the impact to business as well, through some of what was the peak time for their tourism or for trade and were impacted by the roadblocks and for obvious reasons, but there’s also that impact, so that they can access some support, but some of that is hard to navigate as well and trying to justify your position sometimes can be really frustrating,” he said.

Asked what recommendations he has for people and what he would have liked see put in place in terms of supports, Warren said, “The services that are on the ground are doing a great job with the resources that they’ve got, but probably a little bit more action and support coming from federal and state government, which is probably comparing

apples with apples and disaster with disaster, has probably been lacking in this one as well. And probably the underestimation by those services of the impact to the agricultural sector from right across the fire ground has been something that’s been underestimated too, and that impact to livelihoods and incomes, etcetera.”

He said that for people who have been impacted, “One of the most important things as we move into this phase of the recovery is to make sure you’re staying connected and communicating, particularly if you’re struggling. Make sure you’re staying connected to your community or to your support network and make sure that you’re letting people know how you’re travelling. Because if we isolate ourselves and we don’t talk about this stuff, then it’s very hard for people, particularly when they’re probably dealing with their own clean up and recovery to identify that you are struggling.

“My concern is that as people isolate themselves back to their farms, as the weather changes, etcetera, that people will start slipping through the cracks. I think it’s really important that, as individuals and as a community, we really have to be vigilant and try our hardest to stay connected and keep communicating and identifying those people who may not be attending events or you haven’t seen them in town for a week or so, or whatever that is, just identifying those behaviours and making sure that we’re checking in or getting someone to at least check in with them and making sure they’re travelling okay, because those little simple conversations can save lives.”

Given that so many people have been impacted, there are people in the same boat who will understand what others are going through.

“That’s really important... In that first initial response phase the communities were really connected, as that drops off a little bit, people can start thinking, I’m the only one going through this. In my own story, I thought I was the only one going through things, until you start talking about it, and then you can start relating with people. One of the powerful things from staying connected to your community is shared wisdom, because your neighbour might have been able to access something that you haven’t even heard of yet. And just by having that conversation, you realise, well, maybe I need to give those people a ring or that organisation a ring to see if they can support me as well.”

The current fuel crisis is exacerbating the situation for some as well. Warren commented, “I think all these things are just compounding layers of the challenges that we face, particularly living in rural and regional communities. On top of the fire, these things can cause problems and cause stress and worry, and they can be, as the saying goes, the straw that breaks the camel’s back as well. You might have been dealing with things really well and then this has come along, which has added another layer as well. It could be impacting your enterprise, your business, and your ability to travel or stay connected. That can create another whole range of challenges as well.”

Warren spent a lot of time on the Murrindindi Health Van in the early recovery stages following the fire, and the van is still very active with different health professionals using it to reach different communities.

He said of the van, “It’s hard to put into words how valuable an asset the Murrindindi Health Van has been to the community. Who would have thought that a couple of days after the launch, it would be straight into action and being utilised for one of the reasons that it was implemented, so strongly supporting the community. It has been amazing.”

The van is an Alexandra Events initiative funded by local community groups, individuals, and Jayco Australia. Over \$114,000 was raised for the project at the Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show weekend in June of 2025.

Warren was keen to reiterate the importance of “community and connection and conversation. People are struggling out there. We need to have the courage to, one, stick our hand up and ask for help. It doesn’t matter how much we talk about that, it’s still a challenge for particularly rural and regional people to ask for help and understand that it doesn’t matter how big or small your challenge is. It doesn’t necessarily mean that you’ve had to have lost your house or lost everything to be facing a challenge. It doesn’t matter how big or small that challenge is, if you are struggling or your mental health and wellbeing is being challenged by the event, that do ask for help and communicate that. That’s really important. We do that through communication and connection because it’s vitally important, particularly in this stage, as we’re moving into a change of seasons, getting further away from when the fire actually happened. People will slip through the cracks. Have that courage to ask for help, but also have the courage to reach out and check in on your neighbours and your family and friends to see that they’re doing okay.

“You never know, you can’t assume, and by just having that conversation it could open up a conversation that could lead that person to seek help.”

There’s also no timeline on recovery either. Warren said, “That’s something that’s another concerning point, particularly for those who are navigating the journey fairly well. History tells us that this is still going to be a two plus year recovery phase. You might be ahead of the timeline at the moment, but you might also encounter some roadblocks along the way that will slow that up, and be prepared for that as well. You might have been able to navigate your recovery journey fairly well so far, but at the same time, there are going to be some hurdles that are going to stretch that out as well.

“It’s really important to understand that this is a long-term recovery. It’s not going to be a short fix. Even though the colours are changing in the landscape a little bit, that doesn’t necessarily mean there’s going to be feed on the ground if the weather turns cold. There’s going to be a range of problems, whether that’s stock coming back or lack of feed, or there is no more hay coming into the town and how do you feed animals for the rural people. There’s going to be a lot of range of challenges that we’ve got to be prepared for and probably build some capacity in our toolbox to be able to withstand those and navigate them when they come along,” he said.



Warren Davies, The Unbreakable Farmer. -S

Nominate an unsung hero in your community

VICTORIA’S dedicated volunteers and the organisations they power deserve to be recognised.

Minister Spence is calling on Victorians to nominate the outstanding people and groups making a difference in their community.

“Victoria’s volunteers are the quiet achievers behind so much of what makes our communities strong, these awards are our chance to shine a light on them,” Ms Spence said.

“Whether it’s their time, skills or lived experience, every volunteer brings something unique. The state government is proud to celebrate the people who show up for others.”

Nominations are officially open for the 2026 Victorian Volunteering Awards.

The awards celebrate excellence across eight categories, including: Young Volunteer Award; Volunteer Commitment Award; Volunteer Leadership Award; Volunteer Impact Award; Inclusive Volunteering Award; Volunteering Innovation Awards; Volunteering Partnerships Award; Grassroots Volunteering Award.

The Volunteer of the Year, selected from the individual categories, will receive the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Award and a \$10,000 donation to a not-for-profit of their choice.

Last year saw a total of 447 nominations. Nominations close on Wednesday, May 27.

For more information or to nominate visit volunteeringvictoria.org.au/awards

How many people received Personal Hardship Assistance Program grants?

THE Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) was asked how many Personal Hardship Assistance Program grants were provided to people impacted by the January 2026 fires, as well as the Longwood fires specifically.

January 2026 fires

As at 5pm on March 17, the DFFH has paid 10,437 emergency relief payments totalling \$12,118,790.

They have also paid re-establishment assistance to 35 households totalling \$1,052,298.

Longwood fires

As at 5pm on March 17, DHHS has paid 6031 emergency relief payments applications totalling \$6,905,670 across the four councils directly impacted by the Longwood fire (Strathbogie, Murrindindi, Mitchell and Mansfield).

In the same time period, DHHS has paid seven re-establishment assistance applications totalling \$219,900 to households in the four councils directly impacted by the Longwood fire.

To find out more about these grants, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.



Fiction & Non-fiction
Children’s, Adult’s, large print etc

Money that is raised will go towards starting an Eildon Community Gym
• Supported by Eildon Opp Shop, Goulburn River Books and Eildon Action Inc.

EPIC BOOK SALE
EILDON

At the Eildon Community Centre

Saturday 4th 9-6pm
Sunday 5th of April 9am-2pm

Book donations accepted!
Contact for more information:
0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142



FREE ENTRY

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra
Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isla Hutt



Isla consistently shows our school values. She is kind and inclusive in the yard and classroom. She has been using her perseverance and resilience during NAPLAN and in learning tasks. Her positive attitude and willingness to keep trying meant that she nailed her mixed fractions this week. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Isla. You are a star.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lily C



Lily C for doing her best in class and outside the classroom walls. Lily overcame some fears for some of the activities on Surf camp. We were so proud of her while on camp, she gave everything a go even when some activities were challenging and out of her comfort zone. She acknowledges positive behaviours, she shows respect, manners and kindness to her teachers and other students. She is a great friend to her peers and a pleasure to have in our classroom.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Luna, Jazmine and Nathan

Luna, Jazmine and Nathan for always asking for help with their learning when they need it.



EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seniors: Hunter Ettridge

For demonstrating the school value Cooperation by encouraging others and displaying positive responses to feedback.
Great stuff, Hunter..



Juniors: Daniel Joshy

For demonstrating the school value Resilience by walking into school independently.
Amazing progress, Daniel.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank

**Alexandra
Secondary
College's
year
12 formal**



The class of 2026 recently enjoyed the glamour and glitter of the year 12 formal. It was a magical evening and it was a highlight of the school year. The students all dressed in beautiful gowns and sharp suits, ready to celebrate and enjoy the evening. More images on page 7. -S



The young women from year 12 at the Alexandra Secondary College formal. -S



The young men from year 12 at the Alexandra Secondary College formal. -S

Great Victorian Rail Trail remains closed for community safety

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is reminding the community that while some closed sections of the Great Victorian Rail Trail may appear safe, significant risks remain. Residents and visitors are urged to respect closure signage and safety barriers.

Ongoing inspections following the January 2026 bushfires have revealed extensive damage across multiple sections of the trail. Some bridges and culverts that appear intact from above have severely weakened or missing supports underneath, with several

at risk of collapse. Fire-damaged trees also remain along the trail and may fall without warning until arborists can safely complete necessary works.

Given the scale of the fire and the number of impacted assets, council is continuing detailed asset and environmental inspections to determine the full extent of the damage. To date, 27 bridges and major culverts along the trail have been inspected, with three bridges identified for full replacement and at least

seven sustaining significant damage. These figures may increase as assessments continue.

The Great Victorian Rail Trail is a key tourism asset in Victoria's High Country, attracting around 150,000 users each year and contributing an estimated \$17.5m to the regional economy. An extended closure is expected to have flow-on impacts for local businesses and communities across the region. The scale of damage also highlights the need for external funding support to restore this critical regional asset, particularly

as the current Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements exclude the trail.

Council is seeking funding to implement a comprehensive recovery program for this much loved and treasured asset. The scale of impact is well beyond a small rural shire to address alone. Council has made multiple submissions to government regarding the financial sustainability of small rural shires with dispersed communities and high visitation.

The detailed assessments are required to inform the rebuilding program, and this is already underway. Council is also working closely with partner councils and the Victorian Government to clarify funding options for repair and restoration.

Currently, around 60 km of the trail is open to the public, including: Tallarook through to the far side of the Cheviot Tunnel (with the tunnel open); Mansfield to Merton; Alexandra trailhead to Maintongoon Road.

The central section of the trail, spanning approximately 70 kilometres, remains closed. This includes areas through Cheviot, Molesworth, Cathkin, Koriella, Yarck and Kanumbra, as well as the Cathkin to Alexandra spur line.

Safety remains council's highest priority, and the trail will not fully reopen until all identified risks have been addressed. For the most up-to-date information on closures and access, visit greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

Mayor Damien Gallagher thanked the community for its patience and understanding.

"The Great Victorian Rail Trail is a much-loved attraction for our region, and we know how important it is for both locals and visitors," Cr Gallagher said.

"While safety must come first as we work through these assessments, Murrindindi is very much open. Our towns, villages and natural landscapes are ready to welcome visitors, we simply ask that everyone respects the trail closures until it is safe to reopen."



The underside of the culvert. -S



The bridge at Kanumbra provides an example of the damage caused by the January 2026 fires, and why the rail trail remains closed in many locations. -S



The underside of the bridge at Kanumbra. -S



A surface view of the culvert. -S

Help at hand for farmers recovering after fires

AGRICULTURE Victoria is encouraging bushfire affected farmers to access recovery support as it passes two months since the blazes brought significant impacts to agriculture and communities.

Agriculture Recovery Manager Sarah Wallis said farmers are navigating short, medium and long term recovery, and Agriculture Victoria staff are here every step of the way.

"We know that all farming businesses are unique and recovery will depend on many factors and occur at different paces. We want to remind farmers that support is available," Ms Wallis said.

"Our staff are on the ground in local communities, partnering with local shires and other support services, to provide farm management advice, and chat with farmers, their families and the community.

"Recovery staff are also at events providing farmers with technical advice on a wide range of topics including managing and feeding livestock, pasture recovery, managing and protecting farm water supplies, farm mapping and re-fencing."

Financial assistance is also available. There are Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to \$75,000 to assist with clean-up and reinstating enterprises. Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and

restoring operations. There are also Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans of up to \$250,000 for those who have suffered major asset damage or loss of income. Funding can be used to cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent and fodder.

Apply on the Rural Finance website at ruralfinance.com.au/grants

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) can help with grant applications including eligibility questions, alongside their free and independent financial information, decision-making support and referral services to farmers. RFCS can be contacted on 1300 771 741.

"Support is here for farmers, families, and rural communities feeling stressed or overwhelmed, and we encourage anyone seeking support to get in contact with the services available," Ms Wallis said.

Wellbeing counsellors offer free, confidential support and are available to visit bushfire-affected producers and their families at their property or over the phone. To access the support of a specialist wellbeing counsellor, call the RFCS on 1300 771 741.

For more information on available supports, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires



NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at:	5016 Maroondah Highway ALEXANDRA VIC 3714
The application is for a permit to:	Development of land for thirty-three (33) cabins and native vegetation removal
Planning scheme clause and matter for which a permit is required:	32.03-4 -buildings and works associated with a Section 2 use (Camping and Caravan Park) 52.17 Native Vegetation Removal
The applicant for the permit is:	Parklife Alexandra Pty Ltd
The application reference number is:	P037.2025-1
View the application and any supporting documents online at:	murrindindi.vic.gov.au/p037-2025

You can also scan the QR code to access the website.

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

An objection must be made to the responsible authority in writing, include the reasons for the objection and state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.



The responsible authority will not decide on the application before:	15 April 2026
--	----------------------

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

The Planning Unit can be contacted on (03) 5772 0333 or by emailing planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

COLOUR IN THIS PICTURE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
**WIN A BASKET FULL OF
EASTER GOODIES**



Name: Phone:

Town: Age:

Winner drawn Thursday April 2 at Noon. Ask a parent/guardian for permission for us to take your photo to be published online and in our newspapers.

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS**



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

The Hex Chronicle



Many questions were asked at the event. -AR



The students were encouraged to dress up for the occasion. -AR



The students counting the number of flashing lights on the vehicle. -AR



St Mary's school captains Logan Kerr and Scarlett Pearce give the CFA their cheque at an assembly after the event. It totalled an amazing \$1040. -S

St Mary's raises funds for Alexandra CFA

On Friday, March 20, members of the Alexandra CFA were invited to attend St Mary's Primary School with their vehicles. The children dressed up for the occasion and were excited to find out more about firefighting.

The children made donations to the CFA on the day, and this was matched by St Mary's Primary School dollar for dollar. A grand total of \$1040 was presented to the CFA at the end of the event.



Fletcher on one of the fire trucks. -AR



The St Mary's Primary School students were excited to look over the CFA vehicles. -AR



The event was a fundraiser for the CFA, with the school matching the funds raised by the students. -AR



Ayden Embling talking to the students. -AR



Students finding out more about the CFA truck. -AR



Ollie and Fletcher, children of Alexandra CFA Captain Chris Lynch. -S

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Colouring Page



Word Search - Words starting with "H"

HAIRY	E R H A H D N E M Q Y P P A H
HAMMER	S E A I A U H R S R B H H T C
HANDY	U M O E P E M X I R A G I U W
HAPPY	O M H Y L P V A O A O Z V A D
HEAD	H A H P X Z O J N P I H W Q A
HELICOPTER	C H F J R E T P O C I L E H O
HELPFUL	T U Z S Z T A E O R P T N A E
HIPPOPOTAMUS	L J N X E Q G Q R T A B Y D I
HOLIDAY	I L A B I J X O I H A A F M O
HORSE	U S J O X H T G V I D M C M B
HOTDOG	I F V N S U Y R O I F P U Q E
HOUSE	Y Z O U D N U Q L D R V V S L
HUMAN	H A N D Y G K O E A T D D I D
HUNGRY	I G K D N R H L C E N O H W A
	N L Q M U Y H A I R Y N H L A

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.

	+		+		13
-		-		-	
	+		+	9	20
+		-		-	
	-		+	1	6
3		-1		-5	

Jokes

Q: What do you give a sick lemon?

A: Lemon-aid.

Q: What creature is smarter than a talking parrot?

A: A spelling bee.

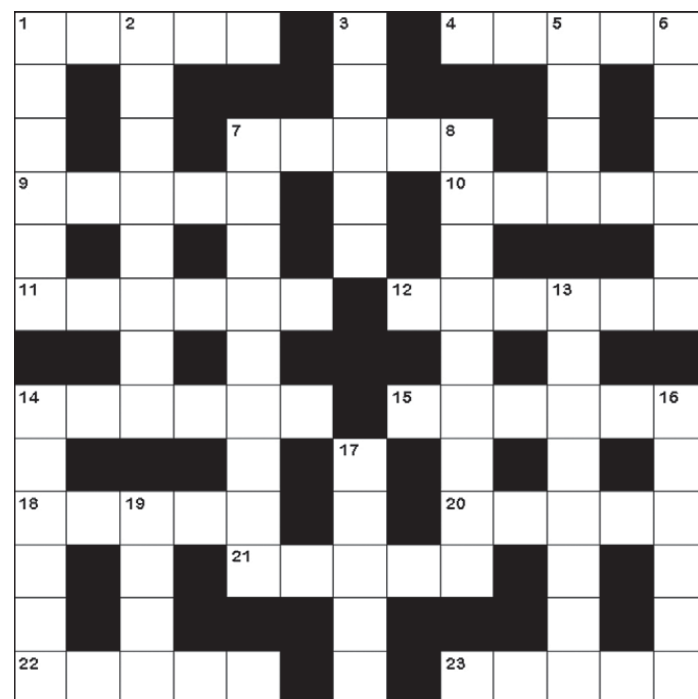
Crossword

ACROSS

- Intimidate and frighten with threats.
- A behaviour that is very hard to give up.
- The part of a garment below the waist.
- The sound made by a horse.
- Incapable of compromise or flexibility.
- Involving death, grief, or destruction.
- Marksman who shoots from a hidden place.
- In a submissive or spiritless manner.
- Parcels of mining land allotted or taken.
- Someone who has committed a crime.
- The flexible part of a whip.
- Thin, shiny coating applied to foods.
- A wanderer who has no fixed home.
- Existing in a wild and untamed state.

DOWN

- A hat tied under the chin with ribbon.
- Float up and be suspended in the air.



- The liquid part of fruits and vegetables.
- An instance of boastful talk or behaviour.
- Material for starting a fire.
- Continuous and piercing high-pitched sound.
- Change from one language into another.
- A person who is in captivity.
- A small, cup-shaped quick bread.
- A prearranged sign conveying information.
- Trades or exchanges one thing for another.
- A machine for weaving yarn into a textile.

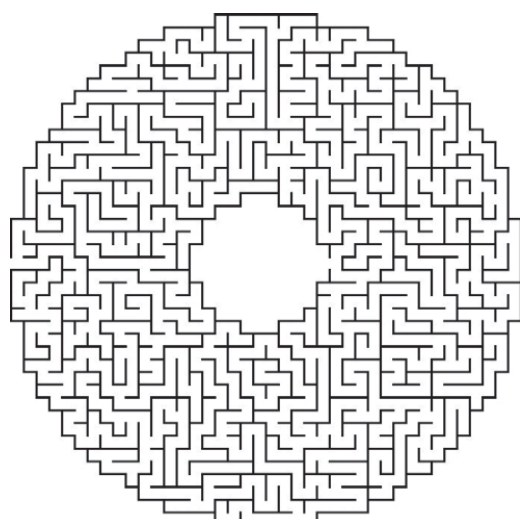
Word Search

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

Sports

BASEBALL	PICKLEBALL
BASKETBALL	RUGBY
CRICKET	SKIING
CYCLING	SNOOKER
FOOTBALL	SWIMMING
NETBALL	VOLLEYBALL

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

	x		÷		16
-		x		-	
5	-		x		-23
x		+		+	
	-	2	-		-10
3		44		8	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY



MANSFIELDPOWERAG
HOME • FARM • PRO

Sales, Service
and Parts

03 5775 2711



AUTOMOTIVE



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

CARPET CLEANING



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

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CONVEYANCING



CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY
TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday

5772 2500

71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au

Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



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

Ph 0418 543 310

info@e-tec.net.au
www.eteelectrical.com.au

MM00042

Rec N°12906

BLINDS & CURTAINS

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

FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

BRICKLAYING

Alexandra
BRICKLAYING
CONCRETE & PAVING

No job too big or too small
Free quotes

Call Jarrod, James and Corey

0409 190 502

EMC0032

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

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

CONVEYANCING



CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY
TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday

5772 2500

71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au

Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



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

Ph 0418 543 310

info@e-tec.net.au
www.eteelectrical.com.au

MM00042

Rec N°12906

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

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

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951

keathsexc@bigpond.com

EMC0082

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

Murrindindi EARTHMOVING



DAVID BAIRD, ALEXANDRA

0408 575 962

- Bobcat, Excavator and 4x4 Tipper Hire
- Post and Stump Hole Boring • Trenching
- Site Clearing • Material Delivery • Rock Breaking

EMC0092

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

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



Like us on
facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

ANIMAL SERVICES



**Taggerty
Vet Clinic**

Dr Rebecca Parth
BVSc

0403 012 996

All Animals
Large & Small

Consultations strictly
by appointment



**Behaviourist
and
Certified Master
Dog
Groomer**

0418 556 001

www.pinkdog.com.au

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

Standard

Book your space
in our trades
directory today!

5772 1002

DEADLINE: 12 NOON THURSDAYS



Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

Burchall Earthmoving

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



Phone Shane
0418 589 240

Owner operator with local knowledge

MM00128

LEGAL SERVICES



Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor
0448 793 795
admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

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

MECHANICAL REPAIRS



Boz Miljkovic
Mechanic

Alexandra Automotive
VACC

61 Downey Street, Alexandra
Ph (03) 5772 3232

- General Car Servicing
- Repairs & Tuning
- Batteries
- Road Worthy Certificates
- Disc & Drum Machining
- Front Ends & Suspension

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



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

FULLY INSURED



• 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
- ✓ Felling
- ✓ 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 CARTAGE



DINDI WATER

NEED WATER?

Delivering drinking water to
Alexandra & surrounding areas

0491 795 157



• 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

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

BOOK YOUR TRADES AD TODAY!

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



MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that Victorians are less safe than ever before, saying new data confirms criminal offending has reached a new all-time high under Labor.

Independent Crime Statistics Agency data shows that over the 12 months to December 2025 a total of 630,592 crimes were committed, the equivalent of one crime every 50 seconds.

Ms McLeish said that since becoming Premier, Jacinta Allan has overseen 1500 vacancies on police rosters and weaker bail laws than what they were in 2023.

She added that across Murrindindi Shire, overall crime has risen by 38.5 per cent. While overall offence numbers are considerably lower than in municipalities in the outer metropolitan area, there is still cause for concern.

Breach of Family violence intervention order topped the offence list. Motor vehicle theft and theft from a motor vehicle is up 61 per cent, while prohibited and controlled

weapons offences, including those involving machetes, have increased by 54 per cent.

Yea and Alexandra are the hotspots recording twice as many offences as Kinglake or Eildon.

State Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish said, “The data shows that what residents tell me - they feel relatively safe, but remain concerned about the trend of rising crime in other parts of Victoria. People see horrendous and scary footage and worry about their family and friends and even travelling to the city. This should not be the case. The increase in breaches of family violence intervention orders is deeply troubling.”

286,329 crimes remain unsolved, almost half of all recorded offences and a 15 per cent increase over the past year.

In May 2025, the Victorian Government reduced funding by almost \$50 million to Victoria Police as net debt continues to grow by \$1.7 million an hour and is expected to reach a record \$192.6 billion by 2028-29.

Welcome to the...

Murrindindi DIRECTORY

Your Local Business Guide.

We're all about... Keeping it Local!

Advertise with us...

If you're looking to sell goods and services within the Murrindindi Shire and surrounds, **murrindindirectory.com.au** is perfect for you.

The responsive website features a dedicated page for each of our businesses; complete with pictures, video, logo, phone, fax, street address, email and website addresses, links to social media, opening hours, Google map (with directions from your location) and space for a 200 word business description.

Find out more...

To find out how we can support your business through local advertising, call Mary McLean on 5772 1002 or email **1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au**



PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

MATH SQUARE

8	×	6	÷	3	16
-		×		-	
5	-	7	×	4	-23
×		+		+	
1	-	2	-	9	-10
3		44		8	

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

KIDS - MATH SQUARE

2	+	6	+	5	13
-		-		-	
7	+	4	+	9	20
+		-		-	
8	-	3	+	1	6
3		-1		-5	

Classifieds

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

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

PEAK over toilet chair.
Excellent condition, only one month old.
Adjustable legs. \$95.
Call 0407 354 227

PETS & LIVESTOCK

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

BIRTHDAYS

80th Birthday
David Creighton
(Stringy)
26/03/1946
Lots of love Ev.
Damien and Jacqui,
Paul and Tanya,
Mathew, Lily and
Maxwell.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

**ESTABLISHED MOWING
BUSINESS FOR SALE.**
Regular ongoing clientele base. Equipment included: trailer, ride on mower, push mower and whipper snipper. Hand over with introductions included for a smooth start. Call Luke for a chat. 0418 522 842.

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

MEETINGS

 **Annual General Meeting**
Friends of the Library
Alexandra & District Inc.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6pm.
Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra.
New members welcome
Nomination forms for
committee positions available
from the Secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au

SITUATION VACANT

 **ALEXANDRA
SECONDARY COLLEGE**
.8 Teacher Aide
(30 hours per week)

A position is available

Enquiries and requests for a position description and Key Selection Criteria to Nigel Lytle on 5770 2000
Please e-mail applications to nigel.lytle@education.vic.gov.au
Applications close April 17, 2026
Position to begin April 27, 2026
Ends December 18, 2026

**ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS**  Pty. Ltd.

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.

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

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**

Alexandra Golf Club ladies take out Seymour Bowl

by Dave Silverman

Alex golf report week ending Mar 22

LAST Tuesday was fine, warm and mainly sunny, if a little humid, and it was a very small field of just seven who teed off at noon. The best score was 33 points, which gave Leo Dynes the win, with Frank DeVries in second on 32, and John Mosley in third with 26.

In a remarkable display of inaccuracy, not one of the three available nearest the pins went off, but Bill Wind and John Greatorex got a voucher each in the rundown.

Nine ladies were met with a slightly cooler morning for round one of their Foursomes Championship for this year, and it was the team of Lyn Capp and Sharyn Petrzela who topped the list with a score of 102 net 73, with Sandra Morris and Helen Findlay just half a stroke behind in second.

Lyn and Sharyn claimed the nearest the pin on five, and 18 went to Judy Pearson and Donna Meggitt.

Last Thursday, some of the Alexandra ladies ventured to Seymour, and the team of Helen Findlay, Judy Pearson and Sharyn Petrzela brought the bowl home. Well done, ladies.

The Corner Hotel sponsored last Saturday's stroke round, which was round three of both the Summer Cup and the Bob Dodge Golden Putter. It was still a bit warmer than you might expect for late March, but a bigger issue was the greens, which had been scarified and top-dressed the day before, and presented some interesting, and at times frustrating, challenges.

However, the 15 players pressed on, and the best score of the day, an 82 net 67, belonged to Simon Rouget, with John Steer close behind in second with a net 69. Third went to Todd Galloway with a net 70, Corey Jack was fourth with a 71, and fifth went to Leo Dynes with a 72.

Corey and Leo shared the honour of having the fewest putts, with 30 each, which may not seem that good to some, but please refer to earlier comments about the greens. Nearest the pins went to Sam Kidd on two, Jarrod Williamson on five, Simon on seven, John Norfolk on 12 and Steve Darmody on 18.



Winners are grinners. Helen, Judy and Sharyn took out the Seymour Bowl for Alexandra. -S



Sandra Morris in full flight on nine with Sue Greatorex looking on. -S

Alexandra Squash Club: Round seven of term one pennant

by Kristelle Leary

Monday competition Magpies versus Pelicans

ETHAN versus Tyler: Tyler maintained a slight advantage throughout the match. Despite Ethans efforts, Tyler won every game and the match. 61 to 47.

Randy versus Jess: Jess was able to neutralise Randy's serve and from there had the upper hand in this contest. Outplaying Randy in the rallies, Jess claimed the match. 72 to 47.

Matt versus Ben F (fill in): Good long rallies with lots of running from both players. Matt kept ahead with a mix of persistence and deep shots. 60 to 52.

John versus Michael H: A great game by both. Michael started well with good shots, but John's consistency was too strong. 61 to 43.

Crows versus Eagles

Robbie versus Eric: There was great effort put in by both players. Overall, Robbie was too good from start to finish. 75 to 43.

Laura versus Liane (fill in): A tussle from beginning to end. Liane had a slight advantage after two games, but Laura pulled ahead in the third, only for Liane to come back to win in the fourth game by three-points. 62 to 59.

Chris versus Justin: Justin had Chris on the ropes with good shot depth and placement, but Chris has a knack of hanging in there with his defensive game and bringing the contest to the front of the court. Justin pulled away in the end to win by fifteen-points. 74 to 59.

Jim versus Daniel W: Daniel wanted a power game, but Jim wasn't taking the bait, forcing Daniel to adapt and he did to have a small lead after two games. Jim changed his serve and maintained shot placement to gain the upper hand as Daniel started to make errors. 54 to 44.

Wednesday competition Kenworths versus Freightliners

Matthew versus Jessica/Beth (fill ins): With his opponent absent Matthew played two games against each fill in. Changing his game against each player, Matthew claimed the win by four-points. 56 to 52.

Mick versus Sam: Mick made a flying start and took the first game. Sam fine-tuned the accuracy of his serves and soon Mick found it hard to hit winners. Both players used the side walls well but Sams ability to work angles overworked his opponent and proved decisive. 66 to 45.

Daniel K versus Michael M: It was a one-man show. Despite Michael's slipping, sliding and jumping he was no match for Daniel's skill and placement. 73 to 30.

Macks Versus Western Stars

Jessica versus Beth: This was a great game. Both Beth and Jess were quite well matched, but Jess was just a little more consistent with her shots. 61 to 46.

Kristelle versus Daniel L: It was a sibling battle, but with Daniel being bleary eyed and seemingly unable to make contact with the ball, Kristelle held the higher ground. With her serve hitting in all the right places, Kristelle claimed victory. 67 to 49.



Daniel W lines up to drive it down the wall past Jim. -S

SPORT

Celebrating a wonderful Murrindindi Little Athletics season

IT has been a wonderful season for the Murrindindi Little Athletics community, capped off by a fantastic end-of-season presentation held last Friday evening at Rotary Park in Alexandra. Families, athletes and supporters gathered to celebrate a year filled with effort, improvement and achievement.

The evening featured the presentation of the final Personal Best (PB) medallions, recognising the dedication and persistence shown by athletes across the season. Age group champions were also announced, along with outstanding

performers in running, jumping and throwing events.

Age Group Champions

In the Under Six age group, Chloe Cooper and Sonny Munro were recognised for their efforts, while Luke Stoate took out the Under Seven honours.

The Under Eight champions were Chloe Deelen and Sonny Crouch, with Shiloh Clacy and Cohen Pearce awarded in the Under Nine division.

In the Under 10 age group, Hannah Feegan and Maverick Clacy were named champions, followed by

Alisha Abdullah and Jager Feegan in Under 11.

Amelia Kociancic and Athan Woo were recognised in Under 12, while Abi Caswell and Sam Mawson received the honours in Under 13.

Harish Balansag was awarded the Under 14 championship, with Cheyanne Richards and Levi Campbell named Under 15 champions.

Event Champions

Running champions for the season were Chase Hilder and Marli Meert, while Zoe Collier and Ethan Boulton

took out the jumping titles.

In the throwing events, Tate Fraser and Emmy Lou Ackerman were recognised as champions.

Special Awards

The Committee Award was presented to Lachlan McInnes, acknowledging his contribution to the club, while the Encouragement Award went to PJ Smith.

Regional recognition was also given to Levi Campbell and Zoe Collier for their achievements beyond the local level.

A heartfelt thank you from the club was extended to the dedicated committee for their tireless work throughout the season, as well as to the many parents and volunteers who contribute each week particularly on busy Saturday mornings to keep the club running smoothly.

As the season comes to a close, the club wishes all members the very best for upcoming school cross country events and winter sports. The countdown is already on, with excitement building for a return in October for another season of athletics fun, friendship and competition.



Under Eight athletes Sonny, Emerson, Marlo and Ned. -S



Under 13 athletes Abbey, Zoe, Ethan and Clay. -S



Senior athletes Cate, Charlotte, Cheyenne and Levi. -S



Under Six athletes Sam, Tate, Sonny, Flynn and Angus. -S



Under 10 Maverick Clacy. -S



Jumps champions Ethan Boulton and Zoe Roller. -S



Throws champion Tate Fraser. -S



Running champion Marli Meert. -S



Under Nine athletes Shiloh, Makaylah and Cohen. -S



Levi and Zoe region awards. -S



Under Seven champion Luke Stoate. -S



Under 12 athletes Ryder and Amelia. -S



Under 11 athletes Alisha and Isaac. -S



Under Seven Ned Hedger. -S

Thirtieth Murrindindi Classic Triples tournament at Alexandra Bowls Club

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club celebrated its 30th year of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Classic Triples tournament and it could not have been a closer contest. Significant Prize money is donated by the Reddrop Family who over decades, have been a greatly appreciated sponsor of the Alexandra Bowls Club.

Fourteen sides were drawn from across the state and competed over two days. Clubs represented came from, Brunswick, Clayton, Eildon, Mooney Valley (2025-2026 Premier League winners), Wallan, East Shepparton, Shepparton Park, Shepparton Golf, Yea, Yarra Glen, Seymour VRI, Sorrento, Melbourne and Waubra.

Seven games of 14 ends meant that 8232 bowls were played in perfect conditions. Four games on Saturday and three games on Sunday.

At the end of day one there was only one side with four wins and that was Michael (Mojo) Gardner, Maddy Manchester and Ethan Miller. They had an impressive 34 shots up. Mojo had won this tournament previously, but this was a new combination.

There were three sides with three wins. Mathew Creighton, Shane Manifold and Chris Owen with 43 shots up. Anthony Witkowski, David Goodger, Zac Wonning had 56 shots up. Matty O'Brien, Steven Moore and Josh Rennex were plus 23 shots.

Day two and after six games there were three sides in the mix, all with five games and only separated by shots up. Mojo had five games and was 46 shots up, Mathew

Creighton five games and 49 shots up and Matty O'Brien five games and 52 shots up.

Fourteen ends to play and the after two days of exceptional bowling it came down to the last end. Matthew O'Brien was a past winner in 2021, Mathew Creighton in 2011 and Mojo Gardner in 2019, so there was great interest as to who would get their name on the Honour Board.

Mojo drew his game against Premier Division Winning Pennant players, Phat Boxhall's rink. They finished with five wins, one draw and one loss and 46 shots up and had to be satisfied with third place.

Matthew O'Brien's rink played the Eildon rink with David Nicklos (Alexandra) subbing in the last game. Matthew's rink won by nine shots to have his side finish with six wins and 61 shots up and was in second place.

Mathew Creighton won their last game by 13 shots and claimed victory with the narrowest of margins, six wins and 62 shots up.

An excellent tournament which can only be possible by the many sponsors who contribute each year. The club members who worked tirelessly over the weekend providing five meals for the bowlers, keeping the score board in order and running raffles just to name a few.

With the Murrindindi tournament being 30 another milestone is up for 2026. Alexandra Bowling Club is celebrating 120 years. Look out for details of celebrations.

Club games need to be completed. The triathalon, (Bowls, Darts and Pool) has to be completed by the end of April as do the club games, 100 up, Mixed Pairs etcetera. Check the board for the draw.



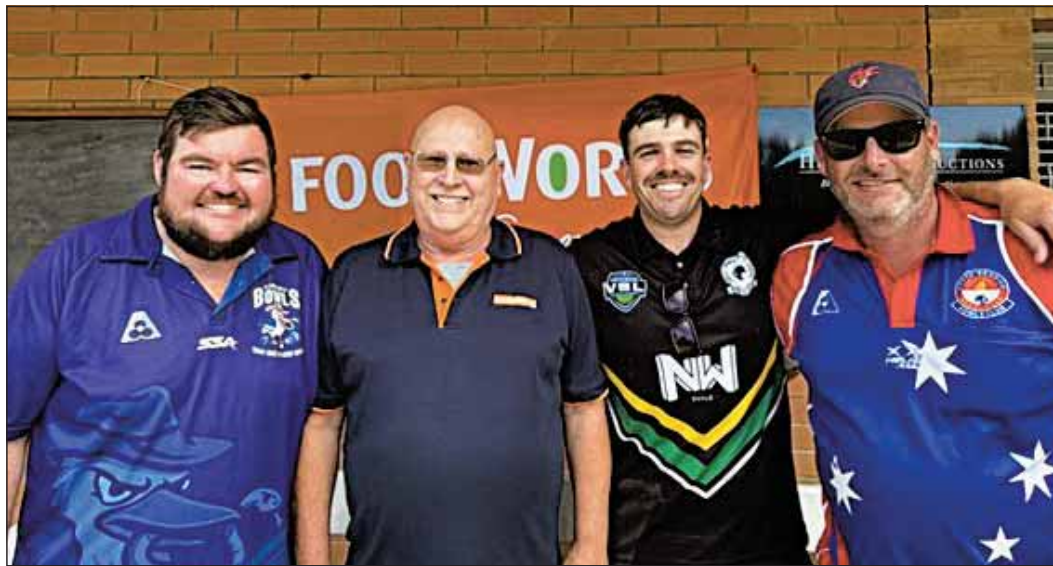
Murrindindi Classic Triples winners. Pictured are Alexandra Bowls Club President Greg Gilmore, the winners, Mathew Creighton, Shane Manifold and Chris Owen, with FoodWorks representative Chris Thomas. -S



The third place team with FoodWorks representative Chris Thomas. Third place went to Maddy Manchester, Michael (Mojo) Gardner, and Ethan Miller. -S



Great conditions and great bowling on the green at the Alexandra Bowls Club. -S



The runner-up team of Matthew O'Brien, FoodWorks representative Chris Thomas, Steven Moore and Josh Rennex. -S

Marysville golfers take part in Mansfield Ladies Bowl

by Lesley Rundle

LAST week was a busy one for the Marysville Golf Club and there is more action to come in March and April.

On Monday, March 16, Margaret Blair, Beverley Bellman and Lesley Rundle played in the Mansfield Ladies Bowl. There were 72 players with many coming from the North East Golf District. Lesley Rundle won C Grade with 33 points and the team from Albury Golf Club won the bowl.

On Thursday the same three ladies played in the Seymour Bowl but struggled to achieve good scores on the challenging course but the team from Alexandra played well and won the bowl. The club says congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to both Mansfield and Seymour for hosting the events.

The Thursday nine holers played a two-person ambrose on the front nine holes. The winners were Geoff Ferguson and Paul Martin with nett 31.5 followed by Brian Worcester, Bob Emblin and Ken Whittingham with 33.17. The nearest the pins were won by Ray Jones and Keith Atwell. The nine holers are reminded that the competition this week will start later than usual at approximately 1.30pm due to the Ladies' Bowl event.

Last Saturday the competition was the March monthly medal and the first round of the Summer Aggregate. Jody Doran (15) won the ladies medal with nett 72 followed closely by Heather Jenkins (15) with nett 73. Drew Kaempkes (12) won the men's section with nett 75 on a countback from David Douthwaite (25).



Some of the golf clinic participants at Marysville Golf Club. -S

The nearest the pins were won by Colin Davies, Ray Jones and Richy Clark who also won the Golden Shot. Last Sunday in the first round of the Dalhousie Men's Pennant in Handicap Division Two Marysville defeated Alexandra four to one. Well played Glen Rattay, Steve Coker, Richy Clark, Keith Atwell and Drew Kaempkes. On

Sunday, March 29, Marysville will host the second round.

A very successful golf clinic was held at the club last Tuesday with all participants benefitting from the excellent coaching of PGA Coach Travis Harrison. They now have to try and put into practice all the finer points of the game. Members thank Heather Jenkins for organising the clinics.

On Tuesday, March 31, Marysville will host the Dalhousie Veterans Competition. On Saturday, April 4, a Junior Invitational Day is being held with juniors invited to play a two-person Ambrose. They will be mentored by experienced golfers in what is a fun team game.

This is a free event for junior golfers and tee off time is 9am for 9.30. For more information and registration please contact Heather Jenkins as soon as possible on 0429 146 763. On April 11 the Tour Elephants will challenge the Marysville players in the Annual Challenge. Members are asked to register your interest in playing in this event as soon as possible.

Please note that on Wednesday, April 8, the greens are being cored.

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Merton cricketers claim victory in WDCA Grand Final

MERTON Cricket Club won their first premiership in the Wangaratta and District Cricket Association (WDCA) B Grade competition, defeating Rovers Bruck United at Wangaratta last Saturday.

A fantastic effort for Merton after finals success in the Seymour competition in 2017 and then going into recess for three seasons before reforming and building to a premiership victory in the Wangaratta league.

Merton won the toss and batted making 5/168 the opening pair of Luke Benton 40 and Murray Sutton 43 setting up the victory for the Merton side. Luke Berriman 31 not out, Jai Lerch-Mackinnon 21 and Jarrod Mahoney 13 not out the top performers for Merton. Jerrimy Ackroyd and his son both taking two wickets apiece.

Merton had a dream start when Jai Lerch-Mackinnon dismissed Garry Elliot with the very first ball off the innings brilliantly caught by Murray in the gully. Rovers in big trouble at 4/46 steadied lead by top scorer Jerrimy Ackroyd 63 to 5/105 however with a rising run rate and top bowling Rovers could not find any momentum and finished their 36 overs on 8/131.

Luke Berriman 2/26, Lerch-Mackinnon 2/19, and Sutton 2/14 the top wicket takers with Henry and Rohan Berriman the other wicket takers. Merton taking out the Ken Stewart Shield for the first time and taking their unbeaten streak to 12 games, a fantastic effort.

Luke Berriman won player of the match as voted by the umpires. A victory well deserved for the tiny community after the many challenges this summer with the fires in January. Celebrations continued well into the night after the game at the Merton Cricket Ground (MCG).



Some of the family groupings of the Merton Cricket Club. Pictured are Jai and Ross Mackinnon, William, Luke and James Benton, and Henry, Rohan and Luke Berriman. -S



The Merton Cricket Club players took victory against Rovers Bruck United in Wangaratta last Saturday, winning their first Grand Final in the WDCA league. -S

Rebels hit the ground running ahead of season

ON Sunday, March 22, Rebel Park was buzzing as the Alexandra Football Netball Club's under 14 and under 16 footballers hosted Kinglake juniors in a series of practice matches. It was a great opportunity for the young players to get valuable game time under their belts ahead of the upcoming season.

Off the field, the club's netballers took part in an intra-club practice match, showcasing strong skills and teamwork as they continue their preparations.

The club says a big thank you to the canteen volunteers who did a fantastic job keeping everyone fed and refreshed throughout the

day, with perfect weather adding to the great atmosphere.

Looking ahead, Thursday night dinners return this week, with the bar also open, providing a great chance for members and supporters to come together. The club will also be lending a hand at the rodeo on Saturday, March 28, running the bar and food tent. Anyone available to assist is encouraged to contact Kylie on 0409 932 761.

The senior season kicks off on Saturday, April 11, with junior matches to follow from Sunday, April 19. Excitement is building as the Rebels gear up for the year ahead.



A spectacular mark off the back. -S



Chasing the ball. -S



Kinglake were applying the pressure against Alexandra players. -S



The juniors getting some practice in ahead of the season. -S